

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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## Grant kick-starts housing 'corridor'

### Up to 800 new homes could be built

REPORT

by LOUISE LEE  
llee@obantimes.co.uk

WORK will begin on the construction of 50 homes in Dunbeg within six months – signalling the start of a scheme which could eventually result in the biggest property development seen in Argyll and Bute for decades.

The 50 houses – a mix of one, two and three bedroomed homes – are a catalyst for the 'Dunbeg Corridor', a scheme which could eventually see 800 new properties built.

To kick-start the project, the Scottish Government granted West Highland Housing Association's (WHHA) subsidiary organisation West Highland Rural Solutions £1.9 million for the project as part of a series of grants.

The association has a further

£3.1 million already in the pot from private lending and other grants. As soon as detailed planning and building warrants are in place building will start.

The affordable housing will be ready for allocation within two years and it is envisaged that some of the properties will be available on a let-to-buy and shared ownership basis.

Tony Cave, chairman of West Highland Rural Solutions, said: 'This is terrific news and we are delighted that we were able to develop a scheme that met the Government criteria.'

'We will be working with West Highland Housing Association to deliver the scheme with work starting in early 2012.'

Argyll and Bute Council designated the land at Dunbeg for development in its local plan and this sees the start of the housing work.

The local plan envisages an initial development of 300 houses, with another 500 to follow in the longer term.

Murray Sim, chairman of West Highland Housing Association, said: 'The association and its subsidiary have been working with the Scottish Government, Argyll and Bute Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), SAMS and the estate for four years and we are extremely grateful to all our partners for their hard work that has assisted us in making this possible.'

'This will mean new properties for local people and it will also mean work for the building industry.'

Michael Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute, said: 'I am really delighted that the go ahead has been given for the first phase in the new Dunbeg development. This confirms that Oban is

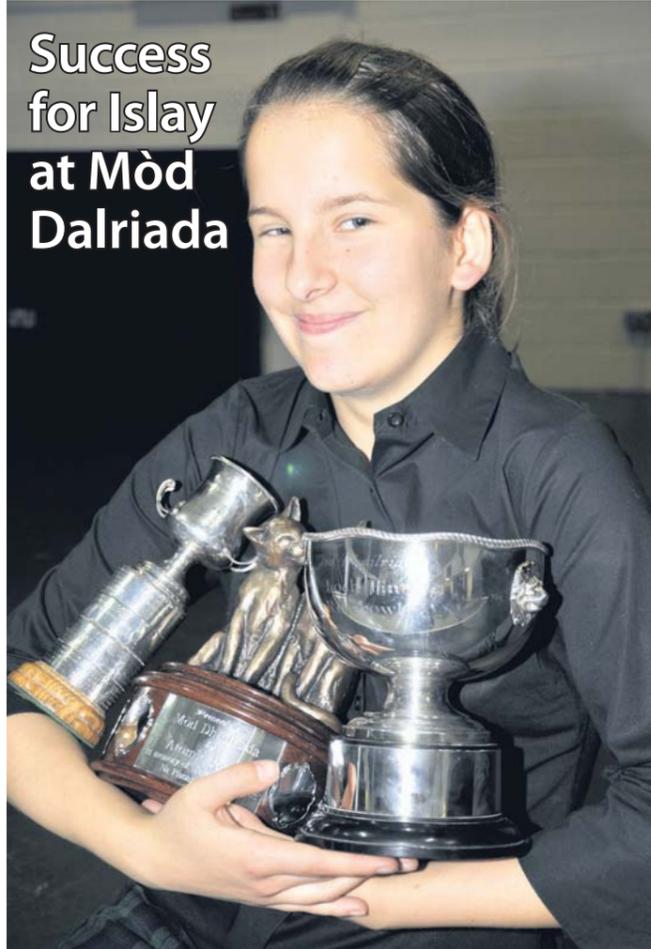
a growing and dynamic town which requires a new approach to create new homes. I will continue to press for every possible investment from public and private sources that we can reasonably expect to win.'

Councillor Robin Currie, Argyll and Bute Council's spokesman for housing, said: 'I am delighted that these groups were successful in their bids but of course disappointed that other worthy bids from Argyll and Bute were not successful.'

Other funding was announced for Fyne Homes. It was awarded £588,928 for the next phase of housing at the Lochgilphead High School site from the Registered Social Landlord Fund.

Inver Farmers Scottish Partnership Ltd received £120,000 for six units in Ormsary. The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust was also awarded £70,000.

## Success for Islay at Mòd Dalriada



Gaelic singer Zoe Wells, from Islay, won an armful of trophies after placing first in the solo singing, aged 13 – 15, competition at Mòd Dalriada on Saturday. Heavens of all ages had a highly successful day in Lochgilphead and took masses of silverware back to the island.

For more on Mòd Dalriada, see page 11. 15\_1381m004

## The world could be Angus' oyster

A DUNBEG lad will be the first to represent Scotland in the world oyster opening championships.

Angus Vajk, aged 22, booked his place at the international competition by winning the Loch Fyne Scottish Oyster Opening Championships in Glasgow last month.

Son of oyster farmers Hugh and Judith Vajk of Caledonian Oysters, Angus said: 'I am thrilled to have won, and excited about going to the world championships, but it will be daunting being up against so many experts. I will be putting in a lot of speed practice this week.'

In Glasgow, the biology student shelled 30 oysters in four minutes and five seconds to beat a crowded field, including his father. Part of his prize was the trip to Galway's international oyster and seafood festival.

## Police warning to boozy teenagers

TEENAGERS who drink alcohol in the streets will not be tolerated, police warned this week.

Youngsters caught boozing will have the drink confiscated and their parents will be informed.

The warning comes after six youths aged 14 and 15 were spotted on Saturday night by officers on Mossfield Avenue with a large quantity of alcohol.

Chief Inspector Brian Auld, Oban Police Area Commander, said: 'It is not acceptable for young people to be drinking on the streets.'

'My officers will not only seize any alcohol they have, but will make sure parents or carers are informed.'

## Eight-foot dinghy stolen from Connel

AN EIGHT-foot dinghy and outboard motor were stolen from the beach opposite the Oyster Inn, Connel.

The grey Wet Line vessel was stolen sometime between September 3 and Sunday September 18.

Police are appealing for information or witnesses.



## Ousted organiser makes waves over Tiree Classic

A DISGRUNTLED events organiser is threatening to take legal action against the group which is planning the Tiree Wave Classic this October over use of the event's name.

But British Wavesailing Association (BWA), says it owns the rights to the name and is even employing the founder of the 25-year-old event in its planning.

Gordon Ritchie, of Dialogue Marketing, says he has been the organiser of the Tiree Wave Classic for the last eight years.

In that time he said he has built up the business. But this year, he was overlooked in favour of a Welsh company to run the event.

Mr Ritchie claims he owns the name of Tiree Wave Classic, but was usurped in 2010 by another company.

He said: 'I wanted to run the event this year and then help people on the island to take over the running of it. I had major private sponsors and television companies interested. I even made a presentation to Argyll and Bute Council.'

'But the money to run the event was awarded to a Welsh company – overlooking us. We have run the event at a loss for years.'

A spokesman for EventScotland, which provides

funding, said: 'The British Wavesailing Association has sanctioned Creative Event Solutions to run the Tiree Wave Classic 2011.'

'Creative Event Solutions have subsequently made an application for support to EventScotland which has been assessed and agreed for support through our normal processes.'

Looking forward

'We are looking forward to an excellent week celebrating the 25th anniversary of the event with strong positive media attention for the island of Tiree and Argyll and Bute as a whole.' Jim Brooks-Dowsett, of the

BWA, said he was aware of the situation and was delighted the original organiser, Andy Groom, was now on board for the event.

He added: 'Tiree is the Scottish leg of a four nations tour, and is this year celebrating its 25th anniversary.'

'We have the pleasure of continuing to work with local business for this great event.'

'The local community has been very welcoming and supportive in anticipation of the event.'

It is understood Mr Groom, the founder of the event, has given the certificated rights to the use of the name Tiree Wave Classic to the BWA.

## Safety concerns at danger junction

A COMMUNITY council has urged roads authorities to address safety concerns at a recently developed junction in Dalmailly.

Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council has raised the issue of dangerous driving

at the 'surgery junction' on the A85 with Scotland Transerv and Transport Scotland, as well as community police officer Iain Young.

Near misses  
Community council secretary John Kerr said: 'There have been

some very serious near misses here and one driver has been charged with dangerous driving.'

Priority

'This is now also a priority for the community council and we want to see signs, street lighting or double white lines.'

'The problem is escalating as the junction is now the vehicle and pedestrian connection between the A85 and the surgery, post office, the pharmacy, the community centre and potentially 14 new houses,' added Mr Kerr.

## Town to be transformed into a winter wonderland

LIGHTS, lanterns, ice rinks and a visit from Santa Claus will help to create a winter spectacle in Oban in November.

The Oban Winter Festival, led by the Ready, Steady, Christmas group, will see the town turned into a winter wonderland for one week, between November 19 – 27.

Kicking off proceedings on the first Saturday will be the annual Reindeer Parade and the switching on of the Christmas lights.

Following the parade, which will

be led by Oban High School Pipe Band, a Victorian-themed market in the town centre will see local crafts people and caterers selling goods.

In keeping with the theme, businesses in the town have already pledged to dress up in Victorian period costume and dress their windows appropriately for the entirety of the festival.

Ice rink  
And for the first four days of the festival, an ice rink will be in place at Atlantis Leisure.

Pamela Lockhart, of Ready, Steady, Christmas, said: 'The team behind the Oban Winter Festival are really excited about the event and the positive response we have had back from businesses and locals so far.'

'Oban needs something to promote the area and for the locals to enjoy at that time of year.'

There will be numerous events throughout the week, including cinema nights, a Wine Call My Bluff night, ceilidhs, outdoor sports taster sessions with Stramash, an '80s/'90s

disco and a football tournament. Organisers are also keen to hear from youth groups who have items to sell and may want to have a free stall space at a market to be held in the Corran Halls.

The finale, on Sunday November 27, will include a lantern parade and a Pop Up Lighting event.

Pamela added: 'We still have room in the programme for any groups or charities that want to run events. We can be contacted online through our website [obanwinterfestival.com](http://obanwinterfestival.com).'

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# Charity's Field of Hope launched in fire station gardens

## Young Robin plants first bulb

THERE was a life-affirming festival feeling to a bulb planting ceremony at Oban Community Fire Station.

Hundreds of daffodils were planted around the gardens at the front entrance to the fire station.

The bulbs were planted in memory of loved ones into what will now be known as Field of Hope for Marie Curie Care.

Robin Howe, aged 9, planted the first bulb, helped by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue station commander Alex Purdie.

Alex said it was a privilege to have the Field of Hope within the grounds of the fire station and the display of colour in spring would be a lovely sight for everyone to enjoy.

Lillian Kermodie, chairwoman of Marie Curie's local organising committee, thanked Oban High School Pipe Band for playing at the opening ceremony and invited everyone to take part in the open day at the fire station.

All funds raised went to Marie Curie Cancer Care.



Robin Howe planted the first bulb in the Marie Curie Cancer Care Field of Hope in the grounds of Oban's Community Fire Station. 16\_138mariecurie01

## NHS urged to make quick decision over island hospital

WESTERN Isles MSP Alasdair Allan has urged NHS Western Isles to come to a rapid decision over whether or not to build a new hospital on Barra.

Speaking after attending the AGM of the Western Isles Carers Users and Supporters Network, Mr Allan said the need to build new healthcare facilities was urgent and should be discussed as a matter of priority.

He said: 'There was a discussion about the increasingly urgent need to replace the hospital building in Barra, and it was again indicated that a decision in principle on this issue will be taken at the beginning of next year.'

'I am anxious that this timetable does not slip, and will keep in touch with NHS Western Isles about this.'

Mr Allan is also to seek more information from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar on the Mobile Overnight Support Scheme, under which support is provided to frail people overnight in their own homes.

He said: 'This is a service which has only ever helped some areas of the islands, and I have now written to the Comhairle for an indication of when they will be in a position to clarify what can be done to meet this need throughout the islands.'

# Crunch talks over Barra SAC plan

## 'Dire consequences' if controversial conservation scheme gets go-ahead

A WESTERN Isles councillor has warned of dire consequences for Barra if a controversial proposal to designate waters off the island as a special area of conservation (SAC) gets the go-ahead.

Donald Manford hit out after Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) announced the dates of two public meetings in South Uist and Barra to discuss the plans.

Most islanders strongly oppose the designation on the grounds it would shackle local industries in red tape and threaten jobs.

SNH is putting forward the Sound of Barra as an SAC because its reefs, subtidal sandbanks and common seals are considered 'qualifying features' and would benefit from having conservation status.

However, Councillor Manford claims the move would land the fragile local economy with 'extraordinary costs'.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'There will be immense consequences for Barra's air service [which operates from Traigh Mhor sands], the island's main fishing port and the main fish processing plant.'

'The electricity cable from South Uist also comes across it, and all require to be upgraded and renewed at some stage. The costs required - if permission can be granted under an SAC - would be crippling for the

**REPORT**  
 by STEPHEN NORRIS  
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island. This is an issue that is causing considerable concern and alarm in the community in regard to the impact it will have in the future.'

SNH is holding the meetings as part of a 12-week public consultation, which opened on Friday. The first is in Castlebay Hall, Barra, on October 3, at 7.30pm, the second at Eriskay Hall, South Uist, on October 4 at 7.30pm.

The events, says SNH, will give anyone with an interest the chance to comment on the scientific justification for the proposed designation. SNH will also gather views on social and economic aspects of the scheme to inform any future management proposals.

SNH Hebrides manager David MacLennan said: 'We are committed to the consultation process we are carrying out on behalf of the Scottish Government. There are obviously concerns which have been expressed in some areas, and we would urge those who may have opposing views to take part in the consultation process.'

'The boundary of the recent East Mingulay SAC was changed after meetings between fishermen, Marine Scotland

## We've been betrayed, says campaign group

THE campaign group vying to stop what they describe as the 'harmful' Special Area of Conservation designation off the coast of Barra say they feel 'betrayed' by the Scottish Government.

Angus MacLeod, chairman of the SHAMED campaign group opposing the plans, says that not only will the status have a 'significant, negative impact' on the fishing industry - vital to the local economy - but will mean islanders will require permission for everything from a garden shed to a fence post.

The group has accused local SNP MSP Alasdair Allan and MP Angus MacNeil of making 'hollow promises' and misleading the community on how each designation status is arrived at.

'Both were clearly told by the EU that the selection and designation of SACs is up to the member states and regions within member states, a fact that was well known within the community,' said Mr MacLeod.

'So, whatever spin politicians try to put on this, the decision to consult on East Mingulay and now the Sound of Barra is entirely a Scottish Government matter.'

Mr MacLeod reiterated the group's findings via freedom of information requests that it was Scottish Natural Heritage that drove the designation.

He said: 'It is now apparent that the SNP government has bowed to pressure from environmental lobbies.'

## Mull and Iona ponder benefits of community wind farm development

THE FUTURE is looking green on the islands of Mull and Iona after a hugely positive meeting into a proposed community wind project.

Groundwork for the project is already in place and the 20 or so people who came along to the meeting were ready and willing to take the project forward.

Duncan Swinbanks, from Tobermory, said: 'Many of the Scottish islands have already got or are in the process of getting wind farms that were constructed to benefit their island communities.'

'The income to the community from these projects is considerable.'

Brian Swinbanks, a director of Tobermory Harbour Association, added: 'The mission of the group will be to deliver maximum community gain through the installation of wind turbines at one or multiple locations which will deliver a maximum financial reward and a minimum impact on our islands' way of life and environment.'

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon, who is a founder member of the group and a founder member

## All office bearers re-elected

ALL OFFICE bearers of An Comunn Gàidhealach Meur Ile, the organisation which amongst other things organises the Islay Mòd each year, have been re-elected.

Following the recent AGM, Grahame Allison has stayed on as chairman, vice chairman is Neil MacLean, branch secretary is Bronwen Currie and treasurer is Alasdair Gillies.

Mòd secretary is Alison Gray and trophy secretary is David Ferguson.

The date of next year's Islay Local Mòd is June 2.

## Have your say on development plan

COMMENTS are being invited on the proposed Outer Hebrides Local Development Plan, with the official consultation process now open.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar have posted the documents online, with the consultation period running until November 10. Visit [www.cne-siar.gov.uk](http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk) for more information and to respond to the consultation.

## Stock up on oil urge suppliers

RESIDENTS and businesses that use oil for heating are being urged to get their delivery in early this year to avoid being hit by the weather.

The Federation of Petroleum Suppliers said ordering early would help people avoid the chaos caused when bad weather caused fuel shortages across the country last winter.

## Pre-Mòd concerts

PRIMARY school Gaelic choirs from Port Ellen and Bowmore are holding pre-Mòd concerts on the same night.

Both concerts, which will help to fund travel costs to the Royal National Mòd in Stornoway next month, will be held on September 30.

## Call for meeting

CAMPAIGN group No Three Arroy has written to Three Community Development Trust to request a public meeting to discuss the proposed Argyll Arroy.

## Garden centre wins car park planning battle

A GARDEN centre has won a 15-month battle with planners to extend a car park deemed 'vital' to the business.

Poppies Garden Centre, just outside Dunbeg, was denied

permission to use and extend the car park, on land east of Tigh Na Mara, Dunstaffnage.

Rejecting the application, planners said photographic evidence demonstrated the

area was covered by a well established layer of vegetation and grass and while it may have been sporadically used as a parking area, it was deemed undeveloped marsh habitat.

An appeal was lodged with the Scottish Government in June and following a review of the circumstances, the government reporter backed Poppies' argument.

## New farmers' group helps nurture Tiree's young folk

TIREE is boldly going where no island has gone before in a bid to ensure its next generation thrives.

Three Community Development Trust youth worker Sophie Isaacson works with an impressive 85 of the island's young residents, supporting projects that cater for them from birth to 18 years of age and beyond.

From karate and street dancing workshops to Duke of Edinburgh and music making, the range of activities is bewildering. And she is only in the first year of a three year project.

'I always knew I wanted to do something with children,' said 21-year-old Sophie.

'The teenagers that I work with are really positive, they are really keen to get involved. They have been so great at coming out and fundraising for the Friday Night chat room.'

'It's really important, especially in a small community, that they realise they will have to fundraise themselves, even when they are really young.'

'They are amazingly involved in the community.'

The latest initiative is a Young Farmers' group, approved last month, part of Sophie's campaign to reach out to all parts of the island's younger population.

At the other end of the age spectrum, there are three groups for toddlers and a new soft play area in an island café.

'We have got 50 under fives on the island - we have had a real baby boom,' she said.

A new Beavers group, due to start this autumn, will plug the gap for five to eight year olds.

Sophie argues young people have opportunities that would not be available in other places, thanks to the dedication of more than 30 volunteers.

'There's a real sense of a big family on Tiree, especially in the winter.'

'Everyone is looking out for everyone else,' she said.

'We really don't have any problems with alcohol or drugs. But there's not a lot for school leavers.'

'If they want to go to university, they have to go off the island. If they want an apprenticeship, there are very few here.'

Sophie hopes to address the problem after a survey of all those who have left Tiree High School in the past 10 years.

Her role grew out of feedback from the community that supporting young people was a priority.

She said the trust's commitment to youth is fantastic and their latest bid to make sure the voices of young islanders are heard is a new junior membership category, launched this month.

## Viking invasion sees surgeons descend on Oban



Oban played host to a prestigious medical conference earlier this month. The Vikings Surgical Club brings together surgeons from remote and rural areas including the west coast of Scotland, Shetland, Orkney, the Isle of Man, Northern Ireland, the Faroes and Iceland. As well as hearing from well-respected experts in their field, they gathered to exchange knowledge and experience from working in isolated communities. Representatives from Lorn and Islands Hospital hosted the conference, the second time the group has held its annual meeting in Oban. 08\_137vkn9501

**Coastguard fight goes to Commons**

REPRESENTATIVES from Clyde Coastguard were invited to the Houses of Parliament last week to brief Scottish MPs on the campaign to keep the station - Scotland's busiest - open. Branch chairman Calum Murray and section officer Stuart Atkinson discussed with MPs why they believe the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's (MCA) proposals are flawed and gave evidence for the reasons to maintain a Coastguard station in Greenock and the central belt of Scotland.

**Car vandalised in Dalmally**

A CAR was vandalised during the day on September 11 outside a house on St Conan's Road, Dalmally. It looked as though a key had been used to damage the Blue Fiat Punto. Police in Dalmally are appealing for witnesses.

**Man charged with spilling diesel**

A 45-YEAR-old man has been charged with spilling diesel on a carriageway. The man was charged after an incident on Glengallan Road on September 10. Police warned drivers to be aware of the consequences of spilling diesel as it was an offence under the Roads Scotland Act.

**Claim of assault on child**

A 37-YEAR-old man has been charged with assaulting an 11-year-old child. Police say an incident occurred in a sports venue in the town on Friday September 16. A report has sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

**Door window smashed**

A DOOR window was smashed at a property in Bay View Road, Dunollie, on Friday night or in the early hours of Saturday morning. Police are appealing for witnesses and ask that anyone with information should contact Constable Callaghan at Oban Police Station on 0800 555 111.

**Drink-drive charge**

A MOTORIST will appear in court on November 3 after being arrested on suspicion of drink-driving in Stafford Street, Oban, at 7pm on Sunday evening.

**Gritters used to clear oil spill**

GRITTERS were used in Oban town centre on the A85 from William Street to Rowan Road at the top of the Bealach-an-Righ on Tuesday after a spillage of oil made the road slippery for vehicles. Oban police were warning drivers to take care but there was no road closures or convoy system in place - despite warnings of such on the BBC's travel news service.

**Sale boost for Phoenix Cinema**

OBAN Phoenix Cinema campaigners raised £774.35 on Sunday at a 'Bring 'n' Buy' sale in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls. The group plan to open the cinema later this year.

Newsdesk:  
01631  
568000

# Slippery snake is back home at last

Jaffa was left behind when owners moved house from Oban to Knipoch

A SNAKE rescued in Battery Terrace last week has been reunited with its owners - nearly six months after he went missing. Derek and Paula Laidler immediately recognised six-year-old albino corn snake Jaffa when he was pictured in last week's *Oban Times* with local SSPCA inspector John McAvoy. They quickly got in touch to organise a happy reunion. Paula and Derek were both delighted to see the snake, who escaped from his vivarium when the couple were moving from Battery Terrace to their new home in Knipoch in April. They say they're eternally

thankful to Archie Milne and his neighbours, who finally rescued the four-and-a-half-foot serpent after three weeks of trying to track him down. Paula, who adopted Jaffa six years ago he was just 12 inches long, said: 'We were absolutely over the moon to see him again. We cannot believe he's been found safe and well. Jaffa went missing in April when we were moving house. We really didn't think we would see him again because we'd gone back to look for him on loads of occasions. It was mating season when he escaped and they're most lively then. We think a latch was loose on the vivarium and he managed to wriggle out. He's never been a wild snake either, so we don't think he would have been able to hunt. It was also very cold for him.' **Comfortable** But Jaffa seemed to make himself quite comfortable, taking advantage of a broken air vent to curl up next to some cozy heating pipes. Paula, who has a passion for reptiles as well as a host of critters and creepy crawlies, said: 'He's absolutely fine. While they can go for 10 months

without food, he doesn't seem to have suffered too badly.' Derek, a physiotherapist at Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital, said: 'We'd like to say a big thank you to Archie and his neighbours for saving Jaffa. It really is very much appreciated. We didn't think we'd ever see him again.' Archie Milne, who discovered Jaffa cowering in an air vent a month ago, sparking a three week adventure to capture the serpent, said: 'It's nice to know he's back where he belongs. I've been offered the chance to go and see him in his new home. I don't think I will - I'm not that brave!'



Paula and Jaffa get re-acquainted following his dramatic rescue from Oban's Battery Terrace last week. 15\_c381aidler2

## Post Offices set to branch out thanks to extra cash

THREE island Post Offices and one on mainland Argyll will get a make-over thanks to thousands of pounds to help them diversify. Marion Spears, sub-postmistress, said the grant would help them to better serve customers. She said: 'The Post Office is very important to the community. Our nearest one is eight miles away. Changing the layout will make it a much more attractive experience. We are hoping to have space to display crafts, helping local

craft interests. Lots of them don't have a permanent place on the island, but the first thing is to get the disabled ramp in, which is going to help with access, and change the layout.' Meanwhile, Dunbeg Post Office, three miles north of Oban, will also get £20,000 for a facelift. William Dunlop, who runs the shop with Murray Young, said: 'We were very happy, we couldn't believe it. This is the third year we have

applied for it - it will be a whole new shop and hopefully a lot better.' Mr Dunlop added the investment makes a massive difference to the survival of small rural Post Office branches. He said: 'There was no guarantee we were going to keep it open; now for the foreseeable future it will be definitely there. It benefits the community; it benefits the older folks across the road who don't have to go to Oban to get their pension.'

# Plan drawn up to save iconic Lochawe church

MORE than a year after *The Oban Times* highlighted the plight of the iconic St Conan's Kirk in Lochawe, a plan to save the 19th century church has been tabled. The trustees and other volunteers will host an open day at the church on October 22 to help gain more support and launch a dedicated website. There are also moves to establish a 'Friends of St Conan's Kirk'. John, who lives in Kenmore, between Inveraray and Furnace, said: 'I do a lot of work with Auchindrain Township, so after I saw the story about St Conan's Kirk in *The Oban Times* I approached the trustees to see if

drawings and a plan of restoration that now requires a lot of fundraising and grant assistance. The trustees and other volunteers will host an open day at the church on October 22 to help gain more support and launch a dedicated website. There are also moves to establish a 'Friends of St Conan's Kirk'. John, who lives in Kenmore, between Inveraray and Furnace, said: 'I do a lot of work with Auchindrain Township, so after I saw the story about St Conan's Kirk in *The Oban Times* I approached the trustees to see if

I could help. They employed me to put together some drawings but a project like this is not about financial gain; it's a building I have always loved.' John has helped to identify serious structural problems within the building, particularly the roof. He added: 'The rear walls and the rear garden may have to be roped off in the future because of safety issues but we wouldn't want to do that. At the moment the priority is to apply some first aid, with a big 'F'. We have to stop water coming in and address structural issues. We are trying to get funding from five or six different sources but we need to do fundraising locally. Historic Scotland is aware of the church and its importance to the area.' St Conan's Kirk was designed by Walter Campbell, an amateur architect whose family owned Innischonan and buildings around Loch Awe, including the Manse. John said: 'He had a lot of ideas and used five or six different styles in the design, which is why it is unique. The problem was he had good ideas but not much construction knowledge.'

## Tenders to be sought for £1.6million Barra harbour

BARRA fishermen are celebrating after Comhairle nan Eilean Siar agreed to put to tender plans to develop a new £1.6million box harbour at Ardevenish. The new box harbour will not only provide protection from the elements for the island's fishing fleet, but will increase the current pier's capacity from zero to six berths. It is anticipated that the project will go out to tender at the start of next year with the build complete within 12 months. Land for the new harbour is being contributed by Barra's largest employer, fish processing firm Barratlantic, at no cost. The total project cost of £1.681million includes a 30 per cent contingency fund.

The council will contribute £1.238million, while Highlands and Islands Enterprise are considering allocating £125,000. It is hoped the shortfall can be met from other funding sources. Local councillor Donald Manford said the cost of the build could yet come down. He said: 'It has been agreed to progress steps towards going out to tender. We will include in the tender options for contractors to offer innovative ideas of their own to bring the cost down and offer best value. We were fortunate that the recent storms of Hurricane Katia missed Barra, but it's not something we want to take chances on in the future. It is important that further meetings are held with the local

fishing industry to discuss the current position and review all the cost saving options. Although there are still considerable obstacles to be overcome, I am confident where there is the will to deliver, this vital project will be secured.' Donald MacLean, managing director of Barratlantic, welcomed the decision. He said: 'We've been shouting for this since 2005 since the storm that damaged our boats. The fleet has since grown and the largest pelagic fishing vessel on Scotland's west coast is based here. However, at the moment the owner, like others, has to tie his vessel up at Fraserburgh because of the lack of facilities here. It's never been more important than now to get this done.'

## Brothers raise a mountain of cash in the Alps

TWO BROTHERS from Colonsay have raised nearly £5,000 for charity after navigating their way to the summit of The Matterhorn in the Alps - thanks to a guide from Taynuilt. Geaspar and Maghnus Byrne, who run the Crianlarich Hotel, chose the Dalmally-based Mary's Meals as their chosen charity for this year. Their ascent of the Matterhorn took place on August 4, after they had spent 11 days in the Alps, acclimatising to altitude, practising climbing techniques and waiting for a 'weather window' to begin the trek. From base camp to the summit and back took the brothers approximately 11 hours. One of the guides who accompanied the brothers in their climb was Jonny Baird, a former pupil of Oban High School, who moved from Taynuilt to Chamonix to pursue his passion of climbing. After bringing in all the sponsor money, the Byrne brothers have raised £4,905 for Mary's Meals. Geaspar said: 'My brother and I are over the moon to have raised



Geaspar and Maghnus Byrne, who raised almost £5,000 for Mary's Meals after reaching the top of The Matterhorn.

such a fantastic sum of money for our hotel's nominated charity. The climb and the training were hard work but hugely rewarding and we are enormously grateful to all those who so generously sponsored us.'

The Matterhorn is one of the highest peaks in the Alps. Its summit is 4,478 metres (14,692ft) and it is recognised as one of the toughest mountains in Europe. Mary's Meals provides a daily meal to chronically hungry

children in a place of education to attract them to school, where they can get an education which could lift them out of poverty in later life. It costs just £6.15 to feed child a child for a whole school year in Malawi.

## Parents' concern as review begins into Paisley hospital children's ward

THE FUTURE of a children's ward used by patients from Argyll is under review. Many sick children from Oban and other parts of Argyll are referred to Ward 15 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley for inpatient paediatric treatment. One mother, Susannah Hughes, was concerned when she went there with her young son last week to hear the ward's future was in doubt. As a regular user, she said moving the service would make a big difference to patients and the parents of sick children. She said: 'If this were to happen, services would be transferred to Yorkhill and then

in turn to the Southern General as Yorkhill is due to relocate in 2015 down there. Just what you need with a sick baby or child to get to hospital - an extra 30 minutes onto the journey.' Posters advertising drop-in sessions have been put up in the ward to discuss the review with regular users. **Alarmed** Susannah said she was surprised and alarmed that patients and professionals from Argyll had not been part of the discussion. She said: 'As Argyll's patient pathway is down to Glasgow and not north to Inverness you would

imagine there would be more knowledge of it locally. Nobody I have spoken to - health visitors, midwives, GPs ambulance crews - had heard anything about it.' A spokesperson for NHS Glasgow and Greater Clyde said: 'It is important to stress that no final decisions have been taken about whether to consult on a potential move of this service to the specialist regional Royal Hospital for Sick Children at Yorkhill. If it is decided that there is a case for change following this review there will be full public consultation with public meetings before any final decision is taken.'

## Island to host wind power careers night

ENERGY firm Scottish Power Renewables will visit Tiree next week to host an offshore wind careers evening. The company hopes to erect up to 300 turbines off the coast of the island and says the evening will give locals an insight of how to gain employment in the renewable energy sector using current skills. The company will have

representatives from its project development team in attendance, including an operations area supervisor who deals with the day-to-day running of a wind farm and a control room manager who oversees the whole wind farm portfolio. Also in attendance will be a representative from WindCat Work Boats, which assist in the transport and logistic around the

construction of a wind farm, and Robert Orr, Skills Development Scotland's head of energy and careers advisor. However, the company admits that it does not yet know how many - if any - jobs will be based on the island should the Argyll Array go ahead. The event will be held at the community hall, An Talla, on September 30 from 7pm.

## Gun club's £5,000 boost to upgrade clubhouse

AN APPIN gun club and a community football pitch are among the projects to get money from the latest Awards for All Lottery grants. Fasnacloich Gun Club will spend £5,000 improving their clubhouse, with a generator, upgrade to bathrooms and a new promatic clay pigeon trap. They hope the improvements will encourage more people to try the sport. Southend Community Council, near

Campbeltown, will use its £1,500 grant to buy new goal posts for the village sports field. Ardentinn Community Trust Limited was awarded £10,000 towards the purchase of Glenfinart walled garden near Dunoon from the Forestry Commission. They will re-develop the site as a community garden producing organic fruit and vegetables. The 24th Argyll (Dunoon) Scout Troop has also been awarded almost £10,000 to renovate its hall kitchen.

## Rona tuning up for BBC award

AN OBAN musician has made the semi-final stage of this year's BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician 2012 Award. Fiddle player Rona Wilkie will be one of 12 performers at the glittering semi-final concert on October 1 in Coulter, South Lanarkshire. From this concert six musicians will be

selected to go through to the final at Celtic Connections, in Glasgow, next year. Rona led fiddle group Gizzzen Briggs for several years, performing at the opening of the Scottish Parliament in front of the Queen and First Minister in 2004. The 23-year-old has just completed a Masters Degree in Folk Music at Newcastle University.

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**Lorn Lines**

THE FIRST Sunday of September saw more than a dozen members from Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society, led by Robin Banks, around the streets of Oban as he brought the wartime town to life through memories as a youngster who had watched all that went on in the bay.

There seemed an inordinate amount of sweetie shops, three branches of Boots the chemist, two thriving cinemas and the influx of up to 5,000 service personnel.

Earlier in August, the society was present in the Heritage tent at Oban Games to provide information on Lorn's rich history.

Now the society's summer programme has concluded, people are looking to an interesting lecture season.

Sue Hothersall will present the first of this varied programme with a talk on the Kelp industry, which reached its peak around the 1790s, and how its decline impacted on many coastal areas.

As usual this will take place in the Undercroft, Glencruitten Halls, at 7.30pm on Friday October 14, to which visitors are always welcome.



THE FIRST meeting of Lorn Garden Club was held on Tuesday at St Johns Cathedral Lower Hall.

The group held a Gardener's Question Time with the club's three resident expert gardeners and hosted a plant and seed swap.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday October 20. The topic is Growing Organic Vegetables with Lisa Robinson from Easdale.

Lisa runs an organic vegetable business called Growing Green and will tell the story of how her business developed from a bare plot of land.



Youngsters from First Steps Nursery in Oban were thrilled to visit the Community Fire Station last week, as part of their project learning about the emergency services. They were given a spin in the fire engine with the lights flashing and got to try their hand at using the fire hose, as well as learning about the importance of smoke alarms in the home. The children have also visited Oban Police Office and hope to learn about the hospital soon. 08\_138steps01



OBAN Community Council will welcome eight new members when it reconvenes at the end of the month.

A by-election for community councillors was due to be held on September 22, but because there were only enough candidates to fill vacant seats, there was no contest.

As a result, June Anfield, Andrew Harper, Jessie MacFarlane, Sean MacIntyre, Stewart McIver, Mandy Peden, Alexandra Russell and Andrew Waugh will take their places automatically.

Chairman Kenny MacIntyre said: 'I'm quite sure the new candidates will bring a breath of fresh air into the community council.'



Gus Brydon, left, an organiser of the Oban Sea Kayak Race, presents a £1,500 cheque to Oban Lifeboat coxswain Ronnie MacKillop. The money was raised at the round-Kerrera race.



BRITISH Para-Triathlon Champion and outdoor adventurer Karen Darke will be the special guest at a birthday party for adventure group Stramash in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

Stramash is celebrating its second birthday on September 30 with a fundraising ceilidh and beach party.

The evening will tell the story of Stramash in words, music and poetry, with Ceol An Aire providing the musical entertainment.

The party continues the following day with the Birthday on the Beach at Ganavan, during which people can come and have a go at canoeing, coasteering, archery, bushcraft, kayaking, orienteering, wild art and abseiling to share in the celebrations.

The events mark two years since Stramash became an independent charitable organisation.

At the age of 21, Ms Darke fell while climbing and became paralysed from the chest down. Since then she has refused to let her disabilities prevent her from continuing on an adventurous path.



RENOWNED cook and foremost supporter of Scottish produce Lady Claire MacDonald will visit Oban next week to give a special cookery demonstration.

Lady MacDonald, the owner of Skye's Michelin Star winning Kinloch Lodge restaurant, will be cooking at the launch of new produce shop The Pantry, in Argyll Square, on Tuesday from noon.

# Fill up for free - but there's just one catch...

## The car has to be electric and you must get to Ford

**REPORT**

by LOUISE LEE  
llee@obantimes.co.uk

THERE are not many places that allow you to fill your car up for free - but that is the offer on the table from brothers Nick and Adam Loening.

The only catch is that your vehicle must be electric - and you must be able to get to far-flung Ford, a tiny village in the middle of the Argyll countryside.

Nick and Adam, directors of Inverliever Hydro Electric, believe their purpose-built water powered charger may even be the only mainland re-charging station in Argyll and Bute.

Last weekend Adam made the trip from Edinburgh, through the Rest and Be Thankful and along Loch Awe, to visit his brother in his Nissan Leaf - one of the few environmentally friendly electric car models in production.

Stopping once at Loch Fyne Oysters for two hours to charge up using the regular electricity supply, while enjoying a lunch, it was then a smooth and uneventful trip to the Eco Yoga Centre at Inverliever House near Ford.

Nick said: 'We run the charger from the hydro electric station we have here in Inverliever. It doesn't cost anyone anything to fill up.'

'Because the sockets are directly connected to the hydro plant and only energised when the turbine is running, anyone who charges their car or bike or van knows there are truly zero emissions. There is an emergency back up though so no one will get stuck even if the turbine is off.'

'The charge facility is now

fully operational - automatically switched on when the turbine is running. Feel free to turn up and charge your electric vehicle at anytime.

'We have a small electric car that we use to take the children to school and run about in - but Adam has a newer vehicle that is very efficient in its use of electricity.'

'As fuel costs continue to rise it seems to make perfect sense to turn to the hydro-power to fuel our cars.'

'I think there is a charger on Islay, but I haven't heard of another one in this area. At the moment we are not inundated with people filling up, but it is there if anyone needs it.'

'The system provides single-phase power at 13A, 16A or 32A for charging of electric vehicles. The cable will allow an upgrade to three phase charging in the future. The availability of the charge facility can be monitored online.'

Adam, who uses the car as his main vehicle in Edinburgh, received a £5,000 cheque from a Scottish Government scheme towards the cost of the vehicle.

'The car is almost silent so it has a stealth button to give it some sound to warn passers by or wildlife,' he said.

'It could perhaps have travelled from the city to Loch Awe without a charge but it is better to know there is somewhere to go along the way.'



Fill her up: Adam, front, and Nick Loening, directors of Inverliever Hydro Electric Limited, use the re-charging point at Ford, Loch Awe. 16\_139electricar01

## Jail for drug user who struggled with police

A MAN who struggled violently with police in broad daylight in Oban's busiest street has been jailed.

Alexander MacKenzie of 12A Miller Road, Oban, pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday to obstructing two police officers who were trying to search him for drugs on the afternoon of April 21, and to possession of heroin.

The two plain-clothed constables were driving through George Street when they noticed MacKenzie acting suspiciously, staring at the unmarked police car as it went past and reaching into his pocket.

The officers parked in nearby Stevenson Street and went to speak to MacKenzie, aged 39.

In giving evidence, one of the officers said: 'His pupils were dilated to pin-point size.'

'He was quite forthcoming and co-operative at that stage but his speech was slightly slurred and

there was no smell of alcohol from him. Given all that I had seen I formed the opinion he was in possession of a controlled drug.'

The officers attempted to hand-cuff MacKenzie before a search could take place.

A struggle ensued and MacKenzie managed to free his left hand, reach into his trouser pocket and swallow what he later admitted to police was a 'tenner bag of heroin'. This meant he was later taken to hospital for observation.

He was brought under control after an off-duty police officer and a member of the public came to assist.

At the police station he was found to be in possession of two wraps of diamorphine.

Sherriff John Halley sentenced MacKenzie to periods of six months for the obstruction and two months for the drugs possession, to run concurrently.

## Tenants welcome new rent payment cards

THE INTRODUCTION of payment cards which can be used at local stores and Post Office branches has proved popular with tenants, according to officials at Argyll Community Housing Association.

Tenants can now make payments at a venue or time that is more convenient as a number of tenants previously had to make a journey to their local offices specifically to make a payment. Among those using the payment card is Anne McKillop, of Dunbeg, who said: 'I've not been very well recently and unable to drive, which meant I couldn't get

into the Oban office to pay my rent.'

'I always pay monthly and was starting to worry about how I would get in when the payment card came through the post. I think it's a great service as I was able to make my rent payment at my local shop in Dunbeg without any worries.'

As well as the new payment card, tenants can make payments using direct debits, standing orders, online through ACHA's website www.acha.co.uk or using ACHA's Customer Service Centre Freephone number 0800 028 2755.

## Tourism group creates consortium company

A TOURISM group with Argyll and the islands at its heart has taken a major step forward.

The Argyll and the Isles Strategic Tourism partnership (AISTP), an umbrella organisation representing 27 Argyll marketing groups, voted to create a consortium company, Argyll and the Isles Tourism Ltd, led by the group's vice chairman Mike Story.

Mike said: 'These are very

exciting times for Argyll and the islands and we want to make sure we are getting it right.'

'We will continue the role as the area think tank. We will act as official consultees on such projects as Oban CHORD, Visit Scotland VIC network, development of the Argyll and the Isles Tourism brand and development of the Argyll and the Isles stands at The Tourism Expo for the next three years.'

## Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No it's Punctuation Panda and friends!

BUDDING designers at Oban Primary Campus have helped fellow pupils improve their writing by dreaming up their very own grammatical superheroes.

Vocabulary Varmint, Clara Connective, Octo Opener and Punctuation Panda are based on competition-winning designs from the pupils, making them unique to the campus. They will now be used to help children improve their vocabulary, connectives, openers and punctuation (VCOP).

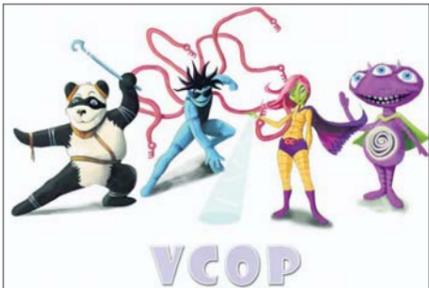
'The superheroes will help remind the children how to use words properly,' said Gaelic Medium Unit principal teacher Catriona Garvin. 'Even children with brilliant ideas can have difficulty punctuating or expressing them.'

'We wanted the children to have ownership of the VCOP characters and the designs that got to the final represented the whole campus: Rockfield, St Columba's and the Gaelic Medium

Unit.' Two of the pupils' designs were chosen as winners for each of the four writing themes.

The winning superhero designs were combined and turned into the unique Oban Primary Campus VCOP characters by Henry Kunz at Edinburgh-based designers MercuryTide.

The winners were as follows: Rosie Elliot and Callum Shaw, Vocabulary Varmint; Lauren Darrah and Eilidh MacFadyen, Clara Connective; Euan Murphy and Lewis Parker, Octo Opener; and Kelly MacGillivray and Kirsty MacCormick, Punctuation Panda.



The Oban Primary Campus VCOP characters: Punctuation Panda, Octo Opener, Clara Connective and Vocabulary Varmint.



The VCOP design finalists with their creations. 15\_138hero01

## Couple set to re-open Creagan Inn

APPIN restaurant and bar, the Creagan Inn, is set to re-open after the business was bought over by Liz and Allan Crichton.

The couple, who in 1995 es-

tablished the Bothy Restaurant and Bar in Fort Augustus before leaving in 2005, say the renewed eatery will offer a 'traditional Scottish welcome and good

## Attacker grabbed police officer by the throat

AN OBAN man admitted struggling violently with police officers and assaulting one when he appeared at the town's Sheriff Court on Monday.

Damien McAuley, 19, of 10D Sinclair Drive, struggled with officers at Quarry Road on March 26, assaulting one of the officers by grabbing his throat.

Both offences were committed while he was on bail.

Sentence has been deferred until October 4, when other matters against McAuley are due to be heard.

## New farmhouse proposal approved

PLANS for a new farmhouse on Torran Farm in Ford have been approved by planners.

There are already farm buildings on the site, close to the shore of Loch Awe, and planners recognised there was a need for a dwelling to serve the farm.

Applicants Messrs J and B Broly will need to ensure a programme of archaeological work is carried out at the site, which is close to Dun Toiseach, a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

## Motorist sped through Dalmally

A MAN caught driving at 70mph through Dalmally has escaped a driving ban.

Appearing at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, Ron Ballantyne, 48, of Flat 0-2, 84 Stock Street, Paisley, admitted that on March 4 this year, on the A85, he broke the 40mph speed limit.

Ballantyne, who already had three penalty points on his driving licence, was fined £270 by Sheriff John Halley and his licence was endorsed by a further six points.

## Three-bedroom property agreed

A NEW three-bedroom house will be built at Eredine on East Lochaweside.

The site, south west of Keeper's Cottage, previously had outline planning permission for a house.

Mr and Mrs Petley's plan are for a modern-style house with decking around two sides. Access onto the B840 will be upgraded and three parking spaces will be provided.

## UHI seeks £3m extra cash

THE UNIVERSITY of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) is to seek an extra £3million funding every year to cope with demand in renewable energy courses.

Principal James Fraser said more money was needed from the Scottish Government because funding was already lagging behind student roll.

The UHI is made up of a network of 13 colleges and research centres across Argyll, the Highlands, Western and Northern Isles, Moray and Perthshire.

## TIF funding decision delayed

A DECISION on the viability of funding infrastructure in Oban and Lorn has been delayed until October.

Bidders from 16 projects, including Oban, were due to be told this week whether they had been successful. But the decision has now been delayed. Tax Incremental Funding (TIF) is Scottish Government funding and in Oban the plan is for a Lorn Arc to improve roads and the North Pier.

## No objections to Ulva Ferry scheme

A NEW house is to be built at Ulva Ferry on the Isle of Mull.

There were no objections to plans for the one-and-a-half storey home, on land south of Lagganulva Farm in a National Scenic Area.

## Green light for house extension

PERMISSION has been granted for a two-storey extension to a house in Port Ellen on Islay.

Mr and Mrs Morrison, of 30 Ardview, applied for the extension, which will be the same height as the existing house.

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### Military training exercise off the north west coast

A MASSIVE military training exercise might be partly visible from Oban when it gets under way at the start of next month.

UK military forces will be joined by the air forces and armies of 13 other nations to test their combat and operational skills during Exercise Joint Warrior, which takes place across Scotland's north west coast.

Organised by the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, it is Europe's largest training effort and has taken on huge strategic, operational and tactical importance as it backs up the training required for the all too real action in Afghanistan and Libya.

Land, air and marine units will be active during the exercise, and there will be some night time flying from RAF Lossiemouth.

The exercise takes place in the spring and the autumn of each year. This, the second of 2011's exercises, will take place between October 3 and 17.

### Charter firm sails to the aid of historic rescue tug

DUNSTAFFNAGE-based yacht charter company Alba Sailing is to play a part in the restoration of a historic Scottish rescue tug.

The company has donated a life-raft and safety equipment to the crew hoping to restore the Golden Cross.

The equipment will be vital for transporting the tug from its current home in Corwall to its new permanent residence at the Clyde.

It will be the first time in 57 years the tug will be able to call the Clyde its home.

Once arrived, the tug will be restored by a team of volunteers - some from Argyll, and will subsequently play a community role in promoting safety at sea.

Alba Sailing's David Banks said: 'With imminent Coastguard station closures on the horizon, she couldn't be arriving at a better time.'

'Now equipped with our life-raft and equipment, I am sure she will have a safe passage and following seas.'

### Purse stolen from unlocked car

A PURSE was stolen from an unlocked motor vehicle on Dalintart Drive sometime between Friday night and Saturday morning.

Police are appealing for witnesses to the crime and remind people that cars should be locked and secured every time they are parked.

### Man reported after assault allegation

A 22-YEAR-old man has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal after allegedly assaulting a 24-year-old man on George Street early on Sunday morning.

## Alf turns heads as bikers parade through town



A fundraising motorbike rally has raised a whole lot of cash for the Atlantis Leisure Play Park. A train of motorbikes left the town's leisure complex on Saturday just after midday to help raise funds for the community-owned centre's children's play park. After touring through the town, the sponsored bikes on Alf's Rally headed over Connel Bridge up to Glencoe, then Tyndrum and back to Dalmailly and along Loch Awe before arriving back into Oban for a hog roast and barbecue. Atlantis Leisure mascot Alf, a giant turtle, hitched a lift through town. 16\_138a101

## MPs head to Western Isles and Tiree as part of Crown Estate probe

MEMBERS of the Scottish Affairs Committee will visit Tiree and the Western Isles this week in connection with its inquiry into the Crown Estate for Scotland.

Ian Davidson MP, chairman of the committee, said the group will speak to residents and businesses to hear directly about how the Crown Estate affects them.

He said: 'We want to hear first hand about the relationship between local communities and the Crown Estate, particularly about how the Crown Estate can best act in the public's interest.'

'We are also keen to explore aspects relating to our inquiries into health and safety in Scotland and supporting Scotland's economy.'

'We are especially interested to hear about the viability of small businesses on the isles in the current economic climate.'

The four-day trip started in Tiree on Wednesday, where they met the fishing fleet and Tiree

Community Trust before hosting an informal drop-in session for the locals in the evening.

Today (Thursday) they will meet ScottishPower Renewables, Tiree Community Business and the island's Rural Centre, before heading to Barra to visit Ardvienish Pier, Barra Atlantic and hear more about community projects on the island and South Uist.

**Meeting**  
On Friday, they will meet Barra's campaign group SHAMED to discuss the controversial proposed Special Area of Conservation designations for Sound of Barra and East Mingulay, before heading to Stornoway for a tour of the harbour.

The final day of the tour, Saturday, will see the ministers meet the Galson Trust on Lewis, before holding a discussion on crofting, Harris Tweed, digital connectivity and creative industries with industry representatives.

## Future of Castle Toward centre remains in limbo

THE FUTURE of an Argyll outdoor education centre remains in limbo after Scottish Government ministers rejected a plan for a community buy-out.

Argyll and Bute Council put Castle Toward, on the Cowal peninsula, up for sale in June 2010 and South Cowal Community Development Company (SCCDC) noted an interest in buying it on behalf of the community.

Last week, ministers refused to register the local organisation's interest in the property, allowing Argyll and Bute Council to continue with the sale of the 140-acre estate.

Council leader Dick Walsh, who represents the local ward, said he was relieved that matters had now been resolved.

He said: 'This sale has the potential not just to secure the future of Castle Toward itself, but also to attract a major development to the site.'

'We have received some interesting offers for the property, which have the potential to bring significant benefits to the area both in terms of job creation and

economic development.' Castle Toward is currently operated by Actual Reality.

The company also put in an offer for the site last year, in a bid to secure the future of outdoor education, which has been delivered there since 1949, and their offer remains on the table.

Director Christopher Mason said: 'We want to buy it, we think we can afford it.'

'We hope they will negotiate with us on the basis of that offer.'

'It's now really up to Argyll and Bute Council to decide whether outdoor education will continue to be provided there.'

'Castle Toward can play a very useful social and education role as an outdoor education centre but I don't think it's realistic to think that the property is big enough to deliver a huge boost to anything.'

'I don't know how a major development can take place within the council's own planning policies for the area.'

'It is quite restrictive. There are many listed buildings and gardens.'

# Mum-to-be's plea over housing wait

## Points system 'must change'

### REPORT

by EUAN PATERSON  
epateron@obantimes.co.uk

A MOTHER-to-be has backed calls by a housing association boss last week for a change to the points system for homelessness in Argyll and Bute.

Hairdresser Heather Craig, who is due to give birth in three weeks, lives with her partner in his parents' house. There are six adults in total living in the three-bedroom bungalow.

The 22-year-old, whose family has been in the Oban and Lorn area for decades, told *The Oban Times* about her frustration at being shunted down the housing list as homeless people from outside Argyll are allocated houses almost immediately.

Last week, Alistair MacGregor, chief executive of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), told Mid Argyll, Kintyre andIslay area committee that the system for allocating social housing went against common sense and described the battle to meet local needs as 'trying to play golf with a hole that's not big enough'.

Heather lived with her partner, who is from Oban, in a private



Pregnant Heather Craig and her partner will be forced to raise their child in a three-bedroom house with four other adults. 15\_138bab91

sake of her mental wellbeing. After being on the housing list for nine months, there is no sign of Heather and her partner finding a home of their own.

Heather said she was 'disappointed' and 'frustrated' when a convicted drug dealer, who hails from outwith the UK, and lived next door to her previous address, was evicted, only to be re-housed elsewhere in the area.

'My problem with the housing service in Argyll and Bute is you have to be homeless before you get any help, regardless of your circumstances,' she said.

'The staff at west Highland Housing Association and ACHA have been great but they can't help. I have friends who are married with children but are still struggling to get anywhere. The system needs to change. If you have convictions for drug dealing you should be sent away, not getting priority over everyone else.'

Under the current points system, housing associations must allocate 50 per cent of its housing stock to the homeless and the length of time an applicant has waited for a house, or their local connection, cannot be taken into account.

let in High Street.

However, she was diagnosed with depression and anxiety, triggered by the death of her father in July this year, and after witnessing drug deals, fights and windows being broken felt she had to leave the premises for the



From left: Jim Belcher, new harbour master Michael Leach and Andy Colquhoun at the marina. 15\_138dunst1

## Michael appointed new harbour master at Dunstaffnage Marina

IN A BUSY few days at Dunstaffnage Marina, Michael Leach has been appointed as its new harbour master, while engineering manager Jim Belcher and Andy Colquhoun gained new qualifications.

Michael has worked within the company for the past 14 years, working with the marina as yacht broker and chandlery shop manager for the past 11. Meanwhile, Andy and Jim both completed a City and Guilds Course in GRP and Gelcoat painting at Southampton College; an industry standard in boat repairs.

Michael has worked within the company for the

## Bridge warning signs 'have not worked'

A LARGE gantry should be erected beside the listed Connel Bridge to prevent high vehicles hitting it, local residents believe.

After the bridge was closed for three hours earlier this month when a lorry knocked down a girder and an electrical cable, Connel community Council agreed to raise the issue with Scotland TranServ which maintains

the lifeline route across the entrance to Loch Etive.

Villagers said at a community council meeting last week that controversial signs put up last year to warn over-height vehicles had clearly not solved the problem of bridge strikes.

Mike Harrison, community councillor, said: 'We have had two

known strikes since their fancy signs went up.'

**Look again**  
Argyll and Bute Councillor Elaine Robertson, who proposed the idea in 2006, said it was time to look again at putting up gantries to protect the bridge.

She said: 'It would be simple and effective. I was told it wasn't possible

because of the bridge being listed.'

But Connel resident Helen Anderson suggested an overheight bar could be placed on the road approaching the bridge, but at a distance, leaving views of the historic bridge intact.

She added disruption caused by bridge closures for locals and travellers was huge.

## Brownie leaders clock up 200 hours' voluntary work



Connel Brownies say a big thank you to Shona and Elizabeth as they receive their volunteering certificates from Eleanor MacKinnon. 15\_137gide01

TWO TEENAGE leaders with First Connel Brownies have been given certificates to recognise their work.

The whole pack was there to see Shona Griffiths and Elizabeth Campbell, both aged 17, receive their Millennium Volunteer certificates on Monday September 19.

The certificates, signed by First Minister Alex Salmond, recognise 200 hours of volunteering by the girls since last year.

Elizabeth was a Brownie in Connel before she took on the role of young leader. She said: 'I enjoy it really, it's good fun. The good thing about it is there are other young leaders coming up.'

Shona, a Taynuilt Brownie, has been volunteering for five years. Both girls were also members of North Connel Guides. The pair are hoping to become adult leaders before they go to university next year. Eleanor MacKinnon, from Argyll Volunteer Centre, handed over the certificates and also set the Brownies a volunteering challenge - to organise a St Andrew's night for older people. She said: 'It gives them the opportunity to plan for things and the chance to give something back.'

## Probe into Oban broadband hitch

ENGINEERS from BT are investigating its Oban exchanges after broadband customers reported slow speeds in the last few days.

A spokesperson for BT said: 'Nine people have complained about slow speeds in the Oban area. Engineers will be visiting this week to investigate,' he added.

'People should always report problems such as this whenever they arise.'

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## The Pantry opens its doors

THE PANTRY, opening next week in Argyll Square, will utilise the area's finest produce to become the community's very own farmhouse store.

The owners of the new store, local husband and wife teams, Jenny and Robbie Love and Donna and Archie MacCulloch, hope that by taking traditional farmhouse store values and giving them a contemporary twist, they can give our own produce the shop window it deserves.

Celebrating the grand opening at noon on Tuesday, Lady Claire MacDonald, the owner of Skye's Michelin Star winning Kinloch Lodge restaurant, will be giving a cookery demonstration using the shop's very own fare.

The event will no doubt be popular, with Lady Claire renowned as Scotland's foremost advocate and supporter of local produce and food experts.

But taking centre stage will be the delicious meat, fruit and vegetables of the county, sourced from a variety of the area's finest local producers. Alongside this you will find a fine selection of the area's terrific produce, such as cheeses, preserves, smoked seafood and sauces. Of course, no celebration of local fare would be complete without a selection of the area's globally-famous whisky, not to mention local ales and beers to tantalise the tastebuds. It is, however, the less traditional aspects that will give a full flavour to the outlet's inspiring ranges, such as gourmet, locally produced and chemical-free ready meals, ideal for those on the go.

A full range of gluten free produce will be on offer, while a take-away coffee, tea and snack counter will utilise the expertise of Donna and Archie MacCulloch, owners of Roly's Café just across the road. Utilising the produce in store to stock the counter makes it ideal for those who don't just want a sandwich or pie to keep them on the go.

With such inspiring choices available, you'll be glad to hear that hampers will be available to fit every budget; perfect for gifts.

Another unique service will see recipes of the week available in ready-to-cook packs; taking the hassle out of deciding what to have for dinner.

It all promises to create an exciting food experience for the community and one which will highlight the best Argyll has to offer - hidden gems and well known stars alike.

Community is key though and The Pantry is keen to hear from producers and customers alike about how they can enrich their service further.



**The Pantry is opening on Tuesday 27th September 2011**

Come and join us for a glass of bubbly, taste our produce and see chef Lady Claire MacDonald demonstrate some fabulous recipes

**Open for business at 9.00am with Lady Claire demonstrating at midday**

**Tel: 01631 563355**

A new taste for local produce  
the pantry | ground floor | boswell house | argyll square | oban

OT

## Eigg vows to fight salmon farm plan

RESIDENTS on Eigg say they will fight plans for a proposed salmon farm off the island's coastline.

The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) has identified a site east of the island off Kildonan as a possible development site.

But islanders fear the fish farm would negatively affect wildlife and damage the island's green credentials.

Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust chairman John Hutchison said: 'We do not want it here and will resolutely oppose any proposal.'

Isle of Eigg Residents Association chairman Eddie Scott said islanders had voted

'resoundingly against' the idea. 'On their visit to Eigg SSC utterly failed to reassure us as to the likely impact their development would have on the wildlife in its vicinity, both above and below the waterline.'

SSC chief operating officer Stewart McLelland told *The Oban Times* plans were at a 'very early stage'.

He said: 'We are undertaking a pre-application process and community engagement to find out whether this site would be suitable for fish farming. We will continue to work alongside the community in Eigg throughout our planning process.'

## Residents question museum's right to sell valuable painting

ARISAIG residents have questioned West Highland Museum's (WHM) right to sell a valuable Victorian painting it owns.

At an hour-long meeting in the Astley Hall on Monday night, Comunn Eachraidh Arasaig (Arisaig Historical Society) member Elizabeth MacDonald quizzed management committee chairman Chris Robinson on the museum's acquisition and disposal policy.

The policy, she claimed, ruled items could only be sold if funds subsequently raised were 'crucial to the museum's future'.

But Mr Robinson insisted the museum's future was on the line if development plans could not be progressed.

WHM, he said, had been denied a lottery grant to buy land next to a barn behind the museum, into which it was hoped to expand. That failure forced museum trustees into looking for other ways to raise money.

He said: 'This is a failing business. Last year we felt we had to do something different. If we continued the way we were going, in 15 years there would be no-one coming to the museum. There was no question of selling

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

this painting until we failed in the lottery grant.

Plans to sell the painting are on hold pending a new Lottery bid, he said, and any future sale would be discussed with Arisaig locals first.

Mrs MacDonald said locals were also unhappy WHM had considered a sale without consultation.

She said: 'The painting has been there in your trust, and you were going to break that trust. We will always have this on our minds.'

The artwork, *Letters and News at the Lochside*, has been valued at up to £60,000. The 1868 work by Henry Tamworth Wells, of a boat on Loch Eilt-side, depicts men whose descendants still live in the area.

The late Miss Joan Becher bequeathed the painting to any museum interested in taking it. WHM assumed ownership in 1995 on Ms Becher's death.

Because of its size it remains in Miss Becher's former home, Arisaig House, now a guesthouse, where it is open to public view.



## Megan shines at Lochaber Gold concert

Megan Henderson was a star performer at the 2011 Blas festival 'Lochaber Gold' concert at the Nevis Centre in Fort William on Friday night. The talented Gaelic singer and fiddler is pictured giving her rendition of *Oran Eile do'n Phrionnsa* (Another Song to the Prince), written by Alexander MacDonald, the Clanranald Bard, in 1745 to rally the clans to Prince Charles Edward Stuart's cause. An audience of about 400 enjoyed a varied programme of top-class musicianship and repartee.

## Check out the new patient check-in

PATIENTS at a Fort William medical practice will soon be checking in at a computer screen in a bid to avoid queues at the reception desk.

The touch-screen system being introduced at Tweeddale Surgery will allow users to answer questions to confirm appointment details.

The practice say the system will 'not only reduce delays at the desk but will help preserve

patients' confidentiality when they need to speak to the receptionist'.

They add users will have to enter their gender and date of birth so the system can confirm their details and inform staff they have arrived.

It is hoped the system will be working by the end of the month - just in time for the busy flu clinic period.

# New Corpach Marina could cost £3million

A NEW Corpach Marina would be profitable - but could cost a cool £3million, according to a new feasibility study.

In a 68-page report for Caol Regeneration Company (CRC), marine consultants Yachting WorldWide Ltd detail the optimum size, dredging requirement, construction costs and an outline business plan for a 60-berth marina next to Corpach Basin.

Located at the Caledonian Canal's southern entrance, the marina would attract business from yachts in transit to and from west coast waters.

Indicative costs include: wave buffers, pontoons and pilings - £966,361; dredging and disposal of material, land reclamation, slipway, shore protection and buildings - £1,904,400; level crossing improvements, security gates, CCTV and fuel berth - £161,000.

Total income is estimated at £116,763 in year one and £309,134 by year five, with annual and seasonal berth holders

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

generating the bulk of revenue. Estimated annual profits, after costs, rise from £27,068 to £99,006 over the period.

Agreeing long term leases will be a prerequisite for the scheme going ahead. The report recommends: 'Prior to applying for funding and carrying out any further studies or surveys, the rights to the land should be secured. We suggest that CRC engage in discussions with Crown Estates, Lochail Estates, British Waterways and Network Rail to finalise leasing rates. Our suggestion is that the lease should be for 30 to 50 years if possible.'

It adds: 'The marina is commercially viable if it does not have to service large debt or interest payments in the short term.'

CRC company secretary, retired doctor Su Sen told

*The Oban Times* he was 'very pleased' with the findings.

He said: 'The only criticism that has come in is that the report does not cover possible funding sources. But we did not ask for that in our brief, which was to do an in-depth technical study into whether an ambitious project like this is both practical and viable.'

A stakeholders meeting will be held in the Moorings Hotel, Banavie on Monday, October 3 at 10.30am to discuss next steps. Dr Sen said: 'If people are interested in this, hopefully they will come and join us. The enormity of the subject is such that the more volunteers and experts we can get the better. It is a community project and the community will benefit from the success of the business.'

'Most of the Outdoor Capital of the UK initiatives have been land-based, but Lochaber's other natural asset - water - has not been utilised as much as it could be.'

## Portree RNLI stalwarts honoured

PORTREE RNLI crew, branch committee, fundraisers and friends celebrated the retirement of two stalwarts on Saturday at a social evening in the lifeboat station.

Even Grant had served for more than 20 years as chairman of the branch and depute launching authority.

John Cameron served firstly as depute launching authority and then for more than 14 years as honorary secretary and lifeboat operations manager.

Paul Jennings, divisional inspector for Scotland, paid tribute to their long outstanding service.

On behalf of the RNLI he presented John with a framed thanks on vellum and Ewen with a framed letter of thanks.

Sandy Gray, the new lifeboat operations manager, presented



Happy couples: John and Marie Cameron, Marlene and Ewen Grant and Sophie and Paul Jennings at the presentation.

John and Ewen with gifts from the crew members and fundraisers, both receiving a decanter, glasses and a photograph of the station's two lifeboats to date: the *Ralph Watson Barker*. About 50 people attended the function in the marquee erected for the occasion.

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## Ardnamurchan High School looks at new ways of halting decline in pupil numbers

FALLING pupil numbers at Ardnamurchan High School have prompted efforts to persuade local parents to send their children there in future.

The roll has fallen from 138 to 116 in two years - partially because 10 children in remoter parts of the school's catchment area are crossing the Sound of Mull to Tobermory High.

Ardnamurchan head teacher Chris Miller-Craig cited severe winter weather as one possible contributory factor. The 20-mile journey from Lochaline involves a 1,000-foot climb up Beinn Chlaonleud along a single-track road - treacherous in ice or snow. Lochaber children attending Tobermory go by ferry, either direct from Kilchoan or from Lochaline to Fishnish, then on to school via an 18-mile, largely snow-free, coast road. Mr Miller-Craig said flexible timetabling

of school buses in winter was being pursued to help Lochaline children get to classes. He told *The Oban Times*: 'In the past two winters the Lochaline road has been difficult - that has been a concern to some parents. The distance can be a disincentive in those conditions - that is a comment that has been made.'

'We have put in a request [for flexible timetabling] through Highland Council's contract department and hopefully that is going to materialise this winter.'

Morvern Community Council chairman Iain Thornber told *The Oban Times*: 'The community council has been approached by several members of the public who are concerned about the high number of children - believed to be 10 - now attending Tobermory High School, which is impacting on the Ardnamurchan High School roll. We appreciate that

parents have the right to send their children wherever they wish for their education but as Tobermory is on the other side of the Sound of Mull and in a different local authority, this does present some problems.'

'Originally the Ardnamurchan High School was to be sited in Acharacle but serious lobbying from the Morvern parents at the time persuaded Highland Council to build it in Stroniant instead.'

'Morvern Community Council fully supports the Ardnamurchan High School and the present daily transport arrangements.'

The percentage of S4 pupils going on to achieve three or more Higher passes in fifth year at Ardnamurchan High School in the three years to 2010 was 65, 22 and 26 respectively. Comparable figures for Tobermory were 27, 31 and 38 per cent.

## Blooming great effort to clean up stretch of Caol beach



Caol in Bloom volunteers begin their litter pick on Caol beach. 20\_f8Caol01

AROUND 100 metres of Caol beach got an autumn clean up up Saturday morning - thanks to the efforts of Caol in Bloom volunteers.

The group staked out a length of shoreline and filled black binliners with assorted flotsam tangled among piles of seaweed dumped by high tides.

Beachwatch The event was part of the Marine Conservation Society's Beachwatch Big Weekend, which saw hundreds of volunteer groups round the UK clean up a piece of shore over Saturday and Sunday.

Helper Dr Su Sen told *The Oban Times* as the team set out: 'We have to pick up the litter and document each type as we find it.'

Categories on the Beachwatch volunteer survey sheet included plastic - by far the biggest haul collected by the Caol in Bloom team - polystyrene, rubber, medical, cloth and paper.

### 20 Years Ago

## Those Were The Days

### The Oban Times

Thursday, September 19, 1991

#### Benderloch's new school

CHILDREN at Lochnell School, in Benderloch, are to get hard-hatted guided tours of their new school.

The gymnasium's steel girders have been erected and an architect is to show the youngsters the single storey structure's shell as soon as the roof is on.

'We have very good co-operation with the site workers. The site manager has a good understanding of the difficulties of small communities and has demonstrated some of their work to the children,' said headmistress Gwen Duff.

Lochnell hit the headlines in May as rainwater ran down light fittings, walls and the roof and a lack of storage space led to severely cramped conditions, posing a fire hazard.

No the pupils are to move into the new £800,000 semi-open plan structure in September 1992.

Workmen from Dawn Construction, in Prestwick, began work in June and are well on target.

The are to follow the same plan as Taynuilt School with five teaching bays opening out into a central area and capacity for 120 children. The central space will house science and art equipment.

#### Travel agency plan

OBAN'S tourist board is to be the first in Britain to operate a travel agency.

Oban, Mull and District Tourist Board has applied for an Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) licence and hope to begin a travel service in the autumn.

They are currently interviewing for someone with travel agency experience.

Following news about a possible takeover of Pickfords by American travel agents A T Mays, the board decided to offer another source of competition.

The move has the backing of the Scottish Office and Highlands and Islands Enterprise despite a claim by A T Mays that the board was using public money to run the company.

Director of tourism, Jim Wilson, however, refutes the allegation.

'Seventy per cent of our funding as a board is private and there is no intention of using public funds for the travel service,' he said.

The travel service is a spin-off of the board's tour company, West Highland Holidays, set up last year to offer package holidays for British tourists.

Bed and breakfast, a ferry trip to Mull and a ten per cent discount card to visitors' centres could be arranged.

#### Plan to unite Oban and Fort

A UNION at local government level between the two main population centres in the West Highlands has been proposed by Oban businessmen.

A recent ballot of members of Oban and Lorn Chamber of Commerce over future local government reform suggested dissatisfaction with the two existing local authorities.

The members of the chamber are now to be balloted on whether they are in favour of a combined Lochaber and Fort William and Oban and North Argyll single-tier council.

Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, David Webster, said: 'There is a certain apathy amongst the people of Oban where Strathclyde is concerned because it is perceived as being too distant.'

'In the days of the town council this did not exist because decisions affecting local people were made locally.'

Raymond Hervo, chairman of the Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, commented: 'A similar proposal will go before our next meeting, but personally I am in favour of closer links between the two areas, both commercially and at local government level.'

Links already exist between the two tourist boards, ScotRail and CalMac.

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Boot (4)
- 3 In trouble! (3,5)
- 9 First layer to grow in (7)
- 10 Unwelcome creature found in hair (5)
- 11 Not born of a married couple (12)
- 13 Robust (6)
- 15 Catch, as in a net (6)
- 17 However (12)
- 20 Former capital of Japan (5)
- 21 Lifeless (7)
- 22 Booster! (8)
- 23 When raised, it will take you places (-

Down

- 1 Complete (8)
- 2 Calyx part (5)
- 4 Flattened at the poles (6)
- 5 Polite (4-8)
- 6 Part of a board (7)
- 7 Stink (4)
- 8 Flowers to remember (6-2-4)
- 12 Rather than mental (8)
- 14 Lymph glands (7)
- 16 Layers (6)
- 18 Accessory (5)
- 19 Bypass (4)

### Last week's solution

C	O	L	D	W	A	R	D	R	A	P	E
R	I	A	S	E	E	D	R				
A	W	F	U	L	S	E	T	T	I	N	G
M	T	K	I	E	O						
T	R	O	V	I	N	G					
I	F	U	G	E	N	I	C				
R	E	F	U	G	E	N	I	C			
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G	H	E	T	O	B	L	A	S	T	E	R
G	N	T	I	L	T	A	L				
N	V	A	C	K	N	T	M	B	E	D	
N	O	A	C	K	N	C	L	D			
G	R	I	D	S							
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**Caol teenager admits assault**

A CAOL teenager admitted leaving a woman permanently disfigured after attacking her in Fort William town centre. Rebecca Denny, aged 16, of 9 Glendessary Terrace, pled guilty to assaulting the woman by seizing hold of her by the body, pushing her to the ground and kicking her on the face, all to her injury and permanent disfigurement at the underpass at Airds Crossing, Fort William. Sentencing was deferred at Fort William Sheriff Court until October 26 for reports.

**Benbecula fire victim named**

A MAN who died in a house fire on Benbecula on Monday morning has been named by police. Angus John MacDonald, aged 57, was pulled clear from his home on Island Flodda by fire and rescue personnel, but was pronounced dead at the scene. Two appliances from Benbecula and one from Lochmaddy attended the blaze. A joint investigation by fire and police services is underway to determine the cause of the fire.

**Development plan cash boost**

LOCHABER councillors have agreed to contribute £250 towards a £2,500 project to draw up a community development plan for the Small Isles. It is hoped the balance will be funded by Awards for All.



Half the woman she was: Caroline Nicolson is in the Scottish Slimmers final.

**Caroline slims her way to final**

A KINLOCHLEVEN woman is celebrating being a big loser - after being chosen as a slimmer of the year finalist. Caroline Nicolson shed an incredible seven stones to book her place at the showpiece Scottish Slimmers event in Glasgow's Crown Plaza Hotel on Sunday, October 2. Medical receptionist Caroline, 51, was 18 stone 3lbs and size 20-22, but after joining a slimmers class shed the pounds to become a svelte 11 stone 2lbs and dress size 12. Caroline said: 'I was amazed by my starting weight, but right away felt like I was on the right path. My father had passed away and I had health issues with thyroid problems and I was determined to make a positive change to my life. 'Although I had been overweight for a while, I was determined to improve my health and let me enjoy life a bit more. 'I now own two pairs of trainers, which I have never had - and I now own trousers - which I haven't worn since 1978!' Caroline even had to ask for a new uniform at the medical practice where she works. 'Patients would come to me and comment on my weight loss - and even ask for advice,' she said. 'I am more active than ever, playing with my grandchildren and walking every day.'



Dr Joe Tangney: Scotland's 2011 GP of the Year.

**Fort William doctor named Scotland's GP of the Year**

A FORT William doctor has been named as 2011 GP of the Year in Scotland by the Royal College of General Practitioners. Dr Joe Tangney, a GP with the Glen Mor Medical Practice at the Fort William Health Centre at Camaghael, was nominated for the award by patient Annie Mackintosh for being 'unfailingly attentive, caring and reassuring' in treating her terminally-ill husband Iain. In her nomination she said: 'He established a great rapport and relationship with my husband who trusted his advice and judgement implicitly. Due to his care my husband was able to remain at home during his final illness. Dr Tangney was off duty that weekend but insisted that we were not to phone for the out-of-hours service but to call him at home at any time of day or night if he needed a doctor. 'Throughout the period of my husband's illness he displayed unflinching loving care,

compassion and excellence in his medical care. We are extremely grateful that his care enabled my husband to stay in his own home and that he was cared for by a GP that he very much trusted and respected and not by another with whom he did not have a particular bond and relationship.' Dr Tangney told *The Oban Times*: 'I am very flattered and honoured to win the award. I certainly was not expecting it. It's great for Fort William that a rural practice like ours can win an award such as this. 'It was a very rewarding experience to have treated Mr Mackintosh over 16 years. As GPs a lot of our time is spent helping people with long term illnesses we can't cure and supporting their families as well.' Mrs Mackintosh told *The Oban Times*: 'Dr Tangney was absolutely wonderful during Iain's illness and went way beyond the call of duty. As a family we are so very grateful to him. We simply could not have had a more

supportive GP. It's great that Fort William has got onto the map for something like this.' Long-term supporter of the award, Cabinet Secretary Nicola Sturgeon said: 'I'm delighted that this award has gone from strength to strength as it is a first of its kind in Scotland and unique in that it comes from patients themselves. 'Congratulations to this year's winners and thanks not just to them and the other nominees, but to all Scotland's GPs and practice staff who have delivered outstanding care.' Fort William made it a double success when Dr James Douglas, of the Tweeddale Medical Practice, was named joint winner of the Alastair Donat Award for contribution in a community setting. RCGP Scotland will present the awards at the annual gala evening at The Hub in Edinburgh on November 11.

**Canal group invites public on board**

New strategy given cautious welcome

BRITISH Waterways Scotland (BWS) is planning a new strategy to 'unlock the potential' of The Caledonian Canal between Gairloch and Corpach - this time by involving the public. The move comes almost a year to the day when BWS were forced to withdraw proposals for two homes next to a former lock keeper's house on Neptune's Staircase at Banavie. Local residents formed Neptune's Staircase Neighbourhood Group to fight the development at Telford House East, now a popular tourist attraction, and won. BWS went back to the drawing board and decided developing a strategy for the entire lower section of the canal was a better option. BWS says key to a successful strategy will be planning it in 'an open and inclusive manner' with 'wide involvement' from the local community and canal users. As a first step, public consultation sessions will be held in the Moorings Hotel, Banavie

after the country's five canals and had a responsibility for managing and maintaining them. He said: 'We know there is value in these canals and we want to find ways to grow the public value in them. 'We recognise there is public interest in this so the way forward is to engage with the community and that's what we have undertaken to do.' Lochaber, Skye and Badenoch MSP, Dave Thompson, said: 'It is a step in the right direction for British Waterways to hold a consultation. I urge people and businesses to come along and share their ideas and concerns. 'It is extremely important for government funded organisations, such as British Waterways to build good relationships with communities and businesses. 'Groups such as FOCAL are very important, because they are able to source funding and volunteers for projects to turn good ideas into reality.'

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk on September 28 and 29 from 2pm-8pm. Banavie resident, Jan McLugash, a member of pressure group Friends of the Caledonian Canal - Lochaber (FOCAL), gave the rethink a cautious welcome. She told *The Oban Times*: 'One thing I hope will come out of this consultation is to establish FOCAL as a liaison group between British Waterways and the community, to be used for regular ongoing consultation and information on canal matters. I would like to see it flagged up that British Waterways don't own the canal, they only manage it for the public. The people should and must be much more closely consulted than has happened previously.' Caledonian Canal manager Russell Thomson told *The Oban Times* British Waterways Scotland were funded by the Scottish Government to look

**Repeat offender jailed for 120 days**

A CAOL man has been jailed for 120 days for committing two crimes while on a deferred sentence. Bryan Garrick, of 4 Torcastle Crescent, pled guilty to conducting himself in a disorderly manner in his garden on July 20. He kicked a wooden fence during an argument with his partner, causing a panel to

hit the woman, knocking her to the ground to her injury. He also committed a breach of the peace by shouting and swearing. The 39-year-old also admitted stealing three cans of beer and a can of soft drink from the Co-op on Kilmallic Road, Caol on July 10. The court heard after Garrick was refused the sale for being drunk, he slammed the money

on the counter and left with the alcohol. The deferred sentence was imposed at Fort William Sheriff Court in December. Jailing Garrick, Sheriff Mark Thorley said: 'You have an appalling record. You were given the chance to be of good behaviour and you failed on two occasions.'

**Concern voiced over camper vans**

A LOCHABER tourism group is urging action over uncaring camper van owners who block parking areas and laybys - and dump rubbish at beauty spots. A meeting of the Glen Spean and Great Glen group heard a report that one camper van even emptied its toilets near the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge. It was claimed that a van website lists laybys, including some near Loch Lochy, where vans could park - although stopping overnight is illegal. The group decided to raise their concerns with the community council and Forestry Commission Scotland.

**St Kilda and Mingulay school log books online**

THE LAST school log books for St Kilda and Mingulay have gone online, revealing glimpses of community life on the remote islands before the people left. In a partnership between Tasglann nan Eilean Siar (Hebridean Archives) and the National Records of Scotland, the two unique books were conserved and digitised in Edinburgh before being returned to Stornoway. Entries from school teachers include complaints about children being kept away from school to help with picking potatoes, cutting peat or unloading supply boats. Registrar General and Keeper of the Records, George MacKenzie said the books were 'precious survivors'. 'Viewers can flip through pages and zoom in to read individual text from their computer. Visit [www.cne-siar.gov.uk/archives/collections.asp](http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/archives/collections.asp).



West Highland College UHI students celebrated success on Friday.

**Special day for West Highland College UHI students**

MORE than 200 West Highland College UHI students attended their annual celebration of achievement and graduation at Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church, Fort William, on Friday. SNH wildlife management manager Alastair MacGugan delivered the annual address, and UHI principal and vice

cancellor James Fraser presented the awards. The college's learning centre manager, Jane Henderson from Mallaig - herself a graduate of UHI - carried a specially commissioned ceremonial mace for the ceremony. Designed by Edinburgh College of Art silversmith students, the mace was gifted

by the universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Strathclyde to the University of the Highlands and Islands to mark its promotion to full university status this year. Made in silver and wood, the mace symbolises the landscape and culture of the Highlands and Islands and will be used in years to come at graduation ceremonies across the region.

West Highland College UHI principal, Donald Leitch, said: 'This is a very special day for us and all of our students throughout the West Highlands. We are very proud of them all.' Among the students were 73 graduates of the college's adventure tourism management degree course - the only one of its kind in Scotland.

**Government delivers Post Office grants**

SEVEN rural post offices in the West Highlands and Outer Isles have been awarded a combined £142,640 to improve their businesses under the Scottish Government's Post Office Diversification Fund. Three post offices successfully claimed the maximum £25,000 grant - Ardvasar in Sleat, the Isle of Rum and Lochcarron. Ardvasar will use the cash for extending a garage for MOT services, new signs, improving the shop and forecourt, a coffee machine, retail and marketing advice and employment and training of young people. The grant will also cover a 'pump-priming' knowledge

visit to similar businesses, project management and a new business plan for fuel services development. At Lochcarron a new post office counter, signage, weighing scales and card reader petrol pumps will be installed. Rum's grant will go towards a delivery vehicle, new boiler and bund, freezers and fridges, a large trolley, electronic point of sale system and outside awning entrance improvements. Signage, outside shelving, logo design costs, shelving netting, solar panel kits, flooring, staff costs and staff training website development complete the list. Elsewhere, Balmacara received

£19,600 for floor tiling, new floor, suspended ceiling and low energy lighting system. Also approved was £12,000 for Daliburgh on South Uist for a disabled access door, new signage, reconfiguration of interior and installation of new counter and new flooring. Other projects include rewiring, new storage heaters, wall shelving, shop fittings, advertising and staff costs. In Lochalsh, Kyle PO was granted £13,490 for an electronic point of sale system and remote chiller. In Morvern, Lochaline received £22,550 for an extension to the building. Announcing the grants on

Tuesday, enterprise minister Fergus Ewing said: 'Postmasters have come forward with a variety of strong proposals to develop new revenue streams such as retailing, selling different goods, or providing a business service not already available in their locality. This fund will support them as they take forward their plans.' Post Office Ltd managing director Paul Vennells said: 'This will help sub-postmasters in Scotland to diversify and build foothold in their retail businesses, which helps the local economy and viability of their overall business including the post office within it.'

**Out-of-hours health care talks fail to find solution**

TALKS between west Ardnachurch residents and representatives from the Scottish Ambulance Service and NHS Highland on out-of-hours emergency 999 cover have again failed to find a solution. West Ardnachurch Community Council (WACC) met with SAS and health chiefs in Kilchoan Community Centre last Tuesday night, but a gap still remains on the best way of delivering the service. Two district nurses, one of who is retiring in February, currently provide emergency cover. SAS put forward plans to base a replacement nurse in Kilchoan - who will be 'strongly encouraged' to live in west Ardnachurch - as part of a west Lochaber team. The nurses would also join a new 'co-responders' team of at least six paid people - including locally based firefighters and other members of the community - who would attend medical emergencies until an ambulance can arrive from Strontian. The team would be backed up by GPs in Acharaacle and the air ambulance. WACC chairman Rosie Curtis told *The Oban Times* locals felt the proposal relied too heavily on people giving up their time and effort - and was worried the new nurse would be called to

emergencies elsewhere in west Lochaber, leaving no nurses on Ardnachurch. She said: 'The reaction from the community was unanimous - that this was totally unacceptable. As well as anger, people feel frightened. There's a lot of talk of families moving away, yet we've been struggling for years to build up our population. We're united in what we want - to preserve the excellent service we have.' SAS North Division general manager Milne Weir said the proposals offered a 'safe and sustainable model' for emergency cover in the remote area. He said: 'It is a solution that provides enhanced clinical training for local community members so that they can provide an early intervention, supported by a wide range of specialist resources.' Councillor Michael Foxley chaired the meeting. He said: 'We want further discussions with the west Ardnachurch community because we need to put in place a safe service for the future.' The parties are due to meet in Kilchoan on Tuesday evening for a full public meeting.

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**Encouraging start for Mallaig's new marina**

MALLAIG'S new yachting marina is reporting steady business since being declared open earlier this month. The new facility, which can provide berths for up to 48 yachts as well as moorings for 12 vessels, aims to become a major sailing destination in years to come. However, yachts are already taking advantage of the safe haven - even as autumn gales begin to roar in from the Atlantic. Port manager Robert MacMillan told *The Oban Times*: 'It has been an encouraging start. The marina has been quite well used since we opened on the ninth. 'The poor weather has meant that some boats have opted to stay with the security of the pontoons rather than go out and face heavy seas. Our 12 moorings have also been quite well used by sailors who prefer not to berth next to the walkway.' Mr MacMillan said a major marketing drive was planned to put Mallaig firmly on

the sailing map. 'Over the winter we will be marketing the pontoons and creating a website for the marina to gear up for next season,' he said. 'There will be an official launch in spring 2012.' Provost of Lochaber and local Highland councillor Allan Henderson said the marina would benefit 'the whole of the village' as visiting sailors use services and facilities available to them on shore. The £900,000 development was part funded under the Sail West project and co-financed by Mallaig Harbour Authority, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Highland Council. Sail West, a maritime tourism initiative led by Donegal County Council, seeks to jointly promote Northern Ireland, the border region of Ireland and western Scotland as a premier European sailing destination. Euro funding for Sail West contributed £570,000 to the Mallaig development.

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**GLENORCHY**

GLENORCHY Community Council announced it had two new members at its last meeting. Anne Marshall and Martin Goodwin will join the council on September 22, although Pat Bradley has resigned. At the community council meeting on September 7 chairman David Fellowes also recorded the recent death of Councillor Donald MacDonald, who worked hard on behalf of the Glenorchy and Innishail communities.

**BENDERLOCH**

WORK on a new footpath at the Victory Hall will go ahead during the October school holidays. A spokesman for Scotland TransServ said the construction, originally due to take place in September, was postponed to minimise disruption to children travelling to nearby Lochnell Primary School.

THE Victory Hall will host a concert by country rock band Society on Friday, September 23.

It will be a return for the three-piece to the venue.

PERMISSION has been granted to extend Lochnell Lodge, Benderloch.

Planners gave Mr and Mrs MacLucas consent to remove an existing, flat-roofed extension and replace it with a new extension, to house a utility room and a shower room.

**SKYE**

THE AWARD-winning Three Chimneys restaurant at Colbost on the Isle of Skye has completed a £250,000 state-of-the-art kitchen complex.

The development includes a new demonstration area to allow guests to see head chef Michael Smith and his team in action.

Mr Smith welcomed visitors on Saturday to mark the occasion as part of Scottish Food and Drink Fortnight.

Enterprise, energy and tourism minister Fergus Ewing congratulated all concerned.

He said: 'I warmly applaud this investment and the continued growth and employment in this rural part of Skye.'

The Three Chimneys, run by Eddie and Shirley Spear, is a major employer in northwest Skye with total staff numbers in excess of 40.

THE GRUESOME tale of 16th century Ayrshire cannibal Sawney Bean is coming to the Isle of Skye.

David Hughes Dance Productions, in association with the National Theatre of Scotland, will perform Last Orders at The Aros Experience in Portree on Saturday as part of a 10-date autumn tour.

The production won rave reviews at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August during its run at the Traverse Theatre.



Some of the Lismore Primary School pupils with their skipping ropes.

**Lismore Primary School pupils skip to it**

FOR THE first half of this term, Lismore Primary School children have spent their PE lessons learning how to skip and how to perform skipping tricks with both individual ropes and a big rope.

Each day, they have been out in the playground turning their ropes forward and backward and jumping and stepping. Not only have their skills improved but also their fitness. All this practice led to their sponsored Jump Rope Challenge which took place on the afternoon of Wednesday, September 14.

The children were challenged to keep the rope turning for an hour.

With the support of parents, brothers and sisters and members of the community, they attacked this challenge with enthusiasm and determination.

The timer started at 2pm - and 3pm seemed a long way off. But as the minutes ticked by, the children gained confidence, skipping and jumping with great energy and demonstrating various tricks they had been practising in the previous weeks.

There was a feeling of great excitement as they reached the final minute and a huge cheer rang out as the bell announced that the hour was up.

The Jump Rope Challenge was part of a Healthy Heart Day. A fruity art activity in which the children used fruits and other healthy foods to make pictures was organised, which they then ate.

The children also investigated their pulse rate and found out that the more exercise they do the faster their heart beats.

As well as having a great time, learning how to keep their heart healthy and improving their skipping and fitness, the children have raised money for the British Heart Foundation, which they hope will go towards another defibrillator for the island.

of mountain fitness, is the festival's showpiece event.

Participants will tackle Tiorgha Mhòr, Toddun, Beinn Dhùbh, Roineabhal and An Cliseam - the highest peak in the Western Isles. Thirsty climbers have the added incentive of a dram of specially blended festival whisky if they climb at least three of the five peaks during the week.

Challenge leaflets - which will need to be stamped at each summit visited - are available from the Tarbert Tourist Information Centre and outlets throughout the village.

Broadcaster Cameron McNeish and leading wildlife photographer Laurie Campbell will be among the speakers. Full details at www.harrismountainfestival.com.

THE LOCAL organising committee of Mòd nan Eilean Siar 2011 has made a fresh appeal for visitor accommodation ahead of next month's event.

Committee convener Alex MacDonald asked any members of the public who have additional accommodation to offer during Mòd week October 14-22 to get in touch.

He said: 'All the choirs have been allocated places and keen Mòd goers have already booked up their beds in local hotels and guest houses - but there are always those who leave booking accommodation until the last minute.'

'It is not envisaged that there will be any accommodation issues and we are extremely confident that every person who wishes to attend the Mòd will have a place to stay.'

'However, if you have spare rooms which you are willing to rent out or if you are away during Mòd week and have a house you could rent out, we would love to hear from you.'

Bed and breakfast and guest house owners who may not be booked out or have had cancellations are also asked to contact the VisitScotland Information Centre in Stornoway on 01851 703088.

**MORVERN**

THE OFFICIAL opening of the refurbished Lochaline coastguard office, garage and training area will take place on October 1 at 4pm.

The opening ceremony will be performed by Jenni Hodgson, who retired last year after 25 years of service. It was Jenni and husband John who, with Kenny Devine's help, built up Lochaline coastguard back in 1986.

**KILMALLIE**

KILMALLIE Community Council has sent out newsletters to locals in Corpach, Banavie and Tomonzie for the first time since the group was reformed.

KCC reconstituted earlier this year after a four-year gap, and now plans to install a community notice board at Neptune's Staircase. The council also hopes to have a website up and running within the next few weeks.

**Mull Lines**

POLICE on Mull are investigating an incident aboard the MV Loch Linnhe while it was berthed in Tobermory.

The vessel, often regarded as a great example of a high standard passenger and vehicle boat, was broken onto and a number of fire extinguishers and technical safety equipment destroyed.

The incident happened overnight between Friday 2 and 3 September.

Anyone with information should contact Constable Donald MacCuish at Tobermory Police Station on 01688 302016.

INSTEAD of blowing a whistle to catch the criminals of Mull a police constable has been putting his piping skills to better use.

Neil Walker, a constable of the Mull Constabulary based in Craignure, was praised for his piping achievements over the whole competition season by his sergeant.

Sergeant Mark Stephen said: 'We are delighted that one of our colleagues on Mull is doing so well with his piping.'

'Neil has been all over the country playing and adjudicating in competitions. He did very well in Oban and Braemar giving credible performances.'

Many on Mull will have heard the constable playing at Mull Games and Oban Games giving sterling performances.



Glenn Dervan from Dervaig was a champion piper and well deserved prize winner.

PICTURES from the Mull Mòd can be seen online at www.obantimes.co.uk.

Later this month, Mull and Iona Life magazine will feature pictures from the Mòd including the many island schools who took part in the action song competition.

WELL-known Mull Man and Scottish musician Colin MacIntyre, of Mull Historical Society, has been appointed Mary's Meals London co-ordinator, the charity's first regional post in England.

Prior to his appointment to this new post, Colin had been active over a number of years in contributing his time, energy and organisational skills to support fundraising events on behalf of Mary's Meals and had visited Malawi to see for himself just what impact the organisation was making on the ground.

From his London base, Colin will be overseeing activities across Greater London and the surrounding counties. His focus will be to support and co-ordinate the work of the expanding team of volunteers who represent Mary's Meals across the south of England, helping them with their work organising fundraising events, speaking to schools, businesses and community groups, and collecting resources for our backpack project.

Colin is currently spearheading Mary's Meals emergency appeal for East Africa in the South of England. The charity had been feeding thousands of children in the drought affected region for years before the latest disaster struck. It is currently involved in getting food to the heart of the crisis in Somalia to stop people fleeing their homes in search of aid.

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, Mary's Meals' founder, said: 'We are delighted to welcome Colin as our first regional co-ordinator in England. The creation of his position is a response to the huge efforts that our supporters are making for Mary's Meals.'

'We are very grateful for the work that volunteers do on our behalf and are committed to ensuring that they receive proper support.'

Colin will continue to record and perform alongside his work with Mary's Meals. His new album City Awakenings marks a return to his 'Mull Historical Society' moniker, and is due out in January 2012 on Xtra Mile Recordings.

A portion of the revenue from the album's pre-sale orders will be going to Mary's Meals: www.pledgemusic.com/projects/colinmacintyre.

**DORNIE**

DORNIE and District Community Hall will host a local service open day on recent healthcare developments in Skye and Lochalsh today (Thursday) from 1pm to 4pm and 6pm to 9pm.

The event will feature presentations, displays and demonstrations covering healthcare topics of local interest.

A more limited programme will be available at a further open day at Kyleakin Community Centre tomorrow (Friday) from 1pm to 6.30pm. Portree Community Centre hosted a similar event yesterday.

The open days are being hosted jointly by the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS), Skye and Lochalsh health services reference group and NHS Highland.

Topics covered include telehealth, development of community services, hospital services development, community transport, local treatment options and integration between health and local authority services.

Information on the Red Cross, Highland Fire and Rescue Services, HM Coastguard, NHS 24, The British Association of Immediate Care Scotland (BASICS) and the roles of nurse practitioners, first responders, community paramedics and ambulance care assistants will also feature.

**KILCHRENAN**

A SUCCESSFUL afternoon tea dance was held in Kilchrenan village hall on Saturday, proceeds going to Kilchrenan and Dalavich churches. As well as residents from Kilchrenan and Dalavich, there was a good turnout of Taynuilt folk. For those who were not inclined to dance, they enjoyed singing along to the music while enjoying their tea and cakes.

It must be said that the minister, Rev Brookes, was a good master of ceremonies, as well as dancing himself off his feet! It is intended that more social gatherings like this will take place in the near future.

**HARRIS**

THE INAUGURAL Isle of Harris Mountain Festival gets underway on Saturday with organisers keeping their fingers crossed for good weather.

The week-long programme features guided walks, photographic workshops, sea kayaking, a ceilidh, films, and talks - but the Harris Five Peaks Challenge, a real test



Connor, Jenny and Shona were finalists in a national Scots language competition.

**Barcaldine bairns celebrate Scots writing success**

THREE bairns from Barcaldine have caused a stooshie with their Scots writing when they were named finalists in a national competition.

Jenny McIntyre, Shona McKenzie and Connor George, all pupils at Barcaldine Primary School, were invited to Glasgow University on Saturday September 3 for a ceremony to celebrate their achievements.

As well as receiving their prizes from Charles Kennedy MP, the youngsters and their parents were treated to a tour of the university. The competition took place over the summer holidays. Jenny explained: 'We had to write a story - we wrote a Scottish story and translated it into Scots.'

Jeanette Morrison, headteacher, said the school was very proud of their success.

**CONNEL**

ALTHOUGH Achaleven school is currently mothballed, concerned parents in the village are planning to keep its garden shipshape.

A tidy-up was organised for last Saturday for the lochsides grounds, where the pupils grew flowers and vegetables. The gardens were weeded and prepared for winter and it also provided an opportunity for the parents of children in the village to get together.

SCOTLAND TransServ have been praised for their handling of recent resurfacing works in the village.

Les Stewart, secretary, told Connel Community Council last week that they responded to any comments or problems very quickly. He said: 'I have written to them to say it was first class and got them to pass on our thanks to the workers. They tried really hard to accommodate people.'

However, Mike Harrison expressed concern that pavements had been damaged by heavy machinery used in the resurfacing project and drains blocked. He said: 'The road is fine but at a price.'

CONNEL Community Council has also praised local police officers for their action on speeding through the village. Following complaints by villagers, extra speed checks and patrols have taken place and a number of speeding drivers have been charged.

TRIBUTES were paid to the late Donald MacDonald, councillor for Oban, by Connel Community Council.

Sandy Dunlop, chairman of the community council, said 'He always kept us up to date, he will be quite a hard guy to replace.' Secretary Les Stewart will write to Donald's widow on behalf of the community.

PERMISSION has been granted to knock down and replace a cottage on Dunstaffnage Estate land near Connel.

There were no objections to the plans for Dunstaffnage Cottage. The new single-storey home will have two bedrooms.

**PLOCKTON**

AUGUST weather in Plockton: During the month there was 3.5 inches of rain, much the same as 2010. The warmest day was 20C and coldest was 5.7C.



Winners: Team USA with advisor Grant Matheson.

**Pupils embrace Olympic spirit during construction challenge**

P7 PUPILS from Banavie, Caol and Upper Achintore primaries embraced the Olympic spirit when they took part in a 'Building Bridges' construction challenge at Lochaber High School.

The event, hosted by the Construction Industry Training Board and Active Schools, saw pupils split into 10 teams, each representing a different country, with a senior Lochaber High pupil advising them.

The children took on roles such as project manager, civil engineer, buyer, quality surveyor

and builders to build bridges somewhat smaller in scale than the 35 being built in the Olympic park in London.

A mini Olympic Games challenge, comprising long jump, speed bounce, ball throw, shuttle run and obstacle course, followed.

Winners were team USA - Leona Falconer and Carly Smith from Caol, Courtney Croll from Banavie and Megan Clarke, Stewart Adams, and Jordan Rodger from Upper Achintore, ably assisted by Grant Matheson.

**BRAE LOCHABER**

ROY BRIDGE and Spean Bridge Primary pupils spent a day learning Irish step dancing.

The children were shown how to do 'Riverdance' style moves by a group of Irish dancers who were taking part in Blas 2011 at Roy Bridge Memorial Hall on September 9.

**DUNBEG**

DUNBEG Brownies and Rainbows are back after the summer break with a busy autumn programme.

The Brownies have already started work on their road safety badge. Last week, they were out studying road signs in preparation for making a poster of road hazards.

The Rainbows were also out and about, collecting a variety of leaves to identify.

The groups meet on Wednesdays and there are spaces for both Brownies and Rainbows. Telephone 10631 566793 for more information.

**BONAWE**

THE finishing touches are being put to the Bonawe waste water treatment works.

Tests have been carried out on the facility and Scottish Water have said the results were excellent.

A final inspection and tests were to be carried out last week, with final snagging work due to be finished by Friday, September 16.

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The new P1s at Lochaline Primary School are, left to right, Iona Willis, Liam Cameron, Cally Lorimer, Sascha Dobrokhodov and Hector Gomez Hoyas. Five P7s left for high school in the summer and the school roll remains at 24. 20\_138lochaline01



A total of 38 youngsters have joined Park's Primary 1 year group in Oban and they are already enjoying the school grounds. 08\_138park01

Primary one pupils in the picture



Four children comprise the new Primary 1 class at Strontian Primary School for 2011-12. Lining up in the sunshine are, left to right, Mya Carmichael, Ross McCorkindale, Mairi-Ann Cagillivray and Tom McMenemy. 20\_138strontian01



Kilchrenan primary ones Sarah MacIntyre and Logan Black are all smiles.



This year's Port Charlotte Primary 1 pupils are all smiles.



Ballachulish Primary has a bumper crop of P1s this term, welcoming 15 youngsters to the school. The new pupils have boosted the school roll to 78, after five P7s left the school last term.



There are 12 Primary 1 pupils at Taynuilt this year. 16\_138tay01



The new intake of Primary 1 pupils at Dalmally Primary School. 15\_138dal01

Down Your Way

This week - Glencoe

GLENCOE Folk Museum is to take locals on a trip down memory lane with an old photograph and scrapbook show at Ballachulish Centre on October 7. Visitors will be shown a slide show of old photos from the history of the village, with archives on show around the centre. Museum curator Lyndsay Easton told *The Oban Times*: 'We're encouraging people to bring along any old photos they've got at home.' Meanwhile, the museum has reported a successful summer tourist season. Ms Easton said: 'It's been really, really busy, even better than last year.' The museum will close for the winter at the end of October.



Eco-friendly: The children of Glencoe Primary with their new flag. 20\_138glag01

GLENCOE Primary School pupils recently received their second Green Flag award from Eco-schools. Teacher Mary Evans told *The Oban Times* the school had worked on a number of different environmentally friendly projects with the children. She said: 'The children have been maintaining the eco garden, and this term they are going to build an insect hotel and they are taking part in a project which will give them all energy monitors in their homes.' The school held a vegetable taster day yesterday (Wednesday) for parents to come along to the school and taste the produce the youngsters having been growing in the school garden.

Next week DOWN YOUR WAY visits Portree with Northern Editor Stephen Norris.

You can contact him on 01397 703003 or email [snorris@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:snorris@obantimes.co.uk).

BARRA

ONE of Britain's best loved films, *Whisky Galore*, is set to return to its roots when Screen Machine, Scotland's only mobile cinema, brings it to Barra for a special screening over 60 years after filming took place on the island. Alexander Mackendrick's 1949 film, adapted from Compton Mackenzie's novel, is based on the true story of the SS *Politician*, which sank in the waters around Eriskay in February 1941 on its way to Jamaica carrying 250,000 bottles of whisky. Famously, the locals gathered as many bottles as they could, before the authorities arrived. As part of the 80 seat digital cinema's current tour, a newly restored digital print of *Whisky Galore* will be shown to residents just 50 yards from where scenes were shot in 1948. Iain MacColl, senior Screen Machine operator, said: 'I've been wanting to screen *Whisky Galore* on Barra for 14 years. It will give me fantastic pleasure to be able to do this for the people of the island. For our next visit I want to screen the sequel, *Rockets Galore!*' The film will be shown at the pier, in Castlebay, on Monday October 10, at 5.30pm and will be preceded by a screening of archive featurette, *Eriskay - A Poem of Remote Lives*, a study of Eriskay's crofting life, filmed by Dr Werner Kissing during the summer of 1934. *Whisky Galore* will also be screened in Lochgilphead, Port Ellen, Tighnabruich, Lincilte and East Tarbert during September and October, with full details available at [www.screenmachine.co.uk/whisky-galore-eriskay-a-poem-of-remote-lives/](http://www.screenmachine.co.uk/whisky-galore-eriskay-a-poem-of-remote-lives/)

BRUICHLADDICH

BRUICHLADDICH Distillery's Laddie 10, a special anniversary bottling, was launched on September 10 at the distillery. The spirit that ran through the spirit safe at the distillery ten years ago has been matured in Bourbon casks and bottled at the distillery to make the new whisky. This was the most memorable weekend for the distillery management and staff so far, said MD Mark Reynier.

CANNA

THE NATIONAL Trust for Scotland will embrace Gaelic arts when the conservation charity holds the first ever Fèis on the Isle of Canna in partnership with Canna Community Association on Saturday, October 1. Five venues will be filled with Gaelic voices and music, featuring Gaelic singers Fiona J MacKenzie, Gillebride MacMillan and local performers from Lochaber, Skye, Barra, South Uist and further afield. Events take place in a range of venues from Canna House and the Gille Brighde Restaurant to the Lambing Shed. Entry is free and audiences will have plenty of opportunities to learn more about Gaelic language and music. Canna property manager Stewart Connor said: 'Canna has been a centre for the study of Gaelic culture for a long time. We are very pleased to be hosting this fèis, which celebrates the language and music of this beautiful part of the world. 'We are looking forward to welcoming many of our visitors to Canna for the first time and helping to introduce them to what makes it an inspiring island.' Travel to Canna is by ferry from Mallaig (departs Mallaig at 7.30am, departs Canna for Mallaig at 6.30pm). The fèis is part of Scotland's Islands, a year-long celebration of island people and culture. Canna was gifted to the National Trust for Scotland in 1981 by Gaelic scholar John Lorne Campbell. Mr Campbell was a devoted collector of Gaelic songs and music and the island is home to one of the largest private collections of Celtic literature in the country and an archive of national importance.



John Lorne Campbell and his wife Margaret Fay Shaw pictured in 1989.

Newsdesk  
01631  
568000



Author Alan Bissett, centre, survived his grilling from Ardnamurchan High's Michelle Wright and Craig Griggs.

POPULAR Scottish novelist, playwright and performer Alan Bissett visited Ardnamurchan High School last Monday on a promotional tour for his new novel, *Pack Men*. Mr Bissett held a public reading for the *Three Lochs Book Festival* and during the day spent time with S4-S6 students. Two, Craig Griggs and Michelle Wright, interviewed Mr Bissett, after preparing with a little help from English teacher Miss van der Meulen. One question from Michelle elicited an interesting answer. She asked: 'You write in the way people talk. Is this because you are writing about people in our lives and want to convey the sound of their language, or is all the dodgy spelling and punctuation a bit of rebellion?' Mr Bissett replied: 'It's a bit of both. The book that got me hooked on literature was

ARDNAMURCHAN

Trainspotting - a rebellious book, in a sense, and written in the language of the street. Then, in 1994, James Kelman won the Booker Prize for a text written in the Glaswegian dialect. The response from London was: 'This is not literature'. It was considered to be inferior because it wasn't written in 'their' language. 'It's similar to what you have with Gaelic: if you deride or devalue it: you are denying the speakers access to their own heritage. 'So if you are writing about a group of people surely the way to do that is to use their actual language rather than position yourself above them?' After his grilling, Mr Bissett tweeted: 'Kids of Ardnamurchan High ask better questions than professional journalists!'

DALMALLY

MEDCATS, the patient group at Taynuilt Medical Practice, recently hosted a meeting at Dalmally Community Centre, where Debbie Campbell, of Deaf Action, was the guest speaker. Debbie talked about a Scottish Government scheme being pioneered in Argyll. The initiative provides a co-ordinated service helping people with deafness and/or sight impairment to communicate more easily. It offers support for British Sign Language interpretation, lip-speakers, deafblind interpreting plus note and speech reporters. Debbie ended her presentation with a short lesson demonstrating alphabet signing which everybody had a try at. Following the talk Steve Eccles of the Taynuilt Medical Charitable Trust gifted a wheelchair to Dalmally Community Centre. The wheelchair was accepted by centre chairman Graeme McKechnie. The recently established trust provides grants locally and lists Oban Carers, Carriage Driving for the Disabled, and the North Argyll Voluntary Car Scheme among those it has helped.

STRATHFILLAN

STRATHFILLAN Community Council's bid to have control of local service provision devolved to remote rural communities has taken a step forward. The group has drawn up a draft maintenance schedule for a village officer. Among the jobs listed is emptying of local bins, looking after public toilets, maintaining shrubbery/plant life and keeping the streets clean. The proposals will be returned to Stirling Council's chief executive, Bob Jack, for further investigation.

THE next meeting of Strathfillan Community Council will take place on Monday, October 10 at 7.30pm.

ISLAY

ISLAY'S first Charity Moon Walk exceeded all expectations, by raising more than £11,000. The money was given to Macmillan Cancer Support and the Beatson Cancer Care Centre.

New recruits swell Islay Community Council

ISLAY Community Council has its highest ever membership after recruiting seven new community councillors. A recruitment drive ahead of the recent community council elections and a high profile battle with the Scottish Salmon Company over proposed fish farm plans off the island had raised the community council's profile. The result was the addition of seven new community councillors to the existing four members. 'We've got room for 16 but we're sitting at 11 at the mo-

ment,' said secretary Hamish Campbell. 'That is the most there has ever been on the amalgamated Islay Community Council,' he added. 'We had been plugging away with our website and talking to folk who we thought would be good to have on board.' The new members are: Glenmore Roberts, Fiona MacGregor, Alice Stewart, Geunda C L Young, Elizabeth Gillies, David Boyd and Niall Colthart. The new community council's first meeting was on September 5.

**Christmas Party Nights**

COMING SOON  
The Oban Times will soon be running its Christmas Party Nights feature. Don't miss out on this opportunity to promote your business, call today to discuss your advertising requirements

**The Oban Times**  
Tel: 01631 568000

**The Oban Times**  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

**Listen to what Barra community has to say**

WARNINGS have been sounded this week about the possible devastating effects of a proposal to impose 'protected' status on two marine areas off the coast of Barra.

Residents of the island and in particular the local fishing community have long stated that enforcing Special Area of Conservation status for both the Sound of Barra and East Mingulay will have a drastic impact on the economy and island life.

Not only that, but the SHAMED campaign group - the loudest voice shouting in protest at the plans - say the designations are unnecessary and driven by a political desire to meet European quotas rather than scientific evidence.

The designations would affect 'every aspect of island life', the group's chairman, Angus MacLeod, has said.

On the opposite side of the fence, the Scottish Government say the proposals were as a result of both scientific evidence and EU requirements.

But the final decision on whether or not to impose these designations rests solely with the Scottish Government.

While the protection of our environment must be held in high regard, the concerns of the local people who have lived alongside these environments for generations without ill effect must surely be given equal importance.

**GLASGOW LETTER**

**The Shetland Bus**

ALTHOUGH it had its first airing at Celtic Connections and is now available on CD, the story of the Shetland Bus is still a live performance worth experiencing.

Sisters Jenna and Bethany Reid, two well known young musicians from Shetland, have composed a suite of music to tell the survival story of Jan Balsrud, a Norwegian who worked with his country's resistance movement after occupation by the Germans during World War 2. The Shetland Bus was the name given to the small fishing vessels which crossed the North Sea, without lights and during the darkness of winter, to land agents, arms and ammunition and radio sets and then returned with refugees.

Jan, a 26-year-old instrument maker, was a crew member on a vessel which left Shetland in March 1943 with eight tons of explosives and he was the only survivor.

Having been betrayed by his contact, he spent two months on the run in Arctic conditions, eventually having to cut off nine of his toes, before eventually reaching Sweden weighing a mere six stones.

During the performance of this suite, Phil Goodlad provided the narration in his authentic Shetland accent between the 11 pieces of music. Jenna and Bethany were joined on stage, in St Andrew's in the Square, by piper and flautist James Thomson, percussionist Iain Sandilands and bass player James Lindsay and the music conveyed the mood of Jan's plight throughout his ordeal. With Jenna on fiddle and Bethany alternating between keyboard and fiddle this was a most moving musical experience.

Prior to performing the suite the group entertained with a selection of tunes, many of which were Jenna's own compositions and they also gave the audience a taste of a 'Shetland wedding' by playing with their fiddles tuned differently and without amplification.

**Young Musician of the Year**

THE SEMI-FINALISTS for the BBC Radio Scotland Young Musician of the Year 2012 have been announced. They will perform at a

concert in the Coulter Hall, South Lanarkshire, when the six youngsters to take part in the final on February 5 2012, as part of the Celtic Connections Festival, will be chosen.

Tickets, priced £8 and £6 concession, will be available at the door. This year's semi-finalists are Alison McNeill, Gourrock, fiddle, song; Alistair Ogilvie, Strathblane, song; Catriona Price, Orkney, fiddle; Garry Forrest, Hawick, accordion; Gemma Donald, Shetland, fiddle; Grant McFarlane, Paisley, accordion; Katie Boyle, Glasgow, fiddle; Kirsty Watt, Stornoway, song; Lizzy Murphy, Glasgow, song; Róisín Ann Hughes, Oban, fiddle; Gordon McCance, Glasgow, pipes and Rona Wilkie, Oban, fiddle, song.

**Congratulations**

CONGRATULATIONS to the team at Piping Live who, at a recent Scottish Event ceremony, were awarded best Traditional Event for the second year running.

**Diary dates**

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

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

**Saturday September 24:** Gordon Duncan Trust Annual Concert, Perth Concert Hall, 7.30pm.

**Sunday September 25:** Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain, Falkirk Town Hall and the following evening in Ayr Town Hall.

**Thursday September 29:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, David Ferrard.

**Friday September 30:** Glasgow Skye Association Opening Concert, Crawford Hall, Beith Street, Partick, 7.30pm.

**Pub scene**

IN THE Park Bar this weekend it will be Eriskay Lilt on Friday, Doggy Ground on Saturday and Willie Cameron on Sunday while in the Ilay Inn it will be Crooked Reel on Friday and the Keelies on Saturday.

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

**Correction**

Further to an article in last week's Oban Times 'Accused guilty of underage sex,' we have been asked to point out that the defendant, Darren Napier's address is 2G Burnbank Terrace, Oban, and not 2F as stated in the story.

**YOUR LETTERS**

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

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

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

**PRESS POLICY**

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

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

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

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



**Oban band Strange Days on stage in Rothesay**

Reader Flint Armstrong of Ardrishaig, formerly of Oban, submitted this week's flashback photograph which shows his Oban band *Strange Days* on stage at the Pavilion Ballroom, Rothesay, in the late 1960s/early 1970s. Left to right: Brian ....., Flint Armstrong, John MacDonald and Lennie MacIver. Not pictured Davie Dokes. We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

**Letters to the editor**

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**Argyll Hotel, Oban**

Sir,  
Regards the Argyll Hotel, what would the people of Oban rather see - the existing empty building or a clear, tidy site ready for redevelopment when the time comes?

Graeme Pagan, Oban.

**Heat pumps can be noisy**

Sir,  
Air sourced heat pumps can be quite noisy - see *The Oban Times* September 8 - and the community should take careful note of the noise assessment to be carried out.

An assessment can often suggest that plant noise is likely not to be noticed when compared with the average daily background levels; but it's the night-time levels and the nature of the noise that needs to be considered.

Wouldn't it be better to record the noise made by similar plant in use elsewhere and play it back at night in the area to be affected by the proposed equipment?

This way people living nearby could judge for themselves.

In areas of Switzerland, part of the planning application process requires that the foot-print of a proposed new structure has to be marked by the erection of masts the planned height.

In this way, people living nearby can see for themselves the 3D space that the new building will occupy and so are better-informed as to the impact it would make.

Alec Logan, Claonaig, by Skipness.

**Stock up on candles**

Sir,  
In opposing wind turbines, your correspondent G W Stewart still believes 'boffins' will come up with a vastly superior form of electricity production.

He reminds us that it was once thought that men would not fly and of the time that the horse was the only means of transport. That was over a century ago! Maybe in another century we will have mastered nuclear fusion.

Meanwhile, as an electrical engineer, I recommend those who oppose wind power to stock up on candles.

Professor Colin Davidson, Ardrfern.

**Listen to the credible experts**

Sir,  
I acknowledge the letter from Colin Davidson on wind farms, unlike that from Professor Ian Reid, is measured and reasonable and he rightly proposes that those of us who condemn wind farms should come up with an alternative.

I have studied this subject at some length in recent years but have focused on the views and opinions of the impartial scientists, engineers and academics as opposed to the industry stooges. As a result I find myself convinced that we have got to ignore the tabloid inspired paranoia that surrounds the use of the 'N' word.

Yes, I'm speaking about nuclear energy. A new generation of advanced nuclear power stations could provide us with the basis of a secure, long term answer to our energy needs. Mr Davidson believes our nuclear industry

to be 'highly subsidised' but compared with wind energy - perhaps the most highly subsidised commodity in history - the taxpayer's contribution towards the cost of nuclear is tiny. I do recognise, however, that most objections to nuclear concern operational safety and disposal of waste. The current generation of reactors have a very good safety record but the new ones would be infinitely safer and disposal of nuclear waste, which has always been contentious, is the subject of on-going research to find solutions, as was demonstrated by Professor Al-Khalili on the recent BBC Horizon programme.

The paradox is the more wind energy we have, the more reliable back up we will need. This inevitably means either fossil fuel or nuclear generation. The 2008 House of Lords Select Committee Report on The Economics of Renewable Energy, stated: 'Wind generation should be viewed largely as additional capacity to that which will be provided, in any event, by more reliable means, and evidence suggests that its full costs, although declining over time, remain significantly higher than those of conventional or nuclear generation.'

I'll take the impartial view of credible experts every time over those of the vested interests who are making millions from the folly that is wind energy.

Alan Thomson, The Old Barn, Kilcamb Paddock, Strontian.

**Excellent service from Highland Council**

Sir,  
On Tuesday, September 13, I contacted Technical Services, Highland Council, regarding the lack of a bus shelter on the southbound A82 at its junction with the Kinlochleven Road end.

In the morning, about 12 children wait for this bus to take them to Kinlochleven High School. Among them are some of my grandchildren. This year the weather has been so appalling that on most mornings the children are soaked to the skin and spend the day in school wet through - very unhealthy.

The northbound route is very busy at these times and it is extremely dangerous if they wait in the opposite shelter and try to run over when their bus arrives.

On the morning of Wednesday September 14 I got a phone call asking for the exact locus and I passed on the info.

On Wednesday afternoon I got another phone call to tell me that a shelter will be erected in the very near future.

Excellent service and top marks to Highland Council for exceedingly prompt action for which I sincerely thank them.

Tom Kirsop, Brudair, North Ballachulish.

**Care at Oban hospital 'second to none'**

Sir,  
I recently became unwell on a Friday evening and phoned NHS24 for assistance and advice. A short time later, after I had answered some questions regarding my problems, I got a phone call back and was told an ambulance was on its way to transport me to Lorn and

Islands Hospital, Oban, Ward A. The ambulance and two crew members duly arrived and after they had carried out all the necessary tests, I was transported to our local hospital. On arrival, after further examination and treatment by medical staff, I was told I was being admitted as a patient. After several days of excellent treatment by all staff and good hospital meals I returned home much better. I found all the nurses in Ward A very pleasant, attentive and caring.

To quote my old regimental motto I would say that all staff were 'second to none.'

Alex Cameron, Lorn road, Dunbeg.

**Slow down near school buses**

Sir,  
Please can I remind all car drivers that the yellow minibuses around Oban are for picking up and dropping off school children.

You should always take extra care and slow down as you approach and pass them.

We live on a narrow road with no pavements. As it is cars drive too fast along this road. But if everyone slowed down between 8am and 9am and 3pm and 4pm in all areas then our children would be a lot safer.

To the driver of the 51 plate blue Citroen that came flying along Glenshellach on Thursday, you have been reported to the police.

Margaret Menassa, Hazel Cottage, Glenshellach Road.

**Rosemary Galer and Young Musicians of Mull**

Sir,  
It was with shock and sadness that I learned of the death of Rosemary Galer.

There will be many players on Mull who were started off by Rosemary, including my children, who are still actively making music and may never have got started had Rosemary not been willing to make the long journey from Fort William to teach on Mull.

Despite having twice 'retired', she agreed to come so that someone was covering the Mull area giving interested parties in Young Musicians of Mull, the opportunity to learn. Adults, too, were lucky to come under her tutelage, some of whom went on to teach themselves and play in ensembles, helping to keep fiddle and violin playing alive on Mull. What a legacy she has left us.

**Beccy Roth.**

**An astounding weekend**

Sir,  
I write regarding the Round Kerrera Sea Kayak Race on September 3 and the Craggy Island Kerrera Triathlon on September 4.

This was an astounding weekend enjoyed by hundreds of locals in addition to many hundreds of visitors to the area.

Congratulations to Gus Brydon for the Sea Kayak Race and Duncan MacEachen for the Triathlon. With the support of Oban Lifeboat, Oban Mountain Rescue Team and many others these guys pulled off two most successful events which formed a remarkable marketing platform for Oban area. The televised triathlon with stunning views around Kerrera with Gyleen Castle and the west coast was

invaluable in marketing terms. As sponsors of the triathlon, MacQueen Bros Ltd are proud to be associated and would encourage more businesses to get behind events such as these which bring an immediate and ongoing return to every business in the area.

The title of Seafood Capital of Scotland could be revised to Sea Life Capital of Scotland reflecting our close and exceptional association with all manner of marine activities such as sailing, kayaking, wind and kite surfing, open water swimming, sea sport angling, island hopping, diving, high speed boat trips, whale, sea eagle and seal watching trips.

Adding to the picture are commercial fishermen, mussel and fish farms, Barcaldine Marine Resource Centre, sea plane trips, the Scottish Association of Marine Sciences, ferry operators and commercial marine operators.

We are so fortunate to have such a wealth of assets. The full realisation of these is coming to fruition thanks to people like Gus and Duncan.

Graham MacQueen.

**Thanks for support**

Sir,  
The organisers of the Oban Sea Kayak Race, which was held on Saturday September 3, would like to thank all the businesses around the bay and town that generously contributed to this unique kayaking event.

Apart from the sponsors' contributions, we could not have succeeded without the help of the following: Oban Lifeboat, Oban Coastguard, Kilbowie Outdoor Centre, Coastal Connection, Mathesons of Oban, Duncan MacEachen and Marine Concern, who gave safety and support cover on the sea during the circumnavigation of Kerrera. Last, but not least, the organisers would like to thank all the volunteers who gave their time freely in the preparation and smooth running of this event.

The event raised £1,500 for Oban Lifeboat, and we look forward to 2012, in what we anticipate will be an even bigger and more successful event.

Gus Brydon and Mark Carter, organisers.

**To the rescue**

Sir,  
Could I please use your letters page to thank the kind gentleman from Loch Fyne Sea Angling Club for coming to my rescue on Loch Etive after my outboard failed to restart.

It is good to hear there are still species like spurdog in the loch despite the damage caused by fish farming and I hope the detour did not stop the catch getting to the pot on time.

John Gore, Taynuilt.

**Malcolm McAlpine**

Sir,  
For most of his working life, the late Malcolm McAlpine lived in the Appin area.

He was an accomplished accordionist appearing, I am sure, at many social events. Unfortunately, his house was totally destroyed and he lost everything, including his prize tapes. I was wondering if anyone had ever made recordings of his playing? His widow and friends would be delighted to have copies. Call 01700 811482.

John MacColl, Achnaskioch, Kilfinan, Tighnabraich, Argyll, PA21 2ER.



**Beachd Ailein**  
Ailean Caimbeul

THA RUD Eadar Ciall is cuthach! Theagamh gum bheil saoghal ball-coise proifeiseanta anns an dùthaich seo a' fàs mothachail gum bheil na tuarastail a tha iad air a bhith a' pàigheadh fad bhliadhnaichean gum chiall!

An fhìach duine sam bith mìltean not gach seachdain airson ball a bhreabadh ge b' e dè cho ealanta is a ni e sin? Carson a tha na sgiobaidhean ball-coise ann co-dhiù? Dh'èirich na sgiobaidhean seo a' cur-seachad agus cacarsaich aig fir a bha an sàs ann an obraichean cruaidh, connartach leithid mèinnearachd. Leis gum robh cuid gu follaiseach nas sùbailte agus nas gluista san spòrs na feadhainn eile, bha e nàdarra gum d' rachadh iad sin fhastadh mar chluicheadaran proifeiseanta. Agus a rèir eachdraidh a' spòrs, bha iad a' faotainn deagh thuarastail aig mu dhà uimhir na bha àbhaisteach aig an àm.

Bha na sgiobaidhean sin ann gus luchd-leantainn a thàladh agus tlachd a thoirt dhaibh. As aonais sin cha robh teachd a-steach gu bhith aca agus cha b' urrainn dhaibh cumail a' dol. Agus air cùl cuise bha luchd-gnothaich a' sùileachadh buannachd air na bha iadsan air a thasgadh anns na sgiobaidhean.

Ach aig ìre air choreigin, dh'fhàs a h-uile duine tuilleadh is sanntach agus chaidh na h-amasan buannachd aig na sgiobaidhean mòra gu h-àraid nan teine le prìsean do-chreidsinn gam pàigheadh air cluicheadaran na sgiobaidhean mòra sin ri saoghal a' mhòr-chuid den luchd taice agus ann an cuid a shuidheachaidhean, theagamh gur e saoghal telebhisein as cudromaiche dhaibh na riarachadh an t-sluaigh bhèò mun fhàire. Agus tha stoirmean eaconamach a' bualadh air an spòrs a-nise le fiachan do-chreidsinn aig cuid de sgiobaidhean, a dh'fhaodadh an cur fodha.

Ach am biodh an spòrs dad na bu mhiosa nan dh' rachadh tuarastail air ais gu dà uimhir cosnadh àbhaisteach? 'S dòcha gur i a' cheist as cudromaiche dè an ìre gum bu chòir co-ionannachd cothruim agus inbhe a bhith eadar an cluicheadair agus an neach-taice? Bheil an taic nas treasa ma tha an cluicheadair 'luachmhor' a thaobh cogais seach a bhith dìreach luachmhor mar fhear ealain? Bheil dìth an airgid mhòr dol a lughdachadh àireamhan luchd-taice? Tha e inntinneach cuimhneachadh gum bheil na h-àireamhan as motha de luchd-leantainn a chunnaic an saoghal riamh, eadar Iosa Crìosd agus am Fàidh Mohammed, a' cur taic ri feadhainn a bha beò ann am bochdainn!

IN THE early days professional football, players were well paid at twice the average wage, and their income was generated through maintaining regular paying support.

Along the way values and wages, in the upper end of the profession in particular, lost touch with the economic reality of the majority of supporters and some teams have generated debts which could bankrupt them.

But would the game be less enjoyable if players earned just twice the average wage? Would support collapse without big money? The biggest support groups in world history followed the 'poverty' of the Christian and Islamic faith!

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

**A view from the tower**  
by McCaig

**Who's out of step?**

WE ARE now in the political party conference season. The delegate battleaxes who can never see any good nor any sense in showing any other party conference on the box get irate as they dispute that any change is bad for the nation - forgetting that the only way they could achieve such was through a thoroughly repressive dictatorship, something they would dispute furiously.

However, they secure their delegate's accreditation, head for Perth or wherever and hope to be called to speak to some andyone motion - or more likely against it - and return home satisfied 'they had played their part' and 'democracy' was safe for another year. As they are the essential foot-soldiers of any party we won't be too hard on them. However, this year they will be faced with new challenges: in the recent Scottish Parliament the Labour party suffered a disaster in Scotland as did the Liberal Democrats. Although the Tories didn't do all that well nationally in the General Election they were able to form a government with other party support. What is to happen in the next few weeks, or has happened in the case of the Liberal Democrats, is a set of conferences to take account of the 'think tanks' set up to dissect where they went wrong and what is to be done to make them electable.

**A sound basis for new Liberalism?**

THE FIRST salvo in their war of words came from their Scottish Leader in the last Scottish Parliament, Tavish Scott, who stood down immediately as the leader of the Parliamentary party.

There was no finesse in his forthright criticism of the national leader Nick Clegg who in a very short time wiped out the renewed growth of the left of centre grouping, losing good, hard-working MPs and MSPs through presenting the electorate with policies that were abhorrent to them. The strange thing is that the leaders of a party that has done very badly in an election normally make way for new leaders. Not so 'Clown' Clegg: he stays in office and makes it clear he intends to stay until his electorate boot him out.

**Wither head the Scottish Tories?**

MEANWHILE, Mr Scott starts the on-rush to separate the Scottish Liberal Party from its English and Welsh counterparts.

**WOT, no lunch?**

THREE of us tried to have lunch in central Oban last week and were fortunate to have our usual excellent repast in the Caledonian.

Six other establishments either don't do lunch, have stopped doing it for ever or couldn't supply it until nearer to 2pm. Is Oban just playing at being a tourist resort?

Now the Tories are holding a leadership election which has hopefully told their sleepy supporters that the Boer War is over!

As I suspected there are 'old ladies' of both sexes who are mumbling about Murdoch Fraser's proposal to ditch the present name and find one that shows it is a centre-right party. Incidentally, Mr Fraser will be in Oban tomorrow lunchtime if any irate voter thinks he should be tarred and feathered. He will welcome more publicity as he is a radical who will justify his campaign to anyone who seeks him out; he might even bring his soap box with him! He, too, wants to separate his 'right' of centre party from that controlled from London. Not surprising really as the current leaders seem only to know it as a place where they shoot stags and chase three-legged haggis.

**Who'll keep 'The Red Flag' flying here?**

THE Labour Party came out of the General and Scottish Elections unspcakably badly, losing MPs and MSPs who were high profile ministers and senior back benchers.

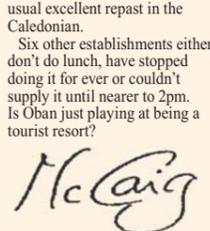
Some laid the blame for the Scottish party's defeat on the result of Westminster General Election but, as with the other parties they accepted the SNP had swept all before it. As far as the younger generation is concerned they don't accept that because the family has historically supported Labour they must. And they moved in droves to support the SNP. In doing so they have forced the party to endorse the new policies presented by the team set up to find an answer to their dwindling vote.

Now all the major political parties want separate organisations from England and separate policies from Westminster, it seems everything is going the SNP way except repeated opinion polls show that the major portion of the electorate don't want full independent status. A federal set-up would seem to be the current answer.

**WOT, no lunch?**

THREE of us tried to have lunch in central Oban last week and were fortunate to have our usual excellent repast in the Caledonian.

Six other establishments either don't do lunch, have stopped doing it for ever or couldn't supply it until nearer to 2pm. Is Oban just playing at being a tourist resort?





Jumping for joy: Bowmore Primary Gaelic Choir was awarded the William Buchanan Memorial Trophy. 06\_a38mod09



Members of Islay Choir left home at 5am to reach Lochgilphead in time for their performance. 15\_1381mod18

# Islay joy at Mòd Dalriada

## Success for all ages

SINGERS from Islay swept the leader board at Mòd Dalriada on Saturday.

With entrants in almost every category of the Lochgilphead competition, the huge contingent from Islay carried a cache of silverware home on the ferry.

Both young and old were successful at the competition this year, which saw a record number of entries.

Bowmore Primary Gaelic Choir was awarded an incredible 354 points in the choral singing contest. Gaining more points than their counterparts in the under 19 category, the youngsters were awarded the William Buchanan Memorial Trophy.

Islay's senior Gaelic choir was also successful as Coisir Og Ghaidhlig Ile won the choral mixed puirt-a-beul own choice competition lifting the John Angus MacIver Memorial Cup.

It was a good day for Mid Argyll musicians too as Coisir Og

**REPORT**  
by EDEL KENEALY  
ekenealy@obantimes.co.uk

Dhail Riata took first place in the choral singing two part harmony competition for under 19s.

Lochgilphead pipers fared well with Andrew Cupples winning the bagpipes novice competition and Christopher Coates winning the bagpipes strathspey and reel contest in the 17 years and under category.

Renowned Tarbert duo Emma MacFarlane and Hannah Prill won The Neil MacLean and Jenny Currie Memorial Trophy for their duet and were also successful as part of Tarbert Folk Group.

Accepting feedback from Mòd Dalriada adjudicators at the weekend, many competitors will now be seeking to improve their performance as they prepare to take on musicians from all over Scotland at the Royal National Mòd next month.

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Thursday night > Disco with Stuart Fraser  
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Saturday night > Club night with DJ Stuart  
Skipinnish Ceilidh House £5 entry, promo's & great sounds

Thursday 22 September > GARY ANDERSON  
Markie Dans 9.30pm

Friday 23 September > WALLACE  
Markie Dans 9.30pm

Saturday 24 September > JON MACKENZIE  
Markie Dans 9.30pm

Thursday 29 September > CHRIS SUCKLE  
Markie Dans 9.30pm

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http://www.smallpaws.co.uk

Reg. charity SCO13211

## Cinema finally community owned

OBAN Phoenix Cinema is finally under community ownership.

The big screen may be lit up sooner than the directors had hoped, thanks to investment from major funders from throughout Scotland plus fundraising and charitable donations from local people.

The former Highland Theatre building in George Street has lain empty since the last film was shown almost 18 months ago. But as of September 20, it belongs to the people of Oban and the islands.

Community efforts to buy the building were backed by Social Investment Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Artemis alongside others, with almost £35,000 coming from the local community.

Louise Glen-Lee, a director of Oban Phoenix Cinema, said: 'This was a project that has always received public backing but we are also delighted that celebrities such as Dame Judi Dench, Tilda

Swinton, Dougray Scott and Robbie Coltrane have given us their backing. It makes it all a bit easier when we are approaching people for money.

'We have sold cinema seats, virtual tickets and our fundraising group has done a power of work to get this project up and running.'

She said there was much still to be done and appealed to tradesmen to get in touch through the website or by calling 07717 526 999.

Alastair Davis, Acting Chief Executive of Social Investment Scotland, said: 'We are delighted to have played our part by providing a loan of £90,000.'

'This promises to be a very exciting project that will save locals having to make a 100 mile trip to visit the nearest cinema.'

Claire Hannah of Highlands and Islands Enterprise said: 'Now that the building has been bought, the next challenge for the group is to re-open the cinema.'



Mikey McManus, Laura Russell, Campbell Cameron, Louise Glen-Lee and Andrew Vennard sitting in the stalls of the cinema the community company now owns.

## Fans flock to hear the jazz go down at Lagavulin

IN ITS 13th year, the Lagavulin Islay Jazz Festival welcomed record attendances throughout the three-day event.

Only one of the 15 concerts failed to sell out and jazz fans from across the globe came to the island to see some of the genre's biggest names, alongside native talent.

Stuart Todd, of Islay Arts Association, which organises the event alongside Jazz Scotland, was excited by the success of this year's event.

'With the hard economic times people are facing we weren't sure how tickets would sell but all but one venue was full to the brim. I clocked quite a few new faces.'

'We had some big names appearing at 10 venues across the island but I always think that during this weekend Islay, itself, becomes a star.'

**Rising star**

Swedish pianist Jacob Karlzon, a rising star in the jazz world, appeared on Islay after playing the Lincoln Centre in New York but admitted to organisers that he preferred the venues on Islay.

The unique and modest venues employed by the Lagavulin Islay Jazz Festival were also noted by headliner Viktoria Tolstoy, descendent of famed writer Leo Tolstoy, who appeared in both the Lagavulin malt mill and Portnahaven Village Hall.

The band Brass Jaw was also a big hit at the Columba Centre.

A mobile recording studio was at the festival and it is anticipated that music from the festival will be aired on Radio Scotland's Jazz House and Radio 3.

Next year's event will again be held in mid September and Islay Arts Association said it has already started planning the event.

Four out of five adults use their local paper to find out what's on

Regional Press

**Skerryvore & Wolfstone LIVE!**

Friday 30th September 2011  
Nevis Centre, Fort William

Witness one of the best double bills this year with two of Scotland's top bands on stage.

Advance tickets £16& £12.50 for under 18s (accompanied by an adult). Doors open 8pm. Tickets on sale now. Call the box office on 01397700707 or from www.thebooth.co.uk.

# Dining out

**Glebe Cairn Restaurant**

The museum Café is open every day for fresh beverages, ovenhot scones and other home baking, as well as wide choice of light lunches from a new menu. Additional "specials" are always on offer, and the Café, open from 10am to 5pm is not just for museum visitors.

**KILMARTIN MUSEUM HOUSE**

**GLEBE CAIRN RESTAURANT**

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Thursday, Friday, Saturday

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Cafe and Museum open daily  
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SC022744



The Glebe Cairn Restaurant also offers a mouth-watering evening menu on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, from 6pm to 9.30pm. Booking is essential

— why not call 01546 510278 now to reserve your table, and look forward to your dinner in our green oak conservatory with its absorbing views of the ancient landscape?

## Change of plan sees Sylvia's first novel published at last

A LOCHABER-based author has released her first novel, a tale of a Highland woman searching to discover the identity of an unknown beneficiary.

Sylvia Mayall, originally from Manchester, is a retired children's worker who now spends most of her time wild camping in the west Highlands. She started writing 'The Silent Mentor' seven years ago and told *The Oban Times* she didn't originally plan to get it published.

Describing the book as 'spiritual fiction', Sylvia said: 'I wrote it because I felt it was something I had to do. I wasn't doing it to get rich or famous, I've got no interest in that.'

Sylvia sets up camp in different areas across the Highlands, but said Lochaber was her most common destination. 'It's a special place,' she said. 'It's a beautiful part of the world and I spend most of my time here.'

Before her move to the west Highlands, Sylvia worked with children in a number of countries,



Sylvia Mayall with her first published novel 'The Silent Mentor'. 20\_f38novel01

including Zambia, Saudi Arabia and Iran. The book has been published by 2QT

Publishing, an independent publisher based in Lancashire and is available on amazon.co.uk.

**Local Producers Market**

Thursday 29th September  
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch, 1 mile along the Tralee road  
10 am to 3 pm  
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Every First / Third Thursday  
Interested Producers contact 01631 720223  
Local Origins Rural Network  
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**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**

**Stramash Ceilidh & Dinner Saturday 30th September Argyllshire Gathering Halls**

Celebrate our 2nd birthday with us and enjoy a fantastic evening! Dine with friends, dance the night away with Ceol an Aire Ceilidh Band and be inspired by Karen Darke, World Para-Skittion Champion in training for 2012 London Paralympics. Karen is a Patron of Stramash, come along and hear her amazing story of courage and determination through adversity. The celebration will tell the Story of Stramash in words, images and music and raise valuable funds to support our work with young people.

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**North Argyll House Coffee Morning**  
Glencruitten Church Centre  
Saturday 24th Sept. 10am - 12 noon  
Admission by Donation  
Baking Stall  
All donations welcome

**Connel Sewing Club**  
Club resumes on Thursday 29 September in Connel Village Hall 7-9pm  
Weekly until end of March  
Old and new members welcome  
All levels catered for £20 for 24 weeks  
Details contact Ann Colthart 01631 710401

**CAR BOOT SALE**  
CO-OP CAR PARK  
SUNDAY 25th SEPTEMBER  
10am - 2pm  
£5 per table.

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

## Bi-lingual chart show hits airwaves

THE FIRST bilingual Scottish Charts Show on commercial radio to be broadcast in both English and Gaelic will go live this weekend, as a result of collaboration between MG ALBA, the Gaelic Media Service and Inverness-based Moray Firth Radio (MFR).

Presenters of the new show, Davey D and Roya McLean, a Gaelic speaker, will host their show on Saturday between 6pm and 8pm.

MFR is available on 97.4FM, 1107AM, DAB digital radio, smart-phone Apps and online at www.mfr.co.uk.

## Skerryvore in line for national award

TREE band Skerryvore is up against Hollywood A-lister Gerard Butler and singer Annie Lennox for a national entertainment award.

The six-piece has been nominated for Entertainer of the Year at the Bighearted Scotland Awards. Also shortlisted in this category are comedian and broadcaster Fred MacAulay and the Red Hot Chili Pipers. Alasdair Nicholson from Stornoway has been shortlisted in the Social Entrepreneur of the Year category.

The awards evening, which will be held on October 14 in Glasgow's Radisson Blu Hotel, celebrates unsung heroes, as well as personalities from the worlds of stage, screen, sport and business who have helped others less fortunate.

Catch Skerryvore at the Nevis Centre, Fort William, on Friday September 30.

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John and Jean will be retiring from 'The Shower' at the end of October and would just like to take this opportunity to thank all their customers for their support and friendship over the past ten years. Wishing every success to the new operators.

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**Tyrere Limousin is Oban champion**

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had 214 store cattle, 12 breeding cattle, 31 over 30 months cattle and 718 store lambs and feeding ewes at its Oban show and sale last week.

The show was judged by J McAllister, Wester Thomaston, Banknock and he selected as his champion a Limousin heifer from Douglas McDonald, Tyree, Benderloch. Scaling 410 kilos the heifer fetched £900 and sold to A Wilson, Laigh Gree, Beith.

Reserve champion was a black Limousin bullock from Messrs Troughton, Ardachy, North Connel which scaled 405kilos and made £800 to J McAllister.

The second prize bullock from A Buchanan, Achnaba, North Connel scaled 440kilos and made £960 to A Wilson, Laigh Gree while the third place also went to Douglas McDonald, Tyree with a Limousin cross at 480kilos, making £910 to A Wilson.

The second prize heifer came from Messrs Troughton, Ardachy scaling 415kilos and selling at £830 to J McAllister, while the third prize heifer was another from A Buchanan, Achnaba, this time scaling 330kilos, and making £700 to J McAllister.

A quality show of bullocks averaged 181p and were topped by a 440kilo Limousin from Achnaba which sold to £960.

Heifers averaged 171p (+20p on the year) and sold to 220p and £900 for a 410kilo Limousin from Tyree, Benderloch.

**Ardtornish**

**Charolais bullocks sell to 288.4p per kilo at Fort William**

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 401 weaned calves, 15 breeding cattle and 19 over 30 months cattle at its Fort William sale last Saturday, when well-bred Limousin and Charolais calves met an exceptional trade.

Bullocks averaged 217.4p and sold to 288.4p per kilo for a pen of 241 kilo Charolais crosses from Ardtornish Farms, Morvern and £860 for a pen of 509 kilo Simmental crosses from South Laggan, Spean Bridge.

Heifers averaged 192.0p and sold to 240.5p per kilo for a pen of 570 kilo Charolais crosses from Ardtornish Farms and £880 for a 471 kilo Limousin cross from Fersit, Roy Bridge.

# Highland crosses prove key to the future at Glenturret

Estate open day shows how crossing Highlanders with Whitebred Shorthorn bulls addresses keen demand for quality suckler hill cow replacements

MORE THAN 100 Highland cattle enthusiasts enjoyed an Open Day at Glenturret Estate near Crieff when they were shown at first hand how their 'traditional' cows could provide a commercially viable future for the national suckler cow herd.

Glenturret Estate owners Mr and Mrs Alex Seldon have had the farming enterprise for over 14 years and what started as a hobby with a few Highland cows has now increased to over 70 head of pedigree cattle producing cross bred calves aimed at the hill breeding suckler herd.

The Seldons selected a Whitebred Shorthorn bull, Todo of Burnedge, for all their pedigree Highland cows with all the cross bred calves sold through the market ring at Oban at the end of October. The Highlanders have crossed extremely well with the Whitebred Shorthorn bull with the heifer calves consistently proving to be in strong demand for breeding purposes. Replacement Highland heifers are currently bought from Meggerie Estate at Glen Lyon.

At Glenturret, farm manager, Douglas McCartney informed visitors about the estate management strategy and explained how the Highland cow is ideally suited to the south facing, free draining, 4,000 acre heather moor. The cattle graze the moor without any supplementary forage and also help with tick control and habitat which benefits both the farming and sporting enterprises on Glenturret.

The in-calf cows are brought down closer to the farm buildings as they approach the calving period from March onwards.

The Glenturret experience highlights that the Highland cow has a definitive role in keeping stock on the hills and is an ideal replacement to address nationally plummeting suckler cow numbers.

Following the introduction the visitors went out to the hill paddocks to view the cows with this year's April born calves

which are all exceptionally well grown.

A stockjudging competition also took place throughout the morning with past Society president Archie McArthur, Ormsary, Lochgilphead judging the four classes.

The light-hearted competition proved highly successful for the Bannerman family, with Shawny Bannerman winning first place and Shona Bannerman taking third place. Society council member Jim Fraser was second.

Following lunch at The Famous Grouse Experience, seminars were held in the purpose-built auditorium. Speakers were Basil Lowman, Willie Thomson of Harbro, and Donald Hendry, an independent consultant on conservation.

The role of the Highland cattle breed as a 'conservation tool' continues to boost interest in the Highland Cattle Society's Show and Sale to be held at Oban Livestock Centre on October 9 and 10.

Show and sale particulars are available from this week from auctioneers Caledonian Marts (Stirling) Ltd at Oban Livestock Centre.

There was also considerable 'Highland' interest when Caledonian Marts held their Native Breed Store Sale at Stirling earlier in the week, the first sale of its kind in Scotland.

It proved to be a great day for the commercial side of the Highland breed with Alan Prentice taking first prize in the Highland bullock section with a spot weighing in at 600 kgs and selling for £1060 to W Stark, Twechar. Second prize went to Ormsary Farmers, Lochgilphead for their 500 kg bullock which sold to the judge WR Lawson, Mid Seat Bathgate.

The first prize Highland Heifer also came from Ormsary and, at 460kgs, sold for £760 to Messrs Carr, Yorkshire. Ormsary were to the fore again with their first prize pen of four bullocks



More than 100 Highland cattle enthusiasts attended an open day at Glenturret Estate near Crieff where they saw the estates' breeding policy at first hand



A damp day in Perthshire did nothing to dull the enthusiasm of visitors to Glenturret Estate's Open Day where the herd of pedigree Highland cows and their cross bred calves were the star attraction

- average weight 460kgs and selling to Messrs Carr. Highland Cattle Society secretary Hazel Baxter said: 'The atmosphere around the ring was tremendous and there was great support from the Highland Cattle members - both selling and buying.'

'The majority of animals were well presented which created a great impression in the ring. 'The success of the event will hopefully encourage Caledonian Marts to make this an annual event and we would fully support the venture.'

**Dippen Charolais wins UA Stirling show and sale**

UNITED Auctions sold 1,388 suckled calves at its Stirling sale and show on Monday.

The championship was won by a Charolais cross spot calf from D W Semple & Son, Dippen, Carradale scaling 540kilos and selling at £1,250.

The calf also won the P McKerral Trophy for the best calf from Knapdale and Kintyre.

Bullocks averaged 204.36p (+£32.36 on year) and sold to 241.3p per kilo for a 460kg Limousin cross from High Unthank and £1,250 for the champion from Dippen.

Heifers averaged 190.13p and sold to 224p per kilo for a 540kilo Charolais cross from Wester Middleton and £1,140 for a 509kilo Charolais cross also from Wester Middleton.

Suckled calves Champion - Semple, Dippen - 540kilo, £1,250 Reserve Champion - Reid, High Unthank - 460kilos, £1,110

Charolais bullock 1, Semple, Dippen - 540kilos, £1,250 Charolais heifer 1, Armour, Kilkeddan - 474kilos, £910 Limousin bullock 1, Reid, High Unthank - 460kilos, £1,110 Limousin heifer 1, Thomson, West Park - 402kilos, £885 Any other breed bullock 1, Carmichael, Nether Dalkeith - 438kilos, £905 Any other breed heifer 1, Carmichael, Nether Dalkeith - 514kilos, £965 Pen of 4 bullocks 1, Ross Farms, Wester Middleton - 509kilos £1,140 Pen of 4 heifers 1, McCorkindale, Machariorch - 464kilos, £915 Best pen of 4 calves - 1, Ross Farms, West Middleton - 509Kintyre, £1,140 Best Kintyre calf - Semple, Dippen.

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**Market reports**

**OBAN Caledonian Marts**  
Bullocks: 0-250kgs - £530 Glencreran Estates, 182p Torosay; 301-350kgs - £600, 182p Glencreran; 351-400kgs - £845, 214p Achnaba; 401-450kgs - £960, 218p Achnaba; 451-500kgs - £910, 190p Tyree.  
Heifers: 0-250kgs - £345, 141p Pennygowan; 251-300kgs - £360, 137p Pennygowan; 301-350kgs - £600 Tyree, 176p Ardachy; 351-400kgs - £760 Achnaba, 206p Ardachy; 401-450kgs - £900, 220p Tyree; 451-500kgs - 451-500kgs - £810, 172p Achnacremore.

**FORT WILLIAM Dingwall and Highland Marts**  
Bullocks: Up to 200kg - Ardtornish Farms, £470, 254.2p; 201-250kg - Ardtornish Farms, £695, Dunlichity Farm, 272.7p; 251-300kg - Dunlichity Farm, £760, 267.4p; 301-350kg - Balmacaan, Drumnadrochit, £695, 216.1p; 351-400kg - Lurignish Farm, Appin, £720, Drumbue, Drumnadrochit, 190.3p; 401-450kg - 14 Linicro, Portree, £720, Tigh An Loin, Back of Keppoch, 173.7p; 451-500kg - South Laggan, Spean Bridge, £850, 174.9p; 501-550kg - South Laggan, £855, 169p.  
Heifers: Up to 200kg - 2 and 3 Kinloid, Arisaig, £435, 220.8p; 201-250kg - Ardtornish Farms, £570, 221.7p; 251-300kg - Dunlichity Farm, £510, 198.4p; 301-350kg - Balmacaan, £670, 194.2p; 351-400kg - Lurignish Farm, £730, 192.1p; 401-450kg - Fersit, Roy Bridge, £765, 178.3p; 451-500kg - Fersit, £820, 186.8p.

**STIRLING United Auctions**  
Bullocks 251-300kgs Knock O'Ronald £695, 235.6p; 301-350kgs Knock O'Ronald £755, 230.9p; 351-400kgs Low Dunasherry £875, Wester Middleton 228.9p; 401-450kgs Machariorch £1010, 239.34p; 451-500kgs Wester Middleton £1150, High Unthank 241.3p; 501-550kgs Dippen £1250, 231.5p; 551-600kgs Knowehead £1175, 199.8p.  
Heifers 251-300kgs Old Leckie £590, 214p; 301-350kgs Dykehead £725, Old Leckie 214p; 351-400kgs Wester Middleton £850, 214.6p; 401-450kgs Wester Middleton £890, West Park 220.1p;



Duncan Semple, Dippen, Carradale, left, is pictured receiving the P McKerral Trophy from Lorna Hume, representing the show sponsors Carrs Billington. Looking on are the judge Mr Robin McDonald, Low Middleton Farms and David Leggat from United Auctions. t38semple1no

451-500kgs Townhead of Arngibbon £960, 207.3p; 501-550kgs West Middleton £1140, 224p; 551-600kgs Glenherve £975, 175.4p.

**DINGWALL**

**Dingwall and Highland Marts**

**Lambs:** Suffolk cross - Bogburn Farm, £68, 4 Torr Gardens, Inverness, £67.50, Refoule, Nairn, and Bogburn Farm, £64; Texel cross - 20 Borreraig, Dunvegan, £65, Bogburn Farm, and Eilean Darrach, Dundonnell, £62, Ardnagrask, Muir of Ord, £60.50; Charollais cross - Achteue, Drumnadrochit, £60; Beltex cross - Scroggie Farm, Dingwall, £60, Barrogill Mains, Mey, £58.50, Invercharron, Arday, £56.50; Charmoise - Garbeg, Drumnadrochit, £59, St. Ninians, Drumnadrochit, £54.50; Cheviot - Clune Farm, Aldourie, £58.50, Portmhoh, Isle of Muck, £56.50, 88 Inchomney, Rogart, £56; Lleyl cross - Isle of Muck Farms, £53; Cross - Dalmagarry Farm, Moy, £53, Bogburn Farm, £52.50, Coach House, Dingwall, £52.  
**Ewes and gimmers:** Blackface gimmer - Old Croft House, £76.50; Beltex cross ewe - Scroggie Farm, £74; Texel cross ewe - Inkstack, Barrock, (Jack), £64;

Mule ewe - Inkstack, £63.50; Cross ewe - Dulsie Farm, Glenferness, £60; Suffolk cross ewe - Scroggie Farm, £60; Cheviot ewe - St Ninians, £59; Heb ewe - Balnastraid, Carrbridge, £55.  
**Lewis Livestock Producers:**  
**Lambs:** Cross - 15 Coll, £54, 22 Knock, Point, and 24 Cromore, Lochs, £50, 8 Camach Park, North Tolsta, £49.50; Cheviot - 16 Marvig, £52.50, 4 Cromore, 27 Gress, and 22 North Tolsta, £50, 31 North Tolsta, £48.50; Blackface - 50 North Tolsta, £51, 29 Sheshader, £50.50; Charollais cross - 17 Swordale, Stornoway, £49; Texel cross - 21 North Tolsta, £48.50, 22 North Tolsta, £46; Beltex cross - 7 Cromore, £47; Suffolk cross - 2 Marvig, Lochs, £47. Feeding sheep; Cheviot ram - 1 Hill Street, North Tolsta, £68, 49 North Tolsta, £61, 2 Marvig, £60; Cross ram - 8 Camach Park, £55; Cheviot ewe - 37 North Tolsta, £64, 31 North Tolsta, £61; Cross ewe - 45 Vatisker, £59, 24 North Tolsta, £57, 22 North Tolsta, £56.

**DINGWALL**

**Dingwall and Highland Marts**

**Bullocks:** Brae-edge Farm, (Charolais Cross), £1,469.40; Udale, (Limousin Cross), £1,438.20;

Newton of Ferintosh, (Limousin Cross), £1,319.50. Heifers: Bridgend Farm, (Limousin Cross), £1,291.15; Easter Sheep Park, (Limousin Cross), £1,224.00; Bridgend Farm, (Simmental Cross), £1,179.75.

**Lambs**

New season lambs: Texel Cross - Oldtown of Leys, Inverness, £84, Torgorm, £82.4p; Beltex Cross - Torgorm, £84, Easter Strath of Auchterflow, Killen, 179.2p; Suffolk Cross - Torgorm, £83.50, 175.8p; Charollais Cross - Wellback Farm, Thurso, £78.50, 175.6p; CHM - Kinahaird Farm, Contin, £73.50, 170.9p; Grit - New House, Balvaire, £73, 169.8p; Cheviot - 238 Rearquhar, Dornoch, £72.50, Culmally Farm, Golspie, 172.8p; Cross - Wester Croachy, Aberarder, £67, 165.4p; Mule - Milton Farm, Aberarder, £66.80, 159.3p; Rye - New House, £66.50, 166.3p.

**STIRLING**

**United Auctions**

**Bullocks:** Up to 250kg Barshalloch £470, 200.9p; 251-300kgs Conlin £460, 157.5p; 301-350kgs Porterstown £685, 200.9p; 351-400kgs Bankswood £800, Grassmillside 211.6p; 401-450kgs West Muirhouse £890, 206p; 451-500kgs Glenmanna £1005, 207.6p;

501-550kgs Rhynaclach £1065, Laight 204.4p; 551-600kgs Dalquharn £1120, Rhynaclach 193.3p; 601-650kgs Ledrishbeg £1160, 187.7p; 651-700kgs Innerwick £1260, 186.4p.  
**Heifers:** Up to 250kg Stockholm £410, 175.2p; 251-300kgs Drygate £545, 186.6p; 301-350kgs Bankswood £690, Stockholm 203.8p; 351-400kgs Bankswood £760, 200p; 401-450kgs Old Leckie £870, 206.2p; 451-500kgs Midtown £950, 197.9p; 501-550kgs Rhynaclach £1035, 195.8p; 551-600kgs Rhynaclach £1090, 191.9p.  
**Sheep**  
Ewe lambs: Low Craigton (Suffolk cross) £84 and (Suffolk cross) £74, Blairfad (Suffolk cross) and East Laggan (Texel cross) £72, Morenish (Texel cross) £70, Lands of Drumhead (Texel cross) £66.  
Low Craigton (Suffolk cross) £67.50, Derculich (Texel cross) £66.50, Merkins (Blackface) £66, Low Craigton (Suffolk cross) £65, East Laggan (Texel cross) £64.50, Quinloch (Suffolk cross) and Ballkinrain (Beltex cross) £62.50, Kindrum Park (Texel cross) £61, Spittalhill (Blackface) £58, Dykes (Blackface) £57.50, Gartincaber (Mule) £56.50, Bogsides (Mule) £55.50.  
**STORNOWAY**  
**Dingwall and Highland Marts**  
**Lambs** Cheviot - Dell Farm, £65, 9 Coll, Back, £61, Dell Farm, and 7 Ivorhill, Stornoway, £57; Cross - 7 Arnol, £60, Steishal, Park Barvas, £56.50, 20B Newmarket, Laxdale, £54.50; Beltex cross - 52 Newmarket, Stornoway, £58.50, 1 Gress, Back, £55; Blackface - 4 Borve, Isle of Harris, £58, 46 North Shawbost, £53, 19 Lower Shader, Point, £51; Suffolk - Cloverdale, Lower Barvas, £56.50, Atlantic View, Isle of Harris, £49; Suffolk cross - Ensay, Sandwick, and 45 Arnol, £56; Texel cross - 7 Keose, And Cloverdale, £53.50.

Oban Times FARMING Oban Times FARMING

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www.scottishfield.co.uk

# Oban hotel staff celebrate special anniversary



Staff and regulars of Oban's Regent Hotel gathered on Friday to celebrate the fifth anniversary of its takeover by Oxford Hotels and Inns. Staff received gift bags and were treated to a buffet and drinks. They also received vouchers allowing them to stay at any Oxford hotel at a discounted rate. Manager Craig Lawrence cuts the special celebratory cake with staff during last week's party. 15\_138regent1

# Leaders' last ditch effort to save tug

SHIPPING minister Mike Penning was presented with a last-ditch bid to save the emergency tug serving the Minch this week.

The *Anglian Prince* is set to be withdrawn at the end of the month as part of UK Government budget cuts, but local authorities, politicians and safety groups say any savings would be immediately wiped out by a single accident.

With just days remaining until the boat is released from its contract, the leaders of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Highland Council and Shetland Council presented Mr Penning with a new plan on how to keep the vessel.

They hoped it would demonstrate the availability of possible new funding streams and suggest a revised contract that would present significant savings. Elsewhere, Mr Penning is considering giving the *Anglian Prince* a six-week stay of execution to consider other options.

Angus Campbell, leader of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, said: 'We had submitted a plan already, highlighting new funding streams, but Mr Penning seems to think it is not what he considers a plan so we'll revise what we've got and show him what a new contract would look like.'

Mr Campbell has once again highlighted how important the tug serving the Minch is.

He said: 'When things are tough of course you cut back on insurance, but you don't cut back on house or car insurance because you wouldn't be allowed to. The same should apply here. Only when the first accident happens will it hit home what we'd be missing. We will fight to the end because once it's gone it's very difficult to get it back.'

Meanwhile, Mr Campbell has called on the Liberal Democrat MPs in affected areas, including Alan Reid, MP for Argyll and Bute, to be more vocal in support of the tug.

He said: 'I spoke to Alan Reid during a recent trip to London and we really need more vocal support from our Liberal MPs because they're in government and can have an influence.'

Mr Reid said: 'I met Mike Penning recently to make the case for keeping the tugs.'

'I've followed this up with a letter to him pointing out that the cost of cleaning up after an oil tanker wreck would far outweigh the cost of keeping the tugs.'

'I hope that the Transport Department will recognise this and decide to keep the tugs.'

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**Scottish Natural Heritage**  
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba  
All of nature for all of Scotland  
Nàdair air fad airson Alba air fad

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has been asked by the Scottish Government to carry out a consultation on the proposal to designate an area within the Sound of Barra as a Special Area of Conservation. This consultation was launched on Friday 16th

September 2011 and will run for 12 weeks, closing on the 9th December.

Consultation documents will be available on our website [www.snh.gov.uk](http://www.snh.gov.uk) and we are happy to provide hard copies. If you would like a pack or an email link to the consultation please contact Johanne Ferguson at the SNH Office at Stillgarry, South Uist or [johanne.ferguson@snh.gov.uk](mailto:johanne.ferguson@snh.gov.uk)

Public Meetings will be held as follows:

- Castlebay Hall - 3rd October - 7:30pm
- Eriskay Hall - 4th October - 7:30pm.

**DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED**  
Name, Croft, Extent, reason, conditions Case Number

Mrs C A Thomson  
13 Airds, Ardchattan & Muckkaim  
0.040 ha existing house site  
Conditions: 2a & 3  
4.86.34170

Mrs Janet MacKinnon  
3 Balevullin, Tiree  
0.0233 ha croft house site & garden ground  
Conditions: 2a, 3

Mr I G Carmichael, Mr A Carmichael, Mr E D Carmichael & Mr D Carmichael  
55 Ormissaigbeg, Ardnamurchan & Sunart  
Whole croft  
4.87.26934

**Conditions**  
(2) complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of:  
(a) the date of the direction  
(3) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

**GLASGOW HIGHLAND SOCIETY**

The Society invites applications from individuals of Highland descent for financial assistance in the 2011/2012 academic year. The grant is normally around £75. Applications are accepted from students brought up in the Highlands entering a course of study in the Glasgow area.

Forms of application can be obtained from: The Secretaries, Glasgow Highland Society, Alexander Sloan, Chartered Accountants, 38 Cadogan Street, Glasgow G2 7HF or from the web site [www.alexandersloan.co.uk/ghs](http://www.alexandersloan.co.uk/ghs).  
Scottish Charity Number: SC015479

The Executors of the late Mrs Marion Buchanan are applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to transfer the tenancy of the croft at 2 Vaul, Isle of Tiree to Mrs Carol Mason of The Crothouse, Backies, Golspie, Sutherland IV24 3EA.

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township, or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW within 28 days from the date of publication of the advertisement. Please note that any comments received by the Crofters Commission are part of an open process and will be made available to us and any interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry. Frivolous, vexatious or unreasonable comments cannot be accepted.



**DAB VJB**  
Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute Valuation Joint Board

### THE REGISTER OF ELECTORS DOOR TO DOOR CANVASS

Electoral Registration Forms were posted to every residential property in Argyll & Bute during the month of August, listing the registration details held by the Electoral Registration Officer.

During the month of September/October canvassers will be visiting properties in some areas in an attempt to collect forms from those households who have not yet made a return.

**IF YOU HAVE NOT MADE A RETURN YOU MAY RECEIVE A VISIT FROM ONE OF OUR CANVASSERS. IN THE MEANTIME, YOU CAN STILL USE ONE OF THE METHODS BELOW TO MAKE YOUR RETURN.**

Register by Freephone ☎, Internet 💻 or by Mobile Phone Text Message 📱

Details of how to do this will be on the Registration Form.

All services will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, throughout the canvass period and can be used by households where the names on the electoral register remain UNCHANGED from the previous year.

Register by Post 📧

If there are any ELECTOR NAME CHANGES required to the details appearing on the Registration Form, amendments should be made accordingly, and the form must be returned by POST in the pre-paid envelope provided.

David C Thomson  
Electoral Registration Officer

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

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

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected
11/03207/PIP	Land to north east of Duror Parish Church Duror	Demolition of workshop and erection of two houses	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/03334/FUL	1 - 2 Hillside Kentallen Appin PA38 4BY	Extension to existing dwelling house and installation of septic tank	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/03312/FUL	Land south east of Old Faichemard Farmhouse Faichem Invergarny PH35 4HG	Erection of garage / painting studio within outillage of existing dwelling, Old Faichemard Farmhouse	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/03134/FUL	Land east of 2 Fossfern Cottages Kinlochell	Alteration to house design for 10/01511/FUL, on Plots 10 and 11 from two semi-detached to two detached properties	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

**The Scottish Government**

**TRANSPORT SCOTLAND**

**THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (FORT WILLIAM) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2011**

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that on 13th September 2011 they made the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) and (2) and 124(1)(d) of, and paragraph 27 of Part IV to Schedule 9 to, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Order comes into force on 26th September 2011.

The effect of the Order is as described in the Notice in the Edinburgh Gazette Issue No. 26705 on 6th November 2009, the Press & Journal dated 10th November 2009 and in the Oban Times on 12th November 2009.

A copy of the Order as made and relevant plan, may be examined free of charge during normal business hours until 25th October 2011 at the offices of Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF and Highland Council Service Point, Lochaber House, High Street, Fort William PH33 6EL.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of its provisions on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that a requirement of any such enabling Act or of any relevant regulations has not been complied with may, within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made, make application for that purpose to the Court of Session.

A copy of the Order and this notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/policy/legal-requirements/road-and-traffic-orders/TROS>

**G EDMOND**  
A member of the staff of Scottish Ministers  
Transport Scotland  
Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road,  
GLASGOW G4 0HF.

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES** **Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Argyll & Bute Council**

**PLANNING**

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
11/01034/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank (amendment to planning permission 10/00925/PP) - Addition of raised decking	Site 2C Kilmoughton The Oa Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7AZ	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
11/01685/PP	Erection of 20 kilo watt wind turbine (27 metres in height to blade tip).	Ardmore House, Kildalton Churchyard Road Kildalton Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7EF	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
11/01692/PP	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse (amended design relative to planning permission reference 08/00256/DE)	Tigh Nan Urrius Upper Kilchattan Isle Of Colonsay Argyll And Bute PA61 7YR	Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
11/01788/PP	Change of use of bed and breakfast annex building to manager's accommodation	The Inns Over-By The Square Bowmore Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA43 7JP	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay

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, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE (SALEN PRIMARY SCHOOL, ISLE OF MULL) (PART-TIME 20MPH SPEED LIMIT) (VARIATION) ORDER 2011**

Argyll and Bute Council proposes to make an Order introducing an extension to the existing part-time 20mph speed limit adjacent to Salen Primary School on the A848, Salen, Isle of Mull.

Full details of these proposals together with a Plan and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make this Traffic Regulation Order, are available for inspection during normal office hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the offices of:

- Salen Post Office, Salen, Isle of Mull;
- Roads & Amenities Services, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban;
- Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

Any person wishing to object to the proposals should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT, by 14th October 2011.

**Sandy MacTaggart, Executive Director, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD**

**COUNCILLOR SURGERY**

Mary Jean Devon and Roddie McQuish, Ward: 4 Oban South And The Isles. Will be holding a surgery Monday 26th September 2011 10.00am - 12 noon, The Business Centre, Isle of Tiree Members' Services Unit, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT. Tel: 01546 604209 Fax: 01546 604349

**Cleaner**  
 £12,270 - £13,427 (pro rata) Aqualibrium Ref: CMA00278  
 22 hours per week, temporary  
 ☎ 01546 604048

**Childcare and Education Worker**  
 £19,271 - £20,457 (pro rata)  
 Dalmally Primary School Pre Five Unit Ref: CME35170  
 17.5 hours per week, temporary - Term Time  
 ☎ 01369 708546

**Childcare and Education Worker**  
 £19,271 - £20,457 (pro rata)  
 Strath of Appin Primary School Pre Five Unit Ref: CME01503  
 17.5 hours per week, temporary - Term Time  
 ☎ 01369 708546

**Childcare and Education Worker**  
 £19,271 - £20,457 (pro rata)  
 Lochnell Primary School Pre Five Unit Ref: CME53480  
 17.5 hours per week, temporary - Term Time  
 ☎ 01369 708546

**Childcare and Education Worker**  
 £19,271 - £20,457 (pro rata)  
 Iona Primary School Pre Five Unit Ref: CME01811  
 17.5 hours per week, temporary - Term Time  
 ☎ 01369 708546

**Classroom Assistant**  
 £14,307 - £15,165 (pro rata) Tobermory High School Ref: CME01713  
 26 hours per week, permanent - Term Time  
 ☎ 01369 708546

**Classroom Assistant (Pre Five)**  
 £14,307 - £15,165 (pro rata)  
 Arinagour Primary School Pre Five Unit Ref: CME07942  
 12.5 hours per week, temporary - Term Time  
 ☎ 01369 708546

**SEN Assistant**  
 £8.57 per hour (Bank) Lochgilphead Joint Campus Ref: CME01037  
 Variable hours  
 ☎ 01369 708546

**SEN Assistant**  
 £15,639 - £17,099 (pro rata) Taynuilt Primary School Ref: CSE63130  
 10 hours per week, temporary - Term Time  
 ☎ 01369 708546



Closing date: 7 October 2011.  
 To apply visit our website

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs)

**Vacancy**

**Environmental and Development Officer**  
 Salary Dependent on Skills and Experience

Meridian Salmon Group is a leading company in the Scottish Salmon Industry producing exceptionally high quality products for an increasingly demanding market. We have operations throughout Scotland and the Northern Isles of Orkney and Shetland, together, we pledge a strong dedication to achieving a strong and sustainable aquaculture industry.

We are currently seeking a candidate to take on the position of full-time Environmental & Development Officer. As part of a small team, they will work alongside their colleagues in building strong key relationships and ensuring an exemplary level of compliance. The ideal candidate will be committed to achieving the best results in a challenging environment and delivering the highest standards of performance possible.

With operations throughout Scotland, your base and the requirement to travel will be discussed at interview as travel and overnight stays are necessary. You should be enthusiastic, self-motivated, have a positive approach to tasks, be confident and approachable in your manner, along with the ability to manage your own workload effectively.

**The Role**

This role will be joining the Business Support Team in completing Planning and SEPA applications along with associated data collection to support such applications. The role primarily focuses on supporting the production team to develop our existing marine and freshwater farms as well as exploring future expansion possibilities, along with ensuring environmental compliance to the highest of standards. Strong communications skills are necessary as the successful candidate will be expected to effectively communicate with Local Authorities, Marine Scotland, SEPA, SNH, RSPB etc.

Compile reports and keep accurate records of work completed and be able to work to deadlines and assist in advising Farm Managers on Environmental and Planning Issues.

**Qualifications/Skills Required**

Excellent IT skills in Word and Excel  
 Strong written, verbal and inter-personal communication skills  
 Candidate must be flexible with working hours and days  
 Be a good team player  
 Planning or Environmental experience  
 Full driving licence

**Qualifications/Skills desired but not essential**

Knowledge of planning & or Environmental Management.  
 Familiarity with hatchery, farming & processing operations would be advantageous.  
 If you feel you have the experience required to contribute to a progressive, results orientated company then please send your application by 7th October 2011 to:

Ms Debi Longmore, Human Resources Assistant, Northern Isles Salmon Ltd,  
 Hatston Industrial Estate, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1RG  
 debi.longmore@northernislessalmon.com



**Freshwater Lochs & Logistics Manager**  
 Salary £44,000 - £54,000

Marine Harvest (Scotland) is the largest Aquaculture Company operating in Scotland. Our Marine and Freshwater farms are located throughout the West Coast and Outer Isles.

We are currently looking to identify a suitably qualified and highly motivated individual to undertake the senior management role of Freshwater Lochs & Logistics Manager, covering our farms and 3rd party suppliers. The role is to provide effective transfer of Fry from Hatcheries to Lochs, line management of Loch production and Smolt transfers.

The successful candidate will report directly to the Production Manager and will be fully involved in the efficient operation and development of our freshwater farms. They will help drive and implement best practice and operational excellence throughout the business to satisfy the high quality product, welfare and environmental standards demanded by our customers.

Principle responsibilities will include the delivery of financial and performance objectives through effective financial planning and management; health, welfare & biosecurity management, feeding, growth & stock quality management; stock movement planning; asset management; people resource & performance management and HSEQ management.

Applicants, who must be strong team players, will have a proven track record in developing and achieving commercial success in farming operations. Strong interpersonal, communication, organisation and planning skills as well as the ability to problem solve and motivate and achieve results through the success of others are some of the key attributes required for this post. In addition applicants require a full driving licence and should be prepared to undertake significant travel.

In return the successful candidate will benefit from an attractive salary package, including bonus, company car and the opportunity to develop their career through this exciting role. Assistance will be considered should relocation be required.

If you have the drive, commitment and enthusiastic personality that is required for this senior role, coupled with significant experience, please apply in writing, no later than Friday 7th October, stating your reasons for applying and your relevant skills and experiences to: Vicky Ferguson, HR Manager, Business Resource Centre, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.

Informal enquires can be addressed to Ben Hadfield, Production Manager, Farms Office, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.  
 E-mail: ben.hadfield@marineharvest.com



**Fish Farm Technicians:  
 Loch Awe (Tervine)**

Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, part of the Dawnfresh Seafoods Group, is the largest Trout Farming Company operating in the UK. Our Marine and Freshwater farms are located throughout Scotland, England and Ireland.

We are seeking to recruit 2 individuals to fulfil roles as Freshwater Fish Farm Technicians. These positions will be based at our freshwater cage farm on Loch Awe, nr Kilchrenan.

The role of Freshwater Technician is interesting and varied. Working outdoors as part of a small team, it is focused upon all aspects of successful portion trout production including feeding, grading, harvesting, net changing and other general farm maintenance tasks, including boat handling.

Applications are invited from individuals who have a positive approach to this type of work, who feel comfortable working over water and be willing to work flexibly to meet the demands of the job.

Previous aquaculture experience is desirable but not essential as full training and support will be provided. A full driving licence is essential.

These posts will be initially offered on 6 months fixed term contract basis, but with good potential for leading to full time positions, working a 40 hour week on any five out of seven days. Beyond the nature of the roles, the post holder(s) would be expected to undertake additional hours as required in order to accommodate the needs of the business, this will include weekend cover on a rota basis.

If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV, by Thursday 13th October 2011, to:

Lindsey Elder, HR Assistant, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS., Office 01698 810008, E-mail: lindsey.elder@dawnfresh.co.uk

Informal enquires can be made to Dean Jordan, Farm Manager, Mobile 07872 378759, E-mail dean.jordan@dawnfresh.co.uk

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**Ambitious for Scotland**

Operating across half of Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise is one of Europe's most highly-regarded development agencies. HIE's unique integration of economic and community development is central to its success in generating sustainable economic growth in every part of the Highlands and Islands, particularly in fragile areas.

**Director of Strengthening Communities**

We're offering a rare opportunity for a talented individual to take on a senior leadership role within the agency.

As Director of Strengthening Communities, you'll lead a multi-disciplinary team in shaping our approach, ensuring effective implementation of policy and the delivery of projects which enable communities and social enterprises to flourish.

Reporting directly to HIE's Chief Executive, you'll be a skilled manager with economic and/or community development experience. You'll understand the vital role the third sector is playing in Scotland's economy. You'll be passionate about Highlands and Islands culture. And you'll be driven by a desire to help build stronger rural communities with control of their own assets and able to plan effectively to determine their futures.

Bidh sibh cuideachd curamach airson Plana Gàidhlig HIE a libhrigeachd airson sochair eaconomach agus coimhearsnachdail a shìolaich bho 'n chànan.

**For further detailed information and how to apply please visit**  
[www.munroconsulting.com/hie](http://www.munroconsulting.com/hie)  
 If you have any queries please contact Catriona Mackie or Katy Gall on  
 0141 227 7550 or email [katy.gall@munroconsulting.com](mailto:katy.gall@munroconsulting.com) quoting reference G625.  
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 Closing Date: 17 October 2011

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 Mr Pat Glennon, Glennon Brothers, Portland House, Harbour Road, Troon, KA10 6DN  
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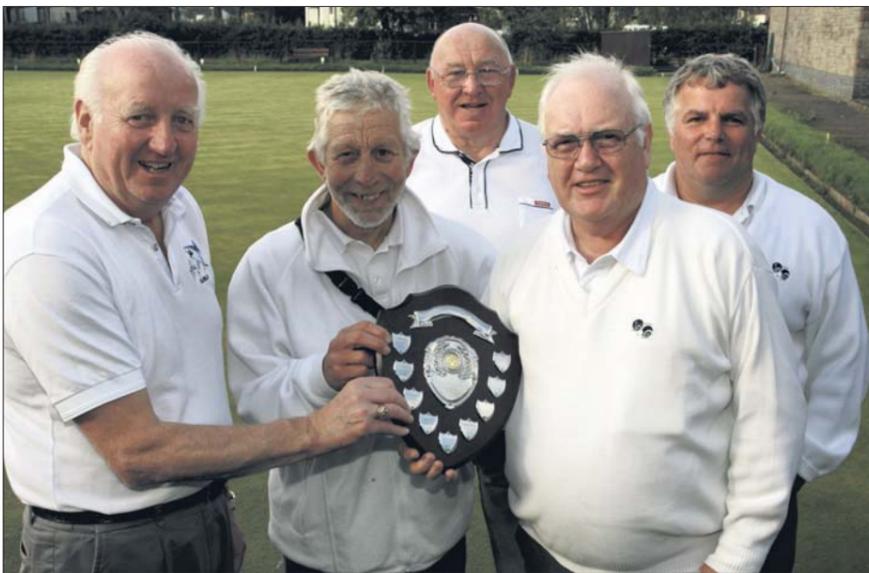
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### Keith and Alan claim Clydesdale Bank pairs title



The Clydesdale Bank Pairs Bowling competition at the Railway Club in Inverloch was won on the last bowl by Keith Brannigan and Alan Robinson on Saturday. It was doubtful the event would take place because of heavy overnight rain, but with hard work from the greenkeeper it went ahead and the weather improved as the day went on. Also pictured are runners up Bill Clark and Gogs Hamilton.



### Gary 'the milk' delivers new tracksuits to under-15s

Oban Saints Under 15 team were the recipients of new tracksuits supplied by Oban Milk Supplies. Gary MacDonald, right, managing director of Oban Milk Supplies, is pictured with the players and coaches. 16\_138saintsstrip01



### Saints youth coaches put through their paces

Argyll and Bute Council football development officer Martin Rae and his assistant Derek Millar with youth coaches from Oban Saints Football Club. The coaches have been sitting the Scottish Football Association Level 3 Coaching in the Game Certificate held at Oban Community Pitch. Back row, left to right: Derek Millar, Scott Buchanan, Alan MacLeod, Donald MacLean, Joe MacIntyre, John Horne, Duncan Maclean, Lochgilphead Soccer Centre, Thomas Sharp, Peter Bain and Martin Rae. Front row: Gus MacPherson, Brian Forgive, David MacCuish, Robbie Johnston, Kenny Campbell, George Easton and Mark Welsh. Missing from photo is Jimmy Jackson. 16\_138coaches01

# Peter's podium finish in British contest

OBAN native Peter MacDougall has come third in a British bodybuilding championship held in Glasgow on Sunday.

The Scottish lightweight champion achieved his aim of a top three finish at the British Natural Bodybuilding Federation (BNBF) British championship and has received messages of congratulations from all over the country, as well as his hometown of Oban.

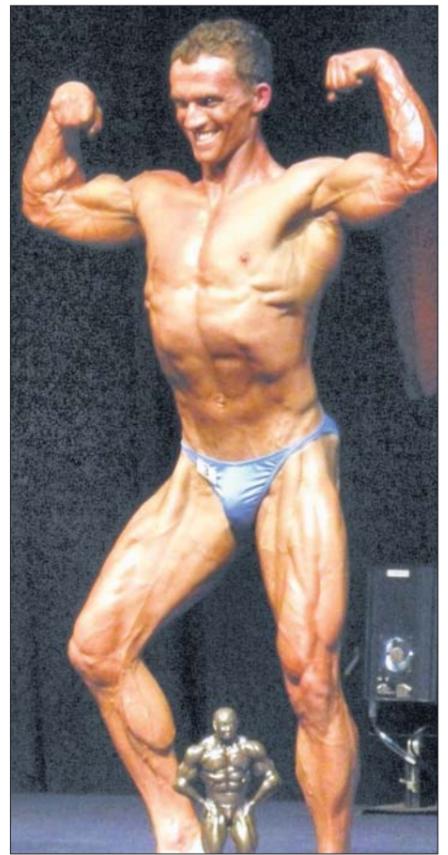
Peter, who now lives in Glasgow, where he works as a personal trainer, said: 'It was an amazing weekend. I am really happy with my third place. I have such a strict diet when I

am preparing for these events so to celebrate I went out for pizza and cheesecake.'

Peter turned 30 just two weeks before the event but delayed celebrating because of his meticulous preparations. He didn't even allow himself a slice of birthday cake.

Peter's brother Duncan, who qualified for the British finals by winning the middleweight category at the Scottish championship, did not attend the event.

The brothers made history at the Scottish championships in July by becoming the first siblings to share the stage during the grand final.



Peter MacDougall celebrates his third place in the British Natural Bodybuilding Federation British championships.

### William's in seventh heaven at invitational event

WHISKY and piping - two things Scotland can be proud of, said Gavin McLachlan, of Springbank Distillery, as he presented the prizes at the 2011 Springbank Invitational on Saturday night.

Kintyre piping champion William McCallum won the overall Springbank Invitational Piping competition held at the Argyll Arms Hotel, Campbeltown. This was William's seventh win in 12 competitions in Campbeltown at the event organised by Kintyre Piping Society.

This year's eight top pipers invited to compete were: William McCallum, Roddy MacLeod, Angus MacColl, PM Gordon Walker, Faye Henderson, James Murray, Stuart Liddell and Iain Speirs.

There were visitors from Sweden, Switzerland and as far away as Australia as well as those from throughout Scotland who had travelled to Campbeltown for the event.

The invited pipers were praised for putting on a wonderful display; a very high standard was the verdict of all the judges.

There was also praise and gratitude to Hedley Wright, of Springbank, and the directors and staff for their continued sponsorship, and the other sponsors as it would not have been possible to run such a prestigious competition without their support.

Commander John Wilson, speaking on behalf of the judges, said the Springbank sponsorship



The eight invited pipers, back row from left: Angus MacColl, PM Gordon Walker, James Murray and Roddy MacLeod. Front: Stuart Liddell, William McCallum, Faye Henderson and Iain Speirs. 21\_c38pipe02

meant a lot to Kintyre Piping Society for bringing eight high profile pipers to a remote area in Kintyre; it wasn't only about the money but about giving people a chance to hear the best.

Gavin McLachlan, distillery manager at Springbank, presented the prizes with each piper receiving a bottle of whisky and a cheese, courtesy of Campbeltown Creamery.

Mr McLachlan said whisky and piping were two of the things that Scotland was proud

of and he hoped this would continue for many years to come to Campbeltown.

And during the ceilidh that followed the next generation of pipers, the Kintyre Schools Pipe Band, played a selection of tunes.

**Results:** Overall winner 2011 and silver medal: William McCallum; overall second and bronze medal, PM Gordon Walker.

Piobaireachd for the Argyll Arms Trophy and inscribed

quach, Gordon Walker; 2 and Carmichael Quach, William McCallum; 3 Angus MacColl; 4 Roddy MacLeod.

March Strathspey and Reel for the Serco Trophy and inscribed quach: Stuart Liddell; 2 and Muir Quach William McCallum; 3 Angus MacColl; 4 Gordon Walker. Hornpipe and Jig for the Committee

Members Trophy and Stuart Dubh: Gordon Walker; 2 Stuart Liddell; 3 James Murray; 4 Roddy MacLeod.

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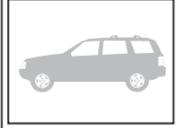
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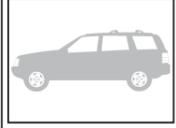
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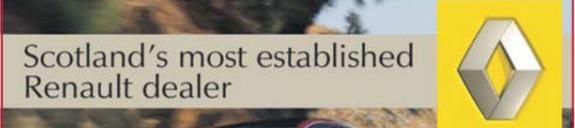
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LASCAL MAX BUGGY BOARD fits most pushchairs, hardly used, new fittings, £15 Telephone 01586 551493.

BICYCLES

FABBRI BIKE CARRIER Bici Deluxe 2 towball mounted bike rack. Anti-theft system + full lighting. Tips down even when loaded to allow access to boot, £95 Telephone 01631 730648.

BOOKS

6X GARDENING BOOKS 3 readers digest gardening books, 1 complete guide to gardening, 1 flower expert, 1 flowers from seeds, all in excellent cond, £10 Telephone 07810 876042.

8 TITLES READERS DIGEST BOOKS 3 x multiply of 4 novels in ex cond titles include, Comeback, Beast, Prey, The Vanished Man, Ripptide, The Hills are Lonely + more, £5 Telephone 07810 876042.

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FOUR TRESTLES four builders trestles. In good condition. Clachan (Tartbert) area, £10 Telephone 07792 934645.

LOFT INSULATION base layer insulation 100mm, new 5 rolls recycled form A1, £25 Telephone 01631 720369.

PICK AXE AND GARDEN FORK used pick axe in great condition. Unused garden fork. Won't split. Clachan (Tartbert) area, £10 Telephone 07792 934645.

POSTDIGGINGSCISSOR SPADE only used once. Originally £39.99. Post digging tool with long handles for deeper holes. Clachan (Tartbert) area, £12 Telephone 07792 934645.

POSTCRETE 30 plus bags of postcrete. All under cover. Clachan, (Tartbert) area, £45.00 Telephone 07792 934645.

WELSH SLATES new, unused, approx 800, grey slates, in three crates, 24"x12", were £37.5, accept, £1.50 each Telephone 07792 934645 (Clachan).

CAR ACCESSORIES

NISSAN SERENA ROOF RACK used Nissan Serena roof rack. Great condition. Clachan (Tartbert) area, £15 Telephone 07792 934645.

CD'S, DVD'S AND VIDEOS

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BENCH JACKET 12-18MONTHS khaki green a light weight jacket bomber style. Got bench logo on back of neck and also on the chest. Zip pockets with bench tags, £10 Telephone 07810 876042.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

COMPUTER MONITOR Acer 15" LCD screen. Model AL1716. Leads included, vgc, £15 Telephone 01631 770311.

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DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

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BEECH SIDEBBOARD large modern, with two doors and 4 drawers, ex Matheson, bargain at, £49 Telephone 01631 564577 or 07900 544154.

DINING ROOM SUITE

mahogany table seats 8 plus 4 chairs and 2 carvers. Ex Mathesons. Good Condition, £200 Telephone 01631 562222.

IKEA DISPLAY CASE glass, self standing, in Lochgilphead, £30 Telephone 01546 600385.

IKEA DISPLAY CASE glass and pine wall unit, in Lochgilphead, £30 Telephone 01546 600385.

LEATHER SOFA 3 seater sofa from Ikea, dark brown, good condition apart from slight seam rip under one seat cushion but not noticeable, £175 Telephone 07971 970339.

LEATHER SUITE dark brown, seats 3, £30 Telephone 07766 853505.

SOFA 3 SEATER Lillberg sofa from Ikea birchwood frame. Adjustable back. Cream machine wash cushions, 2 spare sets covers. VG condition, £40 Telephone 01631 571032.

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FIRE SURROUND beautiful, highly polished cherry wood fire surround with marble effect insert. Fits Dimplex fire. Oban area, £49.99 Telephone 07725 877480.

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DVD RECORDER LiteOn DVD recorder with remote. Model LVW-5002. Silver, in excellent condition. Can deliver Oban area, £35 Telephone 07725 877480.

LCD TV 15" Venture TV. Requires digibox or can be used as a monitor. VGC, £15 Telephone 01631 770311.

SKY + REMOTE as new unused, £15 Telephone 07818 828212.

SKY PLUS RECEIVER Pace Sky Plus receiver. Model BSKYB 3100. With remote and viewing card, in excellent condition, loads of free channels, £30 Telephone 07725 877480.

SLIMLINE DVD PLAYER Bush DVD2045/B slimline DVD player. Silver, with remote, in excellent condition. Can deliver Oban area, £25 Telephone 07725 877480.

HOME FURNISHINGS

BUNK BEDS metal framed, ex-military bunk beds. Slot together or can be used as two singles, painted, very solid. Can deliver Oban area, £49.99 Telephone 07725 877480.

CURTAINS chocolate suede curtains X 2 pairs, one size 60 by 90 drop, one size 90 by 90 drop. Can sell separately, £35 Telephone 01631 770311.

CURTAINS pale pink blackout lined Next curtains with butterflies embroidered along edge. Tab top. Size 72" drop by 60 width, £10 Telephone 01631 770311.

LARGE PINE MIRROR a beautiful pine-framed mirror measuring approx 41" by 29". Can deliver Oban area, £20 Telephone 07725 877480.

HOME OFFICE

BROADBAND ROUTER BT Voyager 205 with disc, instructions, cables and 2 filters, £5 Telephone 01631 770311.

CHALLENGE PARALLEL MOTION UNIT A2 drawing board with side rule, £10 Telephone 07748 469775.

HEWLETT PACKARD PRINTER Office Jet K80 All-I-One. Printer, fax, scanner, copier, with spare black inkjet cartridge and leads. BARGAIN PRICE..... £45 Telephone 07776 251610.

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KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

ART DECO BATHROOM TAP SET pair of new Britan bath taps for two hole bath in box and a used single hole mixer basin tap with new plunger plughole, £28 Telephone 01631 770311.

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LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

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MISCELLANEOUS

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CALVIN KLEIN ETERNITY Eau de Toilette spray, 100ml. Brand new, boxed. Would make perfect gift. Can deliver Oban area, £20 Telephone 07725 877480.

HUGO BOSS NUMBER ONE After shave, 125ml. Brand new, boxed. Would make perfect gift. Can deliver Oban area, £20 Telephone 07725 877480.

METAL SHOP A-BOARD used white metal A-board, was used for cafe. Just needs a little paint touching up, very sturdy. Was £84.99. Tarbert, £15.00 Telephone 07792 934645.

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ADSL FILTER 3 x ADSL in line filter for connecting phone and broadband to one socket, £12 Telephone 07818 828212.

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MOTORCYCLE EQUIPMENT

MOTORCYCLE JACKET and trousers (suit medium man) £30, boots size 9 and helmet £19. Telephone 01546 606301.

OBAN TIMES TRADE CLASSIFIED

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

ACOUSTIC GUITAR Encore ENC36N 3/4 (three quarter) size, child's acoustic guitar. In good condition, plays nicely. Can deliver Oban area, £20 Telephone 07725 877480.

PIANO Bentley mahogany baby grand c.1936. Needs tuning and some renovation to casing, great potential, £300 Telephone 01880 730274.

OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT

FISHING REEL Ambassador of Sweden multiplier reel, rarely used still in box with paperwork, £49.99 Telephone 01631 565707.

FISHING REEL Shakespear Mustang ZFS-70 Front drag reel, brand new in box, never used, £25 Telephone 01631 565707.

GOLF CLUBS 11 various in bag with lots of balls, £10 Telephone 01586 551493.

PHOTOGRAPHY

CAMERA CASE large camera case Doskoil make. In good condition hardly used, £10 Telephone 01631 565241.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SCREEN 52" approx, hangs or stands, in carry tube, £10 Telephone 01886 551493.

SAMSUNG DIGICAMERA 3 x zoom in box, battery charger + 4 batteries, £49.99 Telephone 001866 822301.

POWER TOOLS

POWERFIX HAND STAPLER unopened still in box, £10 Telephone 07818 828212.

SANDER SECOND HAND BLACK AND DECKER 1/3RD SHEET SANDER, £8 Telephone 07818 828212.

WALLPAPER STEAMER unopened in box, £22 Telephone 07818 828212.

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SCRAP METAL All types of scrap metal, we uplift scrap cars, call Mr Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals. Telephone 01499 500638 or 07787 991636.

PERSONALS

THANK YOU Cathie (Douglas) and Jim Penman wish to thank most sincerely their family for arranging the Surprise Party celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary and close family and friends for their presence, good wishes and gifts. God Bless x

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY

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**BIRTHS**

**SIMPSON** - At Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, on September 16, 2011, to Jennifer and Gavin, a daughter, Feame Rebecca. Another granddaughter for Lesley and Cameron Fletcher, Oban.

**GOLDEN WEDDING**

**STEWART-MACINNES** - On September 22, 1961, Jacky to Dunena by Rev J J Stanley - Whyte at Ardriahigh Parish Church

**DEATHS**

**CAMPBELL** - Hugh passed away peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital on September 16, 2011. Beloved husband of Isabel, much loved father, father-in-law and grandfather. Sadly missed.

**CAMPBELL** - John (Iain), aged 81 years, a dear son of the late John and Maggie, (butchers Port Ellen) and brother of Lily. Interred in Kilaughton Cemetery, Port Ellen, Islay.

**DAVIS** - Donald passed away peacefully at Abbeyfield, Ballachulish on September 17, 2011 aged 84. Beloved husband of Olive, dear father to Susan, Nigel and Sheena and much loved grandpa and great-grandpa. Funeral to be held on September 30 in St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Fort William at 2pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Abbeyfield Resident's Fund. Will be sadly missed. Rest in peace.

**KILPATRICK** - Lindsay (née Reid) on September 8, 2011 at Hairmyres Hospital, East Kilbride, elder daughter of the late Dr William and Moreen Reid, formerly of Oban. A loving mum, granny and sister. Sadly missed.



**LIVINGSTON** - Passed away at home on Friday, September 9, 2011 aged 36, Kenneth Charles Livingston, beloved son of Wilma and the late Neil John Livingston, loving stepson of Peter Livingston, beloved brother and buddy to David and fiancé of Laura Dougall. A funeral service shall take place on Thursday, September 29 in Tobermory Evangelical Church at 11am and thereafter to Tobermory Cemetery. Family flowers only please, but donations in lieu if desired to Tobermory Evangelical Church for the Scripture Union.

**MACCORQUODALE** - Suddenly but peacefully, after a long illness, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on Thursday September 15, 2011, in her 80th year, Catherine, (Cathie), 2a Longsdale Crescent, Oban, loving wife of Hugh, much loved mother and gran of Mary, Neil and Megan and dearly loved sister of Peggy and Rose. Sadly missed by all.

**MACLEAN** - Suddenly but peacefully at home on September 16, 2011, aged 53 years, Jean nee Stewart, beloved wife of Hugh, adored mum of Alexander, Kirsty, Lauren, Matthew and James, and a dear sister and aunt. Funeral Service to be held in St. Columba's Cathedral, Oban on Thursday September 22, 2011 at 1pm. Family flowers only please. Donations to Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland.

**MACLEOD** - Peacefully on September 12, 2011, at Islay Hospital in his 93rd year, Ruaraidh, much loved father, father-in-law, grandpa, great-grandpa, brother and friend. Will be sorely missed.

**MASON** - Peacefully on August 17, 2011 at Port Moody, Vancouver, Canada, Ian MacLean aged 73 years, eldest son of the late Jack and Mary Mason, formerly of Craignure, Isle of Mull, beloved husband of Janet Henry, devoted dad of Lorna and Claire, loving grand-dad of Spencer, Ian, Christina and the late Fraser, a dear brother of Mary, Margaret and the late Johnny. Sadly missed.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**BEATON** - Joe and family would like to thank everyone, relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and prayers received on their recent sad loss of Eileen. Special thanks to Msgr James MacNeil, Fr Biju, Catriona and all at Hamish Hoey and Sons. To all who paid their last respects to Eileen at Mass and graveside and gave so generously the sum of £376.41 to Cancer Research.

**MACCALLUM** - The family of the late Gilbert MacCallum wish to express their thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness on their recent sad bereavement. Thanks to doctors, nurses and carers in Oban. Special thanks to Flora, Cathie and Lynn, Rev Angus MacNeill for a touching service, Rowantree Hotel for excellent catering and the Flower Basket for the beautiful flowers, Catriona and staff at Hamish Hoey for sensitive funeral arrangements and to all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside.

**MACDONALD** - The family of the late Angie MacDonald wish to thank family, friends and neighbours for their expressions of sympathy following the recent sad loss of Angie. Special thanks go to Dr Calder and Dr Wilmington for their great care, also Helen and Douglas MacIntyre for their sensitive funeral arrangements, to Rev Fellows and everybody who helped arrange the church service. A heartfelt thanks goes to all the staff at Abbeyfield, Ballachulish for all the care and dignity given to Angie and the family.

- Sheena, Anne, Kenneth, Sarah and Grant.  
**McDOUGALL** - The family of the late Allan McDougall would like to thank family and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards, phone calls and flowers received

following their recent sad loss. Special thanks to doctors and staff at Islay Hospital, paramedics, Air Ambulance and Airport staff in attendance. We would also like to thank Doctors and Nurses in the HDU at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley for their excellent care. Rev Bob Barlow for a comforting service, Morag MacDougall for her gaelic reading, organist Jean Campbell and Piper James McEachern. Thanks also to Alison Dewar for an excellent purvey. Special thanks to Craig and Jean MacAffer, Undertakers for their excellent attention to detail in all arrangements and to all who paid their last respects at St John's Church and Kilaughton Cemetery.

**PETRIE** - Grace and Gill wish to thank family, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, letters, cards, phone calls and flowers received following the sad loss of Dave. Sincere thanks to staff at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, Rev Dugald Cameron for his comfort and support, Bill Nolan for his genial eulogy, D and A Munn for their efficient funeral arrangements and to all those who paid their last respects at the church and graveside and donated so generously to ABCD Trust £1623.59.

**STEWART** - Alex, Mairi, Ross, Jamie and Iona would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for the overwhelming generosity and support after the tragic loss of our Lee. We would especially like to thank Kathleen, Christine and Lee's uncle David for their love and the way they helped us get through each day, tirelessly giving of themselves. To Jack Degnan and Sylvia Clark and all the staff at Rockfield School for the sensitive way they helped Iona. Gillian Barton and staff and students for the beautiful service at Taynult. The minister Reverend Dugald Cameron for his comforting service. The special friends who spoke of Lee in the church with such love. The violinist Morag for her beautiful piece of music. For Ian McInnes of D and A Munn for his gentle and caring approach to all the arrangements. Amanda for her generosity at the Argyllshire Halls. We thank each and every one who attended the service and for the beautiful cards and flowers we received and in the long road ahead we will take comfort from you all. The sum raised for the local diabetes charity by your generosity was £1143.00.

**MEMORIAMS**

**ANDERSON** - In loving memory of William Stuart (Andy) who died September 25, 2005, a much loved father, father-in-law and papa. Memory is a lovely lane Where hearts are ever true A lane we often travel down Because it leads to you.

- Mandy and Duncan, Elaine, Kenny and Craig.  
**CAMPBELL** - Maimie, beloved mother and mother-in-law of Barbara and Brian MacNicol and grandmother of Sandra, Jackie, Brian, Stacey and Scott, great grandmother of our 13 grandchildren. Will always be loved, never forgotten in our hearts forever.

Barbara, Brian and family in Brisbane, Australia.  
**MACDOUGALL** - In loving memory of Callum, a dearly loved husband, father and grampy who died on September 19, 1997. Sadly missed along life's way. Quietly remembered every day.  
- Freena and family, Lochdar, Bunnassan.

**MACKECHNIE** - Jeannie - My wife. Died September 22, 2010.

Let me call you sweetheart I'm in love with you Let me hear you whisper that you love me too Keep the lovelight glowing in your eyes so true Let me call you sweetheart I'm in love with you. Forever yours.

- Gilbert x  
**MACKECHNIE** - Jean. Ma, precious memories of you. Always thought of, always missed.

- Love Gilbert and Iona xxx  
**MACKECHNIE** - Jean. Granny, a year has passed and such a lot has happened. Wish we could share all the happy days with you. Love and miss you everyday, our wee granny. All our love always.

- Jan, Mark, Nadia and Joe and Iain, Lindsay and Quinn xxx  
**MACKECHNIE** - (Jean). Passed away on September 22, 2010. Loving and kind in all your ways

Forever in my thoughts.  
- Mari  
**MACLEOD** - In Loving Memory of Ronan MacLeod

05/02/69 - 21/09/09 (Fort William/Inverurie) Love brought us together As husband and wife, And gave each of us A best friend for life. And though I am alone now Treasured memories I hold dear,

Ronan, you will remain special With each passing year. Next time we meet Will be at Heaven's door, When I see you standing there I won't cry anymore. I will put my arms around you And kiss your smiling face, Then the pieces of my broken heart Will fall back into place. Love and miss you always, Varie xxx

Gentle Jesus up above, Send our Daddy all our love. Love you Daddy, miss you Daddy. Morgan and Blair xxx

**MILLIN** - In loving memory of my dear mother and father, mother who died September 27, 1980, father who died May 10, 1986. -Inserted by their son, Creagan, Strontian.

**Surprise re-union for golden wedding sisters**

Tears of joy at Oban celebration

A GOLDEN Wedding surprise saw two sisters from across the waters reunited for a party in Oban. Oban couple Catherine and James Penman knew they were having a special golden wedding celebration, but little did they know another very special couple were in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls to share in the celebration.

Mona, Catherine's sister, and her husband Graham Macfarlane, who were also celebrating their golden wedding were in hiding, and had travelled across the waters to share in the celebration.

No one could have predicted the delight and shock of seeing the couple - there were tears of joy and happiness at the reunion. Family members from

near and far joined them for the special celebration.

The sisters had appeared on the wedding pages of *The Oban Times* before when they were married.

Despite being married in Toronto and St Columba's Cathedral, Oban respectively the sisters' story appeared in the same edition of the newspaper 50 years ago.

Mona Douglas, as was, married her Australian-born sweetheart in Canada on June 24 while Catherine married James, a native of Penicuik on September 19.

Mona and Graham remained in Canada while Catherine and James have stayed in Oban - but have made regular trips to see each other.



Special golden wedding celebrations for sisters Catherine and Mona reunited across the miles. 136 golden!

**John Angus MacLeod**

**An appreciation**  
I FIRST came across the work of John Angus MacLeod when, as a Gaelic learner, I acquired a copy of his book *Criomagán Ioma-Dhathie*, literally 'Many coloured fragments'.

The book, published in 1973, consisted of a series of essays in Gaelic covering a wide range of contemporary topics, such as oil, diamonds, nuclear power and included descriptions of processes such as paper making, rubber manufacture and mechanised peat harvesting.

To my mind *Criomagán* represented an immense step forward in Gaelic writing. Non fiction prose is uncommon in Gaelic John Angus showed convincingly that the language could convey a wide range of modern concepts.

I first met John Angus in about 1985 when attending a Gaelic class in London. He came up from his home in, I think, Chelmsford and I had the

privilege of reading part of the first chapter of *Criomagán*, as he put it 'fo shuil an tighdair', that is, under the eye of the author.

In 2004 An Comunn Gàidhealach instituted a new competition for non-fiction writing in Gaelic, with a silver quich as the prize. John Angus graciously gave permission for the quich to be named in his honour, and competition for the John Angus MacLeod Quich has regularly attracted a high standard of non-fiction prose writing in the years since its inception. The last time I met John Angus, I had the pleasure of seeing him personally present the quich to the winner at the Literature Competition at the Oban Mod in 2009. With John Angus' passing the Gaelic community has lost a great man. 'S e sar Gàidheal a bh'ann. Long may his name live on.

Richard DeVéria.

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

ONLY read this if you are going through a tough time in your life!

Do you know the story of Dr Barnado's life and work - the famous doctor who started the Barnado homes for children now to be found all over our country? His little son of nine years old died of diphtheria. Read what he had to say of that terrible experience.

'This loss has only intensified my desire to continue the work of child rescue committed to my care. As my dear little boy lay dying in my arms and I gazed into that little parched face growing cold in death, hundreds of other child faces appeared to me through his, while other wistful eyes looked out at me through the

waning light of his dear eyes. I resolved afresh to consecrate myself anew to the blessed task of rescuing helpless little ones from the miseries of a neglected and sinful life.'

Sometimes, our own problems seem so overwhelming that there appears to be no way through. Jesus knew all about heartbreak, sorrow and rejection and overcame those imposters. So can we. He said: 'Cast all your care upon me and I care for you' (1 Peter 5.7).

It is a wonderful thing when you have someone to share your sorrows and disappointments with.  
J E G Bartholomew.

**SISTERS' WEDDINGS WERE FAR APART**



Married in Toronto on June 24 were Australian-born Graham Macfarlane and Miss Mona Douglas, sister of the Oban bride below.



Wed at St Columba's Cathedral, Oban, on September 19 were Miss Catherine Douglas, daughter of Mr and Mrs William Douglas, 6 Moorfield Avenue, Oban, and Mr James Penman, Penicuik, Midlothian.

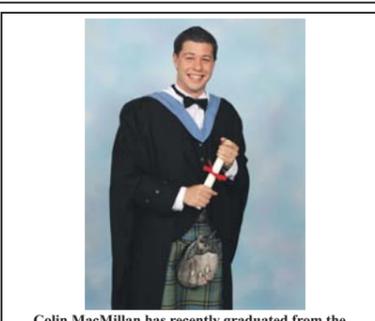
The original page of *The Oban Times* from 1961 when the sisters were married.

**WEDDINGS**



**BEGGS - MACKINNON**  
Both families are delighted to announce the marriage of Katie Marie Beggs, (Barra) to Michael Kenneth MacKinnon, (Oban) on July 23rd 2011 at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Castlebay, Barra.

**GRADUATIONS**



Colin MacMillan has recently graduated from the University of Strathclyde with a BA Hons in Sport and Physical Activity.  
Colin is the son of Nicol and Rosemary MacMillan and the grandson of Mary and the late Nairn Hurst, Oban and the late Tommy and Ina MacMillan, North Connell.



Iona Elizabeth Brown graduated from the University of Glasgow in June 2011 with a First Class MA Honours degree in Gaelic with Distinction in spoken Gaelic. Iona is the daughter of Iain and Elizabeth Brown, 12 Crossapoll, Isle of Tiree and granddaughter of the late Lachlan and Annie Brown, The Bangulow, Crossapoll and the late Hugh and Duncanina MacKinnon, Cnoc Gorm, Kenovay. Iona is a former pupil of Tiree High School.

**ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES**

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**  
Sunday 25 September 2011  
Trinity 14  
St John's Cathedral, Oban  
Holy Communion ..... 08.00  
Choral Mattins ..... 10.15  
Sunday School and Creche  
Parish Eucharist ..... 11.30  
Loop System

**LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
Sunday  
North Connell Hall  
10:30am  
All Welcome  
01866 822286 or  
07788598843  
www.lorncf.org.uk

**ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN**  
Campbell Street Church  
Sunday 25 September 2011  
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.  
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available  
Rev. Archie McPhail  
MA, MTh  
(01631) 567076  
All welcome

Laura Macintyre recently graduated from Glasgow Caledonian University with a 2:1 Honours Degree in Accountancy and has taken up a position as a trainee Accountant with McLay, McAllister and McGibbon. Former pupil of Banavie Primary School and Lochaber High School, Laura is the daughter of Cindy and James Macintyre, Corpach, Fort William and the granddaughter of Mary and Hugh Macintyre, Corpach and Elizabeth and the late Sandy (Penny) Cameron, Cloggan.

Suzanne Laurie recently graduated from Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh with a Bsc (Hons) in Physiotherapy. Suzanne is the youngest daughter of Iain and Anne Laurie, Port Ellen, Isle of Islay, youngest granddaughter of Lily and the late Angus Morrison, Campbeltown and the late Lewis and Mae Laurie, St. Catherine's, Argyll.

Sibhan Anderson graduated from Strathclyde University with a BA in Applied Music with First Class Honours. She is the daughter of Duncan and Jane Anderson, Killin and the granddaughter of Mary and the late Wattie Anderson, Crianlarich and the late Gilbert and Pat Christie, Auchlyne.

Fiona MacPherson graduated from Edinburgh University with a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine & Surgery (with Distinction) and MRCVS. Fiona is the daughter of Fred and Meg and grand-daughter of Fred and Tina. She was educated at Ardchattan Primary, Castle Kennedy Primary and Stranraer Academy.

**CHARITY DONATIONS**

**WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT**  
Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer  
West of Scotland Fundraising Office  
1st Floor, Erskine House  
North Avenue, Clydebank  
Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR  
Tel 0808 100 6000  
In memory of Dawn Joyce

**Oban Hospice**  
CARING FOR THE FUTURE  
Donations always gratefully accepted  
Please contact  
David Mudie (Treasurer)  
Oban Hospice Ltd  
The Croft  
Kilmore

**FOR THE BLIND CHILDREN OF SCOTLAND'S ACADEMIC TUITION AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL IN EDINBURGH**  
Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy  
Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ.

**MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE**  
Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch  
Donations always gratefully accepted  
Please contact  
Mrs Lillian Kermode  
Tynwald, Glenburn,  
Soroba Road, Oban  
01631 571009

**CANCER RESEARCH UK**  
**Fighting Cancer on all fronts...**  
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation  
Commitment of over £15 million each year  
Cancer Research UK Scotland  
Suite 1/1, Unit 4 Blair Court  
Clydebank Business Park  
Clydebank, G81 2LA

**Stokes Memorials**  
Serving Argyll and the Highlands & Islands for over 25 years  
Established 1973 - Fraser Downie, Master Sculptor  
• New and traditional memorials. • Work carried out in any cemetery.  
• Additional lettering. • Free estimates and advice.  
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# League heads for nailbiting climax

**OBAN CAMANACHD** host **KYLES ATHLETIC** at Mossfield in what is a crucial fixture for both teams, for very different reasons.

Kyles are looking to maintain their charge towards the premier division title, while Oban Camanachd are looking to put daylight between themselves and the relegation trapdoor.

Camanachd president Nigel Evans said: 'This game is very important to both teams for obvious reasons.'

'We're going into this game on the back of a terrific result against Fort William and hopefully we can build on that.'

'I would imagine the team selection on Saturday will be along the same lines as the Fort William game, which means young Malcolm Clark will probably join the first team squad.'

Oban Camanachd co-managers Diarmid MacMillan and Andrew Pearson have close to a full squad to pick from with the return of Gareth Evans and Scott MacMillan.

Nigel added: 'I obviously want to beat Kyles on Saturday but I hope they will go on to bring the premier title south for the first time.'

Meanwhile, Kyles will focus purely on this weekend's match and not be distracted by talk of the title, an ethos that has served them so well this term. The large Mossfield pitch will suit their free-flowing style of play, which has impressed shinty fans across the country this year.

It's back to league business for **NEWTONMORE** after their cup heroics last weekend as they

fight a certainty by beating Lovat.

With 15 points in the bag from 15 games, Kilmallie's first season back in the premier league has been a qualified success – but that will count for nothing if Lovat, Oban and Inveraray overhaul them on the last lap.

Chairman Hugh MacIntyre has been doing his sums – and knows there is no room for complacency.

'It is a very important game for us. If we get one point we will be happy, and if we take two from our remaining three games we will be okay,' he said. 'It is a vital game and we are hoping for a good crowd. We just hope we can get the game played.'

MacIntyre confirmed Kilmallie will take the field without three key players. Forward John Stewart is sidelined with a broken finger, defender Martin Stewart has a broken ankle and forward Michael Rodger is suspended.

**KINGUSSIE** will have to lift themselves for this weekend's trip to **GLENORCHY** after their last gasp defeat in the Camanachd Cup final.

After 15 league games, Kings have won five, lost five and drawn five, and assistant manager Russell Jones said he was keen for the side to pick up more wins before the end of the season. He said: 'We have to get some points on the board. It'll be difficult to pick the boys up, but we've got three games left and we want to go out there and win them all, without a doubt.'

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Shinty's Blue Riband event was played at Inverness in front of one of the largest cup final crowds in recent seasons.

With manager David MacInnes in the Oban Camanachd Cup Final at Inverness, Newtonmore team manager Norman MacArthur firmly focused his players on a singular task – a place in history.

'You,' he told them, 'are about to become heroes,' writing their names into the lasting folklore of a village where shinty is a way of life and where success over near neighbours, and Saturday's cup final opponents Kingussie, is as vital, in shinty terms, as any Old Firm footballing rivalry.

'What happens over the next 90 minutes, is up to you!'

Newtonmore have won the sport's most prestigious trophy more times than anyone else but the last time the huge cup rested in the club's trophy cabinet was before many of the current squad were born – 25 years, to be exact.

Little did Newtonmore's team builder, known universally as 'Brick', realise that an end-to-

end enthralling cup tie, played at a furious pace and without quarter asked or offered, would come within a whisker of the sport's first-ever Scottish cup final penalty shootout.

With their manager's challenge still ringing in their ears, Newtonmore stormed into an early lead – Danny MacRae blasting an 11th second opener off Kingussie goalkeeper Andrew Borthwick. The precise timing of the first goal was accurately recorded with a rye smile by referee Derek 'Deek' Cameron who, in 1991, claimed the cup final's fastest goal – two seconds quicker.

A shell-shocked Kingussie were rocked again when Steven MacDonald was allowed access of room to control a MacRae cross and dispatch the ball smartly past a helpless Kings' keeper. Pre-match favourites and five-times recent finalists Kingussie were in a spin, unable to gain a foothold in midfield against an aggressive and fully focussed

left winger breaking clear before rifling a long-range shot from fully 30 yards to the roof of the Newtonmore net.

'More responded almost immediately with Danny MacRae restoring his side's two-goal cushion before the break with a typical unstoppable shot which whistled high into the net.

Kingussie, however, grew in self-belief as the hectic pace continued and youngster Martin Dallas edged them ever-closer with an opportunist's goal.

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but hopefully they will have been celebrating their cup win all week. It would be devastating to be relegated,' said Chris. 'But we are confident of getting points from all three remaining games.'

**LOVAT'S** valiant battle to avoid the drop continues at Canal Parks on Saturday in a game they cannot afford to lose.

The Kiltarity men are locked on 11 points with fellow relegation contenders Inveraray, but have an inferior goal difference to the Argyll team and currently occupy second bottom spot. Coach John MacRitchie's biggest problem is his team has not raised a caman in anger for six weeks, when they beat Oban 1-0 at Balgait Park on August 13 – so match fitness could come into play.

MacRitchie will be without Euan Ferguson (work) and Fraser Gallagher (illness), but the enforced layoff has allowed Drew Howie to recover from injury. The coach is in little doubt of just how important the game is ahead of Lovat's last two matches against Kingussie and relegated Glenorchy.

'We have to win it,' he told *The Oban Times*. 'The next three games are like cup finals for us. Kilmallie will be missing key players, so hopefully we can make the most of that. Looking at the fixtures, if we can take four points from them I think we will be safe. But the biggest threat to us now is the weather.'

**KILMALLIE** have not quite managed to guarantee their continued presence in the Scottish Hydro Premier Division and will be looking to make top

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Newtonmore's David Cheyne and Kingussie's James Hutchison battle for possession. Picture: John MacTavish

## MacRae hat-trick ends Newtonmore's 25-year wait for Camanachd Cup win

**Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final Kingussie 3 Newtonmore 4 after extra time**

A GOAL in the final five minutes of extra time ended a 25-year wait for Newtonmore to get their name on shinty's top trophy, the Camanachd Cup.

Danny MacRae's hat-trick was the toast of a dramatic, determined and, at times, desperate display by a Newtonmore team which set the pace from the outset, appeared to have lost the initiative, then produced a storming, heart-stopping finish.

Shinty's Blue Riband event was played at Inverness in front of one of the largest cup final crowds in recent seasons.

Tough, challenging and, at times, verging on brutal, both teams thundered into each other in 'traditional' fashion on a strength-sapping soft pitch that forced both sides to alter their favoured style of play.

Shinty's Blue Riband event was played at Inverness in front of one of the largest cup final crowds in recent seasons.

With manager David MacInnes in the Oban Camanachd Cup Final at Inverness, Newtonmore team manager Norman MacArthur firmly focused his players on a singular task – a place in history.

'You,' he told them, 'are about to become heroes,' writing their names into the lasting folklore of a village where shinty is a way of life and where success over near neighbours, and Saturday's cup final opponents Kingussie, is as vital, in shinty terms, as any Old Firm footballing rivalry.

'What happens over the next 90 minutes, is up to you!'

Newtonmore have won the sport's most prestigious trophy more times than anyone else but the last time the huge cup rested in the club's trophy cabinet was before many of the current squad were born – 25 years, to be exact.

Little did Newtonmore's team builder, known universally as 'Brick', realise that an end-to-

end enthralling cup tie, played at a furious pace and without quarter asked or offered, would come within a whisker of the sport's first-ever Scottish cup final penalty shootout.

With their manager's challenge still ringing in their ears, Newtonmore stormed into an early lead – Danny MacRae blasting an 11th second opener off Kingussie goalkeeper Andrew Borthwick. The precise timing of the first goal was accurately recorded with a rye smile by referee Derek 'Deek' Cameron who, in 1991, claimed the cup final's fastest goal – two seconds quicker.

A shell-shocked Kingussie were rocked again when Steven MacDonald was allowed access of room to control a MacRae cross and dispatch the ball smartly past a helpless Kings' keeper. Pre-match favourites and five-times recent finalists Kingussie were in a spin, unable to gain a foothold in midfield against an aggressive and fully focussed

left winger breaking clear before rifling a long-range shot from fully 30 yards to the roof of the Newtonmore net.

'More responded almost immediately with Danny MacRae restoring his side's two-goal cushion before the break with a typical unstoppable shot which whistled high into the net.

Kingussie, however, grew in self-belief as the hectic pace continued and youngster Martin Dallas edged them ever-closer with an opportunist's goal.

The tie became delicately poised between two outstanding defensive performances. For Kingussie, Lee Bain dominated the final third of their sector, while at the other end, Kingussie found their talisman and shinty's record-breaking marksman Ronald Ross firmly in the shackles of Newtonmore's international defender Norman Campbell.

But Kingussie found a route back into the cup tie from a moment of Fraser Munro magic,

in the final 15 minutes, launched attack after attack on the Kingussie goal. Newtonmore's late substitute John MacKenzie's powerful and determined play won the ball for the ever sharp MacRae and he smashed the winning goal low past the Kingussie keeper to spark a wave of celebration among the blue and white faithful who carried the trophy home for a record 29th time.

The Albert Smith Memorial Medal for Man of the Match went to Newtonmore defender Norman Campbell for an outstanding performance, particularly in the first-45 minutes when he effectively shackled the sport's leading player Ronald Ross. Campbell was run close by Kingussie's Lee Bain who orchestrated all that was best in his side's performance.

Expectations that Newtonmore would fail in the final minutes of another major final proved unfounded as they came back strongly during extra time and,

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OT

**Dalmally ladies win at the Vale**

**GOLF**

A TEAM from Dalmally Golf Club saw off a large entry from around the country to score a resounding victory at Vale of Leven Golf Club's annual Ladies Open Tri-am on Sunday.

The winning threesome of Janet Buchanan, Ann Colthart and Sheila Tolan carded a scorching net score of 56 - 11 under the standard scratch of 67 - to record the Orchy club's first triumph at the well established competition.

Recent winners of Ladies Club competitions: ARC Shield and Bronze Medal: Heather Clement. LGU Brooch and Silver Medal: Janet Buchanan Raglan Decanter: Alison Livingstone

In the Gents section, Gerry Davies capped his comeback season to claim the season's final 'major', the Strathorchy Trophy. Net scores of 64 and 61 held off a determined challenge from Stuart Buchanan, his final round of 62 bringing him to within two shots of the leader. Gerry's sustained recent good form sees him now hold an unassailable lead in the Order of Merit.

## Briony picked for Scotland

'I can't see any reason why she can't compete at world championship level'

A YOUNG Oban orienteer has been selected to represent Scotland at the Junior Home International competition for the second consecutive year.

Briony Kincaid, who has been with Argyll orienteering club, EckO, for eight years, said she had a mixed season in this year's Scottish Orienteering League.

But an impressive performance in the Scottish Six Days Orienteering Event, an international competition held in Oban and Lorn this summer, put the Oban High School pupil back in the reckoning for international honours.

'The Scottish Orienteering League didn't start very well for



Briony Kincaid

me but I had a good performance in the Scottish Six Days, where I finished as second-placed Scottish girl,' said Briony. 'I think that performance was the reason I was selected.'

The 15 year old is one of four W16 (under-16 women) in the Scottish team, which will consist of 24 young orienteers.

This year's home international will be held near Enniskillen, Northern Ireland on October 1 and 2.

'It is usually a really fun event,'

said Briony. 'We have different Scotland jerseys for the individual event on the Saturday and the team relay on the Sunday but some of the team like to put on face paint, nail varnish and even coloured hairspray. I suppose it is a bit like war paint.'

Ross Lilley of EckO said: 'Briony has been one of the club's best performers this season and the club wishes her success in Northern Ireland.'

'If she continues to do well in the sport I see no reason why she can't get into the British squad and compete at world championship level.'

EckO Orienteering Club held its club championships in bright sunshine last Saturday at Tralee Bay, Benderloch, where Briony took first prize in the high school section. She was also presented with another trophy, which she won at the Northern Lights competition, held in Aberdeen the previous week.

Winner in the club championship's adult section was Susannah McMillan and the primary school winner was Ewan Shearer.

## Mid Argyll hosts triathlon

ATHLETES from all over Scotland will descend on Lochgilphead this weekend as the Mid Argyll Triathlon gets underway. Kicking off on Sunday, the triathlon will see athletes face a physical and mental challenge as they swim 500 metres, cycle 20 kilometres and run a further six and a half kilometres.

A renowned event on Scotland's sporting calendar, 150 people signed up to take part in the 2011 event within 10 days of registration opening.

The Mid Argyll Triathlon and Cycle Club organises the event in conjunction with sponsors MacQueen Bros.

Mid Argyll Triathlon and Cycle Club president Kirsty Young said: 'Lochgilphead and Ardrishaig residents are asked to give lots of encouragement and a big cheer to all 150 Triathletes as they pass through their streets.'



A jubilant Newtonmore captain Scott Campbell, one of two former pupils of Lochnell Primary School, Benderloch, in the Newtonmore team, holds aloft the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup after an enthralling 4-3 extra time win over Kingussie. See page 19 for the match report. Photo: John MacFavish

## October Football Festivals

**COACHING**

ARGYLL and Bute Council's Football Service are gearing up for the School October Holidays by giving the opportunity for young budding footballers to take part in the council's Football Festivals.

The young players will be put through their paces by qualified and certified coaches in a safe and enjoyable environment.

Courses are on offer all over Argyll and Bute, with the course in Oban taking place from October 17 - 21 at the Oban High School Community All Weather Pitch from 10am - 2pm.

For further information on any of the courses or to request an application please contact football@argyll-bute.gov.uk

## Youth results and fixtures

**YOUTH FOOTBALL**

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s no game; Under 14s no game.

Scottish Cup - Under 15s 1, Newmains Hammers 3, Saints goalscorer was Stuart Twort, Clydebank Phoenix 3, Under 16s 0.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Goldenhill; The Under 14s, 15s and 16s have no game.

## Ladies squash

**SQUASH**

MONDAY night is ladies night at Atlantis Leisure, in Oban, following the start of a Monday evening squash competition.

The ladies squash night takes place weekly from 6.20pm - 9pm

## Winter league

**INDOOR FOOTBALL**

THE ATLANTIS Leisure five-a-side football league is returning this winter.

The league, formerly known as the Works League, will start on October 23. Any teams wanting to enter are being asked to contact Willie Gemmill on 01631 566800.

More Sport on Page 15



Rockfield Primary School's primary seven team, pictured, won the recent Bearsden and Milngavie Shinty Sixes. The Oban school's primary seven team defeated Portree in the final. The school's primary five team was beaten by a very strong Portree.

## Rangers no match for rampant Saints

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division Kings Park Rangers 0 Oban Saints 5

SAINTS travelled to Glasgow Green last Saturday to take on Kings Park Rangers in a premier division league match and the Oban lads returned back up the A85 with all three points in the bag after an impressive 5-0 away victory.

The visitors got into their stride early in the game and were playing some fast flowing football, but they must have been kicking themselves for passing up numerous excellent chances in the first half, with Lewis Cameron, Asen Gaydardzhiev and Donald Campbell coming close and only a great save from Rangers keeper Gary Train stopped Ryan Campbell from opening the scoring.

**Unlucky**  
Right on the half time whistle Ross Maitland had a great right foot drive but the wee man was unlucky to see his effort crash off the bar and scrambled clear. It was a rather sombre Saints

side that trudged off the pitch at the break wondering why they weren't three or four goals in front.

The second half was only five minutes old when they got the goal their play deserved when Donald Campbell was tripped in the box by Paul Whitmore, leaving referee John Gallagher, who had a good game, no option but to point to the penalty spot. Donald got up, dusted himself down and calmly slotted the ball home.

Asen was unlucky when he got on the end of a Ross Maitland cross, but his acrobatic overhead kick skimmed the crossbar. Although playing some good stuff the Oban side were only leading by a single goal and they needed another one to make the game more comfortable and this they got in the 65th minute when Willie Gemmill fired home a great free kick off the keeper's right hand post and into the net.

**Thump**  
The visitors were in control of the game now and they netted a third goal in the 74th minute

when Myles McAuley made a great run into the box, his shot was saved by the keeper, but Donald Campbell was on hand to thump the rebound home.

With five minutes remaining the visitors netted goal number four when Willie Gemmill played an intelligent free kick down the line for Myles McAuley who sent over a great low cross into the box which Gary Train could only parry out to the feet of Donald Campbell who buried the ball past the Rangers netminder to claim his hat-trick.

Right on the final whistle Donald put the icing on the cake for himself and his team when he netted his fourth goal of the game after some clever play on the left between Lewis Cameron and Alan Miller. The ball was fed through to Donald whose shot took a slight deflection before sailing over the goalkeeper and into the net to make the final score 5-0.

Manager Iain Jackson was very pleased by the performance. He said: 'I thought we played some good football, although we got a

**FOOTBALL**



Donald Campbell - four goals.

bit tense when we failed to score in the first half, but once we settled down, relaxed a bit and got the first goal there was only going to be one winner.'

On going to press Saints were trying to organise a friendly match for this Saturday as they have no SAFL game due to the September holiday weekend.

## Plenty of goals in primary football league

**PRIMARY FOOTBALL**

THE youngest teams of the Oban Express Primary Football took to the rugby pitch in glorious sunshine after last week's cancellation. The crowd turned out in record numbers with the customary umbrella being used as a sunshade, and you know the weather has to be good when the SFA make an appearance to make an assessment of the league and to ensure it is operating correctly and following their player development pathways!

The games were really open with plenty of goals and some terrific individual performances. Swifts' Alan MacIntyre really enjoyed himself showing his full range of skills and Calum McInnes also looked very accomplished scoring a great individual goal. For Spartak, Morgan Gemmill was fearless with his tackling and Daniel Beaton had a fantastic game scoring a spectacular individual goal as part of a hat trick. For Ben Lora Karyn Black scored two goals to seal a win for the

girls and cue huge celebrations, and finally Murray Scott, who during the game ran so much that we all felt tired just watching him.

On the previous Saturday the players of Spartak had taken part in a sponsored beach clean at Ganavan, assisted by Caroline Askew from GRAB, who supplied gloves and bags for the clean up. Spartak would like to offer their thanks to all the players, parent helpers and sponsors who helped raise funds for the club.

Over in the seniors Saints Boys opened the day with a narrow win at Jags thanks to a solitary Craig Easton goal then had Lewis Buchanan find the net in their match against Red Star but Lorne MacFarlane soon equalised with a superb strike into the top corner. With time running out Easton again popped up with a late winner. Saints' final game was against Thistle and the same scorers ensured a 2-0 win but they had earlier relied on a last

ditch goal line clearance from Ruaraidh Horne.

Lochnell had a great day at the office recording good wins over Scorpions, Jags and Red Star with James Divers, Scott Rowley and Daniel Sloss amongst their goal scorers. Their younger stable mates Tralee had a mixed day with a goalless draw at Galaxy and a defeat to Scorpions who had Jamie Munroe and Tyler Robertson on target but they ended their day with a fine win over Puma Black with Stuart Black and Dougie MacDonald netting.

Saints 2002 appear to be developing into a great wee team and enjoyed three straight wins over Pumas White, Jags and Scorpions with the ever impressive Lennon and Lewis Campbell pulling the strings assisted by counters from Gavin Forgive and their goal of the day from Euan Logan in the match against the Whites. The newly formed Wasps team are starting to find their feet and have unearthed

a gem in goalkeeper Callum Robertson who had a great save against the stars of Galaxy but the defence failed to clear and Struan MacDonald pounced to net the rebound and add to Ellis Hunteders opener. In their match with Pumas Laura Ketchoon netted an equaliser but goals either side from Connor Moore and Adam Munroe meant a narrow defeat.

Galaxy's debut keeper Szymon Chmielecki had a great game against Thistle but was powerless to prevent Cameron Hill and Keir McLean scoring. Thistle were involved in the game of the day against Red Star and found themselves one down when Joseph Harper opened the scoring, only for McLean to find the net with a stunning equaliser. Neither side could find the winner in a match that raged from end to end.

All the teams meet up again next Sunday at the high school.

## Weather

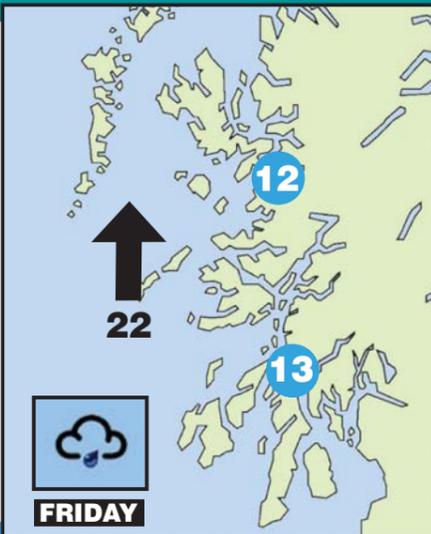
**Thursday** Light rain.  
Winds moderate, west, south westerly  
Temperatures 11°C to 13°C

**Friday** Light rain.  
Winds moderate, southerly  
Temperatures 11°C to 13°C.

**Weekend** Heavy rain showers.

**Outlook** Winds moderate, south, south westerly.  
Temperatures 12°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 22, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	01.38 2.8 06.45 1.9 13.52 3.0 19.55 2.0	
Fri	02.46 3.0 08.00 1.7 14.54 3.3 21.12 1.7	
Sat	03.33 3.3 09.02 1.3 15.37 3.6 22.01 1.3	
Sun	04.11 3.5 09.53 1.0 16.15 3.9 22.42 0.9	
Mon	04.46 3.8 10.38 0.6 16.53 4.2 23.20 0.7	
Tues	05.18 4.0 11.21 0.3 17.30 4.3 23.58 0.5	
Wed	05.52 4.1 12.04 0.2 18.07 4.4 ** ** *	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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# **The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.**

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Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

# The Oban Times

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## Eigg vows to fight salmon farm plan

RESIDENTS on Eigg say they will fight plans for a proposed salmon farm off the island's coastline. The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) has identified a site east of the island off Kildonan as a possible development site. But islanders fear the fish farm would negatively affect wildlife and damage the island's green credentials. Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust chairman John Hutchison said: 'We do not want it here and will resolutely oppose any proposal.' Isle of Eigg Residents Association chairman Eddie Scott said islanders had voted

'resoundingly against' the idea. 'On their visit to Eigg SSC utterly failed to reassure us as to the likely impact their development would have on the wildlife in its vicinity, both above and below the waterline.' SSC chief operating officer Stewart McLelland told *The Oban Times* plans were at a 'very early stage'. He said: 'We are undertaking a pre-application process and community engagement to find out whether this site would be suitable for fish farming. We will continue to work alongside the community in Eigg throughout our planning process.'

## Residents question museum's right to sell valuable painting

ARISAIG residents have questioned West Highland Museum's (WHM) right to sell a valuable Victorian painting it owns. At an hour-long meeting in the Astley Hall on Monday night, Communn Eachraidh Arsaig (Arisaig Historical Society) member Elizabeth MacDonald quizzed management committee chairman Chris Robinson on the museum's acquisition and disposal policy. The policy, she claimed, ruled items could only be sold if funds subsequently raised were 'crucial to the museum's future'. But Mr Robinson insisted the museum's future was on the line if development plans could not be progressed. WHM, he said, had been denied a lottery grant to buy land next to a barn behind the museum, into which it was hoped to expand. That failure forced museum trustees into looking for other ways to raise money. He said: 'This is a failing business. Last year we felt we had to do something different. If we continued the way we were going, in 15 years there would be no-one coming to the museum. There was no question of selling

By RICHARD HADDOCK [rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk) this painting until we failed in the lottery grant. Plans to sell the painting are on hold pending a new Lottery bid, he said, and any future sale would be discussed with Arisaig locals first. Mrs MacDonald said locals were also unhappy WHM had considered a sale without consultation. She said: 'The painting has been there in your trust, and you were going to break that trust. We will always have this on our minds.' The artwork, *Letters and News at the Lochside*, has been valued at up to £60,000. The 1868 work by Henry Tamworth Wells, of a boat on Loch Eilt-side, depicts men whose descendants still live in the area. The late Miss Joan Becher bequeathed the painting to any museum interested in taking it. WHM assumed ownership in 1995 on Ms Becher's death. Because of its size it remains in Miss Becher's former home, Arisaig House, now a guesthouse, where it is open to public view.



## Megan shines at Lochaber Gold concert

Megan Henderson was a star performer at the 2011 Blas festival 'Lochaber Gold' concert at the Nevis Centre in Fort William on Friday night. The talented Gaelic singer and fiddler is pictured giving her rendition of *Oran Eile do'n Phrionnsa* (Another Song to the Prince), written by Alexander MacDonald, the Clanranald Bard, in 1745 to rally the clans to Prince Charles Edward Stuart's cause. An audience of about 400 enjoyed a varied programme of top-class musicianship and repartee. For more photos and full story, see page 5. 20\_1389gold02

## Check out the new patient check-in

PATIENTS at a Fort William medical practice will soon be checking in at a computer screen in a bid to avoid queues at the reception desk. The touch-screen system being introduced at Tweeddale Surgery will allow users to answer questions to confirm appointment details. The practice say the system will 'not only reduce delays at the desk but will help preserve

patients' confidentiality when they need to speak to the receptionist'. They add users will have to enter their gender and date of birth so the system can confirm their details and inform staff they have arrived. It is hoped the system will be working by the end of the month - just in time for the busy flu clinic period.

## New Corpach Marina could cost £3million

A NEW Corpach Marina would be profitable - but could cost a cool £3million, according to a new feasibility study. In a 68-page report for Caol Regeneration Company (CRC) marine consultants Yachting WorldWide Ltd detail the optimum size, dredging requirement, construction costs and an outline business plan for a 60-berth marina next to Corpach Basin. Located at the Caledonian Canal's southern entrance, the marina would attract business from yachts in transit to and from west coast waters. Indicative costs include: wave buffers, pontoons and pilings - £966,361; dredging and disposal of material, land reclamation, slipway, shore protection and buildings - £1,904,400; level crossing improvements, security gates, CCTV and fuel berth - £161,000. Total income is estimated at £116,763 in year one and £309,134 by year five, with annual and seasonal berth holders

**EXCLUSIVE** by STEPHEN NORRIS [snorris@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:snorris@obantimes.co.uk) generating the bulk of revenue. Estimated annual profits, after costs, rise from £27,068 to £99,006 over the period. Agreeing long term leases will be a prerequisite for the scheme going ahead. The report recommends: 'Prior to applying for funding and carrying out any further studies or surveys, the rights to the land should be secured. We suggest that CRC engage in discussions with Crown Estates, Lochail Estates, British Waterways and Network Rail to finalise leasing rates. Our suggestion is that the lease should be for 30 to 50 years if possible.' It adds: 'The marina is commercially viable if it does not have to service large debt or interest payments in the short term.' CRC company secretary, retired doctor Su Sen told

*The Oban Times* he was 'very pleased' with the findings. He said: 'The only criticism that has come in is that the report does not cover possible funding sources. But we did not ask for that in our brief, which was to do an in-depth technical study into whether an ambitious project like this is both practical and viable.' A stakeholders meeting will be held in the Moorings Hotel, Banavie on Monday, October 3 at 10.30am to discuss next steps. Dr Sen said: 'If people are interested in this, hopefully they will come and join us. The enormity of the subject is such that the more volunteers and experts we can get the better. It is a community project and the community will benefit from the success of the business.' 'Most of the Outdoor Capital of the UK initiatives have been land-based, but Lochaber's other natural asset - water - has not been utilised as much as it could be.'

## Portree RNLI stalwarts honoured

PORTREE RNLI crew, branch committee, fundraisers and friends celebrated the retirement of two stalwarts on Saturday at a social evening in the lifeboat station. Ewen Grant had served for more than 20 years as chairman of the branch and depute launching authority. John Cameron served firstly as depute launching authority and then for more than 14 years as honorary secretary and lifeboat operations manager. Paul Jennings, divisional inspector for Scotland, paid tribute to their long outstanding service. On behalf of the RNLI he presented John with a framed thanks on vellum and Ewen with a framed letter of thanks. Sandy Gray, the new lifeboat operations manager, presented



**Happy couples: John and Marie Cameron, Marlene and Ewen Grant and Sophie and Paul Jennings at the presentation.** and Joy Swann and the Stanley Watson Barker. About 50 people attended the function in the marquee erected for the occasion.

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**British Waterways Scotland**  
**Caledonian Canal - Corpach to Gairloch Public Involvement & Consultation**  
British Waterways Scotland plans to embark on the preparation of a strategy to unlock the potential of the Caledonian Canal between Corpach & Gairloch. Focus will be given to tourism related activities and opportunities for local people, all reinforcing the importance of the Caledonian Canal as a major historical asset in Scotland. The strategy will be developed in an open and inclusive manner. It is a key element of developing this strategy that as wide involvement is achieved from the local community, users of the canal and key organisations such as Highland Council / community councils etc. The public involvement sessions will be organised by John Duff Planning. It is proposed to hold a two day drop in consultation session at the Moorings Hotel (located beside Neptune's Staircase) in September - both sessions will run from 2 - 8pm to allow the widest possible opportunity for input. We look forward to welcoming you to our Public Consultation Sessions on 28th/29th September 2011 from 2pm - 8pm at The Moorings Hotel. Please come along at any time as the event will be staffed at all times. In the event you are unable to attend or wish to lodge any comments please contact John Duff on; mob: 07803 017 832 email: [johnsduff@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:johnsduff@blueyonder.co.uk) or write to: John Duff Planning, 26 Acredales, Linlithgow, West Lothian, EH49 6HY. Many thanks in advance for your support.

## Ardnamurchan High School looks at new ways of halting decline in pupil numbers

**EXCLUSIVE** REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS [snorris@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:snorris@obantimes.co.uk)

He told *The Oban Times*: 'In the past two winters the Lochaline road has been difficult - that has been a concern to some parents. The distance can be a disincentive in those conditions - that is a comment that has been made. 'We have put in a request [for flexible timetabling] through Highland Council's contract department and hopefully that is going to materialise this winter.' Morvern Community Council chairman Iain Thornber told *The Oban Times*: 'The community council has been approached by several members of the public who are concerned about the high number of children - believed to be 10 - now attending Tobermory High School, which is impacting on the Ardnamurchan High School roll. We appreciate that parents have the right to send their children wherever they wish for their education but as Tobermory is on the other side of the Sound of Mull and in a different local authority, this does present some problems. 'Originally the Ardnamurchan High School was to be sited in Acharacle but serious lobbying from the Morvern parents at the time persuaded Highland Council to build it in Strontian instead. 'Morvern Community Council fully supports the Ardnamurchan High School and the present daily transport arrangements.' The percentage of S4 pupils going on to achieve three or more Higher passes in fifth year at Ardnamurchan High School in the three years to 2010 was 65, 22 and 26 per cent respectively. Comparable figures for Tobermory were 27, 31 and 38 per cent.

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**Caol teenager admits assault**

A CAOL teenager admitted leaving a woman permanently disfigured after attacking her in Fort William town centre. Rebecca Denny, aged 16, of 9 Glendessary Terrace, pled guilty to assaulting the woman by seizing hold of her by the body, pushing her to the ground and kicking her on the face, all to her injury and permanent disfigurement at the underpass at Airds Crossing, Fort William. Sentencing was deferred at Fort William Sheriff Court until October 26 for reports.

**Benbecula fire victim named**

A MAN who died in a house fire on Benbecula on Monday morning has been named by police. Angus John MacDonald, aged 57, was pulled clear from his home on Island Flodda by fire and rescue personnel, but was pronounced dead at the scene. Two appliances from Benbecula and one from Lochmaddy attended the blaze. A joint investigation by fire and police services is underway to determine the cause of the fire.

**Development plan cash boost**

LOCHABER councillors have agreed to contribute £250 towards a £2,500 project to draw up a community development plan for the Small Isles. It is hoped the balance will be funded by Awards for All.



Half the woman she was: Caroline Nicolson is in the Scottish Slimmers final.

**Caroline slims her way to final**

A KINLOCHLEVEN woman is celebrating being a big loser - after being chosen as a slimmer of the year finalist. Caroline Nicolson shed an incredible seven stones to book her place at the showpiece Scottish Slimmers event in Glasgow's Crown Plaza Hotel on Sunday, October 2. Medical receptionist Caroline, 51, was 18 stone 3lbs and size 20-22, but after joining a slimmers class shed the pounds to become a svelte 11 stone 2lbs and dress size 12. Caroline said: 'I was amazed by my starting weight, but right away felt like I was on the right path. My father had passed away and I had health issues with thyroid problems and I was determined to make a positive change to my life. Although I had been overweight for a while, I was determined to improve my health and let me enjoy life a bit more. I now own two pairs of trainers, which I have never had - and I now own trousers - which I haven't worn since 1978!' Caroline even had to ask for a new uniform at the medical practice where she works. 'Patients would come to me and comment on my weight loss - and even ask for advice,' she said. 'I am more active than ever, playing with my grandchildren and walking every day.'



Dr Joe Tangney: Scotland's 2011 GP of the Year.

**Fort William doctor named Scotland's GP of the Year**

A FORT William doctor has been named as 2011 GP of the Year in Scotland by the Royal College of General Practitioners. Dr Joe Tangney, a GP with the Glen Mor Medical Practice at the Fort William Health Centre at Camaghael, was nominated for the award by patient Annie Mackintosh for being 'unfailingly attentive, caring and reassuring' in treating her terminally-ill husband Iain. In her nomination she said: 'He established a great rapport and relationship with my husband who trusted his advice and judgement implicitly. Due to his care my husband was able to remain at home during his final illness. Dr Tangney was off duty that weekend but insisted that we were not to phone for the out-of-hours service but to call him at home at any time of day or night if he needed a doctor. Throughout the period of my husband's illness he displayed unfailing loving care,

compassion and excellence in his medical care. We are extremely grateful that his care enabled my husband to stay in his own home and that he was cared for by a GP that he very much trusted and respected and not by another with whom he did not have a particular bond and relationship.' Dr Tangney told *The Oban Times*: 'I am very flattered and honoured to win the award. I certainly was not expecting it. It's great for Fort William that a rural practice like ours can win an award such as this. It was a very rewarding experience to have treated Mr Mackintosh over 16 years. As GPs a lot of our time is spent helping people with long term illnesses we can't cure and supporting their families as well.' Mrs Mackintosh told *The Oban Times*: 'Dr Tangney was absolutely wonderful during Iain's illness and went way beyond the call of duty. As a family we are so very grateful to him. We simply could not have had a more

supportive GP. It's great that Fort William has got onto the map for something like this. Long-term supporter of the award, Cabinet Secretary Nicola Sturgeon said: 'I'm delighted that this award has gone from strength to strength as it is a first of its kind in Scotland and unique in that it comes from patients themselves. Congratulations to this year's winners and thanks not just to them and the other nominees, but to all Scotland's GPs and practice staff who have delivered outstanding care.' Fort William made it a double success when Dr James Douglas, of the Tweeddale Medical Practice, was named joint winner of the Alastair Donad Award for contribution in a community setting. RCGP Scotland will present the awards at the annual gala evening at The Hub in Edinburgh on November 11.

**Canal group invites public on board**

New strategy given cautious welcome

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

BRITISH Waterways Scotland (BWS) is planning a new strategy to 'unlock the potential' of The Caledonian Canal between Gairloch and Corpach - this time by involving the public. The move comes almost a year to the day when BWS were forced to withdraw proposals for two homes next to a former lock keeper's house on Neptune's Staircase at Banavie. Local residents formed Neptune's Staircase Neighbourhood Group to fight the development at Telford House East, now a popular tourist attraction, and won. BWS went back to the drawing board and decided developing a strategy for the entire lower section of the canal was a better option. BWS says key to a successful strategy will be planning it in 'an open and inclusive manner' with 'wide involvement' from the local community and canal users. As a first step, public consultation sessions will be held in the Moorings Hotel, Banavie

after the country's five canals and had a responsibility for managing and maintaining them. He said: 'We know there is value in these canals and we want to find ways to grow the public value in them. We recognise there is public interest in this so the way forward is to engage with the community and that's what we have undertaken to do.' Lochaber, Skye and Badenoch MSP, Dave Thompson, said: 'It is a step in the right direction for British Waterways to hold a consultation. I urge people and businesses to come along and share their ideas and concerns. It is extremely important for government funded organisations, such as British Waterways to build good relationships with communities and businesses. Groups such as FOCAL are very important, because they are able to source funding and volunteers for projects to turn good ideas into reality.'

**Repeat offender jailed for 120 days**

A CAOL man has been jailed for 120 days for committing two crimes while on a deferred sentence. Bryan Garrick, of 4 Torcastle Crescent, pled guilty to conducting himself in a disorderly manner in his garden on July 20. He kicked a wooden fence during an argument with his partner, causing a panel to

hit the woman, knocking her to the ground to her injury. He also committed a breach of the peace by shouting and swearing. The 39-year-old also admitted stealing three cans of beer and a can of soft drink from the Co-op on Kilmallic Road, Caol on July 10. The court heard after Garrick was refused the sale for being drunk, he slammed the money

**Concern voiced over camper vans**

A LOCHABER tourism group is urging action over uncaring camper van owners who block parking areas and laybys - and dump rubbish at beauty spots. A meeting of the Glen Spean and Great Glen group heard a report that one camper van even emptied its toilets near the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge. It was claimed that a van website lists laybys, including some near Loch Lochy, where vans could park - although stopping overnight is illegal. The group decided to raise their concerns with the community council and Forestry Commission Scotland.

**St Kilda and Mingulay school log books online**

THE LAST school log books for St Kilda and Mingulay have gone online, revealing glimpses of community life on the remote islands before the people left. In a partnership between Tasglann nan Eilean Siar (Hebridean Archives) and the National Records of Scotland, the two unique books were conserved and digitised in Edinburgh before being returned to Stornoway. Entries from school teachers include complaints about children being kept away from school to help with picking potatoes, cutting peat or unloading supply boats. Registrar General and Keeper of the Records, George MacKenzie said the books were 'precious survivors'. 'Viewers can flip through pages and zoom in to read individual text from their computer. Visit www.cne-siar.gov.uk/archives/collections.asp.



West Highland College UHI students celebrated success on Friday.

**Special day for West Highland College UHI students**

MORE than 200 West Highland College UHI students attended their annual celebration of achievement and graduation at Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church, Fort William, on Friday. SNH wildlife management manager Alastair MacGugan delivered the annual address, and UHI principal and vice

cancellor James Fraser presented the awards. The college's learning centre manager, Jane Henderson from Mallaig - herself a graduate of UHI - carried a specially commissioned ceremonial mace for the ceremony. Designed by Edinburgh College of Art silversmith students, the mace was gifted by the universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Strathclyde to the University of the Highlands and Islands to mark its promotion to full university status this year. Made in silver and wood, the mace symbolises the landscape and culture of the Highlands and Islands and will be used in years to come at graduation ceremonies across the region.

**Government delivers Post Office grants**

SEVEN rural post offices in the West Highlands and Outer Isles have been awarded a combined £142,640 to improve their businesses under the Scottish Government's Post Office Diversification Fund. Three post offices successfully claimed the maximum £25,000 grant - Ardvasar in Sleat, the Isle of Rum and Lochcarron. Ardvasar will use the cash for extending a garage for MOT services, new signs, improving the shop and forecourt, a coffee machine, retail and marketing advice and employment and training of young people. The grant will also cover a 'pump-priming' knowledge

visit to similar businesses, project management and a new business plan for fuel services development. At Lochcarron a new post office counter, signage, weighing scales and card reader petrol pumps will be installed. Rum's grant will go towards a delivery vehicle, new boiler and bund, freezers and fridges, a large trolley, electronic point of sale system and outside awning entrance improvements. Signage, outside shelving, logo design costs, shelving netting, solar panel kits, flooring, staff costs and staff training website development complete the list. Elsewhere, Balmacara received £19,600 for floor tiling, new floor, suspended ceiling and low energy lighting system. Also approved was £12,000 for Daliburgh on South Uist for a disabled access door, new signage, reconfiguration of interior and installation of new counter and new flooring. Other projects include rewiring, new storage heaters, wall shelving, shop fittings, advertising and staff costs. In Lochalsh, Kyle PO was granted £13,490 for an electronic point of sale system and remote chiller. In Morvern, Lochaline received £22,550 for an extension to the building. Announcing the grants on

**Out-of-hours health care talks fail to find solution**

TALKS between west Ardnachair residents and representatives from the Scottish Ambulance Service and NHS Highland on out-of-hours emergency 999 cover have again failed to find a solution. West Ardnachair Community Council (WACC) met with SAS and health chiefs in Kilchoan Community Centre last Tuesday night, but a gap still remains on the best way of delivering the service. Two district nurses, one of who is retiring in February, currently provide emergency cover. SAS put forward plans to base a replacement nurse in Kilchoan - who will be 'strongly encouraged' to live in west Ardnachair - as part of a west Lochaber team. The nurses would also join a new 'co-responders' team of at least six paid people - including locally based firefighters and other members of the community - who would attend medical emergencies until an ambulance can arrive from Strontian. The team would be backed up by GPs in Acharracle and the air ambulance. WACC chairman Rosie Curtis told *The Oban Times* locals felt the proposal relied too heavily on people giving up their time and effort - and was worried the new nurse would be called to

emergencies elsewhere in west Lochaber, leaving no nurses on Ardnachair. She said: 'The reaction from the community was unanimous - that this was totally unacceptable. As well as anger, people feel frightened. There's a lot of talk of families moving away, yet we've been struggling for years to build up our population. We're united in what we want - to preserve the excellent service we have.' SAS North Division general manager Milne Weir said the proposals offered a 'safe and sustainable model' for emergency cover in the remote area. He said: 'It is a solution that provides enhanced clinical training for local community members so that they can provide an early intervention, supported by a wide range of specialist resources.' Councillor Michael Foxley chaired the meeting. He said: 'We want further discussions with the west Ardnachair community because we need to put in place a safe service for the future.' The parties are due to meet in Kilchoan on Tuesday evening for a full public meeting.

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**Encouraging start for Mallaig's new marina**

MALLAIG'S new yachting marina is reporting steady business since being declared open earlier this month. The new facility, which can provide berths for up to 48 yachts as well as moorings for 12 vessels, aims to become a major sailing destination in years to come. However, yachts are already taking advantage of the safe haven - even as autumn gales begin to roar in from the Atlantic. Port manager Robert MacMillan told *The Oban Times*: 'It has been an encouraging start. The marina has been quite well used since we opened on the ninth. The poor weather has meant that some boats have opted to stay with the security of the pontoons rather than go out and face heavy seas. Our 12 moorings have also been quite well used by sailors who prefer not to berth next to the walkway.' Mr MacMillan said a major marketing drive was planned to put Mallaig firmly on the sailing map. 'Over the winter we will be marketing the pontoons and creating a website for the marina to gear up for next season,' he said. 'There will be an official launch in spring 2012.' Provost of Lochaber and local Highland councillor Allan Henderson said the marina would benefit 'the whole of the village' as visiting sailors use services and facilities available to them on shore. The £900,000 development was part funded under the Sail West project and co-financed by Mallaig Harbour Authority, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Highland Council. Sail West, a maritime tourism initiative led by Donegal County Council, seeks to jointly promote Northern Ireland, the border region of Ireland and western Scotland as a premier European sailing destination. Euro funding for Sail West contributed £570,000 to the Mallaig development.

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**Renal service restored**

THE RENAL service at Belford Hospital in Fort William was restored on Monday after it was forced to decant to Raigmore because of a leaking roof. Three patients, with staff, were transferred to Inverness last week while the roof was made watertight. Marie Law, clinical services manager at the Belford, hoped remaining work to replace the roof could be carried out without any further disruption to service.

**Fort William trio deny stealing boat**

THREE Fort William youngsters have denied stealing a boat moored at Lochaber Yacht Club and taking it out on Loch Linnhe. Ruth Rodger, aged 18, of 28 Alma Road, Liam Mackenzie, aged 19, of 13 Ross Place and 21-year-old Jamie Leighton, of Fassfern, Lochside Apartments, Achintore Road pled not guilty stealing the 16-foot 'Sea Otter' in the early hours of June 2. The trio's trial is due to be heard at Fort William Sheriff Court on November 11.

**Fair organisers on lookout for stallholders**

INVERGARRY Christmas Fair organisers are looking for people interested in taking a stall at this year's event. The annual craft fair will be held in Glengarry Village Hall on Saturday December 3. Anyone interested in booking a table should contact the Well of the Seven Heads store.

**Fertility support group set up**

INFERTILITY Network Scotland is setting up a support group in Fort William for individuals and couples experiencing fertility problems. Anyone interested is invited to come along and share their experiences at the group's first session in the small meetings room at the Belford Hospital on October 20. Meetings will be held on the last Thursday of each month thereafter. For more information contact Gwenda Burns on 07825 827865.

**Society to elect new conductor**

LOCHABER Strathspey and Reel Society (LSRS) will elect a new conductor at its AGM at West Highland College next Wednesday. Sheana Fraser, the founder of the society 25 years ago, has held the post since its inception and is now stepping down. LSRS secretary Isobel MacKellaig said Sheana had given an unequalled amount of her time and talent and would be 'a hard act to follow'.



**Shopping around for healthy eating tips**

Inverlochty Primary School P1 pupils dropped into Morrisons store in Fort William recently as part of their health and wellbeing class topic. The 25 children learned about the preparation of healthy snacks and meals, accompanied by class teacher Lia Hunter. It's all about keeping their bodies fit and healthy, Ms Hunter said. 20\_f38ldogp1



Best in show: Vicky with her prize winning dog Quinn. 20\_f38ldogp1

**Quinn celebrates Lochaber Dog Show success**

SOME of the finest canines from across the west Highlands and beyond converged on Fort William for the annual Lochaber Dog Club Show, but it was a local pooch who walked off with the top prize. Claggan breeder Vicky Tompkins' four-year-old saluki Quinn picked up the 'best in show' award at the Nevis Centre, beating off competition from hundreds of dogs. Vicky told *The Oban Times* Quinn was an experienced competitor who was 'Fort William born and bred'. The principal judge at the open breed show was Pamela Mottershaw, from Jersey. Organiser Sharon Donald said the event had been a success. She said: 'Despite the weather the show was, once again, a success. Thanks go to everyone who helped to make the show what it is from setting up the hall to making the table and everything in between.' Results: Best in show - Quinn (Saluki) owner, Mrs S Pass & Mrs A Cameron; Reserve best in show - Juxondale Anthemis of Elinworb SHCM (Shetland Sheepdog) owner, Mrs H Moir. Special best puppy - Aminaptra Stand and Deliver (Akita) owner, Miss L Brown. Reserve special best puppy - Totenkopf Dutch Courage (Cocker Spaniel) owner, Mr Flowers.

**Sentence deferred on pair who damaged caravan**

TWO EAST Kilbride men who caused £9,000 of damage to a static caravan at a Lochaber holiday park have had their sentencing deferred until January 18 for the outcome of a case involving them in Hamilton. Michael Gallacher, aged 20, of 92 Salisbury, and Scott Miller, of 95 Warwick, pled guilty to wilfully or recklessly damaging the property of another by knocking holes in wall panels and damaging the electrical supply, bending doors, smashing a light fitting, the living room fire and a microwave and smearing blood over other furnishings. Miller, aged 26, also admitted a breach of the peace by shouting, swearing and uttering threats to the proprietor at Caolnacorn Caravan Park near Kinlochleven. The incidents occurred on August 15 2010, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

**CCTV problem delays Caol trio's assault trial**

THE TRIAL of three Caol people accused of attacking a man on Fort William High Street has been postponed to allow defence lawyers to see CCTV footage of the alleged incident. Alan Mathers, aged 22, of 82 Kilmallie Road, and married couple Iona and Iain MacKay, of 15 Clunes Avenue, deny assaulting the man at a taxi rank by repeatedly punching him on the head and repeatedly kicking and stamping on his head to his severe injury on May 8. CDs showing the CCTV recordings were unable to be viewed due to technical difficulties, but Fort William Sheriff Court heard the problem had been fixed and the footage will be seen by the defence teams before the case recalls. Iona and Iain MacKay, aged 27 and 33 respectively, also pled not guilty to resisting arrest by violently struggling with police officers at their house later the same night. The trio are now due to stand trial on November 21.

**Mad admits attacking French tourist**

A MAN has admitted carrying out a late night attack on a French tourist in Fort William town centre. Graham Brown, of 9 Kilmacolm Road, Houston, Renfrewshire, pled guilty to assaulting the man by knocking him to the ground causing his head to hit the ground, and repeatedly punching and kicking him on the head and body to his injury on the Parade, High Street on June 9. Sheriff Mark Thorley deferred sentencing the 33-year-old at Fort William Sheriff Court until October 12 for reports.

**Ban and fine for campsite driving stunt**

A MAN who drunkenly drove his car through a Morar campsite before performing a handbrake turn near two men has been banned from driving for three years and fined £680. Stuart Morrison, of 149 Staffa Road, Whitlawburn, Cambuslang, pled guilty to driving without due care and attention at Bracara shorefront on June 18. He also admitted failing to provide breath specimens at Fort William Police Station. Fort William Sheriff Court heard Morrison, aged 30, had pitched one of the four tents in the area at the time of the offence. After a night's drinking, Morrison got into an argument with two other campers. He then got into his car and drove 40metres towards them before his handbrake spin.

**Unit transformed into arts studio**

A KINLOCHLEVEN business unit is getting a theatrical makeover as a community hub for the arts. Local drama worker Iona Munro will open her not-for-profit Dramafish Studios in Unit 3 on Kinlochleven Business Park on October 1. Local artist Brian Dickie, who runs Ballachulish village hall, will open the building at the Dramafish Open Day as guest of honour. Mr Dickie and fellow artist Caroline Cooke will be doing painting and sculptures, which will be hung from the rafters. The studios have been repainted and kitted out with costumes, props and other kit. Iona, 42, who is a drama worker at Eden Court Theatre in Inverness, told *The Oban Times* the studios will comprise a meeting space for small scale rehearsals, a digital media suite for small film-making projects, workshop space for artists - including set building and pottery - plus storage for costume and technical kit. She said: 'The day should have a real festival feel. Some artists will be dressing up - there's nothing like men in drag to catch the attention!' 'The studios will be fully accessible to the public. They will be a great hub for performers and anyone interested in the arts.'



Left to right, Lochaber Housing Association corporate services assistant Sheree Kennedy joins Lochaber Credit Union advice officer Ellen Edwards and administrator Jane MacLean to launch the new advice service.

**Credit Union launches new financial advice service**

LOCHABER Housing Association and Lochaber Credit Union have set up a new scheme to help tenants plan their finances. LHA chief executive Blair Allan said: 'The project is aimed at reducing financial exclusion for our tenants. 'By providing increased opportunities for debt management as well as easily accessible ways to save and an opportunity to access loans at reasonable rates, we feel that this is a clear route to income maximisation for our tenants.'

**Single-track road to be widened**

ACHARACLE Community Council is looking forward to an upgrade of a single-track section of the A861 on Drynie Hill to two lanes. The 1.8km stretch up a steep incline is a notorious bottleneck, especially in winter conditions. ACC chairman Hugh MacPherson welcomed the improvement, which has taken 15 years to bring to fruition. He told *The Oban Times*: 'It is much needed. 'It is one of the worst bits of road on the peninsula. However, there are other areas needing done and we will have to get them higher up the priority list as well.' Local councillor Michael Foxley said the £1million project should get underway in November/December. He told *The Oban Times*: 'This will assist people from Acharacle, Salen, Kilchoan and Moidart to access services much quicker and easier. 'It will be safer in the winter when it can be very dangerous in ice and snow.' A line of post-mature Douglas firs, planted to celebrate Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee, would have to be felled and replaced with saplings, Councillor Foxley said.

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**Fort man faces driving ban**

A FORT William man faces a driving ban after failing to give breath specimens after being pulled over by police for suspected drink driving on two separate occasions.

Ian Stewart, of 1 Brown Court, pled guilty to failing to provide two breath specimens after being taken to Fort William Police Station suspected of drink driving in Telford Place on July 13.

The 52-year-old also admitted failing to provide two breath specimens at Fort William Police Station on August 4 after being suspected of drinking driving in Moray Place.

Sheriff Mark Thorley deferred sentencing at Fort William Sheriff Court until October 26 for reports.

**Drunk man swore and shouted at girlfriend**

A CAOL man has been fined £160 after shouting and swearing at his girlfriend during a drunken row.

Jamie Donaldson, of 20 Kilmallie Road, and his partner had been drinking at 30 Mamore Crescent with friends. They started arguing after the friends left, and Donaldson was heard by neighbours shouting loudly at the woman. The neighbours also heard the woman crying and phoned the police, who arrested Donaldson and kept him in custody overnight, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Donaldson, aged 37, pled guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by repeatedly shouting and swearing in an abusive way at the woman.

**Pensioner fined for knocking down cyclist**

A PENSIONER who knocked down a cyclist while overtaking him on the A82 near Fort William has been given six penalty points and fined £225.

Retired dental surgeon James MacPherson, of Lochview House, Kilkerran Road, Campbeltown, pled guilty to driving without due care and attention at Drummarbin, three miles south of the town, on May 24.

Procurator Fiscal Simon Crabb said 84-year-old MacPherson was overtaking two cyclists who were on a charity ride from Land's End to John O'Groats. 'He struck the front cyclist on the right elbow with his wing mirror, causing the cyclist to fall onto the road,' he said.

The man was unhurt, but his £3,000 bike was damaged in the incident, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Defending, Hamish Melrose said his client had just not left enough room for the bikes. He said: 'It was an error of judgement of a relatively minor nature.'

Sentencing, Sheriff Mark Thorley said it was 'an unfortunate accident.'



Lochaber Gold performers line up for *The Oban Times* in the Nevis Centre foyer before the event. 20\_f38gold06



Ewen Henderson and Iain MacFarlane in full flow. 20\_f38gold01



Hugh Dan MacLennan interviewed Catherine MacLeod and Donald Park on stage as part of Lochaber Gold. 20\_f38gold04

**Former pupils bring the house down**

Crowds flock to Nevis Centre for 'Lochaber Gold' concert

FORMER Lochaber High School pupils brought the house down in a one-off concert at a packed Nevis Centre on Friday night.

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Angus Grant, who turned 80 just before the concert and taking many of the musicians taking part.

Before a near sell-out crowd of about 400, the final Blas 2011 event in Lochaber found a truly successful formula in its mix of wonderful musicianship and witty repartee.

Armageddon during the banking crisis of 2008.

Event organiser Gary Innes was thrilled hundreds had turned out to see how much talent Lochaber had produced in recent years.

'Fear an taigh' (master of ceremonies) Hugh Dan MacLennan introduced each act - and proved equally at home as an interviewer of some notable Lochaber personalities in between performances.

Ms MacLeod, chief advisor to Chancellor Alastair Darling at the time, told how the banks had constantly reassured her boss they were in no difficulty - until the truth could be kept hidden no longer.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It was a great advert for Lochaber and showed the impact we have had in politics, music and sport.'

Taking their place on the on-stage sofa were former political editor at The Herald Catherine MacLeod, footballing legends Donald Park and Duncan Shearer and father and son Fergie and John MacDonald of Acharacle.

She said: '[RBS chairman] Tom McKillop phoned up and said 'We are running out of money. Alastair said 'how long have we got?' and was told 'about until lunchtime'.

'It was lovely to see so many people there and the comments we got back were great. Everybody said the night was amazing.'

Nuggets unearthed by Hugh Dan included the tale of just how close the UK was to financial

'We were about one hour 50 minutes away from everything being frozen. The Government did get a lot of flak for keeping the bank going, but if we had not the economy would have crashed.'

'There's not another school in the country that has produced so many top class folk musicians.'

Tribute was also paid to fiddler

'Lochaber Gold' performers included Gary, Kaela Rowan, Ewen, Megan, Ingrid and Allan Henderson, Annie Grace, James Mackintosh, Aonghas Grant and Iain MacFarlane, with a special performance from Lochaber Schools Pipe Band.

**Gardeners' long wait for allotments almost over**

Work starts on levelling Lochaline topsoil

LOCHALINE gardeners' long wait for land is almost over as diggers begin levelling out tons of topsoil for community allotments.



Breaking new ground: Lochaline growers are looking forward to planting up their allotments next spring. 20\_f38allot01

A mountain of earth had lain unused while residents battled through red tape to secure funding to cover start-up costs. But by next spring up to 26 plots, three polytunnels, garden sheds, a community meeting area and garden benches will be created on land opposite the primary school.

The site was originally earmarked for council housing, but a potential subsidence risk from the silica mine meant the homes were built on Kirk Brae instead.

Ardnornish Estate assumed ownership of the ground and is leasing it to Morvern Community Development Company (MCDC) at a peppercorn rent of £1 per year.

MCDC opted for three polytunnels after members of the allotments group visited Knoydart on a fact-finding mission. The grow-your-own project there has proved successful, but Lochaline will adopt a different scheme.

Ms Jones said: 'We went to Knoydart to see their polytunnel, and the only problem they had was some people wanted it vented and cool, while others wanted it closed up and warmer.'

MCDC director Lesley Jones told *The Oban Times* it was planned to bring as much home-grown produce to local tables

as possible. She said: 'There's room for 26 plots and we have 12 people signed up already. The school and the nursery will have a plot each too. We'll even have a barbecue area to cook our fresh vegetables.'

Financial backers of the allotments project include Highland LEADER, the European agricultural fund for rural development, the Scottish Government, Awards for All Scotland and the Climate Challenge Fund.

Trees donated by the Scottish Wildlife Trust will be planted round the perimeter in November to act as a windbreak once they grow.

Bob Brown of MCDC's allotments steering committee, said: 'This will be a real horticultural community centre.'

Trees donated by the Scottish Wildlife Trust will be planted round the perimeter in November to act as a windbreak once they grow.



Pol, Peter, Gordon, Steven and Lewis: raised £14,500 for suicide awareness charity. 20\_f38uist01

**Cyclists stunned by charity ride total**

FIVE young North Uist men have raised an incredible £14,500 for a charity campaigning to raise awareness of suicide among young men.

Oban Times: 'It is absolutely amazing - I could not believe how much we had raised. At the evening ceilidh in Carinish Hall we raised £4,000 on the night - which was incredible.'

Steven Morrison, 20, Peter MacNab, 21, Lewis Maclean, 20, and brothers Pol, 22, and Gordon Kennedy, 17, cycled from George Square in Glasgow to Carinish on the island in memory of the Kennedy boys' brother Steven, who took his own life last October in Glasgow aged just 19. The friends thought they might raise £5,000, but when Steven returned from holiday in Turkey to help top up the money he was stunned by the total. He told *The*

'And it has been worth it - my mum was saying she was speaking to people at the dance and they said they did not know much about suicide until our bike ride highlighted the issue.'

The boys 'Cycle for Steven', in aid of the charity CALM, took them through Lochaber, Lochalsh and Skye to Uig for the ferry back to Lochmaddy, from where they cycled the final 12 miles to Carinish.

**Man fined for campsite 'doughnut'**

A MAN has been banned from driving for a year and fined £625 after drunkenly performing a 'doughnut' with his car in a Lochaber campsite.

Garry Brown, of Flat A4, Scroggie Hill, Perth, was staying at Torlundy Farm to attend the Mountain Bike World Cup, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Another camper saw Brown spinning his car in small circles near other tents. He struck another car, causing £325 damage.

Police arrived and found Brown in the car covered in vomit. At Fort William Police Station he failed to provide specimens, saying he 'had no breath left'.

Defending, Hamish Melrose said: 'He has no idea why he got into the car and carried out these manoeuvres. There was no need for this.'

Brown, aged 25, pled guilty to careless driving by carrying out the manoeuvre in close proximity to other cars and members of the public and colliding with another car on June 5. He also admitted failing to provide two breath specimens.

Sentencing Brown, Sheriff Mark Thorley said the manoeuvre was 'extremely dangerous'.



Peter Kerr, recently-appointed historical researcher, with Sue Wilson, project manager, at The Nurse's Cottage, home of Berneray Historical Society.

**Researchers aim to bring history home**

Race on to trace Berneray descendants

A PROJECT to track down living descendants of emigrants from Berneray who may have preserved vital fragments of the island's culture is underway.

A Tilleadh ar n-Eachdraidh Dhachaigh (Bringing Our History Home) aims to establish a unique body of research on Berneray's diaspora by gathering information from outwith the island before it is lost.

Organisers Berneray Historical Society is asking the whole community to uncover the historical and cultural impact of emigrations from Berneray, by establishing who went where, when, how and why. Members hope to discover aspects of Berneray's Gaelic island culture that the emigrants took with them and which have been maintained in their new lands down through the generations.

Recently appointed project worker Peter Kerr, who is carrying out the research, has already worked on the social history of the parish of Harris in the 19th century.

His own Harris ancestry stretches back 220 years to Strond and very likely earlier from across the Sound of Harris to Berneray itself.

Mr Kerr said: 'So far we have identified nearly 500 people - almost four times the present population - who, during the past

240 years, left the island to make a new life for themselves, whether elsewhere on the islands, on mainland Britain or thousands of miles away across the sea.'

'We will learn of their stories and experiences and examine how many aspects of the culture have fared - not only poems, songs and music but also artefacts, designs, practices, traditions and festivals. 'We will therefore investigate both the influence that Bearnaraich have had on their new communities whilst bringing their memories home.'

The society has already compiled a comprehensive database of Berneray's past inhabitants and hopes the new project will provide a unique insight into the island's past.

Volunteers will join the effort to uncover new material by liaising with museums and heritage societies in the Western Isles and overseas.

The results will be widely accessible, both on the island and online.

The society aims to provide resources for local secondary school students and host public events to publicise the findings.

A Tilleadh ar n-Eachdraidh Dhachaigh is part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community LEADER Innse Gall 2007-2013 programme.

**Man guilty of assaulting police officer by seizing him by throat**

A FORT William man pinned a police officer to the ground by the throat whilst struggling to avoid being arrested.

Appearing from custody, George Kane, of 1 Caberfeidh, Fassfern Road, pled guilty to assaulting the constable by struggling with him, repeatedly pushing him on the body and seizing him by the throat to his injury at Viewforth car park on August 27.

Kane, aged 22, also admitted stealing two bikes at Broombank, Union Road, Fort William with 21-year-old Jamie Leighton, of Fassfern, Lochside Apartments on the same day.

Sentencing at Fort William Sheriff Court was deferred until September 28 for reports.

**Drunk shouted racial abuse**

A FORT William man drunkenly shouted racist abuse at a man on the town's High Street.

John MacGillivray, of 24 Banff Crescent, pled guilty to acting in a racially aggravated manner by shouting and swearing, uttering racial abuse at the man and threatening him with violence.

The incident occurred at around 11.30pm on June 20. Sheriff Mark Thorley deferred sentencing at Fort William Sheriff Court until October 26 for reports.

**No football club lotto winners**

THERE were no winners in the Fort William Football Club Lotto draw on Saturday.

Numbers were 14-15-20. Prize money rolls over to next week and goes up to £600.

**The Pantry opens its doors**

THE PANTRY, opening next week in Argyll Square, will utilise the area's finest produce to become the community's very own farmhouse store.

The owners of the new store, local husband and wife teams, Jenny and Robbie Love and Donna and Archie MacCulloch, hope that by taking traditional farmhouse store values and giving

Another unique service will see recipes of the week available in ready-to-cook packs; taking the hassle out of deciding what to have for dinner.

them a contemporary twist, they can give our own produce the shop window it deserves.

Celebrating the grand opening at noon on Tuesday, Lady Claire MacDonald, the owner of Skye's Michelin Star winning Kinloch Lodge restaurant, will be giving a cookery demonstration using the shop's very own fare.

The event will no doubt be popular, with Lady Claire renowned as Scotland's foremost advocate and supporter of local produce and food experts.

But taking centre stage will be the delicious meat, fruit and vegetables of the county, sourced from a variety of the area's finest local producers. Alongside this you will find a fine selection of the area's terrific produce, such as cheeses, preserves, smoked seafood and sauces. Of course, no celebration of local fare would be complete without a selection of the area's globally-famous whisky, not to mention local ales and beers to tantalise the tastebuds. It is, however, the less traditional aspects that will give a full flavour to the outlet's inspiring ranges, such as gourmet, locally produced and chemical-free ready meals, ideal for those on the go.

A full range of gluten free produce will be on offer, while a take-away coffee, tea and snack counter will utilise the expertise of Donna and Archie MacCulloch, owners of Raxy's Cafe just across the road. Utilising the produce in store to stock the counter makes it ideal for those who don't just want a sandwich or pie to keep them on the go.

With such inspiring choices available, you'll be glad to hear that hampers will be available to fit every budget; perfect for gifts.

It all promises to create an exciting food experience for the community and one which will highlight the best Argyll has to offer - hidden gems and well known stars alike. Community is key though and The Pantry is keen to hear from producers and customers alike about how they can enrich their service further.



The Pantry is opening on Tuesday 27th September 2011

Come and join us for a glass of bubbly, taste our produce and see chef Lady Claire MacDonald demonstrate some fabulous recipes

Open for business at 9.00am with Lady Claire demonstrating at midday

Tel: 01631 563355

A new taste for local produce

the pantry | ground floor | boswell house | argyll square | oban

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FW

# Grant kick-starts housing 'corridor'

## Up to 800 new homes could be built

**REPORT**

by LOUISE LEE  
llee@obantimes.co.uk

WORK will begin on the construction of 50 homes in Dunbeg within six months – signalling the start of a scheme which could eventually result in the biggest property development seen in Argyll and Bute for decades.

The 50 houses – a mix of one, two and three bedroomed homes – are a catalyst for the 'Dunbeg Corridor', a scheme which could eventually see 800 new properties built.

To kick-start the project, the Scottish Government granted West Highland Housing Association's (WHHA) subsidiary organisation West Highland Rural Solutions £1.9 million for the project as part of a series of grants.

The association has a further

£3.1 million already in the pot from private lending and other grants. As soon as detailed planning and building warrants are in place building will start.

The affordable housing will be ready for allocation within two years and it is envisaged that some of the properties will be available on a let-to-buy and shared ownership basis.

Tony Cave, chairman of West Highland Rural Solutions, said: 'This is terrific news and we are delighted that we were able to develop a scheme that met the Government criteria.'

'We will be working with West Highland Housing Association to deliver the scheme with work starting in early 2012.'

Argyll and Bute Council designated the land at Dunbeg for development in its local plan and this sees the start of the housing work.

The local plan envisages an initial development of 300 houses, with another 500 to follow in the longer term.

Murray Sim, chairman of West Highland Housing Association, said: 'The association and its subsidiary have been working with the Scottish Government, Argyll and Bute Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), SAMS and the estate for four years and we are extremely grateful to all our partners for their hard work that has assisted us in making this possible.'

'This will mean new properties for local people and it will also mean work for the building industry.'

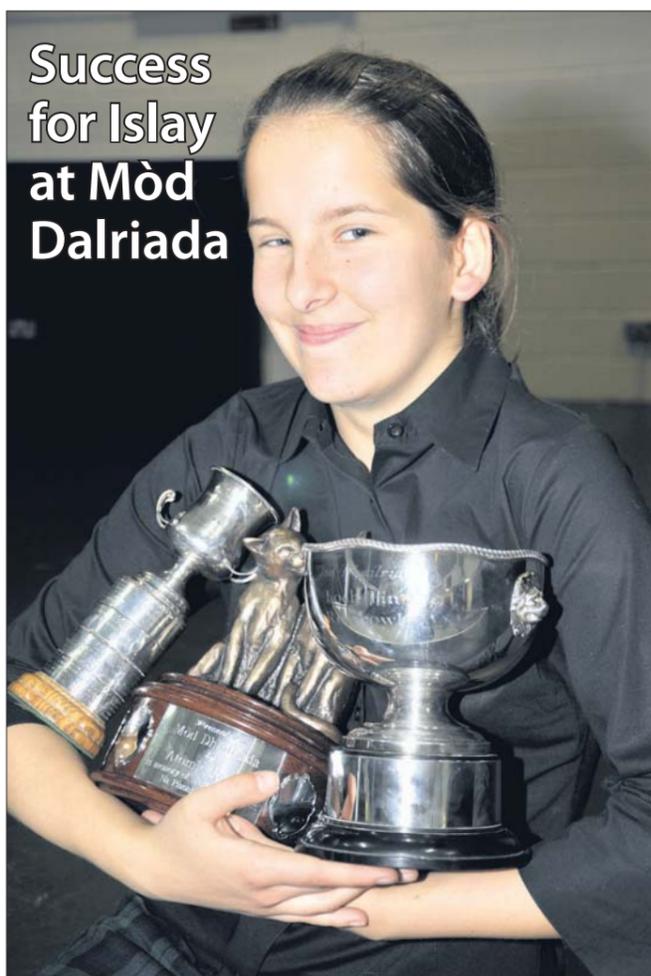
Michael Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute, said: 'I am really delighted that the go ahead has been given for the first phase in the new Dunbeg development. 'This confirms that Oban is

a growing and dynamic town which requires a new approach to create new homes. I will continue to press for every possible investment from public and private sources that we can reasonably expect to win.'

Councillor Robin Currie, Argyll and Bute Council's spokesman for housing, said: 'I am delighted that these groups were successful in their bids but of course disappointed that other worthy bids from Argyll and Bute were not successful.'

Other funding was announced for Fyne Homes. It was awarded £588,928 for the next phase of housing at the Lochgilphead High School site from the Registered Social Landlord Fund.

Inver Farmers Scottish Partnership Ltd received £120,000 for six units in Ormsary. The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust was also awarded £70,000.



Success for Islay at Mòd Dalriada

Gaelic singer Zoe Wells, from Islay, won an armful of trophies after placing first in the solo singing, aged 13 – 15, competition at Mòd Dalriada on Saturday. Leachs of all ages had a highly successful day in Lochgilphead and took masses of silverware back to the island. For more on Mòd Dalriada, see page 11. 15\_1381mod04

### The world could be Angus' oyster

A DUNBEG lad will be the first to represent Scotland in the world oyster opening championships.

Angus Vajk, aged 22, booked his place at the international competition by winning the Loch Fyne Scottish Oyster Opening Championships in Glasgow last month.

Son of oyster farmers Hugh and Judith Vajk of Caledonian Oysters, Angus said: 'I am thrilled to have won, and excited about going to the world championships, but it will be daunting being up against so many experts. I will be putting in a lot of speed practice this week.'

In Glasgow, the biology student shelled 30 oysters in four minutes and five seconds to beat a crowded field, including his father. Part of his prize was the trip to Galway's international oyster and seafood festival.

### Police warning to boozy teenagers

TEENAGERS who drink alcohol in the streets will not be tolerated, police warned this week.

Youngsters caught boozing will have the drink confiscated and their parents will be informed.

The warning comes after six youths aged 14 and 15 were spotted on Saturday night by officers on Mossfield Avenue with a large quantity of alcohol.

Chief Inspector Brian Auld, Oban Police Area Commander, said: 'It is not acceptable for young people to be drinking on the streets.'

'My officers will not only seize any alcohol they have, but will make sure parents or carers are informed.'

### Eight-foot dinghy stolen from Connel

AN EIGHT-foot dinghy and outboard motor were stolen from the beach opposite the Oyster Inn, Connel.

The grey Wet Line vessel was stolen sometime between September 3 and Sunday September 18.

Police are appealing for information or witnesses.

**Newdesk**  
01397 703003

## Ousted organiser makes waves over Tiree Classic

A DISGRUNTLED events organiser is threatening to take legal action against the group which is planning the Tiree Wave Classic this October over use of the event's name.

But British Wavering Association (BWA), says it owns the rights to the name and is even employing the founder of the 25-year-old event in its planning.

Gordon Ritchie, of Dialogue Marketing, says he has been the organiser of the Tiree Wave Classic for the last eight years.

In that time he said he has built up the business. But this year, he was overlooked in favour of a Welsh company to run the event.

Mr Ritchie claims he owns the name of Tiree Wave Classic, but was usurped in 2010 by another company.

He said: 'I wanted to run the event this year and then help people on the island to take over the running of it. I had major private sponsors and television companies interested. I even made a presentation to Argyll and Bute Council.'

'But the money to run the event was awarded to a Welsh company - overlooking us. We have run the event at a loss for years.'

A spokesman for EventScotland, which provides

funding, said: 'The British Wavering Association has sanctioned Creative Event Solutions to run the Tiree Wave Classic 2011.'

'Creative Event Solutions have subsequently made an application for support to EventScotland which has been assessed and agreed for support through our normal processes.'

**Looking forward**

'We are looking forward to an excellent week celebrating the 25th anniversary of the event with strong positive media attention for the island of Tiree and Argyll and Bute as a whole.' Jim Brooks-Dowsett, of the

BWA, said he was aware of the situation and was delighted the original organiser, Andy Groom, was now on board for the event.

He added: 'Tiree is the Scottish leg of a four nations tour, and is this year celebrating its 25th anniversary.'

'We have the pleasure of continuing to work with local business for this great event.'

'The local community has been very welcoming and supportive in anticipation of the event.'

It is understood Mr Groom, the founder of the event, has given the certificated rights to the use of the name Tiree Wave Classic to the BWA.

## Safety concerns at danger junction

A COMMUNITY council has urged roads authorities to address safety concerns at a recently developed junction in Dalmlarry.

Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council has raised the issue of dangerous driving

at the 'surgery junction' on the A85 with Scotland Transerv and Transport Scotland, as well as community police officer Iain Young.

**Near misses**  
Community council secretary John Kerr said: 'There have been

some very serious near misses here and one driver has been charged with dangerous driving.'

**Priority**  
'This is now also a priority for the community council and we want to see signs, street lighting or double white lines.'

'The problem is escalating as the junction is now the vehicle and pedestrian connection between the A85 and the surgery, post office, the pharmacy, the community centre and potentially 14 new houses,' added Mr Kerr.

## Car park cash plea falls on deaf ears

DEMANDS for car parking and pier cash collected in Oban to be spent on the town have fallen on deaf ears.

This is despite the town having the only on-street car parking charges in Argyll and Bute.

Councillor Roddy McCuish said he was all for the cash being kept in Oban, but Argyll and Bute Council insisted it went into a big pot out of which Oban only received a share, along with other areas.

Councillor McCuish said: 'Because we are one of the very few areas that imposes parking charges it would seem fair that the money was kept in the town to make improvements.'

An Argyll and Bute Council spokeswoman said: 'All four areas in Argyll and Bute have car-parking charges for off street. Only Oban has on-street charging. The total income in Oban, Lorn and the Isles from off street car parks, on street

car parks and rentals (eg for the continental market) came to £476,605 in 2010-11.

'The income from on street charges in Oban during this time amounted to £216,189, or less than £5,000 per week.'

'After costs are deducted, the parking surplus is distributed between the four areas in proportion to their contribution to the surplus. This resulted in £95,000 coming to Oban, Lorn and the Isles last year.'

## Lights and lanterns as plans for winter festival are unveiled

LIGHTS, lanterns, ice rinks and a visit from Santa Claus will help to create a winter spectacle in Oban in November.

The Oban Winter Festival, led by the Ready, Steady, Christmas group, will see the town turned into a winter wonderland for one week, between November 19-27.

Kicking off proceedings on the first Saturday will be the annual Reindeer Parade and the switching on of the Christmas lights.

Following the parade, which will be led by Oban High School Pipe Band, a Victorian-themed market in the town centre will see local crafts people and caterers selling goods.

In keeping with the theme,

businesses in the town have already pledged to dress up in Victorian period costume and dress their windows appropriately for the entirety of the festival.

**Ice rink**  
And for the first four days of the festival, an ice rink will be in place at Atlantis Leisure.

Pamela Lockhart, of Ready, Steady, Christmas, said: 'The team behind the Oban Winter Festival are really excited about the event and the positive response we have had back from businesses and locals so far.'

'Oban needs something to promote the area and for the locals to enjoy at that time of year.'

There will be numerous events

throughout the week, including cinema nights, a Wine Call My Bluff night, ceilidhs, outdoor sports taster sessions with Stramash, an '80s/'90s disco and a football tournament. Organisers are also keen to hear from youth groups who have items to sell and may want to have a free stall space at a market to be held in the Corran Halls.

The finale, on Sunday November 27, will include a lantern parade and a Pop Up Lighting event.

Pamela added: 'We still have room in the programme for any groups or charities that want to run events.'

'We can be contacted online through our website obanwinterfestival.com.'

## Blooming great effort to clean up stretch of Caol beach



Caol in Bloom volunteers begin their litter pick on Caol beach. 20\_f38caol01

AROUND 100 metres of Caol beach got an autumn clean up up Saturday morning – thanks to the efforts of Caol in Bloom volunteers.

The group staked out a length of shoreline and filled black binliners with assorted flotsam tangled among piles of seaweed dumped by high tides.

**Beachwatch**  
The event was part of the Marine Conservation Society's Beachwatch Big Weekend, which saw hundreds of volunteer groups round the UK clean up a section of shore over Saturday and Sunday.

Helper Dr Su Sen told The Oban Times as the team set out: 'We have to pick up the litter and document each type as we find it.'

Categories on the Beachwatch volunteer survey sheet included plastic – by far the biggest haul collected by the Caol in Bloom team – polystyrene, rubber, medical, cloth and paper.

**20 Years Ago**

## Those Were The Days

### The Oban Times

Thursday, September 19, 1991

**Benderloch's new school**  
CHILDREN at Lochnell School, in Benderloch, are to get hard-hatted guided tours of their new school.  
The gymnasium's steel girders have been erected and an architect is to show the youngsters the single storey structure's shell as soon as the roof is on.  
'We have very good co-operation with the site workers. The site manager has a good understanding of the difficulties of small communities and has demonstrated some of their work to the children,' said headmistress Gwen Duff.  
Lochnell hit the headlines in May as rainwater ran down light fittings, walls and the roof and a lack of storage space led to severely cramped conditions, posing a fire hazard.  
No the pupils are to move into the new £800,000 semi-open plan structure in September 1992.  
Workmen from Dawn Construction, in Prestwick, began work in June and are well on target.  
The are to follow the same plan as Taynuilt School with five teaching bays opening out into a central area and capacity for 120 children. The central space will house science and art equipment.

**Travel agency plan**  
OBAN'S tourist board is to be the first in Britain to operate a travel agency.  
Oban, Mull and District Tourist Board has applied for an Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) licence and hope to begin a travel service in the autumn.  
They are currently interviewing for someone with travel agency experience.  
Following news about a possible takeover of Pickfords by American travel agents A T Mays, the board decided to offer another source of competition.  
The move has the backing of the Scottish Office and Highlands and Islands Enterprise despite a claim by A T Mays that the board was using public money to run the company.  
Director of tourism, Jim Wilson, however, refutes the allegation.  
'Seventy per cent of our funding as a board is private and there is no intention of using public funds for the travel service,' he said.  
The travel service is a spin-off of the board's tour company, West Highland Holidays, set up last year to offer package holidays for British tourists.  
Bed and breakfast, a ferry trip to Mull and a ten per cent discount card to visitors' centres could be arranged.

**Plan to unite Oban and Fort**  
A UNION at local government level between the two main population centres in the West Highlands has been proposed by Oban businessmen.  
A recent ballot of members of Oban and Lorn Chamber of Commerce over future local government reform suggested dissatisfaction with the two existing local authorities.  
The members of the chamber are now to be balloted on whether they are in favour of a combined Lochaber and Fort William and Oban and North Argyll single-tier council.  
Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, David Webster, said: 'There is a certain apathy amongst the people of Oban where Strathclyde is concerned because it is perceived as being too distant.'  
'In the days of the town council this did not exist because decisions affecting local people were made locally.'  
Raymond Hervo, chairman of the Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, commented: 'A similar proposal will go before our next meeting, but personally I am in favour of closer links between the two areas, both commercially and at local government level.'  
Links already exist between the two tourist boards, ScotRail and CalMac.

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

**Across**

- 1 Boot (4)
- 3 In trouble! (3,5)
- 9 First layer to grow in (7)
- 10 Unwelcome creature found in hair (5)
- 11 Not born of a married couple (12)
- 13 Robust (6)
- 15 Catch, as in a net (6)
- 17 However (12)
- 20 Former capital of Japan (5)
- 21 Lifeless (7)
- 22 Booster! (8)
- 23 When raised, it will take you places (4)

**Down**

- 1 Complete (8)
- 2 Calyx part (5)
- 4 Flattened at the poles (6)
- 5 Polite (4-8)
- 6 Part of a board (7)
- 7 Stink (4)
- 8 Flowers to remember (6-2-4)
- 12 Rather than mental (8)
- 14 Lymph glands (7)
- 16 Layers (6)
- 18 Accessory (5)
- 19 Bypass (4)

**Last week's solution**

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

**Coastguard fight goes to Commons**

REPRESENTATIVES from Clyde Coastguard were invited to the Houses of Parliament last week to brief Scottish MPs on the campaign to keep the station - Scotland's busiest - open. Branch chairman Calum Murray and section officer Stuart Atkinson discussed with MPs why they believe the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's (MCA) proposals are flawed and gave evidence for the reasons to maintain a Coastguard station in Greenock and the central belt of Scotland.

**Car vandalised in Dalmally**

A CAR was vandalised during the day on September 11 outside a house on St Conan's Road, Dalmally. It looked as though a key had been used to damage the Blue Fiat Punto. Police in Dalmally are appealing for witnesses.

**Man charged with spilling diesel**

A 45-YEAR-old man has been charged with spilling diesel on a carriage way. The man was charged after an incident on Glengallan Road on September 10. Police warned drivers to be aware of the consequences of spilling diesel as it was an offence under the Roads Scotland Act.

**Claim of assault on child**

A 37-YEAR-old man has been charged with assaulting an 11-year-old child. Police say an incident occurred in a sports venue in the town on Friday September 16. A report has sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

**Door window smashed**

A DOOR window was smashed at a property in Bay View Road, Dunollie, on Friday night or in the early hours of Saturday morning. Police are appealing for witnesses and ask that anyone with information should contact Constable Callaghan at Oban Police Station on 0800 555 111.

**Drink-drive charge**

A MOTORIST will appear in court on November 3 after being arrested on suspicion of drink-driving in Stafford Street, Oban, at 7pm on Sunday evening.

**Gritters used to clear oil spill**

GRITTERS were used in Oban town centre on the A85 from William Street to Rowan Road at the top of the Bealach-an-Righ on Tuesday after a spillage of oil made the road slippery for vehicles. Oban police were warning drivers to take care but there was no road closures or convoy system in place - despite warnings of such on the BBC's travel news service.

**Sale boost for Phoenix Cinema**

OBAN Phoenix Cinema campaigners raised £774.35 on Sunday at a 'Bring 'n' Buy' sale in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls. The group plan to open the cinema later this year.

Newsdesk:  
01631  
568000

# Slippery snake is back home at last

Jaffa was left behind when owners moved house from Oban to Knipoch

A SNAKE rescued in Battery Terrace last week has been reunited with its owners - nearly six months after he went missing. Derek and Paula Laidler immediately recognised six-year-old albino corn snake Jaffa when he was pictured in last week's *Oban Times* with local SSPCA inspector John McAvoy. They quickly got in touch to organise a happy reunion. Paula and Derek were both delighted to see the snake, who escaped from his vivarium when the couple were moving from Battery Terrace to their new home in Knipoch in April. They say they're eternally

thankful to Archie Milne and his neighbours, who finally rescued the four-and-a-half-foot serpent after three weeks of trying to track him down. Paula, who adopted Jaffa six years ago he was just 12 inches long, said: 'We were absolutely over the moon to see him again. We cannot believe he's been found safe and well. Jaffa went missing in April when we were moving house. We really didn't think we would see him again because we'd gone back to look for him on loads of occasions. It was mating season when he escaped and they're most lively then. We think a latch was loose on the vivarium and he managed to wriggle out. He's never been a wild snake either, so we don't think he would have been able to hunt. It was also very cold for him.'

without food, he doesn't seem to have suffered too badly.' Derek, a physiotherapist at Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital, said: 'We'd like to say a big thank you to Archie and his neighbours for saving Jaffa. It really is very much appreciated. We didn't think we'd ever see him again.' Archie Milne, who discovered Jaffa cowering in an air vent a month ago, sparking a three week adventure to capture the serpent, said: 'It's nice to know he's back where he belongs. I've been offered the chance to go and see him in his new home. I don't think I will - I'm not that brave!'

REPORT  
by STEVEN FLANAGAN  
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

## Post Offices set to branch out thanks to extra cash

THREE island Post Offices and one on mainland Argyll will get a make-over thanks to thousands of pounds to help them diversify. Two Isle of Bute branches, Ardbeg and Kilchattan Bay, will each receive £25,000 from the Scottish Government's Post Office Diversification Fund. The Kilchattan Bay Post Office will use the cash to create a tearoom, toilets and baby changing and a self-catering unit for rent. Port Askaig Post Office, Isle

of Islay, will get £15,000 for internal alterations, changing the shop layout and improving disabled access. Marion Spears, sub-postmistress, said the grant would help them to better serve customers. She said: 'The Post Office is very important to the community. Our nearest one is eight miles away. Changing the layout will make it a much more attractive experience. We are hoping to have space to display crafts, helping local

craft interests. Lots of them don't have a permanent place on the island, but the first thing is to get the disabled ramp in, which is going to help with access, and change the layout.' Meanwhile, Dunbeg Post Office, three miles north of Oban, will also get £20,000 for a facelift. William Dunlop, who runs the shop with Murray Young, said: 'We were very happy, we couldn't believe it. This is the third year we have

# Plan drawn up to save iconic Lochawe church

MORE than a year after *The Oban Times* highlighted the plight of the iconic St Conan's Kirk in Lochawe, a plan to save the 19th century church has been tabled. Trustees revealed last July the church needed more than £1m of repair and maintenance work if it was to continue as a tourist attraction. Answering the trust's pleas for help were chartered surveyor John Gleeson - a specialist on historic buildings - and conservation architect Martin Haddlington. The result is a set of detailed

drawings and a plan of restoration that now requires a lot of fundraising and grant assistance. The trustees and other volunteers will host an open day at the church on October 22 to help gain more support and launch a dedicated website. There are also moves to establish a 'Friends of St Conan's Kirk'. John, who lives in Kenmore, between Inveraray and Furnace, said: 'I do a lot of work with Auchindrain Township, so after I saw the story about St Conan's Kirk in *The Oban Times* I approached the trustees to see if

I could help. They employed me to put together some drawings but a project like this is not about financial gain; it's a building I have always loved.' John has helped to identify serious structural problems within the building, particularly the roof. He added: 'The rear walls and the rear garden may have to be roped off in the future because of safety issues but we wouldn't want to do that. At the moment the priority is to apply some first aid, with a big 'F'. We have to stop water coming in and address structural issues. We are trying to get funding from five or six different sources but we need to do fundraising locally. Historic Scotland is aware of the church and its importance to the area.' St Conan's Kirk was designed by Walter Campbell, an amateur architect whose family owned Innischonan and buildings around Loch Awe, including the Manse. John said: 'He had a lot of ideas and used five or six different styles in the design, which is why it is unique. The problem was he had good ideas but not much construction knowledge.'

## Brothers raise a mountain of cash in the Alps

TWO BROTHERS from Colonsay have raised nearly £5,000 for charity after navigating their way to the summit of The Matterhorn in the Alps - thanks to a guide from Taynuilt. Geaspar and Maghnus Byrne, who run the Crianlarich Hotel, chose the Dalmally-based Mary's Meals as their chosen charity for this year. Their ascent of the Matterhorn took place on August 4, after they had spent 11 days in the Alps, acclimatising to altitude, practising climbing techniques and waiting for a 'weather window' to begin the trek. From base camp to the summit and back took the brothers approximately 11 hours. One of the guides who accompanied the brothers in their climb was Jonny Baird, a former pupil of Oban High School, who moved from Taynuilt to Chamonix to pursue his passion of climbing. After bringing in all the sponsor money, the Byrne brothers have raised £4,905 for Mary's Meals. Geaspar said: 'My brother and I are over the moon to have raised



Geaspar and Maghnus Byrne, who raised almost £5,000 for Mary's Meals after reaching the top of The Matterhorn.

such a fantastic sum of money for our hotel's nominated charity. The climb and the training were hard work but hugely rewarding and we are enormously grateful to all those who so generously sponsored us.'

The Matterhorn is one of the highest peaks in the Alps. Its summit is 4,478 metres (14,692ft) and it is recognised as one of the toughest mountains in Europe. Mary's Meals provides a daily meal to chronically hungry

children in a place of education to attract them to school, where they can get an education which could lift them out of poverty in later life. It costs just £6.15 to feed child a child for a whole school year in Malawi.



Paula and Jaffa get re-acquainted following his dramatic rescue from Oban's Battery Terrace last week. 15\_cslaidler2

## Tenders to be sought for £1.6million Barra harbour

BARRA fishermen are celebrating after Comhairle nan Eilean Siar agreed to put to tender plans to develop a new £1.6million box harbour at Ardevenish. The new box harbour will not only provide protection from the elements for the island's fishing fleet, but will increase the current pier's capacity from zero to six berths. It is anticipated that the project will go out to tender at the start of next year with the build complete within 12 months. Land for the new harbour is being contributed by Barra's largest employer, fish processing firm Barratlantic, at no cost. The total project cost of £1.681million includes a 30 per cent contingency fund.

The council will contribute £1.238million, while Highlands and Islands Enterprise are considering allocating £125,000. It is hoped the shortfall can be met from other funding sources. Local councillor Donald Manford said the cost of the build could yet come down. He said: 'It has been agreed to progress steps towards going out to tender. We will include in the tender options for contractors to offer innovative ideas of their own to bring the cost down and offer best value. We were fortunate that the recent storms of Hurricane Katia missed Barra, but it's not something we want to take chances on in the future. It is important that further meetings are held with the local

fishing industry to discuss the current position and review all the cost saving options. Although there are still considerable obstacles to be overcome, I am confident where there is the will to deliver, this vital project will be secured.' Donald MacLean, managing director of Barratlantic, welcomed the decision. He said: 'We've been shouting for this since 2005 since the storm that damaged our boats. The fleet has since grown and the largest pelagic fishing vessel on Scotland's west coast is based here. However, at the moment the owner, like others, has to tie his vessel up at Fraserburgh because of the lack of facilities here. It's never been more important than now to get this done.'

## Parents' concern as review begins into Paisley hospital children's ward

THE FUTURE of a children's ward used by patients from Argyll is under review. Many sick children from Oban and other parts of Argyll are referred to Ward 15 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley for inpatient paediatric treatment. One mother, Susannah Hughes, was concerned when she went there with her young son last week to hear the ward's future was in doubt. As a regular user, she said moving the service would make a big difference to patients and the parents of sick children. She said: 'If this were to happen, services would be transferred to Yorkhill and then

in turn to the Southern General as Yorkhill is due to relocate in 2015 down there. Just what you need with a sick baby or child to get to hospital - an extra 30 minutes onto the journey.' Posters advertising drop-in sessions have been put up in the ward to discuss the review with regular users. Alarmed Susannah said she was surprised and alarmed that patients and professionals from Argyll had not been part of the discussion. She said: 'As Argyll's patient pathway is down to Glasgow and not north to Inverness you would

imagine there would be more knowledge of it locally. Nobody I have spoken to - health visitors, midwives, GPs ambulance crews - had heard anything about it.' A spokesperson for NHS Glasgow and Greater Clyde said: 'It is important to stress that no final decisions have been taken about whether to consult on a potential move of this service to the specialist regional Royal Hospital for Sick Children at Yorkhill. If it is decided that there is a case for change following this review there will be full public consultation with public meetings before any final decision is taken.'

## Island to host wind power careers night

ENERGY firm Scottish Power Renewables will visit Tiree next week to host an offshore wind careers evening. The company hopes to erect up to 300 turbines off the coast of the island and says the evening will give locals an insight of how to gain employment in the renewable energy sector using current skills. The company will have

representatives from its project development team in attendance, including an operations area supervisor who deals with the day-to-day running of a wind farm and a control room manager who oversees the whole wind farm portfolio. Also in attendance will be a representative from WindCat Work Boats, which assist in the transport and logistic around the

construction of a wind farm, and Robert Orr, Skills Development Scotland's head of energy and careers advisor. However, the company admits that it does not yet know how many - if any - jobs will be based on the island should the Argyll Array go ahead. The event will be held at the community hall, An Talla, on September 30 from 7pm.

## Gun club's £5,000 boost to upgrade clubhouse

AN APPIN gun club and a community football pitch are among the projects to get money from the latest Awards for All Lottery grants. Fasnacloich Gun Club will spend £5,000 improving their clubhouse, with a generator, upgrade to bathrooms and a new promatic clay pigeon trap. They hope the improvements will encourage more people to try the sport. Southend Community Council, near

Campbeltown, will use its £1,500 grant to buy new goal posts for the village sports field. Ardentinn Community Trust Limited was awarded £10,000 towards the purchase of Glenfinart walled garden near Dunoon from the Forestry Commission. They will re-develop the site as a community garden producing organic fruit and vegetables. The 24th Argyll (Dunoon) Scout Troop has also been awarded almost £10,000 to renovate its hall kitchen.

## Rona tuning up for BBC award

AN OBAN musician has made the semi-final stage of this year's BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician 2012 Award. Fiddle player Rona Wilkie will be one of 12 performers at the glittering semi-final concert on October 1 in Coulter, South Lanarkshire. From this concert six musicians will be

selected to go through to the final at Celtic Connections, in Glasgow, next year. Rona led fiddle group Gizzzen Briggs for several years, performing at the opening of the Scottish Parliament in front of the Queen and First Minister in 2004. The 23-year-old has just completed a Masters Degree in Folk Music at Newcastle University.

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## Baptism of fire for new Fort keeper

Former Caley Thistle player will be between the sticks for Scottish Cup tie against Bo'ness

**REPORT BY RICHARD HADDOCK**  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

FORT WILLIAM have signed a new 'keeper as they prepare to take on Junior side Bo'ness in the Scottish Cup first round on Saturday.

Ex-Caley Thistle youth player Jonathan Smith, 23, will be between the sticks at Claggan Park until John Campbell recovers from a troublesome knee injury. Campbell is not expected to be fit for a number of weeks.

Manager Danny Conlon said Clachnacuddin were interested in Smith, but the 23-year-old chose Fort as he felt he would get more playing time.

Conlon will welcome back Danny Mackintosh and Andrew Martin back into his team, and Chris Macleod may be available after training with the squad this week for the first time this season.

Conlon told *The Oban Times* Bo'ness were a strong side whose aerial abilities could cause his defence difficulties.

He said: 'We've had someone down watching them and the reports we got back were that they are a useful side. They are a big side physically, and they play a lot of stuff in the air and look to win the second ball.'

**Formation**  
'We might have to change our formation and some of the players because we can't afford to be losing a lot in the air at set pieces. Whatever they throw at us we'll just have to deal with.'

Fort lost 8-1 away to Wick Academy last weekend and Conlon said none of his players got pass marks from the game.

'The performance wasn't good enough,' he said. 'We gave them too much room to play - we just stood back and admired them. We lost the game 8-1 and there was no shouting between any of

our players. But we should have a few of our more vocal players back for Saturday.

'We need to be a bit more physical and a bit more street-wise. The players need to start taking a bit more responsibility for what they are doing on the park. We can't keep on protecting the young players; it's a hard lesson but they've got to learn at some point.'

After losing the lead in the fourth minute, Fort briefly drew level through a Sean Ellis penalty in the 17th minute. Three minutes later Stevie Cunningham grabbed his second of the game, and Martin Gunn and Gary Weir made the half time score 4-1.

The home side continued their scoring in the second half, notching another four goals against a dejected Fort side.



Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club members with top trainer Mick Jolley (holding Lochaber Phoenix vest) at Bury ABC.

## Lochaber boxers attend pre-season training camp in England

FOURTEEN Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club members travelled to Manchester and Bury at the weekend for a pre-season training camp with top coaches and fighters.

Club official Steve Docherty secured the services of world-renowned coach Lee Beard, who spent a whole day with the Lochaber team. Mr Beard has been in the training camps of Ricky Hatton, Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao and gave the Lochaber boys some great training tips, Steve told *The Oban Times*.

'None of us expected him to go to the lengths he did for our club,' he said. 'First thing on Saturday morning we were picked up from our hotel and taken on a five-mile uphill training run.'

'Joining us were unbeaten pro boxer Craig

Evans, who is trained by Lee, and a host of professional boxers from the Bobby Rimmer Boxing Academy. Lee and Bobby Rimmer were constantly encouraging our boxers and passing on tips on boxing, dedication, mental strength and nutrition.'

Lee agreed to give a ten-minute talk to the Lochaber contingent - and was still taking and answering questions three and a half hours later. A trip to Bobby Rimmer's gym for a sparring and training followed, where the boys picked up more tips on ringcraft and training. Mr Rimmer gave a motivational speech and handed out t-shirts, adding that the Lochaber team could make the trip an annual one if they wanted. Sunday morning saw a trip to Bury ABC for

a training session run by GB Olympic coach Mick Jolley, who trained Amir Khan as an amateur.

Steve said: 'Mick really put the boys through their paces and has expressed a desire to bring his boxers to one of our own shows in the future.' Meanwhile, Lochaber Phoenix's Chris Bradley travels to Ireland this weekend to box for Scotland in an international. The remaining boxers are continuing to train hard ahead of the local club's show at the Nevis Centre on October 8. More information from Niall Clark (0755499474), Vince Lopez (07979321025) and Steve Docherty (07767069532).

## Louis is 'pretty pleased' with performance

**STRONGMAN**

LOCHABER strongman Louis Maclean was part of a four-man Scottish team which finished third at an international tournament in Northern Ireland on Saturday.

Six teams from Ireland and Scotland competed over a number of events, including Atlas stones and a 1,000lbs tyre flip. Louis was the only member of his team to manage the log lift, and completed 10 reps.

Louis, who took part in the UK Ultimate Strongman last month, told *The Oban Times* he was 'pretty pleased' with his performance.

## Spean Bridge win Highlander Cup

**GOLF**

SPEAN Bridge Golf Club won the annual Highlander Cup on Saturday, beating off competition from Fort Augustus and Traigh.

Each club brought an eight-man team to the competition held at Spean Bridge, which was won by Fort Augustus last year. The teams played a nine-hole greensome followed by an 18-hole stroke play.

## Awards ceremony

**SPORTS ASSOCIATION**

LOCHABER Sports Association is holding its first annual awards ceremony at the Ben Nevis Inn on Saturday, October 29.

Members of all affiliate clubs are invited.

Following the presentations at 6.30pm, former Olympian Mike Dixon will give a motivational talk.

Mr Dixon, originally from Ardgour, captained the British Olympic biathlon team and competed at six Games in 20 years.

## Bothy Bar takes on the Lock Inn

**GOLF**

FORT AUGUSTUS Golf Club will close their summer season on Sunday with a match between two teams from local pubs - the Bothy Bar and the Lock Inn.

Saturday will see the last monthly medal competition held.

## Mixed fortunes for high school teams

**SCHOOL FOOTBALL**

LOCHABER High School football teams have had mixed fortunes in their opening games of the new season.

The seniors lost a hard fought game against a strong Golspie side 4-2, but the under-15s put in a very strong opening display to beat Dingwall 4-0 - an encouraging start for Mr Groat's boys.

The under 13s played exceptionally well in their opening fixture against Dingwall with both teams winning comfortably 7-2 and 6-1. However, they lost 3-2 in their second match against a physically strong Ullapool team.



## Plockton lose cup final to Portree

Pictured is the Plockton football team who played their Clan Donald cup final against Portree Juniors at Kyleakin on Saturday 10 September, which Portree won 1-0. This was their final game of the season. Also played on the same day in Kyleakin was the Ewen MacRae cup final when Sleat and Strath beat Kyleakin 5-3.

## Glenelg girls raise £200 for Multiple Sclerosis



Skye and Jordan covered a distance of 20 miles between Moyle and Balvraid raising £200 for Multiple Sclerosis.

GLENELG girls Skye Scobie and Jordan Lane, both aged 11, recently organised a running and cycling biathlon to raise nearly £200 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Plockton High School S1 pupil Skye and P7 Glenelg primary School pupil Jordan covered a distance of over 20 miles, covering the area between Moyle and Balvraid.

Glenelg school secretary Fiona Cameron told *The Oban Times*: 'They did it off their own bat. I think it's a great achievement and how they managed it I do not know!' Photo: Vicky Scobie

## Revitt injury adds to Lochaber's woes

**Aberdeenshire 2nds 10, Lochaber 6**

LOCHABER Rugby Club counted the cost of poor finishing on Saturday when they narrowly lost to an Aberdeen-shire 2nd fifteen they really should have beaten.

Plenty of try scoring opportunities were on offer, but Lochaber failed to convert these into points. And to add injury to insult last season's top try scorer Ally Revitt was stretchered off with a broken ankle, which looks like keeping him out for most of the season.

Lochaber started well with several forays into the Aberdeen-shire twenty-two in the opening ten minutes. The backs cut back inside to link with the pack. The forwards drove close to the line on two occasions but were pushed back.

Buoyed by their resolute defence, Shire gradually fought their way back into the match and Lochaber's twenty-two. Then the ball was spun wide Lochaber's cover defence was caught napping and the winger scampered over in the corner for a try.

Aberdeen-shire gave away a lot of silly penalties in the first half and standoff Kenny Turnbull punished them, kicking for territory to keep Shire pinned back in their half. He converted two penalty kicks to give Lochaber a 6-5 lead at half time.

In the second half Aberdeen-shire picked up their performance

and looked the more dangerous side in the third quarter.

They manufactured another try by driving close to suck in defenders then spinning the ball out to the wing to give Shire a 10-6 lead.

Stung into action, Lochaber put Shire under all kinds of pressure and looked sure to score but disaster struck when Ally Revitt took a tackle awkwardly and the next second was writhing on the ground in pain. The match was stopped for 20 minutes whilst an ambulance was called and the injured player was stabilised.

The match resumed with 12 minutes left to play. Lochaber had an attacking scrum then a lineout, which they could have scored from but squandered both. The match finished 10-6 to and Aberdeen-shire 2nd XV celebrated their first league win.

For Lochaber it was a day of missed opportunities. They will need to work on being more clinical out wide as well as through the forwards if they are going to advance. They are on the road again on Saturday to play Aberdeen Wanderers in the qualifying round of the Scottish Cup.

Lochaber squad: Calvin, R Mackay, J Milne, A Revitt, P Rozec, S Whitaker, C MacPherson, B Thomas, J Patterson, K Turnbull, J Siemen, R McTaggart, D Macdonald, D Smith, Kane, R Morgan, K Garrick, Callum.



Supreme winners: (Left-right) Brett MacMillan, Naomie Logan, Anne Fairbairn, and Rharidh Macinnes (centre) were given their trophies on Saturday night.

## Lochaber Street League

**STREET LEAGUE**

AWARDS for the best performing players from this year's Lochaber Street League were handed out at Lochaber High School on Saturday night.

The summer football league is open to youngsters aged seven to 16 from across Lochaber and runs twice a week throughout the school holidays.

Brett MacMillan won the player of the year award, while Naomie Logan got the trophy for top scorer and Rharidh Macinnes for best goalkeeper. Anne Fairbairn was voted winner of the fair play prize by her fellow players.

Fort William FC chairman John Watson and local councillor Bill Clark were on hand to dish out the trophies at the ceremony.

Street League chair Rosemary MacPhee said: 'It was a highly successful end to a hugely popular competition.'

The annual tournament to round off the competition had to be cancelled after being postponed twice due to heavy rain leaving the pitches at Claggan Park and the BA Club unplayable.

## Weather

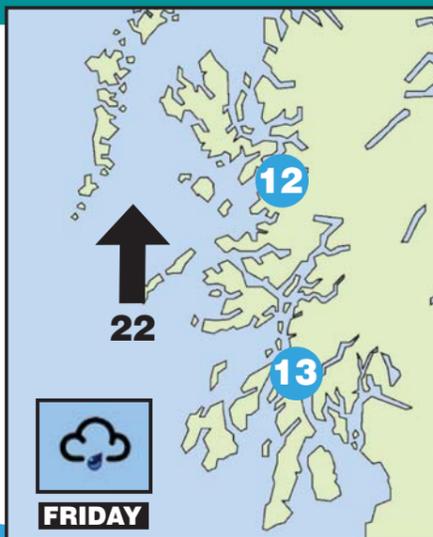
**Thursday** Light rain.  
Winds moderate, west, south westerly  
Temperatures 11°C to 13°C

**Friday** Light rain.  
Winds moderate, southerly  
Temperatures 11°C to 13°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Heavy rain showers.  
Winds moderate, south, south westerly.  
Temperatures 12°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 22, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	01.38 2.8 06.45 1.9 13.52 3.0 19.55 2.0	
Fri	02.46 3.0 08.00 1.7 14.54 3.3 21.12 1.7	
Sat	03.33 3.3 09.02 1.3 15.37 3.6 22.01 1.3	
Sun	04.11 3.5 09.53 1.0 16.15 3.9 22.42 0.9	
Mon	04.46 3.8 10.38 0.6 16.53 4.2 23.20 0.7	
Tues	05.18 4.0 11.21 0.3 17.30 4.3 23.58 0.5	
Wed	05.52 4.1 12.04 0.2 18.07 4.4 *** **	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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