



The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Concern mounts for missing man

CONCERN is mounting for an Oban man who has been missing since Monday morning.

Andrew Finlayson, 54, of Columba Court, Dunollie has not been seen since 10.30am on Monday.

Andrew is described as white, approximately 5ft 4 in height, medium build, with short grey hair, blue eyes and clean shaven.

He was last seen wearing blue denim jeans, a green army jumper, boots and a light blue waterproof jacket.

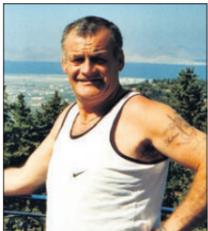
Andrew's partner, Morven MacAuley is appealing for him to get in touch: 'Please Andrew come home, we can sort through anything. I love you, just come home,' she said.

Chief inspector Brian Auld is appealing to Andrew or to anyone who has information as to his whereabouts to contact police: 'We know he has not been in contact with his partner or friends, and nobody has been able to contact him, I am therefore concerned for his well-being.'

'There are some personal issues that he has been dealing with recently, which may have relevance to him not being in touch with his family. I would ask Andrew to give police or his family a call just to let us know he is well.'

Officers launched a search along with coastguard and mountain rescue teams, a helicopter and dog team.

Anyone with information as to Andrew's whereabouts can contact Oban Police Office on 01631 510500.



Andrew Finlayson



Father and son heroes for Kyles Athletic Shinty Club last Saturday were Kenny and Roddy MacDonald. Goalkeeper Kenny, who at the age of 50 is still producing outstanding performances for his club, made numerous telling saves to deny Inveraray victory, while his 24-year old son Roddy scoring four times in a thrilling 11-goal cup tie at Mossfield Park, Oban to ensure that Kyles Athletic lifted the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup for the first time in 18 years. Picture - John MacTavish

Father and son hailed as sporting heroes

THEY say that legends are born from endeavour. If that is true then there is little doubt that a father and son from Tighnabruich have written their family name into the 'legends' category of the sport of shinty.

Last Saturday's dramatic 11-goal thrilling Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final, watched by more than 3,000 spectators at Mossfield Stadium, Oban, had all the ingredients to produce something special in a year of memorable national sporting moments. Saturday's outcome is already widely heralded as one of the top sporting encounters in shinty history and raved about by those on the fringes of

the sport as 'an exciting, emotional, passionate roller-coaster of an event.'

Torquil Macleod, Camanachd Association Chief Operating Officer, said: 'Saturday's final was a great event and a fantastic showcase for shinty. We estimate in the region of 3,000 spectators attended on the day, plus another 100,000 tuning in via live broadcasts on TV, radio and online. A truly memorable Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final.'

The cup tradition of both Inveraray and Kyles Athletic is engrained in the players from an early age and victory in this competition is regarded

as overshadowing all others as the pinnacle of a player's career. After the full-time whistle was sounded on Saturday, Inveraray's players and background staff, who had led for long periods of the pulsating cup tie, were clearly physically and mentally drained, while the Kyles' players, fuelled by a cocktail of adrenaline and emotion were swamped by an army of adoring fans.

Four-goal hero Roddy MacDonald, who also won the coveted Man of the Match award, was quick to praise his fellow team-mates at the final whistle. 'This was a great team effort,' he said. But admitted that his

fourth and cup winning goal 12 minutes from full time came as a huge relief. 'I thought the winning goal was never going to come - but we got there,' he added.

For 50-year old goalkeeper Kenny MacDonald the cup winners' medal comes towards the end of a remarkable career and another series of remarkable saves. Clearly bursting with pride and emotion, the popular veteran didn't rule out playing on for at least one more season. 'We will see how things go. The lads say I should play at least another season. They are a great bunch of lads and today has been a great day.' Asked

about playing alongside his son in Saturday's final he said: 'I don't think there were many that could have taken the medal off him today.'

Team coach James Perlich admitted that his Kyles' players' wanted it so bad. 'And for him the winning of the Camanachd Cup was as good as it could get. 'Everything that I have every wanted from coaching has been rolled into the last 90 minutes. It's unbelievable. We have worked so hard to get here. It's magnificent.'

Then, as the emotion kicked in, he added with a huge smile: 'I think there will be a party in Tighnabruich tonight!'

Oban hotel's self-service 'guest' arrested

A 66 YEAR-OLD man has been arrested after he entered a hotel in Oban, slept un-noticed in a vacant room overnight, then helped himself to alcohol from behind the bar of the hotel on the morning of September 13 helping himself to bottles of alcohol. He has also been charged with refusing to leave the hotel when asked and damaging the property.

The man has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

Speculation mounts over ferry routes

SPECULATION that the tendering process for the Caledonian MacBrayne routes on the west coast has been delayed for three years is mounting.

The Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union is claiming the delay as a 'massive victory'

in a dispute over possible route privatisation.

Bob Crow, general secretary of the RMT said: 'Our campaign of political and public pressure, alongside a massive mandate for strike action from our members, has helped force the pace on this

momentous decision. We now want the long-term assurances on pensions and rights that we have been seeking.'

While a spokesman for Transport Scotland did not directly deny the claims they did say 'no final decisions' had been made.

Easdale to look at island buy-out

World Stone Skimming Championships 'will go ahead' say organisers

EASDALE'S community development company, Eilean Eisdale, is to investigate a community buy out of the island after a last minute dash to save the World Stone Skimming Championships.

Island owner, Jonathan Feigenbaum, had told the community group they would not have permission to hold the Sunday's Championships without paying a £1,000 fee and producing proof of public liability insurance.

However, a deal was struck on Wednesday morning to save the quirky sport's flagship event and 15th anniversary celebrations going ahead this weekend - thanks to a £1,000 donation.

The deal, however, does not safeguard the World Championships' long-term future and Eilean Eisdale will now consider buying the island from Mr Feigenbaum in a bid to protect the competition described by Lonely Planet as one of the world's 'must-sees'.

Donald Melville, who helps organise the event and is its master of ceremonies, said the strength of public feeling will have to be measured first.

'Obviously, we're delighted this weekend's event has been saved. However, we still need to sit down and speak to the island owner and his legal representative and see where we go from here.'

'While we are paying the

£1,000 now, it is without prejudice to future championships, so we're not sure what his proposals are for future years.'

'Some people are suggesting we consider a community buy out of the island. They're so common now it's probably a natural next stage.'

'I think we will give it every consideration but we will have to gauge the public opinion and see if it is something that everyone wants to do.'

'From our own point of view if we owned the island it would be better for the event.'

'First we have to see what the level of support for that would be.'

Mr Feigenbaum's solicitor, Edward Thornton of Oban firm E Thornton and Co, confirmed discussions would continue.

He said: 'An agreement has been reached between the respective parties for this coming weekend.'

'Obviously, there will be further discussions in the future.'

Meanwhile, preparations for Sunday's World Championships have been completed, with upwards of 400 people expected to descend on the island for one of the world's most unusual sporting events.

A team from Holland is already on the island while an Australian TV crew arrived this week to follow local competitors taking part.

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Second hillwalker dies on west Argyll hills

THE ARGYLL hills have claimed their second elderly victim in the course of less than a week after search teams found the body of another missing hillwalker on Stob Dubh, Glen Etive last Friday afternoon.

Both recent incidents have claimed the lives of 74-year old pensioners - and both men were from the Edinburgh area.

Police confirmed that they had recovered the body of 74-year old James Baillie on Friday. Mr Baillie, who had been on a walking trip, had last been seen at Crianlarich on Wednesday of last week.

Rescue teams from Northern Constabulary, Strathclyde Police, Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team, Oban Mountain Rescue Team, RAF Mountain Rescue Team and Rescue 177 and SARDA dogs had been involved in a systematic search of the Glen Etive area from early morning and discovered Mr Baillie's body shortly after 2pm.

Mr Baillie was from the Balerno area of Edinburgh.

The previous week, experienced climber 74-year old Alexander Sproule, also from Edinburgh, had become separated from his son and grandson while descending Horse Shoe Ridge on Ben Cruachan on Saturday evening.

Despite an extensive search by mountain rescue teams from Oban, Arrochar and Strathclyde Police until 4am, it was not until after daylight the following day that Mr Sproule's body was found.

Rescue teams from Northern Constabulary, Strathclyde Police, Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team, Oban Mountain Rescue Team, RAF Mountain Rescue Team and Rescue 177 helicopter and SARDA dogs searched Stob Dubh in Glen Etive

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Mull Lines

A NEW trophy, donated by a member of the Mull choir in memory of her late father, featured in the recent Mull Mòd. The trophy, the Cuach Iain Mhic Dhùghail, was donated by Shelagh Campbell from Bunessan in memory of her father Iain MacDougall.

Shelagh said: 'He sang in the National Mòd in the late 1950s and 1960s then came back to live in Mull and gave up competing nationally but he kept up his Gaelic singing locally.'

'I thought this was a nice event to donate something in his memory as he was always very encouraging of Gaelic singing and of the Mull Mòd.'

John Howieson from Portree was the inaugural winner of the trophy for the Mens Oran Mor competition.

A MULL wildlife tour company has been ranked alongside those in Kenya, Ecuador and Costa Rica in a new Trip Advisor list.

Mull Charters, run by husband and wife team Martin and Judith Keivers, has been placed in a list of '10 great wildlife tours' on the international tourism website.

The pair, who take visitors out on their boat *MV Lady Jayne*, have been feeding local sea eagles with mackerel for years.

They throw the fish off the boat when there are eagles in the area giving guests a much better chance of a close up view of the birds.

The company has now been placed at number two in a list of 10 great wildlife experiences which also includes trips to see lions in Ukunda, bears on Vancouver Island and whales off Puerto Vallarta.

Argyll and the Isles Tourism executive director Mike Story said: 'Argyll and the Isles Tourism are delighted that a local company has received such well deserved recognition.'

'Martin and Judith Keivers work amazingly hard and some of the images of wildlife captured from the *Lady Jane* are simply world class.'

'They deserve this recognition and Calum Ross our chairman and I are immensely proud of them.'

CHILDREN from all over Mull and Iona visited an arts centre in Tobermory recently to see their work go on display.

Around 160 youngsters, aged three to 14, worked with artist Emma Herman-Smith over the summer exploring the forests of the islands.

They then created ceramic, glass and bronze leaves with designs reflecting their experiences.

The work has now been displayed in a forest setting created by Emma in An Tobar's gallery.

There is also a film and photographs by local artist Sarah Darling that show the children working outdoors and in the classroom.



The children see their art go on display in An Tobar.

A MULL woman is gearing up for a trek across Jordan but she has to overcome her fear of getting on a five-hour flight first.

Belinda Hale, who leaves Mull two weeks today, is taking on the expedition in aid of Help for Heroes - which looked after her son when he was injured in Afghanistan.

Wyn Austin is a Lance Corporal in the Royal Dragon Guards. He was in a vehicle that was hit by a roadside bomb near Camp Bastion on July 5 2010.

He sustained horrific injuries - losing the whole of his left leg and part of his right foot - but is lucky to be alive. His colleague in the vehicle was killed instantly.

His mother Belinda said: 'Help for Heroes started helping Wyn right from the moment he arrived back in the UK, with essential items - the soldiers are flown back naked under a sheet and all their kit stays in Afghanistan - and a variety of support.'

'He has benefited greatly from the new rehab unit at Headley Court and will be able to use their ongoing care units for the rest of his life even if he leaves the Army.'

She added: 'Wyn will be driving me to the airport which will be great as he will meet some of the people I am trekking with and they will see my reason for being there.'

'Fundraising has gone very well, I have been truly touched by the generosity of people I know and complete strangers.'

'My main worry at the moment is the five hour flight to Amman. It's not my favourite means of transport!'

Those who wish to donate can visit www.bmycharity.com/belindatojordanh4h.

A VOTE of support for plans for a fish farm on the Isle of Mull was passed at the recent meeting of Mull Community Council (MCC).

MCC had previously withdrawn its objection to the proposal in Loch Tuath but a request that a vote be held during the meeting was made by MCC member Bert Leitch.

The vote saw a majority in favour of the fish farm plans and a letter of support has now been sent to Argyll and Bute Council from chairman Steve Willis.

Mr Willis said MCC's initial objection had been based on the environmental report from The Scottish Salmon Company.

He admitted during the meeting that the process 'was not as open as it may have been' and he 'held his hands up to that'.

Send all your news from Mull to Faith Orr. Telephone 01631 568000 or email forr@obantimes.co.uk

CalMac staff solidly back ballot for strike action

STAFF at ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) have voted overwhelmingly in favour of strike action.

A ballot was called by the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union over fears that routes were to be privatised.

There were 292 votes cast and 260 of those are in favour of taking strike action to protect their pay and working conditions.

RMT general secretary Bob Crow had previously condemned CalMac for failing to give 'the most basic assurances on

pensions, working conditions and bargaining rights'.

Transport Scotland has always denied the allegations of privatisation: 'Claims that we are planning to sell off these routes are simply untrue,' a spokesman said previously.

And First Minister Alex Salmond dismissed rumours that routes would be sold off individually during First Minister's Questions recently.

He said: 'We have no plans to unbundle the Clyde and Hebrides ferry services. In our estimation, the case for

unbundling has not been made.'

The vote has come after these concessions by government that there will be no 'unbundling' of CalMac routes - something which is thought to make them more appealing to private operators.

But RMT said it is still waiting for further confirmation on the pensions and workplace rights issues at the heart of the on-going dispute.

Mr Crow said: 'This massive vote for action shows that RMT members are determined to stand united in the fight to defend their

pensions and workplace rights on the CalMac services.'

'The result will now be considered by the RMT executive and we hope that the company and the ministers will now seize this opportunity to give us the very simple and straightforward assurances we are seeking.'

The current six-year service contract is due to end in September 2013 and the four routes causing most concern are Oban to Craignure, Ardrossan to Brodick, Wemyss Bay to Rothesay and Largs to Cumbrae.



CalMac's service contract is due to end in September 2013.



Demonstrators at Strollamus on Skye in September 1972.

Oban man to appeal court decision

AN OBAN man found guilty of choking his ex-partner so she could not breathe is attempting to have his conviction overturned.

Michael McPhee, 27, of 4 Burnside Court, Oban, was ordered to carry out 100 hours of unpaid work and pay his former girlfriend £200 in compensation when sentenced in August.

McPhee, who receives £150 per week in incapacity benefit, is also appealing against his sentence.

Oban Sheriff Court heard the attack, on June 14, saw McPhee - who has an 'extensive record of previous convictions' - squeeze his former girlfriend's neck with both hands.

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

Sheriff Jamie Gilmour drew criticism from Scottish Women's Aid which said sentencing for violence against women should be a deterrent. A spokeswoman said: 'It's important that women should feel safe and have trust in the system. Lenient sentencing impacts not only on the victim in the case, but also on the confidence of other women to come forward and report domestic abuse. Sentencing for violence against women should be both a punishment and deterrent.'

Resolution Now Barbara Macfarlane, chairwoman of the parent council at Park Primary School, has said they are working to resolve the issue, despite it not being their responsibility to do so.

She said: 'Kerrera Terrace has always been busy. The school is in a bad place. It is at the end of a development.'

'We have had a new drop off zone since last August. We had problems with signs to start with but this has now been resolved.'

'Buses go a straight through route, up to the school while parents drive through the same route but just as far as the orchard.'

'They follow the road to a designated drop off point, there is then a gap in the barrier for children to get through which takes them to the school doors.'

Parent council bid to resolve Oban primary school parking problems

Loss of free school bus exacerbates drop offs

CONCERNS over availability of parking near an Oban primary school have been addressed by the school's parent council.

Residents of Kerrera Terrace, near Park Primary School, had complained to Argyll and Bute Council about parents filling up their car park and blocking the road.

Responsibility for the situation, described as a 'real nightmare' by resident Faisal Jewel, was passed from the council to Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA).

But ACHA said the car park was under joint ownership and if they were to post 'residents only' signs they would be unable to enforce it.

Resolution Now Barbara Macfarlane, chairwoman of the parent council at Park Primary School, has said they are working to resolve the issue, despite it not being their responsibility to do so.

She said: 'Kerrera Terrace has always been busy. The school is in a bad place. It is at the end of a development.'

'We have had a new drop off zone since last August. We had problems with signs to start with but this has now been resolved.'

'Buses go a straight through route, up to the school while parents drive through the same route but just as far as the orchard.'

'They follow the road to a designated drop off point, there is then a gap in the barrier for children to get through which takes them to the school doors.'

But she added that parents are parking in the drop off zone and walking the kids in front of the buses to the school.

Mrs Macfarlane added: 'This isn't safe and it blocks the spaces for drop offs. We have sent letters out to parents asking them to use this zone as drop off only.'

Extra traffic 'What has exacerbated the situation is we have lost the free transport within a two mile radius of the school - we now have 50 children being driven instead of getting the bus.'

The parent council claim that the risk assessment to deem it a safe route to school was carried out while the buses were in operation - not taking account of the extra traffic on the route.

There is also the problem that the drop off zone isn't in action in the afternoons for picking up children so parents have to wait outside the school gates.

Mrs Macfarlane said: 'We have sympathy with the residents and we are trying our best to seek a solution. We are doing all we can.'

'I drop my children off at the Corran Halls car park and they use the cycle path to get to school, it is safe and they don't have to cross any roads. I would encourage other parents to do the same but we can't tell them where to park, we can only advise them.'

The school is being extended soon to add a pre-5 unit.

Work will start next month and will increase the number of pupils at the school.

Skye crofters ready to reap a seed sown 40 years ago

Scottish Government prepares community Bill on anniversary of Strollamus demonstration

THE 40TH anniversary of a Skye crofters' fight for justice has been remembered - as the Scottish Government prepares a Bill to give communities more power over their lives.

It was on September 12 1972 that 40 crofters and local activists demonstrated outside the home of Horace Martin, the new owner of Strollamus Estate near Broadford.

Mr Martin had provoked fury and fear among crofting families by seeking to appropriate part of Strollamus common grazings to build holiday homes. He was also accused of interfering in everyday crofting activities.

The leaflet distributed at the time said Mr Martin had 'in a short time degraded his tenants and demoralised the communities on his estate.'

It stated: 'For the first time since the 1880s Skye crofters have united against a landlord's tyranny, following the crofters of Glendale and Braes who faced a similar threat nearly 100 years ago.'

'Today we demonstrate to make the following points: Firstly, to show that we will fight for our rights and for our croft lands.'

'Secondly, to fight against

"We can enter into an exciting era of land reform fit for the 21st century"
Rob Gibson MSP

landlords that collective action is their first remedy.

'And finally, to suggest that those who unite against tyranny and oppression may find themselves taking their rightful places in history with the brave men of Glendale and Braes.'

Now, exactly 40 years later, the government is consulting on a Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill.

Proposals include the possible extension of a community right to buy to urban Scotland, giving local people more say in local budget decisions and more support for 'grow-your-own' allotments projects. The consultation ends next Wednesday.

Rob Gibson, SNP MSP for Caithness, Sutherland and Ross, who took part in the 1972 Strollamus demonstration, told *The Oban Times*: 'I welcome the possibilities for community assets being moved into local hands.'

'Had crofters at Strollamus the use of such powers 40 years ago that could have solved their deeply unhappy relations with the landlord Horace Martin. Now we can enter an exciting era of land reform fit for the 21st century.'

Family Nurse Partnership scheme to be extended through NHS Highland

A PIONEERING scheme providing support to first-time young parents is to be extended to the Highlands from early next year.

The Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) programme, which aims to give children a healthier start in life, will see a team of four nurses supporting 100 families.

Nurses will visit expectant mums every one or two weeks during pregnancy and throughout the first two years of their baby's life.

Guidance will be offered on child development, preventative health measures, parenting skills, breastfeeding, better

overbearing landlords in the Highlands and Islands, and to demonstrate specifically against the new landlord of the Strollamus Estate, an arrogant foreigner, who is involving his tenants in six court cases and causing them heavy legal fees; is spreading anxiety and fear amongst his tenants; is trying to resume [take over] common grazings to sell as building plots for holiday homes and to resume a widow's croft, these being neither for the good of the estate nor the community, but for the good of the landlord's pocket; and in many ways is interfering with the crofters' work like fencing and haymaking; and is attempting to destroy the traditional life of his tenants.'

'Thirdly, to show other crofters who might suffer under bad

Fort William teenager admits intent to steal

A FORT William teenager was caught snooping around within the grounds of the Underwater Centre by police CCTV cameras.

Luke Mobsby, of Caberfeidh, Fassifern Road, pled guilty to intending to commit theft after being found in the grounds of the diver training centre without lawful authority on August 18, Fort William Sheriff Court heard last week.

The 18-year-old was ordered to carry out 40 hours of unpaid work.

Defence solicitor Hamish Melrose said his client had been drinking for 48 hours before the incident.

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Mull islanders urged to work together in BID

BUSINESSES in Mull, Iona and Ulva have received a draft plan on an idea to improve the islands by working together.

There are proposals to create a Business Improvement District (BID) for the area and a draft business plan for review by all those involved has now been issued.

The BID scheme has been ongoing for almost a year, led by Siân Scott from Mull and Iona Community Trust along with a steering group.

If successful, the BID programme would be visitor orientated, meaning the money raised would be used to boost the number of people coming to the islands, especially during quieter periods.

A BID would also look to raise the profile of the islands with things such as new festivals and increased marketing.

If a BID is passed, it would see 436 businesses contributing

and working together with a £128,500 annual budget.

The proposed minimum amount payable by a rateable business would be £2.88 per week while the maximum would be £25.96 per week. The average rate a business on the island would contribute is £4.81.

But Siân is keen to stress that these rates, as well as everything else in the draft plan, are up for discussion. She said: 'We are testing the detail against people who said they supported the idea initially. Now we need to know exactly what businesses want and we would encourage people to read the draft plan and comment on it.'

The draft business plan is due to be finalised in November but there will be a series of meetings throughout September and October (full details below) where businesses can make their views heard.

Richard Nealon, vice chairman

of the steering group, is encouraging people to engage with the BID idea.

He said: 'Even the best run businesses are finding times tough at the moment: an unpredictable economy, challenging weather and a tourism industry that's getting ever more competitive.'

'By working together, pooling our resources, we can be far more effective. A successful BID for Mull, Iona and Ulva will promote our islands to attract visitors, engage in projects to improve the visitor experience and provide a collective voice representing every business.'

'No-one else will do this for us. Together we are far stronger. Together we can make our islands an even better place to work and live.'

Once the plan is finalised, ballot papers will be issued on February 6 2013 and are due back by March 21. If passed, the

From Lochgilphead with love

Bond films celebrate 50-year link with Argyll

EUNICE Gayson, the original screen 'Bond girl', was in Lochgilphead this week to celebrate Argyll's key role in the 007 success story.

The 86-year-old famously appeared as Sylvia Trench in Sean Connery's first scene in the 1962 film 'Doctor No', released 50-years ago next month.

Gayson is one of a bevy of former Bond beauties carrying a golden briefcase to London to mark the anniversary, stopping at significant locations along the way.

An Aston Martin - the classic

BID scheme would run for five years from April 2013 to 2018. Meetings will be held at Western Isles Hotel, Tobermory, Thursday September 20, 11am - 8pm; An Roth, Craignure, Friday September 28, 1pm - 7.30pm; Iona Village Hall, Monday October 8, 3pm - 6.30pm; Iona Library, Monday October 8 8pm - 10pm; Iona Village Hall, Tuesday October 9 9.30am - 11.30am; Buessan Village Hall, Tuesday October 9 1pm - 4.30pm; Western Isles Hotel, Tobermory Thursday October 18 11am - 5pm.

More information can be found at www.mi-bid.co.uk.

Bond car - transported her from Eilean Donan Castle to arrive in Lochgilphead on Monday afternoon.

Bond expert Brian Pendreigh explained the Argyll town was chosen as one of the stop-off points because of its major role in the second Bond film, in which Eunice also featured: 'The director, Terence Young, wanted to film the motorboat chase scene from From Russia With Love in Turkey but there were problems. Instead, Loch Craignish was chosen for the filming. The crew set up a unit in an old quarry near Lochgilphead.'

Despite a near thing when a helicopter used in filming crashed into the loch, the crew then stayed on in Argyll for another key scene where Bond and new love interest Tatiana are chased by a helicopter.

'For this they found a suitable location at Barachuile Hill, near Kilmichael Glassary,' Brian said. 'The place was perfect, and this scene is one of the most memorable in the series.'

'In many ways 'From Russia With Love' set the template for future Bond films. It's a lot of people's favourite and the Argyll locations played a major role in it turning out the way it did.'



Eunice Gayson, the first screen Bond girl, in Lochgilphead on Monday. 08_c38bond01

HIE to study the real cost of living

NEW RESEARCH is looking into the real cost of living in the West Highlands.

Lead by the Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) the study will look at a variety of factors including leisure activities and transport patterns to establish how much it costs a family to live a reasonable lifestyle.

Rachel McCormack, director of strengthening communities at HIE said: 'It is about more than just food, clothes and shelter.'

'It's about people having what they need to take opportunities and make the choices necessary to play a full part in society.'

'The findings will help inform local, regional and national policy makers and shape the activities of the range of agencies involved.'

The Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough University will be carrying out the research.

Make a will this month by donation

SOLICITORS in Oban are now taking appointments for Make a Will Month.

Organised by Will Aid the event, throughout November, aims to encourage people to make a will with a donation going to the nine national charities participating in the event. The suggested donation is a fee of £90 for a single will, £135 for a pair of mirror wills and £40 for a codicil - amending an existing will.

Those taking part in Oban are E.Thornton & Co, DM MacKinnon WS, Stevenson Kennedy Ltd, McIntyre & Co

More information on solicitors taking part can be found at www.willaid.org.uk

Boiler fault closes Dalmally school

DALMALLY primary school was closed at the start of the week due to an electrical fault with one of the boilers in the building.

The school closed on Monday and Tuesday but reopened to staff and pupils on Wednesday.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Electrical and mechanical engineers have assessed the situation and have confirmed it will be possible for the school to function with one boiler.'

Taynuilt launches ambitious community sports pavilion project



Left to right: Councillor Iain Angus MacDonald, David Thompson of Taynuilt Sports Council, Michael Russell MSP, Roddy McCuish leader of Argyll and Bute Council, Mike Mackenzie MSP, Ross Lilley from Oban Mountain Rescue/Orienteering and Lorna Elliot, LEADER project. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

AN AMBITIOUS project to build a new sports pavilion in an Argyll village was launched last Saturday.

Taynuilt Sports Council has embarked on an 'achievable idea' to raise enough funds to pull down the existing building at the village sports field and replace it with a new sports and community hub.

The existing building has been there for 40 years and was originally a classroom in Dalmally Primary School but it is 'coming to the end of its life', according to project organisers.

David Thomson from Taynuilt Sports Council said: 'We have got a good big pitch but we can't hold cup finals because we have no facilities such as changing rooms. We need these if we want to progress.'

'We have young athletes

in the village that are going to represent their country in orienteering.'

'There are some very good young athletes in the area and we need the facilities so they can come here and improve.'

'The youngsters are very active and enthusiastic about sport just now and we want to capitalise on that but it is important other people use the facilities outside of sports as that generates money to keep it running.'

'Funding' It is planned that the new building will be used by several sports groups, including Taynuilt Shinty Club, Etive Vikings Mini Rugby Club and EckO Orienteering Club.

The facility will also be put to use by non-sports organisations including Taynuilt Gaelic Choir

and Taynuilt Play Park Group.

The project has been awarded LEADER funding of £191,000 but this needs to be match funded by Sport Scotland.

The community has raised £21,000 towards the cost of the project and Mr Thomson added: 'SportScotland is now the key. We are pressing them as hard as we can.'

'The application for £214,000 has been made and we just waiting on feedback.'

Council leader Roddy McCuish attended the launch of the project. He said: 'I think this is a fantastic idea, Taynuilt has always been well known for its sport. I played on these fields myself many years ago.'

'I'm delighted to support this project and delighted that LEADER have awarded a grant.'

'What a massive step for this ambitious and achievable scheme.'

'I would urge all funders to get 100 per cent behind this project. This will be a massive boost for sport - not just for Taynuilt but for the whole of Oban and North Lorn.'

Mike Mackenzie MSP added: 'I'm delighted to support this project and would encourage organisers to investigate Proceeds of Crime (Poc) funding to develop it.'

'This is a really well used funding facility which is very much in support of the bids they have put in.'

'Many other projects have gained better facilities through the PoC funding and you can see by the level of activity here they need and deserve a better building.'

Father completes 250-mile cycle from John O'Groats for daughter

A DEVOTED father took on a challenging 250-mile cycle to raise money for the charity which supports his five-year-old daughter.

Gordon Gibson got on his bike from John O'Groats to Oban for a three day ride after his daughter Lauren was diagnosed with Diabetes (type one).

Lauren was taken to hospital in late February after her parents noticed she was feeling weak and was drinking a lot of water.

After taking a blood sample and administering insulin, staff in Oban transferred the youngster to the Royal Alexandra in Paisley, where she spent four nights.

This spurred Gordon into action and he decided to do the bike run to raise money for Diabetes UK, but the journey did not go as smoothly as it might have done.

He said: 'I had the wind in my face for 250 miles and got two punctures within the space of three miles but all in all it was pretty good.'

Gordon, who had a crowd



Lauren gives her dad a big welcome home cuddle. 16_t38cyle01

gathered outside his home in Oban for his arrival, was also given a warm welcome home by Lauren.

Gordon raised £3,000 through his efforts but almost stumbled at the first hurdle: 'I started at John O'Groats, got about two or

three hundred yards and the gear cable snapped. I was stuck in the same gear until Thurso where we got it repaired.'

'I've had so many contributions and I just want to thank every single person who has donated,' Gordon said.

Ferry proposal could drive down island fuel costs

A PROPOSAL that would see ferry companies treat fuel hauliers in the same manner as farmers could bring down the price of petrol and diesel at island filling stations.

The cost of living on all of the west of Scotland's islands is substantially higher than that of the mainland as a result of fees incurred from shipping in fuel.

Currently, fuel hauliers have to pay their full ferry fee on both outgoing and return journey - regardless of whether or not the tanker is empty on the way back.

Islanders feel that system is unfair, as farmers don't pay the full fare for lorries if their trailers are empty. The community group that runs Coll's filling station - which has the dubious honour of selling Europe's most expensive fuel, with diesel hitting £1.71 per litre - are now asking that the same rule could apply to fuel tankers and has urged the Scottish Government to look again at the fare structure. Taking up the fight on behalf of the islanders is Mull resident and local councillor, Mary-Jean Devon. She has written to Transport Scotland's Graham Laidlaw, who is leading the Ferries Review, to ask the structure be looked at again.

She said: 'We are putting pressure on the Government to apply the rules evenly - especially those dealing with lifeline services.'

Oban store ends seven-year wait to become national lottery outlet

AN OBAN business which has been waiting for seven years to get a lottery machine has finally been given one.

Albany Stores, based in Albany Street, had the machine installed a fortnight ago and it is already popular with regulars.

Undersubscribed Owner Joanne Wright said: 'We applied for a machine in 2005 when we took over the store. We were put on a list but told that it would only happen if another shop in the town had their machine revoked.'

Luckily, Camelot has recently issued another 8,000 machines as part of a deal which sees their licence to operate the National Lottery extended.

Undersubscribed The west coast of Scotland is an area that has been identified by the lottery operator as being undersubscribed with terminals. Joanne added: 'We get a huge amount of footfall and we get asked a lot from people getting on ferries not knowing if they can put a ticket on when they get



The staff in Albany with their new lottery machine. 16_t38lottery01

to the islands and we're the last port of call. We've had it put in for public demand, other stores can get big queues when there is a big draw on so hopefully we'll help with that.'

The store, which will also be selling scratchcards, is not the

only one to benefit from this additional release of terminals.

The Post Office on Corran Esplanade, Oban Filling Station on Soroba Road and Dunbeg Village Stores have also been awarded National Lottery terminals.

Confusion over PE provision at Kilninver school

Budget fails to meet children's travel costs

THERE is confusion over the future of PE provision at Kilninver Primary School after the council said the subject's budget was depleted - before a u-turn on Tuesday.

With no suitable facilities at the school, pupils have been travelling to Oban's Atlantis Leisure - with the costs of the transport coming from the school's PE budget.

The budget for PE was first depleted in February last year, when lessons stopped suddenly.

It was hoped there would be no repeat, but children returned to the school to discover there was only enough funding for one of the school's three terms - thanks to a donation from MacQueen Brothers' Charitable Trust.

The Parent Council contacted *The Oban Times* on Monday to express concern at the lack of progress and the council's apparent inability to find cash for the lessons, which are part of the curriculum.

On Tuesday afternoon, the council said: 'An agreement is in place with Oban High School to enable pupils to have two hours of quality physical education provision per week. The primary school has made arrangements to transport the pupils to Oban for physical education classes.'

Parent Council chairwoman Lucy Files said neither parents or pupils were aware of any change in arrangements, adding: 'They've obviously found money somewhere now - why couldn't they before it got to this stage?'



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Global Eco-islands Summit issues invitation

RESIDENTS living in the west of Scotland have been invited to join the Global Eco-islands Summit 2012.

The event will discuss plans for the transition to

renewable energy supplies, preserving resources and making the economies sustainable on the west coast. The summit will take place on the Isle of Wight next month.

Morvern Lines

OWNERSHIP and occupancy of land in the Highlands and Islands has always been an emotive subject but more especially since the passing of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act of 2003 giving communities the right to buy.

A new three-year fund set up to help communities to buy land, backed with £6m from the Scottish government, has recently been launched which, along with the proposed Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill going through Holyrood at the moment, brings the subject even more sharply into focus. So who owns Morvern peninsula? In 1900 there were six major landowners. Today, according to the general register of sasines, a total of 118,221 acres is divided among 21, each with 100 acres or more. Then, as now, only one is resident throughout the year.

Despite modern technology, measuring land in rough terrain is not an exact science. Acreages have differed over the years and what follows can only be a rough guide.

Morvern landowners: Ardtornish Estate, 35,647 acres, the family of the late Mrs Emmeline Hugh Smith. Kingairloch Estate, 14,505 acres, the family of the late John Foster Yeoman. The island of Carna, 454 acres, the family of the late Rev Canon Horace Newton and Mr T H G Newton of Glencripesdale. Laudale Estate, 12,901 acres, Mr Keith Falconer. Drimmin Estate, 5,250 acres, Mr and Mrs Derek Lewis. Killundine, 6,224 acres, the family of the late Mrs M Lauder. The island of Oronsay, 1,000 acres, the family of the late Miss Alice Horsman of Drimmin. Carnacallich, 600 acres, Mr and Mrs Nigel Neal. Inversanda Estate (part of), 2,263 acres, Mr and Mrs Charles Colborne. Killmalieu Estate, 2,829 acres, Mr Geoffrey Burns. Carnoch Estate (part of), 4,353 acres, Mr and Mrs Stephen Fox. Glencripesdale Estate, 4,148 acres, Mr Jonathan Greenall. Glensanda Estate, 5,110 acres, Aggregate Industries plc. Rhemore, 147 acres, Mr and Mrs Tim Barnes. Rahoy Hills Nature Reserve, 1,858 acres, Scottish Wildlife Trust. Glencripesdale National Nature Reserve, 1,504 acres, Scottish National Heritage. Fiunary Forest, 14,127 acres, Forestry Commission Scotland. Fiunary Farm, 257 acres, Mr and Mrs Roy Newton. Achnasaul, 345 acres, Mr and Mrs David Campbell. Kinlochtaeacus Estate, 1,892 acres, Mr and Mrs Peter Lawson. Rahoy Estate, 2,807 acres, Mr Bruce Mickel.

Of these, the island of Carna in Loch Sunart holds the record for having the least number of owners in its recorded history.

Further information on when estates changed hands and for what price, can be found by writing to The Registers of Scotland Executive Agency, 68 Queen Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4NF, whose files are open to the public.



Kingairloch Estate on Morvern is one of 21 major land holdings on the peninsula.

MRS DOUGLAS Watt, Sruthan House, Lochaline, and her lively team of local volunteers are preparing for a coffee morning and soup lunch in Lochaline Village Hall on Saturday September 29 from 11am to 2.30pm to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

There will be bring and buy, cakes and produce and plants and book stalls as well as tombola, raffle and a children's cup-cake competition. Morvern is an enthusiastic supporter of Macmillan and the team hope September's event will raise more money than ever for this worthwhile cause. **Iain Thornber.**



Bottleneck: Work to bypass Pulpit Rock on the A82 south of Ardlui is due to start next year. Photograph courtesy of Transport Scotland.

Action group steps up A82 campaign

ROAD action group the A82 Partnership is stepping up its drive for further major improvements to the West Highlands' lifeline route.

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Focus of its 'Phase 2' launched last week will be upgrading the A82 between Tarbet and Inverarnan – the notorious, twisting nine-mile section along Loch Lomond.

The badly potholed carriageway is too narrow for lorries and buses and has a poor accident record.

Traffic is frequently brought to a halt when HGVs and coaches meet on a corner and have to inch past each other, often with millimetres to spare.

The move follows a partnership working group meeting to review progress of its 'Demand A82 Upgrade' campaign and to plan next steps.

Main campaign successes to date include:

- Inclusion of the A82 into the Strategic Transport Project

review, one of only 29 transport projects in Scotland

- Crianlarich Bypass, anticipated to be completed by 2013/2014

- Pulpit Rock Bypass, anticipated to be completed by 2013/2014 after a near 35-year wait

- Tarbet to Inverarnan, engineering and environmental studies completed

- Establishing and maintaining a high profile for the campaign in the media and at Holyrood

- Road Traffic Accident Investigation Team located on west coast, 2014

The new campaign kicked off with a circular from A82 Partnership chairman Brian Murphy, asking organisations and individuals to support Phase 2, the Tarbet to Inverarnan upgrade.

Mr Murphy said: 'In addition to the [main] priority identified ... the campaign will continue to address the upgrading of the full length of the A82 and highlight the negative impact on the economy and the community of the West Highlands and Islands of closures and restrictions on the road.'

Responses must be in by Friday November 16 to the A82 Campaign, c/o The Highland Council, Chief Executive's Service, Lochaber House, High Street, Fort William, PH33 6EL. Support can be sent to emma.taylor@highland.gov.uk, by twitter to #a82partnership or simply posted in the counter box in Fort William Library.

The A82 Partnership working group includes representatives from Highland Council, Argyll and Bute Council, HITRANS, Northern Constabulary, Fort William Chamber of Commerce and private businesses.

Isle of Mull gears up for army military exercise

A MILITARY exercise involving helicopters and ground troops will start next week on the Isle of Mull.

The army exercise, which takes place from September 25 until October 5, will also take place in the Borders, Dumfries, Islay and the Highlands.

Flying out of hours has been authorised by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) for the duration of the exercise and residents are being warned

noise disturbance may be experienced. Ground exercises will take place in tandem with helicopter movements and troops will carry weapons with blank ammunition. An MOD spokesman said: 'All personnel involved with the exercise will be briefed on the requirement to avoid disturbance to livestock and damage to property together with the procedures for reporting incident and complaints.'

Eighth annual food and drink awards

NEWS presenter Kirsty Wark will host the eighth annual Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards next month.

Scotland's cabinet secretary for rural affairs and environment, Richard Lochhead will also attend the event in the Drumossie Hotel, Inverness, on October 19.

Mobile phone firms facing price hike backlash from Western Isles

RESIDENTS of the Western Isles are being encouraged to fight back against phone companies who have been increasing prices without telling customers.

Western Isles Citizens Advice Service (WICAS) is urging consumers in the area to take part in the *Fixed Means Fixed* campaign being run by the consumer group Which?.

The move follows revelations that mobile network providers have been increasing the price of contracts without telling customers.

From 2011 to 2012, Vodafone, Orange, T-Mobile and Three UK

all put up the cost of their mobile phone contracts.

People who had signed one or two year deals expecting to pay £20 or £30 per month were suddenly told they'd have to pay more.

WICAS spokesman Ewan Kennedy said: 'When someone enters a mobile phone contract which they are told is fixed, they do not expect to be told that they are paying more for the length of their contract.'

'Unfortunately, most mobile phone company terms and conditions say that they are allowed to increase their prices

on fixed term contracts, as long as they do not exceed the rate of inflation or the Retail Price Index. I would echo the call made by Which? that mobile phone companies should be more transparent in their terms and conditions, as well as their prices. Customers should be able to clearly see the manner which they are charged and the terms of their contract should be in plain-English and easy to understand.'

'I would encourage anyone in the Western Isles who has had a negative experience with fixed mobile phone contracts to log

onto the Which? website and pledge their support to the *Fixed Means Fixed* campaign which already has 24,862 supporters.'

Which? has estimated that around 10.5 million adults have been affected by this so far with bill increases ranging from 48p to £1.04 per month.

This means consumers who believe that their contract prices are fixed have already spent nearly £34.5m extra on phone contracts because of these recent price rises.

Over 12 months these increases could make up to £90m for mobile phone companies.

READERS CONTINUE TO RECEIVE CASH PAYOUTS!!!

ROGUE BANKS SET ASIDE EXTRA £1 BILLION

Following their hard work in the Highland area PPAC continue the fight against Mis-Sold PPI policies. In previous editions PPAC have brought to readers attention the shocking mis-selling by the banks and have won back thousands of £'s for those who got in touch. Kevin McCallion, director again stressed the urgency of people needing to get in touch with PPAC. He said, "A lot of money was originally set aside by the major banks and loans companies, approximately £9Billion, and they have now just added a further £1Billion!. We are aware that

although the extra money has been added, the original amount is yet to be paid out. We firmly believe that the surface has only been scratched and many more people could be sitting on thousands unclaimed. Not only that but the banks continue to put obstacles in the way of people claiming back money which is rightfully theirs. This is proved with the fact the Financial Ombudsman latest figures show they are receiving up to 3000 cases per week which is a result of lenders refusing to pay out. The time for clients to use our experience and expertise has never been greater. When a client calls us they are allocated a Claims manager who will take the claim from start to finish coupled with the legal expertise we have means clients will be assured they will receive the very best service"

What do clients need to do to start the process? Kevin explained, "The first thing to do is call us or send us a text and we will arrange an appointment at your house at a time that is convenient. We work on a NO WIN NO FEE basis so clients really have nothing to lose".

It seems clear the time is now to get your money back.

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- ▶ **WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE MY PAPERWORK?**
This is not a problem. We have won many claims for clients who do not have original paperwork
- ▶ **HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?**
The time period depends on which bank or lender your loan/credit card was held with. Typically the process should take no longer than 8-10 weeks.
- ▶ **SHOULD I JUST APPROACH MY BANK?**
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Disease and inter-breeding are believed to be the main threats to pure-bred wildcats.

Scottish wildcat numbers crash

THE TRUE Scottish wildcat could be extinct within months. Conservationists have issued a stark warning that the numbers previously believed to be roaming the Highland hills have been greatly over-estimated and that pure-bred wildcat numbers may have fallen to as low as 35.

'We used to see them often five or 10 years ago' was a common response from rural workers and local communities questioned during a recent survey. Disease and inter-breeding with domestic and feral cats are believed to be among the main threats to numbers of pure-bred wildcats.

Recently analysed records of wildcats and hybrids gathered by numerous organisations over the past five years have produced shocking results. All the evidence collected suggests that just one in 100 animals previously recorded was a true wildcat, against a figure in 2004 of one in eight. With a current estimate of 3,500 hybrids in Scotland this means there are just 35 wildcats left and the true species is on the brink of extinction.

Conservationists and wildcat enthusiasts will meet with Scottish Natural Heritage this month to discuss if widespread live trapping in the few areas where wildcats may still remain could be the species last hope.

Connel Flower Show results

OPEN CLASS
Four Pansies or Violas (Black Trophy) - 1 Ian Brown, 2 Duncan Black, 3 D MacDougall. Vase of Mixed Annuals - 1 Duncan Black, 2 Duncan Black, 3 Duncan Black. Vase of Annuals one kind - 1 Ian Brown, 2 Ian Brown, 3 Ian Brown. Vase of Sweetpeas - 1 Billy Hay, 2 Barcaldine School, 3 Duncan Black. One Giant Dahlia - 1 Duncan Black, 2 Ian Brown, 3 Blooms Ball Dahlias - 1 Billy Hay, 3 Blooms Small Decorative - 1 Billy Hay, 2 Billy Hay, 3 Ian Brown. Three Blooms Miniature Decorative - 1 Ian Brown, 2 Ian Brown, 3 Billy Hay. Four Blooms Pom Pom - 1 Billy Hay, 2 Hugh MacLeod, 3 Blooms Collarette - 1 Ian Brown, 2 Ian Brown, 3 Duncan Black. Three Blooms Miniature Cactus - 1 Ian Brown, 2 Ian Brown, 3 Duncan Black. Three Blooms Mixed Varieties Dahlias - 1 Ian Brown, 2 Ian Brown, 3 Alan Pringle. Three Spikes Gladioli - 1 Duncan Black, 2 Dougal MacDougall, 3 Hugh MacLeod. One Spike Gladioli - 1 Hugh MacLeod, 2 Duncan Black, 3 Three Roses - 1 Ian Brown, 2 Duncan Black. Vase of One Rose, Catherine MacCallum Trophy - 1 Ian Brown, 2 Ian Brown, 3 Billy Hay. Vase of Four Carnations - 1 Marion Fisher, 2 Long Shaped Potatoes - 1 Billy Hay, 2 Billy Hay, 3 Hugh MacLeod. Two Round shaped Potatoes - 1 Billy Hay, 2 Alan Pringle, 3 Kate Little. Two Carrots - 1 Hugh MacLeod, 2 Onions - 1 Hugh MacLeod, 2 Marion Fisher. Two Leeks - 1 Hugh MacLeod, 2 Barcaldine School. Three Tomatoes - 1 Billy Hay, 2 Anne MacKenzie, 3 One Lettuce - 1 Barcaldine Primary School, 2 Hugh MacLeod. Duncan MacPherson Memorial Trophy, Collection of Vegetables three kinds - 1 Hugh MacLeod, 2 Billy Hay, 3 Anne MacKenzie. Henderson Trophy, Pot Plant in Bloom - 1 Shirley MacPhee, 2 Ian Brown, 3 Hugh MacLeod. Pot Plant Foliage - 1 Anne MacKenzie, 2 Hugh MacLeod, 3 Heather Morrison.

CONFINED CLASS:
Hugh Gillies Memorial Trophy, Annuals One Kind - 1 Alan Pringle. Four Dahlias at least two different kinds - 1 Alan Pringle. Hanging Basket - 1 Jim Groat. Collection of Vegetables, Ewan MacDonald Memorial Trophy - 1 Alan Pringle, 2 Marion Fisher.

FLORAL ART:
Achnacloich Trophy/Louvain Cunningham Trophy, Flower Arrangement Book Title - 1 Alison Dawson, 2 Marion Fisher. Arrangement of three flowers - 1 Marion Fisher, 2 Alison Dawson. Small Arrangement - 1 Alison Dawson.

JUNIOR
Campbell Trophy, Primary 1-3. Garden on a Plate - 1 Callan Taylor, 2 Abi MacCorquodale, 3 Connor Coombes. Painting of Queen's jubilee - 1 Abi MacCorquodale, 2 Ben MacCorquodale, 3 Lily Irvine. Primary 4-7. Animal made from Natural Materials - 1 Kate MacCorquodale/Shona MacKenzie, 3 Rianna George. Garden on a Plate - 1 Eilidh Munro, 2 Ewan MacPherson, 3 Connor George. Drawing/Painting Queen's Jubilee - 1 Katie MacCorquodale, 2 Zofia Borowska, 3 Shona MacKenzie.

HIGH SCHOOL
Arrangement of Flowers in a Mug, 1 Kate Little.

BAKING
JUNIOR Primary 1-3, Four Fairy Cakes Gold - Ferguson Taylor, Silver - Connor Coombes, Red - Annie Gill. Primary 4-7 Four Decorated Fairy Cakes - 4 Gold - Connor George, Silver - Ewan MacPherson, Red - Eilidh Munro. Four Biscuits - Gold - Zofia Borowska, Silver - Ewan MacPherson, Red - Ruairidh Munro.

ADULT SECTION
Pancakes - Gold - Marion Fisher. Lemon Curd - Gold - Heather Morrison. Strawberry Jam - Gold - Anne MacKenzie.

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Tobermory lifeboat comes to rescue of strickened yacht

A YACHT with two people on board which was in danger of drifting onto rocks was pulled to safety by Tobermory's RNLI lifeboat's volunteer crew.

The 34-foot yacht suffered engine failure last Tuesday after

noon in 50mph gusting winds and despite dropping two anchors in Loch na Droma Buidhe, a small sea loch on the Ardnarmurchan Peninsula, the yacht was in danger of being driven on to the rocky shore.

The yacht had lost power whilst trying to motor out of the narrow entrance of the loch.

The skipper tried to use the sails but the yacht's forestay was torn by the gusting north-westerly wind.

Deputy Second Coxswain An-

drew McHaffie said: 'The yacht's skipper reacted very quickly in difficult conditions and managed to get both anchors out just in the nick of time.'

'He also took the correct decision to request help and we were

very pleased with the successful outcome.'

One of the volunteer lifeboat crew was put aboard the yacht and after securing a tow rope he recovered one of the anchors by hand. But he found that the

second anchor was stuck fast so he marked it with a buoy and left it to be retrieved later.

The yacht was towed in rough seas to the safety of Tobermory harbour.



Flight numbers rise again

Kintyre calls for more flights at weekends

PASSENGER numbers at west coast regional airports have continued to rise despite the impact of service reductions, weather disruption and the continuing backdrop of recession.

Eleven airports operated by Highland and Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL) handled 128,142 passengers in August, an increase of 0.3 per cent on August 2011.

However, there has been calls to increase the frequency of services throughout the west, most notably to Campbeltown where a campaign by the local community to make weekend flights readily available has received strong support from the area's MSP.

The group's busiest airport was Inverness with a recorded growth of 0.5 per cent. An increase in international traffic due to the success of the city's Amsterdam route was offset by a lower demand in the domestic sector.

Islay and Barra recorded even sharper increases, up by 10.5 per cent and 9.2 per cent respectively.

Across the HIAL network, year to date passenger numbers have increased by 2.4 per cent, April to August 2012. However, Tiree and Benbecula recorded a drop of 4.7 per cent and 5.2 per cent respectively. At Campbeltown, passenger numbers were almost static, down by 1 - 0.1 per cent.

The company currently employs almost 600 people across its 11 airports. In 2011/12, the group handled almost 1.26 million passengers, a rise of 8.7 per cent on the previous financial year.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell has backed moves by the Kintyre community to get an improved air service to and from Campbeltown.

Mr Russell has written to Transport Minister Keith Brown and to HIAL to ask for serious consideration of what the Kintyre community wants and needs.

Mr Russell said: 'There have been some major investments in Kintyre in the last year and there is a growing tourism and business market. When HIAL visited Campbeltown last month I spoke to members of the board about the strong local desire for weekend flights and for a better air service.'

'We must ensure that any new arrangements allow for services at weekends and the possibility of other destinations.'

MSP Mike Russell.

'I also raised the issue with Loganair. I have now followed this up with correspondence and have made sure Transport Minister Keith Brown is aware of the local view that a more ambitious tender is required.'

'I am glad the community is making its voice known about this matter as improved transport links are essential for economic and social growth in the area. I will continue to argue for such improvements.'

He added: 'As the tender for the service is now due for renewal and there is a strong campaign within the area - led by tourist operators and other businesses - we must ensure that any new arrangements allow for services at weekends and the possibility of other destinations. There is also a push for increased hours for the airport and upgraded services for flights.'

Responding to the slight overall rise in passenger numbers, Inglis Lyon, managing director of HIAL, said: 'The market is still clearly challenging, particularly the domestic sector. Given the economic climate and the return to recession, this is not particularly surprising. Against that background, any growth is welcome, however modest, and despite these challenges, there are also reasons to cheer, including the success of the Inverness to Amsterdam service, the continued growth in energy related traffic and Dundee's return to growth.'

'We are continuing to invest in our terminals and airport infrastructure to provide a better experience for our passengers and a more efficient operating environment for our airline customers. We are also working hard, in partnership with agencies across Scotland, to support the growth ambitions of our airlines.'



Connel pianist Andrew Dunlop with Lorn Live guest musicians the Eblana String Trio. 16_13710rnlive01

Pianist celebrates Lorn classics fest

Young musician nominated for national traditional award

A YOUNG musician is celebrating the success of his four-date festival in the same month he has been nominated as a semi-finalist for a national award.

Pianist Andrew Dunlop, from Connel, has just finished the Lorn Live Chamber Music Festival, during which he was joined by some of the UK's brightest young classical musicians.

Concerts were held in Oban's St John's Cathedral on four Saturdays from August 18 to September 8.

Meanwhile, the 26-year-old, who has a background in traditional Scottish music, has been

preparing for his performance in the 14-strong semi-final of the Young Traditional Musician of the Year award, along with piper Seonaidh MacIntyre from Lochearn, South Uist.

Andrew's daytime concerts drew appreciative audiences - his biggest being 60 on the final date, a number he was pleased with.

Andrew said: 'There were different people at each show and we did pull in a lot of tourists, so I was pleased with the attendees.'

'I started Lorn Live because although there is lots of music in

the town in the evenings, there is not much during the day.'

In its first year Lorn Live covered its expenses, thanks in part to Andrew convincing the musicians, most of whom were friends from college, to play for nothing.

'I just about managed to cover my costs and I knew that even if no-one came to the concerts, at least I could play music with my friends. I told them to come to Oban and make a holiday of it, so they did me a big favour.'

'I should give a special mention to Jemma Brown, who I had to call on at 11pm one night to

perform the next day after one of the singers pulled out at the last minute!'

Andrew hopes Lorn Live will become an annual event to promote classical music in the town. He thanked the church and Oban Music Society for their support during the festival.

The semi-final of the BBC Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year concert will be held in Coulter Hall, Coulter, South Lanarkshire, on October 6, when six musicians will be picked to go through to the final at Celtic Connections Festival 2013.

Students set high standards as summer placements

STUDENTS across the Highlands and Islands have been taking part in a Dragon's Den style competition in Inverness.

The students all worked for organisations across the area during the summer on placements partially funded by



Amy Kinsman.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

After the placement was up, the 17 students presented their project findings to a panel of business experts.

Amy Kinsman was one of those who took up a placement. She is currently studying English and history at Stirling University and worked with Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT) as a marketing communications co-ordinator.

Richard Thorne, development manager for the trust said: 'Amy came to MICT on a summer placement part funded by HIE's TalentScotland programme.'

'She spent eight weeks working on a number of marketing communications projects and proved to be a valuable asset to the team. Amy brought a fresh approach to the projects that she worked on and completely revolutionised our social network presence by refreshing our Facebook pages and by setting up and maintaining our new Twitter account.'

'For a student who is only now starting her second year at university the work she did was of top quality and she showed a high degree of professionalism and enthusiasm.'

Campbeltown piper tastes success at Springbank event

TOP PIPER Willie McCallum, of Glasgow and Campbeltown, won on his home turf for the eighth time when the Springbank Invitational Solo Piping Competition was held in Campbeltown last weekend.

Former-world champion McCallum was judged the pick of a strong field of eight of the finest pipers in the land. To take the overall award, the well-known piper won the March, Strathspey and Reel class and took second in the highly competitive Piobaireachd class.

He picked up the trophy for best overall piper ahead of Niall Stewart from Kyle of Lochalsh, who also had an excellent day including victory in the piobaireachd class.

In the final section of Hornpipes and Jigs, Angus MacColl from Benderloch was judged the winner, with Glasgow's Roddy MacLeod in second place.

Judges for the day at Campbeltown were Iain MacFadyen, Iain Morrison and John Wilson.

Praising the high standard of competition, John Wilson said: 'This is the best there is at the moment. It's a great privilege for us to judge them and very difficult to decide between them.'

'There wasn't one wrong note in the whole competition.'



Hornpipes and jigs winner Angus MacColl, Benderloch, with Gavin MacLachlan from Springbank Distillery. 08_c88pae02

'There wasn't one wrong note in the whole competition.'

Major energy conference on Isle of Mull

ISLANDERS are gearing up for a major energy conference on the Isle of Mull tomorrow, Friday September 21.

The event, entitled 'Resilience and Innovation: the Islands Challenge', is being organised by the Scottish Islands Federation. It will feature islanders from around Scotland, Ireland, Sweden, the Scillies, Denmark, Finland, France and Aland.

The conference, in Craignure village hall, will also have local councillors and politicians in attendance. There will be various workshops and discussions on renewables. Reservations can be made by emailing info@scottish-islands-federation.co.uk or rthorne@mict.co.uk.

Shinty supporters prove generous

SHINTY fans are a generous bunch as an Oban charity found out to their gain last weekend.

HOPE Kitchen, the charity that offers friendship, soup and hot food three evenings a week, raised a record £475.86 from a street collection in the town on Saturday. The streets were packed with shinty fans in town for the Camanachd Cup Final at Mossfield. The charity also gives out hot drinks and a snack two afternoons a week for anyone feeling alone or struggling for a meal for whatever reason. Anyone wishing to know more about HOPE's work should go along to the AGM on Tuesday September 25 at 7pm in the Salvation Army Church on Stevenson Street.

Oban Inner Wheel present cheque

OBAN'S Inner Wheel has been raising money to provide accommodation for families of sick children.

The organisation's past president Shona Neil presented a £2,600 cheque to Viv Muir, house manager and chief fundraiser of Ronald McDonald House. The house is a comforting place to stay for families who have children in Yorkhill Hospital. Shona said: 'I would like to thank all the ladies of Inner Wheel for all their hard work and the many people who supported them to raise so much for the charity.'

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Business Improvement District for Oban

Mr Mitchell explained: 'I think the business plan produced by BID4Oban is very strong and I would urge the businesses in Oban to vote for it. It will be to their benefit.'

'Through statistics we can prove that Falkirk is a cleaner and safer place thanks to BIDS but anecdotally, I have met people who say they had been to Falkirk in the past when it was a bit dirty and grotty. They tell me it looks much better today but the council hasn't done anything different; that's the influence of BIDS.'

Should the BIDS scheme be given the go-ahead, the business plan outlines a number of projects, including: improvements to shop frontage and empty premises; the regeneration of the Black Lynn; the employment of town ambassadors; and the creation of a £50,000 events budget.

The campaign in Oban has recently won the backing of a range of high profile politicians.

Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid said he hoped the Oban BID would prove a benchmark for other similar schemes in the area in the future. 'I wholeheartedly support the Oban BID, which has the potential to make a real difference to the town and its future,' he said. Adding: 'I hope that the ballot will be successful and - as the first such proposal in Argyll and Bute - the Oban scheme will prove a trailblazer for others in the area.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said it was a chance not to be missed.

'This is a great opportunity for Oban's businesses to join forces and deliver projects to improve the town's trading environment, both in the short and longer term,' he said.

'There are 13 BIDs already up and running across Scotland, each of them developed and managed by the local business

community. The feedback from these existing schemes is overwhelmingly positive. This proposal offers businesses in Oban the chance to take collective control of key areas of shared interest. I would urge them to grasp it with both hands and vote 'yes.'

The leader of Argyll and Bute Council, Councillor Roddy McCuish, said the BID promised much more than a boost for local business, and stressed the Council's commitment to working with the BID company to secure the best possible outcome for Oban.

'This proposal would benefit not just the local business community which has worked so hard to develop it but all those who live in, work in or visit Oban,' Councillor McCuish added: 'This is Argyll and Bute's first BID plan, and I think we have all been impressed with the efforts made in ensuring that the views and priorities of the town's traders are accurately reflected and incorporated.'

'I am convinced that there will be a positive response to the ballot. Collective investment on such a scale - from businesses all working towards a common goal - promises the sort of benefits which just couldn't be realised in any other way given the current challenging economic situation.'

'If the ballot is successful, Argyll and Bute Council is committed to working in partnership with the BID team and other relevant organisations to ensure that the scheme secures the maximum possible return for Oban.'

All businesses with a rateable value property of £3,000 or over within Oban's 30mph speed limit (the BID boundary) now have the chance to vote on the proposal.

If it goes ahead, each will face a compulsory Levy, ranging from

£2.90 a week for the smallest to £96.15 a week for the largest. Businesses and organisations under the £3,000 threshold or outwith the 30mph zone would also be invited to participate in delivering the BID's objectives through making a voluntary contribution.

Jamie McGrigor MSP urged businesses to return a positive ballot to enable the scheme to get off the ground.

'This proposal will inject a minimum of £840,000 into Oban's trading environment over the next five years at the cost of a modest annual Levy for each eligible business,' he said.

'It is the local traders themselves who have decided how that money should be spent. Not only did their consultation feedback provided the basis on which the Business Plan was drawn up, but also it is local business figures who make up the BID Steering Group which oversaw its development.'

'So this is a scheme developed by local businesses for their own benefit and the benefit of Oban as a whole. I look forward to a successful ballot so that BID4Oban can start proving its worth.'

The plan was also given the thumbs up by Mike Mackenzie MSP, who said: 'This is very much in tune with my ethos of businesses working together towards local improvements, and I have cast my vote in favour of the proposed BID4Oban.'

'Project co-ordinator Pauline Cameron and the team have vision for Oban and the

ability to galvanise businesses to commit to the town.'

All eligible businesses have until 5pm on Friday, October 5 2012 to return their ballot papers. The papers will be counted that evening with the results announced within a week.

AS THE ballot campaign to make Oban a Business Improvement District Scotland (BIDS) town reaches its climax, business owners have been hearing the benefits a 'yes' vote would bring to the town.

Alastair Mitchell, manager of the successful Falkirk BIDS scheme, Falkirk Delivers, gave presentations and spoke individually to business owners on the merits of the scheme.

A successful BIDS ballot would see every business in Oban with a rateable value of £3,000 or more contribute a small percentage of this value towards a fund used to benefit the town, by way of clean-ups, events and marketing and environmental initiatives.

The 'yes' campaign is being spearheaded by the steering group BID4Oban, which has produced a business plan, following consultation with the business community.

Should its campaign succeed, Oban would become the first whole-town BID in Scotland.

X

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Down Your Way

Connel and Dunbeg

A CONNELL man is helping to generate trade interest in the Highlands' renewable energy sector after gaining an internship.

Iain Boyd, aged 24, is shaping his dream career in the renewables industry having secured a six-month internship with Invergordon-based trade body Energy North.

The Glasgow University geography graduate

researched Loch Lomond's wave energy potential for his final year dissertation and since graduating has had work placements at Scottish Power at Inverawe, Gordonbush Windfarm in Brora, Scottish Water in Oban and Forbes Boat Care in Barcaldine.

Iain said: 'When I found out I had been accepted for the position I was over the moon. It is precisely the opportunity I have been looking for as it will allow me to build a broad and in-depth understanding of both the renewable energy and oil and gas industries.'

'The role will also give me the chance to lead a project from start to finish. I will be producing a database of fabrication companies within the Highlands and Islands and using it to promote them across the UK and Europe.'

'The region's energy industry has really impressed me. I don't think we shout loudly enough about it and I'm really looking forward to being able to shine a spotlight on it.'



Iain Boyd.

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Prizewinners from this year's show.

ST ORAN'S Church Connel and Dunbeg Flower Show took place in the Church Hall, Connel, on September 1, with Hugh MacLeod winning the St Oran's Challenge Trophy for best in show.

The vegetable section was up on previous years in what was a good turnout overall at the event.

Organisers thanked all the exhibitors and particularly Barcaldine Primary School for its efforts in making the show a success.

Proceeds from the sale of the flowers and vegetables goes to church funds.

Trophy winners:
Campbell Trophy Floral Art P1-3, Ahi MacCorquodale, Campbell Trophy Floral Art P4-7 Katie MacCorquodale, Campbell Trophy (Baking

P1-3) Fergus Taylor; Campbell Trophy (P4-7) Ewan MacPherson; Manse Trophy Baking High School, Kate Little; Achnacloich Trophy Floral Art, Alison Dawson; Louvain Cunningham Trophy Runner-up, Marion Fisher; Catherine MacCallum Trophy, Ian Brown; Black Trophy, Ian Brown; Hugh MacPherson Trophy, Billy Hay; Duncan MacPherson Memorial Trophy Hugh MacLeod; Henderson Trophy, Anne MacKenzie/Shirley MacPhee; Hugh Gillies Memorial Trophy, Alan Pringle; Angus Ferguson Trophy, Jim Grout; Evan MacDonald Memorial Trophy, Alan Pringle; St Oran's Challenge Trophy (Best Exhibit in Show) Hugh MacLeod; Jimmy Black Trophy (Best Dahlia) Ian Brown/Billy Hay.

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PUPILS from Dunbeg Primary School were in Glasgow last Friday to help welcome home Scotland's Olympic and Paralympic heroes.

Double cycling gold medalist Sir Chris Hoy, gold medal rower Katherine Grainger and gold-winning Paralympian cyclist Neil Fachie were among those being welcomed home.

Scottish athletes won a record-breaking 14 medals at the London Olympics and 11 medals at the Paralympics.

The athletes travelled from Kelvingrove Museum to George Square on three flatbed vehicles.

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VEGETABLES grown by pupils of Dunbeg Primary School will be served to the village's elderly residents at the school's harvest lunch in October.

The primary pupils will entertain the guests on October 5 and will help prepare soup, sandwiches and

oatcakes for the occasion. Ingredients for the soup have been growing in the school's vegetable plot and its greenhouse, which is made of recycled plastic bottles. Over the holidays grandparent Charlie Drummond has been tending to the vegetables in the pupils' absence.

Next week Down Your Way visits South Mull and Iona with Faith Orr. You can contact Faith on 01631 568000 or email forr@obantimes.co.uk

SKYE

DUIRINISH Media and Culture Club will be showing 'Nosferatu', F W Murnau's 1922 silent Dracula story, in Duvegan Hall on Saturday October 13 at 7.30pm.

The evening will also feature live accompaniment by composer and guitarist David Allison.

In his film, Murnau relocates Bram Stoker's Dracula story to 19th Century Bremen, and cast Max Schreck as the terrifying Count Orlock, the vampire who thirsts after the body and soul of a young clerk and his beautiful wife. David Allison's beguiling score reveals a distinctly Celtic twist, with its Scottish voice depicting Airdrie travel writer Emily Gerard, leading the audience through the narrative. Gerard's knowledge of Transylvanian superstitions fed into her 1888 essay The Land Beyond The Forest, which brought the word 'nosferatu' into Western European awareness for the first time and deeply affected the writings of Bram Stoker. To book, phone 07917 842813.

ISLAY

ROAD Equivalent Tariff (RET) ferry fares are to be introduced on the Islay route from late October this year.

At the time of writing, September 13, the new fare rates and timetables have yet to be made available on CalMac's website and ferry journeys during the winter timetable, starting October 21, cannot currently be booked.

Islay Community Council has stated this is 'patently unacceptable' and Islay business owners and managers emphasise the delay is hindering trade as intending travellers have been unable to make bookings. The lack of a facility for booking ferry travel will have knock-on effects on accommodation bookings and on other aspects of the island's community and commercial life. An announcement has been expected for some weeks and surely must not be delayed any longer.

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ELLA Edgar Highland Dancing School's young pupils have been successful in Argyll competitions.

Beginners eight years and under: Rachel Johnston - one first place; two fourths, one fifth gaining third overall with 19 in the group. Novice 11 years and under 14 years: Danni Barker - one fourth; one fifth; one sixth. Abbie Morris - one fifth; one sixth. Intermediate 13 years and under, Sophie Baker - two seconds and one fifth. Argyllshire Championship under 13 years, Isla MacCallum - two fourths; two fifths gaining fifth overall with 13 in the group. Emily Logan - one fourth. Argyllshire Championship 13 and under 16 years: Eilidh Macdonald - one second, two fourths, one fifth, gaining fourth overall with 26 in the group. Katie MacNiven - one sixth.

Argyllshire Championship 16 years and over; Ashley Harrison - one fourth. Katie MacNiven competed in the solo piping on Friday and won a fifth place.

LISMORE

OBAN High School Pipe Band visited Lismore on Sunday September 2 as part of its three island challenge which also included Kerrera and Mull.

They arrived at the Achnacroish slip at 11.45am in their familiar red tartan kilts and black jackets and the Eilean Eigg docked they began to play, marching to the top of the slip through a mist of light rain followed by a group of slightly bemused walkers who greatly



Winners from the Glencoe Flower Show with their awards.

Glorious Glencoe flower show

THE TENTH annual Glencoe and District Flower Show saw a host of entries in the floral art, home produce, arts and crafts and vegetable competitions.

Liz Law won the Glencoe and Glen Etive Community Council Cup for most points overall and had most points in the craft section at Glencoe Village Hall.

Elma McCubbin was the top scorer in the baking category, taking home the Mr and Mrs P Weir Quach.

The Clachaig Cup for most points in the veg-

etable section was given to George Grant and the preserves category was won by Jane Young.

The Mr and Mrs Ingram Shield for most points in floral section went to Sandra MacMillan.

The shield for most points in the photography section went to Bill Kerr, who was also given a shield for best photo.

A number of youngsters also entered the show, with Ella Cockerill the top scorer in the children's section. Rebekah Gunn was the best performing high school pupil while Taylor Fox won the preschool section.

appreciated the spectacle and the music. At the top of the slip, the band turned and marched back finishing off their tune as the boat set off back to Oban. The musicians are to be congratulated and are a credit to their teachers, the school and to Oban. And it certainly brightened up a dreich Lismore Sunday morning.

OVER the summer holidays Lismore Sunday School enjoyed an action packed day in Landmark Forest Adventure Park in Carrbridge, near Aviemore.

In brilliant sunshine they climbed the Bamboozelium - the overhead ropes of The Tarzan Trail - went down the Wild Water Coaster waterslide and enjoyed the Runaway Timber Train rollercoaster. They finished the day with a meal in Fort William before crossing on the 8pm ferry home. Lismore Sunday School would like to say a huge thank you to Lismore Primary School Parent Council, to Beth Campbell of Lismore Cafe and to the church for making the trip possible.

AS PART of their project about the sea, Lismore Primary School pupils took a boat trip around their island with Oban-based company Coastal Connection.

They were picked up at Achnacroish on a beautiful August afternoon by skipper Cameron and his 12-seater RIB. They headed north up the Lynn of Lorn round Point to the western side of Loch Linnhe where they saw Glensanda Quarry as well as porpoises, sea eagles, seals and gannets.

The views in all directions were spectacular with Glencoe and Ben Nevis to the north and Jura to the south. Lastly they crossed the Sound of Mull to look at Duart Castle before turning back to Lismore Lighthouse on Eilean Musdile and travelling back to Achnacroish. In the coming weeks the children will be writing a chart and a ship's log of their route, finding out more about the wildlife they saw and learning about tides using time lapse photography.

EIGG



Woodland champions: Eigg Primary School children have been recognised for their tree planting efforts.

Woodland champions celebrate recognition

EIGG Primary School has achieved a gold Green Tree Schools Award from the Woodland Trust Scotland (WTS).

To qualify, pupils planted new trees in the school grounds, grew trees from seeds, visited woods, reduced their carbon footprint and practiced recycling. Teacher Sue Hollands said: 'It's really important that pupils here learn about the environment from an early age and our Green Tree Schools Award shows how keen they've been to get involved. It's been great fun for everyone and I know the pupils have taken on board how important it is

to care for trees, woods and nature.' Pupil Hannah Morrison said: 'I like knowing that when I plant a tree it could be there for 100 years.'

WTS director Carol Evans said: 'Green Tree Schools promote a range of opportunities, each designed to stimulate a child's imagination and sustain their interest in nature. Teaching young people about the environment around them is really important and it's great that this island community is setting a strong example.' More than 4,600 schools have signed up to the Green Tree Schools initiative since it was launched in 2008.

MALLAIG

FEIS Oigridh na Mara (Youth of the Sea Fèis) organisers are preparing for their fèis day in Mallaig Primary School on Saturday October 6.

With support from Fèis na Mara, www.feis-na-mara.com, Megan Henderson, Breabach, Salsa Celtica, Ewan Robertson, Breabach, Andrew MacPherson, Angus Nicolson Trio, and Gary Innes, Mánran, will be teaching classes in fiddle, guitar, piping, whistles and accordion. Taster-classes in stepdancing and drumming are also available.

More information from Maria MacInnes, Lochaber development officer at maria@feisean.org or on 01397 704132.

HARRIS

WORK TO transform the former Sir E Scott Primary School in Harris into council offices is due to get underway after Comhairle nan Eilean Siar appointed Stornoway-based Alex Murray Construction Ltd to carry out the conversion.

The new office building will house council services and a car park following the demolition of several out-buildings.

Comhairle leader Angus Campbell said: 'It is extremely gratifying to see the replacement Comhairle offices in Tarbert under construction. These will provide a resource for the benefit of both the local community and our partners that we work closely with in the delivery of our services.'

ARISAIG

FASHION shows are usually reserved for the rich and famous, but an Arisaig woman is planning an event with a difference - it will be raising money for a breast cancer charity.

Julie Gordon is organising the show, to be held at M and Co on Fort William High Street on Friday September 21. As well as the models on the catwalk, the evening will feature a raffle and music from the Great Glen Swing Band.

Money raised on the day will go to Breast Cancer Care, a charity Julie knows well after suffering from breast cancer herself.

She said: 'I have had breast cancer and know many other people who have been affected by it, including men. This show has been organised to raise funds so that more people can benefit from the information and support the charity provides.'

Breast Cancer Care provide accurate, easy to understand information as well as practical and emotional support for people affected by breast cancer or with breast health concerns.

WESTER ROSS

A LOCAL community group in Wester Ross has launched its latest project - two new workshops for rent to local businesses.

Strathcarron-based Kirkton Woodland and Heritage Group (KWHG), which covers Lochcarron, Strathcarron and Kishorn, has built the two multi-use units at Smithy Barn in Strathcarron for lease to local craft/heritage/environmentally-based firms.

Local GP Doctor David Murray and wood-turner Terry Hitchin declared the workshops officially open at the informal ceremony. One tenant is about to move in.

KMHG recently hosted festival fringe events in its community tree house and its work was featured on Sky TV.

The group employs Kristine Mackenzie as local development officer and has undertaken a number of projects to support the economic, cultural and social future of the remote area. Ms Mackenzie said: 'We're

really excited to have these two units open and ready for businesses. One unit has been allocated to craft worker and trainer Keira MacFleat, the other will be allocated at a later date.

'We would like to pass on special thanks to Davy Fraser, Beaulie, our main contractor, and the architect - Bill MacDonald, Design Services, Inverness and all those who assisted with the build. Also a big thanks to Liz Whiteford (LEADER), Lindsay Simpson (HIE Development Officer) and Pam Noble (HIE Community Assets Team) as without their assistance life would have been so much harder.'

The units cost £182,000 - with HIE awarding £54,000, £118,000 from LEADER, and the balance from KWHG.

KWHG is the local anchor organisation for HIE's community account management model, part-funded by LEADER, which supports community groups to hire a local development officer to create a comprehensive 'growth plan' for their local area.

In 2011 KWHG built the Strathcarron Treehouse as part of Sky TV's Great British Treehouse Challenge.

THERE was a day full of memories recently at Loch Ewe, on the 70th anniversary of the sailing of an ill-fated convoy from the Wester Ross sea loch to the beleaguered Soviet Union.

At a memorial service at the Russian Arctic Convoy Memorial stone at Cove, high above the mouth of the loch which was the anchorage for the WWII Arctic Convoys - the gathering remembered those lost on ships carrying vital war supplies to Russia.

Among those attending the 3pm event - organised by the Russian Arctic Convoy Museum Project group was WWII veteran Reay Clarke from Tain and families of convoy veterans from as far afield as Edinburgh and the south coast of England.

Mr Clarke sailed out of Loch Ewe on September 2 1942 for a voyage to the Soviet Union that would prove to be 'one of the worst journeys in the world'.

The young sailor was aboard the destroyer HMS *Famdale* - one of the Royal Navy escort protection vessels for the convoy, coded PQ18. Comprising 39 ships carrying 4,400 vehicles, 835 tanks, 566 aircraft, more than 11,000 tons of high explosive, more than 157,000 tons of general cargo and 9,541 tons of fuel oil, the convoy came under grievous attack from German U-boats and dive bombers. Only a few made it through to Murmansk. Local piper Conal McDonagh from Poolewe played at the service.

Got a story? Call our newdesks on 01631 568000 01397 703003

NETHER LOCHABER



Nether Lochaber After Lunch Club enjoyed a wonderful afternoon tea at Inverloch Castle Hotel. The club is run by Catherine (Kate) Ward, far left.



The walkers have raised thousands of pounds to fund cancer research.

Walkers step out for Cancer Research UK

KIND hearted residents on the Isle of Luing have raised tens of thousands of pounds for charity over the past 10 years.

One charity that has benefited is Cancer Research UK, which received £22,852.32 between 2003 and 2011.

Charity organiser John Blackwell from Blackmillbay lead the way in this year's walk for the cancer charity.

On Sunday August 19 John and his fellow walkers were joined by Dorothy Rodger, area volunteer

manager for Cancer Research UK for a barbecue in Cullipool playing field.

She spoke of the work that was being funded by donations and was also presented with a cheque for £3,845.

The money was raised through a sponsored walk which took place earlier in May when an all age group of 27 volunteers walked from Glen Coe to Glen Nevis.

Dorothy told those gathered that the Cancer Research UK fundraising team on Luing has raised £22,852.32

between 2003 and 2011. The day was tinged with sadness when John spoke of Iain Fullarton who sadly died in a canoeing accident in the week following the walk.

He said: 'Iain was a keen member of the walking team, and an experienced hill walker who brought his skill and kindness to the group.'

John also sent condolences to the family of Alan Fothergill, who passed away on Thursday August 16 and who was a long term supporter and participant in such things as the Cuan Ferry swim.

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Autumn Edition

FREE

holiday west highland

Argyll's Secret Coast

Holiday West Highland explores the coastline at the south-west tip of the Cowal Peninsula, in an edition that is dedicated to films based and produced around the West Highlands

FROM KINTYRE TO LOCHABER YOUR GUIDE TO EXPLORING THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

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How the competition works

Calling all pet lovers! From cute cats and darling dogs to creepy crawlies, The Oban Times has been searching high and low for our readers' most adorable pets. Now, it is up to you,

our readers, to vote every week for who you think should win the title of The Oban Times Pet Idol 2012, £100 cash plus a goody bag for the winning pet. We have published a selection

of your furry loved ones every week of the competition. At the end, the pets with the most votes from each week will qualify for our grand finale. This week is the last round. All final-

ists will then feature in The Oban Times for one last time, again for the public vote. The pet with the most votes will then be crowned The Oban Times Pet Idol 2012! For rules and terms

and conditions, visit www.obantimes.co.uk/petidol. You can vote for a pet on this page via text and coupon. Votes must be registered by 12 noon, Monday October 1, 2012.

ALL votes must be registered by 12 noon, Monday October 1, 2012

 Barney Rhodesian Ridgeback Fort William	 Sweep Cat Fort William	 Kofi Labrador Isle of Mull	 Dugan Cat Isle of Mull	 Ted Labrador Isle of Mull	 Ruairidh Skye Terrier Stirling	 Coco Terrier Oban
 Peerie Australian Terrier Doune	 Alfie Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Oban	 Dougai Hungarian Puli Oban	 Ben Newfoundland Oban	 Burns Domestic Cat Kilninver	 Daisy Domestic Cat Kilninver	 Luigi Syrian Hamster Isle of Skye
 Alice Domestic Short Hair Cat Oban	 Twig Springer Spaniel Spean Bridge	 Aulay Long Hair Domestic Cat Renfrewshire	 Cuan Dalmation Oban	 Gizmo Bearded Dragon Oban	 Charlie Albino Garter Snake Oban	 Saorsa Tortoiseshell Cat Connel
 Shug Lhasa Apso Oban	 Max Yorkshire Terrier Isle of Mull	 Bracken English Springer Spaniel Caol	 Nacho Cockatiel Oban	 Corran Cairn Terrier Aberdeen	 Carrie Domestic Cat Isle of Tiree	 Finn Lurcher Morvern
 Murphy Patterdale/West Highland Terrier Cross Morvern	 Stuart Little Chihuahua Oban	 Ben Bearded Mix Appin	 Nermal Ragdoll Cross Oban	 Murphy Birman Cross Oban	 Chobe Cat Oban	 Meg Border Collie Dunoon
 Roxy Alaskan Malamute Morvern	 Leah Alaskan Malamute Morvern	 Fred Welsh Mountain Pony				

Vote for this week's finalist!

How to vote
 Readers can vote for their favourite pet in this week's round by text or by post, using the coupon provided on this page. You can also still vote for a pet from a previous weekly round until 12 noon, Monday October 1, 2012. Just make sure you quote the number stated on the pet's photograph when voting.

By text:
 To vote by text, text the word **OTPET** followed by a space then the three digit number stated on the top left hand side of the pet's photograph to **88010**. Text messages cost **£1** plus one message at standard network rate. All votes must be registered by 12 noon, Monday October 1, 2012.

By coupon:
 Complete the voting form provided on this page and send it to The Oban Times, Pet Idol VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. All votes must be registered by 12 noon, Monday October 1, 2012.

 Roxy Alaskan Malamute Morvern	 Leah Alaskan Malamute Morvern	 Fred Welsh Mountain Pony
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The Oban Times VOTING COUPON

I would like to vote for:

Pet number*:.....

Pet's name:

Please post to The Oban Times, Pet Idol VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.
 *Pet number must be supplied. This can be found at the top left of each pet's photograph.
 Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted and will not count as one vote.
 You may send in multiple coupons in one envelope

Terms & conditions: The winner must be willing to take part in publicity. Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. Text messages cost £1 plus one message at standard network rate. All votes must be registered by 12 noon, Monday October 1, 2012. One text counts as one vote. One coupon counts as one vote. The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. Full terms and conditions at www.obantimes.co.uk/petidol.

Knife carrier jailed for 17 months

A FORMER Fort William man who admitted carrying a knife in the town has been jailed for 17 months.

John McPhee previously pled guilty to having the knife in his possession without reasonable excuse or lawful authority on Hill Road and Cameron Road on March 30.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard McPhee approached two men on Hill Road with the knife, which a witness said was six to eight inches long.

Fiscal Alison Wylie said McPhee spoke aggressively to the men and waved the knife about. She said: 'They got the impression he was looking for someone.'

Sheriff Vinit Khurana said: 'You have pled guilty to a very serious matter. A custodial sentence is the only suitable option available to me.'

Sheriff Khurana said McPhee's 17-month imprisonment would not start until he had finished a one-year sentence he is currently serving.

McPhee, of flat 73/5 Colquhoun Drive, Rosshead, Alexandria, was also sentenced for assaulting a man on Fort William High Street on the afternoon of December 30.

He was found guilty of repeatedly punching the man on the head and kicking him on the legs after a trial.

Sheriff Khurana sentenced him to six months in jail, which will run concurrently with his other sentence.

Drumnadrochit mourns death of 'The Yank'

DRUMNADROCHIT was shocked by the sudden death of local shinty stalwart Iain 'The Yank' Macdonald last weekend.

Mr Macdonald was vice chieftain at Glenurquhart Shinty Club - the team he supported and formerly played for.

A club spokesperson said: 'Iain was a loyal supporter of the Glen and will be sorely missed by all those who knew him.'

His funeral will be held in the village tomorrow (Friday), with players and club members past and present forming a guard of honour after the service.

Garden centre wins award

DUNBEG garden centre, Poppies, received an Olympic celebration award after being named one of Britain's finest small caterers last week.

The centre won the Best Small Catering Silver at the Garden Trade News Awards, receiving with owners Marion and Gary MacPherson receiving the award from gold winning Team GB rowers Mark Hunter and Zac Purchase.

Woman accused biting policewoman

A WOMAN was arrested after allegedly biting a policewoman and spitting on a policeman after they were called to a house on Lochneil Road, Dunbeg.

The 22 year-old resisted arrest when police arrived at the house after receiving a complaint about a party last Friday.

Oldest Bowmore released at £100,000

BOWMORE will release the island's oldest single malt whisky next month - with the first two bottles costing at least £100,000 each.

The Bowmore 1957 was bottled last year, but spent 54 years lying in wait in finest oak barrels.

With only 12 bottles in existence worldwide, it is the rarest Bowmore whisky and is set to become one of the most sought-after single malts in the world. Bottles one and two will be offered at auction at Bonham's in Edinburgh on October 10 and on October 28 in New York, with a minimum reserve of £100,000.

Andrew Rankin, Morrison Bowmore's chief blender, said: 'Upon checking the whisky in early 2011, we knew it had reached perfection at 54 years of age.'

Police appeal after window smashed

OBAN police are appealing for witnesses after a brick was thrown through a window of a guest house on Corran Esplanade at approximately 1am on Saturday. An elderly couple were sleeping in the room at the time. Anyone with information can contact Constable Emma Campbell at Oban police station.

NEWSDESKS
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An artist's impression of the proposed £3million indoor training facility and 3G pitch.

Ambitious sports hub plan wins unanimous backing

LOCHABER councillors have unanimously backed draft proposals for a new £3million community sports hub in Fort William.

If implemented, the ambitious plan, unveiled at a business meeting in Lochaber House on Monday, would see the new hub built at Lochaber High School. Consultants Douglas Wheeler Associates and John Gilbert Architects produced the blueprint after Lochaber Sports Association (LSA) and Highland Council commissioned a study into bringing Lochaber's sports facilities into the 21st century.

The area's high rainfall means outdoor sports such as football and rugby suffer during the winter as grass pitches flood or freeze.

The plan features two main projects - re-covering the school's astroturf pitch in a 3G surface suitable for all sports and an indoor centre with a 60x40 metre pitch - big enough for golf and cricket practice. Showers, changing and meeting areas would be shared.

LSA's chairperson Jane Blanchard accepted finding funding would be a challenge but said the Scottish Government and SportsScotland were committed to creating such community sports hubs as the Commonwealth Games draw nearer.

Ms Blanchard said SportsScotland 'would be the first port of call' for cash, citing The Robertson Trust, the

Commonwealth Games Legacy Fund, Sportsmatch and Awards for All as potential funders.

She said: 'Capital costs have risen dramatically in the 18 months since the indoor training facility was first considered but the predicted cost of around £650/sqm is well within the 'sample' costs tabled by SportsScotland for similar facilities.

'The total budget cost of the indoor training facility and showering/changing/meeting areas is £3m, including development costs and VAT.

'Both facilities will take all the pressure off club grass pitches, whilst being a huge incentive to national coaching bodies to bring their coaches to Lochaber. They will be able to be used by school

pupils during the school day and clubs and the wider community at all other times.

'Although the economic climate in general is currently very poor, the timing for developing a community sports hub such as this could not be better.'

Ms Blanchard added: 'We feel there is absolutely no time to lose if we are to take advantage of this exciting opportunity and so look forward to the publication of the final report within the next two weeks, which will take us another step closer to making this long-held dream a reality.'

Lochaber Rugby Club went more than four months last winter without playing a game at their home ground in Banavie.

Two new stores boost Fort William High Street

FORT William's High Street has been given a major shot in the arm with news that two new stores will open this weekend, bringing around 25 new jobs to the town.

Sports retailer Sportsdirect.com is to open its outlet this Sunday in the former Blacks Leisure shop, which closed in February with the loss of seven jobs.

And greetings cards and gift shop Moments will start trading tomorrow in Tweeddale Buildings in the former Birthdays outlet, creating five part-time jobs.

Sportsdirect.com, which has more than 400 branches across the UK, said the new shop would 'create jobs for management and 20 casual roles'.

Fort William Chamber of Commerce chairman Robert Hawkes the news was a boost for the town's retail sector.

He said: 'It's great to see people have confidence in the potential of Fort William High Street to open up new stores in this difficult time for high streets across the country.'

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Kintyre road widening project completed

WORKS to widen a long-standing pinch point on the A83 at Muasdale have been complete. Measures were taken to widen the carriageway at Tangytil Farm on the Campbeltown to Lochgilphead road to allow delivery of components of the Carriga Gheal windfarm to site, north of Kilmartin. Parts of the windfarm, including 20 sets of turbine towers, will be transported from manufacturer Wind Towers Limited in Machrihanish along the A83 to Lochgilphead and onto the A816 to Kilmartin, where the turbines will travel on to the newly constructed west Loch Awe timber haul route to the wind farm site.

The £1.4m improvement project was funded by windfarm developers GreenPower, with Argyll and Bute Council contributing £500,000 to the work.

John Morgan, director of GreenPower said: 'We are very grateful to Argyll and Bute Council, the landowners at Tangytil and our contractors for helping us successfully deliver this improvement to a critical part of the A83. While it provides a direct benefit to our own project, we are sure it will also contribute to the lasting success of Argyll's renewables industry and the wider local economy.'

Two lorries per night carrying the abnormal loads will be escorted by Strathclyde Police from Kintyre to the site entrance, approximately four miles north of Kilmartin on the A816.

The first lorry will begin its journey at around midnight, with the second to follow two hours after the first lorry's departure.

The deliveries will take place five days a week, Sunday night to Thursday night, and continue for eight to 10 weeks.

There will be no formal road closures associated with the turbine deliveries but police will direct other vehicles to ensure the safe passage of the lorries when appropriate.

Police have said there is no positive line of inquiry 'as yet' but are awaiting the results of the crime scene examination, which can identify fingerprints and clues leading to the thieves' identity.

Police patrols at the windfarm site have been increased.

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Wide load warning

THE DELIVERY of wind turbines from Machrihanish in Kintyre to the Carriga Gheal windfarm site near Kilmartin will begin in the early hours of Monday morning.

Two lorries per night carrying the abnormal loads will be escorted by Strathclyde Police from Kintyre to the site entrance, approximately four miles north of Kilmartin on the A816.

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Double decker safety fears prompt school run stand-off

Parents and head teacher slate bus firm for choice of replacement vehicle

A BUS company has been slated for using a double decker bus to take Lochaber children to school over an exposed mountain route.

Stagecoach usually schedules a coach to ferry Onich and North Ballachulish pupils to Kinlochleven High School (KHS) via the B863 'high road' from Glencoe.

But when a double decker appeared as the 44 service from Fort William at North Ballachulish on Friday at 8.15am, the schoolchildren refused to board.

The bemused driver contacted managers in Fort William for advice then drove away without the youngsters.

The stand-off came after KHS headteacher John McGilp warned parents by text not to allow their children to use a double decker after one appeared on the route last month and again on September 6.

Mr McGilp considers only coaches are suitable for the high road, which in places has a steep 300-foot drop down to Loch Leven.

Last Friday, Lochaber was being battered by the tail end of Tropical Storm Leslie and Hurricane Michael, with 50mph winds.

Mr McGilp appears to have the full backing of local parents who are furious at the sudden use of double deckers.

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

North Ballachulish mum Katie Daynes estimated local families had to transport 16 children 10 miles to school themselves on Friday.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'It is a safety thing for our children. All you need is one wheel to go slightly off the road and that's it.'

'It is one thing when it happened last week, but when it happened again a week later it shows the company has not taken anything the school said into consideration.'

'We put our trust in the bus company to get our children to school safely - and we feel using a double decker bus in high winds is not safe.'

'Even the low road [from North Ballachulish to Kinlochleven] was dangerous with flooding and broken branches. I would not want to know what the high road was like.'

'They are just putting the buses on without thinking about the consequences. Do we have to wait until an accident happens?'

Mrs Daynes, originally from New York, added: 'Buses designed for city routes should not be used by school runs in rural Lochaber.'

Mr McGilp told *The Oban Times*: 'We are in discussions with Stagecoach and TEC services in terms of trying to get the school run back to using single decker buses.'

'I am only interested in the health and safety of the children at the school.'

A Stagecoach spokesperson said on Friday: 'Although a coach normally operates on this route, occasionally due to routine maintenance and inspection requirements we have to substitute a vehicle rather than miss a journey and this was the case this morning.'

'We continue to offer safe and reliable services meeting the contractual obligations for school services as set out by the Highland Council.'

Children living south of Ballachulish Bridge are currently in the Kinlochleven High catchment area and get free transport to school. Those north of it come under Lochaber High School. Most Onich and North Ballachulish parents have opted for Kinlochleven and have to pay bus fares. A review of the South Lochaber catchment boundary is ongoing.

Ms Daynes said: 'Just because our children are not in the catchment doesn't mean you should put their lives at risk. We pay for the bus - it's not a free service because we are not officially catchment yet.'

Police investigate theft of copper worth £5,000 from Argyll windfarm

ENQUIRIES into the theft of copper from a windfarm site near Ardrishaig are continuing, police have confirmed.

Copper valued at £5,000 was stolen from the Allt Dearg Community Windfarm at Stronachullin overnight between September 8 and 9.

The high value theft was from Scottish Southern Energy (SSE), storage units; the company is currently working to connect the community windfarm to the national grid.

Police have said there is no positive line of inquiry 'as yet' but are awaiting the results of the crime scene examination, which can identify fingerprints and clues leading to the thieves' identity.

Police patrols at the windfarm site have been increased.

Motorbike stopped on A85 at 110mph

A MOTORCYCLIST stopped on the A85 on the wrong side of the road and travelling at speeds in excess of 110 mph has been charged with reckless driving.

The 43 year-old man was arrested on September 12 and also charged with having no tax on his bike.

Assault charge

A 22 YEAR-OLD man was arrested by police at the Railway Pier in Oban on Saturday after he allegedly assaulted two men and refused to leave a local public house when asked to do so on.



Richard Joynson of Loch Fyne Whiskies pours a celebratory dram. 16_138whisky01

Fyne dram recognised in whisky awards

Inveraray based Loch Fyne Whiskies has won both retail shop and online outlet categories in Whisky Magazine's prestigious Icons of Whisky awards - the first time ever that one retailer has achieved success in both categories. The annual awards, started in 2002, celebrate the people and places behind the greatest whiskies of the world and the Argyll business, established in 1993, has featured in every award year to date, culminating in this year's double triumph. Others recognised in this year's awards include Morrison Bowmore Distillers.



Skerryvore rock Tarbert Music Fest

CELTIC rockers Skerryvore headlined Tarbert Music Festival last weekend, living up to their billing as they entertained a large crowd at the pier in Tarbert. Beginning on Friday the free festival lasted right through the weekend, closing with the inevitable 'survivors' night' on Sunday evening. An impressive line-up also featured The Lush Puppies, Keep'er Lit, The Camans, Caragh and Lauren, and The Democrats, among others.

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Oban 3rd October, Campbeltown 4th October, Dunoon 31st October, Inveraray 1st November.

To book a place or for more information call 01546 605 459 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

AN TOBAR

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Giants in the Forest DARK WOOD - Sunday 7th October, 7pm at Calgary Art in Nature

Come join us. Be guided along a path of shadows into the Dark Wood to celebrate our Giants in the Forest. Artists and participants will illuminate the trees and fill the woods with strange and beautiful sights and sounds. Tours start at 7pm and will depart every 15 minutes thereafter. The event is free but tickets are limited so early booking is recommended. Contact An Tobar to book 01 688 302211. Please dress appropriately for any weather and uneven paths, and bring a torch of your own. An Tobar and Calgary Art in Nature are working as local project partners with Vision Mechanics. If you'd like to take part, come along to An Tobar on Sunday 30th September at 7pm to find out how. Children aged 11+ and adults are eligible.

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Scottish dementia statistics reveal the tip of an iceberg

NEW Scottish research has highlighted concerns that care services for people suffering from dementia require a full and urgent overhaul.

Alzheimer Scotland claim many sufferers have little or no coordinated health and social support available to them which would allow them to live within the community.

The recent report also suggests that people living, or being brought up in the countryside, may face twice the risk of Alzheimer's disease.

Researchers, as yet, cannot identify why the brain-wasting disease should be affected by where a sufferer has spent their formative years, but the statistics of how disease rates vary between rural and urban situations are conclusive.

The results, published in the International Journal of Epidemiology, clearly show that a childhood spent in a country setting more than doubled the risk of Alzheimer's disease in later life. Other forms of dementia were also affected but the increase in risk was much smaller.

With 85,000 people in Scotland now recognised as being affected by the disease, and with that figure expected to more than double as Scotland's elderly population continues to increase, the organisation and implementation of suitable and coordinated personal care packages need to be urgently addressed.

Island buyout suggestion could be one of many

A SUGGESTION that Easdale could soon be the subject of a community buy out is sure to divide opinion - but if successful could lead the way for a host of similar initiatives elsewhere.

The Scottish Land Fund has cash set aside for just such proposals and Easdale could be an inspiration to others keen to preserve tradition, safeguard events or even bring the community together.

Gigha is just one example of a successful community buy out and while ambitious, this small island proves that with determination and hard work anything is possible.



Transatlantic cable workers, Oban, 1955

Pictured at Gallanach, Oban, at the construction of the tunnel and outbuildings for the transatlantic cable to Newfoundland are D and J MacDougall workmen, from left, back row: Ian Fraser, Duncan Campbell, Johnny Paterson, Kenny MacKinnon, Donald Archie MacIntyre, Taffy Evans and Donald MacCallum. Front row: Mr MacAllister, Archie MacDonald, Sandy Johnston, Davie (surname unknown) and Archie Turnbull. The Oban Times welcomes submitted prints and images of a bygone era for publishing. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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GLASGOW LETTER

Celtic Connections at the Ryder Cup

HAVING successfully taken the Celtic Connections 'Big Top' to the Isle of Skye in March this year, the festival will be going further afield when, at the invitation of Creative Scotland, it will be performing at various venues throughout the Ryder Cup in Chicago at the end of this month.

They will be programming musical performances at the opening and closing ceremonies as well as hospitality events.

Two main concerts will be held. The first will feature Transatlantic Sessions, the jewel in the crown at the festival, on Wednesday September 26 in the Jay Pritzker Pavilion at Millennium Park.

This concert, under the musical direction of Aly Bain and Jerry Douglas, will feature many international artists as well as Kathleen MacInnes, Karen Matheson, Phil Cunningham, Donald Shaw, Danny Thomson, Jarlath Henderson, John Doyle and James Mackintosh from our own shores.

The second concert will be a mesmerising showcase of Scottish talent and will take place at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance on Saturday September 29. On the bill will be Julie Fowlis, Session A9, Admiral Fallow, as part of their first North American tour, Kathleen MacInnes, Rura and Emily Smith.

Donald Shaw, Artistic Director for Celtic Connections, said: 'We are really excited that Creative Scotland has given us this fantastic opportunity to bring a taste of our festival to Chicago and to promote Celtic music at an international level.'

'The Ryder Cup is the ideal platform for the festival's first overseas performance and this presents an unrivalled opportunity for the new audiences to experience the best of what the Celtic Connections festival has to offer.'

Looking forward to the next Celtic Connections, which will be a 20th anniversary celebration, the dates are January 17 2013 to February 3 2013 and the programme will

be announced on October 16 2012.

Evening classes

CEILIDH dance classes have started in Maryhill Community Halls every Thursday evening at a cost of £7/£5 per class.

In An Leanaig on Mansfield Street, accordion classes will start on Wednesday October 3 - £15/£10 - per class and on Tuesday October 23 both classes will start in the same location, cost £7/£5.

All the classes start at 7pm.

Diary dates

Thursday September 20: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Hans Theesink. Paisley Arts Centre, 7.30pm, Dansa.

Friday September 21: Van Morrison, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 8pm.

Saturday September 22: Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain, Ayr Town Hall, 7.30pm. Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm, Dansa.

Wednesday September 26: Albert Halls, Stirling, 7.30pm, Drifters.

Thursday September 27: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Peter Morton.

Friday September 28: Milngavie Charity Concert for 'Help for Heroes', Milngavie Town Hall, 7.30pm. Glasgow Skye Association Opening Ceilidh, Crawford Hall, Partick, 7.30pm. Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh, 7.30pm, The Outside Track.

Saturday September 29: Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain, Paisley Abbey, 8pm. National Treasure 6, Perth Concert Hall, 7.30pm.

Sunday September 30: Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain, Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, 7.30pm. Accoustic Affair, Oran Mor, 7pm, Lizanne Knott.

Pub scene

WILLIE Cameron and Martin Pottinger will be playing in the Park Bar on both Friday and Sunday with Nicky McMichan there on Saturday while in the Lsly Inn it will be Deoch'n Dorus on Friday and Black Velvet on Saturday.

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

YOUR LETTERS

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page.

The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them.

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

Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, 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.

Parents have a right to park outside school

Sir, I was disappointed to see my car photographed - without my prior knowledge - in *The Oban Times* under the headline 'School run row escalates as residents call for council action'.

If your reporter had spoken to any of the parents concerned, you would have heard a very different story. All the school run parents at Park seem to be reasonable, approachable and courteous people and I take exception to the way we have been portrayed by *The Oban Times*.

The parents who choose to pick their children up have been asked by the school and the police not to park in the school grounds. This is to safeguard our children and to allow school buses to turn. There is only enough parking space within the school grounds for the staff.

To my knowledge, no parent has been approached by unhappy residents. When we arrive the parking bays are usually fairly empty and are only filled by parents for 15 minutes.

The area in which we park is not a residents' car park, as Mr Jewel states, but a public road, where anyone is free to park.

Julie McKenzie, Park Primary School parent.

Rising number of school run cars the problem

Sir, I read with interest the article about parking problems around Park Primary School in Dunollie, Oban, with parents dropping off and collecting children on the approach roads to the school.

This problem has been kept quiet for too long for fear of a backlash from parents who believe they have a right to stop or park where they want.

These roads are already very busy, especially in the mornings, with traffic from the housing estate and it is an issue that was always going to cause conflict eventually.

When the school was built it would never have been envisaged that children would be delivered to the school gates by car therefore the obvious bottleneck that is Kerrera Terrace wasn't a problem.

So what has changed? Not the number of residents, nor the positioning of the school - only the number of cars arriving daily.

Duncan MacDougall, Oban.

Abject failure of vision

Sir, Over the decades, some communities, school boards, parents and their representatives have had a powerful and positive vision for our young people.

On Muck we built a new school for community use. For Ardnamurchan and Morvern we built the first high school in Strontian to save pupils travelling four hours a day or having to stay in a hostel. We raised £1.5m for community facilities in this new school.

In Kinlochleven we built a new primary and high school on a joint campus. At Achacrae

we built an award-winning eco-school. In Lochaline we built a new primary school with community facilities and fire station. At Lochaber High School, £30m was spent on a phased refurbishment.

Over five years, six of the then seven Highland councillors consulted and developed plans to improve greater Fort William primary schools, including a new Upper Achintore/Fort William primary at Lundavra Road and a new campus school for Caol and RC primary education with an add-on of £1.5m for community facilities.

It is therefore disappointing that the final aspect of this £30m expenditure for the greater FW primaries' development will now not include the Gaelic school on the Blar Mhor, as agreed, with the benefits of co-location with Lochaber High School, sports facilities, health centre and new hospital as well as joint private/public transport links.

Despite this abject failure of vision, the community will now try to ensure the Gaelic school benefits from the best of facilities.

I presume those who object to this now only wish they had benefited from Gaelic medium education with the known researched and proven benefits of a higher IQ and better English comprehension - as well as the honour of being fluent in the indigenous language of Lochaber.

Michael Foxley, Achaphubuil, Fort William.

Crianlarich bypass concern

Sir, Do *Oban Times* readers realise the bypass to be built at Crianlarich next year will only link the A82 south and west of the village and will not continue across the railway to join the A85?

Whenever I mention this, I am met with the same utter disbelief that I had when I first discovered this. After all, the justification for the bypass is the difficulty which large vehicles have in negotiating, in particular, the lower railway bridge. But the overwhelming majority of these vehicles are heading via Stirling to central Scotland distribution hubs and will therefore gain nothing. Sure, some operators send their vehicles via Stirling to avoid the Loch Lomond road, and with the completion of the M74 extension, it may just be as quick to travel to Carlisle via Glasgow rather than Stirling, as has previously been usual. I certainly have noticed more lorries on the Loch Lomond road.

But the bypass will neither deliver the benefits either to traffic or to the village which a complete bypass would have provided.

As for the Pulpit Rock scheme, this is a classic example of symbolism over substance, because the iconic traffic lights are not the pinch-point on the road.

The seven bends just north of Inveruglas are the reason many operators will not allow their vehicles to use this route.

I understand £2m has been committed to defining the complete new road between Tarbet and Inverarnan, but there is no commitment to build it.

I know the A82 partnership will not let the matter lie, but there is no sign the Government is reversing its neglect of

West Highland infrastructure, and remedying its failure to provide the means to integrate our economy into that of the dynamic centre and east.

Readers of last year's archive editions of this paper will know that reconstruction of the whole A82 was interrupted by WW2 when only the Loch Lomond sections remained, so we have been waiting 75 years for the work to be completed, a period in which several other trunk roads have been rebuilt more than once.

Duncan Martin, Dungallass Terrace, Oban.

Not enough cycle paths

Sir, By coincidence I read the letter 'Keep cyclists off the road' in last week's *Oban Times* at the same time as gold medallist cyclist Chris Boardman was being interviewed on the BBC, expressing his view there are likely to be a lot more cyclists on the roads as a result of this year's feast of medals for GB cyclists at the Olympics and Paralympics.

Naturally he would prefer cyclists did not have to share the roads with motor vehicles.

However, whilst apparently there are relatively few road accidents involving cyclists even on the roads leading to Oban which are not the most suited for cyclists, until there is a good network of cycle paths in Britain, it is not possible to 'keep cyclists off the road'.

We who derive our income from tourists are thankful and proud that the Mid Argyll road system forms part of two major cycling routes, one national - the Sustrans Route 78 from Campbelltown to Oban and the other international - the 'St Columba Route'

Times Diary

THE PHRASE 'You don't ask, you don't get' is often used by those who think their request may be a long shot.

We at The Diary applauded one Lochaweside resident who took that chance by appealing to the local community council for a little home improvement.

Responding to complaints by Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council that residents around the loch rarely applied for grants from its community benefit funds, one resident took the council up on its offer.

The applicant requested £250 from the An Suidhe Windfarm micro grant scheme to fit a woodchip boiler in his house.

When it was pointed out to the gentleman the grants were for community benefit, he indicated the boiler would indeed be beneficial to the wider community, as it would reduce his carbon footprint. Demonstrating democracy is alive and well in east Lorn, the community council, meeting at Bridge of Orchy's Fleming Memorial Hall, went to the vote.

For the record, the decision not to grant the cash was unanimous.

A FRIEND of Diary's thought she was being so generous buying her old granny a mobile phone from eBay.

It turns out the only drawback with buying a second hand phone is that the previous user could have forgotten to remove their personal data from it.

As it turned out in this case when our friend received a phone call from her confused granny wondering why there was a picture of a naked man looking at her. Perhaps that delete button would be a good idea in the future?

Too many people spend money they haven't earned, to buy things they don't want, to impress people they don't like - **Will Rogers.**

You are not in this world to live up to other people's expectations, nor should you feel the world must live up to yours - **F Perl.**



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

NACH Uabhasach an dòrainn a dh'fhuing na teaghlaichean aig an naochad 's a sia neach a chail am beatha ann an tubaist Hillsborough bho chionn còrr air trì bliadhna fìchead air ais.

Chaidh cuideachd faisg air ochd ceud de luchd-leantainn Liverpool an goirteachadh agus faodar a bhith cinnteach gum bheil mòran dhiubh sin fhathast a' fulang ais-sheallaidhean a tha draghail. Cha do thachair a leithid riann ann an eachdraidh ionadan-spòrs Bhreatann agus b' e fear de na tubaistean ball-coise a bu mhiosa riann san t-saoghal. Chanadh duine sam bith gum biodh leithid sin gu leòr dha càirden is luchd-taice a ghùlan, ged nach biodh aithrisean air nochdadh ann am paipear-naidheachd a' fàgail coire air luchd-leantainn gun rian fo bhuaidh dibhe.

Cho-dhùin rannsachadh oifigeil Mhic an Tàilleir ann an 1990 gun do thachair an tubaist ri linn is gun do chail am poileas smachd air cùisean, ach bha luchd-leantainn fhathast gan coireachadh airson na h-ùpraid a thòiseachadh.

Fìchead bliadhna an dèidh na tubaiste, dh' iarr am ministear riaghaltais Andra Burnham gun d' rachadh fiosrachaidhean nach d' fhuair Mac an Tàilleir fhòillseachadh agus chaidh pannel neo-eisimeileach a stèidheachadh le Easbaig Liverpool anns a' Chathair. Tha na co-dhùnaidhean aig a' phannel seo air car a' mhuiltean a chur air cùisean agus tha fearg mhòr a' gabhail aite a' bhroin a bh' ann roimhe. Agus cha bheag an t-iongnadh!

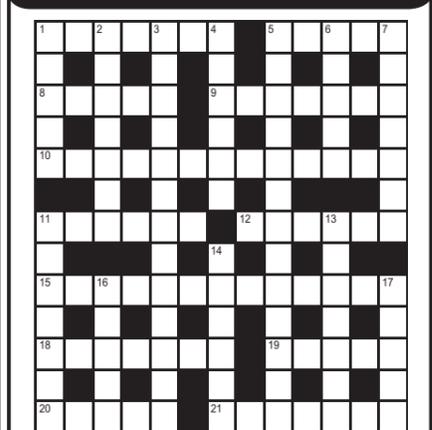
Chailleadh ceathrad sa h-aon a bha 's dòcha air tighinn beò às an t-suidheachadh nan robh iad air cobhair sgiobalta fhaotainn, ann am beachd a' phannail, ach nach d' fhuair iad sin ri linn dìth dòigh ann an stiùradh a' phoilis. A bharrachd air sin, tha an aithisg aig a' phannel air uireasbaidhean a chomharrachadh ann an obair caochladh bhuidhean poblach agus am measg sheirbheisean èiginn. Ach gun teagamh sam bith, 's e am fiosrachadh mu ire cleith nam mearachdan a rinn am poileas aig an àm a tha air daoine a bheò-ghlacadh buileach glan. 'S gann a ghabhas e creidsinn gum biodh na cumntasan aig 164 oifigear poileas air an atharrachadh gus an fhirinn mu cucoir a' phoilis fhèin fhalach! Dè an seòrsa maoidheachd a dh' fheumadh tighinn air na bha sin de dh'oifigearan nas leigeadh iad leithid sin air adhart? Agus dè an seòrsa smachd leantainneach a th' air leithid de bhreugan a ghleidheadh fad còrr air fìchead bliadhna? Tha am paipear-naidheachd, An Sun, air aideachadh gum bheil na rinn iadsan gus cur sìos air luchd-leantainn Liverpool na mhaslath leantainneach, ach mus bi seo seachad, tha cliù a' phoilis agus earbsa an t-sluaigh anna dol a dh' fhulang buille do-chreidsinneach!

THE HILLSBOROUGH independent panel's report has rekindled painful memories and its astonishing findings generate understandable anger.

It seems inevitable that this tragic story will run for some time yet, but by the time it ends I suspect that public confidence in the credibility of the police service will have received an enormously damaging setback which will take years to repair. But it must be repaired.

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

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- Tussle (7)
 - Draw for cash (5)
 - Outlook (5)
 - Unopen (7)
 - Arrogant (4-9)
 - Go back on (6)
 - Choux pastry item (6)
 - Questioner (5-8)
 - Group of islands in the Pacific (7)
 - Book of maps (5)
 - An overseer of tenants (5)
 - Wing case (7)

- Down**
- The 'other halves' (5)
 - Fifth letter of the Greek alphabet (7)
 - Group of commercial premises (7,6)
 - Break from (6)
 - Uniformed in fur-trimmed gowns (6,7)
 - Earth (5)
 - Elderly person (7)
 - Rally round (7)
 - Ring shaped (7)
 - Dig up (6)
 - Division of a pound (5)
 - Glue (5)

Last week's solution

G	A	L	L	E	I	G	N	O	R	A	N	T
O	G	M	L	A	P	S	R					
S	I	D	E	A	R	M	T	I	S	S	U	E
S	G	E	A	M	E	N	U	Y				
A	B	E	A	M	L	E	E	W	A	Y		
M		A	Y			G	S					
E	O	J	I	N	E	S	T	R	E	A	M	
R												
I	G	N	O	R	E	A	D	I	B	E		
U												
C	R	E	D	O	A	R	M	B	A	N	D	
E	N	N	G	A	G	E						
D	I	T	H	E	R	E	D	T	E	A	R	

Bogus workman warning

POLICE in Skye are advising members of the public to be aware of a possible bogus workman operating in the area.

Officers have received reports of a man in a black Transit style van using what have been described as 'aggressive sales techniques' to encourage residents into an agreement for roofing services.

Local people are urged to be on their guard and report any concerns to police.

Corpach man brandished metal bar at ex-wife's partner

A CORPACH man has admitted waving a metal bar above his head during an argument with his ex-wife's partner.

Angus Kennedy, of 7 Guisach Terrace, pled guilty to behaving in a threatening and abusive manner by shouting, swearing and brandishing the bar on May 19.

The 46-year-old had gone to his former marital home on Locheside, where his ex-wife still lives, to work on a rally car in an out building with two friends at around 9am.

But the woman was unhappy Kennedy had not told her in advance he was going to come to the property, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'She was agitated. Her new partner went out to talk to Mr Kennedy. The accused became aggressive, picked up the metal bar and went towards the man with the bar above his head.'

Defence lawyer Gerry Sweeney said the incident was the result of a 'misunderstanding' between Kennedy and his ex-wife.

Sheriff Vinit Khurana admonished Kennedy - a warning which is a conviction and appears on the offender's criminal record.

Work starts on new museum and archive centre

WORK is due to start on a £4.6 million two-year project to create a new museum and archive centre at Lews Castle in Stornoway.

The current Museum nan Eilean will close at the end of September to allow the work, which is being funded by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, to begin.

Among the attractions at the new museum will be six Lewis Chessmen, which have been secured on a long-term loan from the British Museum in London.

The work will see a purpose-built annexe to the castle with gallery space and new displays looking at the past and the future across the Outer Hebrides.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar leader Angus Campbell said the project was a 'once in a generation opportunity'.

Regeneration group meets to pick committee

UPPER Achintore Regeneration Group in Fort William is meeting in Upper Achintore Primary School tonight (Thursday) to choose its committee for the year ahead.

It is hoped between five and 10 people will join the committee, which will elect a chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary and treasurer.



Rosemary and Duncan MacPhee present the winners' shield to Banavie captain Victor Smith and the team.

Banavie make it three trophy wins in a row

MORE than 100 youngsters from across the west Highlands came to Fort William to compete for the tenth annual Fraser MacPhee Memorial Shinty Trophy on Sunday.

Around £320 was raised on the day which will be donated to local youth shinty.

Nine teams - Portree, Inverloch, Banavie, Ardnamurchan, Caol, Lundavra, Lochaber,

Kingussie and Ballachulish - took part at An Aird, with Banavie defeating Kingussie in the final to lift the trophy for the third year in a row.

Duncan and Rosemary MacPhee presented the prizes after the tournament and said the day had been 'the best one yet'.

They said: 'Everybody has enjoyed

themselves and most importantly the children have had a great day, playing very high standard shinty, which is what this event has always been about.'

'We would like to say a huge thanks to everyone who helped us today.'

'Without them it wouldn't have been such a success.'

Fort William man launched unprovoked attack

A FORT William man launched an unprovoked attack on a man he suspected had slept with his girlfriend.

The victim had been carrying out work on a driveway on Union Road, Fort William, when Sandy Campbell came up from behind and punched him.

Defence solicitor Steven Kennedy told Fort William Sheriff Court Campbell's partner

was unfaithful with the victim of the assault the weekend before.

He said: 'Mr Campbell was walking to Lochaber College when he saw the man. He saw red, given what had happened, and punched him.'

Campbell previously pled guilty to assaulting the man during the May 1 incident. Sheriff Vinit Khurana fined the

26-year-old £300. Meanwhile, a charge against Campbell of fighting with a baseball bat was dropped by the Crown.

Campbell and John Campbell, aged 43, of 40 Carlisle Road, Crawford, Biggar, had denied behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by fighting in Brown Court and Campbell Court, Fort William, on March 24.

er learned of the islands' past from Mr MacDonald's widow, Nancy, aged 92, who still lives in Fort William. He also visited St Kilda on a number of occasions. The images are displayed with explanatory text. Entry to the museum is free.

Contemporary colour images of St Kilda go on show

A SIX-WEEK exhibition of St Kilda photographs opens at West Highland Museum in Fort William on Saturday.

St Kilda 36, comprising three dozen colour prints of contemporary images from the remote archipelago, depict the islands'

unique wildlife, architecture, military presence and the ever-changing landscape, as captured by Lochaber photographer William Cameron.

Lochaber has strong connections with former St Kildans, who were evacuated to live on

mainland Scotland on August 29 1930.

Many of the last 36 islanders were relocated to live in Morvern and one, Lachie MacDonald, subsequently moved to live and work in Glen Nevis.

To inform his work, Mr Cam-

er learned of the islands' past from Mr MacDonald's widow, Nancy, aged 92, who still lives in Fort William. He also visited St Kilda on a number of occasions. The images are displayed with explanatory text. Entry to the museum is free.

Aquaculture firm nets export award

MARINE Harvest Scotland (MHS) Ltd, the country's largest aquaculture company, has netted a major award for its exporting efforts.

MSH lifted the accolade at the Scottish Council for Development and Industry's Highlands and Islands annual dinner and business excellence awards at the Drumossie Hotel, Inverness, on Friday.

The firm received the Benromach Award for Excellence in International Business after breaking into the Chinese market in 2011, selling 1,800 tonnes of salmon in its first full year of export.

MHS managing director Alan Sutherland said: 'We are delighted to receive this award as recognition for the hard work and commitment of our staff who have worked to achieve our international growth.'

The go-ahead firm, based at Blar Mhor Industrial Estate outside Fort William, produced more than 50,000 tonnes of salmon last year. Export sales in its last financial year grew by 101 per cent over the previous 12 months.

As demand grows, MSH has announced it will recruit two apprentices a year aged between 16 and 20 under a new two-year apprenticeship scheme being launched this week.

Trainees will undertake practical work experience and in-house training in all aspects of aquaculture, from gutting fish to basic sea survival. The apprenticeships, which

will include an SVQ2 Level 2 Aquaculture qualification, will follow the salmon farming process from fish hatchery through growing the fish at seawater sites through to harvesting and packing the fish.

Recruits will be guaranteed a job after their two years - but must be willing to move anywhere within the company.

Mr Sutherland said: 'Often young people in these areas are forced to move away to get work so we're delighted to be able to offer this apprenticeship scheme.'

'This is a wonderful opportunity to develop a career

in a successful industry. The image of fish farming as an unskilled labouring job is very out-dated - today's fish farmers are highly skilled and our apprentices will gain both skills and qualifications which are greatly in demand both here and across the world.'

MSH runs four hatcheries, four freshwater loch sites and 30 sea farms across the West Highlands and islands.

In 2009 the company announced a major expansion to meet increasing demand and has recently opened two new farms in the Western Isles.

A new £16 million smolt rearing plant is currently being built at Lochailort, the original home of farmed salmon in Scotland.



Andrew Dixon, chief executive of Creative Scotland, left, presents Marine Harvest Scotland key account manager Madeleine Easson and process planning manager Angus MacKay with the award at Friday night's ceremony.

Invergarry man admits assaulting partner

AN INVERGARRY man has admitted drunkenly assaulting his partner during an argument in his house.

Milos Goga, of 19 Garry Crescent, admitted seizing the woman by the hand and pushing her on the body, causing her to fall into a chair on July 21.

Fiscal Alison Wylie said the 38-year-old and the woman got into an argument about his drinking.

She said: 'She called 999 and was told to lock herself in the bathroom until the police arrived.'

Hearing Goga had previous convictions for assault, Sheriff Vinit Khurana deferred sentencing until October 24 for reports.



Sandy Cameron from Roy Bridge: top at Inverness 20_1389pe01



Brighde Chaimbeul from Kyle: excelled in the under-15 category.

Young pipers excel at Northern Meeting

TWO YOUNG West Highland pipers excelled in junior competitions at the recent Northern Meeting in Inverness.

Sandy Cameron from Roy Bridge won both the piobaireachd and march, strathspey and reel competitions to take the overall under-18 title. Brighde Chaimbeul from Kyle won the under-15 march, strathspey and reel and was placed second in the piobaireachd.

Seamus O'Baoghill from Sleat on Skye came fourth in the under-15 piobaireachd.

Drunk's threats to girlfriend heard in court

A FORT William man told his girlfriend he would shoot her in a drunken row over the phone.

Malcolm Watson pled guilty to behaving in a threatening and abusive manner by making the threats during the call late on August 11.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'He suspected she had been unfaithful to him with his brother. He phoned her and became angry and she hung up. He called her back and said "Talk to me or I'm going to shoot you."'

Later the same night, the 26-year-old sent a number of texts saying he was going to give the woman 'a battering' and smash the windows at her house.

The following morning Watson went to the woman's house on Glenkingie Street, Caol, and repeatedly banged on the door and shouted for someone to let him in.

Ms Wylie said the couple had since become reconciled.

Defending, Hamish Melrose told Fort William Sheriff Court Watson was drunk when he made the threats and had not had any alcohol since.

Sheriff Vinit Khurana ordered Watson, of 6 Lochaber Road to carry out 80 hours unpaid work.

Design award shortlist unveiled

THE SHORTLISTED entries for the West region of the third Highlands and Islands architectural awards have been unveiled.

Sleat-based Dualchas have four properties shortlisted in the 'new building' category - No 15 Borerraig, 1 Kildorais, Flodigarry, An Da Bhatnach - all on Skye - and 29 Harbour Street in Plockton.

Another Skye-based firm, Rural Design from Dunvegan has been nominated in the same category for its House at Lusta at Waternish, Skye, and in the 'new life for old' and 'placemaking' categories for its Burnside development at Plockton.

The awards, held every two years since 2008, are organised by Inverness Architectural Association (IAA) - the chapter of the Royal Incorporation of Architects that covers the Highlands and Islands.

IAA president Andrew Bruce said: 'The west Highlands, as always, has offered up a very high quality shortlist and we're looking forward to visiting the various properties.'

Regional winners go forward to the main Highlands and Islands awards on November 9.



Grease is the word at Lochaber High

Grease is the word at Lochaber High School for the pupil's annual show to be held next week. The youngsters will put on three performances of the popular 1950s-set musical in the school hall on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. The shows start at 7.30pm each night with tickets available at the school office. Depute head teacher Paul Reynolds said: 'The annual shows are a real credit to the school, and this year's show promises to live up to the now high expectations.'

Federation wins Skye abattoir study cash

THE KYLE-based Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) has been awarded almost £11,000 for a feasibility study on developing a small abattoir in Skye and Lochalsh.

The report will examine prospects for a small-scale slaughtering and processing plant, which would be

co-operatively owned and operated. A Scottish Agricultural College team led by Portree-based senior consultant Siobhan Macdonald will carry out the study. The move follows work by the SCF explaining the cost and animal welfare benefits of a local abattoir. Skye and Lochalsh

crofters and farmers currently have to transport animals to Dingwall for slaughter - a journey of up to three and a half hours - or even to Lochmaddy on North Uist.

SCF crofting resources programme manager Donald Murdie said 'costed plans' would be produced for a plant

suited to local needs with a 'flexible operating strategy' to respond to seasonal demand.

'The resulting report will be made freely available to other groups of producers wishing to develop their own small-scale abattoir facilities,' he said.

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Our guide to Scottish Food & Drink Fortnight 2012



Scottish Food & Drink Fortnight is the annual celebration of Scotland's fantastic produce which takes place every September. Managed by Scotland Food & Drink since 2009, the Fortnight is more successful every year with more than 220 events taking place across the country in 2011.

farm shops, food service businesses, food festivals, Farmers' Markets, food groups, visitor attractions and restaurants who celebrated the Fortnight with a range of activities from in-store tastings to special events and menus.

Last year's participants included multiple and smaller retailers such as independent delicatessens and

Celebrate Scotland's fantastic food and drink at home or at any one of the great events around the country this September, Eat Scottish!

Aberdeen Angus Beef Tajine for 6 people

Ingredients
 600g aberdeen angus beef
 1 teaspoon each of the following:
 ground cumin
 ground coriander
 ground ginger
 ground cinnamon
 turmeric
 paprika
 2 tablespoons Scottish rapeseed oil (ola)
 330ml black isle blond beer
 1 onion sliced
 100g prunes
 250g new potatoes cut in half
 Salt and pepper
 Sprinkle with sesame seeds

Method 1
 Put all in ingredients into a slow cooker. Set on low and cook for 12 hours

Method 2
 Heat oven gas 4/160-170°C
 Heat oil and brown beef and onions. Turn heat down and add spices and cook until aroma is released. Add vegetables and beer and bring to the boil. Cover with well fitting lid and put in oven. Cook for 2-3 hours.
 Remove from oven and season to taste. Serve with green, herby salad.

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Coisir Ghaidhlig Ile proved to be the stars of this years Mòd Dhailriada. 16_138mod02

Islay singers dominate Mòd at Lochgilhead

SINGERS and musicians from Islay continued their winning streak at Mòd Dhailriada, when they competed in the Lochgilhead event on Saturday. Enjoying great success in the choral competitions, Coisir Ghaidhlig Ile won all the senior choral trophies, fending off strong competition from Oban, Tarbert and Govan.

18 years and under competition, whilst Bowmore Primary was awarded the William Buchanan Memorial Trophy in the Choral Purit-a-Beul contest. John Murray, Mòd Dhailriada committee chairman, thanked all competitors who took part.

He said: 'People might be surprised to know how far some competitors travel - Edinburgh, Nairn, Caithness and even the Isle of Lewis this year - and we really appreciate them coming to Lochgilhead to support us. As usual the day went smoothly with competitions running to time with a warm, friendly atmosphere, good support from the locals in the audience and a high standard.'

The 2012 Mòd also saw Mid Argyll choir Còisir Òg Dhail Riata win the first ever Mid Argyll Music Festival Trophy, awarded to the choir with the highest marks in music in the junior choral competitions.



Coisir Ghaidhlig an Obain received a rapturous round of applause at the end of their first song. 16_138mod01



Coisir Ghaidhlig Tairbeart Loch Fin. 16_138mod03



Ann MacLean from Lismore won the Neil McIntyre trophy for senior Gaelic aggregate. Her seven-year-old daughter Ealasaid came third in her poem. 16_138mod13



Anna Macdonald, 13, from Islay with her Crawford Quach which she won for her poem. 16_138mod08



Lochgilhead girl, Lorna Young was the winner of the solo singing for girls 16 to 18. 16_138mod04



The Red Hot Chilli Pipers played with the Inveraray and District Juvenile Pipe Band to a packed crowd. 16_138bowfest11

Red Hot Chilli pipers boost Best of the West



Bruichladdich's Julie McEachern and John Mclachlan of Isle of Mull Whisky help show off Argyll and the Isles' finest drams, with every one of the area's drinks on offer in the whisky tent.

A LOCAL pipe band took centre stage alongside fine food and drink at the Best of the West festival in Inveraray last weekend.

The Inveraray and District Juvenile Pipe Band joined the Red Hot Chilli Pipers on stage to rapturous applause.

The music tent packed just in time for the Red Hot Chilli Pipers and the food tent was a popular attraction throughout the weekend.

The Food for Argyll team were at the festival to offer the finest in salmon, oysters, beef, venison, cheese, cakes and coffee. Every whisky on offer in the region was also at the festival alongside Loch Fyne's micro-brewery.

Organisers said they had been 'really pleased' with the turnout over the two days despite inclement weather on Sunday.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

World Stone Skimming Championships
Easdale Island
Sunday 23rd September
Registration 11am.
Skimming starts at noon.
2012 t-shirts, hoodies & hats plus BBQ and Stillwalker.
Pre skim dance Saturday 22nd September 8.30pm with 'The Hazy James'
Doors and Bar open 7.30pm. Late return ferry 11pm & 12pm.
Entry £265 (accompanied under 16's free)

ABCD
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www.abcd.btk.com
Sponsored Walk
From the Lorn and Islands Hospital, on Sunday 30th September 2012 at 2pm
All are welcome to join the walk.
Refreshments will be available at the hospital after the walk.
Sponsor forms are available from any of the Trustees, or from our website.
Please come if you can!

Comunn Gàidhealach an Obain
Cèilidh in aid of Marie Curie Nurses
St. John's Cathedral
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Connell Village Hall
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Friday 5th and Saturday 6th October 2012
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Friday night bands:
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The Karen Matheson Band
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Niteworks

Saturday afternoon:
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Saturday night bands:
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All tickets available from the website: www.feis-na-mara.com

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Oban Phoenix Cinema	The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel	Thursday 20th September	20:30
	Bel Ami	Thursday 20th September	18:00
		Friday 21st September	20:30
	Ice Age: Continental Drift	Friday 21st September	16:00
		Saturday 22nd September	13:00, 15:30
		Sunday 23rd September	13:00, 15:30
	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days	Friday 21st September	18:00
		Saturday 22nd September	17:45, 20:00
		Sunday 23rd September	17:45, 20:00
	Keith Lemon: The Film	Monday 24th September	18:00, 20:30
		Tuesday 25th September	18:00
		Thursday 27th September	18:00
	The Watch	Tuesday 25th September	20:30
	Total Recall	Wednesday 26th September	18:00
		Thursday 27th September	20:30
	The Angel's Share	Wednesday 26th September	20:45

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Ice Age: Continental Drift (U)
Manny, Diego, and Sid embark upon another adventure after their continent is set adrift. Using an iceberg as a ship, they encounter sea creatures and battle pirates as they explore a new world. If you have seen the first three or if this is your first encounter with the lovable and oh so funny, Ice Age gang, this film is fun fun fun from start to finish. And we guarantee you will pick up some new dance moves too!

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (U)
School is out and Greg is ready for the days of summer, when all his plans go wrong. What on earth is he going to do all summer? Greg hatches a cunning and hopelessly flawed plan to pretend to be working at a ritzy country club but this just invites mishaps and comedy ensues. Greg (Zachery Gordon) has been labelled the next Bill Murray after the first Diary of a Wimpy Kid film, so be sure you come and see this rising star in this fun for all the family hilarious film.

The Watch (15)
Ben Stiller, Vince Vaughn, Jonah Hill and The IT Crowd's Richard Ayoode star as sub-urbanites bored with their regular day routine so decide to form a neighbourhood watch to keep their first hand leading to Hollywood fame and all the trappings it brings! A massive roster of celebrity appearances than they could possibly imagine, putting not only their small town at risk but the whole planet too!

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (12A)
British retirees travel to India to take up residence in what they believe is a newly restored hotel. Less luxurious than its advertisements, the Marigold Hotel nevertheless slowly begins to charm in unexpected ways. A fantastic cast sets this film alight including Oban Phoenix's own patron Dame Judi Dench. Prepare to be swept along by this lovely piece of charming British cinema.

Bel Ami (15)
Georges Duray is a penniless soldier returning from war. He travels to Paris in a search for ways to improve his social and financial status by using his wit and powers of seduction to charm wealthy women. Featuring the Twilight saga's heart-throb Robert Pattinson and Kill Bill lead Uma Thurman, Bel Ami oozes sex and opulence and if you love a good costume drama as much as us, this is definitely worth a trip to the cinema to experience it on the big screen.

Keith Lemon: The Film (15)
Leigh Francis makes his silver screen debut as his oddball alter ego Keith Lemon. Witness his rags to riches tale first hand leading to Hollywood fame and all the trappings it brings! A massive roster of celebrity appearances are on offer here along with a raft of Francis' comedy creations, making Keith Lemon: The Film a must for all fans of the unpredictable and absurd!

Total Recall (12A)
Remake of the 1990 sci-fi sensation sees Colin Farrell stepping into the rather large shoes of Arnold Schwarzenegger's leading role. A factory worker, Douglas Quaid, begins to suspect that he is a spy after visiting Recall - a company that provides its clients with implanted fake memories of a life they would like to have led. Think you know the rest? Think again as this new adaptation of Philip K Dick's original novel catapults you into the future of action and espionage.

The Angel's Share (15)
Wednesday 26th September 20:45
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THE MAN WHO HAD ALL THE LUCK

mull theatre
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BY ARTHUR MILLER

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27 Bunessan Hall 8pm
28 Sunart Centre, Strontian 8pm
29 Astley Hall, Arisaig 8pm

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THE MAN WHO HAD ALL THE LUCK
BY ARTHUR MILLER

Opens at Mull Theatre, Tues 25 Sept, then on tour – see www.mulltheatre.com for dates

Mull Theatre is having one of its busiest years ever, with 2 tours this autumn. Currently travelling all over Scotland is **Scota-Land** by Andy Cannon, a family show that will visit 19 venues in Argyll by mid-November. A wonderful storytelling performance with live music: "Cannon's consummate flair as a story-teller: one with an rich curiosity about - and a profound understanding of - the myths that help shape our sense of national identity, our loyalties and sometimes our face-saving lies... Fabulous!" Herald (5 stars)

Next week, **The Man Who Had All The Luck** by Arthur Miller opens at Mull Theatre (Tues 25th). This little-known gem will be touring Scotland for the first time, from Orkney to the Borders, including Bunessan (27th), Strontian (28th), Arisaig (29th), Oban (Oct 6th) and Rothesay (Oct 24th). An energetic cast of 9 and a brilliant script make for an evening of exciting drama (see our website for the rehearsal videos).

Both shows are the result of partnerships with other creative companies and people. **Scota-Land** is touring in association with Andy Cannon and Imagineate. **The Man Who Had All The Luck** is in association with Sell A Door Theatre, and is supported by Creative Scotland's Quality Productions fund

SCOTA-LAND by Andy Cannon

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mull theatre

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Thanks to a new collaboration with the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music, there is now a wealth of music courses on the syllabus at West Highland College UHI. The hub of it all is a one-year, full time NC Music taught by NCETM's tutors - some of Scotland's finest. "They're the people you pay to go and see on the stage," say the organisers, "and here they are sitting in a room with you, showing you new tunes, new chords or just new ways of doing things."

Students attend 3 days a week for superb training based around Traditional music; sound engineering, music literacy, live performance, a personal project – and more! The NC starts in October 2012, at the College's new premises in Plockton.

The College also offers a modular approach to achieving the NC through a mixture of week-long courses, tutorials and evening classes. Lecturer Becky Milne explains, "It's clear that there are plenty of folk who would love to study music, but who can't manage full time. Hopefully these new Short Courses will open the door to as many people as possible." They are also available as individual modules. Enquiries are welcome on 01599 544217.



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Corrou Station House Restaurant opened on August 1st 2012 by Ollie Bennett from Fife and Lizzie MacKenzie from the Isle of Seil. Selling itself as 'The UK's most remote restaurant', the restaurant's location in the heart of the Highlands couldn't be more different from Edinburgh where the couple were previously living and working. With an exciting menu offering hearty and traditional fare 'with a refreshing Corrou twist', the business is already proving a success with each weekend being fully-booked far in advance.

"We aim to use only the best of local ingredients showcasing the Estate's own Venison, Trout and Grouse. Ollie spends his spare time on nearby Lochs catching Trout for the special's board and we've even spent a day deer stalking in order to know the full story behind the food we serve

The couple are already beginning to book up for their special Festive dinners they plan to host throughout December and promise that the best is yet to come.

The restaurant's remote location provides breath-taking views and is surprisingly easy to access using the West Highland train line, a short but stunning journey from Fort-William or Crianlarich.

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The GRAB Trust is a not-for-profit company with charitable status and functions as a Social Enterprise. It has been established since 1993 and it promotes its environmental objectives through a Zero Waste Volunteer Programme, The Beaches and Marine Litter Project and now the LORI project.

The LORI project is now in its third year of trading and while it's been a slow start the project is now achieving some success. This is due to all the kind donations and support that the local community provide, the tireless work that the team carries out to help provide good quality low cost furniture and the great partnership work with other local groups. The project continues to support volunteers, the unemployed and even helps community services by offering community payback placements by helping out on this community project.

It provides quite an eccentric mix of items that ranges from kitchen & bathroom sinks, baths, children's toys, bikes, paintings & pictures, as well as the normal items such as sofas, tables, chairs and wardrobes. The project has been limited by its footprint on the current site, but it has in the last few years diverted over 80 tonnes of furniture from landfill and helped numerous new tenants furnish their homes.



Police files

THE DRIVER'S window of a Volkswagen Passat car was smashed while it was parked outside 42 Lochaber Road, Fort William, sometime between 12am and 10am on Saturday September 15.

RED DIESEL was siphoned from a number of vehicles in the secure Global construction yard on the A830 at Glenfinnan overnight on Friday September 14 and Saturday September 15. Police said a padlock was removed and a vehicle would have been used in the crime.

THE REAR window of a crane parked near the Underwater Centre in Fort William was damaged sometime between 6pm on Wednesday September 12 and 7.30am on Thursday September 13.

A SCOTT Trail mountain bike was stolen from the garden of 3 MacLeod Crescent, Caol overnight on Monday September 10 and Tuesday September 11. The bike has a white frame and grey and purple markings. Anyone with knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361, the confidential line 01397 702000 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Man denies speeding away from police

A MAN has denied speeding away from police at more than 95mph while drink driving in Glencoe.

Appearing from custody, Peter Green, of 38 Heys Close, Blackburn, England, pled guilty to driving while nearly twice the legal alcohol limit on the A82. However, he denied a charge of dangerous driving.

The 33-year-old is accused of driving aggressively away from a police officer who was standing on the road, narrowly avoiding knocking him over, speeding and repeatedly veering across the road.

Green is also accused of driving without insurance. The alleged incidents occurred on September 12.

Green is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on December 3 and was disqualified from driving until then.

Skye centre's key role in otter talks

AN ISLE of Skye otter rehabilitation centre is spearheading efforts to improve communication between conservationists and fishery operators.

At a one-day international conference in Edinburgh on November 7, Broadford-based International Otter Survival Fund (IOSF) will bring together otter scientists, representatives from fishery organisations, wildlife trusts and environmental, biodiversity and conservation agencies.

Fish farmers, koi carp keepers, anglers and representatives from Austria and Hungary with knowledge of the issue will also attend.

The move follows publicity suggesting otter populations in the UK are growing - which in turn prompted fisheries to air concerns about possible impacts on fish stocks.

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

One positive spin-off from the conference will be a working group of otter experts and fishery community representatives. The new body, says the IOSF, will agree how best to gather further data and ensure 'mutual collaboration' to help tackle any problems.

It is envisaged the group will comprise 10 members across the otter and fishery community. Topics in the conference programme include:

- Otter ecology, population numbers and distribution, past and present, survey methods and the legal protection of the species.
- Threats to fish stocks - environmental damage to rivers, drought conditions, disease,

other predators, including invasive species.

- Fishery concerns - how to protect fish stocks.
- Working with otters - an example will be presented from a Scottish fishery which is successfully encouraging wildlife, including otters.

Dr Paul Yoxon, IOSF head of operations, told *The Oban Times*: 'The data simply isn't available to say that otters are everywhere.'

'On the one hand we are being told that there is a drought and fish are having to be rescued from drying rivers and on the other hand we are hearing that there are loads of otters. Both cannot be true.'

'But instead of arguing we want to work with people involved in fishing to resolve conflicts before they become serious.'

'We hope as many fishermen as possible will join us and help us preserve fish stocks, otters and the biodiversity of our country.'

The conference at the Apex International Hotel will be followed by the first working group meeting in early 2013. More information at www.otter.org/events.aspx or email enquiries@otter.org.

Window smashed at traveller's site

A WINDOW was smashed in the office of the Kentallen Traveller's Site, Duror, sometime between September 5 and September 11.

Police said entry was possibly gained, but no items were taken. Anyone with any information should contact Glencoe Police on 01855 811222.

Tributes paid to Western Isles councillor



Sad loss: Lewis councillor Bill Houston.

TRIBUTES have been paid to Western Isles councillor Bill Houston, who died suddenly at his Leurbost home on Lewis on Saturday morning.

Mr Houston, who represented Uig and North Lochs, suffered a brain haemorrhage during May's local council election campaign but had appeared to be recovering well.

Donald Manford, Comhairle Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP group leader said: 'We are all shocked and saddened to lose Bill. Bill was an outstanding talent and his loss will be felt throughout

the comhairle and the wider community. At this time, our thoughts are with his family and close friends.'

Mr Houston worked in local government across Scotland for 35 years and came to the islands in 1998 to become deputy director of education and leisure services. He is survived by two sons and a daughter.

Angus MacNeil MP, Alasdair Allan MSP and comhairle convener Norman MacDonal also praised Councillor Houston's 'outstanding' contribution and offered their condolences.



Spean Bridge pupils' recipe for success

Spean Bridge Primary School pupils have been busy cooking the fruits of their labours after a successful growing season. P5/6/7 children are currently harvesting vegetables from their school garden - which doubles as an outdoor classroom when the weather allows. Above, Callum Neil, Jennifer Chisholm and Alasdair Poll get busy making a pot of soup for the school canteen.

New research into rural cost of living

THE UNIVERSITY of the Highlands and Islands is to undertake new research into the minimum cost of living in rural Scotland.

Partners in the 'Minimum Income Standard for Remote and Rural Scotland' will be The Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough

University. Research will focus on the price of goods and services required by different households to achieve a reasonable standard of living.

Supported by Highlands and Islands Enterprise is leading the project, supported by local authorities and housing organisations.

Rachael McCormack, director of strengthening communities at HIE, said: 'It's about more than just food, clothes and shelter. It is about people having what they need to take opportunities and make the choices necessary to play a full part in society.'

The findings will be published next year.

Recreation group's challenge to design new logo

DUNVEGAN-based North West Skye Recreational Association (NWSRA) is inviting local young people aged under 18 to enter a competition to design its new logo.

The winner will receive £100 with a further £100 going to a sports, recreation club, organisation or school nominated by the winner.

NWSRA said it was 'delighted' to have received financial sponsorship for the competition from Mallaig and North West Fisherman's Association.

Entries should be sent to NWSRA, 1 Ardmore, Harloch, Isle of Skye, IV55 8ZJ, or emailed to NWSRA@btinternet.com by November 14. The winning entry will be announced at the annual meeting on December 1. The logo form can be downloaded from NWSRA's website.

The group aims to create better recreation and sport amenities for everyone living in the remote area.

Benefits trial postponed

THE TRIAL of a Caol woman accused of falsely claiming more than £4,700 in benefits has been postponed until November 9 because an essential prosecution witness was on holiday.

Catherine Johnston, of 92 Kilmallie Road, had been due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court last Thursday.

The 56-year-old denies failing to notify the Department of Work and Pensions she was employed at various periods between April 2008 and December 2010.

Opera tour arrives in Plockton

SCOTTISH Opera's six-date Highland tour featuring workshops on La Traviata arrives in Plockton High School today.

The session, linked to the curriculum, will be led by Scottish Opera staff and is designed to explore the music, characters and background of the opera.

The young people taking part will later have the chance to watch the full performance in Plockton.

Celebrations as Lochaline silica sand mine re-opens

Industrial heart of remote community beats again

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

LOCHALINE's industrial heart is beating again - and that's official.

The Morvern port took a hammer blow in December 2008 when Tarmac UK shut down its silica sand mine with the loss of 11 jobs. But now those jobs have been restored to the remote community of 200 souls after production of high-grade quartz sand got underway.

The first 2,500-tonne consignment will be shipped to Pilkington's glass factories in Lancashire by sea on September 24.

Lochaline quartz sand is renowned the world over for its low iron content - vital for clarity in glass production.

And at the official opening on Friday, local people and invited guests gathered beside a huge

white mound of sand, newly blasted from the honeycomb workings tunnelled a mile under the hillside.

The celebrations saw representatives from new owners Lochaline Quartz Sand (LQS) Ltd, a joint venture between Italian mining company Gruppo Minerali Maffei (GMM) and global glass manufacturer Pilkington - part of the Japanese-owned NSG Group - outline a bright future for the plant.

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson cut the ribbon to declare the mine open.

He told the audience of around 50: 'This is fantastic for Lochaline and the wider Morvern area - 11 jobs here is equivalent to 2,000 jobs to the likes of Inverness. That puts into perspective the importance these jobs will have in the local community.'

'The company has been very supportive of the community marina development and is assisting with the construction of the access road to the marina's shore facilities and providing sand for the creation of the artificial beach.'

Project manager, mining engineer and Gruppo Minerali employee Daniele Trogolo Got, has been working at Lochaline since the new company took over operations.

Mr Got, from Pinerolo near Turin, said: 'The mine and the plant are being refurbished and high investments for new equipment are taking place. This project proves that with business partners and workers from different countries it is possible that even in a time of European crisis we can move forward.'

Rachael McCormack, strengthening communities



Lochaline mine manager John Forster and MSP Dave Thompson sample the first consignment of high-grade quartz sand.



Local MSP Dave Thompson cuts the ribbon to herald a new beginning for Lochaline's mining industry.



Matt Buckley of Pilkington said Lochaline sand will be a vital asset.



Italian partners: Sabrina Bozzola of Gruppo Minerali Maffei.



Some of the invited guests walk down to view the newly re-opened mine.



Rachael McCormack of Highlands and Islands Enterprise welcomes the start of operations.

director for Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), said: 'I would like to pay tribute to the huge effort involved in creating this economic going concern, and to the company for forming a very close relationship with the local community and its support

for Lochaline Harbour.' LQS aims to export up to 100,000 tons of sand a year under a 10-year supply contract to produce Pilkington Optiwhite™ - low-iron glass for double glazing and solar cell applications. HIE provided £155,000 to

allow the business to upgrade and renew equipment. The agency is also providing support towards workforce training.

Lochaline's Whitehouse Restaurant provided Scottish Italian themed canapes and refreshments at the opening.

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Isle of Mull (Tobermory Based)
£14,540 - £22,915

You will monitor and maintain water and waste water treatment works and pumping stations to ensure the quality of water. In addition, you will work within all regulatory and legislative requirements within geographical area. You will also be required to work emergency cover and participate in a standby-rota system.

Application packs are available from www.scottishwater.co.uk or, tel: 0131 445 6330 during office hours. Alternatively, e-mail PeopleConnect@scottishwater.co.uk

Closing date for receipt of applications: 12pm, Friday 21 September 2012.

Scottish Water
Always serving Scotland

Work you can believe in.

CrossReach is one of Scotland's largest voluntary social work organisations, offering care and counselling. At Auchinlee in Campbeltown, we provide specialist dementia care that incorporates the principles of privacy, choice, dignity, independence, rights and fulfilment and which encourages people to regain and retain the skills of living.

Part Time Care Worker
£14,764 - £16,945 pro rata • Qualification bar applies
27 hours over 4 days per week, including evenings and weekends

Relief Care Workers
£6.81 per hour • Various shifts available including nights

Making a positive difference to people's lives can be a very rewarding experience. Every shift will bring different challenges, from planning future activities for clients to simply giving them the dignity, privacy and choice their humanity deserves.

Part Time Care Assistant
£13,626 to £14,161 pro rata • 32.5 hours per week

Providing assistance and support to our service users to enable them to maintain their independence, you will also assist the Key Worker in the care of designated individuals, planning, reviewing and maintaining the service delivery.

For the Part Time Care Worker and Care Assistant roles we offer a comprehensive benefits package, including a generous pension and holiday allowance. Applicants are required to have a Christian commitment and be able to uphold our Christian Ethos, which is an Occupational Requirement in terms of the Equality Act 2010. These posts are subject to PVG Scheme Membership.

For more information and to apply visit www.crossreach.org.uk or call 01586 552568. Closing date: 5th October 2012.

CrossReach is the Social Care arm of the Church of Scotland - a charity registered in Scotland SC011353.

crossreach.org.uk **CROSSREACH**

Scottish Sea Farms
Marine Farming Career Opportunities

Scottish Sea Farms is the UK's leading producer of premium quality Scottish salmon. Our business is extensive; based in Argyll, across the West coast and throughout the Northern Isles. We are trusted to supply Britain's most demanding retailers and need exceptional staff to build our business.

We are able to offer an enthusiastic, self-motivated individual the following opportunity:

Marine Engineer

You will be a time served mechanic with at least 5 years experience, be multi-skilled, conscientious, innovative and hard working. The role will involve the service, repair and maintenance of diesel engines, hydraulic systems, feeding and net cleaning equipment etc. Small craft experience and the ability to undertake minor fabrication and basic electrical work would be an asset. A strong safety focus is essential. This position is salaried with free occupational health support provided.

For more information, please contact Paul Russell on 07795085635 or paul.russell@scottishseafarms.com To obtain an application pack, please contact Claire Scott on 01786 445521 or email claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com

All applicants are required to have a clean drivers' licence.
Closing Date: 28th September 2012

carr gomm
Supporting People & Communities

Carr Gomm is a national charity and not-for-profit company. The main focus is Supported Living - supporting people to lead their lives, access services and achieve their hopes and dreams. The first service started in 1988.

SUPPORT ASSISTANTS - Campbeltown
Full time or Part time: £13,548 - £15,133 pa

Support Work covers the whole range of tasks to help people live in their own homes safely, to follow their interests, develop friendships and deal with health issues. If you believe that everyone has a right to live the life they want, we would like to meet you. The people we support have different lifestyles and interests, so you will need to have the energy and flexibility to take part. You may be experienced and be looking to develop your career with opportunities for advancement, or you may be new to this work and have the right personal qualities to build on. Either way, this is a chance to help people to make a real change to their lives. Membership of a close team will provide support, learning opportunities and comradeship.

Please quote Job Reference 230 when applying for this post.

Carr Gomm has opportunities for full time and part time Support Assistants both day and night based in Campeltown.

RELIEF SUPPORT ASSISTANTS
£6.95 per hour

We are looking for enthusiastic and motivated relief support assistants who can help make a difference in a respite service supporting children and adults. This work gives you an opportunity to learn about support work whilst pursuing other interests. Previous experience is not essential as relevant training and support and regular supervision will be given.

If you are flexible and looking to work on an ad-hoc basis, we would love to hear from you, regardless of how many hours you can spare.

We are looking for Relief Support Assistants in the following localities: Oban; Isle of Mull; Isle of Islay; Campbeltown; Dunoon; Helensburgh, Lochgilhead and Rothesay.

Please quote Job Reference Number 191 when applying for this post.

As our services involve travelling, car use is essential, with mileage and travel time between visits paid.

We offer excellent terms and conditions including: pension, enhanced annual leave and sickness, training and career advancement opportunities. We aim to provide services and recruit staff without discrimination.

For an application pack visit our website: www.carrgomm.org, e-mail: recruitment@carrgomm.org, Tel: 0131 659 4770, or contact Carr Gomm, SPACE, 11 Harewood Road, Edinburgh EH16 4NT.
Closing Date: Noon, Friday 5th October 2012

Care Workers Required

Are you looking for a new role?
Find out how you can earn through caring.
Work available in your local area.

- Flexible hours
- Good rates of pay
- Holiday pay
- Car drivers required
- Full training provided
- Further training available
- Regular supervision and guidance
- Attractive staff discounts

Please call us on 01631 564 396 or email your CV to careworkjobs@saga.co.uk
saga.co.uk/home-care

All applicants will be required to complete a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Saga
Homecare

We are looking for a mature, self motivated individual to manage our new venture in Oban. The successful candidate will carry out the following duties :

Direct sales including dealing with commercial and retail customer enquiries by phone and face to face, liaison with manufacturers and installers.

Plan and organise surveys, installations and trade shows and get involved in advertising. Produce quotes, raise invoices, order goods. Handle money.

The candidate must have a confident and friendly manner, must be responsible, organised, able to work on their own and as part of a remote team - communication and organisation skills are key, work to tight deadlines and be able to cope under pressure.

The position is full time and includes weekend work.

Salary will be in line with experience. Full training in all aspects of our business will be given and candidate will need to maintain and develop product knowledge.

Cover letter and CV to Suzie Todd at suzietodd@yahoo.com

References will be contacted.

KAMES FISH FARMING LIMITED

Require a
Fresh Water Site Manager

to lead the team at our Cage Site on Loch Tay (2 miles from Kenmore)
250 tonnes of trout per annum

Salary will be dependent on experience
Please send your CV with qualifications and accompanying letter to:-

Jean Haslam
Kames Fish Farming Limited
Kilmelford, Oban PA34 4XA

Tel: 01852 200286
Email: fish@kames.co.uk

KAMES FISH FARMING

Tarbert After School Care require a
Play Worker

Working as part of a team to help provide a safe, fun and stimulating environment for the children in our setting.
17.5 hours per week at £7.75 per hour
Monday to Friday flexible hours between 2.15-6.15pm.
SVQ Level 3 in Playwork and experience preferred, but enthusiasm and ability to relate to children is more important.
You must be willing to undertake relevant training.
This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 by the Exclusions and Exceptions (Scotland) Order 2003. The successful applicant will be required to comply with PVG Scheme in Scotland and register with the Scottish Social Services Council.
Closing date Monday 1st Oct.
For information pack and application form contact 01880 820359

Sgoil Araich Braigh Lochaber, Roy Bridge
SENIOR PRACTITIONER
Gaelic Medium
19 hours per week
Monday to Thursday, morning sessions

Must be in receipt of SVQIII, HNC or equivalent childcare qualification (or working towards)

Fluent Gaelic essential.

For enquiries and an application form please telephone Cheryl Irons on 01397 712683
Closing date: 4th October 2012

This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 by the Exclusions and Exceptions (Scotland) Order 2003 and the successful applicant will be required to become a member of the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme and register with the SSSC.

Sgoil Àraich Bràigh Loch Abair, An Drochaid Ruaidh
NEACH-CLEACHDAIDH ÀRD-ÌRE
Tron Ghàidhlig
19 uair gach seachdain
Diluain gu Diardaoin, gach madainn

Feumaidh teisteanasan cùram-chloinne SVQIII, HNC no co-ionann ris a bhith gaibh (no ag obair thuige)

Tha fileantachd sa Ghàidhlig riatanach.
Gheibh sibh tuilleadh fiosrachaidh agus foirm iarrtais bho Cheryl Irons air 01397 712683
Dùnadh: 4mh An Dàmhair 2012

Tha an dreuchd seo saor bho Achd Arh-ghnàthachadh Eucoraich 1974 a-rèir Òrdugh Às-dhùnaidhean agus Eisgeachdan Alba) 2003 agus bidh e riatanach don neach shoirbheachail ballrachd a ghabhail ann an Sgeama Dìon air Buidhnean So-leònte (PVG) agus clàradh le SSSC

Oban Times Oban Times
RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT
Oban Times Oban Times Oban Times Oban Times



Biologist
Machrihanish Hatchery
Salary - £21,499 plus overtime

We currently have a vacancy for a Biologist at our research Hatchery at Machrihanish, near Campbeltown. The post would be offered on a permanent full-time basis, working a 40 hour week following the successful completion of a probationary period.

This hatchery is focused upon the development of wrasse as cleaner fish for the control of sea lice on salmon and on developing a sustainable culture of wrasse that avoids having to take fish from the wild.

The successful candidate will report directly to the Hatchery Manager and will be responsible for all biological tasks on site. Principle responsibilities will include bacterial monitoring of all systems on site; biosecurity; undertaking trials in relation to grower diets and incubation; monitoring trials and developing systems based on findings; maintenance of all scientific equipment; wrasse research and responsibility for broodstock on site.

Applicants must have a degree in biological sciences and previous experience in this field would be advantageous. Strong interpersonal, communication and analytical skills are some of the attributes required for this post. A driving license is essential.

Beyond the nature of the role, the post holder would be expected to undertake over-time as required in order to accommodate the business needs of the Hatchery and, for the same reason, would be part of the site Alarm Rota.

If you are interested in applying for this vacancy, please submit an application in writing with details of relevant experience, by the closing date of Friday 12th October to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.



Apprenticeship Scheme
Salary - £14,449 per annum plus overtime

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 offering an apprenticeship scheme providing an excellent opportunity to develop a career in a successful aquaculture industry.

The scheme will run over two years employing two recruits per year and candidates will have the opportunity to obtain a permanent role on completion of training at any of the Company's locations. During the two year scheme candidates will undertake a mixture of formal training, practical work experience and in-house training in all aspects of the aquaculture industry.

Successful candidates must be reliable, trustworthy, organised and highly motivated with an eagerness to be successful. They must also be team players and have a responsible attitude to health & safety.

It is essential that applicants have (or expect to gain) standard grades or equivalent in English, Mathematics and a Science subject and they will be required to work towards a Level 2 SVQ in Aquaculture. They will also be expected to either hold a current driving licence or obtain their driving licence before the end of their apprenticeship.

If you would like to be considered for one of these positions, please apply in writing, no later than Friday 12th October to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.

The Ardshiel Hotel
Experienced Waiting & Bar Staff required
Full/Part Time
Apply to Flora Grant at
The Ardshiel Hotel, Kilkerran Road,
Campbeltown, PA28 6JL
01586 552133

Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT

RWE npower renewables Ltd
ELECTRICITY ACT 1989
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2000

Notice is hereby given that RWE npower renewables Ltd, (whose registered office is at Auckland House, Lydiard Fields, Great Western Way, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN5 8ZT, Company Number 02550622) has applied to the Scottish Ministers for consent to construct and operate a hydroelectric generating scheme on the Allt Hallater watercourse at Glenkinglass near Bridge of Awe (Central Grid Reference NN 154 375 and for a direction under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted. The installed capacity of the proposed generating station would be 1.9 MW.

RWE npower renewables Ltd has now submitted to Scottish Ministers further information in the form of an addendum including a Supplementary Environmental Information (SEI) document to the Hallater Hydroelectric Generating Scheme Environmental Statement (2004).

Copies of the addendum supplementing the Environmental Statement has been provided explaining the Company's proposals in more detail are available for inspection during normal office hours at

Argyll and Bute Council,
Planning and Environment
Municipal Building
Albany Street
Oban
PA34 4AW

RWE npower renewables Ltd,
North Range East
Lodge,
Mill Road,
Stanley Mills,
Stanley,
Perthshire,
PH1 4QE

The Post Office
Taynuilt
Main Street
Argyll
PA35 1JE

The Addendum can also be viewed at the Scottish Government Library at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ. A copy of the further information has been made available to Argyll and Bute Council for public inspection.

Copies of the addendum may be obtained from RWE npower renewables Ltd (tel: 01738 825 110) at a charge of £100 hard copy and £5 on CD. Copies of a short non-technical summary are available free of charge.

Any representations should be made in writing to The Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow G2 8LU or emailed to representations@scotland.gsi.gov.uk identifying the proposal and specifying grounds for objection or support, not later than 26th October 2012. Representations should be dated and should clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email or postal address of those making representations. Only representations sent by email to the address stipulated will receive acknowledgement.

All previous representations received in relation to this development remain valid.

The Scottish Government
Give Us Your Views!
Marine Scotland Initial Public Information Event
Proposed Plans for Offshore Renewable Energy Development
OBAN EVENT
Corran Halls
11 October 2012
Drop-in: 4pm - 6pm
Presentation: 6:30pm - 8:30pm
All members of the public are welcome to attend.
For further information visit:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/marineenergy/Planning>

CROFTING COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD
DECISIONS ON APPLICATIONS TO CREATE A NEW CROFT
Application by Mr I Jackson of North Ardnacloch, Lismore & Appin has been **Approved**.
5.01.39129
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.

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
INSTALLATION OF A SEAWEED CULTIVATION FARM, SOUND OF KERRERA

Notice is hereby given that **The Scottish Association for Marine Science** has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of the installation of a seaweed cultivation farm at:

Description Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Cutters Rock, Sound of Kerrera	56 22.992'N	05 32.226'W
	56 23.028'N	05 32.160'W
	56 23.010'N	05 32.124'W
	56 22.974'N	05 32.190'W
	56 22.908'N	05 32.316'W
	56 22.932'N	05 32.280'W
	56 22.896'N	05 32.208'W
	56 22.878'N	05 32.244'W

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at **Oban Post Office, Lochside Street, Tescos, PA34 4HP**

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference:

FKB/M78

The Scottish Association for Marine Science
Scottish Marine Institute
Oban
PA37 1QA

Rockfield Primary School PTA AGM
Thursday 27th
September at 7pm
Rockfield Assembly Hall
All welcome

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected 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 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

Refval	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/01630/PP	Erection of two dwellinghouses.	Land At Barnafchoaig Beag Clachan Seil Isle Of Seil Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4TJ	Sub Post Office Balvicar
12/01833/PP	Change of use of retail unit (class 1) to public house (Class 3) and existing external area to pavement cafe. Installation of new shopfront doors and sliding folding doors to north elevation, mechanical extract for kitchen and fireplace and installation of air condition condensers to rear yard	Caithness Glass Railway Pier Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4LW	Oban Area Office
12/01850/PP	Erection of canopy.	Unit 2 (Walton's Of Oban) Woodrow Building 13 Lochavullin Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4PL	Oban Area Office
12/01854/PPP	Site for the erection of 24 flats and 3 dwellinghouses	Ossians Retirement Home North Connel Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1QX	Sub Post Office Ledaig
12/01864/PP	Erection of 5 detached dwellinghouses and 3 detached garages, formation of access roads, installation of 2 waste water treatment units and formation of new access to church including improvement of existing church parking facilities.	Kilmore And Kilbride Parish Church And Adjoining Land Kilmore Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
12/01876/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached domestic garage/workshop.	Land West Of Duncarn House Ellenbeich Isle Of Seil Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Balvicar
12/01884/PP	Erection of decking (part retrospective)	Dundonald North Connel Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1RE	Sub Post Office Ledaig
12/01904/PP	Erection of detached double garage/store building	The Pier Ardmore Road Salen Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA37 6JL	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
12/01906/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Land West Of Bad-Daraich Western Road Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Tobermory Area Office
12/01910/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Land West Of Lianag Beadoun Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6QA	Tobermory Area Office
12/01921/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Land Adjacent To Traigh Bhi Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Tobermory Area Office
12/01959/PP	Amendments to design of dwellinghouse plot 3 relative to planning permission 10/00617/PP (Erection of 3 dwellinghouses).	Land North Of Dalnacabaig Kilmore Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4XX	Oban Area Office

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Refval	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/01576/PP	Formation of window opening.	Dalantober Isle Of Iona Argyll And Bute PA76 6SP	Sub Post Office Isle of Iona
12/01872/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Land South West Of Ulva Cottage Western Road Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6PR	Tobermory Area Office
12/01899/PP	Replacement roof covering	The Gallery Main Street Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6NT	Tobermory Area Office
12/01900/LIB	Replacement roof covering	The Gallery Main Street Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6NT	Tobermory Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardstrath PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Refval	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/01690/PP	Erection of extension to side of dwellinghouse.	Ivy Cottage Inverlussa Isle Of Jura Argyll And Bute PA60 7XW	Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura
12/01733/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached ancillary residential accommodation unit including installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access.	Land To South West Of Colonsay Water Treatment Works Kiloran Isle Of Colonsay Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay
12/01917/PP	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse	3 North Bay Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7BY	Sub Post Office Port Ellen

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

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

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
12/03018/FUL	Land 250m South West of West Lodge Roshven, Glenuig	Erection of house and garage (amended design to 10/00050/FULLO)
12/03376/FUL	Scottish Co-Op Store Kilmallie Road Caol, Fort William	Extension to supermarket and installation of Biomass Heating Plant
12/03389/PIP	Plot 1, Low Bridge Glen Gloy, Spean Bridge	Erection of house - Plot 1 (renewal of 09/00300/OUTLO)
12/03428/FUL	West Highland College Carmichael Way Fort William	Erection of storage hut
12/03432/PIP	Site 100m North West of 1 Low Bridge Glen Gloy Spean Bridge	Erection of 2 houses (semi-detached) - Plot 2 (renewal of 09/00301/OUTLO)

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

SAILING TIMES

ORKNEY 19' FASTLINER
With 60hp Yamaha PTT oil injection on galvanised rollercoaster trailer, original gel coat, end of season bargain.
Telephone: 07770 488825
£4950 o.n.o.

WANTED
16' Arran/Orkney Loch Fishing Boat, with forward cabin/cuddy, with/without trailer/outboards.
Telephone: 07703 112422

Creran Marine
50 SEASONAL SWINGING MOORINGS AND OUTDOOR STORAGE FOR UP TO 170 BOATS
Indoor units available to rent for Boat Maintenance and Repair
E&L MacGillivray, Barcaldine Home Farm
Tel 01631 720308 Mob: 07768274485
email: boats@creranmarine.co.uk www.creranmarine.co.uk

WINTER STORAGE AFLOAT, ASHORE AVAILABLE AT CRAOBH MARINA
Craobh Haven by Lochgilphead
Tel 01852 500222 craobhmarina@talk21.com



www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

NOW ONLINE

Advertise your unwanted items in either The Oban Times, Campbelltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser and your ad will also appear online at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk. Simply use the coupons on this page or visit the website and input your details there

LOCAL services

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

GENUINE 1970'S GOBLIN TEASMAID tea-maker/alarm clock. Unused in original packaging, £49.99 Telephone 01631 564578.

BABY EQUIPMENT

8 HAND KNITTED baby jackets (new) 3-6 months, £5 each Telephone 01631 571077.

HIGH CHAIR AND TRAVEL COT red and white, very good condition, travel cot blue and white, £15 each Telephone 01631 570809.

PRAM 3 in 1 travel system, £250 Telephone 07760 454820.

BICYCLES

GIRLS BIKE good condition, hardly used. Suit 4-7 year old girl pink has stabilisers and doll seat at rear, £30 Telephone 07760 454820.

BOOKS

TOM CLANCY HARD BACK NOVELS Box containing 11, in new condition, £25 for the box Telephone 01397 703928 (Fort William).

BRIC-A-BRAC

CAR BOOTING ITEMS a mix lot from house clearance suitable for car booting includes glass bowls, china, slow cooker, and lots more, £49.99 Telephone 01880 821293.

CATERING EQUIPMENT

TOASTER 6 slice, commercial, £49.99 Telephone 01631 562553.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

ASSORTED CLOTHING large selection of skirts and tops some never worn. Nothing over £10 Open house sale Saturday 22nd. Ring for address, £10 Telephone 01880 821293.

IVORY DRESS sleeveless beaded long dress (Age 6) and cardigan, suit wedding/confirmation/party (can post or email photo, if required), £15 Telephone 07760 454820.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

COOKBOOKS BREADMAKER and recipe book, Connel, £15 Telephone 07500 747630.

COOKBOOKS MICROWAVE 700watt, hardly used, Connel, £22 Telephone 007500 474630.

FURNITURE

4 SEATER SOFA Cream Material with 2 chairs and footstools, £150.00 Telephone 07748 985054

4 SEATER SOFA AND CHAIR cream faux suede, buyer to collect from Benderloch, Telephone 07748 985054.

ANTIQUETINE BUREAU solid wood, lovely condition £125, Double Bed, sleigh type, ex Mathesons, lovely condition, £150, 3 seater, 2 seater and one chair, good condition, £175. Telephone 01631 566475 or 07834 640989.

BAR STOOLS 4 dark wood, £49.99 Telephone 01631 570809.

BEDROOM CHAIR dark wood, buyer collect from Benderloch, £10 Telephone 07748 985054.

BEDSIDE CABINETS X2 cream, buyer collect from Benderloch, £40 Telephone 07748 985054.

CHEST Chinese dark rosewood, buyer to collect from Benderloch, £125 Telephone 07748 985054.

COFFEE TABLE 53" long x 28" wide, £49.99 Telephone 01631 562553.

COFFEE TABLE glass and chrome coffee table 65W X 55D, in very good condition, £49.50 Telephone 01855 821086.

COFFEE TABLE dark rosewood, buyer to collect from Benderloch, £49.99 Telephone 07748 985054.

DISPLAY CABINET Chinese dark rosewood, £125 Telephone 07748 985054.

DOUBLE WARDROBE oak colour, with 2 drawers, buyer to collect from Benderloch, £30 Telephone 07748 985054.

DRESSING TABLE AND STOOL 3 drawers, buyer to collect from Benderloch, £30 Telephone 07748 985054.

EXTENDING BAR Chinese dark rosewood, buyer to collect from Benderloch, £125 Telephone 07748 985054.

SIDE TABLE Chinese dark rosewood, buyer to collect from Benderloch, £30 Telephone 07748 985054.

SINGLE BEDS x4, Buyer to collect from Benderloch, £30.00 each Telephone 07748 985054.

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Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

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The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

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BIRTHS

MACLEAN - To Zoe and Donald on August 22, 2012 at RAH Paisley, a son, Fraser Neil, a brother for Angus.

MARRIAGES

WARD - BRIGGS On August 25, 2012 at Stonefield Castle, Tarbert, Stella, older daughter of Patricia and Peter Ward, Ardishaig, to Christopher, only son of Liz and Ray Briggs, Melbourne, Australia. A wonderful day!

DEATHS

CAMPBELL - Suddenly after a short illness bravely borne, Dr Brian Cameron Campbell, Kelvin Court and Ganavan, Oban. Beloved husband of Anne Elizabeth (née Beaton), much loved brother-in-law and uncle. Forever with the Lord.

CUESTA (née LIPP) - At Neuchâtel, Switzerland, on Sunday September 16, 2012, Fiona, 58, second daughter of the late Dr Kenneth Lipp and Mrs Marie Lipp, Banderloch, Argyll. Dear sister of Jo and Mo and the late Sheila. Wife of Kesava Bharati Dasa and dearest Mum of Ian, Roane and Jeff. Family funeral in Neuchâtel on Friday September 21. A celebration of her life will take place in Banderloch shortly.

FLOCKHART - Pamela Ellison (née Macartney), B.Arch. (Sydney) died peacefully at home in Longwood, Humber with her husband Ross and family around her on September 12, 2012. Originally of Australia (Sydney) and thereafter of Edinburgh, Musselburgh, Aberdeen and Humber; devoted visitor to Iona. Service took place in East Lothian on September 19, 2012.

LIVINGSTONE - Agnes (Nan). Peacefully at the Western Infirmary on September 17, 2012. Nan (Ex TGWU), dearly beloved aunt of Angus, Sheena and Eilidh. Funeral service at Broomhill Parish Church on Monday, September 24 at 1.30pm and interment on Tuesday, September 25, at New Kilchoan Cemetery, Ardnamurchan.

ACKNOWLEDGE-MENTS

JACKSON - Billy Jackson and family would like to express their thanks for the cards, calls and kind words received on the recent very sad loss of Edna. We would like to express our thanks to everyone who helped with Edna's care during her illness. Without the help of the following people we wouldn't have been able to care for mum at home as she wanted: Dr Adrian Ward, Colette Morgan and the Macmillan teams in Oban and Lochgilhead, all the district nurses who attended to mums superbly, Helen Holt, staff at the Occupational Therapy Department in Lochgilhead, Brenda Galbraith, Kirsteen Houston, Alison and Tommy from the Slainte bar, Rona Meechan, Rev Carruthers for delivering a lovely personal and touching service and the staff at the Grey Gull. Special thanks to Roddy and the team at Donald MacDonald who handled the funeral arrangements in a very professional and friendly manner. Thanks to everyone for taking the time to attend Edna's service and contribute to the collection for the district and Macmillan nurses, which raised a total of £650. A very final thank you to Strathclyde Police for stopping the traffic and saluting Edna on her last journey, she would have loved that gesture. Sadly missed.

MACMILLAN - Mary, Iona and Ashley and all of Ian's extended family wish to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends, neighbours and colleagues for their visits, phone calls, flowers, baking, cards and letters expressing their love and support following Ian's untimely and sudden death. Special thanks to Tommy Barr, Jenny Dairon and Fiona MacEwan for their valiant effort, to ambulance teams, to Dr Nicola Campbell, to all staff in Accident and Emergency for their care and compassion which was second to none. Thanks to the Rev Dugald Cameron and Provost Nicola McNelly for their visits and for their uplifting service and prayers. To Dr Andrew Henderson for playing the organ, to Duncan Forgie for his touching eulogy, D & A Munn for their personal and sensitive manner. To Lodge Commercial 180, to the Royal Hotel for their excellent purvey, to Charles Ferguson for his piping at both church and graveside. Last but by no means least, thank you to all who travelled from near and far to pay their respects to Ian. The retiring collection thus far amounts to £1661.94 for ABCD. Gold bless you all.

PARKINGTON - Mrs Catherine Parkington and family wish to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy extended to them in their recent sad bereavement; personally, by letter and by telephone. Thank you also for the tremendous support given by so many people. The family would also like to pass on sincere thanks to all in wards 6, 7 and the Renal Unit at Raigmore Hospital, all doctors and nursing staff involved. Thanks also to all those who donated £186.88 to Cancer Research and the Railway Children. Finally thank you to John Fraser & Son, 17-29 Chapel Street, Inverness, for their care and compassion with the funeral arrangements.

WOOD - The family of the late Robert Wood would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for kind messages of sympathy, cards, flowers and support following their recent sad bereavement. Special thanks to Rev David White for a lovely service and Mike McFall and staff, also BA Club for refreshments and also special thanks to all Tesco's staff for the support they gave Robert over the years. A total of £640 was collected and will be donated to the United Baptist Church, Fort William for the new extension.

MEMORIAL SERVICE
STEWART OF COLL - The memorial service for Kenneth Stewart will take place on Coll on Thursday, September 27 at 12 noon.

IN MEMORIAM

BLUE - In loving memory of my dear sister Lilian who passed away on September 22, 2011. A leaf in the book of memories is gently turned today. Inserted by her brother Donnie.

BLUE - In loving memory of my dear sister Lilian, who passed away on September 22, 2011. Loves final gift, Remembrance. Inserted by her sister Mary, brother-in-law James and nephew Kevin.

BLUE - In loving memory of Lilian who died September 22, 2011, a dear sister, sister-in-law and aunt. Always in our thoughts. - Bobby, Joan and family.
BOYD - In loving memory of Jane (Jean), our dear mum, gran and great-gran, who died on September 20, 2011 and our dear dad William Duncan, who died on April 26, 1967. Loved and remembered every day. - Family in Arisaig, Arran, Alresford and New Zealand.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of Hughie who died September 16, 2011. Always in my thoughts. - Archie.

MACDONALD - Remembering with love our beloved father and papa, Douglas MacDonald who passed away on September 18, 1991. Also remembering loved ones gone before and after. We keep in our hearts the love of the past. For there it was planted forever to last. Too deep in our hearts for death to divide. Each day of our life you walk by our side. - Inserted by his ever loving daughters Mary Flora, Sandra, May Margaret and families.

MACDOUGALL - In loving memory of Callum, a dearly loved husband, father and grampy, who died on September 19, 1997. Loved and remembered always. - Freena and family, Bussan.

MACDOUGALL - In loving memory of our dad and grampy Callum, who died on September 19, 1997. Forever in our thoughts. - Margaret and Hannah, Bussan.

MACDONALD - Treasured memories of our dear parents, George, who died August 16, 1992 and Chrissie who died September 17, 2005. Always in our thoughts. - Mary, Peggy, Hugh, Christine and families.

MACKECHNIE - Jean, my wife died September 22, 2010. I love to travel down memory lane. As it always leads me to you. Forever yours. - Gilbert x **MACKECHNIE** - Jean, Ma - always in our thoughts and hearts. - Gilbert and Iona x **MACKECHNIE** - Jean. Our wee granny. Much loved and never forgotten. - Love Jan, Mark, Nadia, Joe, Iain, Lindsay and Quinn x

MACKECHNIE - Jean passed away on September 22, 2010. Loved and remembered always. - Marie

McCULLOCH - In loving memory of a dear wife, mother and grandmother, Margaret Stevenson, who died September 30, 1996. Fondly remembered. - By her husband, children and grandchildren at home and in Canada.
MORRISON - Fond memories of Sandy a dear husband, father and papa passed away September 16, 2000. Precious are the memories. Silently kept. - Mary-Ann and family at home and away.

United Nations international day of peace - this week

In 1981 the United Nations General Assembly passed resolution 36/67 declaring an International Day of Peace. In 2001, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a new resolution 55/282 declaring 21 September of each year as the International Day of Peace. The intention of the resolution is to have the entire world observe a day of peace and nonviolence. Secretary-General Kofi Annan had asked all United Nations departments and agencies to expand their observance each year, extending a special invitation to civil society as well. The UN International Day of Peace on 21 September takes place, each year, in parallel with the International Day of Prayer for Peace (IDPP) on the nearest Sunday which

this year is 23 September. It marks the opening of each annual session of the UN General Assembly. The UN day is a day on which armed conflict is meant to be stilled, a day for combatants to observe ceasefires, a day on which all people are invited to commit or reaffirm their commitment to non-violence and the peaceful resolution of disputes. Now this is a big ask and yet on the night that Jesus was born the angels sang about peace on earth and good will among all people. Also in John 14:27 we read that Jesus said: 'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.' There is a famous prayer which simply asks: 'Let there be peace on

earth and let it begin with me'. Each Day at Noon people around the world pray the words of the World Peace Prayer first used publicly by Mother Teresa in London in 1981 in connection with the United Nations Resolution: Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth; lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust; lead me from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe. Peace, Peace, Peace. As we read our *Oban Times* this week let us pray this prayer and mean it! **Murdoch MacKenzie**

Thought for the Week

THIS WEEK has certainly brought the idea of 'role model' to the fore, with Andy Murray's great achievement in winning the US Open Tennis Championship. Certainly in terms of Andy's total dedication, hard work, ability to meet and deal with adversity, to persevere and then to win through to achieving his goal he is an excellent role model for young and older alike. The newspaper front page with a photo of Andy and the title £100 million man, sadly demeans his achievement, because it forces a monetary value on his winning. I would suggest the value of our lives are not measurable in financial terms. It is the person that is of worth, as Burn's pointed out; 'the rank is but the guinea's stamp, a man's a man for a' that'. I was listening to a radio commentary on an earlier round of the US Open, as I drove home one night. Very surprised to hear the commentators apologising, but making light of the fact they had to apologise for the use of unacceptable language. In recent times there seems to have been an increase in the use of unnecessary language. The 'f' word is becoming commonplace, and there are other words which begin to be used more often. It is now very common to hear the name of Jesus Christ used as an expletive. I have never heard the name of Mohammed, or of Buddha used in such a way and I trust I never do. This kind of bad language is demeaning of the people who use it and for the people who are offended by its use. Mark, writing his gospel, remembers something Jesus said: 'It is not what goes into a man that defiles him, but what comes out of him!' When we demean those things, be they names or otherwise, which are of real value to many people, we demean ourselves and the society in which we live. Which leaves the question, what sort of role models are we? **Rev Dr Roderick D M Campbell Appin and Lismore Parish Churches**



Bishop Joseph Toal of R.C. Church Argyll and the Isles during the investiture as a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre by Cardinal Keith O'Brien.

St Columba's Cathedral hosts ancient ceremony

AN ANCIENT ceremony took place at St Columba's Cathedral, Oban Saturday that honoured members of the local Catholic Church.

Bishop Joseph Toal, of Argyll and the Isles, was made a knight of the Holy Sepulchre while Oban woman Morag Telfer was made a Dame of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, by Cardinal Keith O'Brian in St Columba's Cathedral, Oban.

On becoming a knight Bishop Toal said: 'I was invited to become part of the order that supports the work of Christians. When I was asked to take on the role I was more than happy to do it.' Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre have a special responsibility of promoting the views of the Pope.

Cardinal Keith O'Brien led the ceremony that took place in front of members of the Catholic Church. Bishop Toal added: 'At the investiture you make a promise to the cathedral to support the work of the order. The ceremony dates back to the medieval times and the purpose of it is to encourage people to promote the Holy Land.'

Earlier in the week the Rev Stanley Bennie of Stornoway was ordained into the priesthood at St Columba's Cathedral. Rev Bennie was ordained the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham - becoming only the second person to do so - by Bishop Toal. Also present was Rt Rev. Monsignor Keith Newton, Ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham. The Ordinariate allows the Anglicans to enter into the full communion of the Catholic Church whilst retaining much of their heritage and traditions.



There was a good turnout for the annual Guild Sale for Dalavich and Kilchrenan Churches, which was held last Wednesday in Kilchrenan Village Hall. The tremendous sum of £1,181 was raised. Carol Johnston, wife of one of the church elders, opened the sale and was presented with a basket of flowers from Sarah MacIntyre.



Morag Telfer of Oban was joined by her family for her investiture as Dame of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem by Cardinal Keith O'Brian in St Columba's Cathedral Oban.

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GRADUATION



Michael Allan graduated from the University of the West of Scotland with a BA (Hons) in Digital Art (Second Class: Upper Division). Michael is the son of Andrew and Mary Allan, Lochgilhead and the grandson of Dugie and the late Chirsty McDougall, Port Ellen, Islay and the late Murray and Dorothy Allan, Bearsden. He is a former pupil of Lochgilhead Primary and Lochgilhead High School.

WEDDINGS



Joe and Debbie MacIntyre were married on the 7th July in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls. They would like to thank everyone for making their special day amazing and for all their lovely gifts.



MULLEN - SLOAN
Michael Mullen, only son of Michael and Winifred Mullen Taynuilt, Argyll, and Victoria Margaret Sloan, younger daughter of John and Penny Sloan Johnstonebridge, Dumfries were married by the Rev. Brian Wilkinson at the Western House Hotel, Ayr, where they celebrated with family and friends.

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Oban Lorne seal second consecutive bonus point win

'Our first half was excellent and we really gelled as a team' - coach Corrie Louw

RBS West Division Three
Millbrae 21
Oban Lorne 27
 OBAN LORNE survived a second-half comeback from Millbrae to seal a bonus point victory in Ayr.

'The Green Machine' brought a strong squad of 20 players to their first away fixture of the season. The journey to Ayr to face Millbrae is one of the longest that the team will have the make this season, so facing the team in pink and black so early in the campaign was a challenge.

With Ayr's first and second XV teams in action at Millbrae Park, the game took place at the picturesque Rozelle Park.

Millbrae won the toss and elected to kick-off. Soon, the strength of Oban Lorne's forwards began to show, as the home team were forced back towards their own 22 metre line. A couple of strong carries from Ryan Jackson, who was playing in his more familiar position of flanker after his stint of the wing against Mull, continued the momentum for the visitors. Millbrae were unable to clear their lines and eventually left a gap for Oban fullback Calum MacLachlan to burst through and score the

opening try of the game on four minutes. MacLachlan's excellent acceleration surprised the opposition, who were left in awe of his pace. Craig Wright, back in at stand-off after his holiday abroad, showed no signs of jet-lag as he converted his kick with pinpoint accuracy. Millbrae RFC 0-7 Oban Lorne RFC.

Millbrae's complaints of foul play were rightly waved off by the referee and Oban were able to gain ground with a fantastic kick to touch. From the resulting line-out, Jamie MacMillan snatched the ball from the air and the pack formed a solid maul which drove Millbrae back six metres to their own try line. Flanker Ryan Jackson then forced the maul over the line amongst a pile of players to extend Oban's lead to 12 points. Craig Wright narrowly missed the conversion, with the swirling wind around the park making it difficult to judge.

With confidence high, Oban began to step up the pressure on the Millbrae back line. Centre Cammy Smith managed to knock the ball free from his opposite number with a strong tackle, allowing Jamie MacMillan to pick up the ball from the deck and burst forward. Prop,

Tommy Sutherland took the pass and thundered towards the line, offloading beautifully to Angus MacCallum, who duly crossed the line for Oban's third try of the game. Although the conversion sailed wide, the 17 point lead gave 'The Green Machine' clear daylight between them and their opponents.



Fergus Matheson - helped off the pitch with an ankle injury.

Millbrae's frustration boiled over soon after, with players causing infringements in the rucks. The referee's patience wore thin and he eventually showed a yellow card to one of the men in pink's pack.

With ten minutes to go in the first half, it was time for Calum-MacLachlan to shine again, as he broke two weak tackles from the Millbrae backs to run in his second try of the game. Again, it seemed Millbrae underestimated the pace and power of the big fullback, who took full advantage. Another missed conversion meant that the half ended with Oban Lorne 24 points ahead of the scoreless hosts.

It was clear that the second half was going to be a battle from the outset, as Millbrae's back line seemed re-energised. 'The Green Machine' seemed to struggle to settle into the game after the restart and were caught out four minutes into the half by a lovely overlap from the hosts. Their right winger opened up space with a fast surge forward and offloaded to his teammate who crossed the line for Millbrae's first try of the game. A successful conversion later and the Ayr team's confidence began to grow.

Ten minutes later, Millbrae

RUGBY

managed to break through some missed tackles in the Oban line and cross the line for their second try, scored by their powerful inside centre. The experience and poise of the home team showed in their kicking, with another successful conversion from near the touchline.

Shortly after, 'The Green Machine' suffered a loss of their scrum-half Fergus Matheson to a suspected ankle injury. Matheson, who is due to begin his studies at the University of Strathclyde, had to be helped off the pitch in agony. It was a shame for the young, yet experienced number nine, who had distributed the ball very well in the first half. Craig Wright moved into the scrum-half position for the rest of the game.

Oban's frustration and nerves grew again with ten minutes to go in the game, as Millbrae crashed through for their third try of the game, using their forwards to plough over the line. Another successful conversion pulled the hosts to within three points of 'The Green Machine'.

The next few minutes were crucial for the visitors, with captain Robin MacQueen calling for calm, simple rugby - avoiding silly penalties. MacQueen's rallying call paid off ten metres out from the Millbrae line, as their blindside flanker was caught coming into a ruck from the side. Craig Wright elected to kick for the posts and successfully converted with four minutes to go.

Final Whistle
 The remaining time was filled with stoppages, scrums and hard running from both teams. When the final whistle blew, both teams looked and felt like they had been in a good battle. Nonetheless, it was 'The Green Machine' who left with the spoils, picking up their second consecutive bonus point win of the season, leaving them joint top on points in the league.

Next week, Oban Lorne RFC host the Isle of Arran, who destroyed Isle of Mull two weeks ago in Garmony. All are welcome to come and support the team in what should be a great match. You can catch up on all of the club news on their new website: www.pitchero.com/clubs/obanlorne or follow us on twitter for live score updates @obanlornerfc.



Camanachd Cup final stories recalled

Three of the most successful players in the recent history of the Camanachd Cup met in Coasters Bar, Oban, last Friday to recall old rivalries ahead of the big final on Saturday. Nonnie MacInnes, right, who runs the pub, lifted the trophy as Oban Camanachd captain in 1996 and twice won the Albert Smith Memorial Medal for the final's man of the match. He was joined by Kingussie's Ronald Ross, left, who was in Oban as part of his work with the Camanachd Association, and Fort William's Gary Innes, who was playing accordion in Coasters that night. Both Ronald and Gary are multiple winners of the trophy. Ronald has won the Albert Smith on three occasions and Gary, twice, the most recent coming in 2010. 15_138trophy01

Bowling season coming to an end

IT IS now only two weeks until Oban's outdoor bowling club closes for the winter.

All the club competitions have been played and trophies are ready to be presented on the final day.

The Friday night triples league has been completed. Anne MacDougall, Scott Gibson and Roddy Macleod were the winners with Anne Campbell, Janet Campbell and Douglas MacCallum a close second.

On Sunday afternoon the weather held good for the game of nominated triples between

BOWLS

Helen MacLean, Margaret MacAlpine and Donna Forbes against Elizabeth MacGillivray, Lyn Laverty and Maureen Goldie.

Last bowl
 Helen's team started well with a lead of 11 shots to 1. Midway through the game Elizabeth and her team began to make a comeback and after 15 ends they were all square with Elizabeth's team winning with the last bowl in the extra end.



Winners of the nominated triples at Oban Bowling Club were Elizabeth MacGillivray, Lyn Laverty and Maureen Goldie.

Magnificent seven for Fort Under 17s

YOUTH FOOTBALL

FORT William under-17s responded well to their recent defeat to Clach by travelling to Nairn on Sunday to record a resounding 7-1 win.

With strong winds and a tight park, both teams struggled to settle early on as the conditions were proving to be difficult for both teams.

However, with 10 minutes gone Fort's Alex MacMillan crossed deep into the box and the unfortunate Nairn defender handled the ball for a penalty. Keiron Voisey stepped up and drilled the ball under the keeper's body for a 1-0 lead.

The early goal settled Fort and they were rewarded as Keir Kennedy raced clear and with a calm finish made the scoreline 2-0.

Fort continued to dominate but Nairn won a corner and their defender rose highest to power home and make the scoreline 2-1.

At the start of the second period, Fort pushed Ryan Clark further up the park in left midfield and with Lewis Morrison and Sean

LIEDER spraying the passes Ryan helped himself to a quickfire double, giving a 4-1 lead to the Fort after 55 minutes.

As Nairn grew frustrated the game became over physical but to Fort's credit they continued to play some excellent football with strong defending from MacLean, Boyd and Shepherd, which gave the freedom to the others to perform well.

In the final period some excellent finishing and a further three goals from Macey, Keiron Voisey and Lewis Morrison made it a final score of 7-1.

Overall, this was the best Fort performance so far this season. They adjusted to the windy conditions and their passing, control and pressing of the game was excellent.

It was a hard working performance from all with Calum Shepherd in centre defence growing with every game and fine performances from youngsters Lewis Morrison and Sean Lieder in centre midfield.

Struan leads out his heroes against Celtic

FOOTBALL

OBAN lad Struan Macdonald led his heroes Inverness Caledonian Thistle out against SPL champions, Celtic.

Unfortunately, ICT were on the end of a 4-2 defeat but Struan was delighted with the rest of the day. Struan, 9, is a pupil at Park Primary School.

Susan picked for UK World Half Marathon team

ATHLETICS



APPIN'S Susan Partridge has been selected to represent UK at World Half Marathon championships in Bulgaria on Saturday 6 October.

Susan, who ran in the World Championships Marathon in Daegu, Korea in 2011, drops down to the distance she last competed for GB in 2005, at the World Half Marathon Championships in Edmonton, Canada.

John's Czech mate

MOTORCYCLING

OBAN'S John McPhee grabbed the attention of on lookers and competitors in the Moto3 Czech Grand Prix when his high-risk strategy almost paid off. Throughout the race the RSF-backed KRP rider held his own against GP regular Zulfaumi Khairuddin and eventual race winner Jonas Folger. At the chequered flag McPhee claimed 15th position getting the last of the points on offer.



Runners-up Tarbert (back row) and Taynuilt golfers pictured after the Argyll and Bute Golf Union Team Trophy competition.

Team trophy silverware for Taynuilt golfers

GOLF

THE Argyll and Bute Golf Union Team Trophy was played at Taynuilt Golf Club last Saturday.

Winners were Taynuilt 3 with a score of 187. Team: M Grant, R Graham, K Mills and M

Cringlean. Runners-up were Tarbert with a score of 192. Team: D Johnstone, J Martin, I Johnstone and R Currie.

Glenforsa Quach at Tobermory GC

GOLF

THE GLENForsa Quach was played over nine holes at Tobermory and nine at Craignure on Sunday September 16 with members from both clubs competing.

The presentations were carried out in the Glenforsa Hotel where the hosts provided soup and sandwiches which was very much appreciated and.

Thanks go to the proprietor Mrs Walsh for presenting the prizes.

Results: combined score: Scratch - 1 Ewan MacCrae 71 (T); 2 Graham Davidson 77 (T); 3 Angus Cowe 81 (C). Handicap - 1 James Campbell 68 (C); 2 Shaun Fisher 69 (T); 3 Alan Patterson 70 (C).

Glencruitten GC

STEVEN Murphy and James Muir won the Dennis Cathro pairs on Saturday with a score of 83-14 = 69. In the junior section Aidan McCuish won the Liddell Shield with a score of 53 + 67 = 120.

This Saturday there is a four man scramble.

Oban Fun Fours Festival cancelled

PRIMARY FOOTBALL

A FUN Fours football festival due to be played at Mossfield Stadium in Oban last Sunday had to be called off due to the heavy rain which made the pitch unplayable.

As well as local teams the organisers had children travelling from Inverness, Campbelltown and Lochgilphead to the event.

Oban Camanachd lift MacMaster Cup after extra time win over Newtonmore

YOUTH SHINTY

OBAN Camanachd's Under 14s won the national under 14s trophy, the Kenneth MacMaster Memorial Cup, at Mossfield Stadium on Saturday when they came from two goals down to snatch an extra time victory against a very good Newtonmore team.

Newtonmore dominated the opening 20 minutes of the cup tie and took the lead after only three minutes when Sam Richardson pounced on a goalmouth scramble to fire his side into the lead.

Seven minutes later Richardson produced a mazy run along the byeline before slipping the

ball passed the Oban keeper to double Newtonmore's advantage.

Oban then made several positions changes and fought their way back into the match with Liam Higgins drawing a goal back after 22 minutes. Higgins almost levelled the score when he cannoned a shot off the Newtonmore crossbar and there was almost another goal at the other end but for an excellent touch over by Oban keeper Scott Robertson right on the half-time whistle.

The second half started at a frantic pace and Newtonmore regained their two-goal lead when Richardson netted his

hat-trick after a quick free hit but the lead was again reduced when Conner Howe rifled a low shot from 40 yards to the bottom corner of the Newtonmore net.

Camanachd then missed an opportunity to draw level when they were awarded a penalty but the keeper made a great save and cleared the danger.

With time running out, Oban Camanachd forced the tie into extra-time when Daniel MacMillan raced down the right and fired the ball in at the near post to bring the full-time score to three-goals apiece.

Oban had the upper-hand in the first period of added time and



Oban Camanachd Under 14s with coach Ian Hay and the Kenneth MacMaster Memorial Cup. Inset: A delighted captain Ryan Gillies celebrates with the trophy.

Saints delegates at football conference

CONFERENCE

THE SCOTTISH Football Association held a 'Club Together Conference' for leaders and volunteers working in community football clubs.

The conference took place at Hampden Park, Glasgow, on Sunday and included several key speakers including UEFA Technical Director Andy Roxburgh and SFA Chief Executive Stewart Reagan.

Oban Saints, who hold the SFA Community Club Quality Mark, were represented at the conference by club members David Buchanan, Iain Alexander and Alan MacLeod.

There is a growing number of community football clubs within Scotland and this event aimed to provide support, advice and guidance to the leaders of these progressive and ambitious grassroots football clubs.

The conference covered areas such as business and administration, facilities and funding through to practical examples of how to recruit and develop volunteers and put in place a culture for ensuring a sustainable future.

The conference brought together a series of experts in the various fields and showcased some of the excellent examples of good practice that exist in clubs across Scotland currently.

At the heart of the event Andy Roxburgh, Technical Director for UEFA, was the keynote speaker who provided delegates with his wealth of experience across grassroots football and some insights from his work across UEFA. Stewart Reagan Scottish FA

chief executive also gave an in-depth insight of the work the SFA are doing to improve Scottish football from grassroots level up to the professional game.

Although it was a long day with a 6.30am start for the Oban lads they thoroughly enjoyed the conference and have brought back several ideas and suggestions on how to progress the club further.

David Buchanan said 'It was an excellent day with teams from the length and breadth of the country at the conference. As well as listening to the keynote speakers we attended five different workshops during the day which have given us plenty of food for thought.'

'The SFA have to be congratulated for laying on such a superb event.'



UEFA Technical Director and former Scotland manager Andy Roxburgh was the keynote speaker at the conference.



The champagne starts to flow as Kyles Athletic celebrate winning the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup at Mossfield Stadium, Oban, last Saturday. Photograph by John MacTavish.

Kyles win pulsating Camanachd Cup final at Mossfield Stadium

Tighnabruaich side have their name on the cup after an absence of 18 years

KYLES Athletic were crowned Scottish champions at Oban on Saturday after a pulsating Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final which saw one of the largest crowds to attend a shinty match in recent years engrossed in an end-to-end, 11-goal thriller.

The 90-minutes were also a personal triumph for Kyles' forward Roddy MacDonald who netted four times as his team recovered from a 4-2 half-time deficit to win 5-6 in the closing minutes.

MacDonald was unanimously awarded the Albert Smith Memorial Medal for the Man of the Match.

With more than 3,000 spectators undeterred by pre-match

showers, Mossfield Park, Oban, was in magnificent condition as Inveraray won the toss and booked the breeze for the first-half. Little did both sets of supporters know that they were in for an exciting, emotional roller-coaster of a 90-minutes.

In a fast and furious start, both sides showed early nerves resulting in goalmouth action at either end. Kyles' Robbie MacLeod pulled a third-minute shot wide before Inveraray's Euan McMurdo had a shot deflected away for a corner at the other end within another minute.

However, the tempo and style of the afternoon's entertainment was set after seven minutes when Inveraray snatched the

early lead. Chris Crawford raced in from the right and committed two Kyles' defenders before releasing Russell MacKinley who showed great composure to flick the ball over Kyles' keeper Kenny MacDonald and into the net.

Empty net

Inveraray cheers had hardly had time to echo around the amphitheatre of Mossfield before Kyles' Robbie MacLeod pulled a third-minute shot wide before Inveraray's Euan McMurdo had a shot deflected away for a corner at the other end within another minute.

However, the tempo and style of the afternoon's entertainment was set after seven minutes when Inveraray snatched the

Inveraray's defence appeared stunned by the quick leveller and they were almost punished again when a MacLeod shot was picked out of the air by defender Allan MacDonald. Keeper MacPherson then did well to turn a swirling shot over his crossbar as the Kyles' forwardline swept wide balls both left and right.

The pressure told after 18 minutes when Roddy MacDonald burst through from 40 yards out to run through the defence at pace and place the ball neatly in the corner of the Inveraray net. But this time it was the Kyles' support that were stunned as Inveraray went straight up the park and equalised with a low, swirling shot from Garry MacPherson which whipped inside MacDonald's near-side post and three minutes later they regained their lead when Chris Crawford was first to react to a loose ball in the Kyles box and he craftily slipped it under the advancing keeper.

One-touch shinty

Now it was Inveraray's turn to dominate and create, which they achieved with some crisp, accurate, one-touch shinty through midfield which increasingly denied Kyles the ball and the Royal Burgh favourites sent the crowd wild in the 28th minute when Euan McMurdo cleverly controlled a ball from the left to allow Russell MacKinley to run on and roll it past the keeper. A simple goal, simply executed.

Two minutes later MacKinley was only denied his hat-trick by a brilliant save by the veteran Kyles' keeper whose reactions belied his 50-years, while, at the other end, MacPherson showed

great awareness to thwart a fierce low shot from Tom Whyte.

The end-to-end action continued in the run-in to half-time with MacDonald making a stunning save from Crawford and MacPherson plucking another great Whyte effort expertly out of the air.

Half-time gave the teams a chance to regroup, coaches an opportunity to access their options and spectators a minute to draw breath before referee Graham Cameron's whistle fired-up the action again.

This time a slightly reshaped Kyles line-up had a strengthening wind in their favour and this would prove an increasingly important factor as the drama unfolded.

Another early goal for Inveraray would surely seal the silverware but Kyles' determination and fitness have been a key element of their play over recent seasons and when they were awarded a penalty six minutes into the second period the alarm bells were ringing loud in Inveraray.

Kyles' winger Duncan Kerr had had a quiet game by his standards to that point but he ran through on goal only to be upended by the on-rushing keeper, MacPherson protested he played the ball and Kerr went over him but the penalty was given and, although Robbie MacLeod will strike a firmer spot hit, the bouncing ball evaded MacPherson to bring the deficit back to within a single goal.

If the Inveraray keeper was fazed by the loss of the penalty

it didn't show as he produced an acrobatic diving save to turn a low Tom Whyte shot around his post before the crowd were on their feet again as Garry MacPherson collected the ball wide on the Kyles' left and measured a fizzing shot that hit that back of the Kyles' net before the keeper could move.

Influence

Aware of Kyles' increasing pace and the influence that the wind was having on misplaced defensive clearances, Inveraray's midfield and forwardline dropped deeper and denied themselves an easier out-ball under pressure. And the problem was highlighted in the 58th minute when a loose clearance was returned. Kyles' Fraser MacDonald dropped deeper to collect the ball and pulled Inveraray captain Scott Robertson out of his full-back comfort zone before Robertson misjudged the bouncing ball allowing MacDonald the chance to unleash a shot to the top corner of MacPherson's net.

Kyles' were now controlling longer periods of the play and as Inveraray legs tired the yellow-and-blacks found it increasingly difficult to feed their forwardline with a meaningful ball. The tide finally appeared to have turned Kyles' way one minute after the hour mark when Roddy MacDonald snatched a dramatic hat-trick and an incredible 10th goal in a wonderfully pulsating cup tie. MacDonald's opportunistic back-hand strike from 18 yards found the roof of the net with the keeper helpless.

Inveraray rang the changes with a double substitution, bringing Andrew McMurdo and Ruaridh Graham into the cauldron of midfield. Graham has recently been sidelined with a groin strain and the seriousness of the injury was immediately apparent when he pulled up in his first tackle and was forced to limp off again.

With little indication that the cup fever pace was slackening, the Inveraray keeper kept his team's title hopes alive with two tremendous saves from a double of MacDonalds. But with 12 minutes remaining, even the acrobatic MacPherson could do little to deny Kyles' what proved a cup winning strike when a quick turn and snap-shot from the outstanding Roddy MacDonald crept in close to MacPherson's near post.

Too little, too late

In the closing minutes, Inveraray threw everything at Kyles in an effort to salvage a tie which at one time they thought was almost in their grasp but despite a late Crawford shot which came back off the Kyles' post with Kenny MacDonald beaten, it was to prove too little, too late.

The Kyles' 'never say die' attitude had seen them through to a well-deserved victory after 93 minutes of an all-action drama that the 3,000 spectators, plus a huge live television audience, will remember for some considerable time.

The Kyles Athletic name is back on the Camanachd Cup after an absence of 18 years.



Kyles Athletic's Roddy MacDonald leaves Inveraray defender Douglas Dando and goalkeeper Graeme MacPherson stranded as he puts the Tighnabruaich men 2-1 in front. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

Newtonmore hot favourites for the title

NEWTONMORE will lift the Orion Group Premiership title for the third successive year if they avoid defeat away to Glenurquhart on Saturday.

More virtually secured the title win with a recent 1-0 win against Glen, and even a loss in the final league game this weekend would probably not see them overhauled by title rivals Kyles Athletic.

More are now two points ahead with a goal difference advantage of 13.

This Saturday's game will also be Norman MacArthur's last game as 'More manager after six years in charge. MacArthur plans to stay on as club president.

GLENURQUHART want to upset Newtonmore's title party in Drumnadrochit this weekend.

Barring a huge defeat, 'More will secure the Orion Group Premiership this Saturday, but a win for Glen would see them move into fourth place.

Glen co-manager Drew McNeil told *The Oban Times*: 'We'll be trying to get the three points as normal. We're desperate to beat Newtonmore, not because it's Newtonmore, but it would be nice to get a win over the champions, or nearly champions. 'They will probably get the trophy presented to them after the match and we don't want to be the whipping boys.' McNeil said he was 'extremely happy' with how the 2012 season had gone.

He said: 'We went through a spell where we lost three games, and getting kicked out of the Scottish was a low point, but it seemed to kick start the guys and it culminated in a good win in the Macaulay.'

LOVAT take on losing Scottish

Hydro Camanachd Cup finalists Inveraray at Kiltarlity on Saturday needing only a draw to ensure a third place finish in the Orion Group Premiership.

Lovat coach Allan MacRae was deciding on team selection at training last night (Wednesday) and wants to ensure his team end what has been a highly successful season with a win.

However the X-factor, according to MacRae, will be how Inveraray react to their agonising 6-5 loss to Kyles in last Saturday's thriller.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'The way they played they were very unlucky and it will be a very hard game for us.'

'We will be looking to finish our season on a high. It is our last game at home and it could be a great game. The guys will be up for it.'

INVERARAY assistant manager Garry MacPherson admits it will be tough to lift his troops ahead of this weekend's league encounter with Lovat after narrowly missing out on Camanachd Cup glory.

However, he believes his players will be determined to prove their quality against a side that is higher than them in the league - even if the result will effectively be meaningless.

He said: 'We're pretty much safe in the league and maybe we'll get a few of the young lads in.'

'We're still obviously disappointed at the cup final result and it will be tough to get the lads up for the game - but maybe there's one or two who feel they didn't perform as well as they could have who'll want to go and show how good they are.'

LOCHABER could take a

huge step towards securing the Marine Harvest north division one title and promotion to the premiership by beating their only remaining title rivals Skye Camanachd at Spean Bridge on Saturday.

A win would mean Michael Delaney's men would only need one point from their remaining four matches to finish top of the league, barring a massive goal difference turnaround.

Lochaber have averaged almost five goals a game in the league this year, but their previously resolute defence has been breached five times in the past two games.

They last played Skye in Portree in August and played out a 0-0 draw. Their first meeting of the season at Spean Bridge ended with a 7-1 win for Lochaber.

It's do or die for SKYE CAMA-

NACHD on Saturday as they travel to Marine Harvest North Division 1 leaders Lochaber knowing nothing less than a win is a must to preserve their faint promotion hopes.

Skye's cause will not be helped by the absence of top scorer Jordie Murchison and Chris Rose through injury and coach Willie MacRae knows Lochaber on their own park are a formidable outfit.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We really have to go for it, but I think it will be a miracle if Lochaber lose the league now. We will give it a real go but we are going to be short of players.'

'Lochaber deserve to be where they are the way they have been playing. Even if we get a result we would still have to rely on other teams.'

'We will give it our best but if we lose that's it.'



Douglas Dando shields the ball from Roddy MacDonald. Photograph by John MacTavish.

The Orion Group Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	17	13	2	2	52	22	28
Kyles Athletic	17	12	2	3	47	30	26
Lovat	17	8	4	5	37	29	20
Fort William	18	8	3	7	36	34	19
Glenurquhart	17	8	2	7	32	37	18
Kingussie	17	7	3	7	39	37	17
Kinlochshiel	18	6	4	8	43	42	16
Inveraray	15	7	1	7	34	30	15
Kilmallie	18	3	2	13	28	49	8
Bute	18	0	5	13	11	49	5

Marine Harvest North Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochaber	13	11	2	0	64	13	24
Skye	15	10	3	2	40	21	23
Caberfeidh	18	8	3	7	51	39	19
Beaulie	15	8	1	6	34	32	17
Inverness	16	5	2	9	27	49	12
Lochcarron	17	4	3	10	24	45	11
Strathglass	16	1	2	13	23	64	4

Marine Harvest North Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	18	14	1	3	76	20	29
Skye	18	10	2	6	42	32	22
Kinlochshiel	17	8	5	4	33	38	21
Glenurquhart	16	8	2	6	36	32	18
Fort William	17	8	0	9	31	33	16
Kingussie	17	5	5	7	41	44	15
Lovat	18	7	1	10	37	47	15
Glengarry	18	7	1	10	31	42	15
Aberdeen Uni	17	6	2	9	37	39	14
Lochaber	18	3	3	12	39	76	9

Marine Harvest South Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Camanachd	13	12	1	0	62	10	25
Glasgow MA	14	10	0	4	40	17	20
Glenorchy	13	10	0	3	30	14	20
Taynuilt	14	4	5	5	28	33	13
Oban Celtic	14	5	1	8	26	38	11
Strachur	14	3	3	8	19	30	9
Kilmory	14	3	2	9	23	43	8
Aberdour	14	2	0	12	11	54	4

Marine Harvest South Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochside Rovers	18	17	0	1	98	27	34
Kyles Athletic	17	12	0	5	66	28	24
Balachulish	16	9	2	5	38	29	20
Tayforth	17	9	1	7	49	43	19
Col Glen	18	7	3	8	41	52	17
Bute	14	6	1	7	40	32	13
Inveraray	17	5	3	9	41	52	13
Ardnamurchan	18	5	1	12	44	49	11
Aberdour	17	5	1	11	35	64	11
Glasgow MA	18	4	0	14	19	95	8

Marine Harvest North Division 3							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beaulie	17	15	1	1	97	16	31
Boleskine	18	12	3	3	73	40	27
Lochbroom	18	12	2	4	57	29	26
Kilmallie	16	9	2	5	63	36	20
Lochcarron	17	9	1	7	46	41	19
Caberfeidh	18	9	0	9	51	47	18
Strathspey	18	5	2	11	39	71	12
Lewis Camanachd	18	3	2	13	26	69	8
Strathglass	18	3	2	13	27	79	8
Inverness	18	3	1	14	20	71	7

Last gasp goal puts Saints in semi final

Oban side play 84 minutes with ten men

Centenary Cup - Quarter Final
Busby 0
Oban Saints 1

FOOTBALL

OVERLEE Park in Clarkston was the venue for this Centenary Cup quarter final between Busby and Oban Saints and a goal three minutes into added on time by Saints full back Jamie Graham, his first ever goal for the club, saw the Oban side reach the semi-finals of the competition.

This was a remarkable result for the visitors as they had to play for 84 minutes with only ten men.

Marc MacCallum retaliated after having been stamped on by a Busby player leaving referee David MacLean no option but to show the Oban defender the red card.

Mr MacLean, who had a good game, failed to see the stamp in the first instance, but Marc can have no complaints about his dismissal, leaving his team



Jamie Graham.

mates to battle on with only 10 men.

Although a man down, the Oban side were taking the game to their opponents and Donald Campbell and Asen combined for a chance, but the Bulgarian striker's flick wasn't strong enough to cross the line.

With the extra man advantage Busby had a lot of the ball, but the Oban boys were working really hard and defending as though their lives depended on it. Paul Kerr was marshalling his troops at the back, restricting Busby to long range efforts that didn't really bother keeper Daniel Cassells too much.

On the half hour mark, Craig MacEwan had a good effort but the ball whistled inches over the bar and minutes later Dene Cassells broke through from his defensive duties, but his left foot drive also screamed inches over the bar.

Myles McAuley and Mattie Rippon were working their socks

off in the centre of the park with Craig MacEwan and Alan Miller doing the same on the flanks.

Just on the half time whistle Myles McAuley had a good chance, when he was fed through by Donald Campbell, but the ball seemed to get caught up between his legs and the opportunity was missed.

Busby started the second half well and had the visitors pinned back, but again the Oban boys were giving nothing away, although they had a scare in the 52nd minute when Busby full back Mark Gilfillan was unlucky with shot that crashed off the bar before being booted clear.

As the half wore on the Oban lads began to come more into the game and Donald Campbell came close with a header.

With 15 minutes remaining Busby had a great chance to take the lead when Steven Murphy caught the Saints defence napping and was clean through on goal, but Saints keeper Daniel Cassells made a great save racing from his goal line and blocking the Busby front man's shot with his legs.

With the game in the third minute of added on time and with both touchlines ready to sort out who was going to take the dreaded penalty kicks, Saints were awarded a free kick near the half way line.

Chris Graham fired over a great cross which the Busby defence failed to clear properly. The ball was bouncing around the penalty area and it fell to Jamie Graham who thumped the ball goalwards and to the joy of the Oban contingent it ended up in the back of the Busby net.

There was barely time for the game to be restarted when the referee blew for full time.

Saints now play Inverclyde in the semi final. The match will be played in Oban on a date still to be confirmed.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted. He said: 'I thought the boys were terrific. We fought for every ball, defended really well and got forward as often as we could and to come out winners having played almost the whole game with only ten men shows the spirit and determination in this squad. I was really proud of the boys.'



A delighted Andrew King holds aloft the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup after his team's 6-5 win over Inveraray. See page 23. Photograph by John MacTavish.

Oban hosts superb Camanachd Cup final

'We had a magnificent spectacle with an action packed match'

Colin Banks, Sponsorship Manager with Scottish Hydro, said: 'The Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final is always an excellent occasion to behold but no-one had predicted this year's match at Mossfield Park would be such a closely fought thriller featuring 11 goals!

'Supporting our local communities is very important to us and our sponsorship of shinty at both a senior and development level is a great way of helping us do just that. The fact there were two Scottish Hydro employees playing on park on Saturday - one in each team - highlights our proud association with the sport.'

Torquil Macleod, Camanachd Association Chief Operating Officer, said: 'Saturday's final was a great event and a fantastic showcase for shinty.

'We estimate in the region of 3,000 spectators attended on the day, plus another 100,000 tuning in via live broadcasts on tv, radio and online.

'We are extremely grateful for the tremendous support received from the council and the police, also for the huge number of enthusiastic volunteers supplied by The Macaulay Association, Oban Camanachd, Oban Celtic and Oban Lorne Rugby Club.

'All these partners, and others, came together with the Camanachd Association on Saturday to ensure Oban provided the perfect stage for an excellent display of shinty by Kyles Athletic and Inveraray and a truly memorable Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final.'

Archie Robertson, Camanachd Association President, said: 'The 2012 Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final was all we could hope for on such an occasion.

'Both teams demonstrated terrific skills, fitness, courage and commitment. We saw everything that was good about shinty on Saturday and why we should be proud of our game.'

Hugh Dan MacLennan, shinty historian, journalist and broadcaster, said: 'In terms of sense of occasion there can be little doubt but that the 2012 final gave the broadcasters in particular everything they would have wanted.

'We had a magnificent spectacle with an action packed match which was well attended by a fabulously entertaining crowd.'

'The two teams produced a magnificent match which, when we all take a step back, can be properly assessed in the historical context but Inveraray are to be commended on what they brought to the lush Mossfield turf and there's little to add to Kyles' performance which was complete.

'The Mossfield setting is pretty much unbeatable when we have a match like that.'

Argyll and Bute MP **Alan Reid** said: 'I enjoyed Saturday's Camanachd Cup Final very much. It was a very exciting and entertaining game of shinty played in a very sporting way. The match flowed from end to end the whole afternoon. I was really pleased to watch two Argyll teams battle it out for the trophy in what was a great advert for the game. I congratulate Kyles on their victory, but Inveraray deserve praise as well for their contribution to the close result, also all the staff at Mossfield for the good condition of the pitch and the stadium.'

Jamie McGrigor MSP said: 'I was delighted that the Camanachd Cup Final was held so successfully in Oban's Mossfield Stadium.

'It is another demonstration of the diverse range of excellent facilities which Oban can offer the visitor, sportsman or conference delegate and I would encourage lots of organisations to consider using Oban or other parts of Argyll as their event location. They can be sure to experience a very warm welcome from local residents and businesses in some of the most outstanding scenery Scotland has to offer.'

Michael Russell MSP said: 'This was a final to be remembered with 11 goals, Inveraray leading in the first half but Kyles winning out overall. 'The teams were exemplary in their behaviour both on and off the pitch and were a credit to the game.

'I can not imagine a better final where two teams are so well matched.

'It was a great day with the sun shining for the game.

'I have invited the Camanachd Association to come back to the South in the near future.'

Argyll and Bute Councillor **Louise Glen-Lee**, lead councillor for Oban, Lorn and the Isles, said: 'Mossfield was looking brilliant, the pitch was second to

none and praise must go to Ian Hay and his team for keeping it in such good condition.

'The volunteers on the gates, pitch side and doors helped the event to run smoothly.

'It was good to see a well-behaved crowd enjoy a top game.

'Thanks go to the Camanachd Association for putting on such a good day of events - showing off shinty talent from every age.

'Following on from the women's final last week in Strachur, perhaps Argyll really is the true home of the Highlander's game.'



Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

WEEKEND results:
Scottish Cup - Under 13s 0, Hamilton Accies 9; Under 14s 9 v Cairneyhill Athletic 0.
Netting for Saints were Lomond MacPherson (2), Ben Coates (2), Zander Kilmurray, Liam Higgins, Declan MacMillan, Jay Cooper and Hector MacDonald.

The Under 15s and Under 16s had no games.

This weekend's fixtures:
Drumchapel v Under 13s; Ardencape v Under 14s; Morton BC v Under 15s; Under 16s no game.

Second place for the Sinclairs

QUAD BIKING

THE final round of the SACU quad championship took place on Sunday in Leuchars.

Scott and Lorne Sinclair took part, finishing second in the adult championship and second in the 250 standard respectively. This gives them both a second place finish in the championship standing which is a wonderful result for both riders as it was Scott's first season in adult class and Lorne's first year racing.

There are three more race meetings to go in the nett championship in England with Lorne leading the standard class by a narrow margin of 16 points from Newcastle boy Dylan Wilkinson.

Scott is having a harder task, lying fourth in the adult class with a mathematical chance of getting second place.

Scott's form this season saw him asked to compete in a three man Scottish team, that took part in the Pon de Vaux 12 hour endurance in France which was a great experience for him.

Sunday League signing night

PRIMARY FOOTBALL

OBAN Express Primary School Football League are looking to recruit new players, coaches and volunteers.

They are holding a signing night for new primary school age children who wish to take part in the weekly football on a Sunday at Oban Community Pitch.

Any new players, coaches or volunteers who wish to become involved in the league are asked to report to the Function Room at Atlantis Leisure tonight (Thursday) at 6.30pm.

Islay Golf Club

GOLF

RESULTS from Islay Golf Club: Lagavulin Trophy played on Sunday September 16 - 1 Nigel Carmichael 75 Less 5 net 70; 2 Christopher Drain 80 Less 9 net 71; 3 Angus MacAulay 90 less 16 net 74. Ccs72

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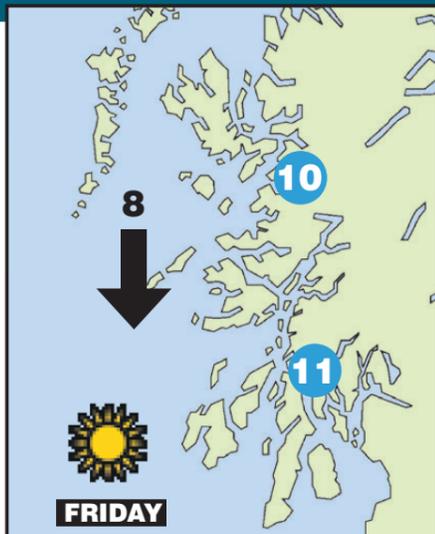
Weather

Thursday Sunny intervals
Winds light northerly
Temperatures 5°C to 13°C

Friday Sunny
Winds light northerly
Temperatures 5°C to 12°C.

Weekend Light rain
Outlook Winds light southerly
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, September 20, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	07.58	3.8	14.29	0.7	20.15	3.7
Thur	02.09	0.7	07.58	3.8	14.29	0.7	20.15
Fri	02.56	0.9	08.44	3.6	15.22	1.0	21.02
Sat	03.51	1.2	09.40	3.3	16.24	1.3	22.01
Sun	05.00	1.4	11.06	3.1	17.37	1.5	23.58
Mon	06.22	1.6	13.24	3.1	19.02	1.6	*** **
Tues	02.21	2.8	07.52	1.5	14.40	3.3	20.36
Wed	03.33	3.1	09.06	1.3	15.32	3.5	21.40

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

The Oban Times

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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Thursday 20 September, 2012

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Knife carrier jailed for 17 months

A FORMER Fort William man who admitted carrying a knife in the town has been jailed for 17 months.

John McPhee previously pled guilty to having the knife in his possession without reasonable excuse or lawful authority on Hill Road and Cameron Road on March 30.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard McPhee approached two men on Hill Road with the knife, which a witness said was six to eight inches long.

Fiscal Alison Wylie said McPhee spoke aggressively to the men and waved the knife about. She said: 'They got the impression he was looking for someone.'

Sheriff Vinit Khurana said: 'You have pled guilty to a very serious matter. A custodial sentence is the only suitable option available to me.'

Sheriff Khurana said McPhee's 17-month imprisonment would not start until he had finished a one-year sentence he is currently serving.

McPhee, of flat 73/5 Colquhoun Drive, Rosshead, Alexandria, was also sentenced for assaulting a man on Fort William High Street on the afternoon of December 30.

He was found guilty of repeatedly punching the man on the head and kicking him on the legs after a trial.

Sheriff Khurana sentenced him to six months in jail, which will run concurrently with his other sentence.

Drumnadrochit mourns death of 'The Yank'

DRUMNADROCHIT was shocked by the sudden death of local shinty stalwart Iain 'The Yank' Macdonald last weekend.

Mr Macdonald was vice chieftain at Glenurquhart Shinty Club - the team he supported and formerly played for.

A club spokesperson said: 'Iain was a loyal supporter of the Glen and will be sorely missed by all those who knew him.'

His funeral will be held in the village tomorrow (Friday), with players and club members past and present forming a guard of honour after the service.



An artist's impression of the proposed £3million indoor training facility and 3G pitch.

Ambitious sports hub plan wins unanimous backing

LOCHABER councillors have unanimously backed draft proposals for a new £3million community sports hub in Fort William.

If implemented, the ambitious plan, unveiled at a business meeting in Lochaber House on Monday, would see the new hub built at Lochaber High School. Consultants Douglas Wheeler Associates and John Gilbert Architects produced the blueprint after Lochaber Sports Association (LSA) and Highland Council commissioned a study into bringing Lochaber's sports facilities into the 21st century.

The area's high rainfall means outdoor sports such as football and rugby suffer during the winter as grass pitches flood or

freeze. The plan features two main projects - re-covering the school's astroturf pitch in a 3G surface suitable for all sports and an indoor centre with a 60x40 metre pitch - big enough for golf and cricket practice. Showers, changing and meeting areas would be shared.

LSA's chairperson Jane Blanchard accepted finding funding would be a challenge but said the Scottish Government and SportsScotland were committed to creating such community sports hubs as the Commonwealth Games draw nearer.

Ms Blanchard said SportsScotland 'would be the first port of call' for cash, citing The Robertson Trust, the

Commonwealth Games Legacy Fund, Sportsmatch and Awards for All as potential funders.

She said: 'Capital costs have risen dramatically in the 18 months since the indoor training facility was first considered but the predicted cost of around £650/sqm is well within the 'sample' costs tabled by SportsScotland for similar facilities.'

'The total budget cost of the indoor training facility and showering/changing/meeting areas is £3m, including development costs and VAT.'

'Both facilities will take all the pressure off club grass pitches, whilst being a huge incentive to national coaching bodies to bring their courses to Lochaber. They will be able to be used by school

pupils during the school day and clubs and the wider community at all other times.'

'Although the economic climate for developing capital projects in general is currently very poor, the timing for developing a community sports hub such as this could not be better.'

Ms Blanchard added: 'We feel there is absolutely no time to lose if we are to take advantage of this exciting opportunity and so look forward to the publication of the final report within the next two weeks, which will take us another step closer to making this long-held dream a reality.'

Lochaber Rugby Club went more than four months last winter without playing a game at their home ground in Banavie.

Two new stores boost Fort William High Street

FORT William's High Street has been given a major shot in the arm with news that two new stores will open this weekend, bringing around 25 new jobs to the town.

Sports retailer Sportsdirect.com is to open its outlet this Sunday in the former Blacks Leisure shop, which closed in February with the loss of seven jobs.

And greetings cards and gift shop Moments will start trading tomorrow in Tweeddale Buildings in the former Birthdays outlet, creating five part-time jobs.

Sportsdirect.com, which has more than 400 branches across the UK, said the new shop would 'create jobs for management and 20 casual roles'.

Fort William Chamber of Commerce chairman Robert Hawkes the news was a boost for the town's retail sector.

He said: 'It's great to see people have confidence in the potential of Fort William High Street to open up new stores in this difficult time for high streets across the country.'

Double decker safety fears prompt school run stand-off

Parents and head teacher slate bus firm for choice of replacement vehicle

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

A BUS company has been slated for using a double decker bus to take Lochaber children to school over an exposed mountain route.

Stagecoach usually schedules a coach to ferry Onich and North Ballachulish pupils to Kinlochleven High School (KHS) via the B863 'high road' from Glencoe.

But when a double decker appeared as the 44 service from Fort William at North Ballachulish on Friday at 8.15am, the schoolchildren refused to board.

The bemused driver contacted managers in Fort William for advice then drove away without the youngsters.

The stand-off came after KHS headteacher John McGilp warned parents by text not to allow their children to use a double decker after one appeared on the route last month and again on September 6.

Mr McGilp considers only coaches are suitable for the high road, which in places has a steep 300-foot drop down to Loch Leven.

Last Friday, Lochaber was being battered by the tail end of Tropical Storm Leslie and Hurricane Michael, with 50mph winds.

Mr McGilp appears to have the full backing of local parents who are furious at the sudden use of double deckers.

Mr McGilp told *The Oban Times*: 'We are in discussions with Stagecoach and TEC services in terms of trying to get the school run back to using single decker buses.'

'I am only interested in the health and safety of the children at the school.'

A Stagecoach spokesperson said on Friday: 'Although a coach normally operates on this route, occasionally due to routine maintenance and inspection requirements we have to substitute a vehicle rather than miss a journey and this was the case this morning.'

'We continue to offer safe and reliable services meeting the contractual obligations for school services as set out by the Highland Council.'

Children living south of Ballachulish Bridge are currently in the Kinlochleven High catchment area and get free transport to school. Those north of it come under Lochaber High School. Most Onich and North Ballachulish parents have opted for Kinlochleven and have to pay bus fares. A review of the South Lochaber catchment boundary is ongoing.

Ms Daynes said: 'Just because our children are not in the catchment doesn't mean you should put their lives at risk. We pay for the bus - it's not a free service because we are not officially catchment yet.'

'Even the low road [from North Ballachulish to Kinlochleven] was dangerous with flooding and broken branches. I would not want to know what the high road was like.'

'They are just putting the buses on without thinking about the consequences. Do we have to wait until an accident happens?'

Mrs Daynes, originally from New York, added: 'Buses designed for city routes should not be used for school runs in rural Lochaber.'

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Jobs joy as Lochaline sand mine re-opens

IT WAS jobs joy for Lochaline on Friday as its silica sand mine officially re-opened after lying idle for almost four years.

Eleven well-paid jobs were lost when Tarmac UK shut up shop in December 2008 - but now production has re-started under the mine's new owners, Lochaline Quartz Sand Ltd.

The joint venture between Italian mining company Gruppo Minerali Maffei (GMM) and global glass manufacturer Pilkington will see the first 2,500-tonne consignment shipped to Pilkington's glass factories in Lancashire on September 24.

Among those delighted the mine was back in business were Lochaline senior citizens Carina Jackson, Catherine Cameron and Charles

'Chubby' Ives, who have a combined age of 234.

Ms Cameron, from Drimmin, drove a mine lorry from 1969 to 1972, while Ms Jackson's father Jim MacGregor, from Duror, was a manager at the workings.

And 92-year-old Charles Ives, better known as 'Chubby', vividly remembers rocks from the first blastings at the mine, in 1939, flying halfway across Loch Aline towards his home on the opposite shore.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Most of the miners then were from Ballachulish. They came across because the slate quarries were closing. Lochaline was a dead place when it shut down. But it's great it's going again.'

See full report and photos, page 15.



Lochaline senior citizens Carina Jackson, Catherine Cameron and Charles 'Chubby' Ives are thrilled the sand mine is back in business. 20_138mine01

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Bogus workman warning

POLICE in Skye are advising members of the public to be aware of a possible bogus workman operating in the area. Officers have received reports of a man in a black Transit style van using what have been described as 'aggressive sales techniques' to encourage residents into an agreement for roofing services.

Local people are urged to be on their guard and report any concerns to police.

Corpach man brandished metal bar at ex-wife's partner

A CORPACH man has admitted waving a metal bar above his head during an argument with his ex-wife's partner. Angus Kennedy, of 7 Guisach Terrace, pled guilty to behaving in a threatening and abusive manner by shouting, swearing and brandishing the bar on May 19.

The 46-year-old had gone to his former marital home on Lochside, where his ex-wife still lives, to work on a rally car in an out building with two friends at around 9am.

But the woman was unhappy Kennedy had not told her in advance he was going to come to the property, Fort William Sheriff Court heard. Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'She was agitated. Her new partner went out to talk to Mr Kennedy. The accused became aggressive, picked up the metal bar and went towards the man with the bar above his head.'

Defence lawyer Gerry Sweeney said the incident was the result of a 'misunderstanding' between Kennedy and his ex-wife.

Sheriff Vinit Khurana admonished Kennedy - a warning which is a conviction and appears on the offender's criminal record.

Work starts on new museum and archive centre

WORK is due to start on a £4.6 million two-year project to create a new museum and archive centre at Lews Castle in Stornoway.

The current Museum nan Eilean will close at the end of September to allow the work, which is being funded by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, to begin.

Among the attractions at the new museum will be six Lewis Chessmen, which have been secured on a long-term loan from the British Museum in London.

The work will see a purpose-built annexe to the castle with gallery space and new displays looking at the past and the future across the Outer Hebrides.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar leader Angus Campbell said the project was a 'once in a generation opportunity'.

Regeneration group meets to pick committee

UPPER Achintore Regeneration Group in Fort William is meeting in Upper Achintore Primary School tonight (Thursday) to choose its committee for the year ahead.

It is hoped between five and 10 people will join the committee, which will elect a chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary and treasurer.



Rosemary and Duncan MacPhee present the winners' shield to Banavie captain Victor Smith and the team.

Banavie make it three trophy wins in a row

MORE than 100 youngsters from across the west Highlands came to Fort William to compete for the tenth annual Fraser MacPhee Memorial Shinty Trophy on Sunday.

Around £320 was raised on the day which will be donated to local youth shinty.

Nine teams - Portree, Inverloch, Banavie, Ardnamurchan, Caol, Lundavra, Lochaber, Kingussie and Ballachulish - took part at An Aird, with Banavie defeating Kingussie in the final to lift the trophy for the third year in a row.

Duncan and Rosemary MacPhee presented the prizes after the tournament and said the day had been 'the best one yet'.

They said: 'Everybody has enjoyed themselves and most importantly the children have had a great day, playing very high standard shinty, which is what this event has always been about.'

'We would like to say a huge thanks to everyone who helped us today. 'Without them it wouldn't have been such a success.'

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Fort William man launched unprovoked attack

A FORT William man launched an unprovoked attack on a man he suspected had slept with his girlfriend.

The victim had been carrying out work on a driveway on Union Road, Fort William, when Sandy Campbell came up from behind and punched him.

Defence solicitor Steven Kennedy told Fort William Sheriff Court Campbell's partner

was unfaithful with the victim of the assault the weekend before.

He said: 'Mr Campbell was walking to Lochaber College when he saw the man. He saw red, and what had happened, and punched him.'

Campbell previously pled guilty to assaulting the man during the May 1 incident. Sheriff Vinit Khurana fined the

26-year-old £300. Meanwhile, a charge against Campbell of fighting with a baseball bat was dropped by the Crown.

Campbell and John Campbell, aged 43, of 40 Carlisle Road, Crawford, Biggar, had denied behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by fighting in Brown Court and Campbell Court, Fort William, on March 24.

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Contemporary colour images of St Kilda go on show

A SIX-WEEK exhibition of St Kilda photographs opens at West Highland Museum in Fort William on Saturday.

St Kilda 36, comprising three dozen colour prints of contemporary images from the remote archipelago, depict the islands'

unique wildlife, architecture, military presence and the ever-changing landscape, as captured by Lochaber photographer William Cameron.

Lochaber has strong connections with former St Kildans, who were evacuated to live on

mainland Scotland on August 29 1930.

Many of the last 36 islanders were relocated to live in Morvern and one, Lachie MacDonald, subsequently moved to live and work in Glen Nevis.

To inform his work, Mr Cameron learned of the islands' past from Mr MacDonald's widow, Nancy, aged 92, who still lives in Fort William. He also visited St Kilda on a number of occasions.

The images are displayed with explanatory text. Entry to the museum is free.

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Aquaculture firm nets export award

MARINE Harvest Scotland (MHS) Ltd, the country's largest aquaculture company, has netted a major award for its exporting efforts.

MSH lifted the accolade at the Scottish Council for Development and Industry's Highlands and Islands annual dinner and business excellence awards at the Drumossie Hotel, Inverness, on Friday.

The firm received the Benromach Award for Excellence in International Business after breaking into the Chinese market in 2011, selling 1,800 tonnes of salmon in its first full year of export.

MHS managing director Alan Sutherland said: 'We are delighted to receive this award as recognition for the hard work and commitment of our staff who have worked to achieve our international growth.'

The go-ahead firm, based at Blar Mhor Industrial Estate outside Fort William, produced more than 50,000 tonnes of salmon last year. Export sales in its last financial year grew by 101 per cent over the previous 12 months.

As demand grows, MSH has announced it will recruit two apprentices a year aged between 16 and 20 under a new two-year apprenticeship scheme being launched this week.

Trainees will undertake practical work experience and in-house training in all aspects of aquaculture, from gutting fish to basic sea survival. The apprenticeships, which

will include an SVQ2 Level 2 Aquaculture qualification, will follow the salmon farming process from fish hatchery through growing the fish at seawater sites through to harvesting and packing the fish.

Recruits will be guaranteed a job after their two years - but must be willing to move anywhere within the company.

Mr Sutherland said: 'Often young people in these areas are forced to move away to get work so we're delighted to be able to offer this apprenticeship scheme.'

'This is a wonderful opportunity to develop a career

in a successful industry. The image of fish farming as an unskilled labouring job is very out-dated - today's fish farmers are highly skilled and our apprentices will gain both skills and qualifications which are greatly in demand both here and across the world.'

MSH runs four hatcheries, four freshwater loch sites and 30 sea farms across the West Highlands and islands.

In 2009 the company announced a major expansion to meet increasing demand and has recently opened two new farms in the Western Isles.

A new £16 million smolt rearing plant is currently being built at Lochailort, the original home of farmed salmon in Scotland.



Andrew Dixon, chief executive of Creative Scotland, left, presents Marine Harvest Scotland key account manager Madeleine Easson and process planning manager Angus MacKay with the award at Friday night's ceremony.

Invergarry man admits assaulting partner

AN INVERGARRY man has admitted drunkenly assaulting his partner during an argument in his house.

Milos Goga, of 19 Garry Crescent, admitted seizing the woman by the hand and pushing her on the body, causing her to fall into a chair on July 21.

Fiscal Alison Wylie said the 38-year-old and the woman got into an argument about his drinking.

She said: 'She called 999 and was told to lock herself in the bathroom until the police arrived.'

Hearing Goga had previous convictions for assault, Sheriff Vinit Khurana deferred sentencing until October 24 for reports.



Sandy Cameron from Roy Bridge; top at Inverness



Brighde Chaimbeul from Kyle; excelled in the under-15 category.

Young pipers excel at Northern Meeting

TWO YOUNG West Highland pipers excelled in junior competitions at the recent Northern Meeting in Inverness.

Sandy Cameron from Roy Bridge won both the piobaireachd and march, strathspey and reel competitions to take the overall under-18 title. Brighde Chaimbeul from Kyle won the under-15 march, strathspey and reel and was placed second in the piobaireachd.

Seamus O'Boaighill from Sleat on Skye came fourth in the under-15 piobaireachd.

Drunk's threats to girlfriend heard in court

A FORT William man told his girlfriend he would shoot her in a drunken row over the phone.

Malcolm Watson pled guilty to behaving in a threatening and abusive manner by making the threats during the call late on August 11.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'He suspected she had been unfaithful to him with his brother. He phoned her and became angry and she hung up. He called her back and said "Talk to me or I'm going to shoot you."

Later the same night, the 26-year-old sent a number of texts saying he was going to give the woman "a battering" and smash the windows at her house.

The following morning Watson went to the woman's house on Glenkingie Street, Caol, and repeatedly banged on the door and shouted for someone to let him in.

Ms Wylie said the couple had since become reconciled.

Defending, Hamish Melrose told Fort William Sheriff Court Watson was drunk when he made the threats and had not had any alcohol since.

Sheriff Vinit Khurana ordered Watson, of 6 Lochaber Road to carry out 80 hours unpaid work.

Design award shortlist unveiled

THE SHORTLISTED entries for the West region of the third Highlands and Islands architectural awards have been unveiled.

Sleat-based Dualchas have four properties shortlisted in the 'new building' category - No 15 Boreraig, 1 Kildorais, Flodigarry, An Da Bhatlach - all on Skye - and 29 Harbour Street in Plockton.

Another Skye-based firm, Rural Design from Dunvegan has been nominated in the same category for its House at Lusta at Watnash, Skye, and in the 'new life for old' and 'placemaking' categories for its Burnside development at Plockton.

The awards, held every two years since 2008, are organised by Inverness Architectural Association (IAA) - the chapter of the Royal Incorporation of Architects that covers the Highlands and Islands.

IAA president Andrew Bruce said: 'The west Highlands, as always, has offered up a very high quality shortlist and we're looking forward to visiting the various properties.'

Regional winners go forward to the main Highlands and Islands awards on November 9.



Grease is the word at Lochaber High

Grease is the word at Lochaber High School for the pupil's annual show to be held next week. The youngsters will put on three performances of the popular 1950s-set musical in the school hall on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. The shows start at 7.30pm each night with tickets available at the school office. Depute head teacher Paul Reynolds said: 'The annual shows are a real credit to the school, and this year's show promises to live up to the now high expectations.'

Federation wins Skye abattoir study cash

THE KYLE-based Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) has been awarded almost £11,000 for a feasibility study on developing a small abattoir in Skye and Lochalsh.

The report will examine prospects for a small-scale slaughtering and processing plant, which would be

co-operatively owned and operated. A Scottish Agricultural College team led by Portree-based senior consultant Siobhan Macdonald will carry out the study. The move follows work by the SCF explaining the cost and animal welfare benefits of a local abattoir. Skye and Lochalsh

crofters and farmers currently have to transport animals to Dingwall for slaughter - a journey of up to three and a half hours - or even to Lochmaddy on North Uist.

SCF crofting resources programme manager Donald Murdie said 'costed plans' would be produced for a plant

suited to local needs with a 'flexible operating strategy' to respond to seasonal demand.

'The resulting report will be made freely available to other groups of producers wishing to develop their own small-scale abattoir facilities,' he said.

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Police files

THE DRIVER'S window of a Volkswagen Passat car was smashed while it was parked outside 42 Lochaber Road, Fort William, sometime between 12am and 10am on Saturday September 15.

RED DIESEL was siphoned from a number of vehicles in the secure Global construction yard on the A830 at Glenfinnan overnight on Friday September 14 and Saturday September 15.

Police said a padlock was removed and a vehicle would have been used in the crime.

THE REAR window of a crane parked near the Underwater Centre in Fort William was damaged sometime between 6pm on Wednesday September 12 and 7.30am on Thursday September 13.

A SCOTT Trail mountain bike was stolen from the garden of 3 MacLeod Crescent, Caol overnight on Monday September 10 and Tuesday September 11. The bike has a white frame and grey and purple markings. Anyone with knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361, the confidential line 01397 702000 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Man denies speeding away from police

A MAN has denied speeding away from police at more than 95mph while drink driving in Glencoe.

Appearing from custody, Peter Green, of 38 Heys Close, Blackburn, England, pled guilty to driving while nearly twice the legal alcohol limit on the A82. However, he denied a charge of dangerous driving.

The 33-year-old is accused of driving aggressively away from a police officer who was standing on the road, narrowly avoiding knocking him over, speeding and repeatedly veering across the road.

Green is also accused of driving without insurance. The alleged incidents occurred on September 12.

Green is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on December 3 and was disqualified from driving until then.

Skye centre's key role in otter talks

AN ISLE of Skye otter rehabilitation centre is spearheading efforts to improve communication between conservationists and fishery operators.

At a one-day international conference in Edinburgh on November 7, Broadford-based International Otter Survival Fund (IOSF) will bring together otter scientists, representatives from fishery organisations, wildlife trusts and environmental, biodiversity and conservation agencies.

Fish farmers, koi carp keepers, anglers and representatives from Austria and Hungary with knowledge of the issue will also attend.

The move follows publicity suggesting otter populations in the UK are growing - which in turn prompted fisheries to air concerns about possible impacts on fish stocks.

EXCLUSIVE REPORT

by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

One positive spin-off from the conference will be a working group of otter experts and fishery community representatives. The new body, says the IOSF, will agree how best to gather further data and ensure 'mutual collaboration' to help tackle any problems.

It is envisaged the group will comprise 10 members across the otter and fishery community. Topics in the conference programme include:

- Otter ecology, population numbers and distribution, past and present, survey methods and the legal protection of the species.

- Threats to fish stocks - environmental damage to rivers, drought conditions, disease,

other predators, including invasive species.

- Fishery concerns - how to protect fish stocks.

- Working with otters - an example will be presented from a Scottish fishery which is successfully encouraging wildlife, including otters.

Dr Paul Yoxon, IOSF head of operations, told *The Oban Times*: 'The data simply isn't available to say that otters are everywhere.'

'On the one hand we are being told that there is a drought and fish are having to be rescued from drying rivers and on the other hand we are hearing that there are loads of otters. Both cannot be true.'

'But instead of arguing we want to work with people involved in fishing to resolve conflicts before they become serious.'

'We hope as many fishermen as possible will join us and help us preserve fish stocks, otters and the biodiversity of our country.'

The conference at the Apex International Hotel will be followed by the first working group meeting in early 2013. More information at www.otter.org/events.aspx or email enquiries@otter.org.

Window smashed at traveller's site

A WINDOW was smashed in the office of the Kentallen Traveller's Site, Duror, sometime between September 5 and September 11.

Police said entry was possibly gained, but no items were taken. Anyone with any information should contact Glencoe Police on 01855 811222.

Tributes paid to Western Isles councillor



Sad loss: Lewis councillor Bill Houston.

TRIBUTES have been paid to Western Isles councillor Bill Houston, who died suddenly at his Leurbost home on Lewis on Saturday morning.

Mr Houston, who represented Uig and North Lochs, suffered a brain haemorrhage during May's local council election campaign but had appeared to be recovering well.

Donald Manford, Comhairle Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP group leader said: 'We are all shocked and saddened to lose Bill. Bill was an outstanding talent and his loss will be felt throughout

the comhairle and the wider community. At this time, our thoughts are with his family and close friends.'

Mr Houston worked in local government across Scotland for 35 years and came to the islands in 1998 to become deputy director of education and leisure services. He is survived by two sons and a daughter.

Angus MacNeil MP, Alasdair Allan MSP and comhairle co-ordinator Norman MacDonald also praised Councillor Houston's 'outstanding' contribution and offered their condolences.



Spean Bridge pupils' recipe for success

Spean Bridge Primary School pupils have been busy cooking the fruits of their labours after a successful growing season. P5/6/7 children are currently harvesting vegetables from their school garden - which doubles as an outdoor classroom when the weather allows. Above, Callum Neil, Jennifer Chisholm and Alasdair Poll get busy making a pot of soup for the school canteen.

New research into rural cost of living

THE UNIVERSITY of the Highlands and Islands is to undertake new research into the minimum cost of living in rural Scotland.

Partners in the 'Minimum Income Standard for Remote and Rural Scotland' will be The Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough

University. Research will focus on the price of goods and services required by different households to achieve a reasonable standard of living.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise is leading the project, supported by local authorities and housing organisations.

Rachael McCormack, director of strengthening communities at HIE, said: 'It's about more than just food, clothes and shelter.'

'It is about people having what they need to take opportunities and make the choices necessary to play a full part in society.'

The findings will be published next year.

Recreation group's challenge to design new logo

DUNVEGAN-based North West Skye Recreational Association (NWSRA) is inviting local young people aged under 18 to enter a competition to design its new logo.

The winner will receive £100 with a further £100 going to a sports, recreation club, organisation or school nominated by the winner.

NWSRA said it was 'delighted' to have received financial sponsorship for the competition from Mallaig and North West Fisherman's Association.

Entries should be sent to NWSRA, 1 Ardmore, Harloch, Isle of Skye, IV55 8ZJ, or emailed to NWSRA@btinternet.com by November 14. The winning entry will be announced at the annual meeting on December 1. The logo form can be downloaded from NWSRA's website.

The group aims to create better recreation and sport amenities for everyone living in the remote area.

Benefits trial postponed

THE TRIAL of a Caol woman accused of falsely claiming more than £4,700 in benefits has been postponed until November 9 because an essential prosecution witness was on holiday.

Catherine Johnston, of 92 Kilmallie Road, had been due to stand trial Fort William Sheriff Court last Thursday.

The 56-year-old denies failing to notify the Department of Work and Pensions she was employed at various periods between April 2008 and December 2010.

Opera tour arrives in Plockton

SCOTTISH Opera's six-date Highland tour featuring workshops on La Traviata arrives in Plockton High School today.

The session, linked to the curriculum, will be led by Scottish Opera staff and is designed to explore the music, characters and background of the opera.

The young people taking part will later have the chance to watch the full performance in Plockton.

Magic

moments

New store to open on High Street, Fort William tomorrow

A NEW store providing a unique range of good value, high quality products to help any celebration go off with a bang opens on Fort William High Street tomorrow (Friday). Moments, located in Tweedale Buildings near Nickel and Dime, caters for any kind of occasion - from weddings and stag and hen nights, to birthdays and anniversaries.

The new shop offers something different for the Fort William retail sector, and provides goods for hotels, bed and breakfasts and restaurants across Lochaber, with tableware, napkins, tea sets and catering equipment on sale.

And if there's anything you can't find in store, just ask and the Moments staff will be happy to order it in for you. Halloween, Christmas and other holidays are also catered for. Moments has a broad variety of tinsel, wrapping paper, gift boxes and Christmas tree decorations. There are also a number of Halloween costumes, face masks and decorations suitable for any scary party.

If you are looking for a memorable gift to mark a milestone wedding anniversary, Moments has just the thing with commemorative glasses set, which come in specially designed boxes.

The shop also has a wide assortment of individual greetings cards and boxed cards for all occasions on sale. Birthday parties will only be complete with some of Moments' balloons, badges and banners.









PRIZE DRAW

To celebrate the store's opening, anyone who buys any item from Moments this Friday or Saturday will be automatically entered into a raffle prize draw, with the winner receiving a **brand new 32-inch flat screen television**. Ten lucky runners up will be given 16-piece dinners sets.

So why not come on down and see what special treats you can pick up at Moments this weekend.

Concern mounts for missing man

CONCERN is mounting for an Oban man who has been missing since Monday morning.

Andrew Finlayson, 54, of Columba Court, Dunollie has not been seen since 10.30am on Monday.

Andrew is described as white, approximately 5ft 4 in height, medium build, with short grey hair, blue eyes and clean shaven.

He was last seen wearing blue denim jeans, a green army jumper, boots and a light blue waterproof jacket.

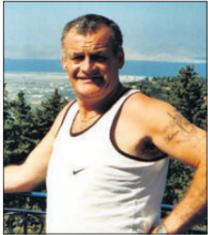
Andrew's partner, Morven MacAuley is appealing for him to get in touch: 'Please Andrew come home, we can sort through anything. I love you, just come home,' she said.

Chief inspector Brian Auld is appealing to Andrew or to anyone who has information as to his whereabouts to contact police: 'We know he has not been in contact with his partner or friends, and nobody has been able to contact him, I am therefore concerned for his well-being.'

'There are some personal issues that he has been dealing with recently, which may have relevance to him not being in touch with his family. I would ask Andrew to give police or his family a call just to let us know he is well.'

Officers launched a search along with coastguard and mountain rescue teams, a helicopter and dog team.

Anyone with information as to Andrew's whereabouts can contact Oban Police Office on 01631 510500.



Andrew Finlayson

Garden centre wins award

DUNBEG garden centre, Poppies, received an Olympic celebration award after being named one of Britain's finest small caterers last week.

The centre won the Best Small Catering Silver at the Garden Trade News Awards, receiving with owners Marion and Gary MacPherson receiving the award from gold winning Team GB rowers Mark Hunter and Zac Purchase.

Woman accused biting policewoman

A WOMAN was arrested after allegedly biting a policewoman and spitting on a policeman after they were called to a house on Lochnell Road, Dunbeg.

The 22 year-old resisted arrest when police arrived at the house after receiving a complaint about a party last Friday.

Oldest Bowmore released at £100,000

BOWMORE will release the island's oldest single malt whisky next month - with the first two bottles costing at least £100,000 each.

The Bowmore 1957 was bottled last year, but spent 54 years lying in wait in finest oak barrels.

With only 12 bottles in existence worldwide, it is the rarest Bowmore whisky and is set to become one of the most sought-after single malts in the world.

Bottles one and two will be offered at auction at Bonham's in Edinburgh on October 10 and on October 28 in New York, with a minimum reserve of £100,000.

Andrew Rankin, Morrison Bowmore's chief blender, said: 'Upon checking the whisky in early 2011, we knew it had reached perfection at 54 years of age.'

Police appeal after window smashed

OBAN police are appealing for witnesses after a brick was thrown through a window of a guest house on Corran Esplanade at approximately 1am on Saturday. An elderly couple were sleeping in the room at the time. Anyone with information can contact Constable Emma Campbell at Oban police station.



Father and son heroes for Kyles Athletic Shinty Club last Saturday were Kenny and Roddy MacDonald. Goalkeeper Kenny, who at the age of 50 is still producing outstanding performances for his club, made numerous telling saves to deny Inveraray victory, while his 24-year old son Roddy scoring four times in a thrilling 11-goal cup tie at Mossfield Park, Oban to ensure that Kyles Athletic lifted the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup for the first time in 18 years. Picture - John MacFavish

Father and son hailed as sporting heroes

THEY say that legends are born from endeavour. If that is true then there is little doubt that a father and son from Tighnabruich have written their family name into the 'legends' category of the sport of shinty.

Last Saturday's dramatic 11-goal thrilling Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final, watched by more than 3,000 spectators at Mossfield Stadium, Oban, had all the ingredients to produce something special in a year of memorable national sporting moments. Saturday's outcome is already widely heralded as one of the top sporting encounters in shinty history and raved about by those on the fringes of

the sport as 'an exciting, emotional, passionate roller-coaster of an event.'

Torquil Macleod, Camanachd Association Chief Operating Officer, said: 'Saturday's final was a great event and a fantastic showcase for shinty. We estimate in the region of 3,000 spectators attended on the day, plus another 100,000 tuning in via live broadcasts on TV, radio and online. A truly memorable Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final.'

The cup tradition of both Inveraray and Kyles Athletic is engrained in the players from an early age and victory in this competition is regarded

as overshadowing all others as the pinnacle of a player's career. After the full-time whistle was sounded on Saturday, Inveraray's players and background staff, who had led for long periods of the pulsating cup tie, were clearly physically and mentally drained, while the Kyles' players, fuelled by a cocktail of adrenaline and emotion were swamped by an army of adoring fans.

Four-goal hero Roddy MacDonald, who also won the coveted Man of the Match award, was quick to praise his fellow team-mates at the final whistle. 'This was a great team effort,' he said. But admitted that his

fourth and cup winning goal 12 minutes from full time came as a huge relief. 'I thought the winning goal was never going to come - but we got there,' he added.

For 50-year old goalkeeper Kenny MacDonald the cup winners' medal comes towards the end of a remarkable career and another series of remarkable saves. Clearly bursting with pride and emotion, the popular veteran didn't rule out playing on for at least one more season. 'We will see how things go. The lads say I should play at least another season. They are a great bunch of lads and today has been a great day.' Asked

about playing alongside his son in Saturday's final he said: 'I don't think there were many that could have taken the medal off him today.'

Team coach James Perlich admitted that his Kyles' players' wanted it so bad. And for him the winning of the Camanachd Cup was as good as it could get. 'Everything that I have every wanted from coaching has been rolled into the last 90 minutes. It's unbelievable. We have worked so hard to get here. It's magnificent.'

Then, as the emotion kicked in, he added with a huge smile: 'I think there will be a party in Tighnabruich tonight!'

Oban hotel's self-service 'guest' arrested

A 66 YEAR-OLD man has been arrested after he entered a hotel in Oban, slept un-noticed in a vacant room overnight, then helped himself to alcohol from behind the hotel's bar.

The man, from Glasgow, was found behind the bar of the hotel on the morning of September 13 helping himself to bottles of alcohol. He has also been charged with refusing to leave the hotel when asked and damaging the property. The man has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

Speculation mounts over ferry routes

SPECULATION that the tendering process for the Caledonian MacBrayne routes on the west coast have been delayed for three years is mounting. The Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union is claiming the delay as a 'mas-

ive victory' in a dispute over the possible route privatisation. Bob Crow, general secretary of the RMT said: 'Our campaign of political and public pressure, alongside a massive mandate for strike action from our members, has helped force the pace on this

momentous decision. We now want the long-term assurances on pensions and rights that we have been seeking.'

While a spokesman for Transport Scotland did not directly deny the claims they did say 'no final decisions' had been made.

Kintyre road widening project completed

WORKS to widen a long-standing pinch point on the A83 at Muasdale have been completed.

Measures were taken to widen the carriageway at Tangyavil Farm on the Campbeltown to Lochgilphead road to allow delivery of components of the Carriga Gheal windfarm to site, north of

Kilmartin. Parts of the windfarm, including 20 sets of turbine towers, will be transported from manufacturer Wind Towers Limited in Machrihanish along the A83 to Lochgilphead and onto the A816 to Kilmartin, where the turbines will travel on to the newly constructed west Loch Awe timber haul route to the wind farm site.

The £1.4m improvement project was funded by windfarm developers GreenPower, with Argyll and Bute Council contributing £500,000 to the work.

John Morgan, director of GreenPower said: 'We are very grateful to Argyll and Bute Council, the

landowners at Tangyavil and our contractors for helping us successfully deliver this improvement to a critical part of the A83. While it provides a direct benefit to our own project, we are sure it will also contribute to the lasting success of Argyll's renewables industry and the wider local economy.'

Wide load warning

THE DELIVERY of wind turbines from Machrihanish in Kintyre to the Carriga Gheal windfarm site near Kilmartin will begin in the early hours of Monday morning.

Two lorries per night carrying the abnormal loads will be escorted by Strathclyde Police from Kintyre to the site entrance, approximately four miles north of Kilmartin on the A816.

The first lorry will begin its journey at around midnight, with the second to follow two hours after the first lorry's departure.

The deliveries will take place five days a week, Sunday night to Thursday night, and continue for eight to 10 weeks.

There will be no formal road closures associated with the turbine deliveries but police will direct other vehicles to ensure the safe passage of the lorries when appropriate.



Richard Joynson of Loch Fyne Whiskies pours a celebratory dram. 16_138Whisky01

Fyne dram recognised in whisky awards

Inveraray based Loch Fyne Whiskies has won both retail shop and online outlet categories in Whisky Magazine's prestigious Icons of Whisky awards - the first time ever that one retailer has achieved success in both categories. The annual awards, started in 2002, celebrate the people and places behind the greatest whiskies of the world and the Argyll business, established in 1993, has featured in every award year to date, culminating in this year's double triumph. Others recognised in this year's awards include Morrison Bowmore Distillers.



Skerryvore rock Tarbert Music Fest

CELTIC rockers Skerryvore headlined Tarbert Music Festival last weekend, living up to their billing as they entertained a large crowd at the pier in Tarbert.

Beginning on Friday the free festival lasted right through the weekend, closing

with the inevitable 'survivors' night' on Sunday evening.

An impressive line-up also featured The Lush Puppies, Keep'er Lit, The Camans, Caragh and Lauren, and The Democrats, among others.

business gateway slighe gnothachais

Thinking of tendering for Public sector contracts?

Bid unsuccessfully in the past?

Business Gateway's new Public Sector procurement workshop will guide you through the process, from registering and setting up relevant alerts on Public Contracts Scotland, completing Quick Quotes and Pre Qualification Questionnaires, share practical tips and case studies and provide experts to answer your questions. This workshop is facilitated by Enterprise Europe Network and all participants will receive a free comprehensive guide on tendering for public sector contracts.

Oban 3rd October, Campbeltown 4th October, Dunoon 31st October, Inveraray 1st November.

To book a place or for more information call 01546 605 459 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk



Easdale to look at island buy-out

World Stone Skimming Championships 'will go ahead' say organisers

EASDALE'S community development company, Eilean Easdale, is to investigate a community buy out of the island after a last minute dash to save the World Stone Skimming Championships.

Island owner, Jonathan Feigenbaum, had told the community group they would not have permission to hold the Sunday's Championships without paying a £1,000 fee and producing proof of public liability insurance.

However, a deal was struck on Wednesday morning to save the quirky sport's flagship event and 15th anniversary celebrations going ahead this weekend - thanks to a £1,000 donation.

The deal, however, does not safeguard the World Championships' long-term future and Eilean Easdale will now consider buying the island from Mr Feigenbaum in a bid to protect the competition described by Lonely Planet as one of the world's 'must-sees'.

Donald Melville, who helps organise the event and is its master of ceremonies, said the strength of public feeling will have to be measured first.

'Obviously, we're delighted this weekend's event has been saved. However, we still need to sit down and speak to the island owner and his legal representative and see where we go from here.'

'While we are paying the

£1,000 now, it is without prejudice to future championships, so we're not sure what his proposals are for future years.'

'Some people are suggesting we consider a community buy out of the island. They're so common now it's probably a natural next stage.'

'I think we will give it every consideration but we will have to gauge the public opinion and see if it is something that everyone wants to do.'

'From our own point of view if we owned the island it would be better for the event.'

'First we have to see what the level of support for that would be.'

Mr Feigenbaum's solicitor, Edward Thornton of Oban firm E Thornton and Co, confirmed discussions would continue.

He said: 'An agreement has been reached between the respective parties for this coming weekend.'

'Obviously, there will be further discussions in the future.'

Meanwhile, preparations for Sunday's World Championships have been completed, with upwards of 400 people expected to descend on the island for one of the world's most unusual sporting events.

A team from Holland is already on the island while an Australian TV crew arrived this week to follow local competitors taking part.

Motorbike stopped on A85 at 110mph

A MOTORCYCLIST stopped on the A85 on the wrong side of the road and travelling at speeds in excess of 110 mph has been charged with reckless driving.

The 43 year-old man was arrested on September 12 and also charged with having no tax on his bike.

Assault charge

A 22 YEAR-OLD man was arrested by police at the Railway Pier in Oban on Saturday after he allegedly assaulted two men and refused to leave a local public house when asked to do so on.

Police investigate theft of copper worth £5,000 from Argyll windfarm

ENQUIRIES into the theft of copper from a windfarm site near Ardrishaig are continuing, police have confirmed.

Copper valued at £5,000 was stolen from the Allt Dearg Community Windfarm at Stronachullin overnight between September 8 and 9.

The high value theft was from Scottish Southern Energy (SSE), storage units; the company is currently working to connect the community windfarm to the national grid.

Police have said there is no positive line of inquiry 'as yet' but are awaiting the results of the crime scene examination, which can identify fingerprints and clues leading to the thieves' identity.

Police patrols at the windfarm site have been increased.

AN TOBAR

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Mull islanders urged to work together in BID

BUSINESSES in Mull, Iona and Ulva have received a draft plan on an idea to improve the islands by working together.

There are proposals to create a Business Improvement District (BID) for the area and a draft business plan for review by all those involved has now been issued.

The BID scheme has been ongoing for almost a year, led by Siân Scott from Mull and Iona Community Trust along with a steering group.

If successful, the BID programme would be visitor orientated, meaning the money raised would be used to boost the number of people coming to the islands, especially during quieter periods.

A BID would also look to raise the profile of the islands with things such as new festivals and increased marketing.

If a BID is passed, it would see 436 businesses contributing

and working together with a £128,500 annual budget.

The proposed minimum amount payable by a rateable business would be £2.88 per week while the maximum would be £25.96 per week. The average rate a business on the island would contribute is £4.81.

But Siân is keen to stress that these rates, as well as everything else in the draft plan, are up for discussion. She said: 'We are testing the detail against people who said they supported the idea initially. Now we need to know exactly what businesses want and we would encourage people to read the draft plan and comment on it.'

The draft business plan is due to be finalised in November but there will be a series of meetings throughout September and October (full details below) where businesses can make their views heard.

Richard Nealon, vice chairman

of the steering group, is encouraging people to engage with the BID idea.

He said: 'Even the best run businesses are finding times tough at the moment: an unpredictable economy, challenging weather and a tourism industry that's getting ever more competitive.'

'By working together, pooling our resources, we can be far more effective. A successful BID for Mull, Iona and Ulva will promote our islands to attract visitors, engage in projects to improve the visitor experience and provide a collective voice representing every business.'

'No-one else will do this for us. Together we are far stronger. Together we can make our islands an even better place to work and live.'

Once the plan is finalised, ballot papers will be issued on February 6 2013 and are due back by March 21. If passed, the

From Lochgilphead with love Bond films celebrate 50-year link with Argyll

EUNICE Gayson, the original screen 'Bond girl', was in Lochgilphead this week to celebrate Argyll's key role in the 007 success story.

The 86-year-old famously appeared as Sylvia Trench in Sean Connery's first scene in the 1962 film 'Doctor No', released 50-years ago next month.

Gayson is one of a bevy of former Bond beauties carrying a golden briefcase to London to mark the anniversary, stopping at significant locations along the way.

An Aston Martin - the classic

BID scheme would run for five years from April 2013 to 2018.

Meetings will be held at Western Isles Hotel, Tobermory, Thursday September 20, 11am - 8pm; An Roth, Craignure, Friday September 28, 1pm - 7.30pm; Iona Village Hall, Monday October 8, 3pm - 6.30pm; Iona Library, Monday October 8 8pm - 10pm; Iona Village Hall, Tuesday October 9 9.30am - 11.30am; Buessan Village Hall, Tuesday October 9 1pm - 4.30pm; Western Isles Hotel, Tobermory Thursday October 18 11am - 5pm.

More information can be found at www.mi-bid.co.uk.

Bond car - transported her from Eilean Donan Castle to arrive in Lochgilphead on Monday afternoon.

Bond expert Brian Pendreigh explained the Argyll town was chosen as one of the stop-off points because of its major role in the second Bond film, in which Eunice also featured: 'The director, Terence Young, wanted to film the motorboat chase scene from From Russia With Love in Turkey but there were problems. Instead, Loch Craignish was chosen for the filming. The crew set up a unit in an old quarry near Lochgilphead.'

Despite a near thing when a helicopter used in filming crashed into the loch, the crew then stayed on in Argyll for another key scene where Bond and new love interest Tatiana are chased by a helicopter.

'For this they found a suitable location at Barachuile Hill, near Kilmichael Glassary,' Brian said. 'The place was perfect, and this scene is one of the most memorable in the series.'

'In many ways 'From Russia With Love' set the template for future Bond films. It's a lot of people's favourite and the Argyll locations played a major role in it turning out the way it did.'



Eunice Gayson, the first screen Bond girl, in Lochgilphead on Monday. 08_c38bond01

HIE to study the real cost of living

NEW RESEARCH is looking into the real cost of living in the West Highlands.

Lead by the Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) the study will look at a variety of factors including leisure activities and transport patterns to establish how much it costs a family to live a reasonable lifestyle.

Rachel McCormack, director of strengthening communities at HIE said: 'It is about more than just food, clothes and shelter.'

'It's about people having what they need to take opportunities and make the choices necessary to play a full part in society.'

'The findings will help inform local, regional and national policy makers and shape the activities of the range of agencies involved.'

The Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough University will be carrying out the research.

Make a will this month by donation

SOLICITORS in Oban are now taking appointments for Make a Will Month.

Organised by Will Aid the event, throughout November, aims to encourage people to make a will with a donation going to the nine national charities participating in the event. The suggested donation is a fee of £90 for a single will, £135 for a pair of mirror wills and £40 for a codicil - amending an existing will.

Those taking part in Oban are E.Thornton & Co, DM MacKinnon WS, Stevenson Kennedy Ltd, McIntyre & Co

More information on solicitors taking part can be found at www.willaid.org.uk

Boiler fault closes Dalmally school

DALMALLY primary school was closed at the start of the week due to an electrical fault with one of the boilers in the building.

The school closed on Monday and Tuesday but reopened to staff and pupils on Wednesday.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Electrical and mechanical engineers have assessed the situation and have confirmed it will be possible for the school to function with one boiler.'

Taynuilt launches ambitious community sports pavilion project



Left to right: Councillor Iain Angus MacDonald, David Thompson of Taynuilt Sports Council, Michael Russell MSP, Roddy McCuish leader of Argyll and Bute Council, Mike Mackenzie MSP, Ross Lilliey from Oban Mountain Rescue/Orienteering and Lorna Elliot, LEADER project. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

AN AMBITIOUS project to build a new sports pavilion in an Argyll village was launched last Saturday.

Taynuilt Sports Council has embarked on an 'achievable idea' to raise enough funds to pull down the existing building at the village sports field and replace it with a new sports and community hub.

The existing building has been there for 40 years and was originally a classroom in Dalmally Primary School but it is 'coming to the end of its life', according to project organisers.

David Thomson from Taynuilt Sports Council said: 'We have got a good big pitch but we can't hold cup finals because we have no facilities such as changing rooms. We need these if we want to progress.'

'We have young athletes

in the village that are going to represent their country in orienteering.'

'There are some very good young athletes in the area and we need the facilities so they can come here and improve.'

'The youngsters are very active and enthusiastic about sport just now and we want to capitalise on that but it is important other people use the facilities outside of sports as that generates money to keep it running.'

'Funding' It is planned that the new building will be used by several sports groups, including Taynuilt Shinty Club, Etive Vikings Mini Rugby Club and EKO Orienteering Club.

The facility will also be put to use by non-sports organisations including Taynuilt Gaelic Choir

and Taynuilt Play Park Group.

The project has been awarded LEADER funding of £191,000 but this needs to be match funded by Sport Scotland.

The community has raised £21,000 towards the cost of the project and Mr Thomson added: 'SportScotland is now the key. We are pressing them as hard as we can.'

'The application for £214,000 has been made and we just waiting on feedback.'

Council leader Roddy McCuish attended the launch of the project. He said: 'I think this is a fantastic idea, Taynuilt has always been well known for its sport. I played on these fields myself many years ago.'

'I'm delighted to support this project and delighted that LEADER have awarded a grant.'

'What a massive step for this ambitious and achievable scheme.'

'I would urge all funders to get 100 per cent behind this project. This will be a massive boost for sport - not just for Taynuilt but for the whole of Oban and North Lorn.'

Mike Mackenzie MSP added: 'I'm delighted to support this project and would encourage organisers to investigate Proceeds of Crime (Poc) funding to develop it.'

'This is a really well used funding facility which is very much in support of the bids they have put in.'

'Many other projects have gained better facilities through the PoC funding and you can see by the level of activity here they need and deserve a better building.'

Father completes 250-mile cycle from John O'Groats for daughter

A DEVOTED father took on a challenging 250-mile cycle to raise money for the charity which supports his five-year-old daughter.

Gordon Gibson got on his bike from John O'Groats to Oban for a three day ride after his daughter Lauren was diagnosed with Diabetes (type one).

Lauren was taken to hospital in late February after her parents noticed she was feeling weak and was drinking a lot of water.

After taking a blood sample and administering insulin, staff in Oban transferred the youngster to the Royal Alexandra in Paisley, where she spent four nights.

This spurred Gordon into action and he decided to do the bike run to raise money for Diabetes UK, but the journey did not go as smoothly as it might have done.

He said: 'I had the wind in my face for 250 miles and got two punctures within the space of three miles but all in all it was pretty good.'

Gordon, who had a crowd



Lauren gives her dad a big welcome home cuddle. 16_138cyle01

gathered outside his home in Oban for his arrival, was also given a warm welcome home by Lauren.

Gordon raised £3,000 through his efforts but almost stumbled at the first hurdle: 'I started at John O'Groats, got about two or

three hundred yards and the gear cable snapped. I was stuck in the same gear until Thurso where we got it repaired.'

'I've had so many contributions and I just want to thank every single person who has donated,' Gordon said.

Ferry proposal could drive down island fuel costs

A PROPOSAL that would see ferry companies treat fuel hauliers in the same manner as farmers could bring down the price of petrol and diesel at island filling stations.

The cost of living on all of the west of Scotland's islands is substantially higher than that of the mainland as a result of fees incurred from shipping in fuel.

Currently, fuel hauliers have to pay their full ferry fee on both outgoing and return journey - regardless of whether or not the tanker is empty on the way back.

Islanders feel that system is unfair, as farmers don't pay the full fare for lorries if their trailers are empty. The community group that runs Coll's filling station - which has the dubious honour of selling Europe's most expensive fuel, with diesel hitting £1.71 per litre - are now asking that the same rule could apply to fuel tankers and has urged the Scottish Government to look again at the fare structure. Taking up the fight on behalf of the islanders is Mull resident and local councillor, Mary-Jean Devon. She has written to Transport Scotland's Graham Laidlaw, who is leading the Ferries Review, to ask the structure be looked at again.

She said: 'We are putting pressure on the Government to apply the rules evenly - especially those dealing with lifeline services.'

Oban store ends seven-year wait to become national lottery outlet

AN OBAN business which has been waiting for seven years to get a lottery machine has finally been given one.

Albany Stores, based in Albany Street, had the machine installed a fortnight ago and it is already popular with regulars.

Undersubscribed Owner Joanne Wright said: 'We applied for a machine in 2005 when we took over the store. We were put on a list but told that it would only happen if another shop in the town had their machine revoked.'

Luckily, Camelot has recently issued another 8,000 machines as part of a deal which sees their licence to operate the National Lottery extended.

Undersubscribed The west coast of Scotland is an area that has been identified by the lottery operator as being undersubscribed with terminals. Joanne added: 'We get a huge amount of footfall and we get asked a lot from people getting on ferries not knowing if they can put a ticket on when they get



The staff in Albany with their new lottery machine. 16_138lottery01

to the islands and we're the last port of call. We've had it put in for public demand, other stores can get big queues when there is a big draw on so hopefully we'll help with that.'

The store, which will also be selling scratchcards, is not the

only one to benefit from this additional release of terminals.

The Post Office on Corran Esplanade, Oban Filling Station on Soroba Road and Dunbeg Village Stores have also been awarded National Lottery terminals.

Confusion over PE provision at Kilninver school

Budget fails to meet children's travel costs

THERE is confusion over the future of PE provision at Kilninver Primary School after the council said the subject's budget was depleted - before a u-turn on Tuesday.

With no suitable facilities at the school, pupils have been travelling to Oban's Atlantis Leisure - with the costs of the transport coming from the school's PE budget.

The budget for PE was first depleted in February last year, when lessons stopped suddenly.

It was hoped there would be no repeat, but children returned to the school to discover there was only enough funding for one of the school's three terms - thanks to a donation from MacQueen Brothers' Charitable Trust.

The Parent Council contacted The Oban Times on Monday to express concern at the lack of progress and the council's apparent inability to find cash for the lessons, which are part of the curriculum.

On Tuesday afternoon, the council said: 'An agreement is in place with Oban High School to enable pupils to have two hours of quality physical education provision per week. The primary school has made arrangements to transport the pupils to Oban for physical education classes.'

Parent Council chairwoman Lucy Files said neither parents or pupils were aware of any change in arrangements, adding: 'They've obviously found money somewhere now - why couldn't they before it got to this stage?'

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Disease and inter-breeding are believed to be the main threats to pure-bred wildcats.

Scottish wildcat numbers crash

THE TRUE Scottish wildcat could be extinct within months. Conservationists have issued a stark warning that the numbers previously believed to be roaming the Highland hills have been greatly over-estimated and that pure-bred wildcat numbers may have fallen to as low as 35.

'We used to see them often five or 10 years ago' was a common response from rural workers and local communities questioned during a recent survey. Disease and inter-breeding with domestic and feral cats are believed to be among the main threats to numbers of pure-bred wildcats.

Recently analysed records of wildcats and hybrids gathered by numerous organisations over the past five years have produced shocking results.

All the evidence collected suggests that just one in 100 animals previously recorded was a true wildcat, against a figure in 2004 of one in eight.

With a current estimate of 3,500 hybrids in Scotland this means there are just 35 wildcats left and the true species is on the brink of extinction.

Conservationists and wildcat enthusiasts will meet with Scottish Natural Heritage this month to discuss if widespread live trapping in the few areas where wildcats may still remain could be the species last hope.

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Flight numbers rise again

Kintyre calls for more flights at weekends

PASSENGER numbers at west coast regional airports have continued to rise despite the impact of service reductions, weather disruption and the continuing backdrop of recession.

Eleven airports operated by Highland and Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL) handled 128,142 passengers in August, an increase of 0.3 per cent on August 2011.

However, there has been calls to increase the frequency of services throughout the west, most notably to Campbeltown where a campaign by the local community to make weekend flights available has received support from the area's MSP.

Islay and Barra recorded even sharper increases, up by 10.5 per cent and 9.2 per cent respectively.

Across the HIAL network, year to date passenger numbers have increased by 2.4 per cent, April to August 2012. However, Tiree and Benbecula recorded a drop of 4.7 per cent and 5.2 per cent respectively.

At Campbeltown, passenger numbers were almost static, down by 1 - 0.1 per cent.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell has backed moves by the Kintyre community to get an improved air service to and from Campbeltown.

Mr Russell has written to Transport Minister Keith Brown

"We must ensure that any new arrangements allow for services at weekends and the possibility of other destinations."

MSP Mike Russell.

and to HIAL to ask for serious consideration of what the Kintyre community wants and needs.

Mr Russell said: 'There have been some major investments in Kintyre in the last year and there is a growing tourism and business market. When HIAL visited Campbeltown last month I spoke to members of the board about the strong local desire for weekend flights and for a better air service.'

'I also raised the issue with Loganair. I have now followed this up with correspondence and have made sure Transport Minister Keith Brown is aware of the local view that a more ambitious tender is required.'

He added: 'As the tender for the service is now due for renewal and there is a strong campaign within the area - led by tourist operators and other businesses.'



Connell pianist Andrew Dunlop with Lorn Live guest musicians the Eblana String Trio. 16_137lornlive01

Pianist celebrates Lorn classics fest

Young musician nominated for national traditional award

A YOUNG musician is celebrating the success of his four-date festival in the same month he has been nominated as a semi-finalist for a national award.

Pianist Andrew Dunlop, from Connell, has just finished the Lorn Live Chamber Music Festival, during which he was joined by some of the UK's brightest young classical musicians.

Concerts were held in Oban's St John's Cathedral on four Saturdays from August 18 to September 8.

Meanwhile, the 26-year-old, who has a background in traditional Scottish music, has been

preparing for his performance in the 14-strong semi-final of the Young Traditional musician of the Year award, along with piper Seonaidh MacIntyre from Lochearn, South Uist.

Andrew's daytime concerts drew appreciative audiences - his biggest being 60 on the final date, a number he was pleased with.

Andrew said: 'There were different people at each show and we did pull in a lot of tourists, so I was pleased with the attendances.'

'I started Lorn Live because although there is lots of music in

the town in the evenings, there is not much during the day.'

In its first year Lorn Live covered its expenses, thanks in part to Andrew convincing the musicians, most of whom were friends from college, to play for nothing.

'I just about managed to cover my costs and I knew that even if no-one came to the concerts, at least I could play music with my friends. I told them to come to Oban and make a holiday of it, so they did me a big favour.'

'I should give a special mention to Jemma Brown, who I had to call on at 11pm one night to

perform the next day after one of the singers pulled out at the last minute!'

Andrew hopes Lorn Live will become an annual event to promote classical music in the town. He thanked the church and Oban Music Society for their support during the festival.

The semi-final of the BBC Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year concert will be held in Coulter Hall, Coulter, South Lanarkshire, on October 6, when six musicians will be picked to go through to the final at Celtic Connections Festival 2013.

Tobermory lifeboat rescues strickened yacht

A YACHT with two people on board which was in danger of drifting onto rocks was pulled to safety by Tobermory's RNLI lifeboat's volunteer crew.

The 34-foot yacht suffered engine failure last Tuesday afternoon in 50mph gusting winds and despite dropping two anchors in

Loch na Droma Buidhe, a small sea loch on the Ardnamurchan Peninsula, the yacht was in danger of being driven on to the rocky shore. The yacht had lost power whilst trying to motor out of the narrow entrance of the loch.

The skipper tried to use the sails but the yacht's foresail was torn by

the gusting north-westerly wind.

Deputy Second Coxswain Andrew McHaffie said: 'The yacht's skipper reacted very quickly in difficult conditions and managed to get both anchors out just in the nick of time.'

'He also took the correct decision to request help and we were

very pleased with the successful outcome.'

Lifeboat crew went aboard the yacht and recovered one of the anchors but he found that the second anchor was stuck fast so left it to be retrieved later. The yacht was then towed in rough seas to the safety of Tobermory harbour.

Major energy conference on Isle of Mull

ISLANDERS are gearing up for a major energy conference on the Isle of Mull tomorrow, Friday September 21.

The event, entitled 'Resilience and Innovation: the Islands Challenge', is being organised by the Scottish Islands Federation. It will feature islanders from around Scotland, Ireland, Sweden, the Scillies, Denmark, Finland, France and Aland.

The conference, in Craignure village hall, will also have local councillors and politicians in attendance. There will be various workshops and discussions on renewables. Reservations can be made by emailing info@scottish-islands-federation.co.uk or rthorne@mict.co.uk.

Shinty supporters prove generous

SHINTY fans are a generous bunch as an Oban charity found out to their gain last weekend.

HOPE Kitchen, the charity that offers friendship, soup and hot food three evenings a week, raised a record £475.86 from a street collection in the town on Saturday. The streets were packed with shinty fans in town for the Camanachd Cup Final at Mossfield. The charity also gives out hot drinks and a snack two afternoons a week for anyone feeling alone or struggling for a meal for whatever reason. Anyone wishing to know more about HOPE's work should go along to the AGM on Tuesday September 25 at 7pm in the Salvation Army Church on Stevenson Street.

Oban Inner Wheel present cheque

OBAN'S Inner Wheel has been raising money to provide accommodation for families of sick children.

The organisation's past president Shona Neil presented a £2,600 cheque to Viv Muir, house manager and chief fundraiser of Ronald McDonald House. The house is a comforting place to stay for families who have children in Yorkhill Hospital. Shona said: 'I would like to thank all the ladies of Inner Wheel for all their hard work and the many people who supported them to raise so much for the charity.'



Local MSP Dave Thompson cuts the ribbon to herald a new beginning for Lochaline's mining industry. 20_f38mine05

Celebrations as Lochaline silica sand mine re-opens

Industrial heart of remote community beats again

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

LOCHALINE's industrial heart is beating again - and that's official.

The Morvern port took a hammer blow in December 2008 when Tarmac UK shut down its silica sand mine with the loss of 11 jobs. But now those jobs have been restored to the remote community of 200 souls after production of high-grade quartz sand got underway.

The first 2,500-tonne consignment will be shipped to Pilkington's glass factories in Lancashire by sea on September 24.

Lochaline quartz sand is renowned the world over for its low iron content - vital for clarity in glass production.

And at the official opening on Friday, local people and invited guests gathered beside a huge

white mound of sand, newly blasted from the honeycomb workings tunnelled a mile under the hillside.

The celebrations saw representatives from new owners Lochaline Quartz Sand (LQS) Ltd, a joint venture between Italian mining company Gruppo Minerali Maffei (GMM) and global glass manufacturer Pilkington - part of the Japanese-owned NSG Group - outline a bright future for the plant.

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson cut the ribbon to declare the mine open.

He told the audience of around 50: 'This is fantastic for Lochaline and the wider Morvern area - 11 jobs here is equivalent to 2,000 jobs in the likes of Inverness. That puts into perspective the importance these jobs will have in the local community.'

'The company has been very supportive of the community marina development and is assisting with the construction of the access road to the marina's shore facilities and providing sand for the creation of the artificial beach.'

Project manager, mining engineer and Gruppo Minerali employee Daniele Trogolo Got, has been working at Lochaline since the new company took over operations.

Mr Got, from Pinerolo near Turin, said: 'The mine and the plant are being refurbished and high investments for new equipment are taking place. This project proves that with business partners and workers from different countries it is possible that even in a time of European crisis we can move forward.'

Rachael McCormack, Highlands and Islands Enterprise welcomes the start of operations. 20_f38mine09



Lochaline mine manager John Forster and MSP Dave Thompson sample the first consignment of high-grade quartz sand. 20_f38mine02



Matt Buckley of Pilkington said Lochaline sand will be a vital asset. 20_f38mine10



Italian partners: Sabrina Bozzola of Gruppo Minerali Maffei. 20_f38mine11



Some of the invited guests walk down to view the newly re-opened mine. 20_f38mine04



Rachael McCormack of Highlands and Islands Enterprise welcomes the start of operations. 20_f38mine09

director for Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), said: 'I would like to pay tribute to the huge effort involved in creating this economic going concern, and to the company for forming a very close relationship with the local community and its support

for Lochaline Harbour. LQS aims to export up to 100,000 tons of sand a year under a 10-year supply contract to produce Pilkington Optiwhite™ low-iron glass for double glazing and solar cell applications. HIE provided £155,000 to

allow the business to upgrade and renew equipment. The agency is also providing support towards workforce training.

Lochaline's Whitehouse Restaurant provided Scottish Italian themed canapes and refreshments at the opening.

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Three wins out of three as Lochaber dump Wanderers

The performance against last year's league runners up ranks as the best yet

REPORT BY
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk



Jack Baxter hares round the outside of the Wanderers' defence to score Lochaber's first try 20_f38rugby03

Caledonian North
Division Two
Lochaber 23

Aberdeen Wanderers 5
LOCHABER continued their excellent start to the season with a home win against a solid Aberdeen Wanderers side who have proved difficult to beat in the past.

The fine victory made it three wins from three for Lochaber in Caledonian North Division Two - and the performance against last year's league runners-up ranked as the best yet.

The Banavie side started the game as they had finished against Lossiemouth last week with the pack in rampaging form.

Dominance in the scrum was achieved early on with the Lochaber forwards regularly driving their opponents back yards on the put in.

The dry but very blustery conditions were always going to make kicking difficult but captain Kenny Turnbull was using the wind well and his tactical

kicking kept Aberdeen pinned inside their 22 for long periods.

After a period of sustained pressure Rory MacKay kicked a penalty on 12 minutes to put Lochaber deservedly 3-0 ahead.

Minutes later a determined drive saw the home side's two second row forwards run at the Aberdeen defence and Jack Baxter looped round the outside to easily outstrip the cover and score near the posts. Kenny Turnbull kicked the conversion to make it 10-0.

Lochaber kept the pressure up and a rampaging run by 17-year-old Connor Taylor saw Aberdeen penalised 15 metres from their own line.

From the quickly taken short penalty Kiwi wing forward Brodie Watkins drove for the line and bulldozed through for a well deserved score.

With a 15-0 lead, Lochaber turned round to face the wind in the second half and almost immediately conceded a try, which was unconverted.

RUGBY

The visitors surged forward again and knocked on with the line at their mercy, but Lochaber re-established momentum and Jack Baxter got his second try of the day after some great pick up and drive rugby, to great cheers from supporters on 'the hill'.

Kenny Turnbull kicked a further penalty to make it 23-5, then for the last seven minutes Aberdeen laid siege to the Lochaber line.

However, the home side proved as resolute in defence as they were effective in attack and the visitors could find no way through.

Lochaber are on the road again next week with a trip to Moray and will be at home again on September 29 when they entertain Banff RFC.

Team: K Turnbull, R Mackay, I Smith, D Smith, L Smith, T Smith, J Smith, J Baxter, J Young, C Macpherson, N McPhee, A Donaldson, B Lundere, A Garrou, D Campbell, J McCook, P Fronczek, R Wallace, R MacTaggart.



Brodie Watkins bursts through to score Lochaber's second try to put his side 15-0 ahead 20_f38rugby01

Field archery shoot at Brecklet Forest

ARCHERY

SOUTH Lochaber Bowmen held a field archery shoot at Brecklet Forest above Ballachulish on Sunday.

Three clubs, South Lochaber Bowmen, Garrison Bowmen from Fort William and West Lothian Archers took part.

Competition categories included adult male freestyle recurve (AMFSR); fun; adult male bowhunter (AMBHR); adult female freestyle recurve (AFFSR); adult male freestyle unlimited compound (AM-FUC); adult female bowhunter (AFBR); adult male freestyle compound and adult male bowhunter recurve (AMBHR).

Results: Lesley Logue (WLA) AFFSR 331; Molly Todd (SLB) Fun 412; Anita Maclean (GB) Fun 409; Andrea Koster (SLB) AFBR DNF; Stevan Sawuluk (WLA) AMFSR 232; Alan Davidson (WLA) AMFSR 403; David Todd (SLB) AMFSR 387; Steven Russell

(WLA) AMFUC 496; Gavin Maclean (GB) AMFSR 225; Raymond Colyer (GB) AMFSR 293; John Morrison (GB) AMBHR 154; James Standen (GB) AMFSR

179; Wullie Muir (WLA) AMFUC 454; Graham Fallows (GB) AMBHC 393; Martin O'Nions (WLA) DNF.

Names for Neil Hardie stableford

GOLF

ENTRIES are being taken for the annual Neil Hardie Memorial competition at Fort William Golf Club, due to be held on Sunday September 30.

The white box stableford event is held in memory of the club's former vice captain, with a large turnout expected.

This Saturday the club will host a three man Texas scramble contest. There were no competitions held last weekend due to the poor weather.

Benford Cup at Isle of Skye Golf Club

GOLF

ISLE of Skye Golf Club hosted the two day Benford Cup last weekend, with Murdo Gordon scoring a gross 70 to win the category one (0-12 handicap) event.

Alasdair Grant finished second in the scratch event with a 73, five ahead of third placed John Finlayson.

Category two (handicap 13-28) saw a clear winner, with Willie Urquhart shooting 74 to win by four shots from Gillies Nicolson. Kenny MacPherson was third.

Jackpot rolls over

LOTTERY

A ROLLOVER jackpot of £700 is up for grabs this week in Fort William FC's weekly lotto draw. Numbers last week were 12-16-17.

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High-flying Deveronvale visit Claggan

REPORT BY
RICHARD HADDOCK
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FORT William face a tough task to take anything from this weekend's visit of high-flying Deveronvale to Claggan Park.

Vale are unbeaten after five league games and have kept four clean sheets so far, meaning Fort's goal-shy forwards will be doing well to get their names on the scoresheet.

Fort manager Danny Conlon told The Oban Times getting anything from the match would

be a bonus, with his focus on upcoming games against fellow winless sides Lossiemouth and Rother.

He said: 'They've been flying, they hadn't conceded a single goal until Saturday. They are physically a big, strong side and that's the sort of sides we are struggling to play against just now.'

'We have to keep the back door shut, but they've got quite a bit of quality in their side.'

Defender Iain Fogg missed last weekend's game with Strathspye Thistle with a heel injury picked up against Formartine, but is

expected to resume training this week. Long-term absentee Darren Duncan is also a possibility for Saturday's match squad.

Conlon was left disappointed after his side's 1-0 loss away to fellow strugglers Strathspye.

In a poor game, the wind seemed to adversely affect both sides and neither were able to create much in the first half.

After the break a Gary Farquhar shot which whistled past the post of former Fort keeper Willie Ridgers' goal. That was the closest the Lochaber men came to grabbing a goal, and in

FOOTBALL

the 78th minute Strathspye broke forward and scored the only goal of the game through Gillies Mackenzie.

Conlon said: 'I was extremely disappointed, not just with the result but with the performance as it. We were really poor.'

'I said to the boys at half time it was the worst game I'd seen from both sides in quite a while.'

'We never got the ball down and we never played football. Our back four was the only area to get pass marks.'

Wind and rain fail to dampen spirits

PRIMARY school children from across Lochaber came to Fort William to take part in the annual school triathlon event on Friday, with the rain and wind not dampening spirits.

Some 19 schools from as far afield as Invergarry, Acharacle and Mallaig entered a team in the competition, with Inverie Primary joining the day for the first time.

Each school entered a team of three pupils - one swimmer, one cyclist and one runner.

The first competitors faced a timed 200m swim - eight lengths of the pool - at Lochaber Leisure Centre.

The cyclists then set off on a

SCHOOL TRIATHLON

four-mile ride up Glen Nevis and back before the runners raced from the glen back to the leisure centre.

When the times were tallied up at the end of the day, Inverloch's trio of Brett MacMillan (running), Rebecca MacDougal (swimming) and Johnny Forster (cycling) were named as the fastest team on the day.

Fort William RC Primary finished as runners up, with Banavie in third place.

The event was organised Active Schools and sponsored by No Fuss Events.



Champions: The winning Inverloch team of Brett MacMillan (left), Rebecca MacDougal and Johnny Forster. 20_f38tri01



The recent sponsored Highland Soap and Alanajude Pairs competition at the BA Club was a marathon day of bowling, which caused a few weary legs. Nevertheless, winners Eddie Downs and Bill Clarke, pictured here receiving their prizes from Alan Robinson, were on top of their game all day. Runners-up Agnes Boyle and Emma Norval, behind, just could not get any luck to break the winners' domination.

Heavy rain stops play in friendly test match

FORT William Cricket Club took on Fochabers in a two day friendly test match last weekend, and were on their way to posting a healthy score in their second innings when heavy rain stopped play.

Fort were put into bat first on

Saturday and managed 106 not out.

In the afternoon the visitors managed to gain a narrow lead, scoring 130 all out.

Rain
On Sunday Fort scored well and were on 70 for one when the

CRICKET

rain started falling and play was halted.

Fort's Derek Heron was given the home side's man of the match after scoring 41 runs and taking five wickets.

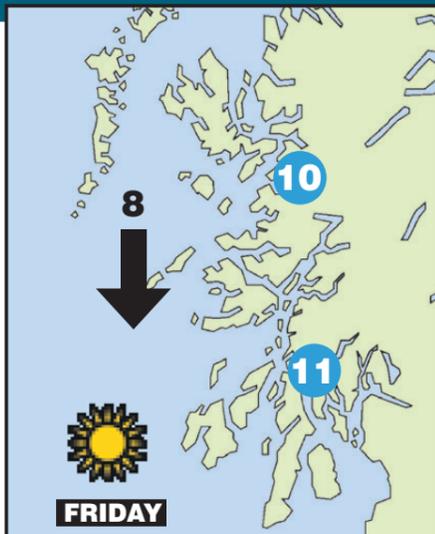
Weather

Thursday Sunny intervals
Winds light northerly
Temperatures 5°C to 13°C

Friday Sunny
Winds light northerly
Temperatures 5°C to 12°C.

Weekend Light rain
Outlook Winds light southerly
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, September 20, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	02.09 0.7 07.58 3.8 14.29 0.7 20.15 3.7	
Fri	02.56 0.9 08.44 3.6 15.22 1.0 21.02 3.4	
Sat	03.51 1.2 09.40 3.3 16.24 1.3 22.01 3.0	
Sun	05.00 1.4 11.06 3.1 17.37 1.5 23.58 2.8	
Mon	06.22 1.6 13.24 3.1 19.02 1.6 *** **	
Tues	02.21 2.8 07.52 1.5 14.40 3.3 20.36 1.5	
Wed	03.33 3.1 09.06 1.3 15.32 3.5 21.40 1.3	

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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