

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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## My Island Iona

## Safety forum launches crash awareness week



### Oban Bay consultants paid more than £82,500

CONSULTANTS brought in by Argyll and Bute Council to assess the viability of the Oban Bay Marine (OBM) pontoon project were paid £82,505.02.

OBM was turned down for part-funding by the council because its project was deemed not 'financially viable'.

The Oban Times utilised a Freedom of Information request to view the consultants' report which reveals AECOM did not support the project. Its 12-page report highlights areas of concern in the transit marine plan which included the safety of other harbour users, unrealistic income predictions and a funding gap of £898,000.

The report states: 'Overall, it is confirmed that despite progress made by OBM with respect to the technical and operational aspects of the scheme, the capital funding gap, and annual projected revenue losses mean that grant support for the project can not be supported.'

To see the full AECOM report click on www.obantimes.co.uk

### Sport shops closure shocks Argyll

INTERSPORT stores in Oban, Lochgilphead and Campbeltown are to close in just over a fortnight after parent company, Sport Centre Retail Ltd, decided to wind up its operations.

It is understood that four jobs will go in Oban, two in Lochgilphead, and a further four in Campbeltown unless a buyer for the retail outlets can be found.



Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow with some of the children his charity helps in Malawi.

## Dalmally's Magnus in line for Hero of the Year

MOHAMMAD Ali is among the judging panel that has selected a Dalmally man as a contender for international broadcaster CNN's Hero of the Year award.

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, founder of the charity Mary's Meals, has been shortlisted for the award along with nine other hopefuls.

The former salmon farmer, whose charity runs school feeding projects in developing countries, was chosen to be a 'CNN Hero' in August and is now part of the final online vote.

He will also be invited to attend an award ceremony at the Shrine Auditorium - home of the Emmy Awards - in Hollywood in

November, where he will receive a prize of \$25,000 (£16,000) in recognition of his achievements.

Magnus said: 'I never cease to marvel at the way doors seem to open for Mary's Meals. I know lots of heroes and I am not one of them. However, I realise that this is the most amazing chance to tell more people

about the difference that a meal a day, in school, can make to a child's life.'

The shortlist for this year's award was drawn up by a panel of high profile figures including Mohammad Ali, Sir Richard Branson, singer Ricky Martin and supermodel Alek Wek.

As a result of his initial nomination, Magnus

appeared in a short film about the charity's work feeding more than 400,000 children, which aired across CNN networks in the summer.

The vote will run until November 18 and the Hero of the Year will be announced at the ceremony, broadcast on CNN, on Thanksgiving night, November 25th.

## Oban transport hub could gain £900,000 of CHORD cash

A TRANSPORT hub may already be at the top of a list of replacement projects for the CHORD Project Board.

The board has £900,000 to spend on an Oban Bay or harbour project that will assist regeneration and economic development on the waterfront.

The plan for a hub or inter-modal building would link

up the five main transport routes into the town and be based, The Oban Times understands, next to the Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) terminal.

A council insider, who did not want to be named, said: 'The CHORD Project Board is already seeking alternatives for the £900,000. One of the ideas,

long-muted in Oban, is a transport hub - where the trains, ferries, buses, private cabs and cars all link in together.'

'This would mean funding a building in one central point perhaps next to the CalMac terminal. People arriving into the town would have an easy journey between modes of transport.

The board is keen to get a landmark project to show how committed it is to the harbour area of the town.

The board may be able to get money from improving fishing on the pier and attracting a grant from the Scottish Government.'

Duncan MacIntyre, chairman of Oban CHORD project board, said: 'We are

working towards assessing alternative options for spending the £900,000.

'This investment will be made, as originally agreed, in the Oban Bay or harbour area, and a report regarding the various options will be presented to the Oban CHORD Project Board within the next few months.'

Group to go it alone, 'free from council constraints'

## Public give pontoons green light

MEMBERS of the public have given the strongest indication yet that they want a marina in the centre of Oban.

### Unanimous approval

At a public meeting of Oban Bay Marine (OBM) on Monday those present voted unanimously in favour of a yacht facility in Oban.

Early signs are that there are a number of funding streams and private sector backing to get the project underway in the shortest possible time. The meeting heard that Crown Estates have already put their cards on the table and are willing to look at extra funding for OBM.

Chairman of the meeting Jamie MacGrigor MSP said there were a number of potential developers who may be willing to partner-up with the project.

OBM will stage another meeting before the end of October with all the town's stakeholders to look at funding streams for the project. And, says OBM's chairman John MacGregor, this will be a project completely free from the constraints of Argyll and Bute Council funding. Mr MacGregor said: 'This is a project for Oban; community and volunteer led.'

However, it is more

difficult to say when the pontoons will be in the water. Early indications are it will be sooner rather than later. OBM already has planning permission.

Mr MacGregor said: 'It is not important when it goes into the water, because if it can it will happen, but it will need to come in at an affordable sum with a sustainable income.'

'We want to minimise the risk with funding. We will have off-the-shelf products, fixed price tendering and the only variable may be the dredging for which we have allocated 100 per cent contingencies.'

Total costs of the project, with a 20 per cent shortfall allowance, was £1.9 million. Estimated annual income was predicted at £162,000 with annual costs of £150,000.

Brian Swinbanks, the chairman of Tobermory Harbour Association, who runs a similar pontoon walk-on facility, was doubtful of the OBM figures saying that they were quite conservative. He said they had 7,314 nights in 2009 while OBM had predicted 5,000 bed nights.

Mr Swinbanks said: 'This project must get going as it will add benefit to the whole of west coast sailing.'

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## Loch Lomond road to have long-awaited £11 million upgrade at Pulpit Rock

AN £11 million plan to upgrade the A82 at Pulpit Rock has been tabled by the Transport Scotland.

The Scottish Government's Transport Minister Stewart Stevenson last week announced draft road orders for the work had been published to finally remove traffic signals and upgrade the section of road to re-introduce free flow of traffic.

A public exhibition of the Pulpit Rock Improvement

Scheme proposals will be held at Ardlui Hotel today (Thursday) from noon until 8pm.

Subject to the successful completion of statutory procedures the scheme could be open to traffic in 2012/13.

Transport Minister Stewart Stevenson said: 'Since 2007 the Scottish Government has completed, or is in the process of delivering, £32 million of improvements on the road. I am delighted that we are now

able to publish the draft orders for the important works at Pulpit Rock, a section of road that has frustrated motorists for over 30 years.'

He added that the work would require the road to be closed for around 14 weeks because of the challenging terrain involved.

Scotland Transerv will be carrying out, on behalf of Transport Scotland, carriageway resurfacing, drainage and road safety improvements on

the A82 from October 10.

The work, costing a total of £105,000, will take place between Tarbet and Crianlarich and will involve overnight closures from 10pm - 6am Monday to Thursday for two weeks.

The A82 is the main road from Glasgow and the Central Belt to the Highlands and the Western Isles.

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Joiners Chris Parr, Alex Boag and Scott McKillop with the items they found from 1958 while completing building work in Taynuilt. 07\_t40house01

## Taynuilt builders unearth the news from 1958

JOINERS refurbishing a house in Taynuilt have stumbled upon a part of the village's recent history inside the chimney.

The workmen of Neil McGougan Builders were demolishing part of a house in Lochandhu when they found a bottle. It contained a newspaper from 1958, the day after Brazil won football's World Cup, and a list of names.

The note is headed 'Helen MacFarlane, June 1958, aged 6 years' and lists the three joiners: Robin Pollock, Calum Ross and Bobby McNicol, who presumably worked on the house.

Foreman Chris Parr said: 'We saw the top of this old bottle and all we could tell was that a letter was in there. We had to smash the bottle in the end and found there was also a sixpence inside it.'

Before the new wall is 'sheeted', Chris said he would put the items in an Irn-Bru bottle, to be placed behind the new wall. The new bottle will also contain a list of the men who worked on the house in 2010 and a page from *The Oban Times*.

Do you know any of the people mentioned in the note from 1958? Write to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, or e-mail [epaterson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:epaterson@obantimes.co.uk).

**Beachd Ailein**  
Ailean Caimbeul

CHAN EIL DUINE a dh' oibrich as an roinn phoblach nach do thuig nach gabh am mòr-shluagh riarachadh fad na h-ùine, no gu dearbh cuid aca aig àm sam bith! Mar sin cha bhi e na annas dha luchd-obrach Chalmac a bhith a' cluinntinn uimhir de chàineadh gun sgur air an cuid sheirbheisean.

Gun teagamh tha e iomchaidh gu leòr gum biodh coimhearsnachdan a tha an urra ri frithealadh aiseig a' sireadh an taice is fhèarr a ghabhas, ach tha e cuideachd cudromach gun tuig iad crìochan na cùmhnan air am bheil an t-seirbheis sin stèidhichte. Tha maoin na fhalmadair air gach seirbheis phoblach; chan eil na h-aiseagan eadar-dhealaichte. Ach air an làmh eile tha Calmac fhèin measail air a bhith a' cleachdadh nam faclan "seirbheis teasairginn" (lifeline service) agus tha sin a' daingneachadh na h-ìre 's gum bheil na coimhearsnachdan sin nan eisimeil.

Cha tuig muinntir na tìre-mòire mar a tha beatha nan eileanach air a riaghladh le seirbheis nam bàtaichean chun an tèid iad a dh' fhuireach air eilean. 'S dòcha mar sin gum bu chòir a chur mar fhìachadh air a' chompanaidh a tha buannachadh cùmhnan nan aiseagan gun stèidhich iad am prìomh oifis air eilean fhad 's a tha iad an urra ris an t-seirbheis. Ach nach ann an sin a bhiodh an ath argamaid! Cò fear de na h-eileanan? Theagamh gur e am fear as iomallaiche, oir mar sin bhiodh sgeul làitheil aig na stiùirichean air mar a bha iad na seirbheis a' toirt buaidh air beatha an t-sluaigh! Deagh bheachd ma tha!

Ach fuirich ort, mus gluais sinn sgioba Ghuraid gu ruige Bàgh a' Chaisteil neo Dalabrog, nach bu chòir cuimhneachadh cò tha a' dealbh cruth na seirbheis seo agus a tha a' riaghladh an spòrain a tha na luib. Tha an riaghaltas agus na seirbheisich chatharra! Mar sin nach dòcha gur iadsan as còir a chur air eilean ach an tuig iad nas fheàrr mar a tha an cuid chò-dhùnaidhean a' dèiligeadh ris na daoine! Ach cò an t-eilean? Tha mi a' smaointinn gum bu chòir farpais a bhith ann agus gach eilean a' cur air adhart na h-argamaid aca fhèin, agus dh' fhaodadh pannal a bhith againn airson co-dhùnadh a dhèanamh. Dhèanadh e fìor dheagh shreath ùr dha BBC Alba, is dòcha Urras a' BhBC air eilean greis cuideachd!

FACING an endless barrage of criticism of services CalMac staff are very aware that you cannot please people all the time. Some say that if the ferry service provider was island based, and more dependent on its own service, things would be better.

But before the entire team decants from Greenock to Castlebay or Daliburgh, consider who controls the contract and its funding. Correct! Government and civil servants make the rules, so maybe it is they who should be relocated to an island site!

Which island? Perhaps some bids and a panel to decide the 'winner'! A new programme series on BBC Alba, with the BBC Trust marooned somewhere as well!

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)  
[ailean@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ailean@obantimes.co.uk)

## Overtime bill not a factor in manning Loch rescue team, police inspector tells Loch Awe inquiry

THE INQUIRY into the death of four men at Loch Awe has heard there was no cost consideration when deciding to recall police officers to respond.

The fatal accident inquiry into the deaths of Craig Curry, William Carty, Steven Carty and Thomas Douglas on Loch Awe on March 21 2009 continued in front of Sheriff Douglas Small at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Police inspector Judy Wilson was first to give evidence to the inquiry, with regards to her temporary posting to Oban as Chief Inspector between February 1 2009 and January 18 2010.

While she was off duty at the time of the incident, she became involved in the operation on the Monday, by which time it had changed from a rescue to a recovery.

Procurator Fiscal Craig Harris reminded the court that they had previously heard evidence from Constable Greg Bryce that despite being the Dalmaal officer, he was not made aware of the accident until approximately five hours



The abandoned fishermen's camp on the shore of Loch Awe that four men never returned to.

after the emergency call was first made.

Giving evidence to the inquiry, Mr Bryce hypothesised that the reason he was not recalled immediately was a memo he believed to be circulating that prohibited overtime unless first authorised by the Chief Inspector.

Now Inspector at Alexandria, Judy Wilson told the court that there was no cost consideration to officers when responding to an active incident, saying the decision to recall officers lay in the hands of the attending sergeant, Sergeant Alistair Davidson, and the duty inspector, Chief Inspector Mosley.

Second line authorisation was required for recall overtime, she said, but only after the event to ensure claim forms were completed accurately.

Furthermore, it would not be normal for an officer to be recalled for a 'priority three' call.

Inspector Wilson said: 'That's based on the information received by the control room, but that priority can change.'

It would have taken 18 months of diving every day to check all of it.'

Further information from Strathclyde University indicated that if the bodies had not surfaced between 10-12 days after the incident, it was possible that the bodies had become trapped or had sunk to a depth at which they would not rise.

The full search was stood down on April 6 and while other searches were carried out later thanks to new information and periodic reviews, these also proved negative. The inquiry later heard from Chief Superintendent James McKechnie, whose remit covers the operational support division, including POLSA and other specialised search officers. He said it would be beneficial in future if agencies involved in a rescue situation all share common communication devices, of which only the Coastguard does not use the same radios, while joint water-based exercises would also be useful.

The inquiry continues on October 28.

**Editorial**

**Editorial Director**  
Stewart MacKenzie  
[editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

**Northern Editor**  
Stephen Norris  
[snorris@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:snorris@obantimes.co.uk)

**Chief Reporter**  
Marian Miller  
[mmiller@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mmiller@obantimes.co.uk)

**Senior Reporter**  
Euan Paterson  
[epaterson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:epaterson@obantimes.co.uk)

**Senior Reporter**  
Louise Lee  
[llee@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:llee@obantimes.co.uk)

**Reporter**  
Christine McCartney  
[cmccartney@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:cmccartney@obantimes.co.uk)

**Reporter**  
Edel Kenealy  
[ekenealy@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ekenealy@obantimes.co.uk)

**Newsdesk**  
01631 568060  
[editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

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## Blackland croft conference held on Uist

THE CHALLENGES of regenerating peatland for productive agricultural use were discussed last weekend in Grimsay, North Uist, at the first conference on restoring blackland crofts.

Soil scientists and vegetation specialists met crofters working the so-called 'blacklands' of Lewis, Harris and Skye to discuss the complexities of bringing the harsh, peaty environment of the Outer Hebridean east coast into condition for growing food, trees and animal fodder.

Up to 50 years ago, large tracts of this land were used for crops and grazing across the Western Isles and much of the west of Scotland thanks to drainage and conditioning work using seaweed or other organic matter and sand, carried out over centuries. Archaeologists have found evidence of drainage and bed systems put in place in Lewis during the Bronze Age 5,000 years ago.

The drive towards industrial agricultural in the 1950s saw most of the peat land fall into disuse. It now lies rank and used only for limited livestock grazing.

At the conference, presentations were given by Iain Cairns, a former Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) advisor now living in Lewis, Dr Ken Davies, a weed and vegetation specialist newly retired from SAC, Dr Tony Edwards, soil scientist, geologist and ecologist of SAC and the Macaulay Institute, and Dr Bob Rees, a soil scientist from Edinburgh University.

Themes discussed ranged from



John MacInnes, 74, the last person to have ploughed the blacklands of Grimsay, North Uist.

the environmental implications of releasing potent greenhouse gasses stored in blacklands, ways of getting rid of rushes and sphagnum moss, the correct balance of sand to peat and maintaining healthy PH levels in the soil, and how to keep re-seeds in good condition. The conference was held at Scotvein, the 33-acre blackland croft of Mary Norton.

Ms Norton leads the Blackland Project which brings together community groups and grazing committees to investigate the potential and sustainability of the peatlands.

She said: 'Crofters have been seriously under resourced and that is why the land has gone as bad as it has.'

'Trying to bring back this land could be viewed by some as anachronistic but scientists are telling us that all the abuse of the land and the overuse of chemical fertilisers has gone beyond the point that it is going to work. So if you believe them, it's not anachronistic, it's cutting edge.'

Crofters attending the conference expressed doubts about the economics of blackland regeneration unless sheep prices were good and without a subsidy specifically for re-seeding.

John MacDonald, of Gearadu, Grimsay, has had a blackland croft for 20 years. He said: 'Although the plant and labour is here for re-seeding, it's far too expensive an exercise for most.'

John MacInnes, 74, who is the last person to have ploughed the blacklands of Grimsay in 1962, said: 'We grew oats for our two milking cows and my father was also a fisherman so that is how we survived.'

'Is there any point to bringing the land back? It's hard to say.'

## Goldmine in talks with national park authority

SCOTGOLD is in talks with the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority to progress its planning application to increase the size of the Cononish gold mine.

The park authority had previously blocked plans to extend the site near Tyndrum putting at risk £5 million worth of investment and 30 potential

jobs in the area. In a company briefing it was revealed that the business managers and company director from Scotgold met with Bruce Crawford MSP to find a way forward.

The group did consider taking legal action but because of the high cost of legal fees, at £1,000 per hour for a QC, they have been trying to find another way to move forward. Shane Sadleir, a non-executive director of Scotgold Resources, said he was pleased to report that a preliminary informal meeting between the two organisations had proven very positive. He said he was encouraged by the willingness of the park to work with Scotgold in progressing towards planning approval.

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## Two die on Argyll roads following spate of accidents

TWO MEN have died and several people have been seriously injured in numerous road related incidents in Argyll over the past 10 days.

The county's top road policing officer, Inspector Hugh O'Neill, said on Tuesday that the past 10 days had been one of the busiest he had seen in his 21 years' service.

Motorcyclist Roberto Alongi was killed last Saturday when his BMW bike collided with a blue Seat car travelling southbound near Port Ann, Lochgilhead.

The 44-year-old, who was originally from Sicily but lived in Edinburgh, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Earlier that day, in Dunoon, a 63-year old cycling near Cothouse was found dead by the road.

Police are appealing for witnesses.

The following day another motorcyclist was taken to the Southern General Hospital by helicopter with serious injuries after his bike left the road at around 12.50pm on Sunday and crashed into a barrier, two miles north of Ardlui on the A82.

His pillion passenger was taken to the Vale of Leven Hospital to be treated for shock. And in another A83 incident, last Wednesday, a man and a woman had to be airlifted to the Southern General after their car was involved in a collision with a lorry near Butterbridge at 11.20am.

Inspector O'Neill said: 'Last weekend we had a good forecast during a holiday weekend and a lot of motorcyclists would have seen it as a last chance to get out before the bike goes into storage for winter.'

'We have been at full capacity since the flash flooding in Kintyre on Monday, September 20, and we have had to bring in extra resources.'

Over the same period Argyll road policing officers also put in 30 hours of wide-load transport assistance, detected 20 speeding drivers, five drivers not wearing a seatbelt and handed out three careless driving charges and five vehicle defect forms.

These accidents add to figures which reveal that five drivers or passengers are killed or injured on country roads in Strathclyde every day, according to the West of Scotland Road Safety Forum which, working in partnership with Road Safety Scotland, launched a new campaign this week to help tackle it.

Research found that many drivers using country roads regarded them to be 'low risk' because there is often less traffic on them and yet, statistically speaking, there is a significantly higher chance of death and injury on this type of road.

See more on Page 11



Postal worker Kenneth Leitch with letter bound for New Zealand and ended up in Oban, Argyll. 16.140letter1

## Letter travels 12,000 miles to the wrong Oban

A LETTER that went on a 12,000-mile detour has finally been delivered to its rightful owner.

The official documentation for fire fighter Eamon Ganley was delivered to the Fire Station, Argyll Street, Oban.

Not at all strange, you may think, except Mr Ganley is a volunteer fire fighter in New Zealand.

### Mistake

Oban postman Kenneth Leitch noticed the mistake as he delivered the letter to the community fire station.

The postman of 22 years said: 'I have never seen

anything like it in my whole time as a postal worker. Sometimes they are mis-posted and we send them back from base - but this letter really did make it through.'

'I can see from the postal marks that it has been to Hong Kong before coming to Scotland.'

'I endorsed the letter and sent it back to New Zealand so Mr Ganley can read his letter from the New Zealand Fire Service.'

Scott Sargentina of the New Zealand Fire Service told The Oban Times: 'New Zealand Post certainly

works in mysterious ways.'

'Oban (NZ) is a very small town on Stewart Island about two and a half hours by ferry from Invercargill which is the southern most city in New Zealand.'

'Eamon Ganley is a new recruit to the Oban Volunteer Fire Brigade and I can only assume that the letter you refer to was from National Headquarters with some induction material for him.'

'However, I have no idea why a letter correctly addressed to Eamon in the South of New Zealand has ended up in the West of Scotland - via the Far East.'

# Oban voices anger at lack of consultation

IF THERE was any doubt about the community response to decisions taken by the Oban CHORD Project Board in recent months, it was eradicated at a public meeting held in the town last Friday.

While the meeting at the Corran Halls was arranged by the board to explain the reasons behind their verdict not to support Oban Bay Marine's (OBM) pontoon proposals, many locals used the event as a platform to have their voices heard and a chorus of booing early on set the tone for the rest of the evening.

It came when a member of the audience asked the board what the likely destination was for the money earmarked for the OBM proposal. Not once, but twice board chair Duncan MacIntyre accused the room of having not listened to their opening presentation, on both occasions drawing dissent from the crowd.

It was not the only contentious point of the meeting.

The most common complaint from the floor was the lack of good stakeholder consultation by the CHORD board when considering whether to grant £900,000 of funding to OBM's plans.

Among those bodies to say they weren't formally consulted by the board's contractors, AECOM, were the community council, Oban and Lorn Tourism Association (OLTA), the sailing club and the moorings club - the latter of which has no fewer than 120 members.

The audience asked what projects will now benefit from the cash and if, on this occasion, all stakeholders would be consulted.

### EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by

STEVEN FLANAGAN  
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

*"Even if we got £1m for free, it still wouldn't be viable."*

chairman, Oban CHORD project

The board advised that they are now considering two proposals; a possible development at the south pier - although what exactly wasn't stated - and a new intermodal transport centre.

Linda Battison from the Oban and Lorn Tourism Association, drew the applause of the audience when she summed up much of the feeling in the room, saying: 'I'm extremely disappointed that the project board reached this decision [on OBM's proposals]. AECOM never contacted myself or my organisation and I consider that the OLTA would be one of the major stakeholders.'

'Will any other project for development in the bay require to go through the same rigorous consultation?'

Councillor Roddy McCuish said that the council was caught in a catch-22 situation, in that if it didn't consult before committing to a project, it would be accused of wasting public money.

He said: 'When this project was first brought together it was a completely different world. There was money then. Now we don't have the money. Maybe some of

my colleagues will disagree with me, but I think we're struggling to keep the lights on. I think we're struggling to do the day-to-day stuff.'

He also commented that the proposal to build a marina would not benefit anyone in his constituency outside Oban, but that was dismissed by two members of the audience as 'rubbish'.

On numerous occasions, audience members asked if the marina would receive the backing of the board if private finance could be found. Asked to answer individually, every member of the project board said yes.

But one of the final answers of the night seemed to throw that position into doubt, when Duncan MacIntyre told Alan Reid MP that: 'Even if we got £1million for free, it still wouldn't be viable.'

Bruce West, head of finance at Argyll and Bute Council, said the stumbling block was that it would take between nine to 10 years to break even, during which time the marina would build up a loss of between £200-300k.

As such, at least £1.1million would have to be found, 'free' of interest payments.

Even then, locals felt that the benefit to the community and the local economy in that period would be marked and therefore worth it.

Local solicitor and sailor George Seaton said: 'The question of developing Oban Bay has been on the cards for 40 years. What is the council doing? Why do we elect a council?'

'Why are you relying on the private sector when we have this golden opportunity?'

## Wind turbine lorry crash closes road for nine hours

A LORRY carrying a 13-tonne wind turbine to Machrihanish in Kintyre slipped into a ditch on the A83 Lochgilhead to Inveraray road last Friday, closing the road to traffic in both directions for more than nine hours.

The lorry, one of three wide-load vehicles travelling from England, was on the final leg of its police escorted journey to the runway at Machrihanish when it left the road at 9.30am.

A special crane, based in Campbeltown Harbour, was brought to the site, half a mile from Kames Cottages, to retrieve the heavy load.

During the day-long road closure traffic travelling in both directions faced lengthy diversions via the A816 Oban to Lochgilhead road.

The disruption also caused further chaos on the minor Lochaweside - Ford road, as locals descended onto the single track route in a bid to avoid queues elsewhere.

## Dial three for ill high school pupils

PARENTS with children at Oban High School are being asked to dial 3 to report an absence from school.

A new telephone system at Oban High School allows parents to report pupil sickness without speaking to a member of staff.

Head teacher Peter Bain said: 'Previously, parents would all be calling the school at the same time and many could not get through or would have to phone later from work, which was not always easy.'

'This system is more secure than when someone calls a secretary directly, because their voice is recorded and can be examined repeatedly.'

'The decision to implement the automated system was taken almost a year ago to provide a more modern, secure approach which gave parents more flexibility.'

**NEWSDESK**  
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## Argyll two to dance at Commonwealth Games

TWO ARGYLL people are set to perform in the closing ceremony of the Commonwealth Games next month - to a televised audience of one billion people.

Bill Halliday from Slockavullin, near Lochgilhead, and Cherry Lyne from Garelochhead will take part in a mass choreographed dance routine as part of the flag handover ceremony in Delhi on October 14.

The flag handover ceremony, which will take place in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, will be the first public statement that Glasgow will be the next host city.

Last week the pair travelled to Glasgow to join 343 people from across Scotland taking part in the routine for intense training.

The three-week bootcamp aims to turn individuals of all ages and from all walks of life into polished performers.

Bill Halliday said: 'I'm not particularly coordinated and get left and right wrong more often than not, so this is definitely going to be challenging.'

'My kids call it 'dad dancing goes global'. Glasgow 2014 chief executive John Scott said: 'We deliberately developed a recruitment model that would ensure that people from all over Scotland would represent Scotland as part of the eight-minute performance.'

## Caledonian MacBrayne calls for no single route tenders

CALEDONIAN MacBrayne (CalMac) has told the Scottish Government's Ferry Review that it sees no justification for opening the network up to single route tenders.

Writing to the Ferries Review Commission, Caledonian MacBrayne and parent company David MacBrayne's chairman Peter Timms highlights a number of issues.

He claims breaking up the network is of 'no benefit to remote and fragile communities they serve'.

He also states: 'Ferry infrastructure has been slipping behind for decades, reducing the quality of services, creating a situation where catch-up will have to be undertaken in emergency conditions, needing much more investment than if a continuous replacement policy had been adopted.'

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**Make the most of online trading and marketing**  
Learn how to exploit online trading and marketing opportunities for your business. This workshop will help your business develop an online presence and increase online sales. It is aimed at businesses that already have a little experience and are now looking to increase the amount of trading they do online, or for those of you new to online trading who are keen to exploit the opportunity. The workshop covers everything from online shops, payments and legal aspects to effectively marketing and advertising your business online.

Tuesday 2 November - Hunters Quay Hotel, Dunoon - 10am - 3.30pm  
Thursday 4 November - Queens Hotel, Oban - 10am - 3.30pm  
Tuesday 30 November - The Argyll Hotel, Inveraray - 10am - 3.30pm

**Build your own business website**  
Learn from scratch how to build and manage an attractive and effective website for your business. The workshop will show you how simple it is to develop your own business website and keep it up to date yourself. It is ideal for businesses that don't have their own website yet, or for those who do but want to take control of managing it themselves. No prior knowledge or skills other than basic web browsing and text editing skills are required.

Wednesday 3 November - Hunters Quay Hotel, Dunoon - 10am - 3.30pm  
Friday 5 November - Queens Hotel, Oban - 10am - 3.30pm  
Wednesday 1 December - The Argyll Hotel, Inveraray - 10am - 3.30pm

**The "Practical Basic Book-keeping" workshop**  
Book-keeping is a core business skill, and even if someone else does it for you, you still need to understand and value the process. If you want to know the starting point for good record-keeping, this is the course for you. Those new to business and with little or no formal training in bookkeeping will particularly benefit.

Thursday 14 October - Queens Hall, Dunoon - 10am - 3pm  
Thursday 21 October - Corran Halls, Oban - 10am - 3pm  
Tuesday 26 October - Aqualitrium, Campbeltown - 10am - 3pm  
Tuesday 2 November - Argyll Hotel, Inveraray - 10am - 3pm

**Self Assessment for the self employed**  
A course, run by HM Revenue & Customs, that will give you guidance on how to complete a Self Assessment return. The course will cover the expenses and allowances you can claim, the deadline you need to meet, how to pay your tax and guidance on online submission of returns.

Wednesday 24 November - Aqualitrium, Campbeltown - 12.30 - 4pm  
Thursday 25 November - Corran Halls, Oban - 10am - 1pm  
Wednesday 8 December - Argyll Hotel, Inveraray - 12.30 - 4pm  
Thursday 9 December - Queens Hall, Dunoon - 10am - 1pm

**Thinking of starting your own business?**  
Starting your own business can be exciting, however there is a lot to think about. This session will help you to meet and network with like-minded individuals and highlight lots of really useful sources of advice and guidance to assist your start up journey.

Monday 4 October - Corran Halls, Oban - 3pm - 5pm  
Thursday 7 October - Community Centre, Lochgilhead - 3pm - 5pm  
Thursday 14 October - Queens Hall, Dunoon - 3pm - 5pm  
Monday 25 October - Aqualitrium, Campbeltown - 3pm - 5pm

**Planning to start your own business?**  
Learn how to develop your ideas into a practical and effective plan to launch your business. Key elements covered will include: Getting the marketing right for your business; Developing a realistic, working business plan; Deciding what finance you need and learn how to use financial information; Introducing information technology to your business.

Tuesday 19 & Wednesday 20 October - Community Centre, Lochgilhead - 9.30am-4.30pm  
Wednesday 27 & Thursday 28 October - Menzies House, ACHA, Oban - 9.30am-4.30pm  
Tuesday 16 & Wednesday 17 November - Aqualitrium, Campbeltown - 9.30am-4.30pm  
Tuesday 23 & Wednesday 24 November - Queens Hall, Dunoon - 9.30am-4.30pm

Places are strictly limited to 12 so we advise you to book early.

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

OT

**Lorn Lines**

THE WORLD-champion pipe band from Oban High School will be recording a CD in front of a live audience in the town's Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

The recording will take place at the Netherlorn Piping Society's first programme of monthly recitals on Wednesday October 6.

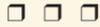
Pipe Major Angus MacColl said this type of recording is better when an audience is present.

Netherlorn Piping Society president Alistair Dewar said: 'The recording will start at 7.30pm prompt so it is hoped that the audience will be seated by this time. However, people can be admitted during breaks in the recording.'

'No charge is being made for admission, however, people can donate towards the funding of Oban High School Pipe Band.'

Seating allocation will be on a first come, first served basis.

Oban and Lorn Youth Pipe Band Association, which funds the high school band, will host its annual ceilidh in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on November 6.



OBAN Speakers Club will open its winter session at the Regent Hotel next month, with Archie MacPhail due to be installed as the new president.

The meeting will be held on Thursday October 7.

The club is also looking for new members. Anyone interested in joining should contact secretary Jim Fraser on 01631 562162 or 07748 796716.



LORN Garden Club members made a bee-line for St John's Episcopal Cathedral Hall in Oban last week to hear a talk on the honey-producing insects.

Local gardener and bee keeper Phil Moss was the first speaker at the club's new winter season of talks and told members everything there is to know about the creature, from its history, how to care for bees to the problems currently facing them.

Home baking rounded off the evening.

The next talk will be on October 19 when Jamie Taggart will speak on Linn Botanic Gardens at St John's.

The evening starts at 7.30pm, non members welcome. For more information, call 01852 300563



At the annual general meeting of West Highland Housing Association cheques were presented by Kenneth MacColl, chairman of the management committee, to representatives of organisations who had applied to the association for financial assistance.



THE VILLAGES of Tainuill and Lochawe must find Rainbows, Brownies and Guide leaders, or those groups will fold.

Anyone who can help should contact Sheena Dodman on 01631 710 235.

# Hospital patients' opinion poll extended

FORMER patients from Argyll and Bute are being asked for their opinions on hospital stays.

The Independent Advice and Support Service (IASS) and Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership launched a joint project to look at the experiences of patients discharged from hospital in the last 12 months. The deadline for feedback was originally August but this has been extended to the end of the year to give more people an opportunity to get in touch.

A spokesman for NHS Highland said: 'The project wants to hear from any patients living in the Argyll and Bute area who were discharged from any hospital in the last 12 months and are willing to share their experience. Based on the feedback received, the partnership aims to look at the results with a view to improving people's experience when they are discharged from hospitals.'

Caroline Champion, of Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership, said: 'For a while now, we have heard anecdotal stories about what has happened to patients when they have been discharged from hospital. Some of these are good, but others less so. This project will enable us to start documenting these stories and really get our patients involved in helping us to improve how they experience health services.'

'By extending the project until the end of the year, we hope this demonstrates our commitment to patients.'

Josie Walker, IASS worker based at the Citizens Advice Bureau office in Lochgilphead, said: 'We would like to hear from anyone living in Argyll and Bute who has experience of being discharged from any hospital during the last 12 months.'

'You can write to us or if you wish we may be able to arrange to meet you in person. What you share with us will be treated with the strictest confidence.'

'Please feel free to give me a call on 01546 605556, email me at j.walker@abcab.org.uk or write to me at Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau, Riverside, Oban Road, Lochgilphead.'



The ice-cream van caught on fire in Miller Road, Oban. 07\_t40coco01

# Ice cream van owner has lucky escape as vehicle bursts into flames

THE OWNER of an ice-cream van who was inside it when it caught fire has praised a passer-by who tried in vain to save the vehicle.

Iain Croarkin, who ran the Mr Coco ice-cream van, was parked on Miller Road opposite the rear entrance to Oban High School when smoke started coming out of the bonnet.

Mechanic Gerry Kilmurray, who was driving past, saw the smoke and came to Mr Croarkin's aid.

He ran to the nearby ambulance station and returned with a fire extinguisher.

Having tackled the fire as best he could, Mr Kilmurray recognised one extinguisher was not enough to prevent the flames spreading and told Mr Croarkin and the school children who had gathered round to stay clear while the fire took hold.

Mr Kilmurray almost lost his life in 2003 when his rally car caught fire, while travelling at 100mph. He managed to stop the car and leap to safety seconds before the fuel vapour was set alight.

'I was three seconds from losing my life in that accident,' said Mr Kilmurray.

'So I know how quickly these fires take hold. I know when you have to stand back from something like that because you just can't save it.'

A devastated Mr Croarkin said: 'I went to try and put the fire out and thought I could use the water in the freezer but Gerry told me to stay away from the van.'

'A few seconds later the engine exploded. Gerry was brilliant and if he wasn't there to stop me I would have been trying to put out the flames when the thing went up.'

'The fire brigade were here very quickly too; it felt like seconds.'

Mr Kilmurray, who thinks the fire was started by an electrical fault, added: 'If there had been more extinguishers available I might have been able to put the fire out before it took hold but the most important thing is that Iain and the children were not hurt.'

## Man with no licence drove wrong way down one-way street

A MAN who drove the wrong way down a one-way street in Oban has been fined £640.

Joshua Thomas Griffiths, aged 20, of Toberonochy, Isle of Luing, admitted that on January 3 2010, he drove at excessive speed and in the wrong direction down Stevenson Street.

He also admitted driving without insurance.

In addition to being fined, Griffiths, who does not have a driving licence, was banned from driving for one year, and will have a licence endorsed.

## Two women appear in court over alleged racist remarks

TWO OBAN teenagers denied making racist remarks when they appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Layla Williams, aged 18, of 13d Corran Brae, and Alison McPhee, aged 18, 5 Cowan Place, also denied vandalising a car on June 22 at Lorn Terrace.

McPhee also pled not guilty to two charges of assault.

The court heard that both accused were involved in a disturbance at a block of flats at approximately 11.40pm on June 21 when a resident was asking them to leave, but they were refusing.

One victim of the assault tried to persuade both accused to leave.

He told the court: 'They started being abusive. That's when we got attacked.'

He claimed McPhee had lunged at his throat then attacked his girlfriend.

**Claimed**

He also claimed Williams later said: 'Go back home you English b\*\*\*\*d, you don't belong here.'

The victim also claimed he witnessed McPhee vandalise a neighbour's car.

Under cross examination, defence agent for Williams, Duncan Durbin, suggested that the victim had antagonised the situation and had identified one of the accused as having made the racist remarks in his statement to police at the time, and the other accused in court.

**Confused**

Mr Durbin added: 'If you're confused about that, it is possible you are mistaken about other things.'

The trial was adjourned until November 30.

## New Isle of Mull centre ahead of schedule

A COMMUNITY resource currently under construction at Craignure on the Isle of Mull may be finished ahead of schedule.

James Hilder, Mull and Iona Community Trust's (MICT) chief executive said: 'The building is going well and is currently slightly ahead of schedule with hand over due at the end of February and opening in March or April.'

**Low running costs**

'The building is predominantly grant funded and will have low running costs due to its design with its own water supply, ground source heating and a heat recovery system.'

'The front ground floor section will be rented by our charity shop.'

## Holiday woman fined at Oban

AN EAST Kilbride woman who committed an assault whilst on holiday in Oban has been fined £350.

Kelly Anne Clabby, aged 27, of 46 Old Vic Court, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

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Toddlers and babies at Oban's Rhyme Time sessions were given free bags of books as Bookbug was launched in the town. 16\_t38bookbug1

## Bookbug launched with rhyme and song

OBAN youngsters have been out and about early on Thursday mornings to join in with Bookbug and Rhyme Time library sessions.

**Singing session**

Babies and toddlers came along to the session to join in with the singing and rhythm games prepared by council workers.

The Bookbug programme encourages all parents and carers to enjoy books with children from as early an age as possible, developing a lifelong love of books for children all over Scotland.

The programme gifts free books to all Scottish children at around eight weeks, 18 months, three years old and in primary one, along with guidance materials for parents and carers.

## Police maintain pressure on Oban drug dealers

OBAN'S Shop-a-dealer Campaign is making real headway in reducing drugs on the street.

As a number of high-profile cases may soon be making their way through the court system the town's Chief Inspector Glen Bland says there is no room for complacency.

He said: 'We are beginning to flush people out. And there is nowhere to hide for drug dealers.'

'This is an ongoing revolving process - one raid leads to another and then another.'

'We have an incredibly committed team here in Oban.'

'All staff from CID to officers on the street are committed to stamping out drug dealing.'

'Any information is helpful whether it is on where people are growing cannabis or if they see something suspicious.'

'We are currently looking at a number of individuals, families and groups in the town that may very soon be receiving a visit from my officers.'

And the strategy from Oban, Lorn and the isles policing seems to be working as one former drug user, who did not want to be named, told *The Oban Times*: 'For the first time in many years people are seriously looking over their shoulders.'

'It is not as easy to get drugs to the town or to sell on drugs in the town.'

'It is a smaller and smaller group of people that are trusted all the time.'

'I think the police are trying very hard not only to get the stuff off the streets but to help those of us who are trying not to use stay off it.'

## Police identify driver after damage to rail bridge halts train and traffic

POLICE in Oban say they have identified a driver in relation to the damage caused at the railway bridge near Glenshellach Road in the town.

The single-track bridge, which takes traffic over the railway, was closed from Monday until Friday last week for emergency remedial repairs after a large vehicle struck the side of the bridge, causing a section of the stone wall to crack and crumble.

**Train delayed**

The lunchtime train, which was just leaving Oban when the incident occurred, was delayed for a period of time last Monday after police deemed the bridge unsafe.

The police also closed roads leading to the bridge to traffic and prevented the train from passing underneath as a precautionary measure until Network Rail engineers arrived.

Sergeant Gerry Welsh of Oban Police confirmed on Monday of this week that remedial work had been completed and that police had been successful in identifying a driver in relation to the incident.

**Report**

Sergeant Welsh also confirmed that report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Last week PC Jeremy Moore, who attended the incident, praised the rail engineers for their quick response to the incident.

He said: 'Network Rail had staff in Oban at the time and was on site within minutes.'

**Quickly**

'They assessed the bridge very quickly and put safety measures in place so the train was held up for the minimum amount of time.'

## Oban street lights leave tourists and town centre businesses in the dark

TOWN centre businesses are in the dark about a council decision to remove Victorian Street lighting. Not only does their absence leave one side of the main street unlit but to tourists, they claim, it looks like 'nobody's home.'

Argyll and Bute Council workers removed the lights after councillors described the colourful festoon

lighting as a 'safety risk'.

But after three months without the Esplanade-side lighting, calls are being made for an interim arrangement to relight the street.

Scotland TranServ says it never owned the lights and the council claims the lights were faulty, so it seems until a complete refurbishment, planned for Autumn 2011,

is completed, the bay side of George Street will remain in darkness.

Callum MacLeod, owner of Oban restaurant Piazza, said: 'It's a disgrace, we invite tourists to Oban and then we turn the lights out. The council is shameless in removing the lights. It is very dark on the Esplanade and I am sure British lighting standards are being

completely flouted. The town looks dreadful at night. Something needs to be put in place as soon as possible to relight the street.'

A spokesman for Scotland Transerv said: 'We are aware that street lights on the trunk road through Oban do not meet current standards. Standards change over time and this is the case in Oban. There

are major improvement plans proposed for the road starting in Autumn 2011. 'The ornamental Victorian street lamps are not our responsibility. There are no plans to provide extra lighting in the area prior to the scheme going ahead.'

However, an Argyll and Bute Council spokeswoman said: 'The lighting system which was decommissioned

on the sea wall was of a decorative nature, it was also not compliant with the current electrical and lighting regulations. Additionally, it had been largely non-functional for some time.

'Only two of the 10 lighting units were actually working by the time discussions took place with councillors on the options for improvement. 'The streetlights in George

Street are the responsibility of Transport Scotland and their managing agents for Trunk Roads.

'Notwithstanding the fact that the A85 carriageway works have now been postponed, street lighting improvements could continue here in advance, similar to works carried out on Esplanade earlier this year by Scotland TranServ.'

## Gaelic proves big hit in Germany

THE NUMBER of people learning Gaelic at colleges is on the up - thanks to German students.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in Skye, and Ceòlas, a Gaelic music summer school in South Uist, are both experiencing a surge of German students signing up for courses.

Germans now account for the biggest overseas uptake of courses at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

German Michael Klevenhaus is a tutor at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and the author of the first ever 'teach yourself Gaelic' book in the German medium.

He said: 'People love the sound of the language.'

'Many Germans are introduced to Gaelic through music - I call it the Runrig effect.'

## Man found dead by Portsonachan roadside

POLICE are investigating the sudden death of a 53-year-old man on the roadside near to Portsonachan.

A report has been made to the procurator fiscal and enquires are ongoing.

## Mull studies hydro power plans

MULL and Iona Community Trust is currently considering tenders from contractors with the North West Mull Community Woodland Company (NWMWC) who wish to undertake a study of several rivers on Mull to verify their suitability for hydro electric power.

These would be conducted over the winter, hopefully identifying one site for NWMWC and one site for the Trust, to build small-scale hydro schemes to earn income for community programmes.

## Oban man not guilty of assault

A TWENTY eight-year-old man was found not guilty of assault when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Sheriff Douglas Small delivered the verdict to Thomas McKay after the complainant told the court he could not remember the incident.

MacKay, care of 10 Columba Court, Oban, had been charged with seizing a man by the throat at Westbay Flats on June 26 this year.

## Police investigate as island pub sign goes missing

THE THEFT of a pub sign is being investigated by police.

The sign was taken from the ferry shed at Ellenabeich between September 20 and 24.

Anyone with information about the whereabouts of the sign should contact Oban Police Office on 510551 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## Former police chief hits out at Argyll-wide drug plan

A FORMER police chief has questioned plans for a methadone programme to be rolled out across Argyll.

Responding to the news that a Strathclyde Police boss is backing plans for more places for methadone to be delivered in the area, the former chief inspector believes, from his experience, the plans will categorically not work - and certainly not reduce the addiction to the drug.

Former chief inspector at Oban, Fred Hall, said only four towns in Argyll and Bute currently had a methadone programme, namely: Dunoon, Helensburgh, Oban and Rothesay.

someone who is a drug addict dependent on the methadone programme, who requires to be re-housed, where in Argyll and Bute can they place them?

'We are replacing an illegal opiate with a state delivered one. Based on my knowledge from a previous role in law enforcement I have no hesitation in saying that the abuse of illegal drugs is an issue in Argyll and Bute.

'The high profile campaign by Chief Inspector Bland in publicly highlighting the issue and commendably tackling it head-on with numerous arrests and seizures of illegal drugs is surely proof enough.

'The real scandal, in my opinion, of the methadone programme is that it has become the opiate of the state. In my view the methadone programme is a rotten policy that plays into the hands of addicts divesting them of personal responsibility, whilst ensuring regular hits at the expense of the state.

'The most successful rehabilitation programmes have one common denominator - a cessation of drug taking on the part of the addict.'

Professor Neil McKeganey, director of the Centre for Drug Misuse Research added: 'Methadone is substituting one addiction for another and isn't leading the addicts along the road to recovery. It's leading them down an avenue of continuing drug dependence.'

One mother of an addict who did not want to be named said: 'My son has been on methadone for about 10 years. He still uses heroin from time-to-time, he still shoplifts to pay for drugs and he still has an addiction. I wish he had the will power to go cold turkey.'

A Freedom of Information request to NHS Highland revealed that 36 people in Oban are on methadone maintenance programmes.

*"The methadone programme led to a migration of drug addicts from towns that did not have a methadone programme to towns that did."*

former Oban police chief inspector

He continued: 'NHS Scotland statistics showed that there were 493,770 prescriptions for methadone in 2008/09 at a cost to the taxpayer of £16.1m.

'What does the methadone programme bring? In my time as Chief Inspector in Oban, Lorn and the Isles I came to the view that the methadone programme arguably led to a migration of drug addicts, from towns that did not have a methadone programme, to towns that did.

'This statement should be critically evaluated and not taken as a statement of fact but consider this - if NHS or Social Work and probation officers are dealing with



SAMS graduates, from left: Carl Ballantine, Karl Attard and Jordan Grigor. 07\_t40sams02

## Arctic Studies degree first for SAMS

STUDENTS at the Dunstaffnage-based Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) have become the first in the UK to complete a Marine Science degree with Arctic Studies.

The degree, obtained

through the University of the Highlands and Islands, allowed two of the students, Carl Ballantine from Newcastle and Edinburgh's Jordan Grigor, to spend time working at Svalbard in the Arctic Circle.

The other Marine Science

graduate this year, Karl Attard from Malta, will begin a PhD in Greenland this spring, during which time he will also study in the Arctic.

Carl said: 'It was amazing studying in the Arctic.'

'I never thought I would

go anywhere like that until I started this degree.

'I think about the place all the time and I just can't wait to go back.'

Jordan said: 'Other marine science undergraduates don't get the exposure to research that we do at

SAMS. There was only three of us so we could go into anyone's office and talk things over.'

Carl now plans to complete a Masters in Biology and Jordan will study climate change at Heriot Watt University.

## ACHA work contract to be finalised this week

THE TRANSFER of Argyll Community Housing Association's (ACHA) household maintenance work from failed contractor Connaught to another company should be concluded this week.

Since Connaught went into administration on September 8, the contract for refurbishing ACHA's homes has been taken over by Lovell Partnerships.

ACHA has agreed to the transfer of these contracts on the condition that the existing workforce in Argyll is also transferred and the existing contract conditions are honoured.

The announcement came at ACHA's annual meeting in Inveraray last Thursday, where members received a report from chairman Norman Beaton, who was re-elected to the post.

Mr Beaton confirmed that during the refurbishment

programme £15 million had been spent in the construction sector. The chairman also reported funding of £11million had been obtained during the year for the organisation's early action funding programme, which focuses on improving roads in ACHA estates, modernising playparks, improving water supplies and demolishing redundant garages.

Members received a report on a number of initiatives introduced this year, including the association's welfare rights service. In its short period of existence it has brought more than £400,000 into tenants' pockets - money that may have previously gone unclaimed. The association is continuing to obtain anti-social behaviour orders against a number of people who caused difficulty for their neighbours.



Mid Argyll parents, children, councillors and politicians jump for joy as Kevin Roxburgh of Scottish Gas, hands over a cheque. 08\_a49pool01

## Mid Argyll community swimming pool thrown £60,000 lifeline

CHILDREN, parents, swimming instructors and campaigners gathered at the Mid Argyll swimming pool to accept a cheque which secures the centre's future.

Scottish Gas and British Gas announced last week that they would donate £20,000 a year to the pool for the next three years.

Presenting the cheque Kevin Roxburgh, managing director of Scottish Gas,

said it was essential that children, living on the coast surrounded by lochs and water learn to swim.

He said: 'This funding recognises that people of all ages should have the opportunity to learn to swim and to live a healthier lifestyle.'

Stephen Whiston, chair of the pool's board said: 'This award secures the future of the Mid Argyll community

pool and we can now look to implementing our three-year business plan to improve the facilities in the pool.'

David Payne, parent and Save our Pool campaigner, said: 'This is a huge celebration and thank you to everyone who pulled together for the pool.'

Opened in 1996, the pool provides a much valued facility for 40,000 users per year.

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will hold a **PUBLIC EXHIBITION** of proposals for the **The A82 Pulpit Rock Improvement** at Ardlui Hotel, Ardlui, Loch Lomond G83 7EB on Thursday 30 September 2010 between the hours of 12:00pm and 8:00pm

Representatives from Transport Scotland and their design consultants, Scott Wilson, will be available to discuss the proposals.

The Oban Times **HOTLINE**

If you have a story to share, call us on **OBAN 01631 568000** **FORT WILLIAM 01397 703003**

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**KYLE OF LOCHALSH**

Your correspondent is **Charlie MacRae: 01599 544359**

**Author gives talk**

AUTHOR Iain Johnston joined Plockton Historical Society for its meeting on September 16.

The local man gave a talk entitled *The Treaty of the Union* to the 35-strong audience.

**Sports grants issued**

SKYE and Lochalsh Sports Council has handed out grants worth more than £1,200.

Kinlochshiel Junior Shinty Club, Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club and Broadford Youth Club all got a share of the cash.

The grants were handed out at the council meeting held in Portree High School on September 20.

The council was joined by Skye School's Co-ordinator Sarah Nicolson, who updated members on her work, and David Ashford who reported on Coaching Highland's AGM.



**Young Chef winners Katie Worsdall and Emma MacMillan with their home economics teacher Ms Kirty Collins. 10\_f40chef01**

**ISLAY**

Your correspondent is **Susan Campbell: 01496 850215**

**Coisir Ghaidhlig Ile success at Mod Dhailriada**

ISLAY'S choirs and many individuals were successful in competitions at Lochgilphead local Mod on September 18.

The senior choir, sporting new shirts from sponsors Diageo/Caol Ila, won the Mixed Voice Own Songs and Islay Male Voice choir won its competition. The Islay Ladies were placed second. Several of the choir's members won or were placed in their solo competitions.

Coisir Og Ghaidhlig Ile enjoyed competing and were placed second in their Unison song under-19 competition. Bowmore Primary School won the Junior Unison song and many of their members

were successful in individual and duet competitions. Keills Primary School also competed.

The whole Islay contingent had an excellent day out and especially enjoyed putting on an impromptu concert on the ferry on the way home. Now all the choirs and soloists are putting in the final preparations for their Royal National Mod competitions in October.

**Islay bands in concert**

A JOINT concert will be presented by Islay High School Band and Islay Primary Schools Band on October 7 at 7.30pm in Islay High School.

**Kayaking across Scotland**

JAMES How and daughter Eleanor, aged 11, last week paddled across Scotland in an inflatable kayak.

James, who works at Islay's RSPB reserves, and young Eleanor undertook the challenge to raise funds for Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust and

Marie Curie Cancer Care. They started their trip in Loch Linnhe and travelling through the Caledonian Canal and linking freshwater lochs, they paddled all the way to Inverness. The Hows' adventure has raised approximately £2,000 through sponsorship and donations for their chosen charities.

**Islay Jazz Festival**

THE ANNUAL Islay Jazz Festival, this year sponsored by Lagavulin Distillery, featured Scottish jazz at its best, and all the performances were well attended.

A variety of quality jazz styles were on offer. Many of the participating musicians have become regular visitors to Islay and were joined by exciting musicians making their first appearances here. Local jazz musicians Sheena Swanson and Brian Palmer took part, joining with the visiting players in several concerts.

The 'Portnavehan tea ladies' raised £400 for the charity Help for Heroes, and at two concerts a substantial sum was raised

for Cystic Fibrosis Research by exchanging Lagavulin's monogrammed Jazz Festival dram glasses for donations.

**Girlguiding exhibition**

THE RECENTLY held Girlguiding Centenary Exhibition which displayed items of memorabilia from Girlguiding in the past and present had many visitors.

On show were old uniforms, photographs and much more. Home baking and teas were available to visitors. As well as exploring the history of local guiding, the displays awakened memories of past Guide camps and trips and raised awareness of the activities of present-day Girlguiding in the islands.

**KILLIN**

Your correspondent is **Judy Forester: 01567 820298**

**Killin Primary School Eco Group**

CLAIRE Peebles has secured funding from Sustrans

and chosen to work with Killin Primary Eco Group to identify safer routes for walking and cycling to school.

This has been used to create a map of the area and these leaflets will be distributed to the school and community. The playground development will be completed during the next few months. Thanks to all supporters. Gareth Kets from the National Park planted bulbs and trees at the front of the school with the children. Killin Primary School won the Litter Initiative Trophy. There was a presentation from Jim Fisher (Streetscape) and Provost Fergus Wood. It is a fantastic achievement and reflects the school's ongoing commitment to looking after the environment.

**Active Stirling:** P1/2 are enjoying athletic training while the Clubgolf programme for P5 will be starting next month.

**Think Dance:** There will be a performance by P6/7 children at the McRobert Theatre.

**P1/2 weather news:** P1/2 made weather diaries and were trying to guess what the weather would be like. The rain gauges were made out of junk and were put in the garden. There is a weather studio in the classroom for weather forecasting.

**Primary 3/4/5 report:** For the last term primary 3/4/5 have been working on their Magic Castle topic. The Magic Castle has disappeared and will remain only in the minds of all who saw it. During Book Week everyone dressed up for World Book Day and wrote stories and went to the nursery and read them to the children and dressed up as favourite book characters and talked about them. P4/5's will be taking swimming lessons at McLaren High School.

**P6/7 Almondbank Hatchery Visit:** P6/7 went on an outing to Almondbank Hatchery. They were split into two groups. One group went to the hatchery first and the other played a game before entering the hatchery. In the small room there were trays of salmon eggs and the guide explained what happens to them when they hatch. Then they were shown the fully grown salmon and what they eat and how they feed. After that they were shown some American Crayfish and water bugs that salmon eat in the wild.



The ten pupils who took part in the Kinlochleven High School qualifiers.

**Young school chefs take step closer to Rotary title**

THE LATEST round of heats for the Rotary Club of Lochaber's annual Young Chef competition were held last week.

The two qualifiers from Lochaber High School are Katie Worsdall and Emma MacMillan, with Erin Mills and Eilidh MacLeod getting through the Kinlochleven High School heat.

Katie, Emma, Erin and Eilidh now go forward to the area final in Ardnamurchan

High School on October 6, where they will compete against finalists from Ardnamurchan High School and Mallaig High School for the title of Lochaber's Young Chef of the Year. Rotary president Angus Nicolson said:

'Young Chef is aimed at any pupil who enjoys cooking and wants to have a go and judging by the skills of these young chefs it could well be a stepping stone to the food industry.'



Children at Duro and Glencoe primary schools were recently visited by Shonda Barbour, who is the Safe, Strong and Free project worker for Lochaber. Shonda taught the primary one to three children how to deal with bullies and approaches from strangers.



**Society members finally reach Shuna Island**

It was third time lucky for members of Appin Historical Society last week when 30 members visited Shuna Island, by kind permission of Mark Newall. Two previous attempts to reach the island had to be cancelled because of stormy weather, but this time the sun shone. Ferried to the island by Paul Zveigintzov of Linnhe Marine, members visited the ruined castle and caves on the island. MG

**Around the Rurals**

**Inverlochty**

A WELL-attended meeting of Inverlochty Woman's Rural Institute was held in the village hall on Wednesday September 8.

Their speaker was Alison Stewart, Scotland's first female paramedic.

Alison is also well known in another field - she cycles round countries of the world for the charity 'Woman for Woman'. She has already visited Cuba and Jordan and is currently preparing for a trip to China.

To fund these trips, Alison has to raise around £4,000 in sponsorship. To do this she makes and sells tablet and cup cakes all round Fort William.

A most entertaining, interesting and funny account of her travels was very much appreciated by the rural ladies, as were her cakes and tablet.

**Appin**

MEMBERS of Appin SWRI took a trip down memory lane as they kicked off their autumn season.

Twenty-five women visited Lochaber Rural Complex where they watched a

film on farming in the past. Members had great fun looking at old household and farm items and guessing what they were used for. Some women remembered using them themselves.

The first monthly meeting took place on September 16 when more than 40 ladies, visitors from Benderloch, Taynuilt, Connel and Kilmore attended.

Appin's new chairman Doreen Evans welcomed members and introduced the SWRI national chairman Marion Davidson, who talked about the SWRI past, present and future.

Competition winners were also announced at the meeting: Mobile Phone Sock, Gold - Linda MacLeod; Silver, Brenda MacLeod; Red, Jessie Gilkes; Blue, Doreen Evans; Green, Moira Thomson; Jessie MacKenzie; Alison MacCorquodale and Barbara Carmichael.

Three Flower Arrangement, Gold - Myra MacDougall; Silver, Pat Wyeth-Webb; Red, Linda MacLeod; Blue, Doreen Evans, Alison MacCorquodale and Barbara Carmichael; Green, Brenda MacLeod.



**Ryan hits the high notes at Lochgilphead Mod**

**Nine-year-old Ryan Johnston, from Islay, proved a great success at the Lochgilphead Mod winning three trophies. The Bowmore Primary School pupil won his awards for both poetry recital and singing. Musicians, singers and choirs came from all over Scotland to compete in the mod, held recently in Lochgilphead Joint Campus. Seen as a prelude to the Royal National Mod, which takes place in Caithness next month, the Lochgilphead Mod was deemed a success for Argyll competitors. 06\_a39mod18/19**

**Argyll Bute COUNCIL**

**Community Learning and Development**

**SIGN UP NIGHT**

Tuesday 5th October 2010

**Lorn Community Learning Centre**

4.30 - 6.30pm

A small taster of courses that are on offer: Computing for all levels • Basic Business Management • Get that Job focusing on CV presentation, interview skills and communication • Baking - practical cooking course with a health & nutrition focus • Jewellery Making - practical craft course • Beginners Italian Conversation & Culture • Free ESOL courses also available

**Come along to enrol for courses or call in to our Learning Centre at McCall's Terrace, Oban**

**If you would like more details about any of the courses, please contact Lorn Community Learning Centre on (01631) 562466, or email us on patricia.slater@argyll-bute.gov.uk or marieke.steuben@argyll-bute.gov.uk**

*Courses will be subject to achieving minimum student members. Fee waivers and senior discounts available.*

**Share your Co-op memories**

THE WESTERN Isles Friends of the Co-operative Ideal are keen to hear of people's memories and reminiscences of old Co-op shops and vans which used to sell groceries in the islands up to the 1970s.

Chairman Matt Bruce said any photographs and stories of how the work was organised and who

was involved would be welcomed by the group.

Contributors' submissions will be used in an exhibition as part of a conference on co-operative ideals in both a modern and a historic context in the Bridge Centre, Stornoway, on Friday October 8. Mr Bruce can be contacted on 01851 870273.

**Primary one pupils in the picture**



This happy trio are the new primary one pupils at Easdale Primary School. 15\_t37easdp01



The new primary one pupil at Lismore Primary School is Rachel MacCormick.



Pictured are Taynuilt Primary School's new P1 pupils, whose teacher this year will be Lorna Stewart.

**Beaver matchmakers hope for loch-side love**

A MALE beaver has been released into Knapdale Forest in Mid Argyll to partner a lonely female who lost her mate.

The male, who was captured in Norway, brings the number of resident wild beavers in Scotland to 12, including two recently born kits.

The Scottish Beaver Trial (SBT) team released the new male as part of the five-year trial re-introduction of beavers to Knapdale Forest.

The two-year old male was released by project staff at the loch where the lone female beaver has settled.

Prior to release the area was marked with the male's scent to encourage the female to welcome the new arrival and to stimulate interest in her future mate.

The male was released directly from his transportation crate on to the loch and project staff are now monitoring his movements closely.

Present at the release and now hoping that romance will blossom was SBT's project leader Roisin Campbell-Palmer who said: 'This male is at an age where he would naturally disperse from his family group in search of a breeding partner so we are really hopeful that this arranged introduction will be the start of a very happy relationship.'

The male was released following permission granted by the Scottish Government that allowed a replacement beaver to join the lone female and create a new breeding pair after her previous partner died.



Last year's winner Keith Salmon joined Jolomo at the launch of the Jolomo Bank of Scotland Awards 2011 for Scottish Landscape Painting at the National Gallery in Edinburgh.

**Jolomo awards increase prize money to £35,000**

Emerging artists committed to Scottish landscapes to take part in competition

MID ARGYLL based artist Jolomo is offering Scottish artists the chance to win £35,000 for their work.

Jolomo announced the prize money on offer to artists this week in Edinburgh as he launched the Jolomo Bank of Scotland Awards 2011 for Scottish Landscape Painting.

**Privately funded**  
The awards, the largest privately funded arts awards in the UK, were established by John Lowrie Morrison (Jolomo) in 2006 to support, encourage and promote painting of the Scottish landscape.

Jolomo said: I decided that the total prize money should be increased to £35,000 this year.

**Exhibition**  
'I know that this level of prize money can make a real difference to artists early in their careers, allowing them to develop their practice and explore new directions in their work at the same time as easing their financial worries.'

The awards are open to all emerging artists who are committed to painting the Scottish landscape.

A shortlist of artists will be announced in March and

an exhibition of their entries will be held in May at the head office of the Bank of Scotland.

Susan Rice, managing director of Lloyds Banking Group Scotland, said: 'Bank of Scotland is delighted to sponsor an award that inspires so many.'

'This is the premier arts award in Scotland. We wish all the artists that take part the best of luck.'

Artists have until January 21 2011 to apply for the awards and the winner will be announced on June 23 at the Kelvingrove Art Gallery in Glasgow.

**Traffic police face proposed changes**

TRAFFIC policing on the west coast will be radically changed if a proposed re-design gets the go-ahead.

At present each area office throughout Strathclyde Police's L Division, which includes Argyll, has an attached Road Policing Unit but budget cuts may see these area teams broken up in favour of a more centralised system.

It is understood that one suggestion is to create a Road Policing super unit, based in Govan, Glasgow.

Ninety officers would be deployed to this unit, which would answer calls from all over Strathclyde dealing with major road accidents.

In another plan being discussed, officers who are currently based in Oban, will be amalgamated into the shift pattern in the town.

This would allow a higher number of officers, some with specialised traffic policing training, to be 'on the beat' in the area.

Inspector Hugh O'Neill of Argyll Road Policing Unit: 'I am in no doubt we are going in the right direction by offering people in Argyll a service in traffic policing that will be tailored to the area.'



Chief superintendent John Thomson.

'Public consultation always puts traffic high on the agenda for communities in the area. We live in a unique situation and it needs a policing plan especially for that.'

'As Chief Superintendent John Thomson looks at a model for policing in Argyll, he is well aware that there is no one size fits all.'

'I believe my officers who have the privilege to work and police the Argyll area do their very best with the resources we currently have. We already work with our divisional colleagues, however, this proposed change, I believe, will improve integration between Road Policing officers and our divisional officers.'

Concerns have been raised about the length of time it

will take to attend any serious incident on the roads in Argyll should the service be centralised and the effect this would have on road closures in the event of serious and fatal road crashes.

A policing source said there would be no difference in the current response times to an incident as incident scene investigators already have to travel to the area to deal with crash scenes.

Police spokesman Neil McFadyen said: 'Road policing has been an integral part of the new Total Response Policing model in Argyll and Bute since its inception in October 2009.'

'At this stage it is too early to speculate on how any restructuring will impact on our future deployment of this resource.'

However, Assistant Chief Constable Fiona Taylor said: 'Having road patrol officers working in our divisions will allow us to have greater local accountability and make sure that we can work closely with communities on dealing with their specific concerns. 'We will still maintain one central road policing team to work on areas such as the major road network and crash investigations.'

**Councillors say 'no' to ferry route break up**

COUNCILLORS in Argyll and Bute and Inverclyde have joined forces to say 'no' to the potential break up of the current Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) routes as part of the Scottish Government's Ferry Review.

HITRANS chairman, Argyll and Bute councillor Duncan MacIntyre, and Clyde Ferries User Group chairman George White of Inverclyde Council have responded to the consultation by saying they would not support single route tendering.

The Scottish Government had asked for feedback on single tendering of the Oban to Craignure route and the Wemyss Bay to Rothesay route. The groups will now write separately to the government to express their views. The consultation period closes today, Thursday.

**Mull eagle fund proves popular**

MULL and Iona Community Trust has had a good number of applications to the Mull Eagle Watch Partnership Community Fund and this is now almost oversubscribed.

The distribution of £6,000 in grants took place earlier this year to 16 community groups. Applications are now being accepted for next year's awards. Community groups are reminded that Argyll and Bute Council gives out small grants for leisure and educational activities. Details are on the council web site.

**What to do if you lose TV services on 13 October**

To get your channels back, you'll need to re-tune (or install) your Freeview TV or box\*. You should be able to do this by 6am, but some of you will need to wait until late afternoon.

On **27 October** you'll need to re-tune again to complete switchover.

**How do I re-tune?**



- Switch on your Freeview TV or box.
- Press 'menu' on the remote control.
- Select the 'set up' or 'installation' option.
- Select the 'first time installation' option (sometimes called 'factory reset', 'full re-tune' or 'default settings').
- Press 'OK' if your equipment asks if you want to delete all your channels. Don't worry, this is normal.
- If you are prompted for a code, try 0000 or 1234.
- Channels will be automatically installed. This may take a few minutes and your equipment may shut down and restart.
- After re-tuning, you may have to reset your 'favourites' list. If you re-tune a digital TV recorder, you should reset future recordings.

Keep this, it might be useful

**Skye Lines**

POLICE are appealing for information regarding the theft of large rocks from a property in Idrigill on the Isle of Skye.

The heavyweight heist saw around four tonnes of boulders removed from the front garden of the property near Uig sometime between September 6 and 17.

Each rock was between two and three feet in diameter, one being particularly distinctive in having a pattern on it similar to a human face.

The boulders were about to be used for a construction project when they disappeared. Anyone with any information should contact Portree Police Station on 01478 612888 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

ISLE of Skye councillor Drew Millar will officially open Portree High School tomorrow at a ceremony in The Fingal Centre, the campus building shared with the community.

Highland Council convenor Sandy Park, present and former members of staff and school prefects will also attend the celebration in The Venue, the centre's performance area.

Other community facilities in the building include a swimming pool, a public library and archive, heritage centre, adult learning centre and a four-court games hall.

The new school, completed in June 2008, also boasts a gymnasium, fitness room, all weather pitch, multi court area and a climbing wall.

Portree High School has a roll of 620 pupils, with 185 learning through Gaelic medium – a huge uplift from previous years.

A further 12 S5 and S6 pupils Gaelic learners are taking Gaelic at Higher or Intermediate 2 level, while 42 S4 pupils, also learners, are studying Standard Grade Gaelic.

The school has 15 feeder primaries spread across the Isle of Skye and Raasay and around 60 teaching staff.

AN AUSTRALIAN woman with strong Skye connections is to present The Isle of Skye Pipe Band with a banner carrying her Scottish coat of arms.

Rosemary Nicolson Samios will make the presentation in Portree sometime over the next two weeks when she returns for one of her regular visits to the island.

Drum major Peter MacDonald told *The Oban Times*: 'She is a major sponsor of the band. We are more than delighted to carry the banner on the pipe sergeant's pipes.'

Mrs Samios, from Sydney, who owns the Portree Independent Hostel and has



a residence in the town, recently agreed to provide the band with £1,000 for the next five years.

'This annual gift is to encourage young pipers to join the band by assisting with their expenses,' she said.

The band wears the Isle of Skye tartan – the best selling tartan worldwide – to which Mrs Samios owns the copyright.

These instructions are a guide only. For detailed re-tuning instructions of popular makes and models visit [digitaluk.co.uk/retuning](http://digitaluk.co.uk/retuning). Satellite and cable TV sets will not be affected.

**To check your transmitter group, or for more information on re-tuning call 08456 50 50 50**

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Markie Duns

Every Friday > Party Night  
Skipinnish Ceilidh House with DJs and Live Band

Thursday 30 September > Tim O Connor  
Markie Duns

Friday 1 October > Kieron Goss  
Skipinnish Ceilidh House

Friday 1 October > Wonderland  
Markie Duns

Saturday 2 October > Declan  
Markie Duns

Monday 4 October > Up Beat Beatles £12  
Skipinnish Ceilidh House Tickets Tel: 0844 481 8898

Thursday 7 October > Tim O Connor  
Markie Duns

Friday 8 October > Tim O Connor  
Markie Duns

Friday 8 October > Relentless with Ultrabeat  
Skipinnish Ceilidh House Feat. Rebecca Rudd LIVE



**Young footballers take to the skies**

YOUNG players from Lochneil Football Club's four teams took to the skies at the weekend as part of a bid to raise funds for new floodlights. The club - parents, players and coaches alike - were given short flights from Oban Airport in a four seater plane, before returning to the ground to take part in a sponsored walk. The club vastly exceeded the £1,500 required for the lighting at their North Connel - hitting nearly £3,000. The extra cash will go towards trips and equipment over the course of the year. A spokesperson said: 'We have to say a big thank you to pilot, Kevin MacCuish, and Oban Airport for donating their time and fuel. Thanks also to everyone who took part or donated to the club.'

**Zero Fest starts alcohol free week in Mid Argyll**

MID-ARGYLL businesses and Encompass are joining forces this week to create Loch Fyne's answer to German Beer Carnival - Ocktoberfest. This beer festival however will have a twist - all beer on offer will be alcohol free. Zero Fest, the first of its kind in Scotland, will be held on Saturday to coincide with the start of Alcohol Awareness Week 2010. The event aims to show people that there is an array of tasty non-alcoholic drinks including wines, beers and champagne. Beers from International Breweries such as Beck's, Bavaria and Krombacher will be on offer on the day, as well as a variety of red, white, rose and sparkling wines. Local food producers are also getting in on the act and will be setting up stalls in the marquee that will be erected on Lochgilphead Front Green for the event. On the day stallholders making and selling food will be serving a drink that compliments their dish. Peter Garrett of Encompass said: 'We are not telling people not to drink, that's not what we are about. We are showing people there are ways of lessening your alcohol consumption.'

**Highland harmonica maestro to play Tarbert and Islay in October**

POPULAR West Coast Highland harmonica player Donald Black will return to his native Argyll shortly to play a couple of concerts. With his own self-taught unique style and mastery on the mouthorgan, Donald, originally from Benderloch, has almost single-handedly been responsible for the humble instrument having been given a new respect and acceptance, forcing professionals and reviewers to sit up and take it seriously as a significant part of the Scottish music scene. Over the years, his live performances have delighted audiences UK-wide, through Europe to Russia and the USA, gaining many very favourable reviews along the way. This October he will play two venues in Argyll and for anyone who loves Highland Celtic music played well, these concerts are certainly not to be missed. The tour kicks off in Tarbert on Friday, October 22, when Donald will be accompanied by Lewis man Donnie MacKenzie on guitar and Ross Wilson, from Mull, on keyboard. The fun starts in Tarbert Village Hall at 8pm - bring your own bottle/pay at the door. Further information on this one from David Hunt on 07919-082197. The following evening, Saturday, October 23, Donald and his band are appearing at the Columba Centre, Bowmore, Isle of Islay, again it's an 8pm start - bring your own bottle / pay at the door. For further information on this one contact - 01496-810818.



**Drummers from Oban High School Pipe Band get into the swing of things at the Corran Halls on Saturday in a fundraising gala concert for St Columba's Cathedral. Hundreds of locals turned up to the event, from which the proceeds went towards the cathedral's renovation fund. The Pipe Band were joined in performing at the event by the Oban Strathspey and Reel Society, fiddlers Anna-Wendy Stevenson and Simon Bradley. Other star attractions also included Mod gold medallists Mary Catherine MacNeil and Paul McCallum, and renowned international piper, Iain MacDonald. The evening, which raised £3,700, was hosted by compère, John Carmichael.**

**ARGYLL ANIMAL AID**

**Jake**

Very nice neutered boy. Age and history unknown.

Contact Pat on 01852 300362  
aaa.rescueteam@btconnect.com  
www.smallpaws.co.uk

Reg. charity SCO13211

**YOUR STARS WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL**

**ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th 090 6612 4520**  
A very valuable nugget of information can come to the surface. You may even find yourself digging into your own past. Someone can also play a very important role by advising you behind the scenes. Spiritual considerations can take on more importance. Pleasingly, any tensions that have existed with one person can be worked out - if you hear one another out. Call now for your in-depth forecast...

**TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st 090 6612 4521**  
This month begins where last month left off, with Venus and Mars bringing great energy and charisma to your relating skills. And this week's Quarter Moon suggests that this can only be a good thing, because niggles can creep in, perhaps because of busy schedules and life stresses. And yet where there is a will, there's a way and someone can be very receptive towards you. Call for more...

**GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st 090 6612 4522**  
As Mercury enters your sector of fun, your mind can quicken and you can feel livelier too. Yet Pluto will square this position and your desire to follow a more sociable path might not sit well with a partner or a jealous friend. Yet there is much to be said for accepting people as they are just now. We all have faults, so try to see the bigger picture around any such niggles. Call for more astral advice...

**CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd 090 6612 4523**  
This week sees the Sun combine with the stubborn Saturn. This can be challenging and someone close to you may need extra help, but it can also be an opportunity to firm up the foundations of your existence. Yet the rub is that another influence is urging you to break out. All this can see you considering your overall life. Some big decisions may come from this. Call me for more advice...

**LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd 090 6612 4524**  
Think of how you link to people. Whether this is those folks around you or people far away, any weaknesses in how you interact can be revealed. Yet this can also be a time when you firm up things like this, perhaps by learning about or using technology or by working harder at understanding interrelations. Just don't expect everybody to accept what you say at face value. Call for more...

**VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd 090 6612 4525**  
Some tough decisions are being made about Public Finances the world over and you may have to make some yourself. But, as you get to this, the more it can concentrate your mind on what's REALLY important. And this may be less to do with possessions. In fact, in some ways you can find yourself enjoying simplifying your world. Romantically, flirty possibilities beckon. Call for more...

**LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd 090 6612 4526**  
If something seems very uphill in your world, be assured Libra, it is because at the top of that hill is a prize which is really worth battling for. This may see you needing to prioritise, and you may also need to make sacrifices to get to where you want to be. Yet that doesn't mean that there can't be compensations because there can be. Indeed, an offer can delight. Call for your in-depth forecast...

**SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd 090 6612 4527**  
Mercury bursts into a tender part of your 'scope so even if you feel that you're on a roll - particularly with two stunning celestial clusters at play, keep an eye on the sub-plot. Information can come out that you may prefer didn't. This may be because someone is jealous of the success and attention that you get. However, in a strange way, see it as a compliment. Call your prediction line for more news...

**SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st 090 6612 4528**  
Has one friendship run its course? Someone you thought was fab but that long ago, may start to seem far less so. Perhaps this is about your expectations, or are you now taking your associates more seriously? It is possible. You can also start to do a double take about your future. This can see you with some options, but better to have some, than none at all. Call for more news and astral advice...

**CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th 090 6612 4529**  
Keep going with the diplomacy Capricorn. One professional relationship may have seemed to have reached a make or break point but it can be surprising how a way can be found - if the lines of communication are kept open. Rather than being threatened by you, people can see that you can be an asset. Respect is more important than popularity in this scenario. Call for more news and advice...

**AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th 090 6612 4530**  
Solid plans can take shape, but care is needed around documentation. Any flaws that don't show up straight away can leave a legacy further down the line, so be cautious about details. On the upside, if you are serious about doing higher education or learning a new language, it may be tough to begin with but upping your knowledge will give you incredible satisfaction. Call for more astral advice...

**PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th 090 6612 4531**  
Any involvement with business ventures, investments or being a guarantor, may have some liabilities attached to them. So think carefully before pledging your support. You can be kind to a fault, but should protect your interests. However, if you have worked really hard, these areas can also give you a return now or you can put in place new schemes that will in time. Call for your in-depth forecast...

SP: Pronto Ltd, PO Box 52785 EC1P 1TY  
Calls cost 60p per minute from standard landline  
For entertainment purposes only

**Eye to eye with John Wallace**

Looking Into Your Eyes

It is now thirty three years since I qualified as an "Ophthalmic Optician". How things have changed since 1977. Then I was not even allowed to tell a patient they had any medical problems with their eyes, even every day conditions like cataract. Today I receive daily telephone calls for local doctors asking my advice about eye problems their patients are suffering. What I find absolutely incredible is how instrumentation has changed throughout my career. When I started in practice I invested in a "slit lamp" which is a binocular microscope for examining the front of your eyes. That has now evolved into an instrument giving a stereoscopic view of your retina as well as the structures within your eyes. Very few practices had slit lamps in 1977. Today it is the minimum standard demanded by NHS Scotland. Over the years computerisation has enabled sophisticated measuring instruments to be developed. When I started fitting contact lenses your cornea was measured a four points and various assumptions about the shape of your corneas were made. Today I normally measure fourteen thousand discrete points on every cornea enabling very accurate contact lens designs to be prescribed. Perhaps the most amazing changes are in how I can examine the retina at the back of your eyes. In 1977 an ophthalmoscope was the norm. That's the bright light optometrists shine into your eyes. With this I can see the central retina. Today I use an Optomap scanning laser ophthalmoscope to take a superb photo of virtually your entire retina. Later today I am being shown the very latest development... an instrument that scans your retina and examines individual cells and the spaces around them. This helps greatly in diagnosing macular degeneration and glaucoma. I just wonder what we will be able to do in the decades to come.

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



Over 350 people entered this year's World Stone Skimming Championships, held on Easdale last Saturday. 15\_140skim3

**Stone skimming championships attract record entry**

STONE skimmers from all over the world congregated on the tiny Isle of Easdale on Saturday, each aiming to become the 2010 World Champion. There was a record entry in the adult men category this year with 221 participants. The ladies field was populated by 78 competitors, and there was a further 57 entries in the junior categories. All in, 356 stone tossers took part. The overall winner was a Dougie Isaacs, from Blairgowrie, now a three time world champion, who hit the back wall an astonishing three times to underline Scotland's dominance of stone skimming. The ladies category was won by Manuela Kriebusch, from Germany, whose 32m effort saw off challenges from Fiona Campbell and Ali Kinge, both from Scotland and both on 27m. In total, 12 different nationalities were represented at this year's competition. Organiser, Duncan Melville, said: 'It was just perfect, the weather was perfect and the banter from the crowd was great. I don't think it could have got any better.' Other winners are as follows: Girls Under 10: Ellie Green (Sco) 11m Boys under 10: Alfie Packam (Sco) 31m. 10-15 Girls: Eleanor Moffat (Eng) 15m. 10-15 Boys: 1 Simon Fraser (Sco) 49m. Teams: Drummond Wanderers 345m total. Old Tossers: Ron Long 57m. Bertie, for best islander: Jamie Melville 54m.

**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**

**Local Producers Markets**

Thursday 7 October  
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch  
1 mile along the Tralee road  
10am to 3pm  
Lots to eat and do  
Every first / third Thursday  
Interested Producers contact  
01631 720223  
Local Origins Rural Network  
www.lorn.org.uk

**Oban Times LEISURE TIMES**

**Fasnacloch Gun Club**

**Open Shoot**

Saturday 2nd October  
12.00 start

Argyll animal aid  
**Sponsored Dog Walk**  
Sunday 3rd October  
At 12 noon  
Oban sailing club to Puffin Dive  
(for treats) & back  
Approx 3.5 miles  
Sponsor form from  
Oban vets, Tweeddale Street.  
Pets at home store, oban.  
On line at: www.smallpaws.co.uk

**CONNEL SEWING CLUB**  
Club resumes on  
Thursday 7th October  
In Connel Village Hall 7 - 9pm  
Weekly until 22 October  
old and new members welcome  
All levels catered for  
£20 for 20 weeks  
Details contact  
Ann Colhart 01631 710569

**ALPHA**  
Introduction to the  
*Christian Faith*  
All Welcome  
Starting  
**Wednesday**  
**October 6th at 7pm**  
For Details Contact  
01631 571371

**Learn To Play Bridge**  
Bridge can be learnt at any age and played at home, on holiday, on line or best of all at your local club.  
Oban Bridge club are starting a new Beginners' Class on Tuesday 12th October in St. Columba's Cathedral Hall at 7.30 p.m. So come along and give it a try in an easy relaxed atmosphere with no pressure; this may well lead to a great deal of interest and fun in the future. No partner is required.  
For more details contact David Pollard at 01631 770342

Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club  
**Monthly Club Night**  
Thursday 7th October, 2010  
Argyllshire Gathering Hall  
**\*7.30pm**  
Audience and Players Welcome  
Special Guest Artist  
Dochie MacCallum S.D.B.  
Admission £3  
Come Along and Enjoy the Music

**Fashion Show**  
Oxfam Shop  
Oban  
**Friday 1st October**  
7pm  
Tickets £4 adult  
£2 child/concession  
Available from Oxfam, House and Home, Slimming World Class

Argyll Animal Aid  
Christmas Fayre  
Corran Hall  
**Saturday, November 20**  
11am to 3pm  
To book a table please phone Sharon on 01866 822408  
Or download form from www.smallpaws.co.uk  
Charities £15, Commercial/crafts £20  
Reg Charity SCO 13211

**Glencruitten Road Church**  
Organ Fund  
**Whist Drive in Church Hall**  
7.30pm  
**Wednesday 6th October**  
Admission Donation  
Tea included

**OBAN U3A**  
Monthly Coffee Meeting  
Caledonian Hotel, Oban  
**Tuesday 5th October 2010**  
At 10.30am  
Our monthly social meeting  
A warm welcome to members old and new

An Comunn Gaidhealach MEUR CHRUAICHAIN (Cruchan Branch)  
**PRE-MOD CEILIDH**  
**Saturday October 2 in Tainuill Village Hall at 7.45pm**  
Oban High School Gaelic Choir, Conductor Morven McKerrel  
Tainuill Gaelic Choir and Tainuill Ladies Choir  
Conductor Ann Barlow  
Ceann an Tuirc (Male Voice Choir), Conductor Joy Dunlop  
Soloists, Clarsach: Rebecca Hill  
Fear an Taigh: Donald Harrison  
Admission £3.00 £2 for Members and Children 5-16yrs  
Including Tea A Warm Welcome Extended to All  
(Funds collected promote The Gaelic Language, Music and Culture)

**Fasnacloch Gun Club**

## Engineers pinpoint signal problems

SOME mobile phone users in North Lochaber have been without phone coverage since last Monday.

Vodafone customers in Mallaig, Arisaig, Morar and surrounding areas have had to make do with about one hour of reception a day. Arisaig resident Julia Gordon told *The Oban Times* she and other people she had spoken to in the area had been experiencing the same problems. She said: 'Most days you get a signal for about an hour, but apart from that it says "searching" or "no signal".'

'I emailed Vodafone and got an email back saying there wasn't a problem with the signal and asked me to call customer service which I can't do because I've got no signal!'

'It's so frustrating. Most people up here use Vodafone because it's normally the best.'

### Fixed

Electric and magnetic fields unit manager for Vodafone UK Dr Rob Matthews told *The Oban Times* he was aware of the problem and hoped it would be fixed soon.

He said: 'We apologise to our customers that are experiencing problems with coverage in the Arisaig area.'

'We have identified that there is an issue with the radio link that connects a number of base stations in the area to the main Vodafone network.'

'An engineer has already visited the site and identified the issue and we hope to have it repaired in the next few days.'

## Oban man remanded in custody

AN OBAN man has been remanded in custody after pleading guilty to assault and vandalism charges.

Norman Lindsay, 48, of 23E Shuna Terrace, Oban, admitted, at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, assaulting his victim on August 21 2010. He also pled guilty to damaging camera equipment in Oban Police Station on August 22 this year.

## Easdale assault investigated

POLICE are investigating an alleged assault in the Easdale area on September 24.

Enquires are ongoing into the incident with a view to making a report to the Procurator Fiscal.

**NEWSDESK**  
01631 568000



## Callum first junior home in Gallop and Grind

Callum Fraser, pictured with his gran Francis MacIntyre, was the first junior to finish this year's Gallop and Grind, which attracted hundreds of walkers, runners and cyclists of all ages to Fort William. The event, which is in its third year, was set up in memory of Callum's mum Sharon Fraser, who tragically died of breast cancer in December 2008. All the money raised by the event will go to local charity Cancer Care in the Highlands. For more, see back page. 10\_f40run01

## Two people killed as car crashes into Loch Eilt

TWO LOCAL people have been killed after the car they were travelling in crashed into Loch Eilt, near Morar, on Tuesday.

The car was travelling on the A830 Road to the Isles when the crash happened at about 10pm. The occupants of the car, one male and one female, were taken to Belford Hospital, Fort William, where they were confirmed dead.

Northern Constabulary are appealing for anyone who was driving on the

A830 near Loch Eilt between 9pm and 10pm to contact them.

Police and fire services attended the scene of the accident and closed the road for five hours to allow police to carry out their investigations.

The details of the deceased pair were not being released until next of kin had been informed. Police said enquires into the crash, which did not involve any other cars, were ongoing and a report would be sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

## Talks in progress to replace Barra planes

THE SCOTTISH Government is in talks with a Canadian company about potential replacement planes for the Isle of Barra.

Transport Minister Stewart Stevenson was on the island on Monday to update community representatives with progress on the issue at a meeting in Northbay hall.

Speaking after the meeting, Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan said: 'The Scottish Government is now in talks with the Canadian aircraft manufacturer Viking about potential replacements for the two ageing Twin Otter aircraft which provide the link from Barra to Glasgow and Benbecula airports.'

# Mobile pier arrives in Lochaber

## Contractors ready to start work on reinforcing Corran Ferry slipway

THE FLOATING pier which will allow the Corran Ferry service to continue while work is done to upgrade the existing pier at Nether Lochaber arrived yesterday (Wednesday).

The 'mobile self-assembling floating pier', as described by owners JST services from Ayr, will soon be in service as a bridge between the *Maid of Glencoul* ferry and the shore, allowing traffic to flow while contractors reinforce the eastern slipway with concrete. The work is set to continue until December 9.

The council says the repairs, which are to be carried out by George Leslie Ltd, are needed because the slipway has reached the end of its life with potential collapse of the sidewall and deck surface.

Ferry services are to be suspended between 6.30am

REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

and 1pm today (Thursday) to allow the pier to be moved into position by tugs. The ferry is then due to start using the temporary pier from Tuesday, weather permitting. The normal ferry service from the slipway will continue until Monday evening.

The temporary ferry service will be operating on a permanent shuttle basis during daylight hours only and will be subject to a 3.5 tonne weight restriction, and for the first week it will operate from 7.30am to 7pm.

The bus service, which operates twice daily over the ferry, will be diverted around Loch Eil and emergency services have made

arrangements for continued service over the period.

Community council chairman David Corrigan told *The Oban Times* although the restrictions would cause locals some problems, it is better than the alternative of not having a ferry service for two months. He said: 'Compared to the initial proposal, which was a complete shutdown of services, getting the barge is a vast improvement.'

He added: 'Once it is in operation, we hope the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and health and safety will come down and have a look at the barge and hopefully increase the weight restriction from 3.5 tonnes to 10 tonnes. And we hope they will increase the working hours as well once they see it is sufficiently well lit.'



The temporary pier will allow the ferry service to continue during the works.

## MacAskill does U-turn on farmers' information

JUSTICE Secretary Kenny MacAskill has revoked his statement that Argyll farmers have 'the right' to obtain free information regarding damage to their estate.

At present landowners must fork out £60.50 to obtain a police report in order to pursue an insurance claim to mend their damaged property following a road crash.

This practice was called into question by Mr MacAskill who, in a letter to Jamie McGrigor, Highlands and Islands MSP, said landowners could obtain, free of charge, the insurance company and policy number covering the vehicle's use.

But in a second letter, sent to Mr McGrigor just four



Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill revokes statement that Argyll farmers have the right to free information.

months later, the Justice Secretary said: 'The decision whether or not to release personal details... rests with the police... in most cases the police will be reluctant to do

so.' Mr McGrigor confronted the Justice Secretary during ministerial question time last Thursday.

After reading to the parliament the letters he received from the Justice Secretary, Mr McGrigor said: 'Who got at the Justice Secretary? What changed his mind?'

'How can a right belonging to my constituents - one set out in black and white by the Justice Secretary - be done away with in a matter of weeks?'

Mr MacAskill responded: 'I can understand the frustrations felt by Mr McGrigor's constituents, but let us be clear I cannot direct the police.' John Warmerdam, who

farms at Rhudle, near Kilmartin, and has been campaigning for the police charges to be removed, said: 'I question why Mr MacAskill has changed his mind?'

'Is he feeling pressure from Strathclyde Police?'

**Concern**  
Mr McGrigor said: 'I share my farming constituents' genuine concern and disappointment at what appears to be a massive U-turn from the Justice Secretary.'

'I will continue to put pressure on Mr MacAskill to ensure that my farming constituents get the information which he himself told me they have a right to receive.'

## Oban Common Good Fund offer £40,000 to projects

OBAN Common Good Fund will offer £40,000 to projects held within the boundaries of the town in the current financial year.

At a meeting of the group, three Argyll and Bute councillors, Donald MacDonald, Donald 'Skye' MacIntosh and Duncan MacIntyre, made a decision on this figure and verified the funding of eight projects while retrospectively funding another.

**Approved**

Funding was approved for The Argyllshire Gathering to underwrite £5,000 for the 2010 Games, St John's Flower Festival was given £500, Oban and Lorn Sports Festival was given a grant of £1,800 for various activities

including the organisation's Sports Awards Dinner. The Highland Cattle Society and Oban Saints Football Club were given £1,000 and £500 for civic receptions, Soroba Community Enterprise was given £5,000 per year for three years for the upgrade and extension of IT equipment, and £1,000 was given to the Oban Forward Group for the purchase of shrubs.

Oban Community Council was asked to provide more detailed proposals for funding to provide signs and events to promote Oban as a place to stay.

The next meeting of the Oban Common Good Fund group is still to be announced.

## Support network set up for sufferers of debilitating illness

A SUPPORT network has been set up in Lochaber for sufferers of a debilitating illness.

Post Viral Fatigue Syndrome (PVFS), Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) and ME are all names for the same illness, and the network is for anyone suffering from the disease or is a carer for a sufferer.

The network was setup by Ballachulish resident Meg Pollock and has 11 members in Ballachulish, Fort William, Banavie, Kilchoan, Benderloch and Mull. Two members are carers, the rest are PVFS/CFS/ME sufferers.

The email address for the network is m.e.lochaber@googlegmail.com and the mobile number is 07786 590450.

## New house design guide launched

A NEW guide giving Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's advice on the location, siting and design for new houses in the Outer Hebrides will be launched this week.

The Outer Hebrides New House Design Guide will be launched at An Lanntair, Stornoway, on Tuesday.

On the day of the launch, the Comhairle will host presentations, themed seminars and exhibits with the Scottish Government and the Western Isles Architects' Group.

The event, which starts at 9.30am, is free and open to the public.

## Police pleased with progress in Caol murder case

POLICE are 'pleased with the progress' made since re-opening the case of a murder in Caol 21 years ago.

Northern Constabulary is re-investigating the murder of James Hassard in the hope forensic evidence or new information will come to light. They are still appealing for anyone with any information about the murder to come forward.

The body of Mr Hassard, aged 47, was found on Saturday February 18 1989 in a car park between Kilmallie Road and Torcastle Crescent. Despite police efforts, the person or

persons responsible were never traced. Last week, police revealed they wanted to hear from an anonymous female caller who contacted them by telephone at 5.50pm on Saturday April 8 1989.

The caller told police Mr Hassard had been involved in a fight in the early hours of Saturday February 18 1989 in a garden and on the pavement on Kilmallie Road near the junction with Glen Nevis Road. Officers investigating the case also believe the altercation may have been seen by a passing car. Detective Chief Inspector Gordon Greenlees told *The*

*Oban Times* they have not yet heard from the female caller but were still appealing for her to get in touch.

He said: 'Enquires are still ongoing to gather more information about the case. We are still trying to get in touch with the female that called us on April 8 1989.'

'We believe that the caller, or the occupants of the car, could have significant new information that could help us with this case.'

The incident room at Fort William can be contacted on 01397 702361 or by mobile on 07803 903427.



James Hassard was murdered in Caol 21 years ago.



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OT

**Police files**

A WINDOW was broken at the Old Post Office, Lochaber Road, Kinlochleven, sometime between 10pm on Tuesday September 21 and 10am on Wednesday September 22.

A PANE of glass was vandalised at the Spean Bridge Hotel sometime between 8pm on Saturday September 25 and 1am on Sunday September 26.

ANYONE with knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 or the confidential line on 01397 702000. Members of the public may also report any crime/offence or anything suspicious by telephoning Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

**Nature grants up for grabs**

SCOTTISH Natural Heritage (SNH) is making £20,000 available for nature-friendly projects in the West Highlands.

Grants up to £10,000 are up for grabs to community and voluntary groups, individuals and organisations with schemes designed to encourage more people to appreciate and enjoy the outdoors.

SNH West Highland area manager Kristin Scott said: 'We know how much local people value it and want to do their bit. We hope this fund will help enable some good local projects to go ahead this year.'

Deadline for applications from Lochaber, including the Small Isles, and Skye and Lochalsh, is November 12. More information is available from Stewart Sandison at SNH in Fort William on 01397 704716, or Stephen Varwell in Portree on 01478 613329.



**Curtain up on Lochaber High School's Wizard of Oz**

Euan Wilkie, Tin Man, Claire Arnott, Dorothy, Alexander McGarry, Cowardly Lion, and Robert Robertson, Scarecrow, at the final dress rehearsal for Lochaber High School's production of the Wizard of Oz. The show's run started on Tuesday and is on every night this week until tomorrow (Friday) at the school.

**Work to start soon on West End development**

THE COMPANY behind the re-development of the Grand Hotel in Fort William's West End say the demolition process could start at the end of next month.

Developers Ashford Property told *The Oban Times* the contracts with potential retailers are in the hands of lawyers. They hope work on knocking down the Grand Hotel clearing the site for building work will start when the legal process is concluded.

Ashford director Andrew Smith said: 'We are in the final stages of agreeing contracts with the retail operators for the site. We've got pre-lets agreed for about 60 per cent of the site.'

'We are hoping to be on site by the end of October to start demolition.' The £7.5 million development, next to the refurbished Gordon Square and its new West Highland Way start/finish point, would be a major boost for the West End and could spark

a wider regeneration of the area. Meanwhile, the company which was denied planning permission for their 'store-on-stilts' supermarket in Fort William has said it remains 'committed to investing in the town for the long term'.

Ross, Skye and Lochaber Planning Committee turned down the application from developers Morbaine for a 55,000 square foot store on a site on North Road. Morbaine director Alex Brodie

expressed his disappointment at the decision and said the company will look at other options for developing the site. He said: 'We are obviously disappointed by this decision. We will now consider our options before deciding on whether or not to appeal.'

'In the meantime, we will redouble our efforts to attract non-food retailers to the North Road site in what remains a difficult marketplace.'

**Meeting ban comes under fire**

New protocol stops public from watching meetings via video link

A NEW Highland Council protocol to exclude the public from observing committee meetings via live video-link has come under fire - from the council's political leader.

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

Lochaber councillor Michael Foxley criticised the ruling as Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee's meeting in Fort William got off to a farcical start because of technical problems.

Three councillors in Dingwall participating through the video conferencing link complained repeatedly they could not hear properly.

During the delay to sort things out, the issue of why no applicants, objectors, members of general public or the press were watching from Dingwall was raised.

Area solicitor Alastair MacKenzie said a new protocol excluding the public from video conferencing had come into force on September 9 - prompting Councillor Foxley to question the rationale behind

the move. We need to give this some more thought,' he said. 'What applies for councillors should apply to applicants, objectors and the press.'

'If you are going to roll out video conferencing on the grounds that it is good for local democracy and to cut down on travel costs, we have to revisit this.'

Councillor Angela MacLean, speaking via the link from Dingwall, agreed and warned the exclusion order would force people from her ward to travel to Fort William or Portree at their own expense to hear issues relating to Dingwall discussed.

'We should review this protocol for video conferencing,' she said.

Chairman David Chisholm said: 'It is a protocol that has to be addressed by Highland Council. It is not for us to address this decision.'

**Public consultation on development plan underway**

A 10-WEEK public consultation on Highland Council's Local Development Plan got underway last Friday.

The blueprint sets out the council's land use vision, strategy and main policies, and guides planning applications and other public and private investment decisions.

The plan will be discussed at upcoming ward meetings across the Highlands and can be inspected at public libraries, planning offices and service points or online at [www.highland.gov.uk/developmentplans](http://www.highland.gov.uk/developmentplans).

The public can also make an appointment to discuss the plan in Portree Community Centre on

November 1 and Fort William on November 15. Comments must be received by 5pm on December 3 by e-mail to [devplans@highland.gov.uk](mailto:devplans@highland.gov.uk), by post to Director of Planning and Development, Planning and Development Service, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX, or by fax to 01463 702298.

**Police name man killed in crash**

POLICE have named a man killed in a motorbike crash on Sunday as Mark Lincoln Brown, aged 52, of School Brae, Dyke, Forres.

The accident happened on the A87 at Shiel Bridge, by Kyle of Lochalsh, at around 3.45pm.

Police officers and ambulance personnel attended and Mr Brown was pronounced dead at the scene.

Northern Constabulary said a report about the crash would be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal and are appealing for any witnesses to come forward.

**Kinlochleven village square project nears completion**

KINLOCHLEVEN'S village square project is finally approaching completion, according to Kinlochleven Community Trust.

Members' views are being sought on how to achieve a low maintenance garden in the village centre and litterbins have been requested from Highland Council.

'We are now coming to the end of the grass cutting season and the Board would like to see the garden maintained by local members,' said KCT's Jayne Wilkinson.

KCT is also offering aluminium memorial plaques to local residents wishing to remember their loved ones. The mementos will be fixed onto the curved wall within the community garden.



**Eilidh enjoys Gairloch Mod success**

Eilidh Jenkins, aged 11, was a big success at the Gairloch Mod last weekend, winning three competitions. Eilidh, who attends Sgoil Gaidhlig Glaschu, won prescribed singing fluent 11-12 years, under 15 years traditional poem, fluent 11 years to 12 years and trophies for highest overall mark oral fluent and overall mark solo fluent. Eilidh's mother Angela and granny Nan Macdonald are both from Flesherin, Point, Isle of Lewis.

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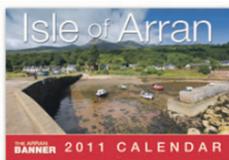


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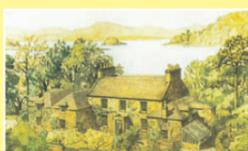
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**Mull Lines**

THE MULL Rally has received support both Strathclyde Police and Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) which have given time and services to help with this year's inaugural event.

To date the event has 122 entries. It was reported to Mull Community Council that a policing bill - £20,000 last year - had been negotiated down to just over £9,000.

Thanks were expressed to CalMac which has agreed to transport six rescue and recovery vehicles in a sponsorship deal.

A recent meeting was also told that a company had been appointed to film the event and it would be available commercially on Motors TV on Sky TV.

Rally clothing and merchandise was available in various outlets on the island and also via the website.



MULL Community Council has written to Argyll and Bute Council roads department boss Neil Brown to ask for more cash to put up 'no parking' signs in passing places.

A meeting heard that while Mr Brown agrees there is a problem with cars being parked, there are no funds available for additional signs. The community council felt more signs were very much a safety issue and will write to Mr Brown again.

The meeting heard of numerous problems including a doctor on an emergency call who was involved in an incident where he was obstructed in his duties and subjected to verbal abuse.

Mull police sergeant Mark Stephen, who attended the meeting, said any incident should be reported to police.



A LOCAL development officer has been appointed for the Ross of Mull and Iona.

Morven Gibson will begin work this month in the post, funded by Highlands and Islands Enterprise and LEADER. The development officer's post will run until June 2012.

The officer will help with a community plan for the area in the first six months then operate alongside community groups to develop existing or new initiatives.



THE POPE didn't make a detour to the 'cradle of Christianity' on the sacred Isle of Iona - but rumours about his trip were not as pie in the sky as many thought.

The small Hebridean island was swimming in rumours that the Pope may be visiting the Catholic House of Prayer on the island. But the centre's warden, Sister Jean, said: 'Everyone was teasing me when we had our driveway done last year that the Pope was coming to visit. I am sure that the Bishop would have been delighted if he had taken up the offer of a trip to Iona. But it wasn't to be.'

There are, however, pictures of the Pontiff pointing out the island on a map.

Perhaps he is planning a visit to the island's Catholic retreat house in the near future.



A GRAND furniture sale to be held in Craignure, Mull on October 23 will be on a first come first served basis.

The sale of furniture will come from stock donated to the Island Castaway's Charity Shop.

Mull and Iona Community Trust Chief Executive James Hilder said: 'Although we can only collect furniture using the shop van, there is little room on-site at present.'

'We are still taking furniture donations and are planning a giant furniture sale in Craignure from noon until 4pm on October 23.'

To donate, call 01680 812526. To buy, be there on October 23, first-come first-served.

**People asked to measure up to alcohol intake**

PEOPLE across Oban, Lorn and the Isles are being asked how they measure up ahead of Alcohol Awareness Week, which starts on Monday.

The area's substance misuse group, chaired by Oban and North Lorn Councillor Elaine Robertson, is organising events throughout the week, designed to educate people about the levels of drink they are consuming.

Events will focus on measures of alcohol and people's perception of how much is in each unit.

Councillor Robertson explained: 'These events are not about telling people not to drink; they are to make people aware of safe levels of drinking.'

'We want people to be comfortable when they come so they feel they can ask questions and fill in questionnaires.'

Louise Steele, administrator for Oban, Lorn and Isles Substance Misuse Group, added: 'We would welcome anyone along to these events. We would like to see teenagers there too, so they can learn about what is safe when they reach the legal age to buy alcohol.'

The events will take place in Lorn and Isles General Hospital on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week from 11am - 3pm; at Tesco next Thursday from 2pm - 6pm and the Co-op on Friday from 2pm - 6pm.

Alcohol Awareness Week is a Scotland-wide initiative and in its fourth year.

**Oban woman remanded in custody**

AN OBAN woman who failed to meet her bail conditions has been remanded in custody until her trial date.

Karen McGillvray, aged 49, of no fixed abode, pled guilty to not being at her bail address when police attended.

She had also approached a man having undertaken not to when she last appeared in court.

McGillvray is due to appear at Oban Sheriff Court again on October 18.



Statistically, there is a significantly higher chance of death and injury on rural roads.

**Safety forum launches country road crash awareness week**

1,775 people killed or injured on country roads in the West of Scotland in 2009

FIVE drivers or passengers are killed or injured on country roads in Strathclyde every day, according to the West of Scotland Road Safety Forum which, working in partnership with Road Safety Scotland, launched a new campaign this week to help tackle it.

Research found that many drivers using country roads regarded them to be 'low risk' because there is often less traffic on them and yet, statistically speaking, there is a significantly higher chance of death and injury on this type of road.

Recent figures show that 1,775 people were killed or injured on country roads in the West of Scotland in 2009.

Superintendent Iain Murray, Head of Road Policing within Strathclyde Police said: 'Officers from my department are often the

first to arrive at the scene of a crash on a country road and all too often we have to investigate deaths and serious injuries which could have been prevented by the driver looking ahead and adjusting their speed in accordance with either the weather, traffic or road conditions.'

'Of course, the effects of the crash extend beyond the driver or passengers of the vehicle and my officers liaise with family members of those who have been injured or killed.'

'This is the difficult part of the job of a police officer - trying to explain to a loved one why something which shouldn't have happened actually did happen.'

'I urge drivers to be aware of the risks associated with country roads and to ensure their driving style is appropriate.'

'My officers regularly patrol country roads in the west of Scotland but during the campaign we will be making an extra effort to be visible.'

Argyll and Bute Council councillor Duncan MacIntyre said: 'We know that nine out of 10 Scottish drivers regularly use country roads and we are determined to reduce the number of crashes and casualties by working closely with all our

partner agencies to make this happen. Our Country Roads Campaign will hopefully reach out to all road users to get across a very important message that 'You are not alone on a country road' and, as a consequence, you should take extra care at all times.'

Councillor Betty Cunningham, chairman of the West of Scotland Road Safety Forum, said: 'In Scotland, 75 per cent of road deaths occur on country roads and addressing this issue is a high priority for the Forum and for the Scottish Government's Framework.'

'During 2009, according to official data provided by Strathclyde Police, some of the most frequently reported factors in country road collisions were cited as being loss of control, a failure to look properly and driving too fast for the conditions.'

*"In Scotland, 75 per cent of road deaths occur on country roads."*

**Chairman, West of Scotland Road Safety Forum.**

**Mull games visitor left dog in car**

A MAN who locked his dog in his car without adequate ventilation for nearly three hours while he attended the Tobermory Highland Games has been fined £180.

Colin James Pilbeam, aged 48, of 22 High Street, Wilden, Bedford, who was excused from appearing at Oban Sheriff Court, had his fine reduced from £200 because he pled guilty at the earliest opportunity.

The court heard that on July 22 2010 Pilbeam, who was on a camping holiday with his family to Mull, had left the black Labrador in the boot of his car at approximately noon while he attended the games.

Defending, Duncan Durbin told the court that water was available in the car for the dog to drink.

Mr Durbin asked for his client to be admonished as he was a respected researcher, a responsible pet owner, had no previous convictions and was unlikely to appear in front of a court again.

Sentencing, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'I do feel a fine is appropriate.'

**A privatised Royal Mail may benefit island, claims MP**

MULL Community Council heard that privatisation of Royal Mail may actually be of benefit to the island's communities.

Alan Reid MP, who has long been a supporter of improving the service to the island, had contacted James Heggie, chairman, to inform him there was no way of getting around industry watchdog Post Comm's targets. However, if the service was to be part privatised then Mr Reid may suggest that any new company may be able to set different targets for different areas that would in turn reflect the needs of communities, such as Mull. At present some residents receive their mail at teatime because Oban boats wait for first class mail from Glasgow before bringing any mail to the island. This is in accordance with Post Comm's target to get First Class post to addressees within 24 hours.

Mr Reid was looking to formalise a way of ensuring the community council's input.

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**THE TIREE WAVE CLASSIC 2010**  
 THE ISLE OF TIREE, SCOTLAND  
 Saturday 9 - Friday 15 October

**THE TIREE WAVE CLASSIC 2010**  
 9th - 15th October

**Top windsurfers from all over the world will converge on the Isle of Tiree for the world-renowned Skykon Tiree Wave Classic next week. From Saturday 9 October until Friday 15 October, elite board sailors will battle it out in the surf surrounding Tiree in the UK's premier windsurfing competition.**

Now in its 24th year, the Tiree Wave Classic attracts entrants who will brave the full force of the Atlantic wind and waves off this remote and exposed island. This year's competitors include Holland's Martin Ten and Spain's Dany Bruch, ranked number 7 in the world.

Louise Emery at the British Wavesailing Association said that many of the world's top windsurfers are looking forward to competing at Tiree, alongside Scotland's finest.

'The Tiree Wave Classic remains a very well run event on an island with close to perfect windsurfing conditions. We are expecting a large turnout and it is set to go from strength to strength,' Emery said.

'There will also be a strong contingent of Scottish sailors mainly from the Troon/Largs area. The other events on the windsurfing calendar are expensive for them to get to so this is their one chance of the year to take on the English and Welsh riders and they have already booked several houses on the island,' she added.

The Tiree Wave Classic is supported by Argyll and Bute Council, EventScotland and Highlands and Islands Enterprises and is set to attract hundreds of international competitors, visitors and media to the island. Due to the challenging location of the Tiree Wave Classic, the event organisers Dialogue Sports Marketing and the British Wavesailing Association rely on the support of these committed sponsors for the continued success of the event.

Skykon, the Danish wind turbine manufacturer is also supporting the carbon neutral event for the second consecutive year.

Set against Tiree's rugged coastline with white beaches and superb conditions, the Tiree Wave Classic is a niche event attracting world-class windsurfers from all corners of the globe.

Since its humble beginnings in 1986, the Tiree Wave Classic has matured to a truly spectacular event which is further evidence of Scotland's growing reputation as a stage for top athletes and showcases the diverse nature of Scotland's natural assets and legendary hospitality.

**For more information about the Tiree Wave Classic go to www.tireewaveclassic.org, follow the event at www.twitter.com/tireewave and become a fan of the Tiree Wave Classic 2010 on facebook.**

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# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Methadone - cure or curse?

THE true cost of prescribing drug addicts with methadone in Scotland has been revealed - nearly half a million pounds a week.

New figures have shown that more than £105million has been spent on the controversial drug treatment programme in the last four years, with the bill rising each year from £20.5million in 2006-07, to £27.9million in 2009-10.

In that time, more than 100 people have died of methadone overdoses.

Since April this year, £4.7million has been spent on dispensing alone.

The news, which comes as a senior Strathclyde Police officer backed plans for more methadone delivery areas in Argyll, has prompted fresh calls from experts to discontinue methadone as a substitute for heroin addicts.

A former Oban police chief has highlighted that the methadone programme brings addicts into geographical areas that have not previously been associated with the social and criminal problems that are closely linked to drugs. Professor Neil McKeganey, the director for the Centre of Drug Misuse in Glasgow, said the methadone was not only costly, but delivered dubious results.

Keeping people on methadone indefinitely was not a solution, he said.

There is now growing political pressure on the Scottish Government to rethink its drug treatment strategy.

However, the Scottish Government says the current treatment programme is actually saving the country money, adding that a record £28.6million will be invested in frontline drug treatment services during 2010-11.



## Fèis an Earraich, Portree, Isle of Skye - 1996

The large piping contingent at the 1996 Fèis an Earraich, Portree, Isle of Skye, was tutored by Pipe Major Iain MacFadyen, Kyle of Lochalsh; Ewen MacCrimmon, Inverness; and Farquhar MacDonald, Bernisdale, Isle of Skye. We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

### GLASGOW LETTER

#### CD launch in Glasgow

IT IS some hundreds of years since shepherds could be found in the Glasgow Green area of what was then the 'village of Glasgow' and presumably it would not have been unusual to hear them singing and whistling as they tended flocks.

Well, believe it or not, a shepherd could be heard in the adjoining St Andrew's in the Square just last week. It was the venue for the launch of the new CD, 'Fields of Dreams', from shepherd Iain Thomson and his band.

Now resident back home in Mull, Iain and the band, on this occasion Gregor Lowrey, Charlie MacKerron, Richard Werner, Pete Harvey, Marc Duff, Abigail Lightbody, Maeve MacKinnon, Finlay Wales and his own daughter Deborah, played all the tracks on their new CD with Iain providing informative and thought provoking details on the origins of each song.

This was very much music from the heart, from a man who thinks deeply about people, and particularly those with west coast backgrounds, no matter where in the world they were forced to settle to earn a living.

At the same time his delight at being able to live and work in his beloved Isle of Mull was central to the music being played, much to the delight of the audience.

#### Stirling ceilidh

THE STIRLING branch of An Comunn got its new season underway with a friendly ceilidh much appreciated by the audience.

The artistes for the evening were piper Dr Innes Smith, singers Margaret Callan, Rhona Morrison, Lyle Kennedy and Gordon McKeeve with accordionist Lex Keith accompanied by fiddler Jean Ann Callander.

The young Cluaran Dancers gave their usual quality demonstration of a variety of dances in an evening where president Seumas Campbell had the pleasure of chairing proceedings.

#### The Beatles live on

JOHN Lennon would have been 70 years old this year and yet the music of The Beatles still lives on.

There is an opportunity to taste some of that wonderful music in the Royal Concert Hall on Friday October 8 at 7.30pm in the Main Auditorium.

The Ryan Quigley Big Band, augmented by a 17 strong string orchestra, with guest singers Justin Currie, Jacqui Dankworth, Carol Kidd, Todd Gordon, Julie Fowlis, Sandie Thom and some other surprise artists will provide the entertainment so it should be quite an evening of nostalgia and quality music.

#### Diary dates

**Thursday September 30:** Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham, Regal Community Theatre, Bathgate.

**Friday October 1:** Glasgow Islay Association Opening Concert, Crawford Hall, Beith Street, Partick, 7.30pm.

**Saturday October 2:** Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Opening Ceilidh, Partick Burgh Halls, 7.45pm. Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham, Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, 8pm.

**Friday October 8:** Clydebank and District Highlander's Association Ceilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm. Swinging The Beatles, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 7.30pm, see above.

**Saturday October 9:** BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year semi-finals, Coulter Hall, Biggar, 7.30pm. Paisley and District Highlander's Association ceilidh dance, Elderslie Village Hall, 7.30pm.

#### Pub scene

GUNNA Sound will play in the Park Bar on both Saturday and Sunday with Deoch' Dorus on Friday while in the Islay Inn it will be the Keelies on Friday and Pneumatic Drills on Saturday.

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

### YOUR LETTERS

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

## Letters to the editor

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email: editor@obantimes.co.uk

www.obantimes.co.uk

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#### Right to refuse pontoon cash

Sir,  
I write regarding last Friday's public meeting in Oban.

Back in April you printed a letter of mine in which I said: 'I believe this transit marina idea is too little, too late, in the wrong place and will only serve as a boat park for one or two restaurants and bars close by. This is not a great reason to fund it to the tune of £900,000.'

The CHORD project board has decided not to support the transit marina project with funding and has gone to great lengths with the recent public meeting not to justify its decision but to demonstrate to those few doubters the sound reasoning behind its decision.

Unlike myself and others, the project board can't just go on gut feelings or simply say no because it has no belief in the project.

It, as a properly constituted board, has to and has given Oban Bay Marine every opportunity to make its case, equally having made its case.

Oban Bay Marine has to accept the decision and move on.

When a project is not viable and can't deliver sustainable meaningful benefit to the community as a whole then public funding quite rightly should be denied.

Ian Dougall, Oban.

#### Ferry services not lucrative

Sir,  
I read comments attributed to Bob Crow in last week's issue, relating to the current Scottish Ferries Review and Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac).

He referred to 'the very lucrative ferry services such as Oban to Craignure'.

This service has, in fact, lost money, usually about £1million a year, for as long as anyone can remember.

In 2007 - the most recent year for which I have figures - all CalMac's routes lost money but there is an oft repeated fallacy that some make pots of it. Total losses on the West Coast and Clyde routes operated by CalMac in 2007 - excluding Gourock to Dunoon which also lost money - were £34,783,000. There was also a fuel subsidy of £5million, and the additional cost of RET on the routes where it was applied. This was a subsidy

of about £1,200 per year for every inhabitant of the islands.

The Scottish Government commissioned the Ferry Review in the hope that ways could be found to provide equal or better services at lower cost to the taxpayer. There is no doubt on many routes this is possible.

Trade union leaders are engaged in extracting more pay for less work from employers. That is fair enough, though often it is damaging to the workforce in the longer term.

But they are also deeply interested in preserving their member numbers because their own pay, power and perks depend on it. Any suggestion that the interests of ferry users are important to Bob Crow should be regarded with scepticism.

James Knight, Mull

#### Blinkered view

Sir,  
McCaig's column is one that I thought I could depend on for unbiased views; not so in last week's column where he reported on the Pope's visit.

McCaig gleefully reported that the Pope so rightfully 'condemns the nasty face of militant humanism'. Don't

humanists have a right to choose? Such nasty slurs belittle the Pope and the Roman Catholic church.

The 82 per cent of non-Catholics got absolutely nothing for their £12 million. McCaig avoided mentioning the £12m, but coyly added the church did contribute, but no amount given.

The Roman Catholic church opposed Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection in the Origin of Species in 1859, and a century later in 1953 refused to accept that the discovery of DNA proving that all plant and animal life had a single source. The church's greatest rage is reserved for Richard Dawkins, a Fellow of New College and life-long atheist, who in 1976 published *The Selfish Gene*. Dawkins has been lauded by scientists and religious leaders for his revolutionary ideas on evolution, but vilified by the church.

Membership of the Roman Catholic church and all religions is declining daily as members begin to see that God is a delusion, like Santa Claus. In Scotland, over 50 per cent don't have any religion.

George A Clarke, Mull.

### ISLAY LETTER

#### Baptist celebration

THE PORT Ellen Baptist Church congregation was in jubilant mood last weekend when they celebrated the centenary of the opening of its church building in the village's Lennox Street.

A display of photographs and other memorabilia recalled 100 years of worship in the island church, a children's painting competition added colour and imagination, a slide quiz provided amusement and a Songs of Praise programme proved another highlight. The sun shone on the celebration picnic at Kilnoughton beach and the Sunday morning worship and evening service was conducted by the Rev Iain D Macaulay, minister of Queen's Park Baptist Church in Glasgow's southside.

The visiting guest preacher has a long family connection with the Port Ellen church and his parents Mary and James Macaulay are among the island's Baptist stalwarts.

The Port Ellen church first opened its doors for worship in 1910 and has had 15 ministers during its 100 year history. It is now firmly attached to its longer established sister congregation at Bowmore. Both churches are currently without a resident minister.

We congratulate the Port Ellen Baptists on their dedication, commitment and unwavering witness.

#### Girlguiding centenary

ISLAY'S Girl Guides were also in celebratory mood when they marked the centenary of the guiding movement with a special exhibition in the Bowmore Baptist Church

premises. Photographs of other days in the organisation made for nostalgic viewing and the display of uniforms dating from the mid 1940s demonstrated the evolving dress changes. These changes were also much in evidence in the Rainbow and Brownie uniforms also on show.

The steady trickle of viewers also enjoyed the refreshments and succulent home baking on offer. The close-on £200 raised at the event will be donated to the Centenary Fund.

The 100th birthday celebrations will culminate with a special extravaganza on October 20.

#### Pre-Mòd ceilidh

CLOSE on 20 young Gaelic performers, many of whom had enjoyed success at Mòd Dhailriada on the previous weekend, gave their all at a pre-National Mòd ceilidh in Bowmore Primary School's assembly hall on Friday.

This was hosted by the school's participating Gaelic choir under the direction of conductor Helen Gillies.

Songs and poetry were ably delivered by Elizabeth Aitchison, Kayla and Laura Woodrow, Zoe Wells, Iona Scott, Emily Gray, Hannah Gillies, Ryan Johnston and Mairi MacGillivray who also favoured with fiddle selections.

Alasdair Currie sang and played the bagpipes, Kimmie Ray and Emma MacNicol gave further verse, and also bursting forth with song were soloists Isabel Ferguson, Alison Gairns, Siobhan MacNab and duettists Natalie Dunn and Zoe Wells.

The folk groups 'Na h-Uiseagan', 'Na Smeoraich' and 'Na Caraidean' did their own thing and the input from

Coisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ìle, conducted by Arlene MacKerrell, greatly pleased. Equally acceptable was the contributions from the slightly longer in the tooth Coisir Ghàidhlig Ìle, under the baton of Iseabail Mactaggart.

Everyone wishes performers every success as they shortly go off to strut their stuff at Caidhness.

#### Jazz festival

THE ISLAND'S 2010 jazz festival, now sponsored by Lagavulin Distillery, was voted an outstanding success which catered for all tastes.

Sessions were held in various venues throughout the island and these ranged from local distilleries and village halls to an art gallery.

Attendances at many of the events were up on recent years and among the top liners were American saxophonist Jesse Davis, Mario Caribe, Paul Harrison and local blues singer Sheena Swanson and drummer Brian Palmer.

The festival is promoted by the Islay Arts Association in conjunction with Assembly Direct.

#### Diamond wedding

WELL-KNOWN Rhinns of Islay retired farmers Robert and Mary, nee Murray, Paget celebrated 60 years of marriage on September 28.

The diamond couple were married in 1950 in St Andrew's Church in Ayr by the late Rev Ronald Torrie, the then parish minister at Kilchoman and the Rhinns.

Family and friends send sincere congratulation to both. Slainte!  
**Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Tel: 01496 810658.**

## A view from the tower

by McCaig

#### The worst possible result

THE VICTORY of Ed Miliband in the Labour leadership contest last weekend was, for the party, the worst possible result.

Indeed, it was not a real victory at all as overall many more voted against him than for, even given the block vote of a number of the unions. But, of course, that is the big flaw in the 'first past the post' system.

However, the biggest fault is that he stood for election at all. He must have realised that, if he stood and defeated his older brother, there would be and now is a very real problem, immaterial of how close they are alleged to be as publicly demonstrated at the declaration of the result.

Privately, David Miliband would not be human if he didn't feel hurt and derided by an over-ambitious wee brother, who is young enough to have waited his turn, been a more rounded and experienced character, and still been able to play a significant part in politics and made a useful contribution as a Cabinet Minister.

All sorts of practical problems arise with the current situation: David Miliband was the overwhelming choice of the ordinary Labour Party members and of Labour MPs while his sibling got his 1.4 per cent margin of success thanks to the trade union vote.

As Lord Foulkes has pointed out: 'not all trade union members are Labour Party members'. He should have added many are so far to the left that they probably would not have been admitted had they applied. But 'Red Ed', as the new leader has been dubbed, is still so wet behind the ears that he will not admit trade union support comes at a price.

No matter how swiftly and ardently he proclaims 'I am my own man' he is bright enough to understand that support comes at a price and one which he will be called upon to recognise when the leader of the RMT Union, and others of his far left persuasion, demand his full support.

If he wants to present the image of a responsible opposition he needs to fight to change two major points of principle in the Party's constitution. With the union vote, only card-carrying members of the Labour Party can have their vote committed in any such election. And it's nonsense that the election of membership to the Shadow Cabinet is by MPs instead of responsibility being given to the leader to appoint as he would be able to do were he Prime Minister.

Nevertheless, I look forward to interviewing Mr Miliband when he comes to the Scottish Labour Party Conference in Oban next month as well as Iain Gray his Party's Scottish Leader who has seemingly won the right to be a member

of the Party's National Executive, something no previous Scottish Leader has been granted automatically.

#### Jolomo Awards 2011

SOMEONE said to me last week at the launch of the Jolomo Awards in Edinburgh's National Galleries that the sponsors had changed.

They haven't. The Bank of Scotland is part of Lloyds TSB Scotland PLC and Lady Susan Rice who is now the chief executive of the group was there to bring her employers' congratulations and good wishes to all competitors.

Lady Rice has been involved from the very beginning and those of us who have been supporters from the outset have looked forward to meeting her at these events and chatting on a whole range of subjects - she is the very antithesis of Vince Cable's 'spiv' bankers.

John Lowrie Morrison, better known to everyone as Jolomo, explained to a large audience who had enjoyed torrential rain to attend, why he personally funds the awards to the tune of £35,000 - £25,000 of which is the first prize.

He became aware almost a decade ago that the teaching of landscape painting at Scottish art colleges was being squeezed out by something called 'conceptual art' - dead sheep in tubs of formaldehyde and unmade beds for instance - and, as a leading Scottish landscape painter, he decided to do something about it.

The competition has been enormously successful with winners producing outstanding examples of work that is recognisably Scottish landscape from a 21st century vision.

Entry forms are now available from art schools and colleges as well as selected galleries, such as Kranenburg Fine Art in Oban.

#### Still hope for Oban Bay pontoons

THE PROJECT Board for developments under the CHORD - Campbeltown, Oban, Rothesay, Helensburgh and Dunoon Programme - held a clear-the-air meeting in Oban last week to explain why they couldn't support Oban Bay Marine's proposals for a 'transit' marina between Oban's North and Railway Piers.

Most of the audience were 'sceptical' to say the least. However, they did throw a little when councillors and officials admitted they would welcome a private developer to take over the project.

On Monday night, Oban Bay Marine held a public meeting to put its version of what has happened and what it hopes for the future. I'll look at both meetings in next week's column.

### PRESS POLICY

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

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

The Oban Times adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct. The views expressed in The Oban Times are not necessarily those of this newspaper.

Davy Kirkpatrick was born and brought up on Iona where he still lives with wife Carol. Davy was firstly a fisherman on the island and now runs daily trips to the island of Staffa.



# My Island Iona

## What makes Iona special for you?

Well it's my home and it has always been my home. It was where I was brought up and it's where my friends are, where I've raised my family and where I've earned my living. I enjoyed the challenge of making a living from fishing on Iona. Iona had no commercial fishing when I was a boy and my siblings left Iona to find work. My first boat was *The Devotion* and with the help of the Highland Fund I made enough to go into partnership with Bobo Gibson to build a new boat. One of the best moments of my life was when we went to Fraserburgh and collected the *Silver Spray*. She had just been built by James Noble and was the first big fishing boat to come to Iona. We fished for lobsters to start with, landing in Oban to George MacAulay. The *Silver Spray* was a well-known sight in the Sound of Iona at that time. The waters round Iona have always been abundant in shellfish and fish. The opportunities to work on boats ferrying passengers or fishing make Iona special for me.

## Does it have an interesting history?

Exceptionally so. The history of Iona is complicated but the modern consensus of opinion is that Saint Columba settled here in 563 because he couldn't see Ireland and spread the Christian word throughout Britain and further afield.

I take boat trips to Staffa and as we pass the north end of Iona I point out the beautiful white sandy beach which is the White Strand of the Monks where the Iona monks were slaughtered by the Vikings. Many important



Davy on the village street. t40davy1

events in history happened around Iona and the Scottish Kings are buried in the ancient burial ground at the Reiligh Orain beside Saint Oran's Chapel. As Iona is so strategically positioned amongst the west coast islands, it made the ideal power base in times gone by when the main highway was by sea. If you were to stand on the top of Dun I, the highest hill on Iona, you would see Tiree out to the west, Colonsay, Jura and Islay to the south, Mull to the east and Eigg, Rhum, Canna, Skye and Coll to the north. Through the centuries there were different types of boats from lowly coracles to high-class aluminium, all stopping off at Iona.

## How important is it to the island?

It is part of the fabric of Iona. The history is the first introduction most people get as the island has played such a large part in important historical events. Pilgrims come in their thousands to see for themselves. The history of Iona cannot be separated

from religion. People have prayed on Iona for centuries and the Iona community, an ecumenical group founded by Lord George MacLeod resident in the Abbey buildings, continue this on a daily basis all year round. They are at the forefront of all religions and creeds working together.

## What does it offer that other islands can't?

Peace and tranquillity. Considering it is a small island and a lot of people come and visit it on a daily basis, when they first step on it they get a sense of peace and tranquillity. Iona can only offer itself to the visitor. I like many of the neighbouring islands and they all have their own identity. Tiree, for example, offers wide, sweeping white sandy beaches; Coll has an isolated charm of its own and Mull offers a wildlife paradise. Iona offers spirituality as well as healing for the weary traveller.

## How would you describe the island to someone who has never been there?

Iona is a small island only 3½ miles long and 1½ miles wide. At the highest point, Dun I, it reaches just over 300 feet. There is a population of 120 people with six school children at present who only attend school on Iona until they are

12 when they go to board in Oban. Fortunately there is good number of nursery age children. Crofting is still one of the main occupations on Iona but it would be difficult to survive without tourism, on which the whole island relies. The island is very fertile compared to neighbouring Mull, which will be brown in winter whilst Iona stays green. Iona rarely gets frost or snow so plants survive very well. The machair land is a meadow of flowers in summertime above the white sandy beaches and the turquoise sea whilst the south end has rocky outcrops and heather. By contrast the middle of Iona and the east side, where the settlements are, are mostly cultivated land and are very fertile. There are good organic gardens on Iona using the seaweed as a natural fertiliser. The houses are mostly traditional looking and some are built with local pink granite. There used to be a marble quarry worked on Iona and much of the stone has been used in churches throughout the world.

## Were you born in the island? How long have you lived there?

I was born in Greenock in 1947 and came home as a baby so all my memories are of growing up in the village on Iona. I chose to stay as I enjoyed the challenge of fishing and working at sea. The boats were what I wanted to do. I never wanted to do anything else. My whole life has been on boats and Iona would not survive without them. As a child, all the supplies came from Glasgow or Greenock on the *Loch Carron* bringing things like Milanda bread and Kings of Wishaws Oddfellows. Sweet memories. Today the boats are just as vital but the road link through Mull is the important one making access a lot easier.

## How much has Iona changed since you were a child or moved to the island?

Iona hasn't changed a lot, just gradually. Anything that doesn't change and adapt dies and Iona makes a good job of changing and it is surviving very well. The



The view from Davy's garden. t40davy3

village, Baillemor, is sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds. This makes living there quite different from living on a croft. I was always a village boy. I remember the houses being lit up and full of local people who lived there all the time. It saddens me this is not the case in the village today. There are too many empty houses although fortunately most of the crofts are still occupied with island people.

## Do you have a favourite place or building in Iona?

My favourite place on Iona is St Columba's Bay. I like going there and picking among the stones. It is a challenge to find a good Iona Greenstone. My daughter Anne has a keen eye for finding them. These are semi-precious serpentine found in Iona marble, a translucent green stone which legend has it will keep you safe from drowning. It is a good walk from the village across the island to the west side and then over the machair, passing the bay at the Back of the Ocean and heading up past the old reservoir to the south end. I have gone to Columba's Bay a lot over the years and still enjoy it.

## Do you have a favourite time of the year on Iona?

Obviously the weather is a huge factor in the daily lives of the islanders. When I was fishing I used to like the back end of the year better

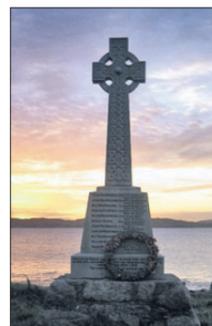
because there were plenty of lobsters and the prices were rising but now I run boat trips to Staffa I prefer the spring as it makes life easier when the weather is good.

## What are the challenges facing Iona or how could it be improved?

The same as the challenges everywhere else in the country, how to survive and prosper whilst living with all the outside influences on the island. The National Trust for Scotland owns the island and Historic Scotland runs and maintains the Abbey buildings and Nunnery Ruins and with the usual local government input this means a lot of consultation has to be undertaken before things get moving. Considering the island is so small it makes development difficult. I



The War Memorial at Martyrs Bay, Iona. t40davy5



The Silver Spray - the well-known fishing boat on Iona. t40davy2

## Iona?

I would say the common answer would be the peacefulness of it and the friendliness of the people.

Many visitors return each year as they feel connected to Iona, its people and its places.

They tell me it is very special to them and as soon as they leave they are looking forward to the day they will return. Iona has that special thing about it. There is a liveliness in the view, something about the light playing on the land reflecting on the sea and bouncing back. The landscape has a softness, nothing jars, it is very natural and one has a sense that it hasn't changed all that much in its billions of years of existence. Iona has some of the oldest rock in the world and there is that feeling about it all. For all those who make it to Iona, very few go home disappointed.

It might not have been what they expected but it is always memorable. Iona gives people what they need. Is there anyone famous from the island?

Not that I know of, apart from my brother Charlie who is well known in Scottish music circles, however, many famous people have a strong connection with Iona. In the art world it is Cadell, in the religious world Lord George MacLeod and in the political world John Smith. They have all spent many happy times on Iona during their lives. One of the meanings of Iona is Dove and that means Peace and hopefully they found it here.



Davy's daughter Catriona, a teacher at Park Primary School, Oban, who was engaged to Archie Clarke of Mallaig at the weekend. t40davy4

*"Many visitors return each year as they feel connected to Iona, its people and its places. They tell me it is very special to them and as soon as they leave they are looking forward to the day they will return."*

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## 10 Years Ago

## Those Were The Days The Oban Times

September 28 2000



### Farewell for coastguard station

OBAN Coastguard Station closes its doors for the final time tomorrow.

The final broadcast will be made at 10am by watch manager John Gillespie.

The controversial closure follows a long battle to save the station, which was among a number earmarked for closure nationwide.

Clyde Coastguard will now take responsibility for the area south of Ardnamurchan while Stornoway takes over the north of the district.

However there will be no change in rescue personnel - Oban's auxiliary coastguard team will still be on hand to provide invaluable help in emergencies headed by sector manager Kenny Devine, whose office is on the South Pier. Neither the Oban district's 27 coastguard rescue teams nor any of the other rescue personnel - including RNLI lifeboats and rescue helicopters - will be affected by the move.

'Community coastguarding goes on.'

said district controller Tony Arden. 'It is just the ops room and my office that is based here.'

As the final day approached, Mr Arden was keen to thank the local community for their support over the years.

'To the community of Oban and the district from Skye down to Colonsay we say goodbye and thank you for all your support through the good times and the sad,' he said. 'We know our sector managers and auxiliary coastguard teams will continue to provide you with the quality service you deserve.'

He added: 'We wish everyone in the Maritime and Coastguard Agency good luck and particularly our flank coastguard stations Stornoway and Clyde, who are inheriting what is definitely the most beautiful coastguard district in the service.'

### Luing islander leaves £1 million

A LADY who made the island of Luing her home for more than 30 years has left £1 million to good causes in her will.

Elizabeth Somerville came to Luing in 1964 with her mother and brother, after retiring as a head teacher from an all-girls secondary school in Surrey, but died last year in her early 90s.

'People may have said she had quite a school-maamish point of view but that was because she was very certain in direction of mind,' said Edna Whyte, of Luing, who was a friend of the late Miss Somerville.

'This very generous donation left to Scottish charities was not made by an elderly, lonely old lady but by a person who did much for causes she believed in and a person who knew value for money and the improvements and benefit it could make,' said one islander.

Miss Somerville was always involved in island life - running the local library and acting as secretary to the community council. Together with her brother Tom she also campaigned for a post bus 20 years ago.

Tom died a number of years ago and by choice Miss Somerville spent her last few years in North Argyll Eventide Home, Oban.

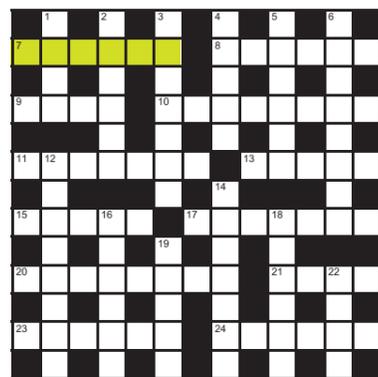
## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

### Across

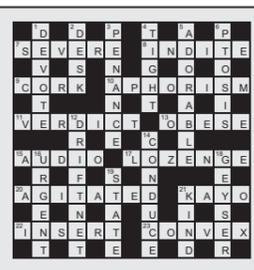
- 7 Nearsightedness (6)
- 8 A short visit (4-2)
- 9 Agree (4)
- 10 To secretly arrange wrong-doing (6)
- 11 Bliss (7)
- 13 Short organisers (5)
- 15 Grasper (5)
- 17 Sort through (7)
- 20 Diaphanous (8)
- 21 Rubbish! (4)
- 23 Rub out (6)
- 24 Of an experimental nature (6)

### Down

- 1 Combustible tower (4)
- 2 Gist (6)
- 3 Aggressive governmental system (8)
- 4 Drop down (5)
- 5 Apathetic (6)
- 6 Shriil (8)
- 12 Sign game (8)
- 14 Regular joker (7)
- 16 Winged missile (6)
- 18 Falling star (6)
- 19 Shlack (5)
- 22 Just break the surface (4)



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# MULL RALLY

October 8th, 9th and 10th



Still a family business



**MULL RALLY TIMETABLE OF EVENTS**

THURSDAY 7th OCTOBER		
18:00 – 20:00	Door plates etc available for collection	Sea Life Surveys Office Tobermory
19:00	Stage Commanders Meeting	Rugby Club Garmory
19:30	John Fife's Rally Forum	Aros Hall
21:00	Tunnoch's Tea Cake Eating Competition	Macgochan's Tobermory
FRIDAY 8th OCTOBER		
9:15 – 15:00	Noise Testing	Lindhu House Service Road
9:30 – 15:30	Scrutineering	Tobermory Distillery
9:30 – 16:00	Documentation	Sea Life Surveys Office Tobermory
11:30 – 13:30	Marshals and Radio Crews Signing On	Rugby Club Garmory
13:30	Safety Crews Signing on	Rugby Club Garmory
11:45	Co-Drivers Briefing Cars 1 to 50	Aros Hall
13:45	Co-Drivers Briefing Cars 51 to 100	Aros Hall
16:15	Co-Drivers Briefing Cars 101 to 150	Aros Hall
20:01	Car 1 Starts Section 1 Ledaig Car Park	Tobermory
21:49	Service	Craignure
SATURDAY 9th OCTOBER		
00:53	Car 1 Finishes Section 1	Salen Hotel
12:21	Car 1 Starts Section 2	Salen Hotel
13:30	Trophy Rally Scrutineering	100 yards down Ardmore Road Salen
14:00	Service Tobermory	
15:35	Car 1 Finishes Section 2	Kinloch Junction Glen More
21:01	Car 1 Starts Section 3	Salen Hotel
21:30	Trophy Rally Scrutineering	100 yards down Ardmore Road Salen
22:27	Service	Craignure
SUNDAY 10th OCTOBER		
01:12	Car 1 Finishes Section 3	Ledaig Car Park Tobermory
11:00	Rally Golf Competition (sign on 10:30)	Tobermory Golf Club
12:00	Clay Pigeon Shoot	Newdale Tobermory
13:00 - 13:30	Provisional Results Posted	Sea Life Surveys Office Tobermory
15:00	Winners Parade	Main Street Tobermory
15:30	Prize Giving (after Winners Parade)	Aros Hall Tobermory

**RALLY SHOP**  
The event merchandising will be available from the following outlets during normal shop opening hours. Orders can also be placed via the order form off the Mull Rally Website  
Tobermory Distillery • Tobermory Post Office • SPAR Shop in Salen • Bunnessan Post Office and Stores

As the days become shorter and the sound of rutting stags can be heard on the hills it must be that time of year again for many to make the annual pilgrimage to the Isle of Mull for a car rally. This year sees the first running of the "Tunnoch's Mull Rally" on October 8th, 9th and 10th. Competitors are busy themselves burning the midnight oil, fettling their cars to try and get that last bit of power and reliability from their steeds. The organising team have spent the last

six months frantically working all hours to put on an event the quality of which has become expected for the October rally on mull. Mull Car Club are very grateful to Tunnoch's for having the confidence in them to back the event again this year.

There are 120 entrants signed on for this years event, some travelling from the far south of England and Wales. It is nice to see many of the regular names returning once again to try and overcome the challenges that this rally pits against them. For many it will be their

first time competing on the Mull roads. They have heard so many reports from fellow competitors about the challenge that awaits them, on roads and at speeds that would make the average driver a nervous wreck. To do all this in the dark as well makes this one of the most challenging events in the motor sport calendar.

As well as the competitors the event requires the services of 12 Doctors, 11 rescue crews, 10 recovery crews, not to mention the 200 marshals who are attending to ensure the safety of competitors and spectators. So if you are coming over to spectate please follow the marshals instructions as they have your safety in mind and want you to be able to enjoy the spectacle in a safe place.

As well as the rally itself there are other events put on which you can enter yourself. The Tunnoch's tea cake eating competition will take place in Macgochan's on Thursday night. The golf tournament will take place on Tobermory golf course on Sunday as well as the clay pigeon shoot at Newdale also on Sunday. On Monday 11th the annual pig roast will again be happening in the

Bellachroy car park at Dervaig. The organisers would like to thank everyone who has given their support and help in getting this event to run this year. From the ladies who have run coffee evenings and bingo nights to the teams who have been out getting sponsorships and offers of help to marshal the event. Without your determination and hard work this event might not have happened. A warm welcome awaits you over on Mull so please come and enjoy the motor sport but please come prepared for the weather and take note of the marshals instructions for your own safety.

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**NFU Scotland – at the forefront of Scottish agriculture**

SINCE National Farmers Union (NFU) Scotland's establishment in 1913, the organisation has remained the voice of Scotland's farmers, crofters and growers.

The review of Scotland's farm support system is set to take centre stage for the next few years and NFUS has been at the forefront of this issue, fighting for farming's future.

Change is inevitable, but ensuring that Scottish farmers are not disadvantaged, as EU rules are changed, is the key outcome we must deliver.

One of NFU Scotland's main strengths is its credibility. This is gained through consistency of policy and the dedication and professionalism of our staff and office bearers. Undoubtedly there are huge hurdles ahead – the future of SFP, LFASS, the fight for the introduction of a proportionate penalty system and the simplification of regulation. NFU Scotland is the best-placed organisation to tackle these issues.

It speaks volumes that for the third consecutive year, NFUS has recorded a growth in membership and is uniquely placed as the only body that represents all sectors of Scottish agriculture.

There are various ways that members can participate and voice their opinion on the hot topics surrounding the industry. Some members use our regular email updates and the Scottish Farming Leader to keep abreast of the latest news, others may attend on farm events and some go on to become involved in the Regional Board or National Committees.

The most common route of involvement is attending branch meetings held in your area.

Quite simply, NFU Scotland offers something to all members, but the more you put in, the more you will get out of the organisation.

For further information on NFU Scotland you can contact Lucy Sumsion, Regional Manager. Tel: 01499 600154 or Email: lucy.sumsion@nfus.org.uk



Bob Cunninghame with his 12,000 guinea bull Spittleton Drew. 07\_137bob03

**Mulindry survives Islay's dairy disaster by buying into beef**

TEN YEARS ago Mulindry, and other dairy farms on Islay, stared bankruptcy in face when the island creamery closed down.

And as Mulindry farm manager Alastair Torrance and his colleagues watched hundreds of dairy cattle leave the island it was difficult to see how Islay's seven seasoned dairy farmers could make a living. It is therefore testament to Alastair, and others, that they have moved successfully into beef and sheep – and Mulindry can now boast prizewinning Limousin cows.

From 1964 - 2000 Alastair, and his father before him, had extended Mulindry from a 36-cow dairy unit to having 105 cows, new parlour and milking cubicles.

The milk went to the island creamery in Port Charlotte – but one day the process came to disastrous halt.

'We were devastated when the creamery closed but we got together, planned a relaunch and decided to keep it running ourselves,' said Alastair. 'We ran into financial difficulties after about a year and had to admit defeat.'

Having waived an offer of a subsidy to move into beef farming when the creamery initially closed, the islanders were left with no option but to sell their stock when their creamery takeover failed.

'Taking on the creamery



Alastair Torrance with his wife, Catherine. 07\_137alastair01

was our biggest mistake,' Alastair muses. 'There was no help for us after that. It was tough seeing hundreds of cows leave the island in a matter of days. It was particularly hard for the older generation who had been in dairy farming all their lives.'

But a defiant Alastair threw himself into beef, then added sheep to the Mulindry hills.

'We are all still here,' he exclaimed. '2000 was a really tough year because we all bought calves and had nothing to sell but we got through it.'



In 10 years Mulindry has built up a beef herd of 80 cross-bred cows going to a Limousin bull. 07\_137alastair04

Ten years on and Mulindry has around 80 cows – mostly Limousin – and a stock bull. Such is the turnaround that Alastair's cows won last year's island herd competition.

'I just had to slip into beef farming,' said Alastair, who is married to recently retired Islay High School teacher, and Bowmore native, Catherine.

'We have won competitions so we must be doing something right. Everyone was really pleased for us when we won.'

Alastair admits he still misses dairying and the camaraderie that lifestyle brought with it, however, he is pleased he doesn't have to get up so early these days.

'One thing I have learnt from my career is you have to keep moving; you can't stand still in farming. You have to constantly re-invest in your farm, whether it's machinery, stock or fencing. If you stop, you will fall behind.'

Neriby spends big to improve herd Limousin bloodlines

**Islay farmer puts quality before quantity**

BOB CUNNINGHAME is the first to admit he is not a 'professional' Limousin cattle breeder – but the Islay man is no amateur either.

Driving through the hilly ground of Neriby Farm in his vintage Land Rover, Bob can proudly display many examples of his endeavours to build a high quality beef stock.

**12,000 guinea spend**  
In May this year The British Limousin Cattle Society member vastly exceeded his previous top purchase when he acquired a new stock bull, Spittleton Drew, for 12,000 guineas but he has helped to offset his sudden expensive taste by selling two of his home-bred bulls for a total of £9,000.

These big prices bring Bridgend farmer Bob into the realms of large beef enterprises but the 66-year-old, with the support of his wife Liz, has had to work hard to cultivate the stony Neriby fields and improve the breeding of his stock.

The vintage tractor enthusiast is driven by a desire to keep improving his Limousin cattle.

'I'm past 65 years of age but there are no thoughts of retirement,' says Bob with a smile, which reflects his friendly and outgoing persona. 'As long as Liz and I are healthy we will keep working because we enjoy it too much.'

'We are both enthusiastic about farming and want to keep improving the quality of our calves.'

As if to illustrate the amount of time the couple



Bob and Liz Cunninghame at home at Neriby 07\_137bob01

**'Aim to improve your sale average, not the top price'**  
- Bob Cunninghame

put into their work, Liz adds: 'Everyone thinks we are nuts because we don't have passports. You don't need a passport for the winter sale!'

Bob, whose family has been at Neriby since 1954, bred two bulls this year and three in 2009 from his two pure-bred Limousin cows.

He started his Limousin herd from his home-bred cow, Angelina, who produced his other breeding cow, Elina. Most of his stock has been sired by the home-bred bull Neriby Angus.

Bob cut down on the number of cattle and sheep at Neriby in a bid to 'semi-

retire' but his new-found passion for Limousin cattle has meant he is as busy as ever.

However, he is keen to maintain a modest herd.

He explained: 'I wouldn't like to have 30 Limousin cows; I'm only interested in a couple that can produce a few good bulls every year.'

'Selling good calves at Islay Auction Mart is the reward for all the hard work. While it is always good to get a top price, my aim is to get a good average price. Last year our autumn calves averaged £725, which was excellent.'

**Halkirk AA is Dingwall champion**

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 627 store cattle and 51 OTM cattle at their annual show and sale of store cattle including Aberdeen Angus at Dingwall last Wednesday.

Judge, J Fowlie, Adziel, Strichen, awarded the continental champion to a 640kg Limousin cross bullock from Mr W. Sutherland, 73 Dalchalm, Brora, realising £980.

In the Aberdeen Angus section, the champion prize went to a 580kg bullock from Messrs G and D Coghill, Stemster Mains, Halkirk, realising £965 to the judge, and the reserve ticket went to a 540kg bullock also from Stemster Mains, realising £880.

**Avonvogie Abattoir available to all**

AVONVOGIE Abattoir, based on Islay, is a modern purpose-built facility, which began operating in September 2008.

The abattoir is able to slaughter sheep, pigs and cattle and holds an Over Thirty Months Licence, which allows all cattle under 48 months to be slaughtered.

It is currently making progress towards gaining an Over 48 Months Licence and expects to obtain this in the near future.

The design of the abattoir allows for a 'one man, one beast approach' and the stun pen even allows Highland cattle with the largest of horns to be accommodated.

The abattoir staff pride themselves on the service they are able to provide and its butcher will be delighted to cut and package meat to the customers' requirements.

It is easier to get to Avonvogie Abattoir than you may think and the facility is available to all farmers on Islay, the neighbouring islands and throughout Kintyre and Argyll.

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Scottish Natural Heritage is the leading public body responsible for advising Ministers on matters relating to the natural heritage. The natural environment is a key asset that underpins Scotland's wealth, health and quality of life. Our job is to conserve this resource, to promote its sustainable management and to encourage people to access and enjoy it responsibly.



**Admin Support (B grade)**

**Oban, £14,767 (26 hours per week)**  
**(Ref: 071-049)**

This position includes Word Processing, Finance including GPC, Record Management, MIDAS, NCA and SCM support for Area Officers, Inventory and Protective Clothing, Reception/Telephone and various other administrative duties.

Essential criteria: Administration, Record Management, Reception duties, good IT and keyboard skills, good organisational, communication and interpersonal skills.

**Admin Support (A grade)**

**Oban, £13,926 (37 hours per week)**  
**(Ref: 071-014)**

This position is based in Reception and the duties include: answering the telephone, handling routine enquiries; organising vehicle bookings for the office and arranging maintenance of the office pool cars. Arranging meeting room bookings and organising hospitality for meetings will also be required.

Essential criteria: Relevant experience in: Reception duties, good IT and keyboard skills, good organisational, communication and interpersonal skills.

A current valid driving license or other means of transport is required for either post.

**Closing date for both posts: Friday 15 October 2010.**

**Islay Goose Counter**

**Islay, £7.23 per hour, various hours, Rolling Seasonal**  
**(Ref: 071-080)**

You will undertake scheduled goose counts on Islay as part of a monitoring programme for the Islay Local Goose Management Scheme and carry out other forms of monitoring work in relation to the Goose Management Scheme, e.g. roost counts and dropping counts, as requested from the Goose Scheme Area Officer.

You must have access to a telephone, the ability to work with others and a basic understanding of goose issues on Islay.

**Closing date: Sunday 10 October 2010.**

**We're as supportive, committed and proud of our people as we are of the natural world around us. Find out more, and apply, online. Alternatively, call 01463 725182.**



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**Northern Isles Salmon Limited**

**FRESHWATER HATCHERY ASSISTANT**

Northern Isles Salmon Ltd is a leading company in the Scottish Salmon Industry producing exceptionally high quality products for an increasingly demanding market.

We are currently seeking a candidate to take on the position of Freshwater Hatchery Assistant at Ardtaraig Hatchery, Clachaig, By Dunoon, in Argyll. As part of a small team, they will assist their colleagues in building strong key relationships and ensuring a safe working environment for all

Candidates, must be committed to achieving the best results in a challenging environment by delivering the highest standard of operation. Candidates should be active, self-motivated, mature minded individuals with excellent team working and communication skills. Computer literacy and a technical aptitude would be advantageous, as is possession of a current driving licence.

Excellent employment package is available.

If you feel you have the necessary attributes to successfully fulfil this position & contribute to a progressive, results orientated company, then please send your application to:

**Debi Longmore, HR Assistant, Northern Isles Salmon Ltd, Crowness Point, Hatston Industrial Estate, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1RG**

**Or via email to debi.longmore@mainstreamscotland.com**

The closing date for this vacancy is 1200 hours on 15th October 2010



**We are seeking to recruit individuals to fill the following positions at our established recirculation hatchery in Kintail, Ross-shire**

**Full Time Hatchery Manager** – The ideal candidate will have several years Freshwater experience in a hatchery environment, with a proven ability for establishing best farming practice and developing site infrastructure. A working knowledge of recirculation based aquaculture would be a distinct advantage. First class planning, organisational skills and a high degree of computer literacy.

Company vehicle and live in accommodation available.

**Full Time Hatchery Technician** – This freshwater role is focused upon care of the eggs prior to hatching and also effective fish husbandry of the fry and smolts prior to transportation. Applications would be particularly welcome from candidates who have experience in freshwater operations.

Excellent remuneration. Hours TBC.

**A driving licence is essential for each post.**

Beyond the nature of the roles, the post holders would be expected to undertake additional hours in order to accommodate the business needs of the hatchery. The successful applicants will also be required to assist on the Alarm Rota.

If you would like to be considered of one of these positions, please apply in writing to:

Hugh G Murray, Migdale Smolt Ltd, Dornoch Road, Bonar Bridge, Sutherland, IV24 3EB.

Tel: 01863 766 107 EMAIL: admin@migdalsmolt.co.uk

Closing Date: 8th October 2010



**We are a long established firm of chartered accountants with a strong presence in the West of Scotland. The Tarbert office, due to continued expansion, seeks to employ an accounts assistant who requires to have a basic understanding of bookkeeping and accounts production, training will be available. The remuneration offered will be subject to the candidates level of experience.**

We strive to create a comfortable working environment and expect the candidate to become an integral member of the production team.

Please contact John Hardie by telephone 01880 820277 or write to Wm Duncan & Co., Loch Awe House, Barmore Road, Tarbert, Argyll PA29 6TV.



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40hour week over a 4 day period

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**www.arguscare.co.uk**

**Email: Arlene or Brenda**  
**lynnoflorne@arguscare.co.uk**  
**Tel: 01631 720278**



**Site Husbandry Operator**

*Permanent Contract*

Landcatch Ltd, which is an independent producer of juvenile Atlantic salmon, wishes to recruit a Husbandry Operator for its Freshwater Smolt Unit, Ormsary, Argyll.

The successful candidate will report directly to the Site Manager and be involved in all aspects of the operation of the site.

The successful candidate will possess a full, clean driving licence and be expected to participate in an alarm duty roster system providing 24 hour security cover for the site and stock.

Full training appropriate to the nature of the position will be provided.

In return we offer an attractive employment package, including housing if required.

All applications will be dealt with in strictest confidence, and should in the first instance be to Dave Danson, Freshwater Production Manager, Landcatch Ltd.

**Tel: 01880 770720, ddanson@landcatch.co.uk**

**Argyll & Bute CHP**  
**Oban, Lorn & Isles Locality**  
**Domestic Assistant - Band 1 (2 posts)**  
**£13,653 - £14,364 pro rata**  
**Ref: 10ab/139**  
**Out Patients Department, Lorn & The Isles Hospital, Oban**  
You will work on a permanent contract, 16 hours per week, Monday – Thursday, 5pm – 8pm and Friday, 4pm – 8pm. Knowledge of cleaning and use of buffing machine would be an advantage but training will be given.  
Informal enquiries are welcomed by Caroline Duff, Domestic Supervisor, on 01631 788 948 or email caroline.duff@nhs.net  
Application packs are available from HR Department, NHS Highland, Argyll & Bute CHP, Aros, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8LB, call 01546 606788 (24 hour answering service) or email: recruitmentlab@nhs.net  
Closing date for receipt of applications: 15 October 2010.  
Working with you to make Highland the healthy place to be. www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk

**Oban Times Oban Times Oban Times**  
**RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT**

**Outlook roadshow comes to Oban to forecast future for farmers**

FEW businesses find forecasting the future easy, least of all farmers and crofters.

On Monday, October 4, in the Corran Halls, Oban, the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) is holding the first of a series of three 'Outlook Roadshow' events where a selected group of experts will give their interpretation of what lies in store for the year ahead.

Within the next 12 months

the EU will agree the next major reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, with significant implications for agricultural incomes and subsidies. Meanwhile world market prices continue to remain volatile with directs effects on the trade in livestock products and grain here at home. For a vulnerable livestock area like Argyll and islands it is vital to understand the forces driving that volatility and

plan a production strategy for the long term.

This year's series of three roadshows, planned by SAC, follows last years successful model, with each gathering lasting two hours. They feature guest speakers and SAC experts with an opportunity for debate and discussion.

The Oban event will be followed by others in Dumfries and Dingwall.

Guest speaker in the Corran

Halls will be MEP George Lyon, the man who prepared and guided through the European Parliament's report on the future of the CAP.

The two SAC expert speakers are John Vipond and Douglas Bell from the Rural Policy Centre, a man with special understanding of how livestock markets and prices are moving around the world. He also understands the issues behind the Pack Report which, when

published, will inform the Scottish Government approach to the CAP reform debate.

John Vipond is well known as SAC's foremost expert on sheep production. He will present the latest research and thinking on the nutrition of the ewe, selection of rams and other issues surrounding profitable production.

John said: 'The present strong market for hill sector products created by forces

outwith the farm can leave producers unsure of how best to direct their limited resources and effort.

'This SAC event pulls together both the latest technical knowledge and the policy background. It will help them plan how to farm in both the physical and the political environment.'

The Oban event starts at 2.30pm and will be chaired by SAC Board member Henry Graham.

**Succothmore gimmers sell to £285 at Dalmally**

UNITED Auctions had an entry of 7341 breeding sheep at their annual breeding sheep sale at Dalmally Auction Mart.

Blackface gimmers from Succothmore led the day's trading selling at £285 per head.

Mule ewe lambs from Innisaig sold to £78.

Blackface warranted ewes from Balliemeanach sold to £80 whilst Claddich sold Lleyen cross warranted ewes to £88. The entry of gimmers sold to average £89.20 whilst the draft ewes levelled out at £46.21.



**Ewe lambs from Kilchoan were among the first into the ring for the sale of ewes, gimmers and lambs at Oban Livestock Centre on Tuesday. 07\_140sheep01**

**DALMALLY United Auctions**

**Ewe lambs**  
Blackface: £63 Slaterich £58 Tullochmor £57 Slaterich £56 Tullochmor £55 Millpark £51 Tullochmor £50 Lurginish.  
Cheviot: £70 and £60 5 Tomsaig.  
Mule: £78 Innisaig.  
LleyenX: £55 Tayvallich Estates  
**Gimmers**  
Blackface  
£285 Succothmore £240 Achnamara £200, £170 and £135 Dalchirla £135 Balliemeanach and Achnamara £112 Succothmore £105 Dalchirla £102 Littleport £100 Lephinchapel, Balliemeanach, Achnamara and Blarghour.  
TexelX: £96 Stronachullin  
Mule: £138 Saulmore £118 Glenshellach and Lephinkill £115 Garvachy.

**Warranted ewes**  
Blackface: £80 and £69 Balliemeanach £68 South Beachmore £67 Invermayle £65 Corrylorn £65 South Beachmore £63 Invermayle £61 Braefoot £60 Keilator and South Beachmore £59 Eden Taggart £58 Claddich and Glen Cottage £57 Maudale, Eden Taggart, Braglenmore and Braglenbeg £56 Duncroisk, Littleport and Braglenbeg; £55 Muddale.  
Cheviot: £52 Ruairigan, Mull.  
Mule: £84 and £68 Claddich  
Lleyen: £88, £83, £68 and £66 Claddich.

**LOCHBOISDALE United Auctions**

**Lambs**  
SuffolkX: £65 18 West Gerinish £63 414 Smerclate £62 88 Bualadubb £60 303 Kilpether £59 50 44 Linnique £59 9 Kildonan £57 50 18 West Gerinish £56 50 8 Accarsaid Aird and 356 South Boisdale.  
TexelX: £65 Doon CheviotX: £65 and £60 Doon £60 9 Milton £59 50 8 Pennerine £59 11 Aird £58 St Mary's, Bornish and 9 Milton £56 50 9 Milton.  
Cross: £58 50 355 North Boisdale and 9 Kildonan £55 50 355 North Boisdale.  
Mule: £67 and £57 7 Gerinish Blackface: £64 Doon £50 5 Milton £45 Doon £43 50 2 Kilerivagh £42 11 Aird.  
**Weidlers**  
SuffolkX: £50 287 Kilpether CheviotX: £50 5 Dunmore £48 and £47 6 West Gerinish  
Cross: £58 50 355 North Boisdale; £56 49 Balgarva £51 Ormiclate and Bornish SSC £50 and £48 449 Lochboisdale.  
Blackface: £52 Ben Kenneth SSC £50 58 Clachan and Ben Kenneth SSC £48 449 Lochboisdale and Ben Kenneth.  
Ewes  
SuffolkX: £68 284 Dalburgh £50 414 Smerclate.  
CheviotX: £65 and £60 7 Gerinish £52 7 Ormiclate.  
Cross: £62 7 Gerinish £60 6

Rhughashin £54 7 Gerinish £50 414 Smerclate.  
Blackface: £62, £54 and £50 7 Gerinish.  
**Cattle**  
**Bullicks**  
Aberdeen AngusX: £515 Hopewell Cottage  
LimousinX: £835 12 Ormiclate £815 15 Ormiclate £785 and £745 1 Ormiclate £740 15 Ormiclate £725 1 Ormiclate and 12 Ormiclate £700 1 Ormiclate.  
SimmentalX: £770 253 Dalburgh.  
**Heifers**  
LimousinX: £640 and £525 61 Bualachrach  
SimmentalX: £520 91 Bualadubb.  
**Prices per kilo**  
**Bullicks**  
Aberdeen AngusX: 172p 5 Milton  
LimousinX: 173p 5 Milton.  
SimmentalX: 164p 92 Bualadubb.  
**Heifers**  
LimousinX: 168p 61 Bualachrach  
SimmentalX: 155p 91 Bualadubb.

**DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts**  
**Ewes:**  
Correct:  
Cheviot: 183 Strathlongue, Tongue, Forns, £115, 6 Borgia, Skerry, and Golval, Fornsard, £105, 91/92 Achviach, Dornoch, £102;  
SuffolkX: Golval, £60; Broken mouth: Cheviot: East Clyde, Brora, £78, 19 Gartymore, Helmsdale, £62, 91/92 Achviach, and Kirkton, Melvich, £61; Mule: Culbin Farm, Dingwall, £57;  
Shearlings: Bluefaced Leicester: Broadleys, Dunning, £1,220; Cheviot park: Belmaduthy, Munloch, £1,000;  
Suffolk: Adziel, Strichen, £900; Texel: Fearn Farm, £800;  
Charollais: Whitebog, Rosemarkie, £650;  
Beltex: Fearn Farm, £480;  
Cheviot hill: Rhiroy, Lochbroom, £250; Zwartbles: 7 Ferrindonald, Sleat, £100;  
Two shear: Beltex: Caberfeidh, Glen Urquhart, £420;  
Three shear: Bluefaced Leicester: Darklass Blues, Forres, £200;  
Gimmers:  
Bluefaced Leicester: Darklass Blues, £130;  
Texel: Woodside Croft, Ardersier, £200; Suffolk: Ashton Farm Cottage, Inverness, £140.

**Hunt on for Mull and Kintyre monitor farms**

QUALITY Meat Scotland (QMS) is bringing the Monitor Farm Programme to Mull

as it launching a search for a monitor farm, in conjunction with the NFU.

Monitor farms are commercial farms that are typical of other farm businesses in an area. They act as a central point where local farmers can come together and discuss improvements that relate to the farm in question and will also be relevant to other farms in the area.

**Three years**  
An open meeting will be held in Isle of Mull Hotel, Craignure tonight (Thursday) starting at 7.30pm.

Launching the search for the farm Peter Beattie, technical projects manager for QMS, said becoming a monitor farm is a great opportunity to study and improve the financial performance of a farm and try out some of the ideas generated by the community group of local farmers.

'Becoming a livestock monitor farm is a three-year commitment for a farmer, supported by a facilitator, visiting specialists and the community group. The first step for a new monitor farmer is a close look at the financial and performance figures of the business.  
'Accompanied by a discussion to establish the long-term aims of the farm business, this provides the raw material

from which improvements in performance and profitability can be measured.

'Some of this information is then shared and discussed at monitor farm meetings, held every couple of months. The changes in the outlook and confidence of the monitor farmer over the three years of the project can be huge,' said Mr Beattie.

'Many monitor farmers change their approach to their business for the better. New contacts are made, resulting in better collaboration and they become more confident in marketing their sheep and cattle. It's a win-win situation for the monitor farm and the visiting farmers who can see improvements that they can then apply to their own businesses.'

Scotland's monitor farms are also delivering major benefits to the Scottish rural economy, with a recent study suggesting £6.50 was generated on average by the monitor farm and local community from every pound invested in the programme.  
If you know someone who would make a good monitor farmer in Mull or if you are a livestock farmer who thinks your business could become the new Monitor Farm please contact Lucy Sumsion, NFUS Regional Manager on 01499 600154.  
The closing date for monitor farm nominations is Friday October 30.

**Southern Cross Healthcare**  
**Kintyre Care Centre, Campbeltown.**  
**Clinical Lead**  
**Full Time (37.5 Hrs pw). Day Duty.**  
**Salary: Equivalent to Band 5/6 Agenda for Change Salary.**  
We require a 1st Level Nurse. You will have knowledge of current care standards and legislation regarding care for older people. Experience in elderly care is required. Previous experience of team leadership preferred. Relocation assistance may be available.  
For further information please contact Hilary Forbes on:  
**01586 553 615**  
Closing date: **8th October 2010.**  
Subject to disclosure. We are an equal opportunities employer.

**Oban Filling Station**  
**FULL/PART TIME SHOP ASSISTANT REQUIRED.**  
Part time/job share may be considered.  
Approximately 35 hours per week.  
7-day rota system to include evening work  
**Tel 01631 566453**

**Limousin cross heifer is Lochboisdale sale champion**  
UNITED Auctions held their second sale of all classes of lambs and sheep at Lochboisdale, also a show and sale of all classes of calves and store cattle.  
The entry of lambs consisted mainly of smaller keeping types and sold to average £43.89, recording a rise of £10.07 on the corresponding sale last year.  
Breeding and feeding ewes and widders sold at extreme rates.  
The show of calves was judged by Mr Donald Pattullo, Millhaugh, Crieff and he chose as champion a Limousin cross heifer from Mr R Wilson, 61 Bualachrach and reserve place went to Mr E Wilson, Bualadubb with a Limousin cross bullock.  
The trade for calves recorded a drop of £67 on the corresponding sale last year.  
**Connonish Swaledale shearing is Caledonian Marts champion**  
CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had forward 1484 breeding Blackface ewes and Swaledale shearlings at Stirling last Friday.  
The sale was topped at £102 for a pen of 20 Blackface gimmers from R McLarty, Littleport.  
Blackface ewes averaged £59.27 (+£15.60) while gimmers averaged £95.13 (+£23.83).  
Swaledale shearlings averaged £280.00 (+£38.00)  
Champion Swaledale shearing came from John Burton, Connonish Tyndrum and sold to £700.  
The reserve champion from Rakefoot sold to £300 Rakefoot while the third place shearing sold to £320, Ravensat.  
Connonish averaged £340 for 21 sold.

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)



**PLANNING**  
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX by the 21/10/2010

● **Ref No: 10/01453/PPP**  
Applicant: Duncan Hunter  
Proposal: Site for the erection of 1 no. dwellinghouse and associated works.  
Site Address: Plot 1 Land North Of Isla View Lower Kilchattan Isle Of Colonsay Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay

● **Ref No: 10/01507/PPP**  
Applicant: Patricia Campbell Jackson  
Proposal: Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Land North West Of Mulldubh Upper Kilchattan Isle Of Colonsay Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay

● **Ref No: 10/01539/PP**  
Applicant: Aitchison Construction Limited  
Proposal: Erection of 4 no. dwellinghouses and associated works.  
Site Address: Land West Of Stannaline-Bowmore Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Council's website [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR by the 21/10/2010

● **Ref No: 10/01165/PP**  
Applicant: Mrs Judith Patience  
Proposal: Erection of a dwelling house and associated works.  
Site Address: Croft 8 Caolis Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute PA77 6TR  
Location of Plans: Tiree Area Office

● **Ref No: 10/01341/PP**  
Applicant: Rossal Farm  
Proposal: Conversion of outbuildings to form dwellinghouse.  
Site Address: Outbuildings at Rossal Farm Pennyghael Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA70 6HB  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunnass Isle of Mull

● **Ref No: 10/01363/PP**  
Applicant: Earle MacDonal  
Proposal: Renewal of temporary consent (06/0075/COU) for the siting of a snack van trailer  
Site Address: Land North West of Tulla Cottage Bridge of Orchy Argyll and Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dalmaily

● **Ref No: 10/01410/PP**  
Applicant: Mr A Reid and Ms A Young  
Proposal: Erection of agricultural building  
Site Address: Land North East of Kames Farmhouse Kilmelford Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4XA  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Kilmelford

● **Ref No: 10/01415/PP**  
Applicant: Mr A Reid and Ms A Young  
Proposal: Erection of agricultural shed incorporating farm shop and cafe building and installation of private sewage treatment plant and soakaway  
Site Address: Land North West of Kames Farmhouse Kilmelford Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4XA  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Kilmelford

● **Ref No: 10/01445/PPP**  
Applicant: MK and FM Evetts  
Proposal: Site for the erection of one dwellinghouse.  
Site Address: Land To South West Of Lindsay Croft Connel Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1RN  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Connel

● **Ref No: 10/01461/PP**  
Applicant: Celtic Sea Ltd  
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse and permanent siting of caravan  
Site Address: Celtic Sea Ltd Arduaine Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4XD  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Kilmelford

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Council's website [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX within 21 days of the appearance of this notice. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS**  
● **Ref No: 10/01451/PP**  
Applicant: Mr John Gianvanni and Mrs S Cameron  
Proposal: Change of use of former Bakery and Grocery shop to form Part of Glenview (5 Church Street), internal alterations to Glenview (5 Church Street) and erection of extension to Cameron House (5A Church Street)  
Site Address: 5 and 5A Church Street Portnahaven Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA47 7SL  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Portnahaven

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document. Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site.

The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy. Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered.

Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess)

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)



**OBAN, LORN & THE ISLES AREA COMMITTEE MEETING**

A meeting of the Area Committee for Oban, Lorn & the Isles will be held in the McCaig Suite, Corran Halls, Oban, on Wednesday 6th October 2010 at 10.30am. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Any enquiries should be directed to: Kenneth Macdonald, Area Corporate Services Manager (Tel. 01631 567902).

**69%**  
of the business community read the regional press

**PROPOSED SUBLET OF A CROFT**  
John Henderson Lamont is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to sublet the whole croft at 11 Moss to Mr Neil MacArthur of Heylpol for ten years. If you are considered, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW (e-mail: [info@crofterscommission.org.uk](mailto:info@crofterscommission.org.uk)) by 27th October 2010. Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information inquiry. Frivolous, vexatious or unreasonable comments cannot be accepted.

**crofters commission**  
ughdarras nan croitearan  
Neil Maclellan has applied to decroft part of the croft at Grulinbeg, Kilchoman extending to 0.113 ha for the purpose of providing a site for a dwellinghouse. Ref: 4.86.27402. If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or [info@crofterscommission.org.uk](mailto:info@crofterscommission.org.uk), by 18 October 2010 quoting the above case number. Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information inquiry.

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**  
**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**  
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**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

**PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments
10/03683/PPP	Land 150m South of West Lodge Roslwen Glenaig	Erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/03717/FUL	Achnalea Ardour Fort William	Erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/03721/FUL	Land 60m South East of Garadh Mhor North Ballachulish Onich	20m x 40m equine exercise area	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/03745/FUL	Land to South West of Glen Lochy Guest House Nevis Bridge Glen Nevis Fort William	Erection of house, 2 holiday cottages and formation of access	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/03770/FUL	75m South West of Fasgadh Morar	Erection of house & garage (amendment to 09/00426/FULL0)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/03828/FUL	Land East of 2 Fossfern Cottages Kinlochail	Section 42 application to develop land without complying with Condition 7 of 10/01511/FUL - provision of ghost island right turning lane	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

Planning and Development Service  
eplanning@Highland1, PO Box 5740, The Highland Council, Inverness IV1 9DH

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**  
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Argyll & Bute Citizens Advice Bureau  
**Notice of Annual General Meeting**  
Tuesday 19th October 2010 2:00 pm

Argyll & Bute CAB, Riverside, Lochgilphead  
• Members of the public are welcome to attend  
• Refreshments will be served after the AGM  
• Membership of ABCAB is open to residents of Argyll & Bute and representatives of local organisations  
• Membership forms are available from the bureau  
All Welcome  
Argyll and Bute CAB, Riverside, Oban Road, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8NG  
**Tel: 08456 123 808 Fax: 08456 123 809**  
**Email: [info@abcab.org.uk](mailto:info@abcab.org.uk)**  
**Web: [www.argyllandbutecab.cas.org.uk](http://www.argyllandbutecab.cas.org.uk)**  
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**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**  
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**crofters commission**  
ughdarras nan croitearan  
The following decrofting Directions have been granted:  
**Croft House Site and Garden Ground**  
9 Kinlochlaich, Lismore & Appin  
Direction dated 22 September 2010 granted to Mrs Margaret Anderson. Area ext to 0.080 ha. Conditions: 1. Purchase of the land within 5 years. 2. Complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of completion of purchase. 3. Maintenance of the fence by each successive owner or occupier of the land. Case Number: 4.86.27440

**crofters commission**  
ughdarras nan croitearan  
The following decrofting Directions have been granted:  
**Part Croft**  
14, 15 & 16 Inverroy, Kilmornaig  
Direction dated 22 September 2010 granted to Mrs Jennifer M Hastings. Area ext to 0.135 ha. Conditions: 1. The land is used for a house site. 2. Complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of completion of the proposed development. 3. Maintenance of the fence by each successive owner or occupier of the land. Case Number: 4.86.23349

**crofters commission**  
ughdarras nan croitearan  
**APPLICATIONS TO CREATE A NEW CROFT**  
**Mrs Jane A Murchie**, owner of High Feorline, Shiskine, Isle of Arran is applying to create a new croft. If you have any objection to the proposal, you may submit representations in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ by 18 October 2010 quoting 5.01.27637. Please specify your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

**crofters commission**  
ughdarras nan croitearan  
Direction dated 27 September 2010 granted to Mrs Moira Seaton. Area ext to 0.1986 ha. Conditions: 1. The land is used for two house sites. 2. Complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of completion of the proposed developments. 3. Maintenance of the fence by each successive owner or occupier of the land. Case Number: 4.86.24284  
The granting of these Directions may be appealed to the Scottish Land Court, within 42 days from the date of this advert. Information on how to appeal is available from the Crofters Commission.

**Environmental Impact Assessment Woodland Creation Proposals**  
Isle of Ulva, Argyll

A Rural Development Contract - Rural Priorities scheme (RDC-PP) Woodland Woodland Creation has been proposed for the Island of Ulva, near Mull in Argyll. Due to the location, scale and potential impacts of the proposed new planting area, the Forestry Commission has called for an Environmental Impact Assessment under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999 [SI 1999/43 and further amended by The Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2006.

Proposals for the 378.27 hectare site at Ulva covered by the Environmental Statement, involve the planting of 285.80 hectares of native broadleaved trees and shrubs, and establishment by natural regeneration (trees self-seeding from existing seed source) of 29.17 hectares.

Copies of the Environmental Statement are available for inspection at the Ulva Ferry Post Office and the Forestry Commission Office, Millpark Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4NH between 9.00 am and 4.30 pm Monday to Friday. The documents will be available for viewing from Monday 4th October 2010 until 1st November 2010.

Copies of the Environmental Statement can be purchased from Miller Harris, Forestry Consultant, 1 Galloway Place, Fort William, PH33 6UH. (miller@miller-harris.co.uk) at a cost of £140 per copy or in electronic form on disk for £25 each to cover printing, copying and distribution costs.

Comments about the application must be made to the Forestry Commission Scotland Conservator, Algo Business Centre, Glenearn Road, Perth, PH2 0NJ, within 28 days of the date of this notice.

"The Forestry Commissioners may decide either to grant consent subject to the standard conditions required by Regulation 18 of the EIA Regulations, or subject to such further conditions as they see fit or refuse consent."

Miller Harris, Forestry Consultant, 1 Galloway Place, Fort William, PH33 6UH  
1st October 2010

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)



**LOCAL LICENSING FORUM**  
This Forum's remit is to be representative of local communities within the Argyll and Bute area. It is the role of the Forum to gather information and to make recommendations on matters regarding the licensed trade which affect these communities. It is also the role of the Forum to support the Licensing Board in addressing local issues. The Forum is likely to require a time commitment of at least six days per annum and while no remuneration is payable, travel and subsistence costs will be paid. We would like to hear from interested people who live in the Argyll and Bute area. Experience or knowledge of the licensed trade would be helpful but is not essential. Please submit a letter setting out your experience and reasons for applying to be a member of the Forum to Charles Reppke, Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT by 5pm on 15 October 2010.

**The Scottish Government**

**TRANSPORT SCOTLAND**

**ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984 THE A828/A85 TRUNK ROADS (CONNEL TO SALACHAN GLEN CYCLE TRACK) (REDETERMINATION OF MEANS OF EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF PASSAGE) ORDER 2010**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Scottish Ministers propose to make an Order under section 152(2) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, redetermining the means of exercise of the public right of passage over the roads described in the Schedule hereto.

The title of this Order is The A828/A85 Trunk Roads (Connel to Salachan Glen Cycle Track) (Redetermination of Means of Exercise of Public Right of Passage) Order 2010. A copy of the proposed Order and accompanying plan showing the road over which the means of exercise of the public right of passage is to be redetermined, together with a statement of reasons for making the Order have been deposited at the offices of Transport Scotland, Reception, 9th Floor, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF; Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead PA31 8RT; Munro's Supermarket, Benderloch, Oban, Argyll PA37 1QP; Connel Post Office, Connel Village Store, Connel, Oban, Argyll PA37 1PA; Port Appin Community Co-op, Port Appin, Appin, Argyll PA38 4DE; and Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory House, Gallanach Road, Oban PA34 4PF. These documents are available for inspection, free of charge from 30 September 2010 to 29 October 2010 during normal business hours.

ANY PERSON may, within 28 days from 30 September 2010, object to the making of the Order by notice in writing to the Director, c/o Project Administrator, Transport Scotland, MTRIPS Directorate, 7th Floor, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF. Objections should state the title of the Order, the name and address of the objector, the matters to which they relate and the grounds on which they are made.

**A C MCLAUGHLIN**  
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers  
Transport Scotland  
Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF  
21 September 2010

**SCHEDULE INTERPRETATION**

In this Schedule the following expressions have the following meanings:  
"the Plan Folio" means the folio numbered RD001681/01 comprised of plans RD049/001 to RD049/004 entitled "The A828/A85 Trunk Roads (Connel to Salachan Glen Cycle Track) (Redetermination of Means of Exercise of Public Right of Passage) Order 2010", signed with reference to this Order and deposited at the offices of Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF.  
"the A828 Trunk Road" means the existing A828 Connel to South Ballachulish Trunk Road.  
"the A85 Trunk Road" means the existing A85 Tyndrum to Oban Trunk Road.  
"point A" means the intersection of the centrelines of the A828 Trunk Road and the A85 Trunk Road shown marked Point A on plan RD049/001.  
"point B" means the intersection of the centrelines of the A828 Trunk Road and Bonawe Road shown marked Point B on plan RD049/001.

**ROADS OVER WHICH MEANS OF EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF PASSAGE IS TO BE REDETERMINED FROM FOOTWAYS TO CYCLE TRACKS**

- That length of the existing north west verge of the A85 Trunk Road from a point 294 metres or thereby south west of Point A in a generally south westerly direction then north westerly direction for a distance of 41 metres or thereby to a point 335 metres or thereby south west of Point A, as shown by sawtooth hatching and marked 01 on plan RD049/001.
- That length of the existing north west verge of the A85 Trunk Road from a point 92 metres or thereby north east of Point A in a generally south westerly direction for a distance of 379 metres or thereby to a point 284 metres or thereby south west of Point A, as shown by sawtooth hatching and marked 02 on plan RD049/001.
- That length of the existing south east verge of the A85 Trunk Road and the north verge of the A828 Trunk Road from a point 60 metres or thereby north east of Point A in a generally south westerly and then north easterly direction for a distance of 91 metres or thereby to a point on the existing north verge of the northbound A828 Trunk Road 30 metres or thereby south east of Point A, as shown by sawtooth hatching and marked 03 on plan RD049/001.
- That length of the existing south verge of the A828 Trunk Road from a point 5 metres or thereby south east of Point A in a generally south easterly then easterly direction then south easterly for a distance of 144 metres or thereby to a point on the existing verge of the A828 Trunk Road 150 metres or thereby south east of Point A, as shown by sawtooth hatching and marked 04 on plan RD049/001.
- That length of the existing north verge becoming the west verge of the A828 Trunk Road from a point 12 metres or thereby west of the extended west building line of the building known as The Rowans, Connel, Oban, Argyll PA37 1PJ in a generally south easterly then easterly and then northerly direction for a distance of 294 metres or thereby to a point 465 metres or thereby south east of Point B, as shown by sawtooth hatching between and marked 05 on Plan RD049/001.
- That length of the existing south verge becoming the east verge of the A828 Trunk Road from a point 95 metres or thereby east of the extended east building line of the building known as The Rowans, Connel, Oban, Argyll PA37 1PJ in a generally easterly then north easterly then northerly then north easterly direction for a distance of 668 metres or thereby to a point 21 metres south east of Point B as shown by sawtooth hatching and marked 06 on Plan RD049/001.
- That length of the existing west verge of the A828 Trunk Road from a point 128 metres or thereby south from Point B in a generally northerly then north westerly then westerly direction for a distance of 184 metres or thereby to a point 56 metres north west of Point B, as shown by sawtooth hatching and marked 07 on Plan RD049/001.
- That length of the existing west verge of the A828 Trunk Road from a point 0.5 metres or thereby north of the extended south building line of the building known as Allt-na-Mara, Benderloch, Oban, Argyll PA37 1RT in a generally north westerly then northerly direction for a distance of 269 metres or thereby to a point 269.5 metres or thereby north west of the extended south building line of the building known as Allt-na-Mara, Benderloch, Oban, Argyll PA37 1RT as shown by sawtooth hatching and marked 08 on Plan RD049/002.
- That length of the existing north west verge of the A828 Trunk Road from a point 7 metres or thereby north east of the extended south west building line of the building known as Lochnell Primary School, Ledaig, Oban, Argyll PA37 1RZ in a generally north easterly direction for a distance of 27 metres or thereby to a point 34 metres or thereby north east of the extended south west building line of the building known as Lochnell Primary School, Ledaig, Oban, Argyll PA37 1RZ as shown by sawtooth hatching and marked 09 on Plan RD049/003.
- That length of the existing north west verge of the A828 Trunk Road from a point 8 metres or thereby north east of the extended north east building line of the building known as Lochnell Primary School, Ledaig, Oban, Argyll PA37 1RZ in a generally north easterly direction for a distance of 61 metres or thereby to a point 69 metres or thereby north east of the extended north east building line of the building known as Lochnell Primary School, Ledaig, Oban, Argyll PA37 1RZ as shown by sawtooth hatching and marked 10 on Plan RD049/003.
- That length of the existing west verge of the A828 Trunk Road from a point 3 metres or thereby south of the extended south building line of the building known as the Creagan Inn, Appin, Argyll PA38 4BQ in a generally northerly direction for a distance of 51 metres or thereby to a point 6 metres or thereby north of the extended north building line of the building known as the Creagan Inn, Appin, Argyll PA38 4BQ as shown by sawtooth hatching and marked 11 on Plan RD049/004.

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## TO LET

### LONG TERM LET

Detached house, Balvicar near Oban, three double bedrooms, 2 public rooms, bathroom, shower room, large stone shed, parking, small garden area, unfurnished, rent £700 per month.

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2 bed bungalow on Loch Fyne available on long let. Tighnabruach 12 mls, Dunoon 24 mls Refs essential £370 pcm

Tel 01700 821220

### HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully furnished 2 bedroom luxury house in Oban.

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**Argyll Bute COUNCIL**

## FOR SALE

### COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY NORTH PIER, OBAN

The 'White Building', North Pier, Oban, is being offered for sale.

This prominently located building would be most suitable for renovation or new build of a retail, restaurant, café and/or tourist orientated development.

Offers Over £550,000 are invited

For further information: Estates Office, Argyll and Bute Council, Blairvadach, Helensburgh G84 8ND Tel: 01436 658957

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### Three Bedroom Terraced Cottage.

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Home report.

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- Kitchen
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17/19 LOCHSIDE STREET, OBAN, ARGYLL, PA34 4HP (01631) 566771 info@ethornton.co.uk

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### Troutbeck, Lochawe, Argyll

A detached modern house in traditional style with outstanding views over Loch Awe and Kilchurn Castle.




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Large veranda running the entire length of the southern side with access from the kitchen, dining room & sitting room.

**Offers over £310,000**

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### 12 Shuna Terrace, Oban

Well presented ex local authority mid terraced house in a popular residential area. With lovely views over Oban Bay and the surrounding hills and within easy reach of all town centre facilities and amenities



**Offers in the region of £125,000**

- Vestibule, hall, lounge, kitchen, 3 bedrooms and bathroom
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### Cuil Cottage, Minard, Argyll

Beautifully presented traditional semi detached one and a half storey cottage in the popular village of Minard.



Beautifully presented traditional semi detached one and a half storey cottage in the popular village of Minard. Occupying an elevated position with lovely views of Loch Fyne. Hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, 2 bedrooms and shower room. Double glazing. Night storage and underfloor heating. Off street parking. Spacious garden ground. Shed. Bothy

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Well presented mid terraced dwelling house in the desirable village of Clachan



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- Open fire with back boiler
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## PRICING OPTIONS

### OPTION 1

#### The Greens Soroba Road, Oban

Semi detached 3 bedroom property in a central location, close to shops. Excellent local bus service.





- 3 bedrooms (1 en-suite)
- Entrance hall, Lounge, Kitchen with Dining area, Bathroom
- Modern fully fitted kitchen
- Fully double glazed
- Electric storage heating
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- Garden and front and rear

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- 3 bedrooms (1 en-suite)
- Entrance hall, Lounge, Kitchen with Dining area, Bathroom
- Modern fully fitted kitchen
- Fully double glazed
- Electric storage heating
- Off street parking
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**Man cleared after co-accused admits lying in court**

AN INVERNESS man has been acquitted of brawling in a Fort William side street after his co-accused admitted lying in court.

Alastair Downie, of 84 Cradlehead Park, had denied fighting with Fort William man Donald Kerr, of 65 Carn Dearg Road, conducting himself in a disorderly manner and committing a breach of the peace in a lane beside the Ben Nevis Inn on High Street late on July 14.

Kerr, aged 39, who admitted his part in the fight, claimed in evidence that Mr Downie, 21, punched him repeatedly until police arrived 'to pick me off the ground'.

He denied defence lawyer Craig Wood's suggestion he had headbutted Mr Downie first, insisting he was subjected to a rain of blows from Mr Downie and two other men. Kerr also denied appearing in court before - despite Mr Wood reading out his four pages of previous convictions.

'You are a barefaced liar and your evidence can't be relied upon,' Mr Wood said.

'That's your opinion,' replied Kerr, who in a bizarre twist then freely admitted the convictions to fiscal Alison Wylie and that he had lied under oath.

Sheriff Derek Livingstone immediately found Mr Downie not guilty and fined sawmill worker Kerr £400.

Michael MacDonald, 21, of 71 Camaghael, Fort William, admitted possessing an offensive weapon - a five-foot metal pole - during the incident. Sheriff Livingstone gave MacDonald 'a final chance' and deferred sentence for three months pending a social inquiry report. Bail was continued.

**Sheriff rules employers not to blame for Oban man's death**

A REPORT following a fatal accident inquiry into the death of an Oban man in a vehicle accident at Glensanda Quarry has cleared his employers of responsibility.

Quarry worker Kenneth Campbell, who lived at 9 Etive Road, Dunbeg, Oban, died on October 18 2009 as a result of injuries he received when the company Land Rover he was driving overturned and he was thrown from it.

Sheriff David Burns' findings follow the inquiry at Fort William Sheriff Court in May where he heard from nine witnesses, including colleagues of Mr

REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK fort@obantimes.co.uk

Campbell and police officers involved with the incident.

In his report, Sheriff Burns cleared Mr Campbell's employers, Carillion Services Limited and quarry operator Aggregate Industries, of blame, stating the fact Mr Campbell had been driving in excess of the 30mph speed limit was the main reason for the crash. Sheriff Burns said: 'The principal cause of this accident was

the driving of the vehicle at excessive speed in breach of the rules known to Mr Campbell.'

Mr Campbell was not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the accident and even if he had been it is possible he would have received fatal injuries due to the 'catastrophic failure' of the Land Rover's roof, the report said.

It was also determined that Land Rovers belonging to Carillion had not been fitted with anti-roll bars which, the report found, 'would probably have prevented such a collapse'.

But in his findings Sheriff Burns said: 'It is not possible for me to determine whether or not the fitting of an anti-roll bar might have avoided the fatal injuries in this case.'

'In any event, I do not consider that the fitting of a roll bar to have been a precaution which ought reasonably to have been taken prior to this accident.'

'The system of work at the quarry in respect of vehicle and road maintenance, the imposition and monitoring of rules relating to speed limits and the wearing of seat belts and training given to employees

for the use of the Land Rovers was, on the evidence led, of a high quality.'

Mr Campbell's family chose not to attend the inquiry in May. Fiscal Alison Wylie said they accepted the crash had been an accident and placed no blame on the company.

As a result of the accident, the Health and Safety Executive issued a safety notice on May 10 which highlights the danger involved with using off-road vehicles in quarries and draws the attention of the industry to the risks when a Land Rover overturns.



The stars of the Kinlochleven High School production of 'Flash Gordon'. 10\_f40show01

**'Saviour of the Universe' heads to Kinlochleven**

THE 'SAVIOR of the Universe' is heading to the Highlands next month as staff and pupils at Kinlochleven High School prepare for their forthcoming production of 'Flash Gordon'.

The curtain will go up for the show

in the school theatre next week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7.30pm.

Pupils have been involved in every part of the show - designing the poster and programme, costumes

and props, designing and painting the set, sound design and the musical accompaniment.

Tickets are available from staff and pupils or the school office on 01855 832042.

**New plea to upgrade roundabout**

ALL SEVEN Lochaber councillors have co-signed a letter to Minister for Community Safety and local MSP Fergus Ewing voicing their concerns about one of the Highlands' busiest road junctions.

Councillors Michael Foxley, Donald Cameron, Bren Gormley, Brian Murphy, Eddie Hunter Allan Henderson and Bill Clark claim in their submission that the Lochy Bridge mini-roundabout presents a major traffic hazard and must be upgraded.

They state the roundabout two miles north of Fort William at A82's junction with the A830 Road to the Isles is perceived locally to be 'inadequate and dangerously configured' and request the chance to brief Mr Ewing 'on this topical local issue' at his upcoming surgery.

The councillors will also express their unhappiness at what they say is the 'apparent intransigence' of Transport Scotland to

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

upgrade the roundabout and its adjacent pedestrian crossing. Mr Ewing said: 'I would be more than happy to meet with the Lochaber councillors to discuss their concerns.'

Transport Scotland refuted any suggestion that the junction is unsafe. 'The Lochybridge mini-roundabout is operating satisfactorily from a traffic and road safety perspective. There are no current plans to upgrade it,' a spokesperson told *The Oban Times*.

The councillors' plea follows a meeting between the Fort William Steering Group and Transport Scotland north area manager Bob Mitchell to discuss congestion on the A82 through Fort William.

The group felt works planned to traffic signals at Inverlochty and Belford Road would only ease the situation rather than cure

it and will now lobby for alternative routes. Two options, re-activating the old by-pass to 'the Kennels' at Torlundy or a realignment of the A830 from Caol to Fort William will now be pursued with Highland Council and HITRANS, the regional strategic transport authority.

Meanwhile, Transport Scotland has instructed its contractor, Scotland Transerv, to amend the proposed closure time of the A82 between Tarbet and Crianlarich for the two weeks from Sunday October 10. The road will now be closed from 10pm to 6am. The move follows representations from the A82 Partnership that the previous 8pm closure time was unrealistic.

The pressure group also produced figures showing the lifeline route had been closed to traffic in both directions 76 times during the first eight months of 2010 - one day out of three - and wrote to First Minister Alex Salmond to say the A82 was not fit for purpose.

**Fèis movement worth £2m a year to Highland economy**

THE FÈIS movement is worth £2m annually to the Highland economy, according to a report for Highland and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

The Economic and Social Impacts of the Fèisean study found 49 posts were sustained through the movement, which is responsible for organising traditional music, dance festivals and events.

HIE announced three-year funding of £540,000

for Fèisean nan Gàidheal in September 2009 to broaden Gaelic art and culture.

The report estimates that since the first Fèis Bharraigh in Barra in 1981, the number of fèisean in Scotland had grown to 42 in 2008, of which 35 were held in the Highlands and Islands. The continuity and growth has led to many former fèis students becoming tutors and providing the next generation in turn with

future job opportunities. Around 13,000 young people participate in activities supported by Fèisean nan Gàidheal across Scotland.

Catriona Watt, winner of the BBC Young Traditional Music award in 2007 and acclaimed Gaelic singer Julie Fowlis were both regular fèis participants.

Head of community growth at HIE Neil Ross said: 'The report highlights the range of social impacts the 42

Fèisean which took place across Scotland in 2008-9 had on its communities, over and above the economic impact. The evidence from contacts with local groups confirms that fèisean are important in encouraging the use of the Gaelic language and generally strengthening Gaelic culture. It delivered a whole range of workshops and classes including Cèilidh Trail events, cultural trips abroad and concerts.'

Fèisean nan Gàidheal chief executive Arthur Cormack said: 'There has never been a time when more young people have been skilled in playing musical instruments and singing songs. The success of so many fèisean throughout the land has been the main driver behind this growth and has helped enormously in raising awareness of traditional music and the Gaelic language.'

**Cinema customers encouraged to join database to avoid missing out on latest blockbuster films**

ORGANISERS behind Lochaber's only cinema are hoping to build on recent success by establishing an alert system that will notify customers of forthcoming feature films.

Leven Centre Cinema's double bill of 'How to Train Your Dragon' and 'Sex and the City 2' attracted more than 90 people in early September and cinema co-ordinator Kirsteen Hine is setting up a database to inform locals of future showings of films as soon as they are confirmed.

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK fort@obantimes.co.uk

She said: 'Access to films is wholly dependent on the release date to small cinemas from Filmbank Distributors Limited and we can be limited with short notice when blockbuster films will be shown. Therefore, we are encouraging locals to join our database 'Kinlochleven e-news' for updates on forthcoming film shows.'

As the nearest cinema

offering access to films means either a drive into Glasgow or Inverness, staff and volunteers at The Leven Centre are hoping to develop more regular cinema showings.

But Ms Hine also warned the cinema, which has retractable seating, digital projection, full screen, PA system and cinema standard surround sound, needs a steady flow of customers to continue. She said: 'There is a cost payable to Filmbank for showing films so it is vital that local communities

support this venture to make it viable. However we endeavour to keep costs minimal.'

'Over the next few months we will also be providing subsidised transport to and from The Leven Centre to outlying villages.'

The next film the cinema hopes to show is blockbuster 'Toy Story 3' on Friday October 8.

For further information and to join the database contact Kirsteen Hine on 01855 831119 or at kirsteen.hine@highland.gov.uk.

**Banavie pupils feel the beat during Drumfun sessions**



Banavie pupils in full flow at Friday's drumming workshop. 10\_f39drum02

PUPILS at Banavie Primary School had a great time last Friday drumming, dancing and making up rhythms.

Steve Sharpe and his company Drumfun delivered the interactive drumming and percussion workshops, which both children and staff joined in.

School secretary Margaret Adam said: 'The workshop was designed to help the school deliver the Curriculum for Excellence by using drumming to encourage teamwork and co-operation to develop musical confidence, while providing the pupils and staff with a fun learning experience.'

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Fort William High Street sports shop to close

FORT William town centre has suffered another retail blow with the news a sports shop on High Street is to close its doors. A 'closing down sale' sign appeared in the window of Intersport last week, but does not say when the shop will cease trading. The staff, believed to comprise two full time and two part time workers, declined to comment. Intersport would not give any details to The Oban Times.

Man escapes driving ban

A PERTH man who sped into Roy Bridge at more than twice the 30mph speed limit has escaped a driving ban. Police clocked Alexander Reading, of Patter Farmhouse, Murthly, driving at 66mph as he entered the Brae Lochaber village from Laggan at 9.27am on February 18. Hydro engineer Reading, aged 31, who had previously served seven years with the Black Watch, had been on his way to a meeting in the Cluanie Inn when police pulled him over. Defending, Hamish Melrose said: 'He was in the process of slowing down when he entered the village.' Sheriff Livingstone told Reading: 'The circumstances do not bear you credit. You are going to have to watch your driving very carefully.' Reading was fined £360 and had his licence endorsed with six penalty points.

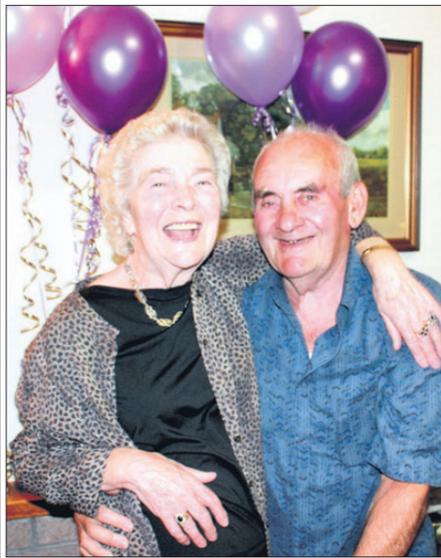
Call to expand telehealth care system

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP Mary Scanlon has urged NHS Highland to roll out a successful telehealth care system, piloted in Argyll, across the region. Speaking in a health and sport committee debate in the Scottish Parliament, the MSP said the system, which video links remote medical centres to consultants in hospitals, could provide better monitoring of patients and cut emergency admissions.



Lochaber dancers step out at Disneyland Paris

Ballet dancers from Lochaber are off to Disneyland Paris to take part in an international dancing competition. The girls, who are all members of Ballet West in Taynuilt, will take part in the EFDPA competition, held in the theme park between October 7 and 10 and will feature teams from as far as America, Israel and Turkey. 07\_t39ballet01



Diamond day for couple

SAMMY and Jean Mackenzie of Inverloch, above, celebrated their diamond 60th wedding anniversary with their family at the Glen Nevis restaurant on September 4. The couple were married in Fort William on September 4 1950 and brought up five children, two girls and three boys. Sammy spent much of his working life in the BA factory in the town, while Jean worked in the pulp mill and Edinburgh Woollen Mill at Nevis Bridge. Daughter Maggie said: 'Hopefully we will be attending their 70th. They are both very young at heart.'

Bands take to stage in aid of hydrotherapy pool

THE GREAT Glen Dance Band, led by John Whyte from Glenfinnan, and Lochaber High School Swing Band, led by Mark Reynolds and Karen Thomson, will perform a charity concert in aid of Lochaber Hydrotherapy Pool at the Ben Nevis Inn, Achintee, on Thursday October 7 from 8pm. Mr Whyte said: 'The bands will be performing sets both on their own and together and should make quite a sound. The repertoire will feature music from the '50s to the '80s. Everyone is welcome to what should be a good night out for a very worthy local cause.' Admission will be by donation and a raffle will be held.

Kinlochleven trust on lookout for coronation memorabilia

KINLOCHLEVEN Community Trust is asking local residents to raid their attics and cupboards for any photographs or memorabilia from the Queen's coronation in 1952. Her Majesty celebrates her diamond jubilee in June 2012 and the trust is planning to mount a display in the exhibition area of the Aluminium Store to mark the event. The display, which will also document some of the history of the village, would require items to be loaned for approximately two months.

Friends of Nevis celebrate charity status

Formal announcement by MP to follow launch of new book

THE GROUP managing Ben Nevis and its environs with the help of volunteers and public donations will mark a double celebration tomorrow. Friends of Nevis will invite patron and local MP Charles Kennedy to formally announce their new charity status, while writer and broadcaster Cameron McNeish will launch a new book 'Nevis - the Ben and the Glen'.

The book, edited and written by Kate McKinley and produced as part of the friends' Glen Nevis: Sense of Place project, gives an overview of the mountainscape's history, archaeology, geology, industry, farming, flora and fauna.

New walks

Project manager Anna Trafford, chairman of the Friends of Nevis board of trustees, oversaw production and publication of the book and a new walks leaflet and had 'no idea' so much would be involved in compiling source material. She said: 'Luckily Lochaber has a wealth of local knowledge and we were able to pick the brains of local historians, ecologists,

archaeologists, geologists, farmers, foresters, business people, linguists, climbers, paddlers, photographers and Glen residents to put together the book.

'I found it fascinating to co-ordinate the project and hope people enjoy reading the book, learning how special this area is.

'This launch is an opportunity to thank all those involved in the project. There will also be an update on other areas of our work, in particular landscaping the curling ponds area, putting in an entrance marker to Glen Nevis and our recently produced Glen Nevis low level walks leaflet.'

Volunteers are invited to join a Glen Nevis litter pick on Sunday, October 3 from 11am to 3pm and path maintenance work parties on October 1, 2 and 4.



Anna Trafford, left, project manager for Glen Nevis: Sense of Place and Friends of Nevis co-ordinator Liz Wilshaw show off the new book and Nevis walk leaflets.

Child neglect case against woman collapses

THE CASE against a woman facing two charges relating to child neglect collapsed at Fort William Sheriff Court last Wednesday after evidence from a single witness. Yvonne Clark, aged 35, formerly of 125 High Street, Fort William was alleged to have failed to properly care for two children at an address

in Lochaber on March 3 by being so intoxicated that she allowed a fire to almost take hold in the kitchen. But serious doubts emerged in the prosecution case when the witness, a social worker, admitted under cross-examination that Ms Clark's agitation during the incident could have been due in part to stress, not alcohol. She also accepted

defence lawyer Stephen Kennedy's suggestion that Ms Clark had acted 'appropriately' at the time in calling the fire brigade and taking other safety measures. Fiscal Alison Wylie said she was no longer seeking a conviction, prompting Sheriff Derek Livingstone to immediately find Ms Clark not guilty.

Inveraray Jail records go digital for education

RECORDS holding details of more than 4,000 prisoners who served sentences at Inveraray Jail between 1820 and 1890 have been brought into the 21st century. Digital format The records are now available in a digital format for use in primary education. Ictopus, a free web based information and communications technology support service for primary education, has prepared a new teaching resource which uses the jail records to educate pupils on the social history of the Victorian period. It became available earlier this month and is designed for young people using searchable databases including Microsoft Excel. Search Visitors to the jail can search through the records which hold details on prisoners such as their name, occupation, crime committed, sentences and transportation details.

Funding available for water projects

PEOPLE in Argyll and Bute are being invited to apply for funding for water projects that would benefit their local water environment, community and economy. Restoration fund The Scottish Environment Protection Agency's (SEPA) water restoration fund is currently in excess of £1million and ready to be distributed to worthy causes. Julie Tuck, SEPA's restoration specialist, said: 'The Water Environment Restoration Fund provides an amazing opportunity to secure support and funding to improve the rivers, streams, lochs, and coastal waters for you and future generations. 'We encourage any organisation with a project they feel would be suitable to apply for funding as soon as they can.' Projects eligible for funding should aim to improve the environmental status or condition of a waterbody by tackling the physical pressures on that system. For more information and an application form log on to www.sepa.org.uk/water/restoration\_fund.aspx.



Little Learners Nursery was invited to Glensanda Quarry where staff and children had a great day. The children enjoyed the boat trip over to the quarry and seeing the enormous trucks.

Disability access in Oban comes under the microscope in report to community council

DISABILITY access in Oban was on the agenda of the town's community council. Despite the town having made great improvements for access, the meeting heard that there were still a number of premises that fell short of the mark. Layout problems Some of the complaints dealt with store layouts that inhibited people in wheelchairs and electric scooters from being able to enter shops and restaurants, something that could be easily remedied in a number of cases. Fiona Morrison of the area's disability forum commented after the meeting on August 30 that 'in an ideal world everywhere in Oban would be wheelchair accessible, but unfortunately we don't live in an ideal world'. She continued: 'I have great sympathy with small businesses which don't have a lot of money to adapt their premises. 'They could get portable ramps which don't cost a lot, or they could be helpful to customers serving them with a smile.

'Big companies should be all accessible and I am upgrading the access guide soon and will be visiting them. 'There are some stores in the town which have implemented changes that make all the difference. 'We worked with others to make shops totally accessible. 'The adaptations benefit everyone, people with disabilities, people with pushchairs and the people who work in the shop. 'We worked with sports centre Atlantis Leisure which has now improved its facilities, having automatic doors and better changing facilities. 'Some stores who are unable to make changes have staff members who make all the difference. 'There is still a long way to go, but with the shop owners' goodwill and our input we can work together to improve access for everyone. 'The Disability Forum would like to work with businesses to make Oban and Lorn more accessible, so please contact me through the office on 01631 567150.'

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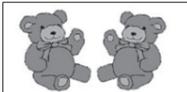


**BIRTHS**



**D'ARCY - PAYNE**  
Sean and Emma are delighted to announce the arrival of their son Lachlan Patrick D'Arcy born on Sunday September 26, in Glasgow. Grandson for John and Edna Payne Oban and Patrick and Eileen D'Arcy Connemara.

**MACKENZIE** - Molly Campbell said hello to big sister Abbi and parents Colin and Suzanne on September 22, 2010. A welcome addition to the family and grand-daughter for Alfie and Liz, Jim and Anne. Thanks to all.



**MUNRO - MACLEAN**  
Donald and Marion are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful baby girls, Sienna Eve and Kiyana Iona on September 18, 2010. Special thanks for the excellent care we received from Catherine, Ronnie and staff at Lorn and Isles Hospital, crew of Isle of Mull ferry, Royal Navy helicopter crew and Sally, Lisa and the team at R A H Paisley

**ENGAGEMENTS**



**CLARKE-KIRKPATRICK**  
Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Archie, eldest son of Donald and Maria Clarke, Mallaig, to Catriona, youngest daughter of David and Carol, Iona, on September 20, 2010.

**MILBOURNE - MACKINNON** - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Charlie, son of David and Sheila, Newcastle, to Jennifer, daughter of Hugh and Margaret, Isle of Tiree.

**SILVER WEDDINGS**  
**BRADY-SCOTT** - On October 4, 1985 at Kilmore & Kilbride Parish Church, Oban by Rev John MacLeod, David to Caroline.

**DEATHS**

**BALFOUR** - Oban man, Billy Balfour, died peacefully on September 19, 2010, at his home in Clydebank.

**FERGUSON** - At home on Sunday September 26, 2010, aged 86 years. Pat, much loved husband of Marion, loving dad of Jim, Patti and Alison and a dear grandpa and grandpa 'G'. In accordance with Pat's wishes, his remains have been bequeathed to medical science. A celebration of Pat's life will be held at The Church Centre, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Tuesday October 5 at 2pm. To which all friends are respectfully invited to attend. Retiring collection / Donations if desired for A.B.C.D. and Marie Curie.

**HALSTEAD** - Peacefully at the Lorn and Isles Hospital, Oban, on September 24, 2010, in his 91st year, William Derek, beloved husband of the late Olive, dear father of Tony, Mark and Peter and a loving grandfather.

**LEARMOUTH** - (nee McGregor). Peacefully at home in Fort William, June Rosa on September 23, 2010. Widow of the late Thomas and mother of Joy, Paul (deceased) Peter (deceased) Mark, Anthony, Faith and Simon. Beloved grandmother and great grandmother. She will be sadly missed by all her children, their spouses and families and her many friends in Salen (Ardnamurchan). Fort William and Newcastle. Private family cremation. Donations in lieu of flowers to The British Heart Foundation or Cancer research.

**MACDIARMID** - Peacefully at Belford Hospital, Fort William, on September 23, Morag, loving wife of Alex, dear mother of Alasdair, Willie, Colin and Graeme, also a loving granny. Too dearly loved to be forgotten.

**MACKECHNIE** - Mrs Jean, Beinn Dorain, Oban, passed away peacefully on September 22, 2010 age 89 years, beloved wife of Gilbert for 68 years. Will be sadly missed by family and friends.

**MORRISON** - Suddenly at home, on September 21, 2010, Neil, (Tich), aged 49 years, formerly of 29 Camus Road, Dunbeg, devoted son of the late Roddy and Dolina Morrison, youngest brother of Maryann, Norman and Ewen, much loved brother-in-law, uncle and great uncle. Sadly missed.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**HAILES** - The family of the late Irene Hailes would like to thank all friends and relatives for their cards, flowers, kind words, sympathy and support through what has been a harrowing time. The family has been overwhelmed and comforted by the many acts of kindness and support given. Thanks to Rev Donald MacKinnon, Rev Catherine Knott and Rev Margaret Yule for their compassionate and moving services. Thanks also to Ian of D & A Munn, Funeral Directors for arrangements and guidance. Finally special thanks to all who came to pay their respects to Irene and donated so generously to the retiring collection. The sum of £1000 has been donated to Yorkhill Childrens Hospital.

**MACCALLUM** - Archie and Dougie and their families would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their expressions of sympathy following the sad death of their brother Bobby. Thanks to the staff at Lorn and Isles Hospital for their care and support. Thanks also to Rev. Dugald Cameron for the uplifting service at Oban Parish Church and to Rev. Sarah Nicol for the comforting graveside ceremony in Dunoon; and to D&A Munn Funeral Directors for their caring and professional service. Thanks also to Gordon McNab for help with the arrangements; and to the Esplanade Hotel, Dunoon for catering. Finally thanks to everyone who came to the church to pay their respects to Bobby and who contributed to the retiring collection which raised £253 for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**GILLIES** - In loving memory of James Donald John Dingwall Gillies, late of Lonan Drive, Oban, who died on September 29, 2009, at North Argyll House. Remembered as a much loved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, who lived his long life with dignity, humour and integrity. - From Christine and Peter, John and Mary, Catherine and all the family.

**GRAY** - In loving memory of Willie, a loving dad, granda and great-granda, who died September 29, 2004.

Till memory fades and life departs  
You'll live forever in our hearts.

- Love Irene and family. xxx

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of my dear mother, Julia, who passed away on September 30, 2008.

Will miss you forever.  
- Julie and Roddy, Oban.

**MACKINNON** - Joan, Creagan Hough, Isle of Tiree. Died September 30, 1997.

In loving memory of - From Neil, Kaide, Monica, May and grandsons James, Calum and Charlie.

Always in our thoughts.

**MACKECHNIE** - In loving memory of John, our dearly loved son, brother and uncle who died on September 27, 1992.

Those we loved don't go away  
They walk beside us every day

In our memories and in our thoughts  
And forever in our hearts.  
- Mum and Dad.

Treasured memories of John  
Love and miss you.  
- Marina, Cammy and Emma.

**MACLEAN** - Fondest memories of our dear mother, Bella, who passed away October 3, 2007, and also our loving father, Lachlan, who passed away June 14, 1992.

Loved and remembered everyday  
Always in our thoughts.  
- Teen, Angela and Alexander.

**McCOLL** - In loving memory of Archie, a dear husband, father and grandfather, who died October 1, 1991.

We think of you every day.  
- Inserted by wife, Mabel and families in Caol, Calthness and Canada.

**McCULLOCH** - In loving memory of a dear wife, mother and grandmother, Margaret Stevenson who died September 30, 1996.

Fondly remembered.  
- By her husband, children and grandchildren at home and in Canada.

**McGRATH** - In loving memory of our dear dad and gramma, Joseph, who died October 2, 1979.

The place you rest we visit  
And place each flower with care  
But no-one knows the heartache  
As we turn and leave you there.

Your loving children and grandchildren xxx

**NICHOLSON** - Treasured memories of my darling wife, Patricia, who passed away October 4, 1993.

Seventeen years have passed  
Since I saw you last  
I shared with you such happy days  
I miss you in so many ways  
You left a place no one can fill  
I miss you now and always will.

- Ever loving husband, Bryan.

**NICHOLSON** - In loving memory of our beloved mum and granny who died October 4, 1993.

Deep in our hearts you will always stay  
Loved and remembered every day  
Sadly missed.

- Shirley, Stewart, Bryan, Sarah and grandchildren.

**OWENS** - In loving memory of Tommy, who died on October 1, 2006, a loving and caring husband, father and grandfather.

There will always be a heartache,  
and often a silent tear,  
But always a precious memory  
Of the days when you were here.

with love Sandra x  
Loved and remembered always

- Jill, Allison, Morven, Carol and families

**SCOTT** - Treasured memories of Jean who died October 1, 2000. A loved and loving wife, mum and granny always in our thoughts

- Eddie, Pamela, Edmund, Gordon, David, Bronwen, Kirsten, Caitlin, Gavin and Sarah - xxxx

**STEWART** - In loving memory of a dear mum, Ann, granny and great-granny, who died October 5, 2006.

What we would give if we could say  
We're going to see mum today  
To hear her laugh  
To see her smile  
To sit and talk with her awhile

Thank you mum for those precious years  
Sadly missed.

- Ronald, Kate, Neil, Rhoda, Isabel and families.

**THOMSON** - In loving memory of Isabel, a very dear mum, gran and great-gran who died September 28, 2001.

Sadly missed along life's way  
Quietly remembered everyday.

- Renee, Ian, Charles, Alice and families.

**THOMSON** - Isabel, in fond and loving memory of granny, Isabel, who passed away September 28, 2001.

Precious memories keep you near  
As time unfolds another year.

- Fiona, Roddy and family and Gordon.

**WALKER** - In loving memory of my dear mother, Mary Bell, who died on October 4, 1990.

Sadly missed.

- Inserted by her loving son Archie.

**WALKER** - In loving memory of my dear mother Mary Bell who died on October 4, 1990.

Forever in our thoughts  
- Inserted by her loving son Donald and Morag, Airport Cottage, Islay.

**Thought for the week**

**Memories**

Memories are important to everyone. Whether we want to remember or would prefer to forget, whether we want to celebrate them or heal them, our ability to recall the past is something for which to give thanks.

Next year Glenorchy Kirk in Dalmailly will be celebrating the bicentenary of the present building. (The site has been a place of worship for much longer). With its recently restored tower, and the many visitors who come through its doors, as well as the weekly worship with a small but growing congregation, there is much to celebrate. We are aware that many people in the local area and around the world hold this building in great affection. Weddings and christenings, School Services, Communion Services, regular worship, funerals and burials - all hold significance. There are various events being planned for the

year with a special service to be held in July. There will be an exhibition with much material from the local Historical Association. I was recently given a Glenorchy communion token which a friend in Oban had kept safe in a drawer for many years. If you have any items of interest or photos either to lend or give we would be most grateful. Or perhaps you have a memory which you would like to write about. The church is the people but buildings give us a focus as well as a being a place to gather for worship.

And if you've read this far but have no connection with Glenorchy, remember the town of Oban is also celebrating 200 years in 2011. 1811 marked important beginnings. It's worth thinking back as well as looking forward.

**Rev Liz Gibson, Minister of Glenorchy and Innishael and Strathfillan Parishes**



**Bishop of Argyll marks church anniversary**

Parishioners gathered in St Patrick's, Mallaig recently to celebrate the church's 75th anniversary. Bishop of Argyll and the Isles Joseph Toal took mass at the Solemn Dedication of the Church service, assisted by eight local priests and altar servers. The church, which opened on September 15, 1935, was designed by well-known Catholic architect Reginald Fairlie, cost £6,000 to build and has a seating capacity of 300.

**Obituaries**

**Anna McCorquodale**

ANNA McCorquodale died on the August 20 2010.

She 'retired' from Edinburgh to Ballachulish in 1983 - and within a short time was teaching clarsach and violin to young people. She was a gifted teacher who focused on her pupils having a very good technique, to lay the foundation for their futures in music.

After a few years she moved to North Ballachulish where she gathered more pupils and also became one of the first teachers at the Lochaber Music School.

For her young pupils, going out with Anna to local festivals and Mods was a big adventure. In her wee blue car she could be seen with pupils, clarsach, fiddles and her dog Dileas in the back of the car.

At Christmas time in Onich/NorthBallachulish Anna started the lovely tradition of Christmas gatherings. These took place, by turns, in one of the village hotels. Anyone, of any age who could play any instrument, at any level

was welcome to join the 'orchestra' - or to come along and join in the carol singing. There would be storytelling too, and a solo or two perhaps - these festive ceilidhs were always joyful occasions.

'Miss Mac' is remembered with affection and gratitude by all her pupils.

It was her influence and encouragement that led to the establishment of Starfish Designs in 1987 - making clarsachs for what Anna knew was a growing market since the Feis movement began on Barra in 1981. In Barra she had encouraged a local boat builder, Michael Joseph, (brother of her friend, Father Calum Macneil) to turn his skills to clarsach making.

Anna was very thoughtful, and always ready to help people. When Father Calum became ill, she opened her home to him and looked after him as he recovered. Later he worked wherever he was required, until his death in 2003.

Anna was also interested

in Anthroposophy (the philosophy of Rudolf Steiner) and was involved in the local group for many years. She was always ready to discuss things spiritual or temporal, very much enjoying conversation and ready to laugh.

As a Celt, she was a great storyteller and perhaps a little 'fey'.

When she began to lose her sight, she accepted the challenge in her usual way - ending up with her beloved guide dog, Carlton. They seemed well matched - both feisty and determined. Carers, friends and neighbours will remember that she made light of her ailments and was always pleased to meet and talk. It is a fitting remembrance for Anna that her stories and her music live on in so many lives. She gave and received a lot of love and kindness from friends, neighbours and carers and I think we will all remember her with a smile.

It was obvious how Anna was held in high regard by the large turnout who attended her funeral.

Anna was also interested in the community being a member of the Stroke Club, the Red Cross and Meals On Wheels, as well as working in various restaurants and doing bed and breakfast.

A member of Kyle Free Church Cathie never missed a church service until ill health made her housebound two years ago. Cathie bore her prolonged period of incapacity with remarkable patience.

Cathie's funeral took place in Kyle Free Church, conducted by Reverend Roddie Rankin, where a large crowd gathered to pay their respects. The burial took place at Balmacara New Cemetery.

Sympathy is expressed to Cathie's daughter Jeanetta and her family.

**WEDDINGS**



**Blue - McLean**  
Robert Andrew Blue and Rosin McLean were married on July 17, 2010. They celebrated their marriage at Malone House, Belfast.



**MacLennan - Rodger**  
Karen is the daughter of Elaine Thomson and the late Derek Rodger. Fraser is the son of Christine and the late Donald MacLennan. They were married in St Conan's kirk on Saturday 7th August.

**GRADUATIONS**



**Alan Hunter**  
Senior Training captain Richard Evans of Airbus-Easy Jet presents Alan Hunter with his Commercial Pilot's License at Oxford Aviation Academy's graduation ceremony. Alan who is employed by Easyjet is a former pupil of Lochnell School and Oban High. He is the grandson of the late Hugh and Jean MacColl, Keil Farm, Benderloch and Agnes and Archie Hunter, Grangemouth.



Mhairi Jessica Alexander graduated from Strathclyde University with a LLB (Hons). Mhairi is the daughter of Bill and Ellen Alexander and granddaughter of the Late Ian and Jessie MacLaren, Connel.



Alan John Steel graduated from De Mountfort University, Leicester with a BSc in Environmental Protection with First Class Honours. Alan is the son of the late Ian and Margaret Steele, Oban and the grandson of the late John and Isabella Steele, Oban and the late John and Peggy McPhail, Killin.



Catherine McKiernan recently gained the postgraduate award of Public Service Management MBA from the University of Stirling. Catherine is the daughter of Pauline McKiernan and the late Jim McKiernan.

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**ECCLIASTICAL NOTICES**

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**  
Sunday 3 October 2010  
Main Hall  
10:30am  
All Welcome  
Telephone  
**07836 342 622**  
**www.lorncf.org.uk**

**LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
Sunday 3 October 2010  
Oban High School  
Main Hall  
10:30am  
All Welcome  
Telephone  
**07836 342 622**  
**www.lorncf.org.uk**

**ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN**  
Campbell Street Church  
Sunday 3 October 2010  
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.  
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available  
**Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh**  
**(01631) 567076**  
All welcome

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## Fort William earn Scottish Cup replay

Scottish Cup  
Golspie Sutherland 2,  
Fort William 2

FORT William fought back from a goal down to earn a replay against North Caledonian league side Golspie Sutherland in the Scottish Cup first round. The Lochaber team will be disappointed not to have won the game after they took an early lead through youngster Iain MacLennan. The on-form striker took as pass from Jonathon Hewitt, before spinning and firing the ball past the Golspie goalkeeper.

However, Fort William couldn't add to their lead and were thankful to goalkeeper John Campbell when he made a double save in the 29th minute.

But Campbell could do nothing about the equaliser, which came through Stuart Thomson after 34 minutes.

The second half was an even affair until Fort defender Michael Legg fouled Chris Campbell in the box just after the hour mark. The referee awarded a penalty to the home side, and Thomson took the spot kick and duly put his side into the lead.

**Offside**  
Golspie thought they had scored a third goal just minutes later but the offside flag ensured the score remained 2-1.

Fort got their equaliser with 14 minutes to go. Substitute Sean Ellis delivered a 40-yard pass to MacLennan, who slotted the ball past the keeper. Michael Gillespie hit the bar late on for Fort, but the game finished 2-2. The sides will meet again in the replay at Claggan Park on Saturday.

# Narrow win for Lochaber

Basic stuff still needs to be worked on

Caledonia Division Two North West  
**Lochaber 19,**  
**RAF Lossiemouth 17**  
LOCHABER took on RAF Lossiemouth at Banavie on Saturday looking to bounce back from last week's heavy defeat against Moray.

A good start from Lochaber and some vigilant refereeing saw Lochaber get two early penalties, which were scored by Kenny Turnbull.

Lochaber were looking quite good in most stages of play, but it was Lossiemouth scored and converted the first try of the game.

Another Turnbull penalty put the sides into halftime with Lochaber ahead 9-7. At this point Lochaber were a man down as pack leader Ali Revitt had been sin binned for a high tackle.

The second half saw more good work from both sides, but also some reckless tackling by Lossiemouth, which resulted in them having a player sin binned.

Lochaber grasped the opportunity and after some good forward play from centre Tristan Sanders, Chris Simpson scored a good try followed by a Turnbull conversion to make the score 16-7.

Lochaber then looked like they thought the game was



Lochaber battled to a narrow victory against RAF Lossiemouth on Saturday. 10\_f40rugby01

won, especially as RAF Lossiemouth had a man red carded for another reckless challenge. But Lossiemouth scored a penalty and then after a long period camped on Lochaber's line, their No.10 scored and converted to give his side a one-point lead.

Some re-jigging of Lochaber's side saw the game restored to perhaps its rightful balance when Turnbull took a penalty to settle the game 19-17.

Lochaber remain unbeaten at home, but still need to work on a lot of the basic stuff that appears to come

naturally on a Tuesday and Thursday, but not on game day.

Lochaber squad: Gary Hendrie; Keith Garrick; Tristan Sanders; Kenny Turnbull; Blair MacRaild;

Paul Brown; Tom Baxter; Chris Simpson; Ali Revitt; Pavel Fonczek; Craig MacPherson; Steve Trail; Ian Smith; Calum Moorehouse; Neil Craik; Ross Wallace; Ewan Jamieson.

### RUGBY

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OBAN & LORN  
SPORTS FESTIVAL 2010  
SPORTS AWARDS CEREMONY



Get your nominations in today!

THE Sports Awards ceremony will be held on Sunday 14th November 2010 at Atlantis Leisure, where local sports persons and teams will be recognised for their outstanding achievements and contributions in their chosen sport.

**NOMINATE** We encourage all readers to email their nominations to [olsfsecretary@googlemail.com](mailto:olsfsecretary@googlemail.com) by Monday 11th October

**VOTE** Please visit [www.obanandlornsportsfestival.co.uk](http://www.obanandlornsportsfestival.co.uk) to register your vote

Awards categories this year are as follows:

- Coach of the Year** Category available to sponsor
- Sports Administrator of the Year** Category available to sponsor
- Team of the Year** sponsored by The Oban Times
- Junior Sportswoman** Category available to sponsor
- Junior Sportsman** Category available to sponsor
- Sportswoman of the Year** Category available to sponsor
- Sportsman of the Year** Category available to sponsor
- Disabled Sportsperson of the Year** Category available to sponsor
- Sports Personality of the Year** (Picked from all categories) Category available to sponsor

**Outstanding Achievement Award**  
*(Recognising the achievement of someone who no longer lives in the Oban and Lorn area, but has excelled at and competed in their chosen sport on a national or international level)*  
sponsored by Atlantis Leisure Cafe

**Nominations must be made by Monday 11th October**

**The rules for the competition are as follows:**  
The competition is open to residents of North Argyll. Nominations can be accepted for more than one category but the sports person can win only one award.  
The Sports Personality Award winner will be selected from the winners of the other categories.  
Winners will be announced at the dinner. Correspondence will not be entered into and the judge's decision is final.  
We look forward to your nominations as well as participation in this exciting weekend event.

## Narrow win for Fort Under 17s

Fort William U17s 4,  
Alness 3

FORT William U-17s continued their excellent form with a deserved 4-3 win over a hard working Alness team on Sunday.

Alness took the lead against the run of play after 30 minutes. Fort managed to equalise before halftime when Martin Munro glided past two defenders and

curled the ball into the top corner.

The second half started with more Fort William pressure, but a long ball over the top of their defence caused them problems and Bradley Cameron fouled the Alness striker in the box.

**Spot Kick**  
The Alness player took the spot kick himself to give his side the lead again.

Raymond Munro cancelled out the lead two minutes later before a diving header from captain Darren Kennedy gave Fort the lead for the first time in the match.

Alness equalised but Fort were rewarded for their pressure when Munro scored his second of the game.

### FOOTBALL

## Charity benefits from 'Gallop and Grind'



First and second finishers Tom Hobbs of Peebles (right) and John Binnie of Claggan. 10\_f40gallop01



Fort William's Stevie Martin crossing the line in third place. 10\_f40gallop02

THOUSANDS of pounds was raised for Cancer Care in the Highlands on Saturday when hundreds of runners, walkers and cyclists took part in the third annual "Gallop and Grind" event.

The race got underway from King George V Park at noon, with more than 300 people taking part in the race. The duathlon - a 3.5-mile run round Cow Hill and a 9.5-mile cycle along Glen Nevis - was split into two sections, competitive for regular runners and mountain bikers and non-

competitive for those who just want to take part.

A well-attended evening ceilidh was held in the Nevis Centre on Saturday evening after the event where the winning athletes were presented with their medals.

**Memory**  
The duathlon was set up in memory of Invergarry mum Sharon Fraser, who died of breast cancer two years ago. The local Lidl store in Fort William supplied the runners with apples, oranges, juice, biscuits and bottles of water for the event.

Her son Callum was the fastest junior and fourth fastest overall, finishing just over five minutes behind the winner, Tom Hobbs of Peebles. Fiona Aitken was the first female to finish.

**Results:**  
Men - 1, Tom Hobbs 1:01:46; 2, John Binnie 1:02:44; 3, Stevie Martin 1:06:46.  
Women - 1, Fiona Aitken 1:28:49; 2, Jane Hobbs 1:28:52; 3, Lucy McNulty 1:28:53.  
Juniors - 1, Callum Fraser 1:06:57; 2, Stephen Dent 1:20:35; 3, Isla Mackay 1:20:41.

### DUATHLON

## BA bowlers in soapy bubble

**BOWLING**

The Alanajude/Highland Soap sponsored pairs was held at the BA Sports and Social Club on Friday. Winners were Sandy MacIntosh and Alan Robinson (front), who narrowly beat Innis Wood and Wilson Thain (right). Club president Ian Gregor presented the prizes. Judith Robinson and Helen Ross received body brushes for their endeavours in the qualifying stages.



## Jumping Derby at Newtonmore

**HORSE RIDING**

NEWTONMORE Riding Centre held a Junior Jumping Derby Sat 25th Sep for all its Saddle Club and Pony Club members. The event was well attended and had 2 main classes, 30cm and 50cm with the youngest competitors from 5 years old.

The local riding club has a minimum age of 9 years so this competition allowed the younger Badenoch riders to show their skills in the saddle.

There was even a staff Jump Off using "the naughty ponies" that was won by two German students Astrid Schicha (24) on Penguin and Anika Dietmann (19) on Fern. The Horse and Hound classes were the best attended on the day and Clear Round

Jumping was popular too. Sara Cheyne (6) riding Ben from Newtonmore won the medal on the day for "The Most Improved Jumper" and the "Chase Me Charlie" competition for the highest jumper was won by Bethia Peason (14) from Nethybridge riding Suie of Croila a Highland Mare by clearing 1.0 meters to win beating some of the Centre's much bigger horses. Many thanks to Pam Duncan for organising and running the competition and the Macpherson Family of Biallid for allowing NRC to host it.



Chase Me Charlie competitors.

Got a Story?

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SHINTY

Results

**Scottish Hydro Premier Division**  
Kingussie 3 Fort William 3  
Kyles Athletic 3 Inveraray 0  
Oban Camanachd 4 GMA 1

**Marine Harvest North Division One**  
Kinlochshiel 8 Beaulie 0  
Lochaber 1 Kilmallie 5  
Strathglass 2 Skye 5

**Marine Harvest South Division One**  
Ballachulish 6 Lochside 4

**Marine Harvest North Division Two**  
Glen/uhart 4 Kinlochshiel 1  
Skye 2 Kingussie 2

**Marine Harvest North Division Three Play off**  
Aberdeen Uni 2 Lochaber 3

Fixtures

**Saturday, October 2**  
All throw ups at 2.30pm unless otherwise

**Scottish Hydro Premier Division**  
Fort William v Newtonmore  
Graham Irving 3.30pm  
Kingussie v Kyles  
David Mitchell  
Inveraray v Bute  
Ronnie Campbell

**Marine Harvest North Division One**  
Kilmallie v Caberfeidh  
Duncan Kerr 1pm  
Kinlochshiel v Lochcarron  
John Sloggie

**Marine Harvest North Division Two**  
Glenurquhart v Lovat  
Graham Cameron  
Kingussie v Glengarry  
Evan MacRae 12 noon

Scotland squad

SHINTY

THE Senior National Squad has been named for the 2010 Shinty/Hurling International at Croke Park in Dublin on Saturday, October 30, with the return leg at Inverness on Saturday, November 13.

The squad is as follows:  
Chris Bamber, Fort William  
John Barr, Glenurquhart  
Norman Campbell, Newtonmore  
Scott Campbell, Newtonmore  
Andrew Corrigan, Glenurquhart  
Paul Gow, Kingussie  
Gary Innes, Fort William  
Grant Irvine, Kyles Athletic  
Ian Macdonald, Bute  
John Macdonald, Fort William  
Neil Macdonald, Lochaber  
Roddy Macdonald, Kyles Athletic  
Stuart Mackintosh, Glenurquhart  
Niall MacPhee, Fort William  
Finlay MacRae, Kinlochshiel  
Shaun Nicolson, Lochaber  
Duncan Rodger, Fort William  
Ronald Ross, Kingussie  
Stand by players  
Lee Bain, Kingussie  
Andrew King, Kyles Athletic  
Keith MacRae, Kinlochshiel  
John Stewart, Kilmallie  
Coaching team  
Drew McNeil  
Kenny Ross, George Hay

Two red cards as Fort William and Kingussie share six goals at the Dell

# Fort William make a Premier point



Fort William's Gordie MacKinnon crosses the ball despite the attentions of Kingussie defender Greg MacRae 17-14-shin01

THE SCOTTISH Hydro Premier Division title race remains wide open following Fort William's 3-3 draw against Kingussie in a robust and, at times, bad tempered tie at the Dell on Saturday.

In different incidents, Referee Ronnie Campbell sent off Kingussie's Ronald Ross and Fort William's John MacDonald, booked Fort William's Adie Robertson and Liam MacIntyre and took a very lenient view of several other clashes, on and off the ball, that merited further action.

With Ronald Ross playing a pivotal role at the heart of a Kingussie defence without Lee Bain, it was something of a shock when the home side took the lead after six minutes.

James Hutchison broke up the left before crossing for Thomas Borthwick to fire home.

Victor Smith was preferred in Fort William's starting line-up ahead of James Clark and Smith almost struck an equaliser in the 13th minute

SHINTY

**Scottish Hydro Premier Division Kingussie 3 Fort William 3**

but pulled his finish up and over.

Five minutes later Kingussie doubled their lead - Hutchison finding himself free on the edge of the box and blasting the ball into the roof of the Fort net.

Fort William had failed over the opening half-hour to find any of their normal fluency or passing play but they came back into the tie with the best goal of the game after 31 minutes when Gordie MacKinnon started a quick pass-and-move build-up with Victor Smith and Gary Innes which culminated in Bryan Simpson losing the close attention of Ross to score from 18 yards.

The goal came at a good time for Fort William and they came out at the start

of the second period in confident mood.

After 10 minutes of the restart Gary Innes produced a neat run and finish from the right to draw the teams level and Fort William went ahead for the first time in the match within another two minutes - Simpson coming in from the left to connect with the ball and send it to the top corner of Andrew Borthwick's net.

Pressure grew as referee Campbell allowed several over-robust challenges to go unchallenged and players became involved in off-the-ball feuds. The temperature of the match rose again when, after a period of sustained pressure from Kingussie, Thomas Borthwick pounced on a loose ball and rifled home an equaliser.

Four minutes later, with Kingussie again on the edge of the Fort penalty area, John Macdonald was judged to have brought his stick down on Ricky Grant and the referee immediately produced a red card. With 18 minutes remaining,

James Hutchison squandered a great chance to put Kingussie back into the lead

and as the home side drafted Ross into the forwardline to keep the pressure on a stretched Fort defence there was another flare up when Ross swung in a crowded goal area and caught Duncan Rodgers across the leg.

Several players immediately became needlessly involved with sticks and fists flying before referee Campbell called Ross over and produced a red card. He then singled out defender Liam MacIntyre and appeared to have sent him from the field before hoisting a yellow card. Fort manager Peter MacIntyre immediately substituted MacIntyre.

An unsavoury end to what had been at times an entertaining match, leaves Fort William needing both points from this Saturday's league decider at An Aird, while opponents Newtonmore would lift their first Premier title courtesy of a single point.

## Mod Cup match makes shinty history

SHINTY

WHEN the Caithness and Sutherland shinty teams take to the field to compete for the Mod Cup a week on Saturday, history will be made.

For the first time a Caithness team will play against the county of Sutherland and the game at Bignold Park in Wick will be the most northerly senior shinty cup match to be held in the history of the sport.

Caithness team coach, Thurso Free Church minister Rev Kenny Macleod, has been gathering his players for weekly training sessions over the past month. Despite being 52 years of age, Kenny, who formerly played for Kinlochshiel, Lochcarron and Aberdeen University, will be leading by example and joining his players on the pitch at Bignold Park.

Farr High School Gaelic teacher Angus Millar will lead the Sutherland team and will meet his players this Saturday morning in Bettyhill.

The inter-county match, sponsored by MG Alba, will give the people of Caithness and Sutherland an opportunity to watch a sport which, despite its revival in these parts, is still rarely seen nowadays.

The match will begin at 3.30pm on Saturday, October 9. Spectators are warmly welcome and entrance will be free.

## Oban win keeps Premier league hopes alive

SHINTY

**Scottish Hydro Premier Division Oban Camanachd 4 GMA 1**

**Kyles Athletic 3 Inveraray 0**

OBAN Camanachd kept their Premier hopes alive with a convincing win against already relegated Glasgow Mid Argyll at Mossfield on Saturday.

The Glasgow outfit used Mossfield's wide areas to full effect in the early stages against a home side which looked to be feeling the pressure of this must-win game.

The nerves were not helped by going a goal behind after 19 minutes when a well-rehearsed set-piece move saw Fulton Ross drive the ball home.

However, the home team's response was immediate with Daniel MacIntyre firing home an equaliser within a minute.

This gave Oban some much needed confidence and they played their way back into the tie with some open, attractive shinty which was rewarded on the half-hour when Ian MacMillan put them ahead.

A further two goals just before the interval, from MacIntyre and MacMillan gave the home side a platform on which to build a good second-half performance but, although they created numerous scoring opportunities, a combination of poor finishing, determined defending and good

goalkeeping resulted in no further goals. Two valuable points give Oban Camanachd a chance to retain Premier status next season - but only if Bute fail to take anything from this weekend's tie at Inveraray. The decision on which will go down would then focus on Rothesay the following week when Bute and Oban Camanachd go head-to-head in a must-win tie for both teams.

Kyles Athletic's form of scoring late goals continued on Saturday when two goals in the closing eight minutes gave them a 3-0 win over Inveraray.

Matthew MacColl had the home side ahead after 28 minutes but both sides had opportunities before Colin MacColl scored Kyles' second with eight minutes left, then Grant Irvine sealed the tie with a third goal, five minutes from time.

Kyles travel to Kingussie this weekend aiming to retain third place in the league table.

## Kilmallie net five times at Spean Bridge to take pole position

John Stewart, Ross Lavin, Michael Rodgers, Liam MacDonald, and Martin Stewart set up visitors for promotion

SHINTY

**Marine Harvest North Division One Lochaber 1 Kilmallie 5**

KILMALLIE have moved into pole position for promotion from Marine Harvest North Division One to the Scottish Hydro Premier Division after beating Lochaber 5-1 at Spean Bridge on Saturday.

Lochaber could have sealed promotion if they had won this game but fell behind early on to a goal



Kilmallie are one win away from the Premier Division after defeating Lochaber.

from John Stewart in the 10th minute.

Referee Billy Wotherspoon awarded Kilmallie a penalty after half an hour and Martin Stewart stepped up to make the score 2-0 to the away side. Ross Lavin then added a spectacular third goal just before half time to leave struggling Lochaber with a mountain to climb in the second half.

The home team had a passionate crowd behind them but were unable to cut the deficit and when goals

from Kilmallie's Liam MacDonald and Michael Rodgers made it 5-0, all chances of a Lochaber victory disappeared.

Lochaber's Sean Nicolson scored with a powerful shot with 15 minutes to go but it proved too little too late.

After the match, Kilmallie manager John Morrison told *The Oban Times* he was happy to win such a tight game.

He said: 'It was a bit of a false scoreline. Lochaber probably had as

much of the game as we did, we were just a bit sharper in front of goal.'

He added: 'I'm pleased with result. It puts us in pole position. This game was really 'do or die' for us, and now we've given ourselves a good chance.'

Kilmallie sit one point clear of Lochaber with one game to play. The Canal Park outfit can seal their place in the Premier Division next week when they take on Caberfeidh on Canal Park.

# Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition



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LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



**All you have to do**

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

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. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

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 reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into **The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban** by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition Rules**

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

I enclose £1 (note) 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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:  
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Select captain Willie Gemmell receives the Douglas Harvey Memorial Trophy from Scottish Amateur League president Jim Souter

## Oban players represent Scottish League Select

**FOOTBALL**  
OBAN Saints midfielders Willie Gemmell and Myles McAuley played for the Scottish Amateur League Select against Carlton YM last Sunday at the Kibble Park, Paisley, in the Douglas Harvey Memorial Match.

The Scottish Select won the game 3-0 and both Oban lads played well with Myles unlucky not to have scored when he hit the bar with a 25 yard shot.

## Galaxy back down to earth

### Saints Boys march to top the league at halfway stage

**FOOTBALL**  
BENDERLOCH brought the high-flying Galaxy back down to earth with a 3-0 win in the opening match of the Oban Express Primary Football League on Sunday.

However, they didn't manage to close the gap on the leaders any more, with a defeat to the Pumas denting their hopes.

A mixed bag for Pumas, then, who had earlier been beaten by Lochgilphead and a goal from Rhys Casci. Unbeaten Lochgilphead also defeated the Swifts in a high scoring 6-3 win to keep them on top, ahead of the Saints U9s, who are also looking pretty strong with a win of their own over the Galaxy, a fine Jude Bain strike amongst the goals.

The under 9s also picked up the three points over Ben Lora, who did fight back after an early flurry of goals from the U9s, and got well-deserved consolations through Josh Norman and Angus Scott.

#### Tough

Ben Lora also lost out to the younger Saints team, but the U8s found it tough to get past the brilliant Murray Scott in goals. It took a strong team performance to break them down and they deservedly won 5-1, although Gregor MacDonald did get another consolation for the North Lorn team. The U8s also beat the Swifts to round of an excellent day for them, lifting them above the Pumas to fifth place.

The performance of the day, though, was from last year's Koz (Swifts) with a storming

#### FOOTBALL

3-0 win over Ben Lora, with Liam Campbell scoring a hat-trick. Unfortunately for the youngsters this was a friendly but was still an important moment for the team and an important confidence boost for the youngsters.

#### Bragging

The senior league started with a Lochgilphead derby between the Wolves and the Warriors and it took the last kick of the ball to settle the match with Lucas Williams scoring the only goal of the game for the Warriors to claim bragging rights. In a tough round of fixtures for the Warriors they recorded the same scoreline against Oban Saints with Cammy Simpson the hero.

In the game of the day both the Warriors and the Saints Boys cancelled each other out for long spells but the Saints Boys got the break when Lewis Buchanan prodded the ball past the onrushing keeper. Saints held on for the win but it took an outstanding double save from goalie Cameron MacMillan to ensure the points stayed in Oban.

The Saints Boys marched to the top of the league at the halfway point of the season with comfortable wins over Tralee and Thistle with the ever-impressive Craig Easton claiming a hat trick against the Jags.

The Warriors sit two points adrift and level with Stoddarts who recorded



## Monty's team win Cruachan Cup

**Kenny MacGregor chips onto the fourth green during Taynuilt Golf Club's own version of the Ryder cup, the annual Cruachan Cup, held over the weekend. Kenny's Team Awe were runners-up in this year's event, losing out to Team Etive, captained by Alan 'Monty' Stewart.**

three straight wins of their own and were in free-scoring mode against Appin, Tralee and Lochnell.

#### Inspired

Oban Saints sit in fourth after picking up the points over Appin and were involved in a terrific encounter with Thistle, who had goalkeeper Jamie Forgive in inspired form, making save after save, but he couldn't prevent

two goals going past him in a narrow defeat.

The Jags did pick up a point however with a goalless draw against the Wolves. The Wolves recorded the same scoreline against Lochnell.

Lochnell did put four past the Stoddy Boys without reply but the Boys woke up for their next two matches and picked up full points in wins against Appin and

Tralee with one of the league's top scorers, Keegan McPhee, firing another hat-trick.

All the Juniors meet for a day of 'Fun 4's' at the All Weather Pitch next Sunday and will welcome the eagerly awaited arrival of the new primary one team K-Oz Spartak for the first time. The seniors will continue their league programme.

## Oban Saints back on league duty

#### FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints' senior team return to action on Saturday after last week's break due to the September holiday weekend with a tough home league game against Thorn Athletic.

The teams met in Paisley earlier in the season with the game ending in a 1-1 draw. The Oban side will be hoping to carry on the excellent form they showed in the 8-1 demolition of St Josephs two weeks ago.

The game will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off with referee David McLean from Greenock in charge.

## Oban Bowling Club

#### BOWLS

THE FINAL round of the weekly triples competition took place recently, good fun and enjoyed by all who took part.

The first half of this competition was won by R MacLeod, S Gibson and A MacDougall with the second half won after a close finish by D MacLean, J MacGregor and M MacLean.

The runners up were C MacAlpine, D Douglas and D MacCall.

Twenty-four brave souls played for the George Main Trophy recently on a very wet Sunday afternoon. The winners were D MacLean, L Laverty and M Goldie.

## Glencruitten golf

#### BOWLS

WINNERS of the D & K Lafferty Texas Scramble held at Glencruitten on Saturday were M. Cullen, W. McAdam, G. Melvin and C. Nicholson with a score of 53 - 3.6 = 49.4.

Second were P. MacCallum, D. MacCuish, P. MacCuish, and K. MacLean with a score of 52 - 1.5 = 50.5.

In third place were R. Blair, K. Devine, J. Jones and S. MacLennan with a score of 57 - 6.5 = 50.5, and fourth place went T. Cave, S. Clarke, M. Grant and A. Ward with a score of 55 - 3.8 = 51.2.

## Saints youth results and fixtures

#### FOOTBALL

RESULTS: Saints Under-14s 2, Renton Craigandro 1. Scoring for Saints were Jamie Easton and Fraser MacFarlane, Helensburgh 4, Under 15s 4. Netting for the Oban side were Liam MacEachran (2), Scott Goldie and Aidan Campbell. This weekend's fixtures: Milngavie BC v Under 13s; Under 14s no game; Under 15s v Port Glasgow; Blair Thistle v Under 16s.

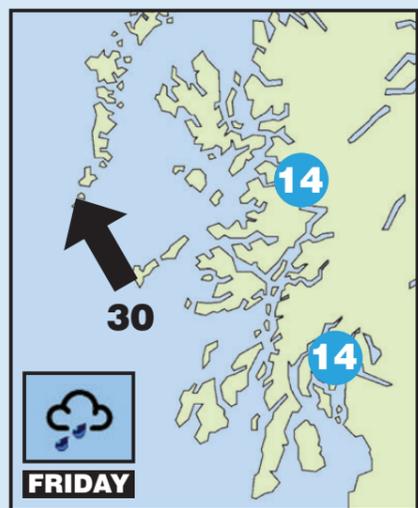
## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, September 30, 2010** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	03.22 1.6 09.06 3.3 15.40 1.8 21.41 3.0	
Fri	04.30 1.7 10.11 3.1 17.23 2.0 23.23 2.8	
Sat	05.57 1.8 12.24 3.0 19.13 1.9 *** **	
Sun	02.12 2.9 07.20 1.6 14.23 3.3 20.40 1.6	
Mon	03.08 3.2 08.33 1.3 15.15 3.6 21.35 1.3	
Tues	03.53 3.5 09.31 1.0 15.57 3.9 22.23 0.9	
Wed	04.30 3.8 10.21 0.6 16.36 4.2 23.04 0.7	

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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## the weather

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**Thursday**  
Light rain showers  
Winds light to moderate southerly  
Temperatures 11°C to 15°C

**Friday**  
Heavy rain  
Winds moderate to strong south easterly  
Temperatures 10°C to 14°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
Light rain showers  
Winds moderate to strong southerly.  
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate to Rough  
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above  
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

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## Oban are the big shots

Members of the Oban Lorn Gun Club won the Argyll team shoot held at Cairndow Gun Club on September 18. Pictured from left to right: Jim MacIntyre, Stuart Davis, Hector McFadyen, Gregor Crawford, missing from the picture is David Mundell from Tarbert.

## Argyll athletes settle in at games village

ARGYLL'S Commonwealth Games athletes have been settling in at the competitors' village this week, despite fears the Scottish team would be greeted by sub-standard accommodation and training complexes.

Oban archer Kyle Dods has been settling in to his accommodation and has had to put up with a few 'snags'.

**Accommodation**  
Cyclist Pippa Handley from Loch Scammadale and Campbeltown twins Donna and Fiona Robertson, who compete in the wrestling

events, are also due to compete during the games. Kyle told The Oban Times: 'Our accommodation is quite good although there have been a few things that had to be fixed or done but

#### ATHLETICS

I think that's what they call snagging. The village is very impressive with water fountains and quality training facilities, although not all of them are completely up and running. There are games rooms, shops internet cafes and lots of other things to do - plus we have the Wii set up in our apartment, so plenty to do in between training.

'Most of the athletes from other countries are really friendly and the atmosphere is brilliant.' The Scotland squad had its official welcoming ceremony at the beginning of the week, when the Saltire was raised in the village.

## Oban Lorne lose at Stranraer

**SHE** West Division One **Wigtownshire 16 Oban Lorne 5**

OBAN Lorne made the long away trip to Stranraer last Saturday hoping to make amends for their 30-27 defeat the previous week at Clydebank.

But despite playing the best rugby of the day in the closing stages it proved too little, too late.

Only a few changes were made by coach Corrie Louw to the previous week's team, with Jonathan Sayer making his first Oban Lorne start in the second row and Colin Chadwick and Chris MacDonald returning to the back line.

Oban started the game well and found themselves applying a long period of pressure in the home side's 22 but with the aid of some good

kicking from their stand-off, Wigtownshire eventually gained some much needed territory and scored after some good passages of play in the Oban half. The score remained at 7-0 for the rest of a scrappy first half with Oban's only notable pieces of play coming from outside centre Cammy Smith, full-back Mark MacQueen and the impressive Jamie MacMillan, who has been one of Oban's form players so far this year.

#### Confident

With the score sitting at 7-0 Oban were confident of replying early in the second half. It was Wigtownshire, however, who struck first scoring a penalty early on to give a 10-0 lead. Oban replied with their first points in the game with a try from prospect Angus MacCallum,

his fourth of the season. Score 10-5.

Oban dominated the next 10 minutes but again failed to take their chances, which is becoming a feature of their play. Wigtownshire, to their credit, stood firm and slotted over two further penalties to take a deserved 16-5 victory.

Man of the Match - Cameron Smith.

Oban Lorne take a break from league action next week for the visit of Argyll and Bute rivals Cowal RFC in the first round of the Scottish Hydro Electric Bowl Competition. Kick off is 3pm at Glencruitten with Oban hopefully showing off their new kit for the first time this year.

#### RUGBY

## Lochaber retain title

LOCHABER retained the National Under-17 Sixes at Mossfield, Oban, on Sunday with a convincing win over the otherwise dominant force of Kingussie.

The tournament, sponsored by the Artemis Macaulay Association, consisted 12 teams but the eventual finalists looked to be the favourites from the first throw-up.

Kilmory were the only south team in the last four, with Lovat completing the semi-final line-up.

In the first of the semi-finals, Lochaber proved too strong for Lovat and cruised through to the final winning 5 - 1. The second semi-

#### SHINTY

final wasn't so easy and Kilmory held Kingussie to a 1-1 draw before Kingussie's Thomas Borthwick, who would be named player of the tournament, secured Kingussie's place in the final with a golden goal in extra time.

Lochaber, inspired by captain Danny Delaney, dominated the final, scoring three goals without reply. Organisers thanked the Macaulay Association for the continued sponsorship of this event and referees Billy Witherspoon and Alan MacKechnie.



## Monster skate may be a British record

Damian Greenwood, from Lancashire, caught a 192lb skate on a recent angling trip to the Firth of Lorne. The angling enthusiast caught the fish from the shore and believes it may be UK record.