

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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### New Ocean Explorer Centre opens its doors

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### Bedroom tax: rent arrears rise

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SPORTS NEWS

### Newtonmore lift Camanachd Cup

#### Man remanded on heroin charges

AN OBAN man has been remanded in custody on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of heroin.

Ross MacLellan, 23, appeared in private at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday where he also faced allegations of possessing ecstasy. Both crimes are alleged to have taken place in Oban's Lorn Court last Sunday.

MacLellan made no plea or declaration during the petition hearing and was committed for further examination.

#### Accused of taking indecent photos

AN OBAN man accused of taking and possessing indecent photographs of children appeared on petition at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday.

Colin Penrose, 22, currently a prisoner in HMP Barlinnie, made no plea or declaration during the private hearing and was committed for further examination. He was remanded in custody.

#### Worst mobile phone coverage in Scotland

ARGYLL and Bute has the worst mobile phone coverage in Scotland - with nearly 40 per cent of the county unable to get a basic 2G signal.

Findings published by the Scottish Government this week show every part of Scotland has 'not-spots', but Argyll and Bute has more than most, with 38.9 per cent of the area unable to get a basic signal, and 71.4 per cent alien to the now-surpassed 3G technology. Highland Council's coverage was comparable to Argyll and Bute's, with 37.7 per cent of the area unable to pick up a 2G signal, and 69.9 outwith 3G reception. The figures, collated by telecoms regulator OFCOM in November last year, show 20.1 per cent of the Western Isles is unable to pick up 2G, but 74.7 per cent of the area outwith the 3G spectrum.

Published on Monday, the Mobile Performance and Coverage in Scotland report calls on the Scottish Government to work with OFCOM and phone firms to set up roaming agreements across Scotland.

The report, prepared by Red Review Ltd, further calls for the Government to undertake a more comprehensive audit of mobile signal black spots.



### Annie's pride at grandson Skinny's 100 charity miles

'FAIR proud', Annie MacInnes, 88, greets her grandson David 'Skinny' MacInnes after he made it 100 miles from Ibrox, Glasgow, to Oban - in just 22 hours.

A large crowd had gathered at the Corran Halls to meet Skinny as he finished the remarkable feat two hours under time. Thousands of pounds were raised for Macmillan Cancer

Support through the 33-year-old's efforts and he thanked everyone who helped along the way before heading home for a well earned bath. For the full story see page three. 16.1384kiny01

## New bid to tackle Argyll and Bute population loss

SOME of the most influential figures in Argyll and Bute met at Inveraray Castle last week to lay the groundwork for a summit aimed at reversing the area's declining population.

Hosted jointly by Argyll and Bute Council and the Duchess of Argyll, the meeting explored ways to enhance the county's reputation as a place to live and work - as well as promote it as a top-class tourist destination.

Infrastructure, accommodation, business and living costs were all discussed at the 'blue sky thinking' gathering. It carries hopes of being a positive first step towards reversing the trends that has seen the population plummet to just 86,900 in 2012 - down from 91,190 in 2004.

Among those around the table were representatives from Argyll and Bute Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish

#### EXCLUSIVE

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

Natural Heritage, West Coast Motors, Argyll and the Isles Tourism and heritage cultural and business representatives.

MSPs Michael Russell, Mike MacKenzie and Jamie McGrigor also attended. Next move will be a 'population summit' - something previously requested by Mr Russell - some time in November.

Mike Story, the executive director of Argyll and the Isles Tourism, said after Friday's summit: 'It was designed as a 'blue sky thinking' meeting and with a specific focus on population decline.

'We basically looked at everything and what we need to do to reverse the trend and make the population sustainable.

'While we have a lifestyle that's world-class, but how do we get people to afford that lifestyle? How do we make Argyll and Bute more attractive for families and individuals?'

'There's a real, positive feeling that we can do something. Each person round the table felt they had something to take forward.'

Mr Russell said: 'There are many reasons for the decline, including the drift of population away from rural areas towards towns, which is a long-standing problem. Transport, housing and jobs are all issues too. There was general agreement that this had to be a priority and it was connected to an increase in job opportunities as well as to maintaining and enhancing services.'

Those attending the meeting were chosen by the council, with outgoing infrastructure director Sandy Mactaggart starting the meeting, which was chaired

by Councillor John Semple. Speaking to *The Oban Times*, the Duchess of Argyll said: 'We covered so much at the meeting - infrastructure, jobs, hospitals, schools, all sorts of things. We hosted it with the council.'

'Argyll is such a great place to be, we've got all these amazing parts and we want to work together and shout about that.'

Oban councillor and leader of the local authority, Roddy McCuish, said: 'The opportunity to hold this focus session shows how effective we can be across the political, private and public sectors when we all work together with a clear focus on how we create more jobs and opportunities for the people of Argyll and Bute.'

'We are looking forward to the future population and economy summit and will take forward the positive opportunities which the session identified.'

## Doubts remain over power charges

UNCERTAINTY over how many Argyll households could be paying over the odds for their electricity remains this week - with those affected worried about slipping into a debt crisis.

Energy supplier Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) says it hopes to arrange a meeting with Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) and 'wet electric' panel heating manufacturer Dimplex to determine the scale and cause of the fault that has seen some households charged £400 per month for heating in the cold weather.

However, SSE admits it has no idea how many people could be out of pocket - and has urged them to get in touch as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, *The Oban Times*

has been approached by more people faced with bills of several hundred pounds just to keep their homes warm.

One is Elwira Luzak, of Colonsay Terrace, who said she has resorted to using credit cards to pay her bills. 'I'm terrified of the winter,' she said. 'I've been trying for two years to get this problem fixed. In one year, I spent £2,500 in electricity.'

So high are the costs of the heating, Elwira says she's not always able to afford food.

Another individual affected by the change told *The Oban Times*: 'I went from £20-£30 per week on the key meter to about £80 or £90. You don't realise how much of your money is going into it until you've got none left; then what do you do?'

It is thought the problems with over-charging for electricity stretches back more than six years, with residents believing a combination of the wrong heating system and meter is to blame.

ACHA chief executive Alastair MacGregor said tariffs and application of the meters are a matter for SSE and Dimplex, adding it would deal with any problem that is a repair or technical issue following an investigation.

Referring to Ms Luzak, he said the association has tried to help her but a complaint lodged in spring 2012 was not upheld because ACHA 'believed it had no responsibility for the day-to-day management of the heating in her home, including - it would appear - the immersion heater

being left on for long periods of time'. He adds ACHA has invested £4million in energy efficiency works on homes across Argyll and Bute to help mitigate against high energy prices.

A spokesman for SSE said: 'An energy efficiency advisor has already visited customers who have been in contact with their concerns, however at this time it is unknown how many customers are affected by this.'

It urged anyone affected to email [headofcustomerservice@sse.com](mailto:headofcustomerservice@sse.com) or phone 0800 096 6192.



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## More frustration on Coll and Tiree over winter ferries

FURTHER ferry frustration was felt by islanders on Coll and Tiree this week - with residents fearing they could have to put up with three different winter timetables.

By Tuesday, Caledonian MacBrayne had still not published the winter timetable for the islands, despite it due to come into effect in just four weeks' time.

The route is the last to be confirmed by CalMac - with islanders saying that that makes them feel like 'second-class citizens'.

Now, the Tiree Trust has said it is alarmed by the prospect of having to work around three different timetables, after being told the Clansman, Hebridean Isles and

Lord of the Isles will all serve the route during different weeks.

Islanders are opposed to the Hebridean Isles being used on the route - not only is the vessel smaller than the Clansman, but it is slower and will add 40 minutes to a crossing.

Development officer at the trust, Sam Bouchnak, said: 'There's been no real consultation. We didn't have much notice prior to a meeting last week and in 24 hours we did a survey of 170 people; 81 per cent of which were against the proposals. An increase in journey time of 40 minutes is too much.'

'CalMac said there's no point objecting to the choice of boat as that's not up for negotiation. We

will now be having three different timetables running during the winter - it's quite complicated.

'They've said if there are problems they'll reassess it but that's not going to help now. We just feel like we're being ignored.'

CalMac said the timetable was due to be published as *The Oban Times* went to press, but added the shuffling of the fleet during the winter refit is 'unavoidable', but happens every year.

The company said it consulted extensively and believes islanders are sympathetic to the challenge in setting the timetable. It 'utterly rejects' claims islanders are being treated like second class citizens.

## Man admits stealing £6,000 from employer

AN EMPLOYEE of an Oban estate agent pled guilty to embezzling the firm to the tune of £6,000 when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday.

Steven Hornby, 39, of 12c High Street, Oban, admitting defrauding Bell Ingram on various occasions between January 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013, while he was employed by the company.

Deferred sentence Sheriff Douglas Small called for reports on Hornby due to the 'significant sums' involved and deferred sentence until October 15.

Bell Ingram, which operates as estate agents, land agents and chartered surveyors with offices throughout the UK, was contacted for comment but did not reply.

Hornby, who worked as a senior estate agent in the firm's Oban office, is no longer listed on the company's website.

## WORKSHOP SALE

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# North Harris Trust awarded £502,212 Big Lottery funding



Bunavoneadar on North Harris: once a thriving whaling station, its decline has matched that of other local communities. But now regeneration attempts have been given a £500,000 Big Lottery boost.

ATTEMPTS to stem population decline and boost economic activity in Harris have been given a huge boost after community landowners the North Harris Trust were awarded £502,212 Big Lottery funding.

The Investing in Communities cash will be used to build new zero carbon business units in the Tarbert area, creating 13 full time jobs and three full-time training places.

The development forms part of the trust's strategy of encouraging growth in enterprise.

Key aims include providing jobs and skills training for young people who would otherwise leave to find work elsewhere and encouraging new families and employers to move into the community.

North Harris Trust chair Calum MacKay said: 'This project will create first rate facilities that

will attract new and growing businesses from near and far. Each will be expected to deliver on their promise to create new jobs and training opportunities.

'Support from the Big Lottery Fund confirms our belief that community-driven developments like this are the way to make a difference.'

He added: 'Our 2012 community survey confirmed that the lack of jobs is the biggest issue facing our small community.'

David Cameron, the chairman of Community Land Scotland, said: 'This is a very welcome award for the people of North Harris.'

Mr Cameron added: 'Along with housing provision, job creation is an essential element in reversing population decline and providing opportunities for our young families. A real good news story.'

# Jessie and Peggy receive British Empire Medals



Jessie MacNeil, left, and Peggy Ann Campbell, right, receive their medals by the Lord-Lieutenant for the Western Isles, Alexander Matheson OBE.

TWO BARRA women who have become the first in the Western Isles to receive British Empire Medals (BEM) say the awards are a tribute to the islands' community spirit.

Jessie MacNeil, of Bruernish, and Peggy Ann Campbell of Vatersay, were presented with their honours at the Castlebay Hotel last week, with the Lord-Lieutenant for the Western Isles, Alexander Matheson OBE, presenting the medals.

The medals were handed over during the AGM of the Lieutenant, watched by the families and friends of the pair.

Mrs MacNeil was awarded the BEM in the Queen's New Year's Honours' List for her contribution to enhancing and developing services to the Barra community over the past 40 years. Her achievements include bringing about the community

swimming pool - she previously spent 10 years teaching kids to swim in the sea - the Co Chomunn, Guth Bharragh and the community minibus.

Jessie said: 'I think this does say a lot about Barra and Vatersay. The community is very proactive and are quick to volunteer to develop services on the island.

'I'm very proud of the community and the number of people who have invested their time and energy to developing community services, for everything from service for the young to the elderly.

'That's why receiving this award is such a huge honour as it is the community that have put me forward for this award.

'I understand it's quite a complex and drawn out process so I really am honoured people felt highly enough about me to go through that process, and I'm

sure Peggy feels the same way.' Mrs Campbell's award, which was announced in the June Birthday Honours' List, was for services to the postal service and the community in Vatersay.

As postmistress for 50 years, Mrs Campbell was heavily involved in establishing the community shop in Vatersay and has always felt a responsibility for supporting her local community in any way she can. She has been actively involved in local and regional fund raising campaigns.

Peggy said: 'It doesn't feel real. I didn't expect it for a start, but it's quite nice to know I didn't do a lot wrong!'

'The thing is, you don't do anything on your own here. You're in a community and everyone helps each other. I think the whole population of the island merits this award.'

# Juniors come up trumps at annual Barra and Vatersay Island Produce Show



Locals were quick to crowd the hall when the doors opened on this year's show, which had 475 exhibits.

THE SEVENTH annual Barra and Vatersay Island Produce Show was a year for the juniors to show the adults just what they were made of.

After introducing the junior trophies to the show last year, there was so much more interest from the younger residents of the island to compete in the open sections - and they did so in style. Out of the top six of the points winners, five were under 18.

Entries were down slightly on last year but there were still 475 exhibits to view once the doors opened.

Organiser Sarah MacLean said: 'It is so encouraging that the younger generation are coming up, getting involved

and enthusiastic about the show and traditional skills, something which Croitair Òg - the youth club run by the show committee - will build upon even further.

'We would like to thank both Eoligarry and Castlebay schools for their support and encouraging young people to enter.'

This year's show was as much a feast for the eyes as the taste buds, with a pristine E-Type Jag drawing plenty of admiring glances thanks to the show's first display of old vehicles.

Barra Bunting, now in its second year, decorated Castlebay Hall in style for the event - with a fresh call made for people to contribute towards the project which invites anyone who has

visited the island or has a connection to it to donate a flag.

Sarah added: 'The Show relies heavily on many hours of volunteer time and we really appreciate the people that make the day a success before and during - including doing the tidying up after. We would also like to thank our judges and hope they enjoyed their day out.'

'Thanks must also go to our sponsors: Lews Castle College for the rosettes, Castlebay Community Hall for the venue, Mrs Nancy Macneil for the Points Champions, Hector MacNeil Coaches for the Best in Show, Croit na h-Aibhne for the breakfast and lunch and to our friends who support the work of the show.'



Sisters Joanna and Lauren MacNeil claimed a clutch of prizes at this year's Produce Show. Joanna was first and first junior in craft section, while Lauren was first junior in croft and fishing section.

**Results**

**Show Points Champion for the Macneil and Mrs Macneil of Barra Shield:** John Cullen (705).

**Reserve:** Claire Frances MacNeil (700).

**Junior Point Champion for the Mrs Nancy Macneil Junior Points Trophy:** Claire Frances MacNeil (700).

**Reserve:** Joanna MacNeil (475).

**Best Exhibit in Show for the Crystal Bowl donated by Hector MacNeil Coaches:** Best in Section, Garden, John Cullen for his three carrots; Baking, Claire Frances MacNeil for her Decorated Cake; Craft, Pauline Bari for her Painting; Croft and Fishing, Neil Joe MacLean for his 'Spirit of Barra'.

**Overall Winner of the Best Exhibit in Show 2013:** Pauline Bari.

**Garden Section for the Co-Chomunn Bharraidh Salver:** 1 John Cullen (415).  
**Garadh a' Bhagh a' Tuath Junior Trophy:** Eoligarry School.

**Baking Section for Katie Dewar Baking Awards:** 1 Claire Frances MacNeil (620).  
**Barra Church of Scotland Junior Baking Trophy:** Claire Frances MacNeil.

**Craft Section for Sarah's Office Quail:** 1 Joanna MacNeil (370).

**TAIC Junior Craft Trophy:** Joanna MacNeil.

**Croft and Fishing Section for the Barratlantic Cup:** 1 Sharon Cox (220).  
**MacInnes Brothers Junior Crofting and Fishing Trophy:** Lauren MacNeil (80).

**Children's Section:** Pre-Schools: 1 Calum MacNeil (170).  
Primary 1-7: 1 Roddy MacNeil (165).  
Primary 5-7: 1 Lucy MacNeil (120).  
Secondary: 1 Rose Scott (90).

# Drop-in events to discuss Marine Protected Areas

LOCAL people are being given the chance next week to have their say on creating possible Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) off the west coast.

Scottish Natural Heritage have organised three drop-in events to discuss proposals for possible pMPAs - Loch Sunart, the Sound of Jura, Loch Creran and the Small Isles.

Host venues are the Sunart Centre in Strontian next Tuesday from 1pm-8pm, Killehoan Community Hall next Wednesday from 1pm to 7pm and An Roth Enterprise Centre in Craignure, Mull next Thursday from 1pm to 8pm.

Videos, displays and leaflets, will be available while marine experts will be on hand to answer questions.

The events tie in with the Scottish Government consultation 'Planning for Scotland's Seas'. SNH says the sites are being put forward to protect wildlife



The northern feather star - needing protection. Photo: Paul Naylor.

and habitats including common skate, flame shell beds, tubeworm reefs and northern feather stars.

The consultation also covers Scotland's first National Marine Plan, as well as plans to help guide the future of offshore renewable energy.

Andrew Campbell, SNH operations manager for Argyll said: 'The Scottish Government particularly wants to hear what people think of the proposed Marine Protected Areas - and listen to their views on the challenges of balancing environmental interests with other uses of the sea.'

'The views gathered will help them decide where the MPAs should be and how they could be managed. Everyone is welcome at these events and we hope that many people will be able to come along.'

He added: 'We want to help people understand how special our seas are. They are a huge environmental, economic and recreational resource that contributes enormously to our quality of life. But many of us have little idea about the remarkable world hidden under the waves.'

The consultation runs until November 13.

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# Debate draw throws up intriguing ties

THE DRAW for the first round of the prestigious BT Scotland National Gaelic Schools Debate 2013 has thrown up some intriguing north versus south ties as well as a couple of 'local derbies'.

The competition, which celebrates its 15th anniversary this year, has attracted 22 teams from across the country and sees Ullapool High School taking part for the first time.

Following the first round in An Lanntair in Stornoway on November 5, 12 teams will compete the second round at the same venue the following day.

Four teams with the highest marks will then progress to the final stages of the contest in Edinburgh on November 26-27.

Calum Iain Macleod, director of development at Comunn na Gàidhlig and chairman of the National Gaelic Schools' Debate management committee, said: 'In this 15th year of Deasbad BT Alba the committee are very much looking forward to another year of competition.'

Following the success of the 2012 Debate which saw Eòghann Beaton and Breighna Morrison of Tain Royal Academy emerge

as the worthy winners, an extremely high level of competition was set and we look forward to another year of interesting and thought provoking debates.

'We are particularly grateful to BT Scotland for their continuing support of the debate which has become one of the highlights of the Gaelic academic calendar.'

**Support**

'Without the support of BT Scotland and the other supporting organisations we simply would not be able to hold the debate.'

Round One draw:

Inverness Royal Academy v Wallace High School; Grange Academy v Nicolson Institute A; Sgoil Sir E Scott v Castlebay Community School; Bishopbriggs Academy v Mallaig High School; Nicolson Institute B v Glasgow Gaelic School B; Hazlehead Academy v James Gillespie High School.

Glasgow Gaelic School A v Ullapool High School; Gairloch High School v Lochaber High School; Sgoil Lionacleit v Ardnamurchan High School; Calder Glen High School v Portree High School; Dingwall High School v Oban High School.

For more information on the Deasbad visit www.deasbadbtalba.com.

# An Lanntair appoints new manager

STORNOWAY creative arts centre An Lanntair has appointed a new manager to guide development plans over coming years.

Claire Byers takes on the role of transition director with responsibility for managing the new 2020 development project, a major new initiative designed to ensure support An Lanntair's continued cultural and financial success.

Ms Byers, who is moving from her post as deputy director of the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Arts in Gateshead, starts work on September 30.

She will be moving to

Lewis for the 18 month period of contract.

An Lanntair chairman Alasdair MacLeod said: 'Claire has a national reputation for supporting the development of arts and cultural organisations and we are delighted to have attracted someone of her calibre to work with us on this exciting stage in An Lanntair's development.'

'A key part of Claire's role will be to help us engage with our local and creative communities, our audiences and customers, to ensure their views are reflected in the way An Lanntair changes for the future.'

**First free business advice app available**

WESTERN Isles Council is urging local business owners and budding entrepreneurs to take advantage of the first free business advice app in Scotland.

The Business Gateway 'MyBusiness' app provides comprehensive information and advice to all Scottish small business owners, start up companies and people considering setting up a new venture for the first time.

Councillor Archie Campbell, chairman of sustainable development, said: 'This is an exciting new development for the Business Gateway team using the very latest technology.'

'Making business information available 24/7 will undoubtedly benefit our local business community and I would encourage business owners to download the app.'

# Views sought on timing of increased free childcare

THE AMOUNT of free childcare available to parents is increasing to a minimum of 600 hours per year and views are needed on when these hours are available.

Argyll and Bute Council's Early Years team is asking all parents and carers of children under the age of five to say how an increase in childcare and education hours should be delivered when the number of free hours increases from 475 per year.

Councillor Mary Jean Devon, children's champion, said: 'I hope parents and carers will take part in this consultation - it is important that the outcome reflects what we actually want for our children in Argyll and Bute. The increase in hours will be welcomed by many, but the way in which it's delivered will have an impact on family life. If you want to be a part of the decision make sure you complete the survey.'

To take part in the consultation and make your views known - go to the Argyll and Bute Family Information Service website www.scottishchildcare.gov.uk/LocalChis.aspx?chisid=26. The consultation will run until October 31.

**Police files**

SECURITY cameras were stolen from Portnalong Pier at Carbot, Isle of Skye between 10pm on Monday September 9 and 10pm on Tuesday September 10.

A CAR was damaged while parked near the Corpach railway crossing between 2pm and 3pm on Friday September 13.

A CAR parked in Douglas Place, Fort William was damaged between 4pm on Monday September 9 and 8.30am the following morning.

HIGH-visibility vests were stolen from an unlocked school crossing patrol shed on Lundavra Road, Fort William between 9am on Friday September 6 and 9am on Monday September 9.

Anyone with any knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact local police on 101, the confidential line on 01397 702000 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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**TV banker forced to cut Barra filming short**

TELEVISION banker and self-made businessman Dave Fishwick, of Channel 4's Bank of Dave, has been forced to cut-short a filming stint on the isle of Barra.

The self-made millionaire arrived on the island last month and had started flexing his entrepreneurial muscles before leaving just three days into his stay after being struck down with illness.

There had been rumours he'd 'bitten off more than he could chew' on the island - but Katie Lander of production company Finestripe Productions, said: 'He's quite unwell and can't return to the island until he's cleared for filming.'

'We were due to go back but I got an email saying he was unwell. He's now under medical supervision but he should be back soon.'

**Kilmartin House showcases plans**

KILMARTIN House Museum will show off plans to redevelop its home next week.

Next Thursday from 7pm, the team at the museum will be showcasing how it wants to reinvent itself to better interpret and exhibit the monuments and artefacts of Kilmartin Glen, which are of national importance.

The consultation evening will begin with a presentation by award winning architects Reich and Hall of Edinburgh on their concept design for a redeveloped museum.

The redevelopment project will primarily improve the museum's exhibition and education service.

**Rousing welcome for frigate crew**

THE CREW of the Royal Navy frigate HMS Argyll was given a rousing hero's welcome by hundreds of cheering relatives and friends last Thursday, when the ship returned from a successful maritime policing patrol.

About 500 banner-waving family members and friends welcomed the ship back home to Plymouth after a deployment including operations in the seas around Africa, the Falklands, the Eastern Pacific and the Caribbean.



Five-year-old Laila Reid Cormack hands over a cheque for £1,000 to Skinny as he relaxes in an ice bath. 16\_138skinny03

**Cheers 'Skinny'! 100 miles in under 24 hours**

CHEERS resounded outside Oban's Corran Halls last Saturday afternoon as David 'Skinny' MacInnes completed a heroic feat in aid of charity.

Hundreds of people had gathered to welcome back the Oban man at the end of his 100-mile trek from Glasgow to Oban - which he completed in just 22 hours.

The Rangers fan started his charity challenge at Ibrox at 3pm on Friday, passing through the finish line at 1pm on Saturday before collapsing to the ground.

He said: 'I'm tired and sore from top to bottom but definitely glad I did it.'

'I couldn't think of a better cause to do it for than Macmillan - everyone has been so supportive it's ridiculous.'

Skinny made it through the challenge by running the equivalent of two marathons before starting to slow his pace.

He completed the first 30 miles in three hours and 30 minutes, keeping up a swift pace for the next 26 miles too.

He added: 'I didn't realise how fast I was going but I felt okay and just battered and an ended up giving myself a wee bit of a lead.'

'I was planning to run three miles and walk two but I was just feeling good although getting to the end I had nothing left - I almost quit at Dalmally.'

'It was a sore point, I never ran one second from Dalmally. The Oban Camanachd boys and everyone who met me from Lochawe on kept me going. They were absolutely fantastic.'

'It was a massive team effort, there's no way I would have got through that on my own. If I had been alone I would have quit - it was the toughest thing I've ever done.'

'I'm ecstatic that I made it. I would have been gutted not making it, I have put a lot of hard work in over the last few months.'

Support for Skinny also came from staff at Atlantis Leisure who provided his training free of charge ahead of the run.

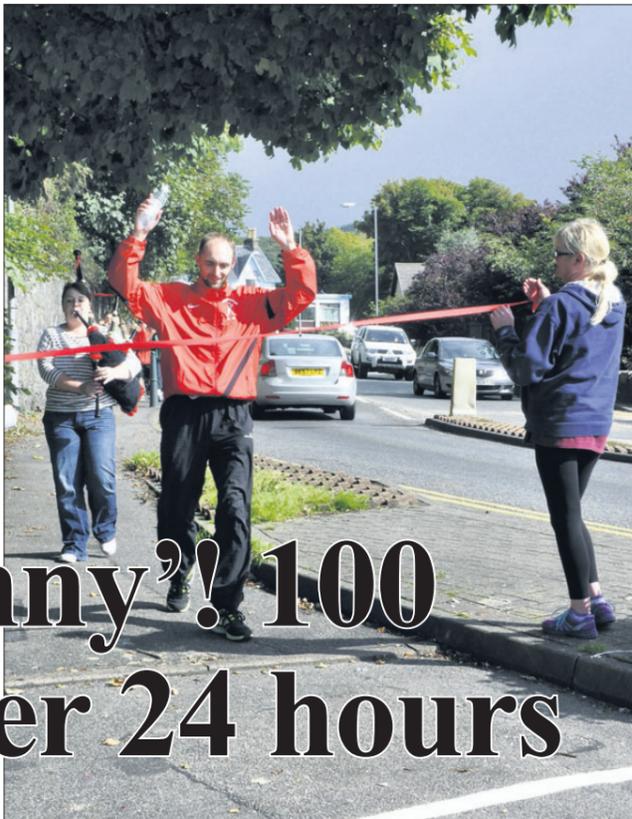
And the Oban Camanachd shinty player even received a personal video message from tennis player Rafa Nadal, who recently won the US Open, congratulating him on his 'amazing' achievement.

Skinny completed the run in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, raising more than £5,000 for the charity and wanted to thank everyone who helped, donated and joined him on the route. 'It wouldn't have been possible without them,' he said.

A Just Giving webpage set up overnight had raised £1,000 by the time Skinny arrived in Oban at 1pm and a donation bucket circulating among the crowd gathered to welcome him home collected over £1,800 - including £1,000 from the Rowantree Hotel and Steakhouse.

He added: 'I lost my auntie last year from cancer and other members of my family in the past.'

'This is not my last feat for Macmillan - I think it is the most worthwhile cause out there.'



Tired, sore but ecstatic David 'Skinny' MacInnes crosses the finish line at Oban's Corran Halls. 16\_138skinny04



Time to celebrate: Skinny gets a soaking with champagne after his heroic feat. 16\_138skinny02

**CalMac Ferries awarded £285m contract**

A THREE year extension of the contract to operate ferries in the west of Scotland has been awarded without going to public tender.

The Scottish Ministers, acting on behalf of the Scottish Government, awarded the £285 million deal to CalMac Ferries, a Caledonian MacBrayne owned company.

CalMac will operate the Clyde and Hebrides ferry services until 2016 under the new contract, which took effect on August 16.

Despite the contract not being open for private companies to compete a government spokesman said they 'remain committed to ensuring that Scotland's subsidised ferry service contracts are awarded following fair, open and transparent procurement competitions'.

He said: 'Awarding a three year contract extension to CalMac Ferries Ltd from 2013 to 2016 will allow Scottish Ministers to ensure that, starting in 2014, a robust and thorough procurement exercise is conducted for the next contract that will enable the delivery of enhanced ferry services across the Clyde and Hebrides (CHFS) routes.'

'If Scottish Ministers had sought to tender the CHFS services for the period from 2013 to 2016 the nature and complexity of these services would have meant there was no realistic prospect of completing the tender exercise in the time available.'

**New three-night cruise introduced**

A CRUISE operator working from Oban has introduced a new three-night cruise to their 2014 calendar to help those short on time explore Mull, Loch Linnhe, Loch Leven and Glencoe.

In May, July, September and October of next year, Majestic Line will run its 'Inlets of Mull and Loch Linnhe' cruises out of Oban twice monthly.

**Independence: pair turn up heat**

A NORTH Lorn hotelier squared up against one of Scotland's most famous chefs in a debate over independence last night.

Beppo Buchanan-Smith, owner of the Isle of Eriska Hotel near Benderloch, took on Andrew Fairlie on behalf of Better Together.

Mr Fairlie, of the Gleneagles Hotel, represented the Yes campaign at the debate in Edinburgh's National Museum of Scotland. The pair tuned up the heat over crucial questions on what independence would mean for the food, drink and hospitality sector - Scotland's fifth largest. The six key points discussed included personal and industry taxes, salaries and pensions, alcohol and tobacco legislation, vocational education, renewables and currency.

**Tourism co-op roadshow to help industry grow**

ARGYLL and the Isles Tourism Co-operative (AITC) will take to the road this month as it asks locals to help grow the industry for the future.

Starting today (Thursday) at the Gaelic Centre in Bowmore, the roadshow opens with a workshop from 1pm-4.30pm exploring opportunities for tourism and growth, as well as helping inform AITC's response to the national tourism strategy. A drop in will be held in the evening from 6.30pm-8.30pm.

now and October 10 are Bellochaunty, Oban, Cairnbaan, Craignure, Strachur, Rothsay, Tirez and Helensburgh.

Mike Story, executive director of AITC Mr Story and Carron Tobin, also of AITC, will lead the workshops.

**Key players**  
At each event they will be joined by key players from the local marketing group plus Business Gateway, Visit Scotland and other partners. Mr Story said: 'Both the region as a whole and individual

businesses will benefit from collaborative working.

'This is an opportunity for anyone involved in the industry, directly or indirectly, to exchange views at a local level and learn more about how they can work together to take advantage of regional and national strategies. 'We really encourage everyone involved in tourism to come along to their local event.'

For more information on upcoming roadshows, visit exploreargyll.co.uk/roadshow2013.

**Rent arrears rise by £94,000 in wake of 'bedroom tax'**

RENT arrears at Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) have risen to £94,000 since the controversial new 'bedroom tax' was introduced, it has emerged.

And the spiralling problem saw ACHA chief executive Alastair MacGregor invited down to Westminster to give evidence to the Scottish Affairs Committee.

Mr MacGregor told MPs why he believes the controversial measure should be repealed and highlighted how it has already impacted on tenants.

Speaking after giving evidence, Mr MacGregor said: 'While making it clear to

the Scottish Affairs Committee that ACHA supported the repeal of the bedroom tax legislation I also highlighted the practical realities for the association and its tenants on the ground. Of the 530 tenants affected by the bedroom tax, only 68 have no arrears and 120 have arrears of over £250.'

'The reality is that people who are already very poor have no guarantee that discretionary housing payments will make up for the loss of previous income that helped with their housing costs.'

'My concern is that this policy could end up costing more money than it saves if people become homeless because they

cannot pay their rent.' Mr MacGregor added that there had only been a 50 per cent success rate to date for the tenants affected who had applied for a discretionary housing payment to deal with the hardship caused by the 'tax'.

In ACHA's case, there was a shortage of one-bedroom homes available to which to move. It also has a commitment to provide half of its lets to homelessness referrals, which further impedes its ability to move people quickly. The Scottish Affairs Committee is due to report with its conclusions on its investigation into the bedroom tax later this year.

**Dramatic rescue sees several boats come to aid of yacht smashed on Oban rocks**



Oban lifeboat guides the Tangon to the safety of Oban harbour. 138rescue1

A DRAMATIC rescue saw several boats come to the aid of a yacht after it smashed on rocks at the entrance to Oban Bay on Sunday afternoon.

The 29ft Tangon grounded on the south side of Maiden Isle in heavy seas amid the first major storm of the autumn.

Remarkably, the family of four on board, all from Edinburgh, escaped unhurt, with Oban lifeboat helping tow the stricken yacht back into Oban and installing a pump to stop the vessel from sinking.

The boat got into trouble just after noon, just as wind and sea conditions were deteriorating, in full view of the lifeboat crew in their office.

Oban lifeboat's Willie Melville said: 'They were just having a coffee and a bletcher when they saw her swept into the rock. What was heartening though was the amount of people that came by to help. As soon as it was on the radio, the Puffin Dive Centre boat, the Puffin IV was there. The MV Isle of Mull turned around, the Marleane fishing vessel was there and Scottish Sea Farms sent a boat too.'

The Puffin IV attached a rope to the vessel to hold it in place until the lifeboat, the Mora Edith MacDonald, arrived moments later. 'She was quite badly damaged,' added Willie. 'It would have been a sinking risk if she didn't get the water pumped out.'

One eye-witness, who watched events unfold from the road near Dunollie, said: 'It was certainly dramatic to watch. It was a great rescue.'

**Sound of Islay tidal power pilot scheme**

TIDAL power devices are to be installed in the Sound of Islay as a forerunner for a possible much bigger marine renewable energy scheme.

The pilot, brokered under a deal between ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) and international engineering company Alstom, will see up to four of Alstom's tidal devices installed between Islay and Jura alongside four SPR turbines.

One of the Alstom machines is currently on test at the European Marine Energy Centre in Orkney.

Should test results prove favourable, the Sound of Islay's fast-flowing tidal currents could become

how to the largest tidal array in the world when fully operational.

Simon Christian, UK managing director at SPR said: 'Islay will now permit the two leading tidal power technologies to be proven side by side and to take them both to the point of commercialisation. This move will also broaden the opportunities for the wider Scottish supply chain, helping to maximise local benefits and support government ambitions to kick-start a new industry here.'

He added: 'Marine energy has the potential to deliver substantial benefits for the Scottish economy as the sector grows - and it is essential

that we maximise that potential.' The first unit should be deployed in late 2015, with full site deployment during 2016.

Operations are planned for 25 years and the demonstration project is anticipated to be the launch pad for future larger scale sites around the Scottish coast.

The development will be capable of generating up 10 MW of electricity in total.

The company says it is committed to working with its community partner, the Islay Energy Trust (IET), to maximise social and economic benefits for the community.

Argyll and Bute Council now offers free support to help local businesses supply goods and services to the public sector, through its membership of the Supplier Development Programme. This includes access to free workshops including:

**Supplier Development Programme**

**Is the Public Sector for You?**

Friday 18 October 2013 - Inveraray - 9.30am - 12.00pm

This half day workshop aims to provide you with enough information to decide if this market is for you. It also provides an overview of the tendering landscape and some tips on successful tendering. The workshop is designed for companies and third sector organisations that have had little or no experience of tendering and would like to become 'tender ready'. This level is designed to help companies decide if tendering is for them and if so how to go about it.

**Tender Portals made easy**

Tuesday 5 November 2013 - Inveraray - 9am - 12.30pm

This workshop will cover all aspects of using portals, specifically Public Contracts Scotland (PCS). It will ensure you are making the most of all the benefits, including 'Supplier Finder' and 'Quick Quotes', which will increase your opportunities in the public sector to help companies decide if tendering is for them and if so how to go about it.

**Find It, Win It, Keep It**

Wednesday 23 October 2013 - Inveraray - 9.30am - 4.00pm

This workshop is for companies who want to improve their success rate at pre-qualification (PQQ) and invitation to tender (ITT) stages but have some experience of tendering with varying success but would like to become more proficient.

**Maximising Your Tender Score**

Thursday 14 November 2013 - Inveraray - 9.30am - 12.00pm

This workshop aims to help you maximise your scores when submitting a tender. Aimed at companies and third sector organisations with experience of bidding for work and want to improve their tender performance, quality of their bids or aspire to bidding for bigger contracts.

**Value Add and Innovation**

Thursday 14 November 2013 - Inveraray - 1.00 - 4.00pm

This new workshop is designed to help you improve your tender performance and quality of your bids. This workshop is designed for companies and third sector organisations with experience of bidding for work and want to improve their tender performance, quality of their bids or aspire to bidding for bigger contracts.

To book a place on any of these workshops please register with the Supplier Development Programme at [www.sdpscotland.co.uk](http://www.sdpscotland.co.uk).

Registration is free and takes only a few minutes. You will then be able to book for this workshop or any of the other free workshops offered across Scotland.

To find out more about the Supplier Development Programme visit [www.sdpscotland.co.uk](http://www.sdpscotland.co.uk) or contact Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway team on 01546 605459.



**Morvern Lines**

THE SIGHT and sound of the Catalina flying boat which landed at Connel airport last month must have brought back many memories for those living in Morvern and in the vicinity of the Sound of Mull during WW2 when there was a small squadron of them stationed in Oban.

Poignant memories too for the folk living at the north end of Jura when one crashed there on the July 15 1941 killing seven of the eight crew members aboard.

Catalina AH533 of No 210 Sqn, RAF, had been to Helensburgh for a refit. When the aircraft returned to Connel the weather was so bad that when it attempted to land it sustained some damage and was forced to become airborne again.

The plane flew south with the intention of landing out at sea to await better inshore conditions but, due to low cloud, it struck the north east side of Cruach na Seilcheig near the head of Glen Trosdale, where it was destroyed by fire.

When nothing further was heard from the crew, a search was mounted the following day by their colleagues in three Catalinas. Two returned to base without finding them but the third spotted the burnt-out remains scattered across the hillside. At dawn the next day, seven bodies were removed and shortly afterwards a large maintenance crew from Connel arrived to dispose of the wreckage.

Much of it was cut up and buried deep in the surrounding peat or dragged down hill into the wooded ravine below where it can still be seen. About a week after the crash Mr Malcolm Mackinnon from Kinauchdrachd and Mr Dugald Campbell, a shepherd on the nearby Island of Scarba, were in the area gathering sheep when they heard one of their collie dogs barking furiously at something in the ravine below the crash site. On investigating they found Aircrafterman J Kelly, the eighth crew member, who had been in the tail compartment, still alive but with two broken legs. He had managed to crawl away from the wreckage to avoid being burnt but somehow or other he had been missed by the search team.

A horse and sledge, used for carrying deer, were quickly brought up from Barnhill (where George Orwell came to live five years later) and in due course the injured man was transported to a Glasgow hospital. For many years afterwards Mr Kelly kept in touch with Mr Mackinnon by letter. It would be nice to think the collie, which undoubtedly saved Mr Kelly's life, was given a suitable award.

Most of the bodies of those who were killed were repatriated and buried close to their homes except Pilot Officer Edward Pinches (25) of the RAF Volunteer Reserve and Cpl Simmer-Jones (24) RAF, who were interred in Pennyfuir Cemetery outside Oban. **Iain Thornber iain.thornber@btinternet.com.**



The site at the head of Glen Trosdale where the Catalina crashed on July 15 1941 with Scarba and Corryreckan in the background.

**Annual Lochaber High School Hike raises £8,000 for school funds**



THE SUN shone for Lochaber High School's re-scheduled annual 'High School Hike' last week which saw most of the 875 pupils walk to the Rural Complex at Torlundy and back

to raise money for school funds. Head teacher Jim Sutherland said: 'Our pupils were in good spirits as they took the eight-mile 'Hike' in their stride and sixth years, who were in fancy dress,

added a colourful dimension to the day.

'The £8,000, or so, that we expect to raise is essential for running our extensive range of extra-curricular activities.

'I would like to thank all those who have supported the hike with special thanks to the Forestry Commission, Police Scotland and Isabel and Linda Campbell of the Rural Complex.'

Ten per cent of all the money raised will go to a children's charity to be chosen by the pupils. Poor weather caused the postponement of the hike on August 30.

**Shopmobility Lochaber expands into high street**

SHOPMOBILITY LOCHABER, which helps hundreds of local clients with mobility issues to access shops and services, is to expand into Fort William High Street.

The charitable group already operates from a base next Fort William bus terminus.

Now the committee has been offered a lease of up to three years on the former Clark's shoe shop, with a 28-day get-out clause.

Co-ordinator Billy Ward told The Oban Times: 'We are waiting on the paperwork to arrive from the agents, then once the lease is signed, we have to get some work done on the inside of the shop to make it safe for our volunteers.

'We are going to hire scooters and wheelchairs from the new location as well as our current one.

'We are also going to sell equipment and daily living aids to people with disabilities rather than having to refer them outside the area. Goods will include adapted can openers, commodes and raised toilet seats.

'The exact stock will depend on how much funding and assistance we get from local businesses and tradesmen. We have applied to several funders for money for this, but have to wait until they make their decision.'

Meanwhile, Mr Ward is appealing to local tradespeople for assistance with kitting out the premises. And just now at least,

only 'copious amounts of tea and coffee and our grateful thanks' will be on offer.

He said: 'We are looking to get a shop carpeted, electrics fitted and various other jobs to get the shop up to a standard which will pass inspection by health and safety.

'Unfortunately, unless we are successful with our funding applications, there won't be much cash in it.

'We know the people of Fort William are fantastically generous. We know this is a big ask, but we really need some help. Any takers?'

He added: 'We are hoping to be in by Christmas, but it may be sooner, it may be later. Our fate is in the hands of others.'

**New bid for Muck teacher**

HIGHLAND Council have re-advertised for a new primary teacher for the Isle of Muck after parents raised fears there would be no-one in place to take classes after the October holidays.

Liz Boden from Eigg has been providing interim cover for the six-pupil school since the summer, and will now continue in the role until a new permanent teacher can be found.

As reported in last week's

Oban Times, parents had feared Ms Boden would be unavailable after the holidays.

A council spokesperson said: 'It is expected that the current arrangement with a teacher from Eigg covering Muck will continue until the post is filled.'

The council previously advertised the post over the summer after incumbent Len Whately left the remote island in July, but received no applicants.

**Team leader: call 999**

HILLWALKERS are being reminded to call 999 and ask for police and mountain rescue - not the ambulance service - in the event of emergencies.

Arrochar Mountain Rescue Team leader Mark Leyland said: 'Delays have sometimes been caused when someone has asked for the ambulance service even

though they are in the mountains and away from a public road.

'Getting through to the correct service at the first attempt is vital to ensure the correct resources are mobilised.'

Walkers and climbers should also register their mobile phone with the emergency SMS text service, Mr Leyland said.

**Judy shortlisted by fashion magazine**

A FORMER Fort William woman has been shortlisted by fashion magazine Stylist in a competition to win a £10,000 bursary.

And if womenswear designer Judy Clark, who is now based in Edinburgh, gathers enough public votes, she will also get a year of mentoring from the 'makers collective' - a group of industry experts including singer Paloma Faith.

Voting for the competition on the Stylist website closes at the end of October, with the winner announced shortly after.

**North Argyll Spain exchange trip**

FIFTEEN young people from North Argyll recently took part in an exchange trip to Spain - experiencing a taste of continental living.

North Argyll Young Carers and Youth Forum took part in the second leg of an exchange programme this summer, following a visit by Pamplona youngsters.

Highlights included a caving expedition, a trip to the beach at San Sebastian and Basque games.

**Council contract goes to Core Assets**

SUPERVISED contact of children looked after by Argyll and Bute Council will now be carried out by Core Assets Scotland.

The move follows a new contract being agreed after five tenders were submitted for the work.

Core Assets will arrange and provide supervised contact for children under the care of the local authority whether routine or high risk.

For high risk cases the company will be paid £59.50 per hour, routine visits will accrue £42.50 per hour while transport is paid at £26 per hour.

THE FINALISTS for the AB Awards, which celebrates youth achievement in Argyll and Bute, have been named.

The award ceremony, which takes place at the Phoenix Cinema in Oban on Thursday September 19, will see winners from eight categories declared.

The shortlist features 21 young individuals and four youth groups, highlighting their outstanding contributions to the family, community or cultural life of Argyll and Bute.

Many have made a difference to their local community by sharing their time, talent or creations, or

by becoming a carer for someone close to them.

The awards ceremony will be a red carpet affair and feature performances of music and dance throughout the night.

Here, we look at some of the local youths nominated for an award.

**AB Awards Finalists 2013**



**Youth Environment Award sponsored by SAMS**

**Ryan Malone, Campbeltown**

Taking pride in looking after the gardens, Ryan is hard working, committed and enthusiastic and very knowledgeable about every aspect of his work. His skills range from sowing seeds to looking after the plants to selling them, keeping the place clean and tidy, maintaining the garden and equipment as well as working with volunteers, school groups and members of the public.

**Youth Environment Award sponsored by SAMS**

**Andrew Hughes, 17, Campbeltown**

Andrew, who has been working at Campbeltown Community Orchard and Garden, has proven to be a hard worker and passionate about gardening and the environment. Working in the gardens to increase the public's awareness of the natural environment.

**Youth Environment Award sponsored by SAMS**

**Peter Tyler, 14, Tarbert**

Peter has always cared about the environment, and works hard to keep his school grounds in good condition for others to enjoy. Part of the Bin Busters group in Tarbert Academy, Peter recycles old bottles and papers. As part of the gardening club he gives his time to tidy the school groups, plant trees and vegetables to help the environment.

**Citizenship Award sponsored by National Young Scot**

**Rachel MacPhail, 15, Campbeltown**

Rachel, a member of the Young Firefighters Group and a member of the Kintyre Crime Prevention Panel, demonstrates a caring selfless attitude to others, often giving up her spare time to put her views and that of other young people forward as well as help organise events and increase awareness of dangers of not driving safely. Voted Best Cadet of the Year and Best Young Firefighter of the Year.

**Health and Wellbeing Award sponsored by CHP**

**Islay Film Making Group, Islay**

Isolation, alcohol and bereavement were all close to the hearts of this group of 11 teenagers from Islay, who decided to make a film to address these issues. Water of Life is an excellent piece of collaborative work which has been shared within the community and further afield, it is also used as a teaching tool within the senior Health and Wellbeing curriculum.

Formed over the last seven months between the high school and the community, Islay and Jura Youth Connection Group has been working hard to undertake training and gain knowledge and skills on issues facing young people living on a remote island. The dedicated group meet regularly and attend events and provide workshops as well as volunteer at community events.



**Youth Volunteering Award sponsored by AVA**

**Ellie MacNiven, 16, Oban**

With a passion for giving something back to her community, Ellie started volunteering during school holidays at her local swimming pool, Atlantis Leisure. Not afraid of hard work, Ellie can volunteer 35 hours per week over at least a week at Easter and October and two to three weeks during the summer break. She helps the coaches with preparation, running warm ups and working with younger children, even turning up when she hurt her knee and was on crutches.



**Youth Volunteering Award sponsored by AVA**

**Sarah Nicolson, 16, Lochgilphead**

For 16 year old Sarah, dedication to helping others is second to none. Sarah is a keen member of Mid-Argyll Youth Forum and has been involved in all their community projects, giving up her time to fundraise both for the group and worthy charities. Sarah also volunteers at her local youth group, nursery learning centre and peer supports pupils in the Princes' Trust XL groups. A bubbly character, Sarah really is making a difference to other young people in Mid-Argyll.



**Youth Volunteering Award sponsored by AVA**

**Paul Smith, 21, Campbeltown**

Paul is the epitome of volunteering, giving up hours of his spare time to support the organisation that supported him. Paul uses his own experiences of homelessness to support others, while also fundraising, organising trips and arranging open days and drop-in evenings at Kintyre Youth Enquiry Service. His future goal is to train as a youth/support worker and he has already begun on this journey with training and as Chairperson for KYES.



**Youth Arts Award sponsored by Active Schools**

**Fiona MacAdam, 18, Isle of Mull**

Fiona, a naturally talented musician and singer, was discovered while doing work experience at An Tobar, Tobermory's Art Centre when she was given the opportunity to record her own song. Since then she has recorded her debut album Summer Sun with one song having over 1,600 hits on YouTube. Fiona has also performed at a number of well-known venues across London. She is described by her teachers as an inspiration and a role model to the younger generation.



**Youth Arts Award sponsored by Active Schools**

**Na Seudan, 13-17, Tarbert**

Na Seudan, a fantastic folk group made up of five pupils from Tarbert Academy, perform both Gaelic and Scottish songs and music with harmony singing, piano, fiddle, cello, double bass, flutes and Cajon. Influenced by both jazz and folk traditions, they came together after competing as individuals at the Mod. They have had considerable success, most recently as gold medal winners in the National Mod under 19's folk group section. They also appeared on BBC Alba at Hogmanay, Danny Kyle Open Stage in Glasgow, Celtic Connections, The Ross Theatre in Edinburgh, Dalriada Connections and Mull of Kintyre Music Festival.



**Youth Entrepreneur Award sponsored by Samteq**

**Leanne Goodall, 18, Lochgilphead**

Leanne has shown true entrepreneurship in setting up her own business around the challenges she faces in life. Leanne, born with a tethered spinal cord, was unable to carry out certain tasks growing up, and chose to help look after her mother who also has a disability. Rather than leave the area the talented artist set up a business selling her own prints and cards. She has now set up a website to sell her work and holds exhibitions in local galleries.



**Youth Entrepreneur Award sponsored by Samteq**

**Murdo Masterson, 14, Oban**

Murdo who has ADHD and is dyslexic, wanted to help the builders working on his home by clearing all the dead wood, but quickly discovered he could make money by chopping it up for kindling and selling round his local village. Murdo worked hard to promote his new business, putting out flyers and establishing a good customer base. Delivering by hand using a wheelbarrow, the local community are impressed by his efforts.



**Unsung Hero Award sponsored by Young Carers**

**Angus Richardson, 16, Mid Argyll**

At 18 months, Angus was diagnosed with profound hearing loss and at three and a half years old he underwent an operation to fit a cochlear implant. Much of his young life was spent attending hospital appointments; however Angus blossomed when sign language became part of his communication. He is a keen sportsman taking part in rugby and dingy sailing, and although he has to rely on visual cues he has not let this hold him back.

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Mull Lines

DRIVERS of electric vehicles (EVs) on the Isle of Mull are in for a cash boost as ferry fares will be cut for them as part of a pilot scheme.

At an electric car seminar on Mull last week Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell announced a Scottish Government plan for discounted ferry fares for electric vehicles on all routes to Mull.

The meeting, held at An Roth in Craignure and organised by Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT), had a series of presentations including the Eco Travel Network, Pete Pinnington, the driver of the first EV on Mull, Nissan UK and Transport Scotland.

Delegates had the opportunity to test drive 'Thierry' the Twizzy or a G-Wiz. A Nissan Leaf is on Mull for two weeks and is available for the public to see the latest in EV technology.

Moray Finch, general manager of MICT, said: 'This was all about busting the myth that EVs are slow, boring and will never take off.'

'MICT is deeply involved in various environmental projects and is thrilled that the seminar has generated such



Sandy Brunton, Convenor of MICT test driving 'Thierry' the Twizzy.

a wave of enthusiasm from the residents who attended.'

Mr Russell added: 'It is great to see the appetite of the people of Mull for embracing the emergent electric car technology which will make a contribution to the environmental targets that we are pursuing.'

'The introduction of the pilot further demonstrates

the Scottish Government's commitment to the environment as well as its ongoing support for a sustainable economy for our island communities.'

There are still some slots available for the Nissan Leaf which is on Mull until Friday September 27. Phone 01680 812900 for a test drive.

THE REGENERATION of the piers on Iona and at Fionnphort is underway - with a contract awarded to draw up a 'master plan'.

Edinburgh based consultants SKM Enviro, won the contract worth £22,900, to design a piers master plan for these areas.

The Sound of Iona Harbours Committee commissioned the work in the hope it will develop tourism, improve the local economy and make the pier areas more attractive.

It is also hoped that in the long term the project will contribute towards growth in population.



Kian Fraser Gibson, aged two, helping decorate the new Rainydays soft play area.

VOLUNTEERS of all ages have been working to create a new indoor soft play area in the Aros Hall in Tobermory.

Rainydays is due to open on September 22 and will provide an area where parents and carers can relax and have a coffee while children play. The facility will include a toilet with baby changing area and brand new seating and high chairs.

Local mum and project organiser Karen Fraser said: 'Our town needs better facilities for families with young children and so this spring we started a Facebook group where we could talk to parents about the idea of a soft play installation for the hall. Within three days, parents

had registered 84 children as potential users and we are now delighted to announce that we have received £10,000 towards the project from The Big Lottery Children and Families Fund.'

The hall committee held fundraising events over the summer and local people have volunteered their time raising money and refurbishing the area.

For further information Rainydays can be found on Facebook at Tobermory Indoor Play www.facebook.com/groups/218916414920440. The official opening will be between 2pm and 4pm on September 22.

AN EXHIBITION of a collection of poems which is due to be published soon is taking place at An Tobar in Tobermory.

Yvonne Marjot, who won the Britwriters Awards 2012 adult poetry award, is exhibiting her five winning poems alongside photographs taken by three Tobermory High School pupils.

The 13-year-olds took part in a full-day photography workshop with local photographers, Sam Jones and Sarah Darling.

They travelled around Mull from Tobermory via Calgary to Killechranon, giving the young photographers the chance to experience landscape, close-up and action photography. Yvonne said: 'The youngsters chose their favourite photographs, and from them just 15 photographs were selected to be printed onto foamboard for the exhibition. Other

photographs were set into a digital photo frame which also plays a recording of me reading the five poems.'

'Three of the poems were originally inspired by an exhibition held at An Tobar in 2005, by artist Bruce Killeen, entitled Sonnets of the Sea. I'm especially pleased that An Tobar are hosting the current exhibition, as it continues the theme of the local landscape inspiring creativity.'

She added: 'The photographers gave their time voluntarily, both to lead the workshop and to choose and prepare the photographs.'

'Local business KFT Printing produced the foam boards, also without charge. It's wonderful to see the community coming together to make this exhibition happen.'

The exhibition runs until Saturday November 2.

A BUNESSAN hotel has joined the list of Mull businesses closing their doors for the winter season.

The Argyll Arms will close on September 29, reopening on April 1 next year. The move comes after the business suffered two successive years of 'severe financial loss' over winter seasons.

A letter from Chris Fry,

partner, states: 'This is a decision not taken lightly but is taken from pure financial necessity in order to preserve the future of the business and the service it provides.'

Steve Willis, chairman of Mull Community Council, said the number of businesses closing was a 'shame' but part of living on an island.

He said: 'We have a real

problem no matter where you are on the island - there is just no choice.'

'It is just one of these inevitable things, you can't expect visitors to come in the middle of winter and unfortunately we have such a low population it just isn't viable for businesses to open - people try their best but there just isn't the trade there.'

AN AWARD in honour of an Isle of Mull cheese creator who passed away earlier this year has been announced.

Jeff Reade created the Isle of Mull Cheese brand, one of the UK's most unique cheeses, at Sgrìob-ruadh Farm.

Now the British Cheese Awards has dedicated the Best Scottish Cheese Award, which Mr Reade previously won, in his memory.

Mull of Kintyre Mature Cheddar, made by First Milk Campbelltown, was named this year's winner of the Scottish award, sponsored by the Tobermory Distillery.

Michelle Lansdowne, from Burn Stewart,

owners of Tobermory Distillery, said: 'We are honoured to sponsor this award in Jeff Reade's memory.'

'The team at the Tobermory Distillery and the Reade family share a special relationship as they are among only a select number of producers working on the Isle of Mull.'

'It means a great deal that we are able to pay tribute to Jeff in this small way and keep his memory alive.'

First Milk Campbelltown beat tough competition from 79 other Scottish cheeses at the Oxfordshire event to clinch the prestigious honour.

Contact Faith Orr on 01631 568000 with your Mull news

# Court drama as jury finds brothers guilty of assault

## Trio attacked man like 'wild animals'

A MOTHER'S anguished cries drowned out the verdict of a jury at Oban Sheriff Court as her three sons were found guilty of attacking another man like 'wild animals'.

The courtroom drama came as a nine-day trial ended with brothers Paul, Sean and Gavin MacMillan, all of Smerclait, Pulpit Drive, Oban being convicted of jointly assaulting Stuart Reid to the danger of his life.

When delivering a guilty verdict, the jury spokeswoman struggled to make her voice heard as Morven MacMillan shouted: 'It's a joke. How dare you do this to my family.'

Paul, 25, and Gavin, 19, were found guilty of repeatedly knocking Mr Reid to the ground, punching and kicking him on the head and body and striking his head against a bollard to his severe injury, permanent disfigurement and danger of his life on December 1 last year.

Sean, 22, was found guilty of joining his brothers in the assault, but was cleared of punching and kicking Mr Reid.

Paul MacMillan was also convicted of punching Mr Reid earlier in the night in Sloan's bar in the town. MacMillan claimed, during evidence, that he lashed out after being told Mr Reid has assaulted his younger brother, Gavin.

Co-accused Steven MacLeod, 28, of 8 Hazeldean Crescent, Oban, was found guilty of



Sean MacMillan.



Gavin MacMillan.



Paul MacMillan.

assaulting Mr Reid by knocking him to the ground - but not of causing any injury.

During the trial the court heard Mr Reid spent several days in hospital following the attack which left him needing 26 staples to re-attach a flap of his scalp.

'Vicious' Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinly told the jury Mr Reid had been the victim of a 'vicious assault' and subjected to a 'penalty kick' while he was lying on the ground followed by

'incredibly forceful hits' which resulted in 'horrific injury'.

He said: 'You might agree having watched the CCTV what you saw was a group of wild animals attack. Mr Reid was punched repeatedly and kicked with shocking force while he was on the ground.'

'As a result he was battered and bruised on nearly every part of his body.'

The three MacMillans had all claimed self defence. Giving evidence Paul MacMillan said: 'The option was to walk away

but I felt my best option was to stay and see what my brothers were doing.'

Asked what Mr Reid's reaction was to being attacked by the brothers, Paul MacMillan said: 'Aggressive. His reaction at that moment was not good - just wild.'

He also claimed Mr Reid's head injuries were as a result of him tripping on a speed bump.

Deferred Sentence was deferred for the preparation of reports until October 15.

### Lochaber Sports Association car boot sale

LOCHABER Sports Association is holding a car boot sale in Caol Community Centre on Sunday from 11am to 3pm.

Teas, coffees, hot food and a tombola will also be available. All funds raised will go towards LSA's youth support fund and indoor training facility project. To book a table, email Christine.Falconer@outwardbound.org.uk.

### Man must carry out unpaid work

A FORT William man has been ordered to carry out 50 hours of unpaid work after admitting spending the afternoon drinking with a woman the court had ordered him to have no contact with.

Iain Stewart, aged 54, of 17 Camanachd Crescent, was given bail at Hamilton Sheriff Court with a strict condition not to approach or contact Lucy Ayers.

But after a chance meeting in a Fort William pub on August 22 the pair spent the day drinking together, the town's sheriff court was told.

### Buy oil early campaign launched

OFF-GRID energy customers are being urged to buy their heating oil now to avoid any last-minute shortages during the winter.

The Federation of Petroleum Suppliers has launched its Buy Oil Early campaign hoping to persuade people to plan ahead and keep their homes warm throughout the cold weather.

## War veteran admits violent honeymoon attack on wife

A FORMER US Marine carried out a violent attack on his new wife while they were honeymooning in Kinlochleven.

Iraq and Afghanistan war veteran James Gilligan, from San Francisco, and his wife Heather Becker were staying at the Blackwater Hostel during their extended trip around Europe when the assault happened on Tuesday September 10.

Procurator fiscal Laura Ryan said the tattooed 32 year-old swore at his wife when she reached for her medicine before putting his hand over her mouth and pressing her against a sofa

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

bed. Ms Ryan said: 'He threw her off the sofa bed and punched her several times to the ribs and chest. His hand was still over her mouth to conceal her screams.'

'Screaming' 'Mrs Becker tried to leave, opening the door and screaming, but he pulled the door shut and dragged her to the ground and across the cabin by her legs.'

Someone camping nearby heard Mrs Becker's cry for help and phoned police who arrived and arrested Gilligan.

The woman was taken to Fort William's Belford Hospital and treated for bruising round her eyes, on the back of her head and her sternum.

Appearing from custody, Gilligan pled guilty to assaulting Ms Becker.

Sentencing was deferred until October 8 for reports, with Gilligan remanded in prison.

Since returning from Iraq, Gilligan has become an anti-war campaigner and in 2008 testified to the US Congress about the psychological consequences facing those serving in the United States armed forces.

## Fort William teenager denies punching police officer on face

A FORT William teenager has denied injuring a police officer by punching him on the face while she was holding a can of lager.

Gemma Kane is accused of assaulting the officer at Mamore Crescent, Fassifern Road and the hospital.

The 18 year-old also faces a charge of kicking the officer on the body in Belford Hospital on the

same night. Kane pled not guilty to a third charge of behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by shouting, swearing and verbally abusing police at Mamore Crescent, Fassifern Road and the hospital.

Kane, of 14 Shaw Place, is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on November 18.

## Man admits making drunken threats to family

A FORT William man has admitted drunkenly shouting and swearing at his parents and brother and making threats towards them.

Martin Lawrie, of 7 Morvern Place, was sentenced to nine months supervision and ordered to attend alcohol counselling after pleading guilty to

behaving in a threatening or abusive manner at 22 Glenpane Street in Caol on August 14.

Hiding The 24-year-old also admitted breaching bail conditions not to approach his family members when police found him hiding in a wardrobe at the house in the early hours of August 17.

## Remote Knoydart in world's top ten

ONE OF the remotest parts of Lochaber has been named as one of the top 10 places for drinking beer in the world.

Inverie in Knoydart, home to The Old Forge pub was named alongside Tokyo, Montreal and Brussels in the list compiled by cheapflights.co.uk. There is no road to the village, meaning patrons have to hike 18 miles or take a seven mile ferry trip to taste the local beers on tap.

## Oban rail station welcomes stream train

OBAN'S railway station will take a trip back in time on Monday when it welcomes a steam train to the town.

The West Highlander is out on a four-day excursion from England, covering all corners of the West Highland Line, using four different steam engines throughout the tour.

It is anticipated the train will depart from Crianlarich at 12.30pm, arriving in Oban at 2pm before returning to Crianlarich at 3pm.

Two engines will be needed to haul the carriages because the gradient of the hill out of Oban from a standing start is so steep.

## Search on for talented Hogmanay stars

HOGMANAY in Oban is running an 'Opportunity Knocks' competition to find two star performers to open the town's Hogmanay party this year.

One schoolchild and one adult will be picked to entertain revellers on the big night following auditions and a final in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on November 2.

Festivities in Station Square will kick off at 8pm with the talent competition winners.

Band Face the West are headlining the free show, at which thousands of people are expected to bring in the bells.

Gary McPherson, vice-chairman of the organising committee, said: 'We're looking for all talents - music, dance, comedy - just any form of entertaining talent.'

'You can enter at www.hogmanayinoban.co.uk or pick up a form at Oban Filling Station or the Corran Halls.'

Closing date for Opportunity Knocks entries is October 5.

## Community council election nominations open

NOMINATIONS are now open for people who want to stand on their local community council.

Elections for throughout Argyll and Bute take place in October and anyone wishing to stand must get their nomination in by September 27 at 4pm.

Anyone interested in standing for election can contact the election office at elections@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

## Kinlochleven man's trial postponed

THE TRIAL of a Kinlochleven man accused of assaulting a woman in his home has been postponed due to lack of court time.

Stuart Simmers, of 49 Lovat Road, is accused of punching the woman on the arm, grabbing her arm and pushing her, all to her injury.

The alleged incident occurred on May 28.

Simmers, aged 51, is now due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on November 7.

## Man admits stealing from shop

A FORMER Fort William man has admitted stealing £12 of meat products from an Upper Achintore shop.

Dennis Liversidge, now of 11 Charles Street, Durham, was seen by shop workers putting a number of items down his trousers at Grange Stores on July 5.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin fined the 21 year-old £120.

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## Daniel put in the picture

Oban Daniel Lamont is the proud new owner of a new 22" LED TV worth £200 after winning a Facebook competition with local satellite fitter, McLeod Television.

Daniel, centre, is pictured receiving the set from Debbie Howie, Sky Television business consultant, and McLeod Television director, Martin McLeod. Martin said he hopes to run another competition towards the end of the year.

**ARDVASAR**

A CHARITY café for Skye and Lochalsh Young Carers will be held in Ardvassar Hall, Sleat on Saturday from 11am-4pm  
Contact Kirsty on kirstneonrondal@hotmail.com or 01471 844470 to book a space.

**COLONSAY**

THE ONLY pub on Colonsay has been put up for sale - leaving thirsty locals to ponder buying the establishment or hopping on a boat to Oban for a pint.  
The Colonsay, which was saved from closure eight years ago by Alex Howard, has been put on the market for £545,000.  
Now the 120-strong island community is discussing whether to buy the business, which is crucial to the island's tourism-based economy.

**BENDERLOCH**

BENDERLOCH-based Sequence ladies' choir helped St Oran's Church in Connel celebrate its 125th anniversary with a concert for the congregation and members of the public.  
It was a 'family' affair at Connel Village Hall on Wednesday September 11, with two choir members' children starting the evening with a set of pipe tunes; James Divers and Kate MacPherson, who both play in Oban High School Pipe Band.  
There were also solos and duets from other youngsters: Amelia MacTaggart, Karen Black, Becky Wilson and Lora MacLeod, whose mothers all sing in the choir, plus Molly Gregory Beard and Lauren MacDonald, all of whom are pupils of choir conductor Janet Fergusson.  
Compère Moira Dunlop introduced a wide variety of classical, modern, Scottish traditional and pop songs sung by the ladies, who were tested when the electricity meter for the sockets ran out of coins half way through Snow Patrol's 'Run', cutting off their backing track.  
The ladies carried on regardless and were treated to a resounding round of applause at the end of their efforts.  
The next outing for the choir will be at the Oban Winter Festival, November 22 - December 1.

**COLL**

ISLANDERS on Coll know how to keep themselves well fed - if the recent LoColl Cookery Course at the island's Bunkhouse is anything to go by.  
From seaweed and sushi to lobster and lamb, the foraging and cooking course showcased the best of local produce, culminating in a food feast at An Cridhe for a gathering of hungry diners.



Peter Cameron celebrated his 90th birthday with his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**Peter celebrates 90th birthday**

A WELL kent face around Duror and Appin celebrated his 90th birthday recently surrounded by three generations of his family.  
Peter Cameron, who now lives in Inverness, entered his tenth decade on September 4 and marked the occasion with a family party.  
Mr Cameron's relatives also all now live in Inverness - he has two sons, five grandchildren and four great grandchildren.  
But Peter is more accustomed

to the hills of Argyll, starting his school life in Fasnacloich before leaving at 13 to work as a shepherd.  
Most of Mr Cameron's life has been in and around Appin and Duror.  
He worked at Invernahyle, Bealach Farm, Keil Farm, Duror and latterly with the Ben Vair

farm company before he retired in the late 90s to look after his wife.  
Mr Cameron was involved for many years with Appin Sheepdog Society and played shinty for Appin and Ballachulish in the 50s and 60s.  
But he shows no sign of slowing down just yet and presented the prizes at this year's Appin Show. Mr Cameron wishes to thank all his friends who remembered his birthday.  
Chef and food writer Christopher Trotter travelled from his home in Fife to provide three days of cookery and foraging classes, making the most of what could be sourced from the local community.  
This included crab, lobster, lamb, goose and a selection of fruit and vegetables as well as foraged foods such as bog myrtle, seaweed, meadowsweet and carrageen.  
Sponsored by Grishipol Farm, the event included master-classes on preparation and cooking techniques for seafood, game and lamb.  
Such was the success of this year's pilot that plans are already underway to run it again next year.  
Seonaid MacLean-Bristol of Grishipol Farm attended and was enthusiastic about the experience.  
She said: 'There's such a great abundance of fresh ingredients right on our doorstep and it's great to team up with a chef such as Christopher Trotter to help make the most of our natural larder. It's a real test for him too as you never know what you'll find when you go and forage, or what might be in supply from local producers. Whether it's partan bree, mackerel gravalax or wild goose confit that you'd like to master, keep a place in your diary for the Isle of Coll in September 2014.'

**APPIN**

Most of Mr Cameron's life has been in and around Appin and Duror.  
He worked at Invernahyle, Bealach Farm, Keil Farm, Duror and latterly with the Ben Vair



Oran MacDonald, centre, and two of her schoolmates serve up some tasty fare to Oran's mum Michelle at Duror Primary School.

**Dalmally Surgery's newest recruit out on the rounds**

Dalmally Surgery's newest recruit was on the rounds with Dr John Lyon at Dalmally Show. Practice nurse Diane Dixon, a replacement for retired practice nurse Islay Macnab, is currently undergoing extensive training in practice nursing. On completion of her training she will be able to bring a range of skills to the surgery, which is run by Taynult Medical Practice. Originally from Inverness and Stornoway, Diane has previously worked overseas.

**BARRA**

A COMMUNITY business on the Isle of Barra is set to move to new premises after securing a lease for the old Co-op building in Castlebay.  
The building has been vacant since the Co-op moved to its new premises and the move will mean there is possibility for expansion and yet more new services for Bùth Bharraigh.  
Announcing the successful bid for the lease for the building owned by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Sarah MacLean said the group will be looking for funding to help redesign the interior, saying the lease represents 'exciting times' for the social enterprise.  
Tilliers Regiment' who will show visitors how they lived during those bloody times.  
Troops, uniforms, weapons and tactics of the period, pike and musket displays, and a 'field surgeon' treating battle wounds will all feature.  
Museum operations manager Graham Cross said: 'Visitors will have great couple of days.  
'The Highland Folk Museum has always been about bringing history to life and the 'Captains Regiment' will add another dimension to what we offer.'  
The Civil War events programme will run between 11am to 4pm on each day.

**KINLOCHLEVEN**

A KINLOCHLEVEN woman will embark on a six mile horseback ride tomorrow (Friday) for the third year of her 'On Horses For Horses' fundraising campaign.  
Loes Knopper set up the organisation to raise money for the well being of horses worldwide, and gave herself a marathon task to complete.  
She said: 'I aim to ride a combined 24,906 miles - the circumference of the earth - to raise money for the charity.'  
'We are about a quarter of the way there and have raised just under £4,000 for the charity.'  
She and six other riders will start tomorrow's ride at Lettershuna Riding Centre near Appin, with anyone interested welcome to take part.  
Loes got people onboard from across the world by emailing 'every forum, every club and every newsletter' with information and now rides have taken place in 16 different countries.

**ARDCHATTAN**

ARDCHATTAN Community Council will hold its next meeting at Benderloch's Victory Hall on October 1 at 7.30pm.

**NEWTONMORE**

VISITORS to the Highland Folk Museum at Newtonmore will be transported back to the mid-17th century on Saturday and Sunday for an insight into the Civil War.  
'Raising Scotland for the King' offers a glimpse into a soldier's life in Badenoch in 1644, when the Marquis of Montrose was on a recruitment drive in the Highlands to raise an army for King Charles I.  
Over the two days, the Township at the museum will become the temporary home to the grandly titled 'The First Captain's Company of Henry

**Down Your Way**

**Kilniver and Isle of Seil**

THE MAIN fundraiser for Kilniver and Kilmelford Parish Church will be held on October 2.  
The annual lunch, which takes place in Kilmelford Village Hall from 12pm until 2.30pm, will offer lots of home produce, plants and lunch followed by tea or coffee and home baking.  
Georgina Dalton, one of the organisers, said: 'The lunch is the one main fundraiser for the church in the year.'  
'It is a nice community get together and chat. We have a good raffle and it is a nice social day - a lot of people come.'  
The event has been running for a number of years and this year will see several stalls including produce, baking, crafts and a bottle stall as well as guess the weight of the cake.  
It's always very well attended and a great day out for all the family. It is hoped to raise around £1,000 for the church. Everyone is welcome.



Aidan O'Rourke.

A SEIL musician renowned throughout Scotland is set to create brand new works influenced by the countryside in the north east of the country.  
Aidan O'Rourke will take inspiration from the landscape in Aberdeenshire to compose music as part of the Atomic Doric project.  
The scheme aims to inspire art and engage people with nature across the county through a series of interactive events. Aidan's creations will be premiered at a festival beginning in late November.  
A founding member of celebrated band Lau, Aidan is also a formidable solo fiddler and composer. Throughout the Atomic Doric project he will take part in a number of nature walks through St Cyrus nature reserve and Glen Tanar Estate, during which he will play music linked with the area.  
He said: 'Taking part in Atomic Doric is a fantastic opportunity. How often do you get to perform a concert halfway up a mountain or beside a loch?'  
'You don't often get the chance to engage with your audience and the environment like this.'  
'I recently spent a few days in Glen Tanar, and my original plan was to stay in a B&B in Banchory. When I arrived though I decided I wanted to isolate myself in the area.'  
'We found an old shepherd's cottage that was six miles from the nearest house, and I set up a studio to record my ideas.'

DANGEROUS levels of toxins have been found in Loch Melfort and Seil Sound - leading to a warning not to collect or eat shellfish from these areas.  
Argyll and Bute Council's environmental health team has issued a caution to shellfish harvesters after discovering raised levels of naturally occurring algal toxins during monitoring work.  
Eating shellfish such as cockles, mussels, oysters or razor fish from these areas may pose a risk to human health, and notices to warn the public and casual gatherers have been posted at various locations along the shore.  
Commercial harvesters operating in the Loch Melfort and Seil Sound area have also been contacted by the council and steps taken to postpone harvesting until algae levels subside.  
A council spokeswoman said: 'It is a sensible precaution to avoid eating shellfish from the area until further notice. Argyll and Bute Council's environmental health team will continue to monitor the area and, when the situation changes, warning notices will be removed.'

KILBRANDON Church on the Isle of Seil will play host to Saint Columba celebrations at the end of the month.  
The service will take place on September 29 at 11.30am and includes music and other special features marking Columba.  
Ken Ross, minister of the Netherlorn Churches, said: 'We are going to be celebrating the anniversary of the arrival of St Columba to Iona 1,450 years ago. It is a united service bringing together the different churches in our area for a jamboree all centred around the Columba theme.'  
'There are just a few times in the year when they all come together and this is one of them.'

**Next week Down Your Way visits Dunoon with reporter Kali Lindsay. You can contact Kali on 01546 602345 or email editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk.**

**Primary one pupils in the picture**



Archie MacDougall and Maisie Cameron have started primary one at Arisaig Primary School.



Two's company at Ulva Primary School, Isle of Mull, as these girls start P1.



The new intake of primary one pupils at Tobermory, Isle of Mull.

**ARMADALE**

CLAN DONALD Skye at Armadale has been awarded the prestigious five star visitor attraction grading by Visit Scotland.

The award is the highest level that can be achieved by any tourism operator and follows two visits this season by Visit Scotland inspectors.

General manager Stephen McKeown said: 'All the team here at Armadale have worked very hard to achieve this and I'm really proud that we are up there with the best of the tourism providers in Scotland.'

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**DUROR/GLENCOE**

It was a busy day for pupils Ross Blair and Thomas Price at Glencoe Primary School as the local community enjoyed the taster day.

DUROR and Glencoe primary school children cooked up the fruits of their labours for the local community at separate vegetables taster days recently.  
Top of the menu at Duror was tattie and leek soup made from their prizewinning produce exhibited at Glencoe Flower Show.

At Glencoe meanwhile, tasty fare included beetroot and chocolate cake.  
The children grew all their own vegetables in the school gardens with support from parents, who organised a watering regime over the summer to ensure the plants did not dry out.  
The National Trust for Scotland in Glencoe also helped with wooden borders and weeding when required.  
Head teacher Marylin MacDonald told The Oban Times: 'The are eating what they watched growing, there was a lot of maths involved too in weighing out the ingredients.'  
'Both events were packed out - all the community was invited along.'  
All monies raised will go towards repeating the 'eat what we grow' project next year, Ms MacDonald said.



Lismore's children tidied up the beach in the north of the island.

**LISMORE**

ISLANDERS on Lismore have been busy designing scarecrows for the annual scarecrow spotting event.

From September 22 until September 28 visitors and residents can pick up trail maps and voting forms at either ferry and pass a fun day hunting for scarecrows.  
The event had more than 20 entrants last year, including Fergie McCrow and Guy Windy. This year's official judge is Councillor Louise Glen-Lee and the winner will be announced on the afternoon of the 24-hour Ceilidh for Cancer being held in the hall on September 27 through to September 28. Voting is also available online at www.isleoffismore.com.

LISMORE'S primary school children have been busy working towards achieving their second Ecoschools Green Flag - due to be received in January.  
On September 9 they took part in a beach clean in the north of the island between Point and Strathlorne. As well as litter they discovered washed up jellyfish including lion's mane as large as 30 cm and the smaller moon jellyfish.  
They also collected seaweed to cover the school's raised beds for the winter.  
The Green Flag award also has a health and well-being programme, and following the success of last term's Walk to School Week, the children have decided that each Thursday, the minibus will drop them at the crossroads so they can walk the rest of the way.

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ADVERTORIAL

# Television's favourite antiques experts to visit Oban

Three of Television's favourite antiques experts will be visiting Argyll & Bute later this month. The dealers will be appearing at The Regent Hotel in Oban on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th September, paying top prices for antiques, gold and silver.

Simon Schneider, Karen Dalmeny and Tim Hogarth regularly appear on television and are highly trusted and respected for their knowledge and expertise. With almost 100 hundred years of experience buying and selling antiques, gold and silver between them, Karen, Tim and Simon joined forces in 2012 to offer the public an opportunity to sell their heirlooms direct.

Karen Dalmeny said: "All three of us receive so many enquiries asking us to value and buy their antiques, gold and silver that we decided to set up a series of venues and offer the public an opportunity to meet us. We recently visited Ayr and had such a fantastic response that we've decided to come to Oban. This will be the first time we've been to Argyll & Bute and we're looking forward to visiting this beautiful area."

Since the dealers began working together hundreds of people have turned out with their prized antiques and jewellery but as Simon Schneider explained: "As there are three of us we are able

to ensure no one has to wait long and we guarantee no queues. Everyone is welcome to bring along as many items as they want and if they have something too large or if they are unable to come along during the day we are happy to arrange a home visit, please contact us in advance to make an appointment."

Tim Hogarth commented: "Although we're rivals on television doing the venues with Simon and Karen is great fun and we get on really well. Each of us has our own specialities, which means we cover all aspects of the antiques business and ensures we are able to offer the very best advice and prices for those items we want to buy."

The three dealers are inviting people to search their cupboards and bring along their antiques and forgotten treasures.

Karen Dalmeny is a traditional antiques dealer and has clients across the world waiting to purchase anything from a Meissen figure to a full dining room suite. She has an impressive understanding of today's antiques market and current prices.

Karen said "I'm hoping we'll unearth some antique bronzes as the market is currently very strong and they can be surprisingly valuable.



I'd also like to see some fine porcelain and I would just love to buy some Scottish Wemyss pottery."

Simon Schneider is very well known and respected for his knowledge of

20th Century Decorative Arts. He specialises in Art Nouveau and Art Deco but also deals extensively in Silver as and Oriental antiques.

Simon said: "The market for

Chinese and Oriental antiques is particularly strong at the moment so this is a good time to realise their value. I also hope we'll be able to buy some quality antique silver items, especially Scottish Silver as the market for gold and silver remains very strong and I'm sure we'll be able to tempt the public with our prices!"

Tim Hogarth specialises in gold, silver and antique jewellery. He is an experienced dealer and an expert in valuing diamonds and precious stones. He also has an extensive knowledge of coins, medals and wrist watches.

Tim said "I'm hoping we'll find some lovely antique jewellery and I'm keen to buy whatever the condition. I'd also be pleased to purchase vintage wrist watches, especially Rolex, Cartier and Patek Philippe. We'll be offering top cash prices to anyone who wants a deal and I'm sure we'll discover some interesting and valuable items."

The dealers will be at The Regent Hotel, Corran Esplanade, Oban on Friday 27th September and Saturday 28th September from 10am to 5pm.

For more information or to make an appointment please contact: Tim Hogarth Telephone 07970 818866 Email info@simonschneiderantiques.co.uk

We asked the dealers for their wish list of the items they would particularly like to purchase. They came up with the following, so go check your cupboards now!

Gold jewellery and pocket and wrist watches in any condition.

Silver tea sets, trays, caddies, trophies and anything decorative.

Oriental ceramics and lacquer work.

Bronzes and ivories.

Wemyss, Royal Worcester, Clarice Cliff and Mooncroft.

Art Nouveau and Art Deco including Lalique and Galle Glass.

Enamelled boxes and card cases.

Victorian paintings.

Amber beads.

Unusual walking sticks.

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### VAT bill could halt sports centre plan

By RICHARD HADDOCK  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

LOCHABER Sports Association's proposed indoor training centre has been dealt a potentially crippling blow after they were told to pay an extra quarter of a million pounds in VAT.

LSA chairwoman Jane Blanchard said the £1.1 million project would be 'verging on the impossible' if they are forced to pay the £233,000 by HMRC.

HMRC said the fact LSA planned to charge people to use the facility meant it would be being used for business purposes.

VAT advisor Shelagh Kirk said: 'Activities which do not make a profit, or activities where any profit is only used to further the aims and objectives of the charity can still be business activities.'

'It is my opinion that the new development is aimed at the sporting section of the community, not the community as a whole.'

Ms Blanchard told *The Oban Times* they planned to appeal the decision.

She said: 'We cannot afford to get into a position where we have to find an extra quarter of a million pounds. We're going to be struggling to get all the money together as it is without this extra on top. This is a nonsense and we will appeal.'

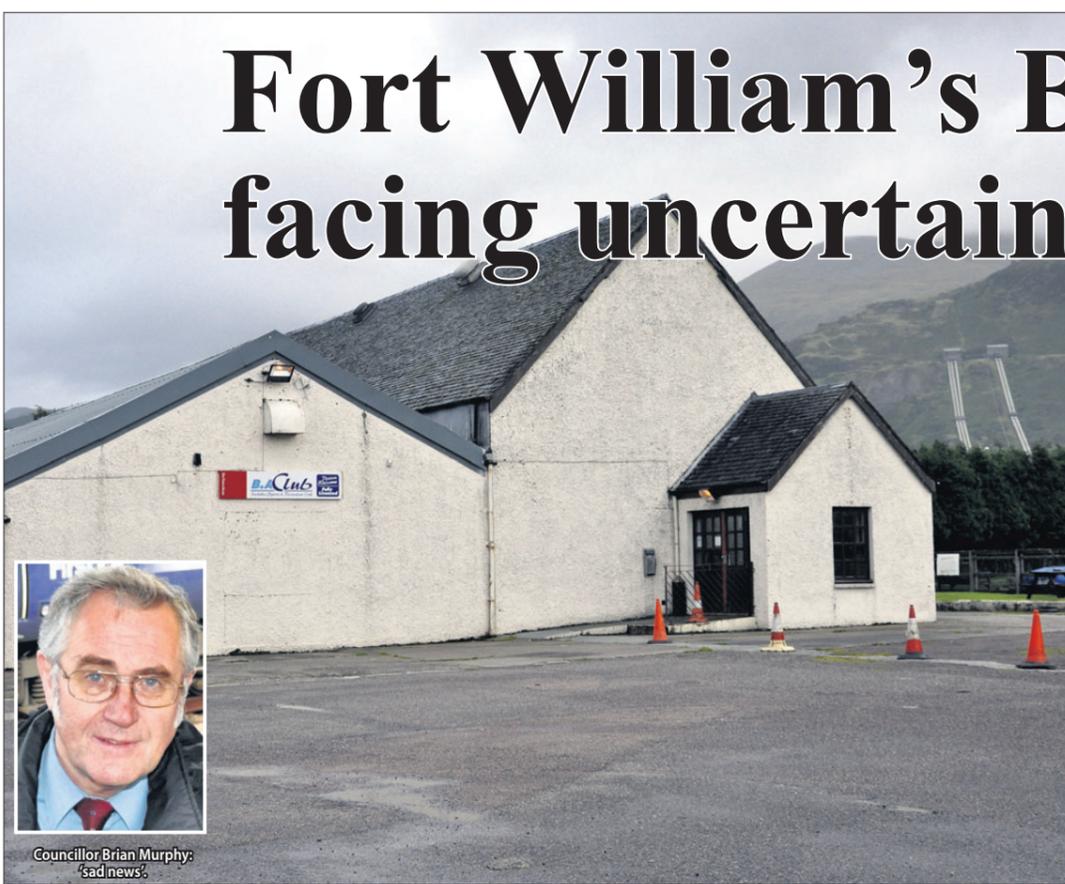
'If there were any way we could give free access to everyone, of course we would, but we have to be able to manage and maintain it.'

'This surely cannot be seen as 'running a business', except in the sense of ensuring that the books balance.'

Ms Blanchard said she was confident the appeal would be successful. A previous case saw a new football pavilion in Perth ruled as being VAT exempt following a tribunal which said it was beneficial to the community and not run for profit.

Meanwhile, LSA will be holding a fundraising car boot sale in Caol Community Centre from 11am to 3pm on Sunday.

Money raised will go towards the youth support fund and business development for the indoor centre.



# Fort William's BA Club facing uncertain future

## Owners Rio Tinto Alcan look to offload popular venue

FORT William's BA Club is facing an uncertain future after owners Rio Tinto Alcan said they were looking to offload the popular venue.

With current club steward Ann Nilsson set to retire at the end of the year, Rio Tinto has decided to seek 'potential interest' for someone to take over the site.

The club and surrounding grounds were originally for workers at the aluminium smelter, but a dwindling workforce has meant it is now more regularly used by the local community.

Communications and external relation manager for Lochaber Jim Beattie said now was 'the right time to consider other options' for the club's future.

By RICHARD HADDOCK  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

with bingo, darts and whist drives to name but a few.

'The club is set in a scenic location and the grounds are a visually attractive green space beside the main road, however, the club building itself needs maintenance work carried out in the near future to bring it up to a proper standard.'

Lochaber councillor Brian Murphy *The Oban Times* it was 'very sad news to hear.'

He said: 'I certainly remember it being a very well used and popular venue for the Alcan workforce and the wider community.'

'There's much fewer people work there of course now, I think there's only about 170 or so. I remember when it was 600-odd.'

'I certainly hope someone will come forward in response to this.'

The venue opened in the early 1960s as a social club for the nearby British Alcan aluminium smelter, and has become a popular venue for fun days, sporting events as well as birthday, weddings and school reunions.

Former British Alcan employee and club committee member Sandy Walker said he was 'very disappointed' by the news.

He said: 'It'll be a big loss to the town if it goes.'



Councillor Brian Murphy: 'sad news'

The BA Club, with the distinctive smelter pipelines running down the side of Ben Nevis in the background. 20\_f38club01

### Community council nominees sought

NOMINEES are being sought for three Lochaber community councils who are looking for extra members, with a deadline of October 2.

Arisaig, Nether Lochaber and Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry have all fallen below the required memberships following resignations.

Meanwhile, an election will be held on Skye to try and form Broadford and Strath Community Council. Not enough members were elected at the last elections in June 2012.

Anyone over 16 is eligible to stand. If there are more nominees than available slots, an election will be held.

### 'Fairy forest' creators accept magic must come to an end

THE CREATORS of Lochaber's secret 'fairy forest' have finally accepted that its magic must come to an end - and have asked for five years to clear the site.

The two local women who crafted the Coille Rais fairy walk near Gairloch were told several months ago by landowner Cameron of Lochcail that it would need to go as the surrounding forest has reached felling age.

After rejecting the offer of other locations in Achnacarry estate to relocate the walk, the pair - who wish to remain anonymous - have now decided to draw the curtains on their project.

But, they say, the sheer number of toys, teddy bears, ornaments and mementos which have accrued at the site over the past seven years means removing them will be a long-term operation.

**Fortunate**

In a letter to Lochcail, they said: 'If you should consider acquiescing to our request we would, at its final closure, judge ourselves to be extremely fortunate to have enjoyed 12 years of unique and magical involvement in your forest.'

One of the women said: 'We do hope he will listen to our plea to be understanding over something we have put our hearts into over so many years.'

'It would be impossible to undertake the task in just a few months.'

Since the walk was created seven years ago, thousands of locals, tourists and walkers on the nearby Great Glen Way have visited the site, leaving notes in the comments book and occasionally some toys of their own.

### Luxury hotel repossessed

A LUXURY hotel in Onich is to be put up for sale immediately after being repossessed by Lloyds Banking Group, *The Oban Times* understands.

The Allt-nan-Ros Hotel had been in the ownership of Cal and Rosemary Harding for eight years.

Local couple James and Fiona MacLeod successfully ran the 20-bedroom establishment for 22 years before selling the business to the Hardings.

It is understood police will be carrying out regular checks on the property to ensure it remains secure. The Hardings could not be contacted. Lloyds had not responded at the time of going to press.

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**Friday 27 September 2013**  
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Fionnphort - 11.00am - 11.30am  
Iona - 12.15pm - 1.15pm  
Tobermory - 6.00pm - 7.00pm  
(Aros Hall)

**Saturday 28 September 2013**  
Dervaig - 9.15am - 9.45am  
Salen - 10.30am - 11.00am  
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# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Scotland's historic date with destiny

YESTERDAY marked one year to the day until Scotland decides whether to remain within the United Kingdom or to make her own way in the world as an independent country.

The referendum on September 18 2014 will be the most important decision the nation will take since the 1707 Treaty of Union, which ended Scotland's existence as an independent state.

'Scotland could be independent. It's not about us being too poor or too stupid - and people on my side of the argument who make that claim are wrong.'

So said Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Willie Rennie at an independence debate in Fort William last month - and he was absolutely right.

Unfortunately, Mr Rennie's fellow travellers in the 'No' camp have often resorted to fear tactics in making their case, a threadbare policy likely only to antagonise canny Scottish voters.

The 'yes' camp, for their part, have much to do to persuade those still undecided that a more prosperous and just future awaits. It is certainly the Scottish people's majority view that the Scottish Parliament's existing powers are hopelessly inadequate.

How far they are prepared to go in addressing that democratic deficit remains an open question - and all is still to play for.

### GLASGOW LETTER

#### Ceol's Craic

CEOL Craic's Americana concert, in collaboration with An Lochran, was excellent entertainment for the full house in the CCA theatre.

Compered by John Carmichael, the evening proved there is a strong connection with our own music and that of the Americas with Scottish and Irish immigration being an important contributory factor.

First up were Macanta, fronted by Scalpay born and raised Donald MacKinnon, who provided a mix of new material in both Gaelic and English, with an exception being a translation of the Buddy Holly favourite, Peggy Sue. Donald's easy stage manner and his apparent love of his homeland was instrumental in setting the tone for the rest of the evening.

Away from the Gaelic influence, although not completely since they were joined by Ceitlin Smith from Lewis for one number, recently formed Port Glasgow group Veloninos played a variety of musical genre and then it was up to Norrie 'Tago' MacIver to complete the evening.

Away from his usual associates in Manran, Norrie sang a mixture of new and well known material and for several of the numbers he was joined by Ceitlin.

#### Local associations

ATTENDANCES at both Bearsden and Clydebank Highlander's Associations' opening ceilidhs were low with both looking for an improvement as the session progresses - but that did not detract from the quality of entertainment.

At Bearsden, in Ellangown Social Club, a group of excellent young artists, Eilidh Davies, Jennifer Campbell and Robert Robertson, assisted by singer of English songs Bill MacMillan and accompanist Kirsteen Grant, delighted an audience who mostly belonged to an older age group. At both ceilidhs the billed accordionist could not attend so at Bearsden Robert Robertson showcased his excellent accordion playing and at Clydebank accompanist Kirsteen Grant played for community singing. Cameron MacKichan chaired and sang at Clydebank where the other artists were piper Robert Wood, Gaelic singers Sheena Walker and Gordon McKeever and Scots singer Seonaidh Rostant who was accompanied by Sheila Galbraith.

#### Celtic Media Festival

CELTIC Media Festival is seeking entries for the awards of excellence which

will honour the best of film, television, radio and digital media.

Entries must be submitted by 5pm on October 31 and the festival will take place in St Ives, Cornwall, from April 2 to 4 2014. For more information www.celticmediafestival.co.uk

#### MacBeatha

WITH David Walker playing Macbeth and Catriona Lexy Campbell playing Lady Macbeth, Ian MacDonald's ground breaking Gaelic translation of William Shakespeare's MacBeth will take to the stage at the Citizen's Theatre on Wednesday September 25 to Saturday September 28.

This contemporary reinvention of the work - with the use of mobile phones and Facebook - will take place each evening at 7.30pm with matinee performances at 1.30pm on the Wednesday and Thursday.

#### Diary dates

**Thursday September 19:** Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain, St Margaret's Parish Church, Dalry, 7.30pm. Tubbooth Stirling, 8pm - Kan, Brian Finnegan, flute; Aidan O'Rourke, fiddle; James Goodwi, drums and Ian Stephenso, guitar.

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

**Saturday September 21:** Glasgow Skye Association Opening Ceilidh, Crawford Hall, 7.30pm. Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm to 11p, Donnie and Diane's Band.

**Tuesday September 24:** Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72, Waterloo Street, 8pm - Jim Malcolm.

**Wednesday September 25 to Saturday September 28:** Macbeth/ Macbeatha, Citizen's Theatre - see above.

**Friday September 27:** Partick Folk Club, St Peter's Church Hall, 66 Chancellor Street, Partick, 7.30pm, Ewan MacLennan.

#### Pub scene

IN THE Park Bar this weekend the music will be provided by Eriskay Lilt on Friday, Deoch'n Dorus/ Martin Pottinger on Saturday and Scott Harvey on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Trail West on Friday and Black Velvet on Saturday.

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



## Oban High School commercial class - 1952/53

This week's flashback photograph features the 1952/53 third year commercial class at Oban High School. It was submitted by R Carswell of Tainuill. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

# Letters to the editor

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB  
email: editor@obantimes.co.uk

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000  
Fax: 01631 568001

### Disappointment tower not lit up

Sir,  
As a frequent visitor to Oban over the years, the highlight is always to see McCaig's Tower lit up.

I have just returned from the town and noticed that McCaig's was not lit up the entire week. What a disappointment.

Even the cruise ship didn't see it. Can anyone give me an explanation or are the council not paying their electricity bills? Name and address supplied.

### CHORD delay concern

Sir,  
The possibility of further delays for the CHORD and TIF projects as reported in *The Oban Times* should be of concern to the residents of Oban and the surrounding area.

The resignation of one key figure in the council, namely Sandy Mactaggart, should not be a reason for delaying the project.

Since Councillor Louise Glen-Lee took over chair of the Oban CHORD board, the project has taken a significant step forward and the appointment of Linda Houston as project manager should assist in driving the project forwards.

Despite the uncertainty of the future structure of our elected council, these projects should be allowed to progress without further delays.

The Oban CHORD board should be commended on what they have achieved since May 2012.

David Miller, Oban.

### Action on excessive delivery charges

Sir,  
Like many people in the Highlands and Islands I have been affected by the excessive charges for deliveries here.

I am therefore very pleased to see a Private Members Bill

(introduced by Sir Robert Smith and supported by Highland MP Charles Kennedy) on the subject being debated in the Westminster Parliament.

I'm also very happy to hear that there is a campaign, supported by Citizens Advice Scotland, highlighting excessive charges for delivery to rural areas, the lack of transparency about the charges on websites for retailers to offer delivery by Royal Mail who have an obligation to deliver at a uniform price across the UK.

Since moving to Stornoway and more recently to the Highland mainland I have increasingly used online shopping and been frustrated by the costs of delivery and I know many of my friends feel the same. I've signed the petition and I hope others will do so too.

I understand that things take a little longer to get here and the costs may be a little higher but charges two or three times those elsewhere are totally unacceptable and it's time to tell the retailers so.

I hope the Bill makes progress in Parliament but meanwhile please take a few minutes to sign the petition and let the retailers know your views.

The petition is available at <http://www.fairedeliverycharges.net/>.  
Jean Davis, Muir of Ord.

### Good news on Corran Ferry fares

Sir,  
It's good news that Highland Council has scrapped its proposals for Corran Ferry fares that would have penalised so many local residents.

The new price rises still hit certain people disproportionately, particularly those buying the 30-ticket book.

The council claims it has reacted to the needs of infrequent users. I don't think someone using the ferry once or twice a week is an infrequent user. They are going to Fort William for weekly shopping, to visit relatives or for a hospital

appointment - those are lifeline users. That's the fundamental problem - this is a lifeline service but it is not recognised as such by either the council or the Scottish Government.

Unless we start looking at the long-term future of the crossing, we will be having this argument and campaigning against eye-watering fare increases again.

I am suspicious that these proposals haven't sunk to the bottom of Loch Linne for ever and that they will float to the surface again in a few years' time when the council is desperate to find extra cash.

The starting point should have been listening to residents about a long-term solution. Instead we got a 'going through the motions' consultation with a final public meeting, where we were presented with a 'this is the best you will get' proposal.

Councillor Andrew Baxter, Fort William and Ardnarnachan.

### Toll free crossing essential

Sir,  
The unsustainable rate this Corran Ferry toll is rising at lends me to suspect an already poor service is destined for serious difficulties in the very near future.

I am curious why our elected representatives are not pushing for a scrapping of this scandalous charge? Where are the Scottish MSP and the Westminster MP in all this? Why are councillors either saying little or celebrating yet another levy on the local communities this side of the water? No doubt the answer will be the now world famous 'austerity'. Sorry I don't buy it as there is enough to go round in this country. We pay income tax, council tax, fuel tax, road tax, 20 per cent VAT and have high prices for food, goods and services in the country.

The lesson of Skye should be drawn upon to ensure the authority does not continue to dodge its commitments to us and a campaign for a toll free

crossing, fixed link or improved road initiated now. After all, we have already fully paid for those services through our taxes. Is miss le meas.

Daibhidh Iain MacDhonnachaidh, Sron an t Sithean.

### Improving Oban

Sir,  
Fiona Eden-Bushell's exhortation to Oban - letters, September 5 - that it needs to pull out more stops if more cruise-ship passengers are to remain within the town rather than immediately depart for better things elsewhere is a welcome view from outside and one that should be heeded by those involved in making Oban attractive to all visitors, not just those that occasionally arrive by sea.

What is on offer without putting in extra effort? On the plus side, it is a town of pleasant Victorian-Edwardian architecture in a stunning topographic setting, even if best seen from Oban Bay on the way out by sea; and there is a sense of busy-ness as a transit port, from the comings and goings of the ferries.

On the negative side: it has a partially abandoned main street that has almost no shops of interest to tourists; there is nothing to shelter visitors on the many days that are wet; the traffic flow is so high and the number of pedestrian crossings so low that crossing the road is a major challenge and one of the main attractions means a climb of 70m (230 ft) up steep roads or stairs. What can be done? Ms Eden-Bushell gives good advice on how to cater for cruise visitors. But, besides this, and for all visitors, the town should: sponsor canopies over Stafford Street and Station Square to provide for market stalls, pavement cafés and shelter from rain; push for a pedestrian-friendly environment along George Street and the Esplanade with more zebra crossings; and lay on minibus transport to McCaig's Tower.

Without such action, the town won't capitalise on its topographic advantages.

Ian Reid, Oban.

### ISLAY LETTER

#### Minister leaves

THE REV Dr Rob Barlow, minister of the linked charges of Kilarrow, Kildalton and Oa and Jura, has left to begin his new ministry in Perthshire.

The Kent-born minister was welcomed and inducted into his new charge at Auchterarder Parish Church on Wednesday September 18 by members of Perth and Kinross Presbytery.

Dr Barlow's departure from his island parishes, his first charge, was marked by the presentation of farewell gifts from the congregation of Kilarrow following his final service as parish minister at the Round Church in Bowmore.

Making the presentation to the minister and his wife was Flora MacDonald who has been a communicant member of the Bowmore congregation since the early 1950s. Gifts to the minister's Welsh wife Gwen were handed over by sisters Elisa and Lily Jackson, representing the younger worshippers, and a token of appreciation was also received from the Junior Church. This was presented by Marion MacGregor, the Sunday School superintendent.

Dr Barlow, who had a distinguished career in biochemistry and medical research before studying for the Church of Scotland ministry, was inducted into the then newly linked parishes of Kilarrow and Kildalton and Oa in January 2010.

The Jura congregation was linked in last October following the death of the Rev George Campbell who served as part time minister in the deer isle.

The Barlows have four of a family and



Rev Dr Rob Barlow and his wife Gwen.

before coming to Islay had pursued their respective careers in Saudi Arabia, north Wales and in the Black Isle.

Members of Dr Barlow's new congregation are delighted that their close on three-year term of vacancy is now over and warmly welcomed Rob and Gwen to their mainland ministry.

Their friends in the island congregations are sorry to lose them but wish them every blessing in their new ministry in the 'lang toon'.

#### Lifeboat fundraisers

THANKS to the sterling efforts and dedication of the island's lifeboat fundraising committee, more than £10,000 has been added to the coffers of the RNLI station at Port Askaig.

The fundraisers, helmed by Port Ellen's Margaret Hastie, appear at all the major events in the island's social calendar where their one aim is to raise the profile of the lifesaving charity.

They had a strong presence at the open

day at Bruichladdich Distillery during the Fèis Ile week and raised £1,975.44 in the process. They were also much in evidence at the beach rugby tournament in June where they raised £4,130.

The gala day in the grounds of Islay House in August was another success story and topped the ante by £2,700.

The annual flag week intake totalled £1,457.83 and souvenir sales topped the £390 mark.

The final figure includes donations from various sources and the organisers are grateful to everyone who so generously support their cause.

The current fundraising group is small in number but its members continue to be energetic in their efforts.

They would certainly welcome new members so if you are so minded Margaret Hastie would be delighted to hear from you. This is your opportunity to do your bit for the self-supporting charity which has an active fleet of 322 lifeboats at 233 stations strategically around the UK and the Republic of Ireland's coastlines.

They tied the knot at St Margaret Parish Church in Knightswood, Glasgow, on September 19 1963.

Family and friends wish them many more happy years together. Slàinte mhath!  
Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Tel: 01496 810658.



### Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

RINN mòran ann an Inbhir Nis toleachas ris an naidheachd gum bheil Acadamaidh Rìoghail a' bhaile gu bhith air a togail às ùr.

Ged a rinn an sgoil a th' ann obair mhatr thar iomadh bliadhna, mar a dh'èirich ann an iomadh làrach feadh na dùthcha 's e cumadh anasach sheasgadan na linne a dh'fhalbh a th' oirre, agus tha i glè fheumach air ùrachadh.

Deagh naidheachd ma-thà, ach nuair a nochd am fiosrachadh bhuaile e orm gun robh e car anasach gun robhas ag ainmeachadh gum biodh àireamh shònraichte de sheòmraichean san sgoil ùr airson teagasg chuspairean tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

Carson a bhathas a' faicinn feum air lethidh sin a ràdh? Ochd bliadhna air adhart bho Achd Gàidhlig a tha a' toirt co-ionannachd spèis dhan Gàidhlig is dhan Bheurla feadh Alba, shaoileadh tu nach bithe a' cur bheachdan faoin an intinn a' mhòr-shluagh gum bheil rudeigin cho eadar-dhealaichte mun chànan seo is gum feumar seòmraichean-teagasg sònraichte airson a bhith ga chleachdadh.

'S dòcha gun can cuid gum bheil mi tuilleadh is frionasach a bhith a' togail air lethidh seo ach tha mi làidir den bheachd gum bheil slighe fhada romhainn fhathast a thaobh ath-bheothachadh na Gàidhlig, agus tha àbhaisteachadh a' chànain ann am beatha na dùthcha cudromach da-rìribh.

Mar phàirt den ghluasad sin tha e air leth deatamach gum bheil iomairtean leasachaidh ann am foghlam agus seirbheisean eile ri 'm faicinn mar phàirt de chòraichean shluagh na dùthcha, seirbheisean dha neach sam bith a thogas feum a dhanamh dhiubh.

Ged a tha barrachd taice oifigeil aig a' chànain an-diugh, tha buaidh ghinealaichean de nàimhdeas agus mì-thuigse fhathast na dhùbhlain, agus tha e cudromach gum tuigear nach eil goireasan mar sgoitean Gàidhlig eadar-dhealaichte bho fheadhainn a chleachdas cànan sam bith eile.

Mar a thathas air a ràdh iomadh uair, tha còir aig clann air foghlam agus chan eil lagh na dùthcha idir ag òrdachadh gum feum sin a bhith ann an cànan àraid, agus tha e dearbhte nach eil cus eadar-dhealachaidh eadar cosgais foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig seach tron Bheurla.

Tha cuimhn' agam bliadhnaichean air ais agus ball de Bhòrd a' BhBC a' cur ceist chruaidh orm a thaobh cosgais goireasan craolaidh a stèidheachadh san Oban, Beinn na Fadhla agus Port Rìgh. Ciamar, thuit i, as urrainn dhut lethidh de chosgais air Gàidhlig a dhion?

Fhreagair mi gum biodh an comas aig na goireasan sin cànan sam bith a fhrithleadh!  
Tha an aon rud fìor mu sgoitean agus goireasan eile!

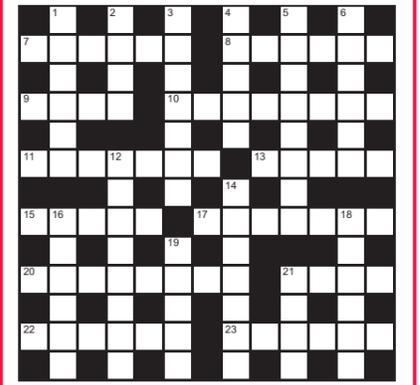
EIGHT years ago the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act confirmed that Gaelic and English should have equal respect in Scotland.

The Act recognises that Scottish Government has a duty of care for Gaelic as part of Scotland's national heritage and it requires public authorities to agree policy and implement plans for their use of Gaelic.

It seems odd therefore, that supporters of Gaelic still require to campaign for its inclusion in the formal life of the nation.  
Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell) ailean@obantimes.co.uk.

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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.

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

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

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

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

### Clarification

WE WOULD like to clarify that Loretto School fees, including boarding, are between £14,000 and £30,000 per year, not per term, as printed in last week's *Oban Times*.

**Man denies sexually assaulting ten-year-old**

A BALLACHULISH man has denied sexually assaulting a 10 year-old girl in the village's tourist information centre. James Ridgeway, of Lochan Dubh, West Laroach, appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court accused of intentionally or recklessly touching the girl sexually on August 19. The 69 year-old is due to stand trial on November 18, with a preliminary hearing on October 23.

**Fundraising race night sponsors sought**

SHOPMOBILITY Lochaber is looking for sponsors for a race night at the Ben Nevis Bar in Fort William on October 18. Proceeds from the fundraising event will go towards providing free hire of wheelchairs, powerchairs, rollators and electric ride-on scooters to clients with mobility impairment. For £25, race sponsors' names will be printed on the race card and mentioned in the MC on the night. Fundraising co-ordinator Janette Cowie said in her appeal: 'Fundraising events like this are vital if we are to continue our service in Fort William. It is thanks to people like you who make these nights a success.' For more information contact 01397 700051.

**Prosecutors allowed more time to investigate allegations**

THE TRIAL of a North Ballachulish man accused of causing his ex-partner fear or alarm over a five month period has been postponed to allow prosecutors more time to investigate. Iain MacAskill is accused of repeatedly calling and texting the woman and driving past her Inverlochy home between January 1 and June 22. The 33-year-old also pled not guilty to shouting and swearing at the woman on June 22. MacAskill, of Loch Leven Hotel, is now due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on November 7.

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Former LHA chairpersons Alison Gainsford and Monsignor Wynne help current chairperson Di Alexander cut the 25th anniversary cake.

**Key player in Lochaber life for 25 years**

IT WAS all smiles in Caol Community Centre on Friday night when Lochaber Housing Association (LHA) celebrated a quarter of a century of success in delivering affordable homes for local people. But the association's 25th annual general meeting was about far more than bricks and mortar as speakers highlighted LHA's role as key player in Lochaber life and social fabric. Current LHA chairperson Di Alexander, who has been involved since the association's inception, and former chairs Monsignor Thomas Wynne and Alison Gainsford all addressed the packed hall. Mr Alexander said: 'Back in the 1980s, rural housing was hardly given a thought as far as policy making was concerned, with the main focus being on the massive housing needs of Scotland's urban centres. 'Many people in Lochaber,

particularly in the landward communities, were living in substandard accommodation at that time and we recognised there was a very real need to put that right for local people. 'Father Wynne brought his very best qualities to bear in putting over the moral and practical case for a housing association for Lochaber and it was an emotional moment when councillors finally voted in favour of the association.' Paying tribute to the 'first class' staff and volunteer committee members, he added: 'Because of their fantastic commitment, we have been able to build a lot of houses which otherwise would not have been built, in places where they would not have been built.

'Lochaber Housing Association is about providing homes, but it is so much more than that - it is about people and communities - and thanks to the interaction of a huge network of agencies and individuals we have been able to tackle some of the housing issues in Lochaber.' Monsignor Wynne said: 'I think everyone involved can be immensely proud of the fact that Lochaber Housing Association has managed to get 750 houses built in some of the most rural areas of Lochaber. 'This has ensured the continuation of many small communities and provided dignity for those who were badly in need of quality homes.' Ms Gainsford added: 'I know how crucial and important the work of the association has been and will continue to be in building and maintaining vibrant communities throughout Lochaber and wish all concerned

all the very best for the next 25 years.' Mr Alexander ended with positive news that improved funding and lending options could mean more housing developments in the near future. He said: 'I am pleased to report that the public subsidy has, very recently, been restored to something approaching its previous levels and the banks are at least now talking more constructively. 'This is much better news than this time last year and I hope to have even better news for you at next year's AGM.' He added: 'We all know that we cannot rest on our laurels. There are many challenges to be faced in the months and years to come - not least the impact of the bedroom tax and forthcoming universal credits system - and we are determined to keep championing the cause for affordable housing in Lochaber.'

**Second bid to attract GPs to new practice fails**

A SECOND attempt by NHS Highland to recruit GPs to the newly formed West Lochaber Medical Practice has again failed to attract enough applicants. Seven posts were advertised for WLMP after an earlier recruitment process in April proved unsuccessful. It had been hoped the chance of working in an innovative new 'cluster' rural practice would have proved attractive to aspiring young doctors. Two teams of GPs - four at Mallaig Health Centre serving patients from Knoydart to Glenugie - including the Small Isles, and three at Acharacle covering the Ardnarmurchan peninsula and Strontian - are envisaged, under a clinical and management team leader.



Community asset: the newly-refurbished Raasay House will be officially opened tomorrow.

**Raasay House re-opened after multi-million pound facelift**

ISLE of Raasay residents will celebrate the re-opening Raasay House tomorrow following a multi-million pound restoration - four years later than originally planned. The imposing mansion, once the clan seat of the MacLeods of Raasay, had been set to re-open in 2009 following extensive restoration work. But the project suffered a devastating blow when a fire gutted most of the building weeks before completion. Undaunted, Raasay House Community Company (RHCC), backed by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, The Big Lottery Fund and Historic Scotland, started again on the £4.5m redevelopment. Further trouble came in 2010, when the main contractors went into liquidation - causing a further delay. New contractors were appointed and Raasay House was finally delivered to RHCC

in March this year. The community-owned property is now delivering a major economic boost to the island in its new guise as a centre for holidays, outdoor activities, celebrations and special events. Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy, guest of honour at tomorrow's celebration, said it was 'a privilege and a pleasure' to be invited to perform the opening ceremony. He said: 'All involved deserve immense gratitude and congratulations for not once but twice delivering the restoration of Raasay House. 'It now stands and will serve the community in its magnificent renewed condition. This is a truly inspirational development.' RHCC chairman David Westgarth said well-wishers 'on Raasay and far beyond' were eager to celebrate the completion of the project. He added: 'The community has

worked so hard on this project for such a long time and to see the finished result makes every minute worth it.' RHCC was formed in 2006 and bought Raasay House, its policies and walled garden from HIE in December 2007 using the Land Reform Act. The magnificent building offers a dramatic focal point for locals and visitors and delivers income to be re-invested in community projects. HIE chairman Professor Lorne Crerar will attend tomorrow's opening. He said: 'HIE is proud to help communities develop their own plans for sustainable, viable futures. I would commend the determination and efforts of all of the people involved - the construction team, the many community volunteers, and HIE's range of expert staff, who have worked so hard to overcome the challenges along the way.'

**Canal walkers give evidence in court there was no sign of alleged attacker**

THE TRIAL of a Caol man accused of fabricating a story about being mugged in Canal Parks has heard several witnesses did not see anyone fitting the description of the alleged attacker. James Mathers told police he was struck on the face by a man who then stole his wallet, which contained £180, as he cycled through a wooded area between the park and the Caledonian Canal at around 9.20am on November 27. The 35-year-old described the assailant as being around five foot eight, wearing

a cap and high visibility vest with a scarf over his face. Five witnesses each told Fort William Sheriff Court they had been walking near the canal that morning but none had seen the man described by Mr Mathers. Corpach man David Malcolm was walking his dog and said he only saw other dog walkers. Procurator Fiscal Laura Ryan asked him: 'If there had been someone in that area wearing a high-vis vest would you have seen them?'

He replied: 'There's a fair chance, yes.' Detective constable Craig Moreland took a statement from Mr Mathers hours after the event, who he described as being 'quite calm' throughout the process. He said: 'The detail he gave was quite extensive considering he'd just been violently assaulted. It's rare to get that amount of detail so soon after the incident.' Several witnesses said Mr Mathers appeared to have an injury to his face after the alleged assault.

The claim raised fears in the village, coming just 12 days after an elderly shopkeeper was held up at knifepoint in Caol shopping centre. Detective Richard Baird said the investigation into the armed robbery was put on hold for several days following Mr Mathers allegation. The wooded area was cordoned off for two days as police searched for evidence. Mr Mathers, of 16 Cameron Place, denies falsely representing the crime to police. The trial continues on September 24.

**Gaelic college marks 40th birthday**

SABHAL Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic college on Skye, has marked its 40th anniversary with a day of celebrations on Tuesday. Students, supporters and staff gathered for 'founder's day' as they enjoyed musical performances, poetry recitals, a procession led by 10 college pipers and readings from the college's first full-time director Farquhar MacLennan. Gaelic scholar Professor Nor-

man Macdonald, who gave a speech in 1974 to mark SMO's first anniversary, delivered a talk about how and why the college was founded. Vice-principal John Norman MacLeod said: 'The day was indeed special with speeches, music, poetry and other events which were very fitting of the occasion. 'It was good to look back on some of the major achievements

and to mark the vision of the founders in the company of staff and students from previous years, right up to the present.' A special reception was also held at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh to mark the day, with First Minister Alex Salmond amongst the attendees. He said: 'It may not be our oldest university, but Sabhal Mòr Ostaig has become the custodian of Scotland's oldest language.'



The ski-tow at the summit of 3,600-foot Meall a' Buiridh in Glencoe on Sunday.

**First snow of autumn falls on mountains**

THE FIRST snow of the autumn hit the West Highlands' mountains earlier this week, raising hopes of an excellent winter sports season ahead. At Nevis Range near Fort William, a covering of the white stuff fell down to 750 metres on Aonach Mor on Monday. And at Glencoe Mountain operations manager Bobby Munro reported a similar story. He said from up on the hill on Tuesday: 'It is over a foot deep in places and was more than that yesterday. It is pure white in bits. 'But this is not out of the ordinary and we totally

expect it to disappear again, the forecast is to be warmer by the end of the week.' He added: 'We are obviously hoping we will have 10 feet of snow all season. We have had a reasonable run over the past few years and we hope it carries on.' Nevis Range marketing manager Heather Negus said: 'We always get snow really early. We need quite a lot of snow before we can start skiing because boulders and natural hazards need to be covered. We are hoping it's going to be a super season.'

**Ali Young indoor football league ready for kick off**

THE ALI Young indoor football league starts at the Nevis Centre in Fort William on Sunday, September 29. Teams are asked to register by next Monday at the latest. Registration forms are available at Nevis Centre reception.

**MP's plea for bold Euro stand**

ROSS, Skye and Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy has made an impassioned plea for his party to be 'bold, brave and up-front' in making the case for the UK's role in Europe. In a clear challenge to anti-EU Conservatives in the Coalition Government, Mr Kennedy told the Liberal Democrat conference in Glasgow on Tuesday to go into next year's European elections 'on the front foot'. He said: 'The chips are down. Britain's future in the EU increasingly is at stake - from the Conservatives as well as, of course, UKIP. 'Europe has been pivotal to the evolution of our political cause. It is part of our political DNA.' He added: 'The voice of the true believers has to be heard as never before. Ours is the true, sole, pro-European voice which must be heard.'

**Holiday home granted 'reluctant' consent**

A HOLIDAY home built in north west Skye which flouted planning rules has been given 'reluctant' consent by councillors. Permission was originally granted last year for DJ Graham to create a shed on land next to 6 Eyre, Kensaleyre, but the building constructed was nine metres west of where was originally approved. Extra windows and roof lights were also put in place, leading neighbours Christopher Hill and Louise Pearce to complain their privacy had been compromised. Mr Graham then applied for retrospective permission, as well as consent to use the new

building as holiday letting home. Area planning manager Dafydd Jones recommended approval, saying: 'The proposals accord with the provisions of the development plan and there are no material considerations which would warrant refusal of the application.' North Planning Applications Committee chairwoman councillor Isobel McCallum said they were reluctantly granting permission, despite the fact Mr Graham had 'completely ignored' the rules. Committee member councillor Margaret Paterson said: 'This is making a fool of planning.

We have to get the message across that this is not acceptable. 'It's not fair on the public who abide by the rules.' Carl Hibbert was one of several locals who had objected to the plans. Speaking before the meeting, he said: 'I hope permission is not granted because if it is what will be next? Everybody will think they can just apply for a garage and then build a house. 'What's the point in a planning department if you just build what you like and then ask for permission afterwards?'

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# Mull Provincial Mòd simply the best

All pictures by AJ MacLeod.

THE BEST Mòd in Scotland next to the National - how this year's Mull Provincial Mòd has been described.

Mull Choir shone in last weekend's competition, taking highest marks for Gaelic in the mixed choir competition and winning the Puirt a Beul.

Other home grown talent included Tobermory's Donna Dugdale, who won the ladies learners trophy, and Janet and Jennifer Campbell who took home the duet prize.

All primary schools on Mull

turned out for the event with the action song being a particularly popular contest.

Janet MacDonald, chairwoman of the Mull Mòd, said: 'It went very well indeed. We had lots of entries, everyone thought it was even busier than normal and it is always very busy.'

'There was a huge competition for action songs from the primary schools, we had 11 entries in total. There were very young kids, we even had two pre-schools taking part.'

The Kyle of Lochalsh's Ceitidh Smith won the trophy for ladies prescribed and Oran Mòr while Father Ross Crichton of Benbecula took home the men's.

Father Crichton will be heading to the Royal National Mòd in Paisley in October along with other competitors from the Mull Mòd.

Local councillor Mary-Jean Devon said: 'Everyone was saying this is the way the provincial Mòds should be run. We're really quite pleased with it.'



Tobermory pre-schoolers about to perform in the action round.



Father Ross Crichton of Benbecula took home the trophy for mens prescribed and Oran Mòr.



Members of the Mull Ladies Gaelic Choir. t38mullmod3no



Janet and Jennifer Campbell, of Tobermory, won the duet trophy.



Lochdonhead Primary School in the action competition.



Bunessan Nursery and P1 before singing in the action round in the Aros Hall.

### Results

Senior Trophies: Highest Aggregate Comp 58+60: Ladies Pres/Oran Mòr: Ceitidh Smith; Highest Aggregate Comp 59+61: Mens Pres/Oran Mòr: Father Ross Crichton; Solo Unpublished Song: Neil MacRitchie; Solo Local Song: Ceitidh Smith; Solo Puirt a Beul: Eilidh Munro; Solo Own Choice: Iain MacPherson; Ladies Learners: Donna Dugdale; Men Learners: Hector MacKechnie; Duet: Janet Campbell / Jennifer Campbell; Quartet: Fuaimneach; Ladies Choir: Tarbert; Male Voice Choir: Ceann an Tuirc; Mixed Choir: Tarbert; Highest Gaelic Mark in Comp 73: Mixed Choir: Mull; Winner of Competition 74: Puirt a Beul: Mull; Most Expressive Performance in Competition 67: Solo: Iain MacPherson. Adult prizewinners: Ladies Prescribed: 1 Ceitidh Smith, 2 Eilidh Munro, 3 Linn Phipps; Mens prescribed: 1 Father Ross Crichton, 2 John Howieson, 3 Andreas Wolff; Ladies Oram Mòr: 1 Linn Phipps, 2 Ceitidh Smith, 3 Anne Maclean; Men Oram Mòr: 1 Father Ross Crichton, 2 John Howieson, 3 Andreas Wolff; Ladies Learners: 1 Donna Dugdale, 2 Ellen Beard, 3 Karen MacRae; Mens Learners: 1 Hector MacKechnie, 2 Mickie Henderson; Traditional: 1 Neil MacRitchie, 2 Donna Dugdale, 3- Jennifer Campbell, Eilidh Munro and Hector MacKechnie; Local Song: 1 Ceitidh Smith, 2 Eilidh Munro, 3 Janet Campbell; Puirt a Beul: 1 Eilidh Munro, 2 Lyle Kennedy; Own Choice: 1 Iain MacPherson, 2 Jennifer Campbell, 3 Stuart Jackson; Duet: 1 Janet Campbell / Jennifer Campbell, 2 Gillian MacDonald / May Brown, 3 John Howieson / Brenda Howieson; Quartet: 1 Fuaimneach, 2 Còrdadh, 3 Na-h-Iolairan Mara; Ladies Choir: 1 Strath, 2 Atoamaig Piseag, 3 Mull; Male Voice: 1 Ceann an Tuirc; Mixed Voice: 1 Tarbert, 2 Mull, 3 Strath; Puirt a Beul: 1 Mull, 2 Strath, 3 Tarbert. Junior Trophy Winners: Oral Competitions: Angus Henderson Memorial Trophy Highest Aggregate in comp 1 & 4: Annie Sine NicNill; Mary Morrison Cuach: Highest Aggregate in comp 2 & 5: Kelly MacGillivray; The MacGillivray Trophy: Best Local in Competition 7: Eoghann MacPhail; Seumas Gallagher Prize: Highest marks in Learners Orals: Isla Crosbie, Kilchoan. Vocal Competitions: Mrs CM Beaton Memorial Quail: Winner of Competition 15a or b: Ealasaid Maclean; Rockville Trophy: Highest Mark in Competition 19a + 19b: Arwen Merrit; Quinish Cup: Highest Mark in Competition 16a + 17a: Eilidh Brown, Bradford; Archie MacLean Salver: Highest Mark in Competitions 16b+17b: Ruari Lates; Lady MacLean of Duart Salver: Highest Mark in Competitions 20a+21a: Holly Maclean; Denis MacNeill Salver: Highest Mark in Competitions 20b+21b: Finlay Cameron, Lochaline; Goldie Plate: Highest Music: Best Local in Comp 15 or 19: Eilidh MacKay / Arwen Merrit; Ishbel Lloyd Memorial Trophy: Gaelic: Best Local in Comp 15 or 19: Arwen Merrit; Donald Morrison Cup: Winner of Competition 24: Katie Edmundson; Livingstone Memorial Prize: Winner of Competition 25: Rebecca Woolcock; Mod Ionadach na Dreùilinn Cup: Winner of Competition 18a, 22a or 26: Shannon Maclean; Cattanaich Trophy: Winner of Competition 18b, 22b or 27: Kyle Renton; Oakbank Trophy: Winner of Competition 28: Matthew Culbertson / Emma MacPherson; Achadbeag Trophy: Winner of Competition 29: Emma MacFarlane / Hannah Prill; Sound of Mull Trophy: Winner of Competition 31b: Na Seudan; Harper Nelson Trophy: Winner of Competition 32: Bun-Sgoil an Ath Leathainn; Salen Shield: Winner of Competition 35: Commun Gaidhealach Mhuile; Isle of Mull Silver Trophy: Winner of Competition 34 or 37: Lochaline Primary School; Lady MacLean of Duart Prize: Highest single mark in Junior Choral: Bun Sgoil an Ath Leathainn; John Darroch Memorial Cup: Winner of Competition 42: Iain Ralston; Allan Beaton Challenge Shield: Winner of Competition 43 or 44: Alexander Anderson; Calum MacPherson Memorial Trophy: Winner of Competition 43 or 44: Alexander Anderson; Roger Jones Memorial Trophy: Best Performance by a Local in piping comps: Alexander Anderson; Young Musicians of Mull Trophy: Winner of Competition 49a or b: The Westwells.

## Oban Music Society kicks off it's new concert season



Arunda: Sarah Cruickshank on oboe, Jenny Stephenson on clarinet and Anna Mary Lynch on bassoon.

MUSIC travelled over water last Saturday as Oban Music Society kicked off its new concert season with a splash.

Arunda, a wind trio comprised of Sarah Cruickshank, Jenny Stephenson and Anna Mary Lynch, set sail on the 2pm ferry and serenaded passengers to Mull and back.

The event, part of National Chamber Music Day, is the curtain raiser for the winter series of concerts on Sunday afternoons at 3pm in St John's Cathedral, Oban.

The series continues with the Sutherland Duo on September 29 then Tim Kilphuis trio on November 3. To find out more about Oban Music Society concerts go to [www.obanmusicsociety.org](http://www.obanmusicsociety.org).

## From Harris with Love

A NEW six-part series, Chi Mi'n Tir (From Harris with Love) began its run on BBC ALBA on Monday.

The shows document eight months in the lives of the islanders and will follow the stories of some of the most engaging characters in the community.

'Chi Mi'n Tir focuses mostly on North Harris, where 10 years ago the people were successful in taking ownership of the land on which they live.'

The North Harris Trust was formed to run the estate, which at over 60,000 acres it is one of the largest community owned estates in Scotland.

Some of the characters featured include poacher turned gamekeeper Sammy Macleod, Kate Langley and her family who moved to the tiny village of Rhenigidale from Birmingham three years ago and Moreen MacLennan, a fifth year pupil at Sir E Scott school in Tarbert.

Veteran shepherd Alasdair Macdonald, Asian shopkeeper Akram, eagle enthusiast Robin Reid and Alec Morrison of Tarbert Stores also tell their story.

Later in the series, a visit to Amhuinnisuidhe Castle, owned by businessman Ian Scarr-Hall provides further detail on the community take-over of the land.

The groundbreaking partnership saw the North Harris Trust take over the estate, while Mr Ian Scarr-Hall purchased the castle and the fishing rights.

Chi Mi'n Tir, produced by Corcadal Productions, goes out on Mondays at 8.30pm.

## St Oran's and Dunbeg Church's annual flower show

ST ORAN'S and Dunbeg Church's annual flower show raised nearly £200 for church funds, with the event attracting a good range of entries.

While the number of entries were down on previous years for flowers, vegetables and baking, the quality of the entries was very good.

A spokesman for the show said: 'A big thanks again to Barcaldine Primary School for all their entries in both the childrens' section and the vegetable section and very pleased this year to welcome back entries from Achaleven Primary School. We also had entries from the Connel Toddlers Group.'

'The afternoon saw an increased number of spectators and bargain hunters for the auction of flowers and vegetables, the sum of £199 was raised for church funds.'

A new trophy was donated this year in memory of Mrs Jane Nelson, it replaced the Achnaoloch Trophy for Floral Art.

**TROPHY WINNERS 2013:**  
 Falls of Lora Trophy: Ais Fergusson;  
 Campbell Trophy Flora Art P1-3: Annie Gill; P4-7: Katie MacCorquodale; Campbell Trophy Baking P1-3: Megan Currie; P4-7: Katie MacCorquodale; M MacCorquodale; Peggy Sinclair Trophy Adult Baking: Fiona Bergert; Centenary Trophy Baking Runner-Up: Isobel Grout; Manse Trophy Baking/Floral Art OHS: Ellen MacKachnie; Jane Nelson Trophy Floral Art Adult: Marion Fisher; Louvain Cunningham Trophy Floral Art Runner-Up: Alison Dawson; St Orans Challenge Trophy Best Exhibit: Hugh MacLeod; Catherine MacCallum Trophy Best single Rose: Ian Brown; Black Family Trophy Best Violets: Ian Brown; Hugh MacPherson Trophy Best Tomatoes: Ronnie MacKillop; Duncan MacPherson Trophy: Hugh MacLeod; Henderson Family Trophy Best Plants: Heather Morrison; Ewan MacDonnell Trophy Collection of Vegetables: Alan Pringle; Jimmy Black Trophy Best Dahlias: Ian Brown.

## Islands perfect for chough

THE LANDSCAPE of two west coast islands provide the last Scottish refuges for one of the country's most charismatic and rarest birds.

Islay and Colonsay provide the perfect habitat for the chough and almost the entire Scottish population - a mere 50 to 60 pairs - live between these two islands.

Their chattering calls and long raggedy wingtips with finger-like edges and their crimson down-turned bill and legs make them easily distinguishable from the more drab members of the corvid clan.

But the chough has not faded as well as its feathered cousins and its decline is attributed to its diet. These birds struggle to find suitable alternatives when their preferred food is unavailable.

They are dependent on traditional farming methods, and in particular require a close relationship with out-wintered cattle.

A hot steaming cowpat is the key to a chough's success, as soon this will be a haven for dung beetles and the other invertebrates such as leatherjackets that make up the bird's diet.

But few industries have changed more in recent times than agriculture and the chough is suffering as a result.

The RSPB has a large presence on Islay and is doing a great deal to help the chough. It has two reserves where cattle live outside all winter, and choughs are doing well.

But it was found that when there were no outwintered cattle chough numbers fell and few birds bred in the area. Now farmers are given financial incentives to keep their cattle out, limit the use of chemicals and work closely with the RSPB to help choughs. Most Islay farmers say they are only too happy to encourage these lovely birds.

For more on the chough's struggle to survive in Scotland see the October issue of Scottish Field, on sale now.

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# what's on

## THE OBAN TIMES FREE EVENT LISTING

### THURSDAY - September 19

8.30am, Ramblers Scotland Mallaig walk, meet Fort William Woolen Mill.  
10am, LORN market, Kintaline Farm, Benderloch.  
11am, Produce market, Bunnassan Hall, Mull.  
1.30pm, Mull Musical Minds, An Roth, Craignure, Mull.  
7.30pm, The Drawer Boy, Clan Macquarrie Centre, Lewis.  
8pm, Mull Film Club, An Tobar, Tobermory, Mull.  
9pm, John 'the box' Turnbull, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

### FRIDAY - September 20

7.30pm, The Drawer Boy, Bernera Community Centre, Lewis.  
8pm, Long Live the Little Knife, Mull Theatre, Tobermory, Mull.  
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.  
Oban Mic, O'donnells Irish Bar, Oban 9.30pm

### SATURDAY - September 21

8.30am, Ramblers Scotland Kinlochleven to Glen Nevis walk, meet Glencoe Village car park.  
10am, Scottish Wildlife Trust coffee morning, St John's Cathedral, Oban.  
11am, Health Fair, Atlantis Leisure, Oban.  
2pm, Family fun day, Glencruitten Church Centre, Oban.  
2pm, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Salen Church, Mull.  
2.30pm, Appin Historical Society's Carpentry Through The Ages, Port Appin Hall.  
7.30pm, Seafood Night, Pennyghael Hall, Mull.

### SUNDAY - September 22

All day, Scarecrow Competition, Lismore.  
2pm, ABCD sponsored walk, from Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban.  
2pm, Raindays official opening, Aros Hall, Tobermory, Mull.  
2pm, Car Boot Sale, Tobermory Golf Club, Mull.  
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

### MONDAY - September 23

All day, Scarecrow Competition, Lismore.  
7.30pm, The Drawer Boy, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Skye.  
8pm, Scottish Country Dancing, Glencruitten Church Centre, Oban.

### TUESDAY - September 24

All day, Scarecrow Competition, Lismore.  
7.30pm, Ed Byrne, Corran Halls, Oban.  
8pm, The Baroness, Mull Theatre, Tobermory, Mull.  
8.30pm, Laurence Fox, Iona Library.

### WEDNESDAY - September 25

All day, Scarecrow Competition, Lismore.  
All day, Ranger service Staffa Stuff, Mull.  
8.30pm, Laurence Fox, An Tobar, Tobermory, Mull.  
9pm, Pub quiz, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

### THURSDAY - September 26

All day, Scarecrow Competition, Lismore.  
9.40am, Ramblers Scotland Loch Laggan walk, meet Fort William Woolen Mill or Spean Bridge Woolen Mill at 10am.  
9pm, John 'the box' Turnbull, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

### FRIDAY - September 27

All day, Scarecrow Competition, Lismore.  
11am, Producers market, Bunnassan Hall, Mull.  
2pm, Macmillan Cancer Support coffee afternoon, Glen Isal, Tobermory, Mull.  
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.  
Oban Mic, O'donnells Irish Bar, Oban 9.30pm

### SATURDAY - September 28

All day, Scarecrow Competition, Lismore.  
1.30pm, Guided Glen Walk of Kilmartin Glen, meet Kilmartin Museum.  
2pm, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Bunnassan Hall, Mull.  
5.30pm, Whisky Galore!, Screen Machine, Tobermory, Mull.

### SUNDAY - September 29

All day, Oban Sportive, Atlantis Leisure, Oban.  
9am, Ramblers Scotland Strontian walk, meet Corran Ferry slipway.  
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

Send your events to [whatson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:whatson@obantimes.co.uk).

## Glencruitten Golf Club

Offer now on:  
**£150 membership**  
for remainder of the season.  
phone 562868 or visit clubhouse

## Oban Quality Laundry & Dry Cleaners

To all the clients of Oban Quality Laundry & Dry Cleaners, we would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused by the interruption in service last week and thank you all for your support.

The refurbished Laundry & Dry Cleaners is now open for business & we look forward to serving you again

Stevenson Street, Oban  
Telephone: 01631 563554

## Textile festival to celebrate heritage of Highlands and Islands

FASANTA, a festival of textile and fashion in Oban, is set to celebrate all things surrounding the unique and fascinating textile heritage of the Highlands and Islands. Hosted jointly by the Corran Halls and Dunollie's 1745 House over the weekend of October 19-20, the event is set to be a mix of quality entertainment, family activities and interesting exhibitions, including workshops and design competitions, debate, fashion shows, talks and performances.

It is hoped the pilot event will not only become a regular feature in Oban's calendar, but that it will deliver a boost to the local economy.



Briony Kincaid models one of the Victorian dresses in the Clan MacDougall Collection, which is set to be on show for the Fasanta festival.

A spokeswoman for the event said: 'Fasanta is also about fostering and encouraging creativity in the community. The Community Catwalk Show will showcase the creative talents of our local people. Clubs, groups and individuals will take to the catwalk to try and win the Fasanta Community Award.

'This event will also feature dancers from Ballet West so the creative talents of the local community, across many disciplines will be on display in the Corran Halls and this will highlight the wealth of talent that surrounds us - a proud night for the community.'

To kick start Fasanta, part of the unusual and remarkable collections of textiles and costumes at Dunollie from both the MacDougall Clan Collection and the Hope MacDougall Collection will go on display in a series of exhibitions reflecting the social history of Oban and the wider Highlands and Islands, including the range of tartan which was so prevalent in traditional dress.

A recently discovered 18th century pre-clan Dunollie tartan will be unveiled and launched as part of the finale. Tartan expert Peter MacDonald said: 'This tartan can be strongly identified as the parent of several west coast tartans and is of national historic significance.'

A competition for under-graduate students is underway to create a piece to take Dunollie tartan into the 21st century, while a programme of workshops will run throughout the weekend.

A finale of the festival programme will be Clo, a stage production written by Rachel Walker especially for Fasanta. It will involve local musicians, dancers, singers, weavers and spinners enacting through music and dance the story of the area's textiles and tweed.

For more information on the event, see [dunollie.org/event/fasanta](http://dunollie.org/event/fasanta).

## Highlands and Islands fashion and textile businesses in Paris

HIGHLANDS and Islands-based fashion and textile businesses are in Paris today being introduced to new buyers, agents and distributors at the world's premier fabric show.

And the eight designer-makers hope their attendance at Première Vision could open new doors in the global marketplace.

One, independent kilt maker Annette Sopata from Ness on the Isle of Lewis, creates contemporary kilt designs under her label Diggory Brown, using Harris Tweed and other locally woven cloths such as Breanish tweed and Scalpay linen.

Now she is keen to understand more about how the French market place works.

She said: 'This learning journey will be hugely beneficial to my work. I have reached a stage where I need to develop the range of cloths I use for my kilt designs and accessories for ready to wear sales.

'I am currently developing the use of leather in my designs and so going to Première Vision is the ideal opportunity for me to make contact with suppliers.'

Other makers attending the three-day showpiece event include Jen Deschenes from Spean Bridge and Shiela Roderrick from the Isle of Scalpay, Harris.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Scottish Development International (SDI) are supporting the businesses to get the most out of their trip.

Janice Wallace, creative industries development manager at HIE, said: 'This is a fantastic opportunity for businesses involved in this industry from the Highlands and Islands to develop new contacts, buyers and distributors.'



Bill Beaton looked the perfect cowboy as he took to the saddle at Lunga Stables. 06\_a38wld04



Kristina Sladekova from Paisley was a natural at clay pigeon shooting. 06\_a38wld05

## Craobh Haven rustles up a rodeo

THE RODEO came to Craobh Haven this week as Lunga Riding Stables hosted a two-day celebration of all things western.

The stables, recently taken over by Patricia O'Reilly and Martin Taylor, hosted a Western Weekend, when people were offered the chance to don their chaps and cowboy hats and enjoy a relaxed style of riding.

The event saw youngsters introduced to the Stables' new American Quarter horses, often used for western riding, and taught about the different tack used for the western style.

Children enjoyed fun games with a western theme and learned about carriage driving, courtesy of John Beadnall of Ardamont Estate.

The Western Weekend was the first western event organised by Patricia since she took up tenure of the Craignish stables. An expert in western riding, she had been attending Lunga's western events for five years.

The western weekend also saw nearby

pub Lord of the Isles transformed into a western saloon on Saturday night as men became cowboys for an evening.

It followed an afternoon of target practice as visitors tried to master clay pigeon shooting.



Allen Goldie and Neil Crawford from Paisley adopted the cowboy style as they attended the Western Weekend. 06\_a38wld03



Martin Taylor with the only pure-bred Cremello American Quarter stallion in the UK and fellow Lunga resident Alfie. 06\_a38wld06

## SAMS bids farewell to most remarkable group of students yet

DUNBEG'S Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) bade farewell to its 'most remarkable group of students yet' on Friday.

The graduation ceremony in Malin House, the marine science institute which is part of the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI), celebrated the achievements of its largest group of students so far.

Of 13 undergraduates, eight achieved first class honours. A further six postgraduates gained a PhD - something SAMS director Lawrence Mee described as 'a fantastic achievement'.

He said: 'Today isn't about mark the end of something, it's to mark the beginning and to throw open the doors

to the world.

'We know some of you already have great jobs and for others there's great opportunity.'

New deputy director, Axel Miller, presided over the graduation and praised the students for their character, passion and determination - not just for challenging themselves but the SAMS' staff.

'This has been the most incredible group to work with,' he said. 'They have been challenging at times and no doubt riotous at the weekend but just wonderful people to be with.'

Key-note speaker was Kelvin Boot, a freelance science writer who regularly contributes to BBC Radio 4



The SAMS undergraduates after the ceremony at Malin House, Dunbeg, on Friday. 16\_t38samsgrad1

and has hosted his own TV series.

He urged the students not just to take to their chosen paths with the enthusiasm

they've shown with their studies, but to communicate enthusiastically about their work.

He added: 'It is the marine

science that is beginning to change the world and you're going to be the people who do it.'

**Undergraduate degrees:**  
BSc Marine Science: Jonathan Garside, BSc (Hons) Marine Science: Lower Class Second: Devon O'Connell, Jessica Giannotti Wolff, Upper Class Second: Faron McLellan, Kelly Wood, First Class: Lauren Ault, Polly Burns, Lewis Drysdale, Christopher McCabe, Ruth Paterson, Eoina Rogers, Dominique Weilermann.  
BSc (Hons) Marine Science with Arctic Studies: Upper Class Second: Kirsteen Allison, First Class: Paul Rhodes.

**Postgraduate Degrees:**  
Masters by Research: Morgan Humphreys, Doctor of Philosophy: Karen Alexander, Caroline Carter, Lisa Eckford-Soper, Adrian Macleod, Kyla Orr, Marine Porter.  
Degrees awarded in absentia: BSc Marine Science with Distinction: Tamara Ellis.

**Prizes:**  
UHISA Teaching Award for best Dissertation Supervisor: Dr John Howe.  
SAMS-UHI Student of the Year: Kirsteen Allison.  
Johanna Fehling Memorial prize: Adam Chivers.  
Best Master's Project: Alex Schweizer.  
SAMS Council Award for Academic Excellence: Paul Rhodes.  
The Tim Boyd Prize for Oceanography: Lewis Drysdale.  
SAMS Award for Overall Achievement: Devin O'Connell.



SAMS' successful postgraduate students. 16\_t38samsgrad2

## COLUMBA HOTEL - OBAN

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**FASANTA Headline Features:**

- Launch of the recently discovered 18th Century pre-clan Dunollie tartan.
- The Fasanta Design Award: Under-graduate design students creating a piece that takes the Dunollie tartan into the 21st Century.
- Series of exhibitions displaying some of the magnificent textiles and costume at Dunollie, reflecting the social history of Oban and the wider Highlands & Islands.
- The Fasanta Community Award: Community Catwalk showcasing the creative talents of our local people supported by Ballet West.
- Programme of 40 workshops run by highly skilled makers and crafts people engaged in a wide variety of textile disciplines.
- Bilingual creative textile children's workshops in partnership with the new Gaelic Centre.
- 'Clo': an enlightening stage production telling the story of our textile and tartan heritage composed by Rachel Walker especially for Fasanta.

## DUNOLLIE MUSEUM - CASTLE - GROUND

Presents Oban Phoenix's first Live Theatre performance to introduce a brand new festival for Oban.

**FASANTA**  
Festival of Textile & Costume:  
19th/20th October 2013

A two day festival celebrating all things surrounding and concerning the unique and fascinating textile heritage of the Highlands and Islands

Tickets on sale from 28/09/13

For information:  
[fasanta@dunollie.org](http://fasanta@dunollie.org)  
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# Best of the West Festival

SUPPORT for the Best of the West Festival is continuing to grow as organisers behind the event say it has become an outstanding platform to showcase Argyll as a holiday destination.

The festival, held in the grounds of Inveraray Castle, this year saw ticket sales for the weekend increase by 20 per cent on the previous year. More than 3,500 people came through the gates on Saturday, whilst torrential rain meant numbers were down slightly on the Sunday.

Mike Story from Argyll and the Isles Tourism Ltd said: 'From a tourism point of view we had a lot of people from England and South Scotland who were staying over for the weekend. For example a lot of raffle prizes were won by people from Stockton on Tees, Birmingham, Newcastle, etc.'

'It was also really pleasing that there was no accommodation available in the

Inveraray area at all. 'It's a real family event and that was visible from the amount of kids on shoulders, especially during the Red Hot Chili Pipers.

Many of the revellers paid a visit to the Argyll and the Isles Tourism Ltd stand, keen to learn more about what the west coast has to offer. Mr Story added: 'There was a lot of cross promotion, everything from the Oban Winter Festival and Cowalfest to the Tires Music Festival. It's about keeping people in Argyll and getting them to the rest of Argyll.'

The aim of the tourism group seemed to work as Carron Tobin of the Heart of Argyll Tourism Alliance said: 'We have been sending people to the Oban, Lochgilphead and Kintyre areas.

'To get to Oban you come through Inveraray, to go to Kintyre you go through Lochgilphead, it is a natural



Elizabeth Pope from the Food from Argyll group joined Rhia Patrick on the Real Mackay Stovie Co. food stand. 06\_a38bow03

way of travelling through the county. The more people feel there is going on and the more there is to do then the more likely they are to stay for longer and to return again and again.

'Instead of coming here for a weekend they come for the week.'

She added: 'This is the third year of BOW and there are plans to take it up a level. We are thinking of creating itineraries and making it a

bigger experience for people, creating a list of other things to do.

'Calmac are already pushing Argyll and the island hoping experiences.'

The festival was hugely successful for Calmac and other business at the event, with Artmap Argyll artists enjoying enthusiasm for their work, whilst stallholders recorded an increased number of visitors to their stands.



Carron Tobin from the Heart of Argyll Tourism Alliance joined Jennifer Miller and Robbie Baird from Portavadie Marina in promoting Argyll and the Isles as a holiday destination. 06\_a38bow04



The Argyll and the Isles promotional material was everywhere during the two-day festival. 06\_a38bow05



Sam Oag from Gourdon near Stonehaven jumped for joy when the funky chicken arrived in the main tent. 06\_a38bow09



Wayne, Vanessa and Sheralyn from Australia said they bought their tickets for the BOW festival months ago after it was recommended by tour operators. They enjoyed sampling Scotland's famous whiskies in the dedicated whisky tent. 06\_a38bow06



The Camans, with members from Inveraray and Cairndow, entertained hundreds of revellers before the Red Hot Chili Pipers headlined on Sunday evening. 06\_a38bow07



Nine year old Craig Sinclair was the youngest exhibitor at the show. 16\_138diecast01

## Diecast Model show success

THE ANNUAL North Argyll Diecast Model Association show attracted hundreds of visitors last weekend, raising £547 for the Victory Hall in Benderloch.

Exhibitors came from all over the country to put their personal collections of diecast models on display for the public.

Organiser George Berry said: 'It has been terrific, the weather didn't hold us back. There has been 200 to 300 people through the doors over the weekend.

'We have had a large number of tourists here - people from all over Britain have popped in - it has been great.'

He added: 'A new addition is the arts and crafts hall and it has done us proud. It is the first time we have blended two organisations together and it has worked.'

Craig Sinclair, aged nine, from Wick, was the youngest exhibitor at the show. He started his collection four years ago - at just five years old - with a fire engine and now has almost 50 models.

## Kerrera Swim a charitable affair



Graham MacQueen was the first swimmer to complete the crossing from Kerrera. 16\_138swim02

SWIMMERS who took part in the Kerrera Swim at the weekend proved it was a charitable event and not a race - as some of the first to complete the crossing got back in the water to help out those at a slower pace.

The event, organised by Atlantis Leisure's Donna Smith, saw 14 swimmers tackle the cold and currents between Kerrera and Oban.

All money raised by the swim goes to the Atlantis Youth Development Fund - which allows youngsters who may not be able to afford other activities at the centre to join in the fun.

First out of the water was Oban's Graham MacQueen, shortly followed by Andy Crabb and Jo Hermitage.

But the trio, along with some other hardy souls, got

the boat back to where their fellow swimmers were and jumped back in the water to keep them company.



Councilor Fred Hall wades out of the freezing water - the only entrant to complete the swim without a wetsuit. 16\_138swim01

## Mull Museum's milestone



The Ridley family from Sydney were Mull Museum's record breaking 20,000th visitors.

FOR THE first time ever Mull Museum in Tobermory has passed the milestone of 20,000 visitors in one year.

The Ridley family from Sydney, Australia, stepped in to the museum on Saturday morning to be greeted with a special welcome and a card and gifts.

Mull Museum Chairwoman Olive Brown said: 'We have had our

busiest season ever, and our dedicated team of volunteers have been welcoming visitors from all over the world, many off cruise ships.

'We are a small museum but crammed with interest. With another six weeks to go, including the October school holidays, before we close the exhibition area to the public, who knows what our final total for the year will be?'

## Police: mountaineers and hill walkers should go online for form

POLICE in the Highlands and Islands are asking mountaineers and hill walkers to fill in a new contact form to help rescuers find them should they get into difficulty.

The updated 'Going to the Hills' asks walking or climbing groups for details of who is in the party, planned route, expected return time as well as medical and emergency contact information.

Previously the form was only available to pick up in person, but the new version is now available online on Police Scotland, Mountaineering Council for Scotland and Scottish Mountain Rescue websites.

Superintendent Gus MacPherson of Police Scotland Highland and Islands Division said: 'The contact form is not a new idea but as we approach the autumn and winter months it is the ideal time to encourage its use by all those who enjoy the outdoors.'

'This information can provide an early alert if you or your party fall into difficulty and early notification can make all the difference to your safety especially during poor weather and low temperatures.'

Scottish Mountain Rescue chairman Jonathan Hart said: 'Early notification, along with accurate incident information means that the most appropriate assets are tasked to any mountain incident and that Scottish mountain rescue team leaders can ensure those in distress in the Scottish mountains can be delivered safely and efficiently into definitive care, with the minimum of risk to team members.'

Oban Phoenix Cinema	Only God Forgives	Friday 20th	18:00
		Saturday 21st	18:30
		Sunday 22nd	16:00
	Riddick	Friday 20th	21:00
		Saturday 21st	21:00
		Sunday 22nd	18:30
		Monday 23rd	21:00
		Tuesday 24th	18:00
		Wednesday 25th	20:30
		Thursday 26th	20:30
	Planes (U)	Saturday 21st	13.00 2D, 15.30 3D
		Sunday 22nd	13.00 2D
	We Steal Secrets: The Story of Wikileaks	Monday 23rd	18:00
		Tuesday 24th	21:00
		Wednesday 25th	14:00
The Way Way Back	Wednesday 25th	18:00	
	Thursday 26th	18:00	

Tel: 01631 562905 • Box Office: 08719 025752

**Only God Forgives (18)**  
Bangkok. Ten years ago Julian killed a man and went on the run. Now he manages a Thai boxing club as a front for a drugs operation. Respected in the criminal underworld, deep inside, he feels empty. When Julian's brother murders an underage prostitute, the police call on retired cop Chang - the Angel of Vengeance. Chang allows the father to kill his daughter's murderer, then 'restores order' by chopping off the man's right hand. Julian's mother 'Disney's Planes,' an action-packed 3D animated comedy adventure organization - arrives in Bangkok to collect her son's body. She dispatches Julian to fill his killers and 'raise hell'.

**Riddick (15)**  
Vin Diesel (Fast & Furious franchise, xXx) reprises his role as the infamous outlaw Riddick. Having been betrayed and left for dead on a great sun-scorched planet, Riddick must fight for his survival against the deadly alien predators that exist in this barren land. After activating an emergency beacon Riddick soon finds himself battling teams of mercenaries from around the galaxy who are determined to bring him home as their bounty. Riddick plans to seek his retribution and return to his planet at all costs.

**Planes (U)**  
From above the world of 'Cars' comes 'Disney's Planes,' an action-packed 3D animated comedy adventure organization - arrives in Bangkok to collect her son's body. She dispatches Julian to fill his killers and 'raise hell'.

**We Steal Secrets: The Story of Wikileaks (15)**  
A documentary that details the creation of Julian Assange's controversial website, which facilitated the largest security breach in U.S. history. As fascinating as it is provocative, We Steal Secrets: The Story of Wikileaks presents another documentary triumph for director Alex Gibney, as well as a troubling look at one of the more meaningful issues of our time.

**The Way Way Back (12A)**  
Shy 14-year-old Duncan goes on summer vacation with his mother, her overbearing boyfriend, and her boyfriend's daughter. Having a rough time fitting in, Duncan finds an unexpected friend in Owen, manager of the Water Wizz water park. Directed by Oscar winning talent Nat Faxon and Jim Rash (The Descendants) and starring Steve Carell this is a great 'summer holiday' coming of age film.

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Chinwag is coordinated by H2O and its youth work partners supported by the Rank Foundation YARN Network and Argyll & Bute Youth Services

# MYSTERIES OF THE DEEP

## Doors open at Dunbeg's new Ocean Explorer Centre - and to the secrets of the sea

MYSTERIES and marvels hidden beneath the waves are being unravelled thanks to Dunbeg's latest wacky attraction.

The Ocean Explorer Centre has been opened by the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) to serve as a window into the incredible, alien world that exists in our seas - as well as highlight some of the cutting edge scientific work being done there by researchers working on the shores of Dunstaffnage.

Utilising interactive displays, items found in the ocean and even providing an opportunity for visitors to get involved in the science itself, the centre is the culmination of years of work by SAMS and it is hoped Scotland's first science marine visitor centre will boost awareness of the ocean and what it can do for us.

### HANDS-ON

With a walk-through display, cinema, hands-on experiments, crawl tunnels, examples of key scientific equipment and live, interactive video feeds from the ocean - as well as a café and shop selling unique items you cannot get anywhere else

- the centre offers something for everyone.

Last week, the centre welcomed its first school visit and the P7 pupils from Lochgilphead Campus gave it an overwhelming thumbs up, with Morgan Sinclair describing it as 'awesome' and Andrew Parsons saying 'It's the best place ever!'

Dr Anuschka Miller, SAMS' head of communications, has been leading the project and is thrilled

not only to open the £900,000 centre, but by the reaction of visitors so far.

### EXPERIENCE

'The response has been really fantastic,' she said. 'We've not been open long but people are really enjoying the centre so far.'

'We're going to be updating the displays regularly so the experience is different when you come back.'

'This is all about engagement with the community, letting people know what we do here at SAMS and showing that the world they think they know is far bigger and more alien than they might think.'

Bill Kersel, centre manager,

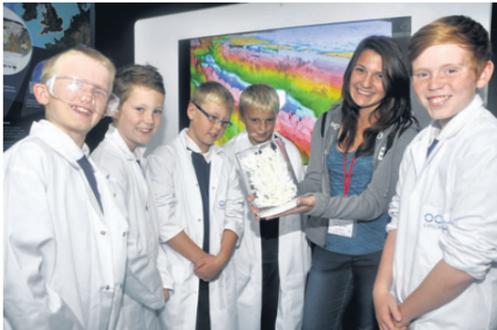
added: 'People have been really impressed with it. The depth of information there is here is amazing and there's been a lot of comments about that - adding that they're going to come back.'

While seen as a tourist attraction, SAMS is keen that the local community benefits as much as possible from the Ocean Explorer Centre. Locals can receive an annual pass equivalent to the cost of an entry fee, while schools and community groups will be invited along to explore and learn about the marine environment.

### INTERACTIVE

Many of the displays are electronic and interactive, with intelligent tagging systems used to ensure the content can be updated - or even changed completely - without any significant cost.

A large interactive screen which works much like a giant iPad has been installed showing detailed maps of the ocean floor - so visitors can see exactly what the seabed looks like; regardless of whether the location is Mull or in Benderloch.



Oban High School student Susan Marshall, who is on work experience at SAMS, shows off a piece of coral to some of Lochgilphead Joint Campus' budding scientists. From left are, Craig Millar, Euan Finlay, Connor Rennie, Riley Smith, Susan, and Campbell Litster.

become one of Britain's most respected wildlife photographers, after winning the British Wildlife Photography Award 2011.

Anuschka said: 'There's a lot of stories to tell here. Although this is a small space there's lots of things we can do and we want people to keep coming back to discover more.'

'We're really keen to involve the local community and we'll be providing a programme of events people can come to here.'

### EXPAND

While only just open, there are already plans to expand further on the centre, which occupies the former home of Argyll College, right next door to SAMS.

'We are going to develop this further and take it outside,' said Anuschka. 'It will be a year before we see the rest of it but we want to have an external area that offers something different - more than just messy bits. This centre is just the start.'

Young Callum MacDonald watches on as Taylor Russell takes a close up look at how algae found in the ocean looks under the microscope. The P7 pupils from Lochgilphead got a chance to explore the new centre last week.



Manager Bill Kersel welcoming visitors to Dunbeg's new Ocean Explorer Centre.



Robert Mackay shows off one of the tasty options available at the Ocean Explorer Centre's Café Scientifique.

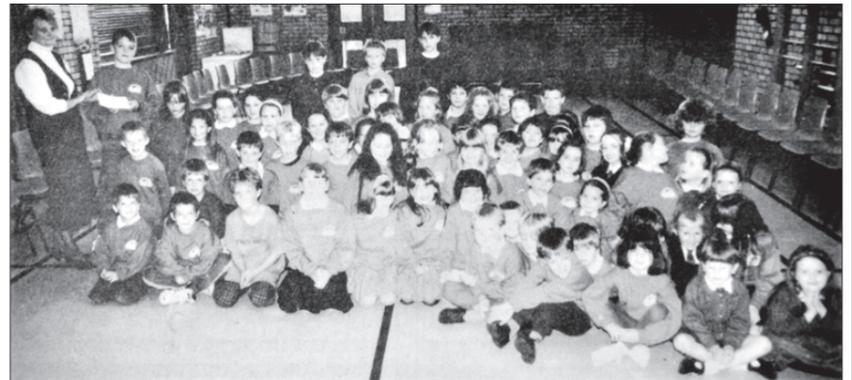
The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## TWENTY YEARS AGO

September 23 1993



Caol School's primary one intake with their new teacher Rosemary Cameron. 16\_138twenty03



### Taynuilt primary children top of region

Taynuilt Primary School is top of the class when it comes to road safety, pupils recently received a £60 cheque after they were judged by Strathclyde Regional Council's roads department to be North Argyll's most road safety conscious schoolchildren. 16\_138twenty02



Discovering the new Audio Visual Service at Fort William Library, from left to right, Kate Finlay, Librarian, Councillor Iain Macdonald, Councillor James MacKay and David Linton, Highland Regional Council Audio Visual Services Librarian.



### Floral tribute to cancer fund

Argyll and Bute District Council has created a floral display comprising 10,000 bedding plants to help celebrate the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund in its silver jubilee year. Pictured outside the Corran Halls are councillor Ian Smyth, Mary-Ann Campbell, area representative for the fund in Argyll, Sir Hugh Campbell-Byatt, chairman of the Sir Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund in Scotland and Murdoch Cameron, district council gardener. 16\_138twenty01



### Aileen's winning footwork

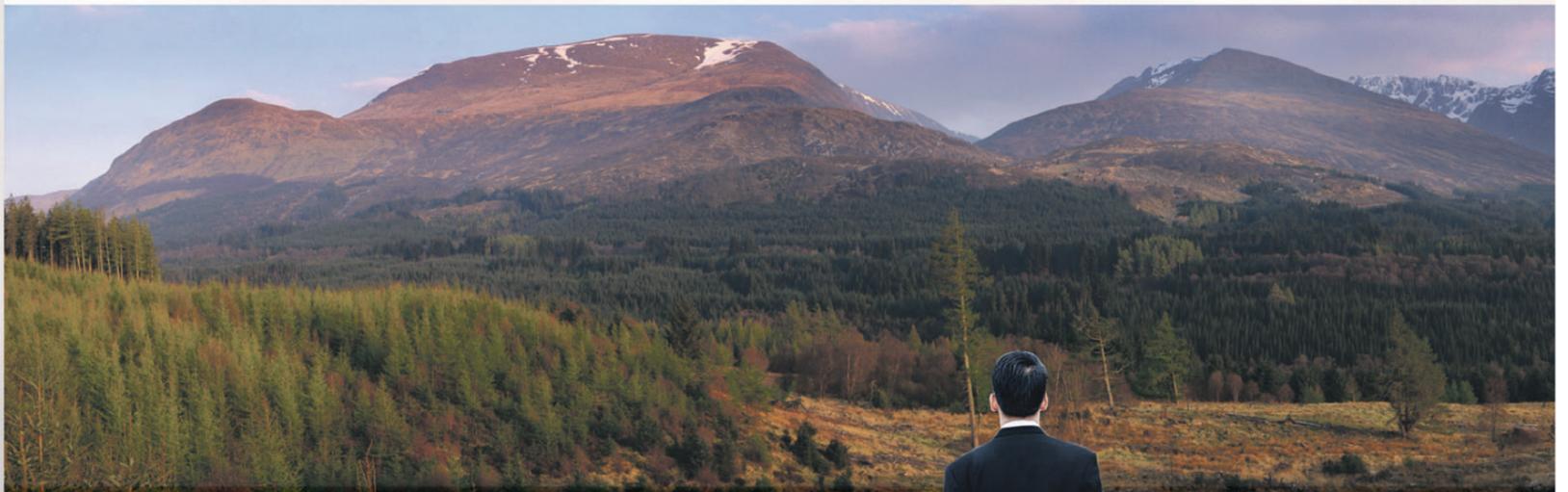
Aileen Patterson, 11, of 18 Altour Road, Spean Bridge, showed neat footwork to lift six first prizes at Lochaber Highland Dancing Association's annual competition. Aileen, who has walked away with all the local trophies at competitions this year, was also named top dancer in her group. She is a member of the Jill Yule School of Dancing. 16\_138twenty06

Right: Pupils of Ardochattan Primary School pictured with the manager of the new Oban Co-op superstore, Andy MacIntyre, who recently presented them with a cheque for £300. The money was awarded to the school after former pupil Rhona MacDonald won the essay competition, run jointly by the Co-op and The Oban Times, to find a young person to open the new store. The school plans to buy new computer equipment with the money. 16\_138twenty05





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**Monsters University** (U)  
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**The Lone Ranger** (12A)  
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**The Heat** (15)  
 Sparks fly when snooty FBI special agent Sarah Ashburn (Sandra Bullock) teams up with a raucous new partner.

**The Great Hip Hop Hoax** (15)  
 Californian hip-hop duo Silibil 'n' Brains may seem like a pair of LA homeboys, but their accents are fake and they are really students ... from Scotland. *"Fantastic real-life story"* Evening Standard

**Whisky Galore** (U) One screening only: Tobermory Sat 28th, 5.30pm. Mull Film Club invites you to share a little bit of Scottish film history at this screening of the 1949 Ealing comedy classic.

Book in advance at: www.screenmachine.co.uk or phone 0871 902 5750. Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. £7.00 Adults. Concessions £5.50. 3D +£1.50

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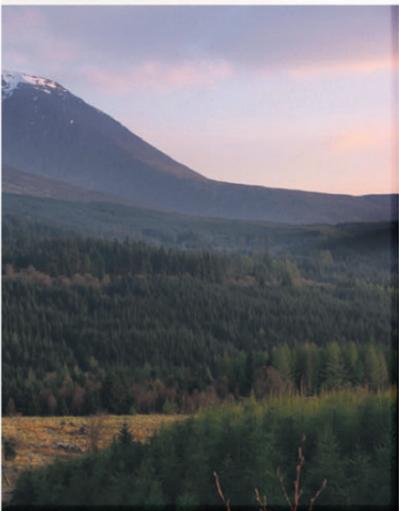
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But Lochaber also offers all the services, shops and amenities one might expect in the central belt.

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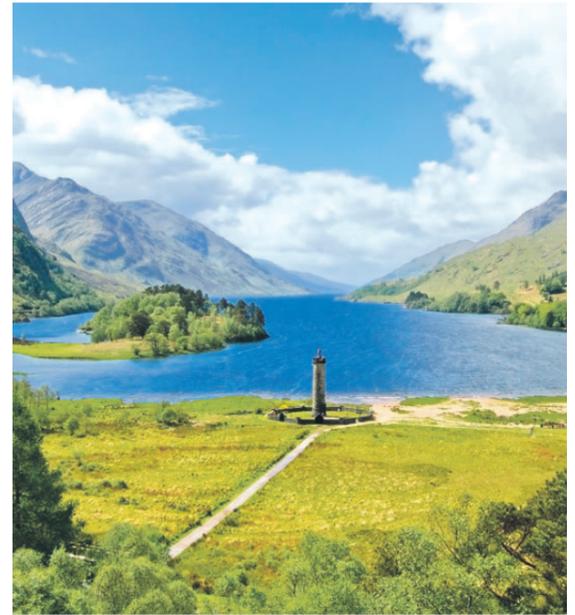
Numerous cafes, bars and restaurants serving everything from international cuisine, to renowned seafood and locally-baked home goods are dotted across the area.

Glenfinnan is home to one of the country's finest railway viaducts, as well as the monument which marks the spot where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised the standard before the 1745 Jacobite revolution.

Meanwhile, one of modern Scotland's greatest engineering feats, the Caledonian Canal, starts at Neptune's Staircase at Banavie and meanders up the Great Glen through Lochs Lochy and Ness.

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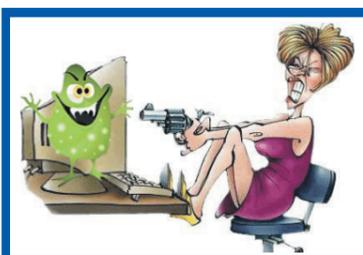
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**Guided Self Help Worker**

Argyll Voluntary Action, in partnership with Argyll and Bute CHP, is seeking a full time Guided Self help worker to complement and join the Community Mental Health Team located Oban, Lorn and the Isles.

The worker will support those with mild to moderate mental health issues using a range of resources and will work both face to face and remotely with clients. They may also undertake group work with clients and maintain and build links with the community.

Whilst a Health background is not essential as training will be given experience in working within mental health or allied fields will be an obvious advantage. Many of the interventions to be delivered are CBT (cognitive behavioural therapy) based and an understanding of those principles is expected as well as of the challenges facing those with mental health issues.

Hours are 37.5 per week. Salary £21840.00 per annum. A clean driving licence is essential as the post will require travel across Argyll and Bute.

For an application pack and details email [Kathleen@argyllvoluntaryaction.org.uk](mailto:Kathleen@argyllvoluntaryaction.org.uk) or telephone 01631 564839.

**Closing date for applications 26 September 2013. Interviews will take place mid October.**

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If you feel you have got what it takes to succeed in agricultural sales, please apply in writing to: Mrs. Julie Thomas, Tithebarn Ltd, Road Five, Industrial Estate, Winsford, Cheshire, CW7 3PG, or for an informal chat contact John Dalziel on 07977 987 270.

**Closing date for applications: 4th Oct.**

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farming

**Farms Manager**  
**Loch Etive, nr Taynuilt**

Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, part of the Dawnfresh Seafoods Group, is the largest Trout Farming Company operating in the UK. Our Marine and Freshwater farms are located throughout Scotland, England and Ireland.

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As Farms Manager you will be responsible for the day to day planning, running and reporting of the five farms. Reporting to and working closely with the Seawater Area Manager, the successful candidate will already be a Site Manager within the aquaculture industry, or an experienced Assistant Manager who is keen to progress in management, with proven ability for developing site infrastructure and establishing best farming practice. Essential skills will include the ability to manage and motivate personnel, first class planning and organisation abilities and a high degree of computer literacy. In addition, applicants should have a full driving license and be prepared to undertake travel as required.

Depending on experience, we offer a salary package circ. £40k, along with the opportunity to develop your management career within a company at the forefront of UK trout farming. Our farms in Etive have a combined annual production of 2,000t sea-grown rainbow trout @ 4.5kg. This tonnage is expected to double within the next 2-3 years with the development of existing sites within Etive and the potential for opening new production in a separate geographic region.

Assistance with relocation may be available.

If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV, by Thursday 26th September 2013, to:

Lindsey Elder, HR Officer, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS. Office 01698 810008, E-mail: [lindsey.elder@dawnfresh.co.uk](mailto:lindsey.elder@dawnfresh.co.uk)

Informal enquires can be made to Gideon Pringle, Mobile 07747 487232. E-mail [gideon.pringle@dawnfresh.co.uk](mailto:gideon.pringle@dawnfresh.co.uk)

**ACHA**  
Argyll community housing association

**Customer Services Assistant** Kintyre

Salary £16,459 - £18,216 35 hours per week  
(Temporary Post for Maternity Cover)

To apply visit our website at [www.acha.co.uk/recruitment](http://www.acha.co.uk/recruitment)

If you are unable to access the website contact the Recruitment Team:  
Tel 01546 605917 or email [recruitment@acha.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@acha.co.uk)

**Closing Date: 12 noon on Thursday 26th September 2013**

Interviews for this post will be held in Campbeltown.

**Argyll College UHI**

Argyll College UHI Ltd provides access to a range of further and higher education opportunities. We require the following post, based in our Oban Centre:

**HR and Payroll Assistant - part time**

The successful applicant will perform a wide range of administrative functions within the areas of HR, payroll and pensions. A high level of accuracy, confidentiality and attention to detail are essential requirements, as are excellent written and verbal communication skills. A sound working knowledge of MS Office and good administrative skills are vital. You will possess good time management skills and the ability to prioritise a busy workload and work flexibly as part of a team.

This is a part time post - 18.5 hours per week - and is initially a one year fixed term contract.

The salary for this post is **£9,428.09**

The successful candidate will be subject to an application to join the Disclosure Scotland Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme.

An application pack for this post can be downloaded from the vacancies section of our website at: [www.argyllcollege.ac.uk](http://www.argyllcollege.ac.uk)

All applications must be made on the Argyll College application form. Please send/email to:

Donna Smith, Argyll College UHI Ltd, Glenshellach Business Park, Oban PA34 4RY  
Email: [donna.smith@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:donna.smith@uhi.ac.uk)

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS 30th SEPTEMBER 2013**

**workingrite**  
YOU MAKE IT WORK

**Part time Project Co-ordinator**  
**£23,417 - £27,376 per annum (pro rata)**

Home based in the Lochgilphead Area  
Initially until the end of March 2015, further extension to be confirmed

**We are looking for someone who can...**

- Be persuasive with businesses
- Motivate teenagers
- Work unsupervised to targets
- Delivery of accredited training in the workplace
- Travel throughout the Argyll area

Working Rite is a Scottish charity that matches 16-19 year olds with local businesses for work placements. It's a simple deal that works - 75% of our people progress to full time jobs or apprenticeships.

We need a Co-ordinator to join the Argyll Working Rite project on a part time basis (21 hours a week). It's a hands-on job for someone who could command respect with local contractors and young people alike.

You will need to be confident, have excellent communication skills, be well organised and able to handle the necessary IT and paper work.

So, if you know the area, businesses and tradespeople, understand teenagers and have the enthusiasm we need,

**We want to hear from you!**

For job details and an application pack contact:  
**Working Rite, 1 Constitution Street, Edinburgh EH6 7BG**  
Email: [Recruit@workingrite.co.uk](mailto:Recruit@workingrite.co.uk)

**Closing date for applications is 12noon on Monday 30th September**  
**Interviews will be held on 7th October in Lochgilphead**

**For more information about Working Rite visit our website [www.workingrite.co.uk](http://www.workingrite.co.uk) find us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter @workingrite**

Working Rite. A company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland, number SC343819. Registered Office: 1 Constitution Street, Edinburgh, EH6 7BG. Scottish Charity Number SC042604.

**Mallaig Boatyard Ltd**  
**Required Marine Engineer/Plant Fitter**

**Marine Engineer, Required for busy Boatyard in the Highlands of Scotland.**

**Skills required:**  
Knowledge on Marine engines ie. CAT, Kelvin, Cummins etc, Fabrication of Hydraulic Hoses, Hydraulic systems for winches and net drums  
Experience with a Boatyard environment would be an added bonus

**Skills that would come in Handy:**  
Fabrication/welding skills, Working independently, Team player, Leadership skills

**Please contact Melissa-Jane Trow**  
T 01687 462 304  
email: [mallaigboatyard@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mallaigboatyard@hotmail.co.uk)

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

**HC one of a kind**

Kintyre Care Home is situated within the town of Campbeltown, Western Scotland, with views over the nearby loch, harbour and surrounding countryside, a purpose built 40 bedded care home offering Dementia, Nursing and Residential care.

**Would you like to relocate to Campbeltown? HC-One are offering a relocation package for the following roles:**

**Deputy Manager (RGN/RMN)**  
Salary negotiable • 40 hours per week

**Nurses RGN/RMN**  
£12.06 per hour • 38.5 hours • full and part-time • days and nights

HC-One are looking for exceptional nurses to join us on our journey to become the UK's kindest care home provider. To achieve this, we focus on individual residents, working in partnership with their families and our colleagues, to provide one to one care of the highest quality.

Accountable for providing high quality care, you will work in partnership with a multidisciplinary team, involving our residents and their families in ensuring their every care need is met. With a passion for caring and the ability to make a difference, you'll have a kind, supportive and 'calm' approach to Residents in our care. You'll also possess excellent clinical skills coupled with a desire to deliver excellent care standards.

To apply or find out more about this extraordinary opportunity, please call 0800 169 0229, email [jobs@hc-one.co.uk](mailto:jobs@hc-one.co.uk) or visit our website [www.hc-one.co.uk](http://www.hc-one.co.uk)

accountability | involvement | partnership  

**OES requires the following personnel.**

**ELECTRICIANS REQUIRED** - To service various Maintenance/FM contracts throughout Argyll & Bute, possession of up to date qualifications and participation in our call out rota will be required.

**MULTI SKILLED OPERATIVE** - Again to service various FM contracts, would prefer individuals with a plumbing/maintenance background.

Application to be sent for the attention of:  
**Angus MacPherson, Managing Director,**  
OES Ltd, 19 Stevenson Street, Oban, PA34 5NA  
E-mail [amacpherson@oes-group.co.uk](mailto:amacpherson@oes-group.co.uk)

**HIGHLAND FUELS**  
County Garage

**STAFF REQUIRED**  
Full-time and Part-time

Contact Catherine Reid for an application form on 07551 020307 or [creid@highlandfuels.co.uk](mailto:creid@highlandfuels.co.uk)

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

**SENIOR ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER**

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**  
**Excellent Basic (+OTE), plus Car, BUPA and Enhanced pension**

Based in Oban and reporting to the Advertising Director, you will be responsible for day-to-day management of the sales team. Ideally you will have relevant experience, flexibility, motivation, confidence and the ability get the best from a team. A senior position with a reputable and established local company. Travel throughout Argyll required.

**Please apply with full CV and covering letter to Alison Arden,**  
Wyvex Media Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB  
or email: [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**

**Advertising Sales Executive**  
BASED IN OBAN

**£ Excellent Basic + £ Bonus + Private Health Care + Pension + Good Holidays**

Based in our Oban office the successful applicant will be part of a small team selling advertising and features for our well established, award winning publications.

You will be responsible for calling new and existing clients to generate and maintain lasting business relationships. The successful applicant will benefit from on-going training, first class support, job stability and the opportunity to work for a professional company that believes in rewarding success and effort.

**Please apply by email with full CV and covering letter to: [ali@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ali@obantimes.co.uk)**

**Aggregate Industries Opportunities - Oban**

**Glensanda is the largest granite-producing quarry in Europe. It runs 24 hours a day, year-round, has a staff of nearly 200 people and is unique in both its physical characteristics and its potential as a world centre of excellence.**

Aggregate Industries have 3 permanent full time opportunities available:

**Planner - reference OX7006A**

Reporting to the Engineering Manager, the Planner will manage and develop all major maintenance activities and processes. Other experience to include:

- using the Computerised Maintenance Management System (CMMS) and coaching and training the Maintenance Teams on the use of CMMS
- knowledge of predictive maintenance including oil sampling, thermographic inspection and vibration analysis
- implementation of maintenance best practices to enhance plant reliability
- using PMO, FMEA, RCM

To apply for the Planner position, you will have a good level of maintenance knowledge and predictive maintenance experience. It is preferable but not essential that you have a degree/HND/HNC qualification in an Engineering discipline.

**Administrator (Engineering) - reference OX7006B**

The Administrator will provide administrative support for the Engineering department and will carry out a range of tasks including:

- record keeping and data entry on the CMMS
- maintaining confidential personnel records
- corporate reporting systems
- minute taking and other confidential administrative duties as required.

Ideal candidates for the Administrator role will have excellent IT skills, a professional attitude and good attention to detail.

**Electrician - reference OX7006C**

The Electrician will work as part of the team of Electricians to carry out planned and emergency maintenance on all site electrical systems to ensure that all equipment meets relevant safety standards and production needs. Key responsibilities will include:

- electrical maintenance
- installation work
- fault finding
- PLC / SCADA interrogation

It is essential that you are an experienced, trained electrician with practice of working in the quarrying industry or a similar environment is advantageous.

**To apply for any of these opportunities please register your interest by emailing [application@onlineresourcing.co.uk](mailto:application@onlineresourcing.co.uk). You will then be asked to complete a short registration.**

**Argyll & Bute Citizens Advice Bureau**

An opportunity to join a new project, funded to March 2015 by Scottish Legal Aid Board's Making Advice Work programme.

**Benefits Advisers (2 posts) based Helensburgh and Lochgilphead; some travel required**

Salary: AP3 £20520 + 6% pension  
Hours: 35 per week  
Driving licence essential

Further info and application packs:  
Tel: 01546 605551  
Email: [info@abcab.casonline.org.uk](mailto:info@abcab.casonline.org.uk)

Closing date: midday 2nd October 2013

Scottish Charity No: SC030477

**MARK WELDON HAIRDRESSING**

Trainee Hairdresser & Qualified Hair Stylist required

Apply in writing:  
18 Argyll Street  
Lochgilphead  
PA31 8NE



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**WTS**  
Wind Towers (Scotland)  
Tùir Ghaoithe (Alba)

**HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGER**  
SALARY DEPENDING ON SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

We employ around 130 people from Campbeltown and the Kintyre area all of whom are dedicated to providing a high quality service to our valued clients. Due to continued and anticipated growth, we are currently recruiting an experienced Health and Safety Manager.

Reporting to the Head of Quality, you will be responsible for the effective management of the Health, Safety and Environmental performance. Working closely with all departments you will develop and maintain a positive safety culture and take the lead on the overall safety strategy.

You will have the following skills and experience:

- Have NEBOSH diploma or equivalent
- Significant experience of working within a manufacturing or engineering environment

To apply, please visit the careers section of our website or email your CV to [hr@windtowersScotland.com](mailto:hr@windtowersScotland.com), closing date is Friday 4th October 2013.  
[www.windtowersScotland.com](http://www.windtowersScotland.com)

**Electronics Opportunities based in Oban.**

**Assembly technician**  
(electro - mechanical)

**Electronics Engineer**

Please email queries to:  
[info@precision-aquaculture.com](mailto:info@precision-aquaculture.com)

Find all these jobs online at our website

**West Coast Jobs** [www.westcoastjobs.co.uk](http://www.westcoastjobs.co.uk)

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010**  
**Two existing commercial moorings, Camusnagaul**

Notice is hereby given that The Underwater Centre (Fort William) Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 in respect of two existing commercial moorings at:

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Camusnagaul	56 49.839'N 56 49.877'N	05 07.399'W 05 07.349'W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Fort William Library, Airds Crossing, High Street, Fort William PH33 6EU.

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/J237**  
 The Underwater Centre (Fort William) Ltd

**Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd:**  
**Finfish Farm, Invasion Bay**

Notice is hereby given that Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of a finfish farm, pontoon and moorings at:

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Containment Area	57° 41.371' N	05° 42.227' W
	57° 41.167' N	05° 41.736' W
	57° 41.050' N	05° 41.908' W
	57° 40.947' N	05° 42.118' W
	57° 40.938' N	05° 42.261' W
	57° 40.988' N	05° 42.387' W
	57° 41.050' N	05° 42.431' W
	57° 41.125' N	05° 42.493' W
	57° 41.163' N	05° 42.507' W
	57° 41.206' N	05° 42.487' W
	57° 41.234' N	05° 42.539' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Post Office Strontian, Strontian, Acharacle, Argyll, PH36 4HZ. 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/M111** Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd

**Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd:**  
**Marine Harvest: Finfish farm, Loch Leven**

Notice is hereby given that Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of marine farm consent at:

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Loch Leven	56 41.265'N	05 08.635'W
	56 41.096'N	05 08.423'W
	56 41.487'N	05 08.070'W
	56 41.280'N	05 07.817'W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Ballachulish Post Office, Loan Fern, Ballachulish, PH49 4JB. 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/M112**, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd

**DP MARINE ENERGY LTD**  
**ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 (SECTION 36)**  
**THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2000**  
**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010**  
**THE MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2007 (AS AMENDED)**

Notice is hereby given that DP Marine Energy Limited, Company No. 456838, Registered Office: Mill House, Buttevant Co. Cork, Ireland has applied to the Scottish Ministers to construct and operate an offshore tidal array around 6km off the Rinns of Islay in Argyll and Bute in Scotland (centred on latitude 55.65°N and longitude 6.60°W).

The installed capacity of the proposed generating station would be 30 MW

A copy of the application, with a plan showing the area to which it relates, together with a copy of the Environmental Statement discussing the Company's proposals in more detail and presenting an analysis of the environmental implications, are available for inspection, free of charge, during normal office/opening hours at:

Islay Energy Trust Custom House, Main Street, Bowmore Islay PA43 7JJ Tel: 01496 810873	Port Ellen Post Office 66 Fredrick Crescent Port Ellen Islay Argyll and Bute PA42 7BD Tel: 01496 302382	Portnahaven Post Office 23 Shore Street Portnahaven Islay PA47 7SH Tel: 01496 860264
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The Environmental Statement can also be viewed at the Scottish Government Library at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

Hard copies of the Environmental Statement may be obtained from DP Marine Energy Limited (Tel: +353 22 23955) at a charge of £15 on CD and at £400 for hard copy. Copies of a short non-technical summary can be downloaded from the project website [www.westislaitidal.com](http://www.westislaitidal.com).

Any representations to the application should be made by email to The Scottish Government, Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team mailbox at [DPME@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:DPME@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) or by post to The Scottish Government, Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, PO Box 101, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB identifying the proposal and specifying the grounds for representation, not later than 2nd of November 2013.

Representations must state the reasons for objecting or supporting a proposal, be dated and clearly state the name of the person, or persons, representing and include a full return email or postal address of those making the representation. Representations that do not include all of the above information will be considered invalid.

When initial comments from statutory consultees are received further public notices will give advice on how this information may be viewed by members of the public, and how representations may be made to Scottish Ministers. During the consideration of the proposal, Scottish Ministers may formally request further information to supplement the Environmental Statement and this will also be advertised in such a manner.

Where Scottish Ministers decide to exercise their discretion to do so, Scottish Ministers can also cause a Public Local Inquiry to be held.

Following receipt of all views and representations, Scottish Ministers will determine the application for consent in one of three ways:

- Consent the proposal as it stands;
- Consent the proposal with or without conditions attached; or
- Reject the proposal

Fair Processing Notice

The Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team process applications under The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and The Electricity Act 1989. During the consultation process letters of representation can be sent to Scottish Ministers in support of or objecting to these applications.

Should Scottish Ministers call a Public Local Inquiry (PLI), copies of these representations will be sent to the Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals for the Reporter to consider during the inquiry. These representations will be posted on their website with address (home and email), signature and home telephone number redacted (blacked out). Copies of representations will also be issued to the developer on request, again with address (home and email), signature and home telephone number redacted.

You can choose to mark your representation as confidential, in which case it will only be considered by Scottish Ministers and will not be shared with the Planning Authority, the developer, the Reporter (should a PLI be called) or any other third party.

If you have any queries or concerns about how your personal data will be handled please visit <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine> or contact the Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team at [ms.marinelicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ms.marinelicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) or in writing to Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.

**Public Consultation**  
**Kilmartin Museum**  
**Redevelopment Project**  
**Thursday 26th September 2013**  
**7pm**  
**Kilmartin Museum Café**

Presentation of concept design by Reich and Hall, Architects

Update on Development Project by Chair of Trustees and Director

Open forum for questions and views.

Follow us on **facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/obantimes](http://www.facebook.com/obantimes)

**BREEDON AGGREGATES**  
**BLAST AT BANAVIE QUARRY,**  
**FORT WILLIAM AT 12 NOON ON MONDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER.**

**Forestry Commission Scotland**  
 Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

**NATIONAL FOREST LAND SCHEME**

Forestry Commission Scotland wishes to notify Community and Environmental groups that it is proposing sale of the following Woodland property:

**Property:** Glen Mallie & South Loch Arkaig  
**Area (approx):** 1096 ha

**Grid Refs:** NN092899 & NN146876  
**Location:** North West of Spean Bridge

**Enquiries to Forestry Commission Scotland at -** [ronnie.lee@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ronnie.lee@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)  
**Full details are being sent to the relevant Community Council and Non Government Organisations.**

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

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

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**  
**PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://www.highland.gov.uk>

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
13/03415/PIP	North West of West Lodge Roshven, Glenuig, Lochallort	Erection of house
13/03249/FUL	Old Golf Course, Pinegrove Fort William	Construction of recreational playing fields including expanded playground, adult fitness track, mini mountain bike trail, pathways, picnic sites, viewing areas and a wildlife nature reserve.
13/03379/FUL	Land to South East of Tolsta, 71 Camaghall Fort William	Erection of house and associated drainage

Time period for comments is 14 days.  
 ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
 Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

**The Scottish Government**  
 Riaghaltas na h-Alba

**Planning Scotland's Seas – Consultation 2013**

A series of drop-in events are being held to give local residents the opportunity to find out about Marine Scotland's consultation "Planning Scotland's Seas". The consultation will be seeking your views on a National Marine Plan, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Offshore Renewables.

This is an opportunity to put your views on local or national issues directly to Marine Scotland staff and on MPAs to Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) staff and help decide how Scotland's seas are managed in the future.

**Drop-in Events:**

**Thursday 19 September**  
 Oban - Corran Halls  
 Marine Scotland: 1-5pm drop in session & 6-8pm presentations.  
 SNH drop in session focussed on MPAs: 1-8pm

**Tuesday 24 September**  
 Strontian - The Sunart Centre  
 1pm - 8pm  
 SNH drop in session focussed on MPAs

**Wednesday 25 September**  
 Kilchoan - Community Hall  
 1pm - 8pm  
 SNH drop in session focussed on MPAs

**For more information please visit:**  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/marineconsultation](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/marineconsultation)

**Information on MPAs, including site specific Management Options Papers, is available at:**  
[www.jncc.gov.uk/scottish-mpa-consultation](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/scottish-mpa-consultation)  
[www.snh.gov.uk/mpa-consultation](http://www.snh.gov.uk/mpa-consultation)

**CROFTING COMMISSION**  
 COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD  
 APPLICATION TO CREATE A NEW CROFT

Miss I L Brown of Hill Park Croft, Kilchrenan & Dalavich is applying to create a new croft.

5.01.45347

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper.

Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW [info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

Please specify your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

**CHANGE OF VENUE**  
**ARGYLL ANIMAL AID**  
**SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

NOW TO BE HELD AT  
**OBAN HIGH SCHOOL,**  
**SOROBA ROAD, OBAN**  
**ON**  
**30TH SEPTEMBER AT**  
**7.30PM**

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**  
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[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

**PLANNING**

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/01959/PP	Construction of above ground pipe bridge	Land Adjacent to the Craig Salen Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
13/01993/PP	Installation of lightning rods	Jubilee Bridge Appin Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Ledaig
13/02044/PP	Erection of croft house, installation of septic tank and formation of new access.	Land South East of Ardshehall Farm Ardmaddy Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/01858/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Site 2 Land South of BT Mast Kilmoughton The Oa Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
13/02020/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land Adjacent to An Curran Cottage Port Ellen Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Port Ellen

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/02009/PP	Demolition of existing outhouse and shed and erection of new outhouse and boundary wall	15 Crom Street Port Wemyss Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA47 7SS	Sub Post Office Portnahaven
13/02015/PP	Demolition of existing derelict dwellinghouse, erection of 2 dwellinghouses and formation of new vehicular access	98 Flora Street Bowmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay

Argyll and Bute Council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, 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.

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (STAFFORD STREET, OBAN - PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) AND (AIRDS PLACE, OBAN - ON STREET PARKING PLACES AMENDMENT) ORDER 2013**

Argyll and Bute Council proposes to consider the introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order imposing a prohibition of vehicles on that section of Stafford Street, Oban that extends between its junction with George Street and the Corran Esplanade. Two on street parking bays on Airds Place will also be removed and replaced with a no waiting and no loading at any time restriction.

Full details of this proposal together with Plans, and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make this Traffic Regulation Order, are available for inspection during normal office hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the offices of:

- Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban;
- Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

Any person wishing to object to the proposals should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT, by 11th October 2013.

**Sandy MacLaggart, Executive Director, 1A Manse Brae, LOCHGILPHEAD PA31 8RD**

**PROPERTY**

**West Coast property service**  
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**2 bedroom flat,**  
**quiet location,**  
**close to town**  
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**parking, £520pcm,**  
**do dss.**

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[willy@islayestates.com](mailto:willy@islayestates.com)

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Office Suite available in High Street, consisting of 2 large rooms, reception and kitchen. Short Term sublet of 6 months or via assignment of an existing lease of 30 months.

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43% of those planning on buying a house in the next year have been exposed to advertising in the regional press, which is double the number in any other medium.

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Advertise your unwanted items in either The Oban Times, Campbeltown 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

AUDIO EQUIPMENT

50" PLASMA TELEVISION 50" Flat Screen Plasma TV, Philips, silver, built in Freeview, USB port, 2 x scart input, good condition, bargain @ £49.99 Telephone 07824 470310.

BABY EQUIPMENT

BABYDAN HEARTH GATE FIRE GUARD five 60cm panels incl gate, wall mountable or free standing. Safety corners, non-toxic heat resistant finish. Exc Cond, £40 Telephone 01631 720674.

COSATTO CHANGING TABLE white with concealed baby bath. Has storage trays and compartments. Suitable from birth to 18 months. Excellent condition, £45 Telephone 07795 180964.

BABY ATLAS STROLLER, navy with blue circles. Good condition. Benderloch, but can deliver locally, £20 Telephone 07970827860.

BICYCLES

GIRLS 16 INCH Silver Fox purple bike, £25 Telephone 01546 600097.

MENS MOUNTAIN BIKE 21 gears grip shift, mint condition, as new, full suspension, red/silver in colour, 3 months old, bargain@ £49.99 Telephone 07824 470310.

BOOKS

20X CHICK FLICK NOVELS Jill Mansell, Sheila O'Flannigan, Dorothy Koomson, Marian Keyes, Jodi Picoult and many more (Oban), £10 Telephone 07951 025003.

BUILDING / DIY

BLACK & DECKER HSS metal drill bit set, ex condition, £6ono Telephone 01631 710352.

BLACK & DECKER MOUSE SANDER £12ono Telephone 01631 710352.

BOSCH PEX 400 AE multi sander, hardly used, £45 Telephone 01631 710352.

DRAPER SOCKET & WRENCH SET ex condition, £20 ono Telephone 01631 710352.

TEN ROLLS WALL-PAPER cirrus luxury expanded embossed vinyl white patt no 533-81. Roll size 10.5 x 0.52m one roll missing outer cellophane wrap, £15 Telephone 01631 570939.

WICKES DRILL SET ex condition, £20 ono Telephone 01631 710352.

CAR ACCESSORIES

INSIGNIA 18 INCH ALLOYS 4 genuine Vauxhall Insignia, alloys unmarked, like new condition, 2 with Conti sport tyres 4mm, 2 with Falken 914 5mm, £499 Telephone 07799 401847.

CATERING EQUIPMENT

11 PIZZA TRAYS most of them brand new, £15 Telephone 01852 500296.

CAKE TIN with loose bottom 12", as new, suitable for wedding cake, £15ono Telephone 01631 710352.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

BNWT SUEDETTE JACKET size 10 -12. Reportage RGA mid-brown calf-length jacket. Unwanted gift, too small, but lovely quality - can send photo, £15 Telephone 01631 720674.

INFANT SIZE 10 BLACK Timberland boots, great condition, only worn on special occasions cost £20. (Oban), £10 Telephone 07951 025003.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

MINI LAP TOP Toshiba, mini lap top, cost £120, will sell for £49.99, ideal for a Xmas present, Du-noon. Telephone 01369 840558.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

BELLING DB90 RANGE COOKER 5 ceramic elements, programmable main oven. Second oven, separate grill, perfect working order, £150 Telephone 01855 821431.

BUSH DISHWASHER excellent cond, as new, white, not full size, manual, ideal worktop or under unit, £48 Telephone 01880 821455.

ELECTRO TUMBLE DRYER, £49.99 Telephone 01631 562782.

HOTPOINT WASHING MACHINE 1 year old, good condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 562782.

INDESIT COOKER 3 years old, good condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 562782.

LEC LARDER FRIDGE under counter, white, less than 1 year old, £49.99 Telephone 01546 603048.

ZANUSSI FREEZER under counter, 3 drawers, white, almost new, £49.99 Telephone 01546 603048.

ZANUSSI FRIDGE/FREEZER good condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 562782.

DOMESTIC PETS

COLLIE PUPS ISDS registered male collie Pup, parents DNA clear. Grandfather M Gallacher's Cap, International Winner 2010, also Gallacher's Bill and McGee's Becca, World Champion 2011. Telephone 01369 820103 or 07500 139778.

FURNITURE

2 SEATER & 3 SEATER Sofas with cushions, brown fabric, £40 Telephone 01631 563171.

3 PIECE SUITE green/blue colour, 2 chairs & 3 seater sofa. Large comfy seats, non smoking house, fair cond. Free to uplift. Telephone 01880 821455.

BED SETTEE comfortable lightweight 4' wide bed settee. Call Mon-Fri, £25 Telephone 01583 441128.

BEDROOM UNITS two, excellent condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 562782.

BEDS twin 2' 6" divans with mattresses, good condition, £20 each. Call Mon-Fri. Telephone 01583 441128.

BLACK DECORATIVE CUPBOARD unusual black, floral painted cupboard, approx 3 ft tall with drawers, doors and lift up top. can text photos. Oban, £35 Telephone 07742 012085.

CHAIR wooden armed carver chair. Call Mon-Fri, £8 Telephone 01583 441128.

CHEST OF DRAWERS bought ready assembled chest of drawers good cond H 47" W 34" bought for £179 light wood colour, £25 Telephone 01586 551314.

CHILD'S WARDROBE/DRAWERS call Mon-Fri, £20 Telephone 01583 441128.

COFFEE TABLE in dark wood with clear glass top and under shelf, 115cm x 55cm. Good condition, buyer collects, £35 Telephone 07818 754041 Oban.

CONSERVATORY CHAIR M & S rattan with cushions, £12 Telephone 07765 503085 Oban.

DISPLAY UNIT dark wood with 3 drawers, 2 doors, cocktail cabinet and display cabinet, 150cm long x 180cm high, good condition, buyer collects, £49 Telephone 07818 754041 Oban.

DOME TOPPED STORAGE UNIT tall dome topped storage/display unit. Solid wood, 4 drawer, 2 shelf glass inlaid door. Can text photo. Oban, £40 Telephone 07742 012085.

GLASS TV STAND large, 3 tier, £12ono Telephone 07765 506085 Oban.

RELYON BED SEETEE opens easily to 4' divan, good condition. Call Mon-Fri, £45 Telephone 01583 441128.

SINGLE SIZED MATTRESS good quality, as new, £30 Telephone 01586 820657.

TABLE kitchen table, drop leaf, good condition, £25 Telephone 07872 564238.

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PICNIC BENCH sturdy wooden picnic bench, good condition, £30 Telephone 07919 047227.

STAINLESS GARDEN FORK unused, £15 Telephone 01586 554256.

WHITE GARDEN TABLE with parasol and four chairs with covers, £15 Telephone 01586 554256.

ROYAL SEWELL Tiller type Rotary Digger, hardly used, £49.99 Telephone 01546 603048.

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COAL BUNKER heavy duty, green, in excellent condition. Capacity 300 kilo or 6-8 bags of coal. Can deliver locally, £49.99 Telephone 01631 710889.

ELECTRIC FIRE coal effect, set in Victorian style surround, vgc, £45 Telephone 01586 820657.

SMALL CAST IRON bedroom fire surround and mantle and concrete backgrate, buyer collects, £30 Telephone 01855 821387.

BEIGE LINED CURTAINS 90 x 90 eyelet, thick lined 100%polyester, cost £80 in Homebase 2 months ago. Like new from smoke free home (Oban), £40 Telephone 07951 025003.

BERBER CARPET 4 small pieces new mid beige with brown speck, largest piece 5ft x 43inch wide, £20 Telephone 01631 720369.

BRASS CHANDELIER, £15ono Telephone 07872 564238.

LUXOR COFFE LINED CURTAINS 90 x 90 eyelet, thick lined 100%polyester like new cost £80 in Homebase 2 months ago comes from smoke free home (Oban), £40 Telephone 07951 025003.

ROLLER BLIND new boxed deep pink blackout, recess size 65.7cmwx115.0cmdpr, £20 Telephone 01631 720369.

LADIES GUCCI WATCH excellent condition comes with Authenticity card and original box. RRP £800 SELL £300, great gift. Telephone 07828 730964.

SPACE SAVER BATH, new, white £40 Telephone 07872564238.

EKS DOCTOR'S MECHANICAL SCALE 5

colour coded weight markers, large platform (black grey) white body, easy read dial. Nearly new, £12 Telephone 07714 753206.

SHOWER SCREEN new, to match spacesaver bath, £39 Telephone 07872 564238.

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WINMAN BRISTLE DART BOARD good cond, £15 Telephone 01631 710352.

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**BIRTHS**

**MACPHERSON - TODD** - To Thomas and Georgia, a son David James Alexander born on September 1, 2013, first grandchild for Richard and Shona and great grandson for Irene (Dalavich), and another grandson for Dave and Theresa (Glenrothes).

**GOLDEN WEDDING**

**HUNTER** - On September 17, 1963, at Oban Old Parish church, by the late Rev William MacDonald, John to Catherine (née MacAskill).

**DEATHS**

**GIBB** - Peacefully, with great courage, after a short illness, at the Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, on September 12, 2013, Jean Gibb, née Dykes, of Conchra, Hillview Terrace, Ardrishaig, beloved wife of the late Robin Gibb, both formerly of Dunadd and Greenfield Farm, Eaglesham, loving mother of Lillias, Robin, Iain, Shona, Alasdair, Charlie and Alison, a much loved granny of seventeen, and great-granny of two. A good neighbour and dear friend to many in the local community. Funeral service will be held at Cardross Crematorium, today, Thursday, September 19 at 11.15am, followed by a memorial service at Kilmartin Parish Church at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for Parkinson's UK and local charities.

**LIVINGSTONE** - Peacefully on Saturday, September 14, 2013 aged 82 years, Janet (Jenny) beloved wife of the late Archie, a much loved mother, mother-in-law, granny and great-granny. Funeral will take place from Ardchattan Kirk on Thursday, September 19 at 1.00 pm thereafter to Achnaba Cemetery, Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for the Diabetic Association and Cancer Research (UK) Scotland.

**MACDONALD** - Very suddenly at the Belford Hospital, Fort William, on Sunday, September 8, 2013, aged 79 years, Margaret (née Lawrie), dear wife of Willie, much loved mother of Mary and William, mother-in-law of Rosalyn and Colin, sister of Betty and Amy and devoted granny and great-granny.

**MACLARTY** - On September 10, 2013, peacefully at her home, Barnlaunich, Barbreck, Jenny MacKay, in her 82nd year, beloved wife of Archie MacLarty and dearly loved mother of Aileen and Sandy. Funeral private, at her own request.

**SILVER** - Alasdair (Dysart, Fife). Peacefully at Randolph Wemyss Memorial Hospital, on Wednesday, September 11, 2013. Alasdair, aged 75 years beloved husband of Janice, a dear uncle and much missed brother. Funeral service at Kirkealdy Crematorium on Friday, September 20 at 1.30pm to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**MACDONALD** - Willie, Mary and William sincerely wish to thank all family and friends for the kindness and support shown to them on the sad loss of Margaret, and for all the cards and phone calls received. Thanks to Rev Moira Herkes for her heartfelt service, Mike McFall for his caring and efficient funeral arrangements and also thanks to the Ballachulish Hotel for their catering and refreshments. The sum of £550.00 was donated to be divided between the three local churches.

**MACLACHLAN** - The family of Duncan MacLachlan would like to thank all friends and relatives for their kind expressions of sympathy and support in our loss of Duncan. Special thanks to Cradlehall Care Home, Inverness, for their care of him and to George J. Chisholm and his staff for professional and sympathetic funeral arrangements. Finally our thanks to all who came to the service and kindly donated to Alzheimer's Research UK.

**MACLEOD** - The family of Jean MacLeod, The Wheelhouse, Ganavan, Oban, sincerely thank all who conveyed sympathy following her death on September 5, 2013. The support of so many friends has been greatly appreciated by her family. A special thanks to the Rev Dugald Cameron, Catriona MacFarlane and staff at Hamish Hoey & Son, the Lorn Medical Centre, and all at wards B & I at Lorn & Islands Hospital. The sum of £604 was collected for Cancer Research at the funeral service. Mórán taing dhuibh uile.

**WILSON** - The family of the late May Wilson, Lochaline, wish to thank everyone for their heartfelt words and condolences in their sad bereavement, the Telford Centre and all medical and nursing staff for their tender care, Rev Donald McCorkindale for his comforting words to the family and his sincere and reflective service. John McLellan, Funeral Directors for their compassionate and efficient services and to all who took part in and attended the service and interment. Mórán

taing.

**MEMORIAMS**

**BLUE** - In loving memory of Lilian Blue, much loved daughter of Mary and Donna and sister to wee Mary who passed away on September 22, 2011. Gone from our lives One so dear but in our hearts forever near.

- Inserted by her sister Mary, brother-in-law Jim and nephew Kevin.

**CAMPBELL** - Treasured memories of a dear mum and nana Dorothy, who passed away September 20, 2012.

If tears could build a stairway and memories a lane I'd walk right up to heaven and bring you back again.

- Love Catherine, Ricky and family.

**CAMPBELL** - Remembered with love, Dorothy who passed away on September 20, 2012. Love and miss you more every day mum.

Wish you were here. See you one day Dora.

- Love Patricia. Also remembered, Parrot, a lovely brother-in-law.

**CAMPBELL** - Dorothy. September 20, 2012. A loving sister and auntie. Loved and remembered every day.

- Frances, Campbell, Catriona, Jim, Katie, Matthew.

**MACCUISH** - In loving memory of our darling son Bobby, who left us on September 17, 2006.

To us you will be forever young Missed and loved always - till we meet again.

- Mum and Dad.

**MACCUISH** - Bobby. When you lose a person you love You gain an angel you know You'll never walk alone

- Peter, Julie, Jenna, Andrew and family.

**MACCUISH** - Bobby our brother and uncle. Not a day goes by that you are not always in our thoughts and our world is a lonelier place without you.

- David, Tia, Claire and Daniel.

**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 lives you walk by our side.

- Inserted by his ever loving daughters Mary Flora, Sandra, May Margaret, and families.

**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.

**MACDOUGALL** - In loving memory of our dad and granpy, Callum, who died on September 19, 1997.

Never more than a thought away.

- Inserted by Margaret and family, Bunesan.

**MACDOUGALL** - Treasured memories of Callum, a dearly loved husband, father and granpy, who died on September 19, 1997.

Loved and remembered always.

- Freena and family.

**MACKECHNIE** - Fond memories of Jean, who passed away on September 22, 2010, also Gilbert on November 17, 2012.

Always remembered.

- Marie.

**MACKECHNIE** - Jean. Mum died September 22, 2010. Fondly remembered. Love always.

- Gilbert and Iona xxx

**MACKECHNIE** - Jean. Granny, never forgotten. Never far away from our thoughts.

Love and miss you each day.

- Iain, Lindsay, Quinn and Georgie xxx

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**WEDDING**



**STANGER - PINKERTON**

Bruce Pinkerton and Marie Stanger were married at St Magnus Church, Birsay, Orkney on 20th July 2013.

**GRADUATIONS**



**Liam Elder, who graduated with First Class Honours in Network and Systems Support from Glasgow Caledonian University in July. Liam is a former pupil of Achaphubuil Primary School and Lochaber High School. He is the son of Billy Elder, Caol and Eileen Byrne, Garvan, eldest grandson of Lawrie and Vera Byrne, Garvan and grandson of the late Willy and Ruby Elder, Camesky Road, Caol. Liam has taken up a post with Hewlett Packard in Erskine.**

**CHURCH NOTICES**

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**  
 Sunday 22 September 2013  
 Trinity 17  
 St John's Cathedral, Oban  
 Holy Communion.....08.00  
 Sung Eucharist.....10.15  
 Children's Corner  
 Loop System  
 Large Print Hymn Books  
 All Welcome  
 Nicki McNelly, Provost.  
 (01631) 562323  
 St Columba, Gruline, Mull  
 Holy Communion.....11.00  
 St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona  
 Holy Eucharist.....08.00  
 Evensong.....20.15  
 Holy Eucharist... Wed 25 Sept 14.30

**First meeting for Kilmore and District SWRI**

KILMORE and District SWRI held their first meeting of the new session on Wednesday September 11 in Kilmore Hall.

Twenty members attended the meeting which was based around a discussion of the syllabus for the year and preparations for the Argyll Federation Woman's Rural Institutes Annual Show in Oban next April.

Fiona Dickie, president, let members in on some baking secrets that have seen her have such success in various competitions.

At the Lorn Group rally last April four members won the Community Tray Competition;

the first time this event had featured at the rally.

To celebrate the success of the group, the Kilmore and District SWRI presented a shield to the SWRI which will be awarded to the winning entry each year.

The shield was presented to the winning team of Ann Ferguson, Jennifer Shaw, Margaret Whitton and Anne Tully by Isabel Smith and Catriona Stuart.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday October 9 in Kilmore Hall at 7.30pm. Everyone is invited to come along, meet some new friends, catch up with some old ones and have fun.



Community Tray Shield being presented to Ann Ferguson, Anne Tully and Jennifer Shaw by Isabel Smith and Catriona Stuart.

**Search is on for creative youngsters**

IMAGINATIVE children from across the west Highlands are being sought as part of a new national competition.

The Scottish Power Foundation is searching for youngsters with the most creative minds to take part in its annual Story Generator competition.

The writing contest invites S1 and S2 pupils to create their own

story - which will go online for the first time this year.

Budding young writers are asked to write about what life might be like in the future, using the first line of the George Orwell classic, 1984, 'It was a bright, cold day in April...' as their inspiration.

Ann Loughrey, trustee and executive officer of the Scottish

Power Foundation, said: 'It has been amazing to see how young people develop stories together and the terrific tales they've created since we launched Story Generator two years ago.'

'This year we will take the competition to the next level as our new online platform enhances the creative experience for young writers and introduces

the element of illustration to the process.

'We can't wait to sit round as a judging panel and read everyone's stories.'

Teachers can register their S1 and S2 pupils for the Scottish Power Foundation Story Generator competition until the deadline on November 8 by logging on to <http://storybird.com/scottishpower>.

**Ulva Annual Harvest Service**



THE ANNUAL Harvest Service took place on Ulva recently with their action song about Tattie Bogle, Gaelic songs from Katrina MacLean and enthusiastic singing from the congregation.

The old Telford church, beautifully decorated with flowers and with a laden harvest table, was packed with old and young, visitors and locals.

The service was led by Reverend Johnny Paton and Jan Sutch Pickard, with contributions

from Ulva Ferry School, with their action song about Tattie Bogle, Gaelic songs from Katrina MacLean and enthusiastic singing from the congregation.

After the service everyone went to The Boathouse for complimentary tea and coffee. The offering, including sales of the harvest produce, totalled just over £400 which will go to the charity Mary's Meals.

**Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders musical history book launched**

A NEW book tracing the musical history of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders is being launched at the regimental trust's annual cocktail party on September 20.

Highland Laddie defines the Argyll and Sutherland Highlander by his Highland qualities of integrity, circumspection, pragmatism and sheer endurance as well as his youthful qualities of dash, comradeship and quick-witted humour.

Celebrating the musical heritage of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, Highland Laddie explores how music is inextricably embedded in the story of this famous fighting regiment, why things were done the way that they were and who did what. Meet the drummers, pipers and bandsmen - gifted, loyal soldiers



whose stories deserve to be told - as you flick the pages of this book, copies of which will be available at the event with author Major Hamish Douglas Clark on hand to sign them.

**Our Island Home contest winning design to be built on Mull**

AN AFFORDABLE house designed by the winner of the Our Island Home contest will be built on the Isle of Mull.

Rural Housing Scotland is running the competition which invites architects to design an affordable house in a rural island location.

The eventual winner, who will carry out the project, will see their design built in three locations in the Hebrides, the first of which being Dervaig on Mull.

The winning house will be easy, quick and affordable to build and heat to help young islanders make new homes in

their island communities, and help community landowners to use their land to build affordable housing for rent and ownership.

Jodi MacLeod, project officer for Our Island Home and herself a young islander from Mull, said: 'Finding somewhere affordable to live on Mull is very difficult, house prices are high and building your own home is difficult because of the cost and the abolition of grants.'

'We hope that the design competition will deliver a house which is affordable to build and heat and that this focus on island housing will encourage the Scot-

tish Government to change its mind about support for self build on the islands.

'I would love to be one of the first to use the winning design to build a house on Mull so I can live independently.'

The Our Island Home competition aims to deliver a two bedroom house for less than £100,000 and Rural Housing Scotland is working with community landowners in the islands to find sites and funds to build the winning design.

The judging panel for design competition is chaired by Lesley Riddoch and includes represent-

atives from island communities and the competition organisers and sponsors.

Ms Riddoch said: 'Affordable housing is vital to enable young people to put down roots and help our island communities to blossom.'

'Look at Gigha, new affordable housing has helped the island's population grow by nearly 50 per cent since the community buyout in 2001.'

The winning design for Our Island Home will be announced at the Rural Housing Scotland conference on February 28, 2014 and it is expected that building will start later that year.

**Urgent appeal launched by pet charity**

A PET charity that cares for thousands of animals across Scotland has launched an urgent appeal for donations to its stores in the west Highlands.

Donations to PDSA's 25 charity stores have dropped dramatically in 2013 leaving a massive shortfall in the charity's income.

Sharon Miller, PDSA area retail manager, said: 'Here in Scotland, PDSA cares for over 40,000 pets a year and our charity stores help raise vital income to ensure our vets and nurses can provide that service.'

The drop in donations we have seen has had real impact on the money we are raising as

we only have around half the stock we ideally want.

'So I'm urging animal lovers to have a clear out and donate their unwanted items to their local PDSA store to help our cause.'

'Right now, we particularly need donations of warm winter clothing, such as women's and men's trousers, jumpers, coats, hats and scarves, so please have a rummage through your wardrobes and donate to PDSA.'

Donations can be handed into the Fort William PDSA shop, situated in the town's High Street or a free collection service is available from most stores. For more details on the charity visit [www.pdsa.org.uk](http://www.pdsa.org.uk).

**The Oban Times**

& West Highland Times  
**THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL**



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Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB  
 Tel: 01631 568000  
 Fax: 01631 568001  
[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

**Editorial**

**Editorial Director**  
 Stewart MacKenzie  
[stewart@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:stewart@obantimes.co.uk)

**Northern Editor**  
 Stephen Norris  
[snorris@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:snorris@obantimes.co.uk)

**News Editor**  
 Euan Paterson  
[epaterson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:epaterson@obantimes.co.uk)

**Senior Reporter**  
 Steven Flanagan  
[sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk)

**Reporter**  
 Faith Orr  
[fo@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fo@obantimes.co.uk)

**Reporter**  
 Richard Haddock  
[rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk)

**Web Co-ordinator**  
 Marian Miller  
[mmiller@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mmiller@obantimes.co.uk)

**Newsdesk**  
 01631 568060  
[editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

**Advertising**

**Advertising Executive**  
 Rhona McKillop  
[adverts@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:adverts@obantimes.co.uk)

**Advertising Sales Executive**  
 Nadine Ross  
[nross@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:nross@obantimes.co.uk)

**Advertising Sales Executive**  
 Mairi Auld  
[mauld@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mauld@obantimes.co.uk)

**Advertising Executive**  
 Eilidh MacLennan  
[emacLennan@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:emacLennan@obantimes.co.uk)

**Branch Offices**

**Fort William**  
 Tel 01397 703003  
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**Lochgilphead**  
 Tel 01546 602345  
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# Saints struggle to contain St Joseph's

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division  
**Oban Saints 1**  
**St Joseph's 1**

OBAN SAINTS welcomed the other Saints team in the league - St Joseph's - to Glencruitten for this premier league game which turned out to be a cracker, but the away side must be the happier of the two teams as they left the seaside town with a share of the points and if the truth be known they might have gone home with all three as they dominated for long periods in the second half.

With manager Iain Jackson away on holiday club secretary David Buchanan and coach Peter MacCallum were in charge of team affairs on the day. The home side were without Ross Maitland, Myles McAuley, Eddie Swift and Japanese forward Sonin Kurishita for this game but they included new signing Calum Stewart as well as the Cameron brothers Daniel and Lewis into the squad, with Lewis getting a start to partner Allan MacKay up front.

The game was fairly evenly balanced in the first half with a lot of the game being played in midfield. Both defences were in charge and neither goalkeeper had much to do.

St Joe's looked a neat, tidy team with some intricate passing proving to be difficult for the home side to handle, but credit to the local lads they stuck at it and created a couple of half chances before they took the lead in the 34th minute.

A fine move started in midfield led to Lewis Cameron picking up the ball and feeding it wide to Allan MacKay, who in turn squared it into the path of Mattie Rippon who fired past a helpless St Joe's keeper Derek Keough to make the score 1-0 at half time.

**Reasonably happy**  
The Saints management team were reasonably happy at the interval although they were wanting to get the St Joe's midfield players marked a lot tighter.

The second half started with the visitors on the attack. The Saints midfield were struggling

at times but thankfully the defence were standing firm.

However, the visitors equalised in the 57th minute when a shot came back off the crossbar with Saints keeper Daniel Cassells stranded leaving Blair Murgrew the easiest of chances to head home into an empty net no more than the Duntocher side deserved.

The visitors nearly scored again three minutes later when a free kick crashed off the Saints crossbar before being scrambled clear.

The home side were seldom seen as an attacking force in the second half as St Joes were dominating the midfield, playing some excellent football.

As the half wore on the home side did come back into the game and created a couple of chances, the first when Lewis Cameron had an effort that hit the post, then Donnie Campbell played Willie Gemmell through the middle with only the keeper to beat, but much to the surprise of the Oban support referee James

**FOOTBALL**

Gallagher, blew for offside - it must have been a very close decision.

The visitors were pushing for a winner, but Saints were defending well and managed to hold out and it was a relieved Oban side who left the field at the end of 90 minutes with a hard-earned point.

**Welcome point**

David Buchanan said: 'I thought we played well enough in the first half, but St Joseph's were much the better team in the second and we were getting outplayed for long spells which was a bit of a surprise, but we managed to hold out for a welcome point in the end.'

This Saturday Saints travel to Overlee Park, Clarkston, to take on Busby in a Premier Division league match.

Everybody at Oban Saints would like to congratulate 'Skinny' MacInnes on his amazing run from Glasgow to Oban last weekend.



Eyes on the ball! Oban Saints' striker Allan MacKay is closely marked by St Joseph's central defender Craig Cameron during last Saturday's match at Glencruitten. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



**Golf News**

**Isle of Seil**  
THE Isle of Seil Golf Club made a little bit history by becoming the smallest ever club to make it through to the Grand Final of The Belhaven Best Club Handicap Championships 2013.

Members Geo Adam and Gordon McColl shot a 4 under par 66 at Newtonmore to finish 10th and book their place alongside 39 other regional qualifiers to fight it out to be crowned the Scottish Amateur Champions at the prestigious Torrance course at Fairmont, St. Andrews.

Over 25,000 club golfers from all over Scotland took part in local events trying to win a place at the home of golf - quite an achievement for a club with less than a 100 members.

**Dalmally**

DALMALLY golfers Ann Hay and Janet Buchanan have finished runners up in a Scotland-wide foursomes competition run by the Scottish Ladies Golfing Association.

The pair travelled to Kiriemuir on September 1 for the event, taking second spot in the handicap section.

Meanwhile, Ann Colthart won Dalmally Golf Club's Ladies Championship scratch competition, taking advantage of terrific weather to record a winning score. Sheila Tolan was runner-up.

The handicap winner was Eive Brown, with June Sutherland runner-up.



Ann Hay, left, and Janet Buchanan, who were runners up in the Scottish Ladies Golfing Association handicap foursomes competition.

**Glencruitten**

SANDY Gow and John MacEaen won the Dennis Cathro Pairs Competition at the weekend with a net score of 51 (bih).

In second place were Michael Kelly and Finlay O'Rourke with the same score.

In third place were Charles MacIntyre and Malcolm MacKillop with a net score of 54.

This Saturday a Scramble will take place.

**Fort William**

FORT William Golf Club's medal final competition was won by Duncan Roger on Saturday.

The reigning club champion recorded a net score of 68 to take the win by three shots.

Second place went to Davie MacPherson with a round of 71, while Eric Wallace took third with a 74.

The senior medal final on Sunday was postponed due to weather conditions.

This weekend a big turnout is expected for the end of season open competition. Tee off times and bookings can be made by calling the club on 01397 704464.

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## Lochaber Phoenix fighters gear up for the new season

THREE LOCHABER Phoenix boxers will take to the ring for the first time this season at a show in Bannockburn this Sunday.

Eleven year-old Kein Johnson, Dan Nixon, aged 12 and Scottish youth champion Igor Slivinski will all be boxing opponents from host club Hillpark ABC.

The club's preparations for the start of the season stepped up last weekend when they welcomed Highland Boxing Academy to their gym for a sparring session.

Over the course of two hours boxers from as young as 10 years old up to 28 engaged in friendly yet competitive sparring.

Club official Steve Docherty said: 'Things are

**BOXING**

busy in the gym just now as the boys are getting ready for the start of the season with the first show this Sunday in Bannockburn.

The following weekend we are in Inverness where middleweight Ryan Watson tops the bill, together with Kein and Dan again and schoolboys Robbie Hall and debutant Angus Anderson.

The weekend after that we have our own show at the Nevis Centre on October 5 where we hope to hold twelve contests including two heavy weight bouts and at least ten local boxes.

The tickets are selling really well so we hope to have a packed venue with a great atmosphere.'



Lochaber Phoenix fighters will be hoping for another successful season

## Oban Bowling Club news



Peggy MacPherson, Helen MacLean and Margaret MacLean won the MacCallman Trophy at Oban Bowling Club beating Janet Church, Anne Stewart and Donnie Douglas in a close final which went to an extra end.



Oban bowlers Sandy Carr, Lyn Laverty and Roddie MacLeod won the Tarbert Triples last Saturday.

## Banavie triumph in triathlon

YOUNGSTERS from 17 Lochaber schools took part in a hard fought triathlon competition in Fort William last Wednesday, with Banavie Primary taking first place.

Each school sent three pupils - a swimmer, a cyclist and a runner - to compete in the event, which was organised by High Life Highland and sponsored by No Fuss Events.

When the times were added up, Caol Primary took second place with Arisaig in third.

Mallaig youngster Ben MacDonald was the quickest swimmer on the day, finishing the 200 metre in Lochaber Leisure Centre in three minutes 44 seconds.

Erin O'Rourke from Arisaig was eight seconds behind in second, with James Thomson of Upper Achintore a further six seconds back.

The hard fought running event

**MOTOR CYCLING**

saw competitors race from the Braveheart car park to the leisure centre.

Just one second separated the top two, with Rebecca Johnston of Invergarry managing to edge out Banavie's Graham Laidlaw.

Dylan Wilson of Caol was third. The cycle leg started from the Braveheart car park, and involved a long up-hill pull to the turn point, with Inverloch youngster Jonny Forster finishing well clear of the rest in a time of eight minutes and 55 seconds.

Despite skidding off his bike, Arisaig's Duncan O'Rourke recovered to take second in 10 m and 17s, with Jay Donaldson from Caol three seconds behind. Organiser Bridget Thomas said: 'Thanks go to the event organizers, the sponsors No Fuss and to the high school pupils who marshalled the race.'

**Lewis equals course record at Tobermory**

JUNIOR Section: 1st round of the James McNab Trophy - 1 Lewis Brown 62-10-52; 2 Scott Paterson 80-23-57; 3 William MacCrae 63-05-58. 14 year old Lewis Brown equalled the

junior course record. Ladies Section: September 9 hole Stableford - 1 Olive Brown 17 points; 2 Doris Haregreaves 12 points; 3 Rosalind Reid 3 points.

## Start scuppers McPhee at San Marino Grand Prix



Connell racer John McPhee, No 17, had a disappointing start to the race in the San Marino Grand Prix at Misano last Sunday. Photo: Bonnie Lane

**MOTOR CYCLING**

IT WASN'T a very positive race for John McPhee at the San Marino Grand Prix last Sunday. Right at the start he fell back several positions and was relegated to 26th place. From there he tried to fight back and get towards the front again.

In the end he crossed the finish line in 20th position, right behind Spaniard Ana Carrasco, but neither he nor the team are happy with the performance.

John said: 'In the beginning I got quite a bad start. So I lost some positions. In turn seven I made some mistakes and I went straight. Then I was fighting with some slower riders. It was very difficult to pass. But the biggest problem for me was the brakes instability. I need to improve and hope we can get a better result next time.'



Fort William funeral directors, John MacLellan & Co Ltd, were delighted with the full entry of bowlers for their sponsored pairs competition at the B.A. Club. Despite heavy showers the green ran well and everybody enjoyed the day. The competition was finally won by Liz Kennedy and Alan Robinson. Pictured above are company representatives Angus MacPhie and Scott Greenlees, holding the trophy, with many of the competing pairs hoping to get their names on it.

# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

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You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

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Fixtures

**Saturday 21st September**  
**Orion Group Premiership**  
 Fort William v Newtonmore  
 Ted McDonald  
 Kinlochshiel v Inveraray  
 John Angus Gillies - 3pm  
 Kyles Athletic v Glenurquhart  
 Daniel MacRae

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
 Taynuilt v Lochside Rovers  
 John MacGregor

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
 Beaully v Newtonmore  
 David Stafford  
 Lovat v Kinlochshiel  
 John Matheson

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
 Aberdour v Ballachulish  
 Neil MacDonald

Results

**Saturday 14 September**  
**Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final**  
 Kyles Ath 0 - 3 Newtonmore

**Ken MacMaster Under 14 Cup Final**  
 Oban Camanachd 2 - 1 Skye

**Scottish Hydro Development Cup Final**  
 (Under 14 - 9 a side)  
 Lochcarron 0  
 Milngavie & Bearsden 4

**York Results Friday 13 September**

**Marine Harvest Under 14 League Division 2**  
 Kinlochshiel 3 - 1 Lovat

# Double up for Newtonmore as they lift the Camanachd Cup

## Badenoch side win both major shinty competitions

A CROWD of nearly 4,000 packed out An Aird in Fort William to see Newtonmore make it a league and cup double as they defeated Kyles Athletic 3-0 in the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup final on Saturday.

The celebrations went on well into the night as 'More took the famous trophy back to Badenoch for a record 30th time.

After being sent off in 'More's recent Macaulay Cup final loss, captain and man of the match Jamie Robinson told The Oban Times lifting the trophy was an 'unbelievable feeling'.

He said: 'It was all my dreams come true. I've played that moment over in my head thousands of times, ever since I first picked up a shinty stick.

'Scoring a goal in the Camanachd Cup final was amazing, but getting man of the match as well was just incredible.

'I couldn't have scripted it better. I went from the depths of despair a few weeks ago to being on cloud nine, and I think I'll probably be on cloud nine for a very long time.'

The celebrations were still continuing on Monday afternoon when 'More manager PJ

SHINTY

Mackintosh spoke to The Oban Times.

He said: 'The boys all played really well. Roddy Macdonald caused us a lot of problems in the Macaulay Cup final, but Steven Macdonald marked him out of the game, and Jamie and Paul [MacArthur] were great in the middle of the park.

'There was a fantastic crowd to meet us at the Balavil when we got back on Saturday night, everyone was delighted.'

Kyles captain Robbie Macleod said his side hadn't performed at their peak on the day.

'I don't really know what happened,' he said. 'We just never really got going. We were okay for the first couple of minutes but they came into it and we just couldn't get back.

'It's hard to take, but we have to remember what it feels like to lose and try and come back and win it again next year.'

Both sides made decent starts to the match, but Kyles were undone after 14 minutes when Robinson - who hadn't scored all season - struck a powerful low shot from 25 yards which



Champagne corks pop as Newtonmore celebrate winning the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup at An Aird last Saturday. Photo Neil Paterson

the unsuspected keeper Kenny MacDonald could do nothing about. 'More continued to press and restrict the Kyles attack, and

on the hour mark Glen Mackintosh charged through the heart of the Kyles defence and past MacDonald to double their lead.

With Kyles struggling to find a way back into the game, top scorer Danny MacRae secured the win with five minutes to

play when he cleverly took the ball down and lashed it home to score his 36th goal of the year. The final whistle from referee

Innes Wood sparked celebrations on the touchline and around the park before Robinson went up to lift the trophy.



Newtonmore's Scott Chisholm and Cammy Keith from Kyles Athletic challenge for the ball during Saturday's final. 20\_13shinty02

## Fort fighting for their premiership lives

**FORT WILLIAM** will watch Orion Group Premiership champions Newtonmore receive their league trophy at An Aird on Saturday - then somehow try to figure out a way of beating the Badenoch men.

A win is a must for the Fort if they are to have any chance of preserving their top flight status. And even if they pull off that miracle, should Kinlochshiel beat Inveraray it will all have been in vain.

Fort go into the game with Neil Robertson and Stevie Stewart suspended - a huge minus in anybody's book.

Co-manager Victor Smith told The Oban Times: 'We will absolutely be giving this our best shot. Losing Stevie Stewart is a huge blow but we will just have to try and make good - it's all we can do.'

After lifting the Camanachd Cup last weekend, **NEWTONMORE** are back on league duty this Saturday when they return to An Aird to take on Fort William.

'More already have the Orion Group Premiership title in the bag, and will now be looking

to complete an unbeaten league campaign. Asked if he felt it might be difficult to lift his players for the match after their cup win, Mackintosh said: 'I don't think so. We've gone through the league without being beaten and the boys will want to keep that up. I think they'll be up for it against Fort William.'

**KINLOCHSHIEL** can make absolutely sure of Orion Group Premiership survival if they can account for Inveraray at Kirkton.

But there's no doubt 'Shiel fans will be keeping updated with events at An Aird, where Fort William must beat Newtonmore to have any chance of staying up.

Manager Johnston Gill is likely to draft in utility player David Glass for the vital game.

He told the Oban Times: 'We are looking for the same kind of performance we put in against Kyles, Inveraray and Newtonmore.'

'It is in our own hands - and I think the guys' hands are big enough to take charge. We want to get the win ourselves - we don't want to be depending on other results going our way.'

**INVERARAY** manager Garry MacPherson admits there is an end-of-season feel about this weekend's game at Kinlochshiel, but he'll still be hoping for a victory to secure third place in the league.

The bus will be full, with only long-term absenteees David Robertson and Christopher Crawford definitely out of contention.

But Garry says the success of this season means he will be aiming higher next year - despite starting the season as some people's tip for relegation.

'If we win we'll secure third place,' he said. 'The boys are looking forward to it and there might be a bit of a drink on the way back, but we'll still want to win.'

'It's good everyone being so tight and we'll have much the same group next year. If we do get third, there's no reason why we can't next year.'

**KYLES ATHLETIC** host Glenurquhart this Saturday as they look to pick up the points they need to secure their Orion Group Premiership place for 2014.

The Tighnabraich side will need to recover quickly from

last weekend's Camanachd Cup disappointment, and captain Robbie Macleod said the importance of the game would not be lost on his team.

He said: 'Everyone knows how important it is for us to get some points and stay up. It would be good to get a couple of points this weekend and get a couple of steps closer to safety.'

Kyles are one of just two sides who can still be caught by Fort William. They sit one point ahead of the An Aird men, but have five games left to save themselves.

**GLENURQUHART'S** last game of the season sees them travel to Tighnabraich to take on Camanachd Cup finalists Kyles Athletic this weekend.

A win for Drew McNeil's side would lift them above both Kingussie and Lochaber and put them in pole position to finish an up and down season in fourth spot. But Kyles will be hurting after their 3-0 loss to Newtonmore last weekend and are still in need of points to avoid the threat of relegation.

The match will be the first for over a month for the Drumadrochit side, who go into the

game having lost just once in their last four outings.

THIS weekend's league match between Taynuilt and Lochside Rovers will double up as the JC Memorial Cup. While traditionally played between Taynuilt and Oban Camanachd, it was agreed the sides' final league match of the season provide the perfect platform.

**LOCHSIDE** manager Andy Pearson will be missing at least three of the An Aird men, with Brian MacCallum, Kieran MacInnes and Dylan Cooke all out.

Manager Pearson said: 'If we win we'll still finish equal third. I think it'll be quite a close game and while they've carried on playing, we've not had a match for four weeks.'

**TAYNUILT** will be hoping fitness will give them an edge against Lochside in the JC Memorial Cup. They last played on September 7, when they recorded a 4-2 win over Strachur.

However, they go into the game knowing that Lochside's last match was also the last encounter between the sides. Worringly for Taynuilt, Lochside triumphed 5-0 on that occasion.



Under 14 winners Inveraray



Under 17 winners Oban Celtic

## Inveraray and Celtic lift the trophies at South of Scotland six-a-sides

ON SUNDAY September 8 Mossfield Park hosted the annual South of Scotland Six-a-side Championships.

There were two sections held for the under 14 and under 17 age groups. Both sections were closely contested with Inveraray coming out on top of the Under 14s and Kyles coming out on top in the 17s.

With the 17's section having five teams competing for the title they then went in to a four team play off to see who would play in the final. It was Kyles and Oban Celtic progressed with Oban Celtic coming out on top to regain the title they won two years ago.

Close affair

The Under 14s had six teams competing and it was Aberdour who met Inveraray in the final.

Again this was another close affair with Inveraray winning by the odd goal in three.

Argyll and Bute Shinty Development Officer, Euan McMurdo said: 'It was a great day of shinty allowing the south coaches to have a look at players and finalise their squad prior to the North v South game to be held on September 29 at Mossfield.'



Oban Camanachd Under 14s won the Ken MacMaster Cup when they defeated Skye 2-1 in a pulsating game which took place at An Aird before the Camanachd Cup final. The Oban side took the lead through Ross MacMillan before Stuart Taylor equalised for the islanders, but Daniel MacCuish sealed the win for Oban Camanachd with a well taken winner.

### League Tables

The Orion Group Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	15	14	1	0	61	13	29
Lovat	16	9	6	1	36	15	24
Inveraray	17	7	4	6	29	28	18
Lochaber	18	6	5	7	28	34	17
Kingussie	17	8	0	9	31	34	16
Glenurquhart	17	6	3	8	24	28	15
Kinlochshiel	17	5	4	8	30	43	14
Kyles Athletic	13	5	2	6	22	19	12
Fort William	16	3	5	8	17	35	11
Oban Camanachd	18	3	2	13	19	48	8

Marine Harvest North Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kilmallie	15	14	0	1	72	13	28
Beaully	15	12	1	2	43	15	2
Caberfeidh	15	7	1	7	36	32	15
Skye	15	6	2	7	28	26	14
Strathglass	15	1	3	11	17	49	5
Inverness	15	1	1	13	14	75	3

Marine Harvest South Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glasgow MA	16	13	2	1	71	7	28
Bute	16	11	2	3	68	22	24
Glenorchy	16	9	3	4	39	20	21
Lochside Rovers	15	9	1	5	34	26	19
Aberdour	16	6	1	9	33	49	13
Taynuilt	15	5	2	8	29	44	12
Oban Celtic	16	5	1	10	26	53	11
Kilmory	16	2	3	11	21	53	7
Strachur	16	2	3	11	21	68	7

Marine Harvest North Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	17	14	1	2	62	19	29
Lovat	17	9	7	1	42	29	25
Skye	17	11	2	4	38	22	22
Glenurquhart	18	8	3	7	29	28	19
Beaully	16	7	4	5	37	26	18
Kingussie	18	5	5	8	42	40	15
Glengarry	17	5	1	11	27	38	11
Fort William	18	5	1	12	31	60	11
Aberdeen Uni	18	3	4	11	25	44	8
Kinlochshiel	16	3	4	9	24	46	8

Marine Harvest South Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kyles Athletic	14	12	1	1	58	7	25
Ballachulish	12	10	1	1	65	12	21
Col Glen	14	8	1	5	47	32	17
Inveraray	13	7	2	4	36	27	15
Bute	14	4	1	9	23	44	8
Tayforth	14	4	1	9	16	52	5
Glasgow MA	14	3	0	11	22	67	5
Aberdour	13	2	1	10	15	42	4

Marine Harvest North Division 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochaber	18	15	0	3	92	28	30
Lochcarron	18	14	1	3	81	26	29
Boleskine	18	13	1	4	67	30	27
Kilmallie	18	10	3	5	56	49	22
Caberfeidh	18	6	2	10	34	48	14
Lochbroom	18	6	0	12	38	67	11
Strathspey	18	5	1	12	39	70	11
Strathglass	18	6	2	10	34	66	11
Lewis	18	3	4	11	37	62	10
Inverness	18	4	2	12	30	62	10

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## Oban Lorne brought back down to earth

Poor start from the Green Machine gifts early points to Stewartry

RBS West Division 2  
Oban Lorne 23  
Stewartry 35

OBAN Lorne gifted Stewartry a dream start at Glencruitten on Saturday with the visitors running in three tries in the opening 15 minutes to claim a 35-23 win.

The Green Machine were missing several key players from last week's 12-6 win over Carrick including Tommy Sutherland, Ryan Jackson, Struan Smith and Ruairidh Aitken. There was a first start for outside centre Stuart Davies in a green jersey while Daniel Kemp, Lorne MacLachlan and Allan Wright returned to the starting line up.

After only two minutes Oban found themselves a converted try down. The visitors gained possession in the Oban 22 through a succession of penalties and forced their way over the line through a driving maul.

Oban's bad start got even worse as the away side scored again straight from the restart. The Stewartry backs passed the ball wide in their own 22 with no pressure from the hosts and raced their way downfield to touch down beneath the posts. With three minutes played Oban found themselves 14-0 down.

After a disastrous opening the hosts began to play the rugby seen in their previous two league games with some impressive running from the forwards feeding off scrum half Graham MacEachan.

Oban were rewarded with a penalty in front of the posts after 10 minutes that Craig Wright slotted through to put the home side on the scoreboard.

Just as the men in Green looked to start improving the visitors scored again, this time a breakaway down the right wing after some poor tackling from the Oban backs resulted in a try. After only 15 minutes Oban were trailing 21-3.

The Green Machine hit back shortly after this with their first try of the afternoon. Centre Cammy Smith bundled over from close range after good play from an Oban lineout. There was some debate to the resulting conversion with the referee not awarding the kick despite the raised flag of the Oban touch judge.

As a result of scoring the try the home team were becoming more confident but were undone with a lack of discipline at the breakdown and a struggling scrum.

Stewartry scored a further try before halftime with the score standing at 28-8 at the break.

Player/coach Corrie Louw and Captain Robin MacQueen shared some choice words with the team at the break who knew they would be in for a sorry scoreline unless they improved quickly.

The half-time team talk seemed to work as Oban looked a much sharper team in the opening period of the second half. They

**RUGBY**

were putting the opposition under pressure and were forcing penalties in their favour.

The home side hit back, this time with a try from winger Connor Ferris after some quick ball from a ruck in midfield. The ball was spun wide eventually to Ferris who beat a defender to score. The conversion was narrowly missed.

Ten minutes or so of poor play followed from both sides which failed to keep any rhythm to the game.

Oban were starting to run out of time for a big comeback and Stewartry confirmed this with their fifth try of the afternoon that almost put them out of sight to lead 35-13.

With the score now verging on embarrassing Oban knew that they needed a strong finish to the game and they scored two tries in the final 10 minutes through Struan Simpson and a second from Cammy Smith that secured a bonus point for getting four tries.

There was silence around Glencruitten as the final whistle blew and the Oban side were left stunned with the result after a strong opening two games to the season.

Oban will hope to get back to winning ways next week as they travel to play Clydebank who have lost their opening two games so far.



Newtonmore captain Jamie Robinson holds aloft the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup after his team's 3-0 triumph over Kyles Athletic at An Aird last Saturday. See page 27 for report and more photographs. Photo: Donald Cameron

## 'More the merrier!

### 'Parrot' MacMillan Memorial Trophy

**SHINTY**

MOSSFIELD Stadium will welcome 13 school shinty teams on Sunday as the inaugural Iain 'Parrot' MacMillan Memorial Tournament is held in his honour.

Parrot was one of the most well known names in shinty in Oban and Argyll, having played for nearly all the teams in the Oban and Lorn area in his time, later managing both Oban Camanachd and Celtic.

He died on September 5 last year and his family wanted to mark his contribution to the game in the most fitting way, with a shinty game.

Diarmid MacMillan, Parrot's nephew, said: 'The family wanted to organise an event for the kids and we've got 104 kids playing.'

'He died on September 5 last year, which is why we're holding it now, at the end of the shinty season. It's going to be an annual tournament.'

The round-robin tournament starts at 1pm on Sunday.

### Saints players in Scottish Select

**FOOTBALL**

FIVE Oban Saints players - Donnie Campbell, Willie Gemmill, Myles McAuley, Dene Cassells and Marc MacCallum are in the Scottish Amateur League Select squad who will contest the Douglas Harvey Memorial Trophy against Carlton YM.

The game will take place at the Kibble Complex in Paisley on Sunday 29 September, kicking off at 2pm.

### Disappointment for Robert

**GOLF**

FATIGUE played its part as Oban's Robert MacIntyre finished a disappointing joint 26th at the Duke of York Young Champions Trophy last week.

Played at the White Tees, Royal St George's, 17 year-old Robert faced a strong field, but he could only follow a poor first round of 79 with subsequent rounds of 78 and 76. His total of 233 put him 18 strokes behind the eventual winner, Italy's Guido Migliozzi.

While Robert was disappointed, an overly crowded calendar meant he wasn't able to dwell on it, as he was quickly off to Glenegles for another tournament.

He spent Monday practising but will be departing for Oslo later this week for another short tournament.

### Saints youths - results and fixtures

**YOUTH FOOTBALL**

LAST weekend's results - Under 13s v Drumchapel United postponed; Under 14s no game; Under 15s no game; Helensburgh 8, Under 17s 1. On target for Saints was Rhys Cook.

Next weekend's fixtures - Under 13s v Dalziel BC; Dumbarton Riverside v Under 14s; Helensburgh v Under 15s. Under 17s no game.



Oban Lorne's Struan Simpson dives over for a try during the game against Stewartry much to the delight of his teammate Allan Wright. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

AN ORMSARY teenager was crowned the British Motocross champion for the second time two weeks ago despite dislocating her shoulder six days earlier.

Elaine MacEachern battled through her injury to finish first in all six rounds of the competition at Upton Court, Herefordshire, where she defeated 28 other girls in the 85cc class to win the trophy.

The 15-year-old, who previously won the trophy in 2011, crashed her bike and dislocated her shoulder a week before the race, but sheer determination saw the teenager take to her bike.

**Acupuncture**  
Elaine said: 'I had been told by the hospital that I wasn't to ride again for two weeks, but I went to a Chinese healer three times and was given acupuncture, which definitely seems to have done the trick.'

'I was a little bit stiff during the races, but it definitely wasn't as sore. I have been working a lot on my physical training this year by running and doing weight lifting, which has made a big difference to my racing.'

With the motocross season

**MOTOCROSS**

coming to an end and two championships under her belt the Lochgilphead High School pupil is now looking to the future.

'Next year I will up a class to the 125cc and the next step is to look at competing in the women's championship, which is made up of eight races across Europe,' she said.

**Tutorials**

'I'm in fourth year at school so I'm studying as well, but at school I get tutorials so I can focus on my racing at home.'

Elaine added: 'I'm delighted to have won the championship again and would like to thank all my sponsors, the Lithgow family at Ormsary for the use of land to train on and a special thank you to Alisdair Couper at Terberg TDS UK who has made travelling to all the competitions possible.'

**Elaine MacEachern, 15, won the British Motocross Championship for the second time.**

06. a37motocross01



## Elaine's back on the winning track

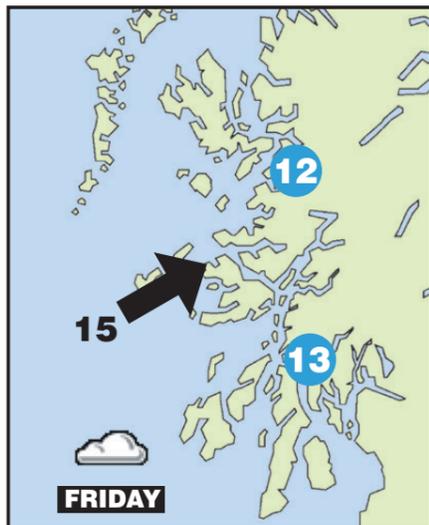
### Weather

**Thursday** Heavy rain showers  
Winds strong west south westerly  
Temperatures 11°C to 13°C

**Friday** Cloudy  
Winds moderate west south westerly  
Temperatures 11°C to 13°C.

**Weekend** Light rain  
**Outlook** Winds moderate south south westerly  
Temperatures 12°C to 14°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



### Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, September 19, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	05.21 3.9 11.38 0.5 17.39 4.3 23.58 0.6	
Fri	05.54 4.0 12.19 0.4 18.14 4.3 *** **	
Sat	00.35 0.6 06.26 4.0 12.58 0.5 18.46 4.2	
Sun	01.12 0.7 06.58 4.0 13.35 0.7 19.19 4.0	
Mon	01.47 0.8 07.28 3.9 14.10 1.0 19.51 3.8	
Tues	02.24 1.0 17.59 3.7 14.46 1.3 20.24 3.5	
Wed	03.04 1.3 08.32 3.5 15.26 1.2 21.00 3.3	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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**LOCHABER HAS IT ALL** Find out why on pages 18 and 19.



### VAT bill could halt sports centre plan

By RICHARD HADDOCK  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

LOCHABER Sports Association's proposed indoor training centre has been dealt a potentially crippling blow after they were told to pay an extra quarter of a million pounds in VAT.

LSA chairwoman Jane Blanchard said the £1.1 million project would be 'verging on the impossible' if they are forced to pay the £233,000 by HMRC.

HMRC said the fact LSA planned to charge people to use the facility meant it would be being used for business purposes.

VAT advisor Shelagh Kirk said: 'Activities which do not make a profit, or activities where any profit is only used to further the aims and objectives of the charity can still be business activities.'

'It is my opinion that the new development is aimed at the sporting section of the community, not the community as a whole.'

Ms Blanchard told *The Oban Times* they planned to appeal the decision.

She said: 'We cannot afford to get into a position where we have to find an extra quarter of a million pounds. We're going to be struggling to get all the money together as it is without this extra on top. This is a nonsense and we will appeal.'

'If there were any way we could give free access to everyone, of course we would, but we have to be able to manage and maintain it.'

'This surely cannot be seen as 'running a business', except in the sense of ensuring that the books balance.'

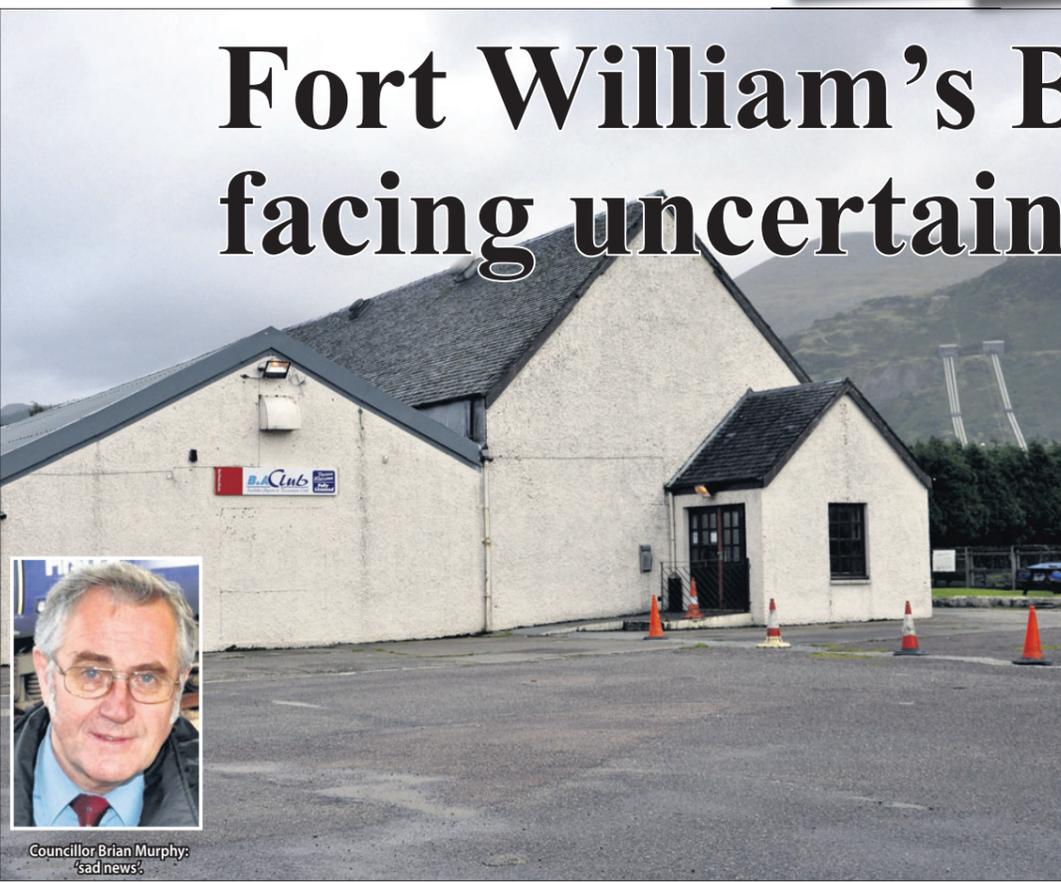
Ms Blanchard said she was confident the appeal would be successful. A previous case saw a new football pavilion in Perth ruled as being VAT exempt following a tribunal which said it was beneficial to the community and not run for profit.

Meanwhile, LSA will be holding a fundraising car boot sale in Caol Community Centre from 11am to 3pm on Sunday.

Money raised will go towards the youth support fund and business development for the indoor centre.

# Fort William's BA Club facing uncertain future

## Owners Rio Tinto Alcan look to offload popular venue



Councillor Brian Murphy: 'sad news'

FORT William's BA Club is facing an uncertain future after owners Rio Tinto Alcan said they were looking to offload the popular venue.

By RICHARD HADDOCK  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

With current club steward Ann Nilsson set to retire at the end of the year, Rio Tinto has decided to seek 'potential interest' for someone to take over the site.

The club and surrounding grounds were originally for workers at the aluminium smelter, but a dwindling workforce has meant it is now more regularly used by the local community.

Communications and external relation manager for Lochaber Jim Beattie said now was 'the right time to consider other options' for the club's future.

He said: 'As the smelter employees no longer use the club, and with the aluminium industry facing challenging economic conditions, Rio Tinto Alcan are seeking potential interest from other groups to take over the running of the club and grounds.'

'Over the years the club has evolved from its original role as a works social club to now very much being a community facility and includes events like weddings and music nights.'

He continued: 'There still are many activities carried out at the club including bowling, cricket, football, pitch and putt along

with bingo, darts and chess drives to name but a few.'

'The club is set in a scenic location and the grounds are a visually attractive green space beside the main road, however, the club building itself needs maintenance work carried out in the near future to bring it up to a proper standard.'

Lochaber councillor Brian Murphy *The Oban Times* it was 'very sad news to hear'.

He said: 'I certainly remember it being a very well used and popular venue for the Alcan workforce and the wider community.'

'There's much fewer people work there of course now, I think there's only about 170 or so. I remember when it was 600-odd.'

'I certainly hope someone will come forward in response to this.'

The venue opened in the early 1960s as a social club for the nearby British Alcan aluminium smelter, and has become a popular venue for fun days, sporting events as well as birthday, weddings and school reunions.

Former British Alcan employee and club committee member Sandy Walker said he was 'very disappointed' by the news.

He said: 'It'll be a big loss to the town if it goes.'

### Community council nominees sought

NOMINEES are being sought for three Lochaber community councils who are looking for extra members, with a deadline of October 2.

Arisaig, Nether Lochaber and Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry have all fallen below the required memberships following resignations.

Meanwhile, an election will be held on Skye to try and form Broadford and Strath Community Council. Not enough members were elected at the last elections in June 2012.

Anyone over 16 is eligible to stand. If there are more nominees than available slots, an election will be held.

### 'Fairy forest' creators accept magic must come to an end

THE CREATORS of Lochaber's secret 'fairy forest' have finally accepted that its magic must come to an end - and have asked for five years to clear the site.

The two local women who crafted the Coille Rais fairy walk near Gairloch were told several months ago by landowner Cameron of Lochcailie it would need to go as the surrounding forest has reached felling age.

After rejecting the offer of other locations in Achnacarry estate to relocate the walk, the pair - who wish to remain anonymous - have now decided

to draw the curtains on their project.

But, they say, the sheer number of toys, teddy bears, ornaments and mementos which have accrued at the site over the past seven years means removing them will be a long-term operation.

**Fortunate**  
In a letter to Lochcailie, they said: 'If you should consider acquiescing to our request we would, at its final closure, judge ourselves to be extremely fortunate to have enjoyed 12 years of unique and magical

involvement in your forest.' One of the women said: 'We do hope he will listen to our plea to be understanding over something we have put our hearts into over so many years.'

'It would be impossible to undertake the task in just a few months.'

Since the walk was created seven years ago, thousands of locals, tourists and walkers on the nearby Great Glen Way have visited the site, leaving notes in the comments book and occasionally some toys of their own.

### Luxury hotel repossessed

A LUXURY hotel in Onich is to be put up for sale immediately after being repossessed by Lloyds Banking Group, *The Oban Times* understands.

The Allt-nan-Ros Hotel had been in the ownership of Cal and Rosemary Harding for eight years.

Local couple James and Fiona MacLeod successfully ran the 20-bedroom establishment for 22 years before selling the business to the Hardings.

It is understood police will be carrying out regular checks on the property to ensure it remains secure. The Hardings could not be contacted. Lloyds had not responded at the time of going to press.

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### Skye pupils on song at Mull Mod

PUPILS from Bun-sgoil an Ath Leathainn (Broadford Primary School) returned to Skye with an impressive haul of trophies and prizes from the Mull Provincial Mòd (Mòd Ionadach na Dreòluinn) on Friday.

Eilidh Brown won the Quinish Cup for the highest marks for girls age 9-12, Ruari Lates won the Archie MacLean Silver Salver for highest marks for boys age 9-12, and Emma MacPherson together with Matthew Culbertson won the Oakbank Trophy for the highest marks in duet competitions.

The school choir won the Harper Nelson Trophy for Unison Singing, and the Lady Maclean of Duart Prize for the highest marks overall in choir competitions, while Harry Partridge won the Boys' Solo Singing (11-12). In all, 16 pupils competed.

For full Mull Provincial Mòd coverage, see page 13.



Bun-sgoil an Ath Leathainn pupils enjoyed great success at Mull Provincial Mòd with class teacher and choir conductor Barbara Smith. Missing from the picture are Harry Partridge and Madeleine Law.

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**Man denies sexually assaulting ten-year-old**

A BALLACHULISH man has denied sexually assaulting a 10 year-old girl in the village's tourist information centre. James Ridgeway, of Lochan Dubh, West Laroach, appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court accused of intentionally or recklessly touching the girl sexually on August 19. The 69 year-old is due to stand trial on November 18, with a preliminary hearing on October 23.

**Fundraising race night sponsors sought**

SHOPMOBILITY Lochaber is looking for sponsors for a race night at the Ben Nevis Bar in Fort William on October 18. Proceeds from the fundraising event will go towards providing free hire of wheelchairs, powerchairs, rollators and electric ride-on scooters to clients with mobility impairment. For £25, race sponsors' names will be printed on the race card and mentioned in the MC on the night. Fundraising co-ordinator Janette Cowie said in her appeal: 'Fundraising events like this are vital if we are to continue our service in Fort William. It is thanks to people like you who make these nights a success.' For more information contact 01397 700051.

**Prosecutors allowed more time to investigate allegations**

THE TRIAL of a North Ballachulish man accused of causing his ex-partner fear or alarm over a five month period has been postponed to allow prosecutors more time to investigate. Iain MacAskill is accused of repeatedly calling and texting the woman and driving past her Inverlochy home between January 1 and June 22. The 33-year-old also pled not guilty to shouting and swearing at the woman on June 22. MacAskill, of Loch Leven Hotel, is now due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on November 7.

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Former LHA chairpersons Alison Gainsford and Monsignor Wynne help current chairperson Di Alexander cut the 25th anniversary cake.

**Key player in Lochaber life for 25 years**

IT WAS all smiles in Caol Community Centre on Friday night when Lochaber Housing Association (LHA) celebrated a quarter of a century of success in delivering affordable homes for local people. But the association's 25th annual general meeting was about far more than bricks and mortar as speakers highlighted LHA's role as key player in Lochaber life and social fabric. Current LHA chairperson Di Alexander, who has been involved since the association's inception, and former chairs Monsignor Thomas Wynne and Alison Gainsford all addressed the packed hall. Mr Alexander said: 'Back in the 1980s, rural housing was hardly given a thought as far as policy making was concerned, with the main focus being on the massive housing needs of Scotland's urban centres. 'Many people in Lochaber,

particularly in the landward communities, were living in substandard accommodation at that time and we recognised there was a very real need to put that right for local people. 'Father Wynne brought his very best qualities to bear in putting over the moral and practical case for a housing association for Lochaber and it was an emotional moment when councillors finally voted in favour of the association.' Paying tribute to the 'first class' staff and volunteer committee members, he added: 'Because of their fantastic commitment, we have been able to build a lot of houses which otherwise would not have been built, in places where they would not have been built.

'Lochaber Housing Association is about providing homes, but it is so much more than that - it is about people and communities - and thanks to the interaction of a huge network of agencies and individuals we have been able to tackle some of the housing issues in Lochaber.' Monsignor Wynne said: 'I think everyone involved can be immensely proud of the fact that Lochaber Housing Association has managed to get 750 houses built in some of the most rural areas of Lochaber. 'This has ensured the continuation of many small communities and provided dignity for those who were badly in need of quality homes.' Ms Gainsford added: 'I know how crucial and important the work of the association has been and will continue to be in building and maintaining vibrant communities throughout Lochaber and wish all concerned

all the very best for the next 25 years.' Mr Alexander ended with positive news that improved funding and lending options could mean more housing developments in the near future. He said: 'I am pleased to report that the public subsidy has, very recently, been restored to something approaching its previous levels and the banks are at least now talking more constructively. 'This is much better news than this time last year and I hope to have even better news for you at next year's AGM.' He added: 'We all know that we cannot rest on our laurels. There are many challenges to be faced in the months and years to come - not least the impact of the bedroom tax and forthcoming universal credits system - and we are determined to keep championing the cause for affordable housing in Lochaber.'

**Second bid to attract GPs to new practice fails**

A SECOND attempt by NHS Highland to recruit GPs to the newly formed West Lochaber Medical Practice has again failed to attract enough applicants. Seven posts were advertised for WLMP after an earlier recruitment process in April proved unsuccessful. It had been hoped the chance of working in an innovative new 'cluster' rural practice would have proved attractive to aspiring young doctors. Two teams of GPs - four at Mallaig Health Centre serving patients from Knoydart to Glenugie - including the Small Isles, and three at Acharacle covering the Ardnamurchan peninsula and Strontian - are envisaged, under a clinical and management team leader.



Community asset: the newly-refurbished Raasay House will be officially opened tomorrow.

**Raasay House re-opened after multi-million pound facelift**

ISLE of Raasay residents will celebrate the re-opening Raasay House tomorrow following a multi-million pound restoration - four years later than originally planned. The imposing mansion, once the clan seat of the MacLeods of Raasay, had been set to re-open in 2009 following extensive restoration work. But the project suffered a devastating blow when a fire gutted most of the building weeks before completion. Undaunted, Raasay House Community Company (RHCC), backed by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, The Big Lottery Fund and Historic Scotland, started again on the £4.5m redevelopment. Further trouble came in 2010, when the main contractors went into liquidation - causing a further delay. New contractors were appointed and Raasay House was finally delivered to RHCC

in March this year. The community-owned property is now delivering a major economic boost to the island in its new guise as a centre for holidays, outdoor activities, celebrations and special events. Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy, guest of honour at tomorrow's celebration, said it was 'a privilege and a pleasure' to be invited to perform the opening ceremony. He said: 'All involved deserve immense gratitude and congratulations for not once but twice delivering the restoration of Raasay House. 'It now stands and will serve the community in its magnificent renewed condition. This is a truly inspirational development.' RHCC chairman David Westgarth said well-wishers 'on Raasay and far beyond' were eager to celebrate the completion of the project. He added: 'The community has

worked so hard on this project for such a long time and to see the finished result makes every minute worth it.' RHCC was formed in 2006 and bought Raasay House, its policies and walled garden from HIE in December 2007 using the Land Reform Act. The magnificent building offers a dramatic focal point for locals and visitors and delivers income to be re-invested in community projects. HIE chairman Professor Lorne Crerar will attend tomorrow's opening. He said: 'HIE is proud to help communities develop their own plans for sustainable, viable futures. I would commend the determination and efforts of all of the people involved - the construction team, the many community volunteers, and HIE's range of expert staff, who have worked so hard to overcome the challenges along the way.'

**Canal walkers give evidence in court there was no sign of alleged attacker**

THE TRIAL of a Caol man accused of fabricating a story about being mugged in Canal Parks has heard several witnesses did not see anyone fitting the description of the alleged attacker. James Mathers told police he was struck on the face by a man who then stole his wallet, which contained £180, as he cycled through a wooded area between the park and the Caledonian Canal at around 9.20am on November 27. The 35-year-old described the assailant as being around five foot eight, wearing

a cap and high visibility vest with a scarf over his face. Five witnesses each told Fort William Sheriff Court they had been walking near the canal that morning but none had seen the man described by Mr Mathers. Corpach man David Malcolm was walking his dog and said he only saw other dog walkers. Procurator Fiscal Laura Ryan asked him: 'If there had been someone in that area wearing a high-vis vest would you have seen them?'

He replied: 'There's a fair chance, yes.' Detective constable Craig Moreland took a statement from Mr Mathers hours after the event, who he described as being 'quite calm' throughout the process. He said: 'The detail he gave was quite extensive considering he'd just been violently assaulted. It's rare to get that amount of detail so soon after the incident.' Several witnesses said Mr Mathers appeared to have an injury to his face after the alleged assault.

The claim raised fears in the village, coming just 12 days after an elderly shopkeeper was held up at knifepoint in Caol shopping centre. Detective Richard Baird said the investigation into the armed robbery was put on hold for several days following Mr Mathers allegation. The wooded area was cordoned off for two days as police searched for evidence. Mr Mathers, of 16 Cameron Place, denies falsely representing the crime to police. The trial continues on September 24.

**Gaelic college marks 40th birthday**

SABHAL Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic college on Skye, has marked its 40th anniversary with a day of celebrations on Tuesday. Students, supporters and staff gathered for 'founder's day' as they enjoyed musical performances, poetry recitals, a procession led by 10 college pipers and readings from the college's first full-time director Farquhar MacLennan. Gaelic scholar Professor Nor-

man Macdonald, who gave a speech in 1974 to mark SMO's first anniversary, delivered a talk about how and why the college was founded. Vice-principal John Norman MacLeod said: 'The day was indeed special with speeches, music, poetry and other events which were very fitting of the occasion. 'It was good to look back on some of the major achievements

and to mark the vision of the founders in the company of staff and students from previous years, right up to the present.' A special reception was also held at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh to mark the day, with First Minister Alex Salmond amongst the attendees. He said: 'It may not be our oldest university, but Sabhal Mòr Ostaig has become the custodian of Scotland's oldest language.'



The ski-tow at the summit of 3,600-foot Meall a' Buiridh in Glencoe on Sunday.

**First snow of autumn falls on mountains**

THE FIRST snow of the autumn hit the West Highlands' mountains earlier this week, raising hopes of an excellent winter sports season ahead. At Nevis Range near Fort William, a covering of the white stuff fell down to 750 metres on Aonach Mor on Monday. And at Glencoe Mountain operations manager Bobby Munro reported a similar story. He said from up on the hill on Tuesday: 'It is over a foot deep in places and was more than that yesterday. It is pure white in bits. 'But this is not out of the ordinary and we totally

expect it to disappear again, the forecast is to be warmer by the end of the week.' He added: 'We are obviously hoping we will have 10 feet of snow all season. We have had a reasonable run over the past few years and we hope it carries on.' Nevis Range marketing manager Heather Negus said: 'We always get snow really early, we need quite a lot of snow before we can start skiing because boulders and natural hazards need to be covered. We are hoping it's going to be a super season.'

**Ali Young indoor football league ready for kick off**

THE ALI Young indoor football league starts at the Nevis Centre in Fort William on Sunday, September 29. Teams are asked to register by next Monday at the latest. Registration forms are available at Nevis Centre reception.

**MP's plea for bold Euro stand**

ROSS, Skye and Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy has made an impassioned plea for his party to be 'bold, brave and up-front' in making the case for the UK's role in Europe. In a clear challenge to anti-EU Conservatives in the Coalition Government, Mr Kennedy told the Liberal Democrat conference in Glasgow on Tuesday to go into next year's European elections 'on the front foot'. He said: 'The chips are down. Britain's future in the EU increasingly is at stake - from the Conservatives as well as, of course, UKIP. 'Europe has been pivotal to the evolution of our political DNA. It is part of our political DNA.' He added: 'The voice of the true believers has to be heard as never before. Ours is the true, sole, pro-European voice which must be heard.'

**Holiday home granted 'reluctant' consent**

A HOLIDAY home built in north west Skye which flouted planning rules has been given 'reluctant' consent by councillors. Permission was originally granted last year for DJ Graham to create a shed on land next to 6 Eyre, Kensaleyre, but the building constructed was nine metres west of where was originally approved. Extra windows and roof lights were also put in place, leading neighbours Christopher Hill and Louise Pearce to complain their privacy had been compromised. Mr Graham then applied for retrospective permission, as well as consent to use the new

building as holiday letting home. Area planning manager Dafydd Jones recommended approval, saying: 'The proposals accord with the provisions of the development plan and there are no material considerations which would warrant refusal of the application.' North Planning Applications Committee chairwoman councillor Isobel McCallum said they were reluctantly granting permission, despite the fact Mr Graham had 'completely ignored' the rules. Committee member councillor Margaret Paterson said: 'This is making a fool of planning.

We have to get the message across that this is not acceptable. 'It's not fair on the public who abide by the rules.' Carl Hibbert was one of several locals who had objected to the plans. Speaking before the meeting, he said: 'I hope permission is not granted because if it is what will be next? Everybody will think they can just apply for a garage and then build a house. 'What's the point in a planning department if you just build what you like and then ask for permission afterwards?'

**Argyll and Bute Council now offers free support to help local businesses supply goods and services to the public sector, through its membership of the Supplier Development Programme. This includes access to free workshops including:**

**Supplier Development Programme**

**Is the Public Sector for You?**  
**Friday 18 October 2013 - Inveraray - 9.30am - 12.00pm**  
 This half day workshop aims to provide you with enough information to decide if this market is for you. It also provides an overview of the tendering landscape and some tips on successful tendering. The workshop is designed for companies and third sector organisations that have had little or no experience of tendering and would like to become 'tender ready'. This level is designed to help companies decide if tendering is for them and if so how to go about it.

**Tender Portals made easy**  
**Tuesday 5 November 2013 - Inveraray - 9am - 12.30pm**  
 This workshop will cover all aspects of using portals, specifically Public Contracts Scotland (PCS). It will ensure you are making the most of all the benefits, including 'Supplier Finder' and 'Quick Quotes', which will increase your opportunities in the public sector to help companies decide if tendering is for them and if so how to go about it.

**Find It, Win It, Keep It**  
**Wednesday 23 October 2013 - Inveraray - 9.30am - 4.00pm**  
 This workshop is for companies who want to improve their success rate at pre-qualification (PQQ) and invitation to tender (ITT) stages but have some experience of tendering with varying success but would like to become more proficient.

**Maximising Your Tender Score**  
**Thursday 14 November 2013 - Inveraray - 9.30am - 12.00pm**  
 This workshop aims to help you maximise your scores when submitting a tender. Aimed at companies and third sector organisations with experience of bidding for work and want to improve their tender performance, quality of their bids or aspire to bidding for bigger contracts.

**Value Add and Innovation**  
**Thursday 14 November 2013 - Inveraray - 1.00 - 4.00pm**  
 This new workshop is designed to help you improve your tender performance and quality of your bids. This workshop is designed for companies and third sector organisations with experience of bidding for work and want to improve their tender performance, quality of their bids or aspire to bidding for bigger contracts.

To book a place on any of these workshops please register with the Supplier Development Programme at [www.sdpscotland.co.uk](http://www.sdpscotland.co.uk).  
 Registration is free and takes only a few minutes. You will then be able to book for this workshop or any of the other free workshops offered across Scotland.  
 To find out more about the Supplier Development Programme visit [www.sdpscotland.co.uk](http://www.sdpscotland.co.uk) or contact Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway team on 01546 605459.



**Man remanded on heroin charges**

AN OBAN man has been remanded in custody on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of heroin. Ross MacLellan, 23, appeared in private at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday where he also faced allegations of possessing ecstasy. Both crimes are alleged to have taken place in Oban's Lorn Court last Sunday. MacLellan made no plea or declaration during the petition hearing and was committed for further examination.

**Accused of taking indecent photos**

AN OBAN man accused of taking and possessing indecent photographs of children appeared on petition at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday. Colin Penrose, 22, currently a prisoner in HMP Barlinnie, made no plea or declaration during the private hearing and was committed for further examination. He was remanded in custody.

**Worst mobile phone coverage in Scotland**

ARGYLL and Bute has the worst mobile phone coverage in Scotland - with nearly 40 per cent of the county unable to get a basic 2G signal. Findings published by the Scottish Government this week show every part of Scotland has 'not-spots', but Argyll and Bute has more than most, with 38.9 per cent of the area unable to get a basic signal, and 71.4 per cent alien to the now-surpassed 3G technology. Highland Council's coverage was comparable to Argyll and Bute's, with 37.7 per cent of the area unable to pick up a 2G signal, and 69.9 outwith 3G reception. The figures, collated by telecoms regulator OFCOM in November last year, show 20.1 per cent of the Western Isles is unable to pick up 2G, but 74.7 per cent of the area outwith the 3G spectrum. Published on Monday, the Mobile Performance and Coverage in Scotland report calls on the Scottish Government to work with OFCOM and phone firms to set up roaming agreements across Scotland. The report, prepared by Red Review Ltd, further calls for the Government to undertake a more comprehensive audit of mobile signal black spots.



**Annie's pride at grandson Skinny's 100 charity miles**

'FAIR proud', Annie MacInnes, 88, greets her grandson David 'Skinny' MacInnes after he made it 100 miles from Ibrox, Glasgow, to Oban - in just 22 hours. A large crowd had gathered at the Corran Halls to meet Skinny as he finished the remarkable feat two hours under time. Thousands of pounds were raised for Macmillan Cancer Support through the 33-year-old's efforts and he thanked everyone who helped along the way before heading home for a well earned bath. For the full story see page 11. 16\_138skimny01

**New bid to tackle Argyll and Bute population loss**

SOME of the most influential figures in Argyll and Bute met at Inveraray Castle last week to lay the groundwork for a summit aimed at reversing the area's declining population. Hosted jointly by Argyll and Bute Council and the Duchess of Argyll, the meeting explored ways to enhance the county's reputation as a place to live and work - as well as promote it as a top-class tourist destination. Infrastructure, accommodation, business and living costs were all discussed at the 'blue sky thinking' gathering. It carries hopes of being a positive first step towards reversing the trends that has seen the population plummet to just 86,900 in 2012 - down from 91,190 in 2004. Among those around the table were representatives from Argyll and Bute Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT** by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk Natural Heritage, West Coast Motors, Argyll and the Isles Tourism and heritage cultural and business representatives. MSPs Michael Russell, Mike MacKenzie and Jamie McGrigor also attended. Next move will be a 'population summit' - something previously requested by Mr Russell - some time in November. Mike Story, the executive director of Argyll and the Isles Tourism, said after Friday's summit: 'It was designed as a 'blue sky thinking' meeting and with a specific focus on population decline. 'We basically looked at everything and what we need to do to reverse the trend and make the population sustainable.

'While we have a lifestyle that's world-class, but how do we get people to afford that lifestyle? How do we make Argyll and Bute more attractive for families and individuals? 'There's a real, positive feeling that we can do something. Each person round the table felt they had something to take forward.' Mr Russell said: 'There are many reasons for the decline, including the drift of population away from rural areas towards towns, which is a long-standing problem. Transport, housing and jobs are all issues too. There was general agreement that this had to be a priority and it was connected to an increase in job opportunities as well as to maintaining and enhancing services.' Those attending the meeting were chosen by the council, with outgoing infrastructure director Sandy Mactaggart starting the meeting, which was chaired

by Councillor John Semple. Speaking to *The Oban Times*, the Duchess of Argyll said: 'We covered so much at the meeting - infrastructure, jobs, hospitals, schools, all sorts of things. We hosted it with the council. 'Argyll is such a great place to be, we've got all these amazing parts and we want to work together and shout about that.' Oban councillor and leader of the local authority, Roddy McCuish, said: 'The opportunity to hold this focus session shows how effective we can be across the political, private and public sectors when we all work together with a clear focus on how we create more jobs and opportunities for the people of Argyll and Bute. 'We are looking forward to the future population and economy summit and will take forward the positive opportunities which the session identified.'

**Doubts remain over power charges**

UNCERTAINTY over how many Argyll households could be paying over the odds for their electricity remains this week - with those affected worried about slipping into a debt crisis. Energy supplier Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) says it hopes to arrange a meeting with Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) and 'wet electric' panel heating manufacturer Dimplex to determine the scale and cause of the fault that has seen some households charged £400 per month for heating in the cold weather. However, SSE admits it has no idea how many people could be out of pocket - and has urged them to get in touch as soon as possible. Meanwhile, *The Oban Times*

has been approached by more people faced with bills of several hundred pounds just to keep their homes warm. One is Elwira Luzak, of Colonsay Terrace, who said she has resorted to using credit cards to pay her bills. 'I'm terrified of the winter,' she said. 'I've been trying for two years to get this problem fixed. In one year, I spent £2,500 in electricity.' So high are the costs of the heating, Elwira says she's not always able to afford food. Another individual affected by the change told *The Oban Times*: 'I went from £20-£30 per week on the key meter to about £80 or £90. You don't realise how much of your money is going into it until you've got none left; then what do you do?'

It is thought the problems with over-charging for electricity stretches back more than six years, with residents believing a combination of the wrong heating system and meter is to blame. ACHA chief executive Alastair MacGregor said tariffs and application of the meters are a matter for SSE and Dimplex, adding it would deal with any problem that is a repair or technical issue following an investigation. Referring to Ms Luzak, he said the association has tried to help her but a complaint lodged in spring 2012 was not upheld because ACHA 'believed it had no responsibility for the day-to-day management of the heating in her home, including - it would appear - the immersion heater

being left on for long periods of time'. He adds ACHA has invested £4million in energy efficiency works on homes across Argyll and Bute to help mitigate against high energy prices. A spokesman for SSE said: 'An energy efficiency advisor has already visited customers who have been in contact with their concerns, however at this time it is unknown how many customers are affected by this.' It urged anyone affected to email headofcustomerservice@sse.com or phone 0800 096 6192.

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(Colonsay Village Hall)

**Friday 27 September 2013**  
Bunessan - 10.00am - 10.30am  
Fionnphort - 11.00am - 11.30am  
Iona - 12.15pm - 1.15pm  
Tobermory - 6.00pm - 7.00pm  
(Aros Hall)

**Saturday 28 September 2013**  
Dervaig - 9.15am - 9.45am  
Salen - 10.30am - 11.00am  
Craignure - 11.30am - 12noon

For an appointment please call 01369 704840

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**TV banker forced to cut Barra filming short**

TELEVISION banker and self-made businessman Dave Fishwick, of Channel 4's Bank of Dave, has been forced to cut-short a filming stint on the Isle of Barra.

The self-made millionaire arrived on the island last month and had started flexing his entrepreneurial muscles before leaving just three days into his stay after being struck down with illness.

There had been rumours he'd 'bitten off more than he could chew' on the island - but Katie Lander of production company Finestripe Productions, said: 'He's quite unwell and can't return to the island until he's cleared for filming.'

'We were due to go back but I got an email saying he was unwell. He's now under medical supervision but he should be back soon.'

**Kilmartin House showcases plans**

KILMARTIN House Museum will show off plans to redevelop its home next week.

Next Thursday from 7pm, the team at the museum will be showcasing how it wants to reinvent itself to better interpret and exhibit the monuments and artefacts of Kilmartin Glen, which are of national importance.

The consultation evening will begin with a presentation by award winning architects Reich and Hall of Edinburgh on their concept design for a redeveloped museum.

The redevelopment project will primarily improve the museum's exhibition and education service.

**Rousing welcome for frigate crew**

THE CREW of the Royal Navy frigate HMS Argyll was given a rousing hero's welcome by hundreds of cheering relatives and friends last Thursday, when the ship returned from a successful maritime policing patrol.

About 500 banner-waving family members and friends welcomed the ship back home to Plymouth after a deployment including operations in the seas around Africa, the Falklands, the Eastern Pacific and the Caribbean.



Five-year-old Laila Reid Cormack hands over a cheque for £1,000 to Skinny as he relaxes in an ice bath. 16\_138skinny03

**Cheers 'Skinny'! 100 miles in under 24 hours**

CHEERS resounded outside Oban's Corran Halls last Saturday afternoon as David 'Skinny' MacInnes completed a heroic feat in aid of charity.

Hundreds of people had gathered to welcome back the Oban man at the end of his 100-mile trek from Glasgow to Oban - which he completed in just 22 hours.

The Rangers fan started his charity challenge at Ibrox at 3pm on Friday, passing through the finish line at 1pm on Saturday before collapsing to the ground.

He said: 'I'm tired and sore from top to bottom but definitely glad I did it.'

'I couldn't think of a better cause to do it for than Macmillan - everyone has been so supportive it's ridiculous.'

Skinny made it through the challenge by running the equivalent of two marathons before starting to slow his pace.

He completed the first 30 miles in three hours and 30 minutes, keeping up a swift pace for the next 26 miles too.

He added: 'I didn't realise how fast I was going but I felt okay and just battered and an ended up giving myself a wee bit of a lead.'

'I was planning to run three miles and walk two but I was just feeling good although getting to the end I had nothing left - I almost quit at Dalmally.'

'It was a sore point, I never ran one second from Dalmally. The Oban Camanachd boys and everyone who met me from Lochawe on kept me going. They were absolutely fantastic.'

'It was a massive team effort, there's no way I would have got through that on my own. If I had been alone I would have quit - it was the toughest thing I have ever done.'

'I'm ecstatic that I made it. I would have been gutted not making it, I have put a lot of hard work in over the last few months.'

Support for Skinny also came from staff at Atlantis Leisure who provided his training free of charge ahead of the run.

And the Oban Camanachd shinty player even received a personal video message from tennis player Rafa Nadal, who recently won the US Open, congratulating him on his 'amazing' achievement.

Skinny completed the run in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, raising more than £5,000 for the charity and wanted to thank everyone who helped, donated and joined him on the route. 'It wouldn't have been possible without them,' he said.

A Just Giving webpage set up overnight had raised £1,000 by the time Skinny arrived in Oban at 1pm and a donation bucket circulating among the crowd gathered to welcome him home collected over £1,800 - including £1,000 from the Rowantree Hotel and Steakhouse.

He added: 'I lost my auntie last year from cancer and other members of my family in the past.'

'This is not my last feat for Macmillan - I think it is the most worthwhile cause out there.'



Tired, sore but ecstatic David 'Skinny' MacInnes crosses the finish line at Oban's Corran Halls. 16\_138skinny04



Time to celebrate: Skinny gets a soaking with champagne after his heroic feat. 16\_138skinny02

**CalMac Ferries awarded £285m contract**

A THREE year extension of the contract to operate ferries in the west of Scotland has been awarded without going to public tender.

The Scottish Ministers, acting on behalf of the Scottish Government, awarded the £285 million deal to CalMac Ferries, a Caledonian MacBrayne owned company.

CalMac will operate the Clyde and Hebrides ferry services until 2016 under the new contract, which took effect on August 16.

Despite the contract not being open for private companies to compete a government spokesman said they 'remain committed to ensuring that Scotland's subsidised ferry service contracts are awarded following fair, open and transparent procurement competitions'.

He said: 'Awarding a three year contract extension to CalMac Ferries Ltd from 2013 to 2016 will allow Scottish Ministers to ensure that, starting in 2014, a robust and thorough procurement exercise is conducted for the next contract that will enable the delivery of enhanced ferry services across the Clyde and Hebrides (CHFS) routes.'

'If Scottish Ministers had sought to tender the CHFS services for the period from 2013 to 2016 the nature and complexity of these services would have meant there was no realistic prospect of completing the tender exercise in the time available.'

**New three-night cruise introduced**

A CRUISE operator working from Oban has introduced a new three-night cruise to their 2014 calendar to help those short on time explore Mull, Loch Linnhe, Loch Leven and Glencoe.

In May, July, September and October of next year, Majestic Line will run its 'Inlets of Mull and Loch Linnhe' cruises out of Oban twice monthly.

**Independence: pair turn up heat**

A NORTH Lorn hotelier squared up against one of Scotland's most famous chefs in a debate over independence last night.

Beppo Buchanan-Smith, owner of the Isle of Eriska Hotel near Benderloch, took on Andrew Fairlie on behalf of Better Together.

Mr Fairlie, of the Gleneagles Hotel, represented the Yes campaign at the debate in Edinburgh's National Museum of Scotland. The pair tuned up the heat over crucial questions on what independence would mean for the food, drink and hospitality sector - Scotland's fifth largest. The six key points discussed included personal and industry taxes, salaries and pensions, alcohol and tobacco legislation, vocational education, renewables and currency.

**Tourism co-op roadshow to help industry grow**

ARGYLL and the Isles Tourism Co-operative (AITC) will take to the road this month as it asks locals to help grow the industry for the future.

Starting today (Thursday) at the Gaelic Centre in Bowmore, the roadshow opens with a workshop from 1pm-4.30pm exploring opportunities for tourism and growth, as well as helping inform AITC's response to the national tourism strategy. A drop in will be held in the evening from 6.30pm-8.30pm.

now and October 10 are Bellochaunty, Oban, Cairnbaan, Craignure, Strachur, Rothsay, Tiree and Helensburgh.

Mike Story, executive director of AITC Mr Story and Carron Tobin, also of AITC, will lead the workshops.

**Key players**  
At each event they will be joined by key players from the local marketing group plus Business Gateway, Visit Scotland and other partners. Mr Story said: 'Both the region as a whole and individual

businesses will benefit from collaborative working.

'This is an opportunity for anyone involved in the industry, directly or indirectly, to exchange views at a local level and learn more about how they can work together to take advantage of regional and national strategies.'

'We really encourage everyone involved in tourism to come along to their local event.'

For more information on upcoming roadshows, visit explore-argyll.co.uk/roadshow2013.

**Rent arrears rise by £94,000 in wake of 'bedroom tax'**

RENT arrears at Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) have risen to £94,000 since the controversial new 'bedroom tax' was introduced, it has emerged.

And the spiralling problem saw ACHA chief executive Alastair MacGregor invited down to Westminster to give evidence to the Scottish Affairs Committee.

Mr MacGregor told MPs why he believes the controversial measure should be repealed and highlighted how it has already impacted on tenants.

Speaking after giving evidence, Mr MacGregor said: 'While making it clear to

the Scottish Affairs Committee that ACHA supported the repeal of the bedroom tax legislation I also highlighted the practical realities for the association and its tenants on the ground. Of the 530 tenants affected by the bedroom tax, only 68 have no arrears and 120 have arrears of over £250.'

'The reality is that people who are already very poor have no guarantee that discretionary housing payments will make up for the loss of previous income that helped with their housing costs.'

'My concern is that this policy could end up costing more money than it saves if people become homeless because they

cannot pay their rent.' Mr MacGregor added that there had only been a 50 per cent success rate to date for the tenants affected who had applied for a discretionary housing payment to deal with the hardship caused by the 'tax'.

In ACHA's case, there was a shortage of one-bedroom homes available to which to move. It also has a commitment to provide half of its lets to homelessness referrals, which further impedes its ability to move people quickly. The Scottish Affairs Committee is due to report with its conclusions on its investigation into the bedroom tax later this year.

**Dramatic rescue sees several boats come to aid of yacht smashed on Oban rocks**



Oban lifeboat guides the Tangon to the safety of Oban harbour. 138rescue1

A DRAMATIC rescue saw several boats come to the aid of a yacht after it smashed on rocks at the entrance to Oban Bay on Sunday afternoon.

The 29ft Tangon grounded on the south side of Maiden Isle in heavy seas amid the first major storm of the autumn.

Remarkably, the family of four on board, all from Edinburgh, escaped unhurt, with Oban lifeboat helping tow the stricken yacht back into Oban and installing a pump to stop the vessel from sinking.

The boat got into trouble just after noon, just as wind and sea conditions were deteriorating, in full view of the lifeboat crew in their office.

Oban lifeboat's Willie Melville said: 'They were just having a coffee and a bletcher when they saw her swept into the rock. What was heartening though was the amount of people that came by to help. As soon as it was on the radio, the Puffin Dive Centre boat, the Puffin IV was there. The MV Isle of Mull turned around, the Marleane fishing vessel was there and Scottish Sea Farms sent a boat too.'

The Puffin IV attached a rope to the vessel to hold it in place until the lifeboat, the Mora Edith MacDonald, arrived moments later. 'She was quite badly damaged,' added Willie. 'It would have been a sinking risk if she didn't get the water pumped out.'

One eye-witness, who watched events unfold from the road near Dunollie, said: 'It was certainly dramatic to watch. It was a great rescue.'

**Sound of Islay tidal power pilot scheme**

TIDAL power devices are to be installed in the Sound of Islay as a forerunner for a possible much bigger marine renewable energy scheme.

The pilot, brokered under a deal between ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) and international engineering company Alstom, will see up to four of Alstom's tidal devices installed between Islay and Jura alongside four SPR turbines.

One of the Alstom machines is currently on test at the European Marine Energy Centre in Orkney.

Should test results prove favourable, the Sound of Islay's fast-flowing tidal currents could become

how to the largest tidal array in the world when fully operational.

Simon Christian, UK managing director at SPR said: 'Islay will now permit the two leading tidal power technologies to be proven side by side and to take them both to the point of commercialisation. This move will also broaden the opportunities for the wider Scottish supply chain, helping to maximise local benefits and support government ambitions to kick-start a new industry here.'

He added: 'Marine energy has the potential to deliver substantial benefits for the Scottish economy as the sector grows - and it is essential

that we maximise that potential.' The first unit should be deployed in late 2015, with full site deployment during 2016.

Operations are planned for 25 years and the demonstration project is anticipated to be the launch pad for future larger scale sites around the Scottish coast.

The development will be capable of generating up 10 MW of electricity in total.

The company says it is committed to working with its community partner, the Islay Energy Trust (IET), to maximise social and economic benefits for the community.

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Horse

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Mànràn

Fence Records presents: The Pictish Trail & Friends

Chemikal Underground presents: Emma Pollock, Loch Lomond, Miaoux Miaoux

For line up and ticket info visit [www.thespree.co.uk](http://www.thespree.co.uk)

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## Fort face long trip to the Galloway for Scottish Cup replay

**REPORT BY STEPHEN NORRIS**  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

William Hill Scottish Cup First Round  
**Fort William 0, Newton Stewart 0**

DO NOT be deceived by the scoreline - this was a cracking William Hill Scottish Cup first round tie.

In a match which had more twists and turns than the A82 along Loch Lomond-side, both sides scorned gilt-edged chances to claim a place in the second round draw - but a combination of brilliant goalkeeping and profligate finishing ensured the scoresheet remained blank.

Danny Conlon's men now face a long trip to Galloway on Saturday for a replay which in all truth they could do without.

Fort dominated the first half as the visitors from the south seemed to struggle to shake off the effects of the long coach journey.

A poor Newton Stewart corner on 15 minutes led to a smart counter attack and Iain MacLellan might have done better than shoot straight at Fidler when a square ball might have been a better option.

Seconds later, a brilliant through ball by the influential Gary Farquhar put MacLellan through again but the big forward's effort flew narrowly over.

Fort were bossing the game and playing some fine passing football. Gordon McCarroll's free kick on 25 minutes shaved

the post then Darren Quigg fired in a screamer from long range which looked net-bound until deflected wide.

Iain Foggo, Quigg and Andy Martin had the Newton forwards well shackled - but after the break the Galloway boys were a team transformed.



Darren Quigg makes a vital interception on Calum Dunn.

The impressive Ryan McKie was switched up front and immediately made his presence felt, firing in a dangerous cross which Quigg did well to flick clear.

It was end to end stuff now and chances began to flow for both teams.

On 74 minutes McCarroll had his powerful drive blocked by Newton centre half Thompson,

then Fort keeper Donaldson had to look sharp to keep out McKie's 20-yarder.

A Thompson mistake gifted McCarroll a great chance, but his chip over Fidler drifted agonisingly wide. Newton's Taylor then had time to pick his spot from 18 yards but screwed

his shot wide. Back came Fort and Keith Millar had his head in his hands when his goal-bound volley was blocked on the line.

Newton came again and with five minutes left Muir broke free but his mis-hit shot from a tight angle did not trouble Donaldson.

At the other end, Millar picked out Duncan Campbell with a

pinpoint cross but his header was straight at Fidler.

The visitors were saving their best for last and surged forward in a bold bid to find a late winner.

First Muir dragged his shot wide from a great position - but seconds later conjured up a clever flick header which looked a winner all the way as it looped over Donaldson.

But the big keeper arched back and somehow clawed the ball away with his fingertips from under the crossbar, drawing gasps of admiration from the visiting supporters in the away stand. Newton scented victory and almost won it in stoppage time, but James Mackay blocked Henry's close range header on the line.

Fort manager Danny Conlon said after the game: 'If you don't take your chances when you're on top, then you tend to pay the price.'

'They raised their game in the second half while we didn't reach the same high levels of the first half. In the last ten minutes it could have gone either way.'

Newton Stewart manager David Hyslop said: 'It was most certainly a game of two halves. It took us a while to get going, but you tend to find that with the away team.'

Should Fort William prevail against Newton Stewart on Saturday they will meet either Lossiemouth or Culter in the second round at Claggan Park on Saturday October.

### FOOTBALL



Newtonmore captain Jamie Robinson holds aloft the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup after his team's 3-0 triumph over Kyles Athletic at An Aird last Saturday. See page 27 for report and more photographs. Photo: Donald Cameron

## Winning start for Lochaber squash team

LOCHABER Plumblin got their Highlands and Islands Squash Association Premier League 2013/14 season off to a winning start last week when they defeated Elgin Squash Club A 3-1 at Lochaber Leisure Centre, Fort William.

Lochaber are seeking to improve on their third place in the 2012/13 league and some excellent play ensured a morale-boosting opening victory.

**Contest of the night**  
General standard of play was high but the number one match between Lochaber's Alan Love and Fergus Richards was the contest of the night.

Fergus, the current number one under-17 player in Scotland, showed his experience at the top level

winning the second game 14-16 after saving three game balls.

Individual results (Lochaber players first): Archie MacGillivray 3 John Ramsbottom 0; Andrew MacMaster 3 Ian Maltman 0; Bruce Love 3 Chris Bradshaw 1; Alan Love 0 3 Fergus Richards 3.

The Lochaber Squash Club Championship will be held this Friday and Saturday at Lochaber Leisure Centre.

The next league match is against Forres at Inverness on September 26.

### SQUASH

## Fort William athletes impress

### TRIATHLON

TWO FORT William athletes impressed against a field of 140 competitors at a recent triathlon held in Grantown-on-Spey.

Stevie Martin made his return from a six month injury layoff to take fourth place, despite his timing chip slipping off his ankle during the 300m swim.

He still managed to emerge from the water in second place, and a strong cycle over the 10 mile course was followed by a third place in a three mile run to take fourth place overall.

Meanwhile, Karena Hutton put in an impressive display in her first ever triathlon. A very strong performance in the cycling helped her finish as the 12th fastest woman overall.

## Caitlin makes the arrows fly

### ARCHERY

JUNIOR Kinlochleven archer Caitlin Irbhinn is taking aim at the Scottish outdoor field archery national age group title at Fort William on October 19 after hitting the bullseye in two major competitions.

Caitlin, aged 12, the daughter of South Lochaber Bowmen president Dubh Irbhinn, became indoor Scottish champion at the recent championships at Strontian.

The keen-eyed Kinlochleven High School pupil followed up that success when she took gold at 2013 STAFFA Field Archery Championships in West Lothian last month.

Dad Dubh told the Oban Times: 'Caitlin has been shooting for about three years and was one of our first clubs. If she keeps this up she has a great chance of winning outdoors at Fort William.'

Garrison Bowmen will host the October 19 event.



Ace archer: Caitlin Irbhinn with the trophy she won in West Lothian.

## Falcons lose out by a point in Dingwall

### NETBALL

FORT WILLIAM Falcons netball team just missed out on winning the Highland and Moray Netball tournament at Dingwall Academy on September 7.

Playing in a combined squad along with Golspie, the Falcons finished the eight-game round-robin tournament on 29 points, just one point behind winners Nessie Bees of Inverness.

The event marked the start of the new season as the sport continues to enjoy something of a resurgence in the north.

Anyone interested in starting a club of getting involved in the game can email fwnetball@hotmail.co.uk.



## High standard at Masonic Pairs

KINLOCHLEVEN Bowling Club held its Masonic Balloted Pairs competition on Sunday, September 8 in fine, dry weather.

The final was one of the closest and most exciting of the season. The standard of play was extremely high and by the last end, there was only one shot difference.

With only two bowls left to play, it was thought

### BOWLS

an extra end would be needed to decide the winners, but Keith Brannagan and Christine Kane held on to emerge victors.

Pictured above with the winning pair are runners-up Eddie Downs and Liz Kennedy, right.

## Lochaber pull off the great escape

RBS Caledonian North Division Two  
**Lochaber 24**

**Aberdeen Wanderers 15**  
LOCHABER pulled off the great escape to come back from 15-0 down to win against a spirited Aberdeen Wanderers side on Saturday.

Playing on Inverloch's Black Parks for the first time this season as pitch repairs are carried out at Banavie, Lochaber were looking for revenge after defeat in the reverse fixture two weeks before.

In the opening quarter, the home side allowed Wands to run into a healthy 15 point lead through two tries and a penalty.

There was the potential for heads to drop, but as has been the case often this season, Lochaber had other ideas.

They started playing confident, attacking rugby, with backs and forwards linking up impressively to put the visitors on the back foot.

But despite intense pressure, the deficit was not reduced before the half time whistle blew.

Lochaber continued to press after the break, and got on the scoresheet through a Chris Simpson try, and shortly afterwards strong running and a try from

Conor Taylor put the game within reach.

The momentum was now with the home side, and Ben Leon went over in the corner to put Lochaber in the lead for the first time in the game.

Flanker Craig MacPherson crashed over after good work from Jack Ringland to secure the bonus point.

Despite some pressure from Aberdeen to get back into the game, Lochaber's defence held strong and victory was secured.

Captain Mike McLeish said: 'The game highlighted the impressive fighting ability of Lochaber, and to never accept defeat. A fine effort from the

whole squad. 'This week we play Moray at Black Parks at 3pm, hoping to continue our impressive league form.'



Alasdair Gibson, representing sponsors, Leiths, presented new strips to Lochaber club president Alistair MacKinnon and the team before Saturday's match.

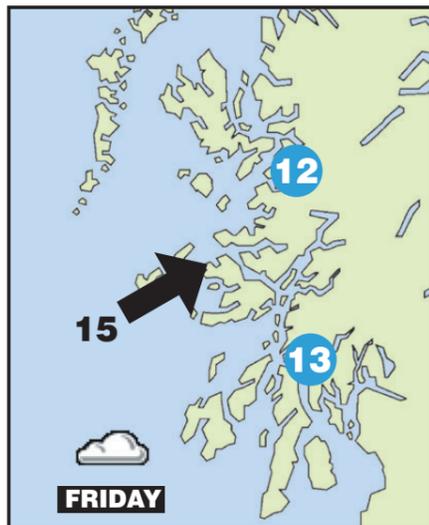
## Weather

**Thursday** Heavy rain showers  
Winds strong west south westerly  
Temperatures 11°C to 13°C

**Friday** Cloudy  
Winds moderate west south westerly  
Temperatures 11°C to 13°C.

**Weekend** Light rain  
**Outlook** Winds moderate south south westerly  
Temperatures 12°C to 14°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, September 19, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 05.21	3.9 11.38	0.5 17.39
Fri 05.54	4.0 12.19	0.4 18.14
Sat 00.35	0.6 06.26	4.0 12.58
Sun 01.12	0.7 06.58	4.0 13.35
Mon 01.47	0.8 07.28	3.9 14.10
Tues 02.24	1.0 17.59	3.7 14.46
Wed 03.04	1.3 08.32	3.5 15.26

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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