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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Campbeltown police seize heroin

POLICE say they have dealt a significant blow to the drugs trade in Campbeltown after seizing £2,500 of uncut heroin as part of a swoop on Friday.

Officers stopped a car just outside the town at 2.45am and arrested a 34-year-old man after finding 22.5grams of the class A drug in the vehicle.

The man, who is understood to be local, will appear at court later this month.

Chief Inspector for Campbeltown David Pettigrew, said the seizure would make it difficult to obtain the drug in the town for at least a week.

'The reality is that this is a dealer quantity of drugs,' he said. 'That potentially could have been mixed with other products to bulk it out and double its value. This will have a significant impact on the availability of drugs in Campbeltown and the man in question will be appearing at court later this month.'

Individuals thought to be involved in the supply of drugs will be subject to regular searches by police in the coming weeks, he added.

Organisers back Tiree Wave Classic

PURA Vida, organisers of the Tiree Wave Classic, Britain's longest-standing and most prestigious windsurfing competition, has committed to the event until 2014.

This year's event gets underway this Saturday, celebrating its 26th anniversary in the process. Pura Vida says it remains 'totally committed' to hosting, least until the 28th Classic and has outlined plans to improve the event's scope and coverage.

Jim Brooks-Dowsett, who owns Pura Vida, said: 'We have massive plans, including more TV coverage, and have a long term aim to bring the Professional Windsurfers Association World Tour back to Tiree too. 'We hope our commitment means entrants can go into this year's event safe in the knowledge Tiree will continue to get bigger and better.' For more, see page seven.



Oban residents witness stunning Northern Lights display

Residents of Oban and the surrounding area witnessed the stunning natural wonder of the Aurora Borealis on Monday night. More commonly known as the Northern Lights, the light show is caused by the collision of charged particles in the earth's high altitude atmosphere, which are usually displayed in a green colour. This picture was taken from Ganavan by Oban's Euan Finlayson, looking across to Glensanda.

Scottish first for Oban as BID vote says 'Yes'

OBAN is to become Scotland's first whole-town Business Improvement District (BID) after a landslide vote in favour of the scheme.

Of the 49 per cent turnout, 90 per cent of the town's businesses backed the plan that will see every business with a rateable value of £3,000 or more within the 30mph zone pay a modest compulsory levy towards the BID.

The scheme will move to elect a board of directors by the end of the month, with £840,000 of investment planned over the course of the next five years from October 31.

Started two years ago, the BID campaign received cross-party political support, with both the SNP's Michael Russell and Scottish Conservatives' Jamie McGrigor joining together to congratulate the steering group on their success on Friday.

For the full story, see page 3.

Tyndrum gold mine values hit new high

Drilling venture potential rockets by £40 million

NEW drilling results and high gold prices mean a mine to be built at Cononish, near Tyndrum, has boosted in potential value by £40million to nearly £190million.

At its AGM on Monday, Scotgold Resources revealed final drilling results estimating there is 160,000 ounces of gold and 596,000 ounces of silver in the hill, more than was indicated by earlier studies.

With gold fetching £1,102.9 per ounce and silver £21.11 per ounce at the time of going to press, the combined indicative value of precious metals in Cononish now stands at £189.05million, up from initial estimates of £150million.

The results were presented to shareholders in Edinburgh and by videolink to Australia on Monday, after which shares were trading at 4.50p.

Scotgold said the figures were encouraging, but were purely indicative at this stage, with detailed independent modelling to follow in November.

Construction From there, reports will be produced for banks and lenders ahead of construction starting in April next year.

Chris Sangster, CEO and director of Scotgold, said: 'We're getting there now and the drilling results are very good.'

While the industry has taken a 'bit of a battering', he said Scot-

gold's prospects looked good. 'We seem to have held our place pretty well and that augurs well for the future,' he said. 'We also have the advantage of being closer to production now than a lot of people.'

The Strathfillan Community Development Trust (SCDT) has been in discussions with Scotgold since its plans for Cononish were first tendered and hopes to work with the company to develop a mining interpretation centre as well as establish a local jewellery manufacturing operation.

Development officer Joyce Russell said the greater than anticipated value and volume was good news for the community.

She said: 'People working at the mine will enjoy year-round employment rather than the seasonal work there is here at the moment.'

'It's going to transform the local economy and the more gold and silver there is the better it is for everyone. 'Since Scotgold arrived here we've been in discussions with them about the visitor/interpretation centre and opportunities for jewellery design and manufacture.'

'Also, the gold vein continues on into Argyll to Cairndow, so this could be the start of a much more long-term project.'

Mining at Cononish is due to commence in January 2014.

Drivers gear up for road work delays

DRIVERS in Oban and Lorn must endure delays and closed roads over the next two months as the roads authorities try to slow the deterioration of the crumbling network.

Roadworks on one of the busiest routes - the A85 at the Bealach an Rìgh, Oban - are being carried out by Scottish Water to lay a new water main but the road surface will not be upgraded by Scotland Transerv.

Scottish Water's contractors, George Leslie, began work there on Monday until November 1.

Scotland Transerv will begin work on Oban's Esplanade just three weeks later, on November 19, followed by an upgrade to George Street from November 28 to December 7.

A spokesman for Transerv Scotland said although the state of the road at the Bealach an Rìgh was a priority for Oban, there were other roads on the network that required more urgent attention. He said: 'If we can do work at the same time as other agencies, we would try and do that, where possible, as there is far less disruption to the public. However, this is particularly difficult to manage because our sub-contractors are programmed to be in certain places at certain times well in advance.'

'In theory, carrying out work at the same time as Scottish Water is a great idea but it is hard enough moving our own guys around, let alone sub-contractors and in reality situations like that don't happen very often. Perhaps they should.'

Meanwhile, Scottish Water has

come in for criticism for its two-week water mains replacement in Benderloch, which starts on Monday and comes shortly after recent road resurfacing.

Argyll and Bute Council is carrying out 'low-impact' repair work on Soroba Road, Oban, adjacent to Soroba Park Terrace, which was due to start on Monday and last until Friday, October 19.

On Monday and Tuesday this week carriageway repairs were being made between Appin and Duror.

And starting this Sunday the A85 at Lochawe will undergo essential carriageway maintenance for two weeks.

The work will cause road closures Sunday nights to Friday mornings, 9pm - 6am.

Elsewhere, a £2m bridge upgrade on the A82 at Allt Chonoglaig, near Bridge of Orchy, is underway and is expected to last for one year. Scotland Transerv will also carry out essential carriageway maintenance on sections of the A82 in Crianlarich from Sunday, October 21.

The works will affect the A82/A85 junction, the North Railway Bridge between the A82/A85 junction and Willow Brae, and the West Railway Bridge on Glenfalloch Road. This will be to replace areas of defective carriageway and install new high friction surfacing.

The work, which will be completed over three nights, between the hours of 7pm and 6am, will see full road closures from 10pm.

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Anna Karenina (12A)
In late-19th-century Russia high-society, the aristocrat Anna Karenina (Keira Knightley) enters into a life-changing affair with the affluent Count Vronsky. With Jude Law, Aaron Johnson.

Ice Age 4: Continental Drift (U)
Scratch's nutty pursuit of the cursed acorn has world-changing consequences.

Hope Springs (12A) (Not all locations)
Bittersweet comedy with Tommy Lee Jones and Meryl Streep and a marriage on the brink of collapse. With Steve Carrell.

Lawless (18) (Not all locations)
Guy Pearce, Shia LeBeouf, Jessica Chastain in tough Prohibition set thriller about hard-as-nails Ohio bootleggers.

Book in advance at: www.screenmachine.co.uk or phone 0871 902 5750. Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. £7.00 Adults. Concessions £5.50.

Mull and Iona to meet over new care centre

A PUBLIC meeting about the Mull and Iona Progressive Care Centre (PCC) has been called by Mull Community Council (MCC).

The PCC, which is now formally known as the Mull and Iona Community Hospital, was the topic at a previous public meeting but according to MCC, questions remain unanswered.

MCC said NHS Highland was initially reluctant to attend the public meeting but has agreed to come. There will also be Argyll and Bute Council and West Highland Housing Association staff at the meeting on Tuesday, October 16 at 7.30pm in Craignure Village Hall. Questions to be asked on the night will be submitted in advance.

Steve Willis, chairman of MCC, said: 'I would urge residents to come to the meeting to demonstrate the strength of concern.'



Coolio with eight-year-old Emily MacIntyre of Oban. 16_141winter01

Oban Winter Festival reaches for the stars

THIS year's Oban Winter Festival will be bigger and better than ever before with star acts in attendance as well as a comedy extravaganza.

The event was being promoted last weekend by mascot Coolio, who delighted shoppers around the town before pulling a pint in a local pub. Some of the performers coming to the town for the festival include the Big Fat Electric Ceilidh, Irish singer/songwriter John Spillane and The Bruce Macgregor Trio. One of the UK's best stand up comedians, Hal Cruttenden, will also be performing.

The organising committee is gearing up for the festival, which runs November 16 to 25, with excitement running high. Committee member Louis Barrow said: 'There is twice as much going on this year as there was last year. We're hoping people will turn out to the public events. If these are well supported it stands us in good stead to get proper funding next year and make the festival even better. Some shops will be opening late and businesses are free to join in and run events. The more that can have music and limited edition offers, the merrier.'

This year's theme is Victorian with steam trains and there will be a 40-foot high carousel.

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OT

Lorn Lines



Julia, centre, is pictured with service users and volunteers at the MS Centre.

OBAN'S MS Centre has received a £900 boost thanks to a runner in the Great Scottish Run.

Julia Cheung-Buchanan raised the money by completing her first half marathon in just over two hours.

While she lives in Glasgow, Julia decided to make a contribution towards the centre as her grandmother is a client there.

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THE next Scottish Conservative and Unionist Lorn Lunch Club is at the Regent Hotel on Friday 26 October when Miles Briggs will speak about his time as a parliamentary candidate and parliamentary advisor at Holyrood.

Anyone wishing to attend the lunch should book their place with Sara Rutherford on 01631 564230. The cost of the lunch and coffee is £10.

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MORE than a dozen children from Smarties Nursery in Oban completed a sponsored walk from Ganavan to Dunbeg - and back.

Leanne MacKay, manager, said: 'We're doing this walk to get funding for the nursery so we can get more resources for the children and possibly a new camera.'

'We're hoping to raise as much as we possibly can. Anything is a bonus.'

The children were accompanied on the walk by nursery staff, parents and even a few dogs.

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OBAN SWRI kicked off its new season with an energetic beetle drive on the last Tuesday in September.

Fiona MacCallum took the high score and Dilys McDougal took the wooden spoon.

Next month's competition is a decorated gift bag for a wedding present and coconut ice.

New members or visitors are welcome to join at any time and the meetings are in the Guide Hall on Soroba Road, on the last Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.

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Staff and councillors at Argyll and Bute Council's Municipal Building in Oban show their support for Macmillan Cancer Support. 16_140council01

WORKPLACES and groups across the west Highlands and islands did their bit for Macmillan Cancer Support by taking part in the charity's Big Coffee Morning.

Among those getting involved were Argyll and Bute Council staff and councillors, who held a coffee morning and a raffle in the Municipal Building in Albany Street, Oban.

An all-day event at Argyll Training, in Stevenson Street, Oban made £210.28.

On Mull, staff at Duart Castle dressed up as St Trinians for their coffee morning and made more than £400.

The Oban Times office staff raised £100 on the day and our feature in the pages of the newspaper, backed by local businesses, made another £480 for the charity.

Oban High School Pipe Band gets call up fae The Broons

Famous fictional family CD for Maggie's wedding

WHEN Scotland's most famous family, The Broons, has a wedding, who else to hire but Oban High School Pipe Band?

Featuring as Hector Broom and his Piper Laddies, the group was hired to help celebrate Maggie Broom's marriage to Dave MacKay, who featured in

the strip some years ago before mysteriously vanishing from the storyline.

The story of the ill-fated wedding is now told in full as part of The Broons and Oor Wullie Giftbook Classic Strips from the 1970s. It comes with a CD recording of Maggie's

wedding reception, which went ahead despite the lack of a marriage.

Track 19 sees Hector Broom's boys play a pipe band medley, a perfect precursor to the traditional evening finale of Auld Lang Syne.

Waverley Books, discovered Oban High School Pipe Band's own album when looking for music to feature on the CD and a deal was struck to have Hector's own band play at the wedding. The Oor Wullie Giftbook Classic Strips from the 70s is out now.



BEAR Scotland back on the roads

TRUNK roads across Argyll and the Highlands will once again be maintained by BEAR Scotland after Scotland TranServ lost the contract for the north west region.

Confirmation that TranServ has lost the contract for the area comes eight months after The Oban Times revealed there were doubts about its bid.

The company, a Balfour Beattie and Mouchel joint venture, has instead won the contract to maintain the south west roads network, previously managed by Amey.

Transport Scotland say contracts will be signed in the coming weeks and will take effect from April 1 2013.

Confirming BEAR Scotland will take over responsibility for the north west region's 814 miles of trunk road, transport minister Keith Brown, said: 'Our transport network is vital to the economic well-being of the nation and it is vital we ensure our key arterial routes and motorways are well maintained.'

'We are continuing our investment in the trunk roads, however, the tough economic climate means we have to deliver more services on tighter budgets. These contracts are designed to encourage operating companies to deliver innovation and value for the public purse.'

'Both BEAR and Scotland TranServ have submitted strong bids and we are confident they can build on their previous experience to deliver a trunk road network that is safe and well-maintained.'

The contracts will run for five years with scope for a further five-year extension.

General maintenance activities such as salting and snow clearing; grass cutting and weed control; gully cleaning and the repair of street lighting and traffic signals will also come under their remit.

Tobermory posting for youngest RNLI coxswain



Andrew McHaffie is the youngest coxswain in the RNLI. Photograph by RNLI/Sam Jones.

THE YOUNGEST coxswain in the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) has taken up his post in Tobermory.

Andrew McHaffie, who joined the RNLI in 2008, has been appointed the crew's new full time coxswain at just 25 years of age.

He successfully passed out as deputy second coxswain last year and prior to taking up this full time role on October 1, Andrew worked for Scottish Sea Farms and Scottish Water.

He said: 'I'm massively proud to get to this stage at such a young age but I couldn't do it without the other people here. The boat wouldn't go out without the volunteer crew.'

'They give up their time at work and family time and the RNLI is really grateful for them.'

He added: 'It is something that I have been well prepared for, it is a natural progression for me. The age isn't a barrier. This is something I am very, very confident doing.'

'People think that being a coxswain is all about being in charge of the boat which is an important part of the job but being at the station full time means I get to put a lot more focus into all the other stuff in between. I really want to focus on the development of others in the crew. I want to keep pushing people on and making the station run well. As a charity any lifeboat is there for the community it serves. We cover out to Coll and Tiree and want to make everyone aware that we are there for them. Hopefully it is going to become more of a community thing.'

And on being behind the wheel of a £2 million boat?

'I don't think the novelty will ever wear off,' admitted Andrew. 'The boat we have got is top notch, it is as good as it gets.'

Andrew was born in Glasgow but moved to the Isle of Mull with his family at just eight years old. Andrew's younger brother David, 23, also serves on the crew.

The pair's mum, Carolyn McHaffie said: 'I'm really proud of Andrew achieving this position, especially at such a young age. It's only natural that we worry when he's on a boat, however, we have full confidence not only in Andrew but also in the lifeboat and the crew to deal with whatever they are called to.'

'We also know how hard the crew train to ensure that they are prepared to face any eventuality.'

Andrew takes over from Phil Higson who was Tobermory's longest serving coxswain, holding the post between 2002 and 2012. Phil completed 20 years of service with the RNLI before stepping down over the summer.

Tobermory's Lifeboat Operations Manager Ian Stevens added: 'We're really proud Andrew has been appointed as full time coxswain and I know the crew are looking forward to working with him in his new role. I'd also like to pay tribute to Phil Higson who was Tobermory's longest serving coxswain with two decades of dedicated service to the RNLI. All of us at the station wish both Phil and Andrew, all the very best for the future.'

North Connel youth sent abusive messages

A TEENAGER appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday after sending abusive messages to a girl who was prepared to act as a witness against his brother.

William Stephen, 19, from Ibrox, Ach Na Beich, North Connel, admitted sending the messages on October 4. The charge states that the messages were 'menacing and abusive in nature'.

Stephen, who appeared from police custody, had his sentence deferred for the preparation of reports.

He was released on bail with a special condition attached and will be sentenced on November 13.

Crianlarich community tourism plan wins awards

A COMMUNITY initiative in Crianlarich to make the west Perthshire village more attractive to visitors has won two significant awards.

Crianlarich into Action (CiA) was set up in response to plans for a traffic bypass of the village in a bid to safeguard local business from a potential loss in passing trade. This week, the group submitted a £200,000 bid to the Big Lottery Fund to develop the village's path project, which will see new walking routes complete with associated signposting established throughout the area.

Royal Concert Hall - complete with a £100 cheque to be used in the community - while this week the CiA project as a whole received Stirling Council's Provost's Civic Award for its comprehensive community engagement programme.

So far, the project has seen volunteers clear Lower Station Yard under the guidance of Alan Smailes. For his own efforts, Mr Smailes received an award from the Paths for All scheme at a ceremony at Glasgow's

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100 hours of unpaid work for Oban woman who 'petrified' neighbour

AN OBAN woman who 'petrified' one of her neighbours has been ordered to carry out 100 hours of unpaid work.

Isabel Macarthur, 37, of 14 Combie Court, Oban, was previously found guilty of behaving in a threatening or abusive manner after a trial at Oban Sheriff Court.

Giving evidence, the victim said there had been numerous incidents of this type and the police had asked her to keep a diary of them.

Macarthur had also been shouting and swearing on May 5, and challenging her victim to fight.

A non-harassment order, forbidding Macarthur to approach or contact her victim, was also handed out by the court.

Macarthur was fined £100 for a separate charge of a breach of bail conditions as she was not in her home when officers attended on August 29.

Annual sponsored walk raises £800 for ABCD

ARGYLL Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD) has raised more than £800 from its 11th annual sponsored walk.

The event, held on Sunday September 30, welcomed 50 walkers who completed the five-mile walk around Gallanach and Glen-shellach before finishing up at the hospital for tea, coffee and home made eats. So far £800 has been raised from the walk and, as always, all money raised will be spent within Argyll.

This year the charity has spent nearly £10,000 on a variety of local projects in keeping with the aim of the trust.

Oban man admits threatening behaviour

AN OBAN man pled guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by uttering threats and pointing in an aggressive manner.

Kevin Gillan, 24, of 7E Miller Road, admitted the offence, on Soroba Road on August 26, when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Sentence has been deferred until November 13 for the preparation of reports and Gillan has been released on bail.

Barcaldine pupils' fund grows for orchard and garden project

GREEN fingered pupils at Barcaldine Primary School have been handed a £2,000 boost to help grow their own fruit and veg.

Scottish Sea Farms' Heart of the Community Trust granted the school the cash to erect a polytunnel to improve the garden club, orchard and outdoor classroom.

The school's 17 pupils have already grown beetroot, potatoes, leeks and sweet peas. Head teacher Jeanette Morrison, said: 'The grant from Scottish Sea

Farms will allow us to erect a polytunnel next spring and we can try growing fruit like nectarines, peaches and grapes.'

'We also want to offer the local community the chance to adopt a raised bed within our school garden. The children's produce has already been entered in local horticultural shows and the whole experience is both fun and educational.'

Calum MacAlpine, operations manager at Scottish Sea Farms, said: 'This is a really positive project that will help to teach

children about growing and eating a healthy range of foods.'

'The Heart of the Community Trust is all about assisting initiatives that will benefit local areas where our company operates and we are delighted to be able to help Barcaldine Primary School. I look forward to tasting some of their fresh lettuce with our salmon.'

Application forms for the Heart of the Community Trust can be found on the Scottish Sea Farms website at www.scottish-seafarms.com.



Pupils at Barcaldine Primary School celebrate the grant from the Heart of the Community Trust, which will be used to build a polytunnel next spring. Representing Scottish Sea Farms' is Calum MacAlpine, extreme left.

Mull castle finds new owners

THE FORMER owner of Torosay Castle on the Isle of Mull said it was more relief than disappointment to have sold the property that has been in his family for nearly 150 years.

Chris James, the fifth laird of Torosay Castle, has sold the property to a Swiss family bringing to an end the 147-year ownership.

He said: 'It would have been lovely to be wealthy enough to own a castle but I wasn't and I'm quite relieved to be out. My family can now move on and just be a normal family, not in the public eye.'

The castle, which had been on the market for three years, sold for more than £1.65 million and the new owners will be using it as a private home - after they have carried out roof repairs estimated at over £1 million.

The James family will be staying on Mull and have bought a house near Lochdon. Some of the land originally attached to the castle has been retained and may be farmed in the future.

No insurance

AN OBAN man was found guilty of driving with no insurance after a trial at the town's sheriff court. James Muir, 51, of 3A Glencruit Drive, was found to have committed the offence on June 1. Sentencing was deferred until November 1.

Pipes and appointments as Oban Speakers Club hosts first meeting of the winter

AT THE first winter session meeting of Oban Speakers Club retiring president John Maclean started the evening by installing his successor Guido Faccenda who then introduced the first-half chairman Eamonn Arthur.

Eamonn then welcomed speakers Jim Fraser who spoke on Famous Scottish

Castles, even managing to make a mention of one castle which caused him some embarrassment.

John Maclean then took the members by surprise when he played pipe music as he approached the lectern.

He went on to speak about the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Third speaker Bill Leech provided an excellent contrast to the first two speakers when he spoke on ospreys in Scotland.

Their critics were respectively Archie Mcphail, Tom Clegg and Martin Wilson. Timekeeper was Willie Melville and a comprehensive and fair general evaluation was given by Roy Wood.

Oban says big 'yes' in BID vote

'I think having a 90 per cent 'yes' vote is probably a record in Scotland' says chairman

THE STEERING committee behind Oban's hugely successful Business Improvement District (BID) campaign has vowed to persuade doubters of its merit over the next five years.

Friday's vote saw a landslide 'yes' vote in favour of establishing a BID company, with 90 per cent of the 49 per cent turnout giving the five-year scheme their backing and making Oban Scotland's first whole-town BID.

The turnout represented 57 per cent of the town's rateable value, with 246 businesses in total casting their ballots.

Chairman of the BID4Oban steering group Graham MacQueen said work had already begun to ensure the BID company is up and running on October 31.

He said: 'I think having a 90 per cent yes vote is probably a record in Scotland.'

'We have had huge support from the community, from council officers, elected members and businesses.

'The whole committee was overwhelmed by the result. Now we have a huge responsibility to deliver what has been promised.

'The BID company will work for all businesses, with everyone invited and encouraged to have their say.

'If there is anything they're

not happy about then we want to hear about it and act upon it.

'I'm really hopeful that over the course of the next five years those who opposed the BID will change their mind and see the benefits for Oban - not just for business but for everyone living in the area.'

As a result of the BID creation, all eligible businesses within the 30mph zone will be required to pay a small compulsory levy over the next five years.

The result will be £840,000 investment in the town, with 20 separate commitments to be met.

Argyll and Bute Council will contribute £100,000 towards the BID, plus £203,500 in financial and in-kind support.

Meanwhile, nominations will be invited from all levy payers for the new BID company's directors, with letters going out in the next week to explain the process.

Oban councillor and local authority leader Roddy McCuish said: 'This is an exciting opportunity for Oban, and one that the town has grasped with both hands.'

'By joining forces, local businesses can make the most of all that Oban has to offer and there will be many benefits for the whole of Argyll and Bute as a result.'



BID4Oban chairman Graham MacQueen, left, pops the champagne as the steering group celebrates the BID success. From left, front row: John Forteith, Lindsay MacDonald, Pauline Cameron and Sandy MacArthur. Back row: Raymond Hyams, Andy Spence and Alistair Jackson. 16_14161d01

MSP calls for independent review of Islay healthcare after NHS Highland are 'evasive'

'EVASIVE' action by NHS Highland over the issue surrounding Islay's out-of-hours GP cover has been criticised by Argyll and Bute's MSP.

Michael Russell MSP recently met with islanders, including Islay's exasperated GPs, who have elected to opt out of out-of-hours cover after conceding they could not cope with the workload.

At the time of their decision in July this year, the GPs called for an independent review into healthcare on Islay.

NHS Highland has so far refused to say whether it is even considering a review, although representatives have agreed to meet with the GPs and Islay Community Council's healthcare

sub-committee on October 18. Mr Russell said: 'My view remains that an independent review is required.'

'Such a review was carried out on Arran and I have made that point to health secretary Alex Neil.

'I am frustrated at the evasive answers from NHS Highland and I have addressed this situation as a matter of urgency. NHS Highland is handling this very badly indeed.'

Withdraw

The island's overworked GPs gave notice of their intention to withdraw from emergency cover in July, saying the move had come as a last resort, after attempts to work with Argyll and Bute's Community Health

Partnership (CHP) fell on deaf ears. Provisions in their contract state that if alternative emergency cover cannot be found, the GPs could be made to work on until May 2013.

However, this does not apply to the extra work the GPs do in the island's hospital, meaning an emergency solution to out-of-hours care in Islay Hospital must be found by November 1.

Islay Community Council said it would not comment on the situation until after the meeting with the CHP.

In a statement NHS Highland said it had 'acknowledged' calls for a review of healthcare services on Islay.

The health board claimed there has been 'ongoing dialogue'

with the GPs, adding: 'Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership engages in regular reviews of local health services to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of our local communities, address the specific challenges of providing these services in remote and rural communities, and in particular in the case of Islay, reflecting the context resulting from the GMS Contract.'

'We particularly recognise that the ongoing provision and sustainability of primary care, out-of-hours and community hospital services on Islay has proved particularly challenging in recent times as a result of unforeseen changes in circumstances locally.'

Police crackdown on 'obstructive parking'

OBAN Police will be issuing fixed penalty notices to drivers in the town who cause an obstruction when parking their cars, as of next week.

The four-week 'Think Before You Park' initiative, run in conjunction with Oban Fire Station, ends this week and, as *The Oban Times* went to press, firefighters had leafleted more than 80 vehicles that were causing potential obstructions.

The initiative followed concerns from Oban Fire Station that its appliances were unable to negotiate certain roads because of inconsiderate parking. Particular areas of concern highlighted during the initiative have been Gallanach, Mossfield and Dalintart.

New CHORD consultants to cost further £2.5 million

THREE consultants to work on the CHORD project in Argyll are being sought at an expected cost of £2.5 million.

This figure is in addition to the £272,000 already spent in Oban on external consultants who are working on 'project development and assessment'.

No work has yet been undertaken in the town.

Argyll and Bute Council is now looking to recruit three individual framework consultants to work in Oban, Rothesay and Dunoon.

The consultants will assist the programme manager by providing 'incidental plans, studies, advice notes, cost estimates and attendance at meetings'.

They will also provide 'support and advice to project managers as required' and cover for project managers as and when required.

The consultants will also assemble teams to 'design, manage and deliver individual projects' and provide financial and environmental advice.

Delivery phase
A council spokeswoman said: 'Work on the CHORD programme is now entering its delivery phase.'

'Detailed design, planning and supervision will be needed over the coming three years to see successful delivery in all five towns. The most efficient way to ensure that we have the expertise in place and ready to work is through a framework - this removes the time and expense involved in issuing individual briefs and commissions for every piece of work that will be required, however small.'

'The overall CHORD programme is valued well in excess of £30 million and the framework will provide three companies who will be actively involved in delivering this programme over the next three years. Any services taken forward under the new framework, for CHORD projects, will be paid for using approved CHORD funds.'

There is a three-year contract on offer, starting on February 1 2013, with a one-year option to extend. Requests to participate in the tender process must be received by November 7.

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Morvern Lines

THE FINEST man-made object in Morvern is without doubt the richly coloured stained-glass window in Kiel Church commemorating Donald MacMaster who died at Garmony, Mull, on May 8 1896 aged 103 years.

The 'MacMaster Window' as it is referred to locally, was manufactured in 1899 by Stephen Adam (1848-1910) who was recognised as one of Scotland's leading stained glass artists of the Victorian era for the quality and craftsmanship of his work.

It shows Abraham with a long-flowing beard and staff, bowed down by age, below a winged angel standing among tall lilies.

There is a Gaelic inscription meaning 'He who waits long enough at the ferry will eventually get across'. The Biblical text, 'Thou shalt go to thy Fathers in Peace, Thou shalt be buried in a good old age,' is from Genesis, 15:15.

Donald MacMaster, born at Kiel on January 5 1794, was the son of Hugh MacMaster and Christina Kennedy.

His ancestors on his father's side were tenants at Inniebeg and Kiel and those on his mother's side were tenants at Achabeg, all in Morvern.

His maternal grandfather Angus was out in the '45 and fought for Prince Charles Edward Stuart at Culloden.

Leaving Morvern in 1818, after qualifying as a blacksmith, Donald went to Ardnurchan and settled in Ormsaigbeg near Kilchoan where he married Margaret MacLachlan.

They had a family of 10, six sons and four daughters, all of whom predeceased him except two daughters. From Kilchoan, Donald and his family moved to Drimigha, on the Marquis of



The MacMaster Window in Kiel Church.

Northampton's Torloisk Estate on Mull, before taking a lease in 1874 of the large farm of Garmony near Craignure.

Donald was an elder of the Church of Scotland. When he died his remains were taken across the Sound of Mull aboard Captain MacVicar's smack, the 'Mary Ann' of Lochaline, to the West Pier.

From there they were carried the last part of the journey shoulder high and laid beside his forebears in Kiel.

Last month one of Donald's great, great grandsons, David Vince, along with his wife Jill, made the 10,000-mile journey from their home in Australia especially to visit Kiel to see the 'MacMaster' window and the family headstones in the adjoining graveyard.



ANOTHER man covering great distances recently is one of Morvern's police officers, James Boundy from Strontian, who has just completed walking all the Munros in Scotland.

Starting with Ben MacDui in the Cairngorms and finishing on Carn Mor Dearg near Ben Nevis, James covered more than 1,550 miles of walking and 515,000 vertical feet of climbing – the equivalent of starting at sea level and climbing Mount Everest 18 times.

Congratulations - a goal surely worth achieving. Never let it be said that the police in Lochaber are not fit!



WITH the arrival of autumn, grey seals have left the Morvern shores to breed and give birth.

The nearest and largest breeding location where this takes place is Fladda on the Treshnish Isles off the southwest coast of Mull.

Here, for probably thousands of years, countless numbers of these six feet-long leviathans have been hauling themselves up amongst the rocks and bracken to have their pups often hundreds of yards away from the water.

Grey seals can live for 46 years and are reputed to be increasing by seven per cent a year. Pups are born from the end of September until mid December. In much the same way as the crocodiles of the Nile know where and when the wildebeests migrate and lie in wait for them, sea eagles arrive on Fladda in late September to feast on the rich placenta.

A nearby skerry known as 'Sgeir na h-Iolair' – the rock of the eagles - indicates they were doing so in the days long before they were hunted to extinction.

Iain Thornber.

Kilmallie celebrates new shinty clubhouse

Blue ribbon day for village

IT WAS a real blue ribbon day in Caol on Saturday as Kilmallie Shinty Club celebrated the official opening of its new clubhouse at Canal Parks.

And pride of place went to the Kilmallie side who brought home the Camanachd Cup for the first and only time in the club's history, in 1964.

At 1pm, in bright autumn sunshine, John MacIsaac, Dougie MacLachlan, Derek Fraser, Alastair MacIntyre, Hughie MacIntyre, Frank Sweeney and John Murphy cut the blue ribbon with special Kilmallie-blue scissors, to loud cheers.

The magnificent seven – all now aged 70 or over – each received a bottle of Ben Nevis malt whisky as a token of thanks for their attendance on the day.

An hour earlier, players, former players, supporters and guests assembled in Caol Community Centre before parading 400 yards to the clubhouse for the formal opening ceremony at the new building, which boasts a meeting room, changing and shower facilities, a referee's room and a kitchen.

Speakers included club chairman Hughie MacIntyre, who spoke of his pride in what had been achieved and thanked all those involved.

He said: 'It is great to see past, present and future players here to celebrate this occasion.'

And club secretary Linda Campbell told the crowd: 'It is just fantastic to see to see this beautiful blue and white building. I'm getting quite emotional now.'

Sarah Robertson of SportScotland said the clubhouse 'was one of the great examples' of how to increase community participation in sport.

She said: 'Much of that is down to you guys in forging strong

links with the local community and local schools.'

Provost of Lochaber and local councillor Allan Henderson paid tribute to the huge local effort over the years in securing both Kilmallie's future at Canal Parks and the clubhouse.

'We are proud to be able to help finish the job and that you took it on and formed this partnership,' he said. 'You can't raise the money these days without that.'

Camanachd Association president Archie Robertson congratulated the local community and pointed out good facilities were key to getting young people involved in sport.

He said: 'I wish this community all the best and hope they get a lot of benefit out of this.'

Get captain of the 1964 team, 79-year-old Dougie MacLachlan, thanked the committee for the invitation 'to do the honours'.

His voice breaking with emotion, he added: 'Unfortunately some of our team members are no longer with us.'

Built with support from SportsScotland, Highland Council and the Camanachd Association, the clubhouse is a community resource. Users include the shinty team, Lochaber Welfare League and Fort William FC youth team.

Kilmallie's first, second, under-14 and under-17 teams, plus veterans players enjoyed a short round-robin competition after the ceremony.

Lochaber Rural Education Trust volunteers Isabel and Linda Campbell, Mary Stafford, Morven Cameron, Lorraine MacKinnon, Isabel MacPhee and Elma Flannigan laid on a buffet for everyone in the community centre.



Aonach Mor and Ben Nevis provided a scenic backdrop for the parade from Caol Community Centre to the new clubhouse. 20_41shinty10



Magnificent 7: Members of Kilmallie Camanachd Cup-winning team of 1964 each received a bottle of fine malt whisky, courtesy of Ben Nevis Distillery. 20_41shinty02



Bill McMillan presents Kilmallie Shinty Club chairman Hughie MacIntyre with a brass bell to mark the historic occasion. 20_41shinty03



Kilmallie supporters turned out in force to celebrate the occasion. 20_41shinty07

New sub sails into base

THE ROYAL Navy's newest submarine sailed into HM Naval Base Clyde recently, escorted by Ministry of Defence Police's Clyde Marine Unit

Ambush, the second of the potent new Astute Class attack submarines, will go through sea trials before entering service next year. The seven Astute Class boats planned for the Royal Navy are the most advanced and powerful attack submarines Britain has ever sent to sea. They feature the latest nuclear-powered technology, which means they never need to be refuelled and can circumnavigate the world submerged, manufacturing the crew's oxygen from seawater as she goes.

The boat's Commanding Officer, Commander Peter Green, said: 'It was very satisfying bringing Ambush into her home port for the first time after initial sea trials.'

From 2016, the base port of all the Royal Navy's submarines will be HMNB Clyde.

New Dalavich playpark plan swings into action

A PLAN for a new Dalavich playpark swung into action last week when the group behind the project submitted its first planning application.

Dalavich Improvement Group has submitted plans to construct the first phase of its playpark near the village social club, which will be made up of a wooden climbing frame.

It is envisaged, subject to planning permission, the

whole project would include playpark equipment and a Trim Trail through the forest. The playpark plan followed a community consultation, which indicated a strong majority of residents wanted more for young children, to try and attract young families to the village.

Subsequent fundraising over the course of a year has generated £14,000, including £7,500 from An Suidhe Windfarm Fund.

Agnes Fleming of the Dalavich Improvement Group said: 'Because we are in the middle of forest area we thought a playpark and a trim trail would be suitable. We have done well to raise enough money for phase one, but there is still some way to go to build all three phases of the project. This community has worked extremely hard to get to this stage and Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council has been very supportive.'

A83 emergency access road announcement

TRANSPORT Scotland is expected to make an announcement on Monday on which road will be used as the emergency diversion route when the A83 is blocked by landslip.

More than £2million is to be spent upgrading either Old Military Road or the adjacent Forestry road as part of measures to mitigate problems caused by landslips at the Rest and Be Thankful.

Transport Scotland had previously pledged to have a diversion route in operation by November. While Old Military Road is the preferred option, land ownership complications prevented Transport Scotland confirming the route.

A spokesperson confirmed work on the common access to both roads is progressing 'satisfactorily' but said nothing else could be confirmed at this stage.

21st birthday bash in Oban ends in alleged assault

A 21ST birthday celebration in Oban ended badly for one young Glasgow man when he was the victim of an alleged assault in George Street in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The young man, who was in the town with friends, was approached by a 22-year-old local man, who stands accused of punching him in the face.

Cars damaged

TWO CARS parked next to each other in the Shuna Terrace of Soroba, Oban, have been scratched. The owners reported the vandalism to police, who are seeking any information into the incident, which occurred between Sunday and Monday.

Anyone who can assist with the enquiry can contact PC Daryl Burnside on 01631 510 500.

Work starts on all-weather sports pitch at Appin

APPIN has two months to wait before it gets its new all-weather sports pitch, following the start of the construction phase on Monday.

But that will be easy for a community that first started the project seven years ago when youths in the village approached the community council, frustrated at a lack of activities for their age group.

Appin Community Sports and Leisure Association (ACSALA) took up the project and had to overcome rejection from the Aggregates Fund to then successfully apply to LEADER and SportScotland for the majority of the cash required.

The finished sports pitch will mainly cater for football, tennis, basketball and shinty.

Gerry Boyle, head teacher at Strath of Appin Primary School, where the pitch is being built, said: 'Sport in Appin needs a boost just now, especially at primary school age, because when it rains the grass pitch here is unplayable.'

'A huge deal of credit must go to the committee because there has been a lot of hard work involved. We thought the Aggregates Fund was the golden egg and when we were turned down for that things went a bit quiet for a while.'

'But we got some fresh impetus from the right people and saw it through.'

As part of the project, ACSALA has also gained funding for a part time sports co-ordinator, over the next two years at least.



The new Oban Lifeboat coxswain, John Hill, left, takes over the helm of the Mora Edith Macdonald from former coxswain Ronnie MacKillop. 15_41john01

Campbeltown man is new coxswain at helm of Oban lifeboat

THE NEW coxswain of Oban Lifeboat says the role is his first 'real job' at the age of 57.

Campbeltown-born John Hill, who succeeds Ronnie MacKillop, took up the post on Monday after serving on the Campbeltown crew since 1999.

He told The Oban Times: 'I have previously been self employed a farmer and a sailing instructor, so this is my first real job!'

'I have always had a fondness for the sea and my partner, Lynne Pirie, and I really like

Oban. I always said that if a job came up in Oban I would go for it.'

John joined the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) as a trainee before working his way up to deputy coxswain in Campbeltown.

He has also been willing to cover other stations across Scotland and has previously worked at Oban, Islay, Tobermory and Mallaig stations, as well as four other stations on the east coast.

In fact, John once spent so much time in Buckie that he

joined the crew there, while still a member of Campbeltown RNLI.

He said: 'Because I have covered in Oban before, I know a bit about the area and I have met most of the guys on the crew.'

'Everyone involved with the Oban station has been so welcoming and I am delighted that Ronnie has decided to stay on as a crew member and deputy coxswain.'

'His knowledge of the area and experience will be a great help to me.'

Luing post bus rumour untrue says council leader

'It was never the council's decision to end the post bus – we'll be more than happy to continue the service'

FEARS that Argyll and Bute Council are trying to end the post bus service on the Isle of Luing have been branded untrue by the council leader at a community meeting.

No saving

The meeting was called by islanders after they were told the Royal Mail bus, which is the only means of public transport on the island, would be stopped next April.

Roddy McCuish told a packed Cullipool Hall on Monday night it wasn't the council which made the decision to end the post bus and he would be asking Royal Mail to continue the current service.

Mr McCuish, who was a postman for 25 years, has been at the wheel of the bus as a relief driver and said, in his view, there would be no budget saving to Royal Mail if they ended it.

He said: 'It was never the council's decision to end the post bus – we'll be more than happy to continue the service – it has worked perfectly for years. Residents need this post bus, not only for just now but for

the future of the island.'

Mr McCuish also proposed a further meeting be called, which representatives from Royal Mail would be invited to attend. Islanders want them to see 'what an excellent service the bus provides'.

Norman Bissell, vice chairman of the Isle of Luing Community Trust attended the meeting. He said: 'It was a very helpful and encouraging meeting and everyone felt reassured to have the council on our side.'

'Everyone agreed the post bus is a valued lifeline service for not just schoolchildren but older residents too.'

But Felicity Macfarlane, a spokeswoman for Royal Mail said the company had been told by Argyll and Bute Council they 'wouldn't be needed' but they would now try and 'clarify' the council position.

She said: 'Royal Mail need to clarify their position with Argyll and Bute council about the tendering of the Luing post bus and we will review our position dependent on the outcome of discussions with the council.'

Tiree is finalist in UK-wide top 'town' award

THE ISLE of Tiree has been named as a finalist in a UK-wide social enterprise award – to find the country's greatest town.

The Social Enterprise Awards has taken the unusual step of short-listing the island in the town category in recognition of how social enterprise has helped the broader community.

As the only Scottish representative, Tiree will go up against Blackpool, Wallsall and The Black Country, Alston Moor in Cumbria and Grimsby.

The Three Community Development Trust, who submitted the island's name to the awards with support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, has been key in helping boost the island's economy, operating community turbine Tilley to generate funds for local groups and good causes.

Since it starting operating in March 2010, the turbine has raised more than £130,000 for local causes, sparking life into numerous projects and being used to help provide facilities and services for young and old alike.

Tish MacKinnon, who chairs the Trust, said: 'We're proud our community is benefiting from the social enterprise work going on here.'

'To be shortlisted for this award is an achievement in itself and to be recognised at a national level would be fantastic.'

Tiree will discover if it is the UK's greatest 'town' when the Social Enterprise Awards final takes place at Lord's Cricket Ground in London on November 12. The ceremony will be hosted by comedian and television presenter, Sue Perkins, most recently seen on the Great British Bake Off.

Loch Earn aims to boost tourism through falling in love

THE LOCH Earn Tourism Initiative (LETI) is hoping to boost tourism to the area – by making people fall in love with it.

LETI's new marketing programme aims to spark fresh interest in the idyllic part of Scotland, which lies within

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

Winter

Focusing on promoting year round trips as a natural destination, LETI will remind visitors its members extends the same welcome to guests in the winter

months as they do in the summer.

Shena Campbell has been appointed to LETI to deliver the campaign. She has previously worked with Burns Stewart Distillers, The Beardmore Conference Hotel, the UK launch

of easyJet, Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences, Imes Group, 15 Royal Terrace Day Spa and Strathcaron Hospice.

LETI's Kim Proven said: 'Our plan is to attract new and repeat guests by re-awakening their

senses to the beauty, interest and diversity of what we have to offer.'

'We believe that Shena's skills and experience will be of great value to LETI in this process and we look forward to working with her.'

Famous Isle of Mull railway moves further down the line



'Victoria' on the turntable in Craignure. The flag ship of the Mull line is now looking for a new home.

THE MAJORITY of the Mull Railway has found a new Scottish owner and could be on public display in a few years time.

The track and equipment was removed from the grounds of Torosay Castle on the Isle of Mull after the property was sold.

The new owners, believed to be a Swiss family, did not wish to continue leasing the land for use by the railway.

Over the past two months the rails have been lifted and stacked ready to be delivered

to a new private owner who wishes to remain anonymous. The equipment sold, diesel locomotive Frances and all carriages, track and point work, could go on show to the public in the future.

Mull Rail's director Nick Dodson, who organised the sale of the railway equipment, said: 'This is one of the saddest duties I have had to perform.'

'I've watched the line develop over 30 years and tried hard to save it from closures. We are now into the end-game for what was

a popular and most successful venture on Mull. The line brought thousands of visitors to Torosay over the years and meant a lot to the people of Mull.'

The sale did not include Victoria, the popular steam locomotive and star of the BBC Children's television series *Balamory*.

The company is now inviting offers in excess of £30,000 plus VAT for its flagship 2-6-2 steam locomotive. The closing date for submissions is December 10 2012. Interested parties should

contact the company at info@mullrail.co.uk.

Under the terms of the lease, the company still has to demolish the station buildings, workshop and other buildings. They must also clear the platform and other features and restore the landscape.

Mr Dodson added: 'I wish the new owner of the Mull equipment every success with his proposed venture. I want to record my thanks to all those who created, ran and supported the old Mull line.'

World-class Islay golf haven in pipeline

Scottish Water agrees to connect Machrie Hotel to mains supply

PLANS to revitalise Islay's Machrie Hotel are in full flow after Scottish Water agreed to connect the premises to the mains supply, a year after it came under new ownership.

Baroness Sue Nye, an advisor to former Prime Minister Gordon Brown, and her husband Gavyn Davies, a former partner at Goldman Sachs and former chairman of the BBC, bought the hotel last year.

However, its private water supply, which had come from a nearby loch, was deemed unsuitable and negotiations began with Scottish Water to join the mains supply.

Baroness Nye said: 'The meetings with Scottish Water and Business Stream have resulted in an excellent result for the Machrie Hotel.'

'It has been a long process but we could not move forward until we had a sustainable water supply. We are talking about a year's work, which in the life of The Machrie is not a lot.'

The couple have plans to

"Our aim is to make the Machrie Hotel the destination island links course in Scotland."

Baroness Sue Nye

turn the Machrie into a world-renowned golf course and resort but admitted there are more hurdles to clear before their dream is realised.

'We already have a fantastic golf course but we need to bring the hotel up to the same standard. We bought the estate to preserve an important part of Scottish golfing history but our aim is to make the Machrie Hotel the destination island links course in Scotland.'

The couple, aware they still have a planning process to pass, remain tight-lipped over their future plans but an overhaul

of the dining area and a new clubhouse will be priorities. However, they are also aware the Machrie was a popular venue for group functions and wedding parties before it closed at the end of 2010 and hope to retain such community involvement.

Islay-based councillor Robin Currie, who helped in discussions with Scottish Water, said: 'It took a long time to get to this stage and I was worried for the new owners because they were being unfairly criticised by some for not doing anything with The Machrie. The important thing now is they can put a planning application together and that is good news for the island. The hotel will provide a lot of work for people.'

Baroness Nye and Mr Davies had already purchased new equipment for the golf course, allowing the greenkeeper to make improvements.

This has resulted in the Planet Golf website naming it among its top 100 courses outside of the US.



Baroness Sue Nye and Gavyn Davies with their dog Massie at the Machrie's first tee. Photograph courtesy of The leach.

High hopes on next generation broadband

HIGHLANDS and Islands Enterprise is stepping up efforts to ensure local businesses and communities can reap the benefits of next generation broadband (NGB).

The drive will be led by the agency's digital and broadband chief Stuart Robertson, who is taking on a new dedicated role as director of digital Highlands and Islands. Mr Robertson said: 'There are serious challenges which the region has to face - technical, geographical and financial hurdles. However, the prize of a truly digital region is well worth fighting for.'

HIE is seeking major private sector co-investment for extending NGB across the region at a cost of £200-300m. The agency is in talks with BT on implementing NGB, which delivers superfast upload and download speeds. HIE expects to reach agreement with BT by the end of 2012, allowing the project to get under way next year.

'Budget blog' calls for thoughts

HOW TO generate extra income to help fill a £30m funding shortfall over the next two years is the latest topic on Highland Council's 'budget blog'.

Views are also being sought on whether the council should charge more for certain services. Finance, resources and housing committee chairman Dave Fallows, who runs the blog, said: 'I'd like your thoughts on whether we should increase charges above inflation for some of the services we already charge for. These include car parking, parking permits, ferry charges, school lets, harbour charges and burials and cremations?' The consultation runs until October 31 at www.highland.gov.uk.

Highland dancers compete at Portree

MORE than 90 Highland dancers from the west Highlands, Barra, Uist and Lewis have taken part in a nationwide competition in Portree.

The annual event, the second organised by Skye dancing group Danaisairean an Eilean, saw all levels of dancers competing, from beginner to premier, in the Fingal Centre, Portree.

Local winners included Lauren MacDougall of Portree in the national novice 11 and over category, Holly Tait from Kilmuir in the novice nine and

under Highland trophy and Staffin's Lexy Macleod in the primary section age six.

Portree's Kirstin MacDougall was named runner up in the Premier Highland adult section and Skye premier dancer with the most points. Also among the prizes were Uist dancers Rebekah Macintosh, Chloe Anne Humberstone, Isla Macdonald, Lauren Skinner, Anna Maire Beaton and Mhairi Ann Macinnes. Megan Crawford, Leah Mackay and Alicia Mackenzie from Lewis,

Claire Mulhearn of Harris, and Catherine Sinclair from Barra all took home trophies.

Danaisairean an Eilein Sgìtheanaich won the James MacDonald Shield for dancing school with the most points.

Event organiser Karen Campbell said: 'We are delighted with the turnout and especially grateful to those who travelled great distances to make it such a successful day. The committee and the dancers themselves are delighted that the event ran so well in its second year.'



Prizewinners from the Danaisairean an Eilean competition.

Dutch 'Celtic' band to play Killin, Dalmally and Oban

A DUTCH band which tours Europe playing Celtic folk will visit Oban, Dalmally and Killin this weekend.

Ogham is an exciting and vibrant traditional folk band from Holland which has spent many years visiting and touring Scotland to gain inspiration from the country, its people and, particularly, its music.

A lively and energetic band

which performs a wide variety of songs, ballads, jigs, reels, hornpipes and Strathspeys, from traditional Scottish music to their own compositions, the group regularly plays to large audiences in Holland, Germany, Belgium, France and Denmark.

Ogham is the name of the Celtic written language used by the druids. The marks consisted of horizontal and diagonal lines

and were inscribed in stones, which have been found throughout Scotland and Ireland.

Ogham will visit Oban's Skipinnish Ceilidh House on Friday before playing Dalmally Community Centre on Saturday. The group finishes its tour of the west Highlands with a gig at Killin's Capercaillie Bar on Sunday before playing Edinburgh's Queen's Hall on Monday.

Royal Mail introduces delivery to neighbours

POSTMEN and postwomen will, from this week, be allowed to leave packages that don't fit through the letterbox with neighbours if the intended recipient is out.

Regulator Ofcom approved regulatory changes allowing Royal Mail to roll out its 'delivery to neighbour' programme across Scotland.

Until now, Royal Mail was the only major delivery company not allowed to deliver to a neighbour as part of standard practice.

Mike Newnam, Royal Mail's chief customer officer, said: 'This means that customers will benefit from the improved convenience during the busy Christmas period and beyond.'

Historic Scotland draws plaque nominations to a close

NOMINATIONS close this week for a Scotland-wide search for those historic figures deserving of a commemorative plaque for their creative endeavours.

Historic Scotland's scheme will see chosen historic figures honoured with a plaque on a building or location that was particularly synonymous with their achievements.

Nominations must be submitted by Friday. The inaugural year of the

scheme, each year will see 12 individuals honoured, with a different theme to be announced for each year.

In addition to the call for nominations, students at all of Scotland's art schools have been invited to create a design for the plaque, in a competition which will see the winning entry used as the official plaque and the student receiving £500. Designs must be submitted by the end of the month.

Smartcard train fare scheme expected to be extended to west

A TRIAL to replace traditional train tickets with SmartCards is expected to be extended to the west coast of Scotland but officials will not confirm when.

A SmartCard is a credit card-sized piece of plastic that contains an electronic chip allowing rail tickets to be stored and read electronically.

ScotRail is currently trialling Smartcards for weekly, monthly and annual season tickets on the Edinburgh to Glasgow via Falkirk High route.

A spokesman said: 'It is going well, with the main benefit increased convenience for customers. That includes passing through station gates more quickly.'

Mull Lines



PUPILS at Lochdonhead Primary School escaped their classroom for a day last week to sing at Duart Castle.

The youngsters were performing two songs to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support as part of their world's biggest coffee morning event.

The children delighted onlookers with renditions of 'The Wheels on the Bus, sung in Gaelic, and 'Three, Six, Nine' which was accompanied by ukeleles.

IONA Primary School pupils opened their doors and invited all the island in to the school to be part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning.

The children were raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support - but there was a little bit of a difference in the school as it was also Roald Dahl dress up day and the pupils all came looking like their favourite character from one of his stories.



A NEW carriage, named after the historic Duart Castle on the Isle of Mull, has joined the luxurious Northern Belle train.

The Northern Belle is part of the Orient-Express collection and recently travelled from Edinburgh Waverley to Oban.

The Duart carriage is the train's seventh carriage. The Maclean clan's ancestral home is depicted in detailed marquetry panels at each end of the 24-seat carriage.

Six other panels along the walls show pink heather and white flowers found on Mull set against a dark walnut burr. The marquetry was crafted by Dunn & Son, which also produced artwork for the Titanic.



STAFF at Duart Castle on the Isle of Mull dressed up in style for the recent Macmillan Cancer Support coffee morning.

The staff donned St Trinian's school uniforms for the day which helped raise more than £400 from the 'very kind and generous donations of customers'.

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ISLAY

ISLAY'S paramedic team has taken delivery of a new ambulance, a Peugeot Boxer vehicle, to replace the older Mercedes ambulance which has seen much service on Islay's roads over six years of duty.

The NHS mobile Skills Unit returned to Islay on Tuesday and will be on the island for three weeks.

This year, training will be open to the general public, including individuals and families, using the British Heart Foundation's 'Heartstart' course. Each course is free of charge and lasts for two hours.

The training gives information on how best to deal with an unconscious casualty, giving cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and other topics.

Joe Hughes, Islay's Paramedic Team Leader, said: 'We hope as many people as possible will use this opportunity to take up this training. There may be a sudden illness or accident at any time or place and being able to give just 15 minutes of CPR can help to save a life.'

Local NHS staff give up their own time to supply this training on behalf of the British Heart Foundation.

An instructor training day will be held on Friday October 25 for any member of the public wishing to become a 'Heartstart' course instructor.

Contact Joe Hughes on 810512, at the ambulance station or on 07912 301313 to set a day and time for training.

DP ENERGY visited Islay to give local information days on its proposed West Islay Tidal Energy installation, which is expected to harvest tidal energy using an array of up to 30 tidal turbines in seas to the southwest of the Rhinns of Islay.

DP Marine Energy and DEME Blue Energy has a Crown Estate agreement for lease of this area. Blair Marnie and Clodagh McGrath of DP Energy attended

to discuss and answer questions. The events in Bowmore, Port Ellen and Portnahaven villages provided information on the developers, tidal resources and environment in the area and a scale model of the tidal turbine was available to view.

There was much public interest in how the installation would affect the visual seascape in the area as seen from the coastline and it appears from DP Marine's projections that the turbine array would have small visual impact when viewed from the shore. Information was given on the proposed subsea and overland connection cable.

Results from the feedback questionnaire given to those attending showed general support for the project and for renewable energy in principle.

THE ISLAY Sessions, a weekend of popular and well-attended traditional music events held last year in Port Charlotte, will take place again from Friday through Sunday, November 16 to 18.

The festival will feature some of Scotland's finest traditional musicians, together with Islay's local musical talent.

Amongst the performers will be the much-awarded young band Rura, singer Maeva MacKinnon, fiddle player Gillian Frame and songwriter Findlay Napier. Islay's Maverick Angels will appear, delivering their distinctive style of ceilidh music for dances.

BOWMORE and Port Ellen primary schools have each held pre Mod ceilidhs.

Tutors and children have all put in countless hours of learning and practice of the children's songs, poems, instrumental music and recitations for this year's upcoming National Mod competitions and these ceilidhs were an ideal preparation and practice for their competitive performances.

The ceilidh evenings were much enjoyed by encouraging audiences of locals and visitors.



Dr David Bickle, the Barra GP who retired last week.

Surprise retirement party for doctor

BARRA'S popular doctor Dr David Bickle was thrown a surprise retirement party last week, celebrating his 30 years on the island.

Castlebay Community School hosted the get together for Dr Bickle, who enjoyed a ceilidh and a meal with islanders. Duncan Johnson then played a tune written specially for the retiring doctor, who said he thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.

The event truly was a surprise to the doctor, with local police playing their part in directing him to the school for the celebration. Meanwhile,

the community gathered to raise funds for his own Barra tartan kilt.

Dr Bickle is well thought of on the island and helped deliver many of the island's children during his time at the Clach Mhile surgery in Castlebay. He recently received a medal for 25 years of service to Barra Lifeboat as medical officer.

Dr Bickle plans to use his spare time to sail around the world on his catamaran *Calagorm*.

LUING

LUING History Group's annual Summer exhibition attracted people to the island from all over the west coast to enjoy the displays as well as home-baking.

The event, which was held over the last weekend in August, had the theme *The Island of Luing and the Surrounding Sea*. There were lots of information panels, with photographs depicting the rich history of fishing in the waters around the Isle of Luing and the Firth of Lorne.

There was also a piece on the early history of the island and its shores and a section on George Orwell's narrow escape from the sea when he was living on Jura.

The exhibition was enjoyed by locals and visitors, with many people making the trip across on the ferry to view the display.

THE SUN was shining for Luing Social Committee as members held a soup lunch and car boot sale in Cullipool Hall.

The event, on September 22, had the hall buzzing with chatter as happy shoppers, who had secured their bargains at the car boots, went on to enjoy a soup and filled roll lunch.

The day raised more than £400, with many of the stalls making a nice sum for their

charity. Luing Fitness Group had a stall run by Brenda Wilson and she was very pleased to take over £100 to help fund an instructor and for hall rental for the group. Luing Fitness runs on a Thursday in Cullipool Hall.

The social committee is run by parents of children under 16 on the island and they organise functions such as the Halloween party which will be held in Toberonochy Hall on Saturday October 27 between 6.30pm and 8pm.

They are also running the bonfire night soup supper which will be held on Saturday November 3 in Cullipool Hall, immediately after the bonfire at the quarry in Cullipool.

There will also be a Christmas party in Cullipool Hall on Saturday December 22 between 6.30pm and 8pm.

KILCHRENAN

A KILCHRENAN father and daughter have raised £1,707 for Macmillan Cancer Support after a series of arduous hill climbs.

Iain and Karen Alexander recently completed the Ring of Steall, a climb that includes four Munros and three 'tops' around the Steall waterfall in Glen Nevis.

Although the forecast for Lochaber was fair to good, upon completing the first Munro, An Gearanach, hill fog closed in

and the pair didn't see anything until halfway down the last Munro, Sgurr a'Mhaim. Iain said: 'Although the walk took us 10 hours and we had to use a compass all the way around, it was enjoyable and something to remember.'

'We raised an amazing amount of money for the charity and we would like to thank all the people who supported us, from Kilchrenan Inn quizzes, Taynuilt Post Office, Karen's Just giving page and the many businesses and individuals who dug deep to help this very worthwhile charity.'



Iain Alexander during his Ring of Steall climb.

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TIREE

ONE OF the most interesting stories at this year's Tiree Wave Classic will come from Lucy Robson, who is giving up a legal career for the sport.

Lucy, 32, has worked in property law since 2004 but next month gives it all up to become a full time windsurfer aiming for the Professional Windsurfers' Association (PWA) women's world championship title.

Tiree will be one of her last amateur events, and she will complete the transition to pro status by moving to Fuerteventura in the Canary Islands with her two-year-old daughter.

However, Lucy is hoping for a successful event in the Outer Hebrides, currently sitting in second place in the BWA UK Wave Tour standings with only two events left.

She said: 'I don't know anyone else who's done it like me. Most girls go on the pro tour from their teens, but I just feel you have to live your life and that's what I'm doing.'

'I'm really excited about heading back to Tiree. It's so remote, it feels like an adventure. There's a big fun factor there and real a buzz around the island.'

'It's a great place to windsurf with beautiful beaches and I can't wait to get back up there and really begin the new phase of my life.'

After Tiree, Lucy heads to Morocco for 10 days to perform stunts for *Land*, a new windsurf movie she helped script.



Lucy Robson will swap the court room for the Canary Islands after competing at this month's Tiree Wave Classic.

CLADICH

CLADICH'S Violet McGrigor could see her artwork across the United States following a competition at her school.

A boarding pupil at Crieff's Ardvreck School, Violet was asked along with other pupils from nearby schools to draw and paint a figure wearing a uniform of the American civil war as part of a Celebrate Crieff competition in order to commemorate the Campbell Brothers, who lived in Crieff before emigrating to the USA.

The brothers became heroes on opposite sides during the conflict. Violet and class-mate Ella McIntosh were chosen as winners and their designs will be painted onto collectible ginger-beer style bottles by Buchan Thistle Pottery. The bottles will then be sold both home and abroad.

Down Your Way

Taynuilt

MUCKAIRN Church Guild began its new session by deciding on the theme for the next three years: 'Who we are and whom we serve'.

The guild met on October 1 in the church and secretary Marlene Stanners gave a reading before everyone sang the hymn *Look Forward in Faith*. Pastor Carol Leech and Canon William Fraser both spoke on how they had each come to faith and grown in faith from when they

were very young and how people and circumstances had influenced them. Everyone was impressed and touched by their sincerity.

The guild dedication was held during the Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday.

The next meeting is to be in Muckairn Church on Monday afternoon, November 5. Dr Callum Henderson will speak on the guild project Comfort Rwanda, to which everyone is welcome to attend.

SOME of Argyll's Royal National Mod hopefuls performed at a packed Taynuilt Village Hall for the village's annual pre-Mod ceilidh.

The audience enjoyed a feast of music last Saturday from soloists and choirs competing at next week's forthcoming National Mod.

The ceilidh also served to open the winter ceilidh season in Taynuilt.

Youngsters Molly Gregory-Beard and Ealasaid MacLean both sang beautifully, while Ealasaid impressively recited poetry and told a story in Gaelic.

Adult soloists F Ann MacLean, Iain MacPherson and Andreas Wolff also gave first class performances.

Oban Gaelic Choir, Taynuilt Gaelic Choir, Taynuilt Ladies Choir and Coisir Ceann an Tuirc all produced excellent choral singing. Taynuilt's Audrey Paterson, in particular, was a busy person as she conducted both the Taynuilt choirs and Coisir Ceann an Tuirc, in the absence of their regular conductors.

Fear an taighe for the evening was Donald Harrison who jokingly apologised for his lateness, in reference to his fire fighting exploits to save his apary.

Every performer was wished good luck for their competitions in Dunoon.

THE COMMITTEE behind the development of the Taynuilt pavilion faces an anxious wait for a response from SportsScotland for funding, which could make or break the project.

Having already raised £21,000 in community funds and secured a £191,000 grant from LEADER, Taynuilt Sports Council hopes the application of £214,000 from SportsScotland will be enough to get them over the line.

Time is pressing, however, as the LEADER funds must be used before the end of 2013.

The project would see the pavilion converted into a 21st century sports hub, which would allow the village to host larger sporting events, such as

shinty cup finals. It would also assist the numerous clubs and organisations in the village that use the pavilion.

The pavilion, a former classroom at Dalmally Primary School that has been in place for 40 years, is coming to the end of its life, according to the sports council.

It is currently used by Taynuilt Shinty Club, Taynuilt Junior Shinty Club, Etive Vikings Rugby Club, EckO Orienteering Club, Oban Cricket Club and a new volleyball club.

It is also used by non-sporting organisations, such as Taynuilt Gaelic Choir and the Taynuilt Play Park Group.

Next week Down Your Way visits
Ardfern/Kilmelford with reporter Faith
Orr. Contact Faith on 01631 568000 or
email forr@obantimes.co.uk.

LOCHALINE

IT WAS a record-breaking fundraising day for Macmillan Cancer Support in Lochaline Village Hall on Saturday September 29.

Well over 100 people attended the coffee morning and soup lunch, with Lochaline folk joined by visitors from Fort William, Strontian, Oban and Mull.

The 10 sales tables in the hall helped raise an incredible £1,710 at the annual event – the seventh since it began in 2006. The record total easily outstripped the £1,100 raised in 2011.

Twenty five helpers gave up their time to help make the day a success, volunteer Helen Watt told *The Oban Times*.

She said: 'We had such great support from everyone – it was a real community effort. It was the best ever.'

The village hall committee generously waived any charges for the use of the premises as a goodwill gesture. A donation was also made to Blythswood.

LISMORE



Elaine Robertson congratulates John MacCormick on his success with 'Fergie McCrow'.

Scarecrow competition trail raises a smile

MORE than a few colourful characters could be seen on Lismore recently as part of the island's popular scarecrow competition.

Between the island's two ferry terminals, 22 scarecrows had sprung up, creating a trail that amused everyone who travelled it. Among those to stand out were a traffic policeman, a saint, a stranded climber and an errant baby. Local councillor Elaine Robertson was judge, picking Fergie McCrow – complete with squeezebox and a dram – as her winner.

The children's competition was more difficult, so all entrants in the category received prizes. In addition to the judge's verdict there was also a public poll that, with the help of the

Lismore community website, allowed islanders and friends near and far, to support their favourites.

The poll attracted more than 150 online and paper votes and much enthusiastic lobbying both on Facebook and in the island's shop and cafe. The voters chose Guy Windy from the adults and Lismore Primary School's Miss Strick, Jim and Caitlin in the children's class. Although it is too late to vote now, all the entries can be seen on www.isleoffismore.com.

The competition was a great success with many islanders wishing they had entered. Talk has already started of next year's event and organiser Hazel MacCormick is vowing it will be even bigger and better.

INVERLOCHY



Teddy toddle fun around village

Inverlochty Nursery tots went on a teddy toddle round the village to raise funds recently. The youngsters all brought in a teddy from home and the sun even came out as they left the school on a chilly autumn morning. 20.141teddy01

GLENCOE

A COFFEE morning in Glencoe House on September 28 has raised more than £900 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The occasion was the first time the building had been opened to the public following its transformation from a former NHS hospital into luxury holiday accommodation.

House manager Anne Goh told *The Oban Times*: 'The coffee morning was a lot busier than we thought and I am happy to report we made £917 for Macmillan. Glencoe Hospital closed in early 2009.

ISLAY LETTER

School concert

PARENTS and grandparents, along with a number of great grandparents, gave their support to the youthful entertainers who appeared at the pre-National Mod concert staged by Bowmore Primary Gaelic Choir in the school on September 28.

Opening proceedings were the massed choristers, led by Iseabail MacTaggart, in a spirited rendering of Duncan Reid's 'Suas Leis a Ghàidhlig'. Singing the songs and speaking the verse, all prescribed National Mod competition pieces, were Kayla Woodrow, Abbie and Morven Brown, Rachael and Ryan Johnston, Kimmi Rae, Elizabeth Aitchison, Emily Gray and Jona Scott. The audience also enjoyed solos from Isla MacCalman, Laura Woodrow and Lewis Davey, along with duets from Anna and Eilidh MacDonald, Kayla Woodrow and Elizabeth Aitchison, and Hannah Gillies and Zoe Wells. Mairi MacGillivray's fiddle selections went down a treat as did the lively input from Bowmore Primary Folk Group.

The host choir, led by Helen Gillies, sang in tuneful unison, Coisir Og Ghàidhlig Ile, conducted by Arlene McKeirrell, showed their winning ways as did the ladies from Coisir Ghàidhlig Ile, with Iseabail at the helm. Bowmore Primary School choir provided the penultimate puirt-a-beul entertainment and the choristers gave the en masse rendering of 'Soraidh leibh'.

Most of these entertainers are now heading for the National Mod in Dunoon and we wish them every success.

Jura parish link

THE ISLAND parish of Jura is now triple linked with Islay parishes of Kilarrow and Kildalton and Oa following a special service conducted by a member of the Argyll Presbytery in Jura Parish Church on September 26. The service also marked the



Left to right: Rev Dr Rob Barlow, Donald L MacKinnon, Argyll Presbytery Moderator, Rev Dr Roddy MacLeod and Rev Dr Kenneth Ross.

introduction to the Jura charge of the Rev Dr Rob Barlow who also covers the parishes of Kilarrow linked with Kildalton and Oa.

The service was attended by worshippers from the three parishes involved as well as representatives from Argyll Presbytery. Representing the Presbytery was its Moderator Donald L MacKinnon, Kilmor and Oban, the Rev Dr Kenneth Ross, Netherlorn, and the Rev Dr Roddy MacLeod, formerly of Cumloddan and current editor of the Life and Work Gaelic supplement 'Na Duilleagan Gàidhlig'.

Pre-service lunch was enjoyed at the Antlers Bistro as was the hospitality and fellowship extended by the Jura congregation.

Jura has been without a minister since the sudden death in March 2010 of the Rev George Campbell.

Song launch

ISLAY bard William Livingston's poetic account of the Battle of Loch Gruinart, fought in 1598 between the MacDonald of Islay and the MacLeans of Duart in Mull, is considered to be among the best in wide output of the Gartmain-born

poet. Three sections of the work have now been put to music for the first time by Clare Jordan who hails from Connell and is a Sabhal Mòr Ostaig graduate in traditional music.

The new composition is now included in the repertoire of Coisir Ghàidhlig Ile and will be among its 'own choice' selections at the National Mod at Dunoon.

Locals and visitors can hear the new work in its entirety as it is premiered tonight, Thursday October 11, at the RSPB Centre at Aoradh. Entry is free.

Memorial service

A MEMORIAL service for Dr David Hardie, GP at Kilarrow and Kilmory districts from 1989 to 1997, and latterly resident in North Berwick, will be held in Bowmore's Round Church on Saturday October 13, beginning at 11am. Among the officiating clergy will be the Rev Dr Frank Gibson, a former minister of the Kilarrow and Kilmory parishes.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX, telephone 01496 810658.

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Famous Oban son celebrates 50 years

By EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

HE IS known as one of Edinburgh and Scotland's leading project managers, having helped bring the Royal Yacht Britannia to the capital, but Robert (Bob) Downie's work ethic was forged in Oban's restaurant trade.

The former head boy of Oban High School celebrated his 50th birthday on October 5, having already achieved much in his career.

Bob was born in Oban, son of Robert Downie and Marion Boni. He grew up there and remains proud of his roots and his own family history.

He has fond memories of his grandfather Jo Boni's ice cream shop, which was sited near to the school and he still has the family ice cream recipe stored safely away.

He attended Rockfield Primary School and Oban High School, where he became head boy in 1979, and his passion at school was rugby.

Very competitive in his drive to win, he captained the school rugby team, played for Oban Lorne, occasionally Mull and was captain of the North of Scotland Schools Senior Rugby XV.

From the age of 14, Bob already had a very strong work ethic and he worked summer jobs in The Studio Restaurant and McTavish's Kitchens and can still make a rather tasty scone today!



Bob Downie: work ethic was forged in Oban.

Bob left Oban to study, initially in Edinburgh, where he dabbled with a catering and tourism course. However, realising that he wanted to work with his head rather than his hands he moved to Glasgow where he gained a BA in Public Administration from Glasgow College of Technology in 1984, followed by an MSc in Urban Development at The University of Strathclyde.

Economic development
Having spent part of his degree course on student placement with the Scottish Development Agency SDA (the government's economic development arm) he became smitten by this kind of career and his first permanent job after leaving full time education was in economic development with Copeland Borough Council, Whitehaven, Cumbria.

However, it wasn't long before

he was asked to apply for a permanent post with the SDA and to return to Edinburgh, where he remained with SDA and its successor organisation, Scottish Enterprise, for nearly 14 years.

During these years Bob initiated, managed and delivered a rather unique range of projects, ranging from chairing the world's largest winter festival, Edinburgh's Hogmanay, to chairing the Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race in 1995.

He was also instrumental in increasing the number of international conferences coming to Edinburgh, numerous hotel developments, theatre refurbishments and visitor attractions.

Indeed it is hard not to walk along a street in Edinburgh where there isn't a project that Bob has

had a role in improving over the years. It was when he was in his role as Scottish Enterprise's tourism manager that he worked with the port authority to develop the bid to bring the Royal Yacht Britannia to Edinburgh after her decommissioning from her Royal duties.

Following the success of the bid to secure this beautiful piece of history for the public to enjoy Bob was then asked to form the company to develop and run the trading company and charitable trust, established to protect the yacht's interests and preserve her for the nation.

Education
In April 1998, ownership of the Royal Yacht transferred to The Royal Yacht Britannia Trust. This organisation's overriding charity objective remains to advance the education of the general public concerning the Royal Yacht Britannia.

In doing so, it aims to 'promote the permanent and dignified preservation, maintenance and use of the Royal Yacht Britannia, in a manner consistent with her dignity as a former Royal Palace'.

Over the past 14 years the Royal yacht's fortunes have gone from strength to strength and Britannia has been beautifully preserved and maintained while opening her doors to hundreds of thousands of visitor each year.

Since opening in 1998, new areas of the ship have been opened to the public and a delightful new tea room on the



Bob was head boy at Oban High School.

upper deck built. Bob's passion for improvement in the customer experience led him to develop The UK Customer Experience Conference in 2003.

He continues to serve his industry and has been chairman or vice-chairman of many strategic industry initiatives and strategies.

He is one of the few Scottish people to have won the Catey Leisure and Tourism Award (the hospitality industry's 'Oscars') for outstanding service to the UK tourism industry.

Bob was recently contacted by the owners of the classic 1930s ocean-racing yacht Bloodhound, formerly owned by Her Majesty The Queen and Prince Philip in the 1960s and aboard which Prince Charles and Princess Anne learned to sail.

Sailing
Bloodhound was purchased by The Royal Yacht Britannia Trust and, during the months of July and August, Bloodhound is berthed at Oban Marina and available for day sailing

around the Western Isles, crewed mainly by former Royal Yachtsmen from Britannia. It was with great pride that Bob and his family sailed back into Oban Bay, aboard Bloodhound. With his entrepreneurial flair, Bob was also behind the launch of 'Bloodhound blonde ale', in partnership with Oban Brewery, which features caricatures of the crew on the label.

This of course has been an eventful year when the Royal Yacht Britannia's Royal Barge and two escort boats set off on their 400-mile road journey to London from Edinburgh. The barge was at the head of the Royal procession carrying the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to the pageant barge ahead of about 1,000 boats for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations on the Thames. Bob and many of his team were very proudly in the escort boats behind.

Away from work, Bob is very much a 'home bird' and is at his happiest with his family or reading *The Oban Times*.



A young Bob Downie in Oban.



Countdown to Royal National Mòd



Seudan Acadamaigh An Tairbeart (Tarbert Folk Group) is hoping for a Mòd victory to top off a very successful year.

Argyll performers hope to hit right note on home turf

A HOST of Argyll hopefuls will welcome the chance to perform on home turf when the Royal National Mòd returns to Dunoon this week.

The eight-day celebration of Gaelic music, dance, drama, arts and literature, opens tomorrow (Friday) and runs through until the end of next week.

Cowal-based Argyll and Bute councillor Dick Walsh said: 'The people of Dunoon are well-experienced in offering the sort of hospitality which creates a memorable event, and I know the town will rise to the occasion with warmth and enthusiasm.'

Although a local event for Argyll competitors, a strong representation is expected from the Western Isles and West Highlands too, not to mention other parts of the globe.

In the headline solo competition,

the Mòd gold medal, the women's line-up includes South Uist's Sandy NicDhòmhnaigh Jones, Lismore's F Ann MacLean, Fort William's Emma Leitch, Skye's Lauren NicFhearghais and Mira Byrne and Ceitidh Smith from Kyle of Lochalsh.

Skye men John Howieson and Ruairidh MacCarmaig compete in the men's section.

In the traditional gold medal competition youngsters Clare Jordan, from Oban, and Mull's Georgina Durie are Argyll's representatives.

One group that said it was particularly looking forward to the event was Seudan Acadamaigh An Tairbeart (Tarbert Folk Group), which has had an incredible year, performing at Glasgow's Celtic Connections festival and Scottish Fantasia in Edinburgh's Ross Theatre.

The band - Emma MacFarlane,

Hannah Prill, Niamh MacKaveney, Emma Kok and Naomi Stanesby - has previously won a host of regional Mòd titles in the folk group category and is hoping to be named overall winner in the national event on Monday.

Susan Rhodes, who arranges the music for the group, said this would be the band's second appearance at the national Mòd.

'In 2010 they came third, they did really well and the standard of their music and Gaelic is much better now than it was,' Susan said. 'The arrangements are more interesting and complicated.'

The youngsters from Mid Argyll will join Highland dancers, pipers, musicians, singers from all over the world at the Mòd, organised by An Comunn Gàidhealach, the world's oldest Gaelic organisation.

Male voice choir celebrates with debut album

ARGYLL'S male-voice Gaelic choir, Còisir Ceann an Tuirc, hopes to release its debut album in Dunoon next week - 10 years after the choir was formed.

Deich Bliadhna (Ten Years) was recorded by Oban's Finlay Wells, from Nutshell Studios, at various locations throughout Argyll. The most notable venue was

Inveraray Castle, by kind permission of His Grace the Duke of Argyll, making Còisir Ceann an Tuirc the first choir to record inside the venue. The choir takes its name from the

crest of the Clan Campbell, the boar's head.

Còisir Ceann an Tuirc is conducted by Connel's Joy Dunlop, who also produced the album.

Islay bard's work brought to life in ambitious project

A YOUNG Argyll musician has composed three songs for Islay's Gaelic choir using the texts of a famous bard from the island.

Clare Jordan, who is from Oban but now lives on Islay, was commissioned by Còisir Gàidhlig Ìle to compose choral arrangements from Islay poet Uilleam MacDhùnlèibhe's *Blàr Thraigh Ghruineart* (William Livingstone's Battle of Gruinart Strand).

The three songs are to be the choir's own choice pieces for competitions at the 2012 Royal National Mòd in Dunoon next week but will be given their first public performance at a special event tonight (Thursday) at the RSPB visitor centre at Gruinart, near the scene of the 1598 battle between the MacDonalds of Islay and the Macleans of Mull, the subject of MacDhùnlèibhe's epic masterpiece.

Còisir Gàidhlig Ìle's conductor Iseabail Mactaggart said: 'The seeds of this project were sown almost two years ago. We wanted to inspire the young people of Islay through the folklore and the stories from the island's history that had inspired the great Gaelic bards of Islay. This led to a project with

Clare Jordan, in the summer of 2011, which focused on the work of four Islay bards; William Livingstone, Duncan and Charles MacNiven of Kilchoman, and Duncan Johnstone.

Blàr Thraigh Ghruineart is a rich and emotional epic that deals with a very important event in Islay's history. The poem is full of Islay folklore and vivid imagery.

'We have selected three segments from the poem which capture the raw power and the drama of the story. Clare's melodies and arrangements are superb, and we are very much looking forward to performing these pieces at the National Mòd and for Islay audiences.'

Ambitious
Clare said: 'This was a brave and an ambitious project, as neither the choir nor I could have had any idea of what these pieces would be like until they were completed.'

'The choir's commitment to the project and their supporting me has been wonderful.'

'I was not familiar with Uilleam MacDhùnlèibhe's work until I worked with Iseabail, but *Blàr Thraigh Ghruineart* provided rich pickings for a musician.'

Ard-amas airson Gàidhlig

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SRUIGHLEA STIRLING	INBHIR NIS INVERNESS
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CATAIBH IS GALLAIBH SUTHERLAND & CAITHNESS	AN T-OBAN OBAN
ÌLE ISLAY	NA DREÒLLUINN MULL
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Shinty and football could team up on pitch

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

FORT William FC may team up with shinty's governing body the Camanachd Association to create a new all-weather 3G pitch in the town.

The move comes in the wake of local councillors giving their backing to an ambitious Lochaber Sports Association proposal for a new indoor sports hub at Lochaber High School.

LSA's plan includes resurfacing the school's current 3G playing surface - which does not meet the Scottish Football Association's requirements for a home park for Fort and is too small to host top-level shinty.

Camanachd Association chief operating officer Torquil Macleod told *The Oban Times* he was supportive of the planned sports hub, but the 3G pitch would not be big enough for anything other than training for shinty teams.

Happy

He said: 'To create a full sized shinty pitch is not an easy thing to do, or a cheap thing to do. We would be more than happy to sit down with anyone who is interested to discuss creating an all-weather pitch we can use for matches.'

Fort chairman Derek McGilivray said the club had not been contacted by the Camanachd Association, but said an all-weather pitch would benefit both his club and the wider sporting community. He told *The Oban Times*: 'We haven't heard anything officially, but the club welcomes any initiative that helps us to fulfil our Highland League and cup fixtures. An artificial pitch would also help encourage football and other sports in the area.'

Fort have had to fork out for a number of pitch inspections before home games this season, and had to postpone a tie with Lossiemouth at the end of September due to a waterlogged pitch.

NEWSDESK
01631 568000



Charlotte and Murdo Maclean: feel let down by NHS treatment given to their late sister Joan. 20_f41murdo01

Two months of rock face road works

TRAFFIC on the A82 will be reduced to one lane at Glen Righ Forest 10 miles south of Fort William for two months to allow the Forestry Commission to continue work on the rock face above the road.

Temporary traffic lights will be in place from Monday October 22 to Friday December 21. The lane will be closed 24 hours a day on weekdays but will be cleared at weekends.

Project manager Alan Dickerson said: 'The closed lane will help ensure the safety of road users as our geo-tech team installs catch fencing and carries out some scaling on the rock face above.'

The next stage of the ongoing tree felling at the site is due to start in January.

Rockfall closes one lane of A82

A ROCKFALL a mile north of Corran Ferry saw one lane of the A82 closed on Tuesday afternoon.

Police directed traffic, a short distance from the location of ongoing tree-felling work by the Forestry Commission.

The restriction was still in place yesterday.

Parents' shock as McGilp leaves

PARENTS in South Lochaber have reacted with dismay to news that popular Kinlochleven High School head teacher John McGilp will not be returning after the October break.

The 38-year-old, who at 33 became Scotland's youngest head when he took up the post in 2008, is to become acting head of 990-pupil Thurso High School from October 29.

The secondment is at least until next summer and offers the prospect of a permanent post.

Mr McGilp made the shock announcement 'with great regret' on Friday, the last day of the summer term.

In a letter to parents, he said: 'At this point in my career it is too good an opportunity to miss.'

When I was appointed by the parent council, they said 'they wanted a good five years out of me'. I hope I have not disappointed.

'I have worked hard for the wider school community and I hope that this is appreciated. I however feel that it is time for someone with fresh ideas to lead

the school at least for an interim period and for my own career it is time for a fresh challenge to make sure I don't stagnate.'

Mr McGilp was 'assured' an advert for the job would be published shortly, adding: 'Mr Milne will take up the post of acting HT on a short term basis.'

Stewart Borland, chair of the parent council, said the move came out of the blue and was 'a complete shock'.

Consultation
He said: 'You would think that a change of head would happen in a strategic way, be well-planned and have lots of consultation. The summer holidays are the time to make such critical switches, not right in the school term.'

One long-serving teacher, who did not wish to be named, said: 'There will be virtually no handover and existing staff will have to cover the roles of head teacher as best they can.'

'This puts extraordinary pressure down the line and with so much development work going on in school curriculum, it's education and exam

performance of our children that will suffer.'

Parent and school council member Laurence Young said the Scottish Government's vision of 'Parents as Partners' now rang hollow.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We have been completely side-lined here, and now question why we should bother. We have had a strong and supportive Parent Council at Kinlochleven High School, but this nasty and high-handed move by Highland Council leaves us breathless and dismayed.'

'This latest bombshell strips away all vestiges that there is an interest in the views of local children, teachers and parents and simply beggars belief.'

Mr McGilp said: 'I am excited about the opportunity of working in Thurso, a school with a very good reputation in a beautiful location.'

'I have been heavily involved in my current post in forging links with the wider school community, something I hope to continue during my secondment.'

Anguish over sister's poor hospital care

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by

STEPHEN NORRIS

snorris@obantimes.co.uk

NHS HIGHLAND has changed its medical procedures after an elderly Skye woman died in agony from a blocked bowel in Broadford Hospital.

Joan Maclean passed away aged 87 early on March 20, just hours after being transferred in a critical condition from Portree Hospital.

Following their tragic loss, Miss Maclean's distraught brother Murdo, 85, and sister Charlotte, 84, who lived with Joan in their Carbot croft house, formally complained to the NHS about her standard of care.

Speaking to *The Oban Times* at his home, Mr Maclean detailed his complaint stating that medical staff failed to record Joan's bowels had not moved during her two-week stay at Portree, where she had been receiving treatment for infected swollen legs.

It was only after Charlotte complained to doctors and nurses four days before Joan died, he said, that she received strong laxatives, but it was too late.

Mr Maclean demanded the root cause of Joan's constant pain, why treatment was 'withheld' and essential bodily functions never checked.

He also asked why a scan

carried out at the Belford hospital in Fort William in February 2010 had not been followed up, despite it showing a cyst on her bowel. The siblings are convinced the growth was behind Joan's almost constant abdominal pain over two years at home before her admission to Portree on March 5. They allege local doctors in Carbot were unaware of the scan result, meaning they never treated or monitored the cyst, which they believe blocked and perforated Joan's bowel, killing her.

Mr Maclean told *The Oban Times* that chief executive Gary Coult had since apologised for the lack of documentation over Joan's bowel function.

He said: 'She did receive treatment, but it was too late. In consequence, they have adopted a regime where bowels are checked, recorded and reported on each nursing shift.'

'If patients' bowels have not moved for two consecutive days this will be recorded and appropriate medication prescribed.'

'Due to duplication of places within the documentation where bowel movement could be recorded we now use a specific place on the SEWS chart for recording all activity.'

'We have added a specific audit process of the documentation to ensure that bowel activity or lack of activity is recorded accurately and all actions required are appropriately followed through. We are also ensuring that patients who are in hospital and have been prescribed opiates are monitored more closely.'

NHS Highland told Mr Maclean

'Joan was given laxative and transferred to Broadford overnight, screaming with severe pain as there is no doctor on at Portree after 11pm, and was just put down.'

'I went over to see her, but there was no response. The doctor did not even come to explain anything to me.'

He added: 'Old folk are being denied treatment to keep NHS expenses down. We just want to help other people - that's why we are doing this. At least now if the bowels are not working for two days they have to give some treatment then.'

'That was not the case at Portree Hospital until we complained about it, and I'm glad I did because it might help some other poor soul.'

'If we had known we would have sent her for private treatment, which would have prolonged her life. Patients are afraid of being admitted to hospital as no inquests are ever made by the NHS.'

Over a cup of tea in the living room, Charlotte told *The Oban Times*: 'The night before Joan died she was moaning and moaning on the bed, but still told me 'you better get that last bus home. I never saw her alive again. It broke my heart.'

Joan's CT scan was 'normal'. A small cyst was evident but did not give clinicians 'cause for concern.'

At Portree, Miss Maclean had complained of 'severe pain' and was treated with laxatives and morphine. 'At no point' was treatment withheld. Nurses and doctors acted 'appropriately and professionally' and 'did not neglect' care, although there was 'a delay' in commencing treatment. We sincerely apologise...and offer our sincere condolences for your loss,' the letter stated.

See leader page 10.

NHS vows to improve documentation

IN A STATEMENT yesterday, NHS Highland told *The Oban Times*: 'We are now actively managing all patients and ensuring that the Scottish Early Warning System (SEWS) charts are completed accurately and the Senior Charge Nurse has been conducting documentation and care plan audits with staff on a regular basis.'

'We have recently been looking at all our documentation to ensure we are recording information accurately and nurses are being picked up on areas that have not been completed accurately.'

'We are also ensuring that patients who are in hospital and have been prescribed opiates are monitored more closely.'

NHS Highland told Mr Maclean

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Elderly need care too

LINGERING suspicions that our elderly folk do not always receive optimum medical care just when they need it most will not have been eased by the death of Joan Maclean in Broadford Hospital, Isle of Skye on March 20.

Miss Maclean, of Carbost, was in clear distress for days in Portree Hospital where staff failed to record that her bowels had not moved for almost two weeks.

Indeed, it was only after Joan's sister Charlotte informed medical staff of the problem that action was taken, but by then it was too late.

Joan may have been advanced in years, but the NHS is failing in its duty if it does not apply the same professional standards to everyone requiring medical help - whether they are 87 or eight months.

Joan's brother Murdo and Charlotte remain deeply distressed that their sister's life may have been prolonged if there had been a little more vigilance at critical times during her final illness.

They came to The Oban Times not out of spite or malice, but simply out of concern that what happened to Joan should never be repeated.

NHS Highland says it has improved procedures - let us hope they are sufficient.

GLASGOW LETTER

Duncan Chisholm Trilogy

HAVING worked for six years to produce his trilogy of albums of Strathglass, namely Cannich, Farrar and Affric, and with the last mentioned now available, Duncan Chisholm will be appearing in St Andrew's in the Square tomorrow (Friday) at 7.30pm.

Duncan is no stranger to this venue where, on previous occasions, he has had his audience enthralled with his fiddle playing and his stagecraft.

Each of the albums is to be seen as a journey through the glens with Cannich and Farrar being seen by Duncan as novels while Affric is more a collection of short stories. The difference is that the notes being played convey the story instead of words.

Those privileged to have attended a Duncan Chisholm concert will be well acquainted with his beautiful fiddle playing, particularly of slow airs, and of his ability to engage his audience in an informative way interspersed with humour. The St Andrew's in the Square amphitheatre is the ideal location to showcase Duncan's talent and this promises to be an event not to be missed.

Creative MacIntosh Festival

THE ABOVE festival will run from Monday October 15 until Saturday October 20 and offers the chance to enjoy activities such as theatre, music, design and comedy. For those interested in food, there will be the opportunity to explore MacIntosh's Italian sketches and diaries.

Guided walks will also be provided with the chance to visit some of the lesser known works. The church at Queen's Cross will be open each day during the festival although on Friday October 19 and Saturday October 20 entry will be restricted to those who have tickets for the 'Glasgow School of Yarn'.

The opening hours for the church will be Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm with last entry at 4.30pm and on Saturday/ Sunday, 1pm to 4pm. There will also be an exhibition at the Lighthouse in Mitchell Lane.

Glasgow Islay opening

THE OPENING concert of the Glasgow Islay Association, held recently in the Crawford Hall, was a relaxed and enjoyable evening and as has been the pattern for this event in recent years the junior and senior Glasgow Islay choirs provided the entertainment.

Having lost some of their older members in the past year, the juniors, with conductor Jane MacQueen, showed they are still a group of youngsters with considerable ability. They also provided many solo items with

pipers Karen MacDonald and Christy O'Hanlon respectively opening both halves of the concert with singers Christina Gorman, Erin White, Rhianna Boyle, who also gave a poem recitation, and Rebecca Boyle showcasing their Mod preparations.

Special mention should be made of Bridghe Morrison whose terrific accordion playing earned the biggest round of applause of the evening.

From the senior choir, Rena Gertz, from Germany, and now a competent Gaelic speaker, sang a traditional song and Kirsteen Grant and husband Iain sang and then performed a humorous duet much to the delight of those present. Jane MacQueen also sang and the senior choir, with somewhat depleted numbers and conducted by Kirsteen Grant, showed that they are well along the road to mastering difficult Mod pieces.

I had the pleasure of making sure the evening proceeded as smoothly as possible.

Correction

PLEASE note that the annual dance of the Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association will take place in the Queen Margaret Student Union on University Gardens and not in the Glasgow University Union as I intimated in a recent Glasgow Letter.

Royal National Mod

BEST wishes to all competitors for a successful time in Dunoon with hopefully better weather than was experienced at Mod 2011.

Diary dates

Thursday October 11: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Rab Noakes, Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain, Kinlochard Village Hall.

Friday October 12: Duncan Chisholm, St Andrew's in the Square, 7.30pm. Clydebank and District Highlander's Association Ceilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm.

Saturday October 13: An Evening with Alexander McCall Smith and the Really Terrible Orchestra, City Halls, 7.30pm.

Monday October 15: Creative MacIntosh Festival - see above.

Wednesday October 17: Gaelic Quiz, Park Bar, 7.30pm

Thursday October 18: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Kieran Halpin.

Saturday October 20: World Solo Drumming Championships, Glasgow Caledonian University, starts 9am.

Pub scene

GUNNA Sound will be playing in the Islay Inn on Friday and the Park Bar on Saturday. It will be Country Folk in the Islay Inn on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be Willie Cameron/ Martin Pottinger on Friday and Robert Robertson on Sunday.

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

David MacGillivray: drug charges

THE OBAN Times would like to clarify that David MacGillivray, 35, pled guilty to possessing heroin when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court in September.

Mr MacGillivray had originally been charged with being concerned in the supply of the drug but this was reduced by the Procurator Fiscal to a charge of possession.

PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

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



Islay Sunday School trip - 1932

Neil McCuaig of Fairfield, Perth, submitted this week's flashback photograph taken in 1932 on a Sunday School trip at Kilchoman, Islay. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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NTS not listening to Canna families

Sir, I write regarding *The Oban Times'* article on October 4 about Canna.

Members of my family lived on Canna for almost six years until they left just over a year ago.

They loved the life there; they had no problem coping with island life. It's standard for the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) to always say a leaving family 'couldn't cope'.

I was on the island a lot during that time and saw a lot of what went on. The NTS chose to turn a blind eye to many situations that should have been addressed - and it still does. It made many statements to islanders about future plans which were then shelved or ignored.

Yes, they have new roads and a bridge - partly paid for by education - and better boat times. These were needed and it was good they happened, but this is not what Canna's problems are about and if the NTS cannot understand that, there is no future for the place.

It's about people, whom they see as 'needing managed'. If that's the case it should be done with tact and sensitivity. That has obviously not been happening. All five leaving families have made that clear to the NTS and still it doesn't listen or care.

How sad Mr and Mrs Campbell and all the patrons who have funded a lot of initiatives must be. When the Campbell's gave their beautiful island to the NTS, they certainly didn't envisage a community of 10 people, a closed school and no children.

Josephine MacLeod, 72 Kilmallie Road, Caol.

Stone skimming organisers getting greedy

Sir, Your recent article on the Easdale stone skimming event seemed to suggest the land owner was wrong to ask for proof of insurance and that he was being mean wanting £1,000 for the event to go ahead on his land.

Had the organisers not been greedy in trying to get as many people over as possible for what, after all, is not really an Olympic event, I doubt if a demand for money would have been made.

As an Ellenabeich resident I think it's the height of ignorance for anyone to hold an event and say to those attending park your cars by the neighbour's house and if you want to camp you can't do it here just camp around Ellenabeich as they won't mind.

When the numbers were about 200 this was manageable both for the ferry and the toilets on Easdale. And it was more enjoyable.

Figures this year meant cars were lined up as far as Seaview. I'm told the regular ferryman took the day off. Perhaps they think, as I do, that the island is getting too big for its boots.

G Doyle, 41 Ellenabeich, Easdale.

Island RET claim incorrect

Sir, In last week's *Oban Times*, you quoted an SNP MSP saying that Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) was being rolled out to all our islands.

This claim is incorrect. Take, for example, an islander sailing from Gigha to the mainland. The so-called RET fare will be two-and-a-half pence cheaper than the current fare.

RET stands for Road Equivalent Tariff. Taking a car by ferry

should cost the same as driving the same distance. Under the SNP's so-called RET, the three miles from Gigha to Tayinloan will cost a car and driver £9.35. Do the SNP seriously think it costs £9.35 to drive a car three miles?

On my visit to Tiree last week I heard even worse news. The SNP is increasing the charges for large vehicles going to Tiree and Coll by a staggering 50 per cent next spring.

This will put up the price of everything in the islands' shops. In contrast to the SNP's fare increases, the UK coalition Government has helped islanders by cutting fuel duty by five pence a litre.

Let's have no more reports describing the SNP's two-and-a-half pence ferry fare cut as RET.

Alan Reid MP, 95 Alexandra Parade, Dunoon.

Walking on the Isle of Mull

Sir, Regarding Ian Anderson's letter in *The Oban Times* of October 4, I would suggest from talking to my garden visitors, B&B owners and from personal experience that the infrequency of signs and designated, maintained paths is precisely one of the chief attractions of the Isle of Mull to many walkers.

I am a keen walker, but have only ever done one 'official' walk - the West Highland Way.

I hated being 'led by the hand' and will not repeat the experience.

There are many other places to go in the Highlands for those who need everything smoothed out for them.

Lucy Mackenzie, Lip na Cloiche, Isle of Mull.

Nothing to Crow about

Sir, Bob Crow must live on 'Animal Farm' where truth is moulded to suit his purposes.

I expect he would say 'the end justifies the means'.

So, he approves of monopolies in subsidised public transport, though anyone who remembers the latter days of British Rail with its dirty unpunctual trains, surly staff and poor safety record would disagree. Or British Road Services. What a shambles!

But he wouldn't like an absence of competition between supermarkets because his food bill would soar. He wants Britain to leave the EU because he believes tendering of subsidised public services could then be abandoned but he has asked the European Court of Human Rights to outlaw restrictions on unions' right to call strike action. Not very consistent is it?

Contrary to what he says, islanders who participated in the still uncompleted 'Review' are rather in favour of 'unbundling'. They are wary of the devil they don't know, but know the shortcomings of the one they do.

Among these are the fact that around 85 per cent of the crews of the nine larger vessels no longer live locally. These are very well paid jobs - he, of course, earns many times what they do - and we want them here.

Caledonian MacBrayne and former Scottish Governments have inadvertently exported about 500 of our best jobs to England and in a few cases, it is said, even to Spain.

I do not dislike trade unions in principle. I admire German ones which have done so much more for their members.

Although many British unions have been led by imbeciles I respect them when they are protecting their members

from bad employers. I only dislike them when they abuse a monopoly position. In preempting the Ferry Review, Crow is certainly guilty of that. I expect he will get his comeuppance before too long.

James Knight, Craignure, Isle of Mull.

Fine Oban jaywalkers

Sir, As the summer draws to a close without ever really beginning, I cast my thoughts to a possible money-making scheme for Argyll and Bute Council for next summer.

I'm a constantly aghast as I drive through Oban at the amount of jaywalking, to use an American term, that goes on in Oban both from tourists and locals. My proposal is that jaywalking in Oban should be counted as a misdemeanor and a small fine administered for those who commit this offence.

The money gathered would be quite considerable and could be used to pay for Christmas lights, cleaning of pavements, improving shop fronts and so on.

Dorothy Parker, by email.

Oban Primary Campus parking problems

Sir, I have read with interest recent articles and letters in *The Oban Times* with regards to parking at pickup time at Park Primary School, Oban.

I would like readers to know something similar also occurs at Oban Primary Campus at pickup time, something, as was mentioned last week, that could largely be alleviated by the council putting free buses for school children back on the road. Oban Primary Campus has a large car park but for some reason a large number of parents ignore this and park on the road outside the school making it hazardous for vehicles and pedestrians.

Despite letters being sent to parents this continues. Readers might find it interesting to note there are members of both parent councils in Rockfield and St Columbas who ignore the fact there is a car park and park on the road.

Kate Forsythe, by email.

Windfarm bandwagon

Sir, I recently decided to fish one of Oban's more remote hill lochs.

After a 50-minute drive and a 25 minute climb, I reached the loch.

In the past I have fished this loch and been driven mad by the incessant wailing of golden plovers. Aren't they annoying? I've been driven to distraction by the 'peep, peep' of sandpipers. What a racket!

I needn't have worried on this occasion. I heard no birds - but there was the gentle noise of rock breakers, dump trucks and reversing machinery.

It's nice to know that the wind farm bandwagon is reaching the parts that others cannot reach. If I go back to fish this loch next season I will have a nice, shiny wind turbine for company. Its plinth is already in place.

I suppose in years to come I will be able to tell my granddaughter that I remember when you could climb a remote hill in Argyll and not see wind turbines.

I suspect she will run hysterically to her grand mother with tears in her eyes and say 'Grandfather is hallucinating again!'

Iain Moody, Dunbeg.

Parents must do their duty

Sir, You are to be commended for giving publicity, October 4, to the 'We Can Stop It' campaign designed to encourage young men to consider their own behaviour and the role they can play in preventing rape.

I am, however, disturbed by the wording attributed to the young man pictured: 'I'm the kind of guy who doesn't pressure his girlfriend to have sex.'

The impression is given that, provided the girlfriend gives consent, the young man cannot be accused of rape.

This may be true in terms of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009, but this does not mean that an offence has not been committed in terms of a higher law, namely the Law of God. It is called fornication.

It is the duty of parents to teach their children 'the facts of life' and to explain the difference between right and wrong. This would render the Sexual Offences Act redundant.

Donald Jack, 20 Summerside Place, Leith.

Thanks to 'knights of the road'

Sir, May I, through your paper, thank two 'knights of the road'.

Enroute from Oban recently to my home, with a 90-year-old passenger - I'm 80 next year - the clutch in the car 'went' just before we reached Tainyult.

We were stuck at a bend on a hill! As cars whizzed past, I got in touch with the garage to rescue us, but had a long wait. Eventually a kind man stopped and pushed the car back to a safer place, half on the verge.

Dozens more cars passed. Then a wee red van coming towards us came across. A young man in paint-spattered working clothes came and asked if we were 'alright'. His kindness was obvious.

Later, I heard a young man with a red van had been helping a couple whose caravan had rolled down a bank.

Obviously those two men were the sort of people all the others were not! God bless them whoever they are.

Mary Murton, Inverchapel Farm, Loch Eck.

Preservation of Kilmartin Castle

Sir, In 1988 I bought from MacLeod Brothers the ruined castle of Kilmartin.

It now consists of three bedrooms and three bathrooms. On the ground floor there are three rooms with a connecting passage. Above them is a large hall. I only had to import three lintels and the corby stones which were missing from the collapsed north gable. Thanks to the kindness and support of the people of Kilmartin and district, I am now able to claim that a bit of the past has been preserved for the future.

Thomas K Clarke, Kilmartin-Castle.

Tobermory reunion

Sir, I would like to invite anyone who attended Tobermory Junior School before 1960 to get in touch, either at the address below, on 01688 302280 or at margaret_101@fsmail.net with the intention of arranging some sort of gathering next year.

I look forward to hearing from all ex-pupils of Tobermory, wherever you may be.

Douglas MacNeilage, 2 Craigsuir Terrace, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, Argyll, PA75 6PQ.



Beachd Ailein
Ailean Caimbeul

THA MIA' SGRIOBHADH seo is teaghlach eile, an turas seo anns a' Chuimrigh, a' fulang àmhghair uabhasach is leanabh leotha, còig bliadhna a dh'aois, air a goid agus theagamh air a murt.

Chan eil duine nach do dh'fhuiling leithid seo dhaibh fhèin gu bhith air chomas dorainn nam pàrantan is luchd-dàimh a' phàiste seo a thuisinn agus mar is tric a thachras, tha fearg mhòr a' dùsgadh à làrach a' bhòin. Dhomh fhìn, tha na faireachdainn làidir sin ga mo thoirt air ais gu ceistean ceartais is chòraichean dhaoinne anns an fharsaingeachd agus gu sònraichte, còraichean dhaoinne a chaidh an dteadh airson leithid eucoir dhrabasta an aghaidh chloinne.

Nuair a thèid cuideigin a dhearbhadh ciontach a' cron air choreigin agus a thèid e neo i a pheanasachadh, tha mise den bheachd nach eil còir sam bith aca a bhith a' cleith cò iad. Tha aithne phoblach orra na phàirt iomchaidh den pheanas.

Anns a' mhòr-chuid, sin mar a tha a' tachairt aig amannan chithear eucoirach a' falach is iad a' fàgail na cùrtach an dèidh an dteadh. Carson a bhiodh cead aca leithid sin a dhion fhaotainn is an cron air a dhearbhadh orra? Tha mi a' creidsinn gum bheil mòran ann a bheir argamaidean làidir dhomh mu cho cudromach 's a tha mathheanas agus cothrom a thoirt dha eucoirach an dòighean a leasachadh gu math na coimhearsnachd.

Chan eil dad agamsa an aghaidh sin idir, ach tha mi a' creidsinn gum feum urram agus spèis a bhith air an cosnadh agus gum bheil e an urra ri daoine a rinn eucoir dearbhadh gum bheil iad airidh air iomhaigh ùr am measg a' mhòr-shluagh.

Ach 's iad eucoirach pàdophilia is motha a tha nan dragh na mo bharail. Tha tinneas sònraichte air na daoine sin agus chan eil dearbhadh air leigheas sam bith dha. Nuair a thèid neach a dhiteadh airson leithid seo, tha e mar phàirt den pheanas gun tèid an-tainm aige / aice a chlàradh air liosta eucoir dhrabasta, ach nuair a gheibh iad ma sgaoil thathas gun stèidheachadh às ùr anns a' choimhearsnachd gun fhios aig an cuid nàbaidhean mun trioblaid a th' aca.

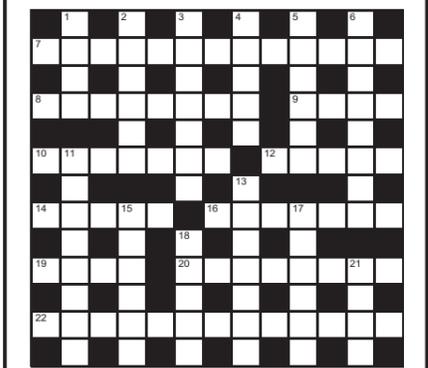
Gu ruige seo, bha seòrsa de chofhurtachd aig pàrantan gun robh na daoine sin air an clàradh. Ach bho thoisich na Sultaine, tha cead aig an fheadhainn a th' air a' chlàr seo ann an Sasainn agus anns a' Chuimrigh tagradh gus an ainmean a thoirt dheth. Thachair seo ri linn co-dhùnadh ann an Ard-chùirt na h-Eòrpa gun robh e an aghaidh chòraichean eucoirach am fàgail air leithid de liosta gun sgrùdaidhean eadar-amail.

THOSE convicted of crimes should always be publicly identified, and there is an understandable concern about convicted sex offenders being 'settled' in communities whose members have no knowledge of their 'illness'.

The existence of the Sex Offenders List gave some comfort but offenders in England and Wales may now appeal to be removed from the list.

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

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Brotherhood (13)
 - 8 Coruscant (8)
 - 9 Command to keep a dog near (4)
 - 10 Lack (7)
 - 12 Milk dispenser (5)
 - 14 To examine by smelling (5)
 - 16 Just a small thing (7)
 - 19 Practised for inner strength (4)
 - 20 An extortionate amount to pay a landlord (4,4)
 - 22 Indiscriminate (13)

- Down**
- 1 Length (4)
 - 2 Space for work... (6)
 - 3 ...framework (7)
 - 4 Bizarre (5)
 - 5 Bare footed (6)
 - 6 And so on (2,6)
 - 11 Friendliness (8)
 - 13 Irregularly shaped (7)
 - 15 This country has the international dialling code of '33' (6)
 - 17 Experienced (6)
 - 18 Really (5)
 - 21 Common sense (4)

Last week's solution

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

Bus stop work leads to temporary footpath closure

A STORNOWAY right of way is to be temporarily closed for works at the former school building at The Nicolson Institute.

The footpath, along Springfield Road from the Smith Avenue junction to Sandwick Road via Ionad Spòrs Leòdhais, will be shut from October 13-24. The restriction is to allow a new bus entrance and turning area to be built, with completion by January.

The Comhairle, Sgoiltean Ùra and FMP has thanked local residents and other members of the public for their continued patience and understanding.

Bumper lottery rollover jackpot

A BUMPER rollover jackpot of £1,000 is up for grabs in this weekend's Fort William Football Club weekly lotto draw after no one won the cash prize last week.

The lotto numbers last week were 9-10-19.

'Cleaner fish' introduced in bid to minimise sea lice

TINY 'cleaner fish' have been successfully introduced at Western Isles fish farms in an attempt to minimise the impact of sea lice.

The Scottish Salmon Company shipped over commercially grown ballan wrasse from Viking Fish Farms' Ardtoe Marine Laboratory at Acharacle.

The move - the first sea transfer of its kind in Scotland - comes after four years of research at the lab into ways of controlling sea lice naturally. SSC marine sites manager Steven Morrison said: 'The transfer was textbook and the wrasse are thriving.'

'It is very satisfying after the time and effort that has been put into this project through training, the preparation of equipment as well as monitoring and recording systems.'

Newsdesk
01631 568000



Sabhal Mòr Ostaig will be at the centre of a new village at Kilbeg.

New Skye village land deal sealed

THE FIRST village to be built in the Highlands in over 100 years is a step closer after a landmark deal was sealed on Skye.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic college in Sleat, will lead moves to create a new settlement at adjacent Kilbeg after announcing the purchase of 40 acres from the Clan Donald Lands Trust (CDLT).

The Kilbeg Village Master Plan envisages a low-carbon, sustainably developed village comprising 93 homes, college buildings for teaching, research and residencies and small enterprise units and workshops.

A residential care home, hotel accommodation, a shop/café bar, a conference/events venue, a central green, public open space and a network of paths also feature.

The rapid growth of SMO into the world's pre-eminent Gaelic education centre provided the catalyst for the ambitious project,

whose development partners include Sleat Community Trust, the CDLT and Sleat Community Council.

Sheriff Roddy John MacLeod, chair of SMO, broke land purchase news at the college's graduation ceremony on Friday.

CDLT, he said, deserved 'great credit' for getting the project off the ground and would have 'continued input', but the project would now be led by SMO, whose own 1996 Millennium Commission proposal for 'Baile Ùr Ostaig' foreshadowed the Kilbeg plan.

Mr MacLeod said: 'The land purchase has been possible only with the generous assistance of the Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Development Trust and funds derived, through the Trust, from the Highland Fund and Sir Iain Noble's Urras na h-Aiseirigh.'

'I pay warm and grateful tribute to all of those. They will be more tangibly commemorated as the

development proceeds. I would also like to express our gratitude for the enthusiastic backing the project has received from local and national government alike.'

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig principal, Prof Boyd Robertson added that the project represented 'a once in a lifetime opportunity' to secure the college's estate development needs and boost Sleat's economic regeneration.

The first sod will be cut at Kilbeg in 2013 - the year SMO celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Phase one will involve laying in all site servicing and infrastructure. The first building is now the subject of a stage two ERDF application and a bid for HIE and Scottish Government funding support.

The Kilbeg plan received full outline planning consent in April, with no objections. Both Highland Council and the Scottish Government fully back the proposals.

Report recommends major UHI shake-up

A NEW report has recommended a major shake up in how the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) is run.

If implemented, the new structure would see the UHI Court - responsible for governance of the university - reduced from 29 members to 19 and including two students. Local college boards will be chaired by independent members.

The report also recommends a 'triumvirate' should be created at the top of the university administration consisting of a principal and two new associate principal posts.

UHI chair Dr Michael Foxley, who headed the working group which produced the report, said: 'I have been enormously impressed by the enthusiasm, energy and commitment I have

seen across the UHI partnership. Although our proposals are structural, they will need behavioural change to make them work. We must use that positive energy to build the trust we need to develop, expand and improve opportunities for learners and businesses throughout our region.'

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning

Michael Russell said he was 'broadly content' with the proposed changes.

He said: 'There are specific challenges with the management of a complex university and I was pleased to see the helpful proposals contained in this report. I look forward to seeing them in action and helping UHI continue to grow and offer new opportunities to students.'

Mallaig High youngsters to stage Macbeth in Inverness

MALLAIG High School youngsters are to put on a special performance of Shakespeare's Macbeth in the Eden Court Theatre, Inverness, on Halloween.

The pupils are one of four school groups from across the Highlands taking part in the event as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival.

Marketing committee member Bryony Kirk, 16, told *The Oban Times* the event was a 'really good opportunity' for the youngsters. She said: 'We get to work with professional actors, and the lighting team



Something wicked this way comes - Macbeth's witches, left to right, Megan Morrison, Abigail Jackson and Louise Duncan.

get to see how they do it.' The Shakespeare Schools Festival works in partnership with the National Theatre to help 700 schools from across the UK

stage abridged Shakespeare productions in local professional theatres.

The show gets underway at 7pm on Wednesday October 31.

Portree meeting turns spotlight on path and right of way disputes

DISPUTES over public rights of way and core paths will come under the spotlight at a meeting in Portree next Friday.

In a report to Skye and Lochalsh Local Access forum, Highland Council access officer Donald Kennedy will update members on restrictions being placed on walking routes, in possible contravention of Scotland's access laws.

Examples include Ord House at Teangue in Sleat, where the owners have disputed the public's right to use a short linking path within the grounds.

Notices saying 'private garden' had been periodically attached

By STEPHEN NORRIS
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to gates, and this summer Mr Kennedy received complaints they had been padlocked.

He wrote requesting the locks be removed, but the landowner would not do so over fears of criminal activity, stating he would respond further through his legal representative.

Currently, reports Mr Kennedy, the gates are not locked and no lawyer's letter has been forthcoming.

Elsewhere, paths in the council's own Storr Woodland have been badly damaged by felling

operations, severely limiting public access.

Mr Kennedy states: 'Measures taken by the harvesting company to improve the crossing points have so far failed.'

And at Plockton, a 'non-compliant sign' stating 'Duncreig Castle Private' had been erected on the Duncreig train stop core path, to discourage walkers from going along it through the castle grounds.

Mr Kennedy reports: 'Contact with the landowner established that there were privacy issues due to the route running past the front door of the castle. The owners would be looking to

submit an application to re-align the core path/right of way but in the meantime agreed to remove the signage.'

On the Fiskavaig to Talisker core path, the local sheep stock club has agreed to replace a 'no people or dogs please' sign with one advising people to keep a sensible distance from animals and to keep dogs on leads at lambing time. After talks with the land manager at Tote House, Skeabost, Mr Kennedy hopes a stile can be put over a fence to give walkers access to and from Loch Snizort shore.

The forum is invited to note the report.

Argyll Ferries ➔ Meadhan Baile Dùn Omhain ➔ Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rioghail
Argyll Ferries ➔ Dunoon Town Centre ➔ Royal National Mod

Argyll Ferries
Seirbheis air leth - Offering you more

Chan fhada idir an t-astar eadar prìomh ionadan farpais a' Mhòid Nàiseanta Rioghail is meadhan Dhùn Omhain agus tha Argyll Ferries a' ruith seirbheis aiseig do luchd-siubhail, a tha seòladh gu tric eadar meadhan baile Ghuireig is meadhan baile Dhùn Omhain. Tha stèisean-rèile Ghuireig ri taobh an ionaid-aiseig agus le aon tiogaid a dh'fhaodas sibh ceannach airson na trèan agus an aiseig, seo an dòigh-siubhail as luaithe eadar Stèisean-rèile Meadhan Ghlaschu is meadhan Dhùn Omhain. Faodaidh sibh cuideachd tiogaid a cheannach air bòrd a' bhàta.

The main Royal National Mod competition venues are just a short walk from Dunoon town centre and Argyll Ferries operate a frequent daily passenger ferry service between Gourock town centre and Dunoon town centre. Gourock train station is situated at the ferry terminal and with combined rail and ferry tickets, it's the quickest route to Dunoon town centre from Glasgow Central. You can also purchase your ticket on board.

- ▶ Faodaidh sibh siubhal eadar Stèisean-rèile Meadhan Ghlaschu is meadhan baile Dhùn Omhain ann an nas lugha na 80 mionaid
- ▶ A' seòladh còrr is 60 turas san latha Diluain - Disathairne
- ▶ Tha seòlaidhean nas anmoiche ann Dihaoine is Disathairne
- ▶ A' seòladh 30 turas gach Didòmhnaich
- ▶ Tha seòlaidhean sa mhadainn is anmoch air an fheasgar a tha ceangal ri trèanaichean gu is bho Stèisean-rèile Meadhan Ghlaschu is stèiseanan eile
- ▶ Faodaidh sibh tiogaid a cheannach air bòrd a' bhàta
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- ▶ Over 60 sailings per day Monday - Saturday
- ▶ Later sailings Fridays and Saturdays
- ▶ 30 sailings every Sunday
- ▶ Morning and late evening connections with trains to and from Glasgow Central and beyond
- ▶ Ticket can be purchased on board



Until further notice							
GOUROCK - DUNOON							
Monday - Saturday							
Rail		Ferry				Rail	
Glasgow Central	Gourock Arrive	Gourock Depart	Dunoon Arrive	Dunoon Depart	Gourock Arrive	Gourock Depart	Glasgow Central
-	-	0620	0645	0645	0715	0722 sx	0814
						0736 so	0830
0555	0636	0645	0710	0715	0740	0752	0842
0625	0713	0720	0745	0750	0815	0824	0916
0655	0739	0750	0815	0820	0845	0906	0958
0725	0813	0820	0845	0850	0915	0923	1003
0735	0828	0850	0915	0920	0945	1006	1058
0828	0909	0920	0945	0950	1015	1023	1103
0836	0927	0950	1015	1020	1045	1106	1158
0925	1006	1020	1045	1050	1115	1123	1203
0935	1027	1050	1115	1120	1145	1206	1258
1025	1106	1120	1145	1150	1215	1223	1303
1035	1127	1150	1215	1220	1245	1306	1358
1125	1206	1220	1245	1250	1315	1323	1403
1225	1306	1320	1345	1350	1415	1423	1503
1325	1406	1420	1445	1450	1515	1523	1606
1425	1506	1520	1545	1550	1615	1623	1705
1435	1527	1550	1615	1620	1645	1706	1758
1525	1606	1620	1645	1650	1715	1723	1805
1535	1627	1650	1715	1720	1745	1806	1858
1605	1657	1720	1745	1750	1815	1823	1904
1655	1739	1750	1815	1820	1845	1906	1959
1725	1806	1820	1845	1850	1915	1922	2014
1740	1832	1850	1915	1920	1945	2020	2112
1825	1906	1920	1945	1950	2015	2044	2130
1835	1927	1950	2015	2020	2045	-	-
1925	2006	2020	2045	2050	2115	2124	2215
2005	2058	2120	2145	2145	2215	2220*	2314
2050	2132	2140	2205	2210	2235	2320	0012
2150	2233	2240	2305	2310	2335	-	-
2250	2333	2340 A	0005 A	0010 A	0035 A	-	-
2350	0042	0100 A	0125 A	0125 A	0150 A	-	-

Sunday							
Rail		Ferry				Rail	
Glasgow Central	Gourock Arrive	Gourock Depart	Dunoon Arrive	Dunoon Depart	Gourock Arrive	Gourock Depart	Glasgow Central
0720	0806	0820	0845	0850	0915	0923	1015
0820	0912	0920	0945	0950	1015	1023	1115
0920	1012	1020	1045	1050	1115	1123	1215
1020	1112	1120	1145	1150	1215	1223	1315
1120	1212	1220	1245	1250	1315	1323	1415
1220	1312	1320	1345	1350	1415	1423	1515
1320	1412	1420	1445	1450	1515	1523	1615
1420	1512	1520	1545	1550	1615	1623	1715
1520	1612	1620	1645	1650	1715	1723	1815
1620	1712	1720	1745	1750	1815	1823	1915
1720	1812	1820	1845	1850	1915	1923	2015
1820	1912	1920	1945	1950	2015	2023	2115
1920	2012	2020	2045	2050	2115	2123	2215
2020	2112	2120	2145	2150	2215	2223	2315
2120	2212	2220	2245	2250	2315	-	-

CODE
A Fridays and Saturdays only.
sq Saturdays only. sx Not Saturdays
* Connection is not guaranteed

Passenger Fares			
Single	Return	Saver 5 Day Return	Pedal cycles
£4.10	£8.20	£7.00	FREE
Children under 5 FREE		Children 5 - 15 half the adult fare	
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£10.30 (single)		£16.25 (day return)	
£13.35 (cheap day return)			



Service Information line:
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Music at Benderloch

BENDERLOCH'S Victory Hall will welcome musicians Mairi Campbell and David Frances this month, for Revival and The Red Earth.

Held on Friday, October 19, the event tells the tale of Mairi's forebears in story and song.

Revival examines the story of Rev Duncan Campbell of Argyll, while The Red Earth looks at John Anderson of Rhyne and Marjorie Anderson of Edinburgh, their journeys and their search from home.

Tickets for the event, 7.30pm for 8pm, are available in advance or on the door.

Lochnell host reading day early

MORE than 100 pupils of Lochnell nursery and primary school took part in a special reading day to raise awareness of a blindness charity.

The Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) is due to hold its reading day on October 19, but with local schools on holiday, Lochnell decided to hold the event earlier.

Children recorded some of their favourite stories in class, which will be transferred to CD and become part of a story bank accessible to all children in nursery and primary.

Early level story CDs will be stored in story-bags along with the book and items from the story which help visually impaired children to understand the story better. P1 teacher Joy Cameron: "Last year RNIB provided over 8,000 accessible books to enable blind and partially sighted children to share the freedom and fun that reading brings. Our children are delighted to share their skills in reading, storytelling and making superb sound effects to produce exciting story CDs to share with others."

Lochnell children also donated more than £80 to RNIB.



Looking forward to having one last emotional singalong with everyone during the Fairytale Christmas tour

Christmas curtain call for Singing Kettle characters

YOUNGSTERS on the west coast of Scotland will be waving goodbye to the country's most well known children's entertainers as they complete their last tour this Christmas.

The creators of The Singing Kettle, Cilla Fisher and Artie Trezise, have announced that their forthcoming tour will be their final stage appearance.

After more than 30 years of shows all over the UK and around the world including the USA, Oman, Hong Kong and Jordan, the husband and wife team feel the time is right to introduce new blood to continue the huge success of the Singing Kettle brand.

Cilla said: "We have had an amazing journey to arrive at this point and I've enjoyed every minute of it. This isn't the end of the Singing Kettle, it's the beginning of a new chapter."

Cilla and Artie plan to continue their involvement with the Singing Kettle and will take on backstage creative roles. Cilla will continue to write songs for future productions while Artie will produce the stage shows.

The other existing members Gary Coupland and Kevin Macleod will be joined by a new female member for the new tour starting in March next year. Artie added: "The 2013 tour is already set up and the new show is being developed. It will be called Rumble in the Jungle. The process of recruiting starts next month when we plan to have auditions. It's a new challenge for everyone and we are all really excited about the opportunities it brings."

"We've been entertaining children around the world for over 30 years and it's important that we plan for the future so that the kettle can keep singing in the years to come."

In 1999 Cilla and Artie along with founder member Gary Coupland were awarded MBEs for Services to Children's Theatre.

"We want to thank all our Kettle fans and we are really looking forward to saying farewell and having one last emotional singalong with everyone during our Fairytale Christmas tour," said Cilla.



Pianist Oxana Shevchenko was in sparkling form at the St John's Cathedral recital 16.141music01

Piano recital at St John's

A PIANIST from Kazakhstan was the first performer of the winter season of concerts organised by Oban Music Society.

Oxana Shevchenko, who graduated from the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory, performed on Sunday at St John's Cathedral, Oban.

The piano recital included works by Mozart, Chopin, Stravinsky and Ravel. Oxana is currently studying in London with Dmitry Alexeev on the MMus programme at the Royal College of Music.

Deoch'n'Dorus entertain at first Oban 'box club' night of the season

THE FIRST club night of the new Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club season got underway last Thursday in the Argyllshire Gathering Hall.

Club chairman Michael Garvin welcomed the large audience and the evening began with Michael playing accordion then accompanying one of his pupils on stage, with eight year old Ewan McFadyen, Oban, playing accordion.

The other accordion players were Janet Graham, Cumbernauld, Hector and Craig McFadyen, both Oban, Scott Sinclair, Connel, Ewan MacDonald, Oban playing keyboard, while on drums it was George MacLeod, Aberlady.

A variety of music was enjoyed from all the musicians and greatly appreciated by the audience.

Michael introduced the guest artist Glasgow based Deoch'n'Dorus ceildh band, Stuart Cameron, Fort William, accordion, Derek Rae, Falkirk, second accordion and Andrew MacPherson, Portree, on drums.

The band delighted the audience with many fine sets.

The chairman thanked the guests and all the local players for making the evening such a success. The evening came to a close with a stramash. Next club night will be on Thursday, November 1 2012.



Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club welcomed Deoch'n'Dorus to its concert last week, with the Glasgow-based band putting on yet another enthralling show. The band is, from left, Derek Rae, Andrew MacPherson who hails from Skye and Stuart Cameron, who is originally from Fort William. 15.141accordhd1

Youngsters jump for fundraiser

A BRAVE group of youngsters took the plunge for charity recently by completing a bungee jump.

Oban girl Robyn MacFarlane, one of the organisers of the event, did the jump in a superhero costume as she had been sponsored to wear fancy dress.

The event was in aid of the SSC, originally known as the Scottish Schoolboys Club when founded in 1912, which runs camps and event for boys and girls aged 10 to 18.

A total of 21 jumpers, from all over Scotland including Mull, Oban and Lochgilphead, took on the challenge over three weekends.

Over £6,000 has been raised so far and the club's target is £7,500 - funding for 25 young people who are not in the position to pay the camp fee. Donations are welcome at <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/sscbungee/87403>.



Robyn MacFarlane did the jump in her SSC superhero costume.



It is almost that time of year again when the boss gets drunk and starts singing on the karaoke and someone breaks the photocopier with less than appropriate prints.

But why not avoid the embarrassment of the cliché office Christmas party this year and head out to one of the wonderful venues that Argyll has to offer.

If you are planning on organising a Christmas party with your colleagues this year now is the time to start thinking about it.

Most hotels and restaurants will already have prepared festive menus and lots will offer a set price per head, with many great deals to be found.

Deciding where to go can be the tricky bit and finding somewhere everyone agrees on is a real achievement. But we can be sure there will be something to suit every tastebud out there.

Once you've arranged the venue don't forget to invite everyone and, if required, get their meal orders in advance. Pre-booking taxis home at the end of the night is also a good idea.

Wherever you go this year get your party hats on, pull a cracker and have a very merry Christmas.



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Friday 21st December
 Will you be our dancing queen
 This Christmas with f-ABBA-lous Only **£29.95pp**
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 Three great courses of fresh food, made by chef (he's really good!)
 And our helpful friendly staff will make sure you have a laugh
 So if you love food hale & hearty, let us host your Christmas party!
 Love Brodie x
 PS My mum says the menus are online & bookings are already being taken!
 Our normal menu will also be served throughout December. Closed Christmas & New Year's Day

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Latha Feise participants playing at Gary Innes' Family Ceilidh.

Fèis na Mara Mallaig success

FÈIS NA Mara in Mallaig on Saturday began with Fèis Oigridh na Mara's 'Latha Fèise' (Fèis Day) in the primary school.

With a taster session in step-dancing and classes in fiddle with Megan Henderson (Breabach, Salsa Cèltica), guitar with Ewan Robertson (Breabach), drumming piping with Andrew MacPherson (Angus Nicolson Trio), accordion with Gary Innes (Mànran) and whistle with Callan MacBeth, the 25 participants from all over Lochaber had plenty choose from traditional Highland music-making.

The day ended with some of the participants playing at Gary Innes' Family Ceilidh in Mallaig and Morar Community Centre, where they showcased the new tunes they developed that afternoon. Fèisean development officer Maria MacInnes said: 'A brilliant day was had by all.'

Portree poems aired at national festival

TWO PORTREE High School pupils were among 400 young people taking part in a national poetry event at the Southbank Centre in London last Thursday.

Rachel MacKinnon and Anna Hodgetts have been working with poets and visual artists as part of an education project linked to PEACE CAMP, director Deborah Warner's commission for the London 2012 Festival.



Portree High School peacemakers Rachel MacKinnon and Anna Hodgetts inside their tent at the Southbank Centre.

Love-related
Students at each participating school chose a love-related theme around which they wrote poems and made art installations.

Skye-based ATLAS Arts led the project in Portree, which saw students adorn a tent with peat covered poetry panels, love tokens made from trees native to Skye and ropes made from local grasses, rushes and moss and entwined with poetry tags.

The tent travelled with the girls to the Southbank, where it was displayed together with tents from other participating schools along the riverside as part of National Poetry Day celebrations.



Clockwise from bottom left, Lochaber High School pupils Thomas Finlay Dylan Simmonds, Sarah Johnson and Antony Hook with Lochaber HS brass instructor Mark Reynolds at the Highland Music Day.

School musicians tune up for Music Day

LOCHABER High School musicians were among 750 Highland schoolchildren taking part in the 2012 Highland Music Day in Inverness last Thursday.

Organised by Highland Council, seven venues across the city were used to host workshops for young musicians of strings, brass, woodwind, bagpipes, pipe band drumming, traditional music, percussion and voice.

The day included group playing sessions and featured special guest tutors including

flautist Susan Frank, clarinetist Lawrence Gill, saxophonist Richard Ingham, brass educator Glenn Munro, percussion group the Mugen Taiko drummers, traditional musicians Charlie McKerron and Gordon Gunn, and Highland Council instrumental instructors.

Council music development officer Norman Bolton said both adults and students voted the event 'a great success'.

He added: 'I would like to thank everyone involved and we look forward to the 2013 event.'

Harvest drama boosts Mary's Meals



The children with one of the harvest words.

CHILDREN at Iona Primary School have been helping raise money for Mary's Meals to feed children around the world.

They performed a drama at the Harvest Festival Celebration held on Sunday at Iona Abbey and encouraged the whole congregation to join them in the song *Everyone Come to the Harvest Fare*. A total of almost £600 was raised in

the retiring collection at the event which was described as 'a truly ecumenical service with contributions from all the different branches of churches on Iona'.

The congregation were also asked how many words they could make from harvest with the most important ones being decided as starve, have and share.

All change with pipes and drums

THE PIPES and Drums of Central Scotland Police have disbanded and reformed as a civilian group, Bannockburn and District Pipe Band.

A band spokesman said: 'With the single force coming into being next year the decision was made we would re-organise ahead of this to ensure minimal confusion. We are no longer a police pipe band but a civilian pipe band. We are extremely proud to have been the pipe band of Central Scotland Police and look forward to enhancing and building on the talent already in the band.'



The Ewan Galloway Trio: guest band at the Isle of Skye Accordion and Fiddle's Club's first music night of the season

Skye club's season gets off to a flyer

THE ISLE of Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club's new season got off to a flying start as members and friends from far and near gathered in their home venue of the Royal Hotel, Portree, last Thursday night.

The assembled company received the usual warm welcome from club chairman and MC Jim Campbell who went on to invite local musicians Aly 'K' MacPherson on piano accordion, John Cameron on keyboard and Donald John Campbell on drums to lead off a great evening of music with lively marches and a fine polka.

Other club musicians who supported the evening's entertainment were accordionists David Morton and John MacGilvary while on fiddle was the club's youngest regular player, 12 year-old Ellie MacPherson.

Welcome visiting musicians were drummers Hector MacKenzie from Penicuik and Richard Hughes from Tobermory while Derek Hamilton of

Galston put his skills to good use on piano accordion and keyboard.

As usual, the highlight of the evening was provided by the guest band The Ewan Galloway Trio.

Ewan from Coldingham led the trio on piano accordion backed by Bill Ewan of Markinch on keyboard and Aly MacIntyre on drums in a superb varied programme of music played in a fine traditional style and included a tremendous ragtime solo from Bill Ewan, which delighted the appreciative audience.

All too soon the evening drew to a close leaving the enthusiasts to make their way homeward with the sound of the best of Scottish music ringing in the ears and already looking forward to their next gathering to listen to the great west coast sound of The Charlie Kirkpatrick Trio in the same venue on Thursday, November 1.

John Grundy.

Mòd success

Kyleakin Primary School pupils excelled at the recent Mòd Loch Aillse (South West Ross Mòd) in Plochnon, with the school choir coming second and the folk group first.

The folk group, pictured above, are Alaina MacLennan on the accordion, Finn MacPherson on the low penny whistle, Catriona MacLennan on the penny whistle, Rachel Morrison on percussion and Naomi Stewart on the fiddle.

Head teacher Alison MacLennan said: 'Thank you to Christine Morrison and Mary Reid for all their hard work with the folk group. We are very proud of all the children and their hard work.'

Connel pianist Andrew reaches Young Traditional award final

CONNEL pianist Andrew Dunlop has reached the final of BBC Radio Scotland's Young Traditional Musician of the Year competition.

The 26-year-old qualified as one of six finalists following a concert in Coulter Hall, South Lanarkshire, where he was accompanied by his sister Joy.

He will now play for the title at Celtic Connections on Sunday February 3 in

Glasgow's City Halls. The other finalists are: Graham Mackenzie, Inverness, fiddle, Grant MacFarlane, Paisley, accordion, Hannah Fisher, Dunkeld, fiddle, Paddy Callaghan, Glasgow, accordion, Scott Wood, Erskine, pipes and whistle.

Oban fiddle player Rona Wilkie is the current holder of the Young Traditional Musician of the Year title.

Oban Phoenix Cinema

We Bought a Zoo Now is Good
The Campaign
Lawless
Arrietty
Rio
Mirror Mirror
Mrs Brown
Paranorman
The Woman in Black

Thurs 11th, 17:30 • Fri 12th, 15:00
Thurs 11th, 20:30
Fri 12th, 18:00 • Sat 13th, 17:30 • Sun 14th, 18:00
Mon 15th, 18:00 • Tues 16th, 18:00
Fri 12th, 20:30 • Sat 13th, 20:00 • Sun 14th, 20:30
Mon 15th, 20:30 • Tues 16th, 20:30
Sat 13th, 13:00
Sat 13th, 15:00 • Sun 14th, 13:00
Sun 14th, 15:00
Thurs 18th, 14:00
Wed 17th, 17:30 • Thurs 18th, 17:30 Fri 19th, 16:00
Sat 20th, 13:00, 16:00 • Sun 21st, 13:00, 16:00
Wed 17th, 20:00 • Thurs 18th, 20:00 • Fri 19th, 19:00, 21:00 • Sat 20th, 19:00 • Sun 21st, 19:00

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We Bought a Zoo (PG)
Benjamin (Matt Damon) has lost his wife. In a bid to start his life over, he purchases a large house that has a zoo. But, the zoo soon runs into financial trouble. The staff must get the zoo back to its former glory, pass a zoo inspection, and get it back open to the public.

Now is Good (12A)
Tessa is seventeen and passionate about life. Diagnosed with a terminal illness, she determines to use every moment, compiling a catalogue of what a normal teenager would experience, Tessa explores a whole new world.

The Campaign (15)
In order to gain influence over their North Carolina district, two CEOs seize an opportunity to oust long-term congressman Cam Brady (Ferrell) by putting up a rival candidate. Their man: naive Marty Huggins (Gailfanakis), director of the local Tourism Centre.

Lawless (18)
The true story of the infamous Bandurant Brothers: bootlegging

siblings who made a run for the American Dream in Prohibition-era Virginia. In this epic gangster tale, inspired by true-life tales of author Matt Bondurant's family.

Arrietty (U)
The Clock family are four-inch-tall people who live anonymously in another family's residence, borrowing simple items to make their home.

Rio (U)
When Blu, a domesticated macaw from small-town Minnesota, meets the fiercely independent Jewel, he takes off on an adventure to Rio de Janeiro with this bird of his dreams.

Mirror Mirror (PG)
After a beloved King vanishes, his ruthless wife seizes control of the kingdom and keeps her beautiful 18-year-old stepdaughter, Snow White, hidden away in the palace. But when the princess attracts the attention of a charming and wealthy visiting prince, the jealous Queen (Julia Roberts) banishes the girl to a nearby forest.

Mrs Brown (PG)
Queen Victoria is deeply depressed after the death of her husband, and is likely to lead to monarchy crisis.

Paranorman (PG)
In the town of Blithe Hollow, Norman Babcock is a boy who can speak to the dead, but no one besides his eccentric new friend, Neil, believes his ability is real. Get yourselves warmed up for Halloween with this chillingly entertaining animation!

The Woman in Black (12A)
In Edwardian London, lawyer Arthur Kipps still grieves the death of his beloved wife Stella on the delivery of their son Joseph four years ago. His employer gives him a last chance to keep his job, and he is assigned to travel to the remote village of Cryphin Gifford, where he discovers the vengeful ghost of a scorned woman is terrorizing the locals. Guaranteed to give you the chills...

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Dalmally Community Centre
Saturday 13th October 7:30pm - Late

£5 adult, Free Under 16
Proceeds to Community Centre

Killin - The Capercaille Restaurant
Sunday 14th October Time - Check with Venue

These performances will be supported by local young traditional musicians.

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what's on guide

Friday 5 October> Disco with DJ Stevo
Markie Dams

Saturday 6 October> Crooked Reel
Markie Dams

Friday 12 October> C.Red
Markie Dams

Saturday 13 October> Jon Macintosh
Markie Dams

Friday 19 October> Natalie Clark
Markie Dams

Saturday 20 October> Rock Disco
Markie Dams

Friday 26 October> Chris Suckle
Markie Dams

Saturday 27 October> Chris Suckle
Markie Dams

Lom Garden Club meeting
Tuesday October 16
7.15 for 7.30
in St John's Cathedral Lower Hall

The talk for the evening is: Gardens of the Riviera by Louise Bustard from Glasgow Botanicus
Teas and home baking.
For further information contact Marilyn on 01866 822191

CD review

Calum Stewart and Lauren MacColl - Wooden Flute and Fiddle
This is the first duo album from Calum and Lauren, two extremely talented musicians and results in a blend that is truly special. Calum and Lauren come from Moray and the Black Isle areas in the north east of Scotland. Their musical influences include Gaelic vocal music, traditional music from Scotland, Ireland, Cape Breton and Brittany along with music from their contemporaries in the music scene.

Blair Douglas - Leanainn Mi (I Will Follow)
A fifth album from renowned Skye based musical genius Blair, with a Celtic and Bluegrass feel and impressive line-up of guest artists. CD includes some new Gaelic songs written by Blair and performed by Cathy Ann MacPhee and Kathleen MacInnes. Also some new instrumental pieces and a reprise of Kate Martin's Waltz.

Maevie MacKinnon - Once Upon An Olive Branch
Second solo album from Maevie with a diverse mix of Gaelic and English songs, including one of her own compositions. A modern take on some of the accompaniments creates a refreshing feel to the songs, even the older ones. "The Olive Branch" is a self penned song reflecting the troubles in the Middle East and declaring a longing for peace.

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HOMES

& interiors



WITH the autumn now in full swing and the nights getting shorter, this is the prime time to carry out any maintenance to your home.

These don't need to be too expensive either; many simple measures can help you save not just pennies but pounds over the winter months.

Carrying out simple changes to your home such as changing a colour scheme, or painting the skirting boards, will help your home feel cosy over the cold winter months.

Remember to ask professional advice before carrying out any repairs or maintenance to your property.

MAKING YOUR HOME ENERGY EFFICIENT

Starting by conserving energy in the home will help your rooms stay warm, stopping heat escaping through windows and doors.

Using draft excluders, heavy, thick curtains as well as sealing your windows properly, will stop that precious heat escaping.

These are a few money-saving tips, however for longer term solu-

tions, investing in central heating as well as insulation will boost your property value as well as your wallet in the long-term.

Simple measures such as using thermostats correctly, turning it down by just one degree, bleeding radiators, or using a lower wattage of bulb or energy-saving bulbs will help you to see a difference in your electricity bill.

Many outlets have good deals on insulation for lofts as well as cavity walls and there are schemes out there to make it more affordable

for home-owners. Insulation should meet government standards, and topping it up will keep the heat in your home.

Also making sure you boiler and water tank is well insulated will also help you save those crucial pennies.



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CLEANING

Never mind a spring clean, why not give your home a thorough clean from top to bottom, in time for the winter.

Get rid of any unwanted goods, including clothes you'll never wear or books you'll never read and help boost the local charity shop's coffers by donating them.

Get down and personal with your home and tackle those

jobs you've been avoiding for as long as possible.

A few handy tips to get you started and your home shining include:

- With a large build up of limescale bathroom taps can quickly get grotty. Rub white wine vinegar over the tap then dry and buff it with a clean, soft cloth.
- To successful clean your bin

and stop any nasty smells returning just use soapy warm water on a regular bases. The more regularly you do it the less grotty the job.

• Showerheads can also build up lime scale quickly which can stop the full flow of water. To get it looking shiny and new, unscrew the showerhead and place in a plastic bag. Pour in a solution of one part white

vinegar to one part water and leave for three hours. Rinse the head thoroughly.

• To get rid of any red-wine disasters on your good carpet try shaving foam – a dab of this can help take the stain out, and remember to do it as soon after the spillage as possible. Many say pouring white wine over red wine on a carpet helps; it just helps to neutralise the colour and helps make it easier to clean.

• When plastic food containers start to smell, try washing them with a small amount of baking soda and hot water to lift the smell.

• Why not rope in the family to help with the chores, alleviate some of the workload on you and get the music cranked up and have fun – lots of hands make for less work.



MAINTENANCE

Contacting a professional to get areas like your roofs and outside of your home looked at in time for the winter months could save you money on emergency repairs on the long run.

They will be able to advise you on any slates that need replacing, guttering needing cleaned out or repaired, or general DIY that can be carried out in the shortterm.

Sitting beside a crackling log fire is one of life's great pleasures. Getting your chimney cleaned before the winter sets in will be peace of mind that it is safe to light as the shorter, colder

nights draw in.

Whether you decide to clean a chimney yourself or hire a professional, either way you'll want to make sure a good job is done.

Cleaning a chimney is important to prevent chimney fires and potential house fires. Therefore, the cleaner it is, whether done by you or a professional, must be thorough and comprehensive in carrying out the cleaning.

You're not just clearing out the soot and dust, but you need to scrape and remove creosote that has built up on your chimney walls.

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LOOKING AFTER YOUR HOME IN COLD WEATHER

During spells of severely cold weather it is possible for water pipes in the home to freeze which could lead to a burst pipe when the thaw sets in.

This can cause damage to your home and belongings, not to mention inconvenience to you and your family.

To prevent your pipes from freezing keep your home as warm as possible, even when you are out.

You should also open the doors to the sink unit to allow warmer air to cir-

culate round the pipes; slightly open doors to all rooms and minimising drafts from outside, this will allow warm air to circulate around your house.

If you are away from home, ensure the central heating comes on for regular short intervals and ask someone to check regularly for frozen pipes.

Locate your stopcock now, to save you having to search your home in an emergency.

The stopcock is used

for turning off and on the cold water system of your home. When you turn the stopcock in a clockwise direction the water supply will be shut off.

Stopcocks are usually found in the kitchen, below the sink unit.

If you do have a frozen pipe thaw it out slowly using hot water bottles or towels soaked in warm water. Do not use direct heat such as blowtorches as this may cause permanent damage to the pipes.

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Business

World's first hybrid ferry shares link with the past

Name competition winners invited to December launch date on Clyde

THE WORLD'S first hybrid ferry is to be named *Hallaig* after a two-stage competition by Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL). Set to run on the short crossings within the Clyde and Hebrides area, the diesel electric hybrid sea going roll-on vessel is currently under construction at Ferguson Shipyard in Port Glasgow and is due to be launched in December, coming into service next spring or summer.

Hallaig is a poem written by Sorley Maclean, which is named after an abandoned township on Raasay. Originally written in Gaelic, it was translated into English by Seamus Heaney.

The two entrants who suggested *Hallaig* are from Invergordon and Shrewsbury and will be named in the coming weeks. They will be present at the launch of the ferry and have won a one-day ferry crossing of their choice for a car and two people on one of the Caledonian MacBrayne ferries, courtesy of CalMac Ferries Ltd.

Guy Platten, chief executive of CMAL, commented: 'We are very excited about the name of the new ferry; it reflects CMAL's Scottish heritage and the direct connection we have with the places our ferries serve. This hybrid ferry project demonstrates CMAL's commitment to leading the way in innovative ferry design.'

The ferries will accommodate 150 passengers, 23 cars or two HGVs, with a service speed of nine knots.

The new vessels will use some of the most innovative 'green' technology, including Lithium Ion battery banks supplying a minimum of 20 per cent of the energy consumed on board. Benefits include reduced fuel consumption and impact of CO2 emissions, noise reduction and lower maintenance requirements.



Seeing first hand the quality of salmon farmed at Loch Creran are, from left, Lawrie Stove of Scottish Sea Farms, Mr Chenggang Li from the China Ministry of Commerce and John Clarke from the European Commission.

Chinese trade mission visits Loch Creran

Salmon and whisky top international delegates' shopping list

LOCH Creran in Argyll played host to a group of Chinese delegates recently as part of a trade mission to the west Highlands and Islands.

High level delegates from Beijing were joined at Scottish Sea Farm's salmon farm by counterparts from Brussels as a plan to grow the area's export market.

Among the visitors were Mr Chenggang Li, director general in the China Ministry of Commerce and John Clarke, director of agriculture international affairs in the European Commission.

The group later took in whisky distilleries across the west coast, seeing first hand the most famous products from Scotland's west coast.

During their visit, the delegates discussed enhancing an agreement that recognises and protects products with EU Protected Geographical Indications (PGI) in China, which already benefits Scottish farmed salmon.

Scottish farmed salmon was included in the initial prestigious 'top 10' of quality food and drink products chosen from a then list of more than 750 European products in a pilot project between China and the European Commission agreed in 2007. The granting by China of the special status to the ten European food products was matched by the EC conferring similar legal protection for ten Chinese foods.

Host for the visit to Loch Creran salmon farm, Lawrie Stove, export manager, Scottish Sea Farms said: 'It was a pleasure to showcase Scottish farmed salmon to our visitors from Beijing and Brussels.

'As the European Commission now recognises over 3,000 food and drink products, it is great recognition for Scottish farmed salmon to be selected in the top 10 products in the unique quality food and drink agreement between Europe and China.

'Our visitors really enjoyed seeing the glistening silver appearance of the fish and the pristine coastal waters.

The PGI status for Scottish Farmed Salmon has enhanced the integrity of our products from Argyll and Bute and the expert husbandry skills developed over the last 30 to 40 years.'

Mr Clarke said: 'This visit was a great opportunity to illustrate the enormous work done by both Scottish Farmed Salmon and Scotch Whisky associations, ensuring produce respects traditions while complying with the highest quality standards, thus meeting the demand from our important trade partners like China.

'We hope this visit will lead to more European geographical indication products being recognised in China.'

Scotland Food and Drink this month set a new ambition to grow the value of food and drink exports to £7.1 billion by 2017.

Direct Scotch whisky exports to China were valued at £66million in 2011, up from £55million the previous year. Total Scotch whisky exports to China totalled approximately £100million in 2011.

Jura hydro scheme brings self sufficiency

JURA is now generating all its own electricity following the completion of the Inver Hydro Scheme.

Situated on the west of the island, the scheme was completed in July and the 1080kW generator has since been running non stop at maximum output.

So far it has generated more than 750,000kW – equivalent to a 98 per cent capacity factor. Jura's average electrical load is just 500kW, meaning the island is theoretically been electrically self sufficient since the start of August. The project, one of the largest private hydro schemes in the UK, is now on course to provide a quarter of the average annual energy needs of Islay, Colonsay and Jura combined.

The scheme has been built by Inver Hydro LLP, a partnership between Lithgow Energy Ltd – wholly owned subsidiary of Lithgow Limited – and Inver Farmers, which continues to farm the estate on the west coast of the island. This project includes a dam which provides around nine days' of storage capacity, ensuring it continues to run even during drier periods. This is the Lithgow family's sixth active hydro scheme in Argyll, with the oldest dating back to 1919.

Workplace pension scheme comes into force this month

FROM this month, employers will have to start enrolling all eligible workers into a pension scheme and make contributions towards it.

New legislation came into force last week that in the first instance demands large employers, those with 120,000 staff or more, start to make compulsory payments towards employee's retirement nest egg if they are aged between 16-75.

Smaller firms will be phased into the scheme over the next three years, with those companies with 50-53 employees having until 2015 to meet the requirements of the new law. Those with fewer than 30 won't be required to start adhering to the scheme until March 2017. Companies are required by law to write to all workers, except those under 16 or 75 and over, explaining what automatic enrolment into a workplace pension means for them.

Online reputation

BUSINESSSES need to take their online reputation seriously if they are to thrive, according to gojuice.co.uk.

Mark Hall, managing director of the website, has urged local entrepreneurs to be in full control of their internet presence to ensure digital profitability.

Research shows that 85 per cent of purchasers research the web for reviews and feedback and 70 per cent will not make an enquiry if they read negative mentions of a brand or company. Mr Hall said: 'When a customer searches for a name or brand, the first pages from the online search should show nothing but positive mentions. If this isn't the case, then the business will be losing out on new sales.'

Group of islands go on the market in Inner Hebrides

A CLUSTER of islands just north of Coll in the Inner Hebrides has gone up for sale.

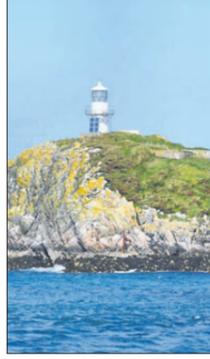
The Eilean Mor (the big island) and the Cairns of Coll lie half-a-mile from Coll's most north easterly point and extends to just over 50 acres, with stunning unobstructed views across to the isles of Rum and Skye.

There are no buildings on The Eilean Mor and the title deeds allow the buyer only to build for private residential purposes, with commercial, agricultural or industrial purposes restricted.

Marketed by Ballantynes Surveyors and Estate Agents, the islands are being marketed jointly with a home at Sorisdale, on Coll's north east coast.

The house, Rubh A Mhail, is a new two storey detached property at Sorisdale at the north east point of Coll. Overlooking Eilean Mor and the Cairns of Coll, the one bedroom building is yet to be fully completed, with further details available from the selling agents.

The islands are being advertised at £100,000, or with the house for £275,000.



Business reporter:

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Business workshops on public sector procurement planned

THIS autumn Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway is adding two new workshops to its portfolio to help local businesses boost their business skills.

Councillor John Semple, deputy leader of the council and lead councillor for environment, development and infrastructure, is recommending local businesses take a look at what Business Gateway has to offer. 'There is a range of free,

practical workshops, backed up by local business advisers and a host of useful guides, information and contacts all available from the local Business Gateway team,' he said.

The first of the new workshops has been developed to help Argyll based businesses bid for public sector work. Aimed at businesses which have bid unsuccessfully in the past, or who have not tendered before,

the 'Public Sector Procurement' workshop offers a guide to the whole process, from registering and setting up relevant alerts on Public Contracts Scotland - the portal that hosts all public sector tenders - to completing quick quotes and pre-qualification questionnaires. Practical tips and real life examples will be shared, with experts available to answer questions.

The workshop is facilitated by Enterprise Europe Network, which has delivered a similar workshop successfully in the Highland area.

All participants will receive a free comprehensive guide on tendering for public sector contracts. The three-hour long workshops are running in Dunoon on October 31 and Inveraray on November 1, with additional dates and locations

to be confirmed depending on demand. Places are filling up in Dunoon so anyone wanting to attend is advised to get in touch soon.

The second new workshop, 'Improve your business website performance', is aimed at small businesses that already have a website, whether homemade or built for them, which feel their website isn't producing the results they expect. The

workshop will cover key success factors for website development including visibility, appearance, functionality and compatibility, as well as online sales processes, search engine optimisation and feedback. It is aimed at those with no technical web development skills but basic PC skills are required.

Dates for the three-hour long workshops are Dunoon on October 25, Oban on November

19 and Inveraray on November 21. Many other workshops are available across the area this autumn including business start-up, book-keeping, build your own business website, self-assessment for the self-employed and an introduction to social media.

To book a place or to find out more, call the local office on 01546 605459 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk

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Rob Wallace of One Solar PV.

Renewables installer issues customer pledge

AN APPIN renewables installer has vowed only to sell to customers across Argyll who can show a minimum return of between eight and 12 per cent.

Rob Wallace, who is now based in Glasgow with One Solar PV, is rapidly building a name as a reliable installer of photo-voltaic solar panels that generate electricity from daylight. Not only does the solution provide clean energy, but Rob said the panels will provide a tax-free income for 20 years.

MSP calls for discount for 'own bag' shoppers

CUSTOMERS who use their own carrier bags should be offered a discount on their shopping, according to a Highlands and Islands MSP.

Scottish Conservative environment spokesperson, Jamie McGrigor, believes the proposal would be a more effective way to cut consumer use of plastic bags rather than charging for them. The Scottish Government wants to introduce a minimum five pence levy on every bag a customer uses at supermarkets in Scotland. A consultation on the issue closed last week.

Mr McGrigor said: 'We need to offer Scottish consumers a carrot rather than a stick, not bring in yet another tax during a tough economic climate. The focus should be on offering an incentive, but the Scottish Government seems determined to simply impose yet another levy on hardworking Scots. This is the kind of imaginative approach that would make the difference the SNP is seeking, without squeezing more money out of the public who are already facing a number of financial challenges.'

Bringing new business to Machrihanish

COMPANIES from outwith the UK are to be targeted in a campaign to bring business to the newly community-owned Machrihanish Airbase.

Matthew Willis made the pledge on taking up the role as the new business manager for the Machrihanish Airbase Community Company (MACC), saying his long-term goal is to ensure the enterprise is self-sustaining.

The 40-year old, whose background is in shipping, moved to the area from London with his family last December and said he is determined to make MACC an enterprise that keeps people working in the area. He said: 'Young people who grow up here work out that, unless they want to go into farming, there isn't much here for them. It would be great to have businesses here that would keep people in the area.'

Marketing the base is his initial priority, adding: 'It would be great to get more interest from companies from outwith the UK who have never heard of Campbeltown.' MACC was bought by the community five months ago with the objective of stimulating the local economy.



Oban Distillery's visitor centre saw an increase of 6,000 people in 2011-2012, compared with 2009-2010.

West Highland distilleries prove top tourist attractions

Talisker, Blair Atholl and Oban are Diageo's top three

DIAGEO'S west Highland distilleries remain the most popular, following the publication of the drink company's visitor numbers for the financial year of July 2011 to June 2012.

Nearly 60,000 people visited Talisker Distillery on Skye in 2012, while Oban was the third most popular visitor centre with 38,004 visits.

Only Blair Atholl (48,621 visits) separated Talisker and Oban.

According to Diageo, both Oban and Talisker distilleries have increased their visitor numbers, year on year, since 2008, when the figures stood at 30,057 and 41,271 respectively. Talisker improved its visitor number figure by nearly 10,000 since 2010, while Oban increased its visitor numbers by 6,000 over the same period.

On Islay, Caol Ila Distillery saw a drastic drop in numbers, a direct result of a six-month closure during a £3.5m expansion project in 2011.

Lagavulin Distillery, on the other hand, has increased visitor numbers by 122 per cent since 2008, going by its 2012 figure of 9,943. The distillery, which has extended its opening hours has added nearly 400 visitors to the previous year's figure.

The figures show an overall 14 per cent growth in the number of tourists being welcomed at Diageo's 12 distillery visitor centres over the year.

During the last financial year



Talisker Distillery on Skye is the most visited Diageo Distillery, attracting nearly 60,000 people a year.

there were a total of 271,968 visitors - an increase of 33,669 on the previous year.

The figures were announced last week by Scottish Government tourism minister Fergus Ewing, who also revealed that visitor numbers to the Diageo distilleries had increased by 54 per cent since 2008.

Mr Ewing said: 'Whisky is recognised internationally as Scotland's national drink and one of our finest exports.'

'These figures show the significant contribution that whisky makes to our economy through not only through sales, but through tourism. People from China to Brazil travel from

across the world to see how their favourite tipple is made and sample straight from the cask.'

There were 46 different nationalities recorded amongst the visitors to Diageo's distilleries across Scotland last year, with UK tourists leading the way. They were joined in the top five list of visitors by people from

Germany, the USA, France and Spain.

Diageo's figures also found that there had been strong growth in visitor numbers from countries such as China, Brazil, Russia and India - the same markets that are also leading the global growth in demand for Scotch whisky.

HIE backs food and health research opportunities

HIGHLANDS and Islands Enterprise has opened a £245,000 fund to help businesses access cutting edge research in food and health to scope new or improved products.

The cash will boost food and drink companies looking to tap into rapidly growing global demand for healthy, natural products.

The fund is part of the £4.4m Scotland-wide five-year Food and Health Innovation Service (FHIS).

Under the FHIS, companies are given expert support to bring new products through from the market research stage to launch.

The project aims to build on Scotland's international reputation for top quality natural foods such as seafood, lean red meat, oats and berries. Iain Sutherland, development manager

at HIE said: 'This successful FHIS programme is now available in the HIE area.'

'With our investment we will harness the leading experts in this field to provide the science, innovation and technology which are vital to sustaining long term growth of our food and drink industry.'

'The Highlands and Islands have a proud heritage in the food and drink arena and this project will help our businesses profit from the rapidly expanding domestic and international markets for health related food and drink products.'

He added: 'It will help businesses in the Highlands and Islands over the next five years access leading research in food and health to develop new and improved products.'

Latvia boosts Scotland's whisky exports with 77 per cent increase

LATVIA is the fastest growing export market for Scottish whisky, with a 77 per cent increase to £32million in the last year.

New figures from the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) show an overall 12 per cent increase in exports, with the value increasing to £4.2billion in the 12 months to the end of June 2012.

The USA remains the biggest value importer of the drink, taking £303million of whisky during the year, while Venezuela is now the ninth biggest market for Scotch, with the local share growing by 31 per cent to £42million.

In Europe, Germany saw exports increase by four per

cent to £65million in the first six months of the year, but demand dropped by 14 per cent in France, dropping in value to £188million.

Estonia joins its Baltic neighbours Latvia in the list, importing £24.8million. The trend reflects a growing demand in Russia. In Asia, China saw a modest increase of 1.6 per cent to £31million, dwarfed by Taiwan's £146.2million of imports - up 14 per cent on the year.

One of the largest potential markets, India, saw an increase of 28 per cent to £28million, but the SWA remains hopeful a conclusion can be reached on a deal that would see a gradual reduction on the 150 per cent tariff on imported

spirits imposed by the country. Gavin Hewitt, chief executive of the SWA, said Scotch whisky continues to attract younger, affluent customers in newly emerging markets - a trend that is expected to continue.

He added: 'Over the past year the value of exports has continued to increase and we're delighted to build on our outstanding success in 2011.'

'While there has been a levelling off in the first half of this year, the industry remains confident about the future.'

'Recent announcements of investments in new distilleries and the expansion of existing facilities demonstrate the level of confidence producers have in future growth opportunities.'

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Suffolk ram lamb is Islay sale champion

UNITED Auctions held their annual breeding sheep sale and sale of all classes of lambs and feeding sheep at Islay Auction Mart last Friday.
A record entry of sheep was catalogued and a total of 5487 head was sold.
A show of breeding rams and ram lambs was held and the judging was in the hands of Mr. Donald MacCorquodale, Achnaba, North Connel and he awarded the championship to a Suffolk ram lamb which was consigned by Mr. John McGillivray, 24 Laoigan Place. The lamb later realized £650. The reserve was awarded to Mr. Alistair Currie, Balachlaven for a Blackface shearling which went on to sell for £500.

Despite recent national decline in values for all classes of lambs, trade was firm and all lambs were cleared at satisfactory rates.
All classes of quality breeding sheep were in keen demand whilst feeding sheep continued to sell at firm rates.

Tyre Limousin is Oban show and sale champion

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had forward 664 suckled calves, store cattle, 34 breeding and OTM cattle at Oban last week.
Bullocks averaged 203.8p (+2p) and sold to 267p per kg (twice) firstly for three 180kg Simmentals from Kilbride Farm, Balvair and six Aberdeen Angus 240kg from Poltalloch Farm, Lochgilphead.
Also selling to a top of £1060 for a 485kg Limousin which was champion from D MacDonald, Tyree, Benderloch selling to the judge Andrew Wilson, Lough Gree.
Heifers averaged 167.8p per kg (-3p) and sold to 246p per kg for two 195kg Shorthorns from Calachally, Isle of Mull and to £820 for the reserve champion, a 410kg Limousin from D MacDonald, Tyree selling to the judge A Wilson.
Breeding cattle sold to £1900 for a Limousin cow with Limousin bull calf from J Campbell, Fiddin, Isle of Mull.
Cows with calves averaged at £1188.33

Highlanders enjoy 'realistic' trade

'A real modern Highlander' takes supreme for Craigowmill



Highland sale topper at 3,000 gns was Iona 3rd of Bien Esk from Patricia Smith and Paul Burns of Craigenelt, Stirling 17.1411high01

Iona of Bien Esk sells to 3000gns as buyers at Oban prove selective

BUYERS proved very selective at Monday's Highland Cattle Society sale at Oban on Tuesday, however, a steady trade - described by one breed enthusiast at ringside as 'realistic' - saw the sale top at 3,000 gns for Iona 3rd of Bien Esk, a two-year-old from Patricia Smith and Paul Burns of Craigenelt, Stirling.
The red heifer, by Thorn of Bien Esk and out of Iona of Bien Esk joins the fold of Gordon Snowie, Inverdunning, Stirling, on a day which saw the Inverdunning fold take several more quality heifers at very reasonable prices.
The Smith/Burns partnership also recorded the day's second highest trade when their red three-year old Alexandra 1st of Bien Esk was knocked down at 2,800gns to the new fold of P and S Smith, Peterchurch, Herefordshire. Another daughter of Thorn of Bien Esk, this time out of Ishbel Ruadh 3rd of Whangie, she was sold in-calf to Kelso 1st of Sauchie.
The Smith's also invested in the show supreme champion when they purchased the three-year old Casair 6th of Craigowmill at 2,000gns from Ken and Eva Brown, Ledlanet, Kinross and followed that up with another at 2,000gns when they bought Alice 13th of Tordarroch, by Craig of Tordarroch, from John Cooper, Farr.
The reserve supreme champion, Solas Emma 4th of Benmore came under the hammer at 2,700gns when 17-year old Dexter Logan, of Blairlogan Highlanders, Alva was successful with the final bid for Emma Paterson, Barncroft, Killin's two-year old by Aonghas-a-Rithist.
Gordon Snowie took the two-year old Aoirig Jenna of Glenlivet from Alex Garrick, Achnarrow at 2,600gns, and then added Kitte Buidhe of Ceannacroic, out of Doireann Snowie, Loch Melfort and by Victor 1st of Ceannacroic, from Dunslossit Farming, Isle of Islay at 2,100gns.
Caileag Bheag 46th of Penngowan from D and J MacGillivray, Isle of Mull went to Alastair Fitzsimon, Lochfoot, Dumfries at 2,300gns, while one of the best trades of the day came when Morag Middleton, Fettercairn bought the black yearling heifer Melora Emma Dubh of Kintore Castle at 2,000gns from the Singers of Kintore House, Auchinblae.
Also hitting the 2000gns mark were the dun heifer Malmuir of Seaforth by Angus Dubh of Savalmhor, which sold to Patrick Casey, Orkney from Morvern Coghill, Dunnet, Thurso - and Dossan Og 8th, by Russell of Balure, and out of Dossan Og 3rd of Craigowmill which sold to the Polehill Fold, Maidstone, Kent.
Mr Casey also took the champion calf, Barabel Beathag 14th of Glenclon from society vice-president Tom Nelson at

1800gns, with Angus MacColl, Glenclon also receiving 1800gns from R Tedbury, Polborough for the three-year old heifer Bac Mor 12 of Torloisk which was sold in-calf to Achadh Chuilter of Ormsary.
Averages
3-year olds - 24 at £1,300 (-260)
2-year olds - 17 at £1,178 (+77)
Yearlings - 20 at £47 (-136)
Calves - 18 at £630 (+52)
Cows - 6 at £787 (-1043)

with judge Thomson saying: 'There was very little between her and the champion. She is a very good beast of her type.'
He added: 'All the classes were strong. Overall it was a good show of cattle.'
A strong yearling heifer class was won by Annag 2nd of Glenkinglass by Alastair Dubh of Cnoc and out of Annag 4th of Clach-na-Gruagach, from the fold of Mr and Mrs Schuster, Dalmally. She was stood ahead of Caitin 1st of Stair, by Seamus 3rd of Lag and out of Loo Loo of Ubhaidh, from the fold of the MacIntyre family, Enterkine, Ayr.
The award for the top calf was won by Glengorm estate, Mull with Barabel Beathag 14th of Glenclon, a March-born heifer by Achadh Chuilter of Ormsary.
Leading the cows was the seven-year old Bean Ruadh 2nd of Craigowmill from Haydn Garton, Glenprosen, with the reserve, another seven-year old, this time the red Hilary of Gartchonzie from Ewan Mackay, Killearn.
The Cladich Fold took the award for the best pair of calves with Jane Uasal 3rd of Cladich and Lady Jane 2nd of Cladich - both by Aonghas of An Sidhean.
Champion bull was Jock Dubh of Kintore Castle by Ciaran of Redrullion and out of Kimberly of Idvies. The black yearling, from John and Jenne Singer, Auchinblae stood ahead of Fergus of Ubhaidh by Torquil 1st of West Merkland and out of Flora 5th of Lagg, shown by Roy Tylden-Wright, Laggan.

IT WAS A day for new faces in the show ring last Sunday when the Highland Cattle Society hosted their 115th October event at Oban Livestock Centre.
With the ringside audience including Australians, Americans, French, Swiss, Finnish, Germans and a 20-strong delegation from Estonia, judge Richard Thomson, Laggan, near Newtonmore wasted no time in making his selections.
'Modern Highlander'
Taking supreme champion was the April 2009 in-calf heifer Casair 6th of Craigowmill from Ken and Eva Brown, Ledlanet, Kinross.
Shown in-calf to Fear Siriadh of Balmoral, and by Gilie Dubh 3rd of Craigowmill, out of Casair Dubh of Dalriada, the three-year old, brought out by stockman David Burt, impressed Mr Thomson who described her as 'a real modern Highlander'.
'The champion is the kind of beast we are needing these days,' he said. 'I was looking for a bit of scale. A beast that was going to grow. If we want the commercial men to buy our cattle then we are going to have to go a wee bit bigger and give them the size that they are looking for.'
Of his supreme champion, he added: 'She has length, and weight. She stood out from the start.'
Standing reserve was the two-year old leader Solas Emma 4th of Benmore from Emma Paterson, Benmore Fold at Barncroft, Auchlyne, near Killin. By Aonghas-a-Rithist of Achnaclach and out of Solas Emma of Benmore the red heifer ran the supreme champion close

with judge Thomson saying: 'There was very little between her and the champion. She is a very good beast of her type.'
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Breeding cattle in demand at Portree

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 163 weaned calves and store cattle, 51 breeding cattle and 48 OTM cattle at Portree on Monday when all classes of calves sold well, with best breeders and OTM cows also meeting a keen demand.
Weaned bullocks averaged 211.3p (+ 22.4p per kilo on the year) and sold to 253.3p per kg for 150kg Limousin crosses from 27 Stenscholl, Staffin, and £700 for a 380kg Limousin cross from 44 Borneskitaig, Kilmuir.
Weaned heifers averaged 195.6p (+ 17.4p per kilo on the year) and sold to 250p per kg for a 180kg Limousin cross from 5/6 Borneskitaig, Kilmuir, and £620 for a 280kg Luing cross from Husabost, Borreraig.
Store bullocks averaged 183.5p and sold to 185.2p per kg for a 440kg Limousin cross from 1 Drumie, Portree, and £855 for a 495kg Simmental from 2 Tote, Skeabost Bridge.
Store heifers averaged 168.4p and sold to 185.7p per kg for a 280kg Limousin cross from 5 Keistle, Snizort, and £680 for a 400kg Simmental from 2 Tote.
In-calf heifers sold to £1450 twice for a Limousin cross and an Aberdeen Angus cross from Upper Cullernie, Balloch.
In-calf cows sold to £1070 for a Limousin cross from 1/2 of 8 Camustianvaig, Braes.
Cows with calves at foot sold to £1160 gross for a Shorthorn cross cow with male calf from 9 Stenscholl, Staffin.
OTM cows sold to 137.5p per kg for a 680kg Limousin cross cow from 5 Drumie, and £950 for a 780kg Aberdeen Angus cross from 5 Garafad, Staffin.
OTM bulls sold to 106.9p per kg and £1005 for a 940kg Limousin from 28 Stenscholl, Staffin.

Blackface ewes meet keen demand at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 3,443 breeding ewes and lambs at their annual Blackface and Cross ewes, gimmers, ewe lambs sale at Dingwall last Friday when all classes of Blackface ewes met a keen demand, a mixed show of gimmers and ewe lambs met a more selective enquiry.
Blackface ewes sold to £80 from Leys, Inverness while Blackface gimmers sold to £105 from Tulloch Farm, Dingwall. Blackface ewe lambs sold to £62 from Tigh N'Uaidh, Tomatin.
Correct ewes sold to £88 twice for Suffolk crosses and Texel crosses from Fleucharry Park, Dornoch.
Gimmers sold to £120 for Suffolk crosses from Woodside Croft, Ardersier and ewe lambs sold to £86 for Texel crosses from Pithogarty, Tain.
Store lambs sold to £48 for a Texel from Inshes Farm, Inverness.
Feeding ewes sold to £63 for Cheviots from 1 Newmore, Muir of Ord and feeding sheep sold to £105 for a Texel ram from Inshes Farm, Inverness.

Two-shear sells to £1800 at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 103 Blackface rams at their PK Nutrition sponsored show and sale at Dingwall when a good show of rams presented, sold at very satisfactory rates.
The judge, Mr J. Macpherson, Knockandhu, Tomatin, awarded the champion to a two shear ram from Messrs A. & J. Macpherson, Abersky, Torness, realising £1800 to Glenfermate Estate, Blairgowrie. The reserve champion, a shearling from Messrs K. & J. Matheson, Milton Farm, Aberarder, realised £800, to Messrs J. Matheson & Company, Mains of Clunas, Cawdor.
The 80 shearlings averaged £48.25 and sold to £1,600 from Mr H. Blackwood, Auldhouseburn Farm, Muirkirk. The 19 aged rams averaged £310.53 and sold to £1,800 for a two shear from Abersky.
Five top lambs averaged £180 and sold to £350 gross from Milton Farm.

Lewis ewes and lambs sell at Dingwall sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 313 ewes and feeding sheep from Lewis Livestock Producers at Dingwall last Friday.
Lewis Livestock Producers ewes sold to £80 for a Texel from 1 Eordale, Ness with feeding sheep selling to £82 twice for a Suffolk ram from 107 Cross Skigersta Road, Ness and a Cheviot ram from 1 Habost, Ness



Supreme champion Casair 6th of Craigowmill from Ken and Eva Brown, Craigowmill, Kinross 16.1411hc01



Champion male Jock Dubh of Kintore Castle from John and Jenne Singer. Sire is Ciaran of Redrullion and dam is Kimberly of Idvies. 16.1411hc03



Reserve supreme Solas Emma 4th of Benmore from Mrs Emma Paterson. 16.1411hc02

Market report

ISLAY
United Auctions
Lambs
SuffolkX: £69.00 Lyrabus £67.50
Frederick Cresc £66.50 Eorrabus £63.50
Dulich £62.50 Kinnabus £62.00 Ballimartin & Octofad £61.50 Ardbeg £61.00 Ardalla Estate.
TexelX: £71.00 7 Claddach £68.50
Muldindy £66.50 Stanalane £65.00
Leorin £64.50 Gartloist £63.50 Blackrock.
CharollaisX: £50.50 Ardalla
CheviotX: £64.00 Ballivicr £61.50 Aoradh.
Cross: £56.50 Leorin £52.50 Ardnave.
Mule: £54.50 Braigo £53.50 Corrary £52.50 Leorin.
Blackface: £52. Lossit £50 Craggabug.
BelteX: £55.50 Lossit
Ewe lambs
Texel: £135 Kilmey
Mule: £90.00 Lower Craggabug (J Porter) & Corrary £80.00 Island £70 Corrary, Coille & Braigo.
Blackface: £50.00 Ballachlaven
Gimmers
Mule: £140 Claddach £135 Conisby £130 Lorgba (R Paget) £125 Conisby £100 Windyedge & Coille.
Texel: £260 Kilmey £105 & £100 Claddach.
Blackface: £98 Carn.
Warranted ewes
CheviotX: £70 Kinnabus
Blackface: £54 & £53 Oransay £50 Ballachlaven £49 Craigens
Cast ewes
SuffolkX: £58.50 Duich £57.50 Portan-

trun.
TexelX: £73.50 Claggan £65.50 Gartloist £64.50 Claggan & Dunlossit Keills £62.50 Ardbeg £58.50 Woodend £57.50 Tornisdale Croft & Ronnachmore £52.50 Glenegedale Lotts £51.50 Achnaclach £50.00 Muldindy.
CheviotX: £57.50 Aoradh
Cross: £63.50 Octofad.
Mule: £53.50 Paire A Chlassan.
Blackface: £38.50 Ardnave.
Rams
Suffolk: £650 24 Laoigan Place £420(2)
Coille £380 Ronnachmore £300 6 Bayview.
Texel: £380 6 Bayview £300 Kirkby
Cross: £450 Coille £400(2) & £380 6 Bayview.
Blackface: £500 Ballachlaven (A Currie) £400(2) Ballachlaven £380 17 Mansfield Rd £300 Ballachlaven.
Bluefaced Leicester: £580 & £480 Island £420 Coille £380 Island £320 & £300 Coille.
Prices per kilo
SuffolkX: 177p Coillabus 166p Ardbeg 164p Octofad & Ardnave 162p Kinnabus & Octofad.
TexelX: 164p Ardbeg 162p Octofad.
CheviotX: 145p Kilbride 143p Aoradh & Conisby 140p Aoradh.
Cross: 150p Ardnave.
Blackface: 137p Lossit 134p Ardnave 131p Portantrun.
BelteX: 146p Kilchiaran.
OBAN
Caledonian Marts
Bullocks:

0-250kg - £640 Poltalloch, 267p Poltalloch and Kilbride;
251-300kgs - £670, 244p Poltalloch Farms;
301-350kgs £750, 221p Ardaich;
351-400kgs - £825, 212p Culbhruig, Isle of Iona;
401-450kgs - £905, 201p Culbhruig, Isle of Iona;
451-500kgs £1060, 219p Tyree, Benderloch;
501-550kgs £980, 194p Culbhruig, Isle of Iona.
Heifers:
0-250kgs - £500 Gully partnership, 246p Calachally, Mull;
251-300kgs £505 Poltalloch, 1925p East Hynish, Tiree;
301-350kgs - £575, 189p Airds;
351-400kgs £800, 205p Achnaba;
401-450kgs - £820, 200p Tyree, Benderloch
Breeding cattle:
Lim cow with Lim Hfr calf at foot £1400, £1100; Char cow with Lim Bull calf at foot £980 Fiddin
OTM:
Lim - £850 Creich; Sim - £820 Ardnave; Sal - £670 Turnault; BB - £620 Balgarvie

301-350kg - 2 Earlish, £630, 193.9p; 351-400kg - 2021 Colbost, £620, 44 Borneskitaig, 184.2p;
Heifers up to 200kg - Husabost, £470, 235p;
201-250kg - Strolamus, £540, Treaslane, 222.7p;
251-300kg - Torvaig, £580, Husabost, 221.4p;
301-350kg Treaslane, £600, 181.8p.
In-calf heifer:
ShorthornX - Upper Cullernie, £1300; SimmentalX Upper Cullernie, £1300.
In-calf cow:
ShorthornX - Torvaig, £950; SalerX - 9 Stenscholl, £900.
Cow with calf at foot:
LimX - 6 Kilvaxter, £1050.
OTM cows:
5 Drumie, and 2 Ebst, (LimousinX), £935; 44 Borneskitaig, (Aberdeen AngusX) £870; 2 Digg, (ShorthornX), £835.
OTM cows: 3 Peingown, (LimX), 126.6p; Torvaig, (ShorthornX), 125p; 44 Borneskitaig, (AAX), 124.3p.

DINGWALL
Dingwall and Highland Marts
Blackface ewes
Auchnafean, Grantown on Spey, £78; Gorthleck Mains, Inverness, and Drynie Farm, Dingwall, £70; Ousdale Farm, Berriedale, £60.
Blackface gimmers
Balvonic of Daviot, Daviot, £95; Leys, £88; Broomhill Farm, Muir of Ord, and Woodlands, Daviot, £82.
Blackface ewe lambs
The Aird, Muir of Ord, £58; Tigh N'Uaidh, Tomatin, £57; Dalmigvie, Inverness, Crubenbeg, Laggan, and Tigh N'Uaidh, £48.
Correct ewes:
Bluefaced Leicester - Broomhill Farm, £81;
Mule - Pithogarty, £80, Balloon, Farr, £59;
SuffolkX - Inshes Farm, £74, Easterton Croft, Auldearn, £60, 1 Newmore, Muir of Ord, £53;
Chey - Cranich, Ardross, £64, Kilmartin Hall, Drumadrochit, £59;
Cross - Woodside, Edderton, £62;
TexelX - Invercannich House, Beauly, £58.
Gimmers:
Cheviot: Free Farm, Tomatin, £100;
Bluefaced Leicester - Broomhill Farm, £95;
Gritstone: Atlantic View, Forss, £80;
Swale - Lyne of Urchanay, Geddes, £79.
Ewe lambs:
Mule - Borlum Farm, Fort Augustus, £80.
Feeding ewes:
Bluefaced Leicester - Broomhill Farm, £54;
Cross - Carbstobeg Sheep Stock Club, Isle of Skye, £50;
Mule - Lower Gartally, Drumadrochit, £47;
Blackface - Tulloch Farm, £43.50;
Cheviot - Cranich, £41.
Feeding sheep:
Blackface ram - Aultgrishan, Gairloch, £62;
Cheviot wdr - Bendoran, Lochcarron, £50;



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Do you have a **Flair** for design?

Wyvex Media are looking for a *graphic designer*

Based in Oban you will be responsible for creating commercial print jobs to our customer's specifications as well as the opportunity to work on our many newspaper and magazine publications.

This is a fantastic opportunity for the right candidate to develop a career in the design industry, focusing on print and publishing. We offer a competitive salary with benefits package.

Experience of Photoshop, In-design and Illustrator an advantage but not essential as full training will be given.

Full Driver's Licence required.

INTERESTED?
Please send your CV to:
Ali Arden
Wyvex Media
Crannog Lane, Oban PA34 4HB
Email: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

WYVEX MEDIA

Subscriptions Administrator

A vacancy has arisen within our Accounts Department.

This is a full time position based within a small friendly department at our Oban office.

You would be responsible for the administration of the subscriptions base, covering all our publications, which would include the updating of customer details on an ongoing basis and dealing with enquiries mainly by telephone or incoming mail.

Experience in the use of computer packages, ideally Sage Accounting, Excel Spreadsheets and other Windows based packages, would be desirable.

The successful candidate must be accurate and work in an organised manner. Other accounts department duties may also be required.

A full, current driving licence is essential.

We offer a competitive salary, pleasant working conditions, generous holiday entitlement, company pension, life and medical insurance.

Please apply with full CV and covering letter to Ali Arden, Wyvex Media Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll. PA34 4HB or email: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

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Experience in a sales environment would be useful but is not essential as training will be provided.

Key requirements are a clean driving licence, a good knowledge of Scotland and an ability to work well under pressure. A good sense of humour is also helpful.

INTERESTED?
Please apply today enclosing your CV and a covering letter.
Send via email to bcameron@scottishfield.co.uk or by post addressed to:
Brian Cameron, Scottish Field, Craigcrook Castle,
Craigcrook Road, Edinburgh, EH4 3PE
or call me on 0131 312 4550 if you want any further information.

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Ambitious for Scotland

Operating across half of Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise is one of Europe's most highly-regarded development agencies. HIE's unique integration of economic and community development is central to its success in generating sustainable economic growth in every part of the Highlands and Islands.

HIE are currently seeking to expand their Life Sciences team to maximise the potential of sectoral opportunities across the Highlands and Islands.

Senior Development Manager

Life Sciences

Lochgilphead, Oban or Stornoway

£30,481 per annum

Ref: 203

The role holder will drive initiatives to support significant business growth from emerging life science opportunities, primarily in natural products and digital healthcare, although also supporting developments across the sector.

In this role you will report to the Head of Life Sciences and require a higher education qualification in an area relevant to life sciences.

If you are interested in being considered for this position, please apply online by visiting our website at www.hie.co.uk For a hard copy application pack, e-mail: recruitment@hient.co.uk or call 01463 244 414 quoting the reference number.

Closing date: Sunday 28 October 2012.

www.hie.co.uk/vacancies

affinitytrust

SUPPORT WORKER VACANCIES

FULL TIME, PART TIME AND BANK STAFF REQUIRED FOR A NEW SERVICE IN LOCHGILPHEAD

Starting Salary £13,625 - £14,176 (Based on 37.5 hours)
Bank Staff £6.97 - £7.25 Per Hour
Sleeper Rate - £30.90 per night

Affinity Trust support individuals with a variety of needs to lead independent, dynamic and fulfilling lives. We are currently looking for conscientious, enthusiastic and open-minded individuals to support 3 men to live in their own home in the Lochgilphead area. Successful applicants will be expected to support these men with some daily living skills and to access activities and life-enhancing experiences both locally and further afield.

Some of the men have a keen interest in outdoor activities and have requested willing support workers to accompany them on regular walking and cycling trips and to support them to explore other outdoor opportunities.

People with a keen interest in music would also be welcome to apply.

We are seeking people with common sense in abundance and excellent values. Full training will be given and you will be supported by an experienced manager.

For an application pack, or to find out more about what we do, contact us on 01631 571311 or adminoban@affinitytrust.org.

All appointments will be subject to a PVG enhanced disclosure check.

Affinity Trust are an equal opportunities employer, that promotes diversity within our workforce and welcome applications from all sections of the community, regardless of sexual orientation, race, age, gender, disability, religion or belief.

Closing Date: 25th October 2012

The Scottish Salmon Company

The Scottish Salmon Company is the leading independent producer of superior Scottish salmon. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environment policy.

Senior Marine Operative

Located at our Marine Site on the Isle of Mull (Ref SMO/IK/10/12)

Salary £21,012.00 to £24,163.80 per annum dependant on experience

The ideal candidate will have experience in fish husbandry and have the capability to lead a small team in the day-to-day operations. This position would suit someone who is self-motivated, with good communication, organisational and IT skills. Candidates should be able to demonstrate prior experience in working within a small, focused team in a constantly changing and challenging environment. They should also have a good understanding of Health and Safety requirements and the awareness of environmental issues. Experience of Aquaculture and Boat Handling is Essential for this post, the Company can also offer further development opportunities.

Working hours are normally 40hrs per week Monday to Friday, with weekend working required on a rota basis. Overtime is paid at enhanced rates.

A full, clean driving licence is also essential.

In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package including entry into the Company Pension Scheme.

For an application form and job description, please contact:
Suzanne Mawer, HR Department,
The Scottish Salmon Company Ltd,
Ardkinglas Estate, Cairndow,
Argyll PA26 8BH
Tel: +44 (0) 1499 600 435 / 415
Email: suzanne.mawer@scottishsalmon.com
Closing date: 4pm Monday 22nd October 2012
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FIRE FIGHTER

Islay Airport

Starting Salary £16,830 rising to £21,037

We're looking for a team player with great people skills to join our team at Islay Airport to undertake the rewarding, challenging and varied role of airport firefighter which will include ensuring safety at the airport and responding to emergency calls.

You'll initially attend specialist training courses as part of your development and then undertake further training locally to achieve full competency.

You'll also be required to be "on call" on a regular basis for which additional payment is made.

A full and current driving licence is essential and as an LGV licence is essential (training will be provided) you will be aged 21 or over. You'll be required to undertake a Criminal Record Check for security clearance and due to the physical nature of some of the work you'll also have to meet our medical/fitness standards.

Further information and an application form (unfortunately we're unable to consider CVs) are available on the careers section of our website - www.hial.co.uk or by contacting our HR team on 01667 464314. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Friday, 2nd November 2012.

WIND TOWERS (SCOTLAND) LTD

Fabrication Supervisor required for local company

The right candidate will be expected to manage the fabrication team during their shift, leading by example in all aspects of the welding and fabrication process.

Essential Criteria;

- Ability to MIG Weld
- Sub Arc Welding
- MAG Welding
- Flux Core Welding
- Metal Core Welding
- Ability to read technical drawings.

In addition to the above the ideal candidate will be motivated, professional and above all else, Flexible in their approach to shift work.

Please send CV and covering letter to:
Wind Towers Scotland Ltd, PO Box 9263, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6WA
Or email to: iad@windtowersscotland.com

SALES EXECUTIVES

We are offering an exciting opportunity to build a career in local newspapers to develop, expand and strengthen the potential of our advertising sales teams.

We are seeking to appoint an experienced and/or trainee sales person who is lively, enthusiastic, a good communicator and committed to customer satisfaction. The successful candidate will join our Campbeltown Courier sales team and work across a variety of publications and products. On-going in-house training will be given as required. A full driving licence is essential as you may not necessarily be office based but could have the opportunity to travel throughout Argyll and surrounding area in one of our company vehicles.

We offer an excellent rate of pay, generous annual holiday entitlement, company pension scheme, life assurance and private medical insurance.

If you are looking for a career with a well established company and have the above attributes - we want to hear from you.

Please apply by email with a full C.V. including contact details to: ali@obantimes.co.uk
Closing date Friday 26th October

ACHA

Argyll community housing association

Temporary Property Services Officer / Site Supervisor

Based in Lochgilphead
£26,050 to £30,204 per annum
35 hours per week
Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 26th October 2012

Interviews for this post will be held in early November 2012 in Lochgilphead.

For full details and to obtain a recruitment pack visit our recruitment section on our website at www.acha.co.uk

To apply: Visit our website at www.acha.co.uk; Tel 01546 605859 / 01546 605817
Email recruitment@acha.co.uk

Administrator

CARRADALE GP SURGERY

We have a vacancy for a new administrator to join our friendly office team, to start part-time in 2013, with a view to developing in the role to a full-time position over time.

The successful candidate will deal initially with a variety of tasks, including general reception and other administrative duties.

Applicants must be flexible, well-motivated and enjoy working as part of a team, with an excellent communication and interpersonal manner, and good IT and organisational skills. Experience in an office environment is desirable, however full training will be provided.

Hours and salary negotiable - dependant on experience.

Please send handwritten covering letter with up to date CV to:
Dr Elder, The Surgery, Carradale, Argyll, PA28 6QG.
For further information contact: 01583 431376.
Closing date: 2 November 2012.

Argyll Mausoleum Limited

Part-time Activity Co-ordinator.

This charity based near Dunoon has raised the funding to enable renovation of the Argyll Mausoleum and provide visitor facilities. We are now seeking an energetic individual to assist with this project; working with volunteers to increase community involvement through events and the visitor facility.

The post is part-time for an average of 16 hours per week, for up to 2 years. The salary is £27,000 per annum pro rata.

We are seeking someone with excellent people skills, who is innovative, has good report writing and good IT skills.

For further information/job description contact Dinah McDonald on 01369 706591 and look on www.argyllmausoleum.org. Send us your cv. and tell us on a single page why you are suitable for the job. The closing date has been extended for this post. E-mail your application to dinah.mcdonald@btinternet.com by 13th October. Interviews will be held in the area on 16th October.

This post is part funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and Argyll and the Islands Leader.

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Accounts & Finance Assistant

Full time, permanent, 37.5 hours per week Mon-Fri.
NHS Band 4 - starting salary £18,652.
Based in Connel and Taynuilt surgeries.

General accounting and finance duties including banking, data entry, accounts reconciliation, VAT, accounts payable/receivable, preparation of financial management reports and payroll administration.

Visit the Job Vacancies page at www.taynuiltmedical.co.uk to download an application pack.
Closing date 5pm, 31 October 2012.

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It's easy to apply for jobs through local newspapers.

Source: Recruitment Choice, The Newspaper Society 2005

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Farm Manager
Glenfinnan

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A vacancy has arisen at our freshwater site at Glenfinnan. We are currently looking to identify a suitably qualified and highly motivated Farm Manager to deal with day to day operations.

The role will report to the Freshwater Lochs Manager and the successful candidate will be fully involved in the development of the site. In time, Glenfinnan is expected to produce in excess of 4 million smolts.

Applicants must be strong team players, possess several years fish farming experience and have a sound understanding of fish husbandry, biology and welfare. Leadership combined with strong interpersonal, communication, organisational and planning skills as well as the ability to problem solve and motivate and achieve results through the success of others are some of the attributes required for this post.

If you would like to apply, please submit an application in writing with details of relevant experience, no later than Friday 19th October 2012 to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.

Argyll & Bute Citizens Advice Bureau

New Housing Debt & Money Advice Project funded by Scottish Legal Aid Board

Housing Debt/ Money Adviser (2 posts) based Helensburgh & Lochgilphead
Salary: AP4 £23232 + 6% pension
Hours: 35 per week
Driving licence essential

An exciting opportunity to be part of a new project, funded to March 2015, to provide advice & representation on all matters relating to mortgage and tenancy repossession and debt related issues.

Admin Support Worker
Salary: General Grade 2 £15132 + 6% pension
Hours: 35 per week
Based: Lochgilphead
To provide support to the Housing Debt/Money Advisers

Money Advice/Outreach Worker - Permanent
Salary: AP3 £20520 pro rata + 6% pension
Hours: 28 per week
Based: Lochgilphead
You will have the skills & experience to provide money advice, general advice at outreach and support a team of volunteers.
Driving licence essential

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY IN MID ARGYLL

Argyll & Bute Rape Crisis are recruiting and training Volunteer Support Workers (Helpline) for Mid Argyll areas. If you would like to be part of a dedicated team of workers who offer support to survivors of sexual abuse, why not apply. If successful, you will take part in a short but intensive training programme which will give you the skills and confidence to support survivors.

Please call 01369 700 800, email fiona@ab-rc.org.uk or check www.ab-rc.org.uk for application packs.

Only females need apply - exempt under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 Section 7(2)(D)(E)
Successful applicants will require to undertake an enhanced disclosure check
Registered Charity SCO 37022

Office Administrator
Full-time (permanent)

This important role provides administrative support to the sales and dispatch teams. As well as general office duties you will be communicating directly with customers and liaising with carriers, working to provide the highest level of service at all times.

We are looking for a natural administrator and organiser who is customer facing, efficient, accurate and has the ability to multi-task. You will have excellent phone and written communication skills and have a good level of computer literacy.

Please forward your C.V. to Lucy Burke, lucy@inverawe.co.uk or post to Inverawe Smokehouses, Taynuilt, Argyll. PA35 1HU

BROGAN FUELS
Lubricant Driver
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• Category C/CE Licence
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Shortlisted candidates will be notified within 2 weeks after the closing date. If you are not contacted, you should assume that you have not been shortlisted.

- GB Oil Ltd is an Equal Opportunities Employer -

Leading the way in Learning Disability

ENABLE Scotland is a dynamic, vibrant and expanding organisation dedicated to improving the lives of people across Scotland.

OBAN

Personal Supporters
Personal Supporters - 35 hour contract (Ref: OS/0114)
Part Time Personal Supporters - 20 hour contract (Ref: OS/0115)
Hourly Rate: £7.20 per hour

We are looking for reliable and enthusiastic individuals who have a genuine interest in working with people to work in our supported living support team. As a Personal Supporter you would work directly with a person with disabilities to enable them to be included in their local community. All the individuals we support locally have a broad range of interests.

Working largely on your own initiative but as part of a team, the ideal candidates will have a flexible person-centred approach to work practices; they will be friendly, non-judgemental, enthusiastic, practically minded, flexible and adept in a variety of domestic and social situations. Candidates for these vacancies must have good communication skills, proven problem solving and organisational abilities as well as basic recording and reporting skills. A driving licence is essential for all these vacancies.

You will work a variety of hours as part of a shared rota system which is determined by the needs of the people we support, therefore early morning, evening, and weekend work is included. If you believe you could be a flexible and reliable addition to our team we would like to hear from you.

As an organisation, we are committed to developing all of our staff, providing an extensive training and development programme and career opportunities within ENABLE Scotland. We offer positive terms and conditions, including a contributory pension scheme.

For an application pack and for further information, please telephone 01631 565062 or text your details to 07889 456170 or e-mail rhona.ferrier@enable.org.uk quoting the relevant post reference number. To view and to apply online for all our vacancies, please visit www.enable.org.uk. We particularly welcome applications from disabled candidates and make our forms available in alternative formats. Completed application forms should be returned to: Rhona Ferrier, ENABLE Scotland, Oban Services, Unit 3, McLeod Building, Lochavullin Estate, Oban, PA34 4PL or by email to rhona.ferrier@enable.org.uk. Closing date: Mon 22nd October 2012.

These posts will be subject to a PVG Check.
ENABLE Scotland is an equal opportunities employer. Scottish charity number SC009024.

Money Adviser
Salary: AP3 £20520 - £22515 pro rata + 6% pension
Hours: 8 per week
To deliver the face to face element of the Money Advice Service in Argyll & Bute
Driving licence essential

the Money Advice Service

Further info and application packs:
Tel: 08456 123808
Email: info@abcab.casonline.org.uk
Closing dates for all posts: 15th October 2012
Scottish Charity No: SC030477

Ainsley, Smith & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Person Required For busy expanding accountancy practice.
Payroll and or SAGE experience preferable but not essential as training will be given.
Basic IT skills and customer service skills required.
Please reply in writing with CV to Jamie Smith, Ainsley Smith & Co, 21 Argyll Square, Oban PA34 4AT or by email to jamie@ainsleysmith.co.uk
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PUBLIC NOTICES

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Argyll Bute COUNCIL

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
12/02046/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage.	Land East of Glen Houses Aintuin Farm Dervaig Tobermory Isle of Mull	Sub Post Office Dervaig
12/02074/PP	Demolition of existing dwellinghouse and erection of 2 dwellinghouses	Torrain Ardentalan Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4SE	Oban Area Office
12/02143/PPP	Site for the erection of a dwelling house (renewal of planning consent 09/01719/PPP)	Tirlaggan Cottage Achnacroish Isle of Lismore Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5JG	Sub Post Office Lismore
12/02148/PP	Replacement roof covering to the 3 towers	Columba Hotel North Pier Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5DD	Oban Area Office
12/02164/PP	Erection of single storey extension.	1 Forestry Cottages Eredine Dalmally Argyll and Bute PA33 1BS	Sub Post Office Dalmally

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
12/02015/PP	Demolition of existing derelict cottage and erection of replacement dwellinghouse	Land at 4 Kilmaluig Kilmaluig Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute	Tiree Area Office
12/02016/CONAC	Demolition of ruinous cottage	Land at 4 Kilmaluig Kilmaluig Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute	Tiree Area Office
12/02133/PP	Erection of replacement oak timber visitors reception hut and associated works.	Iona Abbey Isle of Iona Argyll and Bute PA76 6SQ	Sub Post Office Isle of Iona
12/02158/LIB	Replacement roof covering to the 3 towers	Columba Hotel North Pier Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5DD	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
12/02121/PP	Erection of replacement porch.	25 Shore Street Port Wemyss Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA47 7ST	Sub Post Office Portnahaven

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office, Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

O.A.S.I.S
Oban Addiction Support and Information Service

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday 24th October 2012 At 7.00 p.m.
OASIS OFFICE, 11 STAFFORD STREET, OBAN
Registered Charity in Scotland No. SC031814

The Scottish Parliament

Mike MacKenzie MSP
Highlands & Islands

ADVICE SURGERY
at Ulva Ferry School
On Monday 15 October 2012 from 1.30 - 2.30pm
No appointment necessary

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Alasdair McPhee trading as A & A McPhee Haulage Ltd of 'Almar', Shore Road, Connel PA37 1PT is applying for a licence to use Dunbeg Quarry, Dunbeg, Oban, PA37 1PX as an operating centre for 4 goods vehicles and 0 trailers and to use Bonawe Quarry, Bonawe, Oban PA37 1RL as an operating centre for 4 goods vehicles and 0 trailers. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives 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.

Proposed Let of a Croft

Mr Dugald McAuslan, Eurach Farm House, Kilmartin, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RQ is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft, 1 Balliemeanoch, to Mr James McAuslan, of 2 Glen View, Dalmally, Argyll, PA33 1BE.

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township, or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofting.scotland.gov.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. Frivolous, vexatious or unreasonable comments cannot be accepted.

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY and online at <http://www.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
12/03463/FUL	Lyn Leven Annex West Laroch, Ballachulish	Change annex from guesthouse to house
12/03519/FUL	Glenuig Inn, Glenuig Lochailort	Erection of combined guest rooms and self catering units/staff flats
12/03590/FUL	Land at Blar A Chaorainn Lundavra Road Fort William	Erection of tea room, three holiday units, bunkhouse, staff house, toilets and parking (renewal of 07/00008/FULLO)
12/03684/FUL	The Store, Ardgour Fort William	Change of use from office/storeroom to letting unit
12/03727/FUL	Tigh Na Cheo Garbheinn Crescent Kinlochleven	Change of use of outbuilding from store room to holiday accommodation
12/03737/FUL	Invercoe Caravan Park Glencoe, Ballachulish	Alterations and extension to shop
12/03763/FUL	Oir-na-Mara Arisaig	Extension to house

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Proposed Let of a Croft

Mr Dugald McAuslan, Eurach Farm House, Kilmartin, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RQ is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft, 2 Balliemeanoch, to Mr Douglas McAuslan, of Flat 1 Eurach, Kilmartin, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RQ.

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township, or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofting.scotland.gov.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. Frivolous, vexatious or unreasonable comments cannot be accepted.

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended
The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2008
PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION

Proposed 18 hole golf course at Ardfin Estate, Craighouse, Isle of Jura, Argyll and Bute PA60 7XU

In advance of making an application for planning permission for the above development, Ardfin Lodge Limited are holding an exhibition and drop-in session on Thursday, 25th October 2012 between 3 and 7 p.m. at the Jura Servicepoint, Schoolhouse, Craighouse, Isle of Jura PA60 7XG.

Members of the public are invited to attend and to give their views on the emerging proposals.

Further information on the proposals can be obtained from Ardfin Lodge Limited c/o Dundas & Wilson, Saltire Court, 20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2EN or at ardfingolf@dundaswilson.com. Comments on the proposals should be sent to the same address.

Any comments received will not be representations to the planning authority: there will be an opportunity to provide comments to the planning authority on the proposals (as may be revised following consultation) after the application has been submitted to the planning authority.

Dated 11 October 2012

North Argyll Carers Centre Ltd
Annual General Meeting
Thursday 15th November 2012
Royal Hotel Argyll Square Oban
2 pm
We look forward to seeing you

69%
of the business community read the regional press

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Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

WANTED

Are you looking for a secure free way of selling your 4 x 4, any age, make, model, mileage, colour then click onto instant4x4buyer.com or call Stephen Lynch Direct tel 07751026953

TRANSIT VAN



54 (04) plate SWB, Med high roof, well shod, 97,000mils, taxed and MOT'd until end November 2012. Runs well.

Contact 01631 570060

£1600 + VAT

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£1800 o.n.o.

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12 MTHS MOT VERY GOOD CONDITION

PHONE : 01681 705216

LANDROVER DEFENDER TD5

53 reg, 54,000 miles, blue, MOT'd and taxed, 4 good tyres, well maintained.

Tel: 01866 844212 or 07766686460

£7500 + VAT.

AUTO SLEEPER TOPAZ



Elegance Green metallic, 2003, 61,000 miles, excellent condition. All usual amenities plus Fiamma bike rack, Awning and many other extras.

Tel: 01852 300219

£21,500

WANTED

All Types of Diggers, Mini Diggers, JCBs 3CXs, Also MF and CASE, Any Condition, Any Age

Telephone: 01250 884306 07885203020 gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk

AUDI A3 E SPORT TDI



5 door hatchback, 1900cc diesel, black, 50,000 miles approx, new MOT and taxed till February 2013. Reluctant sale, owner moving abroad, vgc. 59 plate.

Tel: 07786864877

£11,000

WANTED

4x4 any type, year, condition, also commercial van or pick up, will pay cash and collect.

Telephone: 07832 008156

DIGGING BUCKET NEW 48" AND BREAKER INDECO MES1800 TO FIT 360 13/18TON DIGGER.



DIGGING BUCKET NEW 48" and BREAKER INDECO MES1800 TO FIT 360 13/18TON DIGGER. INDECO HP700 FITS 3CX/UP TO 8TON TRACKED DIGGER ALL IN GOOD CON AND GOOD WORKING ORDER.

CALL 07786864877

£4800

WANTED

All types of 4 x 4's and light commercials, Ford, Mercedes, Toyota etc. Finance settled, company clearances welcome, high miles, non runners considered, cash buyer.

Telephone 07734304924

LANDROVER FREELANDER 2, S TD4E



Manual, 59 Plate, MOT September 2013, 49,000 miles, 1 previous owner, not used offroad or towing, FSH.

Tel: 01397 702240

£14,600

WANTED

Landrover Defenders from 1990 - 2011

All Japanese pickups 2 or 4 WD

Mot'd or not All models required

Contact 07866590583 or 07787058277

2006 FORD KA 1.3



51,300 miles MOT to Sept end 2013. Taxed to March end 2013. 2 careful lady owners.

Tel: 01770 600929

£2200

WANTED FOR EXPORT

Landcruisers, Hilux, also 2 w/d Vauxhall Bravos, any 4 x4 considered old or new, running or not, immediate payment on collection.

Telephone 07703 490572

LAND ROVER FREELANDER TD4 ES DIESEL



2002, Blue, 74500 miles, Top spec. Leather seats, tinted windows, sun roof, side steps, air con, electric windows. MOT until November. Road tax until February. 2 owners. Excellent condition.

Telephone: 01586 552773

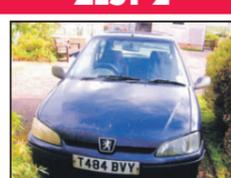
£2500

WANTED

Any 4 x 4 vehicle, Landrover 90 or 110, Mitsubishi, Toyota etc or any 4 x 4 pickup, any condition or MOT failure, will travel.

Telephone 07864035750

PEUGEOT 106XN ZEST 2



1124cc petrol, reg T484 BVV, 48,500 miles, tax 3 months, MOT 3 months.

Tel: 01583 431359 or 01583 431278

£350 o.n.o.

WANTED

All types of 4 x 4 vehicles, landrover, Toyota, anything considered. We also buy non runners, accident damaged and MOT failures, instant cash.

Telephone 01250 884306 or mobile 07885 203020

2007 NISSAN NAVARA AVENTURA 2.5 DIESEL DOUBLE CAB PICK-UP



Manual Leather Seats, Towbar, Satnav, Bluetooth, 71,600 miles, 4 months Road Tax, 1 year MOT.

Tel: 07770896266 (Oban)

£8500 inc VAT

VAUXHALL VECTRA DIRECT DESIGN



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new car index

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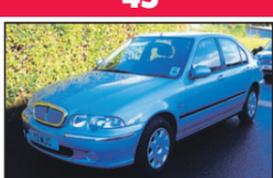


2005, 81,400 miles, MOT March 2013, 7 Seats, Alloy Wheels, Full Electric Glass Panoramic Roof.

Telephone: 01866 822 529

£3000

ROVER SPIRIT 45



02 plate. 1 Years Tax. MOT Jan 2013. 25,000 Miles. Very Good Condition.

Tel: 01770 302541

£1300

LEXUS LS-400



4 LTR, V8 LPG Converted Facelift Model, Xenons, full leather interior, Sat Nav. Tax & Tested - 6 months Good order throughout.

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BABY GATE 1 baby gate, with all fittings, opens both ways, easy to open for adults, fits most doors, ideal for keeping pets out of mischief, £10 Telephone 07749 521916.

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FLASHINGFORVELUX WINDOW GGL104 in very good condition, £19.99 Telephone 01631 564578.

SLATE TILES 4 beautiful slate tiles suitable for floor or fireplace 300mm x 400mm. Can deliver to Oban, £20 Telephone 01852 314128.

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BABYLISS CURLING TONGS 38mm curling tongs. Item 443/5114 in Argos Catalogue. Comes with heat glove, pouch and mat. Used once, £20 Telephone 07857 039876.

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MICROMARK TEA EXPRESS brand new,

in box teamaker with digital alarm clock and light. North Connel, £20 Telephone 07725 877480.

TOASTER 2 slice toaster, £5 Telephone 07749 521916.

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CHOCOLATE LABRADOR PUPS KC registered, excellent pedigree, mother hip scored, 3 bitches left in litter, ready October 15, £500 Telephone 07825 515987 or email j.mceachern@gmail.com.

GOOD HOME WANTED FOR HAMISH an independent, yet gentle and friendly, mature black and white cat, genuine reasons. Telephone 01586 552736.

KELPIE CROSS PUPPY black & tan dog, off working mother, 9 weeks old, ready for new home, £250 Telephone 01852 316297.

EQUESTRIAN

HI-VIZ PONY EXERCISE SHEET 5'0" fleecy lining, waterproof, £20 Telephone 01852 300218.

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PARKER HALE .243 RIFLE Bolt Action, hardly used, FAC required, £350 Telephone 01967 421688.

FURNITURE

PINE TABLE and 4 chairs, good condition, priced for quick sale, £49.99 Telephone 01546 606520.

SHERBORNE LIFT AND RISER recliner chair, brand new, brown/beige material, selling at half price, £600 Telephone 01397 702250 or 772131.

SINGLE BED AND BED GUARD Amelia single 3ft hard wood bed frame, as new, included infant fold down single bed guard/rail (blue), mattress is available, £49.99 Telephone 07880 876634.

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HEALTH AND FITNESS

WANTED vibration plate. Telephone 01631 740254.

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SINGER STARLET DOMESTIC sewing machine ideal for home use, good condition, £20 Telephone 01546 603126.

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LOST IN CAMPBELTOWN lady's gold necklace, sentimental. Reward. Telephone 01586 552186.

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PERSONALS

LISA HUME HAPPY BIRTHDAY 18 today Love Mum and Dad

PERSONALS

Mary Waltho would like to thank friends and colleagues for the cards, kind wishes and gifts received on her retirement. Thank you also to all who organised and attended the evening to mark her retirement.

WANTED

Do you know this man? George McRae 90 years old Friday October 12 2012 Happy Birthday Love from all the family Oban & Inverness xxxx

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BIRTHS

BARR
Donald John and Kirsten (née Crooks) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Derek John Barr, born on September 27, 2012. First grandchild for Peter and Joan, Benderloch and first grandson for Derek and Vera, Oban. With special thanks to Oban Maternity and RAH Maternity.

REID - Donna and Andrew are delighted to announce the arrival of their beautiful baby boy, Joss Ronan on Monday, September 24, 2012. A little brother for Joni Kate and Joel and fourth grandson for Donnie and Mary Stewart, Fort William.

ENGAGEMENTS
BRESLIN - GLANCY - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Linn, daughter of Irene and Mike Breslin, Seil Island, to Scott, son of Josephine and Francis Glancy, Edinburgh.

GOLDEN WEDDING
DOW - MORGAN - David to Marion in Aberfeldy Church of Scotland on October 13, 1962. Present address Inverawe, Taynuilt.

DIAMOND WEDDING

CARMICHAEL - MACDONALD
At the Palace Hotel, Oban on October 10, 1952, by the late Rev. D. MacKenzie, Dugald to Katie Mary. 17 MillPark Avenue, Oban. Love from all the family.

DEATHS

BELL - Peacefully at the North Argyll House, Oban, on October 8, 2012, in his 93rd year, Duncan (Town Gardner) formerly of Glen Iosal, Tobermory. The funeral will take place at the graveside, Pennyfuir Cemetery on Friday October 12 at 1 pm. To which all friends are respectfully invited.

PULMAN - Christina Ann, wife of the late Albert Edward Pulman, died peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on September 29, 2012 in her 96th year. Funeral service at The Church of Scotland, Glenruitten Road, Oban at 11am on Monday October 15 followed by private cremation at Cardross Crematorium.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CUESTA - Mrs Marie Lipp, Jo and Mo and Fiona's family in Switzerland would like to express their appreciation to all those who attended St Modan's Church, Benderloch on September 28, 2012 to Celebrate Fiona's Life. We are very grateful to Rev. Robert Brookes, Mrs Jeanette Crerar, Mr and Mrs Steve Eccles and Mrs Betty Martin for their help and support at this difficult time. Thank you to all those who have called, sent cards and letters and taken time to express their sympathy to us. Thank you to Hamish Hoey (undertakers) for their assistance, Mr N. Nicholson for playing the organ, The Flower Basket for the church flowers and The Falls of Lora Hotel. A total of £450 was raised for Fiona's three chosen charities.

MACDONALD - Hazel and family would like to express their thanks to everyone for the comfort, support and generosity shown to them since Jimmy's sad passing. Father Wynne and Deacon Stanislaw for a very personal and touching service. May MacIntyre organist and Ewen MacLennan for sensitive funeral arrangements. Retrial collection for Palliative Care Belford Hospital has raised £748.90 to date.

MACFADYEN - Johan and family would like to thank all who attended the funeral of Johnny. They also express much appreciation for all the calls, cards and messages of support, which has helped us through this difficult time. A special thanks to all the staff at Port Appin Surgery, Lorn and the Isles Hospital for their kindness and care, also to Rev Roderick Campbell for a very moving and touching service. Lucy Heycock and Oban Macmillan Nurses a heart felt thanks for your support and D&A Munn for their funeral services. A total of £1,339 was collected for Macmillan Nurses. Sadly missed by all.

MCLENNAN - Alexander, Shirley and family would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their mountain of flowers, cards and food and for their support at Lex's funeral last week. Thanks also to Denise, Hazel, Carol, Willie etc., Dr. Jespersen, Macmillan nurses, Senga at Marie Curie and MEARS for their care. To Hamish Hoey and Sons, Father James MacNeill for an uplifting service and support, Paul MacIntyre for wonderful music and Duncan Johnston for his lovely singing. Thanks also to Lancaster Hotel for refreshments. Retrial collection raised for Macmillan and Marie Curie was £433.76. God bless you all.

STUART - Derek would like to thank all relatives, friends, work colleagues, and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, phone calls, cards and support after the recent loss of his beloved wife Janette. Thank you also to all staff at the Lorn and Islands Hospital for their care and compassion to Janette during her day visits and her stay with them. To the Rev. Dugald Cameron, thank you for the beautiful service, to all who attended at the church/crematorium and for their donations to the Oban Day Hospital at the Lorn and Islands Hospital. Also to Catriona of Hamish Hoey and Son for tender and sympathetic care.

MEMORIALS

MACINTYRE - Remembering with love a dearly loved mum Flora who passed away on October 16 2011. Loved and remembered every day. Never more than a thought away. - Love Margaret xxx
MACKENZIE - Treasured memories of Mary, who passed away on October 10, 2011. This day is remembered and quietly kept. No words are needed we shall never forget. For those we love don't go away. They walk beside us every day. Unseen and unheard, but always near. So loved, so missed, and so very dear. - Stewart, Veronica, John and families.

ECCLIASTICAL NOTICES

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 14 October 2012
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh
(01631) 567076
All welcome

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Trinity 19
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion.....08.00
Sung Eucharist.....10.15
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Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Nicola McNelly Provost
(01631) 562323
St Columba Gruline, Mull
Mattins.....11.00
St Columba,
Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....08.00
Evensong.....20.15
Holy Eucharist.....
.....Wed 17 October 14:30

Oban Times
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

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- Inserted by Mum.
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MACKENZIE (MOUAT) - Precious memories of my dear sister Mary, who passed away October 10, 2011. You are with the angels now. It was time to say goodbye. Yet still it's hard to hide the pain. No matter how I try. For you were such a special sister. You are always in our thoughts. And forever in our heart. - Duncan, Ruth and Hannah xxx

MACKENZIE - Treasured memories of Mary a much-loved mother. It broke my heart to lose you. But you didn't go alone. For part of me went with you. The day God called you home. Loved and remembered every day.
- Catherine xx
MACKENZIE - In loving memory of Mary a dear mother, mother in law, Nana and Great Nana who passed away October 15 2011. If roses grow in heaven Lord, Please pick a bunch for me, Place them in my mother's arms, And tell her they're from me. Tell her that I love her and miss her, And when she turns to smile, Place a kiss upon her cheek, And hold her for a while. Because remembering her is easy. I do it every day. But there's an ache within my heart. That will never go away. - Christine, Jim, Jamie, Gavin and Alfie xx

MACKENZIE - In loving memory of my dear friend Mary, died October 15 2011. Always in my thoughts.
- Inserted by Fi.
MACKILLOP - In memory of a beloved husband, dad and papa, William MacKillop, who died October 14, 2007. Loved and remembered every day.
- Iona, Keith, Tracy, Demi and Harry.
MACKILLOP - In ever loving memory of a dear dad and papa Willie. If we had all the world to give We'd give it yes and more To hear your voice and see your smile And greet you at the door But all we do now dad Is go and tend your grave And leave behind tokens of love To the best dad God made. - D.J., Margaret, Dean and Megan xx
Forever in our thoughts and hearts
Loved always.
- Yvonne, James, Evie Jay and James.
MACKINNON - Joan. Creagan, Hough, Isle of Tiree, died September 30, 1997. In loving memory. - From Neil, Kaide, May, Monica and grandsons James, Calum and Charlie.
MCGIBBON - Remembering our dear parents and grandparents. Effie - died December 8, 2001. Angus - died October 19, 1993. Time slips by but memories stay. Because you are loved and remembered each day. - Maureen, John, Fraser, Sheena and 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 Always in my thoughts. - Ever loving son Archie.
STEWART - Remembering our dear parents and grandparents. Marjorie - died September 17, 1996. Ernie - died November 14 1999. Time slips by but memories stay. Because you are loved and remembered each day. - Maureen, John, Fraser, Sheena & family.
STODDART - Kenneth John, 4 Kilbride, Broadford, Isle of Skye, died October 12, 2000. Forever in our thoughts. - Donald John and family in Fort William and Skye.
TINDALL - In loving memory of my dear Freddie, who passed away October 5, 2007. Always in my thoughts. Forever in my heart. - Love Morag.
WOODROW - Treasured memories of our David, died October 16 1990 result of an accident, aged 21 years. No one knows the heartache Only those who have lost can tell Of the grief that we bear in silence. For the one we loved so well. We miss your smile and cheery ways. When we remember happy days - all of us together. - Mum, Dad, Fraser, Sheena and family.

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GRADUATIONS
Mairi-Eloise Vajk graduated from the University of Falmouth with a BA (Hons) in English Literature & Creative Writing. Mairi-Eloise is the daughter of Hugo and Judith Vajk and is a former pupil of Achaleven Primary School and Oban High School.

Oban Times
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Oban Times
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

From code-breaking to the cathedral

Former servicewoman is Oban's newest minister



The Very Revd Nicki McNelly, has been installed at St John's Cathedral. 16_041nick101

A FORMER code-breaker in the army's intelligence corp and checkout operator at Waitrose, St John's Cathedral's new provost has had an interesting career path to say the least. The Very Revd Nicki McNelly, who was installed at the church on August 31, succeeds The Very Rev Norman MacCallum, who retired in April, at the Scottish Episcopal Church. 'I am still trying to find my feet,' said the 50 year old, who also looks after Arbrecknish and Kilbrandon churches. 'The congregation at St John's has been through some difficult times but they have stuck together and stayed loyal to the church. 'It would be nice to see the congregation grow, in number and spiritually, and I hope to bring different varieties of worship that will encourage younger people to come to the church.' Provost McNelly, who is originally from Wales, joined the army as an analyst at the age of 18 but left four years later after she married her husband, Iain.

Thereafter, she followed her husband all over the world and raised two daughters, Anya and Ceri. She said: 'I have a long and varied CV. I have been a personal trainer to Saudi princesses, worked on a checkout in Waitrose, a personal assistant, a school secretary and more recently worked with the charity Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) Forces Help. It wasn't until 2007 that Provost McNelly began studying ministry at Durham in 2007, before serving her curacy at St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh from 2009 until this year. She said: 'Shortly before I applied to Durham I had been part of the Archdeaconry Synod and was on a retreat in Yorkshire. 'The chaplain asked me why I had been disobedient, as God had been calling me and I had been ignoring the call! 'It came as a shock because joining the ministry wasn't something I had even considered but that was a life-changing weekend.'

Thought for the Week

Are we thankful?

Like 'please', the word 'thank you' seem to have fallen out of fashion lately. This is the time of year when you see posters advertising 'Harvest Thanksgiving'. Has this term lost its meaning in our 21st century world? Ask the average person in the street and they will tell you their idea of 'harvest' is the weekly trip to Tesco (or Morrisons) to harvest the necessary supplies for the family week from the burgeoning shelves all over the shop. This is something that happens every week, year in year out. In an age where few of us grow our daily food ourselves, thankfulness for the fruits of the earth seems rather anachronistic. Perhaps we need to step back from the hustle and bustle of the weekly trip to the supermarket and reflect on where all this bounty comes from.

We read in Genesis: 'As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.' Let's never assume we have a right to all the good things in life. They are gifts resulting from the Giver, Who orders Creation. Take away those things mentioned in our quote and there wouldn't even be a Tesco's, or a Morrisons, or for that matter, even us!

New Argyll and the Isles Dean of the Diocese chosen

THE REVEREND Andrew Swift has been appointed Dean of the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles with immediate effect. In making the appointment Bishop Kevin said: 'It is a particularly exciting time in the life of the Diocese and Revd Andrew will bring to the role of Dean both spiritual insight and practical skill. I am delighted that he has accepted the post. Revd Swift has been priest-in-charge of Holy Trinity, Dunoon and St Paul's, Rothesay since 2010 having previously served in the Diocese of Gloucester. The Very Revd Andrew Swift commented: 'It is a great honour and privilege to be asked to serve the Diocese and the wider Scottish Episcopal Church as the next Dean of Argyll and the Isles. 'As well as continuing my duties in the linked charges of Cowal and Bute, I am looking forward very much to working closely with Bishop Kevin and the diocesan staff, and of course getting to know the many and varied communities within our beautiful but widely dispersed Diocese.'



The Very Revd Andrew Swift.

The role of the Dean of a Diocese in the Scottish Episcopal Church is both administrative and pastoral. The administrative duties include oversight of church buildings and inspection of the registers, inventories and records of congregations, and generally acting on behalf of the Bishop when required. Other roles include supporting the Bishop in his ministry in the Diocese and deputising for the Bishop in a variety of situations. The office of Dean has been vacant following the retirement of The Very Revd Norman MacCallum. The United Diocese of Argyll and the Isles is one of the seven historic dioceses of the Scottish Episcopal Church. With cathedrals in Oban and on the Isle of Cumbrae, the Diocese extends from Iona as far inland as Glencoe and from Lewis and the Western Isles south to Kintyre and Arran.

Oban Baptist Church welcomes Rev McFarlane

MORE than 100 members, friends and guests of Oban Baptist Church gathered last Saturday for the induction of their new minister, Rev Ian McFarlane. Twelve members of Rev McFarlane's previous charge, the Bookham Baptist Church, were also in attendance. The induction was held in the Church of Scotland, Glenruitten Road by kind permission of the Oban Church of Scotland and was led by Rev Angus MacNeill, Lochgilphead, who has been the Interim Moderator of Oban Baptist Church for almost two years. The Act of Induction was led by Rev Alan Donaldson, general director of the Baptist Union of Scotland and the speaker was Rev Steve Elmes, lead minister at Bookham Baptist Church. This was followed by a meal and social evening in Glenruitten Church Centre. Everyone enjoyed the entertainment by local artists.

MacNeill, Lochgilphead, who has been the Interim Moderator of Oban Baptist Church for almost two years. The Act of Induction was led by Rev Alan Donaldson, general director of the Baptist Union of Scotland and the speaker was Rev Steve Elmes, lead minister at Bookham Baptist Church. This was followed by a meal and social evening in Glenruitten Church Centre. Everyone enjoyed the entertainment by local artists.

That's not a door!

AN UNLUCKY shopper had a close shave at the weekend when he mistook a window for a door and walked straight into it. The man said he moved to the side to allow girls into the Superdrug store and walked into the window, smashing it to pieces. The Saltcoats man, currently in Oban for work, was cursing his bad luck further: 'I dropped a penny when I was getting my change. I picked it up and gave it to the girl - I told her that's supposed to be lucky,' he said. The man only suffered slight injuries.

John calls time on 40-year career

AFTER spending 40 years as an ambulance technician, Oban's John Barbour is to spend his retirement enjoying his other passion, cars. One of the most well known faces in the town, John was guest of honour at a party in the rugby club as he left a career that started on August 21, 1972, when the job was a totally different prospect. He said: 'It is a different job now from what it was when I started, it's come on so much. 'It's still a job though where you go in there in the morning and don't know at all what you'll be doing that day. 'I'm looking forward to retirement but when I left my last shift it was actually quite hard. I'll definitely miss the people.' John, who is sometimes known as Johnny, has taken up a part time job after leaving the service and will spend more time with his family and at Knockhill's race track. Right: John, right, received a specially engraved decanter from Scottish Ambulance Service general manager, Garry Fraser. 15_141barbour1



THE OBAN TIMES
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL

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Fort face form teams in coming weeks

'We have to look at every game and see what we can get out of it'

REPORT BY RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

FORT William face a tough run of games against some of the Highland league's form sides in coming weeks - starting with a trip to take on Inverurie Locos this Saturday.

With the likes of Huntly and Wick Academy lying in wait,

October promises to be a tough month for the Claggan Park side.

Manager Danny Conlon has been dealt a blow with the news a groin injury could keep young goalie Jay Smith out of action for up to 12 weeks.

Impressed
Smith has impressed since being thrust into first team action this season, but will be

FOOTBALL

replaced by Lewis keeper Iain MacLeod. MacLeod, now based in Aberdeen, is the brother-in-law of ex-Fort midfielder Chris MacLeod.

Conlon told The Oban Times mid-table Locos would provide a stern test.

He said: 'It's going to be a very difficult game, but they've had a bit of an up and down season so far, in terms of results. We will be trying to stay in the game for as long as we can.'

Disappointing
Conlon will be able to call upon forwards Davie Forbes and Logan Barker for the game, both of who missed last weekend's disappointing 2-0 home loss to Rothes.

A goal in each half from Stuart Massie was enough for Rothes to take the points in a scrappy game that had little to enthrall the fans.

The closest Fort came to scoring came at 0-1 down, when Darren Quigg burst through and



Rothes' Michael Dunn takes the ball full in the face to head clear from Fort's Ryan MacDonald and Darren Quigg. 20_141foot0605

rifled in a shot which cannoned off the left hand post.

Conlon said the absence of Forbes and Barker meant Iain MacLellan was handed the main striker's role, when his best position is playing just behind a target man.

He said: 'We just weren't at the races, and the players were told that at half time. The first half we were really poor, and in the second we weren't much better.

'There was a lack of width and we didn't have anything up front to trouble them. We know what are weaknesses are, but it's hard to fix them.

'We have to look at every game and see what we can get out of it. If we can pick up points against the bigger teams, that's great. But games against teams around us are virtually six-pointers, and to not pick up anything is extremely disappointing.'

High school pipped at the post

SCHOOL SHINTY

LOCHABER High School suffered a narrow defeat in the final of the Great Glen Schools' Shinty Sixes last Wednesday in Drumnadrochit.

Seven teams from across the Highlands - Kilchuimen Academy, Kingussie High, Dingwall Academy, Charleston Academy and two teams from Glen Urquhart High - took part in the 18th annual round-robin competition.

Lochaber reached the final but were defeated by Kingussie by just one goal.

Even organiser Allan MacLeod said: 'The standard of shinty every year gets better and better.'

'On behalf of the hosts, Glen Urquhart High School, I would like to thank Glenurquhart Shinty Club for the use of their facilities and to DCR Sport for the donation of the shinty balls for the competition.

'We look forward to welcoming the schools back in March for the Robertson Cup Shinty Sixes for under 14s.'

Dream start for reigning champs

INDOOR FOOTBALL

REIGNING champs Lochaber Leisure got a dream start in the new season of the Ali Young Indoor Football league with an 11-1 win against Caol FC at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

Two new sides, All Blacks and Portoway, had a high-scoring encounter, with Portoway winning 7-3.

Last year's third-placed side Goon Squad also got off to a good start, defeating HWEnergy No-Stars 5-2, while Achintore FC picked up three points with a 3-0 win over AA Young.

Another new side, Old Codgers, went down 5-3 to Ballachulish.

Woodies pairs

BOWLS

O'Neil with right crosses. Time and again they found the target and when he knocked out the Aberdonian's gumshield it looked like he might have pulled it off but alas ran out of time and ultimately lost the decision.

Kevin will look for revenge in a rematch with O'Neil at Lochaber Phoenix's home show in the Nevis Centre on Saturday November 3.



ALEX Wood presented the prizes after the Railway Bowling Club's Woodies Taxis pairs competition in Inverlochty. Alex handed the trophy to winners Kevin Douglas and Duncan Gillies (back), and gave the runners-up prize to her uncle Brian Wood and her father Innes Wood (left), who sponsored the competition - #4bowls1no

Fort William GC

GOLF

FORT William Golf Club's winter league competition starts this Saturday at 10am.

Summer greens and winter tees will be used this weekend, and all are welcome to take part.



Darren Duncan fires over a cross despite the attentions of Rothes' Greig Watson 20_141foot0601

University boys prove too clever for Lochaber

LOCHABER made the long journey to the north east on Saturday hoping to keep their unbeaten start to the season

going but fell to a 53-7 defeat against Aberdeen University.

Despite the loss to an Aberdeen side which boasted a number of

RUGBY

Scotland under 21s in their side and has a 100 percent record so far, Lochaber stay remain in the RBS Caledonia regional league division two north.

Lochaber hardly touched the ball in the first half, and with the referee giving the home side the benefit of all the 50/50 decisions Aberdeen the home side were well in front by half time.

After the break Lochaber came out far more focussed and showed glimpses of why they had won their first five games. Following some good pressure, Connor Taylor broke free and managed to slip a pass to his back row colleague Jack Baxter to score, with Kenny Turnbull converting.

Lochaber continued to press and had a number of line breaks but were unable to convert these into points. A late Lochaber highlight saw some quick thinking from Jack Ringland to stop an Aberdeen centre scoring what looked like a certain try.

Lochaber will hope to get their season back on track at 3pm this Saturday when they welcome Ross Sutherland to Banavie, with a big crowd expected to cheer them on from 'the hill'.



Lochaber try scorer Jack Baxter wins a lineout during Saturday's loss to Aberdeen University.

Boxing brothers impress at Aberdeen show

FORT William's boxing brothers James and Kevin Aitchison both impressed during a show in Aberdeen hosted by Granite City ABC last Friday.

The teenagers represented Lochaber Phoenix ABC, with the more experienced James first to fight against home fighter Eddie Copland.

The 14 year-old was conceding height and reach to Copland, but that didn't prevent him claiming the centre of the ring in the opening round as both boxers tried to establish their jab, using good defence to limit the number of scoring blows.

In round two good defence from both fighters restricted point scoring. In the final round James cleverly introduced feinting which proved key to landing his backhand, as time and again Copland fell into the trap.

James punished the Granite City boxer with accurate right hands all the time keeping his own defences tight as he showed tremendous powers of concentration coupled with a fierce desire for victory as he powered his way to the final bell.

This strong finish gave James a unanimous decision victory which was very much deserved after a fine performance.

Kevin was next in the ring facing another home fighter Matty O'Neil.

O'Neil came charging out of the blocks at the first bell and throwing multiple combinations at Aitchison. The 13 year-old was totally surprised by this and although he blocked virtually everything coming his way the odd shot did sneak through and as he was not throwing any counters of his own found himself behind at the end of the round.

The second saw O'Neil continue his aggressive barrage and

while Kevin at last started firing back his own punches he elected to stand and trade as opposed to using his reach and footwork.

Sometimes a person can find out about his true character when put in difficult situations and Kevin discovered some of the qualities he possesses in the final round when he had to try and find a minor miracle to turn the fight around.

Relying on sheer strength of will he began to bombard

BOXING

O'Neil with right crosses. Time and again they found the target and when he knocked out the Aberdonian's gumshield it looked like he might have pulled it off but alas ran out of time and ultimately lost the decision.

Kevin will look for revenge in a rematch with O'Neil at Lochaber Phoenix's home show in the Nevis Centre on Saturday November 3.



Boxing brothers - Kevin (left) and James with their father Kevin Sr.



Fighting for Scotland: (left to right) Callum Clement, Ben Wilson and Sam MacLeod

International honours for Kinlochleven boxers

TWO young Kinlochleven boxers were part of a six-strong Scotland side which travelled to take on their English counterparts in County Durham last Friday.

Claymores Amateur Boxing Club members Sam MacLeod and 14 year-old Ben Wilson, along with club mate Callum Clement of Tyndrum, represented their country in the North Road Gym ABC's sell-out England v Scotland show with three boxers from North Glasgow ABC against fighters from across the north of England.

Both Lochaber fighters more than held their own against strong opponents.

Wilson fought Asif Mia of Birtley ABC with both youngsters fighting an a fantastic tempo throughout the three rounds. Wilson lost by just a single point, but impressed the packed home crowd.

The schoolboy is the first student to graduate from Claymores ABC's Amateur Boxing Academy and go on to become a carded boxer.

Senior boxer MacLeod took home fighter John Graham in the main event of the evening.

MacLeod's style always ensures the crowd gets its money's worth and he did not disappoint at this event.

BOXING

After being led into the ring by a piper, MacLeod came forward throwing lefts and rights from bell to bell. He struggled to make headway against the 6'5" Graham, and when the referee deducted a point from the Lochaber man for hitting with the inside of his glove the bout was all but lost.

But he boxed on and he had the crowd on their feet as he tried desperately to get back on terms with Graham.

Callander High School pupil Clement systematically took his opponent apart Lewis McBarren with a series of crashing right hooks and comfortably won a unanimous decision from the judges.

Claymores head coach Martin Glenesk told The Oban Times: 'All in all Claymores ABC's first trip 'abroad' proved to be very successful for all concerned. New friendships were formed and bonds with other clubs were made and strengthened.

'Ben has always impressed me both as a boxer and although on this occasion he lost out to a very good lad, he only lost by a single point and in my opinion that decision could have gone either way. I believe Ben really is a star of the future.'



All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

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 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 decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

WIN £2000

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

D McAulay Strachur, Argyll

W Callander Benderloch, Argyll

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition



I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Name

Address

Tel No.

Please tape your £1 coin here

Call to arms from Scots shinty boss

DREW McNeil has urged shinty fans to descend upon Inverness in number next Saturday, believing the crowd can inspire the Scots to victory against Ireland.

Scotland's elite shinty players lock sticks with the Irish hurlers in the first match of the annual international series which manager McNeil reckons is now a 'must-win'.

The Scots last savoured victory in the yearly hybrid ruck clash back in Kilkenny in 2008 when the dark blues overcame the weather and the odds to win 13-12.

In the last two years, the Irish have edged series wins by the narrowest of margins but McNeil is confident his new-look squad can end that run in 2012.

Stalwart

Having captained and managed his country, the former Fort William stalwart is aware of what it takes to win the ultimate contest of two great stick sports.

He also knows the inspiration a Scottish player can get from a full house and a mass of dark blue.

'These matches are a great spectacle but they are also a vehicle to show people what a great sport shinty is,' said McNeil.

'The Irish are very proud about the game of hurling and believe it is the best and I am passionate about showing them how good our sport is.'

Need to win

'In order to do that, and for the health of the international series, I believe we need to win this year.'

'Having a large crowd at these home games really lifts the players. I have seen it myself.'

'Some of these guys may never get to play in Camanachd Cup finals because they maybe don't all play for the so-called bigger clubs.'

'For them, this is their cup final, it is the largest game and the largest crowd they will experience and when they see and hear it, they want to prove themselves.'

'That's why I reckon a big crowd could be a 14th man for us and I'd love to see the shinty fans turn out and get behind them.'

The first leg of the two-game series goes ahead at Bught Park, Inverness, at 1.15pm on Saturday October 20, with tickets priced at £10 per adult. Concessions pay only £5 while U-12s can watch all the action for free.

The second leg in Ennis, County Clare, take place the following Saturday, October 27, coinciding with a cultural festival in the region.

Tickets for the home leg in Inverness are available online via Eden Court Theatre <http://www.eden-court.co.uk/> or can be purchased at the gate on the day. Camanachd Association members get a 20 per cent discount with a membership card.

Some Interesting Facts

Shinty/Hurling is a cross of two sporting codes, Scottish shinty and Irish hurling. It is a unique sporting and cultural exchange with no parallel anywhere in the world.

The history of Shinty/Hurling dates back to 1896, whilst one of the first ever matches, between Glasgow Cowal and Dublin Celtic, was played at

SHINTY

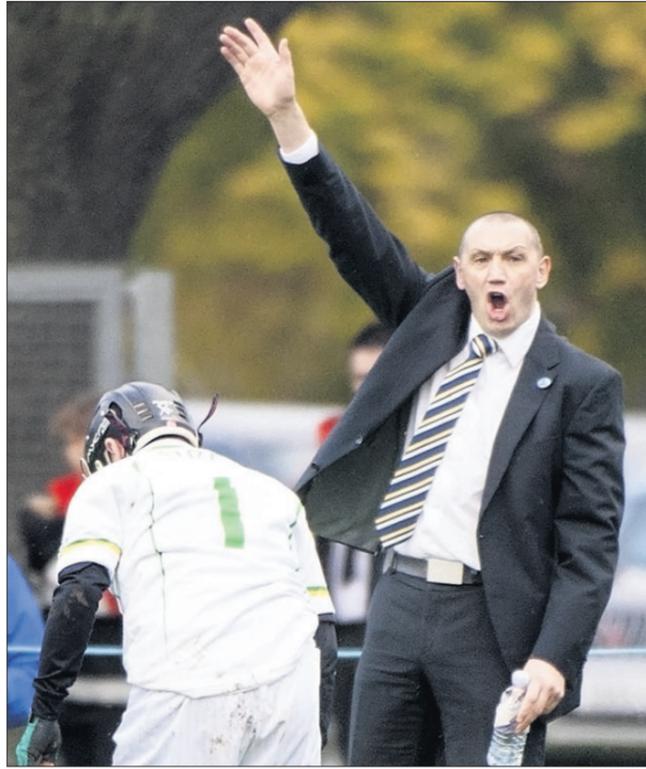
Celtic Park, home of Glasgow Celtic FC.

Shinty/Hurling has been staged as a support event for the hugely popular International Rules football match between Ireland and Australia. When the Scots won 19-11 at Croke Park, Dublin, in Nov 2006, there were 45 000 spectators in the stadium by the end of the game.

In shinty, there are 12 players in a team. There are 13 in a Shinty/Hurling team. Whilst shinty comprises two halves of 45 minutes, a Shinty/Hurling match comprises two halves of 35 minutes.

Goals deployed are those used in Hurling matches, with three points for a goal into the net below the bar, one point for a hit over the bar and two points for a hit over the bar from a stationary ball.

Each nation gets one point for a win. If any nation scores two goals or more, they also receive a bonus point.



Scotland manager Drew McNeil.

October Come and Try shinty sessions

THE Camanachd Association, in partnership with the Scottish Government, Argyll and Bute Council and local clubs, is promoting a series of Come and Try Shinty sessions for 10 - 14 year old boys and girls during the October holidays.

Lochgilphead Joint Campus all-weather pitch: Wednesday 10th October

Oban High School all-weather pitch: Thursday 11th October

Dunoon Grammar School all-weather pitch: Friday 12th October

No previous shinty experience is necessary. All sessions start at 11am and finish for 13.30pm and cost £2.50 per person. Children are asked to wear appropriate all-weather clothing plus bring a drink and a snack. Registration is required in advance.

For further information or to register your place please contact Euan McMurdo, Argyll & Bute Shinty Development Officer at euam.mcmurdo@shinty.com, 07824367996 or 01463 715931.

Rev. Duncan Finlayson, Caberfeidh

SHINTY and Caberfeidh lost a great man last week. Rev. Duncan Finlayson, who had just passed 95 lived in the 1920s and 1930s in Strathpeffer before going into the ministry.

He is believed to have been Cabers' oldest supporter. His father was an estate factor at Fairburn Estate near Marybank while his mother was involved in the running of Holly Lodge Hotel as a boarding house.

Duncan was well-kent at Castle Leod every Saturday and further afield if necessary to watch the team.

When Duncan retired first he lived in Appin and had an involvement with Appin Shinty Club but travelled into the Lochaber area to watch Cabers any time they were playing in that area.

He was a great fan of Cabers in their glory years of the 1930s. I had the great privilege of meeting him and his alter ego Finlay Ross last year when we celebrated Cabers' 125. An extraordinary man.

He will be greatly missed. Gus am bris an là, a Dhunnchaidh agus Fhionnlaigh.

Hugh Dan MacLennan



Results

Saturday 6th October

Orion Group Premiership
Kingussie 1 v 2 Inveraray

Marine Harvest

North Division 1

Beaully 3 v 5 Lochaber
Skye 3 v 0 Strathglass

Marine Harvest

North Division 2

Glenurquhart p - p Kingussie

Marine Harvest

South Division 2

Kyles Athletic P - P Bute

Youth Results

Tuesday 2nd October

Under-14 North Division 1
Newtonmore 2 - 0 Skye

Fixtures

Saturday 13 October

Marine Harvest

North Division 1

Lochcarron v Lochaber
John MacLeod

Marine Harvest

North Division 2

Aberdeen Uni v Glenurquhart
Graeme MacMillan

Both throw-ups 2.30pm



Top shinty referee Deek Cameron left his traditional black strip at home to don Kilmallie colours on Saturday in an inter-club match to celebrate the opening of the new clubhouse. Deek, left showed he had lost none of his trademark skills in the forward line during the game at Canal Parks, Caol.

20_f41shinty01

Competition Structure Review - have your say

AS PART of the Strategic Review of the Camanachd Association a commitment was given that a review of the present competition structure would be undertaken this year with any recommendation for change to go to the annual general meeting early next year for implementation in 2014.

A small group has been set up under the chairmanship of Richard Gall, competitions director, to undertake this task. This will involve an examination of the present league structure, the cup competitions and such opportunities as there exist for players to play shinty at representative level.

As part of this review process, the Camanachd Association would like to consult with all stakeholders - clubs, associations, players, referees, sponsors

and individuals who have the best interests of the sport at heart and would like to be involved in shaping the future development.

Some of the issues that have been brought up with regard to the present league structure are as follows:

A 10-team Premier League may be too large: with a reduction to eight teams there would be more room for representative games.

North Division One has only seven teams under the present set up, and this season a third round of fixtures was added to give the clubs more matches.

There is an issue with reserve teams in the South Division One having to be relegated if a premier team moves down. There is always a possibility that the same could happen in the north. Only once in last four years,

have the league competitions been completed prior to the Shinty/Hurling international. Twice it has been the end of November and once it was the middle of December.

Recently the senior Shinty/Hurling International has been played on a home and away basis, although both the Under-21s and Women's teams have only had one match. Should the association expand this to enable all three teams to have annual home and away fixtures or should we revert to just one fixture per team each year?

Doubtless there are many other comments that may be made in relation to the status quo and of course, problems may be found in any competition structure. It may be that the current structure is as good as can be achieved at the present time.

Nevertheless the Camanachd Association would be grateful for your participation in this part of the consultation which takes the form of a questionnaire.

To view the questionnaire and have your say go to shinty.com - closing date for responses is 26 October 2012.

This will be followed up with a series of road shows in various locations throughout the shinty playing areas in November to allow members to discuss the findings of the questionnaire and consider any suggestions which have been made. Thereafter any recommendations will be presented to the Board of the Association in December following which they will go to the general meeting.

For more information, please contact Astie Cameron on 01463 715931.

Level 1 Shinty Coaching Certificate in Lochaber

THE Camanachd Association is pleased to advertise the next UKCC Level 1 Coaching Certificate Courses in Shinty. This is a major opportunity for clubs/schools to encourage their coaches to improve their ability to provide quality coaching for the players.

The Level 1 course is United Kingdom Coaching Certificate (UKCC) accredited and has been developed in relation to the United Kingdom Coaching Framework and the principles of Coaching Scotland. UKCC courses are nationally recognised throughout UK sport as a kite-mark of excellence. For more information on the UKCC

please visit www.sportscoachuk.org

The course will be run on: Saturday/Sunday 10th and 11th November 2012 at Lochaber High School, Fort William.

The course will consist of two day practical/theory sessions. Day 1: 10.00am - 6.30pm Day 2: 10.00am - 5.30pm.

Assessment

A follow-up coaching session assessment at the candidates club/school. (date agreed with candidate)

Applications must be returned by Friday 2nd November 2012 so that resources and tutors can be confirmed. Places will be limited so people are asked to

apply as soon as possible.

Funding support is available from sportscotland.org.uk within UKCC funding - UKCC funding. This funding must be applied for by Friday 20th October 2012.

Additional funding will allow candidates who complete the course to re claim the remaining £50 therefore the course can be free.

For further information, please contact: Graham Cormack, Coaching and Performance Development Manager on 01463 715931 - 07894 588538 or graham.cormack@shinty.com.

Inveraray take both points at the Dell

INVERARAY leapfrogged Kingussie in shinty's Orion Group Premiership with a 2-1 victory over their opponents at the Dell.

The win means Inveraray finish in fifth place in the league.

Euan McMurdo opened the scoring for the Royal Burgh and David MacPherson doubled the lead on 25 minutes.

Five minutes before half time Lee Bain pulled a goal back for the home side but there were to be no more goals.

The strong league finish and the seeing the Celtic Society Cup in the trophy cabinet will go some way to heal the wounds of Inveraray's recent Camanachd Cup final defeat, in what has been a successful season overall.



Taynuilt Amateurs took on Nia Roo in the West of Scotland League Cup, but the Taynuilt boys were no match for their Glasgow opponents who won convincingly 5-0. Our picture shows Taynuilt defender Craig 'Winky' MacDougall clearing his lines while under pressure from a Nia Roo forward. This Saturday Taynuilt travel away to take on Jimmy Johnstone Academy in the second round of the West of Scotland Cup.

Can Lochaber remain unbeaten in the league this season?

NEWLY crowned Marine Harvest North Division One champions Lochaber are just two games from completing an unbeaten league campaign after an entertaining 5-3 win away to Beaully last Saturday.

The Spean Bridge side are away to Lochcarron this Saturday, and are due to play their last game of 2012 at home to Inverness on Saturday, November 3.

Michael Delaney was able to recall Stuart Callison for the tie with Beaully, but Lachlan Campbell, Neil MacDonald and forward Zandz Ferguson all missed the trip.

Callison opened the scoring in the seventh minute, with top scorer Shaun Nicolson added a second three minutes later.

But Beaully didn't lie down and were level by half time. Two minutes into the second half the home side found themselves in the lead for the first time, but quick replies from Scott Patterson and Ben Delaney put Lochaber back in front.

Nicolson knocked in his 30th league goal of the season in the 63rd minute to secure Lochaber's 14th win in 16 league games.

Winter league at Colonsay Golf Club

ISLE of Colonsay Golf Club, Winter League preliminary round 1, Sunday 7 October - S. MacAllister 74; S. Weatherstone 81; D. Binnie 92; L. McNeill 94; D. Bell 99; D MacDonald 103.



Top awards for Fort William CC

CRICKET

FORT William Cricket Club rounded off a successful season by collecting two top awards at the annual North of Scotland Cricket Association awards in Elgin on Saturday.

Colin Jennings received one of the senior league's top awards - the Grant-Peterkin Trophy for topping the batting averages. Ronnie Maclean, meanwhile, was given the reserve league player of the year.

Club chairman Derek Spencer said: 'These awards demonstrate the steady progress being made by the club. We are very proud of both of them.'

Glencoe Marathon

SOME 150 trail runners tackled a 1,608-metre climb through some Lochaber's most spectacular scenery during the first Glencoe Marathon on Sunday.

With the sun shining down, the runners tackled the route which snaked through the pass of Glencoe and up and over the Devil's Staircase to Kinlochleven. They then climbed through the Mamores, ending with a steep descent into Glen Nevis.

Matt Witko from Salisbury won the race in a time of three hours and 50 minutes, while Sharon Daw from Cornwall was the first lady home. Witko said Glencoe had provided a 'truly awesome route' for the race.

The new event was organised by Perthshire-based outdoor company WildFox Events.

MARATHON

Money raised on the day is being donated to youth development initiative Project Northern Lights.



Race winner Matt Witko makes his way through Glencoe.

League Tables

The Orion Group Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	18	14	2	2	54	22	30
Kyles Athletic	18	12	3	3	48	31	27
Lovat	18	9	4	5	39	29	22
Fort William	18	8	3	7	36	34	19
Inveraray	18	8	2	8	37	34	18
Glenurquhart	18	8	2	8	32	39	18
Kingussie	18	7	3	8	40	39	17
Kinlochshiel	18	6	4	8	43	42	16
Kilmallie	18	3	2	13	28	49	8
Bute	18	0	5	13	11	49	5

Marine Harvest North Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochaber	16	14	2	0	77	16	30
Skye	18	12	3	3	44	24	27
Caberfeidh	18	8	3	7	51	39	19
Beaully	18	9	1	8	40	40	19
Inverness	17	5	2	10	29	52	12
Lochcarron	17	4	3	10	24	45	11
Strathglass	16	1	2	13	23	64	4

Marine Harvest South Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Camanachd	14	13	1	0	66	11	27
Glasgow MA	14	10	0	4	40	17	20
Glenorchy	14	10	0	4	31	18	20
Taynuilt	14	4	5	5	28	33	13
Oban Celtic	14	5	1	8	26	38	11
Strachur	14	3	3	8	19	30	9
Kilmory	14	3	2	9	23	43	8
Aberdour	14	2	0	12	11	54	4

Marine Harvest North Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	18	14	1	3	76	20	29
Kinlochshiel	18	9	5	4	36	40	23
Skye	18	10	2	6	42	32	22
Glenurquhart	16	8	2	6	36	32	18
Fort William	18	8	0	10	33	36	16
Kingussie	17	5	5	7	41	44	15
Lovat	18	7	1	10	37	47	15
Glengarry	18	7	1	10	31	42	15
Aberdeen Uni	17	6	2	9	37	39	14
Lochaber	18	3	3	12	39	76	9

Marine Harvest South Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochside Rovers	18	17	0	1	98	27	34
Kyles Athletic	17	12	0	5	66	28	24
Balachulish	18	9	4	5	39	30	22
Tayforth	17	9	1	7	49	43	19
Col Glen	18	7	3	8	41	52	17
Inveraray	18	6	3	9	46	52	15
Bute	16	6	2	8	41	38	14
Aberdour</							

Oban Ladies edged out in first cup game

'The entire team has to be given credit for the way they played'

District Cup
**Stepps Ladies 4
Oban Ladies 4**
(Stepps win on penalties)
OBAN Hockey Club's ladies team narrowly missed out on victory in their first ever cup match against Stepps on Sunday, after an agonising first round defeat on penalties in Glasgow.

Iona Fulton was named woman of the match after her hat trick gave Oban a fighting chance against their more experienced opponents.

The ladies went into the match a player down and conceded two goals early on in the game.

However, some good Oban play then created a handful of chances, Tara Pollock's fine strike was met by an equally good stop by the Stepps keeper.

Meanwhile three short corners by Stepps were all met with a solid defence led by the centre back Nienke Van Geel.

Impose
As Oban began to impose themselves on the game, they pulled a goal back when Fulton and Pollock linked up before the former fired in at the near post.

Two more short corners for Stepps were defended well with Heather Robertson and Diane

MacLean rushing out to block the ball.

Individual work at the other end of the pitch by Fulton led to a brilliant goal from the edge of the D to level the match at two a-piece.

Oban had their tails up now and enjoyed a period of sustained pressure but Stepps broke the momentum with a goal from a short corner just as the half time whistle blew.

A cagey start to the second half saw both teams struggle to settle back in after the break. Finally



The new Oban Ladies hockey team picture before their first ever cup match against Stepps. t41hockey1no

this period was ended as Oban Ladies started to increase the pressure, a sweeping ball from the right by Pollock across the D was finished well by an onrushing Eilidh MacPherson into the bottom right hand corner, leveling the match once again at 3-3.

Winner
With Oban pushing for the winner, Stepps hit on the break and forced another short corner,

from which they scored their fourth. Oban Ladies didn't lose heart, though, and continued to push forward for another equaliser. This pressure led to the fourth goal, with the deadly duo of Pollock and Fulton combining once again. A Pollock cross from the right was finished by Fulton at the near post to mark her hat trick.

As the final whistle ap-

proached, Oban needed heroics at the other end when goalkeeper Lisa Eckford-Soper produced an excellent save.

With the game all-square after normal time it went to penalties, which Oban Ladies lost 2-1.

Tara Pollock said after the game: 'This is a new team and next time the extra experience we have gained from playing competitive matches will tell.

'The entire team has to be given credit for the way they played throughout the match coming back three times to level it.'

Oban will next compete in the plate competition on November 4.

Oban Hockey Club train on Thursday nights at Oban High School between 6-7pm and is open to ladies and gents of all levels.

Walkover for Saints

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints senior team received a walkover in the first round of the Forsters Scottish Amateur Cup when opponents Bishopston United scratched.

On Saturday Saints travel to play Mauchline United, Ayrshire in the West of Scotland Cup.

Two man scramble at Glencruitten

GOLF

CHARLES MacIntyre and Malcolm MacKillop won the Two Man Scramble at Glencruitten with a score of 55.

Second place went to John MacKinnon and John MacKinnon Jnr with a score of 58 (BIH).

Joe MacLean and Donald MacLennan also had a score of 58. Entries are now being taken for the Winter League.

Ally plays for The Sons reserves

FOOTBALL

FORMER Oban Saints youth player Ally McKerracher has been in action again for Dumbarton Football Club's reserve team.

Following Ally's debut against Partick Thistle reserves on September 18, when he was brought on as a sub, Ally, aged 16, was in the starting line up when the SFL First Division Dumbarton reserves played Rangers reserves at Murray Park on Tuesday, October 2, which Dumbarton won 2-0.

Islay Golf Club

GOLF

MACHRIE Salver, played on Sunday, September 23: 1 Alexander MacLean, 3up; 2 Iain MacCuaig, all square; 3 Nigel Carmichael, two down. CSS 72.

Gleaner Oil Champion of Champions, played September 30: 1 Nigel Carmichael, 78, less 5, nett 73; 2 Neil Johnston, 85, less 11 nett 74; 3 Christopher Drain, 83, less 8 nett 75. CSS 74.

Seil Golf Club

GOLF

THE FINAL of the Isle of Seil Sports Club Classic Matchplay Singles was won by Gordon McColl who beat John Blackstock on the 18th hole.

In the Highland Arts Matchplay Shortbread Trophy final John Taylor beat Neil McCorkindale.

The nine-hole stableford Graham Hunt Trophy played over the summer months was won by Brian Dickey with John Taylor runner-up.

The Captain's Away Day this year was played at St Fillans, where Andrew Blackstock took the trophy ahead of Gordon McColl.

The Wrinkly Cup for Seniors played over eight away venues was won by John Blackstock, ahead of David Nathan.

Oban Saints youths

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s no game; Helensburgh 2, Under 14s 7. Scoring for Saints were Jay Cooper (5), Liam Higgins and Patrick MacIntyre.

Under 15s no game; Milngavie 4, Under 16s 0.

Oban Pool league gets underway

POOL

THE OBAN Pool League returns tonight (Thursday) with 10 teams participating in the all new format.

The introduction of an additional singles match now allows for a draw and a point for the very first time, two points remain in effect for the winners.

Barry Clark of the Oban Pool League committee said: 'With many of last season's matches being closely contested this is sure to spice things up in the months ahead.'

Both The Kelvin and The Lochneil make a welcome return this season but are overshadowed by the return of The Gluepot after a four-year absence as the league continues to evolve.

Tonight's fixtures: The Balmoral v The Kelvin; The Gluepot v Lancaster B; Markie Dans A v The Claredon; The Lochavullin v The Lochneil; Lancaster A v Markie Dans B.

SAFL results and fixtures

FOOTBALL

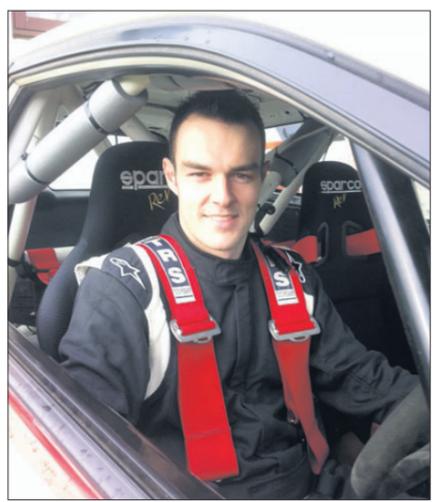
SATURDAY'S SAFL results: Centenary Cup, quarter final - Campbeltown Pupils 1, Aikenhead Thistle 8. Division 1A - Dunoon 6 Eaglesham 'B' 1; East Kilbride YM 4 v Tarbert 2. Division 1B - Lochgilphead Red Star 2 v Whitehill FP 3.

Saturday's fixtures: West of Scotland Cup - Lochgilphead Red Star v The Harp; Campsie v Tarbert; Mauchline United v Oban Saints. Premier Division Two - Hillington v Campbeltown Pupils. Division 1A - Dunoon Athletic v East Kilbride YM

Craig gears up for this weekend's Mull Rally

MULL driver Craig Rutherford hopes to harness home advantage as he prepares for this weekend's Tunnock's Mull Rally.

The 22-year-old's 2012 Scottish Rally Championship swansong didn't end well - but the Isle of Mull driver is determined to bounce back as soon as he returns to his home island.



Craig Rutherford.

RALLYING

The Honda Civic Type R pilot from Fionnphort was in action on Saturday's Colin McRae Forest Stages in Perthshire, having already secured the Brick and Steel Eccles Challenge Type R title, the Scottish Junior Rally Championship and the class honours for his Honda.

However, he wanted to help his co-driver Ross Hynd secure some extra silverware.

Clutch
All seemed to be going to plan until the start line of the final Craignivean Forest test but when Rutherford went to engage first gear, the clutch wouldn't play ball.

Ross is working this weekend, meaning Peter MacCrone from Ulva Ferry will be co-driving. The Tunnock's Mull Rally starts tomorrow (Friday) and runs through to Sunday.

John retires with suspension problems

AFTER suffering bike problems for the second race in succession, Connel's John McPhee retired from the Moto3 UEM European Championship race at Albacete.

Racing Steps Foundation rider - who had had his sights set firmly on the title heading into the weekend - retired after six laps with continuing suspension woes.

MOTOR CYCLING

The teenager last week stepped up to the World Championship as a stand-in for injured Caretta Technology rider Alexis Masbou but suffered engine problems.

Suspension
However, after his bike suspension failed this time around, he was not prepared to risk injury ahead of the fly-away Grands Prix in Japan, Malaysia and Australia and opted to retire.

'The bike simply wasn't handling as it should so it just wasn't worth risking an injury to fight for a mid-field finish at best the day before I'm due to fly out to Japan,' he said.

'The final four rounds of the World Championship have to be my main focus right now.'

Youth teams pipped at the post

OBAN Saints 2002's and 2003's travelled last Sunday to play in the John McGinlay Memorial Football Tournament run by Ardencaple Boys Club in memory of their founder.

This is the second time the Oban boys have played in what is an annual event held on the 3g pitch at Hermitage Academy in Helensburgh.

The Oban lads did really well with both teams reaching their respective age group finals.

The 2003's defeated Ardencaple 2-0, Kilpatrick Two 2-0 and drew 0-0 with Haldane. The boys were paired with Kilpatrick One in the final, but unfortunately lost out to the only goal of the game.

Head coach Gary MacIvor said: 'The boys were disappointed that they didn't win in the final but I was delighted at the way they played and the way they conducted themselves both on and off the park.'

The 2002's managed to get the day off to a good start with a comfortable win over 'Caple'.

'They then had another comfortable win over Westerton and the way the boys were going about their business was impressive.'

End to end
Next up was a cracking match against Dumbarton United which Saints edged 1-0 in what was an end to end game which could have gone any way.

After coming out on top in their own group, keeping three clean sheets and scoring several goals with most of the squad getting on the scoresheet, they then played the top team in the other group, academy-based team First Touch.

The Greenock team had domi-

YOUTH FOOTBALL

nated in every game they played throughout the day but the Oban boys had a belief in themselves and although it was, as expected, one way traffic for most of the game the Oban boys showed a great team spirit to hold them at 0-0 for the duration of the game until two minutes into added-on time when the First Touch lads managed to snatch the winner.

All players at the tournament received a medal at the end of the day's proceedings.

Coach Brian Forgrieve said: 'The boys were excellent today and the team spirit shown was great to see and all our coaches were very proud of them.'

We would like to thank Ardencaple Boys Club and say well done on another excellent tournament run by them.'



Oban Saints 2002's pictured at last Saturday's tournament in Helensburgh.

Weather

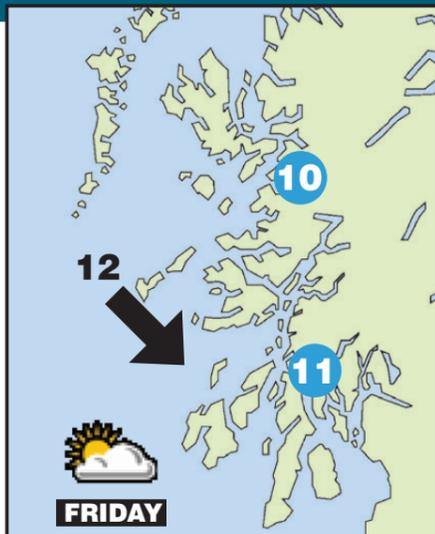
Thursday Heavy rain
Winds light easterly
Temperatures 7°C to 12°C

Friday Sunny intervals
Winds moderate north westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C.

Weekend Sunny intervals

Outlook Winds moderate west north westerly
Temperatures 4°C to 11°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 11, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	02.53 3.1 08.13 1.7 14.58 3.4 21.24 1.7	
Fri	03.33 3.3 09.08 1.4 15.36 3.6 22.03 1.3	
Sat	04.08 3.6 09.54 1.1 16.13 3.9 22.39 1.0	
Sun	04.41 3.8 10.35 0.8 16.48 4.1 23.14 0.8	
Mon	05.13 4.0 11.17 0.5 17.24 4.3 23.49 0.6	
Tues	05.45 4.1 11.59 0.4 18.00 4.3 ** ** *	
Wed	00.27 0.5 06.21 4.1 12.43 0.4 18.37 4.2	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

The Oban Times

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Shinty and football could team up on pitch

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

FORT William FC may team up with shinty's governing body the Camanachd Association to create a new all-weather 3G pitch in the town.

The move comes in the wake of local councillors giving their backing to an ambitious Lochaber Sports Association proposal for a new indoor sports hub at Lochaber High School.

LSA's plan includes resurfacing the school's current 3G playing surface - which does not meet the Scottish Football Association's requirements for a home park for Fort and is too small to host top-level shinty.

Camanachd Association chief operating officer Torquil Macleod told *The Oban Times* he was supportive of the planned sports hub, but the 3G pitch would not be big enough for anything other than training for shinty teams.

Happy

He said: 'To create a full sized shinty pitch is not an easy thing to do, or a cheap thing to do. We would be more than happy to sit down with anyone who is interested to discuss creating an all-weather pitch we can use for matches.'

Fort chairman Derek McGilivray said the club had not been contacted by the Camanachd Association, but said an all-weather pitch would benefit both his club and the wider sporting community. He told *The Oban Times*: 'We haven't heard anything officially, but the club welcomes any initiative that helps us to fulfil our Highland League and cup fixtures. An artificial pitch would also help encourage football and other sports in the area.'

Fort have had to fork out for a number of pitch inspections before home games this season, and had to postpone a tie with Lossiemouth at the end of September due to a waterlogged pitch.



Charlotte and Murdo Maclean: feel let down by NHS treatment given to their late sister Joan. 20_141murdo01

Anguish over sister's poor hospital care

NHS HIGHLAND has changed its medical procedures after an elderly Skye woman died in agony from a blocked bowel in Broadford Hospital.

Joan Maclean passed away aged 87 early on March 20, just hours after being transferred in a critical condition from Portree Hospital.

Following their tragic loss, Miss Maclean's distraught brother Murdo, 85, and sister Charlotte, 84, who lived with Joan in their Carlost croft house, formally complained to the NHS about her standard of care.

Speaking to *The Oban Times* at his home, Mr Maclean detailed his complaint stating that medical staff failed to record Joan's bowels had not moved during her two-week stay at Portree, where she had been receiving treatment for infected swollen legs.

It was only after Charlotte complained to doctors and nurses four days before Joan died, he said, that she received strong laxatives, but it was too late.

Mr Maclean demanded the root cause of Joan's constant pain, why treatment was 'withheld' and essential bodily functions never checked.

He also asked why a scan

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

carried out at the Belford hospital in Fort William in February 2010 had not been followed up, despite it showing a cyst on her bowel. The siblings are convinced the growth was behind Joan's almost constant abdominal pain over two years at home before her admission to Portree on March 5. They allege local doctors in Carlost were unaware of the scan result, meaning they never treated or monitored the cyst, which they believe blocked and perforated Joan's bowel, killing her.

Mr Maclean told *The Oban Times* that chief executive Gary Coutts had since apologised for the lack of documentation over Joan's bowel function.

He said: 'She did receive treatment, but it was too late. In consequence, they have adopted a regime where bowels are checked, recorded and reported on each nursing shift.'

'If patients' bowels have not moved for two consecutive days this will be recorded and appropriate medication prescribed.'

'Joan was given laxative and transferred to Broadford overnight, screaming with severe pain as there is no doctor on at Portree after 11pm, and was just put down.'

'I went over to see her, but there was no response. The doctor did not even come to explain anything to me.'

He added: 'Old folk are being denied treatment to keep NHS expenses down. We just want to help other people - that's why we are doing this. At least now if the bowels are not working for two days they have to give some treatment then.'

'That was not the case at Portree Hospital until we complained about it, and I'm glad I did because it might help some other poor soul.'

'If we had known we would have sent her for private treatment, which would have prolonged her life. Patients are afraid of being admitted to hospital as no inquests are ever made by the NHS.'

Over a cup of tea in the living room, Charlotte told *The Oban Times*: 'The night before Joan died she was moaning and moaning on the bed, but still told me "you better get that last bus home. I never saw her alive again. It broke my heart."

NHS vows to improve documentation

IN A STATEMENT yesterday, NHS Highland told *The Oban Times*: 'We are now actively managing all patients and ensuring that the Scottish Early Warning System (SEWS) charts are completed accurately and the Senior Charge Nurse has been conducting documentation and care plan audits with staff on a regular basis.'

'We have recently been looking at all our documentation to ensure we are recording information accurately and nurses are being picked up on areas that have not been completed accurately.'

'Due to duplication of places within the documentation where bowel movement could be recorded we now use a specific place on the SEWS chart for recording all activity.'

'We have added a specific audit process of the documentation to ensure that bowel activity or lack of activity is recorded accurately and all actions required are appropriately followed through. We are also ensuring that patients who are in hospital and have been prescribed opiates are monitored more closely.'

Joan's CT scan was 'normal'. A small cyst was evident but did not give clinicians 'cause for concern.'

At Portree, Miss Maclean had complained of 'severe pain' and was treated with laxatives and morphine. 'At no point' was treatment withheld. Nurses and doctors acted 'appropriately and professionally' and 'did not neglect' care, although there was 'a delay' in commencing treatment. 'We sincerely apologise...and offer our sincere condolences for your loss', the letter stated.

See leader page 10.

Two months of rock face road works

TRAFFIC on the A82 will be reduced to one lane at Glen Righ Forest 10 miles south of Fort William for two months to allow the Forestry Commission to continue work on the rock face above the road.

Temporary traffic lights will be in place from Monday October 22 to Friday December 21. The lane will be closed 24 hours a day on weekdays but will be cleared at weekends.

Project manager Alan Dickerson said: 'The closed lane will help ensure the safety of road users as our geo-tech team installs catch fencing and carries out some sealing on the rock face above.'

The next stage of the ongoing tree felling at the site is due to start in January.

Rockfall closes one lane of A82

A ROCKFALL a mile north of Corran Ferry saw one lane of the A82 closed on Tuesday afternoon.

Police directed traffic, a short distance from the location of ongoing tree-felling work by the Forestry Commission.

The restriction was still in place yesterday.

Parents' shock as McGilp leaves

PARENTS in South Lochaber have reacted with dismay to news that popular Kinlochleven High School head teacher John McGilp will not be returning after the October break.

The 38-year-old, who at 33 became Scotland's youngest head when he took up the post in 2008, is to become acting head of 990-pupil Thurso High School from October 29.

The secondment is at least until next summer and offers the prospect of a permanent post.

Mr McGilp made the shock announcement 'with great regret' on Friday, the last day of the summer term.

In a letter to parents, he said: 'At this point in my career it is too good an opportunity to miss.'

When I was appointed by the parent council, they said 'they wanted a good five years out of me'. I hope I have not disappointed.

'I have worked hard for the wider school community and I hope that this is appreciated. I however feel that it is time for someone with fresh ideas to lead

the school at least for an interim period and for my own career it is time for a fresh challenge to make sure I don't stagnate.'

Mr McGilp was 'assured' an advert for the job would be published shortly, adding: 'Mr Milne will take up the post of acting HT on a short term basis.'

Stewart Borland, chair of the parent council, said the move came out of the blue and was 'a complete shock'.

Consultation

He said: 'You would think that a change of head would happen in a strategic way, be well-planned and have lots of consultation. The summer holidays are the time to make such critical switches, not right in the school term.'

One long-serving teacher, who did not wish to be named, said: 'There will be virtually no handover and existing staff will have to cover the roles of head teacher as best they can.'

'This puts extraordinary pressure down the line and with so much development work going on in school curriculum, it's education and exam

performance of our children that will suffer.'

Parent and school council member Laurence Young said the Scottish Government's vision of 'Parents as Partners' now rang hollow.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We have been completely side-lined here, and now question why we should bother. We have had a strong and supportive Parent Council at Kinlochleven High School, but this nasty and high-handed move by Highland Council leaves us breathless and dismayed.'

'This latest bombshell strips away all vestiges that there is an interest in the views of local children, teachers and parents and simply beggars belief.'

Mr McGilp said: 'I am excited about the opportunity of working in Thurso, a school with a very good reputation in a beautiful location.'

'I have been heavily involved in my current post in forging links with the wider school community, something I hope to continue during my secondment.'



Kilmallie club legends cut the ribbon, from left, Frank Sweeney; John Murphy; Alastair MacIntyre; Dougie MacLachlan; Derek Fraser; Hughie MacIntyre and John MacIsaac. 20_141shinty04

Kilmallie cup heroes take pride of place

KILMALLIE Shinty Club's past, present and future came together to celebrate the opening of its new clubhouse on Saturday.

The afternoon attracted hundreds of locals to Canal Parks, Caol, to witness the formal ceremony in the autumn sunshine.

Club chairman Hughie MacIntyre and Lochaber provost Allan Henderson were amongst the speakers who thanked the local community for their support.

The duty of cutting the ribbon to officially open the new facility went to members of Kilmallie's 1964 Camanachd Cup winning side - the only time the Caol club has lifted shinty's biggest prize.

The £130,000 building includes changing rooms with showers, a meeting room and a small kitchen.

After the formalities, Kilmallie's current first team squad, youth players and former players enjoyed a round robin tournament on the park and buffet in the nearby Caol Community Centre.

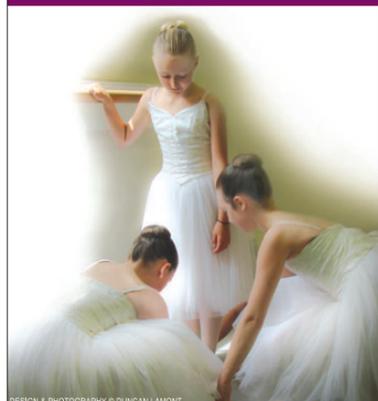
See page four for a full report and photos from the ceremony.

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FW

Kinlochleven man denies assaulting trio in village incident

A KINLOCHLEVEN man has denied assaulting two women and a man during an incident in the village. Appearing from custody, Philip McDonagh pled not guilty of stamping on the head and body of the man until he was unconscious at an address on Foyers Road on August 31. McDonagh, of 32 Foyers Road, is also accused of acting in a threatening and abusive manner by repeatedly striking a door, shouting aggressively and entering the property uninvited. McDonagh pled guilty to two charges of resisting three police officers and repeatedly shouting and swearing at them. Honorary Sheriff Maureen Anderson released McDonagh on bail on the condition he does not enter Kinlochleven or approach witnesses. The 37-year-old is due to stand trial on December 5.

Ideas sought on better use of vacant garage sites

HIGHLAND Council is to consult the public on how to make better use of council garages and garage sites lying vacant. Currently, almost 400 of 1,820 individual garages and 250 of 904 garage sites the council owns and manages are unoccupied. The council will be seeking views on whether the vacant premises could help individual micro businesses to start up or be put to greater community use.

Finance, housing and resources committee chairman David Fallows said: 'We need to think creatively on how to best realise the potential of these sites and this consultation will give people the chance to put forward their ideas for consideration.'

'Living wage' for Highland Council staff

MORE than 600 council staff are to be brought up to the 'living wage' of £7.20 an hour from April next year.

The move, agreed by Highland Council's housing and resources committee, will mostly benefit women. Around 90 per cent of council staff currently paid less than £7.20 per hour are female.

An estimated 15 apprentices in housing and property and TEC Services will also benefit.

Costs to the council are estimated at £322,000 annually, including pension and National Insurance.

The council also agreed to begin formal consultation with trade unions on proposals to introduce monthly pay for all employees.



Young Chef champ Calum with his trophy and his winning three-course meal. 20_f41chef01

Young chef Calum tastes success at last

SIX ASPIRING young chefs wowed judges with their culinary creations in the Lochaber final of the Rotary Young Chef competition at Lochaber High School last Thursday.

Ardnamurchan High School's Calum MacIver was given first place by the judges with Paulina Szumko of Lochaber High runner up.

The judges were Duncan Gibson, head chef at Glenfinnan House Hotel, Sheana Fraser, Lochaber Rotary Club chairperson, and Brian Hume of the Alexandra Hotel in Fort William.

Calum, aged 16, served up a three-course meal for the judges, with smoked haddock open ravioli with a pea velouté for a starter.

He cooked a main course of chicken fillet steak with a wild mushroom, sage and lemon sauce and served up chocolate mousse with a vanilla crèmeux and berry compote for dessert.

He told *The Oban Times* it felt 'great' to have won after finishing as runner up in the event twice previously.

Mr Gibson told the youngsters they impressed him with their choice of food.

He said: 'The standard was very high. We say that every year but it really was. There was a few surprises as well which was very good.'

Calum will now go on to the national final which will be held in Lanarkshire in January.

Raigmore Hospital team hopes for better c-diff infection control

INFECTION control staff at Raigmore Hospital are hoping specialist cleaning of Ward 4C will reduce patients' exposure to a potentially dangerous bug.

The ward re-opened last Wednesday after being closed for 24 hours treatment with hydrogen peroxide vapour to

destroy any Clostridium difficile (C diff) bacteria present.

The bug causes severe diarrhoea in patients whose normal gut bacteria have been wiped out by antibiotics.

Dr Emma Watson, consultant microbiologist and lead infection control doctor for NHS

Highland, said the blitz was in addition to existing cleaning regimes.

She said: 'We are expecting this new method to have a significant and immediate impact but will know more once we have completed detailed monitoring, which is underway.'

FCS refutes Morvern axe claims

FORESTRY Commission Scotland (FCS) has strongly refuted claims that it is cutting its 82-year association with the Morvern peninsula.

Rumours have been circulating locally that local staff at Fuinary Forest were to be paid off and replaced with external contractors.

Concerns were expressed to *The Oban Times* that FCS was preparing 'to walk away' after eight decades without any public consultation, at a time when timber was fetching near-record prices.

The issue carries particular resonance in Morvern because forestry jobs, especially up to the 1970s, have provided a major source of employment and income.

But according to Kevin Peace, Forestry Commission Scotland's district manager for Lochaber, commitment to Morvern is actually growing.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We are not pulling out of Morvern, in fact if anything, the opposite is true - we are doing more than

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

ever. And we are certainly not making anyone redundant.

'Some confusion seems to have arisen over our letting eligible staff know - as is the case in other areas - that a voluntary early exit scheme is due to commence soon.

'It was our understanding that employees might also be interested to hear about a relocation opportunity so we let them know about a post that was available on Mull.

'However, if neither of these appeals, there will still be jobs here for them.'

Morvern residents are also asking why timber is being hauled out by a single-track road, rather than by sea.

FCS said: 'Some timber is extracted by road but the majority of it is taken out by sea using a route through Lochaline Forest that lets us and other land users

access the pier in Lochaline. This takes a significant number of timber lorries off the public road, which improves safety in the village.

'Fuinary Forest is a major timber producer (25,000 tonnes annually) and we are investing heavily in the forest road infrastructure and promoting their shared use with other land owners.

'We're investing £50k in the deer larder and are actively involved in exploring renewable energy opportunities in the area - planning applications for two hydro schemes are due to be considered by Highland Council soon.'

'All of the areas of forest that are felled are replanted. There is legislation in place that makes it illegal to deforest land that has trees on it.'

The Forestry Commission, set up in 1919 charged with replenishing timber stocks almost wiped out during WW1, viewed its new forests as helping to stem rural depopulation in areas such as Morvern.



Uist's first cattle egret getting to know the locals.

Rare bird lands on North Uist croft

A NORTH Uist croft has a new guest - the first recorded cattle egret on the Uists.

The rare bird landed on the RSPB Balranald nature reserve and has wasted no time integrating itself with the local cattle population.

Cattle egrets often spend time close to livestock, feeding on insects and worms that the animals' hooves disturb.

Though cattle egrets are visiting the UK in increasing numbers, most of these are in the south of England or Wales.

Local crofter Angus Ferguson said: 'When I move my cattle, the egret follows, although there are plenty of other cattle in the township. The only explanation must be that I must have the best cattle.'

Balranald manager Jamie Boyle said: 'The cattle egret looks fairly settled amongst this small herd of cattle. It's been sitting on the fence next to the back door of the croft house - almost like a pet.'

'Cattle egrets are an amazingly successful bird. They're found on six of the seven continents worldwide, but haven't yet colonised the UK.'

Police files

DAMAGE was caused to a metal gate outside Harry's Grocery Shop on Stormyhill Road, Portree, sometime between 4pm on Saturday October 6 and 8.30am on Sunday October 7.

A CAR parked on station Road, Mallaig, was vandalised sometime between 1.30pm and 2pm on Saturday October 6.

ENTRY was forced to a weighbridge building at Kyleakin Quarry sometime between Friday September 28 and 1.15pm on Friday October 5.

A NUMBER of items were stolen after entry was forced to the residential accommodation at Neist Point Lighthouse, Glendale, sometime between Saturday September 22 and Wednesday September 26. Anyone with knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361, the confidential line on 01397 702000 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Lochaber war years talk

LOCHABER Archaeology Society chairman Robert Cairns will give a talk on 'the war years over Lochaber' in the Glen Nevis Restaurant, Glen Nevis, on Tuesday October 30.

Mr Cairns will also have a collection of interesting photographs on the society's recent work for viewing. Everyone is welcome to the event, which starts at 7pm.

Body found in Wester Ross

POLICE believe a body found near a scenic mountain road in Wester Ross is that of Strathpeffer man Steven Seel.

Mr Seel was reported missing in July and was last in touch with his family on July 2.

Police and mountain rescue search teams found the body in a gully at Bealach Na Ba, the 2,000-foot pass between Lochcarron and Applecross.

Relatives have been informed and a formal forensic identification will be carried out.

Rescue helicopters, search dogs and more than 30 people were involved in the initial search for Mr Seel.

Chamber hosts Scottish independence debates

FORT William Chamber of Commerce is to lead local debate on whether Scotland should become an independent country.

As the clock ticks down to the independence referendum in October 2014, the chamber has announced it is to hold a series of eight debates between now and then, every second month.

The events will be free and open to the wider business community and the general public.

The first debate is scheduled for Friday October 26 at the Pine Marten Restaurant, Nevis Range, from 7 to 9pm. Guest speaker will be Highlands and Islands Labour MSP David Stewart.

Silent story on Dunvegan stage

DUIRINISH Media and Culture Club is showing F W Murnau's silent Dracula story *Nosferatu* in Dunvegan Hall on Saturday at 7.30pm.

Composer and guitarist David Allison will provide a live musical accompaniment during the film.



Glenelg pupils' dress up day boosts charity

Pupils from Glenelg Primary School took part in a Roald Dahl 'Dahlicious Dressing Up Day' where the children dressed up as a character from one of the famous author's books. The pupils paid £1 to dress up and raised £27, which was forwarded to Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity. The Dahlicious Dress Up Day helps to raise funds for specialist nurses, equipment, care and support. It makes a huge difference to the lives of seriously ill children and gives their parents much needed respite.

Fairtrade status for Highlands

WORK in the Highlands to promote Fairtrade products have been rewarded with the area being named a Fairtrade Zone.

Highland Council and a number of local groups applied to the Fairtrade Foundation for the award after a two-year campaign to get behind products which give a fairer price to the farmers and workers in developing countries who produce them.

Council vice convener Hamish Wood said: 'I am thrilled that the Highlands have achieved this award, which demonstrates the commitment that exists across the Highlands to promoting Fairtrade.'

'I see this as a real opportunity to promote the use of Fairtrade products across the Highlands and to encourage more people and organisations to get involved.'

Rollerskaters climb Ben Nevis to raise funds

LOCHABER Artistic Roller Skating Club has raised more than £1,000 towards its Christmas Show after a group of 14 skaters, parents, grandparents climbed Ben Nevis.

The party also included Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme leader Jess Connolly.

Club fundraiser Sandra Fraser, daughter Megan, 15, and son Calum, 13, all made the top. Calum played 'Highland Cathedral' on the pipes at the summit to celebrate the successful ascent. Megan and Sandra's other daughter Rachael, 11, are both club members.

Sandra, from Fife Place in Fort William, told *The Oban Times*: 'I would like to thank all those who went up, everyone who fundraised and all who continue to give us their support. It is much appreciated.'

Others on the charity climb were: William Porter, Moira Macmillan, Christina MacLennan, Vikki Chisholm, David Macmillan, Shannon Young, Kayleigh Macmillan, Donald Elder, Brett Macmillan and Jamie Macmillan. The LARSC Christmas Show is at the Nevis Centre on November 17. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Brrrr! Rollerskaters and their supporters at Ben Nevis summit.

Building site warning

NORTHERN Constabulary has warned of the dangers of youngsters playing in building sites at evenings and weekends.

Police have had reports of two incidents in recent weeks of damage being caused to construction vehicles in building sites in Lochaber. A spokesperson said the sites were 'a magnet' for young people and said anyone who spots children or teenagers in a building site to contact police immediately.

The spokesperson said: 'If this is not discouraged, it is only a matter of time before a youth is seriously hurt due to being on a building site where they are unaware of the danger they are placing themselves in.'

Details of A82 tree felling work goes on display

FORESTRY Commission Scotland (FCS) has arranged a series of drop-in events to give local people a further chance to view plans for tree felling and hillside stabilisation next to the A82.

FCS has already held an initial consultation on its long-term harvesting programme along the route from Ballachulish to Loch Ness-side.

Dates are:

Thursday October 25 - Invermoriston Hotel, Invermoriston - 12noon to 5pm

Thursday October 25 - Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus - 5.30pm to 7.30pm

Monday November 5 - Glengarry Community Hall, Invergarry - 12 noon to 7.30pm

Tuesday November 6 - Ballachulish Village Hall, West Laroach - 10am to 7.30pm

Thursday November 15 - Alexandra

Hotel, Fort William - 12 noon to 7pm

Monday November 26 - Glen Urquhart Public Hall, Drumnadrochit - 12 noon to 8pm.

The mammoth three-year project includes removing trees at risk of windblow and remedial works on rock faces above the road to reduce the potential for rockfalls.

FCS says the project will help ensure the A82 is 'more resilient' to events such as the

December 8 storm last year. Alex Macloed, project manager for the Commission, said public feedback would be incorporated into planning and delivery of operations. He said: 'There will be further opportunities to contribute to the process as we work our way through this programme. It's good to know that people are taking the time to get involved. Their input is very useful and helps us make sure that there are no oversights.'

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Lorn Lines



Julia, centre, is pictured with service users and volunteers at the MS Centre.

OBAN'S MS Centre has received a £900 boost thanks to a runner in the Great Scottish Run.

Julia Cheung-Buchanan raised the money by completing her first half marathon in just over two hours.

While she lives in Glasgow, Julia decided to make a contribution towards the centre as her grandmother is a client there.



THE next Scottish Conservative and Unionist Lorn Lunch Club is at the Regent Hotel on Friday 26 October when Miles Briggs will speak about his time as a parliamentary candidate and parliamentary advisor at Holyrood.

Anyone wishing to attend the lunch should book their place with Sara Rutherford on 01631 564230. The cost of the lunch and coffee is £10.



MORE than a dozen children from Smarties Nursery in Oban completed a sponsored walk from Ganavan to Dunbeg - and back.

Leanne MacKay, manager, said: 'We're doing this walk to get funding for the nursery so we can get more resources for the children and possibly a new camera.'

'We're hoping to raise as much as we possibly can. Anything is a bonus.'

The children were accompanied on the walk by nursery staff, parents and even a few dogs.



OBAN SWRI kicked off its new season with an energetic beetle drive on the last Tuesday in September.

Fiona MacCallum took the high score and Dilys McDougal took the wooden spoon.

Next month's competition is a decorated gift bag for a wedding present and coconut ice.

New members or visitors are welcome to join at any time and the meetings are in the Guide Hall on Soroba Road, on the last Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.



Staff and councillors at Argyll and Bute Council's Municipal Building in Oban show their support for Macmillan Cancer Support. 16_140council01

WORKPLACES and groups across the west Highlands and islands did their bit for Macmillan Cancer Support by taking part in the charity's Big Coffee Morning.

Among those getting involved were Argyll and Bute Council staff and councillors, who held a coffee morning and a raffle in the Municipal Building in Albany Street, Oban.

An all-day event at Argyll Training, in Stevenson Street, Oban made £210.28.

On Mull, staff at Duart Castle dressed up as St Trinians for their coffee morning and made more than £400.

The Oban Times office staff raised £100 on the day and our feature in the pages of the newspaper, backed by local businesses, made another £480 for the charity.

Oban High School Pipe Band gets call up frae The Broons

Famous fictional family CD for Maggie's wedding

WHEN Scotland's most famous family, The Broons, has a wedding, who else to hire but Oban High School Pipe Band?

Featuring as Hector Broom and his Piper Laddies, the group was hired to help celebrate Maggie Broom's marriage to Dave MacKay, who featured in

the strip some years ago before mysteriously vanishing from the storyline.

The story of the ill-fated wedding is now told in full as part of The Broons and Oor Wullie Giftbook Classic Strips from the 1970s. It comes with a CD recording of Maggie's

wedding reception, which went ahead despite the lack of a marriage.

Track 19 sees Hector Broom's boys play a pipe band medley, a perfect precursor to the traditional evening finale of Auld Lang Syne.

Waverley Books, discovered Oban High School Pipe Band's own album when looking for music to feature on the CD and a deal was struck to have Hector's own band play at the wedding. The Oor Wullie Giftbook Classic Strips from the 70s is out now.



BEAR Scotland back on the roads

TRUNK roads across Argyll and the Highlands will once again be maintained by BEAR Scotland after Scotland TranServ lost the contract for the north west region.

Confirmation that TranServ has lost the contract for the area comes eight months after The Oban Times revealed there were doubts about its bid.

The company, a Balfour Beattie and Mouchel joint venture, has instead won the contract to maintain the south west roads network, previously managed by Amey.

Transport Scotland say contracts will be signed in the coming weeks and will take effect from April 1 2013.

Confirming BEAR Scotland will take over responsibility for the north west region's 814 miles of trunk road, transport minister Keith Brown, said: 'Our transport network is vital to the economic well-being of the nation and it is vital we ensure our key arterial routes and motorways are well maintained.'

'We are continuing our investment in the trunk roads, however, the tough economic climate means we have to deliver more services on tighter budgets. These contracts are designed to encourage operating companies to deliver innovation and value for the public purse.'

'Both BEAR and Scotland TranServ have submitted strong bids and we are confident they can build on their previous experience to deliver a trunk road network that is safe and well-maintained.'

The contracts will run for five years with scope for a further five-year extension.

General maintenance activities such as salting and snow clearing; grass cutting and weed control; gully cleaning and the repair of street lighting and traffic signals will also come under their remit.

Tobermory posting for youngest RNLI coxswain



Andrew McHaffie is the youngest coxswain in the RNLI. Photograph by RNLI/Sam Jones.

THE YOUNGEST coxswain in the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) has taken up his post in Tobermory.

Andrew McHaffie, who joined the RNLI in 2008, has been appointed the crew's new full time coxswain at just 25 years of age.

He successfully passed out as deputy second coxswain last year and prior to taking up this full time role on October 1, Andrew worked for Scottish Sea Farms and Scottish Water.

He said: 'I'm massively proud to get to this stage at such a young age but I couldn't do it without the other people here. The boat wouldn't go out without the volunteer crew.'

'They give up their time at work and family time and the RNLI is really grateful for them.'

He added: 'It is something that I have been well prepared for, it is a natural progression for me. The age isn't a barrier. This is something I am very, very confident doing.'

'People think that being a coxswain is all about being in charge of the boat which is an important part of the job but being at the station full time means I get to put a lot more focus into all the other stuff in between. I really want to focus on the development of others in the crew. I want to keep pushing people on and making the station run well. As a charity any lifeboat is there for the community it serves. We cover out to Coll and Tiree and want to make everyone aware that we are there for them. Hopefully it is going to become more of a community thing.'

And on being behind the wheel of a £2 million boat?

'I don't think the novelty will ever wear off,' admitted Andrew. 'The boat we have got is top notch, it is as good as it gets.'

Andrew was born in Glasgow but moved to the Isle of Mull with his family at just eight years old. Andrew's younger brother David, 23, also serves on the crew.

The pair's mum, Carolyn McHaffie said: 'I'm really proud of Andrew achieving this position, especially at such a young age. It's only natural that we worry when he's on a boat, however, we have full confidence not only in Andrew but also in the lifeboat and the crew to deal with whatever they are called to.'

'We also know how hard the crew train to ensure that they are prepared to face any eventuality.'

Andrew takes over from Phil Higson who was Tobermory's longest serving coxswain, holding the post between 2002 and 2012. Phil completed 20 years of service with the RNLI before stepping down over the summer.

Tobermory's Lifeboat Operations Manager Ian Stevens added: 'We're really proud Andrew has been appointed as full time coxswain and I know the crew are looking forward to working with him in his new role. I'd also like to pay tribute to Phil Higson who was Tobermory's longest serving coxswain with two decades of dedicated service to the RNLI. All of us at the station wish both Phil and Andrew, all the very best for the future.'

North Connel youth sent abusive messages

A TEENAGER appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday after sending abusive messages to a girl who was prepared to act as a witness against his brother.

William Stephen, 19, from Ibrox, Ach Na Beich, North Connel, admitted sending the messages on October 4. The charge states that the messages were 'menacing and abusive in nature'.

Stephen, who appeared from police custody, had his sentence deferred for the preparation of reports.

He was released on bail with a special condition attached and will be sentenced on November 13.

Crianlarich community tourism plan wins awards

A COMMUNITY initiative in Crianlarich to make the west Perthshire village more attractive to visitors has won two significant awards.

Crianlarich into Action (CiA) was set up in response to plans for a traffic bypass of the village in

a bid to safeguard local business from a potential loss in passing trade. This week, the group submitted a £200,000 bid to the Big Lottery Fund to develop the village's path project, which will see new walking routes complete with associated signposting

established throughout the area.

So far, the project has seen volunteers clear Lower Station Yard under the guidance of Alan Smailes. For his own efforts, Mr Smailes received an award from the Paths for All scheme at a ceremony at Glasgow's

Royal Concert Hall - complete with a £100 cheque to be used in the community - while this week the CiA project as a whole received Stirling Council's Provost's Civic Award for its comprehensive community engagement programme.

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- Visits to the Cologne and Valkenburg Christmas Markets
- Entrance to the Velvet Cave and Gernheimertegrot subterranean market in Valkenburg

Important note: the Northern Lights are a natural phenomenon which cannot be guaranteed to occur during our flight, although they have been visible on many previous evenings. Our guest astronomer advises at least an 85% chance of a sighting.

For more information or to book, please call: **01524 37500**

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100 hours of unpaid work for Oban woman who 'petrified' neighbour

AN OBAN woman who 'petrified' one of her neighbours has been ordered to carry out 100 hours of unpaid work.

Isabel Macarthur, 37, of 14 Combie Court, Oban, was previously found guilty of behaving in a threatening or abusive manner after a trial at Oban Sheriff Court.

Giving evidence, the victim said there had been numerous incidents of this type and the police had asked her to keep a diary of them.

Macarthur had also been shouting and swearing on May 5, and challenging her victim to fight.

A non-harassment order, forbidding Macarthur to approach or contact her victim, was also handed out by the court.

Macarthur was fined £100 for a separate charge of a breach of bail conditions as she was not in her home when officers attended on August 29.

Annual sponsored walk raises £800 for ABCD

ARGYLL Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD) has raised more than £800 from its 11th annual sponsored walk.

The event, held on Sunday September 30, welcomed 50 walkers who completed the five-mile walk around Gallanach and Glenshellach before finishing up at the hospital for tea, coffee and home made eats. So far £800 has been raised from the walk and, as always, all money raised will be spent within Argyll.

This year the charity has spent nearly £10,000 on a variety of local projects in keeping with the aim of the trust.

Oban man admits threatening behaviour

AN OBAN man pled guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by uttering threats and pointing in an aggressive manner.

Kevin Gillan, 24, of 7E Miller Road, admitted the offence, on Soroba Road on August 26, when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Sentence has been deferred until November 13 for the preparation of reports and Gillan has been released on bail.

Barcaldine pupils' fund grows for orchard and garden project

GREEN fingered pupils at Barcaldine Primary School have been handed a £2,000 boost to help grow their own fruit and veg.

Scottish Sea Farms' Heart of the Community Trust granted the school the cash to erect a polytunnel to improve the garden club, orchard and outdoor classroom.

The school's 17 pupils have already grown beetroot, potatoes, leeks and sweet peas. Head teacher Jeanette Morrison, said: 'The grant from Scottish Sea

Farms will allow us to erect a polytunnel next spring and we can try growing fruit like nectarines, peaches and grapes.'

'We also want to offer the local community the chance to adopt a raised bed within our school garden. The children's produce has already been entered in local horticultural shows and the whole experience is both fun and educational.'

Calum MacAlpine, operations manager at Scottish Sea Farms, said: 'This is a really positive project that will help to teach

children about growing and eating a healthy range of foods.'

'The Heart of the Community Trust is all about assisting initiatives that will benefit local areas where our company operates and we are delighted to be able to help Barcaldine Primary School. I look forward to tasting some of their fresh lettuce with our salmon.'

Application forms for the Heart of the Community Trust can be found on the Scottish Sea Farms website at www.scottish-seafarms.com.



Pupils at Barcaldine Primary School celebrate the grant from the Heart of the Community Trust, which will be used to build a polytunnel next spring. Representing Scottish Sea Farms' is Calum MacAlpine, extreme left.

Mull castle finds new owners

THE FORMER owner of Torosay Castle on the Isle of Mull said it was more relief than disappointment to have sold the property that has been in his family for nearly 150 years.

Chris James, the fifth laird of Torosay Castle, has sold the property to a Swiss family bringing to an end the 147-year ownership.

He said: 'It would have been lovely to be wealthy enough to own a castle but I wasn't and I'm quite relieved to be out. My family can now move on and just be a normal family, not in the public eye.'

The castle, which had been on the market for three years, sold for more than £1.65 million and the new owners will be using it as a private home - after they have carried out roof repairs estimated at over £1 million.

The James family will be staying on Mull and have bought a house near Lochdon. Some of the land originally attached to the castle has been retained and may be farmed in the future.

No insurance

AN OBAN man was found guilty of driving with no insurance after a trial at the town's sheriff court. James Muir, 51, of 3A Glencairn Drive, was found to have committed the offence on June 1. Sentencing was deferred until November 1.

Pipes and appointments as Oban Speakers Club hosts first meeting of the winter

AT THE first winter session meeting of Oban Speakers Club retiring president John Maclean started the evening by installing his successor Guido Faccenda who then introduced the first-half chairman Eamonn Arthur.

Eamonn then welcomed speakers Jim Fraser who spoke on Famous Scottish

Castles, even managing to make a mention of one castle which caused him some embarrassment.

John Maclean then took the members by surprise when he played pipe music as he approached the lectern.

He went on to speak about the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Third speaker Bill Leech provided an excellent contrast to the first two speakers when he spoke on ospreys in Scotland.

Their critics were respectively Archie McPhail, Tom Clegg and Martin Wilson. Timekeeper was Willie Melville and a comprehensive and fair general evaluation was given by Roy Wood.

Campbeltown police seize heroin

POLICE say they have dealt a significant blow to the drugs trade in Campbeltown after seizing £2,500 of uncut heroin as part of a swoop on Friday.

Officers stopped a car just outside the town at 2.45am and arrested a 34-year-old man after finding 22.5grams of the class A drug in the vehicle.

The man, who is understood to be local, will appear at court later this month.

Chief Inspector for Campbeltown David Pettigrew, said the seizure would make it difficult to obtain the drug in the town for at least a week.

'The reality is that this is a dealer quantity of drugs,' he said. 'That potentially could have been mixed with other products to bulk it out and double its value. This will have a significant impact on the availability of drugs in Campbeltown and the man in question will be appearing at court later this month.'

Individuals thought to be involved in the supply of drugs will be subject to regular searches by police in the coming weeks, he added.

Organisers back Tiree Wave Classic

PURA Vida, organisers of the Tiree Wave Classic, Britain's longest-standing and most prestigious windsurfing competition, has committed to the event until 2014.

This year's event gets underway this Saturday, celebrating its 26th anniversary in the process. Pura Vida says it remains 'totally committed' to hosting, least until the 28th Classic and has outlined plans to improve the event's scope and coverage.

Jim Brooks-Dowsett, who owns Pura Vida, said: 'We have massive plans, including more TV coverage, and have a long term aim to bring the Professional Windsurfers Association World Tour back to Tiree too. 'We hope our commitment means entrants can go into this year's event safe in the knowledge Tiree will continue to get bigger and better.'

For more, see page seven.

NEWSDESK
01397 703003



Oban residents witness stunning Northern Lights display

Residents of Oban and the surrounding area witnessed the stunning natural wonder of the Aurora Borealis on Monday night. More commonly known as the Northern Lights, the light show is caused by the collision of charged particles in the earth's high altitude atmosphere, which are usually displayed in a green colour. This picture was taken from Ganavan by Oban's Euan Finlayson, looking across to Glensanda.

Scottish first for Oban as BID vote says 'Yes'

OBAN is to become Scotland's first whole-town Business Improvement District (BID) after a landslide vote in favour of the scheme.

Of the 49 per cent turnout, 90 per cent of the town's businesses backed the plan that will see every business with a rateable value of £3,000 or more within the 30mph zone pay a modest compulsory levy towards the BID.

The scheme will move to elect a board of directors by the end of the month, with £840,000 of investment planned over the course of the next five years from October 31.

Started two years ago, the BID campaign received cross-party political support, with both the SNP's Michael Russell and Scottish Conservatives' Jamie McGrigor joining together to congratulate the steering group on their success on Friday.

For the full story, see page 3.

Tyndrum gold mine values hit new high

Drilling venture potential rockets by £40 million

NEW drilling results and high gold prices mean a mine to be built at Cononish, near Tyndrum, has boosted in potential value by £40million to nearly £190million.

At its AGM on Monday, Scotgold Resources revealed final drilling results estimating there is 160,000 ounces of gold and 596,000 ounces of silver in the hill, more than was indicated by earlier studies.

With gold fetching £1,102.9 per ounce and silver £21.11 per ounce at the time of going to press, the combined indicative value of precious metals in Cononish now stands at £189.05million, up from initial estimates of £150million.

The results were presented to shareholders in Edinburgh and by videolink to Australia on Monday, after which shares were trading at 4.50p.

Scotgold said the figures were encouraging, but were purely indicative at this stage, with detailed independent modelling to follow in November.

Construction
From there, reports will be produced for banks and lenders ahead of construction starting in April next year.

Chris Sangster, CEO and director of Scotgold, said: 'We're getting there now and the drilling results are very good.'

While the industry has taken a 'bit of a battering', he said Scot-

gold's prospects looked good. 'We seem to have held our place pretty well and that augurs well for the future,' he said. 'We also have the advantage of being closer to production now than a lot of people.'

The Strathfillan Community Development Trust (SCDT) has been in discussions with Scotgold since its plans for Cononish were first tendered and hopes to work with the company to develop a mining interpretation centre as well as establish a local jewellery manufacturing operation.

Development officer Joyce Russell said the greater than anticipated value and volume was good news for the community.

She said: 'People working at the mine will enjoy year-round employment rather than the seasonal work there is here at the moment.'

'It's going to transform the local economy and the more gold and silver there is the better it is for everyone.'

'Since Scotgold arrived here we've been in discussions with them about the visitor/interpretation centre and opportunities for jewellery design and manufacture.'

'Also, the gold vein continues on into Argyll to Cairndow, so this could be the start of a much more long-term project.'

Mining at Cononish is due to commence in January 2014.

Drivers gear up for road work delays

DRIVERS in Oban and Lorn must endure delays and closed roads over the next two months as the roads authorities try to slow the deterioration of the crumbling network.

Roadworks on one of the busiest routes - the A85 at the Bealach an Rìgh, Oban - are being carried out by Scottish Water to lay a new water main but the road surface will not be upgraded by Scotland Transerv.

Scottish Water's contractors, George Leslie, began work there on Monday until November 1.

Scotland Transerv will begin work on Oban's Esplanade just three weeks later, on November 19, followed by an upgrade to George Street from November 28 to December 7.

A spokesman for Transerv Scotland said although the state of the road at the Bealach an Rìgh was a priority for Oban, there were other roads on the network that required more urgent attention. He said: 'If we can do work at the same time as other agencies, we would try and do that, where possible, as there is far less disruption to the public. However, this is particularly difficult to manage because our sub-contractors are programmed to be in certain places at certain times well in advance.'

'In theory, carrying out work at the same time as Scottish Water is a great idea but it is hard enough moving our own guys around, let alone sub-contractors and in reality situations like that don't happen very often. Perhaps they should.'

Meanwhile, Scottish Water has

come in for criticism for its two-week water mains replacement in Benderloch, which starts on Monday and comes shortly after recent road resurfacing.

Argyll and Bute Council is carrying out 'low-impact' repair work on Soroba Road, Oban, adjacent to Soroba Park Terrace, which was due to start on Monday and last until Friday, October 19.

On Monday and Tuesday this week carriageway repairs were being made between Appin and Duror.

And starting this Sunday the A85 at Lochawe will undergo essential carriageway maintenance over five nights per week, for two weeks.

The work will cause road closures Sunday nights to Friday mornings, 9pm - 6am.

Elsewhere, a £2m bridge upgrade on the A82 at Allt Chonogais, near Bridge of Orchy, is underway and is expected to last for one year. Scotland Transerv will also carry out essential carriageway maintenance on sections of the A82 in Crianlarich from Sunday, October 21.

The works will affect the A82/A85 junction, the North Railway Bridge between the A82/A85 junction and Willow Brae, and the West Railway Bridge on Glenfalloch Road. This will be to replace areas of defective carriageway and install new high friction surfacing.

The work, which will be completed over three nights, between the hours of 7pm and 6am, will see full road closures from 10pm.

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Oban says big 'yes' in BID vote

'I think having a 90 per cent 'yes' vote is probably a record in Scotland' says chairman

THE STEERING committee behind Oban's hugely successful Business Improvement District (BID) campaign has vowed to persuade doubters of its merit over the next five years.

Friday's vote saw a landslide 'yes' vote in favour of establishing a BID company, with 90 per cent of the 49 per cent turnout giving the five-year scheme their backing and making Oban Scotland's first whole-town BID.

The turnout represented 57 per cent of the town's rateable value, with 246 businesses in total casting their ballots.

Chairman of the BID4Oban steering group Graham MacQueen said work had already begun to ensure the BID company is up and running on October 31.

He said: 'I think having a 90 per cent yes vote is probably a record in Scotland.'

'We have had huge support from the community, from council officers, elected members and businesses.'

'The whole committee was overwhelmed by the result. Now we have a huge responsibility to deliver what has been promised.'

'The BID company will work for all businesses, with everyone invited and encouraged to have their say.'

'If there is anything they're

not happy about then we want to hear about it and act upon it.

'I'm really hopeful that over the course of the next five years those who opposed the BID will change their mind and see the benefits for Oban - not just for business but for everyone living in the area.'

As a result of the BID creation, all eligible businesses within the 30mph zone will be required to pay a small compulsory levy over the next five years.

The result will be £840,000 investment in the town, with 20 separate commitments to be met.

Argyll and Bute Council will contribute £100,000 towards the BID, plus £203,500 in financial and in-kind support.

Meanwhile, nominations will be invited from all levy payers for the new BID company's directors, with letters going out in the next week to explain the process.

Oban councillor and local authority leader Roddy McCuish said: 'This is an exciting opportunity for Oban, and one that the town has grasped with both hands.'

'By joining forces, local businesses can make the most of all that Oban has to offer and there will be many benefits for the whole of Argyll and Bute as a result.'



BID4Oban chairman Graham MacQueen, left, pops the champagne as the steering group celebrates the BID success. From left, front row: John Forteith, Lindsay MacDonald, Pauline Cameron and Sandy MacArthur. Back row: Raymond Hyams, Andy Spence and Alistair Jackson. 16_14161d01

MSP calls for independent review of Islay healthcare after NHS Highland are 'evasive'

'EVASIVE' action by NHS Highland over the issue surrounding Islay's out-of-hours GP cover has been criticised by Argyll and Bute's MSP.

Michael Russell MSP recently met with islanders, including Islay's exasperated GPs, who have elected to opt out of out-of-hours cover after conceding they could not cope with the workload.

At the time of their decision in July this year, the GPs called for an independent review into healthcare on Islay.

NHS Highland has so far refused to say whether it is even considering a review, although representatives have agreed to meet with the GPs and Islay Community Council's healthcare

sub-committee on October 18. Mr Russell said: 'My view remains that an independent review is required.'

'Such a review was carried out on Arran and I have made that point to health secretary Alex Neil.'

'I am frustrated at the evasive answers from NHS Highland and I have addressed this situation as a matter of urgency. NHS Highland is handling this very badly indeed.'

Withdraw

The island's overworked GPs gave notice of their intention to withdraw from emergency cover in July, saying the move had come as a last resort, after attempts to work with Argyll and Bute's Community Health

Partnership (CHP) fell on deaf ears. Provisions in their contract state that if alternative emergency cover cannot be found, the GPs could be made to work on until May 2013.

However, this does not apply to the extra work the GPs do in the island's hospital, meaning an emergency solution to out-of-hours care in Islay Hospital must be worked out by November 1.

Islay Community Council said it would not comment on the situation until after the meeting with the CHP.

In a statement NHS Highland said it had 'acknowledged' calls for a review of healthcare services on Islay.

The health board claimed there has been 'ongoing dialogue'

with the GPs, adding: 'Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership engages in regular reviews of local health services to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of our local communities, address the specific challenges of providing these services in remote and rural communities, and in particular in the case of Islay, reflecting the context resulting from the GMS Contract.'

'We particularly recognise that the ongoing provision and sustainability of primary care, out-of-hours and community hospital services on Islay has proved particularly challenging in recent times as a result of unforeseen changes in circumstances locally.'

Police crackdown on 'obstructive parking'

OBAN Police will be issuing fixed penalty notices to drivers in the town who cause an obstruction when parking their cars, as of next week.

The four-week 'Think Before You Park' initiative, run in conjunction with Oban Fire Station, ends this week and, as *The Oban Times* went to press, firefighters had leafleted more than 80 vehicles that were causing potential obstructions.

The initiative followed concerns from Oban Fire Station that its appliances were unable to negotiate certain roads because of inconsiderate parking. Particular areas of concern highlighted during the initiative have been Gellanach, Mossfield and Dalintart.

New CHORD consultants to cost further £2.5 million

THREE consultants to work on the CHORD project in Argyll are being sought at an expected cost of £2.5 million.

This figure is in addition to the £272,000 already spent in Oban on external consultants who are working on 'project development and assessment'.

No work has yet been undertaken in the town.

Argyll and Bute Council is now looking to recruit three individual framework consultants to work in Oban, Rothesay and Dunoon.

The consultants will assist the programme manager by providing 'incidental plans, studies, advice notes, cost estimates and attendance at meetings'.

They will also provide 'support and advice to project managers as required' and cover for project managers as and when required.

The consultants will also assemble teams to 'design, manage and deliver individual projects' and provide financial and environmental advice.

Delivery phase
A council spokeswoman said: 'Work on the CHORD programme is now entering its delivery phase.'

'Detailed design, planning and supervision will be needed over the coming three years to see successful delivery in all five towns. The most efficient way to ensure that we have the expertise in place and ready to work is through a framework - this removes the time and expense involved in issuing individual briefs and commissions for every piece of work that will be required, however small.'

'The overall CHORD programme is valued well in excess of £30 million and the framework will provide three companies who will be actively involved in delivering this programme over the next three years. Any services taken forward under the new framework, for CHORD projects, will be paid for using approved CHORD funds.'

There is a three-year contract on offer, starting on February 1 2013, with a one-year option to extend. Requests to participate in the tender process must be received by November 7.

Argyll Ferries ➔ Meadhan Baile Dùn Omhain ➔ Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rioghail Argyll Ferries ➔ Dunoon Town Centre ➔ Royal National Mod

Argyll Ferries Seirbheis air leth - Offering you more

Chan fhada idir an t-astar eadar prìomh ionadan farpais a' Mhòid Nàiseanta Rioghail is meadhan Dhùn Omhain agus tha Argyll Ferries a' ruith seirbheis aiseig do luchd-siubhail, a tha seòladh gu tric eadar meadhan baile Ghuireig is meadhan baile Dhùn Omhain. Tha stèisean-rèile Ghuireig ri taobh an ionaid-aiseig agus le aon tiogaid a dh'fhaodas sibh ceannach airson na trèan agus an aiseig, seo an dòigh-siubhail as luaithe eadar Stèisean-rèile Meadhan Ghlaschu is meadhan Dhùn Omhain. Faodaidh sibh cuideachd tiogaid a cheannach air bòrd a' bhàta.

The main Royal National Mod competition venues are just a short walk from Dunoon town centre and Argyll Ferries operate a frequent daily passenger ferry service between Gourock town centre and Dunoon town centre. Gourock train station is situated at the ferry terminal and with combined rail and ferry tickets, it's the quickest route to Dunoon town centre from Glasgow Central. You can also purchase your ticket on board.

- ▶ Faodaidh sibh siubhal eadar Stèisean-rèile Meadhan Ghlaschu is meadhan baile Dhùn Omhain ann an nas lugha na 80 mionaid
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- ▶ Tha seòlaidhean nas anmoiche ann Dihaoine is Disathairne
- ▶ A' seòladh 30 turas gach Didòmhnaich
- ▶ Tha seòlaidhean sa mhadainn is anmoch air an fheasgar a tha ceangal ri trèanaichean gu is bho Stèisean-rèile Meadhan Ghlaschu is stèiseanan eile
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GOUROCK - DUNOON							
Monday - Saturday							
Rail		Ferry				Rail	
Glasgow Central	Gourock Arrive	Gourock Depart	Dunoon Arrive	Dunoon Depart	Gourock Arrive	Gourock Depart	Glasgow Central
-	-	0620	0645	0645	0715	0722 sx 0736 so	0814 0830
0555	0636	0645	0710	0715	0740	0752	0842
0625	0713	0720	0745	0750	0815	0824	0916
0655	0739	0750	0815	0820	0845	0906	0958
0725	0813	0820	0845	0850	0915	0923	1003
0735	0828	0850	0915	0920	0945	1006	1058
0828	0909	0920	0945	0950	1015	1023	1103
0836	0927	0950	1015	1020	1045	1106	1158
0925	1006	1020	1045	1050	1115	1123	1203
0935	1027	1050	1115	1120	1145	1206	1258
1025	1106	1120	1145	1150	1215	1223	1303
1035	1127	1150	1215	1220	1245	1306	1358
1125	1206	1220	1245	1250	1315	1323	1403
1225	1306	1320	1345	1350	1415	1423	1503
1325	1406	1420	1445	1450	1515	1523	1606
1425	1506	1520	1545	1550	1615	1623	1705
1435	1527	1550	1615	1620	1645	1706	1758
1525	1606	1620	1645	1650	1715	1723	1805
1535	1627	1650	1715	1720	1745	1806	1858
1605	1657	1720	1745	1750	1815	1823	1904
1655	1739	1750	1815	1820	1845	1906	1959
1725	1806	1820	1845	1850	1915	1922	2014
1740	1832	1850	1915	1920	1945	2020	2112
1825	1906	1920	1945	1950	2015	2044	2130
1835	1927	1950	2015	2020	2045	-	-
1925	2006	2020	2045	2050	2115	2124	2215
2005	2058	2120	2145	2145	2215	2220*	2314
2050	2132	2140	2205	2210	2235	2320	0012
2150	2233	2240	2305	2310	2335	-	-
2250	2333	2340 A	0005 A	0010 A	0035 A	-	-
2350	0042	0100 A	0125 A	0125 A	0150 A	-	-

Sunday							
Rail		Ferry				Rail	
Glasgow Central	Gourock Arrive	Gourock Depart	Dunoon Arrive	Dunoon Depart	Gourock Arrive	Gourock Depart	Glasgow Central
0720	0806	0820	0845	0850	0915	0923	1015
0820	0912	0920	0945	0950	1015	1023	1115
0920	1012	1020	1045	1050	1115	1123	1215
1020	1112	1120	1145	1150	1215	1223	1315
1120	1212	1220	1245	1250	1315	1323	1415
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1520	1612	1620	1645	1650	1715	1723	1815
1620	1712	1720	1745	1750	1815	1823	1915
1720	1812	1820	1845	1850	1915	1923	2015
1820	1912	1920	1945	1950	2015	2023	2115
1920	2012	2020	2045	2050	2115	2123	2215
2020	2112	2120	2145	2150	2215	2223	2315
2120	2212	2220	2245	2250	2315	-	-

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FW

Oban Ladies edged out in first cup game

'The entire team has to be given credit for the way they played'

District Cup Stepps Ladies 4 Oban Ladies 4 (Stepps win on penalties) OBAN Hockey Club's ladies team narrowly missed out on victory in their first ever cup match against Stepps on Sunday, after an agonising first round defeat on penalties in Glasgow. Iona Fulton was named woman of the match after her hat trick gave Oban a fighting chance against their more experienced opponents. The ladies went into the match a player down and conceded two goals early on in the game.

However, some good Oban play then created a handful of chances. Tara Pollock's fine strike was met by an equally good stop by the Stepps keeper. Meanwhile three short corners by Stepps were all met with a solid defence led by the centre back Nienke Van Geel. **Impose** As Oban began to impose themselves on the game, they pulled a goal back when Fulton and Pollock linked up before the former fired in at the near post. Two more short corners for Stepps were defended well with Heather Robertson and Diane

MacLean rushing out to block the ball. Individual work at the other end of the pitch by Fulton led to a brilliant goal from the edge of the D to level the match at two a-piece. Oban had their tails up now and enjoyed a period of sustained pressure but Stepps broke the momentum with a goal from a short corner just as the half time whistle blew. A cagey start to the second half saw both teams struggle to settle back in after the break. Finally



The new Oban Ladies hockey team picture before their first ever cup match against Stepps. t41hockey1no

With Oban pushing for the winner, Stepps hit on the break and forced another short corner, from which they scored their fourth. Oban Ladies didn't lose heart, though, and continued to push forward for another equaliser. This pressure led to the fourth goal, with the deadly duo of Pollock and Fulton combining once again. A Pollock cross from the right was finished by Fulton at the near post to mark her hat trick. As the final whistle ap-

proached, Oban needed heroics at the other end when goalkeeper Lisa Eckford-Soper produced an excellent save. With the game all-square after normal time it went to penalties, which Oban Ladies lost 2-1. Tara Pollock said after the game: 'This is a new team and next time the extra experience we have gained from playing competitive matches will tell.'

'The entire team has to be given credit for the way they played throughout the match coming back three times to level it.' Oban will next compete in the plate competition on November 4. Oban Hockey Club train on Thursday nights at Oban High School between 6-7pm and is open to ladies and gents of all levels.

Oban Pool league gets underway

THE OBAN Pool League returns tonight (Thursday) with 10 teams participating in the all new format. The introduction of an additional singles match now allows for a draw and a point for the very first time, two points remain in effect for the winners. Barry Clark of the Oban Pool League committee said: 'With many of last season's matches being closely contested this is sure to spice things up in the months ahead.' Both The Kelvin and The Lochneil make a welcome return this season but are overshadowed by the return of The Gluepot after a four-year absence as the league continues to evolve. Tonight's fixtures: The Balmoral v The Kelvin; The Gluepot v Lancaster B; Markie Dans A v The Claredon; The Lochavullin v The Lochneil; Lancaster A v Markie Dans B.

SAFL results and fixtures

FOOTBALL
SATURDAY'S SAFL results: Centenary Cup, quarter final - Campbelltown Pupils 1, Aikhead Thistle 8. Division 1A - Dunoon 6 Eaglesham 'B' 1; East Kilbride YM 4 v Tarbert 2. Division 1B - Lochgilphead Red Star 2 v Whitehill FP 3. Saturday's fixtures: West of Scotland Cup - Lochgilphead Red Star v The Harp; Campsie v Tarbert; Mauchline United v Oban Saints. Premier Division Two - Hillington v Campbelltown Pupils. Division 1A - Dunoon Athletic v East Kilbride YM

Craig gears up for this weekend's Mull Rally

MULL driver Craig Rutherford hopes to harness home advantage as he prepares for this weekend's Tunnock's Mull Rally. The 22-year-old's 2012 Scot-



Craig Rutherford.

ish Rally Championship swansong didn't end well - but the Isle of Mull driver is determined to bounce back as soon as he returns to his home island. The Honda Civic Type R pilot from Fionnphort was in action on Saturday's Colin McRae Forest Stages in Perthshire, having already secured the Brick and Steel Ecosse Challenge Type R title, the Scottish Junior Rally Championship and the class honours for his Honda. However, he wanted to help his co-driver Ross Hynd secure some extra silverware.

RALLYING
All seemed to be going to plan until the start line of the final Craigvinean Forest test but when Rutherford went to engage first gear, the clutch wouldn't play ball. Ross is working this weekend, meaning Peter MacCrone from Ulva Ferry will be co-driving. The Tunnock's Mull Rally starts tomorrow (Friday) and runs through to Sunday.

Youth teams pipped at the post

OBAN Saints 2002's and 2003's travelled last Sunday to play in the John McGinlay Memorial Football Tournament run by Ardencaple Boys Club in memory of their founder. This is the second time the Oban boys have played in what is an annual event held on the 3g pitch at Hermitage Academy in Helensburgh. The Oban lads did really well with both teams reaching their respective age group finals. The 2003's defeated Ardencaple 2-0, Kilpatrick Two 2-0 and drew 0-0 with Haldane. The boys were paired with Kilpatrick One in the final, but unfortunately lost out to the only goal of the game. Head coach Gary MacIvor said: 'The boys were disappointed that they didn't win in the final but I was delighted at the way

they played and the way they conducted themselves both on and off the park.' The 2002's managed to get the day off to a good start with a comfortable win over 'Caple'. They then had another comfortable win over Westerton and the way the boys were going about their business was impressive. **End to end** Next up was a cracking match against Dumbarton United which Saints edged 1-0 in what was an end to end game which could have gone any way. After coming out on top in their own group, keeping three clean sheets and scoring several goals with most of the squad getting on the scoresheet, they then played the top team in the other group, academy-based team First Touch. The Greenock team had domi-

YOUTH FOOTBALL
nated in every game they played throughout the day but the Oban boys had a belief in themselves and although it was, as expected, one way traffic for most of the game the Oban boys showed a great team spirit to hold them at 0-0 for the duration of the game until two minutes into added-on time when the First Touch lads managed to snatch the winner. All players at the tournament received a medal at the end of the day's proceedings. Coach Brian Forgive said: 'The boys were excellent today and the team spirit shown was great to see and all our coaches were very proud of them. We would like to thank Ardencaple Boys Club and say well done on another excellent tournament run by them.'



Oban Saints 2002's pictured at last Saturday's tournament in Helensburgh.

John retires with suspension problems

MOTOR CYCLING
AFTER suffering bike problems for the second race in succession, Connel's John McPhee retired from the Moto3 UEM European Championship race at Albacete. Racing Steps Foundation rider - who had had his sights set firmly on the title heading into the weekend - retired after six laps with continuing suspension woes. The teenager last week stepped up to the World Championship as a stand-in for injured Caretta Technology rider Alexis Masbou but suffered engine problems. **Suspension** However, after his bike suspension failed this time around, he was not prepared to risk injury ahead of the fly-away Grands Prix in Japan, Malaysia and Australia and opted to retire.

'The bike simply wasn't handling as it should so it just wasn't worth risking an injury to fight for a mid-field finish at best the day before I'm due to fly out to Japan,' he said. 'The final four rounds of the World Championship have to be my main focus right now.'



Fighting for Scotland: (left to right) Callum Clement, Ben Wilson and Sam MacLeod

International honours for Kinlochleven boxers

BOXING
TWO young Kinlochleven boxers were part of a six-strong Scotland side which travelled to take on their English counterparts in County Durham last Friday. Claymores Amateur Boxing Club members Sam MacLeod and 14 year-old Ben Wilson, along with club mate Callum Clement of Tyndrum, represented their country in the North Road Gym ABC's sell-out England v Scotland show with three boxers from North Glasgow ABC against fighters from across the north of England. Both Lochaber fighters more than held their own against strong opponents. Wilson fought Asif Mia of Birtley ABC with both youngsters fighting a fantastic tempo throughout the three rounds. Wilson lost by just a single point, but impressed the packed home crowd. Senior boxer MacLeod took home fighter John Graham in the main event of the evening. MacLeod's style always ensures the crowd gets its money's worth and he did not disappoint at this event.

After being led into the ring by a piper, MacLeod came forward throwing lefts and rights from bell to bell. He struggled to make headway against the 6'5" Graham, and when the referee deducted a point from the Lochaber man for hitting with the inside of his glove the bout was all but lost. But he boxed on and he had the crowd on their feet as he tried desperately to get back on terms with Graham. Callander High School pupil Clement systematically took his opponent apart Lewis McBarren with a series of crashing right hooks and comfortably won a unanimous decision from the judges. Claymores head coach Martin Glensk told The Oban Times: 'All in all Claymores ABC's first trip 'abroad' proved to be very successful for all concerned. New friendships were formed and bonds with other clubs were made and strengthened. 'Ben has always impressed me both as a boxer and although on this occasion he lost out to a very good lad, he only lost by a single point and in my opinion that decision could have gone either way. I believe Ben really is a star of the future.'



All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons. The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. 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.

WIN £2000

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

- D McAulay Strachur, Argyll
- W Callander Benderloch, Argyll

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 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 decision rests with the Company. In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition



I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Name

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Fort face form teams in coming weeks

'We have to look at every game and see what we can get out of it'

REPORT BY RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

FORT William face a tough run of games against some of the Highland league's form sides in coming weeks - starting with a trip to take on Inverurie Locos this Saturday.

With the likes of Huntly and Wick Academy lying in wait,

October promises to be a tough month for the Claggan Park side.

Manager Danny Conlon has been dealt a blow with the news a groin injury could keep young goalie Jay Smith out of action for up to 12 weeks.

Smith has impressed since being thrust into first team action this season, but will be

FOOTBALL

replaced by Lewis keeper Iain MacLeod. MacLeod, now based in Aberdeen, is the brother-in-law of ex-Fort midfielder Chris MacLeod.

Conlon told The Oban Times mid-table Locos would provide a stern test.

He said: 'It's going to be a very difficult game, but they've had a bit of an up and down season so far, in terms of results. We will be trying to stay in the game for as long as we can.'

Disappointing
Conlon will be able to call upon forwards Davie Forbes and Logan Barker for the game, both of who missed last weekend's disappointing 2-0 home loss to Rothes.

A goal in each half from Stuart Massie was enough for Rothes to take the points in a scrappy game that had little to enthuse the fans.

The closest Fort came to scoring came at 0-1 down, when Darren Quigg burst through and



Rothes' Michael Dunn takes the ball full in the face to head clear from Fort's Ryan MacDonald and Darren Quigg. 20_141foot005

rifled in a shot which cannoned off the left hand post.

Conlon said the absence of Forbes and Barker meant Iain MacLellan was handed the main striker's role, when his best position is playing just behind a target man.

He said: 'We just weren't at the races, and the players were told that at half time. The first half we were really poor, and in the second we weren't much better.'

'There was a lack of width and we didn't have anything up front to trouble them. We know what are weaknesses are, but it's hard to fix them.'

'We have to look at every game and see what we can get out of it. If we can pick up points against the bigger teams, that's great. But games against teams around us are virtually six-pointers, and to not pick up anything is extremely disappointing.'



Darren Duncan fires over a cross despite the attentions of Rothes' Greig Watson 20_141foot001



Lewis Corbett shoots for goal as Fort strive to overcome a 1-0 deficit in the first half. 20_141foot004

High school pipped at the post

SCHOOL SHINTY

LOCHABER High School suffered a narrow defeat in the final of the Great Glen Schools' Shinty Sixes last Wednesday in Drumnadrochit.

Seven teams from across the Highlands - Kilchuimen Academy, Kingussie High, Dingwall Academy, Charleston Academy and two teams from Glen Urquhart High - took part in the 18th annual round-robin competition.

Lochaber reached the final but were defeated by Kingussie by just one goal.

Even organiser Allan MacLeod said: 'The standard of shinty every year gets better and better.'

'On behalf of the hosts, Glen Urquhart High School, I would like to thank Glenurquhart Shinty Club for the use of their facilities and to DCR Sport for the donation of the shinty balls for the competition.'

'We look forward to welcoming the schools back in March for the Robertson Cup Shinty Sixes for under 14s.'

Dream start for reigning champs

INDOOR FOOTBALL

REIGNING champs Lochaber Leisure got a dream start in the new season of the Ali Young Indoor Football league with an 11-1 win against Caol FC at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

Two new sides, All Blacks and Portowcy, had a high-scoring encounter, with Portowcy winning 7-3.

Last year's third-placed side Goon Squad also got off to a good start, defeating HWEnergy No-Stars 5-2, while Achintore FC picked up three points with a 3-0 win over AA Young.

Another new side, Old Codgers, went down 5-3 to Ballachulish.

Woodies pairs

BOWLS



ALEX Wood presented the prizes after the Railway Bowling Club's Woodies Taxis pairs competition in Inverloch. Alex handed the trophy to winners Kevin Douglas and Duncan Gillies (back), and gave the runners-up prize to her uncle Brian Wood and her father Innes Wood (left), who sponsored the competition - f41bowl51no

Fort William GC

GOLF

FORT William Golf Club's winter league competition starts this Saturday at 10am.

Summer greens and winter tees will be used this weekend, and all are welcome to take part.

University boys prove too clever for Lochaber

LOCHABER made the long journey to the north east on Saturday hoping to keep their unbeaten start to the season

going but fell to a 53-7 defeat against Aberdeen University.

Despite the loss to an Aberdeen side which boasted a number of

RUGBY

Scotland under 21s in their side and has a 100 percent record so far, Lochaber stay remain in the RBS Caledonia regional league division two north.

Lochaber hardly touched the ball in the first half, and with the referee giving the home side the benefit of all the 50/50 decisions Aberdeen the home side were well in front by half time.

After the break Lochaber came out far more focussed and showed glimpses of why they had won their first five games. Following some good pressure, Connor Taylor broke free and managed to slip a pass to his back row colleague Jack Baxter to score, with Kenny Turnbull converting.

Lochaber continued to press and had a number of line breaks but were unable to convert these into points. A late Lochaber highlight saw some quick thinking from Jack Ringland to stop an Aberdeen centre scoring what looked like a certain try.

Lochaber will hope to get their season back on track at 5pm this Saturday when they welcome Ross Sutherland to Banavie, with a big crowd expected to cheer them on from 'the hill'.



Lochaber try scorer Jack Baxter wins a lineout during Saturday's loss to Aberdeen University.

Boxing brothers impress at Aberdeen show

FORT William's boxing brothers James and Kevin Aitchison both impressed during a show in Aberdeen hosted by Granite City ABC last Friday.

The teenagers represented Lochaber Phoenix ABC, with the more experienced James first to fight against home fighter Eddie Copland.

The 14 year-old was conceding height and reach to Copland, but that didn't prevent him claiming the centre of the ring in the opening round as both boxers tried to establish their jab, using good defence to limit the number of scoring blows.

In round two good defence from both fighters restricted point scoring. In the final round James cleverly introduced feinting which proved key to landing his backhand, as time and again Copland fell into the trap.

James punished the Granite City boxer with accurate right hands all the time keeping his own defences tight as he showed tremendous powers of concentration coupled with a fierce desire for victory as he powered his way to the final bell.

This strong finish gave James a unanimous decision victory which was very much deserved after a fine performance.

Kevin was next in the ring facing another home fighter Matty O'Neil.

O'Neil came charging out of the blocks at the first bell and throwing multiple combinations at Aitchison. The 13 year-old was totally surprised by this and although he blocked virtually everything coming his way the odd shot did sneak through and as he was not throwing any counters of his own found himself behind at the end of the round.

The second saw O'Neil continue his aggressive barrage and

while Kevin at last started firing back his own punches he elected to stand and trade as opposed to using his reach and footwork.

Sometimes a person can find out about his true character when put in difficult situations and Kevin discovered some of the qualities he possesses in the final round when he had to try and find a minor miracle to turn the fight around.

Relying on sheer strength of will he began to bombard

BOXING

O'Neil with right crosses. Time and again they found the target and when he knocked out the Aberdeenian's gumshield it looked like he might have pulled it off but alas ran out of time and ultimately lost the decision.

Kevin will look for revenge in a rematch with O'Neil at Lochaber Phoenix's home show in the Nevis Centre on Saturday November 3.



Boxing brothers - Kevin (left) and James with their father Kevin Sr.

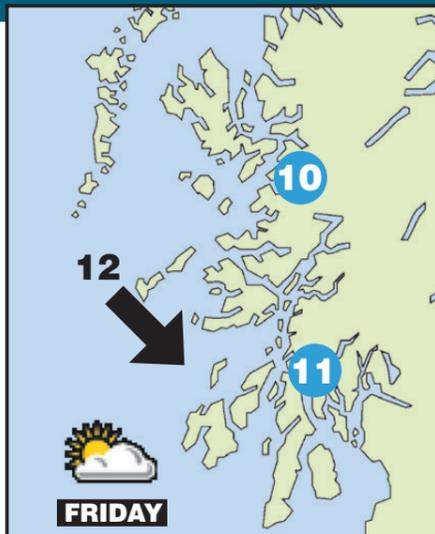
Weather

Thursday Heavy rain
Winds light easterly
Temperatures 7°C to 12°C

Friday Sunny intervals
Winds moderate north westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C.

Weekend Sunny intervals
Outlook Winds moderate west north westerly
Temperatures 4°C to 11°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 11, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	02.53 3.1 08.13 1.7 14.58 3.4 21.24 1.7	
Fri	03.33 3.3 09.08 1.4 15.36 3.6 22.03 1.3	
Sat	04.08 3.6 09.54 1.1 16.13 3.9 22.39 1.0	
Sun	04.41 3.8 10.35 0.8 16.48 4.1 23.14 0.8	
Mon	05.13 4.0 11.17 0.5 17.24 4.3 23.49 0.6	
Tues	05.45 4.1 11.59 0.4 18.00 4.3 *** **	
Wed	00.27 0.5 06.21 4.1 12.43 0.4 18.37 4.2	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-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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