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Blow to three villages as hotels go bust

Administrators called in to run Dalmally-based group

THREE Argyll villages are facing major social and economic upheaval after a hotel group went into administration.

Administrators RSM Tenon has taken over the running of affairs at Glenorchy Lodge Hotel Ltd, which owns the Taynult Hotel, Glenorchy Lodge in Dalmally and the Tyndrum Lodge Hotel.

As *The Oban Times* went to press, Taynult and Tyndrum Lodge hotels were still trading, however, Glenorchy Lodge had been closed.

The group continues to take bookings for the hotels and its website indicates it is business as usual, except a footnote to explain the administrators have been appointed.

Glenorchy Lodge Hotels Ltd was asked to comment on the implications of going into administration and what it would mean for the communities it served but refused to comment.

The administrators said it would be marketing the hotels 'as soon as we can'.

The closure of Glenorchy

REPORT
by EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

Lodge, the pub where just 20 years ago Magnus MacFarlane Barrow and his brother first concocted the master plan for the charity Scottish International Relief - now Mary's Meals - has compounded what is already a difficult time for businesses in Dalmally. The loss of coach parties at Dalmally Hotel for much of this year has also had a knock-on effect.

Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council chairman David Fellowes said: 'Dalmally is suffering. The closure of Glenorchy

"Glenorchy Lodge is part of the social fabric of the village."
Community councillor David Fellowes

Lodge means there is no hostelry in Dalmally; there's always been something in the village.

'Glenorchy Lodge is part of the social fabric of the place: the shinty team goes there, there are old folks' lunches and it is well frequented during Dalmally Show day.

'If it didn't re-open for some time, it would be very unfortunate for the village.'

Councillor Neil Mackay, Argyll and Bute Council's spokesman for tourism, said: 'Any loss to tourist facilities is not good news, however, we must also recognise the impact on individual employees and on the communities as a whole.'

'There is a lot of pressure on all aspects of the licensed trade. It makes us aware how fragile the economic structure of Argyll is and that we can't afford any complacency in any business, tourist or otherwise.'

'All we can hope for is another company will take over the businesses, whether individually, or as a whole.'

Youngsters are put through their paces at cattle show



An added attraction at the Highland Cattle Society's 114th annual autumn show at Oban Livestock Centre on Sunday was the introduction of a new trophy, donated by *The Oban Times* for the best young handler, aged under 18. Among those taking part was Mhairi Dempster, from Dalmally. To find out who won the trophy, and for a show report, see page 14. Photo: Kevin McGlynn.

After 10-year wait it's all systems go for Soroba Community Centre

IT HAS been in discussion for nearly 10 years, but a major step towards the creation of a community centre in Soroba has been taken this week.

Monday was the deadline for objections to the Scottish Government reporter's decision to allow a compulsory purchase order by Argyll and Bute Council to take over land near the car park in Shuna Terrace.

And with no opposition to the decision, lawyers for the council and Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA)

are currently drawing up proposals for the latter to take on the site and build the community centre.

There is already outline planning permission for the site.

There are currently community facilities in flats in Soroba's Scalpay Terrace but the various clubs and groups have outgrown the current premises.

Councillor Donald 'Skye' McIntosh, who has been campaigning for a community centre in Soroba, said he had waited 10 years for the decision

and is confident funding can be found to make the project happen.

'When the community centre opened in Scalpay Terrace it was over-provisioned,' he said.

'It just isn't big enough. Now, at long last, an area as big as Soroba will have its own centre for the community.'

'It is cut off from the rest of the town by the railway and faces a stigma with its 'concrete jungle' tag, because it is too densely populated.'

'So, for the community's sake,

particularly the children, single mothers and elderly people, this needs to happen.

'The council has held up its promise; it's important ACHA does the same.'

ACHA chief executive Alistair MacGregor confirmed the association would set up a project team, which he would chair, to look at ways of funding the project.

He added that since recently becoming a charitable organisation, ACHA may have new sources of funding available.

Teenager faces trial over Dalavich house blaze

THE SHERIFF and jury trial of a teenage girl, who is accused of setting fire to a Dalavich house, began this week.

The 15-year-old, who was 14 at the time of the alleged offence and cannot be named for legal reasons, is accused of wilfully setting fire to the house at 29 Dalavich on June 25 last year.

The blaze caused extensive damage to the property.

The trial was due to continue yesterday (Wednesday), as *The Oban Times* went to press.

Vandals target business premises

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a business premises in George Street, Oban, was vandalised in the early hours of Saturday morning. CCTV footage is being examined to trace the vandal. The incident occurred at around 1.45am.

Motorists reported for speeding

FOUR motorists have been reported for speeding following speed checks at the A816 at Kilniver between 3pm and 6pm on Saturday.

Drugs recovered after house search

DRUGS officers recovered a quantity of diazepam during a search of premises at Cawdor Place, Shore Street, on Friday. Enquiries into the recovery are continuing.

Defendant admits cocaine charge

SENTENCE has been deferred on an Oban man who appeared from custody on Monday and pled guilty to possession of cocaine.

The offence was committed while Sean Kelly, aged 27, of Flat 1/1, 19 High Street was on bail from Glasgow Sheriff Court and on two bail orders from Oban Sheriff Court. He was granted bail and will appear for sentencing on October 19.

He added that since recently becoming a charitable organisation, ACHA may have new sources of funding available.



Counting cost of royal wedding holiday

GIVING its staff a day off to celebrate April's royal wedding cost Western Isles Council nearly a quarter of a million pounds.

Like other local authorities across Scotland, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar allowed all staff to take a day's leave to mark the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton on April 29 this year.

The decision was taken locally in accordance with a decision by the UK Government.

While the council was unable to calculate an exact figure, it was able to reveal the total cost

of giving all non-essential staff a day off was approximately £250,000.

No money was spent on any celebrations, however.

The figure has been revealed following a freedom of information request which has been published online.

Reacting to the figure, council leader Angus Campbell said: 'I think it's important to point out that this is money we would have been spending anyway, but we did lose the productivity of that day.'

'The council democratically decided to take the holiday, but

with the financial pressures we are facing I personally don't think it was the right way to go.'

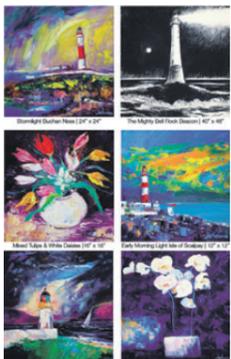
Meanwhile, Argyll and Bute Council officials insist they are unable to provide an estimate on how much the royal wedding holiday cost.

A spokeswoman said: 'There are too many varying factors to produce a definitive cost for Argyll and Bute Council making the royal wedding date a public holiday. Argyll and Bute Council does not calculate lost productivity in cash terms for this type of event.'

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Fishermen responsible for own deaths, rules sheriff

FOUR fishermen, who drowned on Loch Awe in March 2009, were responsible for their own deaths, a sheriff has ruled.

A Fatal Accident Inquiry report compiled by Sheriff Douglas Small, ruled that William Carty, 47, his brother Steven, 42, Thomas Douglas, 36, and Craig Currie, 30, were poorly equipped and did not take adequate safety precautions.

The report highlighted the fact the men took to the water in fog without proper life jackets and after consuming alcohol.

Sheriff Small concluded that, considering the weather conditions, they should have taken a taxi back to their camp.

The party from Glasgow had gone to The Tight Line pub and were returning to their campsite across

the loch when their small boat was believed to have capsized.

The alarm was raised by Edward Colquhoun, the only survivor of the party, who had decided against visiting the pub and remained at the group's campsite.

A huge emergency services operation got underway but because of the thick fog, rescuers could do little but listen to the dying cries of the men on the water.

Sheriff Small's report, published on Monday, said: 'No person should take a decision to use a boat whilst under the influence of alcohol.'

He judged the cause of death as 'cold water immersion' and cited evidence given to the inquiry by Professor Michael Tipton, of Portsmouth University, an expert on the effects of cold-water immersion

on the human body. The Sheriff also accepted Professor Tipton's opinion that the survival chances of two of the men - Craig Currie and William Carty - 'would have been significantly increased had they been wearing lifejackets that had been deployed, as opposed to a buoyancy aid such that the airways would have been kept clear of the water'. Thomas Douglas was later found with no buoyancy aid on his body and Stephen Carty's jacket had a hole in it.

The Sheriff said he had heard various 'speculative' scenarios as to what caused the boat to sink. These ranged from the boat having been turned over when one of the victims tried to restart the engine when it had failed because of fuel starvation; one of the deceased

destabilising the boat when he urinated over the side of the boat; the boat being unstable because of its design or altered structure or simply because there were too many people onboard. Sheriff Small said these were 'speculative and cannot give rise to any findings'.

Sheriff Small made a number of recommendations as to how the emergency services could improve their efficiency in such circumstances in future.

These included ensuring fire and rescue personnel were always equipped with lifejackets and boat-based crew carrying markers, which could identify the location of bodies recovered, and that the Maritime and Coastguard Agency should have been equipped with a police radio.

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Government urged to think again over Barra SAC plan

ENVIRONMENTAL campaigners have joined calls for the Scottish Government to start again with proposals to impose protected status on two areas off the island of Barra.

The Scottish Government and Scottish Natural Heritage want to impose a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designation at the Sound of Barra to protect seals, joining the status already approved against islanders wishes for cold water reefs at East Mingulay. The latter decision is awaiting European approval.

However Mark Carter, the

chairman of the Hebridean Partnership, which campaigns for protection for the area's wildlife, agrees with islanders, fisherman and politicians that the process has been 'fundamentally flawed' and wants the whole process reset.

However, unlike his counterparts representing the island's wish for no designations to be imposed, most prominently the campaign group SHAMED, Mr Carter has said that the designation is required.

Meanwhile, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has told Scottish ministers that any SAC des-

ignation imposed on the Sound of Barra would result in no new restrictions on the valuable creel fishery in the Sound of Barra, while demersal trawling and dredging could be allowed to continue if they occur away from the most sensitive areas of habitat.

'Open and frank'

Speaking before the announcement by SNH, Mr Carter said: 'Nobody has been given the facts.'

'The simple fact is the Scottish Government, SNH and the islanders should all get together and be totally open and frank.'

'There seems to be some officers working on this who want to do the minimum amount of work required.'

'As a result, you are getting a lot of people who are getting very worked up because they aren't getting any information whatsoever.'

'Frankly, the processes haven't been followed correctly. If they are not, this could easily end up in a European court.'

Even if followed correctly, he believes the process is undemocratic, as to succeed or fail in a designation requires expensive scientific evidence, out of the

reach of ordinary islanders.

'All we want with these processes is a level playing field,' Mr Carter said.

'Again, on that we are on exactly the same side as SHAMED.'

He believes the designation at the Sound of Barra is necessary though.

'Across Scotland the population of the common seal has been dropping. We need to do as much as possible to protect them.'

'While there are a number of SAC designations for seal colonies on the east coast - there

are only three on the west of Scotland. There's nothing in the legislation that says a SAC will stop fishing.'

Meanwhile, Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan has responded to the consultation on the proposed SAC for the Sound of Barra by saying he thinks there is no case for designation.

He said: 'I recognise the limited scope of this consultation process, but it must be remembered how important economically the sound of Barra is to the human population of the islands.'

Council tests joint headships

KINTYRE has been the testing ground for a new way of running small rural primary schools and it's an occasion when one head is better than two.

The trial could be one way forward in the fight to keep as many of the smaller primaries open in Argyll and Bute as possible.

A meeting of Argyll and Bute Council heard last week that the joint headship of Carradale and Drumlemble primary schools had been a great success.

The current situation in the smaller primaries sees the head both teaching and managing.

A joint head spends two days of the school week plus alternate Wednesdays in each location leaving them free to manage and staff to get on with teaching.

Councillors were told the Carradale-Drumlemble venture has not saved the equivalent of a head teacher's salary as another teacher has been promoted to senior status in each school and is in charge when the head is away.

This gives continuity in the classroom and parents can contact the head throughout the school day without disturbing her classroom duties.

Douglas Hendry, director of customer services, told councillors: 'It's all been very positive. Across the board we have had good feedback from the head, from teachers, parents and pupils.'

The schools can also collaborate on work.

Councillor Ellen Morton, spokeswoman for education, said: 'It has encouraged us to consider that this might be a suitable arrangement in other locations.'

When making the decision for joint headships the council says it will pair up schools carefully, with regard to geography, size and similarity.

It's a dream come true as Louise jets off to Orlando

AN OBAN girl who has endured a particularly difficult year due to ill health will this weekend go on the adventure of a lifetime.

Louise MacDonald, of Nelson Road, Oban, has been selected by the Dreamflight Children's Charity for an amazing 10-day trip to Orlando, where she will visit Disneyland, Blizzard Beach and Discovery Cove among other thrilling destinations.

She will also be able to realise a life-long dream of being able to swim with dolphins at Florida's world-famous Deep Sea World - before taking on 'Jaws' at Universal Studios.

Louise is even set to meet a host of celebrities before jetting off from Heathrow on Saturday, with patron Shane Ritchie likely to be joined by pop stars and television favourites.

Nominated for the treat by an outpatient nurse at the Schiehallion children's ward at Yorkhill Hospital, the journey promises to be an awe-inspiring trip for 13-year-old Louise, who cannot contain her excitement.

She said: 'I've got to thank Sister Jean Bellmore for this. She put me forward for it and I didn't think I'd be picked. Then one morning the postman came and I saw a really big envelope.'

'It had a big stamp on it saying Dreamflight and I thought, 'Oh my god it's for me!' I was so excited I couldn't stop screaming.'

'I really want to meet JLS

REPORT
by STEVEN FLANAGAN
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before I go. There's also supposed to be lots of celebrities at the airport waving us off - but I wish it was my mum waving me off.

'I'm most looking forward to swimming with dolphins - it's basically a dream come true.'

Louise's selection for the trip was a tremendous boost for the Oban High School student, who for the last year has been battling against complications caused by neurofibromatosis.

The genetic condition causes spontaneous tumour growth across the body. To combat the side-effects, Louise had a shunt implanted into her skull to drain excess fluid, but a complication just a few weeks ago meant Louise and mum Marlie were fretting over whether the Dreamflight trip was a possibility.

Thankfully, surgery to fix the shunt at Glasgow's Southern General Hospital last month was a complete success, and Louise is packed and ready to go.

Louise said: 'I have to thank the nurses that helped me after the operation on the shunt, Laura McCrystal - who I call Laura McSparkle - Lorrano, Marie-Ann and Morag.'

'I'd also like to thank my mum for spoiling me and all the nurses at Schiehallion.'



Louise MacDonald is looking forward to her trip with the Dreamflight charity, which she says is 'basically a dream come true.'

Traders fall foul of age restrictions

NEARLY a quarter of shopkeepers on Islay sold cigarettes to a 14-year-old 'customer', despite a warning from Trading Standards that they would be tested.

Argyll and Bute Council's Trading Standards team have found that 22 per cent of shops sold cigarettes to under-age test-purchase volunteers.

Despite the traders of Islay being told they would be tested using volunteers aged under 18 years old, who would attempt to buy age-restricted goods, illegal sales were still being made.

Chairman of the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee Councillor Danny Kelly said: 'It is great news that the majority of the traders listened to the advice given and challenged young people trying to buy cigarettes but it is still disappointing that some traders are ignoring the law.'

'We want to protect the health of the young people of Argyll and Bute.'

'Traders should be aware that the council's trading standards team will be back on Islay and if they ignore the law then they may find themselves having to answer for their actions in court.'

Officers routinely carry out inspections at all shops and provide businesses with advice on how they can comply with the laws that apply to them.

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Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club strikes up

THE FIRST night of Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club's new session took place last Thursday and attracted a good attendance to the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

Chairman Michael Garvin welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending on such a wet and windy night.

He also acknowledged the passing of club stalwart Duncan Campbell, a founder member of the club, who will be sadly missed by everyone.

The evening began with Michael playing accordion. Other local players on accordion were Ross MacPherson, Hector McFadyen, Willie Buchanan on his three row

Argyll guide aims to get travel delegates dancing

AN ARGYLL walking guide is to sell the area as an world-class active holiday destination at a global event in Mexico - before helping to organise the most diverse ceilidh ever attempted.

Stewart Richardson this week took leave of his normal posting as lead guide at About Argyll, Strathlachlan, to head to San Cristobal for the three-day Adventure Travel World Summit (ATWS) as part of a team put together by VisitScotland.

While there, he will sample what the American country has to offer in terms of its own outdoors treats, before telling delegates from every continent why Scotland has as much going for it as anywhere in the world.

He will then embark on the biggest challenge of his life - organising a ceilidh for 650 people; with barely a common language between them.

Great success

Stewart, who prefers walking to dancing, said: 'The conference was in Aviemore last year and was a great success.'

'We're hoping this summit in Mexico will be just as successful and help bring more people to Argyll from around the world.'

'While there, we're hoping to break the world record for the world's most international ceilidh.'

'Around 650 delegates from all over the world will be here and we will make the attempt after a special Burns' supper.'

Taking inspiration from Oban's Big Strip, Strip the Willow will be the highlight of the event - but how do you teach the dance to people that don't even speak English?

'Just like at any other ceilidh I suppose,' said Stewart. 'Just throw them in the deep end. The Scottish guys will be going first though to give people an idea of what to do. I hope it

Atlantis to host Cash for Kids Hallowe'en party

OBAN Cash for Kids' annual Hallowe'en Party will this year be jointly run by Atlantis Leisure when it takes place at the end of the month.

Hosted at the leisure centre, the party is on Hallowe'en night, Monday October 31 from 6pm-7.30pm.

The usual fun activities will be on offer, including bouncy castles, a magician, disco, party games and lots more, including the successful new soft play area.

Being Hallowe'en, the traditional 'goodie bags' will be provided for kids to take home.

As in previous years, there is no admission charge, as the cost of the party is covered from funds raised at other events, with additional help from Atlantis Leisure, Breckenridge and Poppies Garden Centre.

Fun time

Oban Cash for Kids' Neil MacKay said: 'The party was created a number of years ago to provide a warm and safe environment where toddlers and primary school children can have a fun time and be as scary as they want.'

'It certainly is a hectic day for our small but dedicated band of helpers with the actual party being severely full on, but that's what it's all about. Indeed, that's what Cash for Kids is about.'

Actor/musician to star at fundraising concert in Oban

RIVER City star and musician Tom Urie will play at a fundraising concert in Oban, organised by the family of a brain injury victim.

Allan 'Dillon' Milne was severely injured in a road crash in May 2010 and is currently in the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Hospital in Glasgow.

Now his family want to say thank-you to the hospital by organising the fundraising evening with soap star Urie, who plays Bob O'Hara, and local band Still Water.

His sister, Madeline, said: 'As a family we have never forgotten all the people who helped Allan after the accident, the locals who stopped to help and the emergency services and staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital.'

'But we wanted to do something for the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust (BIRT), because the difference it can make to someone's life is unbelievable.'

Allan was one of the first people to benefit from treatment at the brain rehabilitation hospital, which opened just one month after his crash.

The fundraising evening will be held on December 10 in the Corran Halls and tickets are available in advance from the venue.



Actor Tom Urie, who is heading to Oban to perform at a fundraising concert.

Business leader calls for reform of banks

RORY MacKail, chairman of the Argyll and Islands Federation of Small Businesses, wants the government to reform banking legislation as quickly as possible.

While welcoming the Independent Commission on Banking's plans for reform, by splitting investment and retail banks, Mr MacKail wants action to be taken before the end of the current Parliament.

His comments come after a poll of FSB members showed that 89 per cent believe the banking system needs reform - with 52 per cent calling for implementation to happen immediately.

He said: 'The recommendations laid out in the report have the potential to make the sector safer and more secure. The government must not water down the proposals and we urge the chancellor to ensure that they are fully implemented before the end of this Parliament.'

Charity uses internet to help heal family rifts

INTERNET technology is helping a charity break down the miles when working to heal family breakdowns in Argyll and Bute.

From its base in Oban, Family Mediation Argyll and Bute visits families at centres in Dunoon, Helensburgh, Lochgilphead and Campbeltown, which can involve a lot of travelling, which takes time and money.

But now the charity has turned to Skype, the internet voice-and-video service. The Lloyds TSB Foundation has given the charity a grant of £3,930 to help pay for training.

Tanya MacDougall, service manager for Family Mediation, said: 'The money will be very much appreciated, not only by us but also by the families we support.'

'Getting new mediators will help us meet a growing demand for our services.'

Family Mediation Argyll and Bute works with separating or divorcing parents, helping them with issues such as their children's needs. It also has a specialist mediation service for young homeless people and their families.

Mediators

Last year it helped 42 families and in the first six months of this year worked with 33 families.

The Lloyds TSB Foundation cash will help pay for two more mediators and train them.

'Skype is not something we would use in all circumstances but it does help us reduce conflict between parents as quickly as possible,' said Tanya.

'I have two computers and can talk to each parent separately. They don't see each other, but can hear each other and know what is being said.'

Charities wanting to know about applying to the Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland should call 0131 444 4020.

Beached whale buried

THE MASSIVE whale which beached and died on South Uist last week has been autopsied and buried.

The 55ft fin whale stranded on a beach which is part of MOD property at Gerinish.

Volunteers from British Divers Marine Life Rescue attempted fruitlessly to re-float the huge animal, and it died just a day after it beached.

Andrew Brownlow, Scottish Marine Animal Strandings vet from Scottish Agricultural College's disease surveillance centre in Inverness, carried out the autopsy, before local contractors JJ MacDonald dug a huge grave for the whale in shingle above the tide line.

Mr Brownlow said: 'It was on a scale unlike anything I have ever seen before. The animal is likely to have weighed close to 70 tonnes.' Mr Brownlow said it was too early to say why it stranded, with no indication of trauma or infectious disease.

Control system fault disrupts Islay ferry sailings

A FAULT within a new state-of-the-art engine control system on board the MV *Hebridean Isles* disrupted Islay ferry sailings at the weekend.

The ship's Rolls Royce CAN-bus system was recently installed to replace a pneumatic one that is no longer supportable.

A replacement system has been flown in and it was hoped the ship would be repaired yesterday (Wednesday).

Ferry operators CalMac had MV *Isle of Arran* on stand-by to take over on the Kennacraig to Port Askaig route but apologised for any inconvenience caused.

Police ponder 'one-stop-shop' approach

A 'ONE-stop-shop' approach could see police and Argyll and Bute Council sharing accommodation, councillors heard at their October meeting.

It had nearly happened in Helensburgh recently but would not have been cost effective at the final analysis.

Chief Constable Stephen House was addressing the council as guest speaker and told members that he and the chief executive of the council were still considering the idea in some areas.

Driver reported to fiscal

A MAN accused of careless driving for overtaking in the 30mph zone in Connel is to be reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

The 28-year-old, who was pulled over by police on October 4, is also alleged to have been driving a vehicle that was not taxed.

Motorist charged over accident

POLICE have charged a man with causing an accident at Ardchattan Priory last Tuesday.

The man has been accused of approaching corners at excessive speed before causing a collision with a bus.

Man held after alleged assault

A MAN has been arrested in connection with an alleged assault at Combie Court on Saturday.

A 52-year-old man was butted during the incident. It is alleged that the assailant, a 22-year-old male, was also in possession of a knife.

Pushbike stolen from street

WITNESSES are being sought after a pushbike was stolen from Combie Street, Oban, sometime between October 5-7.

Call the newsdesk on 01631 568000



Together again: Juan and Rachel have rekindled their relationship after Juan's surprise visit. 16_141Juan02

Juan flies in to tell Rachel 'I love you'

Sweethearts together again after surprise reunion in pub

A LATIN lover has won back his sweetheart after travelling 14 hours from Honduras to Oban to surprise her - in Markie Dan's pub.

REPORT
by EUAN PATERSON
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Romantic Juan Carlos Molina shocked girlfriend Rachel Veza after a love song he had written for her was played over the speakers in the Oban pub.

Juan had met the Swiss/German backpacker after employing her as a diving instructor in his native Honduras and the couple lived and worked together while living in Central America.

But after Rachel gained a place to study at the Scottish Association of Marine Science in Dunstaffnage, the couple agreed the distance between Oban and Honduras was too great and the relationship ended.

Juan, a former musician, told *The Oban Times*: 'She had left some of her things at the house and I couldn't get her out of my head. I was depressed.'

'I started to think there was no point living without her so, then one day I decided to buy the plane ticket to Scotland. I just wrote the song and got a friend to produce it for me.'

'She could have been with someone else, or maybe she wouldn't have wanted to see me, but I had to tell her how I felt.'

By chance, Juan met Oban man Norman Martin on the flight from Amsterdam to Glasgow and, after explaining his story, was delighted to accept a lift to the town.

hoped. Rachel explained: 'When the song came on people were asking if I recognised it - they were all in on the surprise - but I said I didn't, although I recognised the singer's voice.'

Even though Juan sang one verse in German, Rachel still didn't click.

'I was hiding in another room and the barman came back to tell me there had been no reaction,' said Juan. 'I couldn't believe it. I had brought some of her things over with me and handed him one of her boots to show her, but that didn't work either. She was just very confused.'

'I had no plan C, so I just bought a couple of beers and offered her one. She was really shocked, so I guess that worked!'

Juan and Rachel have been spending as much time together as possible before he leaves for Honduras. Before that, Juan is going to help celebrate Rachel's birthday next Thursday.

Fresh outrage as vandals target £800,000 Soroba footbridge again

THERE is fresh outrage this week at the condition of the Soroba footbridge into Oban, with the route littered with foul language, anti-Catholic slogans and gang tags.

Since the £800,000 footbridge was opened in May last year, it has been a gathering spot for youths and repeatedly vandalised.

The latest graffiti on the green bridge, which was known as 'the blue bridge' before it was rebuilt, also contains an ironic claim from the jobs responsible that 'we are no sectarian' - just inches from hateful religious comments.

Concern

The bridge is regularly used by school children as well as adults, and there is concern over what effect it is having on local youngsters.

One parent crossing the bridge said: 'It's absolutely disgusting. Some of the stuff written on the bridge is vile and it's about time it was removed.'

'Kids walk past this every day - my kids included. They shouldn't be subjected to this stuff.'

Local councillor Roddy McCuish last year said he'd be

reluctant to waste the council's money on repainting the bridge only for it to be vandalised again.

The SNP councillor - whose party is trying to push through tough new anti-sectarian laws - has repeated his stance.

He said: 'I'm really disappointed in the offensive graffiti on the bridge and the way it has already fallen into this state of disrepair. The people responsi-

ble need to have a really hard look at themselves.'

'Kids are constantly encouraged to walk to school and there are young kids walking past this offensive stuff every day.'

'The bridge was built by Argyll Community Housing Association but handed over to the council.'

'I'd be loathe for the council to spend money repainting it, only for it to be vandalised again.'

'Anti-graffiti paint would cost a fortune, but I don't know what else we can do.'

Meanwhile, the councillor has urged locals to report to police those responsible for the vandalism.

He said: 'Please report these people to the police - and people should bear in mind that Crimestoppers is available if they want to remain anonymous.'



Some of the slogans scrawled across the £800,000 footway from Oban into Soroba. 15_141sorobab2

Groups can cash in on wind farm community fund

THE AN Suidhe Wind Farm Community Fund is now open for applications with an initial deadline of November 7.

The fund will benefit the communities of Inveraray, Furnace, Eredine and Dalavich and their surrounding areas

providing they fall within 10 kilometres of the An Suidhe Wind Farm. For the next 25 years, RWE npower Renewables will award £28,500 annually to the An Suidhe Wind Farm Community Fund.

The Scottish Community Foundation, a grant-making charity, will process applications from constituted community groups, not-for-profit organisations and registered charities. Applications for grants of between £250 and £7,000 are welcomed; smaller awards of

less than £250 can be made through a scheme administered by each of the three community councils serving the area. Forms and guidelines will be available from each community council and on the Scottish Community Foundation website.

Motorists' misery at faulty traffic lights

SOROBA Road's traffic lights are once again causing misery for motorists.

The light governing the filter lane to take traffic down Lynn Road has been malfunctioning, with the

green arrow often not being shown despite waiting vehicles.

In addition, the timing of light changes has been erratic.

The latest malfunction comes during the week engineers were

due to implement a permanent solution to the timing problems reported last month.

A council spokesperson said: 'Someone will go and look at the lights to investigate the problem.'

Council judged 'weak' on child protection

ELEMENTS within Argyll and Bute Council's social work department have been described as 'weak' by a scrutiny report, compiled by a collective of government agencies.

The inspection, carried out by Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWIS), looked at the services provided by social work, education, health, the police, the Children's Reporter and voluntary and independent organisations.

While the report acknowledges improvements made at the council since 2005, it was critical of its protection for young people.

It stated: 'In a quarter of case files

where there should have been a risk assessment, the quality of risk assessment and risk management needed to improve.'

'In the case files we assessed, five per cent of the risk assessments and 12 per cent of the risk management plans were weak.'

Key areas

The report defines 'weak' as: demonstrating a lack of professional competence in key areas.'

MSP Michael Russell called for an immediate review by the council.

He said: 'There are areas of practice that are still not up to scratch and in some respects are regarded as weak.'

'There needs to be a concerted effort to improve this situation.' Argyll and Bute Council's spokesman for social affairs Councillor Andrew Nisbet said there was much to be pleased with, as well as further work to be undertaken.

'This is obviously vital work, which the council and its partners carry out in order to help and support some of the most vulnerable members of our community.'

'We will continue to work with our partners and others on improvements to ensure that vulnerable children receive the appropriate protection, support and encouragement to improve their lives, both in the short and longer term.'

NEVIS CYCLES
Opening this weekend in George Street, Oban
Specialised and Trek Bicycles
Onza Trials Bikes
Trails
Spares and accessories
Full Repair Service
Bike Hire

Charity seeks agreement over use of Oban's White Building

AN OBAN charity shop that runs from the North Pier's White Building is once again seeking long-term assurances on its future.

The MacQueen Brothers' Charitable Trust shop raises in excess of £100,000 per year for local causes and groups, while the charity itself also hosts a number of events.

However, the shop has a constant cloud hanging over it, with the building last year put up for sale by landlords Argyll and Bute Council.

Graham MacQueen says loss of the charity shop would be a huge blow for the town, with national funding sources becoming increasingly difficult to draw from.

Now, in the wake of an appeal for new stock, he has called for the local authority to give the shop a five-year commitment - something he said would make sense given

the number of ongoing plans to develop the area. He said: 'In the past few years we've been able to assist a huge number of organisations and groups.'

'Argyll and Bute Council continue to give us this building free of charge, and we thank them for their support. If they leave us here for five years the community would benefit to a greater sum than it would cost to maintain the building. It also allows us to plan for the future, maybe paint the exterior and make the building look a lot better.'

Argyll and Bute Council has not made a commitment yet, but said a decision on the future of the building is pending.

A spokesperson said: 'This matter is being continued until the outcome of the council's Tax Incremental Finance (TIF) funding bid for Oban is known.'

CALUM'S ROAD

★★★★★
The Scotsman
★★★★★
The Guardian

Adapted by David Harrower
From the book by Roger Hutchinson
Directed by Gerry Mulgrew

THE CORRAN HALLS, OBAN
Fri 21 October 2011, 7.30pm
Ticket Prices: £10 / £9 / £6
Box Office: 01631 567333

OT

Plea to make fireworks display go with a bang

Organisers hope event will become a sparkling success

RESIDENTS are being asked to dig deep in an effort to make Oban's annual fireworks display one of the highlights of the town's calendar of events. This year's display is going ahead with the help of a £2,000 donation from Scottish Sea Farms.

However, Councillor Roddy McCuish, chairman of the organising committee, said he hoped those who turn out for this year's display – on Friday November 4 – would fill the collection buckets on the night.

He explained that the event costs £6,000 to stage.

'There is not a penny of council money goes into this,' he said.

'Last year, there were about 2,000 people at the fireworks display, but there was only

REPORT
by STUART LAUNDY
slaundy@obantimes.co.uk

£2,500 taken in by the collection. That puts the event in doubt and means we need to chase the money every year.

Self sufficient
'We would much rather build up the event than just get by. We would like to be self sufficient, but we have to rely on the public for donations on the night.'

Members of Oban Lions Club will once again help to steward the event and also take the collection buckets round the town.

Councillor McCuish said all £6,000 is spent on fireworks to ensure a good display.

The event also benefits from the support of Strathclyde Fire and Rescue as well as the police and ambulance services.

Other organisations represented on the fireworks committee include Och Aye Events, Argyll and Bute Council, Soroba residents and Argyll Community Housing Association.

Councillor McCuish pointed out that no-one would be allowed into the display, at Mossfield, with their own fireworks or sparklers.

'There will be plenty of glow sticks on sale,' he said.

Any organisation which would like to take a stall at the fireworks display should contact Councillor McCuish as soon as possible on 01631 567142.

Special celebration for Oban's Inner Wheel club



Members of the Inner Wheel Club of Oban met for lunch at the Taynuilt Hotel on Saturday to celebrate their 60th anniversary. A special cake had been made for the occasion, while also on show was the plaque presented to the club by the Princess Royal earlier this year. The club's longest serving members, Helen Jackson MBE and Bobbie Cathro, standing, who have each chalked up more than 44 years, are pictured with president Shona Neil and relative new girl Betty Moncrieff, who has been with the club for just two years.

Toxins alert at lochs Striven and Riddon

FRESH warnings have been issued of raised algal toxin levels at lochs Striven and Riddon, despite a number of other lochs re-opening in recent weeks.

The lochs have been closed since September 15, with warnings posted in the vicinity that they should not be approached and that eating shellfish such as cockles, mussels or razor fish from the lochs may pose a risk to human health.

Commercial shellfish harvesters have been contacted by the local authority and instructed to stop harvesting until the waters return to normal.

A number of lochs have now been affected by this year's spike in algae, although most have returned to normal.

Loch Melfort and Seil Sound re-opened on September 20, while the Mull waters at Sound of Mull, Loch Scridain, Tobermory and Aros re-opened on October 6.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Monitoring work is currently being undertaken by the council to evaluate this situation and when the situation subsides, the warning notes will be removed.'

Greens get together

OCTOBER is proving to be a busy time for local members of the Scottish Green Party.

In the run up to the party's annual conference in Aberdeen from October 28 to 30, there was a mini get-together at the A K Bell Library Theatre in Perth on Saturday October 1.

The event was attended by members from all over Scotland, including Oban and other parts of Argyll and Bute, and among issues discussed was the growing support for the Greens from voters across Scotland.

On Saturday October 22, there will be a Highlands and Islands branch meeting at the Spectrum Centre in Inverness to consider the way forward for the coming council elections in May 2012.

Loch Fyne firm receives producers' award for Scotland's best oysters

LOCH Fyne Oysters has won a major accolade - being named the producers of Scotland's Best Native Oysters.

The award was presented at the Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers Conference, which was held in Oban last week, with judges blind tasting samples from across the country in a bid to find the land's finest.

Oysters and mussels were scored on shape, colour, plumpness and taste.

Experimenting
David Attwood, aquaculture director at Loch Fyne Oysters, said: 'After experimenting with the native oysters in Loch Fyne for a year and harvesting them at low tide, this confirms the fact that the native oysters prefer to be farmed on the seabed and will grow well in the correct conditions as they did years ago.'

'Given this, we are actively looking to increase the numbers of native oysters that are grown naturally in Loch Fyne.'



Loch Fyne Oysters' David Attwood with the commemorative plate he received after being named producer of Scotland's Best Native Oysters.

Walter Speirs, chairman of the Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers, said: 'We are delighted to have Loch Fyne Oysters as a member of the association and we would like to congratulate them on their award with their native oysters.'

'It is always great to see a

seafood producer promoting the profile of the native oyster, as the Scottish oyster has not been as prevalent in the market in recent years.' Meanwhile, Loch Fyne Oysters has announced plans to start selling oysters from Loch Ryan.

Empty primary schools are formally closed by council

ARGYLL and Bute Council closed two primary schools last week, but no one was up in arms.

St Kieran's Primary School in Campbeltown and Ardchnonnell Primary School, Loch Awe, had been empty for a while.

Both will formally close on December 22 this year; there have been no pupils at Ardchnonnell since 2007 and at St Kieran's since June 2010.

Any children in the catchment areas of Ardchnonnell, near the southern end of Loch Awe, would have the choice of Dalmlally or Kilmartin primary schools.

Argyll and Bute Council made the decision at its meeting last week.

Up until now the schools have been 'mothballed' and the closure process involving the Scottish Government should be complete by the end of the year.

Meeting
When the statutory public meeting into the closure of Ardchnonnell was held in May this year, only one member of the public turned up, a former member of the staff.

Six parents wrote in saying they agreed with the plans to close but one member of the

local community council wrote saying they were concerned about the erosion of education in the area and that it would prevent families with young children moving into the area.

Unlike the fight to keep many rural primary schools open, when the statutory public consultation meeting was held in Campbeltown for St Kieran's in May this year, not a single member of the public attended; there has been no need to hold a consultation meeting with the staff either, because there aren't any.

Now the catchment area of

Castlehill Primary School in Campbeltown has been extended to cover St Kieran's but children who might have attended St Kieran's can choose to go to either Castlehill or Dalintober.

Agreed
The Diocese of Argyll and the Isles asked that religious instruction be made available to any family, which wanted it, and the council has agreed.

The question now remains of what to do with the listed building which housed the Catholic school and before that was linked to the original Campbeltown Grammar School.

Disused buildings 'should not fall into decline'

ARGYLL and Bute Council must not lose the 'public relations battle' now that it has closed two primary schools, a councillor believes.

Nothing angers the public more than seeing a council building being left empty and falling into decline, or equipment left in the schools which could have been reused.

Councillor Vivien Dance was speaking at the council meeting last week when it was agreed that two 'mothballed' schools, St

Kieran's School, Campbeltown, and Ardchnonnell Primary, near Loch Awe, should close.

'We don't want to lose the PR battle on this as we have with some of our other establishments,' said Councillor Dance.

He added that when council buildings were closed people did not like to see them lying

empty for long periods of time, especially if equipment was left in them.

Cleland Sneddon, director of community services, said that all equipment wanted by other neighbouring schools had already been removed.

It was suggested that other groups, such as nurseries and pre-fives, should be asked if there

was anything in the schools that might be of use to them. And Councillor Roddy McCuish said he wanted to see some joined up planning between the different council departments to see the properties disposed of as soon as possible. 'They deteriorate if we don't get rid of them quickly,' he said, and end up costing the council more money to repair.

Probation for Oban benefits cheat

A BENEFITS cheat has been placed on probation, sentenced to community service and ordered to pay back the £2,800 she falsely claimed in Income Support.

Susannah McCuish, of 5 Combie Court, Oban, pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday to claiming income support for her children, who were no longer living with her.

The 34-year-old was sentenced to one year on probation and ordered to carry out 100 hours of community service. The 100 hours were added to an outstanding service order of 71-and-a-half hours.

Rise in number of corncrakes

A PROGRAMME to increase the number of corncrakes nesting in the Western Isles and Inner Hebrides is continuing to show success.

The latest count by RSPB Scotland found that 1,213 male birds are now migrating to the islands – the second increase in numbers in two years.

Addict blew inheritance on heroin

A MAN who spent a large part of his inheritance from his father on drugs has been given a jail sentence for possession of heroin.

David MacGillivray, aged 34, of Room 2, Donmor Lodge, Oban, pled guilty to the possession charge, committed while he was on bail for another offence, at Oban Sheriff Court

last Tuesday. Police searched his room on August 29 and found a small quantity of brown powder in a polythene bag within his trouser pocket.

Defence solicitor Laura Russell told the court her client was a drug user at the time and had suffered bereavement with the death of his father.

She added: 'The inheritance

he received from that has largely been spent on drug use.'

Explaining her client had been in custody since August 30, she added: 'While on remand he has made use of a 12-day detox programme and says he feels really good.' Sheriff Douglas Small sentenced MacGillivray to 90 days in prison, backdated to August 30.

£145,000 paves way for new paths network

PLANS to build community paths in Oban, Dalmlally, Lochgilphead and Tarbert are to be given the go-ahead after receiving a combined total of £145,000 in funding.

The money comes from the Argyll and the Islands LEADER programme, matching money already pledged by sustainable transport charity Sustrans and Argyll and Bute Council's Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets budget.

Tenders for the works will now be drawn up, with construction due to start by the middle of next month.

It is hoped the paths will be completed by Christmas.

Oban will see the Glengallan right of way to Oban Hospital and the Primary Campus laid, while Dalmlally's new path will stretch from the school to the new community hall.

In Lochgilphead, the new path will go from MacIntyre Terrace to Mid Argyll Hospital, and Tarbert's school will be connected to the sports pitches.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, Argyll and Bute's spokesperson for transport and infrastructure, said: 'Over the last few years we have made significant improvements to the network of community paths across the region, and I am delighted that this award will allow us to further expand that network.'



Pupils get packing during the latest RagBag fundraiser at Rockfield Primary School. 15_140ragbag1

Pupils turn old rags into cash for trip

PUPILS at Rockfield Primary School helped pack another 600kilo of old clothing and material last week as it continues its RagBag fundraising campaign.

Funds raised by the donations, from parents of pupils in P6, ferries operator Caledonian MacBrayne, Oban High School's lost property box, West Coast Motors, Oban railway station and a local B and B go towards an end of term trip to Castle Toward for the same class when they get to the end of P7.

So far the scheme has raised more than £1,300. Laura MacKenzie, whose daughter attends the school, started the fundraising scheme and continues to run it with carer Bruce Green.

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Piper's legacy aids stroke patients

AN EXTRAORDINARY pipe major who battled back from a stroke to tutor young bagpipers is continuing to provide inspiration despite his untimely death earlier this year.

Inveraray's Robert Stewart astonished doctors and physiotherapists at Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban when he battled back from a major stroke in December last year to restore almost complete mobility to his left hand side.

Such was the extent of his recovery that he was able to return to his passion of teaching the bagpipers again with the Novice/Juvenile Inveraray and District Pipe Band, astonishing main physio, Derek Laidler.

Just four weeks after he left the hospital and completed his course of physiotherapy, he was diagnosed with leukaemia, passing away just days later on May 16.

Sadly, he never regained full use of his hand and was unable to play the pipes again.

So popular was Robert, who was 63, that £3,500 was raised at his funeral, a significant sum of which went towards helping Lorn and Islands Hospital buy an ingenious device designed to help stroke victims restore

movement to their hands, fingers and feet.

The Biomove 3000 is now in use at the hospital and helping patients do what Robert battled so hard to do.

The device works by electronically stimulating muscles when a patient tries to move the corresponding limb; helping restore nerve function.

Robert's stepdaughter Karen said: 'It gives the family a great sense of satisfaction for Robert that he's helping others.'

'It was his sheer spirit that got him to where he was; unfortunately it was just that one hand that would not work.'

'There was no amount of input from Derek that could help. It simply required something extra.'

'This machine is it and it is great that it is now benefiting others who find themselves in a similar situation.'

Derek said: 'Robert was an absolute inspiration to everyone here.'

'He worked so hard and it was his sheer determination that got him where he was.'

'It's fitting that the equipment we've been able to buy thanks to Robert will be able to help other people who have had a stroke.'



Student physiotherapist Dearbhla o'Byrne tests the new Biomove 3000 stroke recovery equipment, with Robert's physio Derek Laidler and stepdaughter Karen. 15_141strokeeq1

Chief constable's plea over drugs abuse

KEEP telling the police all you know or suspect about drug abuse, Chief Constable Stephen House of Strathclyde Police urged when he was guest speaker at the October meeting of Argyll and Bute Council.

He said that people should not think that just because they have telephoned and given information an arrest would take place immediately; it helps

officers to build a case. There was praise for the way Operation Independence had targeted drug crime in Oban from Councillor Roddy McCuish.

And the Chief Constable said it was down to detailed and often lengthy work.

'Officers will act on information and often make test purchases under strict procedures; it's complex.'

Rugby club fundraiser

AN AUCTION night and raffle held recently at the Oban Lorne Rugby Clubhouse has raised more than £1,500 for the club.

Prizes ranged from a wood carving of a meerkat to hotel breaks and also included team coach Corrie Louw as a labourer for the day. The event was

organised by the Oban Lorne ladies.

The auction night rounded off a successful day at the clubhouse, which began with a breakfast, attended by more than 50 people, ahead of the Scotland versus England Rugby World Cup match.

Town 'should have harbour authority'

CALLS for Oban to have its own designated harbour master were among the issues discussed by Lorn community councillors at a meeting with council representatives from the CHORD project.

Community councillors from Oban, Kilmore, Ardchattan and Connel attended the meeting at the Glencruitten Church of Scotland Centre last week, where presentations were made by Joanne Casey, of engineering consultants AECOM, and CHORD programme manager Nicola Debnam.

Ms Casey explained the CHORD project, which has earmarked £6.9m for the development of Oban, would look at: Oban Bay and the harbour; town centre traffic issues and the

REPORT

by EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

transport interchange, including rail and ferry.

Speaking about the bay, she explained a consultation was underway on how to develop the harbour for new users and that a plan for future development could be delivered next year.

Ardchattan community councillor Jill Bowis said: 'We should have a harbour master, not just pier masters.'

'The concern is Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) will just develop where it suits them without direction from someone who is in overall charge of the harbour.'

Oban Community Council

chairman Duncan Martin added: 'We would have had a completely different harbour if we had a harbour authority.'

'We need an organisation in place so that when the money becomes available we have a plan ready. I don't think it's appropriate for CMAL to be in that role.'

The meeting also discussed realising the potential of Oban Airport, car parking issues, traffic congestion and tourism.

Ms Debnam explained the council's bid for Tax Incremental Finance (TIF) to the Scottish Government, which would free up funds for the Lorn Arc project, which could include the proposed Oban development road.

Iain MacDonald, chairman of

Lorn Lines

ARCHIE McPHAIL had a busy time at the first meeting of the new session of Oban Speakers Club last Thursday.

As retiring president, his first duty was to install his successor John Maclean.

He then took up duty as first half chairman and in this capacity he introduced speakers Jim Fraser, who talked on the subject 'Here we go again', Cameron Fletcher on 'T in the Park' and Guido Faccenda on 'Oban - the next 200 years'.

The topics chairman, Eamonn Arthur, then completed Archie's busy evening by asking him to answer the topic 'Recession - What recession?'

Eamonn also gave other topics to Roy Wood, Tom Clegg and Peter Abbott.

Timekeeper for the evening was Iain Fullarton and the general evaluation was given by Bill Leech.

The next meeting will be held on October 20 at 8pm.

THERE was a good turnout for the opening meeting of the winter season of Oban Photographic Club at the Regent Hotel, Oban, on Monday October 3.

Well-known local photographer Bob McCulloch treated the audience to an Old Oban show.

Bob is a master of his subject and everyone learnt something new about Oban's past.

The next meeting, on Monday October 17, has renowned landscape photographer David Stout, from Northumberland, showing some of his excellent images.

MEMBERS of the Association of Lighthouse Keepers (ALK) chose Oban as the venue for their first annual general meeting to be held in Scotland.

About 50 members travelled to the town for the event, which was held in the Soroba House Hotel.

Anne Martin, of the ALK, said they had been made extremely welcome.

'ALK was started by ex-lighthouse keepers in 1988 and has more than 600 members. Every autumn, we hold our AGM in a different location, preferably where there are lighthouses to view and explore.'

In addition to the AGM, four visits were organised, to Fladda Lighthouse, Ardnarmurchan Lighthouse, Lismore Lighthouse and the Northern Lighthouse Board maintenance depot in Oban.

The ALK's six-day visit concluded with a visit to the RNLI station in the town.

Next year's annual general meeting will be held in Plymouth.

Contact the newsdesk on 01631 568000



Kenny MacIntyre, centre, is presented with an Inverawe Hamper and vouchers from Andy Jones, chairman of Oban Lifesavers, flanked by committee members Josephine Grant, Gordon McNab, Katy Pollock, with, front row, Rosie Matheson, Jennifer Killoran, Katie Cox and Tracy Lockhart.

Kenny steps down after 20 years of lifesaving tuition

A SWIMMING teacher has been honoured for giving more than 20 years of service to Oban Lifesavers.

Kenny MacIntyre will become honorary chairman of the club, as he steps down from a teaching role.

Oban Lifesaving Club committee members and class teachers recently gathered together on the poolside at Atlantis Leisure to make a presentation to Kenny in recognition of his many years of service to the club.

During his time with the club, Kenny has taught many Oban youngsters to swim and has served on the committee in various positions including vice chairman and chairman. He has acted as class co-or-

dinator on the regular Tuesday nights and has also been instrumental in organising many of the swimming teachers' training courses, which have been held at Atlantis Leisure.

During the presentation, Andy Jones the current chairman, thanked Kenny for his many years of service to the club and commented that Kenny's presence on the poolside will be sorely missed.

The club is taking a break over the school holidays and will be starting back on October 25. The committee is looking for more volunteers to help with teaching on Tuesday evening. For more information contact Andy Jones, email andy@obanlifesavingclub.org.uk.

obanlifesavingclub.org.uk.

Islay woman's food mission to be featured in TV documentary

AN ISLAY woman who wants to change the way we eat is the subject of a documentary soon to be screened on Gaelic channel BBC Alba.

Am Boireannach a Dh'ith Bò (The Woman Who Ate A Cow) features locally born artist Heather Dewar as she tries to turn the clock back on the way we eat.

Heather loves food, but hates waste, and made the programme to highlight the benefit of all the lesser used cuts of meat that once would have been happily eaten in the Highlands but that we're too squeamish or lazy to cook nowadays.

The hour-long programme follows Heather as she selects and buys an animal, sees it slaughtered and butchered, and then goes on to cook it for local friends and neighbours.

In the programme she is seen cooking the tongue, tail, skirt, marrow bones, lard, cheek, shin and shoulder of a Highlander raised by James Brown of Octofad Farm on the Rhinns of Islay.

Am Boireannach a Dh'ith was made by Caledonia TV and will be shown on BBC Alba on November 4 and repeated on November 6.

Candidates chosen to fight Oban by-election

JOURNALIST Louise Glen-Lee will be standing for the SNP in the Oban North and Lorn Argyll and Bute Council by-election on November 3.

The Argyll and Bute Council seat was made vacant by the death of Councillor Donald MacDonald in August.

Louise received the nomination after a selection process within the local branch of the party.

She said: 'I am looking forward to the challenge of the by-election.'

'I hope my fellow candidates are willing to join me in a hustings - as there are lots of issues to discuss.'

Louise was Highlands and Islands Journalist of the Year in 2010.

Meanwhile, the Conservatives have chosen Roy Rutherford to stand in the by-election.

For more than 20 years Roy has lived in Oban. For 16 years, until he took early retirement, he owned a well known shop in the town.

Roy said: 'I appreciate that, at a time when the Scottish Government is cutting funding, there is a pressing need to ensure that core council services - including schools, housing and care of the elderly and vulnerable - are preserved and, where possible, improved.'

'Oban and Lorn faces an exciting but challenging future and it is vital that the council plays its part by providing effective support for residents and helping stimulate business growth.'

Drug user concealed heroin

AN OBAN man who concealed his heroin inside his copy of the Celtic View magazine has admitted being concerned in the supply of drugs.

James Kelly, aged 31, of Flat 2C Sinclair Drive, had also admitted a breach of the peace, possession of a class A drug and a shoplifting charge.

He appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday on a deferred sentence. Defence agent Duncan Durbin said his client expressed a desire to be drug free.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence further until October 18.

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Jobs joy as sand mine set to re-open

RUMOURS of good news turned to reality at Lochaline Village Hall on Tuesday night when plans to re-open the local silica sand mine were unveiled. Current owners Tarmac are to sell the mine to a new company, Lochaline Quartz Sand Ltd (LQS), a joint venture between global glass manufacturer NSG Group and Italian mining company Gruppo Minerale Maffei. Under the deal, to be completed within days, 12 well-paid local jobs will be created when production begins next April or May. Lochaline lost 11 jobs when Tarmac mothballed the mine in 2008. *The Oban Times* had been aware a positive development was in the offing, but Tarmac felt the local community should be informed first hand. Estates manager Stephen Cowan told the packed hall: 'We are on the cusp of completing the sale of the mine and all its assets here to a new company, Lochaline Quartz Sand Ltd.

EXCLUSIVE
From Lochaline Village Hall by
STEPHEN NORRIS

It seems right to make the announcement here – you are the first people to hear this news.' Dirk Franke, category director of NSG's procurement function, explained the new joint venture would benefit from using all the high quality, low iron quartz sand mined at Lochaline for specialist solar glass production at its own plant at St Helens in Lancashire. Between 80,000 and 100,000 tonnes will be shipped direct from Lochaline by sea through Runcorn docks to the factory. Mr Franke said: 'Security of supply for all our furnaces is an absolute must. They run 24/7 for 15 to 18 years in a row and need a reliable supply chain and a reliable product. This demand alone is expected to support the operation of the mine for at least 10 years. We expect to

create around 12 full-time jobs, which we will advertise as soon as possible. For us this mine is quite a commitment. Tarmac is not giving us this mine as a gift,' he added, to laughter. 'The mine does need a bit of refurbishment and we have got approval from management for this.' Speaking after the presentation, Mr Cowan told *The Oban Times*: 'Tarmac's biggest problem was finding customers, but the new company is solving that internally, so that means the future is guaranteed. Twelve jobs is significant in an area like this – and these will be good engineering jobs. This company ticks all the boxes to be successful – and a responsible neighbour. This is a really positive outcome for Lochaline.' Morvern Community Council chairman Iain Thornber said: 'It's fantastic news and I am delighted there are 12 new jobs coming back here.' More in next week's *Oban Times*.



From Inverlochty Place to Stornoway: Fort's Ally Weir is dreaming of further Mod success. 20_41mod01

All roads lead to Stornoway for Mòd

PERFORMERS from across the west Highlands will converge on Stornoway this weekend for the start of the Royal National Mòd 2011. About 20 singers, pipers, fiddlers and accordianists will leave Lochaber to take part in the annual event, which gets underway with the opening ceremony on Friday evening at An Lanntair arts centre. The Mòd is being held in the Western Isles for the fifth time in its history, and Fort William youngster Ally Weir will be amongst those competing. He will be looking to hold onto the trophy he won last year in the Gaelic poetry competition 13-15 years. The Lochaber High School pupil is competing for the fifth year in a row and will read the poem A'meanbhcuileag (Midges) and the short story An Sgathan (The Mirror). He told *The Oban Times*: 'The best bit is just the enjoyment of speaking in Gaelic and being in

competition. There's a brilliant atmosphere.' Other Lochaber competitors include fiddler Hannah MacRae and Roy Bridge piper Sandy Cameron. Lochaber Mòd Society will hold a ceilidh on Harris on Saturday night to mark the opening of competition on the island, and chairman Charlie MacColl said the amount of Lochaber performers reflects the results of a successful local Mòd. The Mòd Gold Medal and Traditional Gold Medal competitions will be held next Wednesday and Thursday as well as a new contest for former Gold Medal winners. The winner will be presented with a trophy in memory of Calum Kennedy and his wife Anne Gillies, who both won the Gold Medal. The end of the Mòd 2011 will be marked with over 800 choir members gathering in Perceval Square to perform on Saturday October 22.

Boxing club show night a knockout

Fort William customer sales assistant Greta Mackin was among hundreds of fans who enjoyed Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club's show in the Nevis Centre on Saturday night. Greta, a popular face behind the checkout at the nearby Lidl store, cheered on local boxers as they battled tough opponents from other Scottish clubs based at Bannockburn, Whithorn in Galloway, Peterhead and Bellahouston in Glasgow.



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Banavie pupils deliver surprise harvest cheer

BANAVIE pupils went on special errand last Saturday morning – to deliver produce and toiletries from Friday's Harvest Assembly to local senior citizens. Aidan Kane (P6), Sian Angus (P7), Courtney Croll (P7) and Robbie Murray (P5) received a warm welcome from grateful pensioners as head teacher Maxean Dunham ferried them round the doors. Corpach man David Cargill, 83, was delighted at the special delivery of the surprise autumn gift to his Hillview Drive home. 'I think it's brilliant – I can't believe they are doing this,' he said. 'I am overwhelmed.' Ms Dunham told *The Oban Times* this was her eleventh

year of organising the goodwill gesture. 'We like to encourage the children to come into the community and give something to the community,' she said. 'It is always greatly appreciated and we always get lovely cards back from the ladies and gentlemen who take the stuff.' Ms Dunham thanked parent council chairperson Ann MacDougall for all her help with drawing up the delivery list, and the Co-op for donating the bags. Some 13 deliveries were made in total. Right: Banavie pupils Aidan Kane, Sian Angus, Courtney Croll and Robbie Murray hand David Cargill his gift of goods. 20_41ban02



School welcomes Dutch visitors

KILCHUIMEN Academy's international links continue this week as the Fort Augustus school welcomes 10 pupils and two staff from CSG Willem de Zwijger in the Netherlands. The Dutch visit follows a week-long stay by students and staff from Gymnasium Querfurt in Germany on Loch Ness-side. Kilchuimen pupils and staff visited Querfurt earlier this year and another group from the school will travel to CSG Willem de Zwijger next March. Kilchuimen won €22,000 of British Council money to fund the project. Head teacher Maria Gibbons told *The Oban Times*: 'This project has been a wonderful opportunity for pupils to broaden their cultural horizons.'

Helping to bring The National Theatre of Scotland to Local Communities

This year, Bank of Scotland and the National Theatre of Scotland entered into an exciting two year partnership, working together to bring world-class theatre to communities large and small across Scotland.

Bank of Scotland's investment has and will continue to enable National Theatre of Scotland to develop their programme and to take it to audiences across the country. It is estimated that in this first year alone nearly 100,000 people will have come into contact with a production or initiative under the Bank of Scotland Pioneering Partnership banner.

This year the Bank of Scotland Pioneering Partnership has included the support of productions, initiatives and workshops, such as First Nights, a ground-breaking scheme to introduce young people with no experience of the arts to theatre.

To celebrate the partnership Bank of Scotland has hundreds of tickets to give away to the National Theatre of Scotland's Ensemble tour which sees two exciting new productions, Calum's Road and Tall Tales for Small People, visiting communities from Glasgow to Raasay and Oban to Drumadrochit, to name but a few.

We are teaming up with the Oban Times to offer readers the chance to win one of 5 pairs of tickets to Calum's Road, Corran Halls, 21st October and Tall Tales for Small People, Corran Halls, 22nd October.

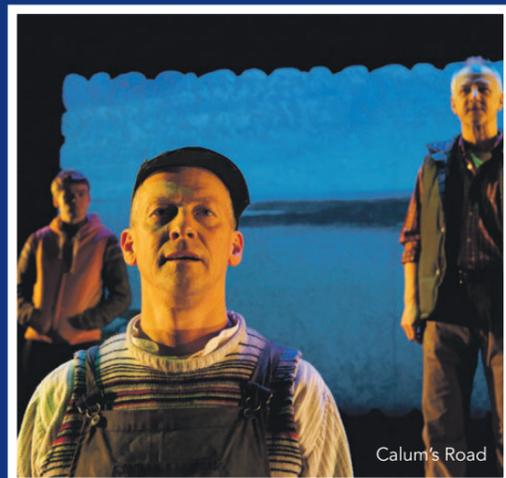
Calum's Road is the remarkable true story of one man's single-minded determination to challenge the powers-that-be with a pick and shovel, a wheelbarrow to build a road through the land that he loves. By David Harrower, based on the book by Roger Hutchinson.

Tall Tales for Small People a collection of wonderful stories for all ages which has been woven into a tapestry of laughter and adventure. Based on the work of the late Duncan Williamson, the master story-teller and Scottish traveller.

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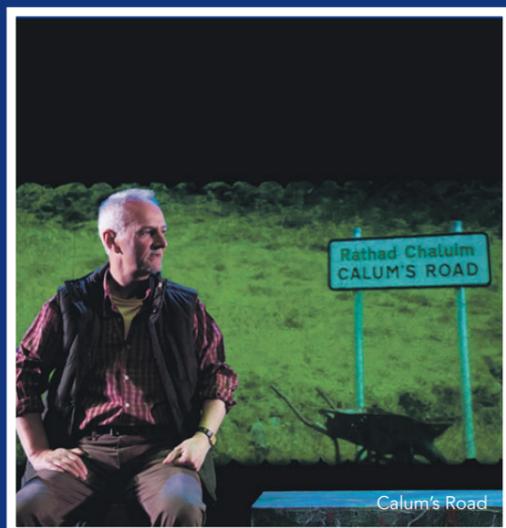
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Calum's Road



Tall Tales



Calum's Road

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Stepping out on Lewis in memory of Linda

MORE than 350 people walked and ran six miles on Lewis at the weekend to mark the first anniversary of the death of aid worker Linda Norgrove. The Valtos Peninsula 10K was one of many staged across the world in aid of the Linda Norgrove Foundation, the charity set up by her parents John and Lorna. The fundraisers followed a route near Miss Norgrove's Mangersta home on the island. Miss Norgrove was kidnapped while working for US charity Development Alternatives Inc and was killed by a grenade thrown by her would-be rescuers, a US Navy Seals team. The foundation provides cash aid to war-affected Afghan women and children.

Lochyside man denies exposing himself

A LOCHYSIDE man has denied exposing himself in a Caol shop after being caught trying to steal alcohol. Gary Mackinnon, of 6 Mossfield Apartments, pled not guilty committing an offence of public decency by pulling down his trousers in the Co-op store on Kilmallie Road on June 23. The 38-year-old also denies stealing the drink, concealing alcohol within his clothes and behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by repeatedly shouting and swearing and raising his fists. Mackinnon is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on December 5.

Conservation area plans on show

THE COMHAIRLE is seeking the public's input on a draft management plan for Gearranan, Stornoway, Howmore and Ruisgarry conservation areas. A small exhibition will be held in Stornoway Town Hall on October 26 to illustrate the new policies. Residents will have the opportunity to discuss the plan and submit comments in writing. The event follows a similar exhibition at Gearranan Blackhouse village on Tuesday. Dates of events in Howmore and Ruisgarry will be issued in the near future.

Hint of sadness as pupils hold last talent show

THERE was a hint of sadness at Ardnamurchan High last Friday as S6 pupils took part in their last ever talent show at the school. Students Rebecca MacKellar and Kayleigh-Marie Woods compered the event, which was directed by principal teacher, Mrs K Sharp. Pupils Lewis Hervo, and duo Shanine Gallagher and Matthew Bradley were first and second respectively.



The Newcastle fans enjoyed their day out at Claggan Park. Colin Neilson, left, and Calum MacLean, right, were among the welcoming committee. 20_41game01

Newcastle fans drop in to Fort's Claggan Park

FORT William William FC welcomed a group of far-travelled supporters from Newcastle to Claggan Park on Saturday. The intrepid Geordies had been at a game at Berwick Rangers as part of their tour of football grounds - and decided on Fort William as their next destination. Fears the game against Turriff would be called off were unfounded as the new 'verti-draining' system proved its worth, despite heavy rain throughout. The Newcastle boys cheered The Fort on with gusto in the narrow 1-0 defeat - and left Lochaber with many friends and warm memories.

Military chiefs lift GPS signal block

Furious complaints follow crash of vital civilian systems at sea

MILITARY chiefs have halted the jamming of global positioning signals (GPS) for the remainder of a huge military exercise in the Minch, after furious complaints from Western Isles fishermen and political leaders. Joint Warrior 112, which ends on Monday, crashed vital civilian GPS systems at sea and interfered with communications. Emergency Mayday radio digital selective calling (DSC) systems, which instantly alert coastguards to the exact position of vessels in distress, were also compromised amid reports of boats getting gear caught on rocks while fishing close to shore. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is writing to the Ministry of Defence to clarify how the jamming has also affected internet connectivity, mobile phone reception and satellite TV reception. Comhairle leader Angus Campbell, said: 'Whilst the total effect of the jamming is unclear it is totally unacceptable if the MoD's exercises are causing disruption to island communications networks. I will be writing to the MoD to seek clarity on exactly what has gone on here and to seek assurances over future exercises.' The Royal Navy issued warnings in September and October that GPS would be disrupted during the war games, which involve UK, Nato and other allied vessels. The military maintains temporary jamming is routine and constitutes an essential part of the preparation for operations. But Outer Isles fishermen said they had had no warning when their equipment suddenly went offline last Friday, effectively making seabed hazards invisible and navigation more difficult. Risk Skipper of the Stornoway-based Ocean Spirit, Austen Campbell, said boats were being put at risk. 'We weren't notified about it at all,' he said. Boats working west of Skye were unaffected. Dunvegan fisherman Willie Munro MacKinnon said GPS problems were confined to the main exercise area in the North Minch. He told The Oban Times: 'The boats are losing all their electronic navigation. If you are working close to hard ground, trawling or even setting creels, you could tear your nets or lose gear.' The Royal Navy said a guide published on September 7 gave locations and timings for the jamming of GPS. The Scottish Government put it on its website, but maintained it was the MoD's responsibility to inform those likely to be affected. A second warning notice was issued on October 3, relayed on VHF by Aberdeen and Stornoway coastguards. A Royal Navy spokesman said 'to be absolutely clear that there are no genuine safety concerns', jamming would be suspended for the remainder of the exercise. The spokesperson said: 'This will provide a period of time to reflect with all the relevant authorities about the conduct of GPS jamming and ensure that all parties are fully aware before the beginning of the next exercise which is scheduled for spring 2012.' Caitheans, Sutherland and Ross SNP MSP Rob Gibson said the MoD had compromised the safety of fishing boat crews. 'They say it's for our defence but at what cost?' he asked.

Witnesses warned about lying on oath

TWO KEY defence witnesses in the drink-driving trial of Kinlochleven motorbike champion Gary MacDonald have been warned about lying under oath. MacDonald's girlfriend Kelly MacDonald and his brother David were both accused of covering for the 27-year-old trials biker by Procurator Fiscal Andrew Laing, and Sheriff Douglas Small warned them they could spend time in prison if they were found to have lied in court. David MacDonald told Fort William Sheriff Court he saw his brother drinking at the Tailrace Inn and later saw his car drive past but had 'no cause for alarm'. The 29-year-old hotel manager said: 'I knew Gary had been drinking but I didn't assume he was driving. I didn't think he would be that stupid.' Defence solicitor Ian MacGregor asked who was driving the car. Mr MacDonald replied: 'I didn't see the driver. It was late at night, it was very dark and the windows were tinted. If I couldn't see I don't know how other people could see.' Miss MacDonald, aged 25, said she drove the Ford Focus RS the couple shared to an ATM machine, and driven safely and not exceeded 30mph. Under questioning from Mr Laing, Miss MacDonald admitted she had taken the car partly to 'try and get a reaction' from MacDonald after the couple had a fight. At this point Sheriff Small gave the hair salon manager the chance to change her story. He said: 'If you are found to have been telling lies, the Crown may decide to prosecute.' Miss MacDonald insisted she was telling the truth. Mr Laing also asked why she hadn't told police she was driving the car until four months after the incident. Miss MacDonald replied she had taken legal advice from two lawyers and it was told to wait until the police

wanted to speak to her. Final witness Mark MacMillan said he had been with MacDonald for most of the night and did not see him driving the car at any point. Two Crown witnesses in the long-running trial were previously cautioned about committing perjury - Mark Comrie, who claims to have seen MacDonald driving erratically in the town on July 25, 2010, was warned during his evidence in December, as was his father Colin when he appeared as a witness in February. The trial is due to conclude tomorrow (Friday) when the Crown and defence will make their final submissions. MacDonald, of 27 Heatherlea Court, denies driving on various roads in the village while almost twice the legal limit. He also denies driving without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for others using the road, losing control of the car, locking the wheels, skidding and crossing into the opposite carriageway.

Portree pupils turn on the X-Factor style



Sophie Tinney performs her winning song in the X-Factor finals.

SOME of the Isle of Skye's best young musicians performed at Portree School's X-Factor finals last Thursday - and astounded the audience with some brilliant performances. Six acts - Anna Monnelly, The Untitled, Sophie Tinney, We See Lights, Harriet Mills and The Outsiders - took the stage after winning through at the semi-finals the previous week. The sell-out audience - many had been turned away - enjoyed two songs from each act. After a nailbiting wait for the judges' decision, Sophie Tinney emerged the victor and claimed the top prize - recording her first CD, courtesy of head judge Iain Copeland. The Outsiders were awarded second place and The Untitled, third. Both acts will also record their first CD in December. The talent involved was not reserved for performers alone - Portree High School pupils managed the hosting, ticket sales, back stage, sound and lighting too.

Old army friends reunite after 56 years

THE OBAN TIMES' man in Plockton, Charlie MacRae, has met up with an old army colleague - for the first time in 56 years. The remarkable reunion came about after Alfie Orr, from Linlithgow, spotted a photo of Charlie in the paper, taken when the sailing boats at Plockton capsized in a violent storm two years ago. Alfie recognised Charlie as the same man with whom he had joined the Army at Aldershot Barracks in 1955, where the pair spent six months before serving in Cyprus for two and a half years. Alfie got in touch with Charlie out of the blue last Thursday to say he and his wife were visiting Plockton on a bus tour. Charlie was delighted to hear from his old mate, and the two veterans duly met up and spent an enjoyable few hours reminiscing on army days. Meanwhile, Charlie reports that Plockton had only one dry day in September and was deluged with 9.2 inches of rain. May, traditionally the second driest month behind last month, had 9.5 inches, proving just how fickle the weather can be. September's warmest day was 22.9C, meaning that 2011 will depart, in Plockton at least, with another strange statistic - that the year's highest temperature - 23.5C - was recorded back in April. The month also saw Plockton and District Horticultural and Arts and Crafts Society bring the outstanding work of the Lochcarron Quilters to Plockton hall on the September 23 and 24. The craftworkers transformed the hall and their skills were admired by many people, Charlie said.



Oban Times correspondent Charlie MacRae, left, meets up with Alfie Orr - after 56 years.

North Uist water worries near end

NORTH Uist residents are hoping their tap water will be safe to drink again by tomorrow (Friday). Scottish Water added too much aluminium sulphate to the Bayhead waterworks to sift out peat particles and has been supplying households with bottled supplies for a week. Calum MacDonald, an apprentice boatbuilder at Grimsay Boatshed, was one of those affected. Hougarry man Mr MacDonald, 19, told The Oban Times: 'They have given us bottled water and everyone is supposed to use that. The mains water is okay for toilets and washing. They are saying it will be back to normal on Friday.' A Scottish Water spokesperson told The Oban Times: 'We are aiming for Friday but we can't give any guarantees. We are bringing up specialist kit from down south and we have to commission it, test it and make sure the water passes muster - 48 hours of clear supplies is needed before we can lift any restrictions.' Scottish Water held drop in sessions at Paible Primary School and Carinish Hall on Monday and Tuesday to update the public. Water operations manager Simon Harrison said: 'We want to apologise to customers for the inconvenience this issue has caused for residents and businesses.' Above safe limits, aluminium can accumulate in the body, impeding brain function and bone growth.



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Firm's promise to deliver

THE UNDER-fire firm charged with streamlining Highland Council's ICT systems has vowed it will deliver on the job. At high-level talks with council chiefs on Monday, Fujitsu outlined an action plan to install new computers, printers and telephones at 140 schools and to 4,500 office staff across the Highlands. The council has been concerned at delays in the delivery of the first phases of the £66 million, five-year contract. Chairman of Fujitsu in the UK, Roger Gilbert chief executive Duncan Tait and the company's new contract leader, Rob Norris all attended the Inverness summit. Describing the meeting as 'very constructive', resources committee chair, Carolyn Wilson said: 'We outlined our ongoing concerns and Fujitsu responded by producing a plan of action for delivering the first phase of the contract, albeit that this will be beyond November this year, the promised delivery date. I am particularly pleased that Fujitsu appear to have recognised the importance of our contract and our concerns by seconding someone of the experience of Mr Norris to lead the contract.'

Bravery awards for two Barra police officers

TWO BARRA police officers have been awarded for their bravery at the national Brave@Heart awards in Edinburgh. PC Blair McMaster, 35, and PC Michael Gallie, 31, responded to a call reporting a man with a gun trying to rob a shop in Castlebay in December 2009. They found the man brandishing a gun in his front garden, tackled him and safely arrested him without any members of the public being hurt.

Nevis Range voted best four-cross event of the year

THE ORGANISERS of the mountain bike world cup have voted Lochaber's Nevis Range as the best four-cross event of the year. The course on Aonach Mor has hosted Union Cycliste Internationale world cup events for the past 10 years and beat the Val di Sole track in Italy into second place. Nevis Range will receive a trophy for winning the award, which was voted for by the riders, teams, media, sponsors and UCI officials. The Fort William venue also came second in the best downhill event of the season category, losing out to French resort La Bresse.

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Mull Lines

THE BEST of Mull produce will be available for sampling at Craignure Tourist Information Centre this Saturday, as part of The Mull Rally.

The VisitScotland Information Centre Pit Stop will run from 8pm-noon and the information centre will also be open for retail sales, information and accommodation bookings for the 2012 Rally.

The Mull Rally, which starts today, is a huge event on Mull. Figures from CalMac show that, on the Fishnish to Lochaline ferry route, both passenger and car numbers rise by 100 per cent, compared to the week before the rally and, on the Oban to Craignure ferry route, both passenger and car numbers increase by 50 per cent.

Local suppliers attending the Pit Stop are: Inverlussa Mussels, Tobermory Fish Co., Isle of Mull Oatcakes, Tobermory Distillery, Isle of Mull Shortbread, Isle of Mull Cheese and Island Bakery Biscuits.

EACH year, Mull Theatre tours to some of the most remote and far-flung venues in Scotland and the autumn tour of Singing Far into the Night is proving no exception.

This new play, about the consequences of the Invergordon Mutiny in 1931, had already visited 13 Argyll venues and planned to head off to the islands of Coll and Tiree and then on to Barra, South Uist, Berneray, Raasay and Skye before returning to the mainland.

However, touring the islands in autumn is always unpredictable and the risk of a gale is high, but last week's schedule - hours and hours on ferries but only two shows out of five - was the worst disruption the theatre has encountered.

The Coll ferry was turned back within sight of the pier, which meant another trip out to Tiree the next day, where the show went ahead.

Then the Barra ferry was cancelled, and the Barra and South Uist shows went the same way.

This left the cast and crew going the long way round to reach the Western Isles, via Oban and Skye, for a performance in Berneray Hall on the Saturday night.

'By that time, thankfully, the gales were over and the tour was back on schedule.

Says actor Greg Powrie: 'During the previous Mull Theatre tour, I was heard to complain that all of the crossings were glass-smooth and that I felt cheated in some way.'

'With all the unfortunate delays and bouncy crossings this time, I suppose I should be careful what I wish for!

'However, I have enjoyed every moment, there is something magnificent about sailing into a force 9 gale and still managing to relish the CalMac chef's curry.'

'Hopefully that is it for the "weather" on this tour, as most of the remaining venues are accessed via the minibus on the mainland. And while this guarantees that shows will go ahead, it is not nearly as much fun, or retains the unpredictable pleasure of the islands, and the generosity of the people on them.'

Unfortunately for Greg, he has forgotten the crossing of the Pentland Firth for a show on Orkney in the last week of October. That should all be fine though!

THE island of Inch Kenneth and its extraordinary house welcomed artists collective 6°WEST in June for a unique residency.

An exhibition of prints from this residency will be shown at St Oran's Chapel, Iona, from Saturday, October 15 to Saturday, October 22.

Artist members of the collective Anne Devine, David Faithfull, Mhairi Killin, Veronica Slater and curator Alicia Hendrick were ferried from Mull to the island to explore and spend time in residence at Inch Kenneth House.

They were joined by photographer Shannon Tofts and art critic Georgina Coburn who documented their work.

A TEAM of hill climbers, who scaled 283 Munros to commemorate 10 years of the British Armed Forces in Afghanistan, included Ben More in their trip in memory of islander Private Robert McLaren.

The DecAid Team has raised upwards of £37,000 during its Munro Mission in aid of the charity appeal DecAid, which has raised a total of £100,000 through numerous projects over a year.

Decaid was set up by people aged 25 and under to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the British Armed Forces in Afghanistan by donating all funds to the service charities: Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) and The British Limbless Ex-Servicemen Association (BLESMA).

Robert McLaren, from Kintra, who served with The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (3 SCOTS), died on June 11, 2009 while on active duty in Afghanistan.

The DecAid team and bereaved family members and friends poignantly dedicated each Munro climbed to service men and women who have lost their lives in Afghanistan over the last 10 years.

Team Leader and DecAid co-founder Tom O'Connell said: 'The last seven weeks have been the most moving experience of my life.'

'Meeting so many of the families and everyone else who has come to climb the Munros dedicated to the servicemen who have lost their lives in Afghanistan has been an honour. Their support has helped to keep us going through such huge physical and mental battles.'

The team climbed Ben More on August 6.

GLENGARRY

GLENGARRY Village Hall toilets have received dozens of accolades from international visitors.

Notes pinned to the notice-board include: 'Really pleased to find such great amenities in the middle of nowhere!' - Wanda; 'Clean toilets and flowers to boot. Thank you all so much and God bless,' - Coffis Harbour, New South Wales, Australia; 'This is the best toilet we could ever wish to find! Best wishes from Barcelona.'

COLONSAY

THE PANTRY will be hosting a Christmas Fair for the island on November 19.

Residents and visitors will be able to buy cards, paper and a wide selection of Colonsay's own home-made crafts and knitwear.

DALIBURGH

THE STEEL frame for the new Daliburgh Primary School being built immediately adjacent to the existing school has been completed.

The South Uist school, towards which the Government is contributing £2.4m through the Scottish Futures Trust, will remain fully operational throughout the construction period.

Councillor Morag Munro, chair of education at the Comhairle said: 'I was pleased to attend the opening last week of both Sgoil An Rubha and Balivanich Primary Schools and I look forward to the day when Daliburgh opens its doors.'

Works continue at the other schools in the Western Isles Schools Project, all of which remain on programme and with budget. Sir E Scott will complete in December 2011, West Side Primary in March 2012 and the Nicolson Institute in summer 2012. Point and Balivanich Primary Schools opened as planned in August.

BARRA

PLANS have been submitted to build a new house at 5 Uidh, Vatersay.

BARRA and Vatersay Wind Energy Ltd has been awarded a £109,000 loan to progress plans for a community-owned wind turbine.

The 900kW machine on machair land at Gob Scurrabhail, the northernmost tip of Barra, would cost around £1.2m to complete and generate an estimated £100,000 income annually during its 20-25 year lifespan.

The revenue will provide financial stability for Coimhearsnachd Bharraidh

KILMARTIN



Delight at fire station visit

Young 'Fireman Sam' fans from Sgoil Araich Braigh Lochabair (Brae Lochaber Gaelic Nursery) got to meet Sam's real life colleagues at a trip to Fort William Fire Station recently. The youngsters were shown around the station and found out about a day in the life of a fireman. Nursery manager Catherine MacKinnon said: 'They learnt about all the equipment which the fire engine carries and were delighted to get a shot of squirting water from the hoses.'

agus Bhatarsaidh (Barra and Vatersay Community Ltd). The loan, offered through the Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES), was one of 42 Scotland-wide announced by energy minister Fergus Ewing last week. He said: 'These projects will not only help us meet our ambitious target of generating the equivalent of all Scotland's electricity needs to come from renewables by 2020, but also benefit their local communities.'

KNOYDART

VISITORS to the remote Knoydart peninsula can look forward to getting around on four feet as well as two after two local women set up a pony trekking business.

Knoydart Foundation development manager Angela Williams and colleague Anna Wilson are behind the enterprise.

GLENNFINNAN

GLENNFINNAN Community Council is organising the annual village clean up, and are looking for people to lend a hand.

PORTREE

SENIOR pupils from six Highland secondary schools started new SQA course in maritime skills in Portree High School last week

Mull couple first Scottish winners of top farming award

A COUPLE from Mull have become the first Scottish winners of a prestigious national farming competition.

The RSPB Telegraph Nature of Farming Award, in conjunction with Butterfly Conservation Scotland and Plantlife Scotland, celebrates wildlife friendly farming and those who take the time to improve and preserve important habitats for nature.

This year's competition attracted hundreds of entrants but it was a husband and wife team with a philosophy that sustainability and profitability can go hand in hand that won the hearts and minds of the voting public. Somerset and Carolyne Charrington from the Isle of Mull impressed voters with their excellent understanding of diverse farmland habitats, managing their farm, Treshnish, to benefit a range of different species. The pair have created and restored key habitats such as native woodland, wetland, peat bog and moorland on their 750 hectare upland livestock farm.

MULL

Wildlife has flourished, and includes field gentian, wood bitter vetch, corncrake, curlew, increasing populations of yellowhammer and whinchat and a host of invertebrates; including more than 300 species of moths and butterflies.

Carolyne and Somerset Charrington, of Treshnish Farm said: 'We are extremely proud to have been chosen as the winners of the Nature of Farming Award.'

'It's a huge boost to our confidence and proves that what we are doing in terms of farming, conservation and sustainability is working.'

Stuart Housden, RSPB Scotland director, said: 'I have seen firsthand the work they've undertaken which is delivering quality livestock and supporting some of our rarest and most cherished species. The flowery meadows and bird song on the farm are superb. They are an inspiration.'



Somerset and Carolyne Charrington with their RSPB Telegraph Nature of Farming Award.

Primary one pupils in the picture



Bunsgoil an t-Sailein pupils are all smiles.



These smiling faces are the new primary one pupils at Salen Primary School.

DUNVEGAN

DUNVEGAN Community Trust has helped fund an exercise class in Dunvegan for people with long term conditions.

The exercise and advice classes, which are free, take place every Tuesday from 2pm-3pm in Dunvegan Hall.



Harvest festival boosts charity

Lochside RC Primary School held their harvest festival recently, and managed to raise money for charity at the same time. The children sang hymns and read poems about the harvest for parents, teachers and friends of the school. The P3/4 class ended the day by performing a play about harvest field mice. The children also sold 90 bags of fairtrade rice, the profits from which will be sent to Malawi to pay for youngsters to be sent to school. Food was collected from parents and members of the local community which the children then delivered to pensioners in the area. 20_141harvest01

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15 Years Ago

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday, October 17, 1996

Meeting called on CCTV plan

Battle to stop school closures in Argyll and Bute

Diver came up with more than he expected

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

- 7 Dirty (6)
- 8 Hound (6)
- 9 Fresh food store (4)
- 10 Rubber (8)
- 11 Not at sea (3,4)
- 13 Small chair (5)
- 15 Loose shirt (5)
- 16 Let up (4,3)
- 18 Contagious skin infection (8)
- 19 Make cosy in bed (4)
- 21 Irritated (6)
- 22 One who has (6)

Down

- 1 Only (4)
- 2 Study of people (6,7)
- 3 Maintenance (7)
- 4 Too large (5)
- 5 Shiny shoes! (6,7)
- 6 Event after countdown! (8)
- 12 Bring to mind (8)
- 14 Rocket launcher (7)
- 17 Female prophet (5)
- 20 Hands (4)

Last week's solution

O	P	S	C	R	E	V	A	S	E		
P	H	C	A	E	U	C					
P	R	O	L	O	N	G	T	I	R	H	
S	T	O	M	E	R	O					
I	G	E	A	R	E	L					
T	O	T	A	L	A	V	E	L	I		
E	A	W	E	L	S						
U	N	R	E	G	E	N	E	R	A	T	E
E	B	A	C	P	T	E					
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I	R	T	A	L	L	I	E				
C	A	K	E	H	O	L	E	A	D	Z	E

Down Your Way

This week - Benderloch

THERE was a gathering at Ford Spence Court to honour Benderloch woman Mary Sweeney.

Residents, friends, neighbours and family members were there to see her named the first recipient of the Good Neighbour Award from Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA).

The new award recognises an ACHA tenant who goes above and beyond to support their neighbours and community.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA chief executive, led the tributes, saying: 'For those of us that knew Mary, it was obvious the work that she did in the community should be recognised.'

'There were a lot of worthy applications but it was a unanimous decision to make the award in the memory of Mary Sweeney.'

Centenarian Mary Ferguson, who was the first to hold Mary as a baby 85 years ago, unveiled a plaque, and Helen Livingstone, who nominated her for the award, was also there to see her honoured.

It was also a proud day, and a poignant one, for members of Mary's family.

Granddaughter Eilidh MacColl said: 'She was very interesting and interested in everything.'

Son Hughie Sweeney added: 'Anything happening in the community, she was involved somewhere - she might have been making the tea, but she might have been on the committee deciding what they were going to do.'

His wife Fiona imagined how she would have reacted to the accolade: 'She would have said "Can you believe it?" but she would have been proud.'

As a beautiful cake was served to celebrate the occasion, Hughie suspected had his mother been there to receive her award, she would have been in the thick of things in the kitchen.



Mary's granddaughter Eilidh and son Hughie were there to see her honoured, along with Mary Ferguson and Helen Livingstone. 16.139achd01

IT MAY be half term, but pupils and teachers at Lochnell Primary have already had a busy time at school.

Primary two has been focusing on traditional music as part of a topic about Scotland.

Renowned Benderloch piper lead them on a march around the school and the classroom has also come alive with music from Sileas Sinclair on the accordion and fiddler Hazel Clarke.

Continuing in a musical vein, pupils from primaries one and two sang for residents of Ford Spence Court last week.

Primaries three and four have been learning about trees in the local area, while primary five has been studying renewable energy.

Youngsters from the school also took part in a Scottish Rugby Union tag rugby tournament, after training each week in school.

Primary seven has been taking advantage of the cycle path right outside the school's door to learn cycling proficiency. The class took their exam last week.

An eco committee made up of children of all ages, has also been working to earn the school's fourth green flag this year.



OLD BOYS of Lochnell Primary School played their part in winning the Camanachd Cup for their shinty team.

Scott Campbell, left, and John MacKenzie are captain and vice captain of Newtownmore and led the team to victory in the competition for the first time in a quarter of a century.

When they were youngsters at Lochnell primary, there were glimpses of their future success as the school did well in primary shinty leagues. 17.140camcup

A NEW stretch of cycle path through Benderloch has been given the green light, helping to plug the gaps in Sustrans' Oban to Fort William National Route 78.

Planners approved the layout of the route west of Ford Spence Court in Benderloch, as well as new bollards, gates and fences. Sustrans will remove some trees and vegetation to make way for the route. But Ardchattan Community Council said it was disappointed the path would run right through the site, making it difficult to use small pockets of green space on either side.

Community Councillor Lachie Strathearn said: 'I just feel it is a waste going up through the middle of it.'



Robin Harvey with fellow cycle ranger Liz Parkes from North Connel. 08.134cycde11

Next week DOWN YOUR WAY visits Arran with Howard Driver and Jenny Lyon.

You can contact them on 01770 302142 or email editor@arranbanner.co.uk.

APPIN

DONALD William Stewart will be giving a talk entitled 'The Glen Creran Foxhunter and the tales he told to Alexander Carmichael' at Appin Historical Society's meeting on October 15 at 2.30pm at Port Appin Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

TIREE

ANYONE wishing to be considered for the latest tranche of funding from the Tiree Windfall Fund must have their applications in by October 31.

Money for the scheme is generated by the island's community wind turbine, Tilley, with £40,000 available to local groups and causes in this round.

LUING

THEY say that laughter is the best medicine, so the Laughter Yoga members who meet on a Monday night in Toberonochy Hall must be among the healthiest people on Luing.

Led by Paula Lodge, of Toberonochy, the group is attracting islanders of all ages. The brainchild of Dr Madan Kataria, Laughter Yoga is sweeping the world with more than 6,000 groups in about 60 countries.

The theory behind the latest trend is that the body cannot differentiate between fake and real laughter, so the group combines Yogic breathing with unconditional laughter - so that the group can enjoy the therapeutic benefits of laughter.

Paula also leads a Kundalini Yoga group on a Wednesday night.

This is a physical form of yoga, and is proving to be very popular with a wide range of ages.

CHILDREN and parents from Luing filled a 40 seat bus to take a trip to the new Riverside Museum in Glasgow.

Organised by the Luing Social Committee, using the Kay Smith Fund, the trip was open to all children and their parents from the island.

Everyone had a wonderful time exploring what was the Transport Museum, in its new riverside position and some of the teenagers even managed to squeeze in some retail therapy.

The fund was set up to finance trips for the children of Luing so they can enjoy sights beyond their shores - and thanks to Dr Kay Smith, this is the fourth such trip that has been successfully organised.

LUING History Group is busy organising the commemoration of the wreck of the Latvian ship 'Helena Faulbaums'.

On Wednesday October 26, it will be 75 years since the fateful night, when a fierce storm forced the boat onto the rocks off the island of Belnahua, which lies in the Firth of Lorne off Luing.

Lives were lost and saved that night, with some of the sailors being buried in Kilchattan



Winners Fort being presented with their trophies.

Home victory in Gaelic schools football competition

GAELIC schoolchildren from across Scotland came to Fort William to compete in the finals of the Gaelic schools football competition last weekend.

Cuach na Cloinne 2011 saw a home victory, with Fort William Gaelic Primary coming out on top of the nine teams involved.

Each team won their place in the finals after winning regional competitions. Fort Scotland came to Fort William to compete in the finals of the Gaelic schools football competition last weekend.

Led by Paula Lodge, of Toberonochy, the group is attracting islanders of all ages. The brainchild of Dr Madan Kataria, Laughter Yoga is sweeping the world with more than 6,000 groups in about 60 countries.

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Graveyard at Toberonochy, on Luing.

Strong links between the island and Latvia have been forged as a result of the kindness and bravery of islanders who helped that night.

The history group plans to hold a short service at Kilchattan Graveyard, starting at 2pm, to lay wreaths on the graves of the sailors.

Isle of Luing Primary School is very involved in the plans for the day, as one of the projects last term was the Island of Belnahua.

Toberonochy Hall is the venue for the evening commemoration, when there is to be a supper with Latvian and Scottish dishes served.

There will be an illustrated account of the story and some local singers.

Tickets are on sale locally and are £5 for adults, with admission free for children.

There will be a collection for the RNLI during the evening.

ISLAY

P1 AND P2 pupils in Port Charlotte Primary School have been making comparisons between life on the island with life in other places.

Pupils decided to find out more about the postal services and how letters get from the postbox on Islay to friends around the world.

The school thanked Clive Monks at Port Charlotte Post Office for helping to post the

pupils' letters, and Florence Gray at Port Ellen Post Office for showing them around and explaining the journeys the letters go on.

They also had replies to letters from Wales and Kent and are still waiting for the reply to the letter that went to the Netherlands.

Meanwhile, P5/6/7 at Port Charlotte Primary School have been learning about crofting history.

They visited the Museum of Islay Life, where they viewed crofting artefacts.

The school thanked Mr Reavey and Mrs McGregor for taking pupils up to the abandoned village at Olistadh and for helping them to imagine the crofters' lives.

They also thanked Mr and Mrs Piper for letting them go up to the village at Olistadh. SC

A HALLOWE'EN Dance will be held in Port Ellen's Ramsay Hall on October 29.

Funds raised will go to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and there will be prizes for best fancy dress.

LISMORE

AT THE recent annual general meeting of Lismore Community Transport, a farewell speech and presentation was made to Norma Black who stood down as chairwoman after 11 years virtually 'running the show,' to quote the new chairman,

Julian Wormleighton. Without Norma's hard work and vision there would not have been a community bus, which so transformed the lives of many islanders and in particular the young children who were able to go to all kinds of things on the mainland which had previously been denied them.

In addition, Norma said, in reply, it was timely as it played such a large part in the life of all islanders and certainly the Lismore Heritage Centre, making it possible for many visitors to reach the museum and café from the ferries and attend significant events such as the opening in 2007.

Norma paid tribute to all who had helped in the running of the bus including the committee and the many drivers.

LISMORE Primary children presented an overview of their term's work and their upcoming Mod items to the parents and the wider community at the school's informal presentation afternoon.

They began with the Scottish country dance, 'The Flowers of Dunbeg' which they had been taught by Anne Livingstone.

A selection of solo Gaelic songs followed interspersed with readings about this term's activities - ranging from skipping and the Green Flag inspection to Outdoor Learning Week.

The folk group also sang two songs and all the children performed their action songs

about Highland life. Visitors were then served tea, coffee and cakes and were invited to look around the school to view the displays in the classrooms and the work the children have done in the grounds.

The enterprising Primary 7 girls ran a raffle and sold potatoes in aid of next year's 'leavers' trip to Lochgoilhead Adventure Centre.

LISMORE Primary School was well represented in the Oban Mod this year with four solo singers, a folk group and the whole school performing an action song.

Sophie King and Shona Wright were first and second in the prescribed song for girls aged 12 and under, and Vance Cass and Katie Cook were awarded joint second place in their group.

All the children were praised for their excellent Gaelic. The folk group - Shona Wright on the guitar, Sophie King, Katie Cook and Rachel MacCormick - sang two contrasting songs with harmonies and earned a very creditable mark and first place.

The final event, involving the whole school, was an action song, for which they earned 90 out of the 100 points but no place was awarded as they were the only group.

Special thanks to Mary MacDougall and Katy Crossan for training the children in both Gaelic and music.

ABERFELDY

WORLD famous crime-fiction author, Ian Rankin, has been announced as the guest curator at this year's Aberfeldy Festival, which has confirmed its full line up.

The two-day festival gets under way on Friday, November 4 at the Town Hall, with James Yorkston, Star Wheel Press and John Hunt leading the festivities.

Second Hand Marching Band will play at the market the following afternoon, before the focus returns to the Aberfeldy Hall for Admiral Fallov, Ballboy and A Band Called Quinn. Ian Rankin will also host a talk and book signing event for his latest novel, The Impossible Dead, which is released today.

For more on the festival, check the website at aberfeldyfestival.co.uk.

LOCHEARNHEAD

LOCH Lomond and the Trossachs National Park are looking for volunteers to help manage all of its 720 square miles.

While already boasting the largest ranger service in Scotland, the park needs volunteers to get involved in the wide range of activities vital to keep it running smoothly.

In particular they are looking for people who have a love of the park and can share that with visitors to further enhance their experience. For more information check the National Park website lochlomond-trossachs.org.

ARDNAMURCHAN

MUSICIANS from Ardnarmurchan High School will perform a series of gigs in west Lochaber over three days in November.

The evening events, which include singing, dancing, and a raffle, as well as tea, coffee and cakes, will be held at the village halls in Glenuig, Salen and Lochaline on November 8, 9, and 10. Each performance will be from 7pm and finish at 9pm. The school has put on the village hall tour every year since 2004.

CALLANDAR

MORE people than ever before visited this year's Callandar Jazz and Blues Festival, with the event described by organisers as a huge success.

Rain didn't dampen enthusiasm or spirit, with most of the visitors attending the festival yurt at some point during the festival.

One of the outstanding performances there came from Pervoe Solnce, who got a standing ovation for their show.

Plans for next year are already under way, with dates fixed for September 28-30.

A spokesperson for the festival said: 'The festival team would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended and for helping make it such a great event. It was a great musical and social success.'

ISLAY LETTER

New look Islay Hotel re-opens

THERE was an air of celebration in Port Ellen on October 1 when the new look Islay Hotel was officially opened following an extensive programme of rebuilding, renovation and refurbishment.

The new hotel, which occupies a prime position in the centre of the village, is now operated by Roland Worthington-Eyre, Kathleen Cunningham and Iain MacLellan who have worked hard and overcome daunting obstacles to bring their plans to fruition.

The original hotel has been disused for over a decade and its condition deteriorated to such an extent that it became an eyesore and detrimental to the infrastructure of the village which is among the most scenic on the island.

Today, the upgraded building, which retains some of the original features, enhances the island port and provides a quality facility.

A consortium of 140 local shareholders, many from the Port Ellen area, ensured the hotel's rebirth and some were among the many guests who attended the opening ceremony.

Also receiving special treatment during the ribbon cutting were Isabel MacAllister, Alex Peebles and Dugie MacDougall, three of the community's best known senior citizens who were given the star treatment.

The Islay Hotel re-opening marked the culmination of an oft times complex undertaking, the end result of which will be of vast benefit to the island as a whole and to the Port Ellen area in particular.

Bowmore Primary School Pre-Mod concert

THERE was lively entertainment on tap when Bowmore primary school mounted its annual pre-National Mod concert in the school's assembly hall on September 30.

The capacity audience enjoyed a varied programme of song, poetry, instrumental and choral music performed with great gusto by the youthful entertainers.

Alasdair Currie sang and played the bagpipes. The other piper was Stacey Baker who was also among the poetry speakers. Singing solo and delivering more bardachd were Ryan Johnston, Kayla Woodrow, Kimmie Rae, Elizabeth Aitchison and Emily Gray. The duettists were Hannah Gillies and Laura Woodrow and Natalie Dunn and Zoe Wells and the programme also featured the school's two folk groups.

Mairi MacGillivray sang and played fiddle and other

solos came from Siobhan MacNab, Alison Gairns, Hannah Gillies, Laura Woodrow, Zoe Wells and Natalie Dunn. Increasing the poetry lectures were Rachel Johnston and Iona Scott.

The primary school's Gaelic choir, led by Helen Gillies, were at their tuneful best as was Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ìle, under the baton of Arlene MacKerrell.

Adding to the choral input was Còisir Ghàidhlig Ìle, conducted by Iseabail Mactaggart.

The massed choirs opened with 'Stuas leis a' Ghàidhlig' and brought the curtain down in traditional manner with 'Soraidh leibh.'

All wish these performers well as they strut their stuff next week at the National Mod at Stornoway.

A night of singing at Chaluim Chille Ile

TARBERT soprano Wilma MacDougall and Kilmarnock baritone Paul Keohone will present 'a grand night of singing' evening in Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile on Monday October 17 at 8pm. They will be accompanied by RSNO pianist Laura Baxter.

RSAMD graduate Wilma studied singing under Patricia MacMahon and Paul is a graduate of the Royal College of Music.

The programme will include operatic extracts, tunes from popular operettas, favourites from the world of stage and screen musicals and works by Brahms and Mendelssohn.

The evening is being arranged by the Islay Arts Association and ABC Tours and is supported by Creative Scotland and the Mactaggart Third Fund.

Bowmore nonagenarian celebrates

HEARTY congratulations to Bowmore resident Rose Gibson who celebrated her 90th birthday on October 11.

A native of Renfrew, she and her late husband Hugh owned and operated a butcher's business in Bowmore's Shore Street for over two decades.

Rose has also been a member of the Round Church congregation for over 60 years and is among its Kirk Session's most senior elders. The congregation did not let this milestone go unmarked and presented Rose with a floral arrangement as a token of celebration and appreciation.

Well done Rose and many happy returns. Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Telephone: 01496 810658.

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TICKETS TO THE HOMES & INTERIORS SCOTLAND EXHIBITION

The annual Homes & Interiors Scotland Exhibition is returning to Glasgow's SECC from Friday October 28 to Sunday October 30 2011 bringing together a wide range of exciting attractions over three days to improve your home and lifestyle. From TV personalities in the Design Theatre to the inspirational Interior Design Showcase, visitors are guaranteed to pick up some fantastic tips from industry experts including John Amabile, Sue Timney, Nick Priestley and Jim Hamilton to name just a few. This year the Homes & Interiors Scotland Exhibition will also launch a decadent Christmas Fair and a Demonstration Area for the first time with a host of fantastic exhibitors lined up.

We have ten pairs of tickets for Oban Times readers up for grabs. To enter, simply answer this question and send your answer along with your name, telephone number and address to The Oban Times Homes Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB by Wednesday October 19, 2011.

ten pairs TO BE WON

At which Glasgow venue will The Homes & Interiors Exhibition Scotland take place?
a) SECC b) Glasgow Concert Halls c) Buchanan Galleries
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Terms & 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 open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees. Each ticket admits one person for one day. Prizes are non-transferable.

HOMES & interiors

WITH rock bottom interest rates continuing for longer than many expected, those with savings may wonder how else they can make their reserves go that bit further.

With this in mind, it has never been a more important time to spend money on your home.

Cash spent wisely on your property is always a sound investment, even when times are hard.

And a competitive housing market means sellers will have to go that extra mile to make their property stand out.

Keeping your home décor fresh and appealing both externally and internally is always a good move.

Outside, giving your property extra protection as we go into the winter is a sound idea and inside a warm, welcoming, fresh and appealing place to come home to is just the kind of boost we all need.

Do you see any loose or decaying boards, loose bricks or hairline cracks that need to be patched? Make a list and tackle repairs before winter sets in.

It's your home, so you get to pick your priorities. Very few jobs will take as long as an hour and some are covered with a simple phone call to the right professional.

Following a visual inspection of the house exterior, make arrangements with roofers, masons, painters or other professionals to handle repairs you won't be doing yourself. Does the roof need attention? Are the TV aerial mountings and fittings secure? Are the gutters clean and reinforced? Do you see any loose or decaying boards, loose bricks or hairline cracks that need to be patched?

Meanwhile, fuel, gas and electricity prices are soaring, thrusting the issue of eco-friendly insulation, heating, lighting and even generation such as solar panels into the public consciousness.

These 'green' alternatives to heating and powering your home and not just an environmental consideration – they can save you money in the long term.

With winter approaching, it's also time to get little projects finished off. The jobs that you were meant to finish over the summer but just haven't had time to do.

With all probability, then, it's time to get the professionals in because a small problem in dry and warm weather can become a big one in a matter of months.

Take a look at the businesses on these pages to see which one suits the jobs you need done.

Energy saving tips

- TURN your thermostat down. Reducing your room temperature by 1°C could cut your heating bills by up to 10 per cent and typically saves around £50 per year. If you have a programmer, set your heating and hot water to come on only when required rather than all the time.
- Is your water too hot? Your cylinder thermostat should be set at 60°C/140°F.
- Close your curtains at dusk to stop heat escaping through the windows and check for draughts around windows and doors.
- Always turn off the lights when you leave a room.
- Don't leave appliances on standby and remember not to leave laptops and mobile phones on charge unnecessarily.

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Connel Bridge must be made top priority

GIVEN the importance of the Connel Bridge to those who live and work in Oban and North Lorn, the state of the structure is a constant cause for concern.

In recent weeks and months, the road surface has deteriorated rapidly, a lorry has collided with the bridge and worrying damage to pointing has been observed.

So news of a 'significant refurbishment' is to be welcomed. But as always it comes with the rider 'if money can be found'.

The disruption to daily life any serious damage to the bridge would cause must surely mean that its future wellbeing sees it placed at the top of Transport Scotland's list of priorities.

Love is in the air

WHO said romance was dead?

After all, who would jump on a plane for 14 hours to come to a place that is little more than a dot on the map - all in the pursuit of a loved one lost?

That's exactly what Juan Carlos Molina when his girlfriend Rachel Vezza left sunny Honduras to embark on a four-year course at the Scottish Association for Marine Science, at Dunstaffnage.

'I had to tell her how I felt,' said Juan.

Fortunately for the love-struck Latino, when the couple were reunited at an Oban bar, it was smiles all round.

It's said the course of true love never runs smoothly, but we wish Juan and Rachel the best of luck for whatever the future brings.

GLASGOW LETTER

Calum's Road

THE STORY is one with which many people are now familiar.

One man with a wheelbarrow and a small number of basic tools set out to build a road almost two miles long through difficult terrain containing some of the oldest rocks on the planet.

Roger Hutchinson in his book, published in 2006, brought together all the emotions and problems encountered over the years by North Raasay resident Calum MacLeod. The task facing the National Theatre of Scotland, in association with Comunicado Theatre Company, was to convert this story into a stage production. An impossible task?

I am sure I was not alone in wondering just how it might be achieved but writer David Harrower and stage director Gerry Mulgrew, backed up with an excellent cast of six, managed to encapsulate the motivation and problems faced by Calum throughout the years of his tireless work.

The compact and friendly Tron Theatre was an excellent venue for the Glasgow performances of the play which is currently on tour throughout Scotland finishing, appropriately, towards the end of November in Raasay.

To give further information about the play would, I feel, be unfair to those who have yet to see a performance but I would strongly recommend that you book tickets if it appears at a suitable location.

For Glasgow area readers the play will be at the Paisley Arts Centre on Thursday, October 27, and then in Eastwood Theatre on Friday, November 11. I can guarantee that you will not be disappointed.

Check the National Theatre of Scotland website for other forthcoming venues.

Glasgow Islay Association

AS IN recent years, the Glasgow Islay Association started its concert season with an evening of entertainment sustained by Glasgow Islay Junior Gaelic Choir, conducted by Jane MacQueen, with the senior choir,

conducted by Kirsteen Grant, also making an appearance.

At the start of the concert, and after the interval, Kristina MacDonald played bagpipe selections and the youngsters who sang, either solo or as duettists, were Abigail Kavanagh, Cara MacDonald, Clare Campbell, Meg Buchanan, Christina Gorman, Kirsty Thomson and Rebecca Boyle.

Elidh Miller played the clarsach and Abigail and Cara recited poems while young Rhianna Boyle, aged seven years and not yet in the choir, sang and also gave a recitation.

It was a busy night for past presidents with Alasdair MacDougall singing a couple of songs and Peter Campbell chairing proceedings.

Accompanist for the evening was Norma MacDougall.

Good luck

THIS coming weekend, the Royal National Mod will get underway and I would like to wish that everyone involved has a fun and successful week

Diary dates

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

Friday October 14: Clydebank and District Highlander's Association Ceilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm. Scottish Autism Concert, St Andrew's in the Square, 7.30pm.

Saturday October 15: Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm. Monday October 17: Calum's Road, Falkirk Town Hall.

Thursday October 20: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Dan MacKinnon.

Pub scene

IN THE Islay Inn this weekend the music will be provided by the *Keelies* on Friday and *Penny Dogs* on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be *Ballochmyle* on Friday, Willie Cameron/Martin Pottinger on Saturday and Stewart Cameron/Simon Moran on Sunday.

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

CLARIFICATION

TRANSPORT charity Sustrans have asked us to clarify that the Transport Scotland budget for sustainable transport has been cut from £25million to £16million. It is this fund within Transport Scotland's overall budget that affects the future of the Oban-Fort William cycle path, as well as Sustrans' other projects.

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.

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

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

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

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



The Cottage, Taynuilt

Miss M Macdonald of Oban submitted this week's flashback photograph which features The Cottage, Taynuilt, in 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.

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The decline of Ganavan

Sir,
Lachlan King's letter, September 29, regarding the vandalised public toilets at Ganavan rightly criticises Argyll and Bute Council for its failure to address the problem.

But how can we expect anything but lethargy from the council which, over the years, has allowed Ganavan to decline to the point where it has lost its status as Oban's 'playground', which is how it was described in one of our own publications, 'Holiday West Highland', which I had the privilege to edit for 11 years.

The decline of Ganavan as a pleasure beach began with the disastrous decision to sell off the pavilion which memorably catered for generations of holiday-makers and locals, selling everything from buckets and spades and ice-creams to afternoon teas and fish suppers.

Towards the end of its life the pavilion also traded as an excellent restaurant, one of the best in the area, and well worth the taxi fare to visit of an evening when you could watch the sun go down over the bay.

Now it seems the height of the council's aspirations for Ganavan is a van selling burgers and hot dogs. I think that, more than anything, sums up the lack of vision that Argyll and Bute Council has for this one-time top attraction.

We hear a lot about restoring Oban's cinema but what good is a seaside resort without a beach - and I'm afraid a few trailers full of sand being dumped on the town's foreshore every so often, well meaning though it is, doesn't really cut it in this day and age.

Families who come to Oban on holiday, as well as local people during the summer months, are entitled to enjoy a sandy beach with all that goes with it, not least of which is having decent toilets.

Kevin McCann, Alloa.

Motorists the real menaces

Sir,
According to McCaig in last week's *Oban Times*, I am not only a menace but also arrogant because a few hours a week I, perfectly legally, ride my bicycle on the road.

I wouldn't mind so much but the man has never even met me.

Perhaps if Mr McCaig were able to share the cycling experience with me on one of the many roads that do not have an adjacent 'cycle path' he may then realise who the real 'menaces' are.

During my 30 years of cycling - sorry 'menacing' - on the roads I have been verbally abused, knocked off on purpose, had objects thrown at me, been spat at, driven at numerous times by cowardly drivers to 'scare me' and lost two friends to hit and run incidents.

The 'cycle paths' are not just for cycling, they accommodate walkers, wheel chair users, horse riders, toddlers, livestock and dogs. In places they can be difficult and dangerous to ride on. I use some sections of the paths and legally ignore others for these reasons.

I am sure much must have been

My car is taxed and so are my cycling friends' cars taxed. We are not using our cars when cycling, therefore if Mr McCaig were to apply some logic to his rant he could surmise that cycling may help ease the traffic situation and the environment.

I do agree pavement cycling is dangerous and against the law and should be dealt with by the law, so I'm left wondering if Mr McCaig reported the police officer for the alleged cycling offence against him. I certainly would.

Has he thought about why some people cycle on the pavements? Could it be the arrogant and menacing driving styles of some motorists?

Kevin Whitehead, Bike Fix, Craigard Road.

Pity the poor cyclist

Sir,
So McCaig has decided to throw in his three pennyworth on this topic that continues to polarise your readers.

He wants cyclists off both roads and pavements. That doesn't leave us an option in the absence of extensive cycle paths - and funding shortages seem likely to restrict their further expansion.

Like many before him he mistakenly claims that cyclists don't pay road tax. Most cyclists I know also drive, choosing to cycle when they wish. Presumably he wants non-driving children to pay road tax then? We all have a legal right to use the roads, whether on foot, horseback or on two or more wheels.

Where I do agree with him is in the confusion surrounding cycling on the pavement. I have heard of cyclists being ordered onto the pavement by police between Dunbeg and Oban when they were holding up motorised traffic. The key question is whether it is appropriate - and safe - for us to use a particular route.

The monks of Athos - which although part of Greece is a theocratic republic with considerable control over its own affairs - ban the entry of females to their land, and they can do this, but the people of Harris are not living in a theocratic republic, and have no right to control the behaviour of others.

I don't believe a Sunday ferry service threatens freedom to their religious observance, and I do believe that trying to deny Sunday ferries to the rest of the population would bring them and their religion into disrepute. If they want respect for their faith they must surely respect the rights of others.

Robert Wakeham, Castleton, by Lochgilphead.

Halting the decline at Ardnamurchan High School

Sir,
There is likely more than one reason to explain the falling roll at Ardnamurchan High School (AHS).

Perhaps a low proportion of young families in the area contributes to the mix, not helped by a feudal land tenure system which prevents reasonable access to land, stifles development of new business and the creation of affordable housing for the

peninsula's young people, indigent or otherwise.

The 1872 Education Act, another structured assault on Gaelic, has never been addressed and the educational provision for the language today at a national level is inadequate.

We should appreciate that the benefits of bilingualism are beyond reproach and it is my opinion that within the historical Gaidhealtachd the Gaelic language should be the primary language tool used to guide children through their years of education. Then we would not need to concern ourselves as to which subject, Maths or Gaelic, is considered more important.

I have two children who travel to AHS from Lochaline and the journey takes around half an hour on a good day. This can be translated as to when there is no snow or ice, which is most of the year. In these days of excellent communications and with a flexible shuttle service the weather should not be an issue. However it is a useful red herring to mask reasons for parental choice.

The statistics appear to favour Ardnamurchan for 'a better all round education' and the journey time is shorter with no sea travel involved. There seems to be no logical reason, if you reside in Lochaline, not to use the local high school, which teaches amongst other important subjects the indigenous language and culture of the Gael. Then again perhaps that is a problem for some people.

D J MacDhonnchaidh, Loch a Linne.

Thanks for support

Sir,
On behalf of the organisers of the World Stone Skimming Championships, which took place on Easdale Island on Sunday September 25, I would like to thank everyone involved with making the event the success that it was.

This was the 16th year for the competition and was a very soggy but very successful day. I'd specifically like to thank our main sponsor, Forthite Foodservice, who once more contributed enormously to the event; not only providing stock but also helpers on the day itself.

I'd also like to say a special thank you the ferrymen, our judges, our stewards, the competitors and spectators and the numerous volunteers without whom it just would not happen.

No-one escaped the rain on the day but neither did they escape the fun of the competition. See you next year.

Donald Melville, Easdale Island.

Pronunciation

Sir,
Like your correspondent I C Wilkie, I get exasperated by the 'walers' and would gladly join his campaign.

However, the thing that really gets me riled is Auld Lang 'Zine'. It's 'Synne'. You don't say 'zince' so why do you say 'zine'?

A lot of English people will never have seen the word written but that is no excuse for the many Scots who use the 'Z' word.

Perhaps pronunciation should be addressed at an early age in the so called Curriculum for Excellence.

S Campbell, Kilmore.



Beachd Ailein
Ailean Caimbeul

BHA AN T-ÀRD-OLLAMH EDGAR CAHN air rèidio bho chionn ghoirid a' mineachadh feallsanachd shònraichte a thaobh obair saor-thoilich. 'S e "bancadh-ùine" neo "bancadh-ùirean" a bha e a' gabhail air seo agus e ga mholadh mar mheadhan air coimhearsnachdan a bhrosnachadh. Tha e den bheachd gum bheil cron mòr ga dhèanamh leis gum bheil sinn a' measadh a h-uile dad a rèir luach siostam airgid. Tha Cahn ag argamaid gum bheil uair a thide de neach-glanaidh a cheart cho prìiseil ri uair de dh'ùine àrd-neach-ceàird.

Theagamh gun can cuid nach eil an seo ach bruidar gun tìr, ach dhearbhadh Cahn a chuid feallsanachd ann an coimhearsnachd ann an Ameireagaidh. 'S e fear-lagha a th'ann an Cahn agus thad 's a bha e ri teagasg ann an oilthigh, rùnaich e ionad-comhairle agus taice a stèidheachadh dha daoine a bha a' strì airson còraichean sìobhalta ach aig nach robh airgead airson luchd-lagha fhastadh. Leis gun robh tuarastal teagaisg aige fhèin, cha robh feum aig Cahn air pàigheadh ach nuair a bha e air obair a dhèanamh dha chuideigin, bha e a' cur fios thuca air an àireamh uairean a chosg e ag obair as a leth agus dh'iarraidh e air an neach sin an dearbhadh àireamh uairean de dh'obair coimhearsnachd a dhèanamh. Shoirbhich cùisean gu mòr agus nuair a dh'fheuch an riaghaltas ri maoin na roinne aig Cahn a ghearradh, mhaoidh fichead mìle neach, a fhuair taic air choreigin bhon bhanc-ùine aige, air luchd-poilitigs nach fhaigheadh iad taice tuilleadh nan tachradh na gearradh. Cha robh trioblaid airgid aig an roinn aig Cahn bhon uairsin! Tha Cahn air a bhith air cuairt-òraid am Breatainn agus saoilidh mi gum bheil daoine an siud 's an seo air ùidh a ghabhail as an innealachd bancadh-ùine aige agus tha cuid a' beachdachadh air an siostam fheuchainn. Chan eil dad annasach dha na Gàidheil ann an obair saor-thoilich; bha e na phàirt den chultar againn fad linntean air sgàth bochdainn am measg adhbharan eile. Tha mòran an eisimeil taic saor-thoilich a bhios a' faireachadh tàmailt agus 's dòcha fìu 's naire gum bheil iad anns an t-suidheachadh sin. Dh'fhaodadh an siostam bancadh-ùine seo cothrom a thoirt dhaibh agus dhan mhòr-chuid an comasan fhèin a chur gu feum agus fèin-spèis ùrachadh aig an aon àm 's a tha iad a' dèanamh feum practaigeach as a' choimhearsnachd.

VARIOUS groups may now experiment with a new form of volunteering where each individual's time is valued equally, and you repay assistance you receive by donating an equivalent amount of your own time.

American civil-rights lawyer Professor Edgar Cahn has been telling UK audiences about his 'timebanking' scheme to encourage volunteering and community development. Cahn established a support centre to help poor people fight civil rights cases. Assisted individuals were advised how much time had been devoted to their cases and were invited to donate an equivalent amount of their time to the community. The scheme has apparently been very successful.

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

A view from the tower

by McCaig

Political party follies

PARTY conference season is well and truly over, littering the media with the inanities of zealots from all parties.

The Tories probably have more of them on their plates than all the rest put together and the Scottish Tories most of all. First, through the pressure of David Cameron their Scottish Leader had to fall on her sword. Now, there is a bad tempered contest and allegations of vote-rigging by supporters of one candidate that has forced Murdo Fraser, the most suitable and experienced candidate, to demand that the voting should be supervised and counted by the Electoral Reform Society.

The candidate who is obviously being 'pushed' by the paid officials is the strangest of all. She reckons she has all the necessary experience and guile to be a party leader with just a few weeks as an MSP! Ed Miliband, the Labour Leader, is another 'baby' hugger. He has 'freshened' up his cabinet by appointing a number of back bench MPs with little or no ministerial experience to senior cabinet office, but he hadn't had much more himself! The LibDems are looking for an even smaller telephone box for next year's conference with only one speaker: the clown Clegg. However, their Scottish version seems to have found a 'populist' leader in George Rennie whose conference speech was one of the best.

Meanwhile, our MP, Alan Reid, continues to serve his electorate at Westminster, with good, solid hard work as does Mike Russell in Edinburgh. However, his leader, Alex Salmond, seems to be having a hard time with the reactionary Bishop of Paisley as his churches and cathedrals are even more empty than the Protestant churches.

Loose logic

Sir,
Not for the first time in recent weeks I find myself taking issue with a contribution from Professor Ian Reid on the 'Wind energy' debate.

His most recent letter (October 6), still displays, for an apparently educated man, some very loose logic.

I refer in particular to the rather absurd analogy which he draws between wind turbines and railway lines. He denigrates the 'anti-wind' argument that wind is inherently inefficient because the turbines only work at certain wind speeds, by claiming that this is no different from a railway line which only carries trains for a fraction of the time.

Therefore, so the professor's thinking goes, it is unreasonable to expect any engineering infrastructure to function at 100 per cent of its potential. Whilst that might be a rather obvious truism I'm sure he would concede that unlike the railway lines, which are always there when needed, the same cannot be said of the wind.

Energy generated by wind cannot be stored so it is only of any use at all if it can be available when required to meet the peaks in demand.

As this can never be the case, wind simply cannot be relied upon for 'base load' energy which has therefore got to come from more reliable means of generation.

For the same reason, we cannot even rely on wind for 'load following' capacity, which again, must be available when required.

So, if we need other more reliable means of generation for our 'base load' and 'load following' needs, what exactly do we need wind energy for?

Answer: to make fortunes for the investors and the landowners. It simply makes no viable contribution, either strategically, economically or ecologically to our national energy strategy.

Perhaps I'm on a different platform, but the only link I can see between wind factories and railway lines is the gravel train on which all the investors and landowners are very happy travellers.

After all, it's we, the ordinary electricity consumers who have bought their tickets.

Alan Thomson, The Old Barn, Kilmacomb Paddock, Strontian.

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Closing date looms for traditional music nominations

TOMORROW (Friday) is the last day to nominate artists for the 9th MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards. Organised by Hands up for Trad, the awards will be presented at a gala concert and prizegiving, to be held on December 3 in Perth Concert Hall. The aim of these awards is to highlight Scotland's traditional music in all its forms. Already confirmed to play at the concert are: Peatbog Faeries, Skerryvore, Salsa Celtica and the National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland, among others. Nominations will be taken until tomorrow, with the voting stage running from October 31 to November 18. You can find the nomination list at the Hands up for Trad website.

Country and Western festival comes to BBC ALBA

COUNTRY music fans are in for a treat in coming weeks as BBC ALBA brings viewers the best of this year's Kelso Country and Western music festival. Cèil Country from Kelso will be broadcast on Tuesday October 25 and Tuesday November 1, with repeats each following Sunday at 9pm. Programme presenter Anne Morrison will bring viewers musical highlights, featuring performances from artists including Henry Smith and Country Dreams, Shooter, Jacki Hudson, Raising Cain, Jim Clarke and the Haley Sisters.

Entrants sought for Fiddler's Rally

ISLAND based fiddlers who are interested in taking part in the Royal National Mòd's Fiddler's Rally are being encouraged to make contact with An Comunn Gàidhealach in Stornoway. The rally will take place in Ionad Spòrs Leòdhais on Saturday October 15 and begins at 7.30pm. A rehearsal will take place at the venue between 3pm and 6pm. Those interested can collect the set pieces for the evening from An Comunn Gàidhealach's office in Perceval Square, Stornoway.

Soup lunch in aid of Oban Pipe Band

AS IT prepares for next season's competitions, Oban Pipe Band is organising a soup lunch to be held this Saturday. The fundraiser will be held in the Pipe Band Hall from noon to 2pm. Pipe band committee member Alistair Dewar said: 'As always, it is necessary to raise a considerable amount of money to meet equipment needs and for the extensive costs involved in travelling to competitions.'



Members of Taynuilt Gaelic Choir, Oban Gaelic Choir and Coisir Ceann an Tuirc with conductors, seated, from left, Ann Barlow, Joy Dunlop and Sileas Sinclair. 16. 04/11/11

Choirs given rousing send off to National Mòd

A PACKED house attended Taynuilt's Pre-Mòd Ceilidh last Saturday evening. A very young Ealasaid MacLean delighted the audience with her Gaelic singing, storytelling and reciting of a poem. The appreciative audience also enjoyed the singing of adult soloists Joy Dunlop and Andreas Wolff. There was an abundance of adult choral singing throughout the ceilidh involving Taynuilt Gaelic Choir, Taynuilt's Ladies Choir, Oban Gaelic Choir, Oban's Ladies Choir, Oban's Male Voice Choir and Coisir Ceann an Tuirc. All of the choirs and their conductors were in sparkling form. Fear an taighe for the evening was Taynuilt's Donald Harrison who kept proceedings flowing smoothly. The Cruachan branch of An Comunn would like to wish the very best of luck to all those competing at this year's National Mòd.

Jolomo exhibition will boost funds of lighthouse trust

LEADING Argyll contemporary artist John Lowrie Morrison - known to many as Jolomo - will use an exhibition in Oban to support a charity set up by the Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB). Jolomo's collection entitled 'The Scottish Lighthouse, Flowers and Drawings' goes on show at Kranenburg Fine Art Gallery on Friday October 14. A percentage of the sales will be donated by the artist to the Northern Lighthouse Heritage Trust, a charity dedicated to the protection of Scotland's lighthouse heritage, set up by the NLB. Each year Jolomo picks a Scottish charity that will benefit from the exhibition, which comprises 75 pieces including paintings of Scottish Lighthouses in their wild and weather beaten settings. Jolomo has a long standing link with the NLB, having produced and donated a painting of the Bell Rock Lighthouse. He said: 'Scotland has one of the longest and most treacherous coasts in Europe and I spend much of my time travelling the

Scottish coastline researching my work. I am delighted to support the Northern Lighthouse Board; we owe them a great deal for making our seas and coastline a safer place.' The painting of the Bell Rock Lighthouse was unveiled in February by The Princess Royal at the Palace of Holyroodhouse to mark the 200th anniversary of the famous landmark. 'I was overjoyed to paint the bicentennial painting for their headquarters in Edinburgh. The painting inspired me to do a series of paintings of lighthouses around Scotland for my forthcoming exhibition in Oban.'

Lord Boyd of Duncansby, chairman of the Northern Lighthouse Heritage Trust, said: 'The wonderful paintings in the exhibition highlight the extraordinary and beautiful landscape surrounding the lighthouses of Scotland and his generous donation will allow us to continue the work of preserving historical documents and artefacts and explaining the role of lighthouses in Scotland's rich maritime history.'

Islay expat Neil wins prestigious Burns award

AN ARGYLL man has won the prestigious Tam O' Shanter Competition in Dumfries for reciting Robert Burns' famous poem. Islay native Neil Macgillivray, who now lives in Glasgow, first learnt sections of the poem as a school pupil in Portnahaven, on Islay, and at Oban High School. After winning the competition at The Globe Inn, which Burns refers to as his favourite 'Howff', Neil said: 'I was absolutely delighted to win this trophy, competing against five accomplished Burns performers from around the country. 'I first learned sections of Tam O' Shanter at school in Argyll and it has always stayed with me. 'Joy to perform' 'It is a joy to perform the works of Robert Burns; the language and the way the words flow are so perfect and he was such an excellent and evocative storyteller.' Neil, an employee of Strathclyde Police road safety department, was up against competitors from around the UK and faced the daunting task of delivering a flawless recitation of this poem. Neil is a popular performer of the works of the Bard at Burns suppers and other events. His interest in Oban High School is maintained as a committee member of the Former Pupils Association.

Piper Angus to defend Glenfiddich Championship

COMPETITORS from as far afield as Vancouver and Ontario will join Argyll pipers in the prestigious 2011 Glenfiddich Piping Championship. The competition is now in its 38th year and has established a reputation worldwide as being the highest accolade for solo pipers. Amongst this year's finalists are defending champion Angus MacColl of Benderloch, Inveraray's Stuart Liddell, former Campbelltown man William McCallum and Callum Beaumont of Bo'ness, who will be familiar to many as the winner of this year's

Argyllshire Gathering Gold Medal. The Scottish contingent will be joined by Jack Lee of Vancouver, Canada, and Iain K MacDonald of Ontario. Selected All ten pipers have been exclusively selected to compete following successes in recent

high-profile competitions. The Glenfiddich Piping Championship takes place over the same weekend as the Glenfiddich Fiddle Championship, located in the atmospheric venue of Blair Castle in Blair Atholl, Perthshire, on October 29 and 30, respectively.



The Waterboys
An Appointment with Mr Yeats
FROM the band behind classics such as Whole of the Moon and Fisherman's Blues comes a new album which marries the lyrics of Ireland's greatest poet, W B Yeats, with Celtic folk rock. The new songs have been created by Mike Scott, who formed The Waterboys in 1983. An Appointment With Mr Yeats existed first as a live experience. It debuted in March 2010 at Dublin's Abbey Theatre, then came to Celtic Connections earlier in 2011 with an expanded ten-piece Waterboys line-up. Only then did Scott and ensemble go into the studio to record 14 of the 20 songs which feature in the show.

Fiona Cuthill and Stevie Lawrence
A Cruel Kindness
TWO highly respected and experienced Scottish musicians combine as a new duo to produce a top quality album, mostly their own compositions of contemporary folk music on fiddle and guitar/bouzouki with a touch of rock attitude. They are currently members of Scottish-based band Rallion, but have also recorded and performed together with various ensembles from the Early Music of Whirrigig, the modern Celtic sound of Canterach, the progressive rock of Abel Ganz and the traditional folk repertoire of Real Time.

Kevin Henderson
Fin Da Laand Ageen
KEVIN'S debut album in his own name, the title meaning To Arrive Back Home, features purely traditional Shetland tunes from across the islands. Kevin is a founder member of Shetland group Fiddler's Bid, which was formed in 1991, has been a member of boys of The Lough since 2002 and Session A9 since 2004. He also recently helped to co-found the Nordic trio, The Nordic Fiddlers Bloc. Playing alongside Kevin, fiddle, are Mattias Perez, guitars, mandola, and Nina Perez, fiddle.

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Saturday night > Club Night
Skipinnish Ceilidh House from 11pm



Performers at the evening concert in the Caberfeidh Hotel

Pre-Mòd concert was pure gold

THE BUILD up to the Royal National Mòd in the Western Isles on October 14-22 got off to a flying start as the local committee hosted a Gold Medal concert at the Caberfeidh Hotel, Stornoway, on Saturday October 1. The evening brought together a wealth of island talent who won either the Royal National Mòd Gold or Traditional Gold Medals.

Performing to a packed hall were Cathie Ann MacLeod, Donald Angie Matheson, Iain MacAulay, Iain MacKay, Jenna Cumming, John Murdo Morrison, John 'Tonkan' MacDonald, Margaret McLeman and Murdo John MacKenzie. A guest performance from An Comunn Gàidhealach's Mòd manager James Graham also featured.

A committee member said: 'It was a privilege to listen to the performers and it is perhaps an event that we would like to become a regular fixture on our fundraising calendar. 'We are blessed in the islands to have such a wealth of talent on our own doorstep and I am sure that everyone who attended the event felt that they were part of something very special.'

Theatre audiences quids in with two shows

LOVERS of the theatre are in for a double treat today (Thursday) with the visit of a touring company to Oban's Corran Halls. The Quids In Theatre Company will present two shows - Kreestan Sennakie's Magical Story Emporium, at 2.30pm, and Dead Dad Dog at 7.30pm. Kreestan Sennakie's Magical Story Emporium brings wonderful tales to life through a mixture of magical storytelling, illusion and audience participation. There's also a chance to laugh at the

antics of Milo the Magical Mutt, as Kreestan weaves his tales for the wee and not so wee ones through a magical web of fantasy and illusion. Family fun is always guaranteed when the doors open to the Magical Emporium. Kreestan Sennakie is the alter ego of actor Chris Begg in a show produced by Annie Begg. Dead Dad Dog, by John McKay, is set in the 1980s. Young Alexander Dundee eagerly awaits the job interview to change his life - but little did he expect the appearance of his long dead father

Wullie. Eck must decide what to do with the ghost, when they discover they physically can't be more than a few feet apart without painful consequences. What follows is a comic nightmare as Eck tries to survive the day with his father in tow. Chris Begg takes the role of Wullie, with Jamie Rodden as Eck. Both shows last about an hour. The Quids In Theatre Company is an innovative new group from the north east of Scotland offering quality theatre at affordable prices.

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Champion shearing sells for £1,150

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 103 Blackface rams at their PK Nutrition sponsored show and sale at Dingwall last Thursday, when strong, well bred rams sold extremely well.

The judge, Mr K Mackinnon, Dalmagarry, awarded the champion to a shearing ram from Mr HA Blackwood, Auldhouseburn, Cumnock, realising £1,150 to Mr JA Pirie, Chapelark Farm, Kingussie. The reserve champion, a ram lamb from Messrs K and J Matheson, Milton Farm, Aberarder, realised £300, to Mr C Campbell, 26 Back, Isle of Lewis.

The 74 shearlings averaged £408.65 and sold to £1,700 from Messrs A and J Macpherson, Abersky, Dores.

Twelve aged rams averaged £548.33 and sold to £1,800 for a three shear from Mr WG Macpherson, Blackford Farm, Croy. Tup lambs averaged £108.82 and sold to £300 twice from Milton Farm, and from Tigh N'Ulaidh, Tomatin.

Prices up at show and sale of suckled calves

UNITED Auctions sold 1,948 suckled calves at their annual show and sale of suckled calves in Stirling on Monday, October 10.

Bullocks averaged 212.81p (+29.21p and +£106.02 on yr) to 263.2p per kilo for a 290kilo Charolais Cross from Grove Farms and £1250 for a 714kilo Limousin Cross from Bedrule Mill.

Heifers averaged 193.52p (+27.49p and +£96.30 on the year) to 247.4p per kilo for a 289kilo Charolais Cross from Grove Farms and £1050 for a 472kilo Limousin Cross from Ballinloan.

Show champion was from Monzie Farms, scaling at 480kilo and selling to £1,180. Reserve was also from Monzie Farms, scaling 426kilo and selling to £1080.

Tups sell to £1,031 in buoyant Lairg sale

BUYERS from all over the UK helped create buoyant trade at United Auctions' Lairg sale last Tuesday, with 312 tups selling to an average of £1,031, £168 up on the year and a new record high. Of those, 31 tups made £2,000 or more, with the top price of the day £12,000 matching last year's record price.

Success at the double for Peebleshire farmer

David Dickson carries off trophies for male and female champions at Highland Cattle autumn show

IT was success at the double for Peebleshire farmer David Dickson as his entries were judged both male and female supreme champions at the Highland Cattle Society's 114th annual autumn show and sale, held at Oban Livestock Centre.

The supreme champion female, which had earlier won the cows and senior heifers section in the show, was Catriona Akeko of Lyntoun, a five-year-old sired by Angus Mhor of Auch out of Sonasag of Glengarry.

This success was followed later when judge John Crilly went for bull calf section winner Blair Rannch of Lyntoun.

The February born calf was sired by Ruairidh of Mottistone out of Hazel of Lyntoun.

Outstanding cow
Mr Crilly, of Balmore of Leys, Culduthel, Inverness, described the female champion as an 'outstanding cow'.

'She was big a big cow - not many of them grow to that size.'

'Today's show featured outstanding quality with some lovely heifers.'

Reserve female champion was the winner of the three-year-old heifer section, Elspeth 5th of Bien Esk, shown by Patricia Smith



Supreme female champion, Catriona Akeko of Lyntoun. 15_141highland3

and Paul Burns, of Craigenelt Farm, Stirling.

Reserve male champion was

yearling bull Laurence of Knockendon, shown by Ronald and Frances Fergie, of Knockendon

Farm, Dalry, Ayrshire.

In total, more than 130 Highland cattle were put forward for

the show, which attracted a large crowd of interested onlookers at the ringside.

Lambs average £32.33 at Fort sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 2,242 store sheep of all classes at its Fort William sale last Thursday, where all classes met a satisfactory demand.

Lambs averaged £32.33 per head and sold to £60 for Suffolk crosses from Blargie Farm, Laggan.

Ewes sold to £78 for a Suffolk from Traigh Farm, Arisaig.

Breeding sheep sold to £135 for a Suffolk ram from Traigh Farm.

Feeding sheep sold to £64 for a Cross wedder from 6 Duisdalmore, Isleornsay.

Quality breeding stock at Stornoway

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 1,914 sheep at its Stornoway sale last Tuesday, when quality breeding stock sold exceptionally well and a mixed show of lambs on offer met an improved trade.

Store lambs averaged £34.07 and sold to £60 for Cheviot Mules from 13 Cross Skigersta Road, Ness.

Gimmers averaged £61.15 and sold to £88 for Blackfaces from 17 Habost, Ness.

Ewes sold to £138 for Texels from 1 Portnaguran, Point.

Feeding sheep sold to £82 for a Cheviot ram from 10 Aird, Point.

The same mart sold 168 rams the previous day, when rams sold to £650 for a Cheviot from 7 Ivorhill, Stornoway.

Keen demand for Portree calves

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 136 weaned calves and store cattle, 32 breeding cattle and 49 older than 30 months cattle at its Portree sale on Monday.

Strong, quality calves met the same keen demand as the first sale, younger calves were considerably dearer.

Bullocks averaged 188.9p (+44.8p per kilo on the year) and sold to 223.1p per kilo for 260kilo Simmental crosses from 7 Ullinish, Struan, and £725 for 390kilo Limousin crosses from 2 Hamaraviren, Glendale.

Heifers averaged 178.2p (+34.6p per kilo on the year) and sold to 220p per kilo for a 200kilo Limousin cross from 5/6 Borneskitaig, Kilmuir, and £780 for a 500kilo Simmental from 2 Tote, Skeabost Bridge.

In-calf heifers sold to £1350 thrice for Limousin cross and Shorthorn crosses from Upper Cullernie, Balloch.

In-calf cows sold to £990 for a Simmental cross from 1 Feorlig, Dunvegan.

Cows with calves at foot sold to £810 for a Limousin cross cow with bullock calf from 11 Drinan, Elgol.

Older than 30 months cows sold to 136.7p per kilo for a 640kilo Luing cross cow from Torvaig, Portree, and £955 for an 800kilo Charolais cross from Distillery Houses, Carlost.

Older than 30 months heifers sold to 146.9p per kilo and £705 for a 480kilo Limousin cross from 3 Marrishadder, Culnacnoc.

Daviot gimmers fetch £112 a head
DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 3,541 breeding ewes and lambs at their annual Blackface and Cross ewes, gimmers, ewe lambs sale in Dingwall last Thursday, when all classes met a strong demand with quality blackface ewes selling exceptionally well.

Blackface ewes sold to £92 for fifty one correct ewes from Lyne of Urchanay Farm, Geddes.

Blackface gimmers sold to £112 for a pen of twenty four from Balvonie of Daviot, Daviot.

Blackface ewe lambs sold to £70 from Nether Ardwell, Duftown.

Correct ewes sold to £115 for Mules from Mountrich Farm, Dingwall.

Gimmers sold to £160 for Mules from 2 Forss, Thurso.

Ewe lambs sold to £98 for Mules from Borlum Farm, Fort Augustus.

Store lambs sold to £61 for a Border Leicester from North Raasay Sheep Stock Club.

Feeding ewes sold to £85 for Texel crosses from Wester Balloan, Urray.

Feeding sheep sold to £88 for a Cheviot ram from Isle of Pabbay.

Excellent trade in Skye sheep

DINGWALL and Highlands Marts sold 2,745 store sheep of all classes at its Portree sale last week, with Skye sheep in as good condition as ever all classes met an excellent trade.

Lambs sold to £69 per head for Suffolks from 2B Penifiler, Portree. Ewes sold to £79 per head for Cheviots from 44 Borneskitaig, Kilmuir. Gimmers sold to £80 for Blackfaces from 6 Flodigarry, Portree.

Eilidh judged best young handler to land inaugural Oban Times Trophy

AN added attraction at the show was the introduction of a new trophy, donated by *The Oban Times* for the best young handler aged under 18.

The new trophy is designed to encourage more youngsters to become involved in the handling and showing of pedigree Highlanders.

Organisers were delighted that more than a dozen young handlers took to the ring throughout the show, giving judge Stewart MacKenzie, editorial director of *The Oban Times*, plenty of food for thought.

In third place was Lynne MacLean, of Barcaldine, second was Dexter

Logan, from Clackmananshire, and the trophy was awarded to Eilidh Ramsay, of Mauchline, Ayrshire.

Hazel Baxter, secretary of the Highland Cattle Society, said the young handlers competition had been one of the highlights of the day.

'I was really pleased with the young handlers class, they came through very professionally,' she said.

Of the overall event, she added: 'The quality on show has been tremendous, with a great turnout of both exhibitors and spectators.'



Eilidh Ramsay receives the young handlers trophy from Stewart MacKenzie, editorial director of *The Oban Times*. 15_141yh4

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PORTREE

Dingwall and Highland Marts

Store lambs: Suffolk Cross - 2 Corbett Terrace, Uig, £58.50; Cheviot - 3 Fasach, Glendale, £58; Cross - 4 Ferniquarrie, Glendale, £55; Blackface - 31 Lochbay, Watermish, £50; Texel Cross - 2B Penifiler, £49; Suffolk - 2B Penifiler, £43.

Ewes: Cheviot - 19 Tarskavaig, Sleat, £74; Texel Cross - Armadale Farm, Sleat, £69; Blackface - 44 Borneskitaig, £58; Suffolk Cross - 3 and 4 Annshadder, Snizort, £56; Cross - 5 Halistra, Dunvegan, £53; Texel Cross - 2 Sheader, Uig, £50.

Gimmers: Blackface - 4 Edinbane, Portree, £75; Cross - 2B Penifiler, Portree, £75; Suffolk - 2B Penifiler, £74; Cheviot - 4 Flodigarry, Portree, £66.

Rams: Suffolk Cross - 14 Geary, Watermish, £130; Blackface - Millburn, Broadford, £84; Cheviot - 44 Borneskitaig, £76.

Feeding sheep: Cross - 4 and 5 Totescore, Portree, £70; Cheviot - 26 Elgol, Isle of Skye, £69; Suffolk - 2B Penifiler, £56; Blackface - Carinish, Portree, £56; Suffolk Cross - 26 Elgol, £55; Texel Cross - 2 Corbett Terrace, £50.

STORNOWAY

Dingwall and Highland Marts

Lambs: Chamoise - 13 Cross Skigersta Road, £58, £54, £53; Cheviot - 45 Upper Bayble, Point, £56, 6 Knockaird, Ness, £54, 47 Back, £50.50; Suffolk Cross - Atlantic View, Isle of Harris, £53; Cross - 1 Ardoil, Uig, £51, 20B Newmarket, Laxdale, 17 Habost, and 13 Aird, £47, 19 Cross, Ness, £45; Blackface - 17 Habost, £50, 37 Vatisker, Back, £46, 17 Habost, £45.50; Mule - 37 Vatisker, £47, £41; Charollais Cross - 2 Scaladale, Isle of Harris, £45, 10 Kershadder, Lochs, £42; Texel Cross - 11 New Shawbost, £45, 8 Kneep, Uig, £40.

Gimmers: Texel - 1 Portnaguran, £82; Cheviot - 9 Coll, Back, £80; Blackface - 17 Habost, £75.

Ewes: Cheviot - 24 Laxay, £80 (twice), 13 Cross Skigersta Road, £63, 7 Ivorhill, £57; Cross - Steinish,

STIRLING

United Auctions

UNITED Auctions sold 4,791 prime sheep including 3,424 lambs averaging 169.9p/kg (+16.2p) and 1367 ewes and rams at its Stirling sale last Thursday.

Lambs: Oatfield (Texel) £83.50; East Buchanty (Suffolk) £82; South Flanders (Charollais) £80.50; Doune (Beltek) £80; Doune (Mule) £72; Craignafeoch (Blackface) £65.

Ewes: Gartvaigh (Bluefaced Leicester) £105.50; Outerston (Suffolk) £95.50; Craigdhu (Texel) £91.50; Mill of Montague (Cheviot) £84.50; Carrat (Mule) £75.50; West Bracklinn (Blackface) £63.50.

Rams: Balliemeanoch (Suffolk) £54.50; Tigh-na-blair (Blackface) £49.50.

STIRLING

United Auctions

UNITED Auctions had forward 1,236 rams, ram lambs and females at their annual ram rendezvous in Stirling on Friday.

Suffolk Shearlings: Kininmonth £950; Chalmersston £900; Bogfon and Easter Buckleyvie £750; Torrax and Chalmersston £700.

Texel Shearlings: Dalchirla and Darnhunch £1000; Easter Seat £900; Torrax £850; Torrax and Shoestanes £820; Nevis Texels £800.

Charolais Shearlings: Southfield £720, Southfield £600, Southfield £500, Upper Auchenlay £380, Upper Auchenlay and Auldlea £350.

Cheviot Shearlings: Philipshaugh and Gilston £580, Gilston and Kinaldy £550, Kinaldy and Gladhouse Cott £520, Gladhouse Cott and Gilston £500, South Park £420.

Lley Shearlings: Over Whitelaw

MART PRICES

£620; Overwhitelaw £600; Balthayock and Sharptilaw and Millside £500.

Blueface Leicester Shearlings; Kepculloch £900; Kerry Cottage £750; Ashintully and Kerry Cottage and East Coates £700; Ashintully £650; Cretlevane and East Coates £600.

Border Leicester Shearlings; Bogfon £400 and £340. Cross Shearlings: Chalmersston £550, Torrax £480, Torrax and Chalmersston £450.

Suff Ram Lambs; Broomknowes £600; Newton of Colesie £550; Southfield £420; Oldmill and Newton of Colesie and Broomknowes £400.

Seat £580; Easter Seat £550; Easter Seat £540; Glenside £340; Craignathro £320.

Char Ram Lambs; Southfield £680; Southfield £300.

Blueface Ram Lambs; Kerry Cottage and Newhouse of Glamis £900; Newhouse of Glamis £850; Airtully £580; Greenwood £550; Shields £520; Kerry Cottage £500.

End of an era: Willie MacNicol and Duncan MacNicol at the sale of Blackface at Dalmally on Saturday. It was the final time the MacNicol's will sell under the Cladich name as Willie is retiring and scaling down his sheep operation.

Dalmally Blackface sale 'steady'

IT WAS always going to be a tall order to reach the prices of the previous year at the annual Blackface Breeders Association sale at Dalmally mart on Saturday.

If last year's record-breaking £90,000 sale of a Dalchirla shearing was described as outstanding, then this year was steady, with some good top prices.

Averages down
A lack of the kind of record-breaking prices from last year meant this year's averages were down: Shearing and aged rams averaged £656.33 for the 501 sold, a drop in average of more than £100, and Ram Lambs av-

eraged £732.01 for the 159 sold, again a drop of around £100.

However, Messrs Wood and Hunter, Dalchirla, took the highest price of the day again this year when a shearing sold for £26,000.

It was bought through a shared bid by Messrs J Wight and Sons, Midlock, and Messrs C C MacArthur and Co, Nunnerie.

Dalchirla also had the third highest price for a shearing, bought by A J Woodburn, Netherwood, Muirkirk.

Second highest purchase (£22,000) was by a three-way bid from C Coubrough and Co Ltd, Tintostide, T and M Paterson, Dunruchan, and J

G Hamilton, Aikengall Farm, Innerwick. The shearing was from J Jackson and Son, Pole Farm, Lochgoilhead.

J and J MacPherson, Balliemeanoch teamed up with T Renwick and Sons, Blackhouse, Craigdouglass, to buy a £6,000 shearing from Messrs M E McCall-Smith, Connachan Farm, Crieff.

The best Ram Lamb price was also split three ways: W Dunlop and Sons, Elmscleugh, J Murray, Crossflat, and Messrs Blackwood, Boghead Farm, Cronberry. They bought a Ram Lamb from H A Blackwood, Aulhouseburn Muirkirk, Cum-

nock.

Correct ewes sold to £115 for Mules from Mountrich Farm, Dingwall.

Gimmers sold to £160 for Mules from 2 Forss, Thurso.

Ewe lambs sold to £98 for Mules from Borlum Farm, Fort Augustus.

Store lambs sold to £61 for a Border Leicester from North Raasay Sheep Stock Club.

Feeding ewes sold to £85 for Texel crosses from Wester Balloan, Urray.

Feeding sheep sold to £88 for a Cheviot ram from Isle of Pabbay.

Blackface ewe lambs sold to £70 from Nether Ardwell, Duftown.

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John Forteith, centre, collects his silver medal at the UK SkillFRIDGE final in Leeds.

Contest success for Oban apprentice

AN APPRENTICE at Forteith Refrigeration and Heat Pump Solutions has finished second in a national competition to find the country's best refrigeration engineers.

John Forteith clinched an awards double, by finishing second at the Cooling Industry Awards 2011, adding to the silver medal he collected at the UK SkillFRIDGE competition.

John, of Oban, is now in the running to be named Scotland's finest refrigeration engineer at an awards ceremony in November.

John recently completed his SVQ Level Two at the Glasgow North College, collecting the college's

student of the year award for Refrigeration and Heat Pumps 2011 in the process.

Steven Forteith of Forteith Refrigeration and Heat Pump Solutions, said: 'With John's brother, Sean, also being highly commended by North Glasgow College, Forteith's investment in training is starting to pay dividends.'

'Sean will now go on to specialise in Refrigeration in third year, with John going on to specialise in heat pumps helping the company further develop the market in the west of Scotland and islands for air source heat pump solutions. This is a fantastic achievement.'

Top awards serve up tasty shortlist

A HOST of Argyll businesses have been shortlisted for prizes in this year's prestigious Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards.

Among the 28 first class products listed in the awards, local producers including the Argyll Smokery, Loch Fyne Oysters, Oban Chocolate Company, The Ethical Shellfish Company and The Puffer Bar and Restaurant have been recognised for their excellence.

Organised by The Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Forum and supported by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), the ceremony carries a larger entry field in previous years.

Co-chairman Quintin Stevens,

said: 'All of the companies and organisations short-listed for this year's awards deserve our huge congratulations - this year has attracted more entries than ever before, with many from new businesses.'

'The forum is pleased to acknowledge the support of our partners who have chosen to sponsor the awards, and contribute to the campaign for excellence in the food and drink industry in the Highland and Islands.'

Iain Sutherland, senior development manager for food and drink at HIE, said: 'We are delighted to be supporting the Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards again this year, and the record number of

entries shows how the sector in the area is going from strength to strength.'

'Last year's winners, including Isle of Eriska Hotel and Grieg Seafood Hjalmland UK, have found that being awarded such a prestigious accolade is an excellent marketing tool.'

'In terms of the 2011 shortlist, it is clear that these very high standards are continuing and Scottish food and drink can be considered some of the best in the world.'

The winners in each category will be revealed at a dinner hosted by BBC Scotland's Catriona Shearer and showcasing delicious, quality food and drink from the region at the Drumossie Hotel, Inverness, next Friday.

Business reporter:
Steven Flanagan
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk
01631 568021

Business Advertising:
Claire Firth
cfirth@wyvexmedia.co.uk
01631 568013

Workshop programme to boost business skills

NEW START-UPS and existing businesses looking to brush up their business skills are being urged to contact Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway team to find out more about the range of free workshops available this autumn/winter.

'Practical, hands-on workshops across a range of useful business subjects are available throughout Argyll and Bute,' explains councillor Neil Mackay, Argyll and Bute Council's spokesperson for enterprise, energy, culture and tourism.

'As well as helping equip small business owners with skills to help their business prosper, the workshops present a great opportunity for entrepreneurs to meet and share experiences,' he added.

Feedback from the workshops is consistently good, with more than 98 per cent rating them as 'good' or excellent.

The latest programme includes workshops in Oban on How to Reduce Your Tax Bill Business, Start-up, Self Assessment for the Self Employed, and Practical Basic Book-keeping.

To book or find out more ring Business Gateway on 01546 605 459 or book online at www.bgateway.com.

Back by popular demand, ecommerce workshops will also run again during this period so anyone interested in registering their interest for the next Make the Most of Online Trading and Build Your Own Business Website workshops should contact the local office.

Mull building firm moves into new purpose built offices after 10 years

MULL construction firm TSL Contractors has moved into new, purpose built offices - after operating from Portakabins for the past 10 years.

The new building was designed by Reynolds Architecture and provides a focal point for the company's 70 employees across Mull and Oban.

Sweeping modern curves on the exterior are coupled with a contemporary yet functional interior design, while the building is heated with environmentally friendly air source heat pumps.

The building cost £300,000 incorporating guidelines from the Energy Savings Trust. As such, financial assistance on the basis of an interest free loan was provided to pay for the energy saving elements of the build.

TSL director, Andy Knight, said: 'We're

delighted to be able to move into our new home after years of operating from make-shift offices.'

When we started in 1979, the original office was a JCB cab with a phone in it. We'd sit on oil drums for lunch.

'Then we moved into a series of Portakabins about 10 years ago. They had a tendency to spring leaks and there was an interesting internal gutter installed to save the archive room from flooding!'

'Hopefully these offices are far more befitting of a modern, forward thinking company.'

Mr Knight hopes the investment will provide a boost to the local area.

'Many people may see investing in a new office as a risk given today's financial uncertainty,' he said, 'but we believe we

need to stay focused, strong, positive, and invest in the future and the local area.'

The new office was opened by Mike Russell MSP at a special ceremony.

Meanwhile, Mr Knight says the future is looking bright for the company, despite the country's stumbling economy. He said: 'Our diversity of client base ensures we are less affected by the impact of change and the company has the strength to survive challenging times. The company is still undertaking a variety of projects throughout the local area. The forward thinking, flexible and proactive attitude of management, as well as the ability to 'value engineer' projects has effectively resulted in securing several contracts in recent months, which places TSL in a much stronger position despite current economic times.'



Mike Russell MSP, right, congratulates TSL director Andy Knight on the opening of the construction firm's new offices.

Work set to start on multi million pound Tayinloan ferry project

A MULTI-million pound project to improve the ferry facilities at Tayinloan will start over the next few weeks following a successful tendering exercise.

The £2.3m programme of works will be carried out by Graham Construction of Hillsborough, County Down, Northern Ireland - the same firm which recently carried out work at Kennacraig ferry terminal.

Grahams submitted the most competitive bid and was the clear winner of the tender process.

Work will start later this month and, weather conditions permitting, will be completed by May next year in time for the peak summer tourist season.



Bruichladdich managing director Mark Reynier.

Bruichladdich Distillery signs deal with banking giant in bid to expand sales

INDEPENDENT Islay distiller, Bruichladdich, has signalled its intentions to hugely expand its sales after signing a deal with banking giant HSBC worth £9.5m.

The deal comes just weeks after Bruichladdich launched its latest bottling, the Laddie 10, the first 10-year-old single malt to be produced since the distillery re-opened.

Managing director Mark Reynier told *The Oban Times*: 'In practical terms this move is a liberation from a stranglehold of our previous banking arrangements, which had not grown anywhere in line with our business development over the past 10 years.'

'It does not mean we are going on a spending spree on unproductive follies, it is for the growth of the

business, developing sales, distilling stock and the cash flow needed to support these activities.'

Mr Reynier expects the latest developments to grow sales by about 50 per cent over the next three years.

Acquired
After closing down in 1994, Bruichladdich was acquired in December 2000 by Sir John Mactaggart, Mark Reynier and a group of private investors.

This marked the first time a Scottish distillery had been either sold to an independent buyer or bought out of closure.

The business has since grown to ship 40,000 cases of whiskey annually. The distillery currently exports

two-thirds of its whisky to international markets, including France, Germany, Canada and the US.

According to Bruichladdich, its new relationship with HSBC secured its future growth with a multi-million pound deal, which will enable the business to significantly expand its production capabilities.

Following 10 years of pioneering experimentation with different barley varieties, the distillery has plans to produce a diverse range of bottling.

Mr Reynier said the new banking relationship will liberate the business to grow, as the company now has the potential to borrow double what it could before, fuelling sales both in export markets and in UK.

Supplier completes largest ever project

BARCALDINE-based aquaculture equipment supplier Fusion Marine has completed its largest ever freshwater project with the total upgrade of a small farm on Loch Ness.

The contract with Migdale Smolt Ltd was worth in excess of £500,000, with 30 circular Aquaflax pens supplied for the site in a 140-aside arrangement alongside a central service pontoon. Two mobile pens were also provided for back-up.

Stephen Divers, Fusion Marine managing director, said: 'We have enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship with Migdale Smolt for the last 15 years and we are delighted to have successfully completed our largest ever single freshwater project on time for the arrival of new fish in Loch Ness.'

'Fusion Marine has developed excellent working partnership agreements with a number of Scottish fish farm companies, which enables us to innovate and develop equipment that suits their exact requirements.'

'In particular, fish farmers are looking for the strongest possible containment systems, and the tough polyethylene construction of our pens have been proven in some of the most exposed and roughest environments in the world.'

THE BOUTIQUE SALON

IT IS the newest business to open up in Oban - but the Boutique hair salon is being run by two very familiar faces. Stylists Iain Bruce-Low and Annmarie Fraser, who have worked in the town for a combined 23 years, formerly managed another salon in the town.

Based in the former Gold Shop premises in Stafford Street, The Boutique is the result of an impressive six-week refurbishment, which has combined thoughtful and relaxing decor with a friendly and welcoming service.

What it lacks in size, the snug salon makes up for in its warmth, attention to detail and a commitment to personal service.

'We wanted a name that reflected a small, but stylish, establishment,' said Iain.

'We still want to provide the big salon experience and so far clients have really enjoyed it; it is more intimate and personal.'

The go-getting stylists are recommended to wedding parties by Ardaraiseig and Isle of Eriska hotels and Annmarie comes into her own when preparing hairstyles for special occasions. With this wealth of skill and experience at the helm, The Boutique Salon has been awarded exclusive rights to Vidal Sassoon products within a 50-mile radius of Oban - becoming only the 13th salon in Britain to be recognised in this way. The salon also uses Bed Head and Wella products.

Iain and Annmarie are joined by stylist Yvonne McHardy and trainee stylist Shannon Feaks for their new venture.

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Interview Date: Monday 7th November 2011

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Robert's stay in respite flat inspired TV cash

REPORT
by EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

A GROUP of friends who stayed at a respite flat in Oban have raised a staggering £1,000 to buy a new television and other items for the property.

Last year, May MacDonald, from Alexandria, took her late husband, Robert, to the flat in Graham Court, Dunollie, along with friends Betty McKillop and Joe McKay, when he was ill with cancer.

They said they had a great time in Oban but after having difficulty with the television - it was at the time of the digital switch-over - decided to raise money for Oban Charitable Trust to buy a new one.

May said: 'The week we had here was fantastic; it was the week of our anniversary and the weather was gorgeous.'

Robert could barely walk at home but he enjoyed a new lease of life when he came to Oban and signed the visitors' book, saying he had a great time and intended to come back.

'He died three weeks after we came home.'

While staying at the Oban flat, Robert reckoned it needed a new television. Following his death, a plan to raise money for that purpose began.

Betty said: 'We had a charity night at the Masonic Lodge in Alexandria. Robert and May's son played with his band and lots of people brought raffle prizes.'

'We were elated when he heard we had raised £920, because we didn't expect to get that much but then Robert and May's daughter, Elizabeth, put in the £80 to make it up to £1,000.'

Bob Clarke, of Oban Charitable Trust, was delighted to learn the friends would run another fundraiser within the next 12 to 18 months.

He said: 'We are so grateful for their generosity and this fantastic sum of money is a real incentive and encouragement to make sure this facility continues.'



From left: May McDonald, Betty McKillop and Joe McKay present the cheque to Graeme Pagan and Bob Clarke of Oban Charitable Trust. 16_141cheque01

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Applications should be made by hand written letter in the first place to Mr Gavin McLachlan, Distillery Manager, J & A Mitchell & Co. Ltd, Springbank Distillery, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6ET.

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Applications electronically to philip@westhighlandha.co.uk or in writing enclosing your CV to Lorn & Oban Healthy Options Ltd, 5 Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll by 12 NOON FRIDAY 28TH OCTOBER.

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CHIEF OFFICER:
Minimum qualification is a valid STCW95 Masters II/2 Unlimited Certificate of Competency. The successful candidate will report to the Master for the day to day operations of an NLB Tender deputising for Master in his absence. First class ship handling, seamanship and navigation skills are essential, azimuth propulsion and DP experience would be an advantage.
The current pay band for a Chief Officer is £36996 per year (Recruitment Level) rising to £40360 per year.

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Plockton musicians delight accordion club

THE ISLE of Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club opened its winter season in grand style at the Royal Hotel in Portree last Thursday.

MC for the evening was John Cameron, standing in for Jim Campbell, who is under orders to take things easy while recovering from surgery.

John welcomed the audience and handed over to Dougie Pincock, who introduced the wonderful young musicians from the National Centre for Excellence in Traditional Scottish Music at Plockton – now an annual fixture in the club calendar.

Dougie, director at the centre, brought along a large group of his students armed with fiddles, whistle, piano, guitars, clarsach, small pipes and accordions.

The students themselves had arranged a special concert for the club and the music was of a tremendous standard.

Solo performers, duetists, trios, quartets and finally the whole group charmed the appreciative audience throughout the first half of the evening – and earns a well-deserved standing ovation.

All too soon Dougie and his

students had to make their way back to Plockton High School, but the club looks forward to hosting them in the future.

The second half of the evening was an opportunity to hear from the few local musicians in attendance and began with a fiddle set by Ellie MacPherson of Achachork – the youngest regular club player.

The older generation were represented by accordionists John Cameron of Portree and John MacGillivray of Borne, who gave some fine selections.

However, it was unexpected visitors who provided most of the music.

Janet Graham of Cumbernauld played several great sets accompanied on keyboard by John Cameron.

Equally unexpected but nonetheless welcome were The Armour Brothers – Charlie on fiddle and Ian on accordion – who had come all the way from Morayshire to visit the club and brought a fine evening to a close.

Next club night is on Thursday November 3 in the Royal Hotel, Portree, when guests will be The Colin Donaldson Trio.

John Grundy.



The winners at this year's Oban Camanachd prizegiving.

Keeper Gavin is voted Oban Camanachd player of the year

IT'S BEEN a week to celebrate for Oban Camanachd's Gavin Stobart, whose call up to the national squad on Monday followed a player of the year award at the club's annual prizegiving last Friday.

The goalkeeper was judged to be the team's outstanding player of the season, during which he has made some match-winning saves.

At the other end of the park, forwards Scott MacMillan and Matt Rippon collected top goalscorer and goal of the season awards, respectively.

Another goalkeeper, Kieran MacInnes, was named under-17 player of the year, while Connor Howe, who made his debut for Lochside Rovers last weekend at the age of 14, was under-14 player

of the year. Lochside's consistent midfielder David Laferty was named player of the year for the team and veterans Brian MacCallum and David Devine were also among the awards when they shared the top goalscorer prize.

Daniel MacKinnon won the award for Lochside's goal of the season.



Young musicians from the National Centre for Excellence in Traditional Scottish Music at Plockton perform at Portree.

CROFTERS COMMISSION
COMISEAN NAN
CROITEARAN
DECROFTING
DIRECTIONS ISSUED
Name, Croft, Extent, reason, conditions Case Number
Mr A MacConnell
Lower Kilchattan, Colonsay
0.162 ha (amended direction)
(Case number 4.81.34975)
Conditions: 1, 2b, 3
Directions:
(1) to provide a site for a dwellinghouse
(2) complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of:
(b) the proposed development completion
(3) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.
Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

CROFT OCCUPANCY INITIATIVE
The Crofters Commission is proposing to terminate the tenancies of:
Mr Ian Wilson at Croft 1 Boheme, Kilmorivag (Case number 1.22.24816)
Mrs Pamela Maclean at Croft 113 Plocaig Sanna, Ardnarmurchan & Sunart (Case number 1.22.26366) as absentee crofters under the terms of Section 22 of The Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993.
Prior to making a final decision the Commission will consider the general interest of the crofting community in the district. Anyone wishing to comment on these proposals should do so in writing by Friday 4th November 2011.
Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofterscommission.org.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.
Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

Proposed Let of Part of a Croft
Proposed Let of Part of a Croft
Mr Donald MacCormick is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to let the tenancy of part of the croft at Baligarve, Isle of Lismore, to Mr James MacCormick of Baligarve, Isle of Lismore, Argyll.
If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofterscommission.org.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.
Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003
WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2005
APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION
BENMORE HYDRO, ISLE OF MULL
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 Benmore Estate Ltd for authorisation to carry on a controlled activity at, near or in connection with Benmore Hydro, Isle of Mull, namely:

Description of controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Construction and/or operation of impounding works <1m in height	Abhainn na H-Uamha	NM 5219 3542
Abstraction of 35338 m3 per day of water	Abhainn na H-Uamha	NM 5219 3542
Return of abstracted water approximately 2km away from abstraction points	Abhainn na H-Uamha	NM 5077 3679

SEPA considers that the above controlled activity has or is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the water environment or 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 reference number CAR/L/1096510: Registry Department, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, 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 the SEPA Fort William Office, Carr's Corner Industrial Estate, Lochybridge, Fort William, PH33 6UH. 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.
Before determining the application, SEPA will:
• assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
• assess the indirect effects of the impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
• consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
• consider that likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
• assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
• assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
• apply and have regard to relevant legislation.
SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant an authorisation to carry on the activity or each of the activities referred to above and will make its decision available to the public together with the main reasons for it, the matters considered in making it and, if granted details of any measures that will be taken to mitigate the impact.

Harbours

HARBOURS ACT 1964 (AS AMENDED)

The Caledonian Maritime Assets (Kennacraig) Harbour Revision Order 2011

Notice is hereby given that the Caledonian Maritime Assets (Kennacraig) Harbour Revision Order 2011 was made by the Scottish Ministers on 26 September 2011 and came into force on 27 September 2011.
Any person who desires to question the making of the Order or that a requirement of the Harbours Act 1964 was not complied with in relation to the Order may, within six weeks from the date on which the Order becomes operative, make an application for that purpose to the Court of Session.
A copy of the Order and accompanying plans, sections and elevations may be inspected at all reasonable hours at the offices of Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd at Municipal Buildings, Fore Street, Port Glasgow PA14 5EQ and at the Ferry Terminal, Kennacraig, Whitehouse by Tarbert PA29 6YF.
Dated 13 October 2011
Eversheds LLP
One Wood Street, London EC2V 7WS
Solicitors and Parliamentary Agents

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Oban Times

Boundary Commission for Scotland

Sixth Review of UK Parliament Constituencies

Initial Proposals – Argyll and Bute and Highland council areas

We have published our Initial Proposals for UK Parliament constituencies in Scotland for public consultation until 4 January 2012. Our proposals can be inspected on our website www.bcomm-scotland.gov.uk and at the following locations:

Argyll and Bute council area

- Argyll & Bute Council Headquarters, Kilmory Castle, Lochilphhead PA31 8RT
- Customer Services, Eaglesham House, Mount Pleasant Road, Rothesay, Bute PA20 9HQ
- Customer Services, Dalriada House, Colchester Square, Lochgilphhead PA31 8LH
- Customer Services, Campbelltown Servicepoint, Burnet Building, St John Street, Campbelltown PA28 6BJ
- Customer Services, Municipal Building, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AW
- Customer Services, 22 Hill Street, Dunoon PA23 7AP
- Customer Services, Islay Service Point, Jamieson Street, Bowmore, Isle of Islay PA43 7HP
- Customer Services, Breadalbane Street, Tobermory, Isle of Mull PA75 6PX
- Customer Services, The Business Centre, Crossapol, Isle of Tiree PA77 6UP
- Customer Services, Scotcourt House, 45 West Princes Street, Helensburgh G84 8BP

Highland council area

- Highland Council Offices, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX
- Lochaber House, High Street, Fort William PH33 6EL
- Council Offices, Dingwall IV15 9QN
- 24 High Street, Tain IV19 1AE
- Area Office, Market Square, Wick KW1 4AB
- Council Offices, Drummuie, Golspie KW10 6TA
- 23 Church Street, Inverness IV1 1DY
- Nairn Service Point, The Court House, High Street, Nairn IV12 4AU
- Tigh-na-Sgìre, Park Lane, Portree IV51 9HD
- Council Offices, Ruthven Road, Kingussie PH21 1EJ

Comments on these proposals can be submitted to comments@scottishboundaries.gov.uk by e-mail; by using the comments facility on our website; in writing to us at Thistle House, 91 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5HD; or in person at one of our Public Hearings to be held throughout Scotland in November. Please see our website for more details. All comments will be published for public scrutiny early next year.

"WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003

WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION DERRYGUIAG HYDRO

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 Andrew Holman for authorisation to carry on controlled activities at, near or in connection with Derryguiaig Hydro Scheme, namely:

Description of controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Construction and/or operation of impounding works <1 metre in height	Abhainn Doire Dhubhaig	NM 5002 3377
Abstraction of 34560m3 per day of water	Abhainn Doire Dhubhaig	NM 5002 3377
Return of abstracted water approximately 2.3 km away from abstraction point	Abhainn Doire Dhubhaig	NM 4916 3575

SEPA considers that the above controlled activities have or are likely to have an impact on the water environment and on the interest 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 reference number CAR/L/1096494.

Registry Department, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, 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 the SEPA Fort William Office, Carr's Corner Industrial Estate, Lochybridge, Fort William, PH33 6UH. 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.
Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant an authorisation to carry on the activity or each of the activities referred to above and will make its decision available to the public together with the main reasons for it, the matters considered in making it and, if granted, details of any measures that will be taken to mitigate the impact.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ 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. 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
11/01634/PP	Alterations and change of use of dwellinghouse to form licensed bar and grill with three guest bedrooms and relocation of existing tennis canopy to form existing bar and grill in new location adjacent to The Boathouse	The Boathouse Kerrera Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4SX	Oban Area Office
11/01944/PP	Replacement of previously existing seasonal small boat landing stage (Renewal of planning consent 08/02099/DEP)	Cardingmill Bay Landing Stage Gallanach Road Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4LS	Oban Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
11/01891/PP	Erection of 10kw wind turbine (12 metres high to hub height)	Land North of The Colonsay Hotel Scalasaig Isle of Colonsay Argyll and Bute PA61 7YP	Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay

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, Lochgilphhead, 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.

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
11/03489/FUL	Clunes Cottage Achnacary Spean Bridge PH34 4EJ	Proposed alterations and extension to dwelling	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/03484/MSC	Site At Blar Mhor And Corpach Moss Banovie Fort William	Approval of Conditions 4 (part), 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19 and 21 in relation to Phase 1 of development (10/02634/PPP)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/02815/FUL	Land 45m South Of 22 Deeke Acharade	Formation of access road to tree plantation area	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

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Oban Times

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Niall McLean trading as Geo-rope Ltd of Drumindaraich, West Laroach, Ballachulish, Argyll, PH49 4JQ, is applying for a licence to use 2 goods vehicles. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre 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 the 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.

SUBARU CAR OF THE WEEK



Subaru WRX STi
 WAS £28,995.00 NOW £26,495.00
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Any type year or condition, will collect/pay cash.

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Diesel, 5 door, 2002, 68,000 miles, MOT until March 2012, good runner.

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2003, with click hitch and 4 buckets, new rubber tracks, good condition, 3215hrs.

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new car index

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FORD PUMA 1.6



2001 Y reg, 34,000 miles, One owner (Lady driver) Tax and MOT till end of February 2012 Panther Black Metallic, Tinted windows

Tel: 01880 760262

£1500

SUZUKI GSX650F



Blue/white 2009. FSH, new tyres, taxed Aug 12, centre stand, extras. Great first big bike.

Telephone: 01855 811916

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PEUGEOT 206 1.1 LX 1999



81000 MILES 1 YEARS MOT IDEAL FIRST CAR - CHEAP TO RUN AND INSURE.

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Oban Times Oban Times Oban Times
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RENAULT CLIO EXTREME 2 16V 1.2 2003



3 door, 55,000 miles, MOT Dec 2011 Tax Jan 2012, nice clean condition, great runner.

Tel: 07795 244 979 or 01546 870 621

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2004, but only 2,600 miles, garaged for 5 years.

Telephone: 01855 821398

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FORD FOCUS GHIA 1.6



Top spec, Full leather heated seats Like new inside, Roof mounted DVD, Any trial.

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VW BORA 1.6S PETROL



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Tel: Colin Halliday Cars 01292 618343 or 07754535846, 17 Peebles Street, Ayr

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Tel 07703490572 Ask for Robert

Buyers should note where standardised silhouettes are used they do not accurately represent the vehicle being sold

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Contact Donald or Neil Quarry Road MOT Centre Quarry Road, Oban Tel: 01631 564614

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West Coast property service
 www.westcoastpropertyguide.co.uk

WANTED PROPERTY WANTED

We wish to Purchase a Detached Property in Argyll. Preferred locations are: Inveraray area, villages surrounding Oban, and as far north as Ballachulish. Other areas may also be considered. Any size or condition. Must have Garden and Parking. Maximum budget £195,000. We are ready to move now. Please phone: 07708 112 389 or 07523 444 069

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LOCHGILPHEAD OFFICE ☎(01546) 602424
 Visit our website at www.macarthurstewart.co.uk

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The regional press is perfectly placed for property advertising. Almost one-in-five adults choose their local paper as their main source for this information, more than any other medium.

Source: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society

Regional Press closer to home

WANTED

House to rent, min two bedrooms, in tarbert or with in 10 miles of Tarbert. Must allow pets, as I have a 6 year old West Highland Terrier.

Tel: 07827 011157

West Coast Property Guide West Coast

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West Coast Property Guide West Coast

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£500 pcm + C/Tax & utility bills Ref. required

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 Un / part furnished Central location

Period flat, 2nd floor £525 pcm Sorry no pets. Available now

Ground floor, gas CH, £460 pcm Available April Both non smoking and price ex c.t/ bills

Tel 01631 564954

OBAN TOWN CENTRE Room to Rent

Fully furnished, double room Balcony, Internet & Bills inc. Short let available

£450 pcm

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Semi-detached, stone built, one bedroom cottage, available for winter let. £100 per week (all inclusive) Sorry, no DHHS

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Source: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society

Regional Press closer to home

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Detached dwellinghouse, 3 bedrooms either furnished or unfurnished. £750 PCM. References required.

For further details and viewing contact Stevenson Kennedy. 01631 562317

West Coast Property Guide West Coast Property Guide

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Double size with full use of house

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NOW ONLINE

Advertise your unwanted items in either The Oban Times, Campbelltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser and your ad will also appear online at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk.

AUDIO EQUIPMENT

RADIOGRAM 1950s, needs attention, 2ft high x 2ft wide, glass door, walnut veneer facing. Offers Telephone 01397 701742.

BABY EQUIPMENT

BRITAX VIGOUR 3 PRAM in teal blue, good condition with rain cover. Cost includes delivery in/around Oban. £45 Telephone 01631 571069.

GRACO BABY WALKER aqua colour, excellent condition, from a pet and smoke free home. £15 Telephone 07734 650004.

LEAPFROG LEARN & GROVE Activity Centre, excellent condition, hardly used. Still in original box, ideal present. Suitable from 4 months. Cost £80 new. Benderloch, £40 Telephone 07970 827860.

LEAPFROG LEARN AND GROOVE Activity Station, hours of fun for baby. Excellent condition, from a smoke and pet free house. £35 Telephone 07734 650004.

NANIA CAR SEAT Group 0&1, excellent condition, suitable from birth to 18kg, 3 point harness and multi recline, in black and grey. Smoke free home. £25 Telephone 07734 650004.

SILVER CROSS 3D PRAM SYSTEM classic pram system with car seat, footmuff, raincover and changing bag. Very good condition. £150 Telephone 07734 650004.

TIGGER SWING excellent condition, mounts to door frame. Suitable from 4 months on, £10 Telephone 07734 650004.

TRAVEL COT ,excellent condition, from a pet and smoke free home. £15 Telephone 07734 650004.

BICYCLES

GENTS BIKES Two gents 10 speed touring bikes, one good, one for spare parts., £40.00 Telephone 01586 553804.

BOOKS

MIXED selection of fishing, kayaking, and photography books good condition £5 or under. Telephone 01631 565241.

BUILDING / DIY

110V CABLES 2 x 110v cables. Great condition, with fittings, approx 20ft each. Clachan Tarbert area, £8 Telephone 00072 934645.

15MM PLUMBING FITTINGS ALL NEW selection of 15mm brass Kuterite fittings bends straights tees ect, some chrome. Suit DIY plumber self build cost over £150. £49.99 Telephone 01546 606857.

22MM PLUMBING FITTINGS 50 new Kuterite 22mm brass fittings, bends, straight connectors, tees, ect. Suit plumber, self build, handy man cost over £200. £49.99 Telephone 01546 606857.

BOSCH ANGLE GRINDER AND 110V Transformer great condition, 14in blade. Boxed, transformer has 2 sockets, can be seen working together. Clachan Tarbert area, £48 Telephone 07792 934645.

CEMENT MIXER Belle 240 volt cement mixer, £49.99 Telephone 01456 606857.

CHAINSAW BOOTS Forester 3000 chainsaw boots. Size 10. In great condition. Clachan, Tarbert area, £12 Telephone 07792 934645.

CHROME DOWN LIGHTS unused downlights. Lovely lights. 4 lots. 3x13 8cm aluminium and 1x5 8.5cm chrome sets. £10.00 per set. Clachan Tarbert, £10 Telephone 07792 934645.

ELECTRICAL 4 dimmer switches 1 brass, brass switches 1 black nickel cooker switch, plain cooker switch and more, cost £140+ with for det. £49.99 Telephone 01546 606857.

GOLD TAPS 2 pair gold nalgala bath taps £15 pair, 1 kitchen chrome pillar taps £12 pair, 2 pair chrome basin taps £5 pair all = £49.99. Telephone 01546 606857.

GYPROC NAILS approx 15kg of 50mm Gyproc nails. 7.5mm head. Clachan, Tarbert area, £10 Telephone 07792 934645.

HILTI COACHBOLTS 51 coachbolts with plugs. Type HRD -VGS 10x120/70. Clachan Tarbert area, £5 Telephone 07792 934645.

METAL SHEETING BOLTS 22 in total, 14cm long, all with washers. Clachan, Tarbert area, £5 Telephone 07792 934645.

SLATERS AXE AND NAIL PULLING Hammer, unused slaters axe and unusual used nail pulling hammer. Clachan, Tarbert area, £7 Telephone 07792 934645.

TRIANGULAR PUCK LIGHTS unused and boxed, 3 x kitchen unit blue LED lights, triangular, make Renada, satin chrome. Clachan, Tarbert area, £5 Telephone 07792 934645.

CAR ACCESSORIES

CAR STEREO CD/MP3/ radio, face off, remote control. £30 Telephone 07940 101590 call or text after 6pm.

L A N D R O V E R RANGEROVER ALLOY Wheels, 255/55/18, with near new tyres and full set of wheel nuts, £250 ono Telephone 01586 830272.

NISSAN SERENA ROOF RACK great condition, fits model with guttering. Clachan Tarbert, £8 Telephone 07792 934645.

ROADSTONE TYRE newly used, for a short time 215 / 45 / ZR17, £35 Telephone 01631 750190.

ROADSTONE TYRE newly used, for short time 215 / 45 / ZR17, £35 Telephone 01631 750190.

CARAVAN EQUIPMENT

SATELLITE DISH Omnistar satellite for sale due to circumstances cant use. It has lots of parts that go with it. Interested give me a call, Offers. Telephone 01631 565241.

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TV SERIES LEVERAGE COMPLETE two complete season boxed of Lverage. Season 1 has 4 discs- 13 episodes. Season 2 has 4 discs - 15 episodes, £20 Telephone 01546 606475.

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G O R E - T E X W A T E R P R O O F Camouflage Trousers, 30" - 32" waist, £15 Telephone 07788 833110.

LADIES DUFFLE TYPE JACKET camel, size 14, £20 Telephone 01838 200307.

NAVY JACKET size 16, £15 Telephone 01838 200307.

SUMMER WEDDING OUTFIT + hat size 14, peach, £30 Telephone 01838 200307.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

COMPUTER BAG soft black laptop bag good size with two buckles and carry strap, never used, £10 Telephone 01631 565241.

COMPUTER MONITOR 19 inch flat screen monitor for computer, £20 Telephone 01818 828212.

EXTERNAL CD DRIVES 2, with software and cables, £5 each. Recycled printer cartridges for Epson DX/SX. £1 per set., £24 Telephone 01546 886285.

HOME COMPUTER XP2400+ processor, 1GB, WinXP SP3, Office 2000. 15" flat screen with speakers. Compact black tower case, v. clean & quiet, £49.99 Telephone 01546 830272.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

DISHWASHER full size, silver in colour perfect working order, £45 Telephone 01631 570049.

G A I N S B O R O U G H SHOWER used but in good condition, Gainsborough SV8000 shower no hose or spray, £20 Telephone 07818 828212.

HINARI HOMBEBAKER BREAD MACHINE never used, £15ono Telephone 01631 563277.

JUICE EXTRACTOR juice extractor white great condition, £5 Telephone 01631 565241 or 07777 694774.

MAGLITE TORCH police issue, takes five D cell batteries, perfect cond, (Campbeltown), £25 Telephone 07873 845890.

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WASHING MACHINE white, Indesit 1100 spin. Fitted with new drum belt and motor recently £43. Uplift on 20th October 2011. Telephone 01546 603915.

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COLLIE PUPS beardy x. Ready now, £120 Telephone 01546 510308 or 07979 318028.

EQUESTRIAN

ERRAY HIGHLAND PONIES good quality young stock and foals for sale. See www.erray.co.uk Telephone 01688 302331.

FURNITURE

BASKET WEAVE CHAIR at bargain price. Good quality cane armchair with comfortable neutral colour padded cushioning, £29.99 Telephone 01631 564578.

BED SETTEE brown fabric bed settee, in perfect working order, £29 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

BEECH DISPLAY UNIT with 2 doors. new still flat packed from Argos, selling half price, £49.99 Telephone 01631 566896.

CHEST OF DRAWERS low four drawer wooden chest in good condition, £9 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

DOUBLE BED PADDED HEADBOARD beige padded headboard for double bed. Reason for selling, moving, £25 Telephone 01546 606475.

DOUBLE DIVAN BED beige double bed (without mattress) with 4 drawers, all seems to be in good condition, only selling because of moving, £49.99 Telephone 01546 606475.

DOUBLE DIVAN BED in good order, £25 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

FIRESIDE CHAIR cream padded high back chair with pine wooden arms, £10 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

FUTON grey futon in good condition, £14 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

GLASS DISPLAY CABINET modern glass display cabinets with lights and locks perfect for a shop. Choice, dimensions 41" by 78", £49.99 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

HALL TABLE traditional oak hall table 90cm x 44cm x 74cm high. Full length shelf below, £40 Telephone 01499 500216.

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SINGLE BED wooden frame, including mattress, good condition, £49.99 Telephone 07979 807125.

SINGLE BED single divan bed in good condition, £15 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

SINGLE BED pine single bed with good clean mattress, £19 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

SINGLE BED metal Framed single bed with good clean mattress. Great condition, £25 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

SOFA BED double, terracotta, condition as new, seldom used, £100 Telephone 07979 807125.

SOFA BED FUTON Double -4ft. Single action black tube frame pine h'board. Gold colour cotton mattress. From Original Futon Co. Nice con. Comfy, £49 Telephone 01631 571032.

TWO SEATER SETTEE green fabric two seat settee, perfectly serviceable, £9 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

TWO SEATER SETTEE at bargain price. Good quality basket weave cane settee with comfortable neutral colour padded cushioning, £49.99 Telephone 01631 564578.

WAXED PINE DINING ROOM TABLE and chairs, 60" long x 39" wide with twin pedestal legs (top slightly marked). Four chairs and two carvers. (Taynuilt), £250 Telephone 01866 822747.

WAXED PINE WELSH DRESSER 60" wide x 75" high. Four drawers and four cupboard doors, also five spice drawers (Taynuilt), £350 Telephone 01866 822747.

WOODEN CARD TABLE with shelve underneath. Swivels top then open up to play cards or games. Reason for selling are moving, £7.50 Telephone 01546 606475.

WOODEN TABLE large extending wooden table excellent order, £9 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

GARDEN

SHREDDER Bosch AXT Rapid 200. Seldom used, £20 Telephone 01546 886285.

STRONG PICNIC TABLE A good strong picnic table with two long bench seats attached on either side. Moving and cannot take with us, £49.99 Telephone 01546 606475.

FOOT SPA blue foot spa in good condition working perfect, £5 Telephone 01631 565241.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

COAL BUNKER large and some coal. To be uplifted, Free. Telephone 01631 564069.

HEATING, FIRES AND FIREPLACES

COAL BUNKER large and some coal. To be uplifted, Free. Telephone 01631 564069.

ELECTRIC FIRE & SURROUND light stone effect fire surround with coal effect electric fire, in first class condition almost new, £120 Telephone 01855 821086.

SPACE HEATER commercial infra - red space heater with spare elements. 240 volt - 3kilowatt, wall mounted, ideal for small workshop, £30 Telephone 01499 500216.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

SKY DIGIBOX Sony sky digibox, slimline model, silver, no remote, good condition (Campbeltown), £25 Telephone 07873 845890.

TELEVISION 20", grey, not flat screen. Good working order, would suit kids room for playing console games £25. Uplift before 20th October 2011, £ Telephone 01546 603915.

HOME FURNISHINGS

GLASS TV STAND with cable tube for LCD TV up to 32in. W28in D18in H20in. 3 shelves bottom 11in mid 6.2in. Clear glass chrome coloured legs, £25 Telephone 01631 571032.

NEXT BEANBAG Next black and white(cream) faux leather football beanbag, great condition, £10 Telephone 01631 750190.

NEXT GUITAR CD HOLDER red, wooden in good condition, £10 Telephone 01631 750190.

NEXT SKULL SINGLE BED THROW black, red and white. Skull light shade, Skull door hanger and Skull bank , £30 Telephone 01631 750190.

SEAGRASS STORAGE CHEST large ht 45 width 85 depth 45cms, can be seen in Argos Catalogue, £30 Telephone 01631 720369.

HOME OFFICE

COMPUTER DESK metal and glass computer desk in excellent condition, £14 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

COMPUTER DESK AND CHAIR very good condition, £15 Telephone 01586 551309.

COMPUTER TABLE pine effect computer desk, £7 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

DESK pine effect office desks. Choice available, £12 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

FAX MACHINE Brother, Personal Fax-510 Plus, and new paper roll, £10 Telephone 01631 770281.

FILING CABINET 4 drawer filing cabinet with key, £15 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

OAK BOOKCASE Ikea Oak Bookcase with oak doors, W600mm x H1000mm, in excellent condition, £37.50 Telephone 01855 821086.

OAK DESK Ikea oak desk with filing drawer, in excellent condition, £47.50 Telephone 01855 821086.

PC WITH MONITOR PCA, C, D drives and DVD-RW with 17" flat screen monitor, pair of speakers (Logitech), cordless keyboard and mouse, £25 Telephone 01586 551309.

JEWELLERY AND WATCHES

NECKLACE PEARL 7-8 aaa gem quality white oval pearl necklace. 14 ct gold clasp cost £130 in Oban unwanted gift, never worn in wooden box, £49.99 Telephone 01546 606857.

PEARL STUD EARRINGS WHITE 7.5 aaa gem quality Akoya pearl earrings 14ct gold studs valued at £190. Never worn valuation can be seen great Christmas gift, £49.99 Telephone 01546 606857.

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

BATHROOM UNIT SET wall mounted double mirror unit, storage cupboard, glass shelf, toothbrush holder, towel ring and toilet seat all in pine, £15 Telephone 07734 650004.

BREAKFAST STOOLS four, black leather seats, chrome base, adjustable, £40 Telephone 07979 807125.

FONDUE SET CAST IRON Le Creuset Cousances cream and floral colour. With 6 forks, burner, burner stand and plate. Used, £15 Telephone 01631 571032.

WASH HAND BASIN white + pedestal, exc condition, £15 Telephone 07788 833110.

LIVESTOCK

COCKERELS two young Maram cockerels (one Cockoo, one Weststone). Free to good home. Telephone 01586 551309.

MAIL ORDER

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

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MERCURY OUTBOARD ENGINE 4hp, for spare parts., £40.00 Telephone 01586 553804.

MARINE UNDER £250

YAMAHA OUTBOARD 6hp for spares or repair lying in store Port Beag, Oban, £49.99 Telephone 07818 406592.

MISCELLANEOUS

FONDUE orange fondue set never used good for a Xmas present, £5 Telephone 01631 565241 or 07777 694774.

GLASSES 6 crystal glasses could be used for wine or champagne, £7 Telephone 01631 565241 or 07777 694774.

LOCKABLE BOLLARD cost £120, £30 for quick sale Telephone 07940 101590 call or text after 6pm.

NEW HEARING AID P312 BATTERIES New hearing aid P312 batteries 6 packs of 6 never been opened. High level hearing. Expiry date 05/2013, £4.50 Telephone 01546 606475.

STAG'S HEAD full mount on wooden plaque, nice matching ten pointer, lovely head, £300ono Telephone 07788 116324.

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BT AQUA DIGITAL CORDLESS Telephone new white with aqua trim separate small unit for answering machine. Very modern and neat, boxed, £30 Telephone 01631 720369.

MOBILITY

TGA BUDDY SCOOTER perfect condition, new batteries, fully serviced, private sale, Mid Argyll, £500 Telephone 07766 172798.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

CHILD'S ELECTRIC GUITAR black and white with case and amplifier, £40 Telephone 01631 750190.

ELECTRIC KEYBOARD acoustic solutions, mid size, silver, £30ono Telephone 01838 200694.

WANTED

SCRAP METAL all types of scrap metal, we uplift scrap cars, call Mr Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals. Telephone 01499 500638 or 07787 991636.

PERSONALS

JADE MACEWAN 21 LOVE MUM, DAD, MARTIN AND ALL THE FAMILY

Linda and Joe McLean Ruby Anniversary 16th October 1971

Happy 18th Birthday Sarah

lots of love Joe xx

Love from Mum, Dad and Iain

Calendar Offer 15% off Any personal or commercial calendar order placed before 30th November 2011

krisp print

Oban Times PRIVATE CLASSIFIED

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GOLF CLUBS 5 irons putters ect, 4 drivers, 9 in total tees, and practice golf balls with golf bag the lot, £15 Telephone 07879 685771.

GOLF SHOES size 7 worn once, £10 Telephone 07879 685771.

GOLF TROLLEY light weight trolley, £10 Telephone 07879 685771.

LANTERN Colemans black and silver lantern used once as new with three cans of fuel, exc cond, £15 Telephone 01631 565241.

SLIDE WITH EXTENSION TP slide, 3 metre, blue plastic with steel frame. 130cm extension, good condition. Can deliver to Lochgilphead area, £25 Telephone 01546 510242.

PET ACCESSORIES

FISH TANK with black lid 50 litre capacity. Length-61cm, width-30cm and depth-31cms, water pump included, £40 Telephone 01631 565764.

LARGE DOG CAGE 42 x 28.4 x 30.8 inches, vgc, £25 Telephone 01631 570541.

METAL FOLDING PET CRATE barely used, folding crate with slide out plastic tray. 24" x 18" x 20", £15 Telephone 01631 571069.

REMINGTON HAIR CLIPPER black with all accessories in bag, instructions. Used once perfect order, different size clippers, £12 Telephone 01631 720369.

PHOTOGRAPHY

CASE hard camera case black Doskocil make, in good condition, £10 Telephone 01631 565241.

TOYS AND GAMES

BRIO TRAIN SET collection of wooden track and trains. Includes electric engines, carriages and wagons. Enough track for a good layout, £25 Telephone 01546 510242.

CHILD'S ELECTRIC CAR pink electric car suit 3-5 year old. Battery fully charged, in excellent condition would make a lovely Christmas gift, £47.50 Telephone 01855 821086.

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

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Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

1. Advertising copy shall be

RUBY WEDDING
GRAHAM - MACCOLL - At Appin Parish Church on October 16, 1971, by the late Rev K MacMillan, Alec to Irene. Present address 15 Trentham Court, Westhill, Inverness.
MACDONALD - SMITH - On October 9, 1971, Rodger to Christine by the Rev Archie Boyd at Oban Free High Church.

GOLDEN WEDDING

CAMPBELL - MACCALLUM
 On October 14, 1961, Willie to Una by Rev. Ramsay Thomson at Muckairn Parish, Taynuilt.

BINNIE - MACGREGOR
 Alastair to Isobel on October 12, 1961 at Muckairn Parish Church by Rev J R Thomson, assisted by Rev William MacDonald, Oban.

DEATHS

CAMPBELL - Rena, of Traigh Beag East, Port Ellen, Isle of Islay suddenly but peacefully on Thursday October 6, 2011, aged 81 years. A beloved and loving wife, mother, granny and mother-in-law. Loved more than she could ever know by John, Carma, Anne, Caitlin, Rosie and Eric. Family flowers only. Donations, if wished to Kirsty's Kids - The Kirsty Bryden Memorial Trust. Funeral Service at St John's Church, Port Ellen at 11am on Monday, October 17, 2011.

GRANT - Peacefully at the Belford Hospital, Fort William, on Thursday, October 6, 2011, Catherine (née MacLeod) beloved wife of the late Jimmy, much loved mother of Malcolm and Shirley and treasured granny of David and Karyn. She will be sadly missed.

INNES - Peacefully at the Belford Hospital, Fort William, on Tuesday, October 11, 2011, Frankie, aged 57 years. Much loved husband of Isabel, devoted father to Frankie, a beloved brother and uncle. Funeral service from Kilmallie Parish Church, Corcaph on Friday, October 14, at 11am. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only please but donations, if desired, can be made at the church for Macmillan Nurses.

MACINNES - Peacefully at home in Ruaig, Isle of Tiree on October 5 2011, Duncan, aged 82 years. Beloved husband of Margaret, dearest dad of Alastair, Mairi and Donnie, brother of Ann and the late Christine and much loved grandpa. Sorely missed.

MACKAY - Peacefully in Inverclyde Royal Hospital on Friday, October 7, 2011, Christine, wife of the late Harry Mackay, daughter of the late James and Isobel MacArthur, Tiree and sister of Elma.

MACKENZIE - Peacefully at her home, Alaval, South Shian, Benderloch on Monday, October 10, 2011, Mary Veronica MacKenzie (nee Mouat), aged 51. Dearly loved wife of Stewart, devoted mother of Veronica and John, and loving grandmother of James, Vincent and Minnie. Funeral on Thursday, (today) October 13, 2011, at 1.30pm from Kilmore and Oban Church of Scotland, Glencruitten Road, Oban to Pennyfair Cemetery. Family flowers only please, donations may be made to Friends of the Beatson and Macmillan Cancer Support.

MACKENZIE - Suddenly, but peacefully at his home in Montcaith Street, Crieff, on Tuesday October 11, 2011. Duncan Malcolm MacKenzie, aged 84 years. Much loved husband of the late Margaret, loved and loving dad of Emily, loving brother of Andrew, special grampa of Eilidh, Graeme and great grampa to his great grandchildren and friend to many. Sadly missed by all. Funeral service to which all friends are respectfully invited, Monzie Kirk, on Friday October 14 at 11am. Thereafter to Perth Crematorium for a Committal service at 12.30pm Family flowers only, please. Donations in lieu may be given at the church or crematorium, if so desired, in aid of both the Volunteer Drivers and also Crieff District Nurses.

MACLENNAN - Mary Anne, died peacefully at Tigh a Rudha Care Home, Isle of Tiree on Wednesday October 5, 2011. Beloved wife of the late Donald, mother of Roddy, Angus and the late Donald and loving grandma and great grandma. Will be sorely missed by all the family.

MCOLL - Suddenly but peacefully at Perth Royal Infirmary on Monday, October 10, 2011, William (Willie) McGill MColl, aged

82 years, (of Tay Avenue, Comrie, Perthshire). Beloved husband of Jean, loved and loving father of Gordon and Lynda, much loved brother and special papa to all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral service to which all friends are respectfully invited, at Perth Crematorium, on Tuesday, October 18 at 12.30pm. Family flowers only, please. Donations in lieu may be given at the Crematorium, if so desired, in aid of The Friends of Crieff Hospital and the British Heart Foundation.

RAE - Lorimer (Lorrie), aged 81 years, died peacefully on September 20, 2011, beloved brother of Kirsty and the late Don Rae, sons of Chris and Bill Rae. Sadly missed by Kirsty.

THOMSON - David Miller, passed away on Thursday, October 6, 2011, at Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, aged 86 years. Beloved husband of Audrey of "Cull Sithe", Carsaig, Tayvallich. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service will be held at Cardross Crematorium today, Thursday, October 13, 2011 at 12.15pm. All friends and family respectfully invited to attend.

WORTH - At Eader Glinn Care Home, Oban on October 6, 2011, very peacefully with family by her side, Isobel MacDonald Worth in her 92nd year, formerly of 2 St Conans Road, Lochawe. Beloved wife of the late Lewis, much loved mother to Derek, dear grandma of Stewart and Helen and mother-in-law to Joyce. Funeral private by her own request.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BLUE - The family of the late Lillian Blue, would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their kind messages of sympathy, cards and support following their recent sad bereavement. Many thanks to Fiona MacGuigan and the staff of MacDonald Funeral Directors, Lochgilphead for their sensitive funeral arrangements, Rev. Dugald Cameron for his words of comfort and to all who paid their respects on the recent and sad loss of Ann and especially to our friends and neighbours for their generosity. We would also like to thank everyone for the many phone calls, sympathy cards and to the girls at the Centre for all their help and understanding. Additionally we would like to thank Wilma and her wonderful staff at Abbeyfield Nursing Home for their unlimited care and help to mum and the family. Furthermore, we are very grateful to Mike McFall and his team for all the funeral arrangements, the Rev Corbett and John Fraser for a lovely service and the Moorings Hotel who served an excellent buffet. We would also like to thank everyone who travelled so far to attend the service and all who came to pay their respects at the Church and the graveside. A total of £377 was collected for Abbeyfield Nursing Home.

MACLEAN - Hugh and Family would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their overwhelming kindness and support after the sudden loss of Jean. Special thanks to Msgr James MacNeil, Fr Bijou, Catriona and all at Hamish Hoey and Sons, to Catherine Wylie and the girls, and to all who paid their last respects to Jean at the service and graveside and who gave so generously the sum of £405.55 to Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland. God bless you all.

SHAW - The family of the late Moira Shaw would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy on the recent loss of Moira. Thanks to the Rev Donald MacQuarrie for his comforting service and to Mike McFall for his funeral arrangements and a special thanks to all involved in caring for Moira in her remaining days.

MATHERS - In loving memory of my son Freddie, who died October 13, 2010. Forever in my thoughts. - Love Mum. **MATHERS** - In loving memory of my brother and our uncle Freddie, who died October 13, 2010. Love and miss you everyday. - Your sister Joyce and all the family. **SIMPSON** - In loving memory of a dear wife and mother, Isa, who died October 10, 1994. You left a place no one can fill. I miss you now And always will. - Ever loving son Archie. **STEWART** - Loving memories of our dear parents and grandparents Ernie died November 14, 1999, Marjorie died September 11, 1996. Too dearly loved to be forgotten. - Maureen, John, Fraser, Sheena and family. **WATSON** - In loving memory of a much loved wife, mum and granny Margaret Ann who passed away on October 16, 2010. Loving you always Forgetting you never. - John Everyday in some small way Memories of you come our way Though absent you are always near Still missed, loved and always dear. - Julie, Lyndsay and families. **WOOD** - John. In loving memory of our greatly missed dad, who died October 18, 2010. - From John, Katie and family. **WOODROW** - Treasured memories of our David who died October 16, 1990, result of an accident. It's 21 years since we lost you at the age of 21. Time passes memories stay You're in our thoughts every day We will love and miss you forever. - Mum, Dad, Fraser, Sheena and family.

CAMPBELL - With love I remember my son Kenny, who was taken so suddenly on October 18, 2009, aged 24 years. I can shed tears that you have gone Or I can smile because you lived I can close my eyes and wish that you'll come back Or I can open my eyes and see all you've left I can remember you and only that you're gone Or I can cherish the memories and let them live on. Love and miss you always. - Mum x. **CAMPBELL** - Every step I take, every move I make Every single day, every time I pray I'll be missing you Thinking of the day, when you went away What a life to take, what a bond to break I'll be missing you. Vikki xxx

UNCLE KENNY The brightest star in the sky xx Nicole and Chloe xx

MACCALLUM - In memory of a loving wife and mother Isobel, who died October 18, 1982. The years we spent together The happy days we knew Are lived again so often With memories of you Inserted by her husband Donald and family 11 Longsdale Terrace, Oban.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of Iain who died on October 16, 1981, 30 years ago. Sadly missed.

- Inserted by his family, Bunness, Mull and Oban. **MACGILLIVRAY** - In loving memory of Irene MacGillivray, a much loved mother and sister, who sadly died on 10th October, 2005.

There is not a day goes by that we do not think about you You meant so much to so many Still find it hard to believe you have gone Loved and remembered always.

- By Ian, Graham, David, Mora and Joy. **MACKINNON** - Joan, Creagan, Hough, Isle of Tiree. Died September 30, 1997.

In loving memory. - From Neil, Kaide, Monica, May and grandsons James, Calum and Charlie. **MACKILLOP** - In loving memory of a wonderful husband, father and papa, William MacKillop, who died October 14, 2007. It broke our hearts to lose you You did not go alone For part of us went with you The day God called you home. - Love Iona, Keith, Tracy, Demi and Harry. **MACKILLOP** - In loving memory of a much loved dad and papa. Forever in our thoughts, always in our hearts. Sorely missed. - Love Yvonne, James, Evie-Jay and James x. **MACKILLOP** - Willie. In ever loving memory of a much loved dad and papa. If flowers grow in heaven God Please pick a bunch for me Place them in my dad's arms and tell him there from us Tell him that we love and miss him And when he turns to smile Place a kiss upon his cheek And hold him for a while. Sorely missed. - Margaret, D.J., Dean and Megan. **MACLEOD** - Treasured memories of Ian a loving husband, dad and papa, died October 14, 2002. No matter how our lives have changed No matter what we do We will never forget those precious years The ones we shared with you. - Very sadly missed by Nancy, Iain, Mary and families. **MCGIBBON** - Loving memories of our dear parents and grandparents Angus died October 19, 1993, Effie, died December 8, 2001. Too dearly loved to be forgotten. - Maureen, John, Sheena, Fraser and family. **MATHERS** - In loving memory of my son Freddie, who died October 13, 2010. Forever in my thoughts. - Love Mum. **MATHERS** - In loving memory of my brother and our uncle Freddie, who died October 13, 2010. Love and miss you everyday. - Your sister Joyce and all the family. **SIMPSON** - In loving memory of a dear wife and mother, Isa, who died October 10, 1994. You left a place no one can fill. I miss you now And always will. - Ever loving son Archie. **STEWART** - Loving memories of our dear parents and grandparents Ernie died November 14, 1999, Marjorie died September 11, 1996. Too dearly loved to be forgotten. - Maureen, John, Fraser, Sheena and family. **WATSON** - In loving memory of a much loved wife, mum and granny Margaret Ann who passed away on October 16, 2010. Loving you always Forgetting you never. - John Everyday in some small way Memories of you come our way Though absent you are always near Still missed, loved and always dear. - Julie, Lyndsay and families. **WOOD** - John. In loving memory of our greatly missed dad, who died October 18, 2010. - From John, Katie and family. **WOODROW** - Treasured memories of our David who died October 16, 1990, result of an accident. It's 21 years since we lost you at the age of 21. Time passes memories stay You're in our thoughts every day We will love and miss you forever. - Mum, Dad, Fraser, Sheena and family.



Warm welcome at Oban church guild coffee morning

There was a warm welcome, a cup of tea and a tasty selection of cakes to choose from for those who braved last Saturday's awful weather and headed to the Glencruitten Church Centre, Oban, where members of the church guild were raising money for church funds. 15, 14/guild2

APPRECIATION

John (Ian) Allan

WITH the Scottish Motor Rallying season well on its way, and thoughts of the Argyll Rally still on our minds, we remember that on April 28 2010 we lost a great friend in the passing of John Allan - a man of great stature and an even bigger heart. John was well known in Oban, around Argyll and much further afield from his business in the motor trade and his involvement in motor rallying. John was born in Benderloch, near Oban. He went to live on the island of Coll in the Inner Hebrides as a young child, where he spent his primary school days. John had an early interest in motor engineering and while still a schoolboy, showed special skills in repairing agricultural engines and machinery. On leaving school, John became an apprentice with Hamilton Brothers Engineering of Bishopopt, near Glasgow. He continued with them until there was great demand for his skills among truck operators. He began his business in Oban from humble beginnings, and with sheer hard work and dedication he built up a successful commercial vehicle servicing and repair business - John Allan Motors Oban Ltd - where customer care was always his top priority. John's skills as an engineer are legendary, although he was very modest in this regard. The sport of motor rallying was his all-consuming passion and nowhere was he happier than behind the wheel of a Mk II Rally Escort at 'full chat' in the forest. He excelled in this sport and fuelled an interest in the sport in Argyll and beyond. John was a lover of music, particularly accordion music. He also cared deeply for wildlife. He found a great source of pleasure in encouraging and supporting young people in the music and motor sport which he loved. In the passing of this gentle giant, we have lost a loyal friend, a dedicated fellow motor sport enthusiast, a talented driver and a brilliant engineer who lived his life to help others.



John Allan.

Thought for the week

A word in season
 THESE days, we are encouraged to eat fresh produce - in other words, fruit and vegetables that are 'in season' at the present time. Recently, I have discovered a word that is 'in season' every day of the year, and that is the word of encouragement we give each other, particularly when times are hard and difficult to cope with. I have been given that word of encouragement by so many people during the course of my recent illness, as I learn to speak in a new and different way. I had no idea that a word of encouragement could give such strength and indeed a real sense of hope - it costs nothing, but a 'word in season' is a priceless gift.

The Very Rev Norman D MacCallum, Provost of St John's Cathedral, Oban.

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ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
 Sunday 16 October 2011
 Trinity 17
 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
 Mattins.....11.00
 St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
 Holy Eucharist.....08.00
 Evensong.....20.00

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GRADUATIONS

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BEST FOR NEWS, VIEWS & PHOTOS
 On 20th September, Craig McCreedy graduated from Plymouth University with a BSc with Honours degree in Shipping Logistics and was also awarded the Robert Maine memorial fund prize for the best ex seafarer in the final stage of a marine studies programme. Frazer is the grandson of Ellen Gunn, Appin.
The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
 Tel: 01631 568000
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Stewards of the planet

MEMBERS of Muckairn Guild and friends met in the church on October 3, when the convener, Stella Huntingford, welcomed everyone and led the worship. Marlene Stannners, secretary, read Psalm 148, Praise the Lord of the Earth. The hymns were All Things Bright and Beautiful and How Great Thou Art. Rev Liz Gibson and Ealeashd MacKay then spoke on the theme: Thanking God for his creation, citing many facts and figures on waste and recycling and ways of being good stewards of the planet. Work done through Christian Aid and conservation charities and becoming an eco-congregation were just some of the examples given. Rev Robert Brookes gave a vote of thanks. The Guild Dedication took place on Sunday and the next meeting, about the Leprosy Mission, will be on November 7, at 2.15pm.



It's all smiles as Dunbeg couple mark golden wedding

Dunbeg couple Alex and Euphemia Cameron recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Euphemia, nee MacAllister, and Alex were married in St Columba's Cathedral, Oban, on October 11, 1961, by Canon McInnes.

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Relegation battle goes down to wire

RELEGATION-threatened LOVAT will seek to preserve their premier division status in their final league game at Kilmallie on Saturday.

The Balgale Park men overcame Glenorchy 4-0 in a mudbath last weekend to give themselves a lifeline, but the fight with Oban and Inveraray to avoid the drop will go down to the wire.

Lovat coach John MacRitchie will have a full squad available, barring the injured Fraser Gallacher and James Grieve, for the do-or-die encounter at Canal Parks.

MacRitchie told *The Oban Times*: 'This is our most important game of the season - it is our cup final. If we get beat we could go down, but if we win we are 99 per cent certain of staying up.'

'It's a game that both of us probably need to win to be sure of staying in the top division.'

MacRitchie will not be drawing too many conclusions from the waterlogged win at Glenorchy, which saw Greg Matheson and Owen Ferguson bagging a brace apiece.

'The boys did well considering the conditions,' he said.

For their part, KILMALLIE welcome Lovat almost free of the shadow of relegation - but club chairman Hugh MacIntyre is taking nothing for granted.

Although the Caol-based outfit have accumulated a creditable 15 points from 15 games on their return to the top division, safety is still not mathematically guaranteed.

MacIntyre wants no slip-ups - and will look to Kilmallie's previous jousts with the Balgale Park men for inspiration.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We beat them 6-2 in the Camanachd Cup and 2-1 up at Lovat, so we hope to do the same when they come down here.'

'We are fairly safe, but if we get

even one point we are definitely safe. John Stewart is likely to play, but Martin Stewart is still out with a broken ankle and Michael Rodger is suspended.'

'If Kyles beat Inveraray, they [Inveraray] are definitely in trouble and it then depends on how Oban do.'

Kilmallie still have to face title contenders Newtonmore at home on November 5, and Oban Camanachd away on a date yet to be confirmed.

NEWTONMORE will be looking to increase the pressure on title rivals Kyles Athletic when they face relegation battlers Oban Camanachd on Saturday.

The 'More fell behind twice when the sides met at Mossfield Park in April, and needed a 90th minute goal from Glen MacKintosh to grab a 2-2 draw.

Norman MacArthur will be looking for an improved performance at The Eilan while, for their part, Oban are still desperately trying to beat the drop.

With just two games left after this weekend, including a potential title decider against Kyles, the 'More need to pick up maximum points as they try and close the two point gap on the Tighnabraich team.

Newtonmore haven't played since their Camanachd Cup success in Inverness last month after their last two games were postponed because of unplayable pitches.

The inclusion of two players in the Scottish international senior squad could give OBAN CAMANACHD a confidence boost ahead of their most important game of the season.

With relegation rivals Lovat winning last weekend, the pressure is on the Oban side to get a result at The Eilan against title-chasing Newtonmore.

Nerves could have been eased with a win against Kilmallie

last weekend but the game was postponed.

Camanachd may raid the ranks of Lochside Rovers again, as the junior team has finished its fixtures.

The club will have been buoyed by the inclusion of in-form goalkeeper Gavin Stobbart and defender Daniel Cameron in the Scotland squad to face Ireland later this month.

KINGUSSIE head into their final game of the season looking to pick up the points to secure fourth spot in the league.

The only problem is they face title-chasing Kyles Athletic.

Kyles snatched a late equaliser when the two teams met at The Dell back in May, and Kings manager Steven Borthwick will be looking for a repeat of that performance.

The chance to be the first team to defeat Kyles in the league this season is sure to be a motivating factor for Kings.

Kyles' last three home games have been called off due to an unplayable pitch at Tighnabraich, and with more rain forecast for this weekend, the match may have to be moved to a neutral venue.

After focussing their efforts on cup shinty rather than the league, Kings found success in the MacTavish Cup but lost out to local rivals Newtonmore in the Camanachd Cup final last month.

A win would keep them above Glenurquhart as the curtain falls on the 2011 season.

GLENURQUHART travel to Glenorchy for their last league game of 2011 knowing a win could be enough to see them finish in fourth place in the premier division.

Jim Barr's men have had a successful season and steered themselves well clear of any relegation worries.

The Drumnadrochit side scraped a 1-0 victory against winless Glenorchy when the sides met at Blairbeg Park back in May and will be looking to better that score this time around.

Keeper Stuart MacKintosh told *The Oban Times*: 'We want to finish as high up the league as we can. It's been a good season for us in the league but the cup form has been pretty disappointing.'

MacKintosh said his side won't take Glenorchy lightly. He said: 'You've still got to treat them with respect and just go out there and beat them.'

The finishing line is in sight for a beleaguered GLENORCHY side that has now lost 17 of their 17 games this season, conceding 90 goals and scoring only four.

The visit of Glenurquhart is virtually meaningless for both sides, although the away side could steal fourth spot from Kingussie if they win.

Asked for his thoughts ahead of this weekend's game, Glenorchy's long-suffering coach Allan MacKechnie replied: 'Just one more game to go.'

Accepting his injury-ravaged

side will likely limp over the finishing line on Saturday, Allan said: 'The boys have had experience of the level they need to get to if they want to get back into the premier division and I hope they will knuckle down for pre-season.'

'In all the years I have been involved in shinty, I've never had a season like it; we've had bad injuries and players unavailable and we've been setting new records for all the wrong reasons. The premier league was just too big a jump for us.'

Last Saturday a makeshift Glenorchy lost 4-0 to Lovat but the game was almost called off because of heavy rain, which made playing conditions very difficult.

Allan admitted there were some good individual performances from his team but an inability to keep the ball up front meant the Dalmally defence was under constant pressure.

'By rights the game probably shouldn't have been played in those conditions but it was much drier in the morning than it was during the game.'

'It was unfortunate we had a weakened team out, because if we had our strongest 12 we might have got something from the game.'

IN South Division 1, the success of Oban Camanachd's youth teams paid off for LOCHSIDE ROVERS last Saturday, as the Oban team came away from Tighnabraich with a point, despite missing 12 players.

Connor Howe, aged 14, and 15-year-olds Scott Goldie and Neil MacInnes were drafted into the squad after the flood of call-offs for the team's final game of the season.

Jamie Kerr, Ian 'Gussy' Campbell, Robert Alexander and Garry Lord were also recalled after Oban Camanachd's game was postponed.

Playing in his last game for the club, David Devine took the captain's armband.

In what were, at times, farcical playing conditions, Kyles Athletic took the lead through Peter Mobeck, before Daniel MacKinnon equalised in the second half.

Lochside Rovers co-manager Tony Howlett said: 'The game shouldn't have gone ahead but both teams had turned up so we thought it was just as well to play it, even though it was like playing in a bog and the ball was disappearing.'

'How two goals were scored in those conditions, I'll never know.'

Tony paid tribute to David Devine, who retires in the same season he was joint top goalscorer with Brian MacCallum, and to the teenage debutants, who coped admirably with the demands of adult shinty.

'It has been a terrific season,' Tony added. 'We finished third in the league and won the Bullough Cup, so it would be hard to take if Camanachd got relegated and we were in South Division Two next season.'



Glenorchy's Kieran McKay takes evasive action during Saturday's rain sodden match against Lovat at Dalmally. 07_141shinty5

Oban duo celebrate call-up for international

PLAYERS from Kyles Athletic and Oban Camanachd are the only south representatives in the Scotland squad that take on Ireland later this month.

Oban's Gavin Stobbart and Daniel Cameron are called up for the first time, while Kyles' good form this season is reflected in the selection of four players.

Despite winning this season's Camanachd Cup, Newtonmore have only one representative, defender Norman Campbell, who will captain the national team for the contest over two legs.

The Camanachd Association announced the squad on Monday ahead of this year's International Series in Athy, Co Kildare, on October 22 and then at Bught Park, Inverness, on October 29.

Drew McNeil, national squad head coach, said: 'I am really pleased with this year's squad. I had some difficult decisions to make during the selection process as there was a high number of talented, committed players available to choose from.'

However I am confident that we have chosen players who can match the Irish and who can help us lift the International Series Trophy in the Second Test in Inverness.'

Captain Norman Campbell added: 'It is a huge honour to play for your country, so I am delighted to be part of this year's squad as captain.'

'We have had a great 2011 season at Newtonmore, so hopefully I will be able to add the International Trophy to this year's successes.'

Squad
The full squad is as follows: John Barr, Stuart MacKintosh and Andrew Corrigan, Glenurquhart; Kevin Bartlett, Caberfeidh; Daniel Cameron and Gavin Stobbart, Oban Camanachd; Norman Campbell, Newtonmore; Gary Innes, John MacDonald and Niall MacPhee, Fort William; Donald Irvine, Grant Irvine, Roddy MacDonald and Robbie MacLeod, Kyles Athletic; Neil MacDonald and Shaun Nicolson, Lochaber;



Scotland captain Norman Campbell receives his jersey from national team coach Drew McNeil.

Finlay MacRae and Keith Hurling International at Bught Park. Tickets for the second test at Bught Park, Inverness, are on sale now via www.shinty.com and the Eden Court Theatre box office.

Sponsor
Marine Harvest Scotland will once again sponsor the Shinty/



Conditions were atrocious at Glenorchy. 15_141shinty2

Fixtures

Saturday 15 October
(All throw ups 2.30pm unless stated)

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Newtonmore v Oban Camanachd
Graham Cameron Glenorchy v Glenurquhart
Innes Wood
Kyles Athletic v Kingussie
Colin MacDonald
Kilmallie v Lovat
Ted McDonald

Marine Harvest North Division One
Kinlochshiel
Lochaber
Beaully
Caberfeidh
Lochcarron
Skye
Inverness
Strathglass

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Kilmory v Bute
Gus Campbell

Results

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Glenorchy 0, Lovat 4
Oban Camanachd v P Kilmallie
Kyles Athletic P v P Inveraray

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Kilmory P v P Bute
Kyles Ath 1, Lochside Rovers 1

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Kinlochshiel P v P Kilmallie
Glenorchy 4, Lovat 0

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
Lovat	17	6	1	10	13
Oban Camanachd	16	5	2	9	12
Glenorchy	17	0	0	17	0

Marine Harvest North Division One	P	W	D	L	Pts
Kinlochshiel	14	14	0	0	28
Lochaber	14	9	1	4	19
Beaully	14	6	3	5	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	16	8	3	5	19
Taynult	16	7	2	7	16
Ballachulish	16	7	2	7	16
Kyles Athletic	16	7	1	9	13
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
Glenorchy	17	11	0	7	22
Kingussie	18	7	2	9	16
Skye	18	7	1	10	15
Lochaber	18	7	0	11	14
Lovat	18	7	1	10	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
Beaully	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.

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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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Top surfers ride the waves at Tiree Classic

'We've got the best guys from the UK here this year'

THERE has been no repeat of the deadly calm that struck on Tiree last October, with the 25th annual Wave Classic enjoying perfectly gusty conditions.

As such, competition has been fierce, with nearly 40 amateurs boosting the numbers this year to 50 participants – an all time Wave Classic record.

In the pro ranks, John Skye currently leads the way, producing a sensational comeback to take the lead back from event legend, Ben Proffitt.

The three-time winner of the event had to win eight different heats to finish the 'double elimination' stage in first place.

That included beating Proffitt twice as the sun began to go down.

'It was really, really hard work but I'm super happy to be in front,' said John, who's based in Dorset.

'We've got the best guys from the UK here this year – everyone's competing – and I ended

up going against almost every single person. I would say every heat could have been a final.'

If John – who's known as 'Skye-boy' – wins this year's event he would win a fourth Tiree Wave Classic, beating a record he jointly holds with this year's head judge, Duncan Coombs.

'I didn't do any of the other UK events this year, I had a break, but I thought it's the 25th year at Tiree, I've got to do it.'

'If I can win it, I can be the record holder, which to do it on the 25th would be amazing,' he said. 'And to do it by winning eight heats, it'd be my best ever title.'

Cornwall's Andy King has consistently impressed, but finished the stage in third place.

Meanwhile, the amateur event is being extremely keenly fought, with Pembrokeshire's Lewis Merrony climbing from third place into a 'super final' with 17-year-old Aleksy Gayda from Canvey Island.

WINDSURFING

Merrony won the first of two contests against the teenager but Gayda held on to first place by winning their deciding heat.

Alfie Hart, who's also from Pembrokeshire, is the third placed amateur.

The Masters contest also got underway, for amateurs aged over 40, with Mark Lloyd in the lead. In second place lies Keith Shorrocks while Essex's Dave White – a windsurf speed specialist – is third.

The women's contest is being led by Debbie Kennedy from Hayle in Cornwall, with Sophia Joy Gilje, from Norway, in second and Finland's Karina Perhonen third.

The standings may hold all the way until results day if wind conditions drop, but judges are confident of getting plenty more action in ahead of Friday, when competition is due to come to a close.



Ben Proffitt, a legend of the Tiree Wave Classic, showing he has every intention of winning when he took to the water during the 25th annual Tiree Wave Classic on Monday.

Scottish Cup tie called off - again

FOOTBALL

LAST Saturday's Scottish Amateur Cup tie between Weirs Recreation and Oban Saints was postponed for the second time due to the playing surface at Lochinch being unplayable.

The Oban side were contacted at 8am saying the game was on, but as the team arrived at Tyndrum they received another phone call to say the game had been called off.

Saints club secretary David Buchanan said: 'This was very unfortunate, I would have thought if there was any doubt at all the game should have been called off at 8am instead of making us travel. However, there is nothing we can do about it, these things happen.'

The game will now take place this Saturday and it means an early 7.30am start for the Oban lads as the match will take place on a 3G pitch at Glasgow Green with a 12 noon kick-off.

Manager Iain Jackson hopes to have a full squad to choose from for this important cup tie.

John disappointed with his result

MOTORCYCLING

CONNEL road racer John McPhee said he was disappointed with his 14th place in Spain last weekend at the European 125GP Championship at Albacete.

John and his team-mate Fraser Rogers were involved in mid-order scraps throughout the race, making it difficult to make any progress up the field.

The KRIP team focus now switches back to the CEV 125GP Championship where McPhee and Rogers will be joined by fellow RSF rider Wayne Ryan for the final two rounds of the series.

Islay Golf Club

GOLF

RESULTS of the October Medal at Islay Golf Club: 1 Charles Holyoake 73 less 5 net 68; 2 Ross MacMillan 75 less 5 net 69; 3 Kenny Gillies 84 less 12 net 72. C.S. 72

Oban Darts AGM

DARTS

OBAN and District Darts League will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Monday, October 17 at 8pm in Aulays Bar.

Anyone wishing to enter a team in the league please send at least one representative.

Results from Oban Sailing Club

SAILING

RACE 144, 2 competitors - 1, Meer Magic Laser 2, James Chapman; 2 ZZAAPP, Laser, Ben Carter.

Race 145, 7 competitors - 1, Purple2, Topper Murray Peden; 2, Wavelength, Laser 4.7, Jamie Sinclair; 3, Shark, Mirror, Jamie Peden; 4, Laurel, Topper, Thomas Smith.

Race 146, 2 competitors - 1, Meer Magic Laser 2, James Chapman; 2 ZZAAPP, Laser, Ben Carter.

Race 147, 7 competitors - 1, Wavelength, Laser 4.7, Jamie Sinclair; 2, Purple2, Topper, Murray Peden; 3, Laurel, Topper, Thomas Smith; 4, Shark, Mirror, Jamie Peden.

Entries now open for Tin Farm 5 to be held at Ormsary

ATHLETICS

ENTRIES are now open for the 5th annual Tin Farm 5 to take place on the November 6, on Ormsary Estate, Kilberry at noon.

Organisers thanked hosts Sir William and Lady Lithgow for their continued support of the event.

There are 70 places available for the event, which welcomes runners from 14 years of age.

Application forms are available by emailing Kirsty Young on zircon_midias@hotmail.com

Oban Lorne struggle at Fintry

RUGBY

RBS West Division 2 Strathendrick 21 Oban Lorne 3

A THREADBARE Oban Lorne travelled to Fintry last Saturday to face last year's league champions, Strathendrick.

Oban, who are struggling for numbers at the moment, were not helped with injuries to key players in the run up to the game.

Both teams struggled to cope with the wet conditions early on, with each side making several handling errors.

The home side were the more dominant for most of the first half and pressed the Oban line on many occasions.

Oban conceded a penalty in

their own 22, which was quickly taken and resulted in a converted try for the home team.

Strathendrick kept up the pressure in the Oban half, but were undone by handling errors.

Oban usually made advantage of this, either kicking the ball clear or with some impressive counter-attacking from the backline.

This resulted in a short period of pressure on the home line but Oban never made the most of it.

The home side scored their second try of the day shortly before the break.

A well-worked move, resulting in a cross-field kick, which was collected near the line and touched down.

Oban Lorne dominated the

Dominant display sees Jordan lift Scottish Motocross Youth title

MOTORCYCLING

A NORTH Connel fisherman has been crowned Scottish Youth Motocross champion at 125cc following a dominant final stage of the season at Auchnashellach, near Kilmichael.

Jordan Kerr was only five points ahead of Douglas Campbell going into the final but eventually finished 15 points ahead of the Mid Argyll racer after two races on the Saturday.

A third race on Saturday and the full race schedule on Sunday were cancelled when heavy rain made the track too

wet for racing. In the 85cc class, Ormsary girl Elaine MacEachen finished runner-up overall.

Jordan is also in pole position to take the Highland Motocross Club championship in Tain this weekend and just needs to finish his races to ensure a second championship win in consecutive weeks.

The 18 year old said: 'I have a better bike this year and put in a hard winter of training ahead of this season, so I am delighted to win.'

Jordan thanked his family and everyone who has helped him over the year.



Jordan Kerr is all smiles, despite being covered in mud, following his final race of the Scottish Championship last Saturday. 16_041mot004

Argyll crew finish second in Forest Stages

ARGYLL crew Shaun Sinclair and Chris Hamill finished second overall in the Colin McRae Forest Stages Rally in Aberfeldy.

The final round of the Scottish

Rally Championship, held on the October 1, saw the pair seeded at number five in their Mitsubishi Evo9.

Shaun set the quickest time on the first Drummond Hill test,

leading the rally by a slim 0.5 secs.

The next stage, 'Errochty' was to see the crew lose some 10-15 seconds when they were caught behind the Evo9 of ex-works

RALLYING

driver Robbie Head, who was suffering from turbo problems.

This was to drop them to third place behind Mike Faulkner and the rally leader Euan Thorburn.

Onto stage three, Craigvinien, and Sinclair pulled some time back from Faulkner leaving him five seconds from second place and 22 seconds off the rally lead.

With the final stage being the seven-mile long Griffin Forest, a big effort was needed to secure second overall and this was duly delivered when Sinclair stopped the clocks 13 seconds quicker than Thorburn and 45 seconds up on Faulkner. Shaun and Oban-based Chris were delighted with their second place and a win in the 'group n' class 10.



Shaun Sinclair in action at a muddy Aberfeldy track.

Taynuilt denied by last-gasp header

FOOTBALL

Central Scottish Welfare League Taynuilt 3 Clydebank Co-op 3

A LAST-minute diving header denied Taynuilt a home victory against last year's third-placed Clydebank Co-op.

Clydebank took the lead in the first half from a dubious penalty

decision against Craig Campbell. But 15 minutes into the second half, a John Carmichael penalty levelled the tie.

Taynuilt were controlling the tempo of the match, with Scott Maitland pulling the strings in midfield and Iain McInnes making some excellent tackles.

Taynuilt went 2-1 up from a

FOOTBALL

freekick on the left hand side, Craig MacDougall delivered a super ball into the box that Craig Campbell headed across the keeper and into the far corner.

Levelled

The lead wasn't to last long as the Co-op side were flooding players forward and they levelled when a cross from the right was bundled over the line.

Taynuilt were soon in front again when Scott Maitland got possession at the edge of the box and, instead of thrashing it at the keeper, showed great vision and picked out substitute David Campbell to slot home on his debut.

Then, in the last minute Clydebank delivered a sucker-punch to level the scores once again.

Central Scottish Welfare League - up to October 7							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Renton	4	4	0	0	30	7	12
Whiteinch	5	4	0	1	23	9	12
Kirkmichael	4	3	1	0	33	5	10
Clydebank Co-op	4	3	0	1	21	16	9
Glasgow West	5	2	0	3	27	12	6
Western Rovers	5	2	0	3	17	18	6
Taynuilt	4	1	1	2	15	10	4
Westcliff	4	1	1	2	19	20	4
Knightswood	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Yoker	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Clydebank	6	0	0	6	10	46	0
Shaw Thistle	3	0	0	0	0	47	0

Weather

Thursday Cloudy.
Winds moderate, south, south easterly
Temperatures 12°C to 13°C

Friday Light rain.
Winds moderate, southerly
Temperatures 12°C to 15°C.

Weekend Light rain.

Outlook Winds moderate, south, south westerly
Temperatures 9°C to 14°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate

FRIDAY

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 00.08	1.0 05.58	4.0 12.29 1.1 18.19 4.1
Fri 00.40	1.0 06.27	4.0 12.58 1.2 18.49 4.0
Sat 01.12	1.1 06.55	3.9 13.26 1.4 19.18 3.8
Sun 01.42	1.2 07.24	3.8 13.51 1.5 19.46 3.6
Mon 02.12	1.4 07.56	3.6 14.17 1.7 20.18 3.4
Tues 02.48	1.6 08.32	3.4 14.55 1.9 20.57 3.2
Wed 03.36	1.7 09.19	3.3 16.01 2.1 21.56 2.9

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.

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- Local firms in food and drink awards shortlist
- Mull business moves into purpose built premises
- Sales expansion on the cards for distiller
- National success for Oban apprentice

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Jobs joy as sand mine set to re-open

RUMOURS of good news turned to reality at Lochaline Village Hall on Tuesday night when plans to re-open the local silica sand mine were unveiled.

Current owners Tarmac are to sell the mine to a new company, Lochaline Quartz Sand Ltd (LQS), a joint venture between global glass manufacturer NSG Group and Italian mining company Gruppo Minerale Maffei.

Under the deal, to be completed within days, 12 well-paid local jobs will be created when production begins next April or May. Lochaline lost 11 jobs when Tarmac mothballed the mine in 2008. *The Oban Times* had been aware a positive development was in the offing, but Tarmac felt the local community should be informed first hand.

Estates manager Stephen Cowan told the packed hall: 'We are on the cusp of completing the sale of the mine and all its assets here to a new company, Lochaline Quartz Sand Ltd.

EXCLUSIVE
From Lochaline Village Hall by
STEPHEN NORRIS

It seems right to make the announcement here – you are the first people to hear this news.' Dirk Franke, category director of NSG's procurement function, explained the new joint venture would benefit from using all the high quality, low iron quartz sand mined at Lochaline for specialist solar glass production at its own plant at St Helens in Lancashire.

Between 80,000 and 100,000 tonnes will be shipped direct from Lochaline by sea through Runcorn docks to the factory.

Mr Franke said: 'Security of supply for all our furnaces is an absolute must. They run 24/7 for 15 to 18 years in a row and need a reliable supply chain and a reliable product. This demand alone is expected to support the operation of the mine for at least 10 years. We expect to

create around 12 full-time jobs, which we will advertise as soon as possible. For us this mine is quite a commitment. Tarmac is not giving us this mine as a gift,' he added, to laughter. 'The mine does need a bit of refurbishment and we have got approval from management for this.'

Speaking after the presentation, Mr Cowan told *The Oban Times*: 'Tarmac's biggest problem was finding customers, but the new company is solving that internally, so that means the future is guaranteed. Twelve jobs is significant in an area like this – and these will be good engineering jobs. This company ticks all the boxes to be successful – and a responsible neighbour. This is a really positive outcome for Lochaline.'

Morvern Community Council chairman Iain Thornber said: 'It's fantastic news and I am delighted there are 12 new jobs coming back here.'

More in next week's *Oban Times*.



From Inverlochty Place to Stornoway: Fort's Ally Weir is dreaming of further Mod success. 20_141mod01

All roads lead to Stornoway for Mòd

PERFORMERS from across the west Highlands will converge on Stornoway this weekend for the start of the Royal National Mòd 2011.

About 20 singers, pipers, fiddlers and accordionists will leave Lochaber to take part in the annual event, which gets underway with the opening ceremony on Friday evening at An Lanntair arts centre.

The Mòd is being held in the Western Isles for the fifth time in its history, and Fort William youngster Ally Weir will be amongst those competing.

He will be looking to hold onto the trophy he won last year in the Gaelic poetry competition 13-15 years.

The Lochaber High School pupil is competing for the fifth year in a row and will read the poem A'meanbhùileag (Midges) and the short story An Sgathan (The Mirror).

He told *The Oban Times*: 'The best bit is just the enjoyment of speaking in Gaelic and being in

competition. There's a brilliant atmosphere.'

Other Lochaber competitors include fiddler Hannah MacRae and Roy Bridge piper Sandy Cameron.

Lochaber Mòd Society will hold a ceilidh on Harris on Saturday night to mark the opening of competition on the island, and chairman Charlie MacColl said the amount of Lochaber performers reflects the results of a successful local Mòd.

The Mòd Gold Medal and Traditional Gold Medal competitions will be held next Wednesday and Thursday as well as a new contest for former Gold Medal winners.

The winner will be presented with a trophy in memory of Calum Kennedy and his wife Anne Gillies, who both won the Gold Medal. The end of the Mòd 2011 will be marked with over 800 choir members gathering in Perceval Square to perform on Saturday October 22.

Boxing club show night a knockout

Fort William customer sales assistant Greta Mackin was among hundreds of fans who enjoyed Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club's show in the Nevis Centre on Saturday night. Greta, a popular face behind the checkout at the nearby Lidl store, cheered on local boxers as they battled tough opponents from other Scottish clubs based at Bannockburn, Whithorn in Galloway, Peterhead and Bellahouston in Glasgow.

See full report and pictures, back page. 20_141box09



Banavie pupils deliver surprise harvest cheer

BANAVIE pupils went on special errand last Saturday morning – to deliver produce and toiletries from Friday's Harvest Assembly to local senior citizens.

Aidan Kane (P6), Sian Angus (P7), Courtney Croll (P7) and Robbie Murray (P5) received a warm welcome from grateful pensioners as head teacher Maxean Dunham ferried them round the doors.

Corpach man David Cargill, 83, was delighted at the special delivery of the surprise autumn gift to his Hillview Drive home.

'I think it's brilliant – I can't believe they are doing this,' he said. 'I am overwhelmed.'

Ms Dunham told *The Oban Times* this was her eleventh

year of organising the goodwill gesture. 'We like to encourage the children to come into the community and give something to the community,' she said.

'It is always greatly appreciated and we always get lovely cards back from the ladies and gentlemen who take the stuff.'

Ms Dunham thanked parent council chairperson Ann MacDougall for all her help with drawing up the delivery list, and the Co-op for donating the bags. Some 13 deliveries were made in total.

Right: Banavie pupils Aidan Kane, Sian Angus, Courtney Croll and Robbie Murray hand David Cargill his gift of goods. 20_141ban02



School welcomes Dutch visitors

KILCHUIMEN Academy's international links continue this week as the Fort Augustus school welcomes 10 pupils and two staff from CSG Willem de Zwijger in the Netherlands.

The Dutch visit follows a week-long stay by students and staff from Gymnasium Querfurt in Germany on Loch Ness-side.

Kilchuimen pupils and staff visited Querfurt earlier this year and another group from the school will travel to CSG Willem de Zwijger next March.

Kilchuimen won £22,000 of British Council money to fund the project.

Head teacher Maria Gibbons told *The Oban Times*: 'This project has been a wonderful opportunity for pupils to broaden their cultural horizons.'

Local specialists tasked with blowing up dangerous rock overhanging A82

FORESTRY Commission Scotland (FCS) has hired a local contractor to blow up a dangerous crag above the A82 near Fort William.

Ballachulish-based Geo-rope Ltd will carry out the job over one of three weekends in late November or early December.

A complete road closure will be required to allow the rock to be brought down on a protective gravel bed on the carriageway, and removed.

The 150-tonne crag, on a steep forest slope north of Corran Ferry point, was assessed as being in danger of collapse during recent survey work for felling operations.

The stability of the rock, surrounding land and the high retaining wall along the road – known locally as the breast wall – is being closely monitored.

On site CCTV and 'tell-tales' have been fixed to the crag across key fracture points to detect tiny

movements. Below, electronic Transerv signs warn motorists of the risk of falling rocks.

FCS describe Geo-rope as 'a specialist company with a strong reputation and track record in providing innovative solutions in the field of ground engineering, slope stabilisation and rockfall protection'.

Mike Green, the commission's project manager, said: 'We are glad to have such a respected and experienced team of experts on board to help us deal with this issue.'

'We can now progress the more detailed planning for this operation which ultimately will allow us to publicise a date for when we aim to carry out the work to bring down the rock.'

Geo-Rope's team of experts will spend the next week examining in more detail what needs to be done – and how best to do it.

Director Niall McLean said: 'This is certainly

going to be an interesting challenge, but we know we are up to the job. Working and living in the area, we know exactly how much local people need these improvement works to be taken care of as smoothly and quickly as possible and for any disruption to be absolutely minimal.'

'We expect to have a plan and schedule drawn up fairly shortly and we'll work with the commission to make sure that everyone knows when we're planning to do this job.'

Mr Green added: 'At the first, minuscule signs of movement in the rock itself or in the surroundings – moving branches, rocks or animals and such like – we'll be informed and will get people on site to examine what is happening and, if necessary, mobilise our resources to manage the situation as it develops. We've taken these steps as an extra precaution to help us minimise the risk to public safety as much as we can.'

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Stepping out on Lewis in memory of Linda

MORE than 350 people walked and ran six miles on Lewis at the weekend to mark the first anniversary of the death of aid worker Linda Norgrove. The Valtos Peninsula 10K was one of many staged across the world in aid of the Linda Norgrove Foundation, the charity set up by her parents John and Lorna. The fundraisers followed a route near Miss Norgrove's Mangersta home on the island. Miss Norgrove was kidnapped while working for US charity Development Alternatives Inc and was killed by a grenade thrown by her would-be rescuers, a US Navy Seals team. The foundation provides cash aid to war-affected Afghan women and children.

Lochyside man denies exposing himself

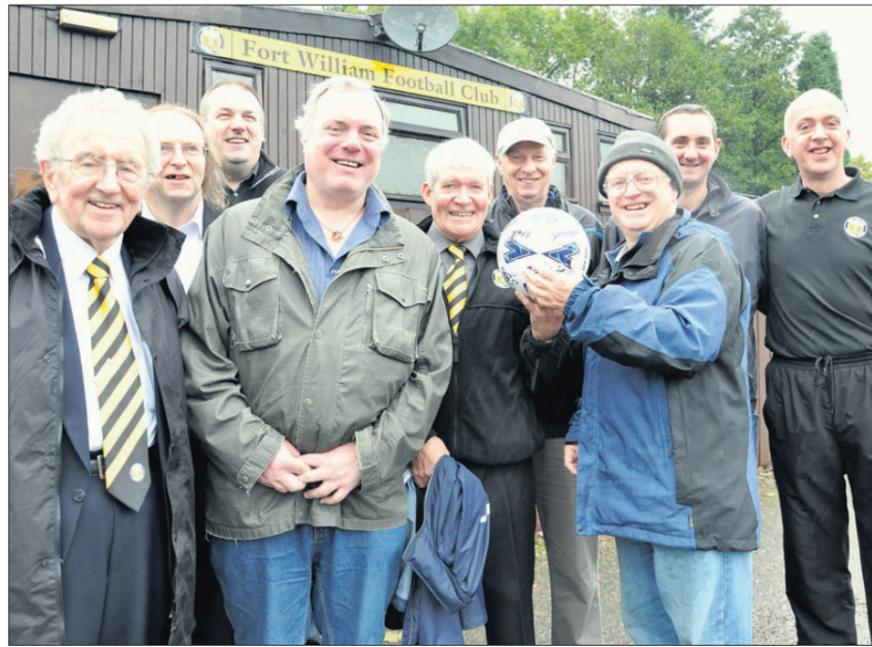
A LOCHYSIDE man has denied exposing himself in a Caol shop after being caught trying to steal alcohol. Gary Mackinnon, of 6 Mossfield Apartments, pled not guilty committing an offence of public decency by pulling down his trousers in the Co-op store on Kilmallie Road on June 23. The 38-year-old also denies stealing the drink, concealing alcohol within his clothes and behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by repeatedly shouting and swearing and raising his fists. Mackinnon is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on December 5.

Conservation area plans on show

THE COMHAIRLE is seeking the public's input on a draft management plan for Gearranan, Stornoway, Howmore and Ruisgarry conservation areas. A small exhibition will be held in Stornoway Town Hall on October 26 to illustrate the new policies. Residents will have the opportunity to discuss the plan and submit comments in writing. The event follows a similar exhibition at Gearranan Blackhouse village on Tuesday. Dates of events in Howmore and Ruisgarry will be issued in the near future.

Hint of sadness as pupils hold last talent show

THERE was a hint of sadness at Ardnamurchan High last Friday as S6 pupils took part in their last ever talent show at the school. Students Rebecca MacKellar and Kayleigh-Marie Woods compered the event, which was directed by principal teacher, Mrs K Sharp. Pupils Lewis Hervo, and duo Shanine Gallagher and Matthew Bradley were first and second respectively.



The Newcastle fans enjoyed their day out at Claggan Park. Colin Neilson, left, and Calum MacLean, right, were among the welcoming committee. 20_419game01

Newcastle fans drop in to Fort's Claggan Park

FORT William William FC welcomed a group of far-travelled supporters from Newcastle to Claggan Park on Saturday. The intrepid Geordies had been at a game at Berwick Rangers as part of their tour of football grounds – and decided on Fort William as their next destination. Fears the game against Turriff would be called off were unfounded as the new 'vertical-draining' system proved its worth, despite heavy rain throughout. The Newcastle boys cheered the Fort on with gusto in the narrow 1-0 defeat – and left Lochaber with many friends and warm memories. See sport, back page.

Military chiefs lift GPS signal block

Furious complaints follow crash of vital civilian systems at sea

MILITARY chiefs have halted the jamming of global positioning signals (GPS) for the remainder of a huge military exercise in the Minch, after furious complaints from Western Isles fishermen and political leaders. Joint Warrior 112, which ends on Monday, crashed vital civilian GPS systems at sea and interfered with communications. Emergency Mayday radio digital selective calling (DSC) systems, which instantly alert coastguards to the exact position of vessels in distress, were also compromised amid reports of boats getting gear caught on rocks while fishing close to shore. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is writing to the Ministry of Defence to clarify how the jamming has also affected internet connectivity, mobile phone reception and satellite TV reception. Comhairle leader Angus Campbell, said: 'Whilst the total effect of the jamming is unclear it is totally unacceptable if the MoD's exercises are causing disruption to island communications networks. I will be writing to the MoD to seek clarity on exactly what has gone on here and to seek assurances over future exercises.' The Royal Navy issued warnings in September and October that GPS would be disrupted during the war games, which involve UK, Nato and other allied vessels. The military maintains temporary jamming is routine and constitutes an essential part of the preparation for operations. But Outer Isles fishermen said they had had no warning when their equipment suddenly went offline last Friday, effectively making seabed hazards invisible and navigation more difficult. Risk Skipper of the Stornoway-based Ocean Spirit, Austen Campbell, said boats were being put at risk. 'We weren't notified about it at all,' he said. Boats working west of Skye were unaffected. Dunvegan fisherman Willie Munro MacKinnon said GPS problems were confined to the main exercise area in the North Minch. He told The Oban Times: 'The boats are losing all their electronic navigation. If you are working close to hard ground, trawling or even setting creels, you could tear your nets or lose gear.' The Royal Navy said a guide published on September 7 gave locations and timings for the jamming of GPS. The Scottish Government put it on its website, but maintained it was the MoD's responsibility to inform those likely to be affected. A second warning notice was issued on October 3, relayed on VHF by Aberdeen and Stornoway coastguards. A Royal Navy spokesman said 'to be absolutely clear that there are no genuine safety concerns', jamming would be suspended for the remainder of the exercise. The spokesman said: 'This will provide a period of time to reflect with all the relevant authorities about the conduct of GPS jamming and ensure that all parties are fully aware before the beginning of the next exercise which is scheduled for spring 2012.' Caitheath, Sutherland and Ross SNP MSP Rob Gibson said the MoD had compromised the safety of fishing boat crews. 'They say it's for our defence but at what cost?' he asked.

Witnesses warned about lying on oath

TWO KEY defence witnesses in the drink-driving trial of Kinlochleven motorbike champion Gary MacDonald have been warned about lying under oath. MacDonald's girlfriend Kelly MacDonald and his brother David were both accused of covering for the 27-year-old trials biker by Procurator Fiscal Andrew Laing, and Sheriff Douglas Small warned them they could spend time in prison if they were found to have lied in court. David MacDonald told Fort William Sheriff Court he saw his brother drinking at the Tailrace Inn and later saw his car drive past but had 'no cause for alarm'. The 29-year-old hotel manager said: 'I knew Gary had been drinking but I didn't assume he was driving. I didn't think he would be that stupid.' Defence solicitor Ian MacGregor asked who was driving the car. Mr MacDonald replied: 'I didn't see the driver. It was late at night, it was very dark and the windows were tinted. If I couldn't see I don't know how other people could see.' Miss MacDonald, aged 25, said she drove the Ford Focus RS the couple shared to an ATM machine, and driven safely and not exceeded 30mph. Under questioning from Mr Laing, Miss MacDonald admitted she had taken the car partly to 'try and get a reaction' from MacDonald after the couple had a fight. At this point Sheriff Small gave the hair salon manager the chance to change her story. He said: 'If you are found to have been telling lies, the Crown may decide to prosecute.' Miss MacDonald insisted she was telling the truth. Mr Laing also asked why she hadn't told police she was driving the car until four months after the incident. Miss MacDonald replied she had taken legal advice from two lawyers and it was told to wait until the police

wanted to speak to her. Final witness Mark MacMillan said he had been with MacDonald for most of the night and did not see him driving the car at any point. Two Crown witnesses in the long-running trial were previously cautioned about committing perjury - Mark Comrie, who claims to have seen MacDonald driving erratically in the town on July 25, 2010, was warned during his evidence in December, as was his father Colin when he appeared as a witness in February. The trial is due to conclude tomorrow (Friday) when the Crown and defence will make their final submissions. MacDonald, of 27 Heatherlea Court, denies driving on various roads in the village while almost twice the legal limit. He also denies driving without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for others using the road, losing control of the car, locking the wheels, skidding and crossing into the opposite carriageway.

Portree pupils turn on the X-Factor style



Sophie Tinney performs her winning song in the X-Factor finals.

SOME of the Isle of Skye's best young musicians performed at Portree School's X-Factor finals last Thursday – and astounded the audience with some brilliant performances. Six acts – Anna Monnelly, The Untitled, Sophie Tinney, We See Lights, Harriet Mills and The Outsiders – took the stage after winning through at the semi-finals the previous week. The sell-out audience – many had been turned away – enjoyed two songs from each act. After a nailbiting wait for the judges' decision, Sophie Tinney emerged the victor and claimed the top prize – recording her first CD, courtesy of head judge Iain Copeland. The Outsiders were awarded second place and The Untitled, third. Both acts will also record their first CD in December. The talent involved was not reserved for performers alone – Portree High School pupils managed the hosting, ticket sales, back stage, sound and lighting too.

Old army friends reunite after 56 years

THE OBAN TIMES' man in Plockton, Charlie MacRae, has met up with an old army colleague - for the first time in 56 years. The remarkable reunion came about after Alfie Orr, from Linlithgow, spotted a photo of Charlie in the paper, taken when the sailing boats at Plockton capsized in a violent storm two years ago. Alfie recognised Charlie as the same man with whom he had joined the Army at Aldershot Barracks in 1955, where the pair spent six months before serving in Cyprus for two and a half years. Alfie got in touch with Charlie out of the blue last Thursday to say he and his wife were visiting Plockton on a bus tour. Charlie was delighted to hear from his old mate, and the two veterans duly met up and spent an enjoyable few hours reminiscing on army days. Meanwhile, Charlie reports that Plockton had only one dry day in September and was deluged with 9.2 inches of rain. May, traditionally the second driest month behind last month, had 9.5 inches, proving just how fickle the weather can be. September's warmest day was 22.9C, meaning that 2011 will depart, in Plockton at least, with another strange statistic – that the year's highest temperature – 23.5C – was recorded back in April. The month also saw Plockton and District Horticultural and Arts and Crafts Society bring the outstanding work of the Lochcarron Quilters to Plockton hall on the September 23 and 24. The craftworkers transformed the hall and their skills were admired by many people, Charlie said.



Oban Times correspondent Charlie MacRae, left, meets up with Alfie Orr – after 56 years.

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Firm's promise to deliver

THE UNDER-fire firm charged with streamlining Highland Council's ICT systems has vowed it will deliver on the job. At high-level talks with council chiefs on Monday, Fujitsu outlined an action plan to install new computers, printers and telephones at 140 schools and to 4,500 office staff across the Highlands. The council has been concerned at delays in the delivery of the first phases of the £66 million, five-year contract. Chairman of Fujitsu in the UK, Roger Gilbert chief executive Duncan Tait and the company's new contract leader, Rob Norris all attended the Inverness summit. Describing the meeting as 'very constructive', resources committee chair, Carolyn Wilson said: 'We outlined our ongoing concerns and Fujitsu responded by producing a plan of action for delivering the first phase of the contract, albeit that this will be beyond November this year, the promised delivery date. I am particularly pleased that Fujitsu appear to have recognised the importance of our contract and our concerns by seconding someone of the experience of Mr Norris to lead the contract.'

Bravery awards for two Barra police officers

TWO BARRA police officers have been awarded for their bravery at the national Brave@Heart awards in Edinburgh. PC Blair McMaster, 35, and PC Michael Gallie, 31, responded to a call reporting a man with a gun trying to rob a shop in Castlebay in December 2009. They found the man brandishing a gun in his front garden, tackled him and safely arrested him without any members of the public being hurt.

North Uist water worries near end

NORTH Uist residents are hoping their tap water will be safe to drink again by tomorrow (Friday). Scottish Water added too much aluminium sulphate to the Bayhead waterworks to sift out peat particles and has been supplying households with bottled supplies for a week. Calum MacDonald, an apprentice boatbuilder at Grimsay Boatshed, was one of those affected. Hougarry man Mr MacDonald, 19, told The Oban Times: 'They have given us bottled water and everyone is supposed to use that. The mains water is okay for toilets and washing. They are saying it will be back to normal on Friday.' A Scottish Water spokesperson told The Oban Times: 'We are aiming for Friday but we can't give any guarantees. We are bringing up specialist kit from down south and we have to commission it, test it and make sure the water passes muster – 48 hours of clear supplies is needed before we can lift any restrictions.' Scottish Water held drop in sessions at Paible Primary School and Carinish Hall on Monday and Tuesday to update the public. Water operations manager Simon Harrison said: 'We want to apologise to customers for the inconvenience this issue has caused for residents and businesses.' Above safe limits, aluminium can accumulate in the body, impeding brain function and bone growth.

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Nevis Range voted best four-cross event of the year

THE ORGANISERS of the mountain bike world cup have voted Lochaber's Nevis Range as the best four-cross event of the year. The course on Aonach Mor has hosted Union Cycliste Internationale world cup events for the past 10 years and beat the Val di Sole track in Italy into second place. Nevis Range will receive a trophy for winning the award, which was voted for by the riders, teams, media, sponsors and UCI officials. The Fort William venue also came second in the best downhill event of the season category, losing out to French resort La Bresse.

FW

Youths arrested in connection with school break-in

POLICE have arrested three local youths in connection with the recent break-in at Fort William Primary School.

Officers carried out extensive enquiries after the school on Achintore Road was broken into sometime between 7pm on September 28 and 7am the next day.

The boys, aged 16, 15 and 15 will be the subjects of reports to the Procurator Fiscal and Children's Reporter respectively.

Gaelic college launches new language initiative

SABHAL Mòr Ostaig (SMO), the Gaelic College on Skye, is boosting its international ties with other European centres of learning under a new language initiative.

The TOOLS project, due to start in January 2012, will see SMO work with colleges and universities in Denmark, Lithuania, Spain, Portugal, and Ulster to develop its groundbreaking Wordlink and Multidict software.

The programmes enable instant word-by-word access from any webpage to dictionaries in more than 100 different languages, including both Scottish and Irish Gaelic.

Dr Caoimhin Ó Donnaille, senior lecturer in computing at SMO, will take the lead role in the partnership, which covers the higher, further and adult education sectors.

Royal National Mòd ecumenical service

THE ANNUAL Royal National Mòd ecumenical service will take place at Martin's Memorial Church in Stornoway on Sunday at 3pm.

Leading the special service will be Rev Iain M MacDonald of Cross Church of Scotland in Ness, assisted by Rev James MacIver of Knock Free Church, the current Moderator of the 2011 Free Church General Assembly, and Father Calum MacLellan of Eriskay.

The popular Celtic Praise evening will be held on at Martin's Memorial Church and starts at 8.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Vacant Broadford GP post to be re-advertised

THE VACANT GP post at Broadford Medical Practice is being re-advertised after the doctor awarded the job decided not to take up the offer.

Mid Highland Community Health Partnership (CHP) has re-advertised the post with a closing date of November 8.

Clinical services development manager, Kate Earnshaw, said: 'We interviewed and appointed to the vacant GP post at Broadford and had hoped the new GP would be in post in the new year. However, the successful candidate has now said they will not be taking up the position.

'We are hopeful that we will receive some good applications and will be able to hold interviews very soon after this date.'

Incentives to move to Skye include a 'golden hello' cash bonus and relocation allowance.

Locum doctors have covered the post in the three-GP practice since April.



All the best Miss Cattnach! Caol pupils say goodbye to their head teacher on the last day of term. 20_141caol01

Pupils and staff bid fond farewell to Caol head teacher

CAOL Primary pupils bade a fond farewell to their long serving head teacher at a special school assembly last Friday.

Jennifer Cattnach, who is retiring from her post, spent an emotional last day, receiving flowers, gifts and cards from children, staff and parents.

The popular head does not officially step down until October 23 - 13 years to the day when she first arrived in 1998. But as last Friday was the last day of term, it was Miss Cattnach's last time with the children.

During her time Caol excelled in several fields, not least sport and building

international relations through school activities. One Caol project, Room 13, put down roots across the globe under Miss Cattnach's stewardship following its establishment in 1994.

The network of mostly art-based studios links Caol children to other Room 13s in Scotland and elsewhere.

P7 pupil Freya MacDonald told the assembly: 'When Miss Cattnach came to the school, the only Room 13 was here at Caol Primary School. Now thanks to her support and kindness there are about 100 all over the world.

'They are in orphanages, in remote

villages in Nepal and India, in schools for the street children of Mumbai, in inner city estates in London, Paris and Los Angeles and there are very many in Soweto and South Africa.

'The numbers continue to grow, with new ones just opening in Cambodia and Bangladesh very soon. And it all began here! The entire Room 13 community would like to thank Miss Cattnach for everything she has done. We would like to present her with this wee album showing some of what her constant encouragement has helped achieve.'

A tearful Miss Cattnach told *The Oban*

Times: 'I have very, very mixed feelings but I am looking forward to the future and doing things for myself.

'It will be a challenge though, and it will be the people I am going to miss - the children, the teachers, the non-teaching staff and the parents. It is a real community here.'

She added: 'I am very fortunate that everybody here likes to come to their work in the morning - it's not every workplace you can say that about!'

Depute head teacher Steven Hamilton will be acting head teacher until an appointment is made.



Long service: Alan receives his axe from Pat McElhinney.

Long service award for firefighter Alan

LONG-SERVING Kinlochleven fireman Alan Robertson has been presented with a display axe to mark nearly 28 years of service.

Watch manager Mr Robertson joined the Fire Brigade in December 1983, and left a few months ago having served Kinlochleven for his career.

He was presented with the axe by general manager Pat McElhinney, with his wife Janice, other family members and his Kinlochleven crew all present. Mr McElhinney said: 'This axe represents near 30 years of service and sacrifice to his community from both himself and his family.'

Invernevis care home improvement work set to begin

FURTHER improvements to a Highland Council care home in Fort William will get underway at the end of this month.

Contractors MacGregor Construction will upgrade assisted bathing facilities and some fire safety arrangements, install a new entrance door

with automatic entry system and refurbish the kitchen. Improvements have already been made at Invernevis to the dining room, hairdressing room, day centre area and to a number of residents' bedrooms.

More extensive works are scheduled for next year,

taking the total investment to £2,002,000. Similar upgrades at council-owned homes at Ach an Eas in Inverness and Grant House, Granttown on Spey, take the total investment to £4,120,000. In 2010, Invernevis was the focus of a concerted public campaign to keep it open.

Missing man found dead

A MAN missing in north Skye was found dead near his native Uig last Wednesday afternoon.

Labourer Murdo Lamont, aged 62, was a regular walker often seen on local roads. Police would like to thank local volunteers who assisted in the search, which also involved members of the Coastguard, Skye Mountain Rescue Team and SARDA.

A report is being submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

On the run to celebrate Mòd

A GROUP of runners from Stornoway Athletics and Running Club (SRAC) set off early this morning on a gruelling two-day long distance run to celebrate the 2011 Royal National Mòd.

The 150-mile route will take the athletes from Wick, host town of the 2010 Mòd, through Brora, Helmsdale, Dornoch, Laing to Ullapool. On the way they will raise money for the charity Enable.

From Ullapool, the group will catch tomorrow's Caledonian MacBrayne ferry for Stornoway, the host town of Mòd nan Eilean Siar 2011.

After disembarking in the evening, the full contingent of 14 runners will complete the final leg of the relay from the ferry to An Lanntair Arts Centre to attend the Royal National Mòd official opening.

They will deliver a message of goodwill from the convener of the Caidhness Mòd 2010, Raymond Bremner, to Alex Macdonald, convener of both the 2011 local organising committee and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

Tony Robson, convener of transportation on the local Mòd committee and chairman of SRAC, is among the runners.

Local group given green light to run lunch club

THE GROUP aiming to save Caol Community Centre (CCC) and its senior citizens lunch club has been given permission to take over running of the popular venue.

Highland Council's director of social work Bill Alexander compiled a report on the future of the centre, which recommended a newly formed community organisation comprised of local people take up a three-year lease on the centre from April 1 next year.

Mr Alexander presented it to the council's resources committee in Inverness last week, who agreed with his findings. The community group will have the option to purchase the building 'at minimal cost' at the end of the lease.

The report says the centre

will bring in £62,800 in the first year, but will cost £84,000 to run, including hiring a project worker.

The steering group set up to handle the community takeover met with council representatives in the centre on Tuesday evening to discuss the committee's ruling in full.

Steering group press secretary George Kerr told *The Oban Times* he welcomed the committee's decision, saying it was 'good news for the community'.

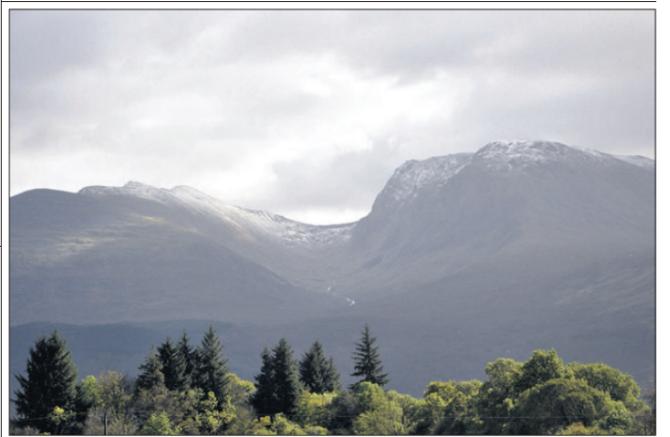
Mr Kerr said it was planned to hold a meeting to present the findings to members of the public in the near future.

Mr Alexander told the committee there was 'enormous local attachment' to the building, and said giving it and the old folk's lunch club over

to community control would help bring in future funding. He said: 'They [the steering group] believe this would give them full control over the centre, the lunch club and the other activities. They also believe ownership would give them maximum access to grants and other voluntary sector funding.'

The council will operate the lunch club, which currently costs £120,000 annually, until the end of the month. An agreement is being drawn up with local charity organisation Lochaber Action on Disability to run the club until the lease starts next year.

The cash-strapped council decided last year to offload the centre, which is the only one in the Highlands funded by social work services.



First significant snowfall in Lochaber

The first significant snow of the autumn fell on Lochaber's highest peaks last Thursday and Friday. Ben Nevis, Aonach Mor, the Grey Corries and the Glencoe ranges all saw accumulations on the higher slopes. Milder weather at the weekend washed away much of the early fall. Local weather forecasters say it is too early to say whether the October snow is a harbinger of a harsh winter ahead. 20_141snow02

Rum project needs votes

THE ISLE of Rum Community Trust is looking for the public's votes to win RBS Community Force Award funding for a feasibility study into redeveloping an old agricultural steading complex near Kinloch Village for community use.

The study will guide the trust in finding out what it needs to do, what it will cost, and to develop a design in consultation with the community.

It is hoped to transform The Byre into a vibrant community hub, with a shop, cafe, visitor centre, and accommodation.

Rum is up against over 1,000 other projects from across Scotland. The three bids with the most votes from each area - in Rum's case West and Perthshire - will win up to £6,000 each. Anyone wishing to vote for Rum should follow the link <http://goo.gl/4E3s7> or visit www.rbscommunityforce.co.uk. Voting closes at midday on October 24.

Following a phased transfer of assets from Scottish Natural Heritage in 2009 and 2010, the trust now owns around 35 hectares of land and 11 residential properties in and around Kinloch.

Promotion focus at Scottish snowsport summit

PROMOTING Scotland's snowsports industry will be the focus of a meeting between Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) chiefs on Tuesday morning.

The summit, in HIE's Inverness HQ, follows the publication of the enterprise agency's report into what needs to be done to ensure skiing and other winter sports remain major contributors to Scotland's rural economy. The Scottish Snowsports Sector Review, which analysed the industry and recommended actions to put it on a more sustainable footing, found snowsports generated an average £30m a year and

supported 634 jobs. Cairngorm, Glencoe Mountain and Nevis Range all lie within Mr Thompson's constituency.

He said: 'It is important to maintain the focus on this important report and this important industry. The last two winter seasons have helped put money back into these important employers, and we must do everything we can to help them take another step in ensuring their long term viability. I have three of the major Scottish ski centres in my constituency and in the next few months I aim to get involved wherever and whenever I can promote their work. As my constituents know I have already called for the UK Government and HM Revenue and

Customs to do their bit and level the VAT playing field with the Alpine competition, who are charged a quarter of the tax that our ski centres have to meet.'

The review found although more UK residents are enjoying snowsports, fewer are choosing Scotland, with 'skier-days' falling by more than a third since the late 1980s.

The decline has slowed in recent years, but the Scottish sector remains vulnerable to unpredictable weather patterns and high quality international competition.

Growing customer expectations based on overseas skiing experiences, higher UK tax levels (VAT) than competitors, unreliable snow conditions, difficulties in attracting new investment and ageing equipment were all negative factors, the study found. In response, the report recommends greater collaborative working among the Scottish centres to develop the sector as a whole, along with further development of non-snowsports activities. High priority recommendations included improved marketing and promotion and a campaign to address high UK taxation, in comparison with other countries.

The Scottish resorts have diversified in recent years into activities such as sightseeing, mountain biking, climbing and assault courses. The measures succeeded in bringing in more than 300,000 extra visitors annually.

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Big Lottery boost for Skye hub project

A SKYE community has been awarded nearly £50,000 to help with their efforts to create a sustainable community hub.

The Camuscross and Duisdale Initiative (CDI) plans to use the grant by Big Lottery to appoint hire a community resource worker to move the project forward. A spokesman for CDI said the position would be advertised in the near future.

The new employee will be expected to carry the project through the consultation phase and prepare applications for further funding. The development worker will also help the community submit a planning application, write a business plan and work on designs for the hub.

The business plan will be developed by local man Andrew Prendergast and Faye MacLeod of Portree chartered accountants Campbell, Stewart, MacLennan.

When the local shop in Isle Ornsay closed 11 years ago, local people were left facing a 20-mile round trip to buy groceries. The planned hub will provide a shop, a café, and a community space. The centre will be powered by a separate hydro scheme and will aim to promote local food.

CDI commissioned WT Architects of Edinburgh, who designed the White House on Coll, to draw up plans for the new building.

William Tunnell from the company said community input into the design was 'extremely important'.

'Hippies' star at end of term fundraiser

ARDNAMURCHAN High's charity end of term fundraising event last Friday - which saw pupils and staff dress up in Hippies-style costumes and wigs - raised £200.

The cash will be split between 'Help for Heroes' and two former pupils, Toby Barber and Katie Mackinnon, who are fundraising for charity projects in Africa and Peru respectively.

Community councils battle apathy

LARGE tracts of the West Highlands could be left without a community council after too few people came forward as candidates to represent their local areas.

Following the close of nominations last Tuesday afternoon, it emerged that eight community councils in Lochaber and Skye face being axed through lack of support.

In a disappointing response, nine-member Broadford and Strath CC attracted only three nominations. For Dunvegan, Glencoe and Glen Etive, Raasay and Sleat, which all have eight members, only one person applied for each, while no nominations at all were received for Caol, Glendale or Laggan.

Nether Lochaber CC fell one name short of the numbers needed to continue after three

people submitted their names for the seven places.

Council rules state that at least half the maximum community council membership - between seven and 13 depending on population - must declare they are willing to serve for the group to function.

Nominations

However, Highland Council has discretion to issue further calls for nominations if deemed appropriate - a possible option in Nether Lochaber's case given they are so close to being quorate.

NLCC secretary Ann Marie Cameron was hopeful the situation would be resolved if the council agreed to extend the time period.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'I think a second

bite at it might be enough to induce somebody else to sign up, then we could push folk again to agree to join us as co-opted members. If the council can offer us another month, hopefully we would get at least one more member to put their name in to keep it going.'

Eilean A' Cheò (Isle of Skye) councillor Drew Millar was 'disappointed' the island faced losing four community councils, suggesting increased red tape could be a factor.

Disappointed

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I'm disappointed people that in some cases people have not felt able to put themselves forward, but I can understand why not in regard to all the new legislation they have to contend with such as code of conduct and declaration of interest.'

Councillor Millar also believed it could be time to revisit the issue of reducing Skye's 16 community councils to a more workable number.

He said: 'I know it's controversial, but it might be better to have one community council representing the west of Skye, one for the north and so on, rather than have nothing at all.'

Better news

Elsewhere, there was better news for Kinlochleven, which will have a community council again after a gap of several years. Not only that, but an election will be required after 15 candidates came forward for the eight-member council.

Votes will also be held for Ardgour, Ballachulish, Morar and Morvern community

councils in Lochaber, at Plockton in Lochalsh, and Struan and Uig on Skye. Other community councils in the West Highlands attracted enough people willing to serve as members, although there will be no elections.

The uncontested CCs include: Acharacle, Arisaig, Dornie and District, Duror and Kentallen, Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston, Fort William, Glenfinnan, Glengarry, Kilmallie, Kilmuir, Kyle, Kyleakin and Kylesha, Lochalsh, Loch Duich, Lochcarron, Mallaig, Portree, Sconser, Skeabost, Small Isles, Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry, Staffin, Sunart, Watnish and West Ardnachurhan.

Elections will be held on November 16, after which date the newly constituted community councils will get down to work.

Hitting the high notes at teenage fèis

FÈISEAN Lochabair staged a successful teenage fèis at Lochaber High School from Saturday to Monday.

Fifteen young musicians and singers improved their skills through classes in fiddle, clàrsach, accordion, singing, keyboard, guitar, chanter and whistle. The sessions gave the youngsters a flavour of the expertise required to perform with a touring band, such as the Lochaber Ceilidh Trail project.

Each day ended with two-hour group sessions where learners and tutors created new sets for the concluding informal ceilidh for friends and family on Monday afternoon.

Vicky MacLean from Sgioba-G, the Gàidhlig team from Fèisean nan Gàidheal, taught Gàidhlig and media each day, allowing the teenagers to create a brilliant short film.

Traditional music tutors included Ingrid Henderson, Angus Binnie, Coll MacDonald and Sileas Sinclair. Ingrid Henderson said: 'It's great to see how keen the teenagers are to learn. There's great talent in Lochaber and it's brilliant to see the teenagers are willing to give up their time to be part of an event like this.'

Maria MacInnes, Fèisean nan Gàidheal development officer for Lochaber Fèisean, thanked all participants, the fèis committee and members of the community for their support. She said: 'A great weekend was had by all, with the teenagers already asking about Fèis nan Deugairean 2012!'



Young musicians and tutors enjoyed the Fèis nan Deugairean at Lochaber High School. 20_14161e501

Gaelic class demand grows

DEMAND among adults keen to learn Gaelic through an intensive learning programme is growing.

In a report to Highland Council's Gaelic committee, new figures show around 145 adults are currently enrolled in ùlpan classes, with class enrolment ongoing.

More than 140 students have previously completed classes.

Plans are also in place to offer new or additional ùlpan classes at Dingwall, Portree, Farr (Sutherland), Ullapool, Nairn, Mallaig and other parts of Lochaber. Gaelic committee chair, Councillor Hamish Fraser said: 'From speaking to many of the adults who have attended the range of Gaelic learning classes, their enthusiasm and commitment to learning is remarkable and we wish to open up opportunities for learning wherever possible.'

The ùlpan method, also employed to teach Welsh and Hebrew, has been used by the council to teach Gaelic since 2007.

Fort William FC lotto draw

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

Numbers were 7-17-19. Prize money rolls over to next week and goes up to £300.



From Lochalsh with love: Glenelg Primary School children sent their shoeboxes away on Friday.

Pupils wrapped up in shoe box appeal

TEN NEEDY families in Eastern Europe can look forward to a happier Christmas - thanks to children from Glenelg Primary School.

The big-hearted children packed, wrapped and labelled 10 boxes of essential items last Friday for the Blythswood Care Shoe Box Appeal 2011.

Head teacher Lorraine Smith said it was the school's final task before the October holidays.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'The children were asked to bring in a shoe box and items from

a list for a man, a woman, a child, or a mixture and then the pupil council sorted them out. The children were particularly generous this year, and we are supporting more charities than we ever have. All the ideas for helping charities are coming from the children themselves - they are definitely becoming more aware of the people needing our help.'

Last year Blythswood gathered 118,000 filled shoeboxes that were sent to countries in Eastern Europe as well as to Pakistan.

Communities urged to grab a slice of culture cash fund

HIGHLAND communities are being urged to grab a slice of a new three-year investment fund to celebrate Scotland's cultural and creative vibrancy.

From the Year of Creative Scotland 2012 to the Year of Homecoming 2014, the Creative Places Awards will recognise the achievements of communities staging festivals, events and year-round activities to enhance social and economic life locally.

Three cash awards will be given annually to successful applicants - £50,000 to an area with a population of up to 2,500; £100,000 to an area with between 2,500 and 10,000 people and £150,000 to an area with a population of between 10,000 and 100,000.

For the 2012 awards, applications must be submitted to Creative Scotland by Friday October 28. Bids must include a letter of endorsement from Highland Council chief executive Alastair Dodds.

As a first step, potential applicants should contact John MacDonald at the education, culture and sport service on 01478 614057 or by e-mail at john.macdonald@highland.gov.uk. The council needs to know of bids by October 25.

Full information on how to apply is available at www.creativescotland.com/investment-programmes/national-events-2012.

The winners for 2012 will be announced at an awards ceremony towards the end of January.

College hosts dance event

SABHAL Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic College on Skye, will host a dance event on October 20 as part of the Year of Scotland's islands celebrations.

The SkyeDanceXchange will bring together young performers from SkyeDance and Lewis-based Isle Dance.

An evening performance at 7.30pm will follow the daytime workshops.

Trust forest stumps up its first timber

A COMMUNITY-owned woodland on Skye has begun producing its first timber for mainland sawmills.

Lorries began hauling out harvested logs from Tormore Forest on Sleat on September 29, an operation expected to last into December.

Felling is focused on areas on both sides of the forest road from Ardvassar within half a mile of the entrance gate.

Aberdeenshire-based operator Charlie Esson is harvesting from Monday to Friday, during which time public access to the forest is prohibited for safety reasons.

However, no felling, stacking, or hauling of timber is scheduled for weekends and pedestrian access is permitted along the forest road. Walkers are warned to keep clear of

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

log piles and harvested ground. Sleat Community Trust (SCT) took formal ownership of the 1,000-acre forest in June after raising Forestry Commission Scotland's £330,000 asking price through a concerted fundraising effort.

SCT secretary Henry Mains told *The Oban Times*: 'We expect to be getting income from the forest by October 15 - that's when Scottish Woodlands actually pay us. It will be nice to find out how much when we open the cheque.'

He added: 'It's great - I'm watching the timber lorries rolling past and thinking 'hey, that wood's ours!'

The commercial value aside, the trust is asking local communities for their views on how the forest could provide benefits in the longer term. Potential social uses include the development of native woodland, trails for walkers and cyclists, and educational trips for local children. In addition to commercial exploitation, future SCT plans for the forest include developing native woodland, trails for walkers and cyclists, and educational trips for local schoolchildren.

The day after becoming owners of Tormore, SCT was notified it had won The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service - the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK for outstanding work done in their local communities.

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Blow to three villages as hotels go bust

Administrators called in to run Dalmally-based group

THREE Argyll villages are facing major social and economic upheaval after a hotel group went into administration.

Administrators RSM Tenon has taken over the running of affairs at Glenorchy Lodge Hotel Ltd, which owns the Taynuilt Hotel, Glenorchy Lodge in Dalmally and the Tyndrum Lodge Hotel.

As *The Oban Times* went to press, Taynuilt and Tyndrum Lodge hotels were still trading, however, Glenorchy Lodge had been closed.

The group continues to take bookings for the hotels and its website indicates it is business as usual, except a footnote to explain the administrators have been appointed.

Glenorchy Lodge Hotels Ltd was asked to comment on the implications of going into administration and what it would mean for the communities it served but refused to comment.

The administrators said it would be marketing the hotels 'as soon as we can'. The closure of Glenorchy

REPORT
by EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

Lodge, the pub where just 20 years ago Magnus MacFarlane Barrow and his brother first concocted the master plan for the charity Scottish International Relief - now Mary's Meals - has compounded what is already a difficult time for businesses in Dalmally. The loss of coach parties at Dalmally Hotel for much of this year has also had a knock-on effect.

Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council chairman David Fellowes said: 'Dalmally is suffering. The closure of Glenorchy

"Glenorchy Lodge is part of the social fabric of the village."
Community councillor David Fellowes

Lodge means there is no hostelry in Dalmally; there's always been something in the village.

'Glenorchy Lodge is part of the social fabric of the place: the shinty team goes there, there are old folks' lunches and it is well frequented during Dalmally Show day.

'If it didn't re-open for some time, it would be very unfortunate for the village.'

Councillor Neil Mackay, Argyll and Bute Council's spokesman for tourism, said: 'Any loss to tourist facilities is not good news, however, we must also recognise the impact on individual employees and on the communities as a whole.'

'There is a lot of pressure on all aspects of the licensed trade. It makes us aware how fragile the economic structure of Argyll is and that we can't afford any complacency in any business, tourist or otherwise.'

'All we can hope for is another company will take over the businesses, whether individually, or as a whole.'

Youngsters are put through their paces at cattle show



An added attraction at the Highland Cattle Society's 114th annual autumn show at Oban Livestock Centre on Sunday was the introduction of a new trophy, donated by *The Oban Times* for the best young handler, aged under 18. Among those taking part was Mhairi Dempster, from Dalmally. To find out who won the trophy, and for a show report, see page 14. Photo: Kevin McGlynn.

Teenager faces trial over Dalavich house blaze

THE SHERIFF and jury trial of a teenage girl, who is accused of setting fire to a Dalavich house, began this week.

The 15-year-old, who was 14 at the time of the alleged offence and cannot be named for legal reasons, is accused of wilfully setting fire to the house at 29 Dalavich on June 25 last year.

The blaze caused extensive damage to the property.

The trial was due to continue yesterday (Wednesday), as *The Oban Times* went to press.

Vandals target business premises

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a business premises in George Street, Oban, was vandalised in the early hours of Saturday morning. CCTV footage is being examined to trace the vandal. The incident occurred at around 1.45am.

Motorists reported for speeding

FOUR motorists have been reported for speeding following speed checks at the A816 at Kilmiver between 3pm and 6pm on Saturday.

Drugs recovered after house search

DRUGS officers recovered a quantity of diazepam during a search of premises at Cawdor Place, Shore Street, on Friday. Enquiries into the recovery are continuing.

Defendant admits cocaine charge

SENTENCE has been deferred on an Oban man who appeared from custody on Monday and pled guilty to possession of cocaine.

The offence was committed while Sean Kelly, aged 27, of Flat 1/1, 19 High Street was on bail from Glasgow Sheriff Court and on two bail orders from Oban Sheriff Court. He was granted bail and will appear for sentencing on October 19.

NEWSDESK
01397 703003

Counting cost of royal wedding holiday

GIVING its staff a day off to celebrate April's royal wedding cost Western Isles Council nearly a quarter of a million pounds.

Like other local authorities across Scotland, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar allowed all staff to take a day's leave to mark the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton on April 29 this year.

The decision was taken locally in accordance with a decision by the UK Government.

While the council was unable to calculate an exact figure, it was able to reveal the total cost

of giving all non-essential staff a day off was approximately £250,000.

No money was spent on any celebrations, however.

The figure has been revealed following a freedom of information request which has been published online.

Reacting to the figure, council leader Angus Campbell said: 'I think it's important to point out that this is money we would have been spending anyway, but we did lose the productivity of that day.'

'The council democratically decided to take the holiday, but

with the financial pressures we are facing I personally don't think it was the right way to go.'

Meanwhile, Argyll and Bute Council officials insist they are unable to provide an estimate on how much the royal wedding holiday cost.

A spokeswoman said: 'There are too many varying factors to produce a definitive cost for Argyll and Bute Council making the royal wedding date a public holiday. Argyll and Bute Council does not calculate lost productivity in cash terms for this type of event.'

After 10-year wait it's all systems go for Soroba Community Centre

IT HAS been in discussion for nearly 10 years, but a major step towards the creation of a community centre in Soroba has been taken this week.

Monday was the deadline for objections to the Scottish Government reporter's decision to allow a compulsory purchase order by Argyll and Bute Council to take over land near the car park in Shuna Terrace.

And with no opposition to the decision, lawyers for the council and Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA)

are currently drawing up proposals for the latter to take on the site and build the community centre.

There is already outline planning permission for the site.

There are currently community facilities in flats in Soroba's Scalpay Terrace but the various clubs and groups have outgrown the current premises.

Councillor Donald 'Skye' McIntosh, who has been campaigning for a community centre in Soroba, said he had waited 10 years for the decision

and is confident funding can be found to make the project happen.

'When the community centre opened in Scalpay Terrace it was over-provisioned,' he said. 'It just isn't big enough. Now, at long last, an area as big as Soroba will have its own centre for the community.'

'It is cut off from the rest of the town by the railway and faces a stigma with its 'concrete jungle' tag, because it is too densely populated.'

'So, for the community's sake,

particularly the children, single mothers and elderly people, this needs to happen.

'The council has held up its promise; it's important ACHA does the same.'

ACHA chief executive Alistair MacGregor confirmed the association would set up a project team, which he would chair, to look at ways of funding the project.

He added that since recently becoming a charitable organisation, ACHA may have new sources of funding available.

Helping to bring The National Theatre of Scotland to Local Communities

This year, Bank of Scotland and the National Theatre of Scotland entered into an exciting two year partnership, working together to bring world-class theatre to communities large and small across Scotland.

Bank of Scotland's investment has and will continue to enable National Theatre of Scotland to develop their programme and to take it to audiences across the country. It is estimated that in this first year alone nearly 100,000 people will have come into contact with a production or initiative under the Bank of Scotland Pioneering Partnership banner.

This year the Bank of Scotland Pioneering Partnership has included the support of productions, initiatives and workshops, such as First Nights, a ground-breaking scheme to introduce young people with no experience of the arts to theatre.

To celebrate the partnership Bank of Scotland has hundreds of tickets to give away to the National Theatre of Scotland's Ensemble tour which sees two exciting new productions, Calum's Road and Tall Tales for Small People, visiting communities from Glasgow to Raasay and Oban to Drumadrochit, to name but a few.

We are teaming up with the Oban Times to offer readers the chance to win one of 5 pairs of tickets to Calum's Road, Corran Halls, 21st October and Tall Tales for Small People, Corran Halls, 22nd October.

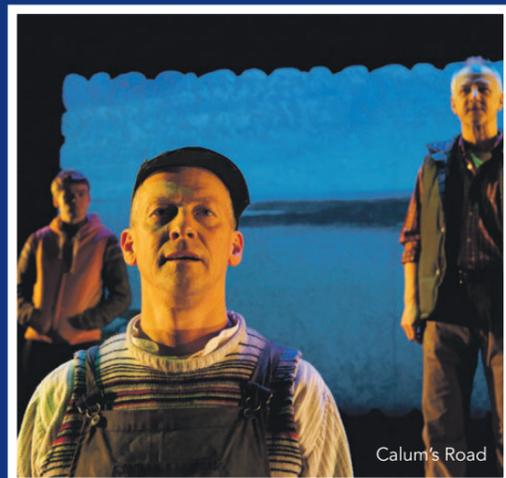
Calum's Road is the remarkable true story of one man's single-minded determination to challenge the powers-that-be with a pick and shovel, a wheelbarrow to build a road through the land that he loves. By David Harrower, based on the book by Roger Hutchinson.

Tall Tales for Small People a collection of wonderful stories for all ages which has been woven into a tapestry of laughter and adventure. Based on the work of the late Duncan Williamson, the master story-teller and Scottish traveller.

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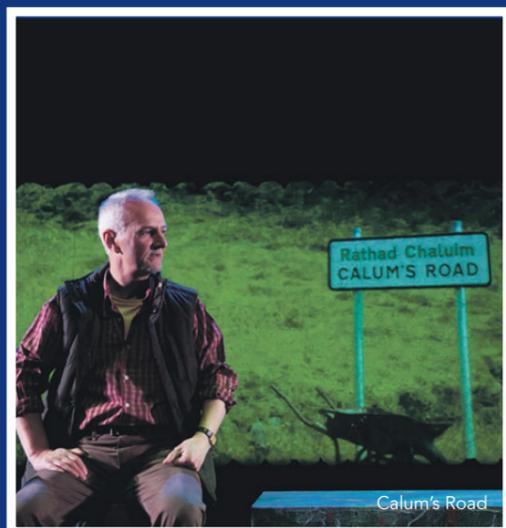
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Control system fault disrupts Islay ferry sailings

A FAULT within a new state-of-the-art engine control system on board the MV *Hebridean Isles* disrupted Islay ferry sailings at the weekend.

The ship's Rolls Royce CAN-bus system was recently installed to replace a pneumatic one that is no longer supportable.

A replacement system has been flown in and it was hoped the ship would be repaired yesterday (Wednesday).

Ferry operators CalMac had MV *Isle of Arran* on stand-by to take over on the Kennacraig to Port Askaig route but apologised for any inconvenience caused.

Police ponder 'one-stop-shop' approach

A 'ONE-stop-shop' approach could see police and Argyll and Bute Council sharing accommodation, councillors heard at their October meeting.

It had nearly happened in Helensburgh recently but would not have been cost effective at the final analysis.

Chief Constable Stephen House was addressing the council as guest speaker and told members that he and the chief executive of the council were still considering the idea in some areas.

Driver reported to fiscal

A MAN accused of careless driving for overtaking in the 30mph zone in Connel is to be reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

The 28-year-old, who was pulled over by police on October 4, is also alleged to have been driving a vehicle that was not taxed.

Motorist charged over accident

POLICE have charged a man with causing an accident at Ardchattan Priory last Tuesday.

The man has been accused of approaching corners at excessive speed before causing a collision with a bus.

Man held after alleged assault

A MAN has been arrested in connection with an alleged assault at Combie Court on Saturday.

A 52-year-old man was butted during the incident. It is alleged that the assailant, a 22-year-old male, was also in possession of a knife.

Pushbike stolen from street

WITNESSES are being sought after a pushbike was stolen from Combie Street, Oban, sometime between October 5-7.

Call the newsdesk on 01631 568000



Together again: Juan and Rachel have rekindled their relationship after Juan's surprise visit. 16_141Juan02

Juan flies in to tell Rachel 'I love you'

Sweethearts together again after surprise reunion in pub

A LATIN lover has won back his sweetheart after travelling 14 hours from Honduras to Oban to surprise her - in Markie Dan's pub.

REPORT
by EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

Romantic Juan Carlos Molina shocked girlfriend Rachel Veza after a love song he had written for her was played over the speakers in the Oban pub.

Juan had met the Swiss/German backpacker after employing her as a diving instructor in his native Honduras and the couple lived and worked together while living in Central America.

But after Rachel gained a place to study at the Scottish Association of Marine Science in Dunstaffnage, the couple agreed the distance between Oban and Honduras was too great and the relationship ended.

Juan, a former musician, told *The Oban Times*: 'She had left some of her things at the house and I couldn't get her out of my head. I was depressed.'

'I started to think there was no point living without her so, then one day I decided to buy the plane ticket to Scotland. I just wrote the song and got a friend to produce it for me.'

'She could have been with someone else, or maybe she wouldn't have wanted to see me, but I had to tell her how I felt.'

By chance, Juan met Oban man Norman Martin on the flight from Amsterdam to Glasgow and, after explaining his story, was delighted to accept a lift to the town.

hoped. Rachel explained: 'When the song came on people were asking if I recognised it - they were all in on the surprise - but I said I didn't, although I recognised the singer's voice.'

Even though Juan sang one verse in German, Rachel still didn't click.

'I was hiding in another room and the barman came back to tell me there had been no reaction,' said Juan. 'I couldn't believe it. I had brought some of her things over with me and handed him one of her boots to show her, but that didn't work either. She was just very confused.'

'I had no plan C, so I just bought a couple of beers and offered her one. She was really shocked, so I guess that worked!'

Juan and Rachel have been spending as much time together as possible before he leaves for Honduras. Before that, Juan is going to help celebrate Rachel's birthday next Thursday.

Fresh outrage as vandals target £800,000 Soroba footbridge again

THERE is fresh outrage this week at the condition of the Soroba footbridge into Oban, with the route littered with foul language, anti-Catholic slogans and gang tags.

Since the £800,000 footbridge was opened in May last year, it has been a gathering spot for youths and repeatedly vandalised.

The latest graffiti on the green bridge, which was known as 'the blue bridge' before it was rebuilt, also contains an ironic claim from the jobs responsible that 'we are no sectarian' - just inches from hateful religious comments.

Concern

The bridge is regularly used by school children as well as adults, and there is concern over what effect it is having on local youngsters.

One parent crossing the bridge said: 'It's absolutely disgusting. Some of the stuff written on the bridge is vile and it's about time it was removed.'

'Kids walk past this every day - my kids included. They shouldn't be subjected to this stuff.'

Local councillor Roddy McCuish last year said he'd be

reluctant to waste the council's money on repainting the bridge only for it to be vandalised again.

The SNP councillor - whose party is trying to push through tough new anti-sectarian laws - has repeated his stance.

He said: 'I'm really disappointed in the offensive graffiti on the bridge and the way it has already fallen into this state of disrepair. The people responsi-

ble need to have a really hard look at themselves.'

'Kids are constantly encouraged to walk to school and there are young kids walking past this offensive stuff every day.'

'The bridge was built by Argyll Community Housing Association but handed over to the council.'

'I'd be loathe for the council to spend money repainting it, only for it to be vandalised again.'

'Anti-graffiti paint would cost a fortune, but I don't know what else we can do.'

Meanwhile, the councillor has urged locals to report to police those responsible for the vandalism.

He said: 'Please report these people to the police - and people should bear in mind that Crimestoppers is available if they want to remain anonymous.'



Some of the slogans scrawled across the £800,000 footway from Oban into Soroba. 15_141sorobab2

Cash sought for bridge overhaul

CONNEL Bridge is to receive a 'significant refurbishment' next year, *The Oban Times* can reveal, but only if money can be found to pay for it.

Scotland Transerv, the company that maintains the west of Scotland's trunk roads on behalf of Transport Scotland, is currently preparing plans to overhaul the bridge, with large sections of the deck to have new waterproofing measures implemented.

It is understood that the cost of the works will be significant, but Scotland Transerv is unable to say what it could be at the moment.

However, the works are entirely dependent on Transport Scotland's funding situation for the year ahead.

A spokesperson for Scotland Transerv said: 'We are currently developing a programme for

significant refurbishment of the Connel Bridge deck.'

'In the interim period we will consult widely with the local community and others as appropriate to ensure we carry out the works at the most appropriate time and thereby minimise disruption to travel.'

'However, the works are totally dependent on the availability of appropriate funding in the coming financial year.'

The proposed works will be discussed with members of Connel and Ardchattan community councils tonight (Thursday).

The news comes as plans to resurface sections of the bridge have been pushed back from October 23 to November 2, with an overnight closure to pedestrians and vehicles from 10pm-6am.

Connel Community Council's

Les Stewart said: 'I have no idea what they will be discussing at the meeting. It will be interesting to see what they have planned.'

'I've said a million times that the bridge is absolutely vital not just to the communities on either side, but to the entire west coast.'

While a previous meeting with Transerv reassured him that the bridge would be around for at least another 100 years, Connel Community Council's chairman Sandy Dunlop did point out a number of drips on the bridge.

Pothole

Meanwhile, a pothole on the south side of the bridge continues to grow.

Les said: 'Transerv were pretty on the ball with it and they weren't surprised by anything we pointed out.'

'I just hope the bridge is treated as the priority it is.'

Groups can cash in on wind farm community fund

THE AN Suidhe Wind Farm Community Fund is now open for applications with an initial deadline of November 7.

The fund will benefit the communities of Inveraray, Furnace, Eredine and Dalavich and their surrounding areas

providing they fall within 10 kilometres of the An Suidhe Wind Farm. For the next 25 years, RWE npower Renewables will award £28,500 annually to the An Suidhe Wind Farm Community Fund.

The Scottish Community Foundation, a grant-making charity, will process applications from constituted community groups, not-for-profit organisations and registered charities. Applications for grants of between £250 and £7,000 are welcomed; smaller awards of

less than £250 can be made through a scheme administered by each of the three community councils serving the area. Forms and guidelines will be available from each community council and on the Scottish Community Foundation website.

Motorists' misery at faulty traffic lights

SOROBA Road's traffic lights are once again causing misery for motorists.

The light governing the filter lane to take traffic down Lynn Road has been malfunctioning, with the

green arrow often not being shown despite waiting vehicles.

In addition, the timing of light changes has been erratic.

The latest malfunction comes during the week engineers were

due to implement a permanent solution to the timing problems reported last month.

A council spokesperson said: 'Someone will go and look at the lights to investigate the problem.'

Council judged 'weak' on child protection

ELEMENTS within Argyll and Bute Council's social work department have been described as 'weak' by a scrutiny report, compiled by a collective of government agencies.

The inspection, carried out by Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWIS), looked at the services provided by social work, education, health, the police, the Children's Reporter and voluntary and independent organisations.

While the report acknowledges improvements made at the council since 2005, it was critical of its protection for young people.

It stated: 'In a quarter of case files

where there should have been a risk assessment, the quality of risk assessment and risk management needed to improve.'

'In the case files we assessed, five per cent of the risk assessments and 12 per cent of the risk management plans were weak.'

Key areas

The report defines 'weak' as: demonstrating a lack of professional competence in key areas.'

MSP Michael Russell called for an immediate review by the council.

He said: 'There are areas of practice that are still not up to scratch and in some respects are regarded as weak.'

'There needs to be a concerted effort to improve this situation.' Argyll and Bute Council's spokesman for social affairs Councillor Andrew Nisbet said there was much to be pleased with, as well as further work to be undertaken.

'This is obviously vital work, which the council and its partners carry out in order to help and support some of the most vulnerable members of our community.'

'We will continue to work with our partners and others on improvements to ensure that vulnerable children receive the appropriate protection, support and encouragement to improve their lives, both in the short and longer term.'

Charity seeks agreement over use of Oban's White Building

AN OBAN charity shop that runs from the North Pier's White Building is once again seeking long-term assurances on its future.

The MacQueen Brothers' Charitable Trust shop raises in excess of £100,000 per year for local causes and groups, while the charity itself also hosts a number of events.

However, the shop has a constant cloud hanging over it, with the building last year put up for sale by landlords Argyll and Bute Council.

Graham MacQueen says loss of the charity shop would be a huge blow for the town, with national funding sources becoming increasingly difficult to draw from.

Now, in the wake of an appeal for new stock, he has called for the local authority to give the shop a five-year commitment - something he said would make sense given

the number of ongoing plans to develop the area. He said: 'In the past few years we've been able to assist a huge number of organisations and groups.'

'Argyll and Bute Council continue to give us this building free of charge, and we thank them for their support. If they leave us here for five years the community would benefit to a greater sum than it would cost to maintain the building. It also allows us to plan for the future, maybe paint the exterior and make the building look a lot better.'

Argyll and Bute Council has not made a commitment yet, but said a decision on the future of the building is pending.

A spokesperson said: 'This matter is being continued until the outcome of the council's Tax Incremental Finance (TIF) funding bid for Oban is known.'

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Ryan Watson moves to commiserate with Bravehearts' Ryan Fairhurst after being given a narrow split decision. 20_f41box02



Irene Mackay presents Igor Sliwinski with his young boxer of the night trophy. 20_f41box06



Stevie Docherty presents Ewan Donnelly with his award for bout of the night. Euan also won the senior boxer of the night trophy. 20_f41box10



Eddie Lopez goes toe to toe with Bellahouston's Scott McCormack. 20_f41box03



Scott Lawrie scores with a right in his bout with Vie Vasher of Kingswells ABC. 20_f41box05



Ewan Donnelly and John Hunter of Hillpark ABC served up the bout of the night. 20_f41box11

Boxing show proves a big hit with fans

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club's latest home show in the Nevis Centre on Saturday night once again proved a big hit with local fight fans.

Ten bouts were on the card, featuring 11 local boxers pitted against opponents from clubs all over Scotland.

First up was 12 year-old Kevin Aitchison, who was making his debut against Leighton MacKenzie of Hillpark ABC, Bannockburn.

MacKenzie came out strongly, but by the final bell Aitchison had claimed the ascendancy and earned a well deserved split decision.

Scottish champion Chris Bradley faced David Dalziel of Peterhead ABC, the national champion at the weight above.

Chris landed a right hand bomb within the first ten seconds

and both 14 year-olds showed remarkable ring intelligence in three absorbing rounds. Bradley could consider himself unlucky to be declared a majority points loser.

The exciting and powerful Igor Sliwinski locked horns with Ross Young from Peterhead ABC and by the second was pinning Young on the ropes, forcing the ref to halt the fight to continue Igor's unbeaten record.

Popular Mark Curtis fought an exhibition bout against Scottish youth champion Gary McGuire of Bellahouston ABC, which had the crowd on their feet.

Mark's defence and footwork has improved dramatically and he eagerly awaits his next contest this Sunday in Renfrewshire. Debutant Liam Jordan cleverly outwitted southpaw Stephen Buchanan of Hillpark ABC to

earn a unanimous points decision.

Super-heavyweight Ewan Donnelly, also making his debut, conceded two stone to John Hunter of Hillpark but had the advantage in foot and hand speed. Donnelly cleverly avoided a war to keep Hunter on the back foot and took an overwhelming points victory.

Middleweight Scott Lawrie, also a first timer, faced the rugged Vie Vasher from Kingswells ABC in a classic boxer versus slugger encounter.

Scott refused to be drawn into a brawl, his movement, speed and style impressing the fans and judges in a comfortable win.

The experienced Aidan Donnelly and staminate Artom Jevstijevic put on a real firecracker of an exhibition bout and look in great shape

for the oncoming season. Middleweight Ryan Watson faced Ryan Fairhurst from Bravehearts ABC, of Whithorn in Galloway.

The pair got involved in a real slugging match, but in the last round Watson landed the crisper blows and just edged a split decision.

Eddie Lopez topped the bill against 17 year-old Scott McCormack of Bellahouston ABC in an enthralling contest, which saw youth prevail as McCormack scored a deserved victory.

Igor Sliwinski and Ewan Donnelly were judged young and senior boxers of the night, respectively. The club's season is now underway and hope the coming months will be as successful as previous years.



Coach Niall Clark has a few words of advice for Scott Lawrie before his last round against Vie Vasher. 20_f41box07

Fort 17s share the points at Wick

FOOTBALL

FORT William under-17s came away with a hard fought but deserved 1-1 draw at from Wick Academy last Sunday.

The Fort boys took time to shake off the effects of the long journey and with only 12 minutes gone went a goal down.

Wick's full back skipped past three Fort defenders to cut the ball back for the striker who calmly finished in the bottom corner.

Fort retained the upper hand after the break, but the Wick keeper was in outstanding form to deny the Lochaber boys as they pressed forward.

With the clock ticking down, Fort's continual pressure was rewarded when Keiron Voiccut cut the ball across goal and an unfortunate Wick defender deflected the ball into his own net.

Shinty and football at the Mod

SHINTY/FOOTBALL

SPORT will feature in the 2011 Western Isles Royal National Mod programme on Saturday.

In shinty, Camanachd Leòdhais will head to Benbecula to face Camanachd Uibhist.

Meanwhile, the Uist and Barra select football team will make the journey north to Back where they will battle it out against the Lewis and Harris select.

The shinty throw up will commence at 11am whilst the football kicks off at 11.30am.

Much improved performance from Fort

REPORT BY STEPHEN NORRIS
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HIT MAN Michael Ellis could be in line for a shock return to Fort William's mis-firing forward line on Saturday as the Lochaber men seek to break their Highland League duck at high flying Nairn County this Saturday.

Ellis started training this week after a lay off through injury and his physical presence in attack would add much-needed vim in front of goal.

Fort posted a much-improved performance against Turriff but carried little threat up front – a deficiency needing a rapid remedy if hopes of accumulating

early season points are to be realised.

The Claggan Park side has only hit the net three times in six league games – a paltry record manager Danny Conlon is keen to address – although opportunities to improve that grim statistic don't come much more difficult than a fixture at the league leaders' home patch.

Good Test

'It will not be the easiest game at Nairn, but it will be a real good test for us,' Conlon told the Oban Times.

'I feel we are definitely a bit light up front and we would like to strengthen the squad, but hopefully we will have Michael Ellis back for Saturday.'

'The signs were there against

Turriff that we can play a bit, but that was only one game and we still have to work on it and keep making progress.

'Hopefully we should have a strong squad for the game, but will have to wait for training on Thursday night to see who is available.'

'Chris MacLeod and Danny Mackintosh should come into the reckoning, and Lewis Campbell also started training this week.'

The narrow 1-0 loss to Turriff was a sore one to take, but the visitors just about deserved to pocket the points.

Keeper Jonathan Smith looks a real find for Fort between the sticks and saved his side on several notable occasions – not least when he dived smartly to

Football



Darren Quigg brings down Dave MacKenzie to concede a penalty. 20_f41foot02

his left to parry Mark Cowie's spot kick early on.

Fort's chances were few, but a fine cross from Kevin Ferguson picked out Sean Ellis 12 yards out and Coutts had to look sharp to smother the winger's low drive on 15 minutes.

Glaring Chances

Turriff passed up several glaring chances, but two minutes after the break Dave MacKenzie bulleted home Stephen Gauld's cross for the winner.

Fort's woes continued in the 66th minute when Graham Bamber was red-carded for hauling back Jerry O'Driscoll as he bored in on goal, but to their credit Fort carried the fight to Turriff and were denied an injury time leveller when Coutts held Maclellan's effort.

Basketball festival run by S2 sports leaders

BASKETBALL

LOCHABER High School S2 pupils studying sports leadership ran a highly successful P7 basketball festival at the school last Wednesday, guided by PE and Active Schools staff, and helped by senior pupils.

Over 150 pupils from Lochaber High's 10 feeder primary schools attended the event, which was split into morning and afternoon sessions.

The P7s were split into teams on arrival, giving them a chance to meet, mix and work with pupils from other schools. Each team was managed by S2 sports leaders, who looked after their players, giving advice and feedback. Senior pupils acted as referees and scorekeepers.

With games playing on three courts simultaneously, each

team played five others in a round robin format. Points were then added up to give the final results.

In the morning session, the winning team was: Amber MacDonald and Liam Rowell (St Mary's), Caitrin Esmund and Will Dalley (Spean Bridge), William Corrigan (Lochyside) and Robert Galloway from Upper Achintore with team manager Grant Swainson, LHS.

In the afternoon, winners' medals were scooped by Stuart Discher, Lee Brogan and Lucy Kyle, Inverloch with Nicole Manson, Banavie, led by team manager Sharlene Campbell from LHS.

Goon Squad top the league

INDOOR FOOTBALL

GOON SQUAD moved to the top of the Ali Union Premier League on goal difference after two games when they thrashed Stroke City 10-4 at the Nevis centre on Sunday night.

Lochaber Leisure kept up their maximum record with a 7-2 win over Liverscaol, while also on six points are Achintore FC, who beat TNF United 4-2, and The Granite House, courtesy of a 3-1 victory over the Fire Brigade. Elsewhere, Ballachulish got off the mark with a 3-1 defeat of AA Young, while Steaua Sookabars and HW Energy No-Stars shared the points in a 2-2 draw.

Close finishes at Benford Cup

GOLF

ISLE OF Skye Gold Club staged The Benford Cup, a two category scratch competition, over Saturday and Sunday.

Alasdair Grant and Murdo Gordon fought for first prize in Category 1 with Grant just edging out Gordon by one shot on a better back nine score.

It was the same scenario in Category 2 with Alastair 'Starsky' Campbell winning by one on a better inward half score from Mike Mace.

Results: Benford Cup Category 1 - 1st Alasdair Grant 70 (bh); 2nd Murdo Gordon 70; 3rd John Marshall 80. Benford Cup Category 2 - 1st Al Campbell 81 (bh); 2nd Mike Mace 81; 3rd Kenny MacLeod 86.



Fort keeper Jonathan Smith pulls off a brilliant save to deny Mark Cowie from the penalty spot. 20_f41foot01

Weather

Thursday Cloudy.
Winds moderate, south, south easterly
Temperatures 12°C to 13°C

Friday Light rain.
Winds moderate, southerly
Temperatures 12°C to 15°C.

Weekend Outlook Light rain.
Winds moderate, south, south westerly
Temperatures 9°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 00.08	1.0 05.58	4.0 12.29 1.1 18.19 4.1
Fri 00.40	1.0 06.27	4.0 12.58 1.2 18.49 4.0
Sat 01.12	1.1 06.55	3.9 13.26 1.4 19.18 3.8
Sun 01.42	1.2 07.24	3.8 13.51 1.5 19.46 3.6
Mon 02.12	1.4 07.56	3.6 14.17 1.7 20.18 3.4
Tues 02.48	1.6 08.32	3.4 14.55 1.9 20.57 3.2
Wed 03.36	1.7 09.19	3.3 16.01 2.1 21.56 2.9

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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