

# The Oban Times

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## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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### 'Confused' man traced to dinghy on Loch Creran

A 'CONFUSED' man on Loch Creran sparked a rescue operation on Saturday, after he became lost on his dinghy. The man had dialled 999 at about 1.40am, initially speaking to police, but it was some time before it was established he was in a boat and somewhere on the loch. Oban Coastguard and the lifeboat, the *Mora Edith Macdonald*, carried out a joint search, eventually tracing the confused man. A spokesman for the RNLI said: 'It transpired that he was from the yacht *Freya* where his friend was still asleep - but without a dinghy. A member of the coastguard team rowed the dinghy out to the yacht, secured her there and returned to Oban aboard the lifeboat. The lost man was left speaking to the police.' The man was warned about his conduct, but he faced no charges as a result.

### MP's plea for more Array information

ARGYLL and Bute MP, Alan Reid, has called for Tires residents to be kept in the picture about the proposed Argyll Array. Speaking after the Scottish Affairs Committee's visit to the island, he said: 'The issue that kept cropping up on Tires was the lack of information being given to islanders about the proposed massive off-shore windfarm. Most islanders have still to make up their minds about the windfarm. Scottish Power Renewables must tell the islanders what their plans are if the SNP Government gives planning permission.'

### Cash up for grabs in film competition

THOUSANDS of pounds in prizemoney is up for grabs in the FilmG project, MG ALBA's innovative Gaelic online short film competition. It is hoped the cash, including a £1,000 prize for the Best Community Short, will encourage grassroots film-making. The competition closes on January 6, 2012.



Murray and Jamie Peden may not be typical beekeepers, but their amber nectar has been winning prizes. 15, 139bees01

### Murray creates a buzz with prize-winning honey

SUCCESS certainly tastes sweet for Murray Peden. The Oban teenager has been creating a bit of a buzz with his prize-winning honey. Just three years after getting his first hive, he won a first place for his precious amber nectar at the Scottish National Honey Show. Head beekeeper Murray, 16, was the inspiration for the Peden family's new hobby, while brother Jamie, 12, has been learning the ropes. Mum Mandy said this is the first year local beekeepers have had a surplus to sell for a long time. She added: 'We are in a very good position here: we have all the gardens and plants in the town, and the heather and

woodland on the edge of Oban nearby.' That horticultural buffet for their bees has certainly helped them to succeed. At the Oban and Lorn Horticultural Show, they seized the honey cup from beekeeping stalwart, Phil Moss. There was a further sting in the tail for Phil, when he was squeezed into second place by Murray's honey at the national competition, after encouraging him to enter. But he doesn't seem to mind, adding: 'I did win the category for nine jars of honey, though, that's a very difficult class.' Phil, secretary of Oban and District Beekeeping Association, has been helping Murray for three years and gave him his first hive and bees. He said: 'We have a mentoring system where a new beekeeper is paired with an established one. They will get plenty of help. It's a marvellous hobby, absolutely fantastic - I have been beekeeping for 40 years and I'm still learning things. The more beekeepers there are looking after bees, the more they will be around in the environment. The next beekeeping meeting is taking place on Thursday, October 13 at 7.30pm at Glen-cruiter Church of Scotland Centre.

### Contract awarded for Tayinloan Pier upgrade

ISLANDERS on Gigha can look forward to a more reliable ferry service after the contract for a £2.3m upgrade at Tayinloan Pier was agreed. Work will begin on improvements in the next few weeks and will see three weekend closures of the ferry service between now and Christmas. The proposal for the closure is to allow piling works to safely

take place. The work will start later this month, and weather permitting, will be completed by May next year, in time for the peak summer tourist season. Northern Ireland-based Graham Construction, which also carried out works at Kennacraig Ferry Terminal, submitted the most competitive bid. Ferry operator CalMac has made an alternative, smaller

ferry available for use on the route, which would allow slipway works to progress while the service is maintained. For a number of years, silt and seaweed build-ups have caused havoc for ferry users and Gigha residents and have led to expensive and disruptive dredging works. The aim of the works is to secure as reliable a ferry service as possible and reduce

the need for future dredging. The upgrade includes moving up to 80,000 tonnes of sand from the beach south of the pier to an area to the north; an open section or bridge will be formed in the causeway leading to the pier and slipway to allow water and sediment to pass through the terminal and the slipway will be repaired and widened to accept wider vessels.

## Cash cuts threaten cycle path

'This is becoming similar to the Edinburgh trams fiasco'

A HALF-finished cycle path between Oban and Fort William faces never being completed - unless £5million can be found to continue funding for the group behind it. Sustrans is funded by Transport Scotland, but the government quango had its budget slashed from £25million to £16million during last month's Scottish Budget Review. It is understood Sustrans has been told to expect 'sizeable' cuts as a result. The charity says any significant reduction to its £5million annual budget will bring to a halt its work to complete the patchwork cycle path and lessen any value it could add to the Argyll economy. However, critics have already started to describe the path as 'Argyll's very own Edinburgh trams', saying the high cost meant it was never going to be completed. John Lauder, national director

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN [sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk) of Sustrans Scotland, said: 'If there's a severe cut in our funding we will just have to stop. We estimate that the national cycle path routes add £100million to the Scottish economy. We'd like Argyll to have its share of that. However, an incomplete path between Oban and Fort William is not going to generate the level of business it could.' Mr Lauder has written to local councillors to ask for support in campaigning for Sustrans' funding to be maintained when the detailed breakdown of the budget is announced in December. Oban North and Lorn councillor, Neil Mackay, whose ward takes in a section of the cycle path, is to take up the fight. 'It's unfortunate that they've only managed to complete certain parts of the path,' he said.

'It'd be even more unfortunate if we were left with an incomplete path. We need to have it finished because it's a fantastic asset. It will affect tourism if it isn't completed, as the fact is, it is a vital ingredient in the tourism menu that we have. But leaving this incomplete would be like getting a half-cooked meal - nobody would want it.' However, Kevin Whitehead, a member of the North Argyll Cycling Club who has previously criticised the path for being dangerous and over-expensive, said the news wasn't a surprise. 'This is quickly becoming very similar to the Edinburgh trams fiasco. The Tarmac they've used for the path is better than is used for our roads - it was way too expensive from day one. As a result I think we all knew this project was never going to be completed.'

### Green light for £2.6million dental plan

PLANS to establish a new state-of-the-art NHS dental practice within Lorn and Islands Hospital are underway after NHS directors gave it the green light. Although securing the services of an NHS dentist in Oban has been broadly welcomed, there is concern about siting it within the hospital's Nelson Ward, a move that has been branded 'cost cutting' by one councillor. The current NHS dental practice in Oban's Argyll Square cannot meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) or the Decontamination Guidelines that will take effect from 2012.

On Tuesday, the NHS Highland Board approved a business case to build a new dental practice within the hospital at a capital cost of £2.585m. Work on the new dental surgery is scheduled to begin in March next year, with an estimated completion date of March 2013 and a commissioning date a month later. A spokesman for NHS Highland told *The Oban Times* on Tuesday: 'We understand people have been concerned about having access to a dentist in the Oban area. This decision today is really good news for the residents of Oban and the surrounding

communities. It will provide dental services from a modern facility with state-of-the-art equipment.' Councillor Donald 'Skye' McIntosh, a former council spokesman on social services, was glad the future of dental services in Oban was secured but stressed the Nelson Ward was the wrong option. 'I think this is more cost cutting to get NHS Highland out of a fix. I know the health service has to save money but Oban is expanding and we have a lack of space in the hospital to develop more services in healthcare, such as dialysis, which people will come to expect.'

## Shake-up of staffing arrangements at Tesco Post Office 'simply doesn't add up'

TESCO is to cut the number of people employed at its Oban Post Office in the run up to Christmas. The supermarket giant, which runs the Post Office on a franchise basis, has initiated a consultation process with staff ahead of a number of changes within the store. It is understood the move is being made as part of an autumn revamp of the supermarket, the date of which is yet to be confirmed. It is unclear if the Post Office's floorspace will be reduced as a result. While staff whose positions are affected may be offered jobs elsewhere within the store, the

move is likely to prove unpopular with customers who already have to endure long queues during busy periods. A spokesman for Tesco said: 'We have carried out a complete review of our Post Office operations to ensure we are providing customers with the very best service. 'Improve service' Following a trial, we are introducing a new operating model that will improve service by reducing queuing times for customers. 'We are currently consulting with staff as a small number of roles may be impacted. 'We will look to offer alternative

roles to any staff affected.' But local councillor and Royal Mail employee, Roddy McCuish, is astonished that the move is even being considered. He said: 'How can they possibly cut queues while using fewer staff? That doesn't add up. 'I'm very disappointed at Tesco. This is one of the busiest Post Offices in the West of Scotland, if not the busiest. 'Perhaps, because it is a franchise, the staff maybe don't enjoy the same job security as they would if they worked for the Post Office itself. 'I would hope Tesco would firm up their commitment to offer staff

affected other roles in the store. 'However, to cut staff back at what is leading up to the busiest time of the year for Post Offices across the country doesn't make sense. Vital 'We only have one other sub-post office left in Oban, so this is a vital part of the community. 'I hope this isn't the start of Tesco starting to look at using the floorspace for other, more profitable, areas such as clothing.' Post Office Scotland confirmed they have no control over the staffing of the Tesco branch, which is run entirely by the supermarket giant.

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# New £6million primary school opened on Uist

NEW £6million Uist Primary School, Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich, was officially opened last week, with two very special guests appearing to perform the honours.

May MacDonald and Mary MacAulay are both former pupils of Balivanich Primary School, the site of Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich, last attending the school in the early 1920s – just years after the First World War. The pair were more than

happy to help open the first new school in Uist for 20 years, and Councillor Uisdean Robertson from Sgoiltean Ùra, paid tribute to their efforts.

**Pleasing**  
 Uisdean said: 'It's particularly pleasing that the school was opened by two former pupils of the old Balivanich Primary School.'

'Like all the Sgoiltean Ùra, Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich is a school of the community and

the facilities available now to the pupils of Benbecula. The school is lovely to look at, spacious and light inside, incredibly functional – the designers, with the help of the educational consultants, staff and pupils, have thought of everything and we now have a learning environment which is ideal for the educational needs of Benbecula pupils in the 21st Century.'

Later in the day the school doors were opened to allow the

community to see round the £6 million building.

**Flocked**  
 Parents, grandparents and community members flocked in and were guided round by pupils.

P6/7 teacher Josie MacDonald, who has been teaching at Balivanich since 2005, said: 'I find the spirit of the old school has definitely come to the new school.'

'We are in our glory.'



**Beachd Ailein**  
 Ailean Caimbeul

THA E NA THOMHAS AIR ADHARTAS SGILEAN obair slàinte nuair a chithear innealachd a' cumail beò euslaiteach a tha gun mhothachadh is gun chomas de sheòrsa sam bith.

'S e uallach uabhasach a th'ann nuair a dh'fheumas càirdcan co-dhùnadh co-dhùis is còir na h-innealan sin a thionndadh dheth. Ach mura bheil iad tlachd no mothachadh sam bith aig neach agus ma tha eòlach is luchd-gaoil cinnteach nach iarradh e / i a bhith beò mar sin, tha fhios gur e coibheas agus ceartas a th'ann an leigil às gu fois bàis.

Ach tha suidheachaidhean ann far am bit tomhas beag biodach de mhothachadh aig euslaiteach agus tha cùirt-lagha ann an Sasainn air co-dhùnadh nach fhaodar leigil le neach bàsachadh mar a dh'iarr buill den teaghlach. Mhol fear-lagha gum bu chòir dhan a h-uile neach co-dhùnadh sgrìobhte a chlàradh air mar a dh'iarradh iad cùisean a bhith air an làimhseachadh nan tachradh leithid de dh'euslaite dhaibh. Ach saoilidh mi gur e glè bheag de dh'òigridh aig àrde slàinte is neart a tha dol a chosg tìde air leithid de dheasachadh.

B' fheàrr leam fhìn stiùir a ghabhail bhon bhoireannach a tha air gaol màthar dha a mac a dhearbhadh cho daingeann is i ga fhrithleadh fad nan dà bhliadhna fichead bhò chaille e gach comas is mothachadh ann an tubaist rathaid. Ged a tha i a-nise ochdad 's a trì, tha a' bhana-ghaisgeach seo a' fhrithleadh dhan euslaiteach bhochd seo bho chùil sheachd uairean gach madainn gu às dèidh meadhan-oidhche. Agus a bharrachd air eòlas a cuid obrach mhòr thar nam bliadhnaichean, tha am boireannach seo cuideachd a' tarraing air eòlas farsaing cosnaidh mar bhanaltram.

'S i a' cheist dhòmhsa am bheil e ceart a bhith a' caomhnadh dhaoine beò an dèidh leithid de tubaist nuair a tha deagh fhios nach eil beatha is fhìach gu bhith aca,' thuir i.

Beachd làidir agus conspaideach 's dòcha ach tha i seo air a bhith thall agus tha i air suidheachadh fhaicinn is fhulang mar nach do thachair dhan mhòr-chuid a tha dèanamh co-dhùnaidhean air mar is còir an lagh seo an Sasainn a stèidheachadh. Tha saoghal a mic mar dhòrainn ifrinn na beachd-se agus chan eil teagamh nach eil a saoghal fhèin dòrainneach da-riribh cuideachd!

AN ENGLISH High Court ruling to sustain the life-support of a minimally-conscious person may seem just, but the indignity of the existence of their loved-one does not mean justice to the family which asked that the patient be allowed to die.

I am moved by the view of the 83-year-old former nurse who has been caring for a son, seriously brain-damaged in a road accident, for the past 22 years.

Totally incapacitated and dependent, his mother spends 18 hours a day caring for him. She describes his life as a living hell and questions the resuscitation of people when it is known that they will not enjoy any quality of life.

**Ailean Caimbeul**  
 (Allan Campbell)  
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Kerry MacPhee comes up to the finish line after passing favourite Jacqui Slack with 500 metres to go. Picture by Sussex Sport Photography

## South Uist triathlete sprints to British title

A SOUTH Uist athlete has been named British Triathlon Cross champion after a thrilling finish to the race.

Amateur triathlete Kerry MacPhee, from Kilphedar, was the first woman home in the event at Gibraltar Barracks, Surrey, on September 24 after overtaking professional competitor Jacqui Slack 500m from the finish line.

Kerry, who finished 18th overall, had been four minutes off the pace after the swim, her weakest of the three disciplines, and had suffered mechanical problems on her bike but still managed to grind out an unexpected victory.

'I'm a British champion but I can't quite believe it,' the 25-year-old told *The Oban Times* last week. 'I had a terrible swim and was four minutes down on Jacqui who led right up until the last 500 metres.'

A determined Kerry had posted good finishing times in the lead up to the national event, including a fifth place overall at the recent Craggy Island Triathlon on Kerrera.

She is also the current age group (amateur) world silver medallist and was second to

# Authority confirms backing for Mòd

Argyll and Bute agrees to pay £35,000 for next six years

MEMBERS of Argyll and Bute Council's executive launched a staunch defence of the Royal National Mod's importance to the area after passing a recommendation to financially back the event for a further six years.

The unanimous agreement means Argyll and Bute Council will pay £35,000 per year towards the cost of the Mod until 2019 – the previous service level agreement would have expired in 2013.

As a result, the council will back an Oban bid to host the Royal National Mod in 2015 and an effort to bring the annual Gaelic festival back to Argyll in either 2018 or 2019.

Next year Dunoon will host the event, which is estimated to have brought £2.3m to the Oban area in 2009.

At the executive meeting last Thursday, Councillor John Semple, who is not on the executive committee, raised concern that the council was not getting value for money from the Mòd, which had become

more of an issue as the council sought to cut costs elsewhere. He pointed to the example of the Mull of Kintyre Music Festival, which boosts the local economy to the tune of £1.7m from only a £11,000 council grant.

He said: 'I think we should spread the funds across the council area or focus on the festivals where we get the most back for our money.'

'The Mod brings in £54 for every pound spent by us, which is a lot less than other events. Could we not ask the Mòd if they need to up their game in terms of money being brought in?'

The comments sparked a reaction from some of the executive members who pointed out the Mòd's cultural significance meant it had to be supported.

A frustrated Councillor Robin Currie had the final word, saying: 'We shouldn't have this long a debate about money for the Royal National Mod.'

'Just think of what the name Argyll means; this was where Gaelic was first spoken.'

'Let's finish this debate and give them the money.'

The executive committee's agreement also means events like the Cowal Highland Gathering will continue to play a vital role in attracting visitors to Argyll and Bute.

The Cowal Highland Gathering is secure for another three years as the Executive agreed to enter into a new service level agreement.

**REPORT**  
 by EUAN PATERSON  
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*"Just think what the name 'Argyll' means; this was where Gaelic was first spoken."*

**Councillor Robin Currie**

## Suspended surgeon convicted of attempted £25,000 insurance scam

A SURGEON, who has been suspended from his job at Lorn and Islands Hospital, has been convicted of trying to steal £25,000 in an insurance scam.

Dr Ramesh Gupta, 50, took out a policy two days after his house was flooded by a burst pipe last January.

Three weeks later he tried to make a bogus claim for the damage, which also spread to his neighbour's home.

**Guilty**  
 Last week the surgeon, who was suspended in relation to another matter, was found guilty of attempted fraud at Glasgow Sheriff Court. He will be sentenced next month.

**Policy**  
 A spokesman for NHS Highland said: 'It is policy that we don't comment on members of staff, past or present, nor do we comment on internal disciplinary matters.'



Barcaldine Primary School pupils decorate 'victim' Dougal Munro as they raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support last week. The beauticians are, from left, Katie MacCorquodale, Rianna George, Eilidh Munro and Zophia Borowska. 15\_140bigcollee1

## Barcaldine pupils add 'fun' to fundraising

PUPILS from Barcaldine Primary School provided the entertainment at Poppies Garden Centre on Friday, when it took part in Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning.

After singing to entertain the crowd, pupils hosted stalls offering to transfer tattoos and paint nails.

Meanwhile, a raffle was boosted with a £300 donation from Oban Express, while Michael Fraser and Andrew McPherson had their legs waxed to add to the fundraising.

## Much needed £600 for lifeline transport service

A LIFELINE service that carries elderly and ill people to and from hospital has this week received a financial boost.

Mid Argyll Transport Volunteers (MATV), an organisation that provides transport, assistance and company for vulnerable people attending hospital, has been awarded £600.

The charity, run entirely by volunteer drivers and phone operators, was awarded the funding by the Grand Provincial Masonic Lodge for Argyll and the Isles.

An essential service used by many Mid Argyll residents, MATV has this year been hit by funding cuts.

Joan Robertson, who takes calls and co-ordinates drivers for the charity, said funding was becoming increasingly difficult to obtain.

'The grant we receive from Argyll and Bute Council has reduced every year for the past few years but the cost of running the service, particularly the price of fuel, is going up,' Joan said.

MATV appealed to the public for donations and contacted three Masonic Lodges in a bid to address the funding shortfall.

Masonic lodges in Tarbert, Inveraray and Lochgilphead each pledged £100 to the cause with the grand provincial lodge for the region pledging an additional £300.

Iain Reid, secretary of Lodge Tarbert and a volunteer driver with the charity, said the service is invaluable.

'The clients are transported to their appointment and in some cases, especially in the larger city hospitals, escorted to the actual clinic within the hospital,' Ian said.

**Relief**  
 'It is a great relief for clients who only have to worry about meeting the consultant and not about how they will get there – that more than justifies the volunteers' time.'

MATV drivers covered more than 40,000 miles last year, driving their clients around Mid Argyll, north to Oban and south to Glasgow.

Drivers use their own cars to provide the service and receive a small mileage payment to cover fuel costs, whilst clients are asked to make a donation to MATV funds.

## Fines for father and son who 'went too far'

A FATHER and son from Mull who 'went too far' in reacting to what they believed to be a derogatory remark have been fined.

Martin Dyson, 34, of Pennygarn Cottage, Glenforsa, Salen, was sitting having a drink at the Craignure Inn on May 19 when, Oban Sheriff Court was told, he got up and left abruptly.

Procurator Fiscal David Glancy said Craignure Inn proprietor Alexander Penman then received a phone call, after which he instructed staff that the Dysons were barred from the premises.

However, Martin and his 55-year-old father Peter, also of Pennygarn Cottage, Glenforsa, Salen, returned later that evening and began shouting and swearing at staff. Customers

within earshot also heard the commotion.

Stephen Macleod, defending Martin Dyson, said: 'He thought he heard a derogatory remark about his father made by Mr Penman.'

'He accepts that his conduct was completely irresponsible and realises they were going too far.'

Laura Russell, defending Peter Dyson, added: 'He accepts his behaviour was unacceptable and apologises, especially to the barmaid.'

The Dysons pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct, shouting, swearing and placing staff and patrons in a state of fear and alarm.

Sheriff Douglas Small fined Martin Dyson £300 and his father £360.

## HMS Argyll sets sail for Middle East role

HMS ARGYLL, the Plymouth-based Royal Navy warship, has set off on a six-month deployment in the Middle East.

The Type 23 frigate has not seen operational service for two years after an extensive refit and crew retraining. It will now embark on a maritime security patrol in the Arabian Gulf and broader Middle East during the tour.

Whilst deployed, she protects vital international sea lanes from the threat of piracy and terrorism.

## Assurances given after Uist flight emergency

WESTERN Isles MP Angus B MacNeil has received assurances from Loganair regarding an emergency incident at Stornoway airport last week, the second within a few months.

On Wednesday September 28, an aircraft travelling from Benbecula to Stornoway landed on one engine as a result of a mechanical fault. Angus MacNeil said: 'Loganair have assured me that, following a spurious warning, the crew acted correctly to shut down one engine.'

'The engine was subsequently found to be fully serviceable. Loganair have assured me they are investigating the matter.'

## NHS staff receive flu vaccinations

TO COINCIDE with Scottish Flu Awareness Week, NHS Highland staff are receiving flu vaccinations as part of a programme which started this week.

All staff, particularly those who have direct contact with patients, are being encouraged to get the vaccine to not only protect their patients but also themselves and their families.

Dr Margaret Somerville, Director of Public Health, said: 'It is important as many staff as possible take this opportunity to get vaccinated. Flu is not a minor illness. It makes people feel extremely unwell for two to three days and full recovery normally takes a week.'

**Ban for driver clocked at 94mph**

AN OBAN motorist who was clocked speeding at 94mph has been banned from driving for two months and fined £300. James Dawson, aged 55, of Corran Esplanade, was caught speeding on a stretch of the A85 near Arrivain, 10 miles east of Dalmailly, at about 6.20pm on February 25. Dawson, a rig manager currently working in China, admitted driving his BMW Series 5 car without due care and attention at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday. Edward Thornton, defending, said Dawson was 'quite unaware' he had reached such a speed along a stretch of road where the limit is 60mph. 'This is completely out of character for him. I doubt if there would be any repetition of this,' he said.

**Vandals cause car to collide with wall**

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after vandals released the handbrake of a vehicle on Drummer Road, causing it to collide with a wall. The incident occurred sometime between midnight and 10am on Saturday. A number of cans of paint were also taken from the vehicle, opened and emptied in the area, while other painting equipment was stolen. Anyone with information should contact Constable John MacBrayne at Oban Police Office.

**Police recover drugs after raid**

DRUGS cops swooped on a house in Hill Street on Sunday, recovering quantities of cocaine and diazepam as a result. A number of other substances were also sent for analysis following the raid, at 9am on Sunday. A 30-year-old male was arrested and has subsequently been reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Investigations are continuing into a second male.

**Motorist reported to fiscal**

A MAN has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal after being caught driving without insurance on the A85 last week. The 48-year-old was stopped by police between Tyndrum and Dalmailly.

**Teenager tried to enter town pubs**

A TEENAGE girl who tried to gain entry to a number of Oban's pubs last Thursday has been charged by police. The 15-year-old was charged with disorder offences on George Street.

**Claims of no motor insurance**

POLICE have charged a man after he was allegedly caught driving without insurance and while disqualified. The 30-year-old was arrested at Main Street, Connel.

**Man faces drink drive allegation**

A MAN involved in an accident on Soroba Road in the early hours of Saturday morning has been charged by police. The 35-year-old male has been charged with drink driving, driving without due care and attention and failing to report an accident.

**Fishing rods stolen**

TWO FISHING rods were stolen from a hire boat on Loch Awe on Monday, while the fisherman went for a walk. Police are appealing for witnesses to the incident, which occurred shortly after 11am. Anyone with information should contact Constable Iain Young.

**Panels smashed**

GLASS panels were smashed and a garden gate damaged at Scarba Terrace, Oban, sometime between October 1 and 3.

**Mirror damaged**

THE offside wing mirror of a car parked on Lochside Street was damaged sometime between October 1 and 2.

**Outboard taken**

AN OUTBOARD motor was stolen from a boat on Airs Bay jetty sometime between September 27-October 1. Anyone with information about the Honda, 5hp, four stroke silver engine should contact the police.



The Duke of Argyll, Torquhil Campbell, with Dame Judi Dench during Saturday's fundraiser for Oban Phoenix Cinema at Inveraray Castle. 15\_140dukeandjudi1

**Dame Judi's cinema wish**

Star asks to see favourite film

DAME Judi Dench is hoping the campaign to reopen Oban's cinema is successful so the first screening can be that of her favourite film - which happens to be set on Mull. The actress, who is as close to royalty on the silver screen as any actor, was welcomed into the home of the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, Inveraray Castle, at a glamorous fundraiser for the Oban Phoenix Cinema group on Saturday. There, she talked of her love of the hills of Oban, why she has kept coming back to the area for 34 years, the friendships she has built at Isle of Eriska Hotel, Benderloch, and of her dislike of watching herself on screen. More famed for her unmatched work in the theatre, the actress also revealed her frustrations at the constant menace to the stage performer that is the mobile phone. Beyond all that though, she expressed her hope that the cinema could be reopened with the 1945 classic, *I Know Where I'm Going!*, which tells the tale of how stubborn middle-class Englishwoman Joan Webster, played by Wendy Hiller, inadvertently falls in love with a local of Mull, derailing plans to marry a wealthy industrialist on Kiloran Island. It is a tale that follows closely how she became to adore Oban. She said: 'My most favourite film is called *I Know Where I'm Going!* I would love to see that played here. 'There are scenes in it where you can see the gaps between the background rocking back and forth, so you could see it was a cut-out, but it seems to add to the charm. It is a wonderful film.' The Duke of Argyll, Torquhil Campbell, opted for a more traditional but timely choice, *Whisky Galore*, which is currently touring on the Screen Machine mobile cinema. Dame Judi conceded that would make a fine Christmas film. Guests at the prestigious fundraiser, which was also attended by former television presenter Clive Anderson, were piped in by 14-year-old piper Jamie Baxter, who received the special thanks of Dame Judi afterwards. It is hoped that the event raised at least £3,500 for the refurbishment of the Phoenix Cinema, with the committee hoping for a December opening.

**Super slimmers claim top prizes in national awards**

TWO SUPER slimmers have walked away with national awards. Mum-of-one Tracy Davies, 37, from Connel, was crowned Scottish Slimmers Slimmer of the Year 2011 at a glittering awards ceremony in Glasgow's Crowne Plaza Hotel. And Tracy was joined on stage by Caroline Nicolson, from Kinlochleven, who picked up the Health and Happiness Award. Tracy has lost six stones and Caroline more than seven thanks to their Scottish Slimmers class manager Sarah Robertson. 'I feel overwhelmed to have won,' said Tracy. Health risk 'Everyone is a winner because of the weight they have lost. I knew I had to do something about my weight as I was putting my health at risk. 'My dad died of a heart at-



Slimmer of the Year Tracy Davies, left, with class manager Sarah Robertson and Health and Happiness Award winner Caroline Nicolson.

**Renewables and tourism can bring new jobs to area**

ONGOING development in renewables and tourism can help reverse the trend that has seen Argyll and Bute become the worst performing jobs market in the Highlands and Islands. Both the leader of the local authority, Dick Walsh, and the area manager for Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Douglas Cowan, have highlighted the role the industries can play in bringing good fortune back to the local jobs market. But Mr Cowan has pointed out that things aren't as bad as they seem, with the number of vacancies advertised in the area leaping by 23 per cent in the last year, and 349 jobs advertised in the past 12 months. Both were responding to figures revealed by Mackay Consultants' economic statement for the Highlands and Islands, which showed Argyll and Bute had the worst performing jobs market of the area, with unemployment leaping by 10.7 per cent, 178 people, in the last year. Councillor Walsh warned that last month's Scottish Government budget has done little to ease fears for the future. He said: 'The national and international economies are performing very poorly at the moment and no local economy is insulated from this fact. These figures are a disappointment but we will continue to work with our partners to reduce the impact of the slow down. 'There are positive signs across a range of industries such as renewable energy, tourism and food and drink, but we recognise these are incredibly challenging times. 'As a council we are currently scrutinising all the detail within the Scottish Government's advised spending review. 'It appears that the Scottish Government has not adequately considered the implications of their proposed capital investments against available finance. Local councils may well be expected to delay some of their local capital projects in favour of national priorities such as the Forth Road Bridge Crossing or the Edinburgh Trams. The questions for us may well be if we cannot accommodate this, will it be imposed on us?' Meanwhile, the council is progressing significant investments across the Argyll and Bute area in the CHORD regeneration programme and transport infrastructure investments, he said. Mr Cowan added: 'Whilst not being in any way complacent and recognising that there are some specific local challenges, the unemployment levels remain relatively low both in Scottish terms and in a historical context. 'The challenges are largely twofold, firstly increasing employment in the private sector generally and importantly increasing average income levels. 'To address these we are working with those businesses and sectors with the greatest potential for generating sustainable economic growth.'

**Association chairman stands down**

THE CHAIRMAN of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), Norman Beaton, has stood down after five years' service. Mr Beaton, from Ardrishaig, has chaired the board since the association's stock transfer in November 2006 and, prior to that, led the organisation in its shadow form, including the successful stock transfer ballot in 2005. Association rules preclude anyone from standing for more than five years at a time. He will continue to serve as an ACHA board member and on the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations Council. Mr Beaton will be replaced by Bill McIntyre from Helensburgh. George Farquhar from Dalmailly is the new vice chairman and councillor Roddy McCuish from Oban is the new secretary.

**Hundreds celebrate Islay Hotel opening**

MORE than 500 people came to celebrate the opening of the new Islay Hotel, the first new hotel to be built on the island in more than 100 years. Once the main focus of the village of Port Ellen, the old Islay Hotel became its unwelcome eyesore after falling into a dilapidated state over two decades of inactivity. But the determined Port Ellen Hotel Ltd company, made up of Roland Worthington-Eyre, Kathleen Cuninghame and Ian McLellan, defied many who said the £2m project was not viable. Following the opening party last Saturday, Roland said: 'Hundreds of locals turned out to the opening and I think it means a lot to everyone in the village. 'People said we were mad but I think we did have to have that mad streak and we definitely always had great belief.' The hotel completely relies on ground source heating through seven 120-metre boreholes and has a strong local core to it. Roland explained: 'We had huge community support; it was built by local labour, we have employed about 15 local people and we have 105 shareholders, most of whom are from Islay, who invested an average of £5,000 each.' For the official opening a stretch limousine pulled up outside the hotel to reveal the special guest, local fisherman Alex 'Nasser' Campbell, who declared the hotel open. Local children then had the chance to go for a spin in the limousine.

**Cable theft causes communications chaos**

THREE days of communications chaos struck Oban in the last week, with phone and broadband services affected in two separate outages. On Thursday evening, an attempted cable theft from the Kirkintilloch exchange caused a failure that lasted more than 24 hours, with broadband services almost completely severed and phone lines intermittent at best. The thieves had mistaken the fibre optic cables for copper wire. Due to the scale of the damage, repairs were hugely complicated and weren't fully completed until 9pm on Friday. Things were just getting back to normal when a power cut hit a major BT exchange in Birmingham on Monday morning, causing a loss of broadband throughout the UK. Referring first to last week's outage, a spokesperson for BT said: 'We were able to divert a number of lines onto temporary, alternative routes. Unfortunately there were no available divers for telephone and broadband traffic to the Oban area, where service was restored gradually over Friday afternoon and evening. We'd like to apologise for these breaks in service which were completely outwith our control.'

**Loss of rescue centre 'would put lives at risk'**

THE CLOSURE of Clyde Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre would put lives at risk off the west coast of Scotland, according to Argyll and Bute Council. The local authority waded into the debate about the restructuring of the Marine Coastguard Agency (MCA), which includes the proposed closure of the Greenock base. In a letter responding to the MRC's consultation, council leader Dick Walsh set out the authority's 'serious concerns' about the proposal and points out its role in protecting a large part of the council area, from Helensburgh to Ardnarmurchan Point, including the islands of Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Mull, Coll and Tiree. The council's executive committee approved the letter last Thursday. The letter states: 'The loss of local operational knowledge and experience will in the council's opinion reduce the coastguard's ability to respond to incidents quickly, accurately and decisively.' Reminding the MCA that Argyll's coastline measures approximately 2,313 miles long, the letter added the proposals would 'increase the risk to the safety of lives at sea and put at risk the coastal environment in Argyll and Bute; which the local economy is dependent upon.' Speaking at the committee meeting, Councillor Donald 'Skye' McIntosh said: 'The risk to life will definitely increase should this proposal go through. It is ridiculous and not well thought out.'

**Nursery gains literacy award**

LITTLE Learners' Nursery in Dunstaffnage has been given 1 Can accreditation for its work in developing children's language and literacy skills. 1 Can is a charity working towards improving communication skills in children across the UK. Little Learners is thought to be the first nursery in Oban to gain accreditation.

**Lorn Lines**

THIS year is the 60th anniversary of Oban's Inner Wheel. The office bearers are president - Shona Neil, vice president - Catherine Hall, secretary - Ursula Parry and treasurer - Sandra Owens. Conveners - Catherine Hall, Helen Jackson, Betty Moncrieff and Ivy Smart. The club is honoured that Christine Marlow was chosen as Overseas District Chairman. The club will be raising funds for various charities but president Shona's 'Charity of Choice' for this year is Ronald McDonald House. This charity provides free, homely accommodation for the families of sick children at Yorkhill Hospital, Glasgow, and gives priority to families who live out with Glasgow. The Ronald McDonald House receives no statutory funding and relies on donations.



John MacLeod of Benderloch tries his hand at abseiling on Gananan during Stramash's second birthday celebrations on Saturday. 15\_140stramash1

OBAN lifeboat, the *Mora Edith Macdonald*, was scrambled at just after 1pm on Monday to help the yacht *Postscript* which had broken down off Maiden Island with two people aboard. The lifeboat launched at 1.15pm and was on scene five minutes later. A tow was quickly established but on entering the bay was delayed to leave the entrance clear for two CalMac ferries. The yacht was secured on a mooring at Oban Marina at 1.55pm.



Romance was most definitely in the air at the Corran Halls on Sunday when Highland Functions held its first West Highland Wedding Show. Some of the models are pictured showing off the latest wedding fashions on the catwalk. 15\_140wedding1

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**SHOWSITES NOW OPEN - Beaver Timber, Barcaldine; Corachie Clemtis, Loch Awe and MGM Timber, Oban**

Melfort Pier restaurant to become a home

THE MELFORT Pier Restaurant is to become a home after planners granted permission to change the use of the building.

£200 court fine after Islay youth admits assault

AN ISLAY man was fined £200 at Campbeltown Sheriff Court last week.

Improved paths plan for Oban

PATHS between the Soroba House Hotel and the hospital in Oban will be upgraded and extended.

Islay pensioner on breach of the peace charge

ALEXANDER Morrow, aged 67, of 6 Distillery Cottages, Caol Ila, Islay, pleaded guilty at Campbeltown Sheriff Court last Wednesday to committing a breach of the peace at the cottages on July 7 this year.

Politicians fact find on Tiree

MEMBERS of Parliament have been making a fact-finding visit to Tiree, Barra and Lewis.

ATM added

A NEW bank machine will be installed in Oban's George Street.

Isle of Mull abattoir links with Islay and expands range of services

THE re-opened Isle of Mull abattoir has added a host of new products to its menu as it continues its rise from the ashes.

New processing equipment and additional hanging space means the abattoir can now provide a full meat service to its farmer customers and is looking to encourage producers on the mainland to use the facility.

Police warning to drug dealers

'Robust' approach will continue

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN... FIVE drug dealers have now been ordered to spend time behind bars following June's swoops of the town by undercover police.

At Oban Sheriff Court last week, Alexander McKenzie, 39 was told that he would spend the next 16 months in jail after admitting selling heroin to undercover police officers on various occasions at Miller Road and on Soroba Road between May 24 and 26 this year.

McKenzie, whose address was given as a prisoner of Gateside Prison, had committed the offences while on bail.

A number of drug dealers and users were arrested in June during Operation Independence's raids.

The five individuals so far convicted of dealing offences will spend a combined total of more than eight years in prison.

McKenzie's sentence has been welcomed by both interim Procurator Fiscal for Oban David Glancy and the town's police inspector Brian Auld.

Mr Glancy said: 'As a result of Operation Independence, a number of people were reported to the Procurator Fiscal, and four men and one woman have been convicted on indictment, with sentences totalling in excess of eight years imposed.'

'People who choose to deal drugs blight our society and ruin lives. We will continue to take a robust approach towards anyone caught dealing drugs, and where there is sufficient evidence, they can expect to find themselves in court.'

Chief Inspector Auld agreed that the conviction sent out a message, thanking everyone who made the operation a success.

He said: 'The operation was greatly supported by the Procurator Fiscal service, and David was involved and provided support at every stage.'

'The success of the operation also depended on the supporting information from individuals living in the community.'

'I also take my hat off to the officers involved for doing a professional job in dangerous circumstances.'

'We want to maintain the momentum of the operation and hope we can enjoy the community's continued support.'

'This sends out a clear message that those individuals involved in drugs will be dealt with harshly by the court.'

costs down and is keen to further its skills with ongoing butcher training for their staff and new apprentice Colin Laurie.

Improved Abattoir chairman Tom Nelson, Glengorm, said: 'Closed for a year due to fire damage, the community-run facility has bounced back with a new improved facility and a more robust business plan for the future.'

'Thanks to all those who have made it possible including local farmers, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Argyll and Bute Council, the Noble Trust and the Princes Countryside Trust Fund.'

'They have all recognised that facilities like these are fragile, but are a critical part of the rural infrastructure that many other businesses depend on.'

The Argyll Agricultural Forum has worked with the directors to secure funds and arrange sharing staff with the Islay Abattoir.

Development manager Fergus Younger said: 'The directors and staff have done a fantastic job to reopen this facility to such a high standard. These abattoirs depend on local communities committing time and money to keep them open.'

'The wider importance of these rural facilities should be recognised.'

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Pupils at Park Primary School celebrate being the first Fairtrade school in Oban. 16\_139fair02

Park go bananas over first Fairtrade award

PUPILS at Park Primary School are going bananas after being named Oban's first Fairtrade school.

The school carried out a survey of shoppers and shopkeepers in Oban and made an information display about Fairtrade from the results of their research.

The pupils received their official certificate at the start of term. Pauline Cameron, convenor of Oban and Lorn Fairtrade Steering Group, said: 'We have been delighted at the hard work that Park Primary School has put in to ensuring that Fairtrade education is preparing the next generation of adult consumers in Oban to think about the impact of how they shop.'

She added that six other primary schools in the area are working towards Fairtrade status.

Artmap Argyll celebrates increase in visitor numbers

THE NUMBER of people visiting Artmap Argyll open studios has more than doubled in the last year, it has been revealed.

A recent study shows that footfall for the 2010 and 2011 events, which saw local artists open up their workshops, studios and homes to the public, doubled year on year.

It is estimated that 4,000 people visited more than 40 artists across the county this summer, with visitors choosing to create their own trail through towns and villages as they meet the artists on their wish list.

Commenting on feedback from the event Jane Smith, a Tayvallich-based artist and Artmap Argyll committee member, said the open studios event is becoming a popular feature on the social calendar.

'A third of the visitors had visited before, showing that people enjoyed their previous experience,' Jane said. 'The opening of otherwise private studio spaces was noted as a special experience by many.'

More than half of visitors found out about the event through the Artmap Argyll brochure which gives a brief biography of all the artists involved.

Former Argyll man edges closer to elephant fund target

FOURTEEN islands by bike and a mountain climb

FORMER Argyll man David Lamont is getting closer to his fundraising target of £8,500 after completing his Elephant Cycle Tour.

David needed to raise funds to allow the Elephant Nature Foundation to take on another elephant at its nature reserve in Thailand.

His cycle tour saw him travel across 14 islands along the west coast and, after cycling 366 miles, he finished with a climb of Ben Nevis.

With gift aid added he is almost there and his online Just Giving account stood at £7,388 at the end of last week.

David said: 'One more push and it's all done. The great news is the park has identified an injured pregnant female elephant and they are going to use the money raised to buy her and tend to her injuries.'

David stayed in Kintyre for more than 29 years, latterly living just outside Lochgilphead.

His father, the Rev Archie Lamont, was the local minister at Clachan and Whitehouse and retired to Taynuilt in 1991.

Contributions to David's cause can still be made online at www.justgiving.com/David-Lamont.

Oban police chief backs proposals for single Scottish force

OBAN'S Chief Inspector Brian Auld has promised locals won't see too much of a difference - except maybe an improvement - under a single Scottish police force.

Holyrood ministers earlier this month announced legislation to radically reform the way in which the country is currently policed, with an eight-week consultation on the plans to merge Scotland's eight police forces underway.

Critics say reform would remove local identity and local accountability and would cause confusion at police contact centres, where local knowledge would be drastically reduced.

But Mr Auld rejects these notions, saying not only will police numbers remain the same, but a number of improvements will be seen.

He said: 'People on the street won't even notice. Officer numbers on the street will remain consistent. Only our back office functions will start to be shared.'

'The MET in London is a good comparable example. There, each region is split up into 'business units' to run their own area. That works very well. Really, the only thing that will change is our uniforms and the details on the cars. There will be savings in bulk buying equipment as a result.'

'Also, Strathclyde Police's centres currently are based in the central belt. Yes, calls from this area could be handled anywhere in Scotland, but you have to describe where you are accurately anyway, so there will be little change to what people will experience.'

'But what we will be able to do is share our resources much more easily between regions; meaning we can much more effectively utilise officers with specialist experience across the country.'

Scotland's fire services would also be merged to a single unit under justice secretary Kenny MacAskill's plans, which he claims will save the country £130million a year.

Meanwhile, the Chief Constable of Strathclyde Police, Stephen House, will attend this week's meeting of Argyll and Bute Council to explain how a single Scottish Police Force would operate in the county.

Island fuel pricing and supply under review

FUEL supplier Scottish Fuels is to visit the Western Isles on Friday to discuss concerns on pricing and supply.

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MP Angus MacNeil, who invited the distributor to the meeting in Stornoway on Friday, said: 'There are three bits of key information we need, price per litre leaving the refinery, price per litre at the various ports of discharge and, of course, all too painfully, we know the price per litre at the pumps.'

That works very well. Really, the only thing that will change is our uniforms and the details on the cars. There will be savings in bulk buying equipment as a result.'

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Riders bid to beat world record

PUPILS at Oban's Riding for the Disabled (RDA) turned up en masse last Wednesday, in an attempt to set a new world record for the biggest riding and driving lesson.

More than 60 people from the four RDA groups of Argyll turned up to take part in the lessons, which were held at Achmalraig Stables, Glencruitten, for which permission was given by owner Alison MacLeod.

Sponsorship by the MacQueen Brothers' Charitable Trust meant participants didn't have to pay for their participation and that they received a commemorative rosette.

Organiser Jane Isaac said: 'People came from as far away as Fort William, Mull, Lochgilphead and Minard to be here for the record attempt. We're delighted it has been so well supported.'

Details of the event have now been sent to Guinness to verify if they have set a new record.

Contributions to David's cause can still be made online at www.justgiving.com/David-Lamont.

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Lochleven Seafood Cafe advertisement featuring images of seafood dishes and text: 'SPANISH NIGHTS ARE BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND THURSDAY EVENINGS FROM OCTOBER TAPAS PAELLA AND SPANISH DESSERT 2 COURSE £16.95 3 COURSE £19.95 BOOKING ESSENTIAL Our shellfish menu is always available For bookings large or small call on 01855 821 048'

PMG SERVICES TRUCK & PLANT SERVICING advertisement featuring an image of a white service van and text: 'NOW OFFERING A FULL TRUCK AND BUS LASER ALIGNMENT SYSTEM FOR OPTIMUM FUEL & TYRE SAVINGS PLEASE CALL PETER FOR MORE INFORMATION telephone: 07766513585 email: info@pmg-services.com fax: 01631 710687 web: www.pmg-services.com'

Advertisement for Oban RDA's world record attempt featuring a group photo of riders and text: 'Riders, helpers and supporters gathered for Oban RDA's world record attempt. 15\_140rda2 Riders bid to beat world record PUPILS at Oban's Riding for the Disabled (RDA) turned up en masse last Wednesday, in an attempt to set a new world record for the biggest riding and driving lesson. More than 60 people from the four RDA groups of Argyll turned up to take part in the lessons, which were held at Achmalraig Stables, Glencruitten, for which permission was given by owner Alison MacLeod. Sponsorship by the MacQueen Brothers' Charitable Trust meant participants didn't have to pay for their participation and that they received a commemorative rosette. Organiser Jane Isaac said: 'People came from as far away as Fort William, Mull, Lochgilphead and Minard to be here for the record attempt. We're delighted it has been so well supported.' Details of the event have now been sent to Guinness to verify if they have set a new record.'

150th Anniversary Gift Shop advertisement featuring images of a t-shirt, a mug, a teddy bear, and an umbrella with text: '150th Anniversary Gift Shop Anniversary T-Shirt £6.99\* Anniversary Mug £5.99\* Teddy Bear £7.95\* Executive Golf Umbrella £16.99\* Shop online at www.obantimes.co.uk/shop or call 01631 568000 \*P&P charges apply.'

**CalMac retains travel award for Best Ferry Co**

FOR THE second year in a row, ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) has been named Best Ferry Company in the prestigious Guardian and Observer Travel Awards 2011.

The award is the second CalMac has won this year after it retained the Public Transport Operator of the Year title at the Scottish Transport Awards in June.

CalMac managing director Phil Preston said: 'We are absolutely thrilled to have received this award for a second time. It is particularly pleasing because we do not put ourselves forward for this.'

**Oban restaurant nominated for top Highland prize**

AN OBAN restaurant has been shortlisted in the Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Forum's Restaurant of the Year Award.

The Waterfront Restaurant will find out whether it has won the category at the awards ceremony in the Drumossie Hotel, Inverness, on October 21.

One of ten awards being presented at the ceremony, the winner of Restaurant of the Year category includes four other restaurants.

**To the Mòd in Stornoway by bike**

TWO Gaelic choristers from Taynuilt are taking the scenic route to this year's Royal National Mòd in Stornoway when they take the long road north by bike.

Jason Davies and Jamie Houston will be joined by some of their children for the trek, which starts from Barra.

The Taynuilt Gaelic Choir singers, who are taking the ferry to Barra from Oban next Saturday, are raising money for Children in Need.

**New house gets planning approval**

PLANS for a new home on the southern outskirts of Oban have been given the go ahead.

Planners approved a 'substantial one-and-a-half storey dwelling' on the plot, south of Aray Gardens, Soroba.

**New water pipes for Lochawe aim to end problems**

IMPROVEMENTS to the public water supply in Lochawe village are underway. Scottish Water is spending around £120,000 on the project,

which will provide greater security of supply to customers in the Loch Awe village area. Contractors will be upgrading 0.7 miles of the existing mains

water pipes. The work is expected to last a month and will provide improved security of supply to about 300 customers in the area.

Mr Simon Harrison, Scottish Water's water operations manager, said: 'This substantial investment by Scottish Water will reduce the risk of disruption by

improving the pipes that supply water from Dalmally Treatment Works to customers' taps. There will be short delays for drivers during the project.



Ben Proffitt clinches victory during Tiree Wave Classic 2010.

**25 years of riding the Tiree waves**

TIREE Wave Classic celebrates its 25th anniversary this weekend, and the atmosphere pre-competition is already reaching fever-pitch.

The world-renowned week-long event starts on Saturday and is the third stage of the British Wavesailing Association's Wave Tour.

Three time winner of the classic, John Skye, has missed the first two events of the British Wavesailing Association Wave Tour because he took a break after getting married, but he wasn't going to miss Tiree.

He said: 'Tiree's always been the highlight of the UK tour. The beaches are stunning, and you have quality wave sailing no matter what the wind direction.'

Everyone loves it - and the fact that it's the 25th running, well, I just couldn't miss it. John, who's from Dorset but

based in Gran Canaria, is also pushing for the island to host a World Cup event again, which would mean the very best across the world would head there.

'It would be as good as any of the other spots on the tour, if not better. When the weather comes together on Tiree it's one of the best spots in the world for wave

sailing.' Last year's winner Ben Proffitt, from Shropshire, also can't wait.

He said: 'It's just one of the best places in the world. Each beach faces a different direction, so there's so much choice.'

'Not only that, everyone there has good craic, there's a cool atmosphere, I love it.'

Joining the pros are a number of amateurs from around the country. One such entrant, who also happens to be flying the Scottish flag, will be Alan Jackson from East Kilbride.

The 32-year-old: 'It just feels like you're a part of something when you're there. The hospitality from the locals is just great, they encourage you to get out and see the island, it's fantastic.'

For more information please see www.tireewaveclassic.co.uk.

**Make a day of it, says ferry firm**

FERRIES operator, Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) has announced a special, one-day offer to help people travel for the Tiree Wave Classic.

CalMac has created two special day-return tickets for use on Thursday, October 13, enabling spectators to travel to Tiree and back on the same day.

CalMac's regional manager at Oban, Ian Fox, said: 'The Wave Classic attracts participants and spectators from all over the world, and

those who attend usually go for the whole event, however, it is possible to get there and back on the same day and this year we have decided to highlight that and provide a ticket deal to make the experience even more memorable. 'Of course, the offer isn't limited to windsurfing fans and we would be delighted to see anyone who would like to take the opportunity of visiting Tiree and enjoying a sail on one of the most scenic routes in our network' he added.

**Appin adventurer in Atlantic storms**

APPIN's Rev Bob Shepton experienced two Atlantic storms in very different circumstances, following a sailing tour of the Arctic and North America.

Bob was on the crew of the 33-metre super yacht *Billy Budd* as a watchkeeper and ice pilot because of his experience in navigating through the Arctic.

Following a successful tour of Arctic Canada, Bob helped the crew take the yacht to Newport USA, where they got word that Hurricane Irene was heading in their direction.

'Hurricane Irene was heading straight for Newport,' said Bob. 'We decided that we would leave port and head out to sea to ride out the storm.'

When Bob came home, the remains of Hurricane Katia hit Scotland's west coast. Bob said: 'I saw out that day on my own 10-metre boat, which was moored off Linnhe Marine, just to make sure it was alright.'

**Wave surfers urged to care for fragile machair**

WAVE surfing enthusiasts preparing to travel to Tiree to take in the Wave Classic have been urged - 'don't knacker the machair.'

More threatened than the world's rainforests, machair is a flower-rich habitat made up of grasses and other plants growing on a thin, sandy soil.

But the habitat has been partially destroyed by vehicles driving over it and to prevent further damage, a community access project has been initiated to improve access to key beaches, with new signage also erected.

John Bowler is the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland officer at The Reef, one of the most popular spots on the island for windsurfing.

He said: 'We want people to keep coming here and enjoying Tiree's world-class beaches. By sticking to the car parks and designated access tracks they will be helping us to preserve the machair for future generations.'

**Mull Lines**

THE GUEST of Honour at the Tobermory High School's Celebration of Achievement last term was Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow OBE.

Mr MacFarlane-Barrow is the founder of Mary's Meals, a Dalmally-based charity supported by the school, which provides meals for school children in some of the poorest parts of the world, including Malawi and Haiti.

Naomi Robertson, S6, presented Mr MacFarlane-Barrow with a cheque for £773.10.

The school has supported Mary's Meals since 2009, and has so far raised £1,224.95.



Tobermory pupil Naomi Robertson presents a cheque to Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow OBE.

SCOTTISH Water works in Tobermory will be finished before the Mull Rally begins on October 13.

Councillor Mary Jean Devon reported to Mull Community Council that the work in Tobermory was going to plan although they had suffered problems with high tides the previous week.

PERMISSION has been given to turn a vacant store building into an extra bedroom at Burnbank, Breadalbane Street, Tobermory. The single storey store will be extended and two solar panels added.

Planners imposed a condition that the small building could not be used as a permanent house.

TOBERMORY Lifeboat came to the aid of the 38ft yacht, *Sapphire*, when it lost engine power last Thursday while travelling from Arisaig to Tobermory.

The single-handed sailor aboard was struggling to sail due to the wind direction. The lifeboat towed the vessel to Tobermory where the Coastguard Rescue Team met them and secured the vessel alongside.

MULL eagles Skye and Frisa are giving birdwatchers some fantastic views as they take advantage of the recent windy weather. Although not keen on the torrential rain, they love the wind, which enables them to fly long distances without having to flap - great for saving on energy.

They shouldn't be short of food either, thanks to the current deer cull on the island.

Stalkers weed out the weak or very old stags, and the grallochs (or intestines) are left out on the hill by the stalkers for the birds of prey to feed on. Without the cull the deer would continue to multiply until there was insufficient food for all of them, and then the weaker ones would starve.



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Thigibh air bòrd bus Mhic a' Bhrìuthainn gach madainn eadar 11.30m is 12.30f aig an Lanntair, cothrom còmhraidh mu na nithean a tha a' cunntadh dhuibhse.

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OT

**Search launched for missing man**

EFFORTS were continuing yesterday morning (Wednesday) to find a local man last seen Monday afternoon in wild country on north Skye. Uig man Murdo Alick Lamont, aged 62, is believed to be missing in the area around Glen Rha and the Uig to Staffin public road over the Quiraing. Isle of Skye police officers, Rescue 100 Stornoway Coastguard helicopter, Skye Mountain Rescue Team, the Search and Rescue Dogs Association and volunteers from the Uig community are involved in the search. Mr Lamont is 6'5" tall, of slim build, with short grey hair. He was wearing a checked shirt, blue jeans and white trainers. PC Dan Goodwin, of Portree Police, said Mr Lamont is Uig born and bred and works as a part time labourer. Portree police are appealing for anyone who may have noticed a man walking along the Quiraing Road between 3pm and 5pm on Monday to contact them on 01478 612888.

**Attempts to save beached whale fail**

ATTEMPTS to save an 18 metre long whale beached on South Uist have been abandoned. Local volunteers spent hours trying to refloat the animal, a rare sei whale, on a beach near Gerinish but stopped after experts said it was dying. The whale was found at about 1pm on Tuesday, and the rescue efforts had centred on getting it back into the sea at high tide, but it was decided the animal had been out of the water for too long.

**Gateway completed**

THE GROUP wanting to erect a bronze sculpture to honour a renowned Isle of Skye climber have completed a gateway to the site in the Cullins. The Collie and Mackenzie Sculpture Group have been raising funds for the project to commemorate the achievements of Sconser man John Mackenzie and his climbing companion Norman Collie at Sligachan.

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Kinlochleven residents got dressed up for the opening. 20\_f40day01

**Local artist opens new arts and drama centre**

KINLOCHLEVEN saw the official opening of a new community arts and drama hub on Saturday, with locals getting into the fancy dress spirit. Dramafish Studios recently took over a Kinlochleven Community Company unit, and the open day allowed people to come and take a look around to see what the centre offers.

Local drama worker Ilona Munro opened her not-for-profit studio in the business park, with stalls, music and face painting among the attractions. Ilona told *The Oban Times*: 'It's been a great day, and lots of local families and visitors have come along. We want to support artists in Lochaber and provide services that are not in existence at the moment.'

Local artist Brian Dickie, who runs Ballachulish village hall, officially opened the building as guest of honour. The studios comprise a meeting space for small scale rehearsals, a digital media suite for small film-making projects, workshop space for artists - including set building and pottery - plus storage for costume and technical kit.

**Caol couple celebrate 70 years of marriage**



Celebrating 70 years together: Jack and Kathleen with Provost Allan Henderson and Queen's representative Iain Thornber. 20\_f40wedding01

A CAOL couple were given a surprise when their seven children, 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren turned up at the Onich Hotel to help celebrate their platinum wedding anniversary.

Jack and Kathleen Austin, who have lived on Kennedy Court for the past 11 years, met in Belfast in August 1941, where Jack was stationed with the Royal Artillery. After a whirlwind romance they married just six weeks later.

Dunkirk veteran Jack, aged 94, worked for the Post Office for 42 years after the war. He was also a professional wrestler called 'Young Atlas'. Kathleen, aged 91, was a dressmaker and helped out helped out at Highland Hos-

pital for five years when she first moved to Lochaber. The couple moved to Caol to be closer to their daughter Brenda Austin-Dewar, who had moved to the area.

Among the family helping to celebrate was a daughter from Australia, a great-grandniece from America and a son from England. Provost Allan Henderson presented the couple with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of Highland Council and Deputy Lord Lieutenant Iain Thornber gave them a card on behalf of the Queen.

The family asked for donations to the children's charity Smile Train instead of presents, and raised more than £500.

**New Mallaig bank hours still fall short**

Petition could be launched to highlight strength of local feeling

AFTER months of uncertainty, the Bank of Scotland has confirmed its Mallaig branch will be open five days a week again from Monday, October 17 - but still with reduced hours.

Bank customers from Mallaig, Knoydart and the Small Isles have reported regularly finding the bank closed throughout the busy summer season.

Customers have arrived at the bank to find a notice blue-tacked to the door to inform them it was shut.

The Bank of Scotland said Mallaig staff have been seconded to Fort William on a twice-weekly basis to provide cover there, meaning the bank in Mallaig has to close on those days.

Two new members of staff start in the Fort William branch on Monday. However, one Mallaig staff member from the usual complement of three retired earlier this year and is yet to be replaced.

The new temporary opening times for the Mallaig branch will be 10am-4pm, except on Wednesdays when it will open from 10am-1pm. Normal opening hours are 9.15am to 4.45pm, Monday to Friday.

A Bank of Scotland spokesperson said: 'We can



Robert MacMillan: 'Disappointed'. 10\_f40bank01

and apologise to customers for the inconvenience caused.'

Harbour authority manager and regular bank user Robert MacMillan told *The Oban Times* he was 'disappointed' the Mallaig branch still did not have a full complement of staff.

He said: 'The staff are still required to go to Fort William to cover staff shortages and I am disappointed the situation has not been resolved.'

'It's very disruptive for the community and it can't continue. I would urge the bank to sort it out as quickly as possible.'

Knoydart development officer David Newton said he was considering starting a petition to show the bank how strong local feeling is on this issue.

He said: 'I'll send out some emails locally to find out how people feel about it.'

'I just feel we have to do something.'

Caol and Mallaig councillor, Allan Henderson, said: 'The service is certainly not worthy of the bank calling itself the Bank of Scotland.'

'It is time for the bank to face up to reality and try to regain the confidence of its customers. They are charging enough for their services today so surely can find and pay for staff.'

confirm that two new members of staff have been recruited for the Fort William branch.

As a result, the Mallaig branch will begin temporary opening hours from Monday October 17. Action is being taken to place advisory notices in the branch for customers this week.'

A number of complaints have also been made about the cash machine outside the bank being broken, and the spokesperson confirmed it was due to be fixed this week.

'We are working as a priority to resolve these issues completely

**Site visit to consider turbine scheme**

HIGHLAND councillors will visit a site near Arisaig to determine whether or not to give permission to a local campsite owner who wants to erect three wind turbines.

Julie Ann Bryce, who runs Sunnyside Croft, wants to build three 15kW turbines on 15metre masts, but some locals are not happy with the plans. Some 16 letters of complaint were

submitted to Highland Council, citing the visual impact, the increase in noise pollution, and the lack of community benefit.

Planners recommended that Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee grant planning permission for the application. The planners' report concluded: 'The visual impact of the proposal is not considered to be significantly detrimental and it

is considered that the proposal will not adversely affect the community.'

But councillors have instead arranged to visit the site on Tuesday November 1, with a public meeting held locally afterwards.

Councillor Bill Clark said: 'It will give local people the opportunity to hear what is being said and voice their opinions.'

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With just over a week until the second running of the Tunnocks Mull Rally, Mull Car Club are very pleased with the number of local crews contesting the event. Seeded at car 1, last years event winner Calum Duffy, Dervaig, will be again looking to tame the islands roads in his Ford Escort Mark 2. With four local crews starting in the top 10 of this years event, the atmosphere on the island is bound to be electric!

Several visiting crews will be hotly in pursuit including the World Rally Car crew of Hugh Hunter at car 8. The roads of Mull make it such a special event to contest, and one of the interesting things is the mix of machinery chosen by the drivers. The Mk2 Escort of Duffy is a legendary machine from the Ford fold, but it mustn't be forgotten that these cars were popular nearly 40 years ago! Hunters' Ford FocusWRC on the other hand is a modern rallying machine. Judging on last years result, it would be difficult to bet against Duffy, but the influx of new crews and new cars contesting the event may well see a surprise victor.

Newcomers Andy Rowe and Cat Lund (car 17) are fresh from claiming their second title on Belgium soil. Tarmac specialist Rowe has a gritty determination to replicate his success, but realises the twisty and bumpy nature of the islands roads will be a long way from the smooth flowing roads of the Flanders region.

A new addition to the event this year is a stage in Bunessan that has never been run before. Although only a short test, this stage will be popular with fans from the south end of the island who will get to spectate a little closer to home.

Mull Car Club are hoping that the new stages will create even more of a spectacle on the island and that all crews new to the event and seasoned finishers will appreciate how different the roads are to any other tarmac rally.

The challenge that all the competitors face is getting to the finish line on the Saturday night after almost 160 competitive miles. It must not be forgotten that all of the cars in the rally will be facing the same daunting roads and that anyone finishing the event will no doubt be in a celebratory mood.

The event follows the usual format with the first car starting from Tobermory at 7pm on Friday 14th October. There is a loop of stages on the Friday night, followed by a restart in Bunessan on Saturday at 12.01pm with the afternoon stages finishing by approximately 5pm. The cars will then set off for another loop of night stages at 21.01pm from Salen.

**More information about the event can be found at [www.mullrally.com](http://www.mullrally.com)**

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Susan and her staff would like to wish all competitors the very best of luck in this years rally.

Tel: 01688 302011

**Timetable of Events 2011**

EVENT	DATE/TIME
Regulations (Only) Published at <a href="http://www.mullrally.com">www.mullrally.com</a>	20th July at 11:00Hrs
Entry form Published at <a href="http://www.mullrally.com">www.mullrally.com</a>	12th Aug 10:00Hrs
Entries Close	14th Sept 18:00Hrs
Bulletin 1 Available For Download at <a href="http://www.mullrally.com">www.mullrally.com</a>	21st Sept
Road Books Available For Download at <a href="http://www.mullrally.com">www.mullrally.com</a>	30th Sept
Door Plates ETC Available For Collection	Thursday 13th Oct 18:00 - 20:00Hrs From The Tobermory Harbour Association
Rally Forum in Aros Hall	Thursday 13th Oct 19:30Hrs
Tunnocks Tea Cake eating competition. Macgochan's	Thursday 13th Oct 21:00 Hrs
Noise Check Opens	Friday 14th October 09:15Hrs
Scrutineering / Documentation Opens	Friday 14th October 09:30Hrs
Co-Drivers Briefing Session No.1 (Cars 1 - 50)	Friday 14th October 11:45Hrs

Co-Drivers Briefing Session No.2 (Cars 51 - 100)	Friday 14th October 13:45Hrs
Co-Drivers Briefing Session No.3 (All others)	Friday 14th October 16:15Hrs
Documentation Closes	Friday 14th October 16:00Hrs
Car 1 Starts Leg 1 From Tobermory	Friday 14th October 19:01Hrs
Trophy Rally Scrutineering	Saturday 15th Oct 12:00 - 12:30Hrs At The Pennyghael Hotel
Car 1 Starts Leg 2	Saturday 15th October 12:00Hrs From Bunessan (Next to the Argyll Arms)
Trophy Rally Scrutineering	Saturday 15th Oct 21:00 - 21:30Hrs 100 yards down Ardmore Road Salen
Car 1 Starts Leg 3	Saturday 15th Oct 21:01Hrs From Salen (Next to the Salen Hotel)
Provisional Results Posted at The Tobermory Harbour Assoc. Offices.	Sunday 16th Oct 13:00 - 13:30Hrs Final Results Posted as soon as final
Winners Parade	Sunday 16th Oct 15:00 Hrs Tobermory Main Street
Prize giving At	Sunday 16th Oct 15:30 Hrs Aros Hall Tobermory unless weather permits it to be outside

**Aonach Mor marathon mountain bike challenge**

MOUNTAIN bikers will tackle a taxing route round Aonach Mor during a 24-hour endurance event this weekend.

Nearly 200 riders will take part, with most in relay teams taking turns at tackling laps of the eight-mile course. They will start from Nevis Range at noon on Saturday and head up the mountain into Leanachan Forest and onto the Witch's Trail.

The team or rider to complete the most laps of the course before noon on Sunday will be the winner.

**Teenage fèis fun for all**

SECONDARY pupils from across Lochaber will have the chance to take part in three days of Gaelic music and language classes this weekend.

Fèis nan Deugairean, the Teenage Fèis, is a joint project between all the Lochaber Fèisean and is exclusively for pupils in S1 to S6.

It will see an array of local musicians tutoring the teenagers, including Angus Binnie, Finlay Wells, Ingrid Henderson and Rachel Walker.

The fèis will be held at Lochaber High School on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, and will have classes in fiddle, clarsach, guitar and accordion, among others, with each youngster able to choose two classes.

**No lotto winners**

THERE were no winners in the Fort William Football Club Lotto draw on Saturday.

Numbers were 8-17-20. Prize money rolls over to next week and goes up to £200.

**Poundstretcher opens in Fort William**

FORT William's retail sector will boast a new national chain when Poundstretcher opens a branch in the town on Saturday.

The discount store, which has more than 350 branches across the UK, will take over the premises on North Road vacated by Au Naturelle. The home furnishing shop closed in July with the loss of eight jobs.

The shop will employ an estimated eight to ten workers.

**Scouts celebrate centenary**

SCOUTING in Lochaber will mark its 100th year with a reunion meal at the Moorings Hotel in Banavie on Saturday night.

Anyone who has been involved with the organisation is welcome to attend.

Next weekend, the scouts will hold a coffee morning and car boot sale at Caol Youth Centre.

For more information call Alli Rappley on 01397 772908 or email kilmalliescouts@aol.com.



**Coffee morning cash boosts St Mun's**

A fundraising coffee morning in Ballachulish Village Hall on Saturday raised more than £2,400 for St Mun's Church in the village. The well-attended event saw local people gather to enjoy tea, coffee and a range of baked goods. There was also bric-a-brac, a tombola and face painting for the youngsters. Parish priest Father Francis Ferriggi wished to thank everyone who helped out and come along to join in the fun. 20\_140balla01

**Temperatures rise as firefighters launch calendar**

LOCHABER firefighters raised more than £2,000 for charity, as well as temperatures, at the launch of their topless calendar in Fort William on Saturday.

About 250 people, mostly female, from as far as Kilmarnock, Glasgow and Edinburgh packed out the Ben Nevis Hotel to see the firemen from Fort William, Kinlochleven, Kilchoan and Mallaig take to the stage for a steamy show.

The 2012 calendar is being launched to raise money for the Scottish Burned Children's Club, which helps children who have suffered burn and scald injuries.

The firefighters recently took part in a photo shoot with Fort William photographer

James Taylor at Fort William Fire Station and hope to raise as much as £25,000 from sales of the calendar and proceeds from the launch night are added up.

The stars of the calendar were brought out on stage in January-December order, before a disco from Pro Trackz kept the party going.

Fort William general manager Pat McElhinney told *The Oban Times* it had been a 'fantastic night'. He said: 'The firefighters went on stage and were shocked to have knickers thrown at them - they weren't expecting that! The fun and the laughs continued until the wee small hours.'

The firefighters trained for 12 months to get in shape for the photo shoot, and Mr McElhinney said some of them lost a considerable amount of weight during training. The firemen wanted to thank everyone who helped out, donated money and prizes, and everyone who attended the launch. Before the men came out on stage, Kinlochleven band The Shine performed a free gig and proved very popular with the crowd. Lead singer Paul Martin said: 'It was our privilege to play and support this fantastic charity.'

The A3-sized calendar, which has already attracted more than 4,000 members to its Facebook page, is on sale at outlets across Lochaber.

**Boxers pack a punch on national stage**

A KINLOCHLEVEN-based boxing club has recently moved into a new home and is starting to make its mark on the national stage.

Nether Lochaber Amateur Boxing Club took up residence in Kinlochleven Community Trust buildings, where they have been able to set up a ring and proper training facilities.

The new surroundings appear to be helping the fighters, two of whom travelled to Paisley to take part in Linwood ABC's show at the weekend.

Joseph MacInnes of Onich made his fighting debut, but after just 50 seconds the 14-year-old won the bout. He pushed opponent back onto the ropes and his unrelenting blows forced the referee to call a halt.

Kinlochleven boxer Sam MacLeod showed his guts during a tough fight with light heavyweight Craig New. The 16-year-old avoided being knocked out but lost on a points decision.

NLBC will hope to use the experience gained from the night to help with future bouts. The not-for-profit club also offers weekly boxerice classes and training for under 11s, with any locals welcome to attend.



Champ: Joseph MacInnes won his first bout.

**Nationwide search for marina project officer**

THE GROUP behind an ambitious plan to create a £3million marina at Corpach are to start a search for a project officer to move the development forward.

The Caol Regeneration Company (CRC) hopes to build a 85-berth facility next to Corpach Basin to take advantage of an increase in yachting activity on the west coast.

CRC company secretary, retired doctor Su Sen told *The Oban Times* the project officer will organise the plan and organisational structure. A number of detailed surveys need to be carried out in the area before any funding can be applied for.

He said: 'The project officer will take all the recommendations in the report forward. We need to start looking now because our funding runs out at the end of December.'

'We won't get any funding until the information on how much it will cost is a little bit more concrete. At the moment it is just estimates.'

The rights to the land on which the marina would be built also

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk



Patrick Keating addressing the meeting. 20\_140marina01

need to be secured before the group can seek funding. The land is owned by a number of parties, including Crown Estates, Lochiel Estates and British Waterways.

Funding for the new employee will come from CRC and local

fundraising, Dr Sen added, and the position will be advertised nationwide.

Patrick Keating, of marine consultants Yachting Worldwide Ltd, created a 350-page report, including a 68-page business plan, which laid out estimated costings for the project and any obstacles it may face along the way.

He gave a two hour power point presentation to CRC and members of the public at a meeting at the Moorings Hotel at Banavie on Monday to explain the findings of his report.

Mr Keating said one potential hurdle for the project could be Network Rail, who are likely to require the railway crossing near the potential site to be upgraded before the marina is completed. Network Rail would not pay for the cost of the upgrade, meaning the funding would have to come from the CRC.

The presentation also showed a possible design for the marina located at the Caledonian Canal's southern entrance. Mr Keating said the proposed plan could withstand the worst weather and waves in Loch Linnhe.

**Downloading images lands former Fort man in jail**

AN EX-Highland Council and Nevis Centre employee has been jailed for six months and placed on the sex offenders register for 10 years for downloading nearly 12,000 child pornography images on his work computer.

Ryan Leamont, aged 39, fled to his native Canada after his manager at the Nevis Centre found the images on a laptop in August 2004.

His co-worker accessed Leamont's computer to change his screen saver as a prank when he discovered the events co-ordinator had visited a number of internet sites relating to girls under the age of 16.

The computer was handed over to police for

forensic analysis. As well as the images officers discovered three paedophilic movies and 124 banner images. But before charges could be pressed Leamont left the country.

After five years on the run, he was arrested in Vancouver on October 22 2009 and released on bail until the Supreme Court Of British Columbia ruled in favour of sending him back to Scotland in June this year.

Leamont pled guilty at Inverness Sheriff Court to possessing 11,858 indecent photographs or pseudo photographs of children at the Nevis Centre, Fort William, between February 11 and August 27 2004.

**Pair injured in A82 crash**

A LOCHABER brother and sister were rushed to the Belford Hospital after the car they were travelling in slid off the A82 north of Onich.

Northern Constabulary said the pair, named locally as James and Natalie Rosie, did not suffer serious injuries but both required medical attention.

The car was heading south when the driver, James, lost control on the wet road near the turn off to Keppanach.

Natalie, a successful Highland dancer, had to be cut out of the car by the rescue services and was kept in hospital overnight for treatment.

The road was closed in both directions for nearly two hours to allow the accident to be cleared, leading to massive tailbacks during one of the busiest periods of the week.

Police said their inquiries into the accident are ongoing and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

**Lewis businessman named global director of the year**

AN ISLE of Lewis businessman has been named global director of the year at an award ceremony in London.

Brain Wilson, chairman of Shawbost-based Harris Tweed Hebrides, was given the award at the Institute of Directors UK Awards for his efforts to spread the Harris Tweed brand into new international markets.

Mr Wilson said the honour had been a 'genuine surprise'.

He said: 'It is nice to get recognition for our international strategy but like everything else, this award is for a great team effort and a fantastic product.'

'The biggest reward for all of us is that the mill and the weavers are working flat out and the Harris Tweed industry now has a sustainable future.'

The award is the third major honour in recent months for the company, which was named textile brand of the year at the Scottish Fashion Awards and also won international company of the year at the recent SCDI Highlands and Islands Business Awards.



Global director of the year: Brian Wilson.

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**Elder honoured for long service**

Onich man Angus Maciver was given a certificate to mark his long service as a church elder at Nether Lochaber Church. Church of Scotland moderator, the Right Reverend John C Christie presented Mr Maciver with the certificate at the church on Sunday lunchtime. Mr Maciver has been a member of the church for 30 years. The award was made as part of the church's centenary celebrations. After the service, the congregation went across the road to the Onich Hotel marquee for tea, coffee and cake.

**First fèis on Canna a success**

CANNA held its first Fèis on Saturday, with people from across Lochaber, South Uist, Barra and Rum attending.

The event, which was jointly hosted by the National Trust for Scotland and the Canna Community Association, and supported by the Year of Scottish Islands festival, was so successful it is now likely to become an annual event.

The day got underway early on, with many braving the 7.30am ferry crossing from Mallaig to spend the day on the island.

Local performers included Gabe MacVarish on the fiddle, Charlie McColl singing, piper Calum McColl and Alec Maclean on the accordion. Fiona J MacKenzie held Gaelic workshops with Izzy, Alec and Gilliebride MacMillan.

Maria MacInnes, from Fèisean nan Gàidheal, was on hand to offer guidance through the preparations for the fèis.

NTS Canna manager Stewart Connor said: 'The Canna community worked very hard in preparing for this event and it's certainly going to become an annual one on the fèis calendar.'

**Green light for new stands at Claggan Park**

FORT William Football Club has been given permission to build to new stands at Claggan Park.

Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee gave unanimous approval to the application at a meeting in Fort William on Tuesday morning. The plan will see 126 seats and six wheelchair bays built at the ground.

The new stands will be located on the north side of the pitch, opposite the current grandstand, and will be about 10 metres

long. Highland Council planners had recommended the plans, which received no complaints from the public, be passed. Their report said: 'There are no major concerns and there are clear benefits from a community perspective.'

The park has had well-documented problems with drainage, with a number of Fort home games called off this season already. But work has already started on improving the drainage at the stadium, which saw its biggest crowd in years last

weekend when Fort took on Bo'ness in the Scottish Cup.

Councillor Bill Clark told *The Oban Times* the new stand would help transform Claggan.

He said: 'It's great news. Once we get the pitch up to standard it will be a really excellent park.'

Before construction can get underway, the club will have to submit the types, colours and finishes of all materials to planners for further approval.

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BARRA AND VATERSAY

# Successful first provincial Mòd on Barra and Vatersay

THE FIRST ever Barra and Vatersay Provincial Mòd (Mòd Ionadail Bharraigh is Bhatarsaigh) took place last Friday and Saturday in Castlebay school.

The venue was ideal and the local committee had worked tirelessly to create a fantastic inaugural event. The committee were delighted with support from the local community and various Gaelic organisations.

Competition in accordion, piano, fiddle, instrumental and folk groups took place on Friday evening.

Saturday was the turn of the piping, chanter, oral, vocal and choral competitions.

Riona Whyte, Provincial Mòd liaison officer with An Comunn Gàidhealach, who has visited the island on several occasions to help with organisation, said: 'It was great to see the hard work of the local committee culminate in a friendly two-day event that worked well for everyone.'

'More than 300 participated over the two-day event, including eight junior choirs, and can only be an indication that this has been long overdue.'

'It was a privilege to be involved in such a worthwhile and successful event and I

look forward to Mòd Ionadail Bharraigh is Bhatarsaigh becoming a permanent fixture on the Provincial Mòd circuit.'

Many competitors had travelled from Uist to participate and this is an excellent indication that the re-established Mòd Ionadail Uibhist, scheduled to take place on June 2, 2012 will be another successful event.

Penny Burgess, itinerant music teacher for the Uists, Benbecula, Eriskay and Barra had done a tremendous amount of work bringing a total of five junior choirs to take part and conducting many of them herself.

The committee were delighted with the level of entries and the venue was buzzing with activity and added to the competitive element.

Gaelic organisations had displays, volunteers provided arts and crafts table to amuse the children between competitions and the Mòd even had a visit from Nip the dog from the Gaelic4Parents initiative.

Mòd Ionadail Bharraigh is Bhatarsaigh will be added to the already busy Provincial Mòd circuit and dates have already been released for next year's event, which will take place on September 21 and 22.



Some of the trophy winners from the inaugural Barra and Vatersay Provincial Mòd.

## Bluefin tuna found washed up on Mull beach

A TUNA has been found washed up on the shore of Laggan Sands, on Mull.

The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT) was notified of the unusual find and set off for Lochbuie.

Morven Summers, volunteer co-ordinator at HWDT, said: 'We were a wee bit dubious at first and thought that the reporter may have mistaken it for a porpoise, however, when

we arrived at Laggan Sands we were shocked to see the huge fish on the shore.'

'It's believed the fish is a bluefin tuna, a large, torpedo-shaped fish that can travel at speeds of up to 43mph and weighs, on average, 550 lbs, although much larger specimens are not uncommon.'

The Mull tuna measured 1.8 metres long.

Brain Swinbanks, chairman of the Tobermory Harbour Association, added: 'Seeing the fish up close was fantastic, I would guess that the tuna washed ashore on Mull weighed about 150 lbs.'

Atlantic bluefin tuna spawn in the Mediterranean Sea, however, they are highly migratory and tagged individuals have been tracked swimming from North American to European waters several times a year.

Unfortunately, the Mull tuna carcass was too decomposed for full analysis, however the fish's otoliths (ear bones) have been recovered and from these the age of the fish can be determined.

If anyone finds a stranded animal, HWDT would be interested to learn about it. Contact HWDT on 01688 302620 or email sightings@hwdt.org if you find anything on the shore.

## Down Your Way

### This week - Strathfillan

A MEETING later this month to consider an application for a gold mine at Cononish could shape the future of Tyndrum and the wider Strathfillan area.

Scotgold wants to extract 20,000 ounces of gold and 80,000 ounces of silver from the hills of Cononish in what would be Scotland's first gold mine.

Should the development go ahead, it would be worth millions to the local and national economy, generating jobs for years to come.

A decision is expected on October 25.

It is the second time plans for the mine will be considered by Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Board, but much of what caused the first application to be refused has been changed.

Hopes are now high that the application will be approved, and the scheme has received widespread backing from local groups, tourism operators, scientists, politicians and financiers.

Among those to have lodged their support are the Scottish Tourism Forum, the Scottish Council for Development and Industry, the Helensburgh and Lomond Chamber of Commerce and the British Jewellers Association.

Locally, the Strathfillan Community Council, Strathfillan Community Development Trust and Strathfillan Tourism Action Group have been vocal in their support, saying the development would be a much needed boost to the beleaguered jobs market.

Political support comes from the likes of the Rt Hon Anne McGuire MP and MSPs Annabelle Ewing, Dr Richard Simpson, Murdo Fraser and Mike MacKenzie.

John Riley, Chairman of Strathfillan Community Council said: 'We are greatly impressed by the painstaking work by both the planners and the Scotgold team to address all concerns of critics of the previous application.'

'Accordingly this gold mine must not be regarded as a threat to the environment but as a whole series of social, economic and environmental opportunities.'

Chris Sangster, director and chief executive of Scotgold said: 'We are clearly delighted with the degree of support we have received from organisations and individuals, not just locally, but from across the UK.'

'Our project will assist in delivering significant direct and indirect employment opportunities, as well as considerable economic investment potential.'

'In dialogue with the respective parties, Scotgold has sought to address the environmental concerns that had been raised by the park authority and others and we look forward to progressing the project successfully through planning.'

UNCERTAINTY over whether or not a bypass will be built at Crianlarich hasn't eased since last month's budget.

Finance minister, John Swinney, announced that capital spend projects would receive major investment, with £750million pencilled in for infrastructure improvements around the country.

Some speculators suggest that could pave the way for improvements at Pulpit Rock and a Crianlarich Bypass, but no solid commitment has yet been given.

Should it go ahead, there are concerns that a number of businesses could suffer, with much of the passing trade moving elsewhere.

Locals have been anything but complacent, forming Crianlarich Into Action (CiA) to make the village more attractive and accessible, as well as raising its profile.

The chairman of the local community council, John Riley, is of the belief that the bypass will go ahead.

He said: 'I've got the feeling it's going to go ahead regardless of the cuts across the board. The whole of the A82 needs improvement.'

'It's good news provided the community can benefit from it.'

'It's not good news for some people who have businesses in Crianlarich though.'

'At the end of the day, we have got to get some community gain out of it and that will happen if this goes ahead - one way or another.'

'That's why the CiA project was established - we have been very proactive.'

Brian Craig, owner of the Crianlarich Store, couldn't be of a more different view - he believes the bypass is neither needed or wanted. He said: 'I don't think it will go ahead. All that was said in the budget was that there was money set aside for improvements. No mention was made of a bypass. There's just no requirement for it. I still intensely believe that there's no point in doing anything here.'

'The big thing the Scottish Government is worried about is Pulpit Rock.'

'They still have no idea how to do it though.'

'Regardless, there are too many other things like the Forth Road Bridge and the Edinburgh trams that will gobble up the funds. Nothing will happen here for at least 10 years.'

STRATHFILLAN Community Council will hold their next meeting at Crianlarich Village Hall on Monday October 10 at 7.30pm.

**Next week DOWN YOUR WAY visits Benderloch with reporter Christine McCartney.**

You can contact her on 01631 568000 or email cmccartney@obantimes.co.uk.

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Killin Primary School's new P1 class settle in on their first day.



Tیره High School's new intake of Primary 1 pupils.



Kyleakin Primary School welcomed three new P1s this year, bringing the school roll to 27.



Elgol Primary School welcomed two new P1s this year, with the school roll now at 19.



Lochside RC Primary School welcomed seven P1 pupils to the school this term. Left to right, back: Callum, Ryan, Noah and Fraser, and Gracie, Isla and Orla, front. 20\_40lochside01



P1s Laura, Alex and Josh joined Kilchuimen Primary School this term. The Fort Augustus school now has 75 pupils.



Four P1 pupils joined Carbst Primary School at the start of the school term.

## 10 Years Ago

## Those Were The Days

### The Oban Times

Thursday, October 4, 2001

### Easdale Hall lottery award

EASDALE Island is to benefit from one of Scotland's biggest lottery awards.

The announcement of a £667,000 Community Fund grant to develop a new community hall has left islanders elated and eager to start work. The community hall was damaged in last winter's severe storms. Eilean Eisdale Trust will now be able to buy the historic drill hall and adjoining cottage and refurbish them.

Trust secretary Mike Mackenzie said: 'The hall is not just a venue for social events, it is the cornerstone of the community, vital to the continued regeneration of Easdale Island. We are absolutely delighted.'

The grant will also fully fund the salary of a part-time hall manager for two years.

### Connell Bridge centenary

ARDCHATTAN and Connell community councils are working together to make sure the centenary of the Connell Bridge in August 2003 does not go unnoticed.

One plan is to buy the land just north of the bridge and turn it into somewhere people can enjoy it. Les Stewart, of Connell, who is working alongside the councils, said if the communities were able to buy the land it could be landscaped and picnic tables and an interpretation point

could be installed. The idea was first raised about five months ago but progress on whether or not the land can be purchased has been slow because of government bureaucracy. Les emphasised plans were by no means certain as the land could go on the open market. He said that if the community councils were unable to go ahead, the people involved would hope to organise some other type of celebration.

### MacDonald to lead Scotland shinty/hurling

FORT William's Willie MacDonald will lead Scotland out onto his own home turf when the country's top shinty players meet their Irish hurling counterparts at An Aird, Fort William, on Saturday October 15.

With Kingussie's Rory Fraser stating his intention to retire from the international scene, Scotland manager John MacKenzie, Newtonmore, has looked to the Ballachulish-based veteran of these shinty/hurling occasions for his next captain. MacDonald's experience could prove a valuable asset in a squad which sees several new faces given their opportunity.

John MacKenzie names a 16-man squad, including two goalkeepers. Inveraray supply five players, Graham MacPherson, brothers Scott and David Robertson, Russell MacKinlay

and Marine Harvest Player of the Year Gary MacPherson, the largest contingent from any one club. From Kingussie come Ian Anderson, Ally Dallas, Ronald Ross and Kevin Thain. Joining captain Willie MacDonald from Fort William are Neil Robertson, John MacLeod and Victor Smith while Ewan MacKinnon of Skye completes the Premier contingent. Retaining their place in the squad from last season are the National Division One Lochcarron duo of midfielder Kenny Ross and prolific striker Iain MacKenzie. Scotland Under 21 manager Duncan Kelly has named a young Scotland Under 21 squad of 15 players, representing 10 clubs, with his midfield general David Robertson being promoted to senior level for his first full international cap. Oban Camanachd's Daniel MacIntyre has been given the Under 21's captain's armband and Daniel is joined in the squad for the first time by younger brother Liam and Camanachd defender John MacKenzie. After an outstanding performance at the Grampian Cup Final, Oban Celtic's Richard Hamilton regains the coveted goalkeeper's jersey and he is joined by Celtic team mate Gerry Heront. Three young players who are enjoying an outstanding season have gained recognition with Inveraray's Euan McMurdo, Beaul's Barry MacDonald and Newtonmore's Danny MacRae, all snatching their opportunity.

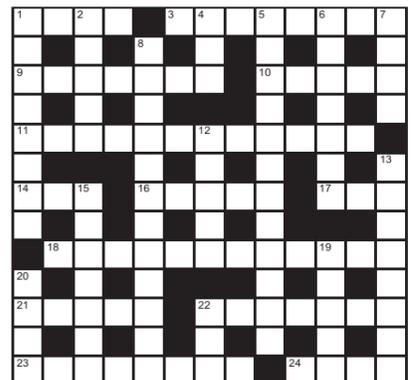
## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

### Across

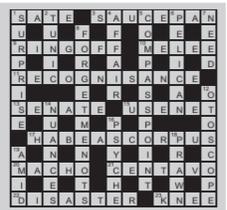
- Blunder exclamation (4)
- Chasm (8)
- Draw out (7)
- Circumference (5)
- Bird who may bring problems! (6,6)
- Nip or nipper! (3)
- Mogul governor (5)
- Garland (3)
- Sinful (12)
- Shellfish jewel (5)
- ... please, with a lisp? (7)
- One's vulgar mouth! (8)
- Axlike tool (4)

### Down

- Chalk and cheese (8)
- Likeness (5)
- Torn fabric (3)
- Fat from the land (9,3)
- Dreamlike (7)
- Bounce back (4)
- A republic (12)
- Flycatcher (5)
- 51st Psalm (8)
- Covering containing tannin (7)
- Unwelcome on your roses! (5)
- Saga (4)
- Friend (3)



### Last week's solution



**KINLOCHLEVEN**

KINLOCHLEVEN has several new public bins after discussions between Kinlochleven Community Trust and Highland Council. The new bins have been located throughout the village. Many residents were left unhappy by the council's recent decision to end the community skip service and reduce refuse collection.

**CONNEL**

RESIDENTS of Connel may have to wait longer to find out if they will get flashing speed signs for the village. Scotland TransServ has been carrying out speed surveys in west coast villages during the summer months and is compiling a report. A spokesman for Transport Scotland, who will make the decision about which villages may be marked for vehicle activated signs, said: 'We expect a detailed report from our operating company, Scotland TransServ on their trial of vehicle activated signs by the end of next month. We will consider the reports findings in due course.' Funding has not yet been earmarked for any new signs.

**KILMELFORD**

THE Melfort Pier Restaurant is to become a house after planners granted permission for changing the use of the building.

John Christlieb has also been given consent to make some minor changes to its internal layout.

**KILCHOAN**

WEST Ardnamurchan played host to a football tournament featuring teams from the northern and southern ends of the UK recently.

Kilchoan FC took on Thrumster FC from Wick and Easton Cowboys of Bristol in a round robin tournament, with the English side emerging as champions after a hard fought tournament.

Kilchoan dispatched Thrumster 5-2 in the first game in front of a large crowd, but needed to beat Easton Cowboys to take the trophy.

It looked the home side would take the win until the Bristolians scored in the final minute of the game to grab a 2-2 draw.

Kilchoan ladies played Easton Cowgirls, but the game was cancelled halfway through after a visiting player suffered a serious injury which required medical treatment.

Prize-givings, celebrations and a few refreshments were enjoyed by all afterwards in the Kilchoan House Hotel after the match, while ladies captain Kayleigh MacGillivray went on to celebrate her 21st birthday in the community centre.

**BARRA**

NHS Western Isles has issued advice to locals as the Norovirus season approaches.

Known as the 'winter vomiting bug,' the unpleasant condition is extremely virulent if proper precautions aren't taken.

Visitors to medical facilities in the Western Isles are being asked to wash their hands with soap and water before and after visiting, and to avoid visits if they have experienced any symptoms in the previous 48 hours.

The virus itself is usually self-limiting and will disappear after a day or two.

Symptoms include nausea and diarrhoea, stomach cramps, low-grade fever and/or chills, headaches and muscle pains and fatigue.

Those who are experiencing symptoms should drink plenty of fluids and stay at home for two days after symptoms stop.

Hands should be washed with soap and water, not just using alcohol gels, and household surfaces that could be contaminated should be cleaned and disinfected.

NHS Western Isles' infection control manager Jennifer Macdonald said: 'As the infection is so contagious, we would urge members of the public to ensure they follow infection control practices, and good hand hygiene is key to preventing the spread of infection.'

**MORAR**

MORAR Community Council held their September meeting at Lady Lovat Primary School. Among the issues discussed were:

- demolition of the old village hall due to asbestos. MCC secretary Deirdre Roberts will write to Morar Community Trust to suggest the roof be removed professionally and a voluntary working party be formed to carry out the demolition.

- a donation has been made from MCC to the primary school to help fund skiing lessons for the pupils.

- the road surface on A830 near Loch Eilt was discussed. A member present had experienced unexplained slippy conditions there recently and reported it to Inspector Donny Campbell. MCC secretary will write to Bob Mitchell of Transport Scotland.

The next meeting of MCC will be in Lady Lovat School at 7.30pm on Monday October 3.

**COLONSAY**

COLONSAY House is seeking permission to put up a wind turbine to generate electricity for the estate and to sell back to the National Grid.

A planning application has been made to install a 10kw turbine on land currently used for grazing.

**KILLIN**

RESIDENTS of Killin have been warned to be on the lookout for fraudsters after a police impersonator stole bank details from elderly victims. A man aged 72 and a 82 year old woman contacted police after significant sums of money were removed from their bank accounts.

Both were asked to divulge their bank details in addition to handing over their bank cards after being told they had been used fraudulently.

Detective Inspector Ronnie Isles said: 'These incidents are particularly despicable as they are using the trust that local residents have for their police force to gather information from them and commit crime.'

The man involved in collecting the bank cards has been described as Asian in appearance, around 6'3" tall, with dark stubble and short black hair.

He's thought to be in his 30s with no visible tattoos. He may have been wearing a light or greyish blue boiler suit. Anyone with information should contact Central Scotland Police on 01786 456000.

**TIREE**

TREE Music Festival could win a national award and up to £6,000 in extra funding after only its second year.

One of the biggest events on the busy Hebridean island's calendar, Tiree Music Festival is listed among the nominees for the RBS CommunityForce awards, which celebrates



**Gaelic primary pupils stage pre-Mod concert**

Strath of Appin Primary School Gaelic Medium Unit staged a pre-Mod concert at the school last week as the pupils put the finishing touches to the pieces.

**STRATH OF APPIN**

community events, charities and organisations. To win though, the event has to gather as many votes as possible by October 23.

The best performing nominees in each CommunityForce area will win the awards.

To vote, log on to communityforce.rbs.co.uk and search for Tiree Music Festival.

**CRIANLARICH**

THE MOUNTAIN Bothies Association will hold its annual general meeting at Crianlarich Village Hall next week.

The meeting starts at 4pm on Saturday, October 15.

**TAYNUILT**

MUCKAIRN Manse is to get a new roof covering of natural Spanish slate.

The category B listed building originally had a slate finish, but this was replaced in the 1960s.

Planners gave permission for the change, saying: 'The proposal is sympathetic to the character of the existing building whilst it will also ensure that the roof covering of the Muckairn Manse and the Parish Church will be compatible.'

A PLANNING application has been made for five new houses in Taynuilt.

Outline permission has been sought for the site, west of Alandon.

**ISLAY**

DR MICHELLE Cotter, Manaidsear Pròiseict / Project Manager of Ainmean Aite na h-Alba based at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Isle of Skye will revisit Islay for the launch of SNH's booklet on Islay and Jura place-names in their 'Gaelic in the Landscape' series.

The event will take place at Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile

(ICC) Bowmore at 3.30pm on Saturday, October 29.

This will be a short and informal event with a few words from SNH, Soillese and An Iomairt. Some of the islands' team who worked on the Islay and Jura project will speak briefly about their research and how place-names were recorded to contribute to the book.

Copies of the new book will be made available at Còisir Ghàidhlig Ile's Post-Mod Concert the night before, on Friday evening, October 28.

**NORTH CONNELL**

AN APPLICATION has been made to put up a new house in the grounds of Kelowna, North Connel.

Mr MacLachlan is seeking planning permission in principle to build on a site south of the existing house.

**BRAE LOCHABER**

A BRAE Lochaber tourism group has handed over a cheque for more than £500 to Lochaber Mountain Rescue.

Great Glen Tourism Group raised the money through a donation box at the 'Wee Minister' - a wooden statue standing at a remote viewpoint on the path from Spean Bridge to the Grey Corries.

The effigy has stood on the path for the last year, and passers-by are invited to put a donation in the minister's collection box with the wish that 'good fortune will bless all who pass by'.

Chris Philipson, from the rescue team, said: 'It is extremely helpful to receive these donations as we are always having to replace equipment which wears out very quickly in severe conditions.'

The group had the minister carved out of cedar wood to

replace a similar stone icon which had stood in the area for decades before being smashed up on the orders of an estate manager who resented people visiting the area.

**BENDERLOCH**

THREE part harmony specialists Society played the Victory Hall in Benderloch last

Friday and the audience came from far and wide. One couple trumped all others though coming from Cropprey in Oxford.

Rob and Lynne Craven discovered that the present Society tour did not have a local date, so they decided to go to the farthest away - Benderloch. Society have been compared to The Band and Crosby Stills



Artist Frances Ryan pictured in Crinan Gallery, which is currently exhibiting work from the Edinburgh School. 15\_a39ar02

**Scottish art on show at unique gallery**

SOME of Scotland's best known exhibitors have work displayed in the unique setting of the Crinan Gallery, on the top floor of the village's hotel.

The exhibition, selected from the Edinburgh School by managing director, and noted artist, Guy Peplow, will be on display until October 23. Mr Peplow, grandson of famed artist S J Peplow, was at Crinan Hotel last Friday to officially open the exhibition.

Argyll artist Frances Ryan, who runs the hotel with her husband, Nick, has set about

**CRINAN**

building Crinan's reputation as an artist's destination. Son, Ross, is also an accomplished artist and has a studio in the village.

'This is the eighth year we have had an exhibition in the hotel, said Frances. 'To see something like this year's exhibition you normally have to go to Edinburgh or London, so this is a great thing for local people. 'I would like to see local

schoolchildren come to see this because it is a collection of some of the most famous Scottish artists.'

The Ryans have a plan to open an art centre in the village, as the name of Crinan becomes synonymous with art exhibitions.

'Ross has had exhibitions here and previous to the Edinburgh School exhibition opening, a friend of his from Madrid was showing some of his work,' said Frances. There are plans to bring some of Europe's top young artists to Crinan.'

Nash and Young and are huge favourites with the Oxford couple.

'This was their best gig ever,' said Lynn. 'Maybe it was the lovely little hall, but they were superb!'

**KILCHRENAN**

PLANNING approval has been given to alter and extend a Kilchrenan house.

There were no objections to the Mr and Mrs Condie's plans for a rear extension at Woodcroft.

**APPIN**

THE RIDING centre at Lettershwa was the start of a charity ride to raise money for World Horse Welfare.

On Horses for Horses was organised by Loes Knopper, Kinlochleven, and the event was attended by 10 riders, who all rode the 12 mile route on September 25.

OUTLINE planning permission has been given for a new croft house at Portnacraoish.

Mr MacColl was given permission for the development on his bareland croft, though he will have to go back to planners with detailed designs.

An improved access onto the A828 trunk road was also approved.

**JURA**

JURA Development Trust said it has received up to 10 expressions of interest to take on the running of community-owned The Antlers bistro and coffee shop.

The previous leaseholder has left the island, leaving one of Jura's main amenities lying empty.

John Potts of the Jura Development Trust said: 'We have had around 10 expressions of interest and we consider at least half a dozen of these to be serious. We know that one of these is a local.'

The 24 cover café/restaurant, has retail craft sales and heritage display area.

Expressions of interest had to be submitted by September 26.

JURACHS will be keeping a close eye on the forthcoming television series of Coast.

The BBC programme recently had a film crew on the island.

**COLONSAY**

IN A bid to avoid the half-term holidays and in an effort to be able to include a wider range of vegetables, Colonsay's Annual Root and Grain Show was held in September this year.

There was a huge number of entries and all the hall tables were groaning with local produce, hand-made articles, pictures and photographs.

For a small community of little over 100 souls, the island displayed many talents and, as usual, the building was full of excited onlookers, and in particular, eager competitors, who came from both the families of long term residents and the homes of new arrivals to the island.

After the competitions were over, many of the goods were auctioned to provide us all with a store of good things and to provide an income to help the Young Farmers Club to continue their tradition.

Cups: Root and Grain - Mike Peacock; Baking - Morag Grant; Homecraft - Jean MacAllister; Junior Girls - Emma Leppard/Rhona Bosomworth; Junior boys - Seamus Dady; Secondary school - Holly Nisbet; Best Exhibit Root and Grain - Jan Binnie; Best Exhibit Baking - Morag Grant; Best Exhibit Homecraft - Anne Carrigan; Best Exhibit Junior - Dylan Dady.

**KILMORE**

WINNERS of the Kilmore 100 Club for September were £100, E McColl and £200, A Storr. October winner of £100 was K Den Heijer.

Kilmore Hall renovations have progressed and now volunteers to help paint the main hall are required.

If you can assist, even for a few hours, please contact Fiona Dickie.

**COLL**

COLL crofter, Colin Kennedy, has been given permission to erect an 18m wind turbine on land south west of Caolas Farm.

Mr Kennedy was previously granted permission for a turbine in April. The location is within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), but neither the Royal Society of the Protection of Birds nor Scottish Natural Heritage, had any objection.

**TIREE**



Gala King Jamie MacDonald, 55, and his Queen, Christine MacArthur, 56, during the gala day.

**High school gala day raises £2,000**

TREE High School's recent Gala Day raised more than £2,000 to support pupils in the coming year.

Head teacher Myra McArthur thanked staff, the Gala King and Queen, parents and pupils for contributing to the day and in particular Mrs

Smith and Mrs Johnston for their efforts. Those brave souls that became 'Bush Tucker Trialists' were presented with badges marking their determination to go above and beyond the call of duty by munching down some things that z-list celebrities would balk at!

**CAOL**

CAOL Primary School will say goodbye to their head teacher Miss Jennifer Cattanach at a special assembly tomorrow (Friday).

Miss Cattanach is retiring after spending 13 years as head.

She previously spent nine years as head teacher at Fort William Primary.

Depute head Steven Hamilton said: 'She has been an excellent head teacher of the school and will be missed by all. 'Her leadership skills promoted a positive climate for learning in the school in a fun and relaxed manner.'

**OBAN**

OBAN rural's first meeting after the summer break featured an enjoyable Beetle Drive.

The event was won by Christene Lamont with Joan McLean getting the wooden spoon. A busy schedule of events has been prepared for the year. A community police officer will give a talk at the next meeting, with a collage and a marshmallow competition to be judged on the evening.

Invitations will be sent out for a 'Christmas Table Glitz and Glamour' open evening in December.

The annual show schedule was discussed in detail, with many ideas for the Halloween Party, Ladies Day at the Races and Poltalloch Trophy. New members or guests are always welcome at meetings which are held on the last Tuesday of the month in the Guide Hall, Soroba Road.

**KILMORE**

PRESIDENT Isabel Smith welcomed 22 members to the temporary venue of the Church of Scotland Hall, as Kilmore Hall is currently having a new roof fitted.

'Hints and tips' was the topic for the evening and the meeting was completed with a lovely tea served by Ann Ferguson and helpers.

Ladies able to wield a paint brush are asked to volunteer to help paint Kilmore Hall. Please contact Fiona.

**LOCHEARNHEAD**

POPULAR outdoors festival, the Drovers' Tryst, gets under way in this weekend, with Lochearnhead playing a big part in the week of walks.

Now in its 10th year, the festival continues to build on its previous success and popularity by offering a fresh and interesting range of activities for adults and children.

Walking is at the heart of the Tryst festival, with a programme of guided treks that offer something for everyone.

Choose to bag some local Munros, walk old drove roads or take a gentle ramble through the glens and feast your eyes on the autumnal colours of the Perthshire landscape.

Try something new such as geo-caching or develop an existing interest in a new environment on a photographic walk.

Round off the day with a night at a ceilidh, a deerstalking walk at dusk, or an evening at the local cinema club; or take some

time out to shop at the local country market - complete with historic re-enactments - and enjoy great food in the local restaurants and cafes.

The Tryst also embraces the Hairy Coo Mountain Bike Race, a day of fun mountain bike racing for both juniors and adults on a network of handmade trails set in the great scenery of Strathearn.

For programme details or more information, log on to droverstryst.com.

Got a district news story? Call our reporters on 01631 568000 or 01397 703003

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# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## They've started it - so make sure the cycle path can be finished

IS this to be the legacy of our era of cuts? Half finished projects that seemed to be a good idea while there was money available?

Having started work on a hugely ambitious project to build a cycle path that would eventually link Fort William to Kintyre via Oban and Mid Argyll, work could simply be stopped in its tracks due to a cut in funding.

The charity behind the project, Sustrans, receives a large slice of its funding from Transport Scotland, which in turn gets its cash from the Scottish Government.

Last month's budget review indicated Transport Scotland would receive more than 33 per cent less - £16 million compared to £25 million - and the knock on effect could leave Oban and North Lorn with a patchwork of part completed stretches of the cycle route.

Given that the spin-off from a complete national cycle path across Scotland is estimated at £100 million - and as we report elsewhere this week, tourism continues to be seen as key to improving job prospects in Argyll and Bute - ensuring cash is available to complete this project should be a high priority.

What this issue has highlighted is the fact that in this day and age, money for any future projects should be signed, sealed and delivered to ensure anything that is started can be finished.

### GLASGOW LETTER

#### Gaels together

THIS coming Saturday, October 8, there will be a day of bringing together Scottish and Irish culture through language, music and song in a collaboration between An Lochran and Conradh nan Gaeilge and with funding from Colmcille.

The events which will take place during the day at the Glasgow Gaelic Centre, Mansfield Street, Partick, will be: Irish language classes from 10am to 1pm and from 2pm to 4pm and Scottish Gaelic from 10am to 1pm.

Singing workshops, Irish, with Maire Ni Choilin, from 11am to 3pm and Scottish, with Sineag MacIntyre, from 2pm to 5pm. Then, from 8pm in the Dining Hall of Glasgow University Union, there will be an evening of music, song, story and dancing. For more information, or to book a place, telephone 0141 342 4119 or email Duncan@anlochran.com or cnag\_glaschu@hotmail.com

#### Skye opening concert

GLASGOW Skye Association got its session underway with their opening concert at its new venue - the Crawford Hall in Partick.

The singers were Fiona Ross, Calum Ross and Grace MacDonald, all with strong Skye connections, and Norman MacKinnon. In the first half Jonathan Campbell played accordion selections while in the second half accompanist Norma MacDougall played some popular tunes to delight the audience. President Donald Fletcher was in the chair.

I am sure all readers would wish to join with me in sending best wishes for a speedy recovery to Tilly MacMillan, president of the Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association and a loyal supporter of all the associations in the city, who took unwell during the concert.

#### Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association

AS IS tradition the Glasgow Lewis and Harris will get the Annual Gathering and Dance season underway on the first Friday of November.

The concert will take place in Woodside Halls, Glenfarg Street, at 7.30pm with the dance taking place in Glasgow University Union. The singers this year will be Margaret I MacLeod, Catriona Watt, Eoghan MacLeod and Ronnie

Murray with musical items being provided by Charles MacLeod and James Ross. Music at the dance will be provided by Trail West, the young band from Tiree. Tickets for the concert will be available at the door and for the dance from Donnie MacLeod, telephone 07900512614.

The guest chairman this year will be Alasdair Allan MSP and the dinner will be held in the Pond Hotel on Thursday November 3. Tickets for the dinner must be booked by October 27 by contacting Rhona Morrison on 07796 175441.

#### Highlander's Club

THE NEW season of the Highlander's Club will start on Saturday October 15 in Partick Burgh Hall when the music will be provided by Donnie and Diane.

As the name suggests, the club has been in existence since the closure of the Highlander's Institute in Berkley Street and monthly dances will be held until June 2012.

#### Diary dates

**Thursday October 6:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Americana with Fallen Angels.

**Friday October 7:** Glasgow Islay Association Opening Concert, Crawford Hall, Beith Street, 7.30pm.

**Thursday October 13:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm.

**Friday October 14:** Clydebank and District Highlander's Association ceildh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm. Scottish Autism Concert, St Andrew's in the Square, 7.30pm. For further details visit venue website www.standrewsinthesquare.com.

**Saturday October 15:** Highlander's Club - see above.

Remember that Calum's Road will continue in the Tron Theatre and Para Handy in the Theatre Royal until Saturday October 8.

#### Pub scene

AFTER a wonderful evening with Skipinnish last weekend, the Park Bar is delighted that Skerryvore will be playing there this coming Sunday evening.

On Friday their music will be provided by Gabertunzie and on Saturday by Willie Cameron.

In the Islay Inn it will be Parting Glass on Friday and the Ragaels on Saturday.

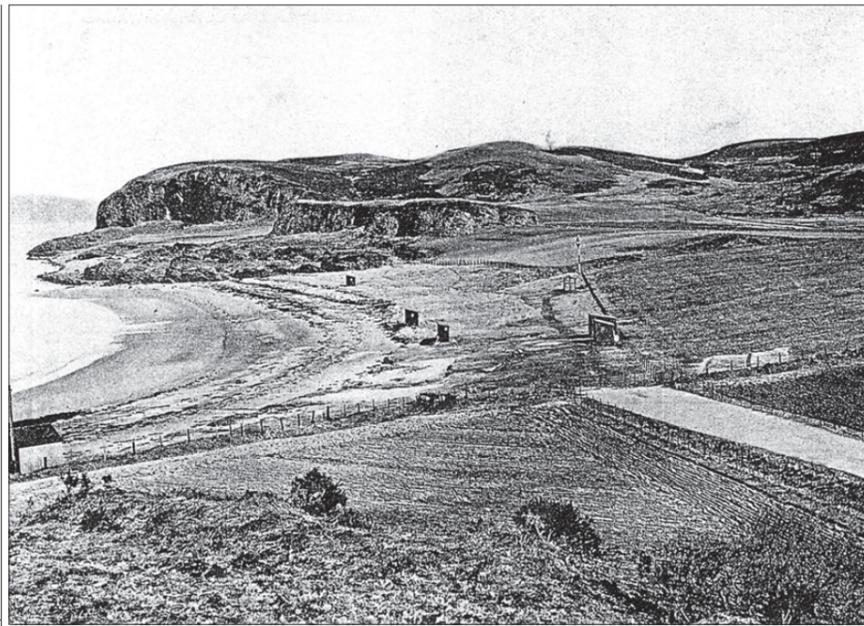
**Neil Murray, Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.**

### YOUR LETTERS

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

### PRESS POLICY

WE AT The Oban Times do our utmost to make sure that all our reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing the biggest local newspaper in the West Highlands. It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB giving your day-time telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications. The Oban Times adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct. The views expressed in The Oban Times are not necessarily those of this newspaper.



## The changing face of Ganavan

This week's flashback photograph was submitted by Colin Armstrong of Coventry and is from his extensive collection of Scottish books and postcards. The photo is of Ganavan Sands, Oban, from days gone by. We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

## Letters to the editor

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

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Telephone: 01631 568000  
Fax: 01631 568001

### Halting the decline in Ardnarmurchan High School numbers

Sir,  
I write with regard to your recent article 'Ardnamurchan High School looks at new ways of halting decline in pupil numbers'.

While it must be deeply frustrating for Lochaline kids and parents to suffer a school bus service based on a policy of early cancellations rather than delayed starts, I was not impressed by this apparently being the only explanation, albeit as 'a contributory factor', offered by the head for recent pupil drain at his school.

What, I am sure every parent would like to know, does he believe are the other factors?

Back in February of this year parents met to consider the possible implications of a 15.5 per cent cut to staff budgets, a loss of 2.8 of the 18 teachers. This was the result of a combination of falling school rolls and Highland-wide budget cuts. It would be nice to think that the parents' combined lobbying contributed to the eventual less painful outcome and no dropped subjects.

It did prompt the question of why parents in the Ardnarmurchan High School catchment are choosing to send their children elsewhere.

The two families I asked both said that having visited both schools, they considered their children would get a better all round education at Tobermory High School.

I also know that I am not the only parent to be unimpressed by the recent decision to reduce the maths department to one teacher while maintaining two in the Gaelic.

What impact will this have on pupil success in maths? The answer cannot be none. And what of the message that this sends out? At Ardnarmurchan High School Gaelic is considered more important than maths. Maybe a majority of parents believe this is a good thing? As far as I know none were consulted.

I appreciate that expressing such views openly will ruffle feathers but I believe that problems, and lets not pretend there are no problems, must be addressed through open debate, not just blamed on the weather. **A concerned parent.**

### Exciting times ahead

Sir,  
We wish to reassure the many supporters of the Hope MacDougall Collection that it has a secure future.

We have combined some administration to make sure the Hope MacDougall Collection gets the care it deserves from professional curators and we are creating a single Friends organisation.

The former 'Friends' have almost all approved the plan so long as we keep the name, which we are. It will be called the Friends of Dunollie and the Hope MacDougall Collection.

Both trusts guard important heritage items: the MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust

cares for Dunollie Castle, Gylen Castle and the Brooch of Lorn as well as the Dunollie archive and costume collection, while the Hope MacDougall Trust cares for a superb social history collection of huge importance.

The collections cross over in places. Both trusts share the aim of making them available for local people through education, activities and exhibitions.

Hope's name will always be associated with objects in her collection. As the former project officer for Hope's Collection, and a former trustee and friend, I would stop at nothing to keep it safe and whole and both trusts share this view.

Finally, the MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust signed a 25-year lease on a section of Dunollie House, now known as The 1745 House as a museum and cultural centre. It does not otherwise contribute to the upkeep of Dunollie House, which remains a private residence.

These are exciting times for the Hope MacDougall Collection and for Dunollie as we move towards the opening of The 1745 House. It has been a long time coming, and the next few years will see a huge increase in access to heritage, cultural and learning activities for the local community - to say nothing of the economic impact on the area from a new tourist attraction. **Catherine Gillies, Project Director for Dunollie and the Hope MacDougall Collection.**

### Volunteers responsible for Ganavan cairn

Sir,  
Your correspondent, 'Country obsessed with money and greed', September 29, asks who is responsible for the RAF Memorial Cairn at Ganavan Sands.

The cairn and adjacent flagpole were constructed by volunteers, most of whom were active members of Oban War & Peace Museum. Although the museum is not responsible for the memorial, the directors recently voted to renovate the memorial and to improve access from the end of the footpath up to the memorial.

Before any work was undertaken the museum carried out a survey amongst its volunteers to find out their views on what should happen to the memorial. Should it be moved elsewhere in Oban, should it be moved elsewhere in Oban or should it remain where it is and be refurbished and the access improved?

The overwhelming majority response was to leave the memorial where it is at present. We are therefore now proceeding with a project to refurbish the cairn and flagpole and improve the access.

Currently we are pursuing sources of funding to pay for the project and are also seeking approval from the council to undertake work on the access.

The flagpole has already been taken down as it was considered to be unsafe. It is currently being refurbished by volunteers and it will be re-erected with new fittings and an improved ground mounting. It is expected to be back in place with the flag flying by Armistice Day this year.

It is also hoped to provide suitable signs in Ganavan car park to draw the attention of visitors to the memorial and to tell the story of the role played by the Air and Ground Personnel of 18 Group Coastal Command who served at RAF Oban from 1939 to 1945.

**Charles Struthers, chairman, Oban War and Peace Museum.**

### South Uist ferry fury

Sir,  
We recently witnessed a Sunday ferry service being forced upon the people of Harris.

We are also aware that this service was started in spite of the large majority of Harris people being against the service.

Can the Scottish Government tell us which part of the equation it does not understand?

The people of Harris were given a Sunday ferry they did not want, while in South Uist the people there who actually wanted a service for at least six days have been refused all of many requests to introduce a direct sailing from Mallaig to Lochboisdale, which would make good economic sense and be time-saving for everyone concerned.

So, in effect, the Government/CaledonianMacBrayne(CaMac) have done the exact opposite of what both the Harris and South Uist communities wanted to see done.

I know that socialist concerns/agencies are always short on maths and logic, and at least two classic examples come to mind. Firstly, the Government buildings in Edinburgh which cost almost ten times its first initial estimate and latterly the tram scandal. Whenever and wherever will that end?

I am truly of the belief that Thomas Jefferson quoted correctly when he said: 'When the people fear the government, that's tyranny, but when the government fear the people, that's liberty'.

May we now ask that the government and Calmac grant both the Harris and South Uist communities their desired wishes - and not the government's wishes - and in doing that give people their liberty and freedom they deserve in these blessed isles.

It is time to show the fragile west coast communities that they can trust them to actually serve them the way they want and not the way the government would have it.

The people put their trust in you at the polls, now let us see that we can trust you to grant us our needs. **Angus Campbell, South Uist.**

### Action needed now to keep our lamps lit

Sir,  
How right George Clarke is to extol nuclear power as a way of providing sustainable energy.

What a pity this sentiment was not heard in the 1990s and noughties, so that the Blair and Brown governments and that of Major before them might have invested in nuclear power.

The lead-time to bring new plant on-stream is long - well in excess of a decade - and,

because we disinvested in our nuclear engineers, we will rely on our friends the French and Americans to provide the know-how for any future investment.

In the meantime, an energy gap is looming which will threaten our comfortable existence. We can fill some of the gap relatively quickly with gas-fired power stations. However, the Germans have decided to abandon nuclear and are unhappy about relying on their Russian supplier of gas, given its capricious behaviour of turning off the tap when upset.

Because of this we may, in future, face stiff competition for the Norwegian gas that currently keeps our lights lit and our homes warm.

Colin Davidson is right to join me in suggesting we need to deploy existing proven technology of 'green' energy generation, including wind power, to do this now, and to do it without foreign strings attached. Neither of us believes that wind is anything other than an additional source, complementing others.

The insistent claim of those against wind power that turbines only work for that fraction of the time the wind blows hard enough is an unimpressive argument for not investing. No engineering infrastructure functions at 100 per cent of its potential. Stand by a railway track and note that for most of the time, there are no trains. Yet who would suggest we should not have invested in railways?

We can't just sit tight and hope some technological advances will come along in future that will keep our lamps lit. **Professor Ian Reid, Ardconnel Road, Oban.**

### Proud of Clachan Primary School

Sir,  
As the parent of a child at Clachan Primary School, I am very proud of their recent 'Best Green School 2011' award.

This award was truly deserved as a result of the hard work of the staff and pupils and the support of parents and helpers in the community.

As many of you will recall, Clachan was one of the schools at risk from a round of cost saving consultations by Argyll and Bute Council and after many a sleepless night and weeks of worrying about our community, it was given a reprieve from that council administration following the education secretary's apparent shoddy legislation.

Argyll and Bute Council should be proud of the achievement made by this school and try and learn from its forward thinking attitude to saving the environment.

This award shows that small schools can make a difference, small schools can lead the way in green initiatives and small schools can become an example to other institutions and their contribution should never be overlooked because of money.

And I do know that no school will ever be closed based on the finances alone.

I hope Argyll and Bute Council will secure Clachan Primary School's future, and that it's used now as a blueprint for all the other schools in their hunt for a lower carbon footprint.

How can Clachan top this? Watch this space. **Lee Bastow, Clachan.**

## Alan Cochrane



THE DAILY TELEGRAPH'S  
SCOTTISH EDITOR

A SECRET war is being waged in Scotland, a conflict so clandestine that few people are aware of it. However, even those directly involved refuse to talk about it, and the fact that these events occur in some of the remotest parts of Scotland means that hardly a whisper of what's happened leaks out.

We are talking here about some of the biggest operations ever mounted by the police in Scotland. These frequently involve scores of officers, augmented by representatives from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Scottish Society for the Protection of Animals and other assorted animal welfare groups. They are sometimes even joined by senior civil servants from the Scottish Executive, whose very presence provides official and important backing to these operations.

The upshot is that there are often 50-plus people - and on at least one occasion over 80 - taking part in these mass, almost-military-style, raids, which must look more like anti-terrorist operations or the targeting of big-time drugs barons. However, they are taking place on shooting estates all over Scotland and at issue is whether gamekeepers, under orders from landlords and/or estate managers, are deliberately poisoning birds of prey in a bid to protect grouse numbers.

The results are quite simply breathtaking - gamekeepers strip searched and locked up overnight; vehicles being towed away for minute examination; homes being ransacked. If anything of that scale were ever to be repeated in an urban environment it would certainly lead to questions in parliament. If what we hear of the details of these raids is correct then it does appear to be the case of taking a sledgehammer to crack a nut.

Mind you, those details can be very difficult to come by. For instance, one of the more recent mass raids took place near Inverness but that's as much as Northern Constabulary will admit; they refuse to say precisely where.

One landowner, who spent millions buying a shooting estate and then millions more improving it, says he's selling up because of what he claims is harassment of both his employees and his guests following a mass raid which found nothing and resulted in no arrests. Unfortunately, I have yet to receive a reply to my request for an interview with this landowner. This is, sadly, typical of the attitude of too many lairds. They appear to think that speaking out against the unfairness of these raids will merely result in more of the same.

Let us be clear here. There have been incidents of raptor poisoning. There is also no doubt that the indiscriminate killing of birds of prey is an abomination. And for golden eagles to have become victims is beyond comprehension.

However, the chosen plan of action to combat this - to target gamekeepers, usually without a shred of evidence to back them up, in the hope of finding something - is producing results so meagre when set against the manpower involved in these huge raids, that the tactic should be classified as a waste of police time.

Read Alan Cochrane's column in full in the latest Scottish Field.

## A view from the tower

by McCaig

### Poor performance politicians

IT'S political party conference time, however, by the time you read this the four major ones will be over and we will be chucking over the bloomers committed by the major figures.

One of them - Ed Miliband - has yet to establish himself as a credible party leader and compounded his poor reputation by not being able to remember the name of the leading contender for the leadership of the Scottish Labour Party Ken MacIntosh MSP. His poor performance didn't surprise me or anyone who had heard his oration at the Scottish Labour Party conference in Oban. Although he received a short, unenthusiastic standing ovation, party members around me were being magnanimous and putting his uninspiring harangue down to 'new boy' nerves.

His biggest problem is he has not improved in the interim. I watched the speech and the party faithful's reaction. It was little improved on his Oban effort and his 'faithful' certainly did not give him the Tony Blair/Gordon Brown standard of adulation and the audience left the hall looking bemused but not impressed.

Although Ken MacIntosh tried to brush off the incident, anyone who knows him will admit that as an ambitious and highly intelligent MSP he must have inwardly raged that the national leader of his party could not remember his name. Ken has strong Oban connections as his father Farquhar MacIntosh was rector of Oban High School before moving to Edinburgh to take up a similar post at the Royal High School and eventually became chairman of the Scottish Examination Board.

The Tories are starting their conference with the Chancellor of the Exchequer promising England a Council Tax freeze for a second year - not the sort of tax associated with the 'right' and various other inducements to try once and for all to remove the 'snatcher Thatcher' image that still remains the man-in-the-street image of Tory-ism. I find it strange that young people who were not even born when she was Prime Minister are the most virulent in declaiming her alleged faults even when she has no longer any influence on government.

### Local elections

ALTHOUGH there are almost eight months until local authorities go to the polls, in Argyll and Bute, there will be one following the death of Councillor Donald MacDonald.

Had he left us within six months of the date of the statutory elections next May his North Lorn seat would have been allowed to lie vacant, but as he died this summer candidates are being sought who may well be going through the same procedures all over again. The outcome will be intriguing as it seems a number of independents believe the pay is for 'old rope'. It isn't; councillors are very poorly paid for the volume of commitment sought.

### Tax irresponsible cyclists

AS GEORGE Osborne, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, recovers from his party

conference his mind will, of necessity, turn to the pre-Budget statement which will set the scene for what tax increases he will be imposing on us next spring. I have a suggestion that will be unpopular with bicycle manufacturers and salesmen, but will bring joy to motorists who curse the arrogance of these two-wheeled menaces who pay no tax for the use of our roads while ignoring the special cycleways they have had built for them. Worst of all are those who break the law with impunity as there is never a police officer to be seen when pedestrians are forced to become part of an obstacle course on pavements, totally forgetting that the pavement and the footpath are designated for pedestrians.

As a partially disabled person who likes walking and am told by my doctor to 'walk more' I invited him to share the 'pedestrian experience'. The 'menaces' are not all irresponsible teenagers as I have been warned by a serving police officer on his bike to 'get out of the way' as he was 'late for his shift'. How old do you have to be to cycle on the roads - not the pavement - as it seems parents tell their three and four year olds to do so and pay no attention to anyone who checks them?

The law forbids cycling on the pavement but is ignored by those who are supposed to enforce the law. Tax every person who owns a bike £50 annually with a reduction for those in full-time education and for senior citizens. Being caught breaking cycling laws should attract a minimum fine of £50 for a first offence and double and treble that for subsequent ones. But police officers on foot on the streets would be the best solution.

The Tories are starting their conference with the Chancellor of the Exchequer promising England a Council Tax freeze for a second year - not the sort of tax associated with the 'right' and various other inducements to try once and for all to remove the 'snatcher Thatcher' image that still remains the man-in-the-street image of Tory-ism. I find it strange that young people who were not even born when she was Prime Minister are the most virulent in declaiming her alleged faults even when she has no longer any influence on government.

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### Tax irresponsible cyclists

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McCaig



Còisir Ceann an Tuirc who won the choral singing competition with their performances of Tioram air Tir and Dùthaich MhicAoidh. 15\_140obanmod4



Nicola Pearson didn't let feeling under the weather stop her winning two trophies on Saturday. She won the Puirt-a-Beul solo singing section before clinching the Ishbel Scott Memorial Trophy with her selection of Ceol nan Cruinneag. 15\_140obanmod6



Ann MacLean, of North Connel, won the Irene MacCowan Medal on Saturday for her solo rendition of Iain Ghlinn's 'Cuaich'. 15\_140obanmod2



Oban Gaelic Choir took part in three competitions during Mod Sgìre an Obain on Saturday. 15\_140obanmod3



The mother and daughter team of Janet and Jennifer Campbell enjoyed success at Mod Sgìre an Obain, which they said was perfect preparation for Stornoway. 15\_140obanmod5



Finlay Bennett, a pupil at Lochnell Primary School, won a chanter trophy named after famous Barcaldine piper Dochie Ferguson. 16\_140obanmod2

# A perfect way to warm up for Mòd

## Competitors flock to two-day Oban event

A LATER than usual Oban Mòd provided the perfect preparation for this month's Royal National Mod in Stornoway. Competitors from across Scotland travelled to take part in the two-day event, with the celebration of Gaelic language running according to plan. Heats were held in venues across the town, with St John's Cathedral, St Columba's Hall, the Scout Hall, Esplanade Church, the Oban Pipe Band Hall, Masonic Hall and Oban High School all enriched with the sound of Gaelic singing. A spokesperson for the organising committee said: 'The office bearers and committee members would like to thank the adjudicators who do so much for our Gaelic tradition, all chairpersons and stewards who give their time and who make the Mòd possible, teachers, tutors and helpers and, most importantly, the competitors who are keeping our language alive.'

## Charity volunteers' plea after dip in donations

A CHARITY shop that raises funds purely for local causes has launched a stock appeal, with the number of donations dropping in recent weeks. The MacQueen Brothers' Charitable Trust shop, in the White Building on Oban's North Pier, raises in excess of £100,000 every year for local groups, with all funds raised going to the good causes. But hard times for all has led to a dip in the number of unwanted items being given to the shop and the volunteers who staff it have urged people to give the shop - and the community - a boost. Grace Scott, the volunteer who runs the shop, said: 'At the moment we're really short on bric-a-brac and furniture. It's really important we do get donations because that helps the shop run. If we don't have anything to sell we can't give money to local causes. We always ask the causes we support to support us by giving us donations. Most are really good with that, but if everyone did it we'd be in great shape.' Graham MacQueen, who set up the charity, said his 16 volunteers do a great job, but urged people to support their hometown by donating items to the local cause. He said: 'In the past couple of years we've been able to assist a huge number of organisations and groups. But in tough times people have been buying fewer things to replace older items. What would be great is if people had a tidy out and donated to us some of the things they no longer need or want. We will provide anyone wishing to give us things with boxes free of charge, and if they are unable to transport goods themselves, give us a call and we can arrange and collect it.' Donations of all kinds are wanted, including some electrical goods, but broken items will not be accepted. Meanwhile, the trust has donated £1,000 to the local Riding for the Disabled (RDA) group as a tribute to long-time shop volunteer, Margaret MacKenzie, who died last week aged 68. Making the donation to the RDA's Jane Isaac, Graham said: 'Margaret held helping the disabled very close to her heart and, as a result, we thought a donation to the RDA would be appropriate.' Jane added: 'We're absolutely grateful for this kind donation. The money will go towards the cost of a new pony and a new carriage.'

**gig argyll guide** your essential guide to live music in argyll

Thursday 6 October > Ceilidh, 9pm, Skipinnish Ceilidh House followed by a disco 'til 2

Saturday 8 October > Ladies Night, Skipinnish Ceilidh House Ladies admitted free 'til midnight.

Saturday 8 October > John MacKenzie Markie Dans 9.30pm

Saturday 15 October > Lou's Leaving Party with Chris Suckle, All Locals Invited!

Friday 21 October > Gunna Sound Markie Dans 9.30pm

**Local Producers Market**

Thursday 6th October  
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch, 1 mile along the Tralee road  
10 am to 3 pm  
**LOTS TO EAT AND DO**  
Every First / Third Thursday  
Interested Producers contact  
01631 720223  
Local Origins Rural Network  
www.lorn.org.uk

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

NSC Regional Press

**ARGYLL ANIMAL AID**

**Fluffy and Marmite**

Brother and sister, must go together.  
Age and history unknown.  
Nice cats, both are neutered.

Contact Pat on 01852 300362  
aaa.rescueteam@btconnect.com  
http://www.smallpaws.co.uk  
Reg. charity SCO13211

**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**

An Comunn Gàidhealach MEUR CHRUAICHAIN (Cruachan Branch)

**PRE-MOD CEILIDH**  
Saturday, 8th October in Taynuilt Village Hall at 7.45pm  
Ceann an Tuirc • Oban Gaelic Choir  
Taynuilt Gaelic Choir + plus solo singers  
Fear an Taighe: Donald Harrison  
Admission £4.00. £3 for Members.  
£2 for Children 5-16 yrs Including Tea.  
**A Warm Welcome Extended to All!**  
(Funds collected promote The Gaelic Language, Music and Culture)

Strathfillan Craft Class  
**CRAFT FAYRE**  
At **CRANLARICH HOTEL**  
SAT. OCTOBER 22nd  
12noon - 4pm  
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## Top illustrator puts pupils in the picture



The winners of the fancy dress competition, from left: Lucy Anderson as Willy Wonka, James Beaton as Midget Willy Wonka, Sam Dods as Fantastic Mr Fox and Jack MacGregor as Farmer Bean, with best-dressed teacher Pauline Carson and Father James MacNeil. 16\_140da01

## School marks life of children's author

PUPILS at St Columba's Primary School conducted a webcast interview with Roald Dahl's illustrator Quentin Blake as part of their project on the children's author. The school began its celebrations on September 13, the day of Roald Dahl's birth, and last week held five days of activities, including the webcast with Mr Blake. The primary seven class put on a play for the rest of the school, with their take on Goldilocks and the Three Bears, a story from which Roald Dahl penned his famous poem. Last Wednesday the pupils and teachers dressed as characters from Roald Dahl's books, with Father James MacNeil judging the winners. Later in the day the pupils took part in a Readathon. The week was rounded off with a movie choice day where children watched classics such as the BFG, James and the Giant Peach, Matilda and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

**Oban High's Clan Challenge Afternoon**

AFTER five years of the Fun Run, Oban High School's annual fundraiser is changing. From the ashes of the Fun Run has risen the school's first Clan Challenge Afternoon which will be taking place today (Thursday). The new event has been proposed, planned and arranged by the school's newly created fundraising committee, which is made up of sixth year students. This afternoon pupils will attend their normal classes for a 15-minute registration and then pay a £2 fee to take part in the event. They will be then be released from their classes to attend a multitude of activities and competitions. On the playing field pupils can take part in a 'Beat the Goalie' game, a rugby challenge or attempt an obstacle course. Inside the school, they can find hair and makeup salons, a Zumba class and a wide range of challenges and games based on those in the popular ITV 1 programme 'The Cube'. There will also be live music.

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For more details contact Lord Of The Isles on 01852 500658

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Saturday 17th December - Festive Party Night with Live Music  
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INCLUDES A 4 COURSE EVENING MEAL, COMPLIMENTARY BUBBLY PARTY PACKS AND A NIGHT JAM PACKED WITH ENTERTAINMENT!!

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### WIN tickets to see The Johnny Cash Story

five pairs TO BE WON

On Friday October 14 the Corran Halls in Oban will celebrate the life and music of the legendary Johnny Cash courtesy of Roger Dean and his show The Johnny Cash Story. Audiences can enjoy over two hours of storytelling magic featuring Johnny Cash's biggest hits including I Walk The Line, Ring of Fire, Get Rhythm, Folsom Prison Blues, A Boy Named Sue and the award winning Hurt. The show starts at 7.30pm. Tickets, priced £16.50, are available from the Corran Halls ticket line on 01631 567333.

The Oban Times has five pairs of tickets to giveaway. To enter, simply answer this question and send your answer along with your name, telephone number and address to The Oban Times Johnny Cash Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB

Complete this famous Johnny Cash song title "I Walk the \_\_\_\_\_?"

a) Line b) Fire c) Rhythm

Send your answer to The Oban Times Johnny Cash Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB by Tuesday, October 11, 2011. Winners will be notified by telephone on Wednesday, October 12, 2011.

Answer.....  
Name.....  
Address.....  
Telephone.....

Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Winners will be chosen at random. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and their name may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees. For over 18s only. The winner will be asked to collect their tickets from Corran Halls.

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## Dalchirla gimmers break Stirling record

### Blackface pen sells to £1,202 a head

UNITED Auctions sold 10,077 Blackface and Cheviot draft ewes, gimmers and stock sheep at its annual Stirling sale on Monday, with two new record prices achieved.

The sale was topped with a pen of 10 Blackface gimmers, consigned by Wood and Hunter, Dalchirla, setting a centre record price of £1,020 per head purchased by Mr F Thomson, Rannoch Farm, Kellas.

The result was an average of £580 for the 50 Dalchirla gimmers sold.

**£500 ewes from Lurg**  
Ewes set a centre record of £500 per head for a pen of 10 from E MacMillan, Lurg purchased by N S P Parry, Marbreck, Carspairn.

Averages were up across the board too, with only the trade for North Country Cheviot gimmers suffering a slight dip, selling to average at £108.41, -£8.51 down on the year.

The biggest gains were in accredited Blackface gimmers, which sold to average at £135.60, -£20.02 up on the year.

### Bute Suffolks sell to £65 at Stirling

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 681 store cattle and 11 young bulls, plus 2,025 store sheep at Millhall market, Stirling on Monday when both cattle and sheep met a rising trade.

Bullocks averaged 186p (+9p) and sold to 329p per kg for a 240kg Limousin from Murrayhall, Stirling and £1110 for a 580kg Simmental from Hill of Harthill, by Glasgow.

Heifers averaged 177.1p (+2p) and sold to 217p per kg for two 265kg British Blues from Lepinkill, Glendaruel and £1,020 for a 570kg British Blue from Ballieston, Kilbirnie.

Lambs averaged £48.32 (+2.10p on the week) selling to £65 for Suffolks from J McMillan & Son, Eskechreggan, Isle of Bute.

Feeding ewes averaged £40.63 (+£4.32) selling to £46 for Cross ewes from Urrard Estates.

### Texel cross gimmers sell to £146 at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 5,478 breeding and store sheep at its Dingwall sale on Thursday, when all classes of breeding and feeding sheep sold exceptionally well.

Gimmers averaged £108.96 and sold to £146 for Texel crosses from Greenacres, Barbaraville. Breeding ewes averaged £63.01 and sold to £99 for Texel crosses from Balnafetach Estate, Cromdale.

Feeding ewes met a firm trade, averaged £49.18 and sold to £83 for Cheviot Mules from Viewhill Croft, Dingwall.

Wedders sold to £70 for Cheviots from Ardmore Sheep Stock Club, Isle of Skye.

Rams averaged £59.69 and sold to £80 twice for a Cheviot from Inverpoll, Ullapool and a Texel from Rurach Croft, Inverinate.

Lewis Livestock ewes, rams and wedders sold to £85 for a Cheviot ram from 12 Lionel, Port of Ness.



The new trophy to be presented at Sunday's Highland Cattle Society Show at Oban is inspected by editorial director of The Oban Times, Stewart MacKenzie, and the black Highland bull Tearlach Dubh 3rd of Killochries.

## Highland cattle breeders introduce new youth award

### Young handlers to compete for *The Oban Times* trophy

AS HIGHLAND cattle breeders and enthusiasts from around the world gather in Oban this weekend for the two-day 114th Annual Autumn Show and Sale, the Breed Society and event sponsors, The Oban Times, have joined forces to encourage youngsters to become more involved in the handling and showing of pedigree Highlanders.

With 135 high quality, pedigree cattle entered across the eight classes of Sunday's show, a new trophy, presented by The Oban Times, will be contested as the judges look for the best

young handler on the day. The new competition, which is restricted to exhibitors who are 18-years old or under, is among a variety of measures taken by the Society to encourage young people into the Scottish agricultural industry.

Breed society secretary Hazel Baxter said: 'We are thrilled with this involvement from The Oban Times in their 150th year and am pleased to say we have quite a few young exhibitors in the competition for the new trophy.'

Stewart MacKenzie, editorial director of The Oban Times

said: 'We are delighted to support the Highland Cattle Society and in particular the positive steps being taken to encourage the involvement of young people within Scotland's livestock farming industry.'

This year's prestigious show will be judged by John Crilly, Balmore of Leys, Culduethel, Inverness.

The Supreme Champion Female will be awarded the Invernairn Cup plus £100 in prize money, with the first and second prize-winners in each female class being eligible to compete. This year's event had

attracted considerable interest with almost 40 entries in the two-year old heifer class, more than 30 entries in the yearling heifers, and close to 30 entries for the awards amongst the three-year olds.

Sunday's show gets underway at Oban Livestock Centre at 10.30am with the awards being presented following an evening reception in the town's Royal Hotel.

Monday's sale is scheduled to start at 10am, with a number of interested buyers from throughout Europe anticipated to add to a busy ringside.

## NFUS hosts North Connel open day

ACHNABA Farm, North Connel, welcomed the local branch of the National Farmer's Union Scotland (NFUS) and its president for the organisation's open day last week.

Visitors enjoyed a stock judging competition and refreshments provided by NFUS at the event, taking time to mull over recent developments with sheep tagging requirements and a new EU ban on the chemical Asulam, which is widely used to control bracken.

Nigel Miller, who took up his post as president of NFUS in February, said: 'It's quite good to come here and catch up with people and find out what's going on.'

'It's also a great excuse to come to one of Scotland's most beautiful places.'

'The major issues I'm hearing about today are the loss of Asulam and sheep tagging, and it is good to gather more opinion on those subjects.'

### MSP condemns EU ban on Asulam for bracken

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP, Jamie McGrigor, has slammed the European Union for banning bracken control chemical, Asulam.

During Thursday's Rural Affairs Question Time at the Scottish Parliament, the Conservative MSP urged his own party in the UK Government to push for emergency authorisations for certain periods each year.

Speaking after question time, he said: 'Like farmers and crofters throughout my region of the Highlands and Islands I share the anger and disappointment at the EU decision to prevent the use of Asulox from the end of next year.'

'The spread of bracken is a major problem for large areas of my region and Asulox was a key tool in tackling this scourge.'

'I am encouraged that the Scottish Government seems prepared to work with UK ministers to allow emergency authorisations although the details of such approvals need to be worked out.'

## Islay UA sheep sale meets buoyant trade

UNITED Auctions held their third sale of lambs and their annual breeding ram sale, plus all classes of breeding sheep on Islay last Friday when all sections of the sale enjoyed a buoyant trade.

In all, 4,768 head of sheep and lambs was sold. The 2,841 lambs sold to £64.80 and averaged £55.31. The 676 ewe lambs sold to £98 and to average £75.21, while 414 correct ewes sold to £78 and to average £63.58 and 284 gimmers sold to £155 and to average £113.74.

Breeding rams (59) sold to £580 and 494 feeding ewes and wedders sold to £90 and averaged £48.76.

The show of rams and ram lambs was judged by Mr Alister Dickie, Musdale Farm, by Oban and he awarded the champion's ticket to a Texel shearer, consigned by Mr R MacDougall, Kirkby which later sold for £580.

The reserve came from Dunlossit Farms, Lossit, also a Texel shearer which later sold for £400.

## Achnaba gimmers sell to £200 at Oban

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had forward 3931 breeding sheep comprising of 1,588 ewes, 646 gimmers and 1,589 ewe lambs at Oban on Tuesday last week.

Top price of the day was for Texel gimmers from Donald Buchanan, Achnaba, North Connel which sold to £200.

There was a firm trade throughout the sale for breeding ewes with Blackface ewes averaging £62.61 (+£13.68 on the year) and selling to £80 from J Mcnicol and Sons, Turnault, Ardfren.

Cheviot ewes averaged at £67 (+£15.31) and sold to £78 from R and S Strachan, Caliaich, Isle of Mull. Gimmers averaged £79.27 (+£0.03) with Blackface gimmers at £71.54 (+£9.97).

More than 1500 ewe lambs forward averaged £54.31 (+£3.01) selling to £102 for Mule ewe lambs from Douglas McDonald, Tyree, Benderloch Blackface ewe lambs averaged £48.16 (+£5.37).

### Prime trade up at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd. sold 41 prime cattle and 604 prime sheep at Dingwall last Tuesday.

Prime bullocks averaged 200.6p (+5.2p) and sold to 216p per kg for a 505kg Simmental cross from 4 Glaick, Address, and £1,483.90 for a 710kg Limousin cross from Brae Edge, Castletown.

Prime heifers averaged 200.1p (+5.5p) and sold to 214p per kg for 540kg Limousin cross from Bridgend Farm, to John M Munro Ltd, Dingwall, and £1,170.40 for a 560kg Limousin cross also from Bridgend Farm, to Fraser Brothers Butchers, Dingwall.

Lambs averaged 163.6p (-3.3p) and sold to 178.7p per kg and £84 for 47kg Beltex crosses from Torgorm, Conon Bridge, to Fraser Brothers Butchers, Dingwall.

## Market reports

### ISLAY

#### United Auctions

Lambs  
Suffolk: £64.80 & £64.50 Octofad; £64.50 Smaladh; £64 Octofad & Ballimartin; £63.50 Pair A Chlissan; £62.50 Ardbeg, Portantruan, Ardbeg, Craigfad & Smaladh; £62 Kinnabus, Smaladh & Duich; £61 Octofad & Pair A Chlissan; £60.50 Octofad.  
TexelX: £64 Carrabus & Ardbeg; £63.50 Kilmenny; £63 Conisby (I MacPherson) & Craigfad; £62.50 Conisby (I MacPherson); £62 Lossit; £61.50 Octofad; £61 Ardbeg; £60.50 Lossit & Smaladh.  
Mule: £62 Balulive; £60.50 Braigo Blackface; £54.50 Portantruan; £53 Dunlossit Estate Ceanacroich; £52.50 Balulive; £51.50 Pair A Chlissan; £50 108 Frederick Cresc.  
Cross: £59.50 Ardnave; £59 Smaladh  
CheviotX: £55.50 44 Stanalane; £52 Kilbride.

Ewe lambs  
Blackface: £95 1 Foreland; £72 Lorgbaw Croft.  
Mule: £98 Coille; £90 Kilmenny; £90 Braigo; £82 Ballachlaven; £80 Torrabus (Torrance), Corray, Island & Coille.  
Gimmers  
TexelX: £110 & £105 Claddach CheviotX; £110 Windyedge  
Mule: £155 Lorgbaw (R Paget) & Windyedge; £125 & £120 Corray.  
Blackface: £130 Carn; £125 & £102 Lorgbaw Croft.  
Ewes  
SuffolkX: £86 & £83.50 108 Frederick Cresc.  
TexelX: £74 Blackrock & Smaladh; £73.50 44 Stanalane; £72.50 Claggan.  
Cheviot: £68.50 44 Stanalane Cross  
£90 Carrabus; £78 Ballachlaven;

£70.50 Octofad; £69.50 Duich; £68.50 Carrabus; £65.50 Octofad  
Mule: £68 & £60 Starchmill  
Blackface: £72 Craigen; £70 Ballachlaven; £68 Lorgbaw Croft; £66 Lossit; £62 Kelsay.  
Breeding rams  
Texel: £580 Kirkby; £400 Dunlossit Estate, Lossit.  
Suffolk: £450 44 Stanalane; £420 Coille; £400 Ballachlaven & Coille.  
Cross: £400 Coille  
Blackface: £500(2), £450 & £420 Ardbeg.  
Bl: ueafaced Leicester: £480 Coille.  
Prices per kilo  
Lambs  
Suffolk: 184p Ardnave; 180p Claggan; 179p Ardnave; 178p & 174p Octofad; 173p Blackrock.  
TexelX: 200p Ardnave; 189p Octofad; 184p Conisby (I MacPherson)  
Cheviot: 173p - Kilbride  
Cross: 180p Smaladh; 176p & 175p Ardnave.  
Mule: 176p Smaladh  
Blackface: 164p Balulive; 161p Dunlossit Estate Ceanacroich; 160p Lower Cragabus (McCuaig) & Ardnave.

Kilbrannond, £75 Torosay, Mingary, Antium;  
Mule - £118 West Drimvore, £106, £100, £92 Kintraw, £102 Fiart, £100 Glenshellach;  
Texel - £200 Achnaba; Swaledale - £100 Barduliean;  
Llyne - £85 Balliemanoach.  
Ewe lambs:  
Blackface - £76, £62 Turnault, £71, £60 Killundine Estates, £68 Inion, £64, £63, £55 Slaterich, £57 Achnaich, £57 Achnaba, £56 Acharonich;  
Cheviot - £74 Tiraghail, £54 Fiart, £45 Torosay, £44 Lettermore;  
Texel - £71, £55 Inion, £57 Lochview, £54 Slaterich, £51 Lettermore;  
Mule - £102, £88 Tyree, £86, £86, £82 Fiart, £77 Saultmore.

### OBAN

#### Caledonian Marts

Ewes:  
Blackface - £80 Turnault, £78 Auchnaba, £72 Kilbrannond, £70 Glengorm, £68 (twice) Slaterich, £68 Drumfionnghaill;  
Cross - £70, £70 (twice) Caliaich, £70 Torosay, Ruairgan, Kengharair, Achnacreebeg, £68 Slaterich;  
Mule - £85 £80 West Drimvore, £70 Ardconnel, £68 Upper Cuan, £66 Ardachy.  
Gimmers:  
Blackface - £100 Mingary, £85 Tiraghail, £78 Ballimickilichan, £72 Laganulva;  
Cheviot - £122 Tiraghail, £80

Inverroom, Mid Gruinards, and 1 and 2 Ose, £70;  
Chamoise - Culmaill Farm, Golspie, £63;  
Mule - Birchwood, £59;  
Suffolk Cross - 137 East Langwell, Rogart, £57;  
Cross - 137 East Langwell, £52.  
Feeders:  
Cheviot - Uiginish Farm, Dunvegan, £78, Viewhill Croft, £76, Torachilly Farm, Contin, £75;  
Chamoise - Viewhill Croft, £77;  
Mule - Birchwood, £72;  
TexelX - South Clunes, Kirkhill, £69;  
Cross - Garbeg, Drumadrochit, £52;  
Blackface - Mid Fearn, Ardgay, £49.  
Wedders:  
Cross - Isle of Pabbay, £61; Cheviot - Meadle, Isle of Skye, and 15 Cove, Inverasdale, £54;  
Blackface - Balmacraan, Drumadrochit, £46.  
Lewis Livestock Producers: Ewes:  
Texel Cross - 1 Eordale, Ness, £74, 100 Cross Skigersta Road, Port of Ness, £57, 12 Lionel, £56;  
Cheviot - 5 Habost, Ness, £56, 24B Lionel, Ness, £55;  
Blackface - 1 Eordale, £54, 127 Cross Skigersta Road, Ness, and 2 Lionel, Ness, £50, 55 Cross Skigersta Road, £49;  
Charollais Cross - 36 Cross Skigersta Road, £53;  
Cross - 107 Cross Skigersta Road, £52, 1 Fivpenenny, Ness, £50, 4 Knochaird, Ness, £48;  
Suffolk Cross - 45 Cross Skigersta Road, £48.  
Feeding sheep: Cheviot ram - Swainbost, Ness, £75, Clashstein, Knochaird, £73, 69 North Shawbost, £59;  
Charollais Cross ram - 25 Cross, Ness, £75; Texel ram - 18 Cross, Ness, £49;  
Blackface ram - 10 Eordale, Ness, £49;  
Cross wedder - 15 Fivpenenny, £45.

### DINGWALL

#### Dingwall and Highland Marts

Gimmers:  
Texel Cross - Waterloo, Wick, £145, Greenacres and Waterloo, £135, Greenacres, £132;  
Cheviot - Greenacres, £142, Waterloo, £137, Hallcroft, Brora, £118;  
Beltex Cross - Waterloo, £100.  
Ewes:  
Correct:  
Cheviot - 1 and 2 Ose, Struan, £94, Keppoch Farm, Dundonnell and National Trust for Scotland, Isle of Canna, £90, Boor Farm, Poolewe, £7 Strathcanaird, Ullapool, 1 Sciberscross, Rogart, 185 Migdale, Rogart, and Mid Gruinards, Ardgay, £88;  
Llyne Cross - Kintradwell Estate, £70;  
Mule - Birchwood, Dornoch, £68, Broken mouth;  
Cheviot - Keppoch Farm, £77, 185 Migdale, £76, Clachan Farm,

### STIRLING

#### United Auctions

Acc Blackface draft ewes: Cromlix £140; Rhodders £102; Glenferate £100; East Bracklin £98  
Non Accredited Blackface Ewes:  
Lurg £500, £390, £170; Kirkton £125; North Amuree £118; Shields £102  
Accredited Blackface Gimmers:  
Dalchirla £1020, £400; Gavinburn £200; Dalchirla £185; Gavinburn and Remony £160; Littleport £145, East Bracklin £142; Littleport £140.  
Non Accredited Blackface Gimmers: Connachan £180; Lurg £175; Auchloy £170; Connachan £150; Lurg and Auchloy and Ben Ledi £155.  
Cheviot Draft Ewes: Burnbank £88; Burnbank £86; Dullator £84; Auchnafree £72.  
Cheviot gimmers: Gladhouse Cott £188; South Park £132; Mid Lodge £122; Drumharrow £120; Craigowmill £118.  
Cheviot Ewe Lambs: Ardlarach £57; Burnbank £52; Greenlands £51.  
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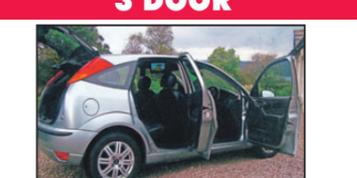


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# Shellfish growers take a glance over horizon

## Mussel farming production up year-on-year over past four years

ENVIRONMENT minister, Stewart Stevenson, opened the annual conference of the Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers at the Corran Halls in Oban on Tuesday.

Mr Stevenson told delegates that, while there had already been significant progress in building the reputation of Scottish shellfish across the world, more can be achieved through government and industry co-operation.

The conference welcomed an international panel of speakers to Oban for the event. Over two days, speakers explored farming techniques, processing and marketing, and legislation.

Shellfish monitoring programmes were also discussed, as were marine protected areas, and the protection of shellfish water quality; the health benefits of eating shellfish and at European and consumer issues; and developments in production methods and the environmental impacts of shellfish farming.

Meanwhile, keynote speaker Richard Slaski, secretary of the Scottish Aquaculture Research Forum, took 'a glance over the horizon', looking at current and future projects that will help the industry to develop its full potential.

Speaking ahead of his introductory speech, Mr Stevenson said: 'Scotland's clean waters offer fantastic conditions for shellfish cultivation, while the industry provides important employment opportunities in some remote parts of the country.'

'Mussel farming in Scotland has gone from strength to strength, with production up year-on-year over the past four years.'

'In 2010 some 7,200 tonnes were produced, worth £6.7million. Over the coming years, if we all work together so that the right promotion, technological developments and legislation are in place, I believe Scottish shellfish farming can continue to grow and thrive.'

Walter Speirs, Chairman of Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers, said: 'Our industry is vital to the economy of small coastal communities and our members are delighted that Stewart Stevenson is joining us to learn about the latest developments.'

'I am also grateful to our sponsors The Crown Estate, Scottish Natural Heritage, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Neogen, Astecaquaculture and Ashwood, for their generous support.'



Walter Speirs, the chairman of the Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers, with environment and climate change minister, Stewart Stevenson MSP, ahead of Tuesday's conference. 07\_t40stewardwalt2

## Transport chief urges winter plan

SCOTLAND'S Transport Minister Keith Brown insists roads bosses continue to prepare together ahead of any forthcoming wintry weather and advises roadusers to make sure they, and their vehicles, are ready for winter.

The Minister was speaking as he inspected part of Transport Scotland's estimated £15 million winter service, which began last week.

Mr Brown said: 'When severe weather comes there will be disruption even with the best laid plans, but our operating companies are better prepared to get Scotland moving again due to our focus on improvement since last winter.'

'We've improved how we get information to our road users and they can plan their part too.'

'I ask people to use all available sources of travel information to check road conditions and all public transport alternatives. Advance journey planning can be a valuable tool which can help speed up journey times for businesses and commuters this winter, whilst bringing benefits for the environment.'

'Our key aim is that, when disruption does occur, we can pull together to tackle conditions as quickly as possible and get the country moving again.'

Mr Brown added: 'We would also ask people to pay particular attention to the Scottish Government's 'Get Ready for Winter Week' later this month.'

# PUBLIC NOTICES

## WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011

**APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION BARRANDROMAN HYDRO SCHEME**  
Notice is hereby given, in accordance with regulation 13 of the above Regulations, that an application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Mr James Mellor for authorisation to carry on controlled activities at, near or in connection with Barrandroman Hydro Scheme, namely:

Description of controlled activity	Waters affected	National Grid reference
Construction and/or operation of impounding works <1m	Allt Barrandroman	NM 8477 2286
Abstraction of 3800 m3 per day of water	Allt Barrandroman	NM 8477 2286
Return of abstracted water approximately 0.5 km away from abstraction point	Allt Barrandroman	NM 8491 2321

SEPA considers that the above controlled activities have and are likely to have an impact on the water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment. Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting the reference number CAVL/1094065:

Registry Department, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall Business Park, Dingwall, IV15 9XB.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the above address, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) and by prior arrangement at SEPA Lochgilphead, 2 Smithy Lane, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8TA. Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: www.sepa.org.uk/about\_us/consultations.aspx

A statement of the reasons for SEPA's assessment that the above controlled activity or activities is likely to have an impact on the water environment will be made available by SEPA on request by contacting the above office.

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made SEPA will include a statement in the register indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

When ready to determine the application, SEPA will serve notice on any person who has made a representation within 28 days of this advertisement, informing them of SEPA's proposed determination and giving them the opportunity to notify the Scottish Ministers in writing that they object to SEPA's proposed determination within 21 days of the notice being served.

## TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected
11/02915/LBC	Rio Tinto Alcan Kinlochleven Power House Lochaber Road Kinlochleven	Replacement of 127m length of roof light glazing on south face of roof with insulated steel sheeting and removal of glazed ridge vents	Kinlochleven Service Point Regulation 5 - affecting the character of a listed building (21 days)
11/03466/FUL	Site 325m South West Of Collart House North Ballachulish Onich	Erection of interpretation panel plus supporting stone plinth	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/03523/FUL	Birch Cottage Kentallen Appin PA38 4BY	Conversion of house on two levels into two independent flats.	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

## Wind Farm Community Benefits Drop In Session

We have arranged a drop in session so that local people can learn more about the benefits that wind farms can bring to local communities and to provide an update on the Clachan Wind Farm proposal.

The session will provide an opportunity for local people to find out more about how wind farms co-exist with communities in Scotland, to explain the tangible benefits that a wind farm can bring to a local community and its economy, and to offer the chance to talk with others who have first-hand experience of living and working with wind farms located close to communities, including the Scottish Community Foundation.

The drop in session will be on:  
**14 October 2011, 3pm to 8pm**  
**SEIL COMMUNITY HALL AT ELLENABEICH**  
Please come along and invite your friends and neighbours too.  
www.westcoastrenewables.co.uk

## Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Charles Black trading as C M Black (Distribution) Of 113 George Street, Dunoon PA23 8BS is applying to changes an existing licence as follows:

To add an operating centre to keep 2 goods vehicles and 2 trailers at 16 Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban PA34 4HB.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre (s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

## Notice of Meeting

Following the sale of Dalmally Village Hall (Old Hall) the final general meeting of Dalmally Village Hall Committee will be held in Dalmally Community Hall at 7pm on 25th October. All welcome



## Plana Cànan Nàiseanta Gàidhlig The National Gaelic Language Plan

Bidh an dreachd den Phlana Cànan Nàiseanta Gàidhlig 2012-17 ri fhaotainn airson ìos-lodadh bho 4<sup>th</sup> Dàmhair 2011 air [www.gaidhlig.org.uk](http://www.gaidhlig.org.uk) agus ann an clò bho oifisean Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Bòrd na Gàidhlig toilichte ur faicinn aig aon de na coinneamhan poblach a tha gu h-ìosal.

The draft of the National Gaelic Language Plan 2012-17 will be made available for download on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2011 on [www.gaidhlig.org.uk](http://www.gaidhlig.org.uk), and also in print form from the Bòrd na Gàidhlig offices. Bòrd na Gàidhlig would welcome seeing you at one of the public meetings listed below.

Talla Àros, Muile » Aros Hall, Mull »	Diluain 10 <sup>th</sup> Dàmhair - 7.30f Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> October - 7.30pm
An Talla, Tiriodh » An Talla, Tiree »	Dimàirt 11 <sup>th</sup> Dàmhair - 7.30f Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October - 7.30pm
Talla a' Chorrain - An Talla Bheag, An t-Òban » Corran Halls - Small Hall, Oban »	Diciadain 12 <sup>th</sup> Dàmhair - 7.30f Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October - 7.30pm
Ionad Chaluim Chille Ìle, Ìle » Ionad Chaluim Chille Ìle, Islay »	Diardaoin 13 <sup>th</sup> Dàmhair - 6.30f Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> October - 6.30pm

Bidh goireasan eadar-theangachaidh mar-aon ann dhaibhsan aig nach eil Gàidhlig Simultaneous translation facilities available at all meetings for non-Gaelic speakers.

Airson fiosrachadh mun càite am bidh coinneamhan eile gan cumail, agus ciamar a thig agaibh bhur beachd a thoirt air a Phlana, thigibh gu: [www.gaidhlig.org.uk](http://www.gaidhlig.org.uk) For more information on other dates, locations and venues for the meetings, as well as information on how to comment on the Plan, please visit: [www.gaidhlig.org.uk](http://www.gaidhlig.org.uk)

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

## PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
11/01553/PP	Installation of replacement windows	4 Macgregor Court Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4DJ	Oban Area Office
11/01702/PP	Erection of detached double garage	Whitehouse Lodge Isle of Coll Argyll and Bute PA78 6TE	Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
11/01740/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 06/02213/DEI for the erection of dwellinghouse	Sorrissdale Premises Isle of Coll Argyll and Bute PA78 6TE	Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
11/01748/PP	Formation of car park with associated works	Land East of Church of Scotland Tynribbie Appin Argyll and Bute PA38 4BG	Sub Post Office Ledgia
11/01785/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Site 3 Land North East of Ardreckish House Ardreckish Dalmally Argyll and Bute PA33 1BH	Sub Post Office Dalmally
11/01786/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Site 2 Land North East of Ardreckish House Ardreckish Dalmally Argyll and Bute PA33 1BH	Sub Post Office Dalmally
11/01799/PP	Site for the erection of 2 dwellinghouses	Land South East of Sycheida Port Appin Argyll and Bute PA38 4DE	Sub Post Office Ledgia
11/01809/PP	Refurbishment of dwellinghouses, including extending existing roof overhang and installation of structural overcladding system	1, 2, 3 And 4 Struthan Terrace Crossapol Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute PA77 6UR	Tiree Area Office
11/01812/PP	Refurbishment of dwellinghouses, including extending existing roof overhang and installation of structural overcladding system	7 And 8 Struthan Terrace Crossapol Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute PA77 6UR	Tiree Area Office
11/01815/PP	Erection of single storey extension.	Appin Parish Church Tynribbie Appin Argyll and Bute PA38 4BG	Sub Post Office Ledgia
11/01816/PP	Refurbishment of dwellinghouses, including extending existing roof overhang and installation of structural overcladding system	12, 13 And 14 Struthan Terrace Crossapol Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute PA77 6UR	Tiree Area Office
11/01825/PP	Erection of temporary 70 metre high wind monitoring mast for a period of 3 years	Land North East of Musdale Farm Kilmore Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4XX	Oban Area Office
11/01842/PPP	Site for the erection of 5 dwellinghouses	Site West of 'Alandon' Taynuilt Argyll and Bute PA35 1JH	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
11/01899/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Land West of Mill Farm Bonawe Barcaldine Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1SE	Sub Post Office Ledgia

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
11/01827/PP	Alterations to existing external door and window openings on Bonawe House, Clematis and Hydrangea Cottages and installation of photovoltaic panels on the south-east facing roof of Bonawe House.	Bonawe House Lochandhu Road Taynuilt Argyll and Bute PA35 1JQ	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
11/01828/LIB	Alterations to existing external door and window openings on Bonawe House, Clematis and Hydrangea Cottages and installation of photovoltaic panels on the south-east facing roof of Bonawe House.	Bonawe House Lochandhu Road Taynuilt Argyll and Bute PA35 1JQ	Sub Post Office Taynuilt

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
11/01807/PP	Refurbishment of dwellinghouse, including extending existing roof overhang and installation of structural overcladding system	4 Burreisdie Craighouse Isle of Jura Argyll and Bute PA60 7XP	Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

## 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 Thursday 13th October 2011 at 10.00am.

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Any enquiries should be directed to: Shirley MacLeod, Area Governance Manager (Tel. 01369 707134).

## COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Councillor Mary Jean Devon (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles) Constituents can contact Councillor Devon on Tel: 01688 302083 or on her mobile 07912 949 073. She can also be contacted by email on [mary-jean.devon@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:mary-jean.devon@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Councillor Gordon Chalmers (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles) Constituents can contact Councillor Chalmers on Tel 01688 302689 or e mail - [gordon.chalmers@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:gordon.chalmers@argyll-bute.gov.uk) or [gordon.chalmers@btinternet.com](mailto:gordon.chalmers@btinternet.com)

Councillor Donald McIntosh (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles) Constituents can contact Councillor McIntosh on Tel: 07788 882200 or by e mail - [donald.mcintosh@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:donald.mcintosh@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

# Give them shelter, demand campaigners

Charity calls for social rented homes

HOMELESSNESS charity, Shelter Scotland, visited Oban last week as it continues to demand the Scottish Government prioritise build thousands more socially-rented homes.

The visit comes as pressure on Oban's social housing provision reaches crisis point, with mother to be, Heather Craig, last month echoing the chief executive of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), Alistair MacGregor, in calling for changes to the points allocation system.

Mr MacGregor said the system that puts people outside the area above locals on the housing waiting list was 'like trying to play golf with a hole that's not big enough.'

Shelter Scotland hosted a stall

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

in Station Square to highlight the plight of the homeless in the area, saying that if something wasn't done now, homelessness could become an ever bigger problem for Scotland.

Speaking on Monday, Shelter Scotland's director, Graeme Brown, said: 'Today we are in Oban as part of our 'End the Wait' campaign to ask members of the public to back our call to the Scottish Government to make housing a national priority and build thousands more socially-rented homes.'

'The housing crisis in Scotland is not going away. 156,000

households across Scotland have been waiting for months and years for a permanent home of their own.

'They can't afford to wait any longer.

'That's why we want as many people as possible to sign our petition to show their concern about the lack of housing and to call on the Scottish Government to build 6,000 new socially-rented houses this year and in each of the next four years.'

Shelter Scotland's visit to Oban comes as part of a 33-date campaign tour of the country raising awareness into the homelessness problem.

Currently, approximately 156,000 households are on waiting lists for a home.



Pictured 'sheltering' from the rain during Monday's campaign in Oban are Shelter Scotland's Conrad Rossouw, Debbie King and Murdo Mathieson. 15\_40shelter1

## Views sought on national Gaelic plan

PEOPLE across Argyll and Bute will be given the chance to shape the National Gaelic Language Plan 2012 - 2017 through a series of meetings organised by Bòrd na Gàidhlig this month.

Argyll and Bute Council adopted the Gaelic Language Plan in 2008 and the new National Gaelic Language Plan will influence the authority's way forward.

Spokesman for rural and island affairs, housing and Gaelic, Councillor Robin Currie said: 'I would encourage anyone who has an interest in the Gaelic language to come along to their local meeting.'

'As well as helping to shape the national plan people will have the opportunity to comment on the plan for Argyll and Bute. They will also have the chance to highlight areas which they think should be considered for inclusion in the next local Gaelic plan.'

Meetings will be held in: Aros Hall, Mull - October 10; The Community Hall, Treen - October 11; Corran Halls, Oban, October 12; Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile, Islay - October 13.

The draft plan can be downloaded on www.gaidhlig.org.uk, and also in print from the Bòrd na Gàidhlig offices.

## RECRUITMENT

**Leading the way in Learning Disability**

ENABLE Scotland is a dynamic, vibrant and expanding organisation dedicated to improving the lives of people with learning disabilities across Scotland.

**OBAN**

**Sessional Workers**

Ref: 0/1011. Salary: £6.87 per hour plus holiday pay. (Hours of work are flexible to meet the needs of the service)

We are looking for flexible individuals to increase our bank of Sessional staff who can work as and when required, including at short notice, to meet the needs of the people we support. If you believe you could be a flexible, reliable and available Sessional worker we would love to hear from you.

As an organisation, we are committed to developing all of our staff, providing an extensive training and development programme and career opportunities within ENABLE Scotland. We offer positive terms and conditions, including a contributory pension scheme.

For an application pack, please telephone 01631 565062 or e-mail oban.sl@enable.org.uk quoting the relevant post reference. We particularly welcome applications from candidates with a disability and make our forms available in alternative formats. To view and apply for all our vacancies, please visit [www.enable.org.uk](http://www.enable.org.uk) Closing date: 18 October 2011

ENABLE Scotland is an equal opportunities employer. Scottish charity number SC009024.

**Customer Services Centre Agent**

£17,610 - £18,723 (pro rata) Campbeltown Ref: CTC00008

17.5 hours per week

☎ 01546 604034

Closing date: 21 October 2011.

To apply visit our website

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs)

**Gaelic Language Auxiliary**

£15,639 - £17,099 (pro rata) Rockfield Primary School Ref: CME01270

Term time 27.5 hours per week

☎ 01369 708546

Closing date: 21 October 2011.

To apply visit our website

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs)

**The Scottish Government**

**Appointment of Chair of Highlands and Islands Enterprise**

Are you interested in a challenging and rewarding role to lead the board of Highlands and Islands Enterprise and contribute to increasing sustainable economic growth in Scotland?

In February 2012 Scottish Ministers are looking to appoint the next Chair of Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the Scottish Government funded economic development agency for an area covering more than half of Scotland. This is an excellent opportunity to make a real difference to the economic performance and prospects of the area. Applications are invited from people with exceptional leadership skills and senior organisational experience which can help Highlands and Islands Enterprise to stimulate enterprise, innovation and economic development in Scotland.

The role of Chair includes:

- Leading Highlands and Islands Enterprise in its work to deliver the Scottish Government's purpose of increasing sustainable economic growth in Scotland;
- Chairing the Highlands and Islands Enterprise Board so that its meetings are run in an effective and efficient manner;
- Ensuring there is a culture of collaboration with other public sector bodies;
- Ensuring there is appropriate Board leadership on resource budget planning and allocation;
- Ensuring there is appropriate scrutiny of implementation by staff of Board decisions; achievement of agreed targets; and use of budgets;
- Representing Highlands and Islands Enterprise in dealings with Scottish Ministers and the Scottish Parliament; at major functions and events including public meetings; in major negotiations; and in dealings with the media.

The appointment will be for a period of 3 years, commencing in February 2012, on a part-time basis and requires a commitment of 1.5 days per week. This appointment is non-pensionable and attracts an annual remuneration of £38,721 per annum.

For an application pack and full details on this and other public appointments please visit the dedicated public appointments website: [www.appointed-for-scotland.org](http://www.appointed-for-scotland.org) Details are also available at [www.hie.co.uk](http://www.hie.co.uk)

Appointed on merit; committed to diversity and equality

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**

**We are offering exciting opportunities to build a career in local newspapers to develop, expand and strengthen the potential of our advertising sales teams.**

We are seeking to appoint experienced and/or trainee sales people who are lively, enthusiastic, good communicators and committed to customer satisfaction. The successful candidates will join our Oban Times sales team and work across a variety of publications and products. On-going in-house training will be given as required. A full driving licence is essential as you may not necessarily be office based but could have the opportunity to travel throughout Argyll and surrounding area in one of our company vehicles.

We offer a basic salary within the range of £12,000-£15,000 per annum for trainees and £16,000-£20,000 for experienced sales people + commission, generous annual holiday entitlement, company pension scheme, life assurance and private medical insurance.

If you are looking for a career with a well established company and have the above attributes - we want to hear from you.

Please apply by email with a full C.V. including contact details to: [ali@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ali@obantimes.co.uk)

**LEITHS**

Leiths (Scotland) Ltd is a family-owned construction and construction materials group that has expanded in recent years to become one of the largest independent companies operating in this sector throughout Scotland. Today, the company employs 500 people with a turnover approaching £50 million.

We currently have the following vacancy primarily based out of our Skye and Fort William quarries with visits to other sites being a regular requirement

**MOBILE HGV FITTER**

To maintain and repair a wide range of plant and fleet equipment. The ideal candidate will already come from an engineering background as a time served mechanical engineer/fitter. The candidate will have experience in carrying out service/inspections on HGV vehicles while understanding the standards needed for HGV MOT presentation. An HGV driving licence is an essential requirement for this role.

For further details on this role and to download an application form please visit our website: [www.leiths-group.co.uk](http://www.leiths-group.co.uk) or alternatively contact Nicola Greig on (01224) 293210 or via email [ngreig@leiths-group.co.uk](mailto:ngreig@leiths-group.co.uk)

**The closing date for all applications is Friday 14 October 2011**

**Bell Ingram** 01631 566 122  
2 Gibraltar Street, Oban PA31 4AY  
[bellingram.co.uk](http://bellingram.co.uk)

**A diverse West Highland Coastal Estate is seeking 2 individuals to fulfil the following roles:**

**Mechanic/Handyman (Full Time)**  
**Estate Handyman (Full Time)**

Both roles require self motivated dedicated individuals, able to work under their own initiative in all weathers. The Mechanic/Handyman will be able to organise, maintain and take responsibility for the vehicle fleet as well as estate plant and machinery. In addition have experience of maintaining and repairing estate buildings. Experience of micro hydro schemes and bio mass boilers an advantage. The Estate Handyman will assist the Mechanic/Handyman, but will also take responsibility for the efficient operation of the estates bio mass boilers. This will involve maintenance of wood chipping equipment and boilers, as well as the logistics and supply of wood chips.

Both roles offer attractive remuneration packages which include a house and use of an estate vehicle.

Part time employment may be available for partners. Please contact Caroline Isaac for a detailed job description and application form. [caroline.isaac@bellingram.co.uk](mailto:caroline.isaac@bellingram.co.uk)

**ACHA**  
argyll community housing association

**Human Resources Assistant**

Ardrishaig  
Salary Grade 10 (£15,464 - £17,385 per annum)  
35 hours per week

To apply visit our website at [www.acha.co.uk](http://www.acha.co.uk) ;  
Tel 01546 605 859 or email [recruitment@acha.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@acha.co.uk)

**Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 14th October 2011**

Interviews for this post will be held in Ardrishaig on **21st October 2011**

**ST COLUMBA HOTEL**  
ISLE OF IONA

**Head Chef**  
(closing date 15th October)

**Head Gardener**  
**Maintenance Worker**  
(closing date for these posts is 24th October)

All positions are available as live in jobs if required.

For further details please contact Dot Stewart  
01681 700304  
[dot@stcolumba-hotel.co.uk](mailto:dot@stcolumba-hotel.co.uk)  
[www.stcolumba-hotel.co.uk](http://www.stcolumba-hotel.co.uk)

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ARGYLL

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**Machrihanish Airbase Community Company (MACC)**

**Director Position**

MACC is entering an exciting phase of the project and wish to invite interested parties who are on the voters roll within PA28 6 to become a voluntary Co-opted Director of the Board. Specific role will be on publicity and public relations.

Those expressing an interest will be issued with an outline description of the position along with a formal application form which should be returned by Friday 4th November 2011.

If interested please send your expression of interest in writing to: The Secretary, 3 North Shore Street, Campbeltown, PA28 6EQ.

**SkyBlue**

SkyBlue are recruiting for the following on temporary work assignments in Oban:

CPCS Plant Operators, Articulated Dump Truck, Dozer & 360 Excavator, Roller and Loading Shovel

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SkyBlue is an equal opportunities recruitment company

**ACHA**  
argyll community housing association

ACHA - Putting Tenants First.

We are on target to create homes and places across Argyll & Bute where people want to live. Can you help us achieve that vision?

**Customer Services Assistant (Temporary)** Oban

Salary Grade 10 (£15,464 - £17,385)  
35 hours per week

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 21st October 2011

Interviews for this post will be held in Oban in late October 2011.

**IT Support Assistant** Lochgilphead

Salary Grade 10 (£15,464 - £17,385)  
35 hours per week

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 21st October 2011

Interviews for this post will be held in Lochgilphead in late October 2011.

To apply visit our website at [www.acha.co.uk](http://www.acha.co.uk);  
Tel 01546 605859 or email [recruitment@acha.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@acha.co.uk)

**PORT APPIN SURGERY**

**Part Time Reception Vacancy**

Small, rural dispensing Surgery require a Receptionist with administrative and dispensing duties. Previous experience desirable but not essential.

15-20 hours per week, with flexibility, would be an advantage.

For more information contact Linda MacGillivray, Practice Manager on 01631 730271  
Apply with CV to [drmarydr@doctors.org.uk](mailto:drmarydr@doctors.org.uk)  
Closing date **October 21st 2011**

**MUSSEL FARM ASSISTANT**  
required

FASSFERN MUSSELS have a vacancy based at Garvan, Loch Eil. Full time - 40 hour week with some weekend work.

Own transport essential.

To apply send C.V. to Shona McCauley at Fassfern Mussels Ltd, Garvan Glen, Garvan, Fort William PH33 7AW or [info@fassfernmussels.co.uk](mailto:info@fassfernmussels.co.uk)

**Job Search**

**Wanted**  
**Oban Area**

Full or part time position.

Monday to Friday  
Anything considered

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Require

**A Full time Shop Assistant & Kitchen Assistant**

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**AWIA VIDEO RECORDER** plays UK and American VHS tapes, with remote control, £10 Telephone 07826 302007.

**RADIOGRAM 1950s**, needs attention, 2ft high x 2ft wide, glass door, walnut veneer facing. Offers. Telephone 01397 701742.

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### BABY EQUIPMENT

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**GLTC DOLL'S HOUSE** toddler bed, white and pink (18 months - 4 years), ex condition, £45 Telephone 01631 567315.

**HIGH CHAIR** Fisher Price Healthy Care High Chair, 3 way recline, height adjusts, converts to low chair, folds flat, as new (Argos £89.99), £40 Telephone 01631 570988.

**MAMAS & PAPAS** Acqua Bambino oval bath plus teddy support, £15 Telephone 01631 567315.

**MOSES BASKET** in natural wicker with cream, interior white wooden stand included, ex condition, £25 Telephone 01631 567315.

**PINK SPIN & BOUNCE ZEBRA** in fab condition as hardly played with, £25 Telephone 07413 510147.

### BICYCLES

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**FOUR 13" CAR WHEELS** with good tyres, £100 Telephone 01880 740255.

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### CD'S, DVD'S AND VIDEOS

**24 BOXSET** Complete 24 box set, seasons 1-8, and 24 Redemption, and bonus discs, Mint condition, cost £150 new, £49.99 Telephone 07826 302007.

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**T H U N D E R B I R D S** BOXSET every episode on 9 discs, in mint condition, cost £60 new, 6 months old, £20 Telephone 07826 302007.

### CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

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**JACKET** Mourning/ funeral jacket, size small, never worn, cost £110, £40 Telephone 07826 302007.

**RAINCOAT** Lady Piper with cape, loved 36"-38" chest, £18 Telephone 01631 720344.

### COMPUTERS AND GAMES

**COMPUTER BAG** soft black laptop bag good size with two buckles and carry strap, never used, £10 Telephone 01631 565241.

### DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

**DELTA STEAM MOP** 2 months old, comes with cloths, great for hard floors, tiles etc, £25 Telephone 07776 490221.

**FREEZER UPRIGHT** TALL white Frigidaire elite upright freezer with 6 shelves, quick sell, good working order 143cm x 60cm. Live in Lochgilphead area, £49.99 Telephone 01546 606475.

**WASHING MACHINE** 2 years old, Beko 1000 A.A class, £45 Telephone 07786 112126.

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OBITUARY

Alexander (Sandy) MacFarlane 1938-2011

WITH the sudden passing of Sandy MacFarlane, Lochaber has not only lost a popular activist within the community but has also seen a link broken in its history, stretching back to the 1745 Jacobite uprising. Sandy was quietly proud of his Highland roots and a family history of public service which was epitomised by the Rotarian motto of 'Service above Self'. His great-great grandmother was the granddaughter of Alexander MacDonell, Chief of Keppoch, who died leading his clan in battle at Culloden in 1746. Sandy would have been very conscious of this connection when each year he attended the Glenfinnan Gathering to commemorate the Raising of the Standard. Sandy's grandfather Peter and his father George, both former Provosts of Fort William, were active leaders within community organisations and set a fine example for Sandy to follow. Like his two forefathers, Sandy became a qualified pharmacist in the family business and he too threw himself into community life through organisations such as the Rotary Club of Lochaber, Crossroads Lochaber and the Ben Nevis Race Association. He did not follow his mentors into local politics. Sandy was educated at St Mary's Primary School, Fort William, before attending Blair's College near Aberdeen. From there, with a view to becoming a priest, he spent two years at St Sulpice in Paris before deciding to study pharmacy at Robert Gordon College in Aberdeen from 1959 to 1964. A fortunate decision in many respects and not least because a fellow student caught his eye and she was to become his partner for the next 47 years. Sandy and Pat married in 1964 and shortly after the newlyweds and newly qualified pharmacists took over the running of the family business in Fort William High Street. Early retirement in 1994 meant Sandy had more time to devote to the Rotary Club of Lochaber of which he was an ex-president and a recipient of the Paul Harris Fellowship - the highest accolade in the international Rotary movement. As a director of Crossroads Lochaber, Sandy played an active role in the organisation's development. The organisation of the annual Ben Nevis Race took up much of his time and it was a labour of love. Sandy's father George was the driving force behind the formation of the Ben Nevis Race Association in 1951 and for the past 60 years the MacFarlane family has been associated with the event. His absence from next January's Lochaber Burns Club supper will cast a shadow over the evening. Sandy's grandfather, Peter, was a founding member of the club when it was formed circa 1894 and Sandy, it is believed, attended the last 45 consecutive suppers. With retirement came the opportunity for Sandy to follow his love of shinty and in particular Fort William Shinty Club, of which he was an honorary vice president. Sandy enjoyed not only the sport but the culture of the craic, aye, and the dram that accompanied Scotland's national sport. Sandy was a Highland gentleman in the truest sense and mixed easily in any company being equally at home in the public bar having craic with friends or dining and drinking fine meals in the best country house hotels in Scotland. Donald Cameron.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

PSALM 29: 2 'Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendour of his holiness.' Many go to church each week but why? Well, this Psalm sums it up to ascribe to the Lord the glory due to his name. We look at his creation all around and we come to give thanks in worship. To give thanks for all he does for us each day; for the food on our table, clothes on our back, for families and friends around us. To give thanks for his love for us, a love so great that he allowed his son Jesus to die on a cross for us, so that all that believe in him shall not perish but have eternal life. When we come on a Sunday to worship we come into his presence and as we come we should come with a sense of expectancy - what is he going to say to me today? It may be in a hymn or psalm, it may be in a prayer, it may be from the reading or preaching of God's never changing word. Bill Harvey Churches Rural Group

BIRTHS

**FORGRIEVE - MACDOUGALL** - Gemma and Finlay are delighted to announce the safe arrival of baby Aimee, born on September 16, 2011, a wee sister for Eve. Thanks to all at Oban Maternity.

GOLDEN WEDDING

**BEATON - MACTAGGART** - On October 5, 1961, Frank to Lucy, by Rev. WM MacDonald at Oban Old Parish Church.

DEATHS

**BLUE** - Mary (nee Watson), died peacefully at the Lorn and Islands hospital, Oban on October 2, 2011, aged 79 years. Beloved wife of the late Donald, much loved Mum of Donnie, Mary, Bobby, Brian and the late Lilian, dear sister to Betty, and a loving grandmother and great grandmother. Funeral service will be held in Church of Scotland, Glencruitten Road, Oban today, Thursday October 6, at 1pm, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Glencruitten Road Church Funds.

**CARMICHAEL** - Peacefully at Willen Hospice, Milton Keynes after a short illness Sue, beloved wife of Charlie (Portsonnachen), dear mother of Mara, Oona, Douglas and Sally, and nana to Tinaya and Finlay.

**CARMICHAEL** - Peacefully, at Redwoods Nursing Home, Aleson on Saturday October 1, 2011, John Hugh, aged 96 years (formerly of Clachanach, Mory Drain Road, Lochgilphead). Father of Archie, Jenny, Catrina and Elizabeth. Graveside service at Tobermory Cemetery, Isle of Mull on Friday October 7, at 2pm. All friends respectfully invited. Enquiries to D. Gunn, Funeral Home, Dingwall. Tel: 01349 863951.

**CIARELLA** - Suddenly on September 26, 2011, Nicholas, beloved and loving son of Peter and the late Anne Ciarella, much loved brother of Margaret, dear uncle of Cara and Paul and a loved nephew and cousin. Requiem Mass at St Margaret's Church, Lochgilphead, Friday, October 7, at 1pm, interment thereafter at Achnabreac Cemetery, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Flowers, or retiring collection if desired, for Mary's Meals.

**MACAFFER** - Peacefully at Islay Hospital on October 2, 2011, Flora-Anne, aged 87 years, beloved daughter of the late Rose Catherine MacCaig and the late Donald MacDougall, blacksmith, Port Ellen and much loved sister of Isabella and Duncan and the late Christina. Interred in Kilnoughton Cemetery, Islay.

**MACFARLANE** - Alexander (Sandy), Fort William. Suddenly and with great dignity at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary on September 28, 2011, Sandy MacFarlane, aged 73 years. Dearly loved husband of Pat and brother of George, Margaret, Peter, Louisa and Catherine. Requiem Mass at St Margaret's, Roy Bridge on Wednesday, October 5 at 12 noon.

**MACKENZIE** - On September 28, 2011 at the Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban, aged 68 years, Margaret (nee MacKinnon), beloved wife of the late Jackie MacKenzie, dear mum of John and David, loving granny to Clodagh, Orla, Lorne, Heather and Calum, dear sister of Jetta and the late Iona. Sadly missed by all.

**RODAWAY** - Peacefully at home on October 3, 2011, aged 80 years, Bill, beloved husband of Ruth, father to Paul, Richard and daughter-in-law June, brother to Mary. Funeral will take place at Church of Scotland, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Friday October 14, at 1pm, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Motor Neurone Disease.

**STEPHEN** - Andrew (Stevie), died peacefully at home on September 17, 2011, aged 72 years. Dear husband of Fay and loving father of Lynn and Andrew and dearest grandpa of baby Rory. Sadly missed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**CAMPBELL** - Isobel and family of the late Hugh Campbell wish to thank neighbours, friends and relatives for their kind

words of sympathy. Thank you for telephone calls, sympathy cards and floral tributes, Dr Alison Murray at the Lorn Medical Centre, Dr Henderson and nursing staff of Ward B and I for their care and support, Ambulance Crew, Medico for their home care, Hamish Hoey for funeral arrangements. Thanks to Father James MacNeill for his comforting Mass and the Royal Hotel for the catering. Thanks to those who paid respects at the church and graveside and those who travelled to be there on the day. A sum of £311.52 was raised for Alzheimer's Scotland.

**DAVIS** - Olive and family would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their kind messages of sympathy, cards and flowers received following their recent bereavement. Special thanks to Rev. Guinness for his support throughout this sad time and his comforting service. Many thanks to Mike McFall and his staff for their sensitive funeral arrangements, MacDonald Brothers for the beautiful family flowers, Sheila Hancock for arranging the church flowers, Murray MacLeod for providing and driving the family car and The Westend Hotel staff for their hospitality. Sincere thanks also to the doctors, day care team and all staff at Abbeyfield, Ballachulish for their dedicated care and support all through Don's illness. Many thanks to all who paid their respects at the church and graveside and their generous contribution of £330.20 in the name of Abbeyfield Residents' Fund.

**GILLIES** - Gareth would like to express his heartfelt thanks for the love and support shown to him on the tragic loss of his father Murray. To McLellan & Co for their sensitive funeral arrangements, Rev MacQuarrie for his words of comfort and to all that paid their respects on the day. The sum of £1,385 was raised for Depression Alliance Scotland.

**GRAHAM** - The family of the late Margaret Graham would like to thank everyone for their kind messages of sympathy, for attending the church service and graveside. Thanks also to staff of Lorn and Islands Hospital, especially Ward B, doctors and nurses at Lorn Medical Centre, Hamish Hoey and Son for funeral arrangements and to Donald MacKinnon.

**LIVINGSTON** - The family of the late Kenneth Livingston would like to thank Pastor Donald Kirsop and his wife Elizabeth for the lovely service at Tobermory Evangelical Church, also to Mr William and Mrs Anna Wood for the lovely music and to Pastor Donald for the graveside service at Tobermory Cemetery and to all who gave to the Scripture Union c/o Tobermory Evangelical Church in lieu of flowers. May God bless each one of you. Special thanks to our best friend Sandra Clark and her son Ryan for their ongoing support. 2 Thesalonians Chapter 4 Verses 13 to 18

**MACLEOD** - The family of the late Ruaraidh MacLeod would like to thank all family and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards, phone calls and flowers received on their recent sad loss. Thanks to doctors and staff at Islay Hospital and paramedics for their excellent care, Rev Rob Barlow for a comforting service and piper Andrew MacEachan. Special thanks to Ian and staff at Lochindaal for an excellent purvey and to Craig and Jean MacAffer for their excellent funeral arrangements and all that paid their last respects at the church and graveside and who donated so generously £420 to Islay Hospital.

**MORRISON** - Johnny, Colin and family would like to thank family and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy and cards received on the sad loss of Peggy. Special thanks to Drs and nurses, Wards A and I, Lorn and Islands District Hospital. Many thanks also to Rev Ken Hunter, Congregational Church, D & A Munn for funeral arrangements, Royal Hotel for buffet and Moreen Gracie for flowers. A collection of £355.25 was raised for Oban Hospice.

**STEPHEN** - Fay, Lynn and Andrew would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for the expressions of sympathy, cards and floral tributes, Dr Ellis, Dr MacConnell, Macmillan nurses,

community nurses and Crossroads for the care they gave Stevie during his illness, Rev Donald Davidson for the moving service and Helen and Douglas for the funeral arrangements. Many thanks to everyone who attended the church and graveside. Donations collected have been divided between St Paul's Church and Crossroads, 5 Appin Road, Kinlochleven.

MEMORIALS

**CLARK** - In loving memory of a much loved husband, dad and granpa who passed away October 2, 2010. We watched you getting tired A cure was not to be God put his arms around you And whispered come with me Till in Gods love we meet again - Loving wife Mary and family home and away.

**CRAIG** - In loving memory of a much loved husband, father, father-in-law and grandpa, John (Jack) Craig, who died October 10, 1993. As time goes by without you And days turn into years They hold a million memories And so many silent tears Loved and remembered always. - Irene xx

**CRAIG** - Not a day goes by without a thought and tear And the constant wish that you were near. - Carole, Neil, Allan, Graham and Alison xx

**CURRIE** - In loving memory of our beloved dad and papa Cally died October 4, 1999. A page in our book of memories Is gently turned today. - Ian, Mary, Iona and Ashley, Agnes, Martin, Chloe and Leona.

**GORDON** - Loving memories of Michelle died September 28, 2005, aged 19. Michelle, a ray of sunshine Who brightened up each day She'll never be forgotten As we think of her always. - Cathie, Karen and Alex

**MACKAY** - In loving memory of Donald Mackay who died October 5, 2010, dearly loved husband, father, father in law and grandpa. Loved and remembered always. - Norah, Stephen, Catherine and family, Christine, Iain and family, Donald, Donna and family.

**MACKENZIE** - Treasured memories of our beloved son and brother, Jamie, died October 1, 2000, aged 24 years. Time won't heal the heartache Nor stop a silent tear Nor dim the treasured memories Of one we hold so dear. - Mum, Dad and Andrew.

**MACKENZIE** - In loving memory of my dear grandson, Jamie, who died October 1, 2000. We watched you getting tired A cure was not to be God put his arms around you And whispered come to me. - Granny Henderson.

**MACLEAN** - Fondest memories of our dear, much loved mum, Bella, who passed away October 3, 2007 and also our dear dad, Lachlan, who passed away June 14, 1992. Loved and remembered everyday Always in our thoughts. - Teen, Angela and Alexander.

**MCCOLL** - In memory of Archie, a dear husband, father and grandfather, who died October 1, 1991. Missing you and loving you every day. - Inserted by wife, Mabel and families in Caol, Caihness and Canada.

**MILLS** - Treasured memories of Billy a loving husband, father, father-in-law and grandpa who died October 6, 2008. It's lonely here without you I miss you more each day For life is not the same to me Since you were called away. If I could have one lifetime wish One dream that could come true I would pray to God with all my heart For yesterday and you. - Your loving wife Helen xxx

Remembering you is easy We do it every day Missing you is the heartache That never goes away. - Love Violet, Helen, Gordon, Billy, Gordon Jnr and Paul xx

**NICHOLSON** - Treasured memories of my darling wife, Patricia, who passed away October 4, 1993. Eighteen 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 families.

**OWENS** - In loving memory of our greatly missed parents and grandparents Tommy and Moira who passed away 5 and 16 years ago in this first week of October A page in the Book of Memory Silently turns today As the years fly by like Autumn leaves As each and everyone of us grieves Although we smile and make no fuss No-one misses you more than us And when old times we often recall That's when we miss you most of all For there is a link that death cannot sever As Love and Remembrance last forever Lorraine, Walker, Louise and families xxxxxxxxxxxx

**REID** - In loving memory of Leslie who died on October 8, 2010, a beloved husband and father. Sadly missed along life's way Quietly remembered every day. - Catriona and Katie.

**REID** - In loving memory of Les, our dad and papa who died one year ago. Sadly missed Diarmid, Douglas, Leslie, Eileen and families.

**SIMCOX** - Remembering with love our dear son Garry tragically killed in Dubai, October 10, 1984. - Davie and Helen, Easdale.

**STODDART** - Kenneth John, 4 Kilbride, Broadford, Isle of Skye, died October 12, 2000. Forever in our thoughts. - Donald John and family in Fort William and Skye.

**STEELE** - In loving memory of Margaret Steele, who died October 8, 2000 Miss you always Mum Morag and Nigel.

**STEELE** - In loving memory of a special mum, Margaret, who died on October 8, 2000. Always in our hearts. With love, Alan and Diane

**TINDALL** - In loving memory of my beloved husband Freddie, who died October 5, 2007. Kind memories, forever in my heart. Love Morag.

**WALKER** - In loving memory of our mother and grandmother Marybell who passed away on October 4, 1990. Always in our thoughts. - Allan and family, Islay, Gartmore and Blenheimfield.

**WALKER** - In loving memory of our dear mother Marybell who died October 4, 1990. Forever in our thoughts. - Inserted by her loving son Donald and Morag, Airport Cottage, Islay.

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ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**  
Sunday 9 October 2011  
Trinity 16  
St John's Cathedral, Oban  
Holy Communion.....08.00  
Sung Eucharist.....10.15  
Sunday School and Creche  
Loop System  
Large Print Hymn Books  
All Welcome  
Norman MacCallum, Provost.  
(01631) 562323  
St Columba, Gruline, Mull  
Holy Communion.....11.00  
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona  
Holy Eucharist.....08.00  
Evensong.....20.00

**LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
Sunday  
North Connel Hall  
10:30am  
All Welcome  
01866 822286 or 07788598843  
www.lorncf.org.uk

**ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN**  
Campbell Street Church  
Sunday 9 October 2011  
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.  
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available  
Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh  
(01631) 567076  
All welcome

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, LOCHABER AND LORN MEETING.**  
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GRADUATIONS



Christine Nicol graduated from Langside College with an HNC in Health and Social Care, currently working at Glencruitten Hostel, Oban. Christine is the daughter of the late Ian and Agnes McCuish, Oban.



Linda Johnstone graduated from Langside College with an HNC in Health and Social Care, currently working at Glencruitten Hostel, Oban. Linda is the daughter of the late Hector and Mary Campbell, Lochawe.

WEDDINGS



**BOWDEN - HIGGINS**  
Samantha Bowden & Ross Higgins were married at Drumneil House, Appin on August 25th 2011. They celebrated here with friends & family. Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



**ROWLAND - SOWA**  
Julie Rowland & Michael Sowa were married at The Blair Estate, near Dalry, Ayrshire on August 24th 2011. They celebrated their marriage at this spectacular venue with friends & family. Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



**SINCLAIR - MACKENZIE**  
Fiona Sinclair & Roddy Mackenzie were married at Glenbarr Village Hall by Tarbert on September 2nd 2011. They held their wedding dance at The Argyll Hotel, Bellochantry. Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



**BENNETT - MELDRUM**  
Married on 20th August 2011 at St Modan's Church, Benderloch, Argyll.  
Douglas Robert, son of the late Tom and Ann Bennett, Helensburgh to Linda Alison, elder daughter of James and Elizabeth Meldrum, Dumbarton and granddaughter of the late Andy and Elsie Robb, Benderloch. Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.

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**FEELY - ROBIN**  
The marriage took place at Loch Melfort Hotel on 23rd July 2011 of Susan, younger daughter of Tam and Jean Feely, Carlisle to Douglas, son of Brian and Anne Robin, Isle of Seil. A beautiful day!

# A 'must win' for Oban Camanachd

## Two points against Kilmallie essential in fight to avoid drop

**OBAN CAMANACHD** will welcome Kilmallie to Mossfield on Saturday knowing two points are essential in their battle against relegation from the Scottish Hydro Premier Division.

With a tough trip away to Newtonmore in their final game of the season, Camanachd must look to Saturday for insurance. 'There's no doubt Saturday is a must win,' said Tony Howlett, who took his place on the sidelines in the defeat to Glenurquhart last weekend.

'I think Lovat will get two points against Glenorchy and Inveraray are now ahead of us in the league.

'It is very tight at the bottom and we don't want to go to Newtonmore needing to win.'

Tony said he was disappointed with the way Camanachd succumbed to Glenurquhart last Saturday; when an 89th minute goal for the visitors secured a 3-1 victory.

Scott MacMillan, who will miss this weekend's crucial tie, scored Oban's only goal from the penalty spot.

Tony added: 'On Saturday we had our strongest team, on paper, but we didn't deserve anything from the game.'

For their part, **KILMALLIE** will be looking to make their place in the premier division next year safe and plunge Oban Camanachd into more relegation worries when the sides meet on Saturday.

The Caol side only need one point from their final three matches to be assured of a place in the top division next season, but they will want to do it sooner rather than later.

Kilmallie haven't played since the end of August due to a number of postponements.

Oban won 3-1 when the sides met at Canal Parks on the opening day of the season, a result Kilmallie will be keen to avoid a repeat of.

Also down at the bottom, **LOVAT** will be looking for two points against Glenorchy on Saturday to close the gap

on Oban and Inveraray. The Kiltarlity side's relegation worries increased last weekend as they slipped to second bottom after losing 4-3 to Kingussie.

Lovat took an early lead at Balgate Park when Greg Matheson scored in the first minute, but were quickly pegged back through James Hutchison's goal just two minutes later.

Matheson again gave his side the lead when he struck in the 18th minute, but a resilient Kings side drew level 10 minutes later when Ronald Ross got his first of the afternoon.

Barrie Dallas put the visitors ahead a minute into the second half, but when Euan Ferguson equalised in the 54th minute it was anyone's game.

Ross scored his second of the game with just five minutes on the clock to deny Lovat the draw.

### Confident

If results go against John MacRitchie's men, they could be relegated on Saturday, but they will feel confident of beating winless Glenorchy.

Lovat ran out 6-0 winners when the sides met in April.

In what has been a season to forget for lowly Glenorchy, coach Allan MacKechnie has urged his players to put points on the board against fellow strugglers Lovat on Saturday.

With no points from 16 games and sitting bottom of the Scottish Hydro Premier Division, Glenorchy's best chance of points, on paper, is this weekend's game.

'Under normal circumstances, this would be a game we would look to win but I'm not sure what kind of team I will get out on Saturday,' conceded Allan.

'We have got to look at picking up something from the game.'

'There's no point in playing if you don't think that can happen.'

Allan's players responded to question marks over their commitment to the cause when a makeshift team battled hard against a more experienced Inveraray last week.

With no recognised defenders available, a major re-shuffle was required, and a 5-0 defeat was the result.

'Fair play to the boys that turned out for the Inveraray game, they gave me everything but we were missing up to six of our best players,' said Allan.

'With a full team we would have given Inveraray a game but all season we haven't made teams work for their goals,' he added.

### Wary

**KYLES ATHLETIC** will be wary of dropping points against an unpredictable Inveraray team this weekend, following last week's anti-climax of a postponed match against title rivals Newtonmore.

With the re-arranged match against last season's champions proposed for November 12, Kyles could have the league wrapped up by the time the two sides meet.

Club trainer James Perlich admitted everyone at the club was disappointed the match didn't go ahead, as they had tried to find several alternative venues when their own pitch was declared unplayable.

'It was extremely disappointing and frustrating,' he admitted.

'We looked at Mossfield, Taynuilt and even Spean Bridge to get the Newtonmore game played.'

'We had a full squad available and the boys were ready for it.'

'We are out for a win on Saturday, because if we get four points from our next two games, it would be very difficult for Newtonmore to retain the league.'



Oban Camanachd's James MacMillan battles for possession in the game against Glenurquhart at Mossfield on Saturday. The visitors came away with a 3-1 victory.

## Kilmory hope results elsewhere go their way

THE SENDING off of goal threat Alex Cunningham ended any hopes of a comeback for **KILMORY**, who went down 3-1 to Kyles Athletic last weekend in South Division 1.

At 2-1 down in Tighnabruich, Cunningham was given his marching orders for swearing at the referee and Kyles subsequently scored a fatal third goal.

Kilmory chairman Angus Gilmour said: 'It was quite a close game on Saturday but indiscipline let us down.'

'We were in the game at 2-1 down but absolute stupidity has cost us any chance of getting on level terms. The sending off was the defining point.'

'There is no excuse for swearing at the referee because there is only ever going to be one outcome.'

Scott Sinclair scored the Lochgilphead team's only goal of the game.

Kilmory have one more game against Bute to fulfil their fixture list but will have to wait for results in other leagues to find out which division they are playing in next season.

A defeat to the peerless **BUTE** in their final game on Saturday was not enough to take the shine off a successful season overall at **TAYNUILT** Shinty Club.

### Departure

But it also signalled the departure of coach Fraser Inglis after four years, during which time he helped to establish the club as a South Division One team.

Fraser said: 'It is important the club gets a fresh approach. They need new ideas on the playing side and that is why I thought it

was time to leave. There is a lot of enthusiasm around the club and people willing to come in and help.'

It is still open as to who will coach the team next season but they still have Davy Thomson there and there are good senior players there, like Willie Gillies and George Reid.'

Taynuilt had matched league champions Bute for most of the game on Saturday.

Holding Bute at 2-2, thanks to a double from Stuart Scott, Taynuilt's lack of match time in recent weeks began to tell, as the islanders scored three late goals to maintain their 100 per cent win record.

'We gave an excellent performance against the best team in the league and competed for 85 per cent of the game,' said Fraser.

'For most of the game you wouldn't know which team were champions. Although it was a defeat, it was a good way to end the season.'

**LOCHSIDE ROVERS'** final game of the 2011 season would be forfeited at the expense of the senior team, Oban Camanachd, should the need arise.

That was the message from co-manager Tony Howlett, who stressed ensuring Camanachd's future in the premier league was the club's priority.

Lochside are scheduled to finish their season on Saturday with a trip to Tighnabruich.

'We [Lochside] are missing a few players anyway but with the first team short, we'll need to let a few boys play with Camanachd as well.'

Hopefully we will be able to field a team but if I need to forfeit

the game, I will. The first team is the priority.'

**OBAN CELTIC** are already looking towards next season after a season when injury and inconsistent team selection proved damaging to their league aspirations.

A 7-2 defeat at Glasgow Mid Argyll in their last game of the season on Saturday was indicative of many problems experienced throughout the season.

'We missed a lot of good chances,' said club member David Hamilton.

'We conceded two early goals and then missed a penalty when we were 2-0 down.'

A 4-0 deficit at half time was too much to claw back, although goals from Kenny Wotherspoon and Gary McKerracher gave the team something to smile about.

# Victory ends decade-long losing streak for South of Scotland U17s

THE SOUTH of Scotland U17s ended a sorry run of defeats by overcoming their North counterparts for the first time in more than a decade at Mossfield on Sunday.

In the climax to a thrilling day of inter-district shinty in the Oban area, which saw the north face the south at U14, U17, U18 girls and senior women levels the South of Scotland U17s claimed a dramatic 4-3 victory over the North of Scotland.

After a close opening quarter it was the North who produced the first real chances of the game and Jack MacDonald claimed the first goal of the game after 15 minutes.

The North went on to double their advantage mid-way through the first half through an

unstoppable Jordan Murchison strike. The South, who always had a foothold in the game, got their rewards when Alec Mitchell drove their first clear cut chance of the game past Calum MacDonald in the North goal.

As the first half drew to a close, the South continued to play good shinty and the two teams were evenly matched throughout the park.

If there was one difference between the teams, it was a cutting edge up front, which the North proved to have in spades as Jack MacDonald pounced to claim his second of the game just before the break.

Despite the two-goal deficit, the goal-keeping skills of Kyles' Innes MacDonald steadied the

ship, allowing the midfield to push on. As the final quarter approached, the South dominance in midfield started to tell and on the 70th minute Craig Anderson latched onto a Malcolm Clark cross to bring the South right back into the game.

### Hat-trick

With the big support at Mossfield urging the South on they got just rewards for their efforts as Craig Anderson completed his hat-trick with a well worked free hit and a well taken goal right on 90 minutes to claim a dramatic 4-3 victory.

Earlier in the day the North U14s defeated the South U14s 7-2 at Taynuilt, Skye's Will Cowie claiming four goals for the North with Fraser MacMillan, of Taynuilt, and Jamie MacVicar,

of Col-Glen, being the South's marksmen. In the Artemis Macaulay Association-sponsored women's games it was the North who claimed both victories.

An Alison MacVicar hat-trick for the South U18s was just not enough for the South as the North claimed a last gasp winner to win 4-3.

In the senior women's game the North proved to be too strong, running out 6-0 winners in a dominant performance.

Darren Reid, Argyll and Bute Shinty Development Officer, said: 'It was a great day for representative shinty and a good showcase for the sport. It was a great climax to the day with the U17 South boys winning.'

### Fixtures

**Saturday 8 October**  
(All throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated)

**Scottish Hydro Premier Division**  
Glenorchy v Lovat  
Billy Wotherspoon  
Oban Camanachd v Kilmallie  
David Mitchell  
Kyles Athletic v Inveraray  
Ted McDonald (3pm)

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Kilmory v Bute  
Gus Campbell  
Kyles Ath v Lochside Rovers  
Dunkie Kerr (12 noon)

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Kinlochshiel v Kilmallie  
Jock Matheson  
Glenarray v Lovat  
Iain Kennedy

### Results

**Scottish Hydro Premier Division**  
Glenorchy 0, Inveraray 5  
Kyles Ath P - P Newtonmore  
Unplayable Field  
Lovat 3, Kingussie 4  
Oban Caman 1, Glenurquhart 3

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Kilmallie 1, Glenurquhart 1  
Skye 5, Glenarray 1

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Glasgow MA 7, Oban Celtic 2  
Kyles Athletic 3, Kilmory 1  
Taynuilt 2, Bute 5.

### League tables

Scottish Hydro Premier Division	P	W	D	L	Pts
Kyles Athletic	15	12	3	0	27
Newtonmore	15	11	3	1	25
Fort William	18	10	2	6	22
Kingussie	17	7	5	5	19
Glenurquhart	17	8	2	7	18
Kilmallie	15	7	1	7	15
Inveraray	17	6	1	10	13
Oban Camanachd	16	5	2	9	12
Lovat	16	5	1	10	11
Glenorchy	16	0	0	16	0

Marine Harvest North Division One	P	W	D	L	Pts
Kinlochshiel	14	14	0	0	28
Lochaber	14	9	1	4	19
Beauly	14	6	5	3	17
Caberfeidh	14	6	3	5	15
Lochcarron	14	4	5	5	13
Skye	14	4	2	8	10
Inverness	14	1	4	9	6
Strathglass	14	1	2	11	4

Marine Harvest South Division One	P	W	D	L	Pts
Bute	15	15	0	0	30
Glasgow MA	16	10	3	3	23
Lochside Rvrs	15	8	2	5	18
Taynuilt	16	7	2	7	16
Ballachulish	16	7	2	7	16
Kyles Athletic	15	7	0	9	12
Oban Celtic	16	4	4	8	12
Kilmory	15	3	2	10	8
Aberdour	16	2	1	13	5

Marine Harvest North Division Two	P	W	D	L	Pts
Newtonmore	18	16	1	1	33
Fort William	17	11	3	3	25
Glenarray	16	10	0	7	20
Kingussie	18	7	2	9	16
Skye	18	7	1	10	15
Lochaber	18	7	0	11	14
Lovat	17	7	1	9	13
Glenurquhart	18	6	1	11	13
Kinlochshiel	17	6	1	10	13
Kilmallie	17	3	4	10	10

Marine Harvest South Division Two	P	W	D	L	Pts
Strachur	14	12	1	1	25
Tayforth	14	11	1	2	23
Bute	14	7	3	4	17
Colglen	14	7	0	7	14
Ballachulish	14	5	1	8	11
Inveraray	14	5	0	7	10
Glasgow MA	14	4	8	7	10
Aberdour	14	1	0	13	2

Marine Harvest North Division Three	P	W	D	L	Pts
Aberdeen U	16	16	0	0	32
Beauly	18	13	2	3	28
Boleskine	18	14	1	4	27
Caberfeidh	18	12	2	4	26
Lochcarron	18	7	2	9	16
Lochbroom	18	6	4	8	16
Inverness	18	5	1	12	11
Strathglass	17	4	1	13	9
Ardnamurchan	17	4	0	13	8
Lewis	18	1	1	15	3



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This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

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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.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

**Easy to enter**

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, 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.

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I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box)  The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

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## Oban Saints youth teams - results and fixtures

### YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Helensburgh v Under 13s, postponed; Milngavie v Under 14s, postponed; Under 15s 5, EDFC United 1. Scoring for Saints were Fraser MacFarlane (3), Dougie MacLeod and Daniel MacMillan. Under 16s 4, Strathleven 2. Netting for the Oban side were Ryan MacDougall (2), Liam MacEachan and Aidan Campbell.

The youth teams have no games for the next two weeks.

## October shinty camp in Oban

### SHINTY

A SHINTY camp for budding young players will take place on October 14 at Mossfield Stadium.

Players will be split up by age and ability and allowed to play fun and exciting matches tailored to give each player lots of time on the ball.

No previous experience is necessary and any equipment needed can be provided. For further information contact Darren Reid on 07824367996 or email darren.reid@shinty.com

## Ladies squash

### SQUASH

MONDAY night is ladies night at Atlantis Leisure, in Oban.

The night takes place weekly from 6.20pm - 9pm

# Experience key in Oban run

A STRONG entry of 62 runners enjoyed perfect conditions for this year's Atlantis Leisure Oban Half Marathon.

There was a good turnout of both local runners and visitors, with a particularly strong contingent from Lochaber Athletics Club.

In both the men's and women's event older runners out-performed their younger counterparts.

First to finish in the men's event was Tim Brand in a time of 1.21.07. Tim was also first male veteran and first local male.

Second to finish and first in the senior male category was Alan Ross in 1.21.24.

The star of the recent Atlantis 5k series, local man Gregor MacGregor, was third to finish in 1.23.27.

The male super veteran category was won by Alastair Hall in a time of 1.31.32.

Winner of the women's event, and first female veteran, was Amanda Blackhall in a time of 1.32.40.

Hilary Millar was second overall, and second in the female veteran category, in 1.38.17 and third woman, and third female veteran, was Kirsty Burnett in 1.42.56.

Laura Barber was first in the female senior category in

### HALF MARATHON

1.43.58 (fourth woman overall) and Doreen Henderson won the female super veteran category in 1.53.30.

Winner of the first local woman's prize went to Isabella Perriot in a time of 1.50.46.

After experimenting with a few different routes to iron out the worst of Oban's hills a new course has now been established.

Starting from Atlantis the runners set off through the town to Gallanach where they turned and ran all the way back into town and on to Ganavan.

### Negotiate

To make up the 13.1 miles distance the runners also had to negotiate the steep climb out of Ganavan car park onto the cycle path, where they continued on to the start of the descent at the Dunbeg end of the path, and then turned around for the homeward stretch back to Atlantis.

A first for this year's Oban Half Marathon was the use of race timing chip technology. All runners wore race chips around their ankles which recorded accurate times as they crossed the start/finish line.

Results can be found on the Atlantis Facebook page.



Kerrera's Gregor MacGregor finished in third place. 15\_140obanhalf4

## Home form improves as men in green get back on track

### RBS West Division 2 Oban Lorne 17 Cumbernauld 15

OBAN Lorne avenged an early-season cup defeat against Cumbernauld by winning the teams' first league meeting at Glencruitten last Saturday.

The first score of the game, however, came from Cumbernauld. A well worked move through the backs in midfield allowed the left winger to collect the ball in space, before doing well to fend off several Oban defenders and touch down over the line.

The men in green were rewarded for an improvement in the performance with a scrappy but vital score midway through

### RUGBY

the first half. Scrum half Fergus Matheson touched down after hacking through a loose ball in the away 22.

Oban opened the scoring in the second half. The Oban pack won a scrum against the head five metres from the opposition try line. Matheson passed the ball to Allan Wright on the blindside who was held up just short of the line. Veteran Davie Laurie wrestled the ball free to carry it over the line only to be held by several Cumbernauld defenders.

The ball eventually found the hands of Andy MacDougall who managed to touch down. Angus

MacCallum converted to give a 14-7 lead.

Cumbernauld narrowed the score to 14-10 with a penalty before scoring another try out wide. This gave them a 15-14 lead with around 15 minutes remaining.

Oban kept their heads up after this setback and MacCallum kicked a well-deserved penalty to regain the lead. The team stood firm in the final minutes despite the sin binning of Calum MacLauchlan and even looked certain to score on a couple of occasions.

Oban Lorne visit Strathendrick next weekend who have won three out of their opening four games this season.

## Scott races to success

CONNEL quad racer Scott Sinclair will leave a successful season in the juniors behind him next year, after easing to victory in his first taste of adult competition.

For his last race of the season, Scott moved up to the adult support class in the English Nett Championship to gauge next year's racing competition, at Wooley Grange, south of Newcastle.

He took to his father's KTM 505 to the start line of the adult 28-bike field and never looked back, winning all three races comfortably.

### QUAD BIKING

Scott also recently took part in the last round of the Scottish Quad Championship in Cardenden, Fife.

He raced his Connor Kerr prepped YFZ 250 to a first overall, with two race wins and a second place after a slight crash in the second race.

He finished the season second by an agonising four points.

Scott said he was looking forward to next season and thanked his sponsors for the past and future racing.

## Scottish Cup tie called off due to waterlogged pitch

### FOOTBALL

LAST Saturday's Scottish Amateur Cup first round tie between Caledonian League side Weirs Recreation and Oban Saints was called off.

A pitch inspection on the Saturday morning found the playing surface at Lochinch in Glasgow, to be waterlogged.

The game will now take place this Saturday instead at the same venue with a 2pm kick-off.

## Two new champions at Oban

SATURDAY, October 1, was the last day for outdoor bowling for 2011. The weather was fair so a game was arranged between President Donald MacLean's team and Vice President Gerry

Flannigan's team. This year the President's team was victorious. After the game and meal the prizegiving was held. There are two new faces as champions this year.



Oban Bowling Club 2011 Champions Anne MacDougall and Duncan MacAlpine.

### BOWLING

Ladies champion: Winner - Anne MacDougall; runner up - Anne Campbell; Ardsheal - Helen MacLean; Moira Spreadbury. Ladies senior handicap - Anne Stewart, Peggy MacPherson D Cumming, Janet Campbell, Sandra Grieve, Morag Skinner, Maureen Goldie, Helen MacLean.

Men's champion - Duncan MacAlpine; MacBrayne - Callum MacAlpine; MacEwan - Robert Dairon Duncan MacAlpine; Centenary - Ian MacMillan Ian Weir. Senior singles - Gordon Cruickshanks.

Ladies nominated pairs - Anne MacDougall and Janet Campbell; Ladies balloted pairs - Helen MacLean and Anne Stewart.

Gents nominated pairs - Duncan MacAlpine and Ian MacMillan; Gents balloted pairs - Norrie Etherson and Andrew Forbes; Mixed pairs - Helen and Donald MacLean.

Ladies nominated triples - Helen MacLean Margaret MacAlpine and Donna Forbes; Ladies balloted triples - Helen MacLean, Margaret MacLauchlan and Sandra Grieve.

Gents nominated triples - Donald MacLean, Jimmy MacGregor and Andrew Forbes; Gents balloted triples - Iain Boyd, Duncan MacAlpine and George MacNaughton.

The popular Friday night Triples which runs all season was won by Callum MacAlpine, Donnie Douglas and Duncan MacCall, hard on their heels came the team of Mike Kelly, Anne Campbell and Janet Campbell.

## Good performance from Andrew at Honda Youth Challenge

YOUNG Oban Sailing Club (OSC) member Andrew Pretswell finished a creditable seventh at the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Honda Youth Challenge finals held in Southampton.

The Honda Youth Challenge is a national championship in rigid inflatable boats (RIBs) for junior/youths, run by the RYA through its affiliated clubs and training centres.

The competition is a time-trial around a set course to demonstrate the skill, accuracy and speed of the competitor.

After winning the regional final in Edinburgh in the 8-12 years age group, 11-year-old Andrew qualified for the UK final in Southampton. On the day the Scottish competitors, including Andrew, were a bit unlucky since the wind

increased for their time trials, which made conditions more difficult.

Andrew finished his seventh in 01:59:00, coming seventh out of 14 youngsters from all over the UK and Northern Ireland.

He said: 'Although it was a long journey to Southamp-



Andrew Pretswell of Oban Sailing Club competed in the UK finals of the Honda Youth Challenge.

### RIB CHALLENGE

ton, it was a great experience and I hope to qualify again next year.'

Oban Sailing Club uses RIBs as safety boats for dinghy sailing events and the club sees this competition as a fun and valuable learning experience for the next generation of safety boat drivers.

Mark and Caroline Carter of OSC carried out the training day for the competition. Toby Sherwin, OSC commodore, said: 'We are extremely proud of Andrew's achievement. To compete at this level in powerboats demands a lot of skill and Andrew showed he had what it takes on a national level. We hope the club will take part in the event once again in 2012.'

## Taynuilt toppers

CENTRE half Craig Campbell scored two goals as Taynuilt Amateurs beat Glasgow West in the Central Scottish Welfare League.

John Carmichael opened the scoring, before Campbell's brace ensured the three points.

Manager Stuart Reid said the performance was the team's best of the season so far.

This weekend the team are again at Oban Community Pitch

### FOOTBALL

when they take on Clydebank Co-op.

Taynuilt team: Murdo MacKenzie, Craig MacDougall, Ally Gunn, Martin Collins, Craig Campbell, Mark Robertson, Iain McInnes, Chris McCaig, Scott Maitland (man of the match), John Carmichael, Kenny McKechnie, Subs all used: David McPhee, Conner McIntyre, Chris McGrath and Joe Rakitta.



Taynuilt's man of the match Scott Maitland drives forward from midfield. 1401aynft1

## Oban Primary League boys show up well against visiting teams from the central belt

FOUR teams from the Oban Express Primary Football League (2002 age group) got to pit their wits against Ardencaple and Dumbarton 2002s, who had travelled to play.

Oban Saints 2002s started the day with a victory over Scorpions, who travel every week from Lochgilphead.

### Hard-fought

The other local teams played on pitch two with Jags coming out winners

against Tralee in a hard fought game. The travelling teams then got to show us their skills and Ardencaple defeated Scorpions through a late strike.

Dumbarton then played Oban Saints and both defences were in great form, hence the 0-0 scoreline. Dumbarton did find their way to goals in wins over Tralee and Scorpions and Ardencaple also recorded wins over Tralee and Jags.

In one of the games of the afternoon,

Ardencaple then got to play Oban Saints and went in front within a minute but Saints came right back into it through a Lennon Campbell strike.

### Character

Ardencaple took the lead for a second time but the Oban side showed great character to equalise yet again through the in-form Jude Bain.

This was the only points dropped by Ardencaple and was a good showing by the local side who then went on to

win against Tralee and Jags to remain unbeaten.

The other Oban league teams competed in a mini tournament.

In the primary four tournament Galaxy and Select served up the most exciting game of the day, which was settled by a well-worked goal from Galaxy, finished off by Pearce MacBeth. In the final game of the day Galaxy stung Wasps with the only goal of the game scored by Ellis Hunter.

In the senior tournament Saints Boys won all their matches with Craig Easton in particularly good form, finding the net against Red Star, Thistle and Lochneil with Lewis Buchanan scoring the only goal of the game against All Stars with a well-taken penalty.

### Bravest

In the junior league Ben Lora had a difficult day with an under strength squad and their bravest player of the day was Dylan Howe being the only

### PRIMARY FOOTBALL

boy in the otherwise all-girl side.

And when Dylan scored a terrific individual goal, he ended up in tears after being kissed by all his team mates in the celebration.

In other games, Spartak's Cameron Rowan showed off his outstanding tackling and Declan Thompson had a great day at the other end shooting at every opportunity.

## Weather

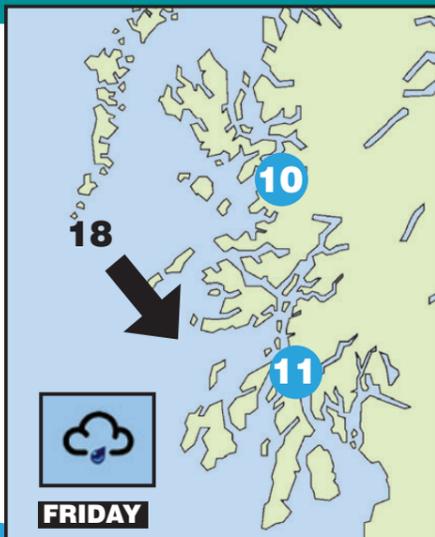
**Thursday** Light rain.  
Winds strong, west, north westerly  
Temperatures 10°C to 12°C

**Friday** Light rain.  
Winds moderate, north westerly  
Temperatures 9°C to 11°C.

**Weekend** Heavy rain.  
**Outlook** Winds moderate, southerly.  
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, October 6, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	02.21 2.7 07.23 1.7 14.23 3.2 20.21 1.8	
Fri	03.31 2.9 08.43 1.5 15.15 3.3 21.24 1.6	
Sat	04.04 3.1 09.36 1.3 15.45 3.5 22.04 1.4	
Sun	04.07 3.3 10.18 1.2 16.14 3.7 22.37 1.3	
Mon	04.30 3.5 10.55 1.0 16.45 3.9 23.07 1.1	
Tues	05.00 3.7 11.28 1.0 17.17 4.0 23.37 1.0	
Wed	05.29 3.9 11.59 1.0 17.48 4.1 ** **	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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# **The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.**

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

# The Oban Times

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### Search launched for missing man

EFFORTS were continuing yesterday morning (Wednesday) to find a local man last seen Monday afternoon in wild country on north Skye. Uig man Murdo Alick Lamont, aged 62, is believed to be missing in the area around Glen Rha and the Uig to Staffin public road over the Quiraing. Isle of Skye police officers, Rescue 100 Stornoway Coastguard helicopter, Skye Mountain Rescue Team, the Search and Rescue Dogs Association and volunteers from the Uig community are involved in the search. Mr Lamont is 6'5" tall, of slim build, with short grey hair. He was wearing a checked shirt, blue jeans and white trainers. PC Dan Goodwin, of Portree Police, said Mr Lamont is Uig born and bred and works as a part time labourer. Portree police are appealing for anyone who may have noticed a man walking along the Quiraing Road between 3pm and 5pm on Monday to contact them on 01478 612888.

### Attempts to save beached whale fail

ATTEMPTS to save an 18 metre long whale beached on South Uist have been abandoned. Local volunteers spent hours trying to refloat the animal, a rare sei whale, on a beach near Gerinish but stopped after experts said it was dying. The whale was found at about 1pm on Tuesday, and the rescue efforts had centred on getting it back into the sea at high tide, but it was decided the animal had been out of the water for too long.

### Gateway completed

THE GROUP wanting to erect a bronze sculpture to honour a renowned Isle of Skye climber have completed a gateway to the site in the Cullins. The Collic and Mackenzie Sculpture Group have been raising funds for the project to commemorate the achievements of Scosner man John Mackenzie and his climbing companion Norman Collie at Sligachan.



Kinlochleven residents got dressed up for the opening. 20\_140day01

### Local artist opens new arts and drama centre

KINLOCHLEVEN saw the official opening of a new community arts and drama hub on Saturday, with locals getting into the fancy dress spirit. Dramafish Studios recently took over a Kinlochleven Community Company unit, and the open day allowed people to come and take a look around to see what the centre offers.

Local drama worker Iona Munro opened her not-for-profit studio in the business park, with stalls, music and face painting among the attractions. Iona told *The Oban Times*: 'It's been a great day, and lots of local families and visitors have come along. We want to support arts in Lochaber and provide services that are not in existence at the moment.'

Local artist Brian Dickie, who runs Ballachulish village hall, officially opened the building as guest of honour. The studios comprise a meeting space for small scale rehearsals, a digital media suite for small film-making projects, workshop space for artists - including set building and pottery - plus storage for costume and technical kit.

### Caol couple celebrate 70 years of marriage



Celebrating 70 years together: Jack and Kathleen with Provost Allan Henderson and Queen's representative Iain Thornber. 20\_140wedding01

A CAOL couple were given a surprise when their seven children, 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren turned up at the Onich Hotel to help celebrate their platinum wedding anniversary.

Jack and Kathleen Austin, who have lived on Kennedy Court for the past 11 years, met in Belfast in August 1941, where Jack was stationed with the Royal Artillery. After a whirlwind romance they married just six weeks later.

Dunkirk veteran Jack, aged 94, worked for the Post Office for 42 years after the war. He was also a professional wrestler called 'Young Atlas'. Kathleen, aged 91, was a dressmaker and helped out helped out at Highland Hos-

pital for five years when she first moved to Lochaber. The couple moved to Caol to be closer to their daughter Brenda Austin-Dewar, who had moved to the area. Among the family helping to celebrate was a daughter from Australia, a great-grandniece from America and a son from England.

Provost Allan Henderson presented the couple with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of Highland Council and Deputy Lord Lieutenant Iain Thornber gave them a card on behalf of the Queen. The family asked for donations to the children's charity Smile Train instead of presents, and raised more than £500.

## New Mallaig bank hours still fall short

Petition could be launched to highlight strength of local feeling

AFTER months of uncertainty, the Bank of Scotland has confirmed its Mallaig branch will be open five days a week again from Monday, October 17 - but still with reduced hours.

Bank customers from Mallaig, Knoydart and the Small Isles have reported regularly finding the bank closed throughout the busy summer season.

Customers have arrived at the bank to find a notice blue-tacked to the door to inform them it was shut.

The Bank of Scotland said Mallaig staff have been seconded to Fort William on a twice-weekly basis to provide cover there, meaning the bank in Mallaig has to close on those days.

Two new members of staff start in the Fort William branch on Monday. However, one Mallaig staff member from the usual complement of three retired earlier this year and is yet to be replaced.

The new temporary opening times for the Mallaig branch will be 10am-4pm, except on Wednesdays when it will open from 10am-1pm. Normal opening hours are 9.15am to 4.45pm, Monday to Friday.

A Bank of Scotland spokesperson said: 'We can



Robert MacMillan: 'Disappointed'. 10\_140bank01

and apologise to customers for the inconvenience caused.'

Harbour authority manager and regular bank user Robert MacMillan told *The Oban Times* he was 'disappointed' the Mallaig branch still did not have a full complement of staff.

He said: 'The staff are still required to go to Fort William to cover staff shortages and I am disappointed the situation has not been resolved.'

'It's very disruptive for the community and it can't continue. I would urge the bank to sort it out as quickly as possible.'

Knoydart development officer David Newton said he was considering starting a petition to show the bank how strong local feeling is on this issue.

He said: 'I'll send out some emails locally to find out how people feel about it.'

'I just feel we have to do something.'

Caol and Mallaig councillor, Allan Henderson, said: 'The service is certainly not worthy of the bank calling itself the Bank of Scotland.'

'It is time for the bank to face up to reality and try to regain the confidence of its customers. They are charging enough for their services today so surely can find and pay for staff.'

confirm that two new members of staff have been recruited for the Fort William branch.

As a result, the Mallaig branch will begin temporary opening hours from Monday October 17. Action is being taken to place advisory notices in the branch for customers this week.

A number of complaints have also been made about the cash machine outside the bank being broken, and the spokesperson confirmed it was due to be fixed this week.

'We are working as a priority to resolve these issues completely

### Site visit to consider turbine scheme

HIGHLAND councillors will visit a site near Arisaig to determine whether or not to give permission to a local campsite owner who wants to erect three wind turbines.

Julie Ann Bryce, who runs Sunnyside Croft, wants to build three 15kW turbines on 15metre masts, but some locals are not happy with the plans. Some 16 letters of complaint were

submitted to Highland Council, citing the visual impact, the increase in noise pollution, and the lack of community benefit.

Planners recommended that Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee grant planning permission for the application.

The planners' report concluded: 'The visual impact of the proposal is not considered to be significantly detrimental and it

is considered that the proposal will not adversely affect the community.'

But councillors have instead arranged to visit the site on Tuesday November 1, with a public meeting held locally afterwards.

Councillor Bill Clark said: 'It will give local people the opportunity to hear what is being said and voice their opinions.'

### IN OCTOBER'S SCOTTISH FIELD...

Jack McConnell on how an Arran upbringing shaped him

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### Fraser cooks up a treat to take Young Chef title

SOME OF the finest young cooks in Lochaber came together to compete for the title of young chef of the year at Mallaig High School on Tuesday afternoon.

Kinlochleven High School pupil Fraser Cooper was named the winner by the judges after a close competition. With each competitor given a £15 budget and two hours to cook a meal for two people, the 14-year-old wowed the judges by serving up a bowl of butter squash soup to start followed by a main course of pork with apple and black pudding.

To finish, Fraser made lemon vanilla mousse with autumn fruit coulis.

The winners and runners up from the heats held at Lochaber High School last month competed in the final, with the winner given the chance to represent Lochaber at the Scottish national competition, which will be held in Falkirk later this year. Ardnamurchan High pupil Calum MacIver, also aged 14, finished as runner up. The competition was won last year Kinlochleven pupil Erin Mills.

The judges for the competition, run by Lochaber Rotary Club, were Duncan Gibson, head chef at Glenfinnan House Hotel, Brian Hume, manager at the Alexandra Hotel, and Paul Brian and Roddy Johnston from the Rotary Club.

### Green light for North Corran homes plan

HIGHLAND Council has been given the go-ahead to build six new semi-detached houses at Ardgour. Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee granted permission for the new homes at North Corran at a meeting in Fort William on Tuesday.

Three local people wrote to the council to complain about the plans, saying the extra traffic would make the road more dangerous for children walking to the play park,

### Bumper year for Mallaig shellfish prices

MALLAIG Harbour has had a bumper year for shellfish prices, with provisional figures showing the total raised has increased by half a million pounds on last year.

In 2010, 1,624 tonnes of nephrops was caught, worth a total of £4.8million. So far this year, the

loss of parking and the impact on wildlife and wild flowers in the area. They also questioned the feasibility of building houses on such a steep slope.

Planners recommended the application be approved, and the councillors agreed.

TEC Service said the road width must be maintained despite a new footpath being proposed, and said the existing car park must be upgraded from six spaces to 12.

Fishery Office Report estimates 1,029 tonnes of nephrops, worth £5.4million, have been brought into Mallaig Harbour. Harbour Authority manager Robert MacMillan told *The Oban Times*: 'The last two weeks or so haven't been great, but it's been a good summer.'

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**Aonach Mor marathon mountain bike challenge**

MOUNTAIN bikers will tackle a taxing route round Aonach Mor during a 24-hour endurance event this weekend.

Nearly 200 riders will take part, with most in relay teams taking turns at tackling laps of the eight-mile course. They will start from Nevis Range at noon on Saturday and head up the mountain into Leanachan Forest and onto the Witch's Trail.

The team or rider to complete the most laps of the course before noon on Sunday will be the winner.

**Teenage fèis fun for all**

SECONDARY pupils from across Lochaber will have the chance to take part in three days of Gaelic music and language classes this weekend.

Fèis nan Deugairean, the Teenage Fèis, is a joint project between all the Lochaber Fèisean and is exclusively for pupils in S1 to S6.

It will see an array of local musicians tutoring the teenagers, including Angus Binnie, Finlay Wells, Ingrid Henderson and Rachel Walker.

The fèis will be held at Lochaber High School on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, and will have classes in fiddle, clarsach, guitar and accordion, among others, with each youngster able to choose two classes.

**No lotto winners**

THERE were no winners in the Fort William Football Club Lotto draw on Saturday.

Numbers were 8-17-20. Prize money rolls over to next week and goes up to £200.

**Poundstretcher opens in Fort William**

FORT William's retail sector will boast a new national chain when Poundstretcher opens a branch in the town on Saturday.

The discount store, which has more than 350 branches across the UK, will take over the premises on North Road vacated by Au Naturelle. The home furnishing shop closed in July with the loss of eight jobs.

The shop will employ an estimated eight to ten workers.

**Scouts celebrate centenary**

SCOUTING in Lochaber will mark its 100th year with a reunion meal at the Moorings Hotel in Banavie on Saturday night.

Anyone who has been involved with the organisation is welcome to attend.

Next weekend, the scouts will hold a coffee morning and car boot sale at Caol Youth Centre.

For more information call Alli Rappley on 01397 772908 or email kilmalliescouts@aol.com.



**Coffee morning cash boosts St Mun's**

A fundraising coffee morning in Ballachulish Village Hall on Saturday raised more than £2,400 for St Mun's Church in the village. The well-attended event saw local people gather to enjoy tea, coffee and a range of baked goods. There was also bric-a-brac, a tombola and face painting for the youngsters. Parish priest Father Francis Ferriggi wished to thank everyone who helped out and come along to join in the fun. 20\_140balla01

**Temperatures rise as firefighters launch calendar**

LOCHABER firefighters raised more than £2,000 for charity, as well as temperatures, at the launch of their topless calendar in Fort William on Saturday.

About 250 people, mostly female, from as far as Kilmarnock, Glasgow and Edinburgh packed out the Ben Nevis Hotel to see the firemen from Fort William, Kinlochleven, Kilchoan and Mallaig take to the stage for a steamy show.

The 2012 calendar is being launched to raise money for the Scottish Burned Children's Club, which helps children who have suffered burn and scald injuries.

The firefighters recently took part in a photo shoot with Fort William photographer

James Taylor at Fort William Fire Station and hope to raise as much as £25,000 from sales of the calendar and proceeds from the launch night are added up.

The stars of the calendar were brought out on stage in January-December order, before a disco from Pro Trackz kept the party going.

Fort William general manager Pat McElhinney told *The Oban Times* it had been a 'fantastic night'. He said: 'The firefighters went on stage and were shocked to have knickers thrown at them - they weren't expecting that! The fun and the laughs continued until the wee small hours.'

The firefighters trained for 12 months to get in shape for the photo shoot, and Mr McElhinney said some of them lost a considerable amount of weight during training. The firemen wanted to thank everyone who helped out, donated money and prizes, and everyone who attended the launch. Before the men came onto the stage, Kinlochleven band The Shine performed a free gig and proved very popular with the crowd. Lead singer Paul Martin said: 'It was our privilege to play and support this fantastic charity.'

The A3-sized calendar, which has already attracted more than 4,000 members to its Facebook page, is on sale at outlets across Lochaber.

**Boxers pack a punch on national stage**

A KINLOCHLEVEN-based boxing club has recently moved into a new home and is starting to make its mark on the national stage.

Nether Lochaber Amateur Boxing Club took up residence in Kinlochleven Community Trust buildings, where they have been able to set up a ring and proper training facilities.

The new surroundings appear to be helping the fighters, two of whom travelled to Paisley to take part in Linwood ABC's show at the weekend.

Joseph MacInnes of Onich made his fighting debut, but after just 50 seconds the 14-year-old won the bout. He pushed opponent back onto the ropes and his unrelenting blows forced the referee to call a halt.

Kinlochleven boxer Sam MacLeod showed his guts during a tough fight with light heavyweight Craig New. The 16-year-old avoided being knocked out but lost on a points decision.

NLBC will hope to use the experience gained from the night to help with future bouts. The not-for-profit club also offers weekly boxerice classes and training for under 11s, with any locals welcome to attend.



Champ: Joseph MacInnes won his first bout.

**Nationwide search for marina project officer**

THE GROUP behind an ambitious plan to create a £3million marina at Corpach are to start a search for a project officer to move the development forward.

The Caol Regeneration Company (CRC) hopes to build a 85-berth facility next to Corpach Basin to take advantage of an increase in yachting activity on the west coast.

CRC company secretary, retired doctor Su Sen told *The Oban Times* the project officer will organise the plan and organisational structure. A number of detailed surveys need to be carried out in the area before any funding can be applied for.

He said: 'The project officer will take all the recommendations in the report forward. We need to start looking now because our funding runs out at the end of December.'

'We won't get any funding until the information on how much it will cost is a little bit more concrete. At the moment it is just estimates.'

The rights to the land on which the marina would be built also

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk



Patrick Keating addressing the meeting. 20\_140marina01

need to be secured before the group can seek funding. The land is owned by a number of parties, including Crown Estates, Lochiel Estates and British Waterways.

Funding for the new employee will come from CRC and local

fundraising, Dr Sen added, and the position will be advertised nationwide.

Patrick Keating, of marine consultants Yachting Worldwide Ltd, created a 350-page report, including a 68-page business plan, which laid out estimated costings for the project and any obstacles it may face along the way.

He gave a two hour power point presentation to CRC and members of the public at a meeting at the Moorings Hotel at Banavie on Monday to explain the findings of his report.

Mr Keating said one potential hurdle for the project could be Network Rail, who are likely to require the railway crossing near the potential site to be upgraded before the marina is completed. Network Rail would not pay for the cost of the upgrade, meaning the funding would have to come from the CRC.

The presentation also showed a possible design for the marina located at the Caledonian Canal's southern entrance. Mr Keating said the proposed plan could withstand the worst weather and waves in Loch Linnhe.

**Downloading images lands former Fort man in jail**

AN EX-Highland Council and Nevis Centre employee has been jailed for six months and placed on the sex offenders register for 10 years for downloading nearly 12,000 child pornography images on his work computer.

Ryan Leamont, aged 39, fled to his native Canada after his manager at the Nevis Centre found the images on a laptop in August 2004.

His co-worker accessed Leamont's computer to change his screen saver as a prank when he discovered the events co-ordinator had visited a number of internet sites relating to girls under the age of 16.

The computer was handed over to police for

forensic analysis. As well as the images officers discovered three paedophilic movies and 124 banner images. But before charges could be pressed Leamont left the country.

After five years on the run, he was arrested in Vancouver on October 22 2009 and released on bail until the Supreme Court Of British Columbia ruled in favour of sending him back to Scotland in June this year.

Leamont pled guilty at Inverness Sheriff Court to possessing 11,858 indecent photographs or pseudo photographs of children at the Nevis Centre, Fort William, between February 11 and August 27 2004.

**Pair injured in A82 crash**

A LOCHABER brother and sister were rushed to the Belford Hospital after the car they were travelling in slid off the A82 north of Onich.

Northern Constabulary said the pair, named locally as James and Natalie Rosie, did not suffer serious injuries but both required medical attention.

The car was heading south when the driver, James, lost control on the wet road near the turn off to Keppanach.

Natalie, a successful Highland dancer, had to be cut out of the car by the rescue services and was kept in hospital overnight for treatment.

The road was closed in both directions for nearly two hours to allow the accident to be cleared, leading to massive tailbacks during one of the busiest periods of the week.

Police said their inquiries into the accident are ongoing and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

**Lewis businessman named global director of the year**

AN ISLE of Lewis businessman has been named global director of the year at an award ceremony in London.

Brain Wilson, chairman of Shawbost-based Harris Tweed Hebrides, was given the award at the Institute of Directors UK Awards for his efforts to spread the Harris Tweed brand into new international markets.

Mr Wilson said the honour had been a 'genuine surprise'.

He said: 'It is nice to get recognition for our international strategy but like everything else, this award is for a great team effort and a fantastic product.'

'The biggest reward for all of us is that the mill and the weavers are working flat out and the Harris Tweed industry now has a sustainable future.'

The award is the third major honour in recent months for the company, which was named textile brand of the year at the Scottish Fashion Awards and also won international company of the year at the recent SCDI Highlands and Islands Business Awards.



Global director of the year: Brian Wilson.



**Elder honoured for long service**

Onich man Angus Maciver was given a certificate to mark his long service as a church elder at Nether Lochaber Church. Church of Scotland moderator, the Right Reverend John C Christie presented Mr Maciver with the certificate at the church on Sunday lunchtime. Mr Maciver has been a member of the church for 30 years. The award was made as part of the church's centenary celebrations. After the service, the congregation went across the road to the Onich Hotel marquee for tea, coffee and cake.

**Green light for new stands at Claggan Park**

FORT William Football Club has been given permission to build to new stands at Claggan Park.

Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee gave unanimous approval to the application at a meeting in Fort William on Tuesday morning. The plan will see 126 seats and six wheelchair bays built at the ground.

The new stands will be located on the north side of the pitch, opposite the current grandstand, and will be about 10 metres

long. Highland Council planners had recommended the plans, which received no complaints from the public, be passed. Their report said: 'There are no major concerns and there are clear benefits from a community perspective.'

The park has had well-documented problems with drainage, with a number of Fort home games called off this season already. But work has already started on improving the drainage at the stadium, which saw its biggest crowd in years last

weekend when Fort took on Bo'ness in the Scottish Cup.

Councillor Bill Clark told *The Oban Times* the new stand would help transform Claggan.

He said: 'It's great news. Once we get the pitch up to standard it will be a really excellent park.'

Before construction can get underway, the club will have to submit the types, colours and finishes of all materials to planners for further approval.

**First fèis on Canna a success**

CANNA held its first Fèis on Saturday, with people from across Lochaber, South Uist, Barra and Rum attending.

The event, which was jointly hosted by the National Trust for Scotland and the Canna Community Association, and supported by the Year of Scottish Islands festival, was so successful it is now likely to become an annual event.

The day got underway early on, with many braving the 7.30am ferry crossing from Mallaig to spend the day on the island.

Local performers included Gabe MacVarish on the fiddle, Charlie McColl singing, piper Calum McColl and Alec Maclean on the accordion. Fiona J MacKenzie held Gaelic workshops with Izzy, Alec and Gilliebride MacMillan.

Maria MacInnes, from Fèisean nan Gàidheal, was on hand to offer guidance through the preparations for the fèis.

NTS Canna manager Stewart Connor said: 'The Canna community worked very hard in preparing for this event and it's certainly going to become an annual one on the fèis calendar.'

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### Man sent threatening messages to ex-partner

A FORT William man sent three threatening text messages to his ex-partner when he discovered she had a new boyfriend. Steven Munnerley, of 27 Ross Place, admitted sending texts of a threatening nature, which included offensive language, to the woman from his house on August 27 and 28. Fort William Sheriff Court heard the 39-year-old later told police he regretted sending the texts and didn't know why he had done it. Sheriff John Halley deferred sentencing Munnerley for one year for good behaviour.

### North Uist ceilidh hits all the right notes

A FUNDRAISING ceilidh held on North Uist has been hailed as success by the event organisers. The ceilidh was held in Carnish Hall, which was full to capacity, and raised more than £1,000 for Mod 2011, which starts in Stornoway next Friday. The dance music was provided by Iain Angus MacLeod and his band, while performers on the night included Neillie Ferguson, Peigi Campbell, and Mairi MacInnes, as well as both the Uist and Sgeol Lionacleit Pipe Bands. Students from Benbecula College were also on hand to play a few tunes on the appreciative audience.

### Police files

A CAR was damaged whilst parked on Kennedy Road, Fort William between 4.30pm on Friday and 7.30am on Saturday.

TWO CARS were damaged whilst parked in a driveway in Treig Road, Inverloch between 10.30pm on Thursday, September 29, and 10am on Friday, September 30.

TWO BLUE recycling bins were set on fire on Lochy Road, Inverloch at about 9.25pm on Wednesday, September 28.

Anyone with knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 or the confidential line on 01397 702000.

# School vandals steal pupils' lunch money

POLICE have condemned criminals who broke into Fort William Primary School, stole children's lunch money and left a trail of destruction in their wake. The vandals broke into the school overnight last Wednesday, and when head teacher Sue Commander arrived on Thursday morning she found the windows of the canteen, the staff room and the head teacher's room smashed, £40 cash stolen, and furnishings and

planters upturned and damaged. The criminals did not touch a batch of brand new computers. Acting area commander for Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh, Insp Jenny Fraser said: 'This was a wanton act of vandalism and the callous theft of money belonging to young school children. We would appeal to anyone who knows who may have been involved or saw anything suspicious to contact police.'

The 30-pupil school on Achintore Road was closed for the day to allow repairs to be done and a police investigation to be carried out. A Highland Council spokesman said three windows needed to be replaced, as well as broken glass and debris cleared. The school re-opened on usual on Friday morning. Northern Constabulary are appealing for witnesses who may have seen one or more people acting suspiciously in

the area of Lundavra Road following the break in and theft, which occurred sometime between 7pm on Wednesday 7am on Thursday. Police believe those responsible may have left via the back of the school. Anyone who has any information is urged to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

# Tugs win three month reprieve

COASTGUARD emergency tugs have been given an eleventh hour reprieve by the UK Government, who have agreed a three-month extension to the current contract to allow negotiations on the future of the service to continue. The tugs, which are based at Stornoway and Lerwick, were due to be withdrawn from service last Friday as part of a cost-saving exercise, but an agreement was reached for alternatives to the service, or how it is funded, to be negotiated. The specially constituted ETV Task Group, chaired by Highland Council leader Michael Foxley, have lobbied persistently for retention of the emergency towing vessels, which have been involved with five incidents over the past 15 months. In last week's Oban Times Councillor Foxley warned the consequences of the tugs being withdrawn could be 'fatal'.

He added: 'We are very happy to meet with the Government to discuss the new contract.' The ETV Task Group identified a number of potential alternative sources of funding for the Department for Transport to explore, including contributions from the Crown Estate, Ministry of Defence, General Lighthouse Board, commercial activities, increasing salvage income, and increased use of the ETVs by other agencies. Councillor Foxley was due to meet with Secretary of State for Scotland Michael Moore yesterday (Wednesday) for discussions on the new deal. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar leader Angus Campbell also welcomed the extension. He said: 'This is excellent news and a very welcome development. The Comhairle is pleased that the Government has listened to the case we and our fellow members of the Task Group have been making. We look forward to working with Government, including the Scotland Office, to confirm the long term future for the tugs covering the Western and Northern seas of Scotland. There has been a considerable campaign both within and without Government and I would thank all those who have helped to achieve this common sense outcome.'



## Save the Children shop volunteers mark birthday with reunion

About 40 past and present volunteers at Save the Children in Fort William attended a reunion to mark 25 years since the store opened. They enjoyed tea, coffee, sandwiches and cake at the Alexandra Hotel last Thursday, with each volunteer given a certificate to mark their service. The shop, on Cameron Square, is currently undergoing renovations after suffering storm damage earlier this year. It is expected to re-open before the end of the month. Grace MacCallum, who worked in the store when it opened in 1986, is pictured cutting the cake with event organiser Cathie Stevenson. 20. f40reunion01

## String of offences lands Fort man in jail for four months

A FORT William man has been jailed for four months after pleading guilty to a series of offences, including threatening to kill a police officer and his family. George Kane, of 30 Douglas Place, was seen drunkenly staggering outside the town's

police station on August 18. He then resisted attempts by two officers to arrest him before making the threats to one of them. Appearing from custody, Kane, also pled guilty to assaulting an officer by struggling with him, repeatedly pushing him on the

body and seizing him by the throat to his injury at Viewforth car park on August 27. Officers were chasing the 22-year-old after he had stolen two bikes from Broombank, Union Road minutes earlier. Defence solicitor Hamish Melrose told Fort William

Sheriff Court the officer had pulled his client off the bike and the two ended up 'rolling about on the floor'. Kane put his hands on the constable's throat in an attempt to lift himself off the ground. Kane, who has been in custody on remand since August 27, also admitted breaking into

# Drunk lashed out at police officers

A FORT William man lashed out at police officers after they arrested him for being too drunk. Mr Laing said: 'He was ranting about hating police officers and made references to Raoul Moat.' Moat shot three people, including a police officer, in Cumbria last year. MacDonald pled guilty to resisting arrest and behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by shouting and swearing, threatening violence on the officers and repeatedly kicking a police van. Sheriff John Halley deferred sentencing MacDonald until October 26 for reports.

made 'repugnant comments' to them. Brian MacDonald, of 4 Glen Nevis Place, was approached by police for being drunk on the town's High Street just after midnight on July 24. Fiscal Andrew Laing told Fort William Sheriff Court MacDonald 'took great exception' to the officers wanting to speak to him and 'adopted an aggressive stance'. The 40-year-old then struggled violently with the officers and

## Man admits falsely claiming £6,700 in disability benefits

A CAOL man has admitted claiming more than £6,700 in disability benefits for more than a year and a half while he was working at a Fort William hotel. Robert Price, of 17 Rowan Drive, started claiming the disability living allowance in 2006 listing paralysis of his right arm and leg, pain in his left leg, asthma and colitis amongst his afflictions. Fort William Sheriff Court heard he took up a job as a night receptionist at

the Premier Inn at An Aird in March 2008, but did not inform the department of work and pensions about the change in his circumstances. During his time of employment, Price, aged 50, falsely claimed £6,743.15p. DWP were informed about his employment and stopped paying his benefits in October 2010. Sheriff John Halley deferred sentencing price until October 26 for reports.

## Skye and Lochalsh health care open days

SKYE and Lochalsh residents were given the chance to learn more about healthcare developments in their area at open days in Portree, Dornie and Kyleakin last week. The events, held in partnership with Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS), included a wide range of presentations, the displays and demonstrations covering healthcare topics of local interest.

Members of the Skye and Lochalsh Health Services Reference Group were on hand to answer any questions. Locality general manager Alison Phimister said: 'We are pleased that such a varied programme was offered with representatives of a range of local services demonstrating the contributions they make to the health of the people of Skye and Lochalsh.'



## Bank worker's delight at surprise send-off

A surprise party was held for Onich woman Mary Michie, who recently retired after spending 25 years working at the Bank of Scotland in Fort William. Mary, originally from Mallaig, was surprised by about 60 customers and staff past and present at the Onich Hotel where she received gifts from present manager Joanne Kelly, left, and Liz Sherry. Mary, who also worked in Islay, Mallaig and Lochgilphead, said she 'thoroughly enjoyed' her time at the bank.

## Indian forestry experts visit Lochaber

AN INDIAN delegation of forestry experts has visited Lochaber to see first hand the results of the local team's landscape restoration work. The five-man group, led by Dr Pj Dilip Kumar of the Indian Government's Ministry of Environment and Forests, included the principals of India's various forest institutes. They are keen to work with the Forestry Commission to learn more

about landscape restoration to incorporate entire ecosystems. The two-day trip saw the men tour forests around the Great Glen area and some guided exploration of native woodlands. Forestry Commission environment manager Ken Knott visited India earlier this year to advise on local landscape restoration projects. Commission district manager

Kevin Peace, said: 'We must be doing something right because we seem to have generated quite a bit of interest both here and abroad. A lot of people have been involved in managing and developing the assets we have here, as well as in refining the expertise that we have built up over the years so it's great for everyone to see their hard work being recognised at an international level.'

# Racially abused teenager admonished for assault

A CORPACH teenager who punched a man on the mouth, knocking him to the ground, after being racially abused has been admonished by a sheriff. Aidan Thurmond was walking along Fort William High Street towards a taxi rank at about 11.30pm after a night out with friends when he passed John MacGillivray and overheard him directing 'derogatory comments' towards him, procurator fiscal Andrew Laing said. Thurmond recognised MacGillivray and stopped to speak to him. Drunk MacGillivray continued to racially insult Thurmond, who reacted by punching him once on the face which knocked MacGillivray backwards into some nearby bins. Thurmond then left the scene. Mr

Laing said: 'He [Thurmond] was subject to some pretty nasty racial abuse. The Crown cannot endorse members of the public taking matters into their own hands, but notes the extreme provocation in this case.' MacGillivray was taken to Belford Hospital and needed seven stitches to a cut on his mouth, Fort William Sheriff Court heard. Hospital staff informed the police about the fight. Defence solicitor Hamish Melrose said Thurmond, aged 18, had been subjected to racist abuse from MacGillivray in the past and said he had assaulted Thurmond at last year's Rockness Festival. Thurmond, of 1 Guisach Terrace, pled guilty to assaulting MacGillivray

by punching him on the head to his injury on June 20. Sheriff John Halley told Thurmond that although he would leave the court with no punishment, he will now have a criminal conviction. He said: 'You have been a victim to a considerable extent. His behaviour towards you was utterly reprehensible. But you can't go around hitting people.' Last month MacGillivray, aged 20, of 24 Banff Crescent, pled guilty to a charge of acting in a racially aggravated manner by shouting and swearing, uttering racial abuse at Thurmond and threatening him with violence on Fort William High Street. Sentencing was deferred until October 26 for reports.

**Hillwalker dies in Glencoe**

A WOMAN died after falling while walking in the Glencoe area last week. Glasgow woman Patricia Hutchison lost her footing and fell around 200ft in the Lost Valley area of Glencoe at around 4pm last Thursday afternoon. The 58-year-old's husband contacted Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team and the police, who attended the scene. After a search they found Mrs Hutchison but were unable to save her.

**Man accused of disfiguring victim**

THE TRIAL of a Caol man accused of leaving his alleged victim permanently disfigured by attacking him with a pole has been postponed until November 21. Latvian Edgar Vilums, of 21 Camestry Road, denies assaulting Jamie Stevenson by chasing him with a pole, or similar implement, and striking him on the head and body to his severe injury and permanent disfigurement on Torlundy Road on June 21. The 20-year-old also faces a charge of having an offensive weapon in a public place in the same incident, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

**Assault trial date set**

A FORT William man has denied assaulting his partner at his home. Rael Nolan, of 6 The Maltburn, Old Glenlochty Distillery, pled not guilty to assaulting the woman by punching her repeatedly on the head to her injury on August 17. Three Crown witnesses are due to give evidence at the 30-year-old's trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on October 24.

**Man denies punching partner**

A KINLOCHLEVEN man accused of punching his partner on the head is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on October 24. Stuart Patterson, aged 31, of 4 Glendale Road, denies assaulting the woman by repeatedly punching her on the head and body to her injury at 5 Sutherland Avenue, Kinlochleven, on July 24.



Hamish and Fraser, both aged five, and senior clinic administrator Heather Turner enjoying the open day. 20\_140vet01

**Visitors enjoy open day at Crown Vets**

A FORT William vets opened its doors to the public on Saturday to allow visitors a rare chance to see behind the scenes. Crown Vets on Glen Nevis Place was open for members of the public to look around the operating theatre, the dispensary and

the separate cat and dog wards. The four vets who work in the clinic were on hand to answer any questions. As well as touring inside the surgery, people were treated to tea, coffee and cake, and Lochaber and District Canine Society put on a fly ball display

outside. Practice manager Jane MacLennan told *The Oban Times*: 'We took over the building in December and we wanted to give people the chance to come along and see what we do. It's been a really good day, we've had a good turnout.'

**Off-duty soldier punched policeman during bust-up**

AN OFF-DUTY Black Watch soldier punched a policeman in the face during a bust-up outside a Fort William nightclub. Alistair Innes, based at Fort George near Inverness, got into an argument with another man while they were leaving the club at around 2am on August 28. Fiscal Andrew Laing told Fort William Sheriff Court heard the men 'squared up' to each other before the other man punched Innes on the face. A police officer who was standing nearby tried to intervene, but as he approached Innes from behind, the soldier turned and punched him on the nose. Mr Laing said the officer had been hit with 'considerable force' and had to taken to accident

and emergency with swelling to his nose and left eye. Defence solicitor Hamish Melrose said his client had reacted instinctively. He said: 'He felt a pull on his shoulder, turned round thinking it was perhaps someone involved in the fight and punched that person on the face.' Mr Melrose said Innes and the policeman were 'very well known' to each other as their fathers work together. Innes, who is due to be shipped out to Afghanistan next month, was taken into custody and spend the night in the cells. The 22-year-old, of 23 Caledonian Road, Corpach, pled guilty to assaulting the constable by punching him on the face to his injury on Fort William High Street. Sheriff John Halley fined him £233.33.

**Kyle of Lochalsh police probe lead theft**

POLICE in Kyle of Lochalsh are appealing for information following the theft of a large quantity of lead, which was stolen an agricultural premises on A890 at Auchtertyre. The theft occurred sometime between 4.30pm on Tuesday September 27 and 8.15am the next day. Anyone who may have witnessed anything suspicious or has any information regarding the theft is asked to contact Kyle of Lochalsh police on 01599 534222 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

**Emergency planning for road closure**

Groups meet to discuss rock work

REPRESENTATIVES of the police, fire and ambulance services in Lochaber have met Forestry Commission Scotland officials to discuss the upcoming works on the A82 which will see the lifeline route closed near Fort William for a weekend in late November/early December. Also at the meeting were delegates from NHS Highland and Highland Council, and managers from Transport Scotland and Transerv. The road has to be closed to bring down a potentially unstable 250 tonne rock hanging above the road two kilometres north of the Corran Ferry. The

commission says harsh winter weather could cause the rock to fall onto the road if it is not removed. Project leader for the works, Mike Green, said: 'We are in the process of consulting widely about the operation because we know that we need to do as much as we can, as soon as we can, to help people plan around the proposed closure. This is especially important for the emergency services because maintaining emergency cover over the weekend of our operation to remove this rock will place very particular demands on their resources. It will take some

involved planning and whilst the operation has the potential to disrupt it is reassuring to note the professionalism of the emergency services and other key service providers in respect of their initial responses to contingency planning.' The A82 Partnership hopes the Corran Ferry can be extended during the works, and is also seeking a fast boat passenger transfer between Corran and Fort William. The operation to remove the rock comes at the start of the commission's three-year harvesting programme to fell mature trees in the area.

**World's Biggest Coffee Morning**

Fort William residents flocked to their local library to take part in 'The World's Biggest Coffee Morning' on Friday to raise money for Macmillan Cancer UK. Cups of tea and coffee were on sale, as well as cakes and other baked goods. Organiser Anna Strachan told *The Oban Times*: 'It's gone really well, we've been very busy all morning.' The annual event saw 43,000 people taking part across the UK last year, raising over £8million for the charity. A coffee morning was also held in Roy Bridge Hall on Saturday. 20\_140coffee01



**Fire brigade cuts false alarm call outs**

FORT William Fire Brigade has reduced false alarm call outs to the two highest offending buildings in the area by more than 80 per cent this year. In 2010, automatic fire alarms in the two buildings led to 54 call outs without a single incident involving an actual fire. So far this year, there has only been 10 call outs. The fire brigade estimates that each time the

retained Fort William team is called out, it costs about £1,000, meaning the cut has saved the service £44,000 in 2011. The false alarms were blamed on a number of factors, such as people burning food, cigarette smoke and smoke alarms being too sensitive. Firefighters visited the properties to educate people on how to avoid setting off the alarms and replaced some smoke alarms with heat sensors.



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Thigibh air bòrd bus Mhic a' Bhriuthainn gach madainn eadar 11.30m is 12.30f aig an Lanntair, cothrom còmhraidh mu na nithean a tha a' cunntadh dhuibhse.

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**'Confused' man traced to dinghy on Loch Creran**

A 'CONFUSED' man on Loch Creran sparked a rescue operation on Saturday, after he became lost on his dinghy. The man had dialled 999 at about 1.40am, initially speaking to police, but it was some time before it was established he was in a boat and somewhere on the loch. Oban Coastguard and the lifeboat, the *Mora Edith Macdonald*, carried out a joint search, eventually tracing the confused man. A spokesman for the RNLI said: 'It transpired that he was from the yacht *Freyja* where his friend was still asleep - but without a dinghy. A member of the coastguard team rowed the dinghy out to the yacht, secured her there and returned to Oban aboard the lifeboat. 'The lost man was left speaking to the police.' The man was warned about his conduct, but he faced no charges as a result.

**MP's plea for more Array information**

ARGYLL and Bute MP, Alan Reid, has called for Treen residents to be kept in the picture about the proposed Argyll Array. Speaking after the Scottish Affairs Committee's visit to the island, he said: 'The issue that kept cropping up on Treen was the lack of information being given to islanders about the proposed massive off-shore windfarm. Most islanders have still to make up their minds about the windfarm. Scottish Power Renewables must tell the islanders what their plans are if the SNP Government gives planning permission.'

**Cash up for grabs in film competition**

THOUSANDS of pounds in prizemoney is up for grabs in the FilmG project, MG ALBA's innovative Gaelic online short film competition. It is hoped the cash, including a £1,000 prize for the Best Community Short, will encourage grassroots film-making. The competition closes on January 6, 2012.

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Murray and Jamie Peden may not be typical beekeepers, but their amber nectar has been winning prizes. 15\_139Bees01

**Murray creates a buzz with prize-winning honey**

SUCCESS certainly tastes sweet for Murray Peden. The Oban teenager has been creating a bit of a buzz with his prize-winning honey. Just three years after getting his first hive, he won a first place for his precious amber nectar at the Scottish National Honey Show. Head beekeeper Murray, 16, was the inspiration for the Peden family's new hobby, while brother Jamie, 12, has been learning the ropes. While 50,000 bees aren't the usual pets for a teenager, Murray said: 'It's just really interesting and very calming to have the hum of the bees - as long as it's not too close to your

car. The enjoyment is far more valuable than the honey you get but it's an added bonus.' It is not a hobby without hazards, though Murray says the risk of stings shouldn't be exaggerated. 'We've all been stung, but you get used to it. When they have lots of honey they become more aggressive, but in the spring and autumn, they are quite docile and easy to manage.' Mum Mandy said this is the first year local beekeepers have had a surplus to sell for a long time. She added: 'We are in a very good position here: we have all the gardens and plants in the town, and the heather and

woodland on the edge of Oban nearby.' That horticultural buffet for their bees has certainly helped them to success. At the Oban and Lorn Horticultural Show, they seized the honey cup from beekeeping stalwart, Phil Moss. There was a further sting in the tail for Phil, when he was squeezed into second place by Murray's honey at the national competition, after encouraging him to enter. But he doesn't seem to mind, adding: 'I did win the category for nine jars of honey, though, that's a very difficult class.' Phil, secretary of Oban and District Beekeeping Association,

has been helping Murray for three years and gave him his first hive and bees. He said: 'We have a mentoring system where a new beekeeper is paired with an established one. They will get plenty of help. 'It's a marvellous hobby, absolutely fantastic - I have been beekeeping for 40 years and I'm still learning things. 'The more beekeepers there are looking after bees, the more they will be around in the environment.' The next beekeeping meeting is taking place on Thursday, October 13 at 7.30pm at Glen-cruitten Church of Scotland Centre.

**Contract awarded for Tayinloan Pier upgrade**

ISLANDERS on Gigha can look forward to a more reliable ferry service after the contract for a £2.3m upgrade at Tayinloan Pier was agreed. Work will begin on improvements in the next few weeks and will see three weekend closures of the ferry service between now and Christmas. The proposal for the closure is to allow piling works to safely

take place. The work will start later this month, and weather permitting, will be completed by May next year, in time for the peak summer tourist season. Northern Ireland-based Graham Construction, which also carried out works at Kennacraig Ferry Terminal, submitted the most competitive bid. Ferry operator CalMac has made an alternative, smaller

ferry available for use on the route, which would allow slipway works to progress while the service is maintained. For a number of years, silt and seaweed build-ups have caused havoc for ferry users and Gigha residents and have led to expensive and disruptive dredging works. The aim of the works is to secure as reliable a ferry service as possible and reduce

the need for future dredging. The upgrade includes moving up to 80,000 tonnes of sand from the beach south of the pier to an area to the north; an open section or bridge will be formed in the causeway leading to the pier and slipway to allow water and sediment to pass through the terminal and the slipway will be repaired and widened to accept wider vessels.

**Cash cuts threaten cycle path**

'This is becoming similar to the Edinburgh trams fiasco'

A HALF-finished cycle path between Oban and Fort William faces never being completed - unless £5million can be found to continue funding for the group behind it. Sustrans is funded by Transport Scotland, but the government quango had its budget slashed from £25million to £16million during last month's Scottish Budget Review. It is understood Sustrans has been told to expect 'sizeable' cuts as a result. The charity says any significant reduction to its £5million annual budget will bring to a halt its work to complete the patchwork cycle path and lessen any value it could add to the Argyll economy. However, critics have already started to describe the path as 'Argyll's very own Edinburgh trams,' saying the high cost meant it was never going to be completed. John Lauder, national director

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk of Sustrans Scotland, said: 'If there's a severe cut in our funding we will just have to stop. 'We estimate that the national cycle path routes add £100million to the Scottish economy. We'd like Argyll to have its share of that. 'However, an incomplete path between Oban and Fort William is not going to generate the level of business it could.' Mr Lauder has written to local councillors to ask for support in campaigning for Sustrans' funding to be maintained when the detailed breakdown of the budget is announced in December. Oban North and Lorn councillor, Neil Mackay, whose ward takes in a section of the cycle path, is to take up the fight. 'It's unfortunate that they've only managed to complete certain parts of the path,' he said.

'It'd be even more unfortunate if we were left with an incomplete path. 'We need to have it finished because it's a fantastic asset. 'It will affect tourism if it isn't completed, as the fact is, it is a vital ingredient in the tourism menu that we have. 'But leaving this incomplete would be like getting a half-cooked meal - nobody would want it.' However, Kevin Whitehead, a member of the North Argyll Cycling Club who has previously criticised the path for being dangerous and over-expensive, said the news wasn't a surprise. 'This is quickly becoming very similar to the Edinburgh trams fiasco. 'The Tarmac they've used for the path is better than is used for our roads - it was way too expensive from day one. 'As a result I think we all knew this project was never going to be completed.'

**Green light for £2.6million dental plan**

PLANS to establish a new state-of-the-art NHS dental practice within Lorn and Islands Hospital are underway after NHS directors gave it the green light. Although securing the services of an NHS dentist in Oban has been broadly welcomed, there is concern about siting it within the hospital's Nelson Ward, a move that has been branded 'cost cutting' by one councillor. The current NHS dental practice in Oban's Argyll Square cannot meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) or the Decontamination Guidelines that will take effect from 2012.

On Tuesday, the NHS Highland Board approved a business case to build a new dental practice within the hospital at a capital cost of £2.585m. Work on the new dental surgery is scheduled to begin in March next year, with an estimated completion date of March 2013 and a commissioning date a month later. A spokesman for NHS Highland told *The Oban Times* on Tuesday: 'We understand people have been concerned about having access to a dentist in the Oban area. 'This decision today is really good news for the residents of Oban and the surrounding

communities. It will provide dental services from a modern facility with state-of-the-art equipment.' Councillor Donald 'Skye' McIntosh, a former council spokesman on social services, was glad the future of dental services in Oban was secured but stressed the Nelson Ward was the wrong option. 'I think this is more cost cutting to get NHS Highland out of a fix. I know the health service has to save money but Oban is expanding and we have a lack of space in the hospital to develop more services in healthcare, such as dialysis, which people will come to expect.'

**MULL RALLY**

With just over a week until the second running of the Tunnocks Mull Rally, Mull Car Club are very pleased with the number of local crews contesting the event. Seeded at car 1, last years event winner Calum Duffy, Dervaig, will be again looking to tame the islands roads in his Ford Escort Mark 2. With four local crews starting in the top 10 of this years event, the atmosphere on the island is bound to be electric!

Several visiting crews will be hotly in pursuit including the World Rally Car crew of Hugh Hunter at car 8. The roads of Mull make it such a special event to contest, and one of the interesting things is the mix of machinery chosen by the drivers. The Mk2 Escort of Duffy is a legendary machine from the Ford fold, but it mustn't be forgotten that these cars were popular nearly 40 years ago! Hunters' Ford FocusWRC on the other hand is a modern rallying machine. Judging on last years result, it would be difficult to bet against Duffy, but the influx of new crews and new cars contesting the event may well see a surprise victor.

Newcomers Andy Rowe and Cat Lund (car 17) are fresh from claiming their second title on Belgium soil. Tarmac specialist Rowe has a gritty determination to replicate his success, but realises the twisty and bumpy nature of the islands roads will be a long way from the smooth flowing roads of the Flanders region.

A new addition to the event this year is a stage in Bunnassan that has never been run before. Although only a short test, this stage will be popular with fans from the south end of the island who will get to spectate a little closer to home.

Mull Car Club are hoping that the new stages will create even more of a spectacle on the island and that all crews new to the event and seasoned finishers will appreciate how different the roads are to any other tarmac rally.

The challenge that all the competitors face is getting to the finish line on the Saturday night after almost 160 competitive miles. It must not be forgotten that all of the cars in the rally will be facing the same daunting roads and that anyone finishing the event will no doubt be in a celebratory mood.

The event follows the usual format with the first car starting from Tobermory at 7pm on Friday 14th October. There is a loop of stages on the Friday night, followed by a restart in Bunnassan on Saturday at 12.01pm with the afternoon stages finishing by approximately 5pm. The cars will then set off for another loop of night stages at 21.01pm from Salen.

More information about the event can be found at [www.mullrally.com](http://www.mullrally.com)

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**Timetable of Events 2011**

EVENT	DATE/TIME
Regulations (Only) Published at <a href="http://www.mullrally.com">www.mullrally.com</a>	20th July at 11:00Hrs
Entry form Published at <a href="http://www.mullrally.com">www.mullrally.com</a>	12th Aug 10:00Hrs
Entries Close	14th Sept 18:00Hrs
Bulletin 1 Available For Download at <a href="http://www.mullrally.com">www.mullrally.com</a>	21st Sept
Road Books Available For Download at <a href="http://www.mullrally.com">www.mullrally.com</a>	30th Sept
Door Plates ETC Available For Collection	Thursday 13th Oct 18:00 - 20:00Hrs From The Tobermory Harbour Association
Rally Forum in Aros Hall	Thursday 13th Oct 19:30Hrs
Tunnocks Tea Cake eating competition. Macgochan's	Thursday 13th Oct 21:00 Hrs
Noise Check Opens	Friday 14th October 09:15Hrs
Scrutineering / Documentation Opens	Friday 14th October 09:30Hrs
Co-Drivers Briefing Session No.1 (Cars 1 - 50)	Friday 14th October 11:45Hrs
Co-Drivers Briefing Session No.2 (Cars 51 - 100)	Friday 14th October 13:45Hrs
Co-Drivers Briefing Session No.3 (All others)	Friday 14th October 16:15Hrs
Documentation Closes	Friday 14th October 16:00Hrs
Car 1 Starts Leg 1 From Tobermory	Friday 14th October 19:01Hrs
Trophy Rally Scrutineering	Saturday 15th Oct 12:00 - 12:30Hrs At The Pennyghael Hotel
Car 1 Starts Leg 2	Saturday 15th October 12:00Hrs From Bunnassan (Next to the Argyll Arms)
Trophy Rally Scrutineering	Saturday 15th Oct 21:00 - 21:30Hrs 100 yards down Ardmore Road Salen
Car 1 Starts Leg 3	Saturday 15th Oct 21:01Hrs From Salen (Next to the Salen Hotel)
Provisional Results Posted at The Tobermory Harbour Assoc. Offices.	Sunday 16th Oct 13:00 - 13:30Hrs Final Results Posted as final
Winners Parade	Sunday 16th Oct 15:00 Hrs Tobermory Main Street
Prize giving At	Sunday 16th Oct 15:30 Hrs Aros Hall Tobermory unless weather permits it to be outside

**Ban for driver clocked at 94mph**

AN OBAN motorist who was clocked speeding at 94mph has been banned from driving for two months and fined £300. James Dawson, aged 55, of Corran Esplanade, was caught speeding on a stretch of the A85 near Arrivain, 10 miles east of Dalmailly, at about 6.20pm on February 25. Dawson, a rig manager currently working in China, admitted driving his BMW Series 5 car without due care and attention at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday. Edward Thornton, defending, said Dawson was 'quite unaware' he had reached such a speed along a stretch of road where the limit is 60mph. 'This is completely out of character for him. I doubt if there would be any repetition of this,' he said.

**Vandals cause car to collide with wall**

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after vandals released the handbrake of a vehicle on Drummer Road, causing it to collide with a wall. The incident occurred sometime between midnight and 10am on Saturday. A number of cans of paint were also taken from the vehicle, opened and emptied in the area, while other painting equipment was stolen. Anyone with information should contact Constable John MacBrayne at Oban Police Office.

**Police recover drugs after raid**

DRUGS cops swooped on a house in Hill Street on Sunday, recovering quantities of cocaine and diazepam as a result. A number of other substances were also sent for analysis following the raid, at 9am on Sunday. A 30-year-old male was arrested and has subsequently been reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Investigations are continuing into a second male.

**Motorist reported to fiscal**

A MAN has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal after being caught driving without insurance on the A85 last week. The 48-year-old was stopped by police between Tyndrum and Dalmailly.

**Teenager tried to enter town pubs**

A TEENAGE girl who tried to gain entry to a number of Oban's pubs last Thursday has been charged by police. The 15-year-old was charged with disorder offences on George Street.

**Claims of no motor insurance**

POLICE have charged a man after he was allegedly caught driving without insurance and while disqualified. The 30-year-old was arrested at Main Street, Connel.

**Man faces drink drive allegation**

A MAN involved in an accident on Soroba Road in the early hours of Saturday morning has been charged by police. The 35-year-old male has been charged with drink driving, driving without due care and attention and failing to report an accident.

**Fishing rods stolen**

TWO FISHING rods were stolen from a hire boat on Loch Awe on Monday, while the fisherman went for a walk. Police are appealing for witnesses to the incident, which occurred shortly after 11am. Anyone with information should contact Constable Iain Young.

**Panels smashed**

GLASS panels were smashed and a garden gate damaged at Scarba Terrace, Oban, sometime between October 1 and 3.

**Mirror damaged**

THE offside wing mirror of a car parked on Lochside Street was damaged sometime between October 1 and 2.

**Outboard taken**

AN OUTBOARD motor was stolen from a boat on Airs Bay jetty sometime between September 27-October 1. Anyone with information about the Honda, 5hp, four stroke silver engine should contact the police.



The Duke of Argyll, Torquhil Campbell, with Dame Judi Dench during Saturday's fundraiser for Oban Phoenix Cinema at Inveraray Castle. 15\_140dukeandjudi1

**Dame Judi's cinema wish**

**Star asks to see favourite film**

DAME Judi Dench is hoping the campaign to reopen Oban's cinema is successful so the first screening can be that of her favourite film - which happens to be set on Mull. The actress, who is as close to Royalty on the silver screen as any actor, was welcomed into the home of the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, Inveraray Castle, at a glamorous fundraiser for the Oban Phoenix Cinema group on Saturday. There, she talked of her love of the hills of Oban, why she has kept coming back to the area for 34 years, the friendships she has built at Isle of Eriska Hotel, Benderloch, and of her dislike of watching herself on screen. More famed for her unmatched work in the theatre, the actress also revealed her frustrations at the constant menace to the stage

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk performer that is the mobile phone. Beyond all that though, she expressed her hope that the cinema could be reopened with the 1945 classic, *I Know Where I'm Going!*, which tells the tale of how stubborn middle-class Englishwoman Joan Webster, played by Wendy Hiller, inadvertently falls in love with a local of Mull, derailing plans to marry a wealthy industrialist on Kiloran Island. It is a tale that follows closely how she became to adore Oban. She said: 'My most favourite film is called *I Know Where I'm Going!* I would love to see that played here. 'There are scenes in it where

you can see the gaps between the background rocking back and forth, so you could see it was a cut-out, but it seems to add to the charm. It is a wonderful film.' The Duke of Argyll, Torquhil Campbell, opted for a more traditional but timely choice, *Whisky Galore*, which is currently touring on the Screen Machine mobile cinema. Dame Judi conceded that would make a fine Christmas film. Guests at the prestigious fundraiser, which was also attended by former television presenter Clive Anderson, were piped in by 14-year-old piper Jamie Baxter, who received the special thanks of Dame Judi afterwards. It is hoped that the event raised at least £3,500 for the refurbishment of the Phoenix Cinema, with the committee hoping for a December opening.

**Super slimmers claim top prizes in national awards**

TWO SUPER slimmers have walked away with national awards. Mum-of-one Tracy Davies, 37, from Connel, was crowned Scottish Slimmers Slimmer of the Year 2011 at a glittering awards ceremony in Glasgow's Crowne Plaza Hotel. And Tracy was joined on stage by Caroline Nicolson, from Kinlochleven, who picked up the Health and Happiness Award.

Tracy has lost six stones and Caroline more than seven thanks to their Scottish Slimmers class manager Sarah Robertson. 'I feel overwhelmed to have won,' said Tracy. **Health risk** 'Everyone is a winner because of the weight they have lost. I knew I had to do something about my weight as I was putting my health at risk. 'My dad died of a heart at-

tack aged just 44 and I didn't want to kill myself by being overweight.' Caroline added: 'I have had health issues with thyroid problems and I was determined to make a positive change to my life.' Both ladies said a big 'thanks' to their class manager Sarah Robertson who kept them on the straight and narrow and made them believe in themselves.



Slimmer of the Year Tracy Davies, left, with class manager Sarah Robertson and Health and Happiness Award winner Caroline Nicolson.

**Renewables and tourism can bring new jobs to area**

ONGOING development in renewables and tourism can help reverse the trend that has seen Argyll and Bute become the worst performing jobs market in the Highlands and Islands. Both the leader of the local authority, Dick Walsh, and the area manager for Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Douglas Cowan, have highlighted the role the industries can play in bringing good fortune back to the local jobs market. But Mr Cowan has pointed out that things aren't as bad as they seem, with the number of vacancies advertised in the area leaping by 23 per cent in the last year, and 349 jobs advertised in the past 12 months. Both were responding to figures revealed by Mackay Consultants' economic statement for the Highlands and Islands, which showed Argyll and Bute had the worst performing jobs market of the area, with unemployment leaping by 10.7 per cent, 178 people, in the last year. Councillor Walsh warned

that last month's Scottish Government budget has done little to ease fears for the future. He said: 'The national and international economies are performing very poorly at the moment and no local economy is insulated from this fact. These figures are a disappointment but we will continue to work with our partners to reduce the impact of the slow down. 'There are positive signs across a range of industries such as renewable energy, tourism and food and drink, but we recognise these are incredibly challenging times. 'As a council we are currently scrutinising all the detail within the Scottish Government's advised spending review. 'It appears that the Scottish Government has not adequately considered the implications of their proposed capital investments against available finance. Local councils may well be expected to delay some of their local capital projects in favour of national priorities such as the

Forth Road Bridge Crossing or the Edinburgh Trams. It would be very difficult for us to accommodate this, will it be imposed on us?' Meanwhile, the council is progressing significant investments across the Argyll and Bute area in the CHORD regeneration programme and transport infrastructure investments, he said. Mr Cowan added: 'Whilst not being in any way complacent and recognising that there are some specific local challenges, the unemployment levels remain relatively low both in Scottish terms and in a historical context. 'The challenges are largely twofold, firstly increasing employment in the private sector generally and importantly increasing average income levels. 'To address these we are working with those businesses and sectors with the greatest potential for generating sustainable economic growth.'

**Association chairman stands down**

THE CHAIRMAN of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), Norman Beaton, has stood down after five years' service. Mr Beaton, from Ardrishaig, has chaired the board since the association's stock transfer in November 2006 and, prior to

that, led the organisation in its shadow form, including the successful stock transfer ballot in 2005. Association rules preclude anyone from standing for more than five years at a time. He will continue to serve as an ACHA board member and on the Scottish Federation of

Housing Associations Council. Mr Beaton will be replaced by Bill McIntyre from Helensburgh. George Farquhar from Dalmailly is the new vice chairman and councillor Roddy McCuish from Oban is the new secretary.

**Hundreds celebrate Islay Hotel opening**

MORE than 500 people came to celebrate the opening of the new Islay Hotel, the first new hotel to be built on the island in more than 100 years. Once the main focus of the village of Port Ellen, the old Islay Hotel became its unwelcome eyesore after falling into a dilapidated state over two decades of inactivity. But the determined Port Ellen Hotel Ltd company, made up of Roland Worthington-Eyre, Kathleen Cuninghame and Ian McLellan, defied many who said the £2m project was not viable. Following the opening party last Saturday, Roland said: 'Hundreds of locals turned out to the opening and I think it means a lot to everyone in the village. 'People said we were mad but

I think we did have to have that mad streak and we definitely always had great self belief.' The hotel completely relies on ground source heating through seven 120-metre boreholes and has a strong local core to it. Roland explained: 'We had huge community support; it was built by local labour, we have employed about 15 local people and we have 105 shareholders, most of whom are from Islay, who invested an average of £5,000 each.' For the official opening a stretch limousine pulled up outside the hotel to reveal the special guest, local fisherman Alex 'Nasser' Campbell, who declared the hotel open. Local children then had the chance to go for a spin in the limousine.

**Cable theft causes communications chaos**

THREE days of communications chaos struck Oban in the last week, with phone and broadband services affected in two separate outages. On Thursday evening, an attempted cable theft from the Kirkintilloch exchange caused a failure that lasted more than 24 hours, with broadband services almost completely severed and phone lines intermittent at best. The thieves had mistaken the fibre optic cables for copper wire. Due to the scale of the damage, repairs were hugely complicated and weren't fully completed until 9pm on Friday. Things were just getting

back to normal when a power cut hit a major BT exchange in Birmingham on Monday morning, causing a loss of broadband throughout the UK. Referring first to last week's outage, a spokesperson for BT said: 'We were able to divert a number of lines onto temporary, alternative routes. Unfortunately there were no available divers for telephone and broadband traffic to the Oban area, where service was restored gradually over Friday afternoon and evening. We'd like to apologise for these breaks in service which were completely out with our control.'

**Loss of rescue centre 'would put lives at risk'**

THE CLOSURE of Clyde Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre would put lives at risk off the west coast of Scotland, according to Argyll and Bute Council. The local authority waded into the debate about the restructuring of the Marine Coastguard Agency (MCA), which includes the proposed closure of the Greenock base. In a letter responding to the MRC's consultation, council leader Dick Walsh set out the authority's 'serious concerns' about the proposal and points out its role in protecting a large part of the council area, from Helensburgh to Ardnamurchan Point, including the islands of Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Mull, Coll and Tiree. The council's executive committee approved the letter last Thursday. The letter states: 'The loss of local operational knowledge and experience will in the council's opinion reduce the coastguard's ability to respond to incidents quickly, accurately and decisively.' Reminding the MCA that Argyll's coastline measures approximately 2,313 miles long, the letter added the proposals would 'increase the risk to the safety of lives at sea and put at risk the coastal environment in Argyll and Bute; which the local economy is dependent upon.' Speaking at the committee meeting, Councillor Donald 'Skye' McIntosh said: 'The risk to life will definitely increase should this proposal go through. It is ridiculous and not well thought out.'

**Nursery gains literacy award**

LITTLE Learners' Nursery in Dunstaffnage has been given I Can accreditation for its work in developing children's language and literacy skills. I Can is a charity working towards improving communication skills in children across the UK. Little Learners is thought to be the first nursery in Oban to gain accreditation.

**Lorn Lines**

THIS year is the 60th anniversary of Oban's Inner Wheel. The office bearers are president - Shona Neil, vice president - Catherine Hall, secretary - Ursula Parry and treasurer - Sandra Owens. Conveners - Catherine Hall, Helen Jackson, Betty Moncrieff and Ivy Smart. The club is honoured that Christine Marlow was chosen as Overseas District Chairman. The club will be raising funds for various charities but president Shona's 'Charity of Choice' for this year is Ronald McDonald House. This charity provides free, homely accommodation for the families of sick children at Yorkhill Hospital, Glasgow, and gives priority to families who live out with Glasgow. The Ronald McDonald House receives no statutory funding and relies on donations.

HUNDREDS of locals took a trip to Ganavan on Saturday to join in with Stramash's second birthday celebrations. Visitors got to try their hand at a host of events during the party, with open canoeing, kayaking, archery, orienteering and even bushcraft on offer. The weather played its part too, with the sun coming out to ensure Ganavan beach has never been busier in October. The social enterprise and charity also held a celebratory dinner at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on Friday. Guest speaker for the evening was Karen Drake, a member of the British Paralympic 2012 Cycle team, renowned adventurer and Stramash patron, who gave a special presentation on her battle to triumph over adversity.



John MacLeod of Benderloch tries his hand at abseiling on Ganavan during Stramash's second birthday celebrations on Saturday. 15\_140stramash1

OBAN lifeboat, the *Mora Edith Macdonald*, was scrambled at just after 1pm on Monday to help the yacht *Postscript* which had broken down off Maiden Island with two people aboard. The lifeboat launched at 1.15pm and was on scene five minutes later. A tow was quickly established but on entering the bay was delayed to leave the entrance clear for two CalMac ferries. The yacht was secured on a mooring at Oban Marina at 1.55pm.



Romance was most definitely in the air at the Corran Halls on Sunday when Highland Functions held its first West Highland Wedding Show. Some of the models are pictured showing off the latest wedding fashions on the catwalk. 15\_140wedding1

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## Scottish Cup exit, but manager happy with the display

'The first two goals were a carbon copy of each other'

FORT WILLIAM are out of the Scottish Cup following a 4-0 loss to Bo'ness United on Saturday, but the players can hold their heads high after a spirited display.

One of the biggest crowds seen at Claggan Park for many years saw both home and away fans packing out the ground.

Keeper Jonathan Smith made his home debut and pulled off a brilliant save in the first minute to deny Bo'ness while Fort midfielder Chris MacLeod went close with a shot from the edge of the box.

Fort fell behind in the 18th minute when Scott Gibb scored from a corner, and four minutes later Gibb scored an almost identical header to make it 2-0 to the Junior side.

**REPORT BY**  
**RICHARD HADDOCK**  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

Nicky Walker scored from six yards to make it 3-0 after 31 minutes as the home side wilted. But Fort showed improvement after the break, with Sean Ellis causing problems for the Bo'ness defence. But it was the away team who scored next, with Stephen Tarditi scoring in the 65th minute.

Ellis nearly pulled a goal back when he went round the keeper, but his shot was blocked on the line by a recovering defender.

Manager Danny Conlon told The Oban Times he was happy with how side played in the second half. He said: 'The first half we just weren't quite there.

**FOOTBALL**

The second half was much better, we closed them down and there was not much difference between the sides.

'The first two goals were a carbon copy of each other - we could see what they were doing from the touchline. But it's a lesson learned.

'Our keeper did really well and he made a superb save early on. But he hasn't played much and he needs some game time just to get that sharpness.

'It was a good crowd; they brought up a good support with them. The club brought in some money which is something we need. But its back to bread and butter in the league this



Fort's Sean Ellis was a thorn in the side of the Bo'ness defence all afternoon. 20\_5406r101

weekend. Fort welcome Turiff United to Claggan on Saturday and will hope to pick up their first

points of the season, and Conlon warned it wouldn't be an easy game. He said: 'They had a slow start

to the season but they got a good result last week and its going to be another tough game.' Conlon should have Michael

Ellis, Danny Macintosh and Sean Grant back available for selection, although John and Lewis Campbell are still injured.

### Champions off to a slow start

**INDOOR FOOTBALL**

LAST YEAR'S champions Livercaol got off to a slow start in the Ali Young indoor football league, losing 6-4 to TNF United at the Nevis Centre on Sunday.

A number of new teams have swelled the ranks of the league to 12 this year, but

Goon Squad served notice that they will be one of the teams to watch by notching a remarkable 14 goals against new side Steaua Sookabreast, who managed five in return.

On a high-scoring day, Achintore FC defeated AA Young 5-3, Lochaber Leisure edged out HW Energy No-Stars 8-7 and Ballachulish FC lost to 3-2 to The Granite House. In the battle of the new sides, Stroke City ran out comfortable 9-4 winners against the Fire Brigade.

### Highland Cup held at Skye Golf Club

**GOLF**

ISLE OF Skye Golf Club hosted the two category Highland Cup handicap competition last weekend, with Graeme Watson and Ian Marr the two winners.

Results: Highland Cup - Category one (0-12) - 1, Graeme Wilson 73-12=61; 2, JA MacLeod 76-12=64; 3, Murdo Gordon 73-8=65.

Category two (13-28) - 1, Ian Marr 79-14=65; 2, Willie Urquhart 83-15=68; 3, AI Campbell 83-13=70.



Lochaber's Tom Baxter breaks through a tackle during his side's defeat on Saturday.

## Lochaber lose to Wanderers

**Lochaber 12, Aberdeen Wanderers 27**  
LOCHABER were unable to avenge their recent cup loss to Aberdeen Wanderers despite an impressive first half display which gave them a half time lead.

Before the game the players gathered in the Banavie clubhouse to watch Scotland vs England at the World Cup, and just like the national team Lochaber's hopes of a win were dashed by the opposition team coming from behind to snatch victory.

The home side played with passion and intensity in the first half and were at their most dangerous

on the counter attack when they managed to recycle quick ball.

Their most successful first half foray saw winger Jonathan McCook go round his opposite man and the full back to score under the posts, with Kenny Turnbull converting.

Lochaber turned at half time with a 7-3 lead, but failed to keep up the same intensity in defence in the second half and let Aberdeen Wanderers back into the game by giving them space to run. The visitors first try came from a five metre scrum from which the forwards powered their way over through a series of short drives. Aberdeen scored again in the

**RUGBY**

corner through their number eight who exploited the unguarded blind side of a ruck to take a 15-7 lead.

Within minutes Lochaber stand-off Kenny Turnbull ran on a loop dummying to both centres before drawing the winger and passing outside to Jonathan McCook who went over in the corner for his second try.

Aberdeen Wanderers stretched their lead further with two more tries as Lochaber's attack too ran out of steam.

Lochaber travel to take on Moray this Saturday, still looking for their first win of the season.

## Top boxers appear at the Nevis Centre

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club is gearing up for the latest home show this Saturday at the Nevis Centre, and the event will host an array of boxers ranging from novices to Scottish champions.

Twelve-year-old Kevin Aitchison, brother of Scottish champion James, will make his debut against Leighton Mackenzie of Hillpark and hopes this is the first step in emulating his brother's success.

James is suffering from a broken finger and won't be appearing, but Lochaber Phoenix's other Scottish champion Chris Bradley boxes in what promises to be an epic encounter.

Chris has dominated his weight division to such an extent that an opponent cannot be found in Scotland for him. The only boxer in the weight division above who is willing to face him is the Scottish champion David Dalziel, from Peterhead, who has not been beaten by a Scottish boxer in two years.

Rising star Igor Sliwinski faces Ross Young from Peterhead ABC as he continues preparations to compete in the Scottish Novice championships later this month. The Lochaber club has high hopes for Igor and feel this bout is an opportunity for the fourteen-year-old to show just why he is rated so highly.

Crowd favourite Mark Curtis will step up a level as he takes on Peter Brady of Aberdeen ABC. Mark has worked really hard on his defensive skills over the summer months and this improvement has led to what should prove a perfect test against the

**BOXING**

more experienced Aberdonian. A number of boxers will make their debut on Saturday, including Liam Jordan will take on Steven Buchanan of Hillpark ABC. Liam has shown lovely skills and very good ring intelligence in the gym and hopes to transfer this to the real thing.

Fellow debutant middleweight Scott Lawrie has also shown a real aptitude for the sport in training and is eagerly looking forward to his bout against Kingswell ABC's Vic Vasher. The last debutant on the show is super heavyweight Ewan Donnell. Another hard worker in the gym, Ewan, who boxes in a classic style, has answered every question asked of him in training and is straining at the leash for his first bout.

The experienced trio of Aidan Donnelly, Ryan Watson and Artom Jevstijejeik are awaiting confirmation of new opponents as their three scheduled adversaries pulled out injured.

One experienced boxer whose bout is definitely confirmed is Eddie Lopez who is back on a local bill after missing a few shows and as usual his reputation precedes him, which means finding an opponent has not been easy. This time out he will face Scottish Intermediate champion Scott McCormack of Bellahouston ABC, which promises to a barnstormer.

There are only a few tickets left for the show, which are available from Niall Clark (07554 994744), Vince Lopez (07979321025) and Steve Docherty (07767 069532).

## Double up for Glengarry as they lift the league title

**WOMEN'S SHINTY**

GLENGARRY Girls all-conquering side added the league title to their recent Camanachd Cup win by beating Aberdour 5-1 away on Sunday afternoon.

The Garry team played their final league division one game of the season, and due to work and holiday commitments had five changes that lifted the Valerie Fraser Cup at The Eilan.

Aberdour attacked from the start and Skye McNell fired home an unstoppable shot past keeper Linda Henderson to put the home side 1-0 ahead. Glengarry took the opener in

their stride, upped their game and began to pull together some great moves. They were rewarded for their efforts when Paige MacDonald fired home from a tight angle to level the match in the 17th minute.

The Garry girls now had the upper hand and went further ahead in the 28th minute when Lauren Doherty fired home from close range. Glengarry introduced youngsters Zoe Smith and Chloe MacDonald for their first appearance and Zoe hit the post in the 40th minute.

In the second half the Garry girls went all out to maintain their 100 per cent league record and really upped the pace. Annie Butterworth put them 3-1 ahead with a powerful shot from 20 metres.

In the 52nd minute youngster Zoe Smith fired home from close range before Annie Butterworth then put the away side 5-1 up when another of her powerful shots hit the keeper and flew into the net as Glengarry completed the double.



Champions! The Glengarry Girls team which swept all before them this season.

## Weather

**Thursday** Light rain.  
Winds strong, west, north westerly  
Temperatures 10°C to 12°C

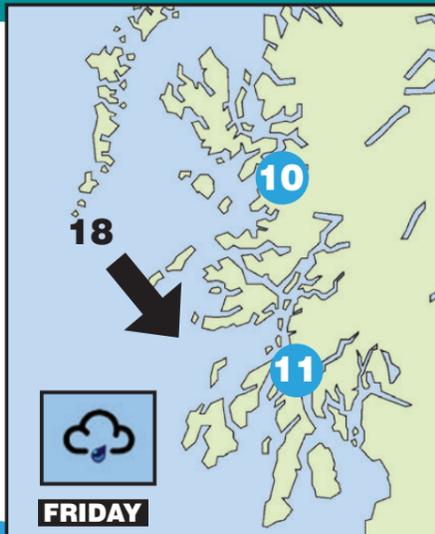
**Friday** Light rain.  
Winds moderate, north westerly  
Temperatures 9°C to 11°C.

**Weekend** Heavy rain.

**Outlook** Winds moderate, southerly.  
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, October 6, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	02.21 2.7 07.23 1.7 14.23 3.2 20.21 1.8	
Fri	03.31 2.9 08.43 1.5 15.15 3.3 21.24 1.6	
Sat	04.04 3.1 09.36 1.3 15.45 3.5 22.04 1.4	
Sun	04.07 3.3 10.18 1.2 16.14 3.7 22.37 1.3	
Mon	04.30 3.5 10.55 1.0 16.45 3.9 23.07 1.1	
Tues	05.00 3.7 11.28 1.0 17.17 4.0 23.37 1.0	
Wed	05.29 3.9 11.59 1.0 17.48 4.1 ** **	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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