

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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# Autumn Property review

Pages 17 to 21

## Connel man's early morning outburst costs £600

A CONNELL man has been fined £600 after admitting hammering on his tenants' front door and shouting threats in a furious early morning outburst.

Ewen MacPherson, of Lagavullin, demanded the couple inside hand over the keys and gave them an hour to get out during the incident at 6.30am on May 2.

MacPherson also told them he had taken photos of them and threatened to go to their employers with these if they contacted police.

Prosecutor fiscal Eoin McGinty told Oban Sheriff Court: "The witness was within his bedroom with his one year old son and wife when they heard a repeated bang at the door.

"They went to the door and noticed the accused shouting 'I want you out of my house' repeatedly as he banged at the door."

MacPherson, 44, also pled guilty to obstructing police by refusing to provide keys to the property in North Connel when he appeared at court last week.

On May 10 the woman returned home and couldn't get into the house, the court heard. Police contacted MacPherson who told them: "You may as well arrest me - I'm not prepared to give the keys back."

He handed over the keys on being detained.

Defending, Gordon Seaton told the court there was a background to the case and civil proceedings were ongoing.

MacPherson had also issued an eviction notice.

He said: "Mr MacPherson wasn't sure if the tenants were still in the house or not when he went to the property at that time of the morning. His behaviour was unacceptable but it was borne out of frustration.

"He accepts his refusal to hand over the keys was stupid and he apologises to the police."

Asking for MacPherson to be fined, Mr Seaton said: "The situation is regrettable, Mr MacPherson runs a successful flooring company business in Oban and has done for a number of years."



Oban sisters Edie, left, and Alex Elliot, pictured at a scarf-covered lamp post above Craigard Road, will be helping to create scarves for the yarnbombing at Atlantis Leisure. 16.139yarn01

## Fundraisers knit together to back colourful yarnbombing craze

FUNDRAISERS behind the proposed Oban Community Playpark upgrade plan have come up with an eye-catching strategy to increase awareness of their project.

The Friends of Oban Community Playpark, with the help of Oban artist Alice Strange, have adopted the colourful craze of 'yarnbombing' to decorate parts of Atlantis Leisure and the playpark with scarves and

blankets and other knitted items. Far from being a woolly idea, the fundraising group reckons the knitted decorations at the playpark, situated next to Atlantis Leisure, will get people talking about the project and hopefully donating to the cause.

The upgrade fund currently stands at £15,000, with the friends hoping to raise £20,000 locally, before applying for around £380,000 of grants.

Lyndsay Elliot, chairwoman of the fundraising group, said people could expect to see the yarnbombing begin this week but encouraged keen knitters and stitchers in the community to volunteer their services to help.

If you would like to assist the group by knitting or donating money contact Mrs Elliot at lyndsay.elliott@unk.com or telephone 07919651181.

## MSP backs parents' demand for more Oban High teachers

CONCERNED parents have received the backing of SNP Argyll and Bute MSP Mike Russell after telling the local authority that teacher shortages at Oban High School 'cannot be allowed to continue'.

A lack of tutors for subjects throughout S4-S6 at Oban High School has resulted in some pupils missing out on their first choice subjects - prompting fears they may not be able to study towards qualifications essential for their chosen university or career aspirations.

A plea by the parent council to Argyll and Bute Council for more funding to be released for teachers in the 2013-14 has been refused.

Now Mr Russell has backed the parent group after it produced figures showing the school's teacher numbers do not stack up

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

when compared to similar sized schools elsewhere in Scotland. Speaking as the constituency MSP, the education minister said: "These comparisons show other local authorities are doing better."

"Given that Argyll and Bute has the fourth highest spending per head of Scottish local authorities, the issue can't be resources."

"I would therefore hope the education department of the council could work with the parent council and the school to sort this problem as soon as possible."

The parent council is due to

address councillors on their concerns on October 9. In a letter to the local elected members, the parent council said: "The school timetable is now running on such a tightrope of capacity so that there is no reserve for any new pupils starting Oban High School being able to take up subjects of their choice, let alone meeting the choice of existing pupils."

"This will not encourage rural regeneration when choices offered to young people are limited by capacity within the school."

"We are excited about the prospect of a new, modern school building but we need the correct number of teachers."

"We feel the council has let down pupils in Oban High School for 2013-14. This cannot happen again for 2014-15."

The authority is currently working on a review of secondary school staffing throughout Argyll and Bute, due to be published in December, but said it was unable to comment on it at this time.

A spokeswoman said: "Oban High School has the number of teachers it requires to educate all of its pupils in session 2013/14. The staffing formula is under review and will be revised according to the result of that process for session 2014/15."

She added: "Argyll and Bute Council receives funding based on nationally applied terms and allocates that according to the requirements of the services it delivers."

"The council maintains a dialogue with the Scottish Government on all matters which affect the area."

## Dawnfresh defends poor reports on Etive fish farms

Firm blames admin errors and staff shortages

FISH farming company Dawnfresh has blamed administrative errors and a staff shortage for poor compliance reports on its four Loch Etive fish farms.

Two of the fish farms, one near Inverawe and the other at Port na Mine, are among only four in Scotland to be rated 'very poor' in the compliance band by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

Both were cited for 'unsatisfactory benthic monitoring' and failing to submit data returns correctly. The Inverawe farm was further cited for breaching the authorised stocking density while Port na Mine was found to be in the wrong location.

Dawnfresh's farm at Ardcath-

tan Bay was rated poor, following receipt of a 'borderline' seabed monitoring survey and failing to submit quarterly data returns in accordance with licence requirements.

Finally the site at Airds Bay was in the 'at risk' compliance band, following non-compliance with record keeping and failing to submit data returns.

In all four cases, an action plan has been drafted to improve compliance throughout 2013.

Gideon Pringle, Dawnfresh's farms manager, said: "Obviously we're disappointed. I would draw attention to the fact that these were administrative."

In amongst the difficulties, he said, was the departure of a technical manager who handed

the reports throughout Scotland and a subsequent period where the position was unfilled.

Mr Pringle added: "It's worth noting there are no sanctions or punitive measures taken. Most of the issues have already been rectified."

Keith Macmillan of the Friends of Loch Etive group campaigning against the company's application to establish a new fish farm at Sailean Ruadh, said: "Not only does this SEPA report demonstrate the managerial and administrative incompetence of Dawnfresh, but it gives the lie to assurances given at all the community meetings that the granting of a provisional SEPA licence would protect the environment of the loch."

## Doors open on new hospital dental centre

OBAN'S new dental centre at the Lorn and Islands Hospital is open.

Dentist Colin Crawford is now accepting patients into the new, purpose-built hospital, which has its own dedicated entrance next to the hospital's new pedestrian crossing.

Mr Crawford said: "We are all enjoying our great new working environment and looking forward to providing an even better service to our patients."

Dentists from the town's Argyle Square practice, which currently caters for NHS patients, are set to move to the new hospital next month.



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## 'Celebrity' Bob tees off in Dunhill Links

HIS CLUBMATES at Oban's Glencruitten Golf Course always knew it, but teenage golfer Robert MacIntyre has had his 'celebrity' status confirmed with an invitation to play in this year's Alfred Dunhill Links Championship.

As the Scottish boys' champion, the 17-year-old has been invited as a 'celebrity', alongside the likes Sir Steve Redgrave, Johan Cruyff and Sir Ian Botham, to compete in the Pro-Am with European Tour players such as Ernie Els, Padraig Harrington and Martin Kaymer. Robert only got the call to play on Tuesday, completed a practice round yesterday and began the four-day televised competition today (Thursday).

He said: "I got put forward by the Scottish men's coach but we were having a laugh at the prospect of me being picked to play. I was gobsmacked to actually get the phone call!"

## 'Baa-d' news for free range sheep farmer

A FLOCK of free-range sheep have been causing chaos in the Glenshellach area of Oban, munching gardens, soiling pavements and even blocking helicopters.

Now, a 79 year-old woman has been charged with allowing her animals to cause danger to others following weeks of disruption near the Oban, Lorn and Islands Hospital.

NHS Highland were forced to call in the police several times after the animals took up residence on the Oban hospital's helipad, creating a danger of delayed or even aborted landings for air ambulances.

Meanwhile residents have been getting fed up of returning home to find their plants, grass and shrubs munched away by the foraging sheep.

One told *The Oban Times* the troublesome livestock has eaten hundreds of pounds worth of plants in his garden.

"I've been fleeced," he said. "They're a real pain. There's sheep dirt everywhere and you get worried with the kids running about - especially if there's a risk of infection or e-coli from it. There's really no excuse for it - sheep are pretty easy to keep behind a fence."

A spokesman for NHS Highland said: "It appears



Sheep have had to be chased away from the helipad at the Oban, Lorn and Islands Hospital regularly in recent weeks after escaping from a local farm.

16.139sheephelipad1

sheep are escaping from a nearby farm and are accessing the hospital grounds from the main road.

"We have reported this issue to the police on a number of occasions"

Police confirmed a woman was charged on Tuesday morning.

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## Big screen charity fundraiser

OBAN Phoenix Cinema will hold its first joint fundraising event next week as part of a double-header in aid of Alzheimer Scotland.

Next Thursday's showing of the Judi Dench and Kate Winslet Academy award-winning film, *Iris*, will be followed on October 24 by a showing of *Quartet*, starring Billy Connolly, Maggie Smith and Michael Gambon.

Tickets for both films will cost £5, with the proceeds being split between Alzheimer Scotland and the cinema, which is a charity and social enterprise.

The events were arranged jointly between NHS Highland, Alzheimer Scotland and the cinema, with the picture house staff volunteering their time free of charge to run the event.

Cinema manager Carol Devine said: 'It's the first time we've done anything like this and it is something we're looking to encourage and we'd encourage charitable organisations to contact us if they'd like to arrange something.'

For tickets or more information, drop into the cinema at 140 George Street, phone 562905 or visit [obanphoenix.com](http://obanphoenix.com).

## Lifeboat rescues tri-maran

OBAN Lifeboat went to the rescue of a tri-maran last Wednesday night after it dis-masted near Melfort.

The *Mora Edith Macdonald* was launched at 6.10pm after a mayday message was put by the *Champus*, which was south east of Shuna.

The Northern Lighthouse Board ship *Pharos* responded and was standing by the yacht when the lifeboat arrived on scene. Lifeboat coxswain John Hill transferred two of his crew to the tri-maran to assist in lashing the mast to her deck and, with no damage to steering or power, the yacht's skipper made the decision to make for Craobh Haven Marina, escorted by the lifeboat.

## Rescue photograph

LAST week's photograph of the *Tangon* rescue from Maiden Isle, which featured on page three, was taken by Susan McNaughton.

## Uist library van man is UK best

A WESTERN Isles Libraries' mobile library assistant has won the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals award for 2013.

Donald Ewen Morrison was named as overall winner at the organisation's annual 'Mobile-meet' in Chorley, Lancashire.

The UK-wide award recognises extraordinary achievements of mobile library workers who make a difference to the lives of their users.

Donald Ewen has been a familiar face across the Uists and Benbecula for 10 years, bringing supplies of books as well as a chat and a friendly smile.

Pamela Taylor-Bramwell, the community librarian for the Uists who nominated Donald Ewen, said he was the best ambassador a library service could ever have.

'Donald Ewen is a great communicator and actively promotes the Gaelic language and culture through his language skills and knowledge of local history and Gaelic resources,' she said.

'When the primary school pupils in Eriskay had a project about growing food, not only did Donald Ewen deliver a box of books he also gave a talk on growing vegetables and helped them to select and sow seed potatoes.'

Donald Ewen's customers

played their part in nominating him for the award.

Sandi Humphrey of North Uist said: 'Here in this isolated island in the midst of the Atlantic ocean, where weather and other conditions mean we get cut off from the mainland, having a real book person who cares about his clients is not just a privilege but a necessity.'

Edna Walton, of South Uist, added: 'In this widely scattered area there are many elderly and housebound people, who can't go to a library, and depend on his visits not only for books but for his cheerful personality, not to mention news of the outside world.'

'He is outstandingly courteous, helpful and kind. For those who can't come to the van he will come to the door and arrange the transactions for them, and for those who have difficulty walking, he always carries the books.'

'He also has tremendous patience with those who, like myself, take a long time to consider and choose books.'

Kathleen Milne, library team leader said: 'The award is wonderful a recognition of Donald Ewen's contribution to the library service in the Western Isles, but also a testament to the great work accomplished by the mobile library drivers across the Western Isles.'



Donald Ewen Morrison: outstanding service to the Uists for 10 years.

## Curtain up on unique production

A UNIQUE Gaelic/English theatre production is coming to the Nevis Centre in Fort William tomorrow night under a new initiative to make contemporary theatre accessible to a wider audience.

Forcan Beaga/Little Forks, written by Rebecca Sharp and

translated by Gillebride Mac-Millan, enjoyed rave reviews in Glasgow earlier this year.

The show, being presented by Inverness-based social enterprise Play Pieces, will also feature live music. Curtain up 7.30pm. More information at [www.playpieces.co.uk](http://www.playpieces.co.uk).



Oban's most dedicated film buffs: from left, Fergus McGowan, Thomas Smith and Allan Colthart. 16\_13910r2

# Pester power wins over cinema staff

## Film buffs convince Phoenix to stage overnight Lord of the Rings marathon

'ONE Ring to rule them all, One Ring to find them, One Ring to bring them all and in the darkness bind them.'

In Oban, at least, JRR Tolkien's poem resonates with a group of avid cinema-goers.

That's because four film buffs at Oban High School have convinced the staff at Oban's Phoenix Cinema to bind them in darkness for an overnight Lord of the Rings marathon.

Friends Fergus McGowan, Allan Colthart, Thomas Smith and Jay MacAulay have been pestering the cinema for some time to show all three extended editions of Peter Jackson's epic film trilogy back to back - a feat

that requires nearly 12 hours of viewing. So determined were they that when the staff at the community-owned picture house asked them to gather 100 names on a petition, the quartet did just that in just three days.

The cinema has now committed to showing the films on December 6, from 6.30pm all the way through to 8.30am the following day - with time set aside for breaks.

It is hoped the marathon will be the first of many and the boys are delighted they'll be able to take in the trilogy - even if Jay won't be able to take in the fruits of his labours after moving to Dubai.

Thomas, 17, said the marathon

has caught lots of people's imaginations.

'It started off as a bit of a joke but it turned into this,' he said.

'People are wanting a few marathons now, for things like Star Wars, Back to the Future and Indiana Jones.'

Such was the popularity of the petition that the group are thinking of starting a film club for the marathons.

Fergus, also 17, added: 'We thought about doing it quarterly or every four months so people don't get bored of it.'

Cinema manager Carol Devine

said: 'They came back with the petition right when I took over and we wanted to do it,

so it's going ahead. It's great as a community cinema to be able to meet requests like this, especially when they've put in so much effort.'

'This is the first marathon we've done but maybe the first of many.'

We want people to come to us with requests such as this.'

The week will have a Tolkien theme, with Sunday afternoon seeing the full frame-rate version of *The Hobbit Part One* shown, which was previously unavailable to the cinema. The *Hobbit Part Two* starts showing the following Friday.

## Parcel delivery staff on strike for a week

PEOPLE in the Highlands will be waiting even longer than usual for parcel deliveries this week as staff at couriers City Link went out on strike.

Workers throughout Scotland announced seven days of strike action in fight over pay and conditions. The strike started on Tuesday and workers will go back to work next Tuesday.

Depots in Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Glenrothes and Motherwell are all affected by the action resulting in delays across the country.

## Western Isles food bank opens

THE WESTERN Isles has opened a food bank to provide needy families with emergency supplies.

The Eilean Siar Foodbank on Point Street in Stornoway will organise food deliveries throughout the Western Isles - and has already had many people referred to them by a number of agencies.

The volunteer service was set up by The New Wine Church in Stornoway, working in partnership with the Trussell Trust.

Local MSP Alasdair Allan said: 'I regard it as a scandal that there are people in the Western Isles in the 21st century who struggle to feed themselves and their families, but this situation is sadly a reality for some people.'

'My own view is that changes happening in the benefits system just now are making this situation much worse.'

He added: 'What is positive, however, is that so many people in the islands are concerned enough so act.'

## Comhairle celebrates opening of new office

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar celebrated the opening of their new office in Harris last week.

The former primary school building in Tarbert was opened by Marion Morrison, who unveiled a plaque before Sir E Scott School pupil's put on some musical performances.

Comhairle convener Norman MacDonald said: 'It is pleasing to see that this old school building is now being put to good use and that the Comhairle can continue to offer a traditional service in a more modern environment.'

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## Search national library website in Gaelic

NATIONAL Library of Scotland collections can now be searched in Gaelic as part of its continuing commitment to promote the use of the language.

The main catalogue has almost five million records and includes the majority of the library's printed collections.

Dr Alasdair Allan, Minister for Scotland's Languages, officially launched the new Gaelic feature on the library's website last week. He said: 'For Gaelic to flourish, people with the language must be encouraged to use it more often and there must be more opportunities for them to do so on a day to day basis. The National Library's Gaelic catalogue will give speakers and learners a unique opportunity of being able to access this incredible national collection of more than 15 million printed items representing centuries of Scottish heritage, culture and achievement.'

NLS has also published its own Gaelic Language Plan setting out how it will support Gaelic use.

## Phone operator's pledge

MOBILE phone operator EE has promised to improve the service to the Isle of Lewis, which has suffered several technical faults recently.

The faults have led to a loss of signal for users on EE, Orange and T-Mobile. Representatives from EE recently held a recent meeting in Uig on the island to discuss providing a resilient mobile service to islanders. Local MP Angus MacNeil attended the meeting, and said: 'I could relay personally how difficult it is for customers when faults occur with the mobile signal. EE tell me that they will continue to find ways to improve the resilience of the site in Uig.'



Oban High School model their new blazers.

## New school blazers launched

PUPILS at Oban High have helped to design the school's new blazers, which have been now been launched.

The school has consulted with many groups in the school, from senior to junior pupils, before deciding on the final, more plain, design.

The main concern highlighted

from the previous design was that the braiding and fit was not right - especially for the girls.

Instead of the braiding on the jacket, pupils have agreed on the option of buying a badge to symbolise their clan. There will also be badges available for all extra-curricular activities, and clubs.

Pupils will be encouraged to wear the blazers, which will be sold at £28, in order to instil a sense of pride in the school.

The school will hold a small stock of blazers that can be used by pupils if they are selected to represent the school but do not own a blazer.

## First steel cut for new Stornoway-Ullapool ferry

THE FIRST piece of steel for the MV Loch Seaforth, the replacement ferry on the Stornoway-Ullapool route, was cut in a German shipyard last week.

The ceremony at Flensburg Schiffbau-Gesellschaft MBH and Co KG shipyard in Flensburg marked the start of construction on the new vessel.

The new 116m ro-ro ferry will have capacity for up to 700 passengers and 143 cars or 20 commercial vehicles.

It will be owned by Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) and operated by the current operator of the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services, CalMac Ferries.

The ship is being financed by Lloyds Banking Group and will be leased to CMAL.

CMAL chief executive officer Guy Platten said: 'The new ferry will provide

a lifeline ferry service for communities between the Western Isles and the mainland. We look forward to seeing the ferry going into service in 2014.'

MV Loch Seaforth was named by the public in a competition in April. The winning vote, picked at random from almost 2,000 people, was Mary Davidson from the Isle of Lewis who will attend the launch in February 2014 as a special guest. The vessel, named after the sea loch between Lewis and Harris, is expected to enter service in the summer of that year.

The previous MV Loch Seaforth a MacBrayne mailboat linking Stornoway with Mallaig and Kyle of Lochalsh from 1947 until 1972.

She ran around on Cleit Rock in the Sound of Gunna on March 22, 1973 and was subsequently scrapped.



Andy Robertson and Nick Johnson from Lloyd's Banking Group, Guy Platten, CEO of Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) and Andrew Duncan, Director of Vessels at CMAL push the button to start the steel cutting machine in the Flensburg shipyard. f39ferry1no

\*Introductory discount for landlords with 2-9 properties, offer ends 31st December 2013. † Price available to new customers for the first year (paying by direct debit). Prices for households within the M25 vary. Only one Gas Boiler Safety Certificate (CP12) per HomeCare<sup>®</sup> package per property. ‡ Your breakdown history will be taken into account in determining next year's pricing. † Limits and exclusions apply, see HomeCare<sup>®</sup> Terms and Conditions for details. ‡ Phone lines are open weekdays 8am-8pm and Saturdays 8am-6pm. Calls may be monitored and/or recorded for quality assurance and compliance purposes.

**Assault lands Oban teenager with payback order**

AN ASSAULT on a 15-year-old boy has landed one young Oban man with 90 hours unpaid work to do over the next three months.

Stuart MacCormack, 18, of 1 Polvinster Gardens, Oban, previously admitted seizing the boy by the neck and punching him on the head during the incident in the town's George Street on May 5.

Sheriff Douglas Small ordered MacCormack to attend anger management, victim awareness and alcohol counselling as part of a one year community payback order.

He said: 'It certainly seems to me you need help to deal with your drinking problem. It is landing you in a lot of trouble.'

**Drink driver to attend alcohol counselling**

A MOTORIST who got behind the wheel on two occasions while over the legal drink drive limit has been sent for alcohol counselling.

Wayne Parker, of Ardmore Guest House, 98 West Clyde Street, Helensburgh, previously admitted the two offences and was placed on a community payback order when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week. Parker, 45, was disqualified from driving for three years and ordered to carry out 267 hours of unpaid work.

**Former Oban woman sentenced**

A FORMER Oban woman has been ordered to do 140 hours of unpaid work over the next six months after she assaulted another woman - punching her, pulling her hair and biting her on the ear.

Claire Morrison, 23, of 3/1 4 Maxwell Street, Port Glasgow, was also sentenced to an additional 40 hours at Oban Sheriff Court last week for sending menacing messages to a further two women and breaking her bail condition.

**Dunbeg man admonished**

A DUNBEG man has been admonished by Oban Sheriff Court after assaulting a 16-year-old girl.

Stephen McLuckie, 43, of 7 Lochnell Road, Dunbeg, pled guilty to seizing the girl by the neck and pushing her against a car seat when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

**Police files**

A QUAD bike and a quantity of red diesel has been stolen from a farm near Ardferrn.

The owner reported the thefts to police on Monday after the overnight raid at the property.

Oban Police would be keen to hear from anyone who noticed any suspicious vehicles in the area overnight between Sunday and Monday.

POLICE are looking to speak to two teenage boys who shouted homophobic remarks at a man in Oban's Albany Street last Tuesday.

The victim was leaving Albany Stores at around 10.30pm when two boys, thought to be aged around 15 and 16, began shouting at him.

THE A85 was partially closed near to Cruachan Visitor Centre last Saturday after a Citylink bus, carrying 16 passengers, collided with a van.

None of the passengers were injured and the driver of the van was treated for minor injuries at the scene by an off-duty paramedic. No-one required hospital treatment.

The crash happened at around 7pm and the road was partially blocked for two-and-a-half hours.

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**Man sentenced for Oban hotel break-in**

BREAKING into the Great Western Hotel with intent to steal has landed one Oban man with 150 hours of unpaid work to do over the next six months.

Michael McPhee, 28, of 4 Burnside Court, Miller Road, Oban, was found guilty of the offence following a trial at Oban Sheriff Court earlier this year.

The crime, which took place between December 28 and December 30 2011, was discovered when a hotel employee found a window broken in a store room in the hotel.

McPhee was linked to the break-in after blood found on the window frame at the scene was matched to him.

Defending, Ruben Murdanaigum told the court: 'This incident occurred in 2011. He has been trouble free since then, he has had nothing at all.'

However, McPhee was found guilty of assaulting his ex-partner in August last year following a trial at Oban Sheriff Court.

Mr Murdanaigum asked Sheriff Douglas Small to fine McPhee and added: 'He accepted full responsibility he had been drinking heavily. He is genuine about his remorse.'

Sheriff Small said a fine was not an 'appropriate disposal' for someone with McPhee's record.

**Princess Anne to visit Royal National Mòd 2013**

ORGANISERS of this year's Royal National Mòd have announced this week that HRH The Princess Royal will visit the festival on October 15.

Princess Anne's visit will be during the children's competitions on Mòd Tuesday, as the event goes to Paisley for the first time in its 121-year history.

John Macleod, president of organisers An Comunn Gàidhealach, will act as host to the

Princess Royal. He said: 'We're delighted to welcome a member of the Royal family to visit the Royal National Mòd at a time when we have seen a notable increase in the numbers of children entering competitions.'

'It's encouraging to see a real added interest in the Gaelic language and culture from the younger generation, and some of the credit must go to the continuing popularity of Gaelic Medium Education.'



Tobermory RNLI's Severn class lifeboat, Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey, assisting the Fri Ocean after the vessel ran aground off the Isle of Mull. Photo: RNLI/Sam Jones.

**Busy summer for volunteer Tobermory lifeboat crew**

TOBERMORY is the busiest single all weather lifeboat station in Scotland, according to figures released by the RNLI.

The volunteer crew of Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey were called out on 22 shouts this summer, up six on the same period last year.

Launches for June, July and August totalled 476 across Scotland's 47 stations, just short of the record-breaking summer of 2008, when there were 480.

Tobermory RNLI's call-outs included a marathon 31-hour mission in June to rescue a giant cargo ship, Fri Ocean, hard aground in the Sound of Mull, as well as the rescue of a yacht in the early hours in difficult conditions off the Isle of Coll in August.

Andrew McHaffie, coxswain, said: 'I'd like to pay tribute to the crew who drop

everything at a moment's notice to respond to their pagers.

'This has been a busy summer for the station and many of the shouts have been varied, challenging and complex, with some lasting several hours.'

'I also want to take this opportunity to thank all the partners, families, friends and employers of the volunteer crew. Without their unstinting support, it would be very difficult for us to launch the lifeboat to save lives at sea.'

Oban Lifeboat was called out on 20 shouts, one more than the previous year.

Andy Clift, Scotland's regional operations

manager, added: 'A good summer on the weather front has turned into a busy one for our lifeboats in Scotland, with more people coming to enjoy the coast and sea.'

'We would like to remind the public that some of the incidents undertaken by lifeboats could be avoided if they followed simple beach safety messages, adhered to warning signs and checked tide tables.'

'We cannot fault the professionalism and commitment of our volunteer crews who turn out at a moment's notice 24/7 to help other people in distress, and this is particularly notable when we have long shouts in Scotland lasting several hours.'

The busiest station in Scotland was Broughty Ferry with 43 launches for its two boats, compared with 23 last summer.



Children from First Steps Day Nursery begin their 'Welly Waddle' to Dunollie Castle. 16\_139walk01

**Welly walk fun for Oban youngsters**

TINY tots from Oban's First Steps Day Nursery have undertaken a sponsored 'Welly Waddle' to raise money for a Scottish charity that supports families affected by cot death.

More than 30 youngsters

were escorted by nursery staff, parents and helpers on the sponsored walk, in aid of The Scottish Cot Death Trust, from the Corran Halls to Dunollie Castle on Tuesday.

Organiser Shauna MacKenzie said: 'We were inspired to organise a 'Welly Waddle' because it is for such a good cause and it is good fun for the children.'

'They really love getting their wellies on and going out for a quick splash in the puddles.'

**Scottish Water admits supplying school with out of date supplies**

LUING Primary School was provided with out of date bottled water when a water main burst on the island two weeks ago.

The water supplied to the school by Scottish Water was six months out of date and could not be given to the children, resulting in them missing school.

Children stayed off school for four days in total due to the burst water main. The school

tweeted: 'Day four without water for Luing Primary School. Hopefully opening tomorrow for the shortest week ever.'

Scottish Water confirmed the blunder in a statement to The Oban Times earlier this week. A spokesman said: 'Some bottled water was recently provided to reduce the inconvenience to a small number of customers on Luing whose normal water supply was disrupted due to a burst water main.'

'Some of the bottled water was past its use-by-date. Scottish Water apologises for this mistake and any inconvenience caused.'

One islander, who did not wish to be named, added: 'We need new pipes in a large part of the island.'

'These are old pipes that have been bursting.'

**Angry drivers hit out over short notice A85 closure**

Motorists surprised by operator's overnight Loch Lubhair works

ANGRY motorists have accused the trunk roads operator BEAR Scotland of 'arrogance' after closing a section of the A85 amid claims of insufficient notice being given.

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

Several west-bound drivers were taken by surprise on Sunday afternoon they hit roadworks at Loch Lubhair, 13 miles from Lochearnhead, just after the route was closed at 9pm.

Convoys were only allowed through the stretch each hour, but with the diversion route taking nearly two hours from the closure - starting back at Lochearnhead - those already queuing were left with little option but to wait.

One motorist also alleged roads staff swore at him after being asked why the roadworks appeared without warning.

BEAR Scotland has apologised for not advertising the closure in the local press, but said road-side signs were in place for over a week prior to the resurfacing work, put up on Monday, September 16.

However, Oban businessman Andrew MacDonald, who lives

in North Connel, claims no signs were visible.

'We had taken a trip through to Edinburgh that day, in the car were three other drivers, all watching the road, all alert,' he said. 'Not one of us saw any signs. Had we known, we would have altered our travel plans.'

'We doneed the roads improved and we'd have no problem with that if the roadworks were advertised in advance. We live in a world where communication isn't too difficult when someone applies themselves. The arrogance is unacceptable.'

Mr MacDonald also said there were no signs warning motorists approaching a corner before the closure that the road was closed - with the notices only put up when those stuck at the jam complained it was dangerous.

He added: 'There were young families in that queue, people trying to get home from work

and others. Suddenly, instead of getting home at 10pm, people weren't getting back until midnight.'

'The attitude of the workers was poor - even when you delete the unprintables. That upset one or two people. We were just asking why were there no signs up.'

A spokeswoman for BEAR Scotland said: 'Due to the narrowness of this section of road it is necessary to manage traffic using a convoy system to keep both road users and road workers safe. We do appreciate this will cause delays and ask for patience while these essential works are carried out.'

She added: 'We take the allegations relating to the workers' behaviour very seriously and are investigating them thoroughly.'

The roadworks will be in place until October 4, with closures from 9pm-6pm. Traffic is being diverted along the A82 in the meantime, cutting back in towards Lochearnhead via Callander, Aberfoyle and Dumbarton.

**Lorn Lines**

LORN Garden Club was treated to a most stimulating talk last week when Anna Canning, a medical herbalist from Edinburgh, showed members how 'weeds' could be put to medicinal or culinary use.

Club members were invited to try out some common native plants, or weeds, and displayed various facial expressions while munching away on meadowsweet, nettles, sow thistles and other greenery as Anna explained how effective the plants could be in treating various symptoms without the side-effects produced by some drugs.

The evening was rounded off with a tasting of her Sorrel Pesto.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, October 15 at 7.30pm in St John's Cathedral Hall, when botanist, ecologist and author Dr James Fenton will speak on 'Wild Flowers of the Falklands'.

THE LORN and Mid-Argyll Members' Centre of the Scottish Wildlife Trust held its annual coffee morning last Saturday to raise funds for practical wildlife conservation work in Scotland.

The event was extended this year to include light lunches, in addition to the tea, coffee and home baking usually on offer.

Visitors had the opportunity to buy jewellery, plants, home baking, cards and other gifts and to take part in the tombola, with prizes donated by members and by various businesses in Oban.

Thanks to go to those members who gave their time to run the event and who donated prizes, and also to Cakebread's Garden Centre, Homebase, Oban Chocolate Company, Oban Photographic Centre, Pets at Home, Sealife Adventures, Tesco, The Iona Shop, The Kitchen Garden, and Waterstones for their generosity.

The winter lecture series, held at the Scottish Association for Marine Science, Dunstaffnage, will begin on Thursday, October 17 at 7.30pm with a talk by Kerry MacKay entitled 'My Antarctic Adventure'.

Newsdesk 01631 568000

**Contact ban and unpaid work for Oban 'stalker'**

AN OBAN man who was 'stalking' his former partner has been ordered to carry out 140 hours of unpaid work and banned from contacting her for five years.

Kevin Hobbs, 25, of 11 Croft Avenue, Oban, had previously admitted repeatedly phoning his ex-girlfriend, leaving messages and turning up at her workplace on two occasions.

At the sentencing hearing in Oban Sheriff Court last week, procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said Hobbs had previously appeared at Glasgow Sheriff Court in relation to an assault on the woman and had ignored the court's orders not to contact her.

Between 6.15pm and 10pm on August 25 the woman received 12 phone calls from Hobbs while at work. She didn't answer but was left an abusive message. Mr McGinty said: 'She was frightened and informed her manager. Ten minutes later the accused entered the pub where she was working and police were contacted. He kicked off when

he was in the pub before leaving. Police detained him a short distance away. He was kept in custody and given bail the next day by an honorary sheriff.'

The following day the woman was again in work when Hobbs started phoning. The police picked him up but he was released due to an 'insufficiency of evidence'.

But Hobbs yet again picked up the phone - contacting the woman a further twice that evening and then showing up at her work.

Defence agent Jane Thomson said: 'Alcohol has been an issue. Education is clearly the way forward for Mr Hobbs. He does accept responsibility for his actions.'

Sheriff Douglas Small placed Hobbs on a community payback order for 15 months, which included 140 hours of unpaid work, a condition that he attends alcohol counselling and a five year non-harassment order.

Sheriff Small said: 'Make no mistake, if you breach any order I have imposed today, I'll send you to prison.'

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# Search on for Oban rail track site

THE NEW owner of the Isle of Mull Railway would like to see his locomotives chug along a narrow-gauge track on Oban seaford.

By FAITH ORR  
forr@obantimes.co.uk

Simon Clarke, who works in the oil industry in Saudi Arabia, bought the railway lock, stock and barrel in 2012 and has been looking for a new home for it ever since.

Mr Clarke, 43, has already met with Argyll and Bute Council to discuss possible sites - with the town's esplanade his number one choice.

It is hoped the railway, which consists of three engines, 13 carriages, one and a half miles of track, two turntables, 17 points and a signal, will be up and running within the next three years.

The entrepreneur said he envisages the tiny train catering for local people going from 'A' to 'B' as well as being a tourist attraction.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I would like to see it run along the esplanade and along the bay, it would be splendid. But the practicalities of putting a

railway there, I don't know. As an attraction I think it would be fantastic though.'

'I bought it last year with a view for trying to rebuild it somewhere and have been spending a fair bit of time trying to find somewhere.

'It is definitely going to stay in Scotland and my preference would be to keep it in the Oban area.'

Mr Clarke would also consider a site near Dunstaffnage - but said it would have to be 'somewhere where people want to go'.

The Isle of Mull Railway opened in 1984 with steam and diesel hauled trains taking visitors from the ferry at Craignure to Torosay Castle.

Between 25,000 and 30,000 passengers made the journey every year before it closed in 2012 following the sale of Torosay. Anyone interested in providing land for the railway should contact Simon on Facebook at Jones TheSteam.

## Five years to refurbish Highland war memorials

THE PLANNED refurbishment of war memorials in the Highlands will be spaced out across the next five years.

Highland Council had originally planned to upgrade all 173 memorials in the region before next year's 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War.

But the council's TECS committee agreed to spread the programme out after the funding timetable from the Scottish Government was altered.

Lochaber councillor Allan Henderson argued the delay was 'an affront to the brave men'

who died in the war, saying: 'This promise must be kept.'

But committee chairman councillor Graham Phillips said: 'Given that the memorials bear the names of servicemen and women who fell between 1914-1918 and in other wars, it is entirely appropriate that the work is spread over a four year period, with all works completed by November 2018.'

The estimated cost of the refurbishments is £303,000. Works range from landscape works, masonry work, clock repairs and inscriptions and repainting.



Brothers Fergus, 8, and Callan, 6, right, defend their Lego fortress from eight month old Omaidh Gill at Homestart Lorn's 25th birthday celebrations on Saturday. 16\_139funday1

## Homestart Lorn celebrates 25 years

HOMESTART Lorn celebrated reaching its quarter-century by holding a family fun-day at the Glencruitten Church Centre on Saturday.

Young families gathered in the hall to join the party for the charity, which has supported hundreds of families since it started in 1988.

While kids played with the toys and tackled

an inflatable assault course, parents enjoyed hand massages from Siobhan Rafter and a well-earned cup of tea.

Providing support to families with at least one child under five years of age, the charity is one of the most enduring in the area and co-ordinator, Aileen Clark, said: 'It's great grounds for celebration.'

'We are a charity that depends on fun-

draising and we have a fantastic team of volunteers - including some who have been here for 20 years.

'We support a wide spectrum of families and it's great some of them are here today.' The organisation will also hold a special celebration on October 3 for all those who have supported the charity throughout the years.



Oban's biggest fan: Glaswegian Edward McMillan, 78, said Oban was the only destination for him after winning five years' free holidays with Glenton Holidays. He is pictured receiving his prize from the company's mascot, the Glenton Scottie Dog.

## Oban first choice for lucky holiday winner

WHEN Edward McMillan won five years of free holidays to any destination he wanted in Europe, the Glaswegian had only one destination on his mind - Oban.

Edward was 'over the moon' after his name was drawn in the Glenton Holidays' competition earlier this year, wasting no time in making sure he'd be making regular return trips to his favourite destination.

'It's not just made my day, it's made my whole time,' the 78-year-old joked. He picked Oban because of a wonderful experience he'd had on a Glenton New Year tour there four years ago.

He said: 'It was Hogmanay, we were all up dancing and then the driver got up on stage and said 'stop the music, everybody outside!'

'We went out to the harbour and

it was fantastic, all the boats were tooting, all the lights were on and it was a really wonderful time.

'When I won the ticket I knew I'd love to go back. I'm on my own and I don't like being at home for Christmas and New Year.'

Mr McMillan has also booked a five day Christmas tour to the Regent Hotel and the four day Hogmanay tour there too, opting to stay the two nights in between at his own expense.

He added: 'I'm really looking forward to it. I like to go for walks and Oban has lovely hills and paths. I always meet nice people. The last time I met a lovely couple, they bought me a present, a zippo lighter, because they saw me struggling to light my cigarette in the wind. I'm very lucky to win this - everybody I've met has been touching my arm saying they want some of my luck!'

Newdesks: 01631 568000/01397 703003

## Morvern Lines

IT IS well known that when St Kilda was evacuated on the 29th of August 1930, 36 men, women and children landed in Morvern to begin a new life on the Scottish mainland.

Even before this momentous event - which was orchestrated by the over-zealous Nurse Barclay and an interfering Labour government in Westminster - several ties bound the two places together.

George Herbert Strutt, who bought Kingairloch in 1902, went regularly in his steam yacht 'Sanda' to purchase tweed for his family and estate employees.

Later, in 1922, the Rev Alexander MacDiarmid, the highly popular United Free Church minister of Morvern from 1882 to 1924, made the journey to preach to the inhabitants.

Indeed it was on one such visit that he presented a copy of his translation of The Lord's Prayer, 'Urnuigh An Tighearna,' to every household on the island - a work said at the time to have enriched the library of Gaelic religious literature. There were other visitors who commented on the welcome they received.

TIMES have changed, however, and if the experience of several indigenous Highlanders who went out there in two parties not long ago is typical, visitors are certainly not encouraged by the National Trust for Scotland - the present custodians. The first two arrived after battling the 40-odd miles by yacht from Harris. Anchoring in Village Bay they went ashore to stretch their legs but before they had taken a few steps they were confronted by an excited individual, gesticulating wildly and shouting repeatedly from a distance, 'You cannot land here.'

Gaelic was obviously not this person's first language, nevertheless she could have learnt one word 'Failte' which, given the circumstances, might have been more appropriate. The second was informed by an official that his camera might be taken from him and the lens thrown over the cliffs.

I am sure most visitors respect the island's wildlife and appreciate that it won't always be possible to visit every corner without being made to feel like tourists to a foreign land two centuries ago.

The many St Kildans whom I had the pleasure of knowing in Morvern, were amongst the most hospitable people in the world. I am sure that they would be ashamed and embarrassed if they knew how their successors are behaving.

There was a time when every householder on the island would have considered it an honour if a stranger knocked on their door. Rum used to be known as the 'forbidden island' - have we another in the offing?



Not so friendly welcome from the National Trust for Scotland awaited the Highlanders when they landed on St Kilda.

MEANWHILE, another sea crossing continues to be the subject of concern as the Highland Council continuing to ignore pleas by the residents of Morvern, Sunart and Ardnarmurchan not to use them to fund an operational deficit on the Corran Ferry.

At a recent meeting in distant Inverness, the councillors, none of whom use the ferry on a regular basis, agreed to increase fares which means travellers buying the 30-discounted book of tickets, will have to pay an extra 15 per cent from November. That is already on top of a four per cent increase seven months ago and an automatic increase in April 2014 equating to an extra £100 per annum.

Doubtless the same will happen again the following year and so on. Some locals have suggested petitioning the Scottish Government for free crossings for council tax and business rate payers in the area.

If the Sgitheanachs managed to have the tolls removed from their bridge it isn't such a whacky idea. A fortnight's boycott with all the attendant media publicity might work wonders - or has the martial spirit fled from the peninsula altogether?

Iain Thornber iain.thornber@btinternet.com.

## Mixed fishing season on Loch Linnhe

MACKEREL catches on Loch Linnhe this year have been variable to say the least, according to Camusnagaul fisherman Fergie MacLean.

Fergie has been out on his boat early in the morning throughout the summer and found the fish either hard to come by or abundant.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'With the mackerel it has been sporadic - they come thick and fast and then vanish.'

'The usual spots are the mouth of the Caledonian Canal and the green buoy at the mouth of the River Lochy.'

'Back in early August I was out at 6am at the top end of Loch Linnhe and it was just alive with mackerel. The hooks were just vanishing over the side of the boat they were on. The gulls were working everywhere.'

'Lately there have been a few, but really there have not been a lot since.'

However, the prawns have



Fisherman Fergie: mixed season on Loch Linnhe. 10\_139fergie01

been a 'disaster' this year says Fergie, who has creels in Loch Linnhe and Loch Eil.

'They have just been so scarce it has been unbelievable,' he said.



## CAN YOU HELP HIM BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE?

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## Dunbeg researchers help unlock ocean secret

RESEARCHERS based in Dunbeg have helped discover how underwater mountains help mix the ocean's waters.

Scientists have long puzzled over how mid-depth and deep waters in the Southern Ocean mix, which is one of the most important questions taxing oceanographers for decades.

However, surveys at Drake Passage, the channel between South America and Antarctica, where the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans meet - revealed that seawater mixes vertically as it rushes over undersea mountains.

Published in the journal Nature, the research carried out in part by Oban's Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) provides detailed information required by climate modellers to produce improved, long-term climate projections.

The work, carried out with the universities of Exeter, East Anglia and Southampton, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the British Antarctic Survey, saw tiny quantities of an inert chemical tracer dropped into the Southeast Pacific, which was tracked for several years in the Southern Ocean to see how quickly the ocean mixed.

The tracer showed very little vertical mixing in the Pacific, but as the water passed over the mountainous ocean floor in the relatively narrow, continental gap that forms Drake Passage, it began to mix dramatically.

UHI professor Mike Meredith, of

By STEVEN FLANAGAN  
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

SAMS' physics, sea ice and technology group, said: 'Mixing of Southern Ocean waters is one of the key processes that control ocean circulation, with impacts on the carbon cycle and global climate.'

'This work has unravelled some important aspects of what causes that mixing and how it varies from region to region. This will be extremely useful in guiding the improvement of climate prediction models.'

Ocean mixing moves heat, salt, chemicals and pollutants between different vertical layers in the oceans, and is crucial for regulating ocean currents and Earth's climate and ecosystem.

But turbulence can be weak in the deep ocean, which has raised questions of how mixing actually works. Learning how that happens and at what rate is furthering understanding of how our oceans function.

Mixing is a key process in ocean circulation, which transfers carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to the deep sea, and ultimately controls the rate at which the ocean takes up the gas.

Carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere now stand at almost 400 parts per million - up from 310 just 60 years ago through the burning of fossil fuels.

The increase is thought to have raised the Earth's temperature by 0.8C over the same period.

## Tyndrum to Oban path link plan

PLANS are afoot to link Tyndrum and Oban with a new path.

The joint project between Argyll and Bute Council, sustainable transport charity SUSTrans, Scottish Natural Heritage and Transport Scotland, would see a 31-mile route for walkers and cyclists created between Tyndrum and Connel to connect with the existing tarred track into Oban.

Described as a 'multi-use' path, the route would join the route of the Oban-Fort William cycle path, which is still

incomplete. A tender for the detailed design has been set at £25,000, with the pathway to be 'remote from the road'. While a potential route has already been identified by the council, the final design would not require to follow it.

A spokesperson for the council said: 'Argyll and Bute Council is working in partnership with farmers, landowners, community councils, SUSTrans and SNH to identify a definitive access route between Tyndrum and Oban,

the works required and the costs.

'The route is Tyndrum to Oban rather than Connel - strategically this promotes Oban as the destination, with benefits for the communities along the route and encourages the idea of doing part of the West Highland Way and then heading west.'

'This next stage of the route's development will be completed this year.'

Contractors for that work will be appointed within the next six weeks.'

## No local winners in baking awards

THERE was no local winners in this year's Home Baking Awards, despite several local businesses being nominated.

Poppies in Oban, Brambles of Inveraray, and Callander businesses Achray Farm and Erincroft Bakery were all nominated in several categories, but were unlucky to miss out thanks to a strong field of competitors this year.

## Road works between Fort William and Spean Bridge

MOTORISTS on the A82 are being urged to allow extra time for their journeys when road repair works begin between Fort William and Spean Bridge on Monday.

Resurfacing a 1.6km section of carriageway north of Torlundy will take up to four weeks. The £400,000 Transport Scotland works will take place from Monday to Friday between 7am

and 7pm, and should be completed by October 23.

Temporary traffic lights and a convoy system with a 10mph speed restriction will be in place for the safety of the workforce and road users.

A 30mph speed limit outwith working hours will allow vehicles to pass over the temporary surface.

Eddie Ross, north west unit representative for contractors BEAR Scotland said: 'We would encourage motorists to plan their journeys in advance, checking the Traffic Scotland website for up to date information, and allow some extra time for travel.'

The works are being carried out by Breedon Aggregates on behalf of BEAR Scotland.

Mull Lines

TOBERMORY High School on the Isle of Mull is hosting an event for the European Day of Languages today (Thursday). Students have traditionally celebrated the day with a breakfast where, as well as eating bread and cheese, they get a chance to talk to speakers of different languages including multi lingual staff and pupils.

PUPILS from Lochdonhead Primary School on the Isle of Mull are in the running for a social enterprise award after setting up their own business. Kara Gray and Henry Lines, the chairpersons of Lochdonhead Café Crafts, told The Oban Times all about the new venture. 'In June we started our very own school business called Lochdonhead Café Crafts. We were surprised by how many new and exciting skills we had to learn in order to run the company. 'Having asked the community what they would like, we decided to hold regular community cafes and asked members of the community what they would like us to offer them when they visited. 'We then produced our business plan and sent it away to Social Enterprise Academy. It was then time to decide what we wanted to sell and what stock we needed. 'We made a selection of gift cards, took beautiful photographs with our zoom camera which we mounted and wrapped and also wrote and illustrated our very own story book called Lolaire Lochdon and sold copies of that.

'A selection of boxes containing our produce was given out to local businesses on Mull to be sold over the summer holidays. These sales made us £100. 'On September 16 we had the grand opening of our new kitchen/dining room and this gave us a great opportunity to hold our first ever community café. It was great to see so many members of our community there to support us.' They added: 'We invited Mary-Jean Devon to come and cut the ribbon because she massively helped to save our school from being closed down, and she is also our community's councillor. 'We asked for donations of cakes from the parents. They provided lots of cakes. We also sold our photos, cards and books and made £231.50 which made us very happy. 'Business cards which we made ourselves were given out to visitors with a list of dates for future cafes written on the back. 'Mr Bert McGlone from Social Enterprise Academy came to support us too. He was very impressed and has put us forward for a Social Enterprise Award. We are so excited.'



Mull councillor Mary-Jean Devon talks to the children at Lochdonhead about their new venture.

MAJOR work to improve the water supply in the north of Mull will begin next month. Scottish Water's £5.7 million project will see a new water main laid between Salen and Craignure - enabling growth and meeting demand during peak summer months in Tobermory. The current lack of capacity has seen development stall in parts of the island - with developers being denied water connections.

The project will also provide better quality drinking water and greater security of supply to about 220 people in the Craignure and Lochdon areas.

These customers, who currently receive their water from the Craignure Water Treatment Works (WTW), will have their source of supply changed to the Tobermory WTW, which is to be upgraded as part of the investment.

They will receive their water from Tobermory WTW via more than 11 miles of new water mains to be installed between Salen and Craignure.

Currently the Tobermory water supply zone ends at Salen. The extended water mains will go to a new Craignure Service Reservoir to be built above the village.

Work is due to start immediately after the Mull Rally and stretches of the A849 between Salen and Craignure will be reduced to one lane with the use of temporary traffic lights during the project. The overall project is expected to be completed by the spring of 2015.

YOUNGSTERS in Tobermory will be getting all dramatic soon as Scottish Youth Theatre pays a visit. The arts organisation will bring its touring project, Roadshow, to Tobermory High School to conduct free drama workshops. Pupils will have the opportunity to experience tailor-made classes exploring

different themes, including specially designed workshops about the Scottish independence referendum. Mary McCluskey, chief executive, said: 'Scottish Youth Theatre is very excited to re-launch Roadshow, as it truly realises the company's aim for accessibility, regardless of any geographical, social or economic barriers.'



The path to Rubha nan Gall. The lighthouse cottage is pictured centre left. Photograph by Sam Jones.

Stevenson lighthouse cottage on market - but boat needed for access

HOUSEHUNTERS are being offered the chance to experience true rural living in a cottage on the Isle of Mull - but the buyer will need a boat to get there during winter. The former lighthouse keeper's cottage at Rubha nan Gall near Tobermory has no water or electricity and access from the nearest road is via a one-mile path, which becomes impassable during winter, meaning the house can only be reached by sea.

The £225,000 price tag includes 80 acres of land with a mile of shoreline. Originally designed as two semi-detached houses, the property now comprises a single dwelling but otherwise remains almost exactly as it would have appeared when it was first occupied. The lighthouse and cottages were built in 1857 by David and Thomas Stevenson. The converted dwelling has four bedrooms, a sitting room, study, parlour/kitchenette, WC, washroom and seven store rooms. Water comes from a private spring, heat from solid fuel fires

or stoves, cooking by stove or gas and light from paraffin or gas lamps. The garden previously boasted an extremely productive vegetable patch. Gregor King, of agents Bell Ingram's Oban office, said: 'The house in its current state offers a real back-to-basics living experience - and while this may be appealing to some buyers, there is potential for the property to be extensively modernised.'

The peaceful surroundings of Rubha nan Gall meant the former owner, a writer, found the solitude ideal for his work.

Oban woman evicted for letting drug dealer operate from her home

AN OBAN woman who used her home as a base for a convicted drug dealer to operate from has been evicted.

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) secured a decree for the eviction of the woman from a property in Glenfoot Terrace after a sheriff found she had breached the terms of her tenancy agreement by allowing the illegal activity.

ACHA's chief executive, Alastair MacGregor, said: 'As an organisation we are pleased a sheriff in a court of law has deemed it unacceptable in terms of tenancy for a tenant to allow another party to deal from their home. 'We have had considerable success

recently tackling drug dealing in association properties. I would like to thank members of the public, the Police and ACHA staff who have worked so hard to deal with this kind of unacceptable behaviour in our communities.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish, leader of Argyll and Bute Council and ACHA Board member, said: 'I am both delighted and fully supportive of ACHA's actions. It sends out a clear message that any ACHA tenant allowing drug dealing from their property will result in the tenant losing their tenancy. This is a strong message delivered by the association that drug dealing in any shape or form will not be tolerated in our communities.'

Crackdown on prison mobile phones

THE SCOTTISH Prison Service (SPS) is taking action on inmates using mobile phones, which are banned in jails. A pilot scheme deploying a 'grabbing'

system, which cuts off the signal to mobile phones is to be run at two different SPS sites between now and next April.

Oban drink driver banned for two years

A YOUNG Oban man who took his mother's car without permission, with no insurance, only a provisional licence and while drunk has been banned from getting behind the wheel for two years. Jamie Tonner, 22, of 6a Scalpay

Terrace, Oban, was also ordered to carry out 140 hours of unpaid work and attend alcohol counselling as part of a community payback order when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week. He previously admitted all the offences, which took place on

August 11, including failing to stop after an accident.

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'It is very unfortunate that you appear on a complaint like this. It just demonstrates where your excessive drinking has taken you.'

Arisaig campsite wins two top awards

AN ARISAIG campsite has picked up two prestigious awards - including becoming the first in the Highlands to be awarded 'Premier Parks' status.

Sunnyside Croft, run by Julie Bryce and her family, was given the designation after a rigorous inspection of the standards and facilities on offer.

Man admits slapping wife

A FORT William man has admitted slapping his wife on the head during an argument about money.

Leovigildo Soares, of 133 Kennedy Road, pled guilty to assaulting the woman in their home on September 9. After hearing Soares had spent 13 days in custody following the incident, Sheriff Noel McPartlin said: 'This incident appears to be out of character.'

Macmillan Cancer Support launches new advice service

A NEW advice service for people affected by cancer will be launched tomorrow (Friday) at Campbelltown Library.

The Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Service will provide non-clinical information and support to people affected by cancer, with weekly drop-in sessions on Thursdays between 11am and 3pm.

The new service has been created by Macmillan Cancer Support, Argyll and Bute Council, Argyll Voluntary Action and NHS Highland.

Green light for Kinlochshiel pitch move

PLANS by Kinlochshiel Shinty Club to relocate to a new ground have taken a major step forward after Highland Council planners granted permission for a new shinty pitch, kick-about areas and car parking at Reraig, Balmacara.

The club has long harboured ambitions to move from its current home at Kirrkon, a small sloping pitch not best suited to premiership shinty. Spectators also have to park their cars along the busy A87.

The planning approval, granted under powers delegated to officials, brings the club's aim of providing top-class facilities for the sport another stage closer to reality.

The decision will also give potential funders confidence that the development will take place. Kinlochshiel has already acquired the site at Reraig, prepared full plans and obtained costings, but the project does not come cheap with the first phase priced at £360,000.

'Shiel's voluntary development officer, Shona MacLennan, said the team's continued success in the top flight meant a move to Balmacara was essential. She told The Oban Times: 'The pitch is inadequate and from my side of things the facilities are just awful. 'Folk park on both sides of the trunk road and it is potentially

dangerous, especially when kids are playing. They have to come out behind parked cars when traffic is flying past.'

She added: 'The players have to change in an old byre over the road - I have never been in there and I wouldn't want to.'

The club is in discussions with SportsScotland regarding funding and it is understood the national body could provide a grant of up to 50 per cent.

The club needs to find 25 per cent - and has launched a major fundraising drive to seek support from local estates and other businesses, in addition to their own efforts.

Bold bid to buy two new school minibuses

Oban High School Parent Council looks to local businesses for help in raising £40,000

AN AMBITIOUS bid by Oban High School's parent council to buy two new minibuses will see every business in the town receive a letter this week.

With £40,000 the target, the organisation is hoping everyone in the town can contribute towards purchasing the buses, which will be used for school trips, sport, music and other extra-curricular activities.

School pupils, led by head boy Jamie MacGregor and girl Jenny Tamplin, will hand out the letters this week and will be working hard to gain support for the plans.

Several funding options are being pursued, although most depend on the applicants being able to raise the bulk of the money themselves.

Currently, the school's minibuses are shared with primary schools, which limits the times they can be used and when they have to be returned.

Parent council members Gordon MacNab, Colin Johnston and Joan Reynolds say new vehicles would give pupils the chance to broaden their knowledge.

Gordon said: 'If we have our own mini-buses it gives us the independence to go to events, such as the science centre, without the restrictions on the shared buses.'

'What we're saying to businesses is this isn't just an

investment in now, it's about a better education and that's good for the town's businesses and our children.'

Colin said: 'We've got about 300 letters ready to go to local businesses this week asking for help and we're hoping for their support. We're asking businesses, if you get a letter, please read it and if you can help us out, great.'

'Public transport locally isn't that good - you can't always use it for events - so really we need something like this for the benefit of the kids.'

'This is about education, ambition and aspiration. Having access to the minibuses will allow pupils from Oban to attend events and throughout Scotland when and where they want to.'

He added: 'It's not just about football or shinty - it's for the whole school.'

The buses would also be accessible for disabled pupils and could be used in lieu of suitable public transport where required.

If you'd like to arrange a donation, wish to arrange a fundraising event or can offer other support, contact Joan Reynolds at Oban High School on 01631 564231.



Oban High School's head boy Jamie MacGregor and girl Jenny Tamplin will be mobilising the troops at the school to help the parent council raise funds for two new minibuses. Pictured with them are parent council members, from left, Gordon MacNab, Colin Johnston and Joan Reynolds. 16\_139schbus1

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**COLONSAY**

A COMMUNITY group on Colonsay is considering purchasing land to encourage development on the island. Colonsay Community Development Company Ltd issued a tender for consultants to conduct a feasibility study into the project. An award is expected to be made to the successful applicant on September 30 and the current owner of the land has indicated a willingness to sell. The study, funded by the BIG Lottery's Investing in Ideas programme, will assist the community in the decision making process, and if favourable will be used to support an application to the Scottish Land Fund for the purchase of the land.

**BARRA**

A NEW hospital will be operational in Barra by 2015, it has been confirmed, following a £4million package of funding from the Scottish Government. Projected costs put the new St Brendan's Hospital at between £4-12million, but with £8million available, NHS Western Isles had feared it wouldn't be able to pursue its preferred option, which would reduce the number of off-island transfers. However, it is now hoped the hospital can be redeveloped to the health board's preferred option and be in operation in two years' time. The news has been welcomed by Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP, Alasdair Allan. He said: 'The Chairman of NHS Western Isles confirmed to a meeting of the Western Isles Carers, Users and Supporters Network on Friday that 2015 is the date they have committed to for the new hospital to be occupied by patients. The Scottish Government funding settlement to the health board has allowed £4 million to be allocated to this project. This is news that will be received in Barra, where the local community has been anxious to see the present completely unsuitable building renewed. The focus now moved to the Comhairle, who have decisions to make about what form they would like care home services on the island to take in the future. I know the Comhairle are giving active thought to this question just now. While a decision for them I think most would agree an ideal



**'Bagathon' boosts heart foundation**

Big-hearted Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge primary school kids recently completed a 'Bagathon' in aid of the British Heart Foundation. The initiative saw the children fill as many bags as possible with good second-hand clothing and goods. The whole school was involved - but organisers were members of the pupil council, above. Head teacher Kate MacGillivray said: 'We gave each family a bag to fill and had a great response with more than 50 bags returned.'

outcome would be one where the hospital, care home and GP's surgery all occupied the same new building, since there is already the agreement that the hospital and the care home will share the same staff.'

**APPIN**

THE JUBILEE Bridge in Appin will be closed for 12 weeks from September 30 for major structural repairs. The bridge forms part of the public right of way from Taychreggan to Achosrgan and an alternative route will be available on the Port Appin road to Tynribbie and the Sustrans cycle track to Achosrgan. Contractor Stuart Carmichael said: 'It is in quite a poor state of repair at the moment - almost not safe to use. The whole bridge will be refurbished and will give access for pedestrians and provide wheelchair access to. We're hoping it will be open for Christmas and there will be an official event to mark the reopening.'

**ULLAPOOL**

SIX NEW workshops at Morefield industrial Estate on the outskirts of Ullapool officially opened last week by Highlands and Islands Enterprise chairman Professor Lorne Crerar. Three of the workshops are initially scheduled to accommodate the fishing-related sector with the remaining three available for general commercial occupancy. The units complete the development of the two-acre site, which was acquired by Ullapool Harbour Trust in 2009. Morefield gives the trust the opportunity to supplement income derived from traditional ferry and fishing dues. HIE supported the trust with a £220,000 grant towards the £1.3m project. Prof. Crerar said: 'We anticipate that it will bring a range of economic benefits as well as promote job creation and security in this economically fragile region. These new facilities create opportunities for businesses looking to expand as well as those looking to locate to Ullapool.' Ullapool harbourmaster Kevin Peach said: 'HIE, as always, has been incredibly supportive throughout the entire process and we look forward to continuing to work with them as we develop our portfolio of activities and ensure the Harbour's success into the future.'

**TORLUNDY**

HWENERGY is holding a free biomass heat demonstration day tomorrow at its Torlundy HQ. The 10am-2pm event will focus on biomass systems working in practice and key requirements for a successful biomass installation.

**LISMORE**

THE LISMORE Community Trust's Energy Group held a produce market in the island hall on September 14 selling an array of vegetables, meat, cakes, eggs, chocolates and tablet all produced on Lismore. The sale was aimed at promoting local growing to meet the demand for fresh produce and to reduce food miles. There will be another Produce Market on Saturday October 12. LISMORE Lumiere gave the island a weekend with two very different films on successive evenings. The German film Lore

**SPEAN BRIDGE**



Morvern Bingham: plans to climb Ben Nevis.

A SPEAN Bridge mother-of-four is celebrating after losing more than three stones and dropping three dress sizes - and now plans to climb Ben Nevis. Nurse Morvern Bingham, 42, said walking, cycling and swimming with her children has been the secret behind her weight loss. She said: 'At just under nine stone, I feel fitter, I've got so much more energy and I'm no longer breathless when I walk up stairs, which will all help with my next challenge - climbing Ben Nevis.'

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**KINLOCHLEVEN**

A COFFEE morning to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support is to be held at Hanover (Scotland) Housing Association's Heatherlea Court, Kinlochleven tomorrow (Friday) from 10.30am to 12 noon. Everyone is welcome to join for some coffee and cakes, and helping out on the day will be volunteer pupils from Kinlochleven High School.

**ISLAY**

AN ISLAY sub-postmaster has paid tribute to the community after a successful campaign to upgrade a railing, footpath and steps near Portnahaven Post Office. In March this year, the ladies of Portnahaven SWRI became so frustrated at a year-long delay to repair the railing adjacent to the hillside path leading to the post-office, they offered to pay for it themselves. After hearing of the ladies' pledge via The Oban Times, the council stated it planned to

**Down Your Way**

**Dunoon**

PEOPLE can help raise cash for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research by taking part in a charity walk next month. The Dunoon and Cowal branch will host its first Forget Me Not Walk on Sunday October 13 to raise funds for the blood cancer research charity. The picturesque 5k walk starts at Toward Sailing Club in Dunoon, goes up through Castle Toward to the Chinese lakes along forestry roads and drops back to the sailing club. People who would like to take part in the walk can register at http://leukaemiaandlymphomaresearch.org.uk

**TIREE**

SOME of the UK's best kite-surfers arrived on Tiree last week to take advantage of the island's famous winds in the sport's Wavemasters event. It is the first time the sport's flagship event has come to the island, which is already home to the Tiree Wave Classic for windsurfers. Participants are ranked from their best two runs, which sees them pull of stunts when holding on to a kite - and surfing at the same time. The high-flying sport can see the participants leap tens of feet into the air, with the island's conditions deemed perfect for the sport. Two dozen competitors turned up at the event from across the UK.

**ROY BRIDGE**

A LOCHABER food company has won Charcuterie Product of the Year in Great Taste Awards 2013. Roy Bridge-based Great Glen Game claimed the accolade with its green pepper venison salami - and scooped up a Golden Fork at the awards ceremony in London. The event was attended by hundreds of food producers, speciality food buyers, fine food retailers, chefs and food journalists. Great Glen Game director Jan Jacob Baak said: 'Our passion to make high quality creative new food products has paid off.'

**SOUTH UIST**

RECENT sales of sheep has been of a favourable price, and a lot better than our forebears could achieve in a market-place. The 'Clansman' ferry made a special run to Uist and Barra for the animals.

RUNNERS can put their stamina to the test in two new runs that have been added to this year's Cowalfest programme. The committee has added a 10k trial run and 5k fun run to the event as it changes the focus of this year's festival from walking and culture to walking and the outdoors. The route goes around the grounds of the Benmore Botanic Gardens and runners will receive a medal when they cross the finish line. The race will take place on Saturday October 12 at 1.30pm.

A FUNDRAISING family ceilidh will be held in Dunoon Burgh Hall next Friday. Families can enjoy an evening of entertainment from band Canned Haggis with all proceeds raised going to the Dunoon Burgh Hall fundraising campaign. Organised by Dunoon Burgh Hall Trust, families should head to the hall for 7.30pm.

AN EXHIBITION celebrating the life works of a renowned Cowal textile artist is on display in Dunoon Burgh Hall. Robert Stewart, who died in 1995, is the featured artist at this year's Cowal Open Studio event. The retrospective Robert Stewart Exhibition gives people a rare opportunity to view the beautiful tapestries and artwork he created throughout his career. The designer, who lived in Loch Striven, was the head of textile and design at Glasgow School of Art and it is hoped the display of his work will increase his profile. Anne Ferguson, curator of the exhibition and a former pupil of Robert's, said: 'He was a fantastic designer and he has left a widespread legacy, making an influence on the art world. I now work with stained glass, but what he taught me still remains in my work. We hope this exhibition will receive the recognition it so richly deserves.' The exhibition officially opened last Thursday and the public can view his work from Thursday to Saturday until September 30.



Anne Ferguson, curator of the Robert Stewart Exhibition, part of this year's Cowal Open Studio event. 06\_a38art01

AN ARCHITECT has drawn up plans which show the future of Dunoon Burgh Hall, which will transform the building into a thriving centre for arts led community activities. Designed by Page and Park the plans celebrate the heritage of the building, but will create a new modern space, which will see the roof fully insulated, a new heating system installed, the main hall refurbished and a cafe introduced. The Dunoon Burgh Hall Trust has submitted the plans to the capital redevelopment programme and hopes to secure funding for the £1.5 million project. The trust has raised more than £200,000 in the last three years to reach this stage with successful applications to Historic Scotland, the Argyll and Islands Leader programme, Heritage Lottery Fund and Architectural Heritage Fund. The trust hopes work will start on the site by the end of 2014 with the intention of having the building open to the public by 2015. Ann Campbell, venue manager at the hall, said: 'It is a very exciting time for the project and there has been a lot of hard work over the last three years so it is great to reach this milestone. We will increase our own fundraising efforts so that the project will be fully funded by next summer.' She added: 'We hope the centre will become a place for exhibitions, art classes, dance events, theatre performances and conferences. The centre we hope will become a place for not just community based activities, but will also bring people from further a field into the town.'

Next week Down Your Way visits Ullapool with Northern Editor Stephen Norris. Contact Stephen on 01397 703003 or email fort@obantimes.co.uk.

**Achaleven school's generous donation to HOPE Kitchen**

Pupils at Achaleven Primary School have donated potatoes and carrots they've been growing over the summer to Oban's HOPE Kitchen, the charity which feeds the homeless and struggling families. The project's manager, Jess Macdonald, is pictured receiving the donation from the school.



Happy smiles from the new primary one pupils at Port Ellen Primary School, Isle of Islay.

**Primary one pupils in the picture**



Willow Ferguson is the only P1 pupil at Staffin Primary School, Skye, this session. A healthy intake of nine children joined P1 at Kilmuir Primary School on Skye for session 2013-14.



**Kilchoan man unearths fossilised shark's tooth**

Kilchoan man Jon Haylett picked up an interesting find on a recent beachcombing expedition - a fossilised shark's tooth. Mr Haylett discovered the tiny tooth in a bed of Jurassic limestone, some 150 million years old, in which fossils are frequently uncovered by weathering. According to Mr Haylett, just 'a few minutes of searching' produced the shark's tooth. He said: 'It looks impressive in the picture, but it's less than 10mm long, so it came from a rather small shark.' Photo: Kilchoan Diary.

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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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# North Uist remembers medical family

'In all my 47 years in the NHS I never met anybody like him.' - Margaret MacQuarrie

By Stephen Norris

A HILLTOP memorial to three legendary GPs who served North Uist and its islands for a total of 105 years will be unveiled on the island next month.

The stainless steel plaque on a plinth of black granite will commemorate the immeasurable contribution made by Dr Alexander J Macleod OBE, his wife Dr Julia P Macleod and their son John AJ Macleod MBE to patient care over seven decades.

The memorial will be erected on Banca Mor, a hill at Claddach Illeray on October 12 in a ceremony likely to be attended by hundreds of Uibhisteachs from near and far.

The unveiling will be followed by a reception in Clachan Church Hall with speeches from local clergy, doctors and nurses who knew or worked with the remarkable family.

Margaret MacQuarrie, from Knockqueen on North Uist, along with other volunteers formed the Macleod Memorial Committee to raise the £5,000 needed for the memorial, which will be erected 'by the people of North Uist'.

Donations poured in from Uist and across Scotland, and soon the target was reached. With support from North Uist Estate factor George MacDonald and Claddach Illeray grazings clerk Iain MacDonald, a little bit of common grazing was given over for the memorial.

Volunteers cleared the site, put down topsoil, laid an aggregate path and erected a fence.

Mrs MacQuarrie, who moved back to the island where her father was born and brought up after retiring as nursing tutor at Stirling University, worked with all three Macleod GPs for eight years from 1972 to 1980 as a nursing sister, in a district covering Lochmaddy, Lochpartain, Newtonferry, Sollas and Lochport.

She told The Oban Times: 'The doctors had received an OBE and an MBE but there was no formal recognition from the North Uist people.

'Because I had worked with the three of them I spoke to one or two people who felt likewise and I said 'come on then, let's just do it'.

'So we formed a group of eight to 10 members and met regularly to push the memorial through. It is just incredible what people have come forward to do - it just took off like a heath fire.'

Microphones will be set up to broadcast proceedings, invitation cards are being sent out,

everything is being done voluntarily, said Mrs MacQuarrie.

'It just shows the affection and respect that people have for the Macleod doctors. Many don't remember the old doctor, but they have heard from their parents and grandparents about what he and his family did.'

'We sent out 130 invitations and 100 have accepted so far. It is open to all the people of North Uist.'

Dr Alec served the islands from 1932 to 1974, Dr Julia

from 1933 - the year they married - to 1973, and Dr John from 1974 to 2000.

Dr Alec in particular went to extraordinary lengths to reach people in dire medical need in the years before the war, when electricity and telephones were absent and roads poor to impassable.

Born and brought up on Lewis, ever since his days at university he was known as 'Zadoc' - after King David's priest in the Bible.

'That was to distinguish him from all the other Alec MacLeods - there were so many of them,' Mrs MacQuarrie said.

'In all my 47 years in the NHS I never met anybody like him. He would walk miles and back to attend patients, sometimes he would go on horseback or by boat and was known on occasions to swim to patients.'

'He was a big strong man and had just one eye after losing it playing shinty at university, but he never let that bother him.'

'In those days there were no such things as days off. Their work was a full time job for the three of them. It was a one man practice and if Dr Alec went to the mainland his wife would stand in for him. They were remarkable medical people and were dedicated to the job.'

'They brought in to the world so many people that are still living on the island. People came to them for comfort, reassurance, or hope because they had that standing in the village. No-one was ever turned away.'

'If a person had a sprained ankle, Dr Alec would not just examine the injury, he would look at the whole picture - how they talked, how they sat, how they moved. Observation was his skill.'

'All the MacLeod doctors had the same philosophy, they worked with you as a team. They were frequently called out to attend seriously ill patients at night, yet they would still be ready for surgeries at 8.30 in the morning.'

'He was a great teacher and taught me so many things about studying the person.'

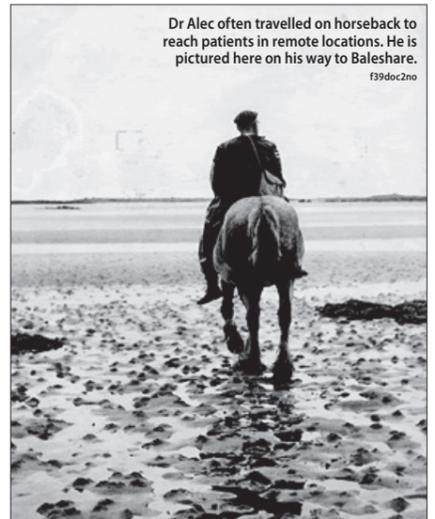
From the doctor's house in Lochmaddy, Dr Alec had 16 inhabited islands to visit. He was instrumental in securing the air ambulance service to take emergency patients to Glasgow and bring them back - with the first flights landing on the beach.

'Some cases were so serious he could not deal with them and the only way to get them out was by ferry or road, which could at least take half a day,' Mrs MacQuarrie said.

'Sometimes it meant people were getting to hospital more



North Uist GP Alec Macleod: provided unstinting care to thousands of patients down the generations. (F39doc3no)



Dr Alec often travelled on horseback to reach patients in remote locations. He is pictured here on his way to Baleshare. (F39doc2no)



Caring hands: Dr Alec Macleod tends to an elderly patient in Lochmaddy Hospital in the 1960s (F39doc1no)

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## TWENTY YEARS AGO

September 30 1993

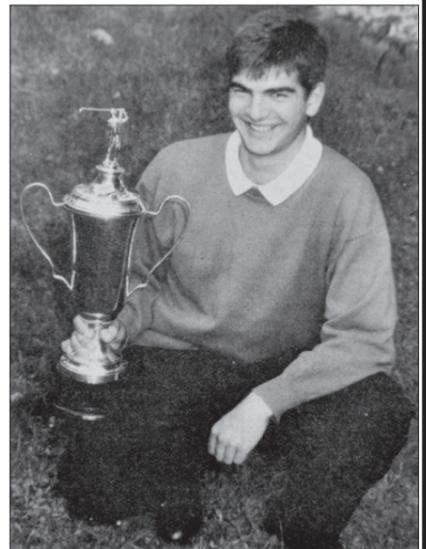


### Ballachulish smiles

The primary one intake at Ballachulish Primary School smile for the camera. 15\_139twenty02



The class of 1975: former pupils of primary seven, St Mary's School, Fort William, got together recently for a reunion in the town. 15\_139twenty05



### Glencruitten golf winner

Displaying the Handicap Trophy from the Glencruitten Open golf tournament is winner Scott Brown. He had a net score of 58 from 65 strokes. The Oban High School pupil also led the four-strong team which won the Jean Shop Scramble at the weekend. 15\_139twenty06



Midwife Dolly Russell with Catherine, left, and her son Lewis Murdo, and Agnes, who holds her daughter Sarah. 15\_139twenty03

### Midwife's double special delivery

A Lochyside midwife has delivered two special babies into the world over the past four months. Dolly Russell, 60, is the granny of baby Sarah and great granny of little Lewis Murdo, who were both born at the Belford Hospital, Fort William. Sarah was born to Dolly's daughter, Agnes MacKintosh, 35, and soon after, Agnes' daughter Catherine, 17, gave birth to Lewis Murdo, which makes him Sarah's nephew.



### Janice enjoys day with sea life centre seals

Janice Burnip recently learned how to look after seals at Oban Sea Life Centre. The youngster, who lives in Mossfield Drive, Oban, won a day out at the centre by entering a competition run by The Oban Times. Janice was also taken behind the scenes by expert Terry Donovan, left, to see how the centre cares for other sea creatures ranging from starfish to stingrays. 15\_139twenty04



### Mull boy presented with bike

Nine-year-old Matthew Crawford from Salen, Mull, has been presented with a new bike after raising £420 for the Sir Edmund Hillary Himalayan Trust. 15\_139twenty01

**Plockton High School rector to retire**

PLOCKTON High School will be looking for a new rector after incumbent Duncan Ferguson announced he is to retire at Christmas.

Mr Ferguson, who has been in the role for 21 years, had planned to retire before the start of the school year but decided to stay on, and he has told Highland Council he will continue until a replacement is ready to take over.

He said: 'It has been a real privilege and pleasure to serve this school and community for the past 21 years and I trust my successor will enjoy the same support from parents which has been such an important partnership in making our school so successful.'

'For the moment thank you again and my good wishes to you all.'

The council will advertise the post shortly.

**Business plan released to public**

THE BUSINESS plan for the proposed Lochaber Business Improvement District (BID) was released to the public on Monday, pledging to bring in extra investment to the area if successful.

Amongst the objectives listed in the plan were improvements to infrastructure, better marketing for the area, supporting and developing local events and providing a better atmosphere for business.

The plan also includes more detailed goals such as creating a multi-screen cinema in Fort William by 2015, reopening rural public toilets and employing a full-time events co-ordinator.

For more on the Lochaber BID project, see page 3.

**Best neighbours in Lochaber**

KNOYDART couple Lorna Schofield and Davie Newton are officially the best neighbours in Lochaber - after winning the inaugural Monsignor Wynne Good Neighbour Award.

The couple were nominated for the award, which is organised by Lochaber Housing Association, by their neighbour Anne-Marie Scott.

Ms Scott, aged 70, said they have cut her grass, cleared her path, and helped her get online.



From left: Donald and Irene MacLennan, seated, Martin Sabiu and his grannie Margaret Ferguson are among those hit with high power bills. 20.139bills02

**Housing chief outlines action following complaints**

LOCHABER Housing Association chief executive Blair Allan accepted complaints had been raised about high electricity costs in the new flats.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We are trying to get to the bottom of what the issue might be.'

'We are aware that there have been difficulties with some systems and our clerk of works has been working closely with any affected tenants, as well as with a Nibe installer, who has commissioned and is monitoring the heating systems, ironing out

issues as they have arisen. We have had a variety of feedback on running costs, with some tenants reporting monthly costs of around £120 per month. However, some tenants have reported higher costs.

'So, in addition, our energy

advice and advocacy officer is assisting tenants, visiting each in their own home, analysing how the heating units are used and their energy consumption, and putting measures in place to reduce energy costs where possible.

'She will also, where necessary, install monitoring equipment for a four week period to assess electricity consumption and user patterns, again to try and reduce energy costs. We would be delighted to hear from any tenant who would like this service.'

The Nibe heating system using exhaust air pumps recently came under fire in the BBC's Rip Off Britain programme.

The company denied claims it was inefficient and did not work properly.

NIBE Energy Systems said in

a statement their system were 'working brilliantly in thousands of homes across the UK without increased energy costs and, according to independent research, dramatically reduce costs in many cases'.

It added: 'Where costs are high, the issue isn't with the system, it's with the way it has been installed or is being used. It is vital that exhaust air heat pumps are installed by properly qualified installers otherwise they will almost certainly not work properly.'

**Tenants' anger at sky high electricity bills**

Estimates way off the mark

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT**

by **STEPHEN NORRIS**  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

TENANTS in a new Fort William housing development are shelling out around four times what they expected to pay for electricity each year, *The Oban Times* has learned.

Some residents at Lochaber Housing Association's Achariach complex in Claggan have been paying SSE between £450 and £700 per quarter since they moved in two years ago.

The £2,000-plus annual power bills are hugely above estimates given in initial energy reports to tenants when they took occupancy in the strikingly-designed building next to the River Nevis.

Several families also complained about the reliability of the NIBE heating system, which carries warm air from bathrooms and kitchens through a heat exchanger to give each tenant heat and hot water.

If it does not raise the boiler water temperature enough, an immersion heater kicks in, sending bills sky-high. Heating for homes is distributed through under floor pipes built into the floor structure.

*The Oban Times* was shown energy reports for several properties in the 22-flat block



Emma Kaerney: 'disgusted' with the amount she is paying for electricity. 20.139bills01

- and none indicated annual electricity bills above £500.

The estimate for local postman David Boomer, who lives in number 12, 'based on standardised assumptions about occupancy, heating pattern and geographical location' stated he should be paying £46 for lighting, £185 for heating and £181 for hot water annually - a total of £412.

But the former fisherman says his three-monthly bills from October to April were £500-£600 - despite his system being at the lowest setting.

He said: 'Last winter it was that bad I had to get a card meter in because I kept getting hit with these massive bills. My last bill was for £360 - and was from April to July. A lot of people have complained to the association.'

Downstairs in number seven, Martin Sabiu, who has learning disabilities, paid £307 from April to July - three times his estimated

bill. Martin's grandmother Margaret Ferguson said: 'All we want is comfortable heating in the house at acceptable costs. When it gets to being so highly expensive it is hopeless.'

'If it's going to be a terribly cold winter we will have to turn the heating up and try to pay it - even if I have to give him a wee hand.'

Donald and Irene MacLennan, in number one, need the heating on because Irene has MS. Their bill from April to July was £525 and the couple pay over £700 a quarter in winter. Donald said: 'I think it's ridiculous. It is time it is sorted out. We have had to cut back on a lot of things.'

Morrison's store assistant Emma Kaerney, who stays in number 17 with husband Brian Stewart, had a quarterly bill for £561.81 to January 2013.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'We pay £114 a month to SSE by direct debit and they want to put it up to £200 because our bills are so high and we are not paying enough to cover them.'

'It is absolutely disgusting and a disgrace that they have not done anything about it.'

'I only work part-time and I don't have big money to pay these big bills. I'm terrified of the winter because I have a medical condition and feel the cold something terrible. Things are so bad we have put in for a house exchange.'

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**Unstinting service of North Uist GP trio to be honoured at ceremony**

NORTH Uist people will commemorate the unstinting service of a family of three legendary GPs to island patients next month.

At a ceremony on October 12 on Banca Mor, a hill at Claddach Illeray, a black granite plinth will be unveiled in memory of Dr Alexander J Macleod OBE, his wife Dr Julia P Macleod and their son John AJ Macleod MBE. Their

service to patients on North Uist and its 16 inhabited islands stretches from 1932 to 2000.

The unveiling will be followed by a reception in Clachan Church Hall with speeches from local clergy, doctors and nurses who knew or worked with the remarkable family. Hundreds of Uibhisteachs from near and far are expected to attend the event.

See our special report on page 8.

**Crash cancels road ceremony**

A SOD cutting ceremony to mark the start of work on the Crianlarich bypass on the A82 was called off on Monday after Transport Minister Keith Brown's route was blocked by a crash.

An accident on the A85 three miles east of the village on Monday morning closed the road for a number of hours, with Mr Brown caught in the long tailbacks.

Stewart MacLean told *The Oban Times* the uncertainty and delays were not unusual for anyone familiar with the A82.

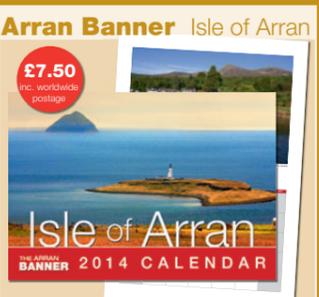
He said: 'The ceremony was supposed to start at 9.30am, but we heard there was a crash and the Minister was delayed behind it.'

'We waited and waited, then when we saw the medevac helicopter going in the final decision was made to cancel.'

He continued: 'These are the circumstances we face two or three times a week. There was the period of uncertainty when he was stuck behind the crash and then finally the cancellation. 'The Minister was subject to what we face on a regular basis.'

The A85 was closed in both directions between Lix Toll and Crianlarich due to a crash near Benmore Farm. The busy route reopened at around 2pm.

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- Lochawe - 11.30am - 12 noon
- Taynuilt - 12.30pm - 1.00pm
- Benderloch - 3.00pm - 3.30pm
- Connel - 4.00pm - 4.30pm
- Dunbeg - 5.00pm - 5.30pm
- Oban - 7.00pm - 8.00pm

**Wednesday 2 October 2013**

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**Corran Ferry car crash witness appeal**

POLICE are appealing for witnesses to a two-vehicle crash on the A82 near the Corran Ferry which left a Lochaber woman with serious injuries.

Isobel MacKellaig, who recently retired from her role as senior registrar for Highland Council, was rushed to Southern General Hospital in Glasgow after the incident near Corrychurachan at about 6.20pm last Thursday.

The 65-year-old was said to be in a 'critical but stable' condition.

The three men in the other vehicle were taken to Belford Hospital in Fort William and later discharged.

A Police Scotland spokesperson said: 'We are keen to speak to anyone who may have been in the area at the time or has any information about the incident and would encourage them to contact police on 101.'

**Yacht runs aground**

KYLE of Lochalsh lifeboat crew were called out to help a yacht which had run aground after suffering engine failure.

The team found the *Hatalinqua* near Dubhaird point on the Plockton peninsula at 2.10pm last Friday.

The yacht's crew had already been taken onboard by a passing fishing vessel, and the lifeboat crew were able to secure the stricken yacht.

**Free guided tours of canal locks**

NEPTUNE'S Staircase in Banavie will open its doors to members of the public this Saturday with free guided tours of the locks.

The Caledonian Canal heritage officer will show visitors how the locks work as well as telling them about the canal's history, wildlife and current projects.

The talks, part of Highland Council's doors open days programme, start at 10.30am and 1.30pm.

**Woman airlifted off Ben Nevis**

A WOMAN was airlifted off Ben Nevis after fracturing her ankle while she was descending the mountain on Saturday.

Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team were called out at around 4pm after the walker slipped near Windy Corner.

An LMRT spokesperson said: 'A passing member of LMRT assisted the female until the arrival of a search and rescue helicopter from RAF Gannett at Prestwick.'

'The female casualty was airlifted to the Belford Hospital at Fort William where she received treatment for a fracture to the ankle.'

**Fort turns pink for cancer research event**

FORT William will be turned pink for the week for Lochaber Together for Cancer Research UK's second annual event.

'Turn the town pink' will see shops and businesses create pink displays in their windows from Monday till Sunday October 6, with a prize for the best.

Collection buckets will be placed in each of the businesses. Last year's campaign raised more than £4,000.

**Room 13 open day**

CAOL-based international art project Room 13 is holding an open day tomorrow (Friday) from 11am to 3pm.

Visitors are invited to have a look at some of the work done in the original studio in Caol Primary School, meet the artists and learn about the work done by the charity in the local community.

# BID team claims new approach needed to rejuvenate Fort William High Street

THE TEAM behind the Lochaber Business Improvement District (BID) plan say 'a new approach' is needed to rejuvenate Fort William High Street.

Frazer Coupland, chairman of the organisation promoting the BID Living Lochaber, claims a thriving High Street would benefit businesses across the area, not just in the town.

Speaking at Fort William Community Council, Mr

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT** by RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

Coupland said: 'We need to think of our High Street in a different way. 'The days of having the candlestick maker, the plaster and painter on the High Street are gone, it's a different place

now and we have to think about it differently. We can't control the rates or the rents on the High Street. 'But what we can do is try to help to increase footfall. That will hopefully increase revenue, which will make renting a premises on the High Street more attractive.'

A draft business plan for the BID was approved by Highland Council last week and released

to the public on Monday. If successful, the BID would see every business in Lochaber pay a compulsory levy to fund additional projects and services across the area.

Levies would be imposed on a sliding scale from £98 to £4,100, with companies with the highest rateable value paying the most.

Living Lochaber estimates £360,000 would be generated each year - £1.8million over

the five-year BID period. Community council member Alex Farquhar said: 'What I'm concerned about is a small number of very, very active businesses and individuals making decisions for other people who maybe don't have the time or energy.'

**Solid**

He added: 'If your talking about raising £1.8 million from the Lochaber business

community I'd like to have seen something pretty solid as to where its going.'

BID project manager Helen MacGillivray said the business plan would have 'a much more in-depth outline'.

Questions were also raised as to how to BID would help companies not directly linked to tourism.

Businesses will be asked to vote before November 28, and

if more than 50 per cent by both number and rateable value vote in favour, the BID will go ahead. Meanwhile the group opposing the move, BID Farewell, has circulated hundreds of glossy leaflets claiming the scheme, if implemented, would 'saddle' local businesses with an extra 'tax' for five years.

'Even if you have voted 'no' you will by law be forced to pay this tax,' it claims.



Scott MacLean and Gary Davidson of High Life Highland, left and right, with Fort William manager Danny Conlon and Crown Vets' Lorna Ungoed-Thomas and Heather Turnet at the soccer sevens at Lochaber High School on Friday night. 20\_f39strip01

## Bold bid to boost youth football in Lochaber

A BOLD bid is being made to breathe new life into youth football in Lochaber through regular seven-a-side nights at Lochaber High School.

The sport has suffered a decline recently but a new joint initiative between Fort William Football Club and High Life Highland aims to reverse that trend.

Crown Vets in Fort William are sponsoring the Friday fortnightly football evenings, which are proving popular with under-16 players.

**Chance**

Ardnamurchan High School French teacher Elaine MacArthur and Active Schools co-ordinator Dot Lynes regularly bring a

team across from Strontian to ensure the boys get a chance to play competitive football.

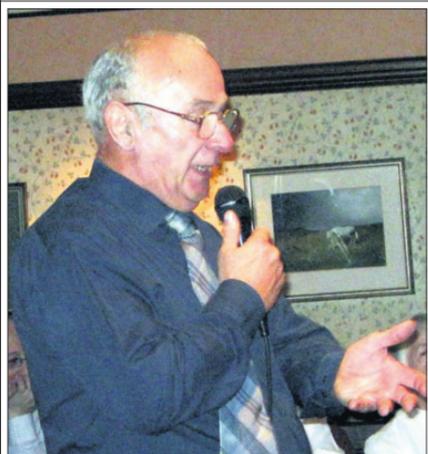
Fort William FC manager Danny Conlon told *The Oban Times*: 'We need to get more kids kicking a ball in the area. 'We have had withdraw our youth teams from the Highlands leagues but if we can get this

up and running we can get a lot more young players involved in the game.'

**Project**

'It's only a pilot project at the moment - but hopefully it will lead to bigger and better things.'

Next football night is October 4, with five more planned after the October holidays.



Charlie MacColl entertains at his retirement party in the West End Hotel.

## Fond farewell to Meur Lochabair chairman

IT WAS a packed house in Fort William's West End Hotel on Saturday night for a ceilidh to celebrate the retirement of Charlie MacColl as chairman of local mod committee Meur Lochabair.

Charlie himself regaled the audience with Gaelic song, while son Calum played the pipes and the button box. Other musicians included Andrew MacDonald on the accordion and George Smith, also on accordion.

Meur Lochabair committee members Joyce and Jimmy Cameron, from Fort William, organised the evening.

Local Gaelic speaker Gladys Johnston, from Spean Bridge was among those attending the event. She said: 'It was absolutely great. He thought he was going to a birthday party - little did he know it was his own retirement do. 'He was absolutely astounded!'

## History society welcomes storyteller

LOCHABER Local History Society (LLHS) will welcome storyteller Ewan MacVicar to its October monthly meeting as he gives a talk exploring the connections between David Livingstone and the Highlands.

'A Mountain in my Hand' will also include the story of the Appin Murder and other local tales. LLHS chairperson Chris Robinson said: 'This will be an informative and especially entertaining evening and a night to remember is guaranteed.'

Everyone is welcome to attend the talk, which starts 8pm on Thursday October 3 in the Ben Nevis Hotel.

## Tour de Ben Nevis cyclists on parade

A GROUP of 345 cyclists paraded down Fort William High Street on Saturday morning for the start of the Tour de Ben Nevis race.

The field was led through the town centre by Lochaber Pipe Band before tackling five stages around the mountain in the endurance event.

Local riders Ruari Watt and Joe Barnes both took individual stage wins.

## Police files

A CANOE was stolen from a shed in the Torrinn area on the Isle of Skye between April and Friday September 13.

An outboard motor was stolen from a secure yacht moored in Mallaig harbour sometime between Wednesday September 4 and Wednesday September 18.

Anyone with any knowledge of these incidents should contact local police on 01397 702000 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

## Filming underway for BBC Alba's first Gaelic drama

FILMING is underway the Isle of Skye for BBC Alba's first Gaelic drama production Bannan/The Ties That Bind.

Bannan tells the story of 18-year-old Mairi Macdonald's return to her home island and the struggles caused by the family and emotional ties that bind her to the island.

Workshops were held locally to find Gaelic actors, writers and directors, with Lewis woman Chrisella Ross chosen to script the show.

Peigi Wood, 84, from Kyle of Lochalsh, South Uist pair Daibhidh Walker and Kathleen MacInnes, and Alasdair MacLennan and Dòmhnall Eoin MacFhionghain, both from Harris, are all in the cast.

## Fort FC lotto winners

THE WINNERS of the top prize of £200 in Fort William Football Club's August 300 club draw were Mr and Mrs Cameron.

Mr A C Clark took a prize of £50, while Mrs E MacAksill and Mr D Fraser both won £25 each.

## Lorry driver narrowly avoids losing licence

AN HGV lorry driver has narrowly avoided losing his driving licence after being caught in his car while nearly three and a half times the legal alcohol limit.

Corpach man John MacKenzie admitted drinking whisky while sitting in his Ford Escort on the morning of Saturday, May 18 after getting into an argument with a man.

MacKenzie, aged 50, also pled guilty to shouting racist abuse at the Englishman during the quarrel at Corpach basin.

Procurator Fiscal Laura Ryan

told Fort William Sheriff Court MacKenzie had launched a 'tirade' of abuse at the man after getting annoyed by his driving.

MacKenzie then bought a bottle of whisky and drank it in his car, where police found him.

Defence solicitor Hamish Melrose said the argument had not been 'entirely one-sided', and that racist language had been used by both men.

He said: 'Mr MacKenzie then made a stupid and foolish mistake and started drinking whisky when he was sitting in his car.'

Sheriff Noel McPartlin said: 'I'm concerned about both these charges. It is clearly undesirable that someone with that much alcohol in their system should be in charge of a car. I'm imposing a substantial financial penalty to reflect the fact that this is not acceptable.'

MacKenzie had been accused of drink driving but pled guilty to a lesser charge of being drunk in charge of a vehicle. He was previously banned after drink driving in 2006. MacKenzie, of 17 Clerk Drive, was fined £900 and given 10 penalty points.

## Raasay islanders offered shooting and fishing rights

SHOOTING and fishing rights on Raasay have been offered to local crofters to the delight of islanders.

Island residents said during consultations they wanted the five year lease to be awarded to the Raasay Crofters' Association (RCA).

And officials from the Scottish Government will now meet with the RCA to finalise details.

The rights were initially offered to South Ayrshire Stalking by government officials, causing uproar on the island.

Environment Minister Paul Wheelhouse then met with local crofters and overturned the decision, which he said had not been ratified by ministers.

Mr Wheelhouse said consultation showed residents wanted the rights retained locally.

He said: 'It became clear that retention of the sporting rights with the RCA would be the most popular option. Residents also expressed a strong desire for enhanced community benefit and greater transparency in regard to the operation of the sporting rights on Raasay.'

Anne Gillies of Raasay House Community Company (RHCC) welcomed the news.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'It



Anne Gillies: delighted at decision.

sense of enthusiasm which has accompanied the securing of the sporting rights.'

Meanwhile, islanders had further cause for celebration when Raasay House reopened following a multi-million pound restoration.

Mr Kennedy was on hand to officially open the community-owned building at a ceremony on Friday.

RHCC chairman David Westgarth said: '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.'

Three days earlier, the community took over ownership of Raasay Stores, the only shop on the island.

New store manager David Carslaw said the shop was 'so important' to islanders.

He said: 'If there is nowhere people can go to pick up their groceries then they will start to move away from the island. This could threaten the school and other services and then the community is finished.'

The previous owner put the shop on the market in early 2012 but received no interest and closed down.

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## Boosting business innovation

A NEW week-long venture aimed at boosting business innovation in Lochaber is to be held in November.

Lochaber Ideas Week, which runs from November 18 to 23, aims to introduce new initiatives and ways of thinking in business across Lochaber with a series of talks and workshops in and around Fort William.

Among the events being held throughout the week are numerous talks from local and visiting speakers, a 'speed networking' night for local businesses and discussions on how to improve how Lochaber's best assets are marketed.

Dragon's Glen, inspired by the popular BBC show *Dragon's Den*, will see local entrepreneurs compete for the chance to turn their business idea into reality.

The winner will receive £1,000 cash, £1,000 website design, hosting and support with LamontDesign, and business planning, support and advice from Business Gateway.

Project manager Will Rowland told *The Oban Times* it is hoped the gathering will become an annual event.

He said: 'Ideas Week is a collaborative event to pull together all of the community,



Some of the organisers behind Lochaber Ideas Week: Don Hind, Fraser Coupland, Scott Donald, Anna Dawson and Will Rowland. 20\_f39ide001

the business community, youth, lots of other industries, working together to take advantage of existing opportunities.'

Ideas Week came about through a tie-up between Outdoor Capital of the UK, LamontDesign, Fort William Chamber of Commerce, Business Gateway, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Highland Council.

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you. There's still some bits and bobs to get sorted though.

Secret Santa is a fun way to kick off the celebrations and is a great way to get in the mood for Christmas shopping. Don't worry too much about getting something serious; make sure you get something that will raise a smile and get people chatting. It'll make the first of the Christmas shops much more entertaining.

**Get organised in advance**

One of the biggest considerations of the night will be what to wear. Christmas and Hogmanay parties are second only to weddings for the scale of the turnout - so making sure you look your best is important.

Search now for the dress, shirt, or shoes you want and make sure they fit! If not, you might want to schedule in a few nights at the gym in advance. In fact, given the volume of food usually eaten at Christmas; that might be a good idea anyway!

From here, you're more or less set and ready to go. Yes, you'll have the main Christmas presents to buy and the family celebrations, but take care of the work party early, and it won't be a big headache later and you can just relax and enjoy the festivities.

**SNOW has landed on the hills of Glencoe - which for many is excuse enough to book the Christmas and New Year parties already.**

While you might think it premature, but such is the way of things that spaces at your favourite venue could start disappearing fast - so don't delay.

**Find a venue**

So, what to do? First of all, speak to the guests - be it your colleagues, family or friends - and find out what they'd like to do. If you're eating, find out what the group would be comfortable with, Italian, Indian, Chinese or local food, and make sure the vast majority agree on the venue.

Remember to ask if its better to have a lunchtime or evening celebration, before phoning your chosen host and booking a table with provisional numbers. You should confirm numbers as soon as possible.

You may be asked to select a menu, with some restaurants offering a choice of two or three course meals. Again, circulate among your party and decide when you can. This would be an ideal time to advise the venue on any special dietary requirements.

**Enjoy yourself**

So - headache solved. Mostly. You can pretty much look forward to enjoying yourself, having a bit of a laugh and spending good time with those around



**The Islay Hotel**

**Christmas Break Offer - 5 night stay for the price of 4** (Available from 23rd to 29th December inclusive.)  
This includes a Wee Dram on arrival, handmade chocolates in your room, seafood supper on the first night and full Scottish breakfast. Christmas Day Lunch is also included.  
We have a choice of room types to suit varying budgets.  
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Call 01496 300109 to book or email info@theislayhotel.com.  
Offer valid for stays from 23rd to 29th December 2013 inclusive, subject to availability. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount





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**Upcoming Craft Fairs**  
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www.room9oban.co.uk  
t.01631 564200

Come and join us for a long lazy lunch or relax in the evening after a busy day. Seating just 28 people our bistro style restaurant is informal, compact and bijoux. With an excellent reputation for good food, booking is advisable! Enjoy quality food and wine from a varied menu focusing on fresh, seasonal produce.

**Now taking bookings for Christmas Parties.**

**The MacDonald Hotel and Cabins, Kinlochleven**

invites you to book your festive season lunch or dinner now. Individual and group bookings welcome. Come and enjoy the spectacular views and spoil yourself with our new chef's festive creations. Call 01855 831539 to make your reservation.




**Your Christmas Party At Kilcamb Lodge Hotel**

**Christmas Party Menu**  
1st - 22nd December - 6pm to 9pm

**To Start**  
Butternut Squash Soup - Toasted Pumpkin Seeds.  
Smoked Haddock Terrine with Glazed Isle of Mull Cheddar Scones.  
Ballotine of Quail and Chestnuts with Mushroom Risotto.

**Main Course**  
Roast Turkey & Festive Trimmings.  
Ardnamurchan Venison & Scottish Ale Pie With Lyonnaise Potatoes - Roasted Winter Roots.  
Fillet of pan seared Hot Smoked Salmon With Rosti Potato - Creamed Leeks.

**Dessert**  
Mincemeat and Apple Crumble With Spiced Clotted Cream.  
Basil Chocolate Mousse With Hazelnut Shortbread.  
Frozen Lemon Souffle With Hot Marmalade Caramel.  
**£25.00 per person**  
Including Coffee & Mince Pies  
Christmas Crackers & Party Hats  
A glass of Red or White wine

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E:enquiries@kilcambldodge.co.uk




**Taynuilt Hotel Christmas Menu**

Roasted Parsnip & Chestnut Soup with Homemade Sourdough  
Smoked Salmon Roulade with Pickled Cucumber, Fennel and Oatcakes  
Chicken Liver Pate with Toasted Brioche, Cranberry & Port Chutney  
Goats Cheese, pickled Beetroot and Micro Leaf Salad

Roasted Turkey Crown Or Honey Roast Ham (with roasted potatoes, brussel sprouts, carrots, parsnips, homemade stuffing, kilted sausages and gravy)  
Pan seared Fillet of Salmon with parsley New Potatoes & Creamed Leeks  
Rolled Pork Belly with Wholegrain Mustard Mash & Braised Red Cabbage  
Pressed Potato Terrine with Sauted Mushrooms & Poached Duck Egg

Christmas Pudding with Brandy Fig Ice Cream  
Chocolate Roulade with Chocolate Sorbet  
Sticky Toffee Pudding with Vanilla Ice Cream  
Cheese Board with Scottish Oatcakes  
Tea & Coffee

£25 per person - Bookings only  
*Merry Christmas!*

To book please call 01866 822437  
www.taynuilt-hotel.co.uk



**CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHTS @ SKIPINNISH**  
Buffet Meal by Oban Spit Roast & Entertainment  
**ONLY £16.00pp**

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Thu 19th Dec / Fri 20th Dec / Sat 21st Dec / Sun 22nd Dec / Mon 23rd Dec

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Live Bands and DJ's every night!

Bookings: T. 01631 569599  
E.info@skipinnish.com



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Hotel and Restaurant on the Crinan Canal

**FOUR FANTASTIC PARTY NIGHTS**  
Fri 13th, Sat 14th and Fri 20th, Sat 21st December  
with fabulous local band **Ceillidh's Homet**  
Only £25.75 per person

**FREE WINE**  
Free carafe of selected wine for every 6 persons

**AMAZING DISCOUNTS**  
Book by 31st October to receive a 10% discount £23.20 per person

Book by 30th September to receive a 15% discount £21.50 per person

For a menu or to book please call 01546 603 668 or visit www.cairnbaan.com

## Malt of the Month

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### Ben Nevis Distillery

(Fort William) Ltd.

FIRST impressions aren't always the most important thing, if the Glenmorangie Lasanta is anything to go by.

It is fair to say that this 12 year-old single malt has been taken on a fair weather journey before being bottled, something that really comes through in the tasting. It starts its life in American white oak ex-bourbon casks; absorbing a decade of flavour before being extra-matured for a further two years in Oloroso Sherry casks from Jerez, Spain.

It is little wonder then that this malt is adorned with the Gaelic for warmth and passion. Thankfully, this tippie's flavours are as appealing as the taste odyssey on its passport.

Pulling the cork brings reminders of Christmas round the fireplace, with cinnamon, treacle and a hint of smoke lulling you in, but interestingly this dram will mature and develop further over time, intensifying with scents of honeycomb and caramel toffee.

A sip is a further impassioned reminder of the festive season, with raisins, treacle and smoke dancing with hints of orange and butterscotch for a soothing taste.

A charismatic bundle of subtle spices follow through in the finish, followed by a sweet, sugary hit - conjuring images of the fun and frolics of a mis-spent youth.

Perfect for the colder, autumn nights - and almost tailor made for Christmas - this Glenmorangie is one that is worth opening and allowing to breathe to allow its full character to develop.

While it may be a touch sweet for some, it will certainly stand out among the tipples in your drinks cabinet.



Glenmorangie Lasanta  
46% ABV  
Approx £40

Alexander MacPhail

## Locals and 'legends' are music festival highlights

OVER five days in September, Colonsay men Keith Johnston and Donald MacNeill, supported by up to 30 local volunteers, delivered yet another excellent annual folk music festival on the island.

From the tales and songs of Scottish legend Jimmie MacGregor, now in his eighth decade, to the beautiful Gaelic songs of high school students, Mikaela and Donald Carmichael, Ceol Chobhacha offered the 150-strong audiences wholesome, cross-generational musical nutrition to see them through the winter months.

There was significant local input to the festival, with no fewer than 12 islanders taking to the stage during various performances.

The highlight, in this respect, was the concert given by the Colonsay General Store shopkeeper Keir Johnston, fronting 'KJ And The Moonshine Band'; their performance was in most visitors' top three.

The whole affair was kicked off by the Tannahill Weavers, with Tattie Jam, Corran Raa, the Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band

and Maeve MacKinnon keeping up the pace until the stars of the show, German/Irish/Scottish band Cara, provided the climax to the week.

Lead singer, fiddler and accordionist Gudrun Walter, was the beating pulse of the band, with music, smiles and energy flowing from her.

This was the band's first-ever performance on Scottish soil, indeed they interrupted their Central European Tour to visit Colonsay, for which all who attended will be eternally grateful. Many who saw them felt that they were bound for international success.

When the dust had settled, Donald MacNeill reflected: 'Audience and performer feedback was very positive.'

'It was particularly good to see the growing confidence of local performers.'

He revealed that next year's festival would likely take place over four days, rather than five, and that next year's performers may well include Canadian singer/songwriter David Francey and, it is hoped, Kathleen MacInnes.

## Good crowd anticipated for Lochaber Pipe Band's ceilidh



Lochaber Pipe Band performing at the Ben Nevis Race earlier this month: now they are hoping for a successful fundraising ceilidh/dance. 10.139band01

LOCHABER Pipe Band's popular ceilidh/dance will be held once again in the West End Hotel in Fort William on Saturday, October 19.

This year's line up includes a full programme involving sets from the band, its junior section, Highland dancers and a Gaelic song or two.

The evening will be rounded off with a dance with music being provided by the ever popular Eriskay Lilt.

The band's Iain Robertson said:

'Another good crowd is anticipated for the dance. As previous events have sold out quickly, anybody looking for a ticket is advised to get theirs early to avoid any disappointment.'

'Anybody looking for tickets can obtain them from any band member, the West End Hotel or by telephoning 01397 704846. All funds raised are put towards the considerable operating costs of the band.'

The ceilidh/dance has a 7.30pm start.

## Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival heads to Strontian

A FEAST of arts and film is coming to Strontian tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday as part of the fifth Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival.

The programme opens in the Sunart Centre tomorrow night with a free evening of live music from local musicians, featuring members of the Glengarry Centre, a resource/drop-in social centre in Fort William for local people affected by mental health issues.

On Saturday, workshops on creative writing led by authors Graham Morgan MBE, and Maggie Wallis, as well as opportunities to try out different crafts, and exhibitions of glass fusion, arts and crafts will feature.

The evening will see film screenings featuring Oscar-winning Silver Linings Playbook and Hidden Gifts, a film charting the life and work of Angus MacPhee from Uist, famed for his weaving of grass.

The public will also have opportunities to view DVDs made by HUG (Action for Mental

Health) and take part in discussions with their members.

A 'The Big Read' book discussion on Swimming Home by Deborah Levy, hosted by the Three Lochs Book and Arts Festival, is also scheduled.

The Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival was officially launched at Inverness' Eden Court Theatre last Thursday.

Aiming to tackle stigma and raise awareness of mental health, the SMHAFF programme includes nearly 300 hundred events from 17 regions around Scotland, featuring film, theatre, literature and visual art.

It has become the largest social justice festival in the UK.

The Strontian programme is supported by local self-help community group Ewen's Room, The Sunart Centre and HUG (Action for Mental Health). Sunart Community Council and Highland Council are funding the venture.

For event information contact info@highlandmhffestival.com.

## Lewis Pipe Band star on small screen



Lewis Pipe Band: starring on BBC Alba.

LEWIS Pipe Band are the stars of a fascinating documentary to be shown on BBC Alba on Monday night.

'Trusadh: Making the Grade', by MacTV, gives a behind the scenes look at the ambitious island band, which recently won their section at the Cowal Pipe Band Championships.

That success followed an appearance at last year's British Pipe Band Championships - only the second time they'd ever taken part in a competition at that level - and surprised themselves by finishing second in their grade, earning promotion to grade 4A.

Next major event was a debut performance at the European Pipe Band Championships in Forres earlier this year - a competitive gathering of no fewer than 120 bands from all over the world.

The talented ensemble has long been an integral part of island life in the Western Isles, and today's band is made up from people from all walks of life - council workers, drivers, teachers, and crofters.

One, 22 year old drummer Uilleam MacLeod is a part-time driver and DJ with the local community radio station, Isles FM.

Uilleam first tried drumming at the local fèis 10 years ago - and has been drumming ever since.

He said: 'It's like an obsession. It requires a lot of commitment when you're part of the pipe band. The band are like another family. It's just great!'

Pipe Major Peter MacKay juggles his musical commitments with working offshore in the oil industry.

He said: 'I work out in the North Sea on a two on, two off rota. So it can be difficult at times with commitment to the band. But obviously I've got great backing with the guys

when I'm not here, so I can put my full trust in them to get the job done.'

Piper Hector MacLean lives in Ness - 27 miles away from Stornoway - and time is also at a premium for the postman and crofter.

He said: 'I haven't been able to get to practices because it's lambing time. Sometimes I'm not finished work until late, and by the time I'm ready it's too late to go to Stornoway for a practice. I'm the furthest away.'

Trusadh: Making the Grade will be shown on Monday at 9pm.

## Kuba wins Mull Mòd's short story competition

IN LAST week's Oban Times we promised the winner from the Mull Mòd's short story competition would be published in full in this issue.

Printed below is primary five pupil, Kuba Marzec's,

winning entry in both Gaelic and English. Kuba, who attends Tobermory school, was also photographed with his classmates by teacher Mrs Spillane before their action song.

### Mòd 2013 by Kuba Marzec

Air Dihaoine an 13mh dhen t-Sultain, chaidh mo chlas, P4/5, dhan Talla Aros airson pàirt a ghabhail anns a' Mhòd. Sheinn sinn leis an Lurgainn; àran ag innse mu turas air bàta à Èirinn gu Alba. Aig toiseach na farpais, shuidh sinn gu sàmhach san talla fada, a' feitheamh airson an turas againn, a' sealltainn air na farpaisich eile a' seinn na h-òrain aca. Bha mise a' smaoineachadh gu robh iad uile glè mhath.

A-nis, 's e an turas againn a bh' ann agus shreap sinn na staid-hrichean sleabhainn chun an àrd-ùrlair, air bhioran. Bha mi nearbhach ach toilichte. Sheinn sinn a-mach agus ghluais sinn gu math. Dh'obraich sinn uile ri chèile mar sgioba. Fhuair sinn treas àite; le 90/100 airson Gàidhlig is 94/100 airson ceòl. Sgoineil! Chòrd am Mòd rium gu mòr agus tha mi a' coimhead air adhart air an ath-bhladhna.

On Friday September 13, P4/5, my class, went to Aros Hall to take part in the Mòd. We sang Leis an Lurgainn; a song about a boat journey from Ireland to Scotland.

At the start of the action song competition we sat quietly in the long hall before it was our turn, watching the other competitors sing their songs. I thought they were all great.

Now it was our turn and excitedly we climbed up the slippery stairs onto the stage. I was nervous but happy. We sang loudly and did excellent actions. Everyone worked as a team.

We came third; with 90/100 for Gaelic and 94/100 for music. Wow! I really enjoyed the Mòd and can't wait to sing next year.



Kuba, back left, with the rest of classmates before their action song.

## Photography exhibition opens at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

AN EXHIBITION by internationally renowned Japanese photographer Takeshi Shikama has opened at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

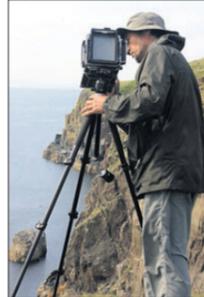
Mr Shikama has been based at the Skye Gaelic college over the summer through the residency programme of the Jon Schueler Scholarship.

The exhibition of platinum palladium prints on hand-made Gampi paper, entitled An t-Eilean (The Island), is the culmination of work from his three-month residency at SMO.

It follows an earlier collection showcased at the college of the photographer's work taken during his time on the Japanese island of Hokkaido.

Mr Shikama said: 'Since coming to Skye I have been fascinated with the sky, especially the dramatic cloudscapes. It is a completely new experience for me to photograph in a landscape where the winds vary so much from day to day.'

'This has had a huge influence on my work. I started to make my prints using the actual light, outside, rather than a chemical light in the studio which until



Takeshi Shikama at work on Sleat.

now had been my usual practice.'

He added: 'I am so grateful to be given this opportunity of discovery, that has opened my eyes to a new way of looking. I will treasure this experience. It will remain with me and influence my work for the rest of my life.'

The exhibition runs until November 2 can be seen at Arainn Chalum Chille at SMO.

## Local amateurs being recruited for concert at Plockton High School



Fraser Stone, Mhairi Hall, Patsy Reid and Michael Bryan: coming to Plockton.

LOCAL amateur players are being recruited to play alongside four of Scotland's most celebrated traditional musicians at a special concert at Plockton High School on Saturday.

'Contours of Cairngorm' will feature pianist Mhairi Hall, fiddler/violinist Patsy Reid, guitarist Michael Bryan and percussionist Fraser Stone.

But under a joint promotion with the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music (NCETM), local fiddle, violin, viola and cello players of a Grade 4 standard or equivalent, are being invited to create a larger string section.

Ahead of the concert, the amateur players will learn the music under the expertise of Patsy, Mhairi, Michael and Fraser at a full day workshop.

Originally performed at Celtic Connections 2011 alongside the

renowned Edinburgh Quartet, 'Contours of Cairngorm' blends together Scottish traditional and classical genres.

The performance will also feature all the students of Sgoil Chiuil na Gàidhealtachd at Plockton.

NCETM director Dougie Pincock said: 'This excellent opportunity will be extremely beneficial to all bowed string players interested in experiencing traditional music from a classical approach or vice-versa.'

'As a result, instrumentalists from both backgrounds will find the process highly challenging, rewarding and enjoyable.'

To book tickets for the 8pm concert or apply for the workshop and performance contact Rhona Sharp at NCETM on 01599544706 or rhona.sharp@highland.gov.uk.

## Classic Vehicle Club attends model show

MEMBERS of the Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club supported the North Argyll Model Club, when they attended their event recent Diecast Model Show at Benderloch's Village Hall.

Eight classic cars were on display, ranging from 1920s through to the 1980s, attracting a lot of attention from visitors.

Also on display was an ex-Highlands and Islands Fire Service Community Fire Engine, which had served in Strontian and is now the subject of 'rolling restoration' by former Oban fireman George Berry.

Short trips round the car park were provided by two small scale steam powered traction engines, and they were kept busy throughout the day by visitors.



## LOCAL TOURIST MAPS

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FREE

# Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society celebrates 90th birthday



Scottish country dancers from across Argyll, Scotland and the UK gathered at the Corran Halls on Saturday to celebrate the Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society's 90th birthday. 16\_139dancet1

DANCERS from across Scotland filled the Corran Halls on Saturday to celebrate the 90th birthday of the Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society. Members of clubs from Lorn, Lochaber, Mid Argyll, South Argyll, Helensburgh and Islay converged at the hall, with the 229 guests ensuring they were in their finest Highland dress for the event. Formally opened by councillor Elaine Robertson, who also proposed the toast, the event attracted dancers from across the UK, with the society's chairman, John Wilkinson and wife Ruby, paying tribute to the large turnout. Sadly, the president of the society, Dr Alistair McFadyen, based in Strachur, was unable to attend due to illness.

# Julie earns top Guides award



Julie is pictured receiving her award from County Commissioner Christine Lawrence, but will formally receive her award at a ceremony in London later in the year. 16\_139guidesmed1

OBAN'S Julie Ewart has been presented with the highest award members of Girlguiding can work towards, the Queen's Guide Award. Julie has been working hard to earn the award, arranging various events and trips with local Brownies, as well as running in the Race for Life, arranging a sleepover for Brownies and organising a visit to the Scottish Association for Marine Science, Dunbeg.

<b>Oban Phoenix Cinema</b>	<b>Riddick</b>	Thursday 26th September	20:30
	<b>The Way Way Back</b>	Thursday 26th September	18:00
	<b>In a World...</b>	Friday 27th September	18:00
		Sunday 29th September	19:00
		Monday 30th September	18:00
		Tuesday 1st October	21:00
		Wednesday 2nd October	18:00
		Thursday 3rd October	21:00
	<b>About Time</b>	Friday 27th September	20:30
		Saturday 28th September	11:00
		Sunday 29th September	16:00
		Monday 30th September	20:30
		Tuesday 1st October	18:30
		Wednesday 2nd October	20:30
		Thursday 3rd October	17:30

**Riddick (15)**  
Vin Diesel (Fast & Furious franchise, xx) reprises his role as the infamous outlaw Riddick. Having been betrayed and left for dead on a 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.

**The Way Way Back (12A)**  
Sly 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.

**In a World... (15)**  
In a World... a hilarious comedy about a struggling vocal coach who strikes it big in the cutthroat world of movie-trailer voiceovers, only to find herself in direct competition with the industry's reigning king... her father.

**About Time (12A)**  
At the age of 21, Tim Lake (Dommon Gleeson) discovers he can travel in time... The night after another unsatisfactory New Year party, Tim's father (Bill Nighy) tells his son that the men in his family have always had the ability to travel through time. Tim can't change history, but he can change what happens and has happened in his own life-so he decides to make his world a better place... by getting a girlfriend. Sadly, that turns out not to be as easy as you might think. Moving from an unexpected friend in Owen, manager of the Water Wizz water park.

**Iris (15)**  
Iris, based on the life of revered British writer and philosopher Iris Murdoch, is a story of unlikely yet enduring love. As a young academic, teaching philosophy at Oxford, Murdoch meets and eventually falls in love with fellow professor John Bayley, a man whose awkwardness seems in stark opposition to the spirited self-confidence of his future wife. The story unfolds as snippets of time, seen through Bayley's eyes. These images portray Murdoch as a vibrant young woman with great intellect and are contrasted with the novelist's later life, as the effects of Alzheimer's disease have ravaged her. Murdoch's great Cornwell coast to London to train as a lawyer, Tim finally meets the beautiful to a mere vestige of her former self.

# Helping to get Oban healthy

FROM exercise to friendship and eating well to massages, everything to keep you healthy was up for grabs at Atlantis Leisure on Saturday. Scores of locals and visitors alike descended on the social enterprise's main hall for the Health Fair, which aims to show how little changes to your life can make a big difference to your wellbeing. Basic fitness tests were on offer, with cycling machines proving popular, while a step test helped measure heart-rates for participants. Children were entertained with a series of games - with free bouncy balls a big draw - while a bike-operated smoothie machine provided refreshment to those who may have been a little over-exerted from the activities on offer. Andrea James, who helped organise the event, said: 'Really, it's about education and raising awareness of the healthy options out there, as well as the different community groups here that can help.'



Ashley Richard puts Brian and Niamh Collins through their paces at the health fair - the Glasgow-based pair had returned to the town to visit family before getting a fitness check. 16\_139atlantis1



Beth MacDonald, who runs the cafeteria at Atlantis Leisure, held a healthy-cooking demonstration at the fair, showing how to cook things from fresh for tasty results. 16\_139atlantis2



Connell's Jo Heritage makes her own smoothie with pedal power on this specially adapted bike. 16\_139atlantis3

THE Scottish WHISKY AWARDS 2013

Thursday 31 October, 6.30pm at the Hilton Grosvenor, Edinburgh (200m from Haymarket Train Station)

**BUY TICKETS**

Join Scottish Field and Informed Edinburgh as we play host to this glittering event, the culmination of a unique Scottish based blind tasting whisky challenge.

This is your opportunity to meet the winners, mingle with our judges and actually sample some of the very best whisky from the class of 2013.

Your ticket also includes:

- Gala awards evening
- 3 course dinner and wine
- Gift bag
- After dinner entertainment from Scottish rugby legend Jim Renwick

**PLUS**

A unique opportunity to sample 5 whiskies from this year's challenge

**Cost is £100 per ticket or £1000 per table**

To reserve your table call 0131 523 1511 or email [whiskyawards@informededinburgh.co.uk](mailto:whiskyawards@informededinburgh.co.uk)

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**Screen Machine**  
Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Tobermory Thu 26 - Sat 28 September  
Lochgilphead Mon 30 Sept - Wed 2 October

**Monsters University (U)**  
Action pours off the screen as Mike and Sully must prove themselves scary enough to stay at university.  
Tobermory: 26/09 5.30pm, 28/09 2pm  
Lochgilphead: 30/09 5.30pm, 02/10 5.30pm

**The Lone Ranger (12A)**  
From the team which brought you *Pirates of the Caribbean*, Johnny Depp is Tonto, on a mission for justice.  
Tobermory: 27/09 8pm  
Lochgilphead: 30/09 8pm, 02/10 8pm

**The Heat (15)**  
Sparks fly when snooty FBI special agent Sarah Ashburn (Sandra Bullock) teams up with a raucous new partner.  
Tobermory: 26/09 8.30pm, 28/09 8.30pm  
Lochgilphead: 01/10 8.30pm

**The Great Hip Hop Hoax (15)**  
California 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  
Tobermory: 27/09 5.30pm  
Lochgilphead: 01/10 5.30pm

**Whisky Galore (U)**  
Mull Film Club invites you to share a little bit of Scottish film history at this screening of the 1949 Ealing comedy classic. Tobermory: 28/09 5.30pm

Book in advance at: [www.screenmachine.co.uk](http://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

Sponsored by: **HIGHLAND FILM CLUB** and **RBS**

# Dolphin pod visits Oban



A pod of 10 dolphins wandered into Oban Bay last week, with their antics the talk of the town. The pod first swam into the bay just after 10.15am on Thursday, with the playful mammals leaping from the water - playing to the audience that gathered on Corran Esplanade to watch them. They returned for an encore on the Friday, but didn't hang around for too long before swimming off again. This picture was taken by Sam Blackburn, who was visiting the town with his wife Christine last week from their home in Bacup, Lancashire. Sam said: 'They were just leaping about, it was quite amazing.' Claire Fulton, who lives on Corran Esplanade, said: 'I saw a pod of dolphins swimming in Oban Bay out of the living room window on Friday 13th - lucky for me!'

# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Oban Accordion & Fiddle Club  
**Monthly Club Night**  
Thursday 3rd October 2013  
7.30pm  
Argyllshire Gathering Hall  
Guest Artist  
Dochie MacCallum S.D.B.  
Admission only £4  
All Welcome!

FORT WILLIAM  
ACCORDION & FIDDLE CLUB  
Musical Evening  
on Tuesday, 1 October 2013  
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# Business

Business reporter:

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## Mixed news on jobs front

NEARLY half of Scottish firms have no plans to create new jobs in the year ahead, with 12 per cent saying trading conditions have deteriorated in the last year.

The findings of the latest Close Brothers Business Barometer, which surveys SME owners across the UK and Ireland on a range of economic and financial issues, found just over a quarter of companies will recruit in the next 12 months, with only 16 per cent of those businesses intending to hire permanent members of staff.

Regional sales director for Close Brothers Invoice Finance in Scotland, David Paget, said: 'When so many firms out there are still struggling, it's little wonder job creation is weak. However it is our workforce that will continue to drive the economy forward and ensure firms are equipped to grasp opportunities as they arise. 'We have a wealth of new talent in the UK - talent that has made us the top destination for inward investment in Europe last year. We must find a way to embrace this.'

The report also revealed some positive news, indicating 92 per cent of Scottish businesses polled are not currently planning any job losses within the coming year.

## Investment in two new fish farm sites

SCOTTISH Sea Farms (SSF) has confirmed it plans to invest £37million in its network this year, with £25million to go towards developing new farming sites over the next two years.

The company announced the investment following the visit of Paul Wheelhouse, the Scottish Parliament's minister for environment and climate change to a farming and processing operations on the island of Froya in Norway owned by SalMar, which owns SSF.

Leif Inge Nordhammer, chairman of Scottish Sea Farms, said £12 of the investment will go towards its freshwater operations, saying the cash injection will bring new jobs to the Highlands, Dumfries and Orkney. He said: 'The owners and board of Scottish Sea Farms are committed to growing our production in a sustainable way to satisfy the demands for Scottish Salmon in markets around the world and to support the communities where we operate.'

Mr Wheelhouse said: 'The announcement of this investment in infrastructure and expansion over the next two years is great news for the future of the aquaculture industry in Scotland and for our economy. Exports of Scottish salmon continue to grow and demand for product at home and abroad currently outstrips supply which is a unique position to be in.'

'We remain committed to sustainable growth with due regard to the environment and will continue to work with SSPO, Scottish Sea Farms and other producers to ensure the continued success of the industry.'

## Inquiry into zero-hours contracts

EVIDENCE from the union Unite has prompted the Scottish Affairs Committee to launch an inquiry into the exploitation of workers on zero-hours contracts.

Unite's findings, based on conversations with 300 Scottish zero hours workers, revealed 69 per cent were anxious about the insecure nature of the contracts, with 72 per cent saying they wouldn't be on the contracts if they had a choice.

Of those workers, 62 per cent were on rates of pay just above the minimum wage.

On hearing the evidence last week, the committee

decided to launch a full investigation and will bring forward recommendations for further action.

Pat Rafferty, Unite Scottish secretary, said: 'We have uncovered shocking examples of abuse suffered by workers in Scotland on zero hour contracts and Unite is not prepared to stand by while rogue employers get away with it.'

'Not only is it a nightmare for workers, it also undercuts decent employers, who treat their employees properly. The Scottish Affairs Committee's inquiry is an important first step in the fight to eradicate the zero hours culture.'



Oban's answer to Alan Sugar, Roger Elliot, with the High School's record-breaking Young Enterprise team. 16\_138enterprise1

# Record number of school entrepreneurs

FORGET Alan Sugar and don't bother with Dragon's Den - Oban High School is the place to be for the best entrepreneurs around.

A record-breaking 40 pupils registered with this year's Young Enterprise Group at the school - the most ever registered for the after-school activity.

With more pupils than ever before, mentor

Roger Elliot was forced to split the group into three separate teams - another first for the school.

They have each been tasked to come up with a product and a brand name, devise a production plan and a marketing strategy to make as many sales as possible.

Local businessman Roger says he's

delighted with the interest - and hopes healthy competition will breed success.

'It's certainly the most I've ever seen doing it. It's great - if a little bit overwhelming!'

'Each team will come up with one business and it's up to them to set up everything. They have to appoint a managing director and assign different roles to each member.'

'It's a full year project and it is a competition so they will be trying to beat one another on sales.'

### Helping

The teams won't just be competing against each other; but against other schools in the county and Scotland as they aim to become the country's best Young Enterprise, with local

businesses helping the groups throughout the year. While still in the early stages of devising their business plan, there is already a plan to use the school's engraver, while another team is working towards a photography business.

Roger added: 'We want an Oban team in the final this year. I'd say we've got a good chance!'



Colin McGeoch, of the Real Food Café in Tyndrum, is the only Scottish finalist in this year's Young Fish Frier of the Year Award at the National Fish and Chip Awards.

## Tyndrum's young Colin 'frying high' in awards

TYNDRUM'S Colin McGeoch has been shortlisted as one of the UK's finest up-and-coming fish friers and the finest in Scotland after reaching a national final.

Colin, who works at the Real Food Café in Tyndrum, is one of five vying to be named the Dryite Young Fish Frier of the Year at the 2014 National Fish and Chip Awards, organised by Seafish, the industry authority on Seafood.

Judges have praised Colin for the dedicated and enthusiasm he has shown in his role at the Real Food Café and he will travel to the Lancaster London Hotel in January, where he'll compete for the overall national title.

Mark Drummond, vice president of the National Fish Friers Federation (NFFF), said: 'The standards this year have

been higher than ever, with the margin between those who get through and those who do not getting ever smaller.

'We try to find a new challenge every year for the entrants in order to keep the competition fresh.'

### Challenging

'This year for the first time, as an additional part of the skills judging day at the NFFF Training School in Leeds, all finalists had to make a presentation to the judges about themselves. Picking one winner is always a very challenging process.'

The top five finalists will now receive a mystery shop visit at their respective workplace, followed by another judging session based on their skills and knowledge whilst in their own working environment.

## Underwater centre wins major industry award

FORT William subsea training base The Underwater Centre is riding the crest of a wave after scooping a major industry accolade.

At the SCDI Highlands and Islands Annual Dinner and Business Excellence Awards in the Drumossie Hotel, Inverness, the centre was named as winner of the Global Energy Award for Excellence in People Development.

The success follows a major commitment by the firm to provide expert training to more Scottish student divers to address a growing skills shortage both at home and abroad.

High training costs were a major barrier to many able students looking to pursue a career in the subsea industry.

So to ensure ability, not ability to pay, took precedence, the centre agreed a funding deal with Skills Development Scotland to make training significantly more accessible for Scottish candidates.

Underwater Centre technical marketing manager Douglas Ormiston told The Oban Times: 'It has given people who were not necessarily on the scrap heap a chance to get a new start in life.'

### Opportunities

'Thanks to our partnership with Skills Development Scotland we have been able to see the number of Scottish students increase from just eight last year to over 60 this year, giving them an opportunity to take advantage of the huge opportunities that exist

for commercial divers around the world.'

'We are delighted that our work developing a new generation of skilled professionals for the subsea industry is being recognised by this award.'

Alastair Kennedy, Global Energy Group's communications director, added: 'The Underwater Centre has been recognised for some time as a leader in the training of skilled commercial divers and their efforts to ensure that as many people as possible can benefit from the opportunities both in the North Sea and around the world are worthy of praise.'

Around 350 guests from the Highland business and economic community attended the ceremony.



MP Danny Alexander presents the excellence award to Douglas Ormiston of The Underwater Centre.

## 'Lucky break' and cuttlefish sees birth of new business

### Shed transformed into jewellery design studio

A DUNBEG shed has been transformed into a design studio for unique and eye-catching jewellery - and it's all thanks to a 'lucky' break and some cuttlefish.

Neil Clark, who is studying for a PhD at the Scottish Association for Marine Science, decided to combine his passion for cuttlefish with his enjoyment of tinkering in the shed - shaping the bone and dipping it in tin to create stunning, rings, ear-rings, bracelets, necklaces and even sgian dubhs.

But Neil wouldn't have got into making the jewellery had it not been for an accident playing indoor football.

He said: 'I broke my leg playing football and I needed something to do - so of course I started making jewellery.'

His inspiration came after reading about an historic technique during his convalescence.

While only a fledgling business, Neil is hoping his eye-catching designs will develop into a much more profitable venture, establishing Neil Clark Design.

Making jewellery couldn't be

further from Neil's Phd, which focuses on methane production in plankton. However, he's enjoying his new-found skill and hopes to plough more time into it in November, when he returns from a trip to China.

He said: 'I love cuttlefish and I love tin, so I decided to combine the two.'

'I actually use an ancient technique which dates back to the sixth century, which involves dipping the bone in tin. I've been doing it for six months - I just do it in the shed.'

### Unique

'Each piece is really unique, because each cuttlefish is unique - they all have a different texture, which comes out really well when it's coated in tin.'

Studying at SAMS does have its advantages, with friends and colleagues always handing him cuttlefish bones they find. He's also undertaken a few private commissions for friends - something he also hopes to expand further on in future.

Neil Clark Design is featured on Facebook, while some of his designs can be found in Dunbeg's new Ocean Explorer Centre shop.



Neil Clark with some of the unique jewellery he has crafted using cuttlefish bones and tin, available at Dunbeg's Ocean Explorer Centre. 16\_139neilclark1

## Rates system to be improved

COUNCILS across Scotland will have the opportunity to adjust their own business rates relief packages to suit their circumstances, under a new action plan unveiled by local government minister Derek Mackay.

The measures follow a three-month consultation with ratepayers, trade bodies and business organisations. The business rates system will be improved by making it more transparent and providing businesses with access to simple, clear information about business rates and valuations.

A wide ranging review of the valuation appeal system will take place over the next year with a new appeals system in place before the next revaluation.

The Scottish Government will also be writing to every business in Scotland to ensure all who are eligible are benefiting.

Mr Mackay said the government already offers the best package of rates relief to business available in the UK with two in every five business properties paying zero or reduced rates. He said: 'As part of our commitment to local decision making, we propose that Scotland's local authorities will be given the power to set local rates reliefs allowing them to respond to the needs of their communities. The Scottish Government is committed to maintaining the Small Business Bonus Scheme, and to matching the English poundage for the lifetime of this Parliament.'

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# Autumn Property review

## Buying a new home

IT'S BEEN a long time coming, but the signs are there that the property market is finally getting back on its feet.

Many remain sceptical about the fact, but the proliferation of estate agencies and an increase in the number of 'for sale' signs is testament to a renewed confidence - and property changing hands.

Banks remain reluctant to loan, but the purse strings are starting to loosen and more and more people finding they now have the finance to look for something new.

So whether you're thinking about

upgrading, looking to move to a different area or even downsize, it is a good idea to start perusing the options now - while sellers will be delighted to find a rejuvenated market and more potential buyers for their property.

Your local estate agent is the best place to start, with a glance in the window or at the website your first port of call - regardless of whether you're buying or selling. By surveying the market yourself, you'll see what the price range is in your chosen area, what the competition is doing and get an idea of what your

own goals should be.

There's no point rushing into a decision, but with the market on the up now could be a good time to invest before property prices start to climb.

Your next step should be to talk to the estate agent. Their valuation services can stop you being diddled out of cash you'd rather keep, and can offer expert advice on what kind of property is right for you.

If the property you want isn't there, it's worth speaking to the agent anyway. They may know of a seller that has not yet advertised the

property for the open market and can keep your details should something come up that meets your requirements.

Take note of your estate agent's advice and ask as many questions as you can. You may discover a hidden gem or even a problem you may not have thought of - as a buyer or a seller - and their experience of the market can be invaluable.

When it comes to the bidding process, your estate agent is your best friend.

From a buyer's point of view, they'll put the bid to the seller and speak frankly with the seller. They can then advise you

on your options. The seller, meanwhile, will benefit from the estate agent fielding calls about the property so you don't have to.

There's paperwork too - something that can be as much fun as running through syrup. Thankfully, your estate agent can handle the bulk of this for you - or can recommend someone who will - from drafting the details of the transaction to the postage of your paperwork.

So why not take a look at the market now and see if the recovering market offers you the perfect opportunity to move home.

## Improving your home

SUMMER sun has drifted off for the year and the cold, dark mornings and early evenings of the winter are starting to drift in.

It sounds depressing, but the Autumnal browns and dark greens are as good a reminder as any that even a subtle change can alter your outlook on the world.

So, with dark, wet nights more likely, why not take the opportunity to give your home a lick of paint and see in the autumn in a fresh, new style. If you're spending the evenings indoors anyway, you may as well do it in style!

But where do you start? That all

depends on your budget, ambition and what rooms you want to change. Sometimes, just a coat of paint can make all the difference. Not only can you change the hue of the room, but you can change the whole mood and feel of it. Move a couple of items of furniture around and before you know it, you could be living in a new house.

But you might want to be a bit more ambitious with your home makeover and why not? After all, there's not a room in the house that can't be given a radical new look.

Consider if you want to make any physical

alterations to the layout of your home. Maybe there's a wall between your kitchen and dining room that could be opened up? Perhaps one of your bedrooms could benefit from an en-suite? Unlike extensions or conservatories, these alterations can be done without the contractor being at the mercy of the weather. A couple of quotes can help you decide whether or not you want to go through with such a drastic change.

Renewing your furniture can be a good way of giving your home a new feel too. Replacing the old, stained and worn in

sofa - or even having it re-upholstered - is a good place to start in the living room. Couple it up with new flooring or carpets, and you'll be amazed by how fresh your room will feel. Wallpaper and new pictures for the walls, light fittings and even door handles will all fall under your gaze once you start.

Many people will chose the DIY route to giving their home a once-over, but calling in the experts can mean less disruption, new ideas you may not have thought of and a spotless finish.

Best of all, get it done early and you'll be settling right into the new look just in time for Christmas.



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# Autumn Property review

A guide to improving your home

## Bedrooms

Bedrooms are very busy rooms although it's hard to think of them that way until you really consider how much time we all spend in them. At least a third of our lives are spent sleeping and of course we sleep in our bedrooms. On top of that, we dress and embellish ourselves in our bedrooms, relax from time to time during the day in them when we are ill and, if space is lacking elsewhere in the home, pursue our hobbies and studies in our bedrooms.

Given all that, it is

strange indeed that bedrooms are often the last rooms in the home to be refurbished, re-furnished or even properly planned. Gradually people's attitudes are changing towards their bedrooms however and whilst we shall probably never return to the 18th century custom of greeting morning visitors whilst still in bed, we are all entitled to a well planned, beautiful and comfortable bedroom.

There are a range of choices when it comes to fitting out a bedroom. You can go for the fully fitted look; the room furnished with an elegant

range of free-standing furniture; or a judicious mix of the two.

It depends of course on its size and what you intend to do with the room other than just sleep. Really huge rooms are probably best fitted out with free-standing units with perhaps the odd fitted wardrobe slotted into an alcove. Very small rooms are best furnished with a full range of fitted units because these make the most of every inch of available space.

Before you decide on anything however, you should choose or buy the bed you intend to have because bedrooms are best designed around the bed. It is also the largest item of free-standing furniture and its size will dictate what available space you have in the rest of the room. Next, sit down and plan the room with due regard to all the activities it will house and the storage space you will need.. This is

best done to scale with graph paper once you have measured the exact dimensions of the room. Draw it on the graph paper and mark in doors, windows and other permanent features such as the chimney breast. If you find this difficult you could well ask one of the specialist suppliers or furnishing departments in your area to send their room planner to do the job for you. There are advantages to this because planners will not only be skilled in design, they also know the units and furniture their firm sells plus their prices, which will help you keep to a budget.

Look ahead when deciding on the furnishings. Will your use of the room change? Do you plan to share it? If you have future study in mind, build a desk area in. If you have a hobby, make sure there is space. If you have an exercise machine or mini-gym, put that into the plan.

Lighting is important and should also figure on your plan. You will want directional as well as diffuse light. Perhaps a track of spotlights would serve together with a dimmer switch? Free-standing and over-mirror lights too can be very convenient.

Don't overlook heating and ventilation. If built-in wardrobes are fitted to exterior walls they will need to be dry-lined to prevent dampness forming. The lining must be suitably vented. Heating is important so don't hide the radiators behind units. If you don't have central heating, make sure directional heating is included as part of the plan. If all this dictates more power points, have them fitted before you decorate and put in the furniture.

Do consider hot summers and include a built-in oscillating

fan or ceiling-mounted punka. Both have the added advantage of discouraging midges, mosquitoes and flies should any be about.

If your room is large enough, consider an en suite

shower or bathroom. It will add to the value of your property and give you endless satisfaction.

A properly planned, well furnished bedroom is a pleasure to use. If yours lacks all the amenities you feel you

could do with, now is the time to do something about it because there never has been such a wide and interesting range of bedroom fittings at such advantageous prices on the market before.





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# Autumn Property review

A guide to improving your home

## Bathrooms

If there is one room in the house where you need to be warm and perfectly comfortable, it's the bathroom. There it is that you can find yourself wearing the least clothes, and be wet too. Bathrooms should be where you can relax in warm humidity, where you have access to limitless piping hot water and where you can be free from chilling draughts.

Once upon a time bathrooms comprised a bath, washbasin and

perhaps also a WC. Today most people also expect a shower and bidet as well.

Our ideas have changed over recent years as we have our bathing habits. As a population we bathe more often in the week than did our parents and grandparents, we expect to be able to do so whenever we feel like it, and at a moment's notice.

A well designed, comfortable bathroom is not a luxury, it is a neces-

sity, a right to which we are all entitled. If your present bathroom lacks some creature comforts, it's high time it was replaced.

First consider a new suite.

The latest baths are of plastic derivatives, warm to the touch, easy to care for and tough in use. You can however, still buy enamelled cast iron or steel baths though oddly, they tend to cost rather more than the non-metal models.



Modern baths are also very attractive to look at and come, not only in a huge range of colours including black and white, they are also made in a variety of shapes and sizes to fit in with almost any shape and size of room.

Matching washbasins may stand upon a

pedestal or they may be fitted into a vanity unit with a surrounding worktop and cupboards underneath. The basin part will be made either of a plastic derivative or porcelain.

The latest matching WCs are sleek, easy to clean, porcelain fixtures with low, slim-line cisterns and a two-tier choice of flush - full or half, to help conserve your water.

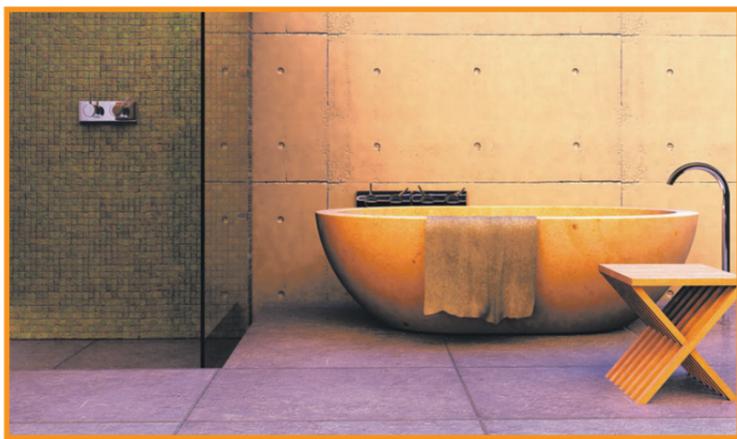
Set beside the WC in most bathrooms these days too will be a matching bidet for those more intimate actions of ablation.

The biggest change in the modern bathroom however, is the shower. Whether housed in a separate cubicle or fitted over the bath, it will probably have its own water heating unit quite divorced from the rest of the central heating.

There are specialist suppliers of bathrooms and associated equipment but they are also sold by the DIY chains and large stores. If you feel your bathroom needs a refit, measure the available space, note where doors, windows and wa-

ter supplies are piped in and go to a supplier who can give you advice.

You can fit your own bathroom if you have the knowledge and skills. Unless you have however, contact a local plumber who will know, not only how to do the work correctly, but who will also be appraised of the relevant Bye Laws that govern the disposal of waste and the supply of water. Remember you will probably be disconnecting the existing suite from your central heating system and reconnecting the new suite to it. If you don't want your system upset, you must employ the services of a professional and remember, if you do try to do the work yourself and fail, subsequently having to call in an expert to do the job could cost a great deal more.



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# Autumn Property review

A guide to improving your home

## Flooring

The floors of your home are the base of everything in it. They are in a very special way, a pallet on which you can mix and match the colours and textures of everything in each room. Change the flooring and you change the

whole character of your living accommodation. Floors however, serve a number of purposes other than something firm on which to stand. They can be insulation against cold or noise. They can add warmth. In some rooms such as

the kitchen or bathroom they should provide a waterproof, easily washed and dried surface. If the floor is also warm to the touch, it will also prevent condensation. The variety of flooring materials available are

numerous enough to give you a different choice for every room in even a large house, so choosing which is best for your purposes can be no easy matter. It is wise therefore to look at each individual room rather than follow the

'one size fits all' route. If you have wooden floor boards, have them sanded, stained and polished for a really, up-to-the-minute, different look. You could paint them some clear, bright colour. There are specially hard wearing paints available. In modern houses however, boards may have been replaced by block board or concrete which will nevertheless, give a good flat surfaces for a laminated flooring - easily available from most DIY stores.

This attractive wooden

flooring can be laid easily by one person following the instructions provided by the suppliers, as long as the surface is quite flat and even.

Carpets come in large squares, runners, tiles or broadloom rolls and can be laid wall to wall or strategically as required. Depending on your taste you may wish to go for something contemporary and plain, traditional and colourful or oriental. The material your carpet is made from should depend on where it's laid and the amount of traffic it will carry. Your supplier will be able to advise. However, it is worth remembering that the best wearing carpets are the best laid ones so it's worth considering having any carpet professionally laid. And if you do want a single colour effect throughout the house, you can go

for a broadloom made in a variety of qualities. The carpet supplier will usually visit to measure up and will advise on which quality should be laid where.

Lastly, when selecting a floor or its

covering, do consider how often it may need to be cleaned. Obviously the hard surfaces are easier to clean than piled surfaces but the latest carpeting is usually treated to shrug off dirt and stains so it may be this need never be a consideration.



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Taynuilt

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Oban



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Oban



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PROPERTY



# Autumn Property review

## A guide to improving your home

### Renovating older properties

When it comes to buying property there are two schools of thought. There are those who go for brand new properties and those who prefer something that's already been lived in. There is a lot to be said on both sides, but for some there is absolutely no beating the challenge and satisfaction gained from turning an old and mediocre house into something with character and the essential modern facilities of a very desirable property indeed.

It is often the case that older properties will cost less

than their recently built equivalents, especially if they lack such amenities as a recently fully fitted kitchen, central heating, loft insulation, double glazing and insulated doors. The best thing of all about buying such a property and renovating it is, when you do decide to sell and move on, your investment is more than amply rewarded.

There are stipulations of course. The workmanship must be of the highest quality. It must be carried out according to all current legislation, Bye Laws and safety standards. If extensions have been added on, they too must comply with building regulations, not to mention the planning Laws.

This is particularly important where large properties are converted into flats and maisonettes; if the conversion has not been carried out to

the highest standards, no building society will even consider extending a mortgage, and as a result, the flats or maisonettes will be almost impossible to sell.

When anyone is approaching the possibility of buying an older property to renovate, they shouldn't take one step without the advice of a surveyor. The surveyor will be their mentor, adviser and protector. The surveyor will know what is feasible and what is not. He (or she) will have some understanding of potential cost, will know which renovations will add to the property's value and which will be a waste of time. The surveyor can add probity to the whole project so that, when it comes to sell and move on, the whole project will appear 'right'.

Anyone considering taking on such a project with the intention of doing a great deal of the

work themselves should be wholly aware of their limitations. Building work of any sort has the potential for danger, either to the builder or to those who will live in the property in the future. It is essential therefore to have contact with a reputable local builder who can oversee the work, and provide such skilled tradesmen as become necessary from time to time. Indeed, for fitting such things as gas appliances, and electrical rewiring, it is illegal for an unqualified person to attend to such work.

It may of course be a little difficult at first to get a mortgage for a property in dire need of renovation. However, this will usually be reflected in the price, and building societies will often give some leeway in time for certain specified jobs such as repair of the fabric of the building.

There are also financial

considerations to take into account. You will need a solicitor to advise you if by doing those renovations with the object of selling and moving on, you might not attract unwanted tax liabilities. Do take advice before you start.

If you enjoy a challenge and would like to turn that tatty old heap of bricks you've fallen in love with, into a palace that's the envy of your neighbours, go ahead by all means but do be sure you know what you are taking on. You may have to live amongst dust and rubble for a year or so. You may go without heating and lighting for a while. You may

even have to live in a caravan in the garden until the project is done.

When it's finally finished, all you'll have to do is find a buyer. You'll reap the reward you so richly deserve by finding that

buyer fast so you can move on to the next project.

You've got to be hard though. No point falling in love with your house and not being able to sell it, you'll lose all your profit. Just harden your

heart and look on it as an investment, part of your earning capabilities. Just look ahead to the next project, and the fun you'll have with that!



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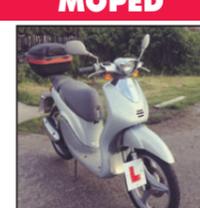
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## Market reports

### Caledonian Marts Oban

CALEDONIAN Marts had 3,441 store lambs and feeding ewes at its Oban sale last Tuesday, when the majority of store lambs were two to four kilos less than the same sale last year, due to the late spring and wet summer.

That accounted for the trade being around £3 back on the year. Ewes followed the national trade in being well back on the year.

Store Lambs averaged £37.74 (£2.95 on the year) selling to £60 for Suffolks from Strongorm and Mid (Lismore).

Feeding Ewes averaged £24.80 (-£9.28 on the year) selling to £61 for Suffolk x from Sithean (Iona).

Leading prices:  
Lambs: Chev - £55  
Strongorm & Stroneskar; Mule - £53 Balure of Shian; Suff - £52.50 Mid (Lismore); Cont - £52 Strongorm & Balgrundle (Lismore); Tex - £52  
Scour (Mull) & Brulin; Cross - £52 Baravullinbeag; BF - £50 Erraid (Mull); BF x - £43 Achnacloch & Achnacrois Croft.

Ewes: BF (correct) - £52 Sunipol; Chev (correct) - £48 Drumionnghail; Tex - £46 Lochview; Chev - £42.50 Shenavalle; Cross - £42 Balgrundle; BF - £30 Torloisk.

Ewe Lambs: BF - £44 Kilberry HF; BF x - £42 Achnacrois Croft; Chev - £43.50 Croig; Suff - £35.50 Ardalanish.  
Riggs: Suff - £53 Slaterich; BF - £50 Tyree; Chev - £48 Strongorm.

### United Auctions

#### Tiree

UNITED Auctions held their Annual Breeding Sheep Sale also sale of all classes Lambs at Triage Auction Mart, where 1209 head was sold - overall, a very satisfactory level of trade prevailed in all sections of the sale.

Gimmers from Heylipol Farm led the day's proceedings when their Cheviot Mules sold to £185 per head.

Mule Ewe Lambs from Braeside and Manna House sold to £120. Breeding Rams from No 2/15 Balevullin sold to £380. Correct Ewes from Middleton Farm sold to £115. Feeding Ewes from 2/15 Balevullin sold to £90 whilst Store Lambs from No 4 Kilkenneth sold to £60.50.

Principal lots and prices:  
Ewe lambs:  
Mule: £120 - Braeside & Manna House; £100 - Braeside & Manna House; £95 & £90 - Manna House.

Gimmers: Cheviot Mule: £185 - Heylipol Farm; £120 - Hillcrest  
Mule: £140 & £135 - Drumfrahoch; £130 - Carrachan; £120 & £110 - Greenhill.

Cross: £130 - Carrachan; £110 - Middleton Farm; £100 - Drumfrahoch.  
Texel Cross: £150 - 1 Heanish; £145 - Drumfrahoch; £110 - Hillcrest & Middleton Farm; £100 - Drumfrahoch.

Suffolk: £100 - 2/15 Balevullin.  
Cheviot: £120 - Carrachan; £120 & £110 - Greenhill; £100 - Gribun.

Correct Ewes:  
Texel Cross: £115 & 110 - Middleton Farm; £85 - 34 Balepethrish  
Cross: £90 - Middleton Farm.  
Suffolk Rams: £380 - 2/15 Balevullin; £140 & £120 - 9 Barrapol.

Blueface Leicester Ram Lamb: £150 - Ruaig  
Cast Ewes:  
Suffolk Cross: £90.00 - 2/15 Balevullin; £73.50 - Garaphail; £61.50 - 2/15 Balevullin; £59.50 - 9 Barrapol; £56.50 - 4 Gott.

Texel Cross: £74.50 - 2/15 Balevullin; £70.50 - Ruaig; £69.50 - Heylipol Farm; £68.50

- Vaul: £67.50 - Sandaig; £64.50 - Druimasaid; £62.50 - 4 Kilkenneth.  
Cheviot Cross: £58.50 - 34 Balepethrish; £57.50 - Croisih.  
Cross: £74.50 - 7 Kilkenneth; £59.50 - Gott; £57.50 - 4 Kilkenneth.

Mules: £53.50 - Heylipol Farm.  
Blackface: £29.50 - Lochside.  
Beltex: £72.50 - Heylipol Farm.

Lambs:  
Suffolk Cross: £60.50 - 4 Kilkenneth & 12 West Hynish; £59.50 - 6 Barrapol; £57.00 - 10 Crossapol; £55.50 - 6 Crossapol & Croisih; £55.00 - 12 West Hynish.

Texel Cross: £59.50 - 6 Barrapol; £57.50 - Ardmay; £55.50 - 6 Barrapol.  
Cheviot Cross: £55.50 - 12 West Hynish  
Cross: £50.50 - 6 Barrapol.  
Mule: £50.00 - Benview.

### United Auctions

#### Dalmally

UNITED Auctions held a sale of 2,308 lambs and sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart, where all classes of lambs sold at similar levels to last week's satisfactory trade.

Glenshellach and Lephinkill led the top prices per head for cross bred lambs when their third draw lambs sold for £60 for Suffolk, Texel and Cross Breds.

Blackface Wedder Lambs from Lurgish and Littleport led this section at £48.50. Again, as per last week's sale, second draw Blackface Wedder Lambs were the best selling types.

Principal lots and prices:

Lambs:  
Texel Cross: £60.00 - Glenshellach; £57.00 - The Shielling Barra; £56.50 - Barguillan.

Suffolk Cross: £60.00 - Glenshellach.  
Cross: £60.00 - Lephinkill Farm.

Blackface: £48.50 - Lurgish & Littleport; £45.00 - 83 Borve Barra; £44.00 - Glenfeochan Estate; £43.00 - 83 Borve Barra; £41.50 - Glenshellach; £41.00 - Lurgish; £40.50 - Benmore Home Farm & Stroneskar & Glenfeochan Estate; £40.00 - Garvachy & Dunloskin Farm.

Feeding Ewes:  
Texel Cross: £51.00, £48.00 & £41.50 - White Gates.  
Cheviot Cross: £40.00 - Maam Farm

Cross: £38.00 - South Ailey  
Blackface: £33.00 - Stroneskar; £32.00 - Burnbank (S MacGregor)

Top prices per kilo:  
Texel Cross: 192p - Laggan Ulva, Mull; 176p - Glenshellach; 174p - South Ailey Farm; 171p - Barguillan Farm.  
Suffolk Cross: 170p - Achadunan Estate.

Cheviot Cross: 166p - Lochdochart  
Cross: 168p - 15 Ardmore Barra.  
Blackface: 152p - Laggan Ulva, Mull & Glenfeochan Estate; 147p - Littleport; 146p - Kilkenneth Estate; 145p - Benmore Home Farm; 144p - Glenfeochan Estate; 143p - Lurgish & Dunloskin Farm; 141p - Killundine Estate; 140p - Lephinkill Farm & Tullochcan.

### Islay Auction Mart

ISLAY Auction Mart saw United Auctions sell 2,786 lambs and sheep at their second sale of all classes lamb and sheep there last Friday.

The current decline in prime sheep prices as reported in national press was evident at this sale, whereby the lambs weighing above 40 kilos were selling at £8/£10 less than the first sale.

However, store lambs sold well and in most cases were selling at levels as good or above those at the corresponding sale last year. The sale average for all lambs

sold was £58.56 against £60.92 last year. Principal Lots And Prices:

Top Prices Per Head:  
Lambs:  
SUFFX: £77.00 - Dunossit Estate (Knocklearach); £70.50 - Octofad; £69.50 - Rockside Farm; £68.50 - Dunossit Estate (Knocklearach); £67.00 - Rockside Farm & Duich; £66.50 - Ballmartin; £66.00 - Octofad & Ardnave; £65.50 - Octofad & Ardbeg; £64.50 - Dunossit Estate (Knocklearach); £64.00 - Octofad; £63.50 - Duich; £63.00 - Octofad, Achnaclach, Ardnave & Ardtalla Estate.

TEXX: £74.50 - Duich; £69.00 - Stanalane; £67.50 - Dunossit Estate (Keils); £62.50 - Ardbeg & Ardnave; £61.00 - Achnaclach.  
BELTX: £63.00 & £61.00 - Kilchiaran.  
CHEV: £72.50 & £64.50 - Aoradh; £61.00 - Duich; £60.50 & £59.50 - Aoradh; £59.50 - Tormisdale Farm; £52.50 - Aoradh; £50.00 - Duich.  
CROSS: £59.00 - Cragabus (J Porter) & Duich.

MULE: £65.50 - Duich; £58.50 - Ardnave; £57.50 - Cragabus (J Porter); £55.00 - Rockside Farm.  
BF: £55.50 - Ardnave; £50.00 - Cragabus (J Porter); £47.50 - Mansfield (G Simpson); £45.50 - Glenegadale Lotts (A Bell); £45.00 - Rockside Farm; £42.50 - Paic A Chlissan; £42.00 - Ballinaby.

EWES:  
TEXX: £78.50 - Dunossit Estate (Knocklearach); £67.50 - Ardbeg; £64.50 - Dunossit Estate (Knocklearach).  
CHEV: £65.50 & £59.50 - Aoradh.  
CROSS: £68.50 - Paic A Chlissan.  
MULE: £48.50 - Ardberg.  
BF: £44.50 - Paic A Chlissan; £43.50 - Kilchiaran; £38.50 - Ardnave.

WEDDERS: £47.50 - Achnaclach; £45.50 - Conisby (I MacPherson); £45.00 - Duich.

### Dingwall and Highland Marts

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 3,341 breeding and store sheep at its Dingwall sale on Thursday, where Gimmers met a keen demand, but trade for correct ewes was very selective. Prime 7 feeding ewes although back on the year met a reasonable enquiry.

The sale averaged decreased by £15.14.  
Breeding ewes sold to £120 gross twice for Cheviots from The Ranch, Delny.  
Feeding ewes sold to £64 gross thrice for Cheviots from 46 Blairmore, Rogart, a Cheviot from 233 Lingmore, Brora, and also from 283 Torboll, Dornoch. Gimmers averaged £94.64 and sold to £120 gross for Cheviots from Burnside, Delny.

Lambs sold to £85 gross for Cheviot Mules ewe lambs from 8 Sand Street, Stornoway.  
Rams and wedders sold to £60 gross twice for a Suffolk from Teanluick Croft, Muir of Ord, and for a Cheviot from 3 Balcharrn, Lairg.

Other leading prices per head:  
Ewes: Correct: Chev - Navidale Farm, Helmsdale, £70, Killin Farm, Garve, £67, Achue, Spinningdale, and Golval, Forsinard, £64; LleynX - Kirrton Farm, Melvich, £53; TexX - Rhifail Farms, Strathnaver, £53; Cross - 20 Strathnaver, Bettyhill, £44. Broken mouth: Chev - Navidale Farm, £52, Pynag, Dunbeath, £51, 27 Portgower, Helmsdale, £47; LleynX - 6 Totescore, Portree, £43. Feeders: Chev - 19 Gartymore, Helmsdale, £60, Rhifail Farms, £58, 189 Fleucharry, Dornoch, 168 West Helmsdale, and Mayfield, Thurso, £55; Mule - Mayfield, £58.

Gimmers: Chev - Upper Cullernie, Balloch, £118, Forbes Farming, Farr, £112, Ceol-Har



## Large turnout of buyers at Oban Livestock Mart sale

A large turnout of buyers was present at Oban Livestock Mart on Tuesday for the Great Annual Sale of warranted ewes, gimmers and ewe lambs. A full report will appear in next week's Oban Times. 16.1396bfarm1

Croft, Castletown, £105; TexX - Free Farm, Tomatin, £90, £78.  
Lambs: TexX - 8 Sand Street, £62, Leanassie, £57, 46 Blairmore, £51; Lleyn - 6 Totescore, £58; Chev - Rheindown, Beauly, £57, Killin Farm, £54.50, Carnoch, Strathconon, £52; KryX - Killin Farm, £52.50; CHM - 8 Sand Street, £51.

Rams and wedders: Cross wdr - 20 Strathnaver, £55; Lleyn ram - 6 Totescore, £50; Chev ram - 1 Balcharrn, Lairg, £50; Chev wdr - Morness, £50.

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 1,002 lambs from Lewis Livestock Producers in Dingwall last Thursday.

Lambs averaged £34.45 and sold to £59.50 gross for Texel crosses from 39 Lower Shader.  
Other leading prices per head  
Lambs: Cross - 12 Upper Barvas, £53, 14 Lower Shader, £49.50, 26 Borve, £48.50; Chev - 38 South Dell, £53, 11 Breasclate, £52.50, 17 South Galson, and 16 Lower Shader, £50.50; TexX - 25 South Galson, £51.50, 36 Lower Barvas, £51, 46 Lower Barvas, £48.50; SuffX - 28 Lower Shader, £51, 37B Breasclate, £49, 35 Lower Barvas, £48; BF - 7 Lower Shader, and 8 Lower Shader, £50.50, 26 Upper Shader, £44; CharX - 5 South Dell, and 28 Lower Shader, £50.

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 3,390 store sheep of all classes at its Fort William sale on Friday.  
Lambs sold to £58 gross for Cheviots from 2 Arderry, Strontian.  
Ewes sold to £60 gross for Suffolk crosses from Mungosdail, Drimmin.  
Gimmers sold to £78 gross for Cheviots from Wood Cottage

### Dingwall and Highland Marts Fort William

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Ewes sold to £60 gross for Suffolk crosses from Mungosdail, Drimmin.  
Gimmers sold to £78 gross for Cheviots from Wood Cottage

Croft, Tobermory.  
Feeding sheep sold to £49 gross for a Cross wedder from Mungosdail.  
Leading prices per head:  
Store lambs: SuffX - Traigh Farm, Arisaig, £57.50, Mamore, Fort William, £55; TexX - Tigh An Uilt, Kilchoan, £57, Borlum Farm, Fort Augustus, £54, Ardtornish Farms, £47; Cross - 6 Blaich, Fort William, £56, 3 Blaich, Fort William, £55, Culachy Farm Partnership, Aberchalder, £54.50; Chev - Balnaha, Fort William, £53.50, Achateny, Acharacle, £50, Beinn Seilg, Kilchoan, and Ardtornish Farms, £47.50; BF - Borlum Farm, £52.50; LleynX - Tigh An

Uilt, £50; Mule - Borlum Farm, £50; CharX - 2 Achnaphuibil, Fort William, £48.  
Ewes: BF - Wood Cottage Croft, £48, Croft 6, Glenug, £43; Suff - Balmagister, Spean Bridge, £47; Tex - Armadale Farm, Isle of Skye, £46; Cross - Keppoch Farms, Roy Bridge, £44; Chev - Balnaha, £43.  
Gimmers: Chev - Kilmory, Acharacle, £69; Mule - 4 Muir-shearlich, Banavie, £64; BF - Ardochy, Whitebridge, £62, Wood Cottage Croft, and Ardochy, £60.  
Feeding sheep: Chev wdr - Drimsallie, Kinlochell, £40; BF wdr - 6 Scotstown, Strontian, £40.

## Farmers' weather aid payments underway

WEATHER aid payments to Scottish farmers have now started, rural affairs secretary Richard Lochhead has confirmed.

The first farmers who have submitted successful applications to the Scottish Government's £5.75million compensation scheme will receive funds in their bank accounts early next week.

So far, £728,406 has been processed for payment to 203 farmers with a further 849 applications still being processed.

Mr Lochhead said: 'Many farmers across Scotland suffered financial losses as a result of this year's severe weather, which is why the Scottish Government is providing a significant amount of compensation through our Weather Aid scheme.  
'I am pleased to confirm weather aid payments have now started, with

almost £750,000 due to reach the first successful applicants next week and another £5million to follow. This is on top of the almost £750,000 we have already paid to farmers for livestock losses.

'It is important that payments made under the weather aid scheme comply with block exemption and EU state aid rules. This is very complex and, in line with the wishes of the weather aid expert group that farmers should not be subject to additional inspections, Scottish Government officials have been carefully verifying the evidence provided by farmers to support their claims.'

'In some cases, information cannot be easily verified and these claims will take longer to process. All payments will be completed as soon as possible.'

## Smallholder and grower festival popularity grows

GROWING popularity means this year's Scottish Smallholder and Grower Festival is set to be busier than ever.

Held at Lanark Agricultural Centre on Saturday, the second year of the event is the largest competition for crofters, smallholders and growers. Competitions include livestock,

crops, crafts and cooking. The event also provides an opportunity to meet other smallholders, breeders and exhibitors, while 19 free to attend seminars and demonstrations cover a wide variety of subjects, including fencing, charcuterie, goat milking to stick making. For more information, see scottishsmallholdersshow.co.uk.

### BLACKFACE SHEEP BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION

#### TUP SALES DATES 2013

OCTOBER	OCTOBER Cont.
3 Newton Stewart	14 Hexham
4 Dingwall	14 Castle Douglas
4 Perth Ram Society Show	15 Portree
5 Stirling (UA)-including Perth Ram Society Sale	16 Oban
7 Ballymena	25 Stirling (UA)
10 Lanark-Shearlings	28 Hexham
11 Lanark-Lambs	31 Lanark
12 Dalmally	<b>NOVEMBER</b>
	1 Fort William

Full listing of sale dates and sale reports available on the web site.  
www.scottish-blackface.co.uk  
CONTACT Aileen McFadden Tel: 07768 820405 find us on facebook

## CALEDONIAN MARTS

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### OBAN LIVESTOCK CENTRE

#### OCTOBER SALES 2013

**Tuesday 1st October at 11.00am**  
Great Annual Show and Sale of Suckled Calves Sale of Store, Breeding and OTM Cattle

**Friday 4th October (Mull)**  
Mull - Sale of Calves. Store, Breeding & OTM Cattle

**Tuesday 8th October**  
Sale of Store Lambs, Breeding & Feeding Sheep

**Sunday 13th & Monday 14th October**  
Show & Sale of Highland Cattle

**Wednesday 16th October**  
500 BREEDING TUPS 500  
Great Annual Show and Sale of Blackface, Cheviot, Texel, Suffolk, Blue Face Leicester Rams and Ram Lambs  
Show Commences at 10am prompt  
Please Note Entries for this sale close Friday 11th October at 5pm  
Unfortunately No Late Entries Can be Accepted

**Tuesday 22nd October**  
Great Annual Sale of Luing, Sim / Luing, Sailer, Shorthorn, Highland Heifer Calves, Bulling, In-calf Cows and Heifers In-calf and with calves  
Also Store, Breeding and OTM Cattle.

**Tuesday 29th October**  
Special Sale of Store Lambs, Breeding & Feeding Ewes

For further information on the above sales contact:  
Cattle: John Kyle - 07713 342512  
Sheep: Alastair Logan - 07713 342514  
Ronnie Maccormick - 07717 435248

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www.scottishsmallholdersshow.co.uk

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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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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

**The Oban Times** **campbelltown** **argyllshire** **THE ARRAN BANNER**  
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**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:

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- 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.

**KEY Community Supports**  
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**administrative assistants**

**EASTER ROSS**  
REF:AA/ER/2467

**FORT WILLIAM**  
REF:AA/FW/2468

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We are looking to recruit Administrative Assistants to provide administrative support to the manager and worker teams at our Easter Ross and Fort William services. Applicants should have relevant administrative experience, including familiarity and relevant skills with Microsoft Office products and experience of keeping financial records.

Applicants should also have an understanding of the needs of people with learning disabilities as the role will involve regular contact with service users in the office base.

**Closing date for receipt of applications 11th October 2013.**

For an application form, job description and copy of our equal opportunities policy, please visit our website at [www.keycommunitysupports.org](http://www.keycommunitysupports.org) email: [jobs@keycommunitysupports.org](mailto:jobs@keycommunitysupports.org) telephone: 0141 342 1892 (24 hour answering service) or write quoting job title and location to the Personnel Department, KEY, The Square, 70 Renton Street, Glasgow G4 0HT.

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Previous selling experience, whilst useful, is not essential as full training and support will be provided.

We offer a competitive salary, commission, car, pension, BUPA and full business expenses.

**Interested?**

If you feel you have got what it takes to succeed in agricultural sales, please apply in writing to: Mrs. Julie Thomas, Titheburn 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.**

**Approved Electrician**  
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**Chargehand Mechanic**  
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**Childcare & Education Worker (Temporary, Part time)**  
£19,271 - £20,457 pro rata Salen Primary School Ref: CME35403  
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**Classroom Assistant (Part time)**  
£14,307 - £15,165 pro rata Ardrishaig Primary School Ref: CME00023  
7.5 hours per week

**Classroom Assistant (3 posts - 2 Permanent & 1 Temporary)**  
£14,307 - £15,165 pro rata Oban High School Ref: CME36153  
27.5 hours per week

**Clerical Assistant**  
£14,307 - £15,165 Taynuilt Primary School Ref: CME01629  
34 hours per week

**Escort (Part time, Term time)**  
£13,427 - £14,662 pro rata Glenbarr Ref: CTF01101  
5 hours per week  
The Council applies a Living Wage to this post

**Janitor/Cleaner (Part time)**  
£13,427 - £14,662 pro rata Tayvallich Primary School Ref: CME35232  
7.5 hours per week

**Janitor/Cleaner**  
£13,427 - £14,662 Tobermory High School, Isle of Mull Ref: CME35308  
37 hours per week, (must be able to provide weekend and evening cover also)

**Property Officer/Clerk of Works**  
£23,724 - £25,932 Lochgilphead Ref: CTF00999

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£15,639 - £17,099 Oban High School Ref: CME35709  
11 hours per week

**SEN Assistant (2 Posts - Part time)**  
£15,639 - £17,099 Oban Secondary Learning Centre Ref: CME01133  
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**SEN Assistant (2 Temporary posts)**  
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Closing date: 11 October 2013.  
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**Customer Services Assistant**  
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Salary £16,459 - £18,216 35 hours per week

To apply visit our website at [www.acha.co.uk/recruitment](http://www.acha.co.uk/recruitment)

If you cannot access the website please contact the recruitment team:  
Tel 01546 605917 or email [recruitment@acha.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@acha.co.uk)

**Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 11th October 2013**

Interviews for these posts will be held in late October 2013

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**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

**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)

**Scottish Sea Farms**  
**MINI BUS DRIVERS SOUTH SHIAN**

Scottish Sea Farms are recruiting for minibus drivers to transport staff to/from Oban to South Shian on a daily basis.

The workload is normally shared by three drivers who decide amongst themselves the best way to work hours to cover the daily requirements and holidays.

Applicants must have held a clean driving licence for at least 2 years with Category D1, D1e or a PCV Licence.

Please contact Margaret MacAlpine on 01631 574000 to arrange a suitable time for interview.

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

**FERGUSON SHIPPING ARE RECRUITING A MARINE FLEET COORDINATOR/ASSISTANT MANAGER**

Ferguson Shipping are looking to recruit a Marine Fleet Coordinator/Assistant Manager based in Corpach, Fort William. This role is to assist with the management of our shipping team and 4 vessels and would suit a highly motivated person that enjoys the challenges that a busy shipping office has to give.

The ideal candidate for this role will preferably have the following experience:

- Maritime background
- Stock control
- Shore based vessel management
- Good communication skills
- Operations and logistics background
- Salary is dependent on experience.

If you would like to apply for this position, please contact Jacqueline MacLeod.  
Call: 01397 773840 Email: [Jacqueline@fergusontransport.co.uk](mailto:Jacqueline@fergusontransport.co.uk)  
Post: Integrated Freight Facility, Annat, Corpach, PH33 7NN

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**Hunt on for hidden Asian treasures in West Highlands**

WEST Highland residents are being urged to check in their lofts and dust off their old vases as a Scottish auction house holds a roadshow to find hidden Asian treasures.

Lyon and Turnbull's Asian department started its tour in Inverness this week, headed by department director and Antiques Roadshow expert, Lee Young.

It comes as part of a partnership with Asian Art in London - with the company saying a vine porcelain vase valued at £2,500 in 1988 can now fetch up to £95,000.

Anyone who believes they may have a hidden treasure can benefit from a free, no-obligation visit from Mr Young.

To book an appointment, phone James McNaught on 0141 333 1992 or email james.mcnaught@lyonandturnbull.com.

**Report alleged breaches online**

HIGHLAND residents can now report alleged breaches of planning regulations online after Highland Council launched a new service.

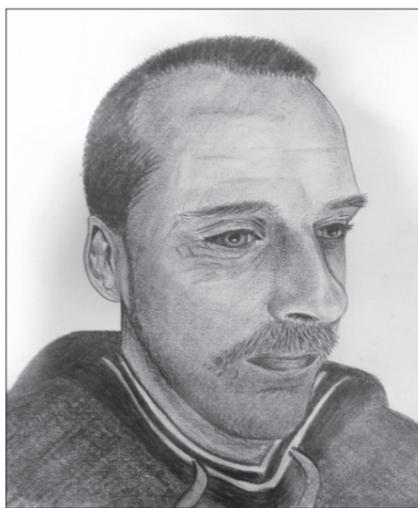
The Highland enforcement charter has also been produced to explain how the enforcement process works.

Planning, environment and development committee chairman councillor Thomas Prag said the new service would be 'more convenient' for many people.

He said: 'This new service gives much more flexibility for people to report any alleged breaches.'

Suspected breaches can still be reported by calling the service centre on 01349 886608.

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An artist's impression of the man found on Kyleakin beach.

**New bid to identify body**

POLICE have released more information about a body found washed up on a beach near Kyleakin in an attempt to identify the man.

The man found on September 9 is described as 35 to 45 years old, 5ft 8in to 5ft 10in tall, of medium build, with short dark hair and has tattoos on his left forearm consisting of a cross and the initial 'G' close to his wrist.

He was found wearing a blue Everlast hooded top, a blue body warmer, dark coloured jeans, a Levi leather belt, chrome Sekonda watch, 'Help for Heroes' wrist band, black Nike trainers and had a Reebok black and red backpack.

Police Scotland said there are not believed to be any suspicious circumstances and they are not looking for anyone in connection with the matter.

**Extra Gaelic-medium cash**

AN ADDITIONAL £4 million over the next two years will increase the number of places available in Gaelic Medium Education (GME) across Scotland to meet continually rising demand.

Alasdair Allan, minister for languages, announced the extra funding in the week that Edinburgh's first dedicated GME school Bun-sgoil Taobh na Paireice will have its official opening.

Dr Allan said: 'Attracting children to Gaelic is imperative to maintaining the language as a vital part of our culture. We have made it our goal to increase

speaker numbers and preserve Gaelic as a vibrant part of our culture.

'We are already seeing good results with a rise of 12 per cent in pupils entering primary one this year, showing our strategy to encourage a new generation of Gaelic speakers and teachers is working well.

The additional £2 million per year for the Gaelic Schools Capital Fund will be available to councils to expand GME in their region and was announced by the Finance Secretary John Swinney in his draft budget on September 11, 2013.

**Argyll delegation excluded from island lobby group**

Disappointment after councillors travel to conference

A DELEGATION from Argyll and Bute Council has expressed its disappointment at being excluded from a steering group designed to lobby for the interests of Scotland's islands.

Council leader Roddy McCuish, Islay-based councillor Robin Currie and the authority's director of development and infrastructure Sandy Mactaggart travelled to Kirkwall, Orkney,

to put forward the case for the Argyll islands at the Our Islands Our Future conference last Thursday and Friday.

The Argyll and Bute representatives wholeheartedly backed the three islands councils - Western Isles, Shetland and Orkney - in their intention to give Scotland's islands more autonomy and power.

But they were left aggrieved

when told that Argyll and Bute would not be allowed to join the group and would only be consulted on an issue-by-issue basis.

**Stronger**

Councillor Currie told *The Oban Times*: 'On the first day I explained the three islands campaign would be stronger if it included all Scotland's islands and back came the response that

the campaign was more for the three island local authorities. That was when the red mist came down.

'It was important to be there and we look forward to working with the group in the future but it was a disappointing response.'

Councillor McCuish denied the decision was a snub but conceded the group's decision was 'disappointing'. He said:

'I want to state that I am 100 per cent behind what the three islands council is trying to do.'

'But Argyll and Bute has a lot to bring to the table; we have 25 islands, the huge tax contribution from the Islay whisky industry and 14 per cent of Scotland's renewables.'

'We did receive a lot of support from other delegates at the meeting.'

**Oban-based hotelier appointed to board of VisitScotland**

AN OBAN-based hotelier is promising to be a voice for the area after being appointed to the board of VisitScotland.

Calum Ross, who owns the Loch Melfort Hotel, joins Scottish Canals' chief executive Steve Dunlop and Edinburgh Airport's chief executive Gordon Dewar in joining the organisation responsible for attracting more tourists into the country.

Mr Ross, who is a director of the British Hospitality Association, the Scottish Tourism Alliance and a co-chairman of Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative, takes up the post immediately and hopes to be influential in drawing more people into Argyll.

He said: 'I believe one of the key reasons I was successful in my application is my knowledge and experience of destination marketing. Having helped run the Oban and Lorn Tourism Association for over four years and being one of the founding directors and now co-chairman of Argyll and the Isles Tourism, I have a good understanding of the challenges we face in marketing the more rural

areas of Scotland. Running an independent tourism business will also help give balance to the board and will identify how decisions made affect businesses on the ground.'

'Having a voice for Oban and Argyll the Isles in the boardroom of our national marketing body can only be a good thing.'

Mike Cantlay, chairman of VisitScotland, said: 'There has been a high number and calibre of applicants and I have taken the opportunity to write to them all to thank them for their interest.'

'It's reassuring to see so many industry leaders come forward and I hope to work with many of them in the future.'

'The board is determined that 2014 will be the year that proves to everyone that tourism is big business. The showcase events of homecoming alongside the Commonwealth Games and Ryder Cup will be the game-changer that will create the platform for our industry to exploit in the second part of the decade. I look forward to working with our new and established board members to ensure that 2014 is that catalyst for future growth and investment.'



**Wildcats offered new chance of survival**

Endangered wildcats are being offered a new chance of survival at an island sanctuary on the west coast of Scotland.

The Aspinall Foundation is setting up a conservation area on the island of Carna with the hope of saving Scottish wildcats from extinction. They are currently one of the most critically endangered species in the world due to mass cross-breeding with feral domestic cats and pure Scottish wildcats are now believed to number no more than 35 in the wild.

It is hoped the new centre will allow them to be bred in safety before being reintroduced into their natural habitats.

Picture by The Aspinall Foundation.

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

www.highland.gov.uk

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
13/03327/FUL	50m NNE of Highlander Byre, Ardornish, Morvern	Construct and operate a low head run-of-river hydro electric scheme (100KW) on the Rannoch River
13/03414/PIP	North of West Lodge Roshven, Glenuig Lochailort	Erection of house
13/03448/FUL	Achaphuib Primary School Fort William	Refurbishment and internal alterations, window openings to existing building and change of use from primary school to dwelling house
13/03501/PIP	Land SW of Fern Cottage Spean Bridge	Erection of house (renewal of permission 10/03038/PIP)

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)

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**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am - 12:30pm and 1:30pm - 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
13/01743/PP	Demolition of existing byre, erection of ancillary accommodation and installation of septic tank	Garden Ground Of 1 Salum Ruag Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute	Tiree Area Office
13/01977/PP	Construction of above ground pipe bridge	Land At Allt Achadh Na Moine Burn (West Side Of A849) Gairmory Craignure Isle Of Mull	Sub Post Office Craignure
13/01978/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage	Plot 4 Land North East Of Cnoc Fennaigh House Balvicar Isle Of Seil Oban Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Balvicar
13/02024/PP	Change of use of office (class 2) to dwellinghouse (class 9)	Claremont Glencruitten Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4QA	Oban Area Office
13/02047/PPP	Site for the erection of 16 dwellinghouses	Land West Of Nurses House Kilchrean Taynuilt Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
13/02071/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse with attached garage, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land Adjacent To Airdenny House Taynuilt Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
13/02092/PP	Installation of balanced flue (retrospective), external handrail, light fitting and gutter	St Johns Cathedral 129 George Street Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5HT	Oban Area Office

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Refval	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/02103/LIB	Installation of gas fired condensing boiler with associated balanced flue, internal partitions forming entrance lobby, external handrail, light fitting and gutter	St Johns Cathedral 129 George Street Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5HT	Oban Area Office
13/02116/LIB	Replacement roof covering to front elevation (Spanish slate)	Rockburn Main Street Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6NU	Tobermory Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardishaig 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.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Refval	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/02010/PP	Demolition of existing ruined cottage, erection of dwellinghouse and ancillary accommodation for holiday let purposes, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Ruin South East Of Ardnahoe Farmhouse Port Askaig Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Port Askaig

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <http://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.

**COUNCILLORS SURGERIES**

Councillor Roddy McCuish (E.W.4 Oban South and the Isles)  
Councillor Roddy McCuish will NOT be holding a surgery during the month of OCTOBER but he can be contacted by e mail - [roderick.mccuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:roderick.mccuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Councillor Louise Glen-Lee (E.W.5 Oban North and Lorn)  
Councillor Glen-Lee will be holding a surgery in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban on Monday 7th October from 4.00pm to 5.00pm. If you wish to make an appointment, please contact Karen Rodger on 01546 604209.  
Councillor Glen-Lee can also be contacted by phone - Tel: 01631 567 955 or by email - [louise.glen-lee@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:louise.glen-lee@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Lochaber Hydrotherapy Pool AGM**

Tuesday, October 29 @7pm at Hydrotherapy Pool Anyone Welcome

**JUBILEE BRIDGE, APPIN**

The Jubilee Bridge in Appin, part of the public right of way from Taychreggan to Achosrigan, will be closed for twelve weeks as from 30th September 2013, for major structural repairs.

The alternative route during the closure period will be on the Port Appin road to Tynribbie and the Sustrans cycle track to Achosrigan.

Enquiries to Appin Community Council.

**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 Rinn 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 Isle of Islay PA43 7JJ Tel: 01496 810873	Port Ellen Post Office 66 Fredrick Crescent Port Ellen Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA42 7BD Tel: 01496 810366	Portnahaven Post Office 23 Shore Street Portnahaven Isle of Islay PA47 7SH Tel: 01496 860264
Bowmore Post Office Main Street Bowmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA43 7JH Tel: 01496 810366	Port Ellen Post Office 66 Fredrick Crescent Port Ellen Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA42 7BD Tel: 01496 302382	DP Marine Energy Ltd Mill House Buttevant County Cork, Ireland Tel: +353 22 23955

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 £400 for hard copy. Copies of a short non-technical summary can be downloaded from the project website [www.westislaytidal.com](http://www.westislaytidal.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.

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**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 26 September**  
Craignure – An roth Enterprise Centre  
1pm – 8pm  
SNH drop in session focussed on MPAs

**Tuesday 1 October**  
Mallaig&Morar Community Centre  
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)

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**BIRTHS**



**KINSELLA** - David and Shirley (née Craig) are delighted to announce the birth of their son Kian David, born on September 12, 2013 at the RAH in Paisley. A wee brother for Nicole, second grandchild for Johnnie and Isobel Craig and grandson for the late Patrick and Carmel Kinsella, Co Wicklow, Ireland. Thanks to all the midwives in Oban and Paisley.

**DEATHS**

**BEATON** - Peacefully at home on Wednesday September 18, 2013, aged 91 years, Jessie Alexander, beloved wife of the late Kenny, of Rob Roy Road Kinlochleven. A much loved aunt, great-aunt, great-great-aunt and friend. Donations in memory of Tearfund and Mission Aviation Fellowship to be forwarded to John McLellan Funeral Directors, Dudley Road, Fort William. Funeral service was held in Kinlochleven Parish Church, on Monday September 23, 2013; thereafter, Jessie was laid to rest beside Kenny in Kinlochmore Cemetery. At home with the Lord.

**CARMICHAEL** - Peacefully at home on September 18, 2013 in her 91st year, Dorothy Stewart (née Howie), loved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt. Funeral will take place at Kilmelford Parish Church on Thursday, September 26 at 11am, thereafter to Cardross Crematorium for a service at 3.15pm. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection / donations if desired for Oban Hospice and Kilmelford Parish Church. Bright colours to be worn! Loved and missed by everyone.

**GUTHRIE** - Peacefully at Gowie House Care Home, Kirkcaldy on Friday September 20, 2013. Ileana, formerly of Benderloch, beloved wife of the late Jim, much loved mum of Kenneth and Julie and loving granny of David, Christina, Alexandra and Allan. Service at Kirkcaldy Crematorium on Monday September 30, at 12.45pm to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Donations in lieu of flowers may be given at the crematorium for Alzheimer's Association, if so desired.

**KAIN** - At home with her family, Katharine Beatson Kain passed away on Saturday September 21, 2013, aged 94. A much loved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, mother-in-law and sister. A selfless personality and friend to many, who will be missed by all. Funeral will be at Tobermory Parish Church on Friday September 27 at 2pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Macmillan Cancer Relief.

**MACCALLUM** - Alistair. Peacefully at his home Katrine Cottage, Pennyghael, Isle of Mull on Friday, September 20, 2013 aged 94 years. Beloved husband of the late Flora. A much loved father, father-in-law, grandad and uncle.

**McINNES** - Donalda. Suddenly at home on Monday, September 16, 2013, Donalda McNeil, beloved wife of the late Iain, dear mother of Gillian and Campbell and grandmother of Niall.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**BEATON** - Catherine (Kate) and Alan Ward and the close family of Jessie Alexander Beaton (née MacPherson) would like to thank all friends and relatives for their support and expressions of sympathy following her death on September 18, 2013. Special thanks to the doctors and staff of Kinlochleven Surgery, Rev Dr Malcolm Kinner, the Highland Getaway Cafe and organist Rose Young; to John McLellan Funeral Directors for their very professional and caring services. A special thanks from Kate to Rev Dr Gordon Gattward. Donations to Tearfund and Mission Aviation Fellowship amounted to £390.

**HAYES** - Helen. All Nellie's nieces and nephews would like to express their thanks to all who attended the church service and graveside. Special thanks to the Lynn of Lorne staff for their care and compassion to Nellie and to Fr Fraser for his spiritual care and friendship during her stay at the Lynn. Thanks also to Dr Davies and Connel Surgery for their exceptional care of Nellie. Many thanks to Mike McFall and his team for their handling of funeral arrangements and to Fr MacKinnon for a very meaningful mass and tribute to Nellie. Thanks also to the Stronlissit Inn for the refreshments.

**HURST** - The family of Mary Hurst wish to thank all who have offered them kindness and comfort following her recent passing, and those who provided support to Mary over recent times; Catherine MacGregor for her unstinting help; the excellent staff at CarePlus who provided such a professional service, especially the 'girls' who became Mary's good friends; all at Albany Stores for their invaluable friendship and service and to staff and friends at Oban day hospital. Thanks also to staff at A & E, Lorn & Islands Hospital and at Ward 23, Paisley Royal Alexandra Hospital for their care, to the Rev Dugald Cameron for his words of comfort, to Maureen Gracie for the beautiful flowers and to Angus MacLennan for piping at Pennyfuir, to Ian and staff at D & A Munn for their compassionate and professional service, to the Oban Bay Hotel and to all who contributed to the collection for the MS Therapy Centre, Oban which totalled over £500.

**LIVINGSTONE** - The family of Janet (Jenny) Livingstone, would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, floral tributes, cards, letters and telephone calls received since our sad loss on September 14, 2013. Special thanks to all Nursing staff of Wards A and I, Lorn & Islands Hospital, Rev Jeff McCormick for a comforting service, Hamish Hoey & Sons for efficient funeral arrangements, Falls of Lora Hotel for catering. Finally thank you to all who attended the church and graveside. Retiring collection raised £1041.00 for the Diabetes UK Scotland and Cancer Research (UK) Scotland.

**MACLARTY** - The family of late Jenny MacLarty, would like to sincerely thank all relatives and friends for their expressions of sympathy, cards, phone calls and baking received following the recent bereavement of a wonderful wife and mother. Special thanks to Dr Simpson and Dr Ward, nurses on Glenary Hospital, Mid-Argyll Community Hospital, Lochgilphead, also a very special thanks to Marie Curie nurses, ICT and home care, who attended home visits. Grateful thanks to all, who gave flowers & cards during Jenny's illness. Thanks to Rev Ken Ross for his heartfelt and comforting service, to Stan Lupton Funeral Directors for their efficient and professional arrangements, to all at Kilmartin Hotel for their catering and refreshments. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the relatives, who paid their last respects to Jenny, at Kilmartin Church and graveside.

**MEMORIAMS**

**BEACHAM** - Margaret, passed away October 1, 2010. Our family chain is broken. Nothing seems the same. But when God calls us one by one

We will link the chain again.  
- Your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.  
**BLUE** - In loving memory of Mary Blue, loving wife of Donna and mother to the family, passed away October 2, 2011.  
Too dearly loved to be forgotten.  
- Inserted by her daughter Mary, son-in-law Jim, grandson Kevin and great-grandson Ryan.  
**BLUE** - In loving memory of Mary Blue, loving wife of Donna and mother to the family, passed away October 2, 2011.  
Miss you Ma.  
- Inserted by her son Donnie.  
**BROWN** - In loving memory of a very dear mum, mum-in-law, granmy and great-granny Jessie, who passed away on September 25, 2012.  
Cherished memories today and always.  
- Inserted by Marianne, Donald and Jessie and families.  
**GORDON** - Loving memories of Michelle, died September 28, 2005, aged 19.  
Precious memories always near.  
Keep you close each passing year.  
- Cathie.  
**JOHNSTON** - Heartfelt memories of Karen, who died September 26, 2012.  
Missed so much from our lives and loved always.  
- Mum, Alex, Hal and Iona xxx  
**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of Jimmy (Drinfern/Tirindish), who died September 30, 2012.  
You slipped away without a fuss.  
And broke the hearts of all of us.  
- Hazel and all the family.  
**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of my dear mother Julia, who passed away on September 30, 2008.  
Will miss you forever.  
- Julie and Roddy, North Uist.

**MACDOUGALL** - Elizabeth (Betty). Treasured memories of my dear wife, loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, who passed away September 25, 2012.  
Always in my heart.  
- Jim.  
**MACKECHNIE** - In loving memory of our dearly loved son, brother and uncle John who died on September 27, 1992.  
Although we can't see you We know you are here Smiling down Watching over us Forever in our hearts Forever in our lives In all our precious memories of you.  
- Mum, David, Agnes, Marina and all our nephews and nieces, xx  
**McCULLOCH** - In loving memory of a dear wife, mother and grandmother, Margaret Cameron Stevenson, who died September 30, 1996.  
Fondly remembered.  
- By her husband, children and grandchildren at home and in Canada.  
**MILLIN** - In loving memory of my mother and father. Mother who died September 27, 1980 and father who died May 10, 1986.  
- Inserted by their son, Creagan, Strontian.  
**MOFFAT** - In loving memory of Alisdair Moffat, who died September 28, 2008. So dearly missed and never forgotten.  
- Iain.  
**SCOTT** - In loving memory of Jean. Loved and loving wife, mum and granny who died October 1, 2000. Always remembered.  
- Eddie, Pamela, Edmund, Gordon, David, Bronwen, Kirsten, Caitlin, Gavin and Sarah xxxx  
**WHYTE** - Treasured memories of a dear mother and much loved grandmother Mary McGibbon Shaw, who died September 24, 2012.  
- Marie and Caitlin.

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of my dear mother Julia, who passed away on September 30, 2008. Will miss you forever.  
- Julie and Roddy, North Uist.

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of my dear mother Julia, who passed away on September 30, 2008. Will miss you forever.  
- Julie and Roddy, North Uist.

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**Christian speakers head to Argyll**

A NEW non-denominational body has been set up to allow people from different churches in Argyll to hear top Christian speakers.

The Argyll Convention has been established to promote a series of annual events on the theme of religion. The first annual Argyll Convention will take place in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls in Oban and will see Tim Chester, from The Crowded House in Sheffield, speaking on the theme 'there is no rock like our God'.

The inaugural events will take place on October 4 and 5 and Mr Chester will be joined by William MacKenzie of Christian Focus Publications and Lamboi Haokip of the Bethesda Khankho Foundation, which works among tribal people in north-east India.

They will talk about how Christian literature is influencing people in various parts of the world and about mission in one of India's most disadvantaged areas.

The first meeting starts at 7.30pm on Friday October 4 and the times on Saturday are 10.30am and 2pm.

There will also be a bookstall and book reviews. Further details are available at www.argyllconvention.com.

**Renewed call on prostate cancer care**

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor has repeated his call for NHS Highland to implement Prostate Cancer UK's quality checklist to ensure best possible care for those with the disease.

Prostate Cancer UK has produced the benchmark to be used as a best practice guide for men and clinicians in a bid to drive up standards and deliver more uniform levels of care and support.

Mr McGrigor said: 'It is vital that we do all we can to ensure all men with prostate cancer get the care and support they need, regardless of where they live.'

'I am delighted to back Prostate Cancer UK's quality checklist, and repeat my call on health boards in my region to implement it as soon as possible to help all men who are diagnosed with this terrible disease.'

**GRADUATIONS**



**Congratulations to Tamera Campbell who recently graduated from Tulliallan with a Diploma in Police Service Leadership and Management. Tamera is currently a serving Police Officer in Oban with Police Scotland and is the only daughter of Tom and Marina Campbell, Kilmartin.**

**WEDDINGS**



**Jenny Stewart, Strathpeffer and Jason MacDonald, Ballachulish were married at St Lawrence RC Church. The reception was held at Kincaig Castle Hotel. Photograph by Stuart Photography**

**Thought for the Week**  
'Brighten the corner where you are'

WHEN our minister was invited to attend the General Assembly unexpectedly this year it was proposed the linked Kirk Sessions' could take the services.

At that point in time none of us realised that Sunday May 19 this year was to be Pentecost. Challenging did not quite cover it. We tried our best and afterwards one kind gentleman was heard to say well that was different! Conveying the enormity of the fact that we all have around us, the support of the Holy Spirit all the time not just on that designated day was helped tremendously by coming across a book of verse written by Helen Steiner Rice. The book had belonged to a previous Treasurer, Mr Mure Smith, who

had passed away suddenly some years previously. It was as if he wanted to encourage us and with due acknowledgement to its copyright I hope you too can find its message 40 odd years after it was penned. We closed our thoughts that day with this. Brighten the corner where you are.

We cannot all be famous, or be listed in 'Who's Who, But every person great or small, has important work to do, For seldom do we realise the importance of small deeds, Or to what degree of greatness, unnoticed kindness leads.

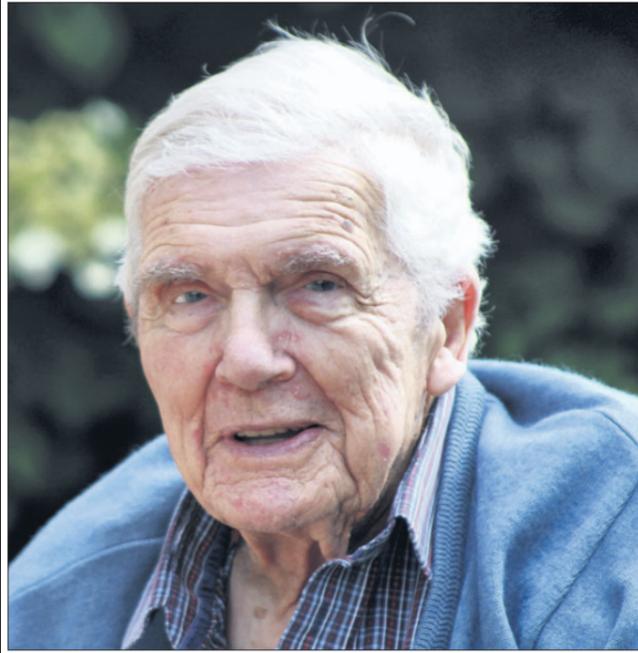
For it's not the big celebrity in a world of fame and praise, But it's doing unpretentiously in undistinguished ways, The work that God assigned to us, unimportant as it seems,

That makes our task outstanding and brings reality to dreams.

So do not sit and idly wish for wider, new dimensions, Where you can put in practice your many good intentions, But at the spot God placed you, begin at once to do, Little things to brighten up the lives surrounding you.

For if everybody brightened the spot on which they're standing, By being more considerate and a little less demanding, This dark old world would very soon eclipse the 'Evening Star', If everybody Brightened Up the Corner Where They Are!

**Pam Gibson, Presbytery of Argyll Treasurer.**



James Mair.

**Obituary: James Mair**

JAMES, better known as Jim, was born on August 18, 1913 in Falkirk to Robert (Bob) Mair and Elizabeth (Lizzie) Mair (nee Boyd).

Jim's father was an auctioneer in the Falkirk mart and his mother had been a nursing sister in Glasgow before being married. The young family moved to Oban in 1914 where Jim's father joined Thomas Corson and Sons Ltd, the local mart in Oban. The first family house was on the hill just below McCaig's Tower and had a good view of Oban Bay.

The family soon moved to the Glenmore farm house just outside the town and above Cardingmill Bay.

The family expanded and Jim was joined by sisters Elizabeth (Betty) in 1915, Roberta (Ruby) in 1917 and Alastair in 1922. Jim's first school was Rockfield Primary in Oban but when he was five he contracted diphtheria and was in the Mckelvie isolation hospital for several weeks. Jim was very ill and lucky to survive as a number of his classmates died in that outbreak.

Jim was at primary school during the First World War and Oban Bay was a busy naval base. Jim had an abiding memory of the celebrations at the end of the

war with guns and sirens going off and a huge display of flares lighting up the bay.

He left Oban High School at 17 in 1930 and joined the National Bank of Scotland in Oban. He enjoyed work there and, as his responsibilities grew, he sometimes had to go to outlying villages by train or bus to man temporary banking premises serving the rural customers.

After the outbreak of the Second World War Jim was called up for the army. Following training in the south of England, he was shipped out to West Africa and based in Gambia.

The convoy transport to and from Africa was probably the most dangerous part of his service life.

Jim worked for the Royal Army Service Corps and was a staff sergeant.

There were several bombing raids on his base but apart from that Jim was fortunate enough not to see combat. He did however contract malaria and suffered several bouts during service with a number of recurrences long after he had left the army.

When home on leave Jim noticed an attractive young Wren who was the daughter of the

local dentist, Annabella (Ella) McDougall was seven years younger than Jim but when the war ended and Jim came home the friendship developed into romance and marriage followed in Glasgow in 1949.

Jim and Ella moved to Alloa as Jim had a new job in the bank there. In 1950 their first son Robert (Robin) was born and shortly after that the family moved to a flat above the bank in Stirling. In 1954 James (Hamish) was born.

The family then moved to Biggar, Kirkwall in Orkney, Whithorn and Girvan before Jim retired from the Royal Bank in 1973, on reaching his 60th birthday.

Jim's sister Ruby and brother Alastair died relatively young but Betty survived into her late 80s. Jim was very fond of his sister Betty and, as they shared the same birthday, the family often had joint celebrations at major birthdays. Betty Mair lived in the house in Glenmore, Oban, and the family were frequent visitors until her death in 2005.

Jim planted a tree in her memory on Pulpit Hill and visited it several times.

Jim died peacefully on August 2, 2013.

**Remembering decades of worship**

THE CHURCH of Scotland has confirmed that the sanctuary known as Corran Esplanade, Oban, will cease to be a place of worship from the end of next month.

The Kirk Session, Congregational Board and the members of the congregation made the decision, and have organised the Night to Reminisce tonight

(Thursday) at 7.30pm, to commemorate 56 years of worship at the church.

Members of Kilmore and Oban Church and friends are invited to join the celebrations, as well as anyone with an association to the sanctuary. Admission is free and tea, coffee and home baking will be served at the end of the evening.

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**Editorial**

**Editorial Director**  
Stewart MacKenzie  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

**Northern Editor**  
Stephen Norris  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

**News Editor**  
Euan Paterson  
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

**Senior Reporter**  
Steven Flanagan  
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

**Reporter**  
Faith Orr  
f Orr@obantimes.co.uk

**Reporter**  
Richard Haddock  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

**Web Co-ordinator**  
Marian Miller  
mmiller@obantimes.co.uk

**Newsdesk**  
01631 568000  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising**

**Advertising Executive**  
Rhona McKillop  
adverts@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising Sales Executive**  
Nadine Ross  
nross@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising Sales Executive**  
Mairi Auld  
mauld@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising Executive**  
Eilidh MacLennan  
emacLennan@obantimes.co.uk

**Branch Offices**

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# Busby bulldozed as Saints go one over the eight

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division  
**Busby 2**  
**Oban Saints 9**

SAINTS travelled to Overlee Park, to take on Busby who were sitting in second place in the Premier Division, but the Clarkston team had no answer to a rampant Oban side who turned in a first class performance, netting nine goals in the process. They also had the luxury of missing a second half penalty into the bargain.

With manager Iain Jackson still on holiday the team on the day was run by secretary David Buchanan and coach Peter MacCallum. The pair decided on the same starting line-up that drew with St Joseph's the previous Saturday.

The visitors were on the front foot from the start and had the home defence under pressure right from the first whistle.

**Glance**

The Oban side took the lead in the eighth minute when Allan MacKay got on the end of a Willie Gemmell corner to glance the ball high into the net.

Three minutes later Saints took a two-goal lead when Lewis Cameron, who had an excellent game partnering Allan MacKay up front, fed in Craig MacEwan who wasted no time in slotting the ball past Busby net-minder Danny Moy.

The home side pulled a goal

back in the 15th minute when John Wood scored with a well taken free kick.

Lewis Cameron had a great chance to put Saints further in front, but his touch let him down at the last minute, then a ckecky chip from Donnie Campbell looked to be heading into the net until the keeper made a great fingertip save.



Lewis Cameron tormented the Busby defence all afternoon.

The visitors increased their lead in the 20th minute when Lewis Cameron, who had tormented the Busby defence all afternoon, was brought down in the box for a penalty. Mattie Rippon stepped up and blasted the ball home to make the score 3-1.

Donnie Campbell should have

scored a minute later when he was clean through, but the keeper made a good save with his legs.

The Oban side increased their lead in the 25th minute when Willie Gemmell free kick was fought to the far post for Allan MacKay who headed the ball back across the goalmouth for Alex Craik to bundle the ball over the line.

Three minutes later Allan MacKay got away from his marker before curling a great left foot shot into the far corner of the Busby net to make the score 5-1 and then Willie Gemmell fired an unstoppable 25 yarder past the helpless keeper to make the half time score 6-1.

More of the same was the message at the half time break, but the team were a bit slack at the start of the second half and the home side were awarded a penalty when Dene Cassells brought down a Busby forward in the box. Scott Bruce took the penalty and scored, throwing the home side a glimmer of hope.

The visitors increased their lead in the 59th minute with a well-worked free kick. Willie Gemmell played the ball through to Allan MacKay, who cleverly dummied the ball allowing Craig MacEwan to race clear before dinking it over the advancing goalkeeper and into the net.

Craig netted his hat-trick in the 67th minute when he found

**FOOTBALL**

himself unmarked in the box at a corner leaving him the easiest of chances to head the ball home.

Saints were awarded their second penalty of the match in the 78th minute when Paul Kerr was upended in the box, but this time Mattie Rippon's spot kick was well saved by the keeper.

Donnie Campbell put the icing on the cake for the Oban lads when he netted a well taken goal with five minutes remaining to make the final score 9-2.

**Bonus**

David Buchanan said: 'We've not been at our best in recent games, but today we clicked and the boys were tremendous. The scoreline didn't really matter all that much to me, although to score nine goals was a welcome bonus, it was the way we played that was most satisfying.'

'I was speaking to Gary Hamilton, the assistant manager of the Scotland Amateur international team who had come to watch the game and he was impressed with our performance. He asked for the names of a couple of our players so I wouldn't be surprised if one or two of the boys got the call to join the full international squad for the games against Ireland and Wales.'

Saints have no game this Saturday due to the September holiday weekend.



Callum Clement: boxing in Inverness tomorrow night.

## Tyndrum boxer proves to be a big hit

UP-AND-COMING boxer Callum Clement of Kinlochleven-based Claymores ABC will take on Inverness City ABC's Alex Fridge at the Ironworks, Inverness, tomorrow (Friday) night.

Sixteen year-old Callum, from Tyndrum, is already Scottish novice champion and intermediate silver medalist.

He will follow up his Inverness fight with bouts

**BOXING**

in Linwood next Friday and at Elgin in November.

Claymores ABC head coach Martin Glenesk told The Oban Times: 'Hopefully we will box Callum in the Scottish Open Championships next year.'

## Oban Athletic come out on top despite being 'battered from pillar to post'

West of Scotland League  
**Oban Athletic 4**  
**Antonine 1**

OBAN Athletic maintained their winning start to the season but their win against an overly-aggressive Antonine was tougher than the scoreline suggests.

Athletic opened up an early 2-0 lead at Glencruitten, through a beautifully curled free kick from Kris Gillies and a Dean Smith tap in.

The response from Antonine was to inflict some heavy tackles, most being given as fouls but Athletic manager Calum Fox felt the opposition were not given the appropriate punishment by way of cards and made his frustration clear.

In one incident, David Smith had to receive hospital treatment, taking a knee in the back after the whistle was blown for a previous foul.

This tactic briefly paid off for Antonine, who managed to stab a cross home just before half time, and ensure a ferocious second half.

Athletic held firm for 15 min-

**FOOTBALL**

utes before edging ahead when a delightful free kick from Ruari MacLennan was slammed home by Dean Smith from six yards.

Gilles then punished the opposition goalkeeper for a poor clearance kick when he lobbed the ball into an empty net from 25 yards.

The fourth goal ended the contest but not the controversy, as Athletic's Stephen Kelly was head butted, resulting in the assailant being sent off.

Athletic manager, Calum Fox, could not hide his anger at the underhand tactics seemingly deployed by Antonine. He said: 'I was so frustrated on Saturday, watching my players being battered from pillar to post without sufficient protection. Smithy has taken a bad one while play had stopped and he is definitely out this weekend but as yet we don't know how bad the damage is.'

Fox is looking for a strong home support next Saturday against high flying Possil YM.

**Scottish amateur results and fixtures**

LAST weekend's results: Busby 2, Oban Saints 9; Paisley 2, Dunoon 1; Dunoon Athletic 1, Port Glasgow Amateurs 4; Port Glasgow United 2, Lochgilphead Red Star 2.

**FOOTBALL**

There are no fixtures for any of the SAFL Argyll clubs this Saturday due to the Glasgow September holiday weekend.



Among the teams playing in this season's Oban and District Primary Football League are Galaxy FC.

138 primary 01

## Ben leaps to victory at Pitlochry Highland Games

TEENAGE athletics champion Ben Coates has added another national title to his already cluttered trophy cabinet this season.

The 14 year old from Kilmore won the Scottish Junior Jumps Championship at the recent Pitlochry Highland Games, adding to his Scottish titles at under-16 indoor 60m hurdles and outdoor 100m hurdles.

The jumps championship was the first ever competition of its type for junior athletes under the age of 16 and was promoted by the Scottish Highland Games

Association and sponsored by the New Fisher's Hotel in Pitlochry.

The championship comprised three jumping events - high jump, long jump and triple jump, with points allocated to finishing position.

Ben made a great start, winning the high jump with first time clearances at every height and finally clearing 1.56metres.

He had to settle for second place in the long jump with a 17-foot leap behind Andrew Hunter from Clydesdale Athletic Club,

**ATHLETICS**

who recorded an excellent 18ft 10in.

It was all down to the triple jump and, after two rounds of jumps, the Clydesdale athlete led the competition.

But in his third and final jump Ben produced a 37ft 10in leap to win by almost a foot.

This final jump ensured top place for the Argyll athlete with Andrew Hunter second and Ewan Bradley, from Inverness, third on overall points.

## British Horse Society tour comes to Skye and the Western Isles

THE BRITISH Horse Society Scotland tour came to the Isle of Skye and the Western Isles recently to meet local members and others on the islands with a keen interest in horses.

Eric Smiley, who coached the 2012 Belgium Olympic eventing team and is himself an international competitor and Fellow of the British Horse Society, gave a lecture and demonstration on 'how to improve your horse' at Portree Stables and Lochside arena in Stornoway.

Unfortunately his planned appearance had to be cancelled at Uist Community Riding Centre owing to the severe weather.

Spectators and participants at his session in Portree Stables

**HORSE RIDING**

were excited to welcome such a world renowned figure. His enthusiasm and expertise were extremely well received by all who were there.

Eric and his wife were accompanied on the tour by Helene Mauchlen, BHS development officer for Scotland, Sophie Arnold BHS administrator for Scotland and Lorna Holden, Chair of BHS Argyll and Western Isles region.

Portree Stables owner Karen Augier and Sam Nicolson, secretary of the Isle of Skye Riding Club, both BHS members, welcomed Eric and the BHS team to the Isle of Skye.



Eric Smiley puts Iona Augier and Mac through their paces at Portree Stables. Photo: Sam Nicolson.

Golf News



**Glencruitten**

IN THE final event of the season at Glencruitten the winners of a four-man Scramble were Jordan Campbell, Niall MacFarlane, Allan MacPhee and Cameron Milne with a score of 53 - 5.2 = 47.8.

In second place was the Rotary team of John Hyde, Billy MacLean, George Miller and Phil Monteith with a score of 57 - 5.5 = 51.5.

In third place were Dugald MacLean, Andrew MacMillan, Willie McAdam and Ian McCuish with a score of 51.7.

Following on from the successful Stableford held last autumn and winter this will continue to be held each Saturday.

**Killin**

SENIOR Ladies Open: Wednesday 18 September: Scratch - 1 Pat Simpson (Lundin Ladies) 80; 2 Merope Dunlop (Old Ranfurly) 85; 3 Alison Walker (Aberfeldy) 88

Handicap - 1 Carol Church (Dalnally) 67; 2 Janet Buchanan (Dalnally) 68; 3 Audrey Weaver (Killin) 69.

Best Veteran Handicap - Audrey Weaver (Killin) 69. Longest Drive - Silver - Carol Church (Dalnally). Longest Drive - Bronze: Susie MacDougall (Aberfeldy). Nearest the Pin - Elsa Knox (Crieff) 2.05m. Magic 2's - Audrey Weaver (Killin). Css - 68.

**Tobermory**

JUNIOR Section- The 36 Hole James McNab Trophy was a win for the two MacCrone Brothers, William winning the Scratch Trophy and Ross winning the Handicap.

Results for the 36 holes were- Scratch 1st William MacCrone 131, 2nd Lewis Brown 140, 3rd Lewis Wilshire 145. Handicap 1st Ross MacCrone 121, 2nd Scott Paterson 129, 3rd Fergus Reade 131.

Results for the James McNab trophy 2nd round, 1st Ross MacCrone 70-11-59, 2nd William MacCrone 68-05-63, 3rd Murdo MacLennan 120-54-66.

Picture shows all 10 Juniors who played along with the Junior convenor John Weir (back Row). The winners in front are l-r William and Ross MacCrone.

**Islay**

MACHRIE Salver played Sunday 22 September - 1 J Docherty + 5; 2 G Hamilton +5; 3 A MacAllister + 4 Css 70.

**Fort William**

FORT William Golf Club's senior medal final on Sunday was won by Ken Jerram with his round of net 68 (84-16).

Robert McCover was eight shots back in second with a net 76 (90-14) while Toby Richardson took third with a net 77 (88-11).

**Otters medal haul in Campbeltown**

**SWIMMING**

OBAN Otters took a team of nine swimmers down to Campbeltown's Aqualinium to represent Oban at the recent Argyll and Bute Championships.

The team brought home 20 medals in total, consisting six golds, 10 silvers and four bronzes.

Medals were not the only sign of success either, as most of the team clocked up personal bests in all races they took part in.

Two of team also set new records in the 25m and the 100m freestyle for their age group.

# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

## WIN £500

COMpetition

**ALL YOU HAVE TO DO**

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

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The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

**Easy to enter**

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochcavalin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition rules**

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

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In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

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I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box)  The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

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Address .....

..... Tel No. ....

**Please tape your £1 coin here**

**We have a winner!**  
Congratulations to I Gibson, Morvern Hill, Oban who has won the jackpot of £800

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



Fixtures

**Saturday 28 September**  
**Orion Group Premiership**  
 Kyles Athletic v Newtonmore  
 David Mitchell  
 Lovat v Fort William  
 Colin MacDonald

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
 Beaulieu v Glengarry  
 Calum Girvan  
 Skye v Kinlochshiel  
 Archie Ritchie

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
 Ballachulish v Inveraray  
 Alex MacVicar  
 (Throw ups 2.00 unless stated)

**Youth Fixtures**  
**Friday 27 September**

**Marine Harvest Under 14 League**  
**Division 1**  
 Beaulieu v Kingussie  
 Kilmallie v Skye A

**Division 2**  
 Newtonmore v Lovat  
 Fort William v Kinlochshiel

Results

**Saturday 21 September**  
**Orion Group Premiership**  
 Fort William 0 - 2 Newtonmore  
 Kinlochshiel 3 - 3 Inveraray  
 Kyles Ath 1 - 1 Glenurquhart

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
 Tainuitt 2 - 4 Lochside Rovers

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
 Beaulieu P - P Newtonmore  
 Rearranged for 12th Oct  
 Lovat 5 - 0 Kinlochshiel

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
 Aberdour 1 - 6 Ballachulish

**Youth Results**  
**Friday 20 September**  
**Marine Harvest Under 14 League**

**Division 1**  
 Kingussie 7 - 0 Kilmallie  
 Skye A 4 - 4 Beaulieu

**Division 2**  
 Fort William 3 - 0 Lovat  
 Newtonmore 2 - 2 Kinlochshiel

**Division 3**  
 Strathglass 3 - 3 Caberfeidh



# Newtonmore crowned Orion Group Premiership champions

## Kinlochshiel confirm premiership survival but Fort William facing the drop

**KYLES ATHLETIC** trainer James Perlich said his team will be playing for pride above anything else when they host champions Newtonmore this Saturday in the Orion Group Premiership.

Despite the north team's recent convincing Camanachd Cup final victory over the Tighnabruich side, Perlich said everyone at the club was looking forward to the game.

He said: 'We have a full squad for Saturday and the boys are really up for it.'

'We don't want to be beaten at home and most of the players will be keen to improve on their performance in the cup final.'

Kyles currently sit in eighth place in the table but still have four league games to play and could potentially finish third.

There will be a sense of déjà vu at Tighnabruich this Saturday when **NEWTONMORE** travel south to take on Kyles Athletic.

Just two weeks after 'More' defeated Kyles in the Camanachd Cup final, the sides meet for the first time this season in the league.

But for once the result of this fiercely contested fixture will mean little, with 'More' having already sewn up the league title and Kyles practically securing their safety from relegation last weekend.

'More manager PJ MacKintosh said motivating his players for the game may prove difficult,

**SHINTY**

but said he planned to resist the temptation to make too many changes.

He said: 'It's difficult now to be up for games when you've done what you have to do - you've won the league, you've won the Scottish Cup.'

'But I don't think there's any need for any wholesale changes, we'll just go out with what we've got. We played two or three young players on Saturday and two or three of them were involved for the Scottish as well.'

'More made it 15 wins out of 16 last weekend when they downed Fort William 2-0 at An Aird.'

MacKintosh said: 'It wasn't a vintage Newtonmore performance by any standards, but we got the job done.'

**LOVAT** take on relegation near-certainties Fort William at Balmacara looking to wind down a successful season with a win in their penultimate league game.

The Kiltarity men have been Newtonmore's only real challengers for much of the campaign and will not want to concede any ground on the champions by dropping points against the An Aird side.

Not in Lovat's favour is that they have not played for four weeks - and coach Allan MacRae is all too aware of the lack of competitive shinty could be a factor.



Newtonmore were presented with the Orion Group Premiership trophy after their 2-0 win over Fort William last weekend.

He told The Oban Times: 'It is difficult at this time of the season, but we should have quite a strong squad for Saturday.'

'Owen Ferguson will be missing from the forward line but apart from that we should not be too bad. I am hopeful Martin Mainland will be back after suffering a hand injury against Kingussie a few weeks ago.'

He added: 'We would like to keep things going - the boys have put in a lot of work this season and it would be nice to finish with a couple of good results.'

**FORT WILLIAM** are in need of a miracle if they are to avoid relegation from the Orion Group Premiership.

The An Aird men will have to beat Lovat at Kiltarity on Saturday - then hope Kyles draw a blank in their last four games and concede a shedload of goals in the process.

Fort will be boosted by the return of key man Stevie Stewart from suspension and Neil Robertson from holiday - but it will be a tall order to overcome the top flight's second best side.

Co-manager Victor Smith told The Oban Times: 'Lovat have not played for three weeks so that might help us a wee bit - we will just go up there and enjoy it.'

Asked whether he and co-manager Adi Robertson would be in charge next season, he said: 'I will be doing to do it again next

year and I assume Adi will be the same - if we get support at the AGM.'

**KINLOCHSHIEL** secured their place in the Orion Group Premiership for season 2013-14 with a fighting 3-3 draw against Inveraray at Kirkton.

'Shiel went 2-0 up through strikes from Connel Fraser and Jordan Fraser either side of half time, only for Neil Campbell and Peter MacIntyre to haul the visitors level.'

Duncan Ach MacRae restored 'Shiel's advantage with 15 minutes left but MacIntyre levelled again within two minutes to earn Inveraray a point.

'Shiel coach Johnston Gill told The Oban Times: 'It was an excellent game to finish the season with. Both teams put everything into it and it was a great game to watch.'

'We scored a goal through Finlay MacRae with the last hit of the ball but the referee disallowed it for offside.'

However, to be honest I thought overall a draw was a fair result.'

He added: 'We are looking forward to next season in the premier league.'

**INVERARAY** fought to claim a point at Kinlochshiel last Saturday, closing out a successful league campaign that will see them finish third or fourth, depending on Kyles Athletic's results.

The 'Ary men fought back from 2-0 down to claim a deserved 3-3 draw in a very entertaining match.

Inveraray scored through Neil Campbell and a Peter MacIntyre double.

Inveraray's second team travel

Saturday if they have any chance of winning Marine Harvest South Division Two.

Ballachulish, who were regarded by many as title favourites this season, are two points behind league leaders Kyles Athletic with one game to play.



Jack Fraser wheels away from Newtonmore captain Jamie Robinson. 20\_03shinty03

to play Ballachulish this Saturday in a match that will go some way to deciding where the South Division Two title will go.

**BALLACHULISH** face a must-win tie against Inveraray next

several regular starters, raced to a two-goal lead in the first four minutes, thanks to the clinical Lorne Brown.

The same player completed his hat trick in the 32nd minute, while Aberdour brought out a fine double save from David MacPhee in the Balla goal.

Ballachulish continued to dominate the second half with further goals from Brown in the 64th minute, coach Craig Monro in the 72nd minute and captain Allan Clark in the 74th minute.

Aberdour got one back with a fine strike from Darren Coyle in the 83rd minute to make the final score 6-1 for Ballachulish.

Ballachulish were well served by youngsters Cian MacPhee, Alistair MacDonald and Patrick MacLean.

**GLENGARRY** play their final game of the 2013 season this Saturday when they travel north to take on Beaulieu.

A late run of decent form coupled with favourable results elsewhere means 'Garry go into the game knowing they are safe from the threat of relegation.'

And win, lose or draw this weekend, the Invergary men know they will end the season in seventh place.

But Ewen Cameron will be hoping his side can avenge the narrow 3-2 home defeat inflicted by Beaulieu when the sides met back in May.



Kinlochshiel's Finlay MacRae fires a shot on target as Inveraray's Nicholas Crawford moves in to challenge. Photo: Lorraine MacDiarmid

## A fitting tribute at the Ian 'Parrot' MacMillan Sixes



Appin won the primary five-and-under section, beating Ballachulish in the final.

APPIN'S junior shinty team won its first tournament since reforming earlier this year, as the Argyll shinty community gathered to remember one of its best known characters.

The Ian 'Parrot' MacMillan Sixes were organised by friends of the shinty stalwart, who died on September 5 last year.

The tournament for primary school-aged children saw 13 teams from across Argyll compete in the primary five-and-under and primary seven-and-under tournaments and was a fitting tribute to the Oban man, who was a fervent supporter of the game at primary level.

Ian MacMillan's nephew, Diarmid, helped to organise the event. He said: 'My uncle managed Lochside Rovers, Oban Camanachd and Oban Celtic, so people from both Oban clubs were happy to help out and it was great to see so many people coming to support the tournament and pay their respects.'

The young Appin team, the first to represent the village for 20 years, took top honours in the primary five-and-under section after winning a derby match 1-0 with Ballachulish B to lift the trophy. Appin player Innes Jackson took individual honours as the player showing most endeavour.

A dominant Park Primary School won the senior tournament, beating Tainuitt by two goals to one in the final.

Inveraray's Campbell Watt was voted player of the tournament.

Prizes were handed out by Iain MacMillan's widow, Mary, his daughter, Iona, and his grand-daughter, Ashley.



Ashley, Mary and Iona are pictured with the Park School team that won the senior section, defeating Tainuitt 2-1 in a pulsating final. Photos: Kevin McGlynn



No quarter asked or given during the senior final between Park and Tainuitt.

### League Tables

#### The Orion Group Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	15	14	1	0	61	13	29
Lovat	16	9	6	1	36	15	24
Inveraray	17	7	4	6	29	28	18
Lochaber	18	6	5	7	28	34	17
Kingussie	17	8	0	9	31	34	16
Glenurquhart	17	6	3	8	24	28	15
Kinlochshiel	17	5	4	8	30	43	14
Kyles Athletic	13	5	2	6	22	19	12
Fort William	16	3	5	8	17	35	11
Oban Camanachd	18	3	2	13	19	48	8

#### Marine Harvest North Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kilmallie	15	14	0	1	72	13	28
Beaulieu	15	12	1	2	43	15	2
Caberfeidh	15	7	1	7	36	32	15
Skye	15	6	2	7	28	26	14
Strathglass	15	1	3	11	17	49	5
Inverness	15	1	1	13	14	75	3

#### Marine Harvest South Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glasgow MA	16	13	2	1	71	7	28
Bute	16	11	2	3	68	22	24
Glenorchy	16	9	3	4	39	20	21
Lochside Rovers	15	9	1	5	34	26	19
Aberdour	16	6	1	9	33	49	13
Tainuitt	15	5	2	8	29	44	12
Oban Celtic	16	5	1	10	26	53	11
Kilmory	16	2	3	11	21	53	7
Strachur	16	2	3	11	21	68	7

#### Marine Harvest North Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	17	14	1	2	62	19	29
Lovat	17	9	7	1	42	29	25
Skye	17	11	2	4	38	22	22
Glenurquhart	18	8	3	7	29	28	19
Beaulieu	16	7	4	5	37	26	18
Kingussie	18	5	5	8	42	40	15
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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Teams from all over Argyll and Bute took part in a Mini Rugby Dalriada held at Taynuilt last Sunday.

## Oban half marathon and 10k cancelled

### HALF MARATHON

THIS year's Atlantis Leisure Oban Half Marathon and 10k has been cancelled due to a lack of interest.

Race director Kyle Dods made the announcement after the number of entries meant it was not financially viable to organise the runs - although a fun run will be held at Ganavan towards the end of October to mark the end of this year's racing season.

Kyle said: "It is a decision that has not been taken lightly, but due to the high cost of running the event versus the low entries received it is not viable to carry on."

"Unfortunately this year the event has clashed with other major running events which I feel may have had an impact."

The race committee will be issuing a full refund to the current entries that have been received so far.

Kyle added: "We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in the organisation and also in this year's race series."

"A final fun 5K Ganavan event will be held to mark an end to this year's race series, based on times from the race series throughout the summer."

"The date is yet to be confirmed. Details will be released on Atlantis Leisure's website."

## Saints youths - results and fixtures

### YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Scottish Cup - Under 13s 5, Dalziel BC 1. Saints goal scorers were Cameron Hill, Scott Mossman, Rory Dowd, Keir MacLean and Oran Bryce.

Scottish Cup - Kirkintilloch Rob Roy 2, Under 14s 3. On target for Saints were Lewis Buchanan (2) and Lewis MacPhee.

League - Helensburgh 3, Under 15s 8. Netting for Saints were Liam Higgins (4), Evan MacLellan, Jay Cooper, Patrick MacIntyre and Ross MacMillan. Under 17s no game.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s no game; Under 14s v Lochgilphead Red Star; Under 15s no game; Under 17s v Ardencaple

## Five Saints players in Scottish Select

### FOOTBALL

FIVE Oban Saints players - Donnie Campbell, Willie Gemmell, Myles McAuley, Dene Cassells and Marc MacCallum will be turning out for the Scottish Amateur League Select squad who will contest the Douglas Harvey Memorial Trophy against Carlton YM on Sunday.

The game will take place at the Kibble Complex in Paisley with a 2pm kick-off

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## Taynuilt win both age groups in Mini Rugby Dalriada festival

TEAMS from over Argyll and Bute took part in the first Mini Rugby Dalriada festival at Taynuilt on Sunday with teams from Oban, Mull, Etive Vikings, Mid Argyll and Highland visitors Lochaber RFC all taking

part. The Dalriada programme, co-ordinated by Argyll and Bute Rugby Development Officer Allan Wright, takes place throughout the season with all teams hosting at least one festival over the season.

Sunday's festival attracted more than 80 players and was split into two age groups at P4/5 and P6/7.

The final results from the day are as follows: P4/5 - Taynuilt 9pts, Lochaber 7pts, Mull 5pts, Oban/Mid

Argyll 3pts. P6/7 - Taynuilt 9pts, Oban/Mid Argyll 7pts, Mull 5pts, Lochaber 3pts.

There was an added incentive for the players to impress on the day with the presence of Glasgow Warriors

development players Callum Wood, D'arcy Rae and Fergus Scott, who were on hand to sign autographs for the minis and give out the awards.

The next festival takes place this Sunday on Mull.

Mini Rugby in the Oban area runs as follows: Taynuilt - weekday nights from 6-7pm at Taynuilt Sports Field.

Oban - Saturday mornings from 11am-noon at Oban Lorne RFC. All new players welcome.

## Oban Lorne back to winning ways

### RBS West Division Two Clydebank 5 Oban Lorne 32

OBAN Lorne recovered after their disappointing loss at home to Stewartry last week with a convincing away win over a poor Clydebank side, who are sitting without a win this season.

The Green Machine made a few changes from the previous weekend, welcoming Ryan Jackson, Crawford Brown, Ruairidh Aitken and Angus Munro into the team. Allan Wright missed out through injury while there was a return to the squad for second row Travis Smith.

Oban dominated the match straight from the kick off. Flanker Dan Hull made some impressive runs in the home 22 to help Oban maintain early pressure on the tryline.

After just three minutes Oban centre Craig Wright slotted over a straightforward penalty for Oban to lead 3-0.

The Oban team continued their dominance, outplaying their opposition in all areas of the pitch.

Crawford Brown soon crashed over from close range after 10 minutes for the first try of the afternoon and Oban were suddenly looking a far different team from the previous weekend.

Oban's dominant pack had the upper hand in the scrum, lineout and at the breakdown, while the backs were also impressing with some strong runs and good handling.

Oban's forwards confirmed their superiority by turning over a five-metre scrum, allowing scrum half Graham MacEachan to touch down. Shortly afterwards, Oban's third try of the game came from Connor Ferris after some fantastic handling

along the line from the Oban backs.

Into the second half and Cammy Smith added to the scoreline, finishing off a try from 30 metres out.

But the men in green switched off for a 15-minute spell, as Clydebank began to gain more territory. The home side were rewarded for their efforts with a try, their only score of the afternoon.

Oban finished the game off

### RUGBY

with a try from Angus Munro, the result of some quick thinking from player/coach Corrie Louw who took a tap and pass in the 22 and put Munro in to score.

Oban Lorne currently sit fourth in the league and this Saturday host Strathaven, who have just come off a thumping 136-5 defeat at home to Carrick.

The game kicks off at 3pm at Glencruitten.



The Green Machine's Dan Hull makes a break for the line during last Saturday's match against Clydebank. Photo: Stephen Lawson



The victorious Lorn Clay Target Club, from left: Willie Buchanan, Jim MacIntyre, Steve Wilson, Stewart Davis and Gregor Crawford.

## Lorn Clay Target Club big shots win Argyll Team Trophy at Cairndow

A TEAM of hotshots from Lorn Clay Target Club, North Connel, were crowned Argyll Team Trophy winners at the clay pigeon competition held at the Cairndow Gun Club shooting ground.

The squad of Willie Buchanan, Gregor Crawford, Stewart Davis, Jim MacIntyre and Steve Wilson beat stiff competition last Saturday from Dunoon, Bute and Cairndow, scoring 694/750 to take home the shield.

Allan Brown from Bute Gun Club achieved the highest individual score of 149/150, and Lorn's

### CLAY TARGET SHOOTING

Stewart Davis was equal second with Richard Deane from Dunoon on 147/150.

The pool trap was won by Lorn's Willie Buchanan, adding to the team's haul of winnings.

The Open Teams Trophy winners on the day were the 'Cairndow Spares' team of Morven Short, Derek Street, Eric McAlister, John Kennedy and Stuart McNeil on 656/750.

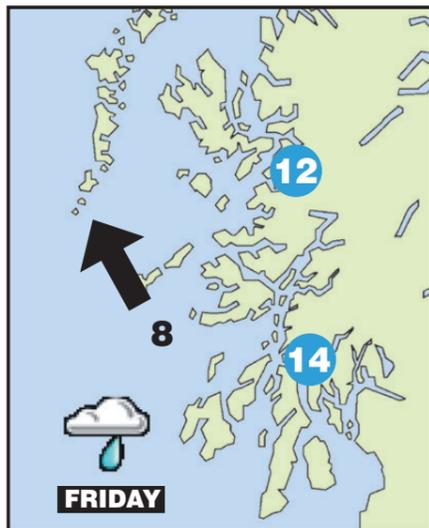
## Weather

**Thursday** Cloudy  
Winds moderate east south easterly  
Temperatures 12°C to 14°C

**Friday** Light rain  
Winds light south south easterly  
Temperatures 12°C to 15°C.

**Weekend** Cloudy  
**Outlook** Winds light south westerly  
Temperatures 11°C to 15°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 26, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	03.50 1.5 09.13 3.3 16.14 1.9 21.44 3.0	
Fri	04.45 1.8 10.05 3.0 17.17 2.1 23.02 2.8	
Sat	05.49 1.9 11.50 2.9 18.43 2.2 *** **	
Sun	02.00 2.8 07.03 1.9 14.16 3.0 21.08 2.0	
Mon	02.55 3.0 08.21 1.7 15.03 3.2 21.49 1.8	
Tues	03.32 3.2 09.20 1.5 15.38 3.4 22.19 1.5	
Wed	04.06 3.4 10.03 1.3 16.13 3.7 22.47 1.3	

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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# Autumn Property review

**Pages 17 to 21**

### Plockton High School rector to retire

PLOCKTON High School will be looking for a new rector after incumbent Duncan Ferguson announced he is to retire at Christmas.

Mr Ferguson, who has been in the role for 21 years, had planned to retire before the start of the school year but decided to stay on, and he has told Highland Council he will continue until a replacement is ready to take over.

He said: 'It has been a real privilege and pleasure to serve this school and community for the past 21 years and I trust my successor will enjoy the same support from parents which has been such an important partnership in making our school so successful.'

'For the moment thank you again and my good wishes to you all.'

The council will advertise the post shortly.

### Business plan released to public

THE BUSINESS plan for the proposed Lochaber Business Improvement District (BID) was released to the public on Monday, pledging to bring in extra investment to the area if successful.

Amongst the objectives listed in the plan were improvements to infrastructure, better marketing for the area, supporting and developing local events and providing a better atmosphere for business.

The plan also includes more detailed goals such as creating a multi-screen cinema in Fort William by 2015, reopening rural public toilets and employing a full-time events co-ordinator.

For more on the Lochaber BID project, see page 3.

### Best neighbours in Lochaber

KNOYDART couple Lorna Schofield and Davie Newton are officially the best neighbours in Lochaber - after winning the inaugural Monsignor Wynne Good Neighbour Award.

The couple were nominated for the award, which is organised by Lochaber Housing Association, by their neighbour Anne-Marie Scott.

Ms Scott, aged 70, said they have cut her grass, cleared her path, and helped her get online.



From left: Donald and Irene MacLennan, seated, Martin Sabiu and his grannie Margaret Ferguson are among those hit with high power bills. 20.139811102

### Housing chief outlines action following complaints

LOCHABER Housing Association chief executive Blair Allan accepted complaints had been raised about high electricity costs in the new flats.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We are trying to get to the bottom of what the issue might be.'

'We are aware that there have been difficulties with some systems and our clerk of works has been working closely with any affected tenants, as well as with a Nibe installer, who has commissioned and is monitoring the heating systems, ironing out

issues as they have arisen. We have had a variety of feedback on running costs, with some tenants reporting monthly costs of around £120 per month. However, some tenants have reported higher costs.

'So, in addition, our energy advice and advocacy officer is assisting tenants, visiting each in their own home, analysing how the heating units are used and their energy consumption, and putting measures in place to reduce energy costs where possible.'

'She will also, where necessary, install monitoring equipment for a four week period to assess electricity consumption and user patterns, again to try and reduce energy costs. We would be delighted to hear from any tenant who would like this service.'

The Nibe heating system using exhaust air pumps recently came under fire in the BBC's Rip Off Britain programme.

The company denied claims it was inefficient and did not work properly.

NIBE Energy Systems said in

a statement their system were 'working brilliantly in thousands of homes across the UK without increased energy costs and, according to independent research, dramatically reduce costs in many cases.'

It added: 'Where costs are high, the issue isn't with the system, it's with the way it has been installed or is being used. It is vital that exhaust air heat pumps are installed by properly qualified installers otherwise they will almost certainly not work properly.'

# Tenants' anger at sky high electricity bills

## Estimates way off the mark

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



Emma Kaerney: 'disgusted' with the amount she is paying for electricity. 20.139811501

TENANTS in a new Fort William housing development are shelling out around four times what they expected to pay for electricity each year, *The Oban Times* has learned.

Some residents at Lochaber Housing Association's Achariach complex in Claggan have been paying SSE between £450 and £700 per quarter since they moved in two years ago.

The £2,000-plus annual power bills are hugely above estimates given in initial energy reports to tenants when they took occupancy in the strikingly-designed building next to the River Nevis.

Several families also complained about the reliability of the NIBE heating system, which carries warm air from bathrooms and kitchens through a heat exchanger to give each tenant heat and hot water.

If it does not raise the boiler water temperature enough, an immersion heater kicks in, sending bills sky-high. Heating for homes is distributed through under floor pipes built into the floor structure.

The *Oban Times* was shown energy reports for several properties in the 22-flat block

bill. Martin's grandmother Margaret Ferguson said: 'All we want is comfortable heating in the house at acceptable costs. When it gets to being so highly expensive it is hopeless.'

'If it's going to be a terribly cold winter we will have to turn the heating up and try to pay it - even if I have to give him a wee hand.'

Donald and Irene MacLennan, in number one, need the heating on because Irene has MS. Their bill from April to July was £525 and the couple pay over £700 a quarter in winter. Donald said: 'I think it's ridiculous. It is time it is sorted out. We have had to cut back on a lot of things.'

Morrison's store assistant Emma Kaerney, who stays in number 17 with husband Brian Stewart, had a quarterly bill for £561.81 to January 2013.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'We pay £114 a month to SSE by direct debit and they want to put it up to £200 because our bills are so high and we are not paying enough to cover them.'

'It is absolutely disgusting and a disgrace that they have not done anything about it. I only work part-time and I don't have big money to pay these big bills. I'm terrified of the winter because I have a medical condition and feel the cold something terrible. Things are so bad we have put in for a house exchange.'

and none indicated annual electricity bills above £500. The estimate for local postman David Boomer, who lives in number 12, 'based on standardised assumptions about occupancy, heating pattern and geographical location' stated he should be paying £46 for lighting, £185 for heating and £181 for hot water annually - a total of £412.

But the former fisherman says his three-monthly bills from October to April were £500-£600 - despite his system being at the lowest setting.

He said: 'Last winter it was that bad I had to get a card meter in because I kept getting hit with these massive bills. My last bill was for £360 - and was from April to July. A lot of people have complained to the association.'

Downstairs in number seven, Martin Sabiu, who has learning disabilities, paid £307 from April to July - three times his estimated

bill. Martin's grandmother Margaret Ferguson said: 'All we want is comfortable heating in the house at acceptable costs. When it gets to being so highly expensive it is hopeless.'

'If it's going to be a terribly cold winter we will have to turn the heating up and try to pay it - even if I have to give him a wee hand.'

Donald and Irene MacLennan, in number one, need the heating on because Irene has MS. Their bill from April to July was £525 and the couple pay over £700 a quarter in winter. Donald said: 'I think it's ridiculous. It is time it is sorted out. We have had to cut back on a lot of things.'

Morrison's store assistant Emma Kaerney, who stays in number 17 with husband Brian Stewart, had a quarterly bill for £561.81 to January 2013.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'We pay £114 a month to SSE by direct debit and they want to put it up to £200 because our bills are so high and we are not paying enough to cover them.'

'It is absolutely disgusting and a disgrace that they have not done anything about it. I only work part-time and I don't have big money to pay these big bills. I'm terrified of the winter because I have a medical condition and feel the cold something terrible. Things are so bad we have put in for a house exchange.'

and none indicated annual electricity bills above £500. The estimate for local postman David Boomer, who lives in number 12, 'based on standardised assumptions about occupancy, heating pattern and geographical location' stated he should be paying £46 for lighting, £185 for heating and £181 for hot water annually - a total of £412.

But the former fisherman says his three-monthly bills from October to April were £500-£600 - despite his system being at the lowest setting.

He said: 'Last winter it was that bad I had to get a card meter in because I kept getting hit with these massive bills. My last bill was for £360 - and was from April to July. A lot of people have complained to the association.'

Downstairs in number seven, Martin Sabiu, who has learning disabilities, paid £307 from April to July - three times his estimated

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### Unstinting service of North Uist GP trio to be honoured at ceremony

NORTH Uist people will commemorate the unstinting service of a family of three legendary GPs to island patients next month.

At a ceremony on October 12 on Banca Mor, a hill at Claddach Illeray, a black granite plinth will be unveiled in memory of Dr Alexander J Macleod OBE, his wife Dr Julia P Macleod and their son John AJ Macleod MBE. Their

service to patients on North Uist and its 16 inhabited islands stretches from 1932 to 2000. The unveiling will be followed by a reception in Clachan Church Hall with speeches from local clergy, doctors and nurses who knew or worked with the remarkable family. Hundreds of Uibhisteachs from near and far are expected to attend the event. See our special report on page 8.

### Crash cancels road ceremony

A SOD cutting ceremony to mark the start of work on the Crianlarich bypass on the A82 was called off on Monday after Transport Minister Keith Brown's route was blocked by a crash.

An accident on the A85 three miles east of the village on Monday morning closed the road for a number of hours, with Mr Brown caught in the long tailbacks.

A82 Partnership spokesman

Stewart MacLean told *The Oban Times* the uncertainty and delays were not unusual for anyone familiar with the A82.

He said: 'The ceremony was supposed to start at 9.30am, but we heard there was a crash and the Minister was delayed behind it.'

'We waited and waited, then when we saw the medevac helicopter going in the final decision was made to cancel.'

He continued: 'These are the circumstances we face two or three times a week. There was the period of uncertainty when he was stuck behind the crash and then finally the cancellation.'

'The Minister was subject to what we face on a regular basis.'

The A85 was closed in both directions between Lix Toll and Crianlarich due to a crash near Benmore Farm. The busy route reopened at around 2pm.

## Highland Council to consider building bridge over Loch Linnhe to replace Corran Ferry

HIGHLAND Council are to consider building a bridge over Loch Linnhe as a long-term replacement for the Corran Ferry after encountering fierce local opposition to a controversial fare rise proposal.

The new pay scheme was voted through in Inverness last Thursday, meaning regular users face a 15 per cent increase from November 1.

The majority of fares will go up by 30p, putting a single car crossing up from £7.30 to £7.60, but a book of 30 tickets - the most common method for regular users - will go up from £57.80 to £66.80.

The idea of a permanent crossing over the 450 metre wide Corran Narrows was raised by locals during a series of heated public consultations on the fare increase plan.

The council's transport chief Sam MacNaughton said an upcoming socio-economic impact assessment would look at all options for the future of

the ferry, including a fixed crossing. He said: 'Expenditure has been increasing faster than inflation, so fuel costs and refit costs have been going up something in the order of 10 per cent.'

'The gap between income and expenditure has been widening and will continue to widen unless we look at this.'

#### Expensive

'The bridge is something we keep looking at. We will look at it again as well as a tunnel but these are both very expensive options.'

Sunart Community Council chairwoman Claudia Nicholson said locals were aware a bridge would not be built 'in the near future'.

She told the *Oban Times*: 'I think attitudes are changing towards the bridge. I don't think the reaction is as negative as it was a decade ago.'

Local councillor Brian Murphy said: 'As a long-term strategy I think the bridge is something we

should certainly be considering. It's a possibility that we are very aware of and would certainly like to look at further.'

'But being realistic, it's not something that's going to happen in the next 10 or 20 years.'

Former area councillor Roida Fraser said she proposed a bridge several years ago but received very little support.

She said: 'My view was that a fixed link would create jobs with easier access to the peninsula. The situation we have at the moment is we have a ferry on a life-line route, running at a loss with a chance of more and more fare increases in the future with no money for a replacement ferry.'

Council leader Drew Hendry said other ideas raised at public meetings, including creating a smaller 15-ticket book and a direct debit 'smart card', would be discussed with local councillors in coming months.

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**Corran Ferry car crash witness appeal**

POLICE are appealing for witnesses to a two-vehicle crash on the A82 near the Corran Ferry which left a Lochaber woman with serious injuries.

Isobel MacKellaig, who recently retired from her role as senior registrar for Highland Council, was rushed to Southern General Hospital in Glasgow after the incident near Corrychurachan at about 6.20pm last Thursday.

The 65-year-old was said to be in a 'critical but stable' condition.

The three men in the other vehicle were taken to Belford Hospital in Fort William and later discharged.

A Police Scotland spokesperson said: 'We are keen to speak to anyone who may have been in the area at the time or has any information about the incident and would encourage them to contact police on 101.'

**Yacht runs aground**

KYLE of Lochalsh lifeboat crew were called out to help a yacht which had run aground after suffering engine failure.

The team found the *Hatalinqua* near Dubhaid point on the Plockton peninsula at 2.10pm last Friday.

The yacht's crew had already been taken onboard by a passing fishing vessel, and the lifeboat crew were able to secure the stricken yacht.

**Free guided tours of canal locks**

NEPTUNE'S Staircase in Banavie will open its doors to members of the public this Saturday with free guided tours of the locks.

The Caledonian Canal heritage officer will show visitors how the locks work as well as telling them about the canal's history, wildlife and current projects.

The talks, part of Highland Council's doors open days programme, start at 10.30am and 1.30pm.

**Woman airlifted off Ben Nevis**

A WOMAN was airlifted off Ben Nevis after fracturing her ankle while she was descending the mountain on Saturday.

Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team were called out at around 4pm after the walker slipped near Windy Corner.

An LMRT spokesperson said: 'A passing member of LMRT assisted the female until the arrival of a search and rescue helicopter from RAF Gannett at Prestwick.'

'The female casualty was airlifted to the Belford Hospital at Fort William where she received treatment for a fracture to the ankle.'

**Fort turns pink for cancer research event**

FORT William will be turned pink for the week for Lochaber Together for Cancer Research UK's second annual event.

'Turn the town pink' will see shops and businesses create pink displays in their windows from Monday till Sunday October 6, with a prize for the best.

Collection buckets will be placed in each of the businesses. Last year's campaign raised more than £4,000.

**Room 13 open day**

CAOL-based international art project Room 13 is holding an open day tomorrow (Friday) from 11am to 3pm.

Visitors are invited to have a look at some of the work done in the original studio in Caol Primary School, meet the artists and learn about the work done by the charity in the local community.

# BID team claims new approach needed to rejuvenate Fort William High Street

THE TEAM behind the Lochaber Business Improvement District (BID) plan say 'a new approach' is needed to rejuvenate Fort William High Street.

Frazer Coupland, chairman of the organisation promoting the BID Living Lochaber, claims a thriving High Street would benefit businesses across the area, not just in the town.

Speaking at Fort William Community Council, Mr

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT** by RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

Coupland said: 'We need to think of our High Street in a different way. 'The days of having the candlestick maker, the plaster and painter on the High Street are gone, it's a different place

now and we have to think about it differently. We can't control the rates or the rents on the High Street. 'But what we can do is try to help to increase footfall. That will hopefully increase revenue, which will make renting a premises on the High Street more attractive.'

A draft business plan for the BID was approved by Highland Council last week and released

to the public on Monday. If successful, the BID would see every business in Lochaber pay a compulsory levy to fund additional projects and services across the area.

Levies would be imposed on a sliding scale from £98 to £4,100, with companies with the highest rateable value paying the most.

Living Lochaber estimates £360,000 would be generated each year - £1.8million over

the five-year BID period. Community council member Alex Farquhar said: 'What I'm concerned about is a small number of very, very active businesses and individuals making decisions for other people who maybe don't have the time or energy.'

**Solid**

He added: 'If your talking about raising £1.8 million from the Lochaber business

community I'd like to have seen something pretty solid as to where its going.'

BID project manager Helen MacGillivray said the business plan would have 'a much more in-depth outline'.

Questions were also raised as to how to BID would help companies not directly linked to tourism.

Businesses will be asked to vote before November 28, and

if more than 50 per cent by both number and rateable value vote in favour, the BID will go ahead. Meanwhile the group opposing the move, BID Farewell, has circulated hundreds of glossy leaflets claiming the scheme, if implemented, would 'saddle' local businesses with an extra 'tax' for five years.

'Even if you have voted 'no' you will by law be forced to pay this tax,' it claims.



Scott MacLean and Gary Davidson of High Life Highland, left and right, with Fort William manager Danny Conlon and Crown Vets' Lorna Ungoed-Thomas and Heather Turnet at the soccer sevens at Lochaber High School on Friday night. 20\_f39strip01

## Bold bid to boost youth football in Lochaber

A BOLD bid is being made to breathe new life into youth football in Lochaber through regular seven-a-side nights at Lochaber High School.

The sport has suffered a decline recently but a new joint initiative between Fort William Football Club and High Life Highland aims to reverse that trend.

Crown Vets in Fort William are sponsoring the Friday fortnightly football evenings, which are proving popular with under-16 players.

**Chance**

Ardnamurchan High School French teacher Elaine MacArthur and Active Schools co-ordinator Dot Lynes regularly bring a

team across from Strontian to ensure the boys get a chance to play competitive football.

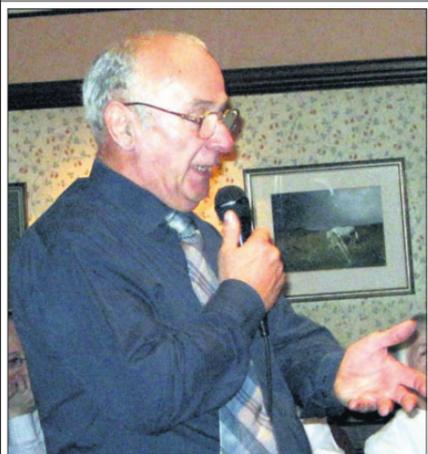
Fort William FC manager Danny Conlon told *The Oban Times*: 'We need to get more kids kicking a ball in the area. 'We have had withdraw our youth teams from the Highlands leagues but if we can get this

up and running we can get a lot more young players involved in the game.'

**Project**

'It's only a pilot project at the moment - but hopefully it will lead to bigger and better things.'

Next football night is October 4, with five more planned after the October holidays.



Charlie MacColl entertains at his retirement party in the West End Hotel.

## Fond farewell to Meur Lochabair chairman

IT WAS a packed house in Fort William's West End Hotel on Saturday night for a ceilidh to celebrate the retirement of Charlie MacColl as chairman of local mod committee Meur Lochabair.

Charlie himself regaled the audience with Gaelic song, while son Calum played the pipes and the button box. Other musicians included Andrew MacDonald on the accordion and George Smith, also on accordion.

Meur Lochabair committee members Joyce and Jimmy Cameron, from Fort William, organised the evening.

Local Gaelic speaker Gladys Johnston, from Spean Bridge was among those attending the event. She said: 'It was absolutely great. He thought he was going to a birthday party - little did he know it was his own retirement do. 'He was absolutely astounded!'

## History society welcomes storyteller

LOCHABER Local History Society (LLHS) will welcome storyteller Ewan MacVicar to its October monthly meeting as he gives a talk exploring the connections between David Livingstone and the Highlands.

'A Mountain in my Hand' will also include the story of the Appin Murder and other local tales. LLHS chairperson Chris Robinson said: 'This will be an informative and especially entertaining evening and a night to remember is guaranteed.'

Everyone is welcome to attend the talk, which starts 8pm on Thursday October 3 in the Ben Nevis Hotel.

## Tour de Ben Nevis cyclists on parade

A GROUP of 345 cyclists paraded down Fort William High Street on Saturday morning for the start of the Tour de Ben Nevis race.

The field was led through the town centre by Lochaber Pipe Band before tackling five stages around the mountain in the endurance event.

Local riders Ruari Watt and Joe Barnes both took individual stage wins.

## Police files

A CANOE was stolen from a shed in the Torrin area on the Isle of Skye between April and Friday September 13.

An outboard motor was stolen from a secure yacht moored in Mallaig harbour sometime between Wednesday September 4 and Wednesday September 18.

Anyone with any knowledge of these incidents should contact local police on 101, the confidential line on 01397 702000 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

## Filming underway for BBC Alba's first Gaelic drama

FILMING is underway for BBC Alba's first Gaelic drama production Bannan/The Ties That Bind.

Bannan tells the story of 18-year-old Mairi Macdonald's return to her home island and the struggles caused by the family and emotional ties that bind her to the island.

Workshops were held locally to find Gaelic actors, writers and directors, with Lewis woman Chrisella Ross chosen to script the show.

Peigi Wood, 84, from Kyle of Lochalsh, South Uist pair Daibhidh Walker and Kathleen MacInnes, and Alasdair MacLennan and Dòmhnall Eoin MacFhionghain, both from Harris, are all in the cast.

## Fort FC lotto winners

THE WINNERS of the top prize of £200 in Fort William Football Club's August 300 club draw were Mr and Mrs Cameron.

Mr A C Clark took a prize of £50, while Mrs E MacAksill and Mr D Fraser both won £25 each.

## Lorry driver narrowly avoids losing licence

AN HGV lorry driver has narrowly avoided losing his driving licence after being caught in his car while nearly three and a half times the legal alcohol limit.

Corpach man John MacKenzie admitted drinking whisky while sitting in his Ford Escort on the morning of Saturday, May 18 after getting into an argument with a man.

MacKenzie, aged 50, also pled guilty to shouting racist abuse at the Englishman during the quarrel at Corpach basin.

Procurator Fiscal Laura Ryan

told Fort William Sheriff Court MacKenzie had launched a 'tirade' of abuse at the man after getting annoyed by his driving.

MacKenzie then bought a bottle of whisky and drank it in his car, where police found him.

Defence solicitor Hamish Melrose said the argument had not been 'entirely one-sided', and that racist language had been used by both men.

He said: 'Mr MacKenzie then made a stupid and foolish mistake and started drinking whisky when he was sitting in his car.'

Sheriff Noel McPartlin said: 'I'm concerned about both these charges. It is clearly undesirable that someone with that much alcohol in their system should be in charge of a car. I'm imposing a substantial financial penalty to reflect the fact that this is not acceptable.'

MacKenzie had been accused of drink driving but pled guilty to a lesser charge of being drunk in charge of a vehicle. He was previously banned after drink driving in 2006. MacKenzie, of 17 Clerk Drive, was fined £900 and given 10 penalty points.

## Raasay islanders offered shooting and fishing rights

SHOOTING and fishing rights on Raasay have been offered to local crofters to the delight of islanders.

Island residents said during consultations they wanted the five year lease to be awarded to the Raasay Crofters' Association (RCA).

And officials from the Scottish Government will now meet with the RCA to finalise details.

The rights were initially offered to South Ayrshire Stalking by government officials, causing uproar on the island.

Environment Minister Paul Wheelhouse then met with local crofters and overturned the decision, which he said had not been ratified by ministers.

Mr Wheelhouse said consultation showed residents wanted the rights retained locally.

He said: 'It became clear that retention of the sporting rights with the RCA would be the most popular option. Residents also expressed a strong desire for enhanced community benefit and greater transparency in regard to the operation of the sporting rights on Raasay.'

Anne Gillies of Raasay House Community Company (RHCC) welcomed the news.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'It



Anne Gillies: delighted at decision.

sense of enthusiasm which has accompanied the securing of the sporting rights.'

Meanwhile, islanders had further cause for celebration when Raasay House reopened following a multi-million pound restoration.

Mr Kennedy was on hand to officially open the community-owned building at a ceremony on Friday.

RHCC chairman David Westgarth said: '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.'

Three days earlier, the community took over ownership of Raasay Stores, the only shop on the island.

New store manager David Carslaw said the shop was 'so important'; to islanders.

He said: 'If there is nowhere people can go to pick up their groceries then they will start to move away from the island. This could threaten the school and other services and then the community is finished.'

The previous owner put the shop on the market in early 2012 but received no interest and closed down.

## Boosting business innovation

A NEW week-long venture aimed at boosting business innovation in Lochaber is to be held in November.

Lochaber Ideas Week, which runs from November 18 to 23, aims to introduce new initiatives and ways of thinking in business across Lochaber with a series of talks and workshops in and around Fort William.

Among the events being held throughout the week are numerous talks from local and visiting speakers, a 'speed networking' night for local businesses and discussions on how to improve how Lochaber's best assets are marketed.

Dragon's Glen, inspired by the popular BBC show *Dragon's Den*, will see local entrepreneurs compete for the chance to turn their business idea into reality.

The winner will receive £1,000 cash, £1,000 website design, hosting and support with LamontDesign, and business planning, support and advice from Business Gateway.

Project manager Will Rowland told *The Oban Times* it is hoped the gathering will become an annual event.

He said: 'Ideas Week is a collaborative event to pull together all of the community,



Some of the organisers behind Lochaber Ideas Week: Don Hind, Fraser Coupland, Scott Donald, Anna Dawson and Will Rowland. 20\_f39ideae01

the business community, youth, lots of other industries, working together to take advantage of existing opportunities.'

Ideas Week came about through a tie-up between Outdoor Capital of the UK, LamontDesign, Fort William Chamber of Commerce, Business Gateway, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Highland Council.

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## Connel man's early morning outburst costs £600

A CONNEL man has been fined £600 after admitting hammering on his tenants' front door and shouting threats in a furious early morning outburst.

Ewen MacPherson, of Lagavullin, demanded the couple inside hand over the keys and gave them an hour to get out during the incident at 6.30am on May 2.

MacPherson also told them he had taken photos of them and threatened to go to their employers with these if they contacted police.

Prosecutor fiscal Eoin McGinty told Oban Sheriff Court: 'The witness was within his bedroom with his one year old son and wife when they heard a repeated bang at the door.'

'They went to the door and noticed the accused shouting 'I want you out of my house' repeatedly as he banged at the door.'

MacPherson, 44, also pled guilty to obstructing police by refusing to provide keys to the property in North Connel when he appeared at court last week.

On May 10 the woman returned home and couldn't get into the house, the court heard. Police contacted MacPherson who told them: 'You may as well arrest me - I'm not prepared to give the keys back.'

He handed over the keys on being detained.

Defending, Gordon Seaton told the court there was a background to the case and civil proceedings were ongoing.

MacPherson had also issued an eviction notice. He said: 'Mr MacPherson wasn't sure if the tenants were still in the house or not when he went to the property at that time of the morning. His behaviour was unacceptable but it was borne out of frustration.'

'He accepts his refusal to hand over the keys was stupid and he apologises to the police.'

Asking for MacPherson to be fined, Mr Seaton said: 'The situation is regrettable, Mr MacPherson runs a successful flooring company business in Oban and has done for a number of years.'



Oban sisters Edie, left, and Alex Elliot, pictured at a scarf-covered lamp post above Craigard Road, will be helping to create scarves for the yarnbombing at Atlantis Leisure. 16.139yam01

## Fundraisers knit together to back colourful yarnbombing craze

FUNDRAISERS behind the proposed Oban Community Playpark upgrade plan have come up with an eye-catching strategy to increase awareness of their project.

The Friends of Oban Community Playpark, with the help of Oban artist Alice Strange, have adopted the colourful craze of 'yarnbombing' to decorate parts of Atlantis Leisure and the playpark with scarves and

blankets and other knitted items. Far from being a woolly idea, the fundraising group reckons the knitted decorations at the playpark, situated next to Atlantis Leisure, will get people talking about the project and hopefully donating to the cause.

The upgrade fund currently stands at £15,000, with the friends hoping to raise £20,000 locally, before applying for around £380,000 of grants.

Lyndsay Elliot, chairwoman of the fundraising group, said people could expect to see the yarnbombing begin this week but encouraged keen knitters and stitchers in the community to volunteer their services to help.

If you would like to assist the group by knitting or donating money contact Mrs Elliot at lyndsay.elliott@unk.com or telephone 07919651181.

# MSP backs parents' demand for more Oban High teachers

CONCERNED parents have received the backing of SNP Argyll and Bute MSP Mike Russell after telling the local authority that teacher shortages at Oban High School 'cannot be allowed to continue'.

A lack of tutors for subjects throughout S4-S6 at Oban High School has resulted in some pupils missing out on their first choice subjects - prompting fears they may not be able to study towards qualifications essential for their chosen university or career aspirations.

A plea by the parent council to Argyll and Bute Council for more funding to be released for teachers in the 2013-14 has been refused.

Now Mr Russell has backed the parent group after it produced figures showing the school's teacher numbers do not stack up

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

when compared to similar sized schools elsewhere in Scotland.

Speaking as the constituency MSP, the education minister said: 'These comparisons show other local authorities are doing better.'

'Given that Argyll and Bute has the fourth highest spending per head of Scottish local authorities, the issue can't be resources.'

'I would therefore hope the education department of the council could work with the parent council and the school to sort this problem as soon as possible.'

The parent council is due to

address councillors on their concerns on October 9. In a letter to the local elected members, the parent council said: 'The school timetable is now running on such a tightrope of capacity so that there is no reserve for any new pupils starting Oban High School being able to take up subjects of their choice, let alone meeting the choice of existing pupils.'

'This will not encourage rural regeneration when choices offered to young people are limited by capacity within the school.'

'We are excited about the prospect of a new, modern school building but we need the correct number of teachers.'

'We feel the council has let down pupils in Oban High School for 2013-14. This cannot happen again for 2014-15.'

The authority is currently working on a review of secondary school staffing throughout Argyll and Bute, due to be published in December, but said it was unable to comment on it at this time.

A spokeswoman said: 'Oban High School has the number of teachers it requires to educate all of its pupils in session 2013/14. The staffing formula is under review and will be revised according to the result of that process for session 2014/15.'

She added: 'Argyll and Bute Council receives funding based on nationally applied terms and allocates that according to the requirements of the services it delivers.'

'The council maintains a dialogue with the Scottish Government on all matters which affect the area.'

## Dawnfresh defends poor reports on Etive fish farms

Firm blames admin errors and staff shortages

FISH farming company Dawnfresh has blamed administrative errors and a staff shortage for poor compliance reports on its four Loch Etive fish farms.

Two of the fish farms, one near Inverawe and the other at Port na Mine, are among only four in Scotland to be rated 'very poor' in the compliance band by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

Both were cited for 'unsatisfactory benthic monitoring' and failing to submit data returns correctly. The Inverawe farm was further cited for breaching the authorised stocking density while Port na Mine was found to be in the wrong location.

Dawnfresh's farm at Ardchat-

tan Bay was rated poor, following receipt of a 'borderline' seabed monitoring survey and failing to submit quarterly data returns in accordance with licence requirements.'

Finally the site at Airds Bay was in the 'at risk' compliance band, following non-compliance with record keeping and failing to submit data returns.

In all four cases, an action plan has been drafted to improve compliance throughout 2013.

Gideon Pringle, Dawnfresh's farms manager, said: 'Obviously we're disappointed. I would draw attention to the fact that these were administrative.'

In amongst the difficulties, he said, was the departure of a technical manager who handed

the reports throughout Scotland and a subsequent period where the position was unfilled.

Mr Pringle added: 'It's worth noting there are no sanctions or punitive measures taken. Most of the issues have already been rectified.'

Keith Macmillan of the Friends of Loch Etive group campaigning against the company's application to establish a new fish farm at Sailean Ruadh, said: 'Not only does this SEPA report demonstrate the managerial and administrative incompetence of Dawnfresh, but it gives the lie to assurances given at all the community meetings that the granting of a provisional SEPA licence would protect the environment of the loch.'

## Doors open on new hospital dental centre

OBAN'S new dental centre at the Lorn and Islands Hospital is open.

Dentist Colin Crawford is now accepting patients into the new, purpose-built hospital, which has its own dedicated entrance next to the hospital's new pedestrian crossing.

Mr Crawford said: 'We are all enjoying our great new working environment and looking forward to providing an even better service to our patients.'

Dentists from the town's Argyll Square practice, which currently caters for NHS patients, are set to move to the new hospital next month.

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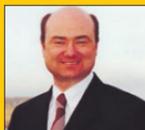
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Taynuilt - 12.30pm - 1.00pm  
Benderloch - 3.00pm - 3.30pm  
Connel - 4.00pm - 4.30pm  
Dunbeg - 5.00pm - 5.30pm  
Oban - 7.00pm - 8.00pm  
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### Assault lands Oban teenager with payback order

AN ASSAULT on a 15-year-old boy has landed one young Oban man with 90 hours unpaid work to do over the next three months.

Stuart MacCormack, 18, of 1 Polvinster Gardens, Oban, previously admitted seizing the boy by the neck and punching him on the head during the incident in the town's George Street on May 5.

Sheriff Douglas Small ordered MacCormack to attend anger management, victim awareness and alcohol counselling as part of a one year community payback order.

He said: 'It certainly seems to me you need help to deal with your drinking problem. It is landing you in a lot of trouble.'

### Drink driver to attend alcohol counselling

A MOTORIST who got behind the wheel on two occasions while over the legal drink drive limit has been sent for alcohol counselling.

Wayne Parker, of Ardmore Guest House, 98 West Clyde Street, Helensburgh, previously admitted the two offences and was placed on a community payback order when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week. Parker, 45, was disqualified from driving for three years and ordered to carry out 267 hours of unpaid work.

### Former Oban woman sentenced

A FORMER Oban woman has been ordered to do 140 hours of unpaid work over the next six months after she assaulted another woman - punching her, pulling her hair and biting her on the ear.

Claire Morrison, 23, of 3/1 4 Maxwell Street, Port Glasgow, was also sentenced to an additional 40 hours at Oban Sheriff Court last week for sending menacing messages to a further two women and breaking her bail condition.

### Dunbeg man admonished

A DUNBEG man has been admonished by Oban Sheriff Court after assaulting a 16-year-old girl.

Stephen McLuckie, 43, of 7 Lochnell Road, Dunbeg, pled guilty to seizing the girl by the neck and pushing her against a car seat when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

### Police files

A QUAD bike and a quantity of red diesel has been stolen from a farm near Ardferr.

The owner reported the thefts to police on Monday after the overnight raid at the property.

Oban Police would be keen to hear from anyone who noticed any suspicious vehicles in the area overnight between Sunday and Monday.

POLICE are looking to speak to two teenage boys who shouted homophobic remarks at a man in Oban's Albany Street last Tuesday.

The victim was leaving Albany Stores at around 10.30pm when two boys, thought to be aged around 15 and 16, began shouting at him.

THE A85 was partially closed near to Cruachan Visitor Centre last Saturday after a Citylink bus, carrying 16 passengers, collided with a van.

None of the passengers were injured and the driver of the van was treated for minor injuries at the scene by an off-duty paramedic. No-one required hospital treatment.

The crash happened at around 7pm and the road was partially blocked for two-and-a-half hours.

### Man sentenced for Oban hotel break-in

BREAKING into the Great Western Hotel with intent to steal has landed one Oban man with 150 hours of unpaid work to do over the next six months.

Michael McPhee, 28, of 4 Burnside Court, Miller Road, Oban, was found guilty of the offence following a trial at Oban Sheriff Court earlier this year.

The crime, which took place between December 28 and December 30 2011, was discovered when a hotel employee found a window broken in a store room in the hotel.

McPhee was linked to the break-in after blood found on the window frame at the scene was matched to him.

### Princess Anne to visit Royal National Mòd 2013

ORGANISERS of this year's Royal National Mòd have announced this week that HRH The Princess Royal will visit the festival on October 15.

Princess Anne's visit will be during the children's competitions on Mòd Tuesday, as the event goes to Paisley for the first time in its 121-year history.

John Macleod, president of organisers An Comunn Gàidhealach, will act as host to the



Tobermory RNLi's Severn class lifeboat, Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey, assisting the Fri Ocean after the vessel ran aground off the Isle of Mull. Photo: RNLi/Sam Jones.

## Busy summer for volunteer Tobermory lifeboat crew

TOBERMORY is the busiest single all weather lifeboat station in Scotland, according to figures released by the RNLi.

The volunteer crew of Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey were called out on 22 shouts this summer, up six on the same period last year. Launches for June, July and August totalled 476 across Scotland's 47 stations, just short of the record-breaking summer of 2008, when there were 480.

Tobermory RNLi's call-outs included a marathon 31-hour mission in June to rescue a giant cargo ship, Fri Ocean, hard aground in the Sound of Mull, as well as the rescue of a yacht in the early hours in difficult conditions off the Isle of Coll in August.

Andrew McHaffie, coxswain, said: 'I'd like to pay tribute to the crew who drop

everything at a moment's notice to respond to their pagers.

'This has been a busy summer for the station and many of the shouts have been varied, challenging and complex, with some lasting several hours.

'I also want to take this opportunity to thank all the partners, families, friends and employers of the volunteer crew. Without their unstinting support, it would be very difficult for us to launch the lifeboat to save lives at sea.'

Oban Lifeboat was called out on 20 shouts, one more than the previous year.

Andy Clift, Scotland's regional operations manager, added: 'A good summer on the weather front has turned into a busy one for our lifeboats in Scotland, with more people coming to enjoy the coast and sea.'

'We would like to remind the public that some of the incidents undertaken by lifeboats could be avoided if they followed simple beach safety messages, adhered to warning signs and checked tide tables.

'We cannot fault the professionalism and commitment of our volunteer crews who turn out at a moment's notice 24/7 to help other people in distress, and this is particularly notable when we have long shouts in Scotland lasting several hours.'

The busiest station in Scotland was Broughty Ferry with 43 launches for its two boats, compared with 23 last summer.



Children from First Steps Day Nursery begin their 'Welly Waddle' to Dunollie Castle. 16\_139walk01

### Welly walk fun for Oban youngsters

TINY tots from Oban's First Steps Day Nursery have undertaken a sponsored 'Welly Waddle' to raise money for a Scottish charity that supports families affected by cot death.

More than 30 youngsters

were escorted by nursery staff, parents and helpers on the sponsored walk, in aid of The Scottish Cot Death Trust, from the Corran Halls to Dunollie Castle on Tuesday.

Organiser Shauna MacKenzie

said: 'We were inspired to organise a 'Welly Waddle' because it is for such a good cause and it is good fun for the children.'

'They really love getting their wellies on and going out for a quick splash in the puddles.'

### Scottish Water admits supplying school with out of date supplies

LUING Primary School was provided with out of date bottled water when a water main burst on the island two weeks ago.

The water supplied to the school by Scottish Water was six months out of date and could not be given to the children, resulting in them missing school.

Children stayed off school for four days in total due to the burst water main. The school

tweeted: 'Day four without water for Luing Primary School. Hopefully opening tomorrow for the shortest week ever.'

Scottish Water confirmed the blunder in a statement to The Oban Times earlier this week. A spokesman said: 'Some bottled water was recently provided to reduce the inconvenience to a small number of customers on Luing whose normal water

supply was disrupted due to a burst water main.

'Some of the bottled water was past its use-by-date. Scottish Water apologises for this mistake and any inconvenience caused.'

One islander, who did not wish to be named, added: 'We need new pipes in a large part of the island.'

'These are old pipes that have been bursting.'

# Angry drivers hit out over short notice A85 closure

## Motorists surprised by operator's overnight Loch Lubhair works

ANGRY motorists have accused the trunk roads operator BEAR Scotland of 'arrogance' after closing a section of the A85 amid claims of insufficient notice being given.

Several west-bound drivers were taken by surprise on Sunday afternoon they hit roadworks at Loch Lubhair, 13 miles from Lochearnhead, just after the route was closed at 9pm.

Convoys were only allowed through the stretch each hour, but with the diversion route taking nearly two hours from the closure - starting back at Lochearnhead - those already queuing were left with little option but to wait.

One motorist also alleged roads staff swore at him after being asked why the roadworks appeared without warning.

BEAR Scotland has apologised for not advertising the closure in the local press, but said road-side signs were in place for over a week prior to the resurfacing work, put up on Monday, September 16.

However, Oban businessman Andrew MacDonald, who lives

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

in North Connel, claims no signs were visible.

'We had taken a trip through to Edinburgh that day, in the car were three other drivers, all watching the road, all alert,' he said. 'Not one of us saw any signs. Had we known, we would have altered our travel plans.'

'We doneed the roads improved and we'd have no problem with that if the roadworks were advertised in advance. We live in a world where communication isn't too difficult when someone applies themselves. The arrogance is unacceptable.'

Mr MacDonald also said there were no signs warning motorists approaching a corner before the closure that the road was closed - with the notices only put up when those stuck at the jam complained it was dangerous.

He added: 'There were young families in that queue, people trying to get home from work

and others. Suddenly, instead of getting home at 10pm, people weren't getting back until midnight.'

'The attitude of the workers was poor - even when you delete the unprintables. That upset one or two people. We were just asking why were there no signs up.'

A spokeswoman for BEAR Scotland said: 'Due to the narrowness of this section of road it is necessary to manage traffic using a convoy system to keep both road users and road workers safe. We do appreciate this will cause delays and ask for patience while these essential works are carried out.'

She added: 'We take the allegations relating to the workers' behaviour very seriously and are investigating them thoroughly.'

The roadworks will be in place until October 4, with closures from 9pm-6pm. Traffic is being diverted along the A82 in the meantime, cutting back in towards Lochearnhead via Callander, Aberfoyle and Dumbarton.

### Lorn Lines

LORN Garden Club was treated to a most stimulating talk last week when Anna Canning, a medical herbalist from Edinburgh, showed members how 'weeds' could be put to medicinal or culinary use.

Club members were invited to try out some common native plants, or weeds, and displayed various facial expressions while munching away on meadowsweet, nettles, sow thistles and other greenery as Anna explained how effective the plants could be in treating various symptoms without the side-effects produced by some drugs.

The evening was rounded off with a tasting of her Sorrel Pesto.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, October 15 at 7.30pm in St John's Cathedral Hall, when botanist, ecologist and author Dr James Fenton will speak on 'Wild Flowers of the Falklands'.

THE LORN and Mid-Argyll Members' Centre of the Scottish Wildlife Trust held its annual coffee morning last Saturday to raise funds for practical wildlife conservation work in Scotland.

The event was extended this year to include light lunches, in addition to the tea, coffee and home baking usually on offer.

Visitors had the opportunity to buy jewellery, plants, home baking, cards and other gifts and to take part in the tombola, with prizes donated by members and by various businesses in Oban.

Thanks to go to those members who gave their time to run the event and who donated prizes, and also to Cakebread's Garden Centre, Homebase, Oban Chocolate Company, Oban Photographic Centre, Pets at Home, Sealife Adventures, Tesco, The Iona Shop, The Kitchen Garden, and Waterstones for their generosity.

The winter lecture series, held at the Scottish Association for Marine Science, Dunstaffnage, will begin on Thursday, October 17 at 7.30pm with a talk by Kerry MacKay entitled 'My Antarctic Adventure'.

Newsdesk 01631 568000

## Contact ban and unpaid work for Oban 'stalker'

AN OBAN man who was 'stalking' his former partner has been ordered to carry out 140 hours of unpaid work and banned from contacting her for five years.

Kevin Hobbs, 25, of 11 Croft Avenue, Oban, had previously admitted repeatedly phoning his ex-girlfriend, leaving messages and turning up at her workplace on two occasions.

At the sentencing hearing in Oban Sheriff Court last week, procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said Hobbs had previously appeared at Glasgow Sheriff Court in relation to an assault on the woman and had ignored the court's orders not to contact her.

Between 6.15pm and 10pm on August 25 the woman received 12 phone calls from Hobbs while at work. She didn't answer but was left an abusive message. Mr McGinty said: 'She was frightened and informed her manager. Ten minutes later the accused entered the pub where she was working and police were contacted. He kicked off when

he was in the pub before leaving. Police detained him a short distance away. He was kept in custody and given bail the next day by an honorary sheriff.'

The following day the woman was again in work when Hobbs started phoning. The police picked him up but he was released due to an 'insufficiency of evidence'.

But Hobbs yet again picked up the phone - contacting the woman a further twice that evening and then showing up at her work.

Defence agent Jane Thomson said: 'Alcohol has been an issue. Education is clearly the way forward for Mr Hobbs. He does accept responsibility for his actions.'

Sheriff Douglas Small placed Hobbs on a community payback order for 15 months, which included 140 hours of unpaid work, a condition that he attends alcohol counselling and a five year non-harassment order.

Sheriff Small said: 'Make no mistake, if you breach any order I have imposed today, I'll send you to prison.'



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## Fort William all but relegated after Newtonmore defeat

**REPORT BY**  
**STEPHEN NORRIS**  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

FORT WILLIAM will almost certainly be playing in National League Division One next season after defeat to Orion Group Premiership champions Newtonmore all but consigned them to shinty's second tier.

**Concede**  
Mathematically, it is still outlandishly possible for Fort to escape relegation, but for that to happen victory over championship runners-up Lovat at Kiltarity in their final game would be required, as well as Kyles somehow contriving to lose their last four games and

concede a barrowload of goals. In reality that's just not going to happen - and the team that won the Camanachd Cup four times in succession from 2007 now face a massive rebuilding exercise if they are to regain the heights they once held.

Any thoughts that an immediate return to the premiership will be a formality should be tempered by a cursory look at the opposition lying in wait for the An Aird men.

Beautifully, Caberfeidh, Oban Camanachd, Bute, Glasgow Mid Argyll and derby rivals Kilmallic are not likely to afford Fort an easy passage back up to the top echelon.

On Saturday, beating Newtonmore was always an unlikely

proposition - even more so when suspensions and last-minute call-offs left co-managers Victor Smith and Adi Robertson short of 10 first-team players.

**Little surprise**  
It was therefore little surprise that the Badenoch men dominated proceedings throughout - and it was a testament to some resolute Fort William defence that the scoreline carried some respectability for the home team.

Duncan Rodger at full back, with sterling support from Arran MacPhee and Jamie Cruickshank did a fine job in shackling the likes of Danny MacRae and Glen Mackintosh, but it was difficult to escape the impression from the touchline that the

### SHINTY

champions never needed to get out of second gear. Niall MacPhee put in his usual aggressive shift but Fort could never generate enough possession to carve out any chances of note.

'More had already passed up several good opportunities before Fraser Mackintosh wheeled away from Niall MacPhee 30 yards out to whack a screamer high past McKay.

The keeper brilliantly stopped Danny MacRae's rocket shortly after but the second half brought little respite and MacRae made it two on 63 minutes.

From then on in the sparse



Picture of concentration: Jamie Cruickshank and Glen Mackintosh fought out a hard duel all afternoon. 20\_139shinty01

crowd had little to get excited about as the champions strolled to victory while Fort consoled themselves by preventing any further scoring.

'More manager PJ Mackintosh said after full-time: 'It was a typical end of season affair. We

did not really get out of second gear and did not play particularly well.

**Happy**  
'It was difficult to get the boys up for it but I was happy with the result.'

Fort co-manager Victor Smith

said: 'You would not believe how many phone calls I had to make to try and get a team together. But I felt we put in a good performance, although I'm sure Newtonmore were suffering from a slight hangover from the week before.'

## Fort 'not at the races' as they crash out of Scottish Cup

### FOOTBALL

FORT William face the daunting task of making the trip north to take on unbeaten league leaders Brora Rangers this Saturday.

Brora have swept all before them so far, winning seven out of seven to sit two points clear at the top of the Highland League.

Fort manager Danny Conlon will know his side will be doing well just to avoid a heavy defeat, especially in the wake of last weekend's disappointing 3-1 loss to Newton Stewart in the Scottish Cup first round replay.

Conlon told the Oban Times: 'We know fine what to expect, we know if we let Brora play they will destroy us.'

'We need to try and stay in the game as long as we can, and if we do that we'll get one or two chances towards the end.'

'Nobody expects us to do anything up there, if we get anything it would be a huge bonus. I would just like to see a decent performance, and I think some of the players owe us that.'

Plenty of money has been spent at Dudgeon Park to improve the Brora squad which contains a number of former Scottish Premiership players including Ross Tokely, Joe Main and Zander Sutherland.

Conlon said he was 'very disappointed' after watching his side crash out Fort the Scottish Cup last weekend.

At half time, Fort found themselves 2-0 and a man down following Michael Gillespie's second yellow card.

A Darren Quigg penalty gave the away side hope but Newton Stewart scored a third to see out the game.

Conlon said: 'We had good expectations going down there, we thought we could get a result but we just weren't at the races. We had very few players even close to pass marks.'

'It was virtually our strongest squad, the preparations were good all week - we just can't put our finger on why so many players didn't perform.'

## Double up for Plockton teams

### FOOTBALL/BOWLS

IT WAS a day of sporting celebration in Plockton on Saturday after two local teams lifted silverware.

First, Plockton football team beat Dunvegan 3-1 at Kyleakin in the final of the Clan Donald Cup to give them their first trophy since 2010.

And when the team arrived back in Plockton they were delighted to hear that Plockton Bowling Club had won the Finlayson Cup competition at the outdoor bowling green in which Kyleakin and Lochalsh clubs also took part - the first time Plockton BC had won the cup since 1993.

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## Convincing win for Lochaber rugby boys

LOCHABER kept up their strong start to the season with a convincing 27-3 win over Moray RFC at Black Parks on Saturday.

The game was Lochaber's third win in four games and leaves them level on points in second place with Highland and Aberdeenshire 2nds, and just a point behind leaders Garioch.

The switch to Black Parks from the regular home at Banavie does not seem to have adversely affected Lochaber.

But Saturday's match was a scrappy affair, with both sides showing poor discipline and giving away numerous penal-

### RUGBY

ties. Lochaber were able to get the win thanks to tries from Connor Taylor, Ben Leon, Chris Simpson and Paul Mitchell.

Stand-in captain Jack Baxter told The Oban Times: 'I was very pleased. The boys did well to keep it going and get the bonus point.'

Baxter added he was 'quietly confident' Lochaber could get a win away to Banff this weekend.

Regular captain Mike McLeish, who missed the Moray win due to a holiday, will return for the game.



Prizewinners at the Lochaber Squash Club championships: Runner-up Andrew MacMaster, winner Alan Love, winner in the plate competition Ian Black and plate runner-up Bruce MacLean. 20\_139squash01

## Alan lifts the silverware at squash club championships

LOCHABER Squash Club's 2013 club championship saw Alan Love lift the trophy after a hard-fought final against Andrew MacMaster on Saturday afternoon after two days of excellent competition at Lochaber Leisure Centre.

Early results went with form with the winners moving into first round of the championship and losers going into the plate competition. There were some entertaining matches, notably Kenny Lang's narrow victory over Amanda Henderson in the plate eliminator.

The players desire to win was clear and referees came under strong pressure in many matches.

Bruce MacLean, still under 16, continues to improve. After a close first round match with John Disher he progressed to the plate final, beating younger brother Ewan on the way only to lose 3-0 to Ian Black.

However, the score belies how close the match was and Bruce stretched the more mature Ian in the first two games.

The leading players demonstrated their ability in the early rounds of the championship and reached the quarter finals.

### SQUASH

Andrew MacMaster beat Robert Douglas, Bruce Love beat Andy Bilton, Alan Love overcame Warren Cameron and Archie MacGillivray had a bye.

The semi-finals saw Andrew MacMaster defeat Bruce Love 2-1 in a hard fought match, while Archie MacGillivray matched Alan Love in the early stages of both games but Alan proved too strong and won 2-0.

#### Fitting climax

The final provided a fitting climax to two days of competition and began with Alan taking an early lead and looking likely to gain an easy victory.

But Andrew came back in the second game to draw level, a pattern repeated in the next two games to leave the players locked at 2-2 going into the decider, in which Alan gradually took control as Andrew tired and ran out a worthy winner.

Chairperson Amanda Henderson thanked all entrants, the sponsors Plumline and the Leisure Centre staff.

## Local boxers battle it out at Banockburn

THREE Lochaber Phoenix boxers impressed on their first appearance of the new season in the ring in Banockburn on Sunday.

Promising 11-year-old Kein Johnson's hard work in the gym paid off when he boxed Hillpark ABC's Jet Dickie in the night's opening bout.

All three rounds followed a similar pattern as Dickie tried to use clever boxing skills and a good punch variety but the sheer ferocity and speed of Johnson's attacks proved to be decisive as he ran out a clear points winner.

Johnson's clubmate Dan Nixon gave away a huge height difference in his bout against the host club's James Casey.

The 12 year-old had never before faced someone as tall or long limbed as Casey and while he constantly forced the pace was caught occasionally on the way in and that was the only reason he lost by a points decision.

Top of the bill was Lochaber Phoenix's Scottish champion, who took on four-time Scottish champ Paul Greenhorn.

Sliwinski had hoped to manhandle Greenhorn around the ring and impose his will on the

### BOXING

Hillpark boxer.

But Greenhorn was buoyed by a vociferous home support and with his fine footwork managed to thwart the aggressive attacks of Sliwinski.

This was a tremendously physical and exciting bout which went the way of the home boxer on a close points verdict.

Club coach Niall Clark said: 'We sometimes forget Igor has only been boxing for a couple of seasons and while he has gained amazing success he will face a few setbacks along the way.'

'Kein is showing great improvement for someone so young and that is due to his incredible enthusiasm for training, and Dan Nixon is a lovely boxer and very talented with huge determination but like any young boxer is learning on the job.'

Meanwhile, tickets are on sale for Lochaber Phoenix's upcoming home show at the Nevis Centre on Saturday October 5. Contact the Nevis Centre on 01397 700707, Steve Docherty on 07767 069 532 or and Niall Clark on 07554 994 744.



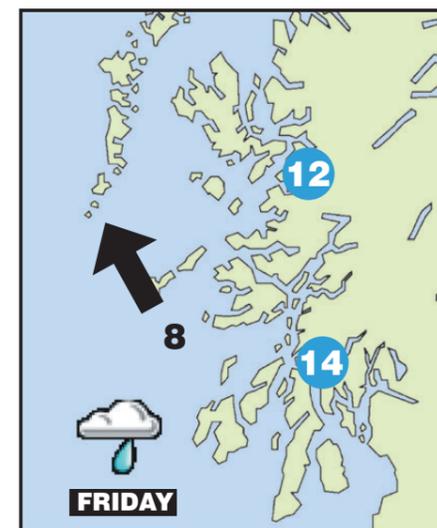
The Railway Bowling Club staged its singles championships on Saturday and for the first time the competition was staged in one day. Winner Gogs Hamilton, right, is pictured receiving the trophy from club secretary Christine Kane. David Weir, centre, was runner-up.

## Weather Tides The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with

**Thursday** Cloudy  
Winds moderate east south easterly  
Temperatures 12°C to 14°C

**Friday** Light rain  
Winds light south south easterly  
Temperatures 12°C to 15°C.

**Weekend** Cloudy  
**Outlook** Winds light south westerly  
Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.



Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, September 26, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	03.50 1.5 09.13 3.3 16.14 1.9 21.44 3.0	
Fri	04.45 1.8 10.05 3.0 17.17 2.1 23.02 2.8	
Sat	05.49 1.9 11.50 2.9 18.43 2.2 *** **	
Sun	02.00 2.8 07.03 1.9 14.16 3.0 21.08 2.0	
Mon	02.55 3.0 08.21 1.7 15.03 3.2 21.49 1.8	
Tues	03.32 3.2 09.20 1.5 15.38 3.4 22.19 1.5	
Wed	04.06 3.4 10.03 1.3 16.13 3.7 22.47 1.3	

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	Torbemory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate