

# The Oban Times

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## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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**Energy saving in Argyll** see our feature on page 7



also inside this week

## Photos and reports from the 2011 Royal National Mòd

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### Hunt for attacker after Oban assault

POLICE are appealing for witnesses or information after a man in his 60s was assaulted close to Benvoulin Gardens in Oban.

Officers are trying to trace a suspect, described as in his 40s and wearing dark clothing, in connection with the incident. Anyone with any information should contact Constable McAllister on 510500.

### Fishermen hooked at Loch Awe

THREE men fishing at Loch Awe last week were stopped by police officers in the early hours of Thursday morning. Enquiries revealed they were in possession of a vehicle taken from the Clydebank area without the owner's consent.

A 39-year-old male is the subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal in connection with the incident.

### Teenager guilty of starting blaze

A TEENAGE girl has been found guilty by a jury for deliberately setting fire to a house in Dalavich.

The 15-year-old, who was 14 at the time of the offence and cannot be named for legal reasons, was found guilty by majority verdict at Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday of setting fire to the house at 29 Dalavich on June 25 last year.

The property was extensively damaged in the blaze.

Sentence has been deferred until November 10 for reports.

### Saturday sailings to Colonsay

CALEDONIAN MacBrayne will operate a pilot Saturday return sailing to Colonsay between October 29 and Christmas, giving the island four crossings a week in the winter timetable.

Islay Councillor Robin Currie said: 'This service allows them a day return to Oban with a decent amount of time ashore to do their business, visit hospitals or whatever. I hope that it is well used and CalMac is to be congratulated in getting this service implemented.'



Bowmore's Emily Gray, centre, won a gold medal at the Royal National Mòd in Stornoway. Nuala MacDonald from Scourie, left, and Rebecca Swallow from Condorrat won, respectively, a silver and a bronze medal. 20\_11m0255

### Islay's Emily strikes gold at the Mòd

ISLAY girl Emily Gray did Bowmore proud when she won the prescribed song for learners aged 5-6. Emily, aged six, is tutored in Gaelic song by Helen Gillies and her family was delighted with her success.

Mum Alison said: 'She has competed for

the last two years, but she has been singing since she was old enough to talk.'

Five-year-old Nuala Iona MacDonald may come from Scourie, in Sutherland, but she has very strong Argyll connections. All her grandparents belong to Argyll - her mum

Lisa's dad Fred Schroder lives in Southend, Kintyre, while her dad Jamie's parents Neil and Hilary MacDonald are from Tarbert.

Nuala Iona took the silver medal while Rebecca Swallow, from Condorrat, won the bronze.

### Opinion mixed over turbine proposals for Clachan Seil

MIXED views were expressed about plans to build a wind farm close to the historic Atlantic Bridge linking the Isle of Seil to mainland Argyll.

Landowner Rory Young wants to erect nine 56-metre turbines near Clachan Seil and organised a community drop-in event last Friday, in advance of submitting a planning application in the coming days.

He argues the project will provide clean, green power without damaging the local environment, generate a lump sum for local communities and interest for tourists.

But Sheila Downie, who runs An Cala Gardens, near Ellena-beich, said visitors to whom she

has talked are against the plans. She said: 'When you explain it to them, everyone thinks it is a bad idea.'

'There are people who want to reduce carbon and they are in principle for, but what we are arguing is that a wind farm should not be put in that iconic beauty spot. I think most people in the area are against it.'

The proposed site lies close to a number of homes at Clachan. One resident, who did not want to be named, told *The Oban Times* she was concerned about the impact of noise and found the proposal 'very depressing'.

Another said she feared the value of her homes will fall and pointed to planning guidance

that turbines should be at least two kilometres from dwellings.

The proposal has divided slate islanders. Peter Hooper, secretary of the Isle of Luing Community Trust, said Mr Young had gone out of his way to involve the community in his plans and listen to their feedback.

Mr Hooper backs the plan, particularly the dividend for local communities.

He said: 'This gives us the chance to have a regular income from which the community will benefit and it will be under our control.'

'In these more straitened times, you can't do anything without some cash.'

Robert Rae, a member of Seil and Easdale Community Council, said the site of the wind farm includes a number of archaeological features, including sites associated with St Brendan.

He added the community council would consider what view to take of the development once the planning application is lodged.

Mr Young said a straw poll at the meeting showed opinion was fairly evenly divided for and against the plans: 'We were very pleased though I don't mind admitting it was a bit of a rollercoaster.'

'Obviously there were some negative points and that's fair enough.'

### Argyll firms miss out on council deals

#### Three-quarters of cash is spent outwith local economy

OF THE £109million Argyll and Bute Council spent on services and supplies from external companies last year, only 26 per cent stayed within the local economy.

While a number of specialist services or pieces of equipment could only be sourced from outside the area, most of the purchases that could be made locally were sourced from elsewhere.

Among the larger contracts going to companies based outside Argyll and Bute was the agreement for catering supplies.

Kent firm Brakes Brothers received £831,198 of business from the authority, while Oban based Forthright Foodservice's share of the spend was just over £50,000.

Meanwhile, the council spent £281,844 on stationery supplies in the last financial year, with the entire sum going to English firms. Computing consumables cost £174,827, with only £5,229 staying in Scotland - to a Fife firm.

The figures, released via the SpotlightSpend website this week, have prompted calls for a change to procurement

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN [sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk)

processes. John Forteith, senior partner of Forteith Foodservice, said: 'It is frustrating that Scottish councils choose to procure nationally through the European tendering process, making it extremely difficult for local suppliers who employ locally and who in turn support local producers themselves.'

'Surely the process should be questioned as to whether or not it is proving best value for money for the local economy.'

'Each pound spent with a local business ripples through the local economy.'

Arguing A spokesman for the Federation of Small Business in Scotland said: 'For years, the FSB has been arguing that more Scottish public sector spend should go to the country's small business community.'

'To sort out this problem, we're involved in various projects to try to address some of the practical issues that we think prevent small business from winning work.'

'However, individual public sector bodies must make sure that they do everything they can to open their doors to their local small business community.'

'Further, the FSB continues to be concerned about the effect the aggregation of contracts has on the ability of Scottish small businesses to win work.'

A spokeswoman for the local authority said: 'The vast majority of the spend is subject either to a competitive tendering exercise or in the case of care provision, is contracted through service level agreements with providers.'

'The council is well aware of the potential benefits to the local economy from sourcing locally and we are keen to buy from local suppliers whenever we can.'

The council says some elements such as utilities, computing supplies, new vehicles and heavy plant cannot realistically be sourced locally, while public procurement rules mean they are 'not legally allowed' to favour local suppliers and contractors.

It also says that those companies whose headquarters are based elsewhere but have a local depot are not listed as a local spend.

### Grants worth £500,000 awarded

MORE than £500,000 has been handed out to community groups and projects in Argyll and Bute in the latest round of LEADER grants.

Argyll and Bute Council received the biggest grant, of £145,000, to expand footpaths and cycle ways in Dalnally, Oban, Tarbert and Lochgilphead.

Oban Phoenix Cinema received £18,850 for refurbish-

ment. Laura Russell, cinema director, said: 'We are delighted to have received the money and it will go a long way to get the cinema up and running as soon as possible.'

Community group Here We Are will get £24,590 to produce a gazetteer of Cairnrow, mapping changes in their community from 1900 to the present day and on into the future.

The Isle of Jura Development

Trust has been given £23,263 to take forward an oral history project, collating information on island life through the ages.

Mull and Iona Community Trust plans to carry out a feasibility study into better resources for visitors to the islands, thanks to their £8,168 grant.

Meanwhile on Iona, £10,650 has been allocated to look at the options for developing the island's village hall.

### Absentee landlords accused of holding up urgent £1million repair scheme for properties in Soroba

A COMMITMENT to spend more than £1million repairing crumbling roughcasting in Soroba is being held up by absentee landlords who are refusing to share their part of the bill.

The Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) wants to completely redo the gables of the housing blocks in the scheme with the roughcasting rapidly disintegrating, allowing damp to seep into the exposed bricks.

With another harsh winter approaching, the association wants to take steps as quickly as possible to make the required repairs.

But the association owns less than half the houses in the scheme and while those owners who live there

have shown a willingness to take part, those who live elsewhere and let the properties out have failed to co-operate.

Without their co-operation, work cannot go ahead.

Local councillor and ACHA board member, Roddy McCuish, has described their actions as 'utterly irresponsible.'

He said: 'It's very rare you get anyone wanting to spend £1million improving anything, particularly in this economic climate.'

'Yet for a small proportion of what it would normally cost them to do the job, these absentee landlords are refusing to pay their way.'

'These guys bought these houses years ago for peanuts and have taken

money out of Soroba for years, but the first moment they're asked to pay their way to sort out a problem they absolutely refuse.'

'With ownership comes responsibility. I'm not getting at the people who can't afford it; I'm getting at those who can but when asked to do their bit to help they refuse to do so.'

'There's no argument - this work needs to be done and it would be cheaper to do it this way than for each block to carry out their own repairs.'

Work to repair roughcasting on each block would cost approximately £18,000, from which each household has been asked to contribute a few hundred pounds as

equal share. ACHA has told owners that grants are available to those who cannot afford the cost and has offered to help with the required paperwork.

However, a meeting with owners in August could not reach a consensus.

The subject was a matter for debate at Monday night's meeting of the Soroba Residents Association.

Chairman, Sean MacIntyre, said: 'For example, I know of one company that owns six flats here and it is not the first time a problem like this has come up.'

The association plans to canvass owners in an effort to persuade them to co-operate with the repair scheme.



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Lucky escape as caravan is destroyed in A85 pile-up



TRAFFIC was at a standstill for more than four hours on Saturday, after a caravan was ripped open in a collision at Loch Awe. A holidaying family and another male driver escaped injury when two caravans, a trailer and three other vehicles were involved in the collision, shortly before 12noon. Fire, police and ambulance crews were called to the scene and recovery of the damaged vehicles was made more complicated by their size. One lane of the A85 re-opened at about 4.30pm while Scotland TransServ officials worked to remove remaining debris from the road. A male driver has been charged with careless driving. 15\_142crash01

School transport costs to soar in Western Isles

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar will spend an extra £418,000 providing school transport this year. Increased fuel costs is the main contributory factor in the rise, with the inflation calculation for all bus contracts based on the Consumer Prices Index (CPI). The extent of this is an 8.42 per cent increase on the previous year's expenditure, equating to an additional £209,000 on top of 2010/11's £209,000 overspend. It is hoped that the revised home to school transport policy, agreed in February, will help reduce the spend in future though. The policy will mean primary school children within two miles of their catchment will no longer be entitled to transport, with a 'three mile rule' introduced for secondary pupils. All non-entitled pupils will then be required to pay their way. In his report, Iain Smith, the director of education and children's services, said: 'The implementation of the new policy will lead to significant savings on the Home to School Transport budget over a period of time. 'It is anticipated that the savings achieved through the implementation of the new policy and the cooperative working between the director of education and children's services and the director of technical services should yield cost savings that can be used to offset the school transport budgetary overspend.'

Barra joy as CalMac agrees to festive service

FISHERMEN on Barra breathed a sigh of relief this week after ferries operator, Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) agreed to run special sailings during the festive period. Shellfishermen were upset when they discovered that ferries would not be running to and from Castlebay on December 26 and January 2, with the sailings vital to export stock during the industry's busiest period. A number of the fishermen got in touch with both CalMac and Angus MacNeil, MP for Na H-Eileanan an Iar, to register their displeasure. CalMac have now accommodated the fishermen and arranged additional sailings on both dates. Mr MacNeil said: 'Once I was made aware of the fact that there were no scheduled sailings to and from Castlebay on December 26 and January 2, I contacted CalMac to make them aware of the disruption this would cause the shellfish industry on the island. They would not be able to get their produce away to foreign markets on time. 'I am now delighted that CalMac will now run sailings to and from Castlebay on these dates.'

Emergency tug back in service after reprieve

THE emergency tug which serves the Minch resumed service this week, with a three month reprieve granted to allow an alternative solution to be found. Shipping minister, Mike Penning had wanted to remove the tug, the Anglian Prince, from service as part of a cost cutting exercise, but high profile protests by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Shetland Isles Council and local MPs and MSPs persuaded the minister that a solution was needed for the area. The new contract, awarded by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency on Friday, started two weeks after the previous service agreement ended. Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP, Angus MacNeil said: 'While I welcome this announcement, why has it taken the UK Government a fortnight to put this interim contract in place? This is something that should have been arranged before the contract ended on September 30. 'I would hope that the UK Government are now working hard to ensure that they're will be future cover in the Western and Northern Isles after this interim contract comes to an end. Michael Moore, the secretary of state for Scotland, will host a series of meetings to try and take forward a long term deal for Emergency Towing Vessel (ETV) cover. He said: 'I am confident we can work towards a long term solution for the ETVs and we will be working with a wide range of stakeholders, including the oil and gas industry, towards that goal.'

SAC process 'wrong'

THE process by which a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is selected is wrong and needs revised, according to Scottish MEP Ian Hudghton. Mr Hudghton, who is a member of the European Parliament's committees on regional development and fisheries, has been working with Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP, Alasdair Allan, in campaigning for a change to the criteria for SACs following complaints from islanders on Barra. The SHAMED campaign group say the procedure for designation is unfair, as the scientific evidence required to battle a proposal is outwith the financial reach of those affected. They say arguments for designations at East Mingulay and the Sound of Barra are politically, rather than scientifically, motivated. Mr Hudghton agrees. He said: 'I think sometimes we have EU legislation that results in people at a local level who feel concerned that they're not being listened to. 'The fact is fishermen are the people who have more to gain from successful marine conservation than anyone else, so we have to have a system that's open and fair.'

National Park members urged to back gold mine

Scotgold share price soars as Cononish scheme is recommended for approval

SHARES in Scotgold reached an all-time high on Wednesday after plans to build a multi-million pound gold mine at Cononish were recommended for approval. Members of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park will meet at Crianlarich Village Hall on Tuesday to consider the proposal, bringing to a possible conclusion moves to establish a mine there that stretch back as far as 1985. As well as currently enjoying the backing of planners, the application has been supported by a host of politicians, tourism boards and trade bodies. Chief among the supporters though is Strathfillan Community Council, who hope the development will bring some much needed jobs and economic stimulus to the area. In his report, the park board's

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk executive director of planning and rural development, Gordon Watson, says: 'On balance, I have concluded that the temporary adverse impacts are outweighed by the anticipated outcome of a higher quality landscape and recreational experience being delivered in the long term. 'This benefit is in addition to the considerable economic benefits likely to accrue both to the park area and wider Scottish economy. While the report highlights that the proposal would be contrary to a number of the park's landscape policies for the decade the mine will be operating, it concludes that later restoration will deliver 'an improvement to the landscape and relative wilderness of the area.' Referring to last year's refused application, Mr Watson said: 'I have greater confidence in the restoration techniques now being proposed.' The mine is expected to produce 20,000 ounces of gold and 80,000 ounces of silver per year. It is estimated that as much as £80million in additional economic activity will be generated in Scotland through the wider supply chain as a result and over 50 jobs created. The chairman of Strathfillan Community Council, John Riley, said: 'I must say that when I heard the recommendation I felt a great weight lift off me. It takes so long to get to do things like this because of the bureaucracy. 'We certainly hope it will go ahead now - I'd be very, very surprised if it didn't. Mr Riley said early plans have been mooted to develop a mine interpretation centre - much like a museum - in Tyndrum to provide 'local jobs for decades' if the mine is built. Scotgold's chief executive officer, Chris Sangster, said: 'We are delighted with the recommendation and are confident the park's board will endorse the recommendation.'

'We are confident the park's board will endorse the recommendation.' Chris Sangster, Scotgold chief executive

Community-owned turbine plan mooted for Jura

THE ISLE of Jura Development Trust is to investigate the feasibility of a community owned wind turbine on the island which will generate an income for community projects. The study is being made possible by a loan of £30,000 from the Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES). The development has been earmarked for a site on Ardlussa Estate and studies will be concluded by March 2012. They will include consultation with the Jura community and organisations such as Scottish Natural Heritage and the RSPB. Jura Development Trust was set up by the people of Jura to improve the quality of life on the island. It has recently completed several projects to reduce dependency on fossil fuels, but a wind turbine would be the first measure to produce energy and raise an income. Chairman John Potts said: 'Without this loan we would not have been able to fund these studies, especially with the risk of them proving the site unsuitable. Given the access issues on Jura and concern for the landscape and habitat, there are probably few alternative sites on the island so we are hoping for a positive result in March and the support of the community to take development forward.' Although known more for whisky, Jura is at the forefront of renewable energy with a new hydroelectric scheme under construction and a pilot tidal energy array off the south coast in development. Felix Wight, development officer for Community Energy Scotland in Argyll, said: 'There is a growing level of interest in this project, and I am delighted the CARES loan offer will enable the community to proceed with the investigation of the site. By generating energy locally and reinvesting income Jura can become stronger, more self-reliant and more resilient.'

Pygmy whale found on Seil



Scientists recover the pygmy sperm which was found beached near Ellenabeich on Seil earlier this month. Photo by Nienke van Geel/SAMS.

A PYGMY sperm whale, a very rarely sighted creature in UK waters, was found stranded near Ellenabeich on the Isle of Seil this month. Only 10 pygmy sperm whales have stranded themselves in UK waters since records began in 1913, three of which were in Scotland and the first of which was reported in 1999. Already deceased, the whale was spotted by Liz and Brien Dickey, and later identified by Nienke van Geel, a PhD student at Dundee's Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS). He in turn notified the Scottish Agricultural College. Later examinations gave no explanation as to how the whale died. It is the second unusual find on Argyll's coastline in recent weeks, with a large blue-fin tuna found on Mull last month, while a fin whale that beached on South Uist died earlier this month. Olivia Harries, biodiversity officer at The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust, said: 'To put the size of the pygmy sperm whale in context; the individual that stranded on Seil weighed about 150kilos, the heart of the fin whale that stranded in South Uist weighed about 130kg.'

Historic vessel returns to Clyde after 56 years

A HISTORIC Scottish tugboat came home to the Clyde earlier this month, 56 years after it was launched. The Golden Cross, which escorted the Royal Yacht Britannia on its first and last voyages, was rescued from a scrap yard and made a gruelling 62-hour voyage from Cornwall to a temporary berth at Holy Loch. She was built on the Clyde by Scott and Sons and launched at Bowling in 1955. After its restoration is complete, the craft, the last working boat of its class, will have a permanent mooring in Loch Long and be used to promote safety at sea. Captain 'Jeb' Jevens said although the tug's main engine is fully operational, one of the last working examples of a Crossley of Manchester four cylinder two stroke diesel, it was felt that a 500-mile journey under its own power was not advisable. She was assisted by the Ormsey Cross. Captain Jevens added the crew had to battle difficult conditions including thick fog most of the way from Bristol to Stranraer. Alba Sailing, of Oban, provided the Golden Cross, with essential life rafts and safety equipment for the long passage and without these, the tow could not have taken place. A spectacular festive lights display onboard the historic tug is also planned for Argyll families.

Ardchattan family history project

A BID to catalogue the history of all the families in Ardchattan parish is being launched at an event next Wednesday, October 26. It will be the first meeting this year for Lorn Family History Group and anyone with an interest in family history or the local area is welcome. There are already plenty of records and information about this interesting parish, dating back for centuries. Some of these will be on show at Kintaline Farm, Benderloch during the drop in event, from 10am until the evening. More information is available from lornfamilyhistory@gmail.com

Special events on Lismore

THE café at the Lismore Heritage Centre will close on October 31 and reopen on March 2. However, Beth Campbell will be offering special evenings, including Fireworks and Food on November 5, St Andrew's Dinner night on November 26 and three Christmas Dinner nights in December. Details of all are on the www.isleoflismorecafe.com. Booking necessary.

Rescue team alert after flare report

COASTGUARD rescue teams from Tiree, Coll and the Caledonian MacBrayne vessel, the Clansman, investigated a possible flare sighting near Tiree last week. Clyde Coastguard received a 999 call on Thursday but, after finding nothing, put the alert down to a false alarm with good intent.

Patient airlifted from Mull

A ROYAL Navy helicopter was called to help an emergency medical team get to a seriously ill casualty on the Isle of Mull on Sunday. The patient was then airlifted to Glasgow Southern General.

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Advertisement for I-Hire Ltd, a plant and tool hire company. It lists services like mechanical servicing, equipment sales, and spare parts. Contact details include Unit 21D1 Ben Nevis Estate Fort William, 24/7 call out, and website www.planthirefortwilliam.co.uk.

**High flying police chief**

CHIEF Inspector for Oban and Lorn, Brian Auld, has been getting out and about around his patch this week.  
At the weekend, he was in Mull to see firsthand policing at the Mull Rally.  
Then he flew to Tiree where he met with community leaders.

**Search reveals quantity of heroin**

POLICE searching a house in Glencruitten Road on Monday, October 17, found a quantity of heroin. A 30-year-old male has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for alleged possession of the Class A drug.

**Copper stolen from power station**

COPPER was stolen from an insulator tower at Inverawe Power Station last week, between October 12 and 14. Police are appealing for any information and can be contacted on 01631 510500.

**Duo charged with breach of peace**

A MAN and a woman appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Friday, October 14, charged with breaching the peace.  
The alleged incident took place at 2.15am in the town's Shore Street.

**Suspect sought after assault**

POLICE enquiries are ongoing after a 21-year-old man was assaulted in Argyll Street, Oban, on Sunday, October 16. Officers are working to trace a suspect.

**Teenager reported to fiscal**

A 19-YEAR-OLD man was charged with possession of cannabis in Oban in the early hours of Thursday, October 13. A report has been made to the Procurator Fiscal.

**Mull man held over alleged breach**

A 27-YEAR-old man was charged with committing a breach of the peace near Dervaig Church on the Isle of Mull. The alleged incident took place around 10.35pm on Saturday, October 15.

**Accused faces knife allegation**

A MAN has been charged with carrying a knife in Craignure, Isle of Mull.  
The 30-year-old was arrested around 12.45pm on Sunday, October 16.

**Green light for Tiree house plan**

A TRADITIONAL Tiree blackhouse is to be extended and modified to make a new home.  
Planners granted permission to demolish a two-storey structure adjoining the house at Heanish, Isle of Tiree, and add a single-storey extension to make a new dwelling.  
A garage will also be demolished and a new decking area added to the building.  
The current buildings are in a poor state of repair.

**Fence posts stolen**

A NUMBER of fence posts were stolen on the Isle of Tiree.  
Police inquiries are continuing into the theft, from Crossapoll between October 13 and 14.

**Window smashed**

A WINDOW was smashed in Oban's Sinclair Drive between October 14 and 15. A 23-year-old has been reported for vandalism.

**New clubhouse**

ARGYLL Aero Club is to get a new clubhouse at Oban Airport, North Connel, after their last caravan was badly storm damaged this year.  
Last week, planners gave them permission to site a new caravan near the runway. Some small trees and vegetation will have to be cleared to make way for the new clubhouse.

**No objections**

PERMISSION has been given for a new home at Ardtun, Isle of Mull.  
There were no objections to plans for the new bungalow on land north west of Eorabus Lodge. A new access road to the site will also be built.



Celebrating a merger of the Failte and Argyll College gardens: Darlene Russell, Ann Logan, Lachie Johnson, Mhairi Still, Lotta Leahy, Stuart Brook and Marie Grier. 15\_142cgarden01

**Gardeners on move to a new home**

A GARDEN managed by people with learning disabilities is being moved piece by piece to a new home at Argyll College, Oban.  
For five years, the Failte project ran a garden at Pen-y-fuir Cemetery, but with no running water or shelter from the elements, it was time to find a permanent home.  
Meanwhile, Argyll College established a new garden at their Oban campus in January this year, run by volunteers and students on the college's horticulture course.  
Ann Logan, of Argyll and Bute Council's Community Resource Team which managed the Failte garden, said it was the perfect opportunity to work together and the new venue will be more suitable.  
She said: 'It is more accessible for the folk and it will be open to more people because there will be wheelchair access.  
'All the equipment, the shed, the polytunnel and the raised

beds are being donated by Argyll and Bute Council, so that it is for everybody.'  
The former Failte participants will use the garden once a week and will now be able to work towards a certificate in environmental management, in a new course led by tutor Lotta Leahy. Darlene Russell, curriculum manager at Argyll College, said the partnership allowed them to offer new courses to a new audience. She said: 'It's a new venture and it's an exciting opportunity for us to be able to give something back to the community.'  
'I would like to say a big thank you for approaching us.'  
Stuart Brooks is one of the keen gardeners who are looking forward to re-locating to the Glengallan Road site. 'I enjoy it very much, I like hard work,' he said. 'Plus, my brother has qualified in horticulture and my sister in bee-keeping - so it will be good to get my certificate too.'

**Bond movie boost for Mid Argyll's economy**

HOTELS, restaurants and pubs in Mid Argyll will be buzzing in the New Year as hundreds of moviemakers descend on Kilmartin to film the latest Bond movie.  
Boosting a usually quiet winter season for local businesses, it is believed about 200 cast and crew members will stay in Mid Argyll between January and March, whilst scenes of the latest 007 epic are filmed at Duntrune Castle.  
Providing a huge lift to the local economy, Robin Malcolm, who owns and lives in Duntrune Castle, said he has encouraged movie producers to spend locally.  
'I hope the film will bring opportunities for locals,' Mr Malcolm said.  
'I have asked about the possibility of local craftsmen being used and that local shops are used for whatever it is they may need to buy.  
'There will be an immediate boost to the local economy with spending in hotels and restaurants and with local tradesmen being used - it would be hard to put a figure on it.  
'But there will be a spin off too,' Mr Malcolm added. 'Bond enthusiasts will want to come and see the castle and surrounding area after it has been filmed.'  
A number of hotels across Mid Argyll are said to be hosting the film crew as preparations get underway in January and filming begins at the end of February.  
'The Oban Times understands that the Bond crew will be staying at the Grey Gull, in Ardrishaig, and the Cairnbaan hotel, on the Crinan Canal, but hotel managers are remaining tight lipped about their bookings in 2012.  
Manager at the Grey Gull, Heather Leighton, refused to comment on any possible booking but said the Bond movie would be a fantastic boost for the local economy.  
The new film, rumoured to be called Skyfall, marks a return to



A twelfth century castle, Duntrune sits at the heart of Poltalloch in Mid Argyll.

Argyll for James Bond as Sean Connery previously filmed in Kilmichael Glen in *From Russia with Love*. The scene in which the helicopter was blown up was apparently above farmland on the Glen.  
Duntrune Castle is now set to become the ancestral home of the 007 spy, played by Hollywood heartthrob Daniel Craig, in the twenty-third outing for Bond.  
Commenting on his contribution to the Bond legacy Mr Malcolm said: 'I am looking forward to it definitely; it is going to be a very different winter to normal, it will make a change from farming.'

**Families' charity cycle to the Mòd**



While all roads lead to Stornoway for the Mòd this week, two families are making a journey with a difference. Jamie Houston and Jason Davies are cycling along with their children from the tip of Barra to Stornoway to raise funds for Children in Need. Wives Jo and Lindsay are driving the support vehicles. Having already raised a magnificent £2,000, the team boarded the Oban to Castlebay ferry on Saturday. Jason and Jamie were due to reach their destination by today, Thursday, to compete with Tainuait Gaelic Choir. 15\_142cycld01

**Unique island airport could be judged 'world's most stunning'**

BARRA'S unique airport has been short-listed in an award to name the world's most stunning airport approach.  
Jet booking network, PrivateFly.com, said the airport's beach runway is one of the most inspirational anywhere on the globe, listing it among airports in prestigious locations such as Gibraltar, Las Vegas, St Barts, London City, Hong Kong and Queenstown.  
The public are now being asked for their favourite, with the top ten vying for the prize.  
Michael Galbraith, station manager at Barra Airport said: 'Barra is famed for its spectacular scenery and its unique beach landing strip, giving passengers a spectacular view of our beautiful island.  
Our beach surface actually gives passengers a much softer landing experience in comparison to Tarmac which some visitors are pleasantly surprised by.  
'When competing against the world's airports, we are really happy to have made it through to this point in the competition. We may be a small airport, but we have a lot to offer and hope that visitors and locals to Barra will vote to push us into the top ten.'  
The poll for the top ten favourite airport approaches for 2011 will be open until Friday, November 25.  
For more information and to vote for Barra Airport in the competition visit privatefly.com/privatejet-services/favourite-airport-approaches.html.

**CHORD - 'it's all talk and no action'**

That's the overwhelming view of regeneration project

A RECENT public consultation on the Oban CHORD project has shown most people in the town think it is a talking shop.

REPORT  
by STEVEN FLANAGAN  
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

But the group leading the redevelopment project say significant work has been done behind the scenes - with the first fruits of their labour set to be seen by the middle of next year.  
The CHORD drop-in was held in Station Square last month, giving locals a chance to find out more about the project and ask questions about its progress.  
Addressing the Oban, Lorn and Isles Area Committee on Thursday, project worker Joanne Casey, an employee of consultancy firm AECOM, said: 'While there is a lot of support for CHORD, there's also scepticism about whether we'll get anything implemented and of the use of consultants.'  
'There's a general feeling that there's a lot of talking and not

very much actually getting done. Concern was also expressed that the people behind the different projects planned for the town aren't talking to one another - and that's simply not true.  
'For us, it's about getting the message out there that we are doing something and some projects will be implemented by the middle of next year.  
'We are pulling it all together.'  
Ms Casey said that since the action plan for CHORD was put together in 2006, those involved have been building a comprehensive plan for the overall development of the town.  
Among the more prominent areas being carefully looked at currently were parking, traffic congestion and facilities for businesses at Oban's piers.

Councillor Neil Mackay said: 'You're right, there has been quite a lot going on that hasn't been quite visible.'  
'However, the fact that there are more cruise ships in the town is an indicator of that work. Already, 25 have been booked for next season and that's without specialist facilities.'  
**Bigger picture**  
Duncan MacIntyre, the chairman of Oban's CHORD board, said: 'What we're talking about is £30-40million worth of development. The bigger picture has always been the goal and that could be energised through the Tax Incremental Funding (TIF) bid.'  
'All these goals tie in to the broader Lorn Arc and we are confident that we will get a good response to the TIF bid.'  
It is anticipated that the TIF funding bid result will be known by the end of November.

**Islay and Lewis included in plans for new tidal energy projects**

WATERS off the coast of Islay and Lewis have been included among plans to develop six new wave and tidal energy projects off the coast of Scotland.  
Crown Estate say Bernera, off Lewis, will be the Western Isles' first commercial wave farm, while a tidal stream project is planned for Islay.

Tidal schemes are also planned for the Mull of Kintyre and at Sanda Sound, off Kintyre.  
**Pelamis**  
The Bernera scheme will be taken forward by Pelamis Wave Power, while Marine Energy will take on the Islay Project. Nautricity will work on the Mull of Kintyre plan, with

Oceanflow Development taking on Sanda Sound.  
In all, eight new agreements of lease have been announced around the UK.  
It takes the total number of wave and tidal projects to receive leasing agreements in the UK to 31, of which 23 are in Scotland.

**Councillors cook up a £1,155 grant for Oban's Hope Kitchen**

OBAN'S Hope Kitchen will be able to expand its service after receiving £1,155 of funding from the council's Third Sector Grants scheme.  
The Oban, Lorn and Isles Area committee last week voted to

give the charity the full amount requested, despite a recommendation to give only £1,000 of the total £2,310 required.  
The money will be used to increase the number of nights the kitchen can run to three a week,

while the drop-in service will now be available every day.  
The Hope Kitchen provides an open door service to the homeless, people with addictions, mental health problems, the lonely and vulnerable.

**Budding archaeologists head for isle**

BUDDING archaeologists are being invited to join a specialist team for a trip to Colonsay next month to survey the north of the island.  
Organised by Kilmartin House Museum, the trip follows on from a successful visit in September, which saw over 150 people take part in a

community art project. Dr Sharon Webb said: 'We were really pleased with the response to our outreach project in September; the level of interest was such that we have put together a team of archaeologists who will be going back to the island for a week in November, surveying the north end of the island.'

Volunteers will be trained in archaeological surveying and recording, with results published in Spring 2012.  
Surveyors will be on the island between November 13-17. To volunteer to join them, contact Kilmartin House Museum on 01546 510278, or email admin@kilmartin.org.

**Future looks bright for oil and gas engineer Tracy**

AN OBAN woman has been named as a 'woman of the future' after being nominated for a national award.  
Tracy Brogan, now of Aberdeen, has been shortlisted in the science and technology section of the Women of the Future Awards for her work as a senior operations engineer with oil and gas firm, Centrica.  
In its sixth year, the award recognises the stars of tomorrow across diverse industries to celebrate high achieving women aged 35 and under.  
Tracy was nominated for the award thanks to her track record of academic excellence in science, showing signs of pushing through scientific developments to commercial application.  
The former Oban High School captain and Edinburgh University graduate flew down to London last week for a formal interview, and will attend the prestigious awards ceremony at the Marriott Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London, on November 16.

**Oban North and Lorn By election 3 November**  
Following the sudden sad death of popular SNP Councillor Donald Macdonald

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# Tests ordered on Highland danger road

TRANSPORT Scotland is to carry out friction tests on a section of the A830 Road to the Isles to discover if a slippery surface could be responsible for a high number of accidents.

The tests will take place later this week on the notorious stretch between Glenfinnan and Lochailort. A Transport Scotland spokesperson said the investigation should only last one day and traffic on the road will not be affected.

Many local drivers have said the road becomes slippery even at slow speeds, causing a disproportionately large number of vehicles to skid and crash.

Northern Constabulary confirmed a number of complaints had been made by members of the public about the section of road along Loch Eilt, and said a high number of accidents have been recorded.

Two local teenagers died on the road last year when their car slid off into the loch.

After a recent meeting between

**REPORT**  
by RICHARD HADDOCK  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

police from Fort William and Mallaig and Transport Scotland, it was decided the tests were necessary to get to the root of the problem.

Locals have voiced concerns about the safety of the road, with Morar Community Council secretary Deirdre Roberts writing a letter to Transport Scotland area manager Bob Mitchell outlining the local worries.

In her letter, Ms Roberts: 'There have been a large number of unexplained skids and this is outwith the months of cold freezing weather. Two of us on the community council, including myself, have experienced this recently. The car goes momentarily out of control and it isn't from driving too fast.'

Meanwhile, Transerv Scotland has announced six further full and partial closures of the A82

during winter months to allow vital repair works to be carried out. The section between Tarbet and Crianlarich will be shut between 10pm and 6am from Sunday, October 30, to Friday, November 4. The work was due to take place in September, had to be rescheduled because of poor weather. The section of road will also be closed from Sunday, November 6, to Friday, November 11.

Overnight restrictions will be put in place between Nevis Bridge and Inverlochty from Sunday, November 6, to Friday, November 11, and from Lochybridge to Carr's Corner in Fort William for a week from Sunday, November 13. There will be closures and restrictions south of Fort Augustus from January 9 to March 16 at Aberchalder swing bridge.

Dates for work to remove an over hanging rock from above the road a mile north of the Corran Ferry have not yet been specified.

# Hannah's Mòd success at first attempt



It's been a successful Royal National Mòd in Stornoway for talented Lochyside musician, Hannah MacRae, who won the fiddle competition for Slow Air and March, Strathspey and Reel. Aged just 13, it was Hannah's first attempt at the 13-18 age group competition but adjudicator Gillian Frame, a former Traditional Musician of the Year, said she was 'blown away' by the young Lochaber girl's talent, giving her a mark of 95 out of 100. Hannah also proved her talent stretches beyond instruments by winning her poetry recitation competition for 13-15 years learners.

# Group to 're-assess' indoor sports scheme

AMBITIOUS plans to create a new indoor sports facility in Fort William seem to have fallen at the first hurdle.

Lochaber Sporting Association (LSA) announced plans in the summer to create an £800,000 multi-sport indoor facility on ground near An Aird shinty park and recently applied to The Highland LEADER programme for funding for a feasibility study.

LSA said an alternative playing surface and training area is essential to allow sports to continue during harsh winter weather.

The group was given permission by Highland Council to look into the viability of an astro-turf pitch on the site. The 60m by 40m surface would be suitable for football, shinty and rugby, as well as a variety of other sports such as athletics,

archery and golf practice.

But the application for funding has now been withdrawn, and in a recent newsletter to the association members, LSA chairperson Jane Blanchard explained why the group has to be 'totally realistic' about their plans.

She said: 'Having finally got our application in to LEADER for the feasibility study, we have now come to realise that we have to step back and take a serious look at our options.'

'We have withdrawn our application until we have reassessed the situation, liaised with our councillors, and are more certain about what funding might be available. We also need to establish, beyond any reasonable doubt, whether any planned new facilities will actually be affordable to the clubs in these difficult times.'

# Everything comes up roses for Caol gardeners

GARDENERS in Caol have been rewarded for their hard work in keeping their gardens beautiful.

Alan Smith, of 12 Fern Court was named overall winner Caol in Bloom, narrowly beating Mr and Mrs A Wilson, of 7 Strone Place and Mr and Mrs R Thomas, of Alveston, Lochyside.

Caol in Bloom has been running since 1999, and has been registered as a Scottish charity. This was the first time the competition has been held since one of the founding members, Olwyn MacDonald, died. Ms MacDonald passed away in January this year.

Castle Drive was named as best street, while Mr and Mrs D Cameron, of 6 Erracht Terrace, were given the prize for best ornamental garden. Best vegetable garden was given to Mr and Mrs J Banks, of 50

Glenkingie Street, while the Blar Mor Guest House beat the Lochy Bar to the prize for best commercial garden.

Organiser Daphne Stewart said the level of competition had been high this year.

She said: 'It's well done and congratulations to the hard working gardeners who have put the bloom in Caol, thus helping to make our village bloom better each year.'

'Every garden in Caol was judged in July - our judge this year was Lorna Ungeod-Thomas. Our grateful thanks to her for a job well done.'

Councillor Eddie Hunter handed out the prizes at a ceremony in Caol Community Centre on Tuesday. In addition to the main prizes, highly commended certificates were given to 34 gardens, while 22 received commended certificates.

# Mum-of-five dies after attending music festival

A FORT William mother of five collapsed and died in her home after attending a music event in the town on Saturday night.

Jolene Payne, aged 34, of Banff Crescent, Upper Achintore had been at the DC40 Nevis Festival in the Nevis Centre but collapsed shortly after returning home and was pronounced dead by paramedics at the scene at around 1am on Sunday morning.

A Northern Constabulary spokesman said inquiries into her death are continuing and a report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

# Dolphin washed up at Corpach

FORT WILLIAM Coastguard was called to investigate a report of a dead dolphin in Loch Linne on Monday night. The animal was found at Corpach, and the Edinburgh Zoological Society will carry out a post mortem to discover the cause of death.

# Vandalism on Skye

NORTHERN Constabulary are appealing for new information regarding a Portacabin in Totescore, Isle of Skye being vandalised.

The portable building was located at the Transerv Scotland yard, and sometime between July 1 and July 14 damage was caused to the windows.

Police are appealing to anyone who may have information about the vandalism to contact them at Portree Police Station on 01478 612 888 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

# Special meeting

THE NORTHERN Joint Police Board met for a special meeting in Inverness yesterday (Wednesday) to discuss the Scottish Government's plan for police reform in Scotland.

The board were expected to agree to send a response to the Consultation on Reforming Police, outlining why they feel a single police force for the country could lead to problems for areas with lower populations, such as the Highlands.

**NEWSDESK**  
01631 568000

# Tug campaigners float alternative cash sources

REPRESENTATIVES from Highland Council and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar have met the Secretary For Scotland Michael Moore MP in Edinburgh to discuss the future of the coastguard emergency tugs.

The UK Government announced plans to axe the emergency tug vessels (ETVs) based at Stornoway and Lerwick as part of a cost-saving exercise, but last month agreed to an extension to the contract for further talks to take place.

The tugs were back on station at the weekend and will continue there for the next three months.

The ETV Task Group identified a number of potential al-

ternative sources of funding for the Department for Transport to explore, including contributions from the Crown Estate, Ministry of Defence, General Lighthouse Board, commercial activities, increasing salvage income, and increased use of the ETVs by other agencies.

Transport environmental and community services chairman Councillor John Laing said the meeting had been 'positive'.

He said: 'It is really encouraging that the Secretary of State has taken the lead on this important issue and is so clearly determined to reach a positive outcome.'

'We are equally determined

to assist Mr Moore and the UK Government in any way that we can to ensure the long term future of the Scottish emergency tugs.'

After the meeting Mr Moore said: 'This was a practical and constructive first meeting. We are determined to do everything we can to find a viable, long-term alternative.'

'Our discussions today were focused on what Scotland needs from its ETVs and what the options may be in finding a long-term replacement. I am confident we can put the huge level of expertise and experience represented on the group to good work.'

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MOST people know Oban as 'the gateway to the Isles' with ferries heading to eight destinations in the Inner and Outer Hebrides. But there is so much more to a town dubbed the unofficial capital of the western Highlands. For food lovers, Oban has been officially branded the 'Seafood Capital of Scotland' and is renowned for the variety and quality of seafood landed in the harbour. There are great seafood restaurants offering a wide range of styles and menus. From the net to the table, you can't get fresher. Being well connected by rail, road and air, an increasing number of visitors are choosing to base their break in Oban. For first time visitor, a good way of getting your bearings is to stroll up to McCaig's Tower, a quirky coliseum overlooking the bay. This vantage point shows how Oban Bay is sheltered by the isle of Kerrera with the hills of Mull, the isle of Lismore and the Ardnamurchan peninsula in the distance. The town's south pier is the embarkation point for car ferries to Mull, Coll, Tiree, Barra, South Uist, Colonsay, Lismore and Islay. From these islands, the adventurous can travel on to Iona, Staffa and other smaller, less well known isles. A short distance from the south pier is the slipway for the Kerrera ferry, while a drive south allows explorers to take their car or bike over the Atlantic by bridge to the island of Seil. Staying closer to the town, there is another viewpoint worth the climb at Pulpit Hill, on the southern side of the town. A mile north of the town centre is the 13th century Dunollie Castle while more recent history is explored at the War and Peace Museum on Oban's esplanade. For those who like a wee dram, a visit to the 200-year-old distillery will feature high on a list of things to do. Add to that two cathedrals, the Corran Halls - which offers a busy programme of concerts and stand-up - live music at many of the town's bars and the Skipinich Ceilidh House for an energetic end to an evening and a visit to Oban is sure to be a memorable one.

# Caol family bridges generations



Five generations of one Caol family came together to welcome the newest member of the clan - three-month-old baby Taylor Michael. Taylor was christened in St John's Church in Caol, and the family then went to the community centre to celebrate. Great-grandmother Anna Lopez told *The Oban Times* everyone had 'a great day'. Pictured are great-great-grandmother Annie Faryma, who turns 86 in December, (front left), great-grandmother Anna (front right), grandmother Dolores Allan (back left) and mother Ashley Allan (right) with baby Taylor.

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**Lorn Lines**

COUNCILLOR Roddie McCuish has raised his fears about traffic chaos next summer in Oban directly with the Chief Constable of Strathclyde Police.

Stephen House was guest speaker at the October meeting of Argyll and Bute Council's October meeting. Once traffic warden duties stop being the role of the police and move to council operation the councillor fears 'there will be gridlock in Oban next April', as reported previously in The Oban Times.

As a regular visitor to Oban the chief constable, who lives in Argyll, said: 'Our position is that we have to concentrate on our core business and that legislation does allow the council to take on traffic wardens and reinvest fines.' This was something the police were not allowed to do.

But Mr House said that the police could always be called out to deal with issues like obstructing the road.

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The lucky winners of an Oban Times competition had a treat last Friday when they attended The Johnny Cash Story at the Corran Halls. Liz Dickey, Calum Munro, Iain Turner and Flora MacGillivray, all pictured, each won a pair of tickets to the show, and had a chance to meet star of the show, Roger Dean. Anne Mackay also won a pair of tickets. 15\_142johnny01

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MONDAY, October 10, at Oban Photographic Club's weekly meeting in the Regent Hotel, saw members showing some of their digital images.

The subjects were very varied and, from the quality of the images, there are going to be some close results throughout the coming season's competitions.

A visitor from a German camera club, who was on holiday in the area, brought along some of his exceedingly good, and very different, images. Members took away some ideas from his presentation.

The next meeting is on October 24, when the results of the first 'Open' competition, judged by Andrew Daw, from Cowal Camera Club, in Dunoon, will be announced.

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MSP RUTH Davidson, one of the contenders for the leadership of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, will speak at the Lorn Lunch Club lunch, 12.15pm for 12.45pm, at the Regent Hotel, The Esplanade, Oban, on Friday October 28. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Further details from Sara Rutherford on 01631 564230.

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Soroba Bridge has been subjected to repeated acts of vandalism since it was opened last year. 15\_141soroba3

SOROBA Bridge is to be repainted and coated with anti-graffiti paint after complaints were made about vile slogans on it last week.

Argyll and Bute Council has said it will remove the graffiti in the next few weeks.

Anti-graffiti paint makes removing graffiti much easier in future.

Parents had become concerned by the slogans on the bridge itself, which included foul language and religious hatred.

Since the £800,000 footbridge was opened in May last year, it has been a gathering point for youths and subject to repeated attacks of vandalism.

The bridge is regularly used by school children as well as adults, and there is concern about the effect the graffiti is having on local youngsters.

**Grant helps keep car scheme on the road**

A LOCAL charity has been given a funding boost to help it provide transport to older and disabled Argyll residents.

The North Argyll Volunteer Car Scheme (NAVCS) has received a grant of £6,000 towards its costs from the Robertson Trust, a fund set up by sisters Elspeth, Agnes and Ethel from shares in their family business.

Rose Wands, chairwoman of NAVCS, said the cash would help to cover the charity's running costs and allow them to help more people who might otherwise be unable to get to medical appointments, shop or social events.

She said: 'We are so grateful to the Robertson Trust. Over the last five years we have received a total of £34,000, including this latest grant, enabling us to consolidate and develop the scheme to help a wide range of people in North Argyll maintain their independence and access essential services.'

'I like to think that Elspeth, Agnes and Ethel would be pleased.'

The scheme began in Seil and Easdale but now, with more than 50 volunteer drivers, it also covers Glen Orchy, Kilniver, Kilmelford, Luig, Taynuilt, Dalavich and Kilchrean.

**Future looks bright for Zambian school pupils**

OBAN optician, Ken Macdonald, took a trip to Zambia this month to open a new optometry college paid for by customer and staff donations.

A marathon fundraising effort by Specsavers across Scotland helped raise £100,000 towards the £300,000 school in capital city, Lusaka.

Ken says the facility will not just help pupils in the classroom, but could be the difference between 'life and death' for some families.

Ken, the director of Specsavers in Oban, travelled with the company's founder, Dame Mary Perkins, to help officially open the teaching facility. It has been named after her in recognition of the company's support of the project.

**Proud**  
Ken said: 'The Scottish public and members of Specsavers staff across the country can be very proud of what has been achieved. Together we have raised a third of the money needed to fund the Lusaka facility.'

'This is a critical facility which will help transform the lives of people living in Zambia who have vision difficulties.'

'During my time there I visited some of the outreach clinics to see for myself what an incredible difference an eye examination and a simple pair of glasses can make in someone's life - something we in the western world take very much for granted.'



Oban optometrist, Ken Macdonald, welcomes the Lusaka facility's first students during this month's opening ceremony.

'For children, if you can't see to read and write or see the blackboard, then your education is extremely hampered. If you can't see to work then you cannot support your family,' he added.

'This can mean the difference

between life and death in rural communities.'

Working with eyecare charity, Vision Aid Overseas, Specsavers stores throughout the UK raised enough money to fund not only the teaching facility, but also two vision centres in

the country's Central and Luapula provinces.

**Serving**  
Until now, there have been just a handful of trained optometrists serving the country's 12m population, meaning that those requiring vital eyecare

have had to rely on volunteers and overseas aid.

Specsavers now wishes to raise a further £300,000 to fund six more vision centres for each province of Zambia by 2015. To donate, go to justgiving.com/specsavers-vao.

**New measures to cope with winter weather**

LAST winter's £1.8million overspend to cope with the harsh weather has forced Argyll and Bute Council to rethink how it deals with conditions this winter.

Harsh frost and repeated snowfall meant last year's planned budget for the period between November 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011 - £1.145million - was exhausted on December 8 2010.

While 58 grit runs were planned, the council was forced to carry out the equivalent of 147.5 full runs, costing 254 per cent of the planned budget, although much of that cost came from importing fresh supplies of salt from Chile at three-and-a-half times the usual cost.

Now, the council is making use of a number of newly built covered salt depots to stockpile 70 per cent more salt than last year, while a re-jig of ploughing and gritting vehicles should make the service more efficient.

Speaking during last week's meeting of the Lorn and Isles Area Committee, roads asset manager, Callum Robertson, said: 'The level of snowfall and incidences of frost has been increasing that has manifested in some considerable difficulties in the last two years.'

'It's fair to say we had a perfect storm as far as road conditions are concerned. This area suffered more than most.'

'We used just over 20,000 tonnes of salt last year, including mixing it with grit to prolong stocks.'

'This year, we're changing a lot of what we're doing to make ourselves a bit more resilient.'

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

Some 17,000 tonnes of salt has been stockpiled in advance, and a new strategic store has been created at the Oban Airport in Connel.

The council is to work closer with the StreetScene street cleaners to clear paths and roads, while the number of treatment vehicles has been increased from 31 last year to 33 this.

Eight plough/grit capable vehicles have been hired on a seasonal basis to replace those full time vehicles sold in April and a further eight general purpose fleet vehicles have been purchased to replace older models. While effectively one vehicle per region, they will be deployed on a peripatetic basis.

Meanwhile, the Scottish Ambulance Service has invested in more 4x4 ambulances for this year to cope with adverse weather.

Salt will also be provided to the smaller isles in the region.

However, some concern was raised by Councillor Neil Mackay about the number of thefts from salt bins last year.

Mr Robertson said: 'It is a concern. While it is right and proper that we provide grit bins for domestic use, some grit bins were literally robbed with the salt used for commercial applications.'

As such, salt bins will - where possible - be placed in areas difficult to reach by car or truck and measures are to be looked at to secure depots.



Lorries queued on Ardishaig Pier last Friday to collect tonnes of salt and grit shipped in to Argyll ahead of another harsh winter. 06\_842sal101

**Self-styled street pastors head for Oban to provide late night patrols**

LATE night revellers in Oban could soon receive counsel from 'flip-flop angels,' with the self-styled street pastors set to come to the town next year.

The Ascension Trust (Scotland) wants to bring the street pastors to the area and 15 other towns following new financial assistance from the Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland, a grant of £4,182.

Already patrolling 13 town centres across Scotland, the volunteers patrol town centres on Friday and Saturday nights, touring the streets outside bars

and clubs until the early hours of the morning, talking to people and providing a calming presence in a bid to quash any trouble and make areas safer.

Identifiable by their distinctive uniforms and baseball caps, they also remove glasses and bottles from the streets.

While they are largely supported by churches, the Ascension Trust insists they are not 'God squads' looking for vulnerable people to convert to Christianity. Street pastors earned their 'flip-flop angels' moniker for handing out free

flip-flops to women struggling to complete the journey home from the pub in high heels.

Sandy Gunn, a church minister and a director of the trust, said: 'Street pastors have been recognised as an asset in the towns where they have been established, offering a practical solution to some of the problems faced in these communities.'

'The Gospel is the reason for what we do but it is not at the forefront of what we say. We are non-judgemental and we give time and help to anyone and everyone we meet.'

**Dunollie House cooks up a concert**

THE OLD kitchen of the newly restored Dunollie House will be the intimate setting for a concert of Gaelic clarsach music.

Historical harp specialist Simon Chadwick will perform laments composed by the old Gaelic harpers to commemorate famous people or to express sorrow and longing.

The clarsach he will play is an important historical object in its own right, a detailed and beautiful replica of the 'Queen Mary harp', a medieval West Highland clarsach on display

in the National Museum of Scotland.

Simon is a renowned teacher, performer and author, specialising in Renaissance harp music of Scotland and Ireland.

As well as the enchanting music, the evening promises a glimpse at the 1745 House before it opens to the public as museum and heritage centre.

Tickets for the concert, taking place next Thursday, October 27, are limited and must be booked in advance by contacting info@dunollie.org or 01631 570550.

**Five line up to battle for Oban council seat**

THE full list of candidates for the upcoming by-election in the Oban North and Lorn ward has been confirmed.

Joining the already announced Scottish Conservative candidate Roy Rutherford and SNP candidate Louise Glen-Lee are independents George Doyle and Gwyneth Neal. David Pollard is standing for the Scottish Liberal Democrats.

The by-election will be held between 7am-10pm on Thursday, November 3.

The seat is available following the untimely death of Donald MacDonald in August.

Full information on how to vote is available from the council's website at argyll-bute.gov.uk

**Social services consultation**

ARGYLL and Bute Council has extended the deadline for responses to its plan for the delivery of social work services for the next five years.

The public consultation started on August 15, but will now finish on November 30, after which the results will be published.

The consultation is about the future delivery of services to some of the area's most vulnerable residents.

A spokesperson for the council said: 'Argyll and Bute Council is keen to ensure the plans reflect the needs of social work clients and their carers before progressing to the next stage.'

For more information, log on to the council's website at argyll-bute.gov.uk

**Whist drive raised cash for Crossroads**

A WHIST Drive was held in Taynuilt Village Hall on September 30.

Six tables competed, raising £93 for Crossroads, a charity supporting carers.

The winners were: Ladies: 1 Isobel Grout (Connel), 2 Marina MacInnes (Connel), 3 Florence Anderson, 4 Margaret Forbes, consolation prize - Christine Allen, travelling prize - Mary Mitchell.

Gents: 1 Evelyn Campbell, 2 Julie Cameron, 3 John Ross, 4 Stella Huntingford, consolation prize - Ezra Cameron, travelling prize - Stafford Day.

The organisers thanked all those who were involved in running and supporting the event.

The next whist drive will be to support Children in Need and will be held in the Village Hall on November 11, not November 5 as stated in last week's Oban Times.

**Solicitors support Will Aid month**

LOCAL solicitors are once again supporting charities during Make a Will month in November.

They will waive their usual fees for drawing up a basic will and invite will-makers to donate to Will Aid, with funds shared between nine Scottish and UK-wide charities.

Anyone interesting in taking part is advised to contact participating solicitors at Anderson Banks, E Thornton and Co and Stevenson Kennedy as soon as possible to make an appointment.

**Fight to combat drugs continues**

POLICE in Oban have charged a further 11 individuals for trafficking or being concerned in the supply of drugs since June's Operation Independence raids.

The local force has also taken delivery of a new automatic number plate recognition system to tackle trafficking and vehicle crime.

Speaking during last week's meeting of the Lorn and Isles Area Committee, chief inspector, Brian Auld, said: 'It's a valuable asset and assists us with tracing known individuals as well as identifying other issues.'

Don't forget you can still complete The Oban Times Readership Survey online at [www.obantimes.co.uk/survey](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/survey) Win £100 cash



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# Energy saving in Argyll



**THE 15th Energy Saving Week takes place from Monday, October 28 and this year the Energy Saving Trust is looking at how you can 'Take back control of your energy bills.'**

Energy Saving Week is a unique annual event led by the trust. This year's theme draws on how consumers can control of their spiralling energy bills at home.

As everyone knows, gas and electricity bills have been rising on a yearly basis. The current economic slowdown has been fundamental in the way consumers are thinking about energy saving.

Energy Saving Week provides the perfect opportunity for households to learn about how they can make a difference.

The Energy Saving Trust can help residents take back control of your energy bills. By calling our free phone number on 0800 512 012 you can speak to an advisor in your region who can provide you with independent advice on everything from energy saving measures to government grants you may be eligible for.

You'd be surprised about what more you can do in your home to help you save money. Go to [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk) for everything from basic tips to in-depth advice.

## HOW TO GIVE YOUR HOUSE A GREEN MAKEOVER AND SAVE MONEY

Call your local advice centre on 0800 512 012 to find out how you can start saving today

### INSULATE YOUR WATER TANK

Making sure your hot water tank and any visible pipes between the tank and boiler have adequate insulation could save you around £40 a year.

### REPLACE YOUR OLD BOILER

Replacing your old G-rated boiler with a new A-rated condensing boiler and a full set of heating controls can cut your heating bill by up to a quarter - that's up to £300 a year.

### INVEST IN A WATER BUTT

Invest in a water butt and use the collected water on your garden or to wash your car.

### REUSE FOOD

If everyone in the UK cut out avoidable food and drink waste, it would have the same impact as taking one in four cars off the UK's roads (source: WRAP).

### UPGRADE TO ENERGY SAVING TRUST RECOMMENDED APPLIANCES

For example upgrade to Energy Saving Trust Recommended fridge freezer and save around £28 a year.

**TAKE A SHOWER**  
A short shower can use as little as a third of the water used by taking a bath (source: Waterwise).

**INSTALL A WATER DISPLACEMENT DEVICE**  
Putting a water displacement device in your toilet is a simple way to save water.

**INSULATE YOUR LOFT**  
Insulating your loft to the full recommended depth of 270mm could save up to £175 a year on heating bills if no insulation is already present.

**FIT DOUBLE GLAZING**  
Replace single glazing with Energy Saving Trust Recommended double glazing and save around £185 a year on heating bills.

**INSULATE YOUR WALLS**  
Cavity wall insulation helps reduce the amount of energy you need to heat your home and saves up to £135 a year. For older properties with solid walls, insulating the inside/outside of the walls will save up to £475 on heating bills a year.

**DRAUGHT PROOF**  
Save around £30 a year by draught proofing around windows and doors.

**USE ENERGY SAVING TRUST RECOMMENDED LIGHTBULBS**  
Replace all the inefficient light bulbs in your home with low energy light bulbs and save around £30 a year.

**RECYCLE**  
Don't forget to recycle the waste from all your bins in your house - Not just the kitchen!

**TURN APPLIANCES OFF STANDBY**  
You could save around £40 a year by ensuring appliances are switched off and not left on standby.



Savings quoted are for an oil heated semi-detached three-bedroom property  
1. Heat loss based on an uninsulated home  
**energy saving trust**

## TAKE BACK CONTROL OF YOUR BILLS WITH FUEL EFFICIENT DRIVING

We all like to think we're good drivers. But are you smart as well? By making some simple changes to the way you drive, you could take control, reduce the fuel you use and also save money.

This is called fuel efficient driving and involves using your gears, acceleration and powers of anticipation to adopt a more fuel-efficient driving style. As well as reducing your fuel consumption, it's safer too.

Energy Saving Trust Scotland also offers organisations in Scotland interest free loans of between £500 and £50,000 for the installation of measures that make their transport and travel arrangements more sustainable.

The loan can be used for anything from installing video and teleconference facilities, bikes and bike storage units, to fleet management software and vehicle efficiency devices.

The Energy Saving Trust's top ten driving tips are:

### BEHIND THE WHEEL

- 1 Drive Off From Cold. Modern cars are designed to move straight away. Warming up the engine just wastes fuel - and actually causes engine wear
  - 2 Check Your Revs. Change up before 2,500rpm (petrol) or 2,000rpm (diesel)
  - 3 Drive Smoothly. Anticipate road conditions so that you drive smoothly and avoid sharp acceleration and heavy braking. This saves fuel and reduces accident rates.
  - 4 Step Off The Accelerator. When slowing down or driving downhill, remain in gear but take your foot off the accelerator early. This reduces fuel flow to the engine to virtually zero.
  - 5 Slow Down. Driving within the speed limit is safer as well as being the law, and reduces fuel consumption.
- STUCK IN TRAFFIC**
- 6 Switch It Off. Modern cars use virtually no extra fuel when they are re-started without pressing the accelerator. Turn off the engine if you're going to be stationary for more than a minute or two.

### SMARTER PREPARATION

- 7 Plan Ahead. Plan your journeys to avoid congestion and road works, and to make sure you don't waste fuel or time getting lost!
- 8 Keep It Long. Use other forms of transport for short journeys, if you can. A cold engine uses almost twice as much fuel and catalytic converters can take five miles to become effective.
- 9 Reduce Drag. Accessories such as roof racks, bike carriers and roof boxes significantly affect your car's aerodynamics and reduce fuel efficiency, so remove them when not in use.
- 10 Check Tyre Pressure. Under-inflated tyres are dangerous and increase fuel consumption.

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Modern cars use virtually no extra fuel when they are re-started without pressing the accelerator. Turn off the engine if you're going to be stationary for more than a minute or two.

Oban Music Society  
**Concert**  
 Sunday 23rd October 3.00p.m.  
**St John's Cathedral**  
 Wilma Macdougall (Soprano) and Paul Keohane (Baritone) will be giving a recital of songs from the operas, from the shows and songs of the British Isles, accompanied by Laura Baxter (piano).  
**Non members welcome**  
 Tickets at the door £10 (£8), students free.

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

Thursday night > Ceilidh and disco  
 Skipinnish Celdih House from 9pm

Saturday night > Club Night  
 Skipinnish Celdih House from 11pm

Friday 21 October > Gunna Sound  
 Markie Dans 9.30pm

Fri 28th & Sat 29th October > Halloween Party  
 Markie Dans with Chris Suckle

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The National Theatre of Scotland is hosting a workshop in Oban for anyone interested in writing or performing in Gaelic. The workshop will be held at the Corran Halls on Friday 21 October from 5-7pm.

For further information email -  
 Catriona.alexander@nationaltheatrescotland.com  
 or call 0141 221 0970.

National Theatre of Scotland, a company limited by guarantee and registered in Scotland (SC234278) is a registered Scottish charity (SC033377).

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**Thursday 20th October**  
**Apple Day**  
 Kintaline Farm, Benderloch,  
 1 mile along the Tralee road  
 10 am to 3 pm  
**LOTS TO EAT AND DO**  
 Every First / Third Thursday  
 Interested Producers contact  
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**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**

Cancer Research UK  
 Cancer Research Committee  
 Oban Branch  
**Coffee Morning**  
 In the  
**Columba Hotel**  
 North Pier, Oban  
**Saturday 22, October 2011**  
 10.30 - 12.30  
 Admission by donation  
 All Welcome!

*Netherorn Piping Society*  
 Presents  
**Chanter and Piping**  
**Performances by the**  
**Talented pupils of**  
**Angus MacColl**  
**Wednesday 26th October 2011**  
 Argyllshire Gathering Halls  
 At 7.30pm  
 Entry: Adults £3;  
 Children FREE

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**Saturday, October 22**  
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**GERRIE KOSTICK'S EXHIBITION**  
 'Painting with Threads'  
**Dochas Gallery**  
 Lochgilphead  
**Friday 28th October**  
 At 7.00pm  
**FREE ADMISSION**



Irene MacMillan and Margaret MacLean enjoyed their soup at Oban Pipe Band's fundraising lunch on Saturday, 15. 14250up01

**'Souper' effort raises cash for Oban Pipe Band**

ON A damp autumn Saturday, Oban Pipe Band hall was packed with supporters enjoying a warming bowl of soup. At one point punters had to queue for a seat, so popular was the band's fundraising soup lunch.

Alistair Dewar, fundraising convener, said they wanted to raise enough cash to be able to travel to competitions and defend their Champion of Champions title.

He said: 'To follow on from the success of the band last year, the five major competitions mean extensive travel. 'We rely on the community to support us, and the community does support us very well indeed,' he added.

**Jolomo unveils display in support of lighthouse trust**



The latest exhibition by Argyle artist John Lowrie Morrison opened last week at Kranenburg Fine Art in Oban. The works by Jolomo feature a number of lighthouses as well as still lifes and will be on display at the Oban gallery until November 12. A percentage of all sales will be donated to the Northern Lighthouse Heritage Trust and Sir Andrew Cubie, commissioner and former chair of the Northern Lighthouse Board, was there to officially open the exhibition. 15. 142jlo001

**Ballet dancer Sarah's bound for South Africa**

A YOUNG Taynuilt dancer will be performing in South Africa after reaching the final of a prestigious international competition. Sarah Mortimer, a degree student at Ballet West, is the only British finalist in this year's Genée International Ballet Competition taking place in Cape Town.



Ballet West dancer Sarah Mortimer has reached the finals of an international competition.

The 19-year-old said she was thrilled to be a finalist in the competition, run by the Royal Academy of Dance and open to students from all over the world who have achieved exceptional exam results.

**Wonderful training**  
 Sarah said: 'The wonderful training and encouragement I received from Ballet West has enabled me to achieve this important milestone in my career.'

'My grateful thanks to everyone at Ballet West who has made this possible.'

Sarah is in her third year of a BA in Classical Ballet and Dance Performance through the North Highland College, part of the University of the Highlands and Islands. She has also toured Scotland and China with Ballet West's touring company.

Four students from Ballet West entered the competition and had training from former Genée prize-winners Sara-Maria Smith and Jonathan Barton, who are teachers at Ballet West.

**Islay book launch date**

A NEW book on Gaelic placenames on Islay and Jura will be launched next week. Volunteers worked with Scottish Natural Heritage and Ainmean-Aite na h-Alba (Gaelic Placenames of Scotland) to record 400 different names on the islands. Emily Edwards, project co-ordinator, said: 'The communities of Islay and Jura have very much been at the heart of this project and we are extremely grateful to them for sharing with us their time and unique knowledge of the landscapes in which they live.'

**Remarkable story hits road to Oban**

Play tells of crofter's bid to save his isolated community

**REPORT**  
 by CHRISTINE MCCARTNEY  
 cmccartney@obantimes.co.uk

THE true story of a remarkable man who built a road by hand to save his isolated crofting community has been turned into a play, to be performed in Oban tomorrow (Friday).

After decades of campaigning for an access road to his remote corner of Raasay, Calum MacLeod picked up his axe and spade and did it himself.

The play, Calum's Road, is based on a book by Roger Hutchinson, an author and journalist now living on the Hebridean island himself. He first met Calum MacLeod in the 1970s.

Roger told *The Oban Times*: 'He was just a classic example of a Hebridean, born and brought up in proud self-sufficiency, very grounded in the Gaelic crofting community and traditions.'

'They had been petitioning Inverness County Council for a road for their community in Northern Raasay since the 1920s, since he was a boy. Of course, the council had consistently refused and the community dwindled - there was no road, no electricity, the ambulance could not get there. A community which numbered 100 was reduced to just him and his wife.'

Things came to a head for Calum when his daughter was forced to board at Portree High School because she couldn't get to and from their home at Arnish.

Calum doggedly refused to let up his fight for a way of life very dear to him. From a family of stonemasons, he bought an old book by an early Scottish roads engineer and began a project that would take him 20 years.

Roger described the task Calum had set himself: 'There were no JCBs. Literally with just a pick axe, a spade and a wheelbarrow, he began to hack this road out of



Roger Hutchinson drew inspiration from Calum MacLeod's remarkable road-building project - now a play touring Scotland.

the hillside. He was devoted to this way of life - this was his monument to it.'

His remarkable effort will now reach new audiences in a theatre production by Comunicado and the National Theatre of Scotland.

They are currently touring Scotland, and will perform Calum's Road at the Corran Halls, Oban, tomorrow (Friday), with future dates at Lamlash, Arran, and a final performance in Raasay Community Hall on Friday, November 25.

Roger said he was delighted to see Calum's story on the stage.

'I didn't know what to expect - I sat there with some trepidation, but at the end the audience were on their feet. The whole production from beginning to end is absolutely sensational.'

Calum lived to see his road adopted by Highland Regional Council and tarmacked. Roger said since his death in 1988, a young family has moved to the area: 'The place will be repopulated, I believe, which will give Calum a smile up in heaven.'

'He will never be forgotten on Raasay for obvious reasons, but he deserves to be remembered more widely.'

**Internationally acclaimed piper to play concert and host workshop**

INTERNATIONALLY-acclaimed piper Fred Morrison visits Mid Argyll this month to give a solo concert at the Cairnbaan Hotel, near Lochgilphead.

The concert, on Saturday, October 29, has been organised by Wild Biscuit Music as part of the development programme for their live show MOVE and includes a special workshop by Fred for local pipers to be held at Kilmartin that same day.

Fred, although born and raised near Glasgow, became renowned for his mastery of the Gaelic piping tradition of South Uist.

He is also an outstanding composer and has taken the prestigious Macallan trophy at Britanny's Festival Interceltique de Lorient seven times.

During the 1990s Fred was a member of Scottish supergroup Clan Alba and also of Capercaille. In 2004 he wrote a large scale work with composer Mark Sheridan entitled Paracas which premiered as the opening concert at Glasgow's Celtic Connections festival in January

2005. His most recent album *Outlands* was released in 2009. Opening support at the Cairnbaan Hotel comes from Argyll pipers Chris Coates and David Provan, along with a special appearance by rising star vocalist Kim Carnie from Oban, all of whom are members of the cast of MOVE.

Tickets for the concert are £10 and available from The Square Peg and Argyll Book Centre in Lochgilphead. For further information email: talk@wildbiscuit.com

**Music society begins new season**

THE Oban Music Society opens its new season on Sunday, October 23, with a performance by Wilma MacDougall, soprano, and Paul Keohane, baritone, accompanied by Laura Baxter on the piano.

Wilma was born in Kintyre and after gaining her BA (Hons) in music at Cambridge she went to study music under Patricia MacMahon at the RSAMD, winning many awards.

She now leads a very busy solo career both as a recital singer and as a soloist with many orchestras, including the SCO.

She has also broadcast and recorded for BBC Radio Scotland and Borders Television.

Her repertoire includes both contemporary music and operatic roles for which she has received outstanding reviews. She currently teaches singing at the RSAMD.



Baritone Paul Keohane will perform at the Oban Music Society's first concert of its new season on Sunday.

Paul was born in Kilmarnock and studies with Norman Bailey at the Royal College of Music in London. He has performed with more than 70 choral societies in the UK and with orchestras, including the BBC Philharmonic, The Northern Sinfonia, The Scottish Chamber Orchestra and The Orchestra of Scottish Opera amongst others. He currently teaches singing at Edinburgh Napier University.

Laura graduated from the Royal College of Music in London, completed her BA (Hons) at the RSAMD and then was awarded a scholarship to specialise in piano accompaniment at the RAM.

She is now based in Glasgow and plays for the RSNO choruses and the National Youth Choir of Scotland and gives workshops and masterclasses across Scotland.

The Oban Music Society is to hold all its concerts this season on Sunday afternoons in St John's following requests from members.

This Sunday's performance takes place at 3pm. Non-members are very welcome with tickets being available at the door.

**Sports activities planned for disabled**

A MEETING to explore outdoor sports activities for disabled people in Argyll will be held in Oban next week.

While the west coast is a paradise for watersports, horse-riding and walking, it can be difficult for disabled people to take part.

Ardrishaig Community Trust has been given cash by the Big Lottery Fund to investigate how to unlock the great outdoors for disabled people and they are inviting them, their families, teachers, support workers and activity providers to the meeting to discuss the barriers and ideas for overcoming them.

The community trust has set up Argyll Activities, a sports club and activity provider acting as a voice for people with disabilities who want greater access to outdoor activities.

The meeting will be held in the Undercroft, at Glencruitten Church Centre, between 10am and noon on Wednesday, October 26.



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# PHOTOS, REPORTS AND RESULTS FROM THE 2011 ROYAL NATIONAL MOD



Port Ellen had a great day at the Mod on Monday, winning three choral competitions. 15\_tmod10p1-1



In a boost for Gaelic in North Skye, Staffin and Kilmuir primary schools, under the name of Clann Throthairnis (The Trotternish Clan) won a gold badge in the action song under-13 open competition. 20\_tmod31p1-2



Abigail and Kitty-Anne MacIver from Back Primary School, Lewis both won medals at the Mod. Kitty Anne won poem recitation for fluent speakers aged 5-6, while Abigail won a silver for presenting a psalm in the under-13 open competition. 20\_tmod31p1-3



Tarbert's Emma MacFarlane won the coveted James C MacPhee Memorial Medal, the main solo prize for junior learners. 15\_tmod14p1-4



Boys' Silver Medal winner Eoghann Beaton, from Tain, gets a big hug from wee brother Domhnall, who also triumphed in solo singing for boys aged 9-10 years, fluent. Parents Donald and Ena are from Uig, Skye. 15\_tmod23p1-6



Sir E Scott School completed a clean sweep of the 13-18 choral competitions on Tuesday, winning all three competitions, including The Oban Times Trophy for two-part harmony. It was the first time the successful choir, under the baton of Iain MacIver, had achieved the feat in 10 years - perhaps it was down to their lucky mascot, Murdo. 15\_tmod19p1-7

## Islay and Mull fly Argyll flag

Young islanders dominate choral competitions in Stornoway

IN THE absence of many entrants from Argyll at the 2011 Royal National Mod, the islands of Mull and Islay have been flying the flag for the county, dominating the choral competitions on Monday.

**Islay**

Port Ellen Primary Gaelic Choir, which consists of a third of the entire pupil roll, won three choral competitions, amassing four trophies.

It was a particularly pleasing victory for conductor Maureen Macdonald, who was returning to her native Stornoway and had lots of friends and family in the audience to cheer on her young tleachs. In the unison singing the under-13 choir won by a clear eight marks overall and there were further wins in the puirt-a-beul and the two-part harmony. Mrs Macdonald said: 'I personally felt more pressure

this year because I'm on my home turf.

'The real test today was the puirt-a-beul against my old school, Stornoway Primary, so to win was a fantastic feeling.

'We had marks of 93 [Gaelic] and 94 [music] in our puirt and one of the adjudicators was Iain MacIver, who has a fantastic Sir E Scott choir, so if anyone knows a good choir, it's him.'

Maureen's daughters won the under-13 duet competition for the second successive year.

Islay's perennial trophy winner, Ryan Johnston of Bowmore, was again among the silverware, winning The Cowal Trophy for poetry recitation against 22 other entrants and the Phemie Wilson Trophy for best aggregate Gaelic marks.

Coisir Og Ghaidhlig Ile didn't go home empty-handed either; they won the Martin Wilson

### Top performance brings high marks for Skye 'Clan'

Gaelic in the north end of Skye appears alive and well after Clann Throthairnis (The Trotternish Clan) won a gold badge in the action song under-13 open competition.

The Kilmuir and Staffin primary school pupils scored two of the highest marks in the children's sections at the Mod - 95 out of 100 for Gaelic and 94 for music.

Josie MacLeod, Gaelic medium teacher at

Kilmuir, was thrilled by the judges' marks - and Clann Throthairnis' performance. She said: 'It is a reward for all the hard work. It has been a huge effort, by both the schools and the community.'

Rena MacLeod, Gaelic medium teacher at Staffin, said: 'The parents have really got behind us. Our schools are 12 miles apart and the parents have really helped, running the children to practices, and making props and costumes.'

## Mòd Gaels face more gales

HIGH winds and lashing rain failed to dampen spirits at a cheery Stornoway Mod - but they disrupted ferry sailings from Ullapool, leaving competitors with a travel headache.

Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) was forced to cancel the last sailing to Stornoway on Tuesday and the first sailing from the island on Wednesday but expected scheduled services to return on Wednesday.

In the meantime, An Comunn Gaidhealach, with the help of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, based competitors from Tarbert, Harris to Stornoway, once they had caught another ferry from Uig on Skye.

An Comunn said it would keep close contact with CalMac.

As *The Oban Times* went to press, there had been no effect on competitions through the cancellation of ferries.

However, on Tuesday, An Comunn president John MacLeod said there would be sufficient flexibility in the Wednesday programme to move competitions around.

He added: 'If there is any change in the programme we will go with that from minute-to-minute.'

A CalMac spokesman said on Tuesday: 'We have been in contact with ferry travellers to encourage them to divert to the Uig/Tarbert service, and Mod organisers are also arranging transport from Tarbert if necessary.'

'The *MV Isle of Lewis* will be able to sail to Ullapool today before the weather gets too bad, and tie up there so she is in the right place to pick up travellers coming to Stornoway when the weather improves.'

'It is very frustrating that this should happen when the Mòd is on, but most of those attending will be seasoned CalMac customers and will know that we will always put their safety first and that any decision not to sail has not been taken lightly.'



Girls' An Comunn Gaidhealach Silver Medal winner Alison MacIver of the Nicolson Institute gets a well deserved kiss from proud mum and dad Catherine and John. Alison's rendition of Gura thall ann an Soaigh (Over in Soay) earned her 91 marks for Gaelic and 92 for music from the judges. Her father, John, said: 'It is a fantastic achievement - Alison putting in a tremendous amount of hard work and has been practising her piece for two months. This is what she aimed for.' Alison, aged 15, from Back, Lewis, has been competing in Mòds since she was five. 20\_tmod31p1-5

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Glasgow High School pupils Micheal, Mairi and Cathal Callan made it family success at the Mod when they scooped a clutch of medals. Michael, 12, won a gold and silver, Mairi, 10, two golds and a bronze and six year-old Cathal two silvers. The family lives in Annathill near Coatbridge, but mum Margaret is from Claddich Kirkibost in North Uist. The children were looking forward to visiting their granny Euna Henderson - Margaret's mum - and great-grannie Margaret MacAulay in Kirkibost after competing. Margaret, a solicitor, told The Oban Times. 20\_tmod34p1-8

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**More Mòd coverage next week in the Oban Times**





# PHOTOS, REPORTS AND RESULTS FROM THE 2011 ROYAL NATIONAL MOD

## Student teachers see future in Gaelic

THIS autumn has seen the largest intake of students in one year to initial Gaelic teacher education in Scotland.

The recruitment of 17 primary and eight secondary school student teachers is seen as a major step forward towards meeting the aspirations of The National Gaelic Language Plan which has set out to double the number of children in Gaelic Medium Education over the next few years.

To help meet the growing demand for Gaelic teachers, Bòrd na Gàidhlig's teacher recruitment officer has worked with schools and universities throughout the country, to encourage students to consider career opportunities in Gaelic-medium education. Bòrd na Gàidhlig has awarded grants to all 25 teaching students to assist them in their studies.

The Bòrd is also to fund a week-long Gaelic language immersion course for teachers with some Gaelic who are currently teaching through the medium of English. The week long course, which will be attended by 10 teachers from throughout Scotland, will be delivered from November 21 in the Bòrd na Gàidhlig offices in Inverness.

This course is an initial step; the next step being the option to enrol on the year-long Streap course run by Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in association with Aberdeen University.

## Busiest Tuesday ever as Mòd attracts entries

A SURGE in Mòd entries from Gaelic Medium Units across the country made Mòd Tuesday one of the busiest for a number of years, with many competitions running hours late.

An Comunn Gàidhealach president John MacLeod had indicated that the number of young fluent competitors was on the rise, year on year and that more fluent-speaker competitions could be moved to the Monday - traditionally a day for learners.

Mr MacLeod stated that 665 competitors were to take part in 13 different venues throughout Tuesday.

He praised the high entry numbers in the traditional singing competitions, including 44 girls in the under-13 age group.

## Languages could delay onset of Dementia

PEOPLE who speak two languages could expect a four-year delay in the onset of Dementia, according to NHS Highland operational diversity officer, Murdo MacLeod.

Speaking at the Royal National Mod press conference on Tuesday, Mr MacLeod said bi-lingual people had better mental health prospects than those who spoke only one language.

Mr MacLeod, said funding was being sought to carry out a study in the Western Isles, similar to one he had done four years ago in Toronto.

He said: 'Because of the number of bilingual people here, the Western Isles would be good ground for research.'



Plockton High School S1 pupil Robert MacInnes struck gold for Lochalsh at his first Mod when he won the boys 11-12 learners solo singing competition. Robert, aged 12, who is studying singing and the bagpipes at the National Centre for Excellence in Traditional Music at Plockton, celebrated with a seat in CalMac's MacBrayne's bus outside the venue, An Lanntair in Stornoway. Robert's tutors are Iain MacFadyen (pipes) and Wilma Kennedy (singing). His father Alex said: 'It's brilliant - I am really, really pleased for him. He studies hard and he has put a lot of effort in.' 20\_tm024p2-1



Glasgow Islay Junior Gaelic Choir. 15\_tm005p2-3



Twins Anna, left, and Eilidh Macdonald from Islay retained their under-13 learners duet prize, the Angus MacTavish Memorial Trophy. 15\_tm012p2-6



Kenneth Rankin, Àrd-sgoil a' Phluic, won the Skelmorlie Highlanders Association Quaich for solo singing (Open Under 19). Second was Eilidh NicCarmaig - Àrd-sgoil Phort Rìgh, left, and third was Steaphanaidh Chaimbeul - An t-Eilean Sgitheanach, right. 20\_tm028p2-2



Alistair MacRae from Lochside RC Primary School in Fort William was placed first in the boys aged 9-10 years solo singing, to win the Dr Archie MacKinnon (Islay) Memorial Trophy. 20\_tm023p2-4



Bun Sgoil Chondobhrait pupils, brother and sister Mitchell and Rhiannon Kilpatrick, shared first place in their poetry competition. Rhiannon won her solo competition for 7-8 years learners. 20\_tm003p2-5



Lochaber Gold: Winner of the James MacPhee Memorial Medal, Kevin Cameron of Lochaber High School, with runners-up Fergus Munro of Coisir Og Lochabair and Alasdair Currie of Coisir Og Ghaidhlig Ile. Kevin and James went on to win The Donald Ross Memorial Trophy for duet singing later on Monday. 20\_tm024p2-7

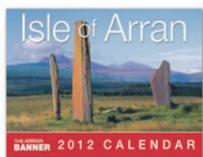


Coisir Og Thronairnis, from Skye. 15\_tm013p3-2



Bowmore's Ryan Johnstone picked up from where he left off last year by winning two trophies for poetry and finishing second in the learner boys 9-10 solo. Proving to be a lucky mascot was little sister, Rachel, aged 6, who was fourth in her own poetry competition. 15\_tm008p2-10

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Six year-old Conal MacDiarmid from Old Kilpatrick, Dumbarton, made it a double family success when he was placed first in the 5-6 years learners poetry recitation, winning the Euphemia Wilson Memorial Cup. Conal's brother Rory was third in the under-13 accordion open competition. The boys' father Graeme, formerly of Fort William, is a chief inspector of police in Glasgow. Mother Maureen, formerly MacInnes, is from South Lochs in Lewis.. 20\_tm027p2-9



# PHOTOS, REPORTS AND RESULTS FROM THE 2011 ROYAL NATIONAL MOD

## New steps strengthen Irish/Argyll link

A NEW online resource that details the path St Columba took from Donegal to Iona aims to inspire pilgrims to visit the Argyll island.

**Visitor experience**  
Sli Cholmille (the St. Columba Trail), which was launched at the Royal National

Mòd on Monday, shows trails, maps, images and information on St Columba and the places that he and his early Christian followers journeyed to. For centuries pilgrims have visited the numerous landmarks linked to St Columba which range from his Donegal birth-

place to Iona, where he founded his monastery in 563.

**Economic benefits**  
It is hoped that this online resource will inspire modern day pilgrimages to these areas and create a new visitor experience for tourists in Scotland and Ireland.

Minister with responsibility for Gaelic, Alasdair Allan, said: 'This is an exciting development which links up the heritage of the west coast of Scotland with that of the north coast of Ireland and will bring economic benefits to these areas.'

'St Columba was an important

figure in the early Medieval period and today's announcement will highlight his role to a new generation as well as firming up the close ties between the two areas and their language.'

The facts and folklore surrounding St Columba have been passed down through

written sources from the 6th century and generations of oral tradition.

**Redeveloping links**  
The Sli pulls together these many strands under the expert guidance of St Columba specialists Brian Lacey and Gilbert Markus, who make this a very

reliable as well as a highly accessible educational resource. This flagship project was initiated and developed by Colmille which is a Scottish/Irish inter-governmental initiative to redevelop and strengthen the links between Gaelic Scotland and Ireland.

Colmille commissioned the Sli from Scotland's Gaelic arts agency, Proiseact Nan Ealan, which has devised the 72-stop trail in partnership with Lucidity Media and Design Is Central. The Sli was funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Foras na Gaeilge and the Heritage Lottery Fund.



Coisir Og Feis Ghallaibh, Caithness, took home the Donald and Maimie MacPhail Trophy and the Darlington Society Silver Jubilee Trophy after winning the under-13 choral unison competition. 15\_tmod09p3-1



Coisir Og Ghaidhlig Ile won the puirt-a-beul unison choral under-19 competition. 15\_tmod07p3-3



Long distance runner Tony Robson and five other members from Stornoway Running Club ran 160 miles in 20 hours 20 minutes from Caithness to deliver a goodwill message from 2010 Mòd convener Raymond Bremner to the 2011 Mòd convener Alex MacDonald. 20\_tmod19p3-5



Donna MacLeod from Banavie Primary School won the girls 9-10 learners solo singing, scoring an exceptional 95 marks for her Gaelic and 93 for music, a total of 188 marks out of 200. 20\_tmodp3-4



Prizewinning cousins Jessica Muir, left, and Emily Robertson from Condorrat Primary School pictured after Friday's under-13 fiddle competition. Jessica Emily won a clutch of medals at Mòd competitions. 20\_tmod21p3-10



### Beachd Ailein Ailean Caimbeul

**BHEIL CÒIR AIG NEACH AIR CUNGAIDHEAN-LEIGHIS** bho Sheirbheis Nàiseanta na Slàinte?

Naoi mìosan air ais bha sinn a' caoidh leanabh trì bliadhna a dh'aois is i a' bàsachadh ri linn gainnead banachdach airson fù nam muc. Aig an àm bha mi a' togail ceist air carson nach robh gu leòr banachdach aig an Rìaghaltais air òrdachadh, ach am pailteas ann ri cheannach? An e inneachd a bh'ag an Rìaghaltais gus barrachd dhaoine a chur a dh'ionnsaigh seirbheis slàinte phrìobhaideach, bha mi a' faighneachd. Agus bha mi a' cuimhneachadh air Ball air Bòrd Slàinte na Gàidhealtachd bho chionn còig bliadhna fichead air a' thuir rium gun tigeadh an latha nuair a bhithte a' measadh cò a b' fhiach leigheas a thoirt dha agus cò a dh'fhàgadh gun chobhair.

Tha an cuspair air tighinn am follais a-rithist is cunaidhean a bheireadh sineadh beatha de thri mìosan gan dèiligeadh dha duine a tha a' bàsachadh le ailse. Mhol an lighiche a bha a' dèiligeadh ris an duine seo, aig am bheil teaghlach òg, gun toirte dha na drogaichean seo ach dh'iùlt am Bòrd Slàinte ri linn na coisgais. Tha fios againn gun feum sinn gearraidhean mòra fhulang fad bhliadhnaichean romhainn ach tha e doirbh coisgais a leigeil air toiseach air beatha as an dòigh seo. Canaidh luchd-dìon chòirichean a' chinne-daonna gum bheil còirichean bunaiteach aig a h-uile neach agus gur e ana-ceartas a th'ann gin de na còirichean sin àicheadh ge b' e dè cho olc 's a tha an eucoir a ni duine. Canaidh feadhainn eile gum bheil neach sam bith a theid a dhiteadh gu prìosan airidh air a chuid còirichean a chaid fhad 's a tha e fo ghlais.

Chan eil teagamh nach e còir air beatha rud as prìseile uile gu leir, ach am bheil còir leigheis na phàirt den sin. Agus am bheil eadar-dhealachadh eadar suidheachadh neach a dh'fhàs bochd gun chòir aige fhèin ris seach neach air am bheil tinneas a dh'adhbhraich e / i fhèin ri linn an caitheamh-beatha. Tha deoch-làidir, tombaca, agus drogaichean a' cosg mìlleanan gach bliadhna dhan t-Seirbheis Slàinte, ach cò a mholadh leigheas a stad dha na h-euslaintich sin? Carson a bhiodh frithealadh euslaintich le ailse eadar-dhealaichte? Ged a tha cuid de chunaidhean-leighis aillse air leth daor, canar le ceartas gum bheil fortan ga chosg gun chus buannachd air leithid phrògraman methodone.

Feumar feuchainn ri smachd eadar-nàiseanta fhaotainn air luchd-dèanamh chungaidhean-leighis ma tha sinn dol a sheachnadh suidheachaidhean an-ìochdmhor far am bheil cobhair ga dhiùltadh air sgàth coisgais.

MEDICINE manufacture is a highly lucrative international market and while research is expensive the cost of some treatments appears excessive. It will be extremely difficult to regulate the prices being levied for these drugs but dramatic cost reduction is probably the only way to avoid the tragedy of patients being denied life-extending treatments because of cost.

Capitalism appears to be a health risk here, but more competition and regulation could be a cure!

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



Eilidh MacDonald of Port Ellen Primary School, Islay, took the silver medal in girls 11-12 solo singing. Competition was extremely fierce, with 28 children taking part. 20\_tmod22p3-6



Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile will have heavy luggage going back to the island after they won six trophies for choral singing. 15\_tmod04p3



Left - Annie MacLennan from Shawbost School, top, won the under-13 melodeon competition, with Catriona Bain from Back School and Dean Drummond of the Nicolson Institute in Stornoway second and third, respectively. 20\_tmod17p3-8

Right - Falkirk Junior Gaelic Choir with Gaelic tutor Mary Ann Brown, left, and conductor Mary MacLean, won the Queen Elizabeth (1937) Coronation Trophy. 15\_tmod06p3-7



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# PHOTOS, REPORTS AND RESULTS FROM THE 2011 ROYAL NATIONAL MOD



## Clear career paths through Gaelic

BORD na Gàidhlig chief executive John Angus Mackay urged Mòd-goers to have their say on the Draft National Gaelic Plan, while explaining plans to improve the future survival of the language.

Speaking at the opening ceremony he added that the development of the language had come a long way through Gaelic Medium Education and potential career paths.

He said: 'Not many careers can say they have a lot of employment opportunities just now but there are in the Gaelic world, so we can be confident that we will see progress in the language.'

He described the Education Scotland Act of 1872 - which put English speaking schools into every parish in Scotland - as the worst thing to happen to Gaelic.

Mr Mackay added: 'Imagine at the first meeting of An Comunn Gaidhealach in 1891 someone had stood up and said in 2011 there will be children in Gaelic Medium Education throughout the Highlands and Islands, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness and Aberdeen; that 1,500 people earn their living through Gaelic; that the government would spend £25m on the language, which, in turn, would drive £50m into the economy of the country. They would say you were crazy.'

## Edinburgh Gaelic school would be big step forward claims MSP

A GAELIC school in Edinburgh would be a 'significant step forward' for Gaelic in Scotland, said Alasdair Allan, Minister for Learning and Skills, and Western Isles MSP.

Speaking at the Mòd's opening ceremony on Friday he urged Edinburgh councillors to go ahead with plans for the school in a vote that will be made just days after the Royal National Mòd 2011 comes to an end. The Scottish Government has allocated £1.8m and an additional £100,000 per year towards the project.

He said: 'Many in the government want to establish a Gaelic school in Edinburgh, as this would be a significant step forward for Gaelic in Scotland.'

'Whether it does go ahead will be decided on October 27 and we at the Mòd are clear what we want the decision to be.'



Donald Martin, right, receives the Tosgaire na Gàidhlig from Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan. 20\_tmod09p4-7

## Ambassador's award for media man Martin

THIS year's Gaelic Ambassador, the Tosgaire na Gàidhlig, has been awarded to MG ALBA board member Donald Martin.

A former chief executive of Comunn na Gàidhlig from 2003 to 2007, he has been a regular contributor to Gaelic radio and TV programmes.

He received his award from Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan at the Royal National Mòd 2011 opening ceremony, in An Lanntair, Stornoway.

Receiving the award, Donald said: 'Everyone involved in Gaelic development, they are all ambassadors, not just the ones involved directly.'

## Massed choirs' date with Stornoway

THIS year's massed choir sing will be held in Perceval Square, Stornoway on Saturday at 1.30pm, with choirs beginning to assemble from 10am.

# Gaelic chief aims to stem English tide

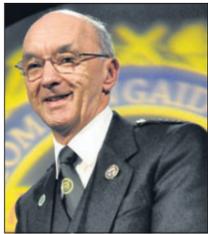
## Call for day-to-day use in Gaelic homeland

A 'RADICAL' change to Gaelic promotion in the Western Isles is needed to ensure the survival of the language, according to An Comunn Gaidhealach president John MacLeod.

During a rousing speech at the official opening of the Royal National Mòd 2011 in An Lanntair, Stornoway, Mr MacLeod said a lot was being done in the Western Isles 'against the tide of an increasingly dominant English language', but said there was a need for day-to-day business to be conducted in the native tongue.

The Western Isles has the largest concentration of Gaelic speakers in its population - nearly 75 per cent in certain districts (2001 census figures) - but not many of these communities still use Gaelic as its main language, said Mr MacLeod, meaning there was a real danger its limited use would see it disappear as a community language.

He added: 'What I and my colleagues in An Comunn would like to see in the Western Isles is for Gaelic to be adopted by all public organisations as the main language of communication in public life.'



An Comunn Gaidhealach president John MacLeod

'What needs to happen to achieve this? Firstly, all public service staff who in their daily duties have direct contact with the public would have a language-promotion role, would be expected to use Gaelic as the first language of communication, and to continue to encourage further dialogue in Gaelic (assuming of course that the recipient is willing and able to do so).

'This reverses the long-held assumption that English has to be the official language of business and public life. It may have to be in certain circumstances

where technical terminology is required, but it doesn't have to be the 'default' language in all situations.

'None of us has done enough to support our language. Our legislators have given their support through the provisions of the Gaelic Language (S) Act 2005 so why, six years later, has Gaelic still not achieved the level of 'equal respect to English', that the law said it should be given.

'Can we say that even in the Western Isles, in the 'heartland' of the language, that Gaelic has 'equal respect to English'? I think we all know the answer to that question.

'There is still a strong enough Gaelic foundation in this community to build on to ensure a sustainable Gaelic environment for future generations, and as the largest public employer in the islands, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar would be the ideal lead organisation in ensuring that Gaelic becomes the main language of public life here.

'Gaelic belongs to the whole of Scotland, but it needs a healthy and secure homeland, and the Western Isles has the best environment for that.'



William Campbell from Halkirk and Rory MacDiarmid from Old Kilpatrick were placed first and third respectively in the under-13 accordion competition. Rory's dad Graeme, originally from Fort William, is now a chief inspector at Strathclyde Police HQ in Pitt Street, Glasgow. His mum Maureen, formerly MacInnes, hails from South Lochs, Lewis. Rory's grandpa Alec still lives in Lochside. Graeme told *The Oban Times*: 'Rory has been practising hard for the past six months. It has been well worth it.' 20\_tmod18p4-4



Under-13 fiddle group winners were Manranach, from Stornoway Primary School. 15\_142tmod02p4-6



Iain Smith from the Isle of Tiree won the under-19 accordion competition. Delighted Iain, 18, who plays with the Trail West band, said: 'I won the under-13 competition here in 2005 the last time I was in Stornoway. It seems to be a nice place for me!' 20\_tmod13p4-8



Melodeon under-19 winner Alexander MacIver, 15, from Carloway on Lewis, celebrates his win with silver medallist Isabelle Bain, 14, and bronze medallist Annabel MacLennan, 16. Both girls are from Gress, Back, Isle of Lewis. 20\_tmod15p4-1



Ten year-old Shannon MacDonald, of Isle Ornsay, Sleat, won a silver medal in the under-13 piano competition 20\_tmod16p4-2



Fifteen year-old Padruig Moireasdan, from Grimsay, North Uist won three medals - bronze in the accordion under-19, silver in the piano 13-18 and gold in the keyboard 13-18. Pagruig played Fasgail Liosmor and Pipe Major Jim Christie of Wick for his winning performance. 20\_tmod14p4-3



The launch of the first ever Isle of Lewis legal whisky, Abhainn Dearg, coincided with the opening of the Royal National Mòd 2011 in An Lanntair. Elizabeth MacDonald, 19, from Newton in North Uist and 22 year-old Stornoway girl Isla Buchanan served drams of the smooth three-year old single malt at the Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) reception in An Lanntair on Friday. 20\_tmod01p4-5



Barra Highland Dancers Hazel MacDonald, 16, from Grean, Jessica MacNeil, 13, from Cuithir, Kristine Boyd, 14, from North Bay and Clare Frances MacNeil, 11, from Tangasdale entertained the audience at the opening ceremony for the Royal National Mod 2011 in An Lanntair on Friday night with two imaginatively choreographed dance routines. The girls' striking outfits, which featured Harris Tweed, were designed specially for the occasion. The dancers were tutored by Jane Douglas. 20\_tmod06p4



Orkney-based couple Patrick and Anjo Casey landed the final bid of 4,400gns for the Supreme Reserve Champion, the stylish three-year old Highland heifer, Elspeth of Bein Esk, out of Susan 5th of Dounside and by Thorn of Bein Esk

# Home demand keeps Highland trade up at Oban Sale average for quality heifers rises at annual breed sale

LAST week's Highland Cattle Society annual October sale in Oban may not have hit the highlights of previous record price-breaking events but it registered a steady, realistic trade that was largely generated from the home market.

Only two of the breeding cattle on offer at the breed's premier female sale at Oban found their way into export with 50 per cent of the sale entry selling to more than 1,000gns. The overall sale average for the 92 heifers was up on last year by £136 - to stand at £1,048.

Highest bid around a busy ring-side was achieved when Orkney-based couple Patrick and Anjo Casey, Gaitnip, St Ola paid Patricia Smith and Paul Burns of Craigengelt, 4,400gns for the Supreme Reserve Champion, the stylish three-year old heifer, Elspeth of Bein Esk, out of Susan 5th of Dounside and by Thorn of Bein Esk.

Breed secretary Hazel Baxter was in buoyant mood following the sale. "There was a lot of interest in the sale from overseas buyers but they couldn't match the strong home trade for quality bloodlines which resulted in the majority of the stock staying in the UK at much higher prices than the corresponding sale last year," she said.

Second highest trade on the day went to Sunday's show champion when David Dickson, Hamilton Hall, West Linton, by Peebles sold the five-year old cow Catriona Akeko of Lyntoun, by Angus of Rashiehall, at 3,000gns to Michael Poland's, Mottistone Fold. The cow, in-calf to a Mottistone bull, had been reserve champion at Glasgow earlier in the year and had also taken a second at the Royal Highland Show two years ago.

There was 2,600gns for Dunlossit Estate, Islay's three-year old heifer Lili Ann Ruadh of Ceannacroic, when T P Radford took this in-calf

## Tombuie Limousin bullock is Dalmally calf sale champion

UNITED Auctions held their Annual October Calf Sale at Dalmally Auction Mart when they sold 1187 suckled calves and 57 breeding cattle.

Overall, a good selection of mainly spring born calves were on offer and sold to a packed ring of regular buyers attending this sale. A small offering of breeding cattle sold at rates in keeping with current levels.

The 663 bullocks averaged £585.47 per head or 213.28p per kilo against £502.50 or 178.81p last year.

The 476 heifers averaged £524.19 or 204.08p per kilo against £444.09 or 167.35p per kilo last year. The 46 bullock calves averaged £509.57 or 204.2p per kilo.

Prior to the sale, Mr Duncan Henderson, Whitehouse Farm, Stirling, judged the various classes.

Overall champion calf came from Mr Hall, Tombuie with a spring born Limousin bullock calf weighing 305 kilos. It sold for £800 to the judge.

Reserve overall calf was from Mr Kennedy, Dunnans; a spring born Limousin heifer calf weighing 350 kilos and selling for £750 to the judge.

Other prizes were:

Autumn born bullock calves: 1 and 2 Mr Kennedy, Lephinkill.

Autumn born heifer calf: 1 Mr Dempster, Barguillan.

Spring born bullock calf: 1 Mr Hall, Tombuie, 2 and 3 Mr Kennedy, Lephinkill.

Spring born heifer calf: 1 Mr Kennedy, Dunnans, 2 Mr Kennedy, Lephinkill, 3 M/s MacNaughton, Ardachuple.

Shepherd's calf: 1 Mr R Dempster, Barguillan, 2 Mr G MacGillivray, Achuaran.

Overall champion calf: Mr Hall, Tombuie, a spring born Limousin bullock calf weighing 305 kilo's and sold for £800 to the judge.

Reserve overall calf Mr Kennedy, Dunnans, a spring born Limousin heifer calf weighing 350 kilo's and sold for £750 to the judge.

## Quality Cheviot rams sell to £480 at Portree

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 295 rams at its annual Portree sale of rams on Monday.

Rams sold to £480 twice for Cheviots shearlings from 13 Flodrigary, Portree.

## Texels sell to £850 at Oban ram sale

CALEDONIAN Marts had forward 502 rams and ram lambs at their annual top sale at Oban last Wednesday.

Shearings averaged £259 (no change on the year), selling to £850 for Texels from CM Paterson, Veltigor, Orkney.

Ram lambs averaged £178.24 (+£17 on the year), selling to £400 for a Blueface Leicester from Brisbane Glen Estate and A McKellar, Seaview respectively.

The Blackface Show was judged by Mr Ian Brown, Aoradh Farm, Isle of Islay.

First place shearing and champion went to J McPherson, Balliemanoach, £400, while first top lamb and reserve champion was from Brisbane Glen Estate, also realising £400.

The 92 Blackface shearlings averaged £175.42 (-£11.00 on the year).

## Dingwall sheep

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 4,788 store sheep at Dingwall last Thursday, with all classes meeting an excellent demand. Lambs averaged £51.11 and sold to £75 for Cheviots from Crannich, Ardross. Ewe lambs averaged £51.77 and sold to £100 for Texels from Tri-deug, 13 West Watten, Watten.

Ewes averaged £51.12 and sold to £103 for Texels from Easter Strath of Auchterflow, Killen.

## Dingwall prime

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 74 prime cattle and 730 prime sheep at its Dingwall sale last Tuesday.

Prime bullocks averaged 195.4p (-8.7p) and sold to 206p per kilo for a 590kilo Limousin cross from Castlecraig Farms, Nigg, and £1,394.25 for a 715kilo Simmental cross from Mains of Househill, Nairn. Prime heifers averaged 194.1p (-8.8p) and sold to 210p per kilo for a 545kilo Limousin cross from Bridgend Farm, Dingwall, and £1,257.30 for a 635kilo Limousin cross from Woodend, Killearnan.

Lambs averaged 167.8p (+4.2) and sold to 191.5p per kilo and £90 for 47kilo Beltex crosses from Torgorm, Conon Bridge.

## Five-month old Chapelpark Limousin cross takes championship at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 2,169 weaned calves at their annual district ballot show and sale last Wednesday, when a very satisfactory sale throughout with quality calves, particularly Charolais cross bullocks, meeting an exceptional demand.

The judge, Mr A Anderson, Smallburn Farms, awarded the overall champion of the McCallum Haulage sponsored show to a five month old Limousin cross bullock from the Mr JA Pirie,

## Bullock calves to 245p per kilo at Fort William

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 402 weaned calves and store cattle, 40 Over 30 Months (OTM) cattle and 38 breeding cattle at its Fort William sale on Friday, when a mixed show on offer met a satisfactory demand.

Bullocks averaged 193.4p and sold to 267.9p per kilo for a 209kilo Charolais cross from Ardornish Farms, and £690 for a 381kilo Limousin cross from 8, 9 & 10 Cuilchenna.

Heifers averaged 171.7p and sold to 245.1p per kilo for a 204kilo Simmental cross from 13 Calgarry, Skye, and £820 for a pair of 388kilo Limousin crosses from Balmagaster, Spean Bridge.

Young bulls averaged 143.1p and sold to 154.9p per kilo for a pair of 142kilo Shorthorn crosses from Dunlichity Farm, Farr, and £480 for a pair of 356kilo Simmental crosses from 4 Back of Keppoch, Arisaig.

Breeding cattle sold to £1,000 for an Aberdeen Angus cross cow with bull calf at foot from 7 Back of Keppoch, Arisaig.

OTM cows averaged 87.5p and sold to 130p per kilo for a 673kilo Devon cross from Glendoe Estate, Fort Augustus, and £1015 for an 857kilo Aberdeen Angus cross from 6 Scotstown, Strontian.

## Store cattle trends continue to rise at UA Stirling show and sale

UNITED Auctions sold 2,207 store cattle, young bulls and 184 cows and 3,512 store sheep at its Stirling show and sale last Wednesday.

Bullocks averaged 185.26p (+7.17p) and sold to 237p per kilos for a 568kilo Charolais cross from Wester Middleton and £1390 for a 660kilo Charolais cross from Wester Middleton.

Heifers averaged 182.94p (+2.96p) and sold to 225.9p per kilos for a 611kilo Charolais cross from Wester Middleton and £1380 for a 611kilo Charolais cross from Wester Middleton.

Young bulls averaged 156.18p and sold to 223.6p per kilo for a 246kilo Charolais cross from Carston and £1140 for a 622kilo Charolais cross from Wester Middleton.

Forward cattle averaged 158.85p and sold to 189.5p per kilos for a Charolais cross from Bonerbo and £1165 for a Blonde Aquitaine cross from Downfield.

Cast cows averaged 123.02p

and sold to 167.7p and £1335 for a British Blue Cross from Downfield.

Blackface lambs averaged £49.20, (+£3.96 on the week) while Mule lambs were up £8.02 on the week to £61.99.

Texel lambs averaged £65.82, while Suffolk lambs averaged £64.56, up £4.11 and £1.80 on the week respectively.

Prize list: Native bred Pen of four: 1 J D Steele, Goddons (AA) 590kilos - £1,140; 2 R G Jeffrey, Halls (AA) 574kilos - £1,100.

Continental Bred Pen of four: 1 Ross Farms, Wester Middleton (Charolais Cross) 568kilos - £370; 2 Ross Farms, Wester Middleton (Charolais Cross) 611kilos - £1380; 3 A and R Paton, Easter Greenhill (Lim Cross) 471kilos - £960.

Native Bred Pen of eight: 1 W Shaw, West Lethans (Aberdeen Angus) 503kilos - £990; 2 R G Jeffrey, Halls (Aberdeen Angus) 510kilos - £980.

Continental Bred Pen of eight: 1 A and R Paton, Easter Greenhill 399kilos - £765.

## UA Stirling prime sale sees 14.4p rise

UNITED Auctions sold 6,727 prime sheep, including 5,237 lambs averaging 184.3p/kg (+14.4p) and 1,489 ewes and rams at its Stirling sale last Thursday.

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Market reports

DALMALLY

United Auctions

Bullocks Aberdeen Angus Cross: £805 - Auchnasavil £765 - Barndromin £640 (3) - Braglemore Beef Shorthorn Cross £655 and £615 - Firm of Tiritagan. British Blue Cross: £660(2) - Lephinchapel Charolais Cross: £1095, £1045 and £895 (3) - Lephinkill Farm £880 - Ederline Estate £805(2) - Lephinkill Farm £785 - High Tirtergus £765(2) - Lephinkill Farm £755 - Achuran and Craignafeoch £740 High Tirtergus £735 - Braglemore(8), High Tirtergus(2) and Braglemore(2) £730 - Braglemore £715(15), £680(10) and £670(13) - Ederline Estate £660(4) - Craignafeoch £655(8) - Lephinkill Farm. Limousin Cross: £1045 - Cairnbaan (J Jordan) £900 - 10 Eoligarry, Barra £880 - Tombue £855 - 2 Keil Crofts £825 - Tiraghoil £805(2) - Cairnbaan (J Jordan) £790(2) and £775 - Barguilean £765 - 10 Eoligarry £755 - Craigmore £720 - Barguilean and Barachander Farm £700 - Tiraghoil (4) and Barguilean £695 - Tom Na Coille, Achnacaron, Tiraghoil (4) and Ledcharrie £685 - Garvie £680 - 2 Keil Crofts £675 - Tom Na Coille £670 - Barachander £660(2) - Craigmore £655 - Glenshellach (5) and Craig Farm £650 and £645(5) - Tom Na Coille. Luine £625 - Pitecastle Estate Salens Cross: £620 - Dalranoch Farm. Sheltand Cross: £585(2) and £555(2) - Arileod, Coll. Simmental Cross: £775 - Duallin £765 - Barguilean £740 - Dunans £700 - Lower Tervine £695 - Achnacaron, Lower Tervine, Tiraghoil and Robmart £675 - Kennock Farm and Pitecastle Estate(4) £670 - Dunans £660 - Pitecastle Estate(2) and Ardachuple Farm £650 - Keilator and Lower Tervine. Heifers Aberdeen Angus Cross: £575 - Achnasavil British Blue Cross: £595 Lephinchapel Charolais Cross: £745 - High Tirtergus £700 - Craig Farm £655

222p(4) - Lephinkill 216p - Braglemore(4) and Braglemore 213p - Braglemore(2) and Braglemore 207p - Tullochmor 204p(4) - Craignafeoch 200p - High Tirtergus. Limousin Cross: 289p - Tombue 282p(4) - Brencaille 268p - Glenshellach 261p (6) - Brencaille 259p(3) and 249p - Achuran 249p - Balantyre Farm Partnership (3) and Moresish 248p (4) Brencaille 247p - Moresish 245p - Inveroy(2) and Glenshellach 244p(2) - Ardachuple 240p - Achuran 239p - Glenshellach and Balantyre Farm Partnership (11) 238p - Achuran and Auch Estate (4) 237p - Garvie Farm 236p - Tiraghoil (4), Glenshellach, Craigmore (2) and Barachander 235p - Fuinary(2) and Boreland Farms (3) 232p - Craignafeoch (3) and Ardalarach 231p - Tom Na Coille, Tiraghoil and Ardalarach (3) 230p - Fuinary (2), Garvie (5) and Glenshellach (2) 228p - Gallanach Farms, Fuinary, Ardachuple(2) and Achuran 227p - Achnacaron and Glenshellach(5) 226p - Inveroy(2) and Achuran 225p(2) - Tiraghoil 224p - Achnacaron and Boreland Farms (8) 222p Musdale Farm 221p - Tom Na Coille, Fuinary(2), Muckairn(2) and Balantyre Farm Partnership(3) 220p(4) - Boreland Farms 219p - Fingals View(2) and Boreland Farms(8) 218p Glenshellach 216p - Tom Na Coille (4), Keilator, Fuinary(3) and Craignafeoch(5) 215p(3) Tiraghoil 214p - Gallanach Farms(2) and Tiraghoil 213p Keilator(3), Dunans(4) and Craignafeoch(4) 212p(2) - Keilator 211p - Achnacaron 210p(2) Inveroy 209p - Duncroisk 208p - Fuinary 207p - Tiraghoil 206p - Tom Na Coille and Dunans 205p - Musdale Farm and Cullaine 203p - 2 Keil Croft 202p - Keilator(4) and Musdale Farm 201p - Tom Na Coille 200p - Craigmore. Luine 221p, 216p(3) and 212p(4) - Muckairn 209p - Gallanach Farms and Bonawe Home Farm. 214p - Ardachuple, Dunans, Mudsale and Moresish 211p - Inveroy(2) and Ardalarach(2) 210p(2) - Achnacaron 209p - Keilator(4), Glenshellach(2) and Craignafeoch(4) 208p - Fuinary(2) - Fuinary 206p - Fuinary(2) and Tiraghoil(5) 205p - Balantyre Farm Partnership 204p - Tom Na Coille and Musdale Farm (6) 203p - Craignafeoch 202p - Fuinary(2) and Boreland Farms(6)

201p(3) - Gallanach Farms 200p - Garvie(5) and Glenshellach. Luine: 201p - Gallanach Farms. Simmental Cross: 290p(2) - Shellfield 284p(3) - Keilator 282p - Auch Estate 258p and 253p(3) - Keilator Farm 242p - Auch Estate 236p(5) - Keilator Farm 230p - Pitecastle Estate(2), Shellfield and Barachander Farm(2) 229p(4) - Benmore Farm 228p - Keilator Farm(2) and Pitecastle Estate (2) 225p - Keilator Farm(2), Dunans(2) and Barachander Farm(2) 224p - Keilator Farm and Benmore Farm(3) 223p - Brough Farm 220p - Keilator Farm(2), Benmore Farm and Barguilean(5) 215p - Shellfield 213p(2) - Stroneskar Farm 212p Keilator Farm (3) and Shellfield 209p Barachander Farm 208p - Duallin(3), Dunans(2) and Auch Estate(2) 206p - Tiraghoil 203p - Auch Estate 201p - Dunans. FORT WILLIAM Dingwall and Highland Marts Bullocks: Up to 200kilo - 6 Bracara, Morar, £450, 247.3p; 201-250kilo - Ardornish Farms, £560, 1 Kinsadel, Morar, 228.6p; 251-300kilo - 7 Clovullin, Ardour, £650, 220.3p; 301-350kilo - Fersit, Roy Bridge, £670, 7 Clovullin 204.6p; 351-400kilo - Traigh Farm, Arisaig, £670, 189.8p. Heifers: Up to 200kilo - Ardornish Farms, £420, Dunlichity Farm Farr, 231.6p; 201-250kilo - 13 Calgarry, £530, Balmagaster, 223.7p; 251-300kilo - 7 Ferrindonald, Sleat, £570, 214.3p; 301-350kilo - Moy Farm, Fort William, £670, 198.2p; 351-400kilo - 19 Portnalong, Isle of Skye, £635, Balmagaster, 211.3p; 401-450kilo - 19 Portnalong, £740, 181.8p. OBAN Caledonian Marts Blackface Shearlings: Laigh Altician and Glenstrae Farmers £500; Laigh Altician £400; Glenstrae £300 (3 times); Balliemanoch £280. Texel Shearlings Veltigar sold 15 to £850 averaged £528.

Shearlings: Texel - 3 Blythbank £480, Balcardine Home Farm £400; Suffolk - Woodside £600, £500, £480, Balcardine Home Farm £400, Newborn of Craithie £380, £350 (twice); Cheviot - Attenburn £800, £700, £450, Woodside £720, Maidencots £700, £450, £420; Blueface Leicester - Seaview, £820, £700, £600, Maidencots £700, £400, Balure of Shian £420; Charollais - Upper Auchenlay £180 (twice); Beltes - Upper Auchenlay £160, £100; Hampshire Down - Maidencots £380; Lley - Tiraghoil £140, Balure £100. Ram lambs: Blackface - Brisbane Glen Estates £160, £130; Texel - Barcardine Home Farm £200; Suffolk - Newton of Craithie £220, Manual Home £200; Blueface Leicester - Seaview £340, £250, 10 Eastfield £200. PORTREE Dingwall and Highland Marts Rams: Cheviot - 13 Flodrigary, £450; 13 Peinchorran, Portree, Clachan Farm, Ullapool, and 13 Flodrigary, £160, £130; Texel - Barcardine Home Farm £200; Suffolk - Newton of Craithie, Ballater, £300, 44 Bornekitaig, Kilimuir, £280, Armadale Farm, Sleat, £260; Suffolk: Newton of Craithie, £180. DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts Lambs: Cheviot - Blackmuir, Heights of Docharty, £73; Beltes Cross - Strath of Pitalcainie, Nigg, £72; Texel Cross - Moulindar House, Tain, £71.50; Suffolk Cross - Strath of Pitalcainie, £71; Charollais Cross - Swiney Hill, Lybster, £67.50; Cross - Cypress Cottage, Achterneed, £67; Chamoise - Lower Gaich, Dunlain Bridge, £65; Texel - Easter Strath of Auchterlow, £64.50; Mule - Lower Gaich, £60; Lley Cross - Nottingham Mains, Lathorn, £58.50; Blueface Leicester - Seaview, £820, £700, £600, Maidencots £700, £400, Balure of Shian £420; Charollais - Upper Auchenlay £180 (twice); Beltes - Upper Auchenlay £160, £100; Hampshire Down - Maidencots £380; Lley - Tiraghoil £140, Balure £100. Ram lambs: Blackface - Brisbane Glen Estates £160, £130; Texel - Barcardine Home Farm £200; Suffolk - Newton of Craithie £220, Manual Home £200; Blueface Leicester - Seaview £340, £250, 10 Eastfield £200. PORTREE Dingwall and Highland Marts Rams: Cheviot - 13 Flodrigary, £450; 13 Peinchorran, Portree, Clachan Farm, Ullapool, and 13 Flodrigary, £160, £130; Texel - Barcardine Home Farm £200; Suffolk - Newton of Craithie, Ballater, £300, 44 Bornekitaig, Kilimuir, £280, Armadale Farm, Sleat, £260; Suffolk: Newton of Craithie, £180. DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts Black Isle & Mid Ross: Bullocks Up to 200kg - Cromarty Mains, Cromarty, £420, 228.3p; 201-250kg - Cromarty Mains, £580, 228.3p; 251-300kg - 9 Lochussie, £690, Eilburn, Conon Bridge, 251p; 301-350kg - Conon Mains, Conon Bridge, £870, 268.4p; 351-400kg - Conon Mains, £860, 234.3p; 401-450kg - Kildun, Dingwall, £900, Conon Mains, 213.9p; 501-550kg - Conon Mains, £940, 182.5p. Heifers: Up to 200kg - Cromarty Mains, £460, 247.3p; 201-250kg - Cromarty Mains, £520, 232.1p; 251-300kg - 9 Lochussie, £600, 203.4p; 301-350kg - Limekilns, Fortrose, and Conon Mains, £660, Limekilns, 206.3p; 351-400kg - Conon Mains, £670, 188.7p; Inverness, Nairn & South: Bullocks Up to 200kg - Dunlichity Farm, Farr, £430, 245.7p; 201-250kg - Castle Grant Home Farm, Dunlain Bridge, £700, 297.9p; 251-300kg - Lochduh, Nairn, £730, Chapelpark Farm, 333.3p; 301-350kg - Dell Farm, Farr, £920, 262.9p; 351-400kg - Milton Farm, Aberarder, £870, 233.2p; 401-450kg - Milton Farm, £970, Balchraggan, Torness, 223.3p; 451-500kg - Culdich, Culloden, £950, 200p; 501-550kg - Abersky, Torness, £960, 188.2p. Heifers: Up to 200kg - Dunlichity Farm, £420, 225.8p; 201-250kg - Dunlichity Farm, £500, 215.5p; 251-300kg - Wester Tomloan, Ardclach, £720, 244.1p; 301-350kg - Wester Tomloan, £830, Chapelpark Farm, 260.3p; 351-400kg - Gorthleck Mains, Gorthleck, Abersky, and Balchraggan, £770, Balloan, Farr, 202.8p; 401-450kg - Abersky, £850, Culdich, 192.6p; North West Ross: Bullocks Up to 200kg - Keppoch Farm, Dundonnell, £490, 290.3p; 201-250kg - Tournair Farming Co, £570, 235.5p; 251-300kg - Slattadale, £670, 257.7p; 301-350kg - Slattadale, £750, 238.1p; 351-400kg - 3 Braes, Inveralsdale, £830, 210.1p; 401-450kg - 4 Bualnaluib and 16 Ormsicraig, £790, 207.9p; 451-500kg - 4 Bualnaluib, Aultbea, £980, 242p; 451-500kg - 4 Bualnaluib, 16 Ormsicraig, Aultbea, £890, 196.5p; Heifers Up to 200kg - 31 Strath, Gairloch, £410, Tournair Farming Co, 227.3p; 201-250kg - 43 Strath, Gairloch, £470, Tournair Farming Co, 200p; 251-300kg - 4 Bualnaluib, £670, 227.1p; 301-350kg - 4 Bualnaluib and 16 Ormsicraig, £640, 203.2p; 351-400kg - 4 Bualnaluib and 16 Ormsicraig, £790, 207.9p; 401-450kg - 3 Braes, £720, 172.3p; 451-500kg - 4 Bualnaluib, £870, 184.6p; Caithness and Sutherland: Bullocks Up to 200kg - Tressady, Lairg, and Rheanbreck, Lairg, £390, 198p; 201-250kg - Westburn, Murkle, £580, 243.7p; 251-300kg - Invercharron, Ardgay, £670, 253.3p; 301-350kg - Drumblum, £710, 230.5p; 351-400kg - Westburn, Golspie, £780, Reigisill, Lybster, 215.1p; 401-450kg - Ardgayhill, Ardgay, £880, 213.6p; 451-500kg - Achlich, Lairg, £950, 200p; 501-550kg - Achlich, £940, 175.7p. Heifers Up to 200kg - 101-102 Midtown, Lairg, £400, 205.1p; 201-250kg - Westburn, £570, 253.3p; 251-300kg - Roadside Croft, Harpdale, £600, 202p; 301-350kg - Westburn, £740, 229.5p; 351-400kg - Culnara, Bonar Bridge, £780, 202.6p; 401-450kg - Achlich, £790, 182.7p; 501-550kg - Folly, Murkle, £880, 161.5p. Islands: Bullocks Up to 200kg - Corriebeinn Farms, £470, 247.4p; 201-250kg - Corriebeinn Farms, Portree, £560, 227.6p; 251-300kg - Corriebeinn Farms, £760, 298p; 301-350kg - 25 Lower Barvas, Stornoway, £700, Giebe, Barvas, 209.7p; 351-400kg - Giebe, £840, 215.4p. Heifers Up to 200kg - Corriebeinn Farms, £430, 220.5p; 201-250kg - Tote, Skeabost Bridge, £450, 181.5p; 251-300kg - Corriebeinn Farms, Portree, £560, 227.6p; 301-350kg - Corriebeinn Farms, £760, 298p; 351-400kg - 35 Lower Barvas, Stornoway, £700, 191.8p. South West Ross: Bullocks: 201-250kg - 292 Dornie, Kyle of Lochalsh, £470, 213.6p; 251-300kg - Attadale, Kyle of Lochalsh, £460, 170.4p; 301-350kg - Attadale, £610, 195.5p. Heifers Up to 200kg - 292 Dornie, £340, 206.1p; 251-300kg - 292 Dornie, £380, 176.7p; 301-350kg - Attadale, £430, 164.8p; 351-400kg - Attadale, £570, 184.5p.

Flu - don't let the bug bite! NHS Scotland. For patients of the Lorn Medical Centre we are running drop in clinics in the Church of Scotland Centre, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Wed 2 November and Wed 9 November. Evening Flu Clinics will be held in the Lorn Medical Centre - by appointment Tues 25 October and Thur 10 November.

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. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT. REFVAL PROPOSAL SITE ADDRESS LOCATION OF PLANS

O.A.S.I.S Oban Addiction Support and Information Service. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Wednesday 26th October At 7.00 p.m. OASIS OFFICE 11 STAFFORD STREET OBAN. Shareholders and members of the public are hereby invited to the AGM of Mull Slaughterhouse Ltd on Thursday 27th October 2011 in Craignure Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997. The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY. Reference Number Development Address Proposal Description Alternative locations where application may be inspected

Croft/Part of a Croft Colonsay Community Development Company is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft at 3 Baile Laochdrach to Allan Eric Piper of Drumclach, Isle of Colonsay, Argyll, PA61 7YR.

Proposed Division of a Croft by Owner-occupier Crofter Linda MacGillivray is applying to divide the croft at High Lee, Ardlun, Buinessan, Isle of Mull into two parts.

CROFTERS COMMISSION COIMISEAN NAN CROITEARAN. DECROFTING APPLICATIONS Applicant, Croft, Extent & Purpose, Case number Mr I A Carmichael 64 Ormsaigbeg, Ardnamurchan & Sunart.

Proposed Assignment of a Croft Ian Campbell is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the croft at Brolas, No 3 Croft to Sofie Corns of 1 Willowbank, Kilchrenan, Argyll.

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED Name, Croft, Extent, reason, conditions Case Number Mr & Mrs I MacDonald 8 Caoles, Tirez 0.074 ha site for a dwelling house.

Application for Apportionment Corpach, Banavie, Lochy-side, Camaghagh Common Grazings Mr Archie Cameron MacNaughton, Corneilgen, 62/63, Banavie, Fort William PH33 7PB, intends to lodge an application for apportionment of approximately 3.93 hectares for the purpose of extra grazing.

The Scottish Government TRANSPORT SCOTLAND NOTICE OF DETERMINATION THE A82 ONICH AND EAST OF ONICH ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION BY THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS UNDER SECTIONS 20A AND 55A OF THE ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984. The Scottish Ministers hereby give notice that they have determined that their proposal to improve two sections of the A82 Trunk Road in the village of Onich, south of Fort William is:



Derek Grier, who has for the past year been working tirelessly and to restore the Lady Evelyn fishing vessel to its former glory. 15\_142ladyev1

# It's no way to treat a lady, says boat owner

## Row over berthing fees hampers progress

AN OBAN man working to restore a crumbling boat left on the town's north pier claims he is now being charged for berthing - without access to facilities.

Since buying the Lady Evelyn a year ago, Derek Grier has taken it on high on a wreck to a promising work in progress, proudly back upright and on its way to looking ship-shape.

While the council has waived berthing fees for most of that time, in May - with the boat now up on iron legs to keep it upright - unem-

ployed Derek was told 'move it or pay up.'

Having now started to pay for the privilege of berthing, he has been told he is unable to move to the boat from its current location - to which access is impeded by railings and parking spots - to one which offers proper mooring and access to facilities. Without this, he is unable to pressure wash the boat, while removal of the redundant engine becomes a logistical headache.

With significant progress already made, despite numerous difficulties,

and the boat becoming something of a tourist attraction, Derek is hoping the council will help him out.

He said: 'There is a lot of interest in the boat. I actually printed out 250 leaflets detailing the history of the boat and what I'm trying to do because so many people ask about it.'

'The council know I'm unemployed and trying to get this boat back into shape. They know I didn't have to do that, but they still want me to find £1,200 to pay for berthing.'

'Because of that, I've asked if I can move the boat so I can get access to pressure wash the boat and remove some of the scrap. However, they've said no.'

'At the end of the day I'm trying my best to get the boat into a condition where I can move it elsewhere.'

Derek reiterated his hope that the boat can one day be used for the community.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Anybody who berths at a council pier is required to pay.'

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**A diverse West Highland Coastal Estate is seeking 2 individuals to fulfil the following roles:**

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**Estate Handyman (Full Time)**

Both roles require self motivated dedicated individuals, able to work under their own initiative in all weathers. The Mechanic/Handyman will be able to organise, maintain and take responsibility for the vehicle fleet as well as estate plant and machinery. In addition have experience of maintaining and repairing estate buildings. Experience of micro hydro schemes and bio mass boilers an advantage. The Estate Handyman will assist the Mechanic/Handyman, but will also take responsibility for the efficient operation of the estates bio mass boilers. This will involve maintenance of wood chipping equipment and boilers, as well as the logistics and supply of wood chips.

Both roles offer attractive remuneration packages which include a house and use of an estate vehicle. Part time employment may be available for partners. Please contact Caroline Isaac for a detailed job description and application form. caroline.isaac@bellingram.co.uk

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We offer a basic salary within the range of £12,000-£15,000 per annum for trainees and £16,000-£20,000 for experienced sales people + commission, generous annual holiday entitlement, company pension scheme, life assurance and private medical insurance.

If you are looking for a career with a well established company and have the above attributes - we want to hear from you.

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**PROJECT OFFICER:**  
to deliver a new Marine Visitor Centre at Taigh Solais, Tobermory

**Salary:** £26,000 pro rata (20 hours per week rising as the project develops)  
Closing Date 31 October 2011

**For a job description and application form, please visit the website www.tobermoryharbour.co.uk**  
Further enquiries to Brian Swinbanks  
Tel: 01688 302113 e-mail kft@btconnect.com  
A working knowledge of grant funding, strong interest in community development and good local knowledge would be beneficial.

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## RECRUITMENT

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Children & Families  
Permanent  
35 hrs per week  
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Oban Ref: CMF00084

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£31,023 - £33,943 (pro-rata)  
Children & Families  
Permanent  
17.5 hrs per week  
01546 604048  
Oban Ref: CMF00080

**Senior Social Care Worker**  
£26,753 - £30,129  
Gortanvogie Elderly Home, Islay Ref: CMA00545  
Permanent  
35 hrs per week, Nights  
01546 604048

**Driver/Escort**  
£15,125 - £16,031 (pro-rata)  
Permanent - Term Time  
10 hrs per week  
01546 604034  
Campbeltown Ref: CTF000952

**Driver/Escort**  
£15,125 - £16,031 (pro-rata)  
Temporary - Term Time  
7.5 hrs per week  
01546 604034  
Mull Ref: CTF000951

**Escort**  
£13,427 - £14,662 (pro-rata)  
Permanent - Term Time  
10 hrs per week  
01546 604034  
Campbeltown Ref: CTF000950

**Janitor/Caretaker**  
£15,125 - £16,031 (pro-rata)  
Permanent - Term Time  
20 hrs per week  
01369 708546  
Dalmally Ref: CTF00487/R

**Janitor/Cleaner**  
£13,427 - £14,662 (pro-rata)  
Permanent - Term Time  
9 hrs per week  
01369 708546  
Craignish Primary School Ref: CTF00358/R

**Cleaner**  
£12,270 - £13,022 (pro-rata)  
Permanent  
7.5 hrs per week  
01546 604034  
Mull Resource Centre Ref: CTF00953

**Catering Assistant**  
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Permanent - Term Time  
10 hrs per week  
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Craignish Primary School Ref: CTF00275

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Casual - Variable  
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Campbeltown Area Ref: DVR00151

Closing date: 4 November 2011  
To apply visit our website  
[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs)

**Ingeus supports unemployed people to find lasting work across Scotland and England. The positive impact we have on people's lives is down to the quality of our employees. We are now recruiting for three roles to deliver a range of support that helps local people in Oban and Campbeltown get back to work.**

**Employment Advisors**  
£23,400 - £28,450pa, plus pension and benefits

To us, your attitude and personality matter as much as what's on your CV. We are looking for initiative, creativity, energy and determination because, as an Employment Advisor, you'll be supporting a diverse set of unemployed clients to find lasting jobs. They will each require different support so you'll be doing a job that's varied, challenging and genuinely rewarding. We work to very high standards and performance targets in a positive culture where everyone wants the best for our clients. We are looking for people with an open-minded, determined attitude who can motivate and inspire both themselves and our clients to succeed.

**Receptionist/Administrator**  
£16,600 - £23,250pa, plus pension and benefits

We are looking to recruit a Receptionist/Administrator to provide a warm and professional welcome to all visitors to Ingeus offices and undertake administrative duties. You will provide a high level of support to employment advisors, managers and clients, ensure that essential paperwork is completed and form an integral part of the local team.

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As a Client Liaison Officer you will deliver an outstanding level of customer service to Ingeus clients when they join and during their employment, characterised by exceptional listening and accurate and timely follow-up to queries. The role will be working as a key part of the Ingeus team, based in Oban, and handling calls to and from clients throughout the UK.

The hours of work are 37.5 per week as scheduled with the Team Manager, and will be between 8am and 8pm on weekdays and 9am to 2pm on Saturdays, to include one weekend in three and two evenings per week up to 8pm, with time off in lieu.

Closing date: 31st October 2011  
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**VACANCY**  
**HOUSING MANAGER**  
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You should have:

- A relevant professional qualification or working towards same.
- A proven track record in the leadership, motivation and development of staff with a particular emphasis on change management.
- A strong working knowledge of current relevant legislation and good practice as it relates to housing management.
- A strong commitment to providing a Top Quality Customer Care service.
- Outstanding organisational and communication skills.
- The ability to produce analytical reports.

The hours of work are normally 35 hours per week. To cover the geographic area and meet business requirements, access to transport is a requirement of the job. On occasions it will be necessary to work outwith normal hours.

Fyne Homes stays ahead by finding new ways to deliver our service to the communities in which we work. It may therefore be necessary to vary the duties and working methods to suit the changing requirements of the department. We require staff to participate in ongoing training courses.

Application packs can be obtained from Fyne Homes Ltd, 81 Victoria Street, Rothesay, Isle of Bute PA20 0AP. Tel: 0845 6077117 e-mail: postmaster@fynehomes.co.uk or visit our website - www.fynehomes.org.uk  
Closing Date: Noon on Friday 28th October 2011  
Interview Date: Monday 7th November 2011

Fyne Homes Ltd believes in promoting equality and diversity  
Fyne Homes Limited Registered Office: 81 Victoria Street, Rothesay, Isle of Bute PA20 0AP  
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**Oban Times Oban Times Oban Times**  
**RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT**

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Lakeland Group and Northern Isles Salmon joined forces to become the Meridian Salmon Group. We are a fully integrated salmon producer with both fresh and seawater operations throughout Cumbria, Argyll and the Northern Isles of Orkney and Shetland.

We are seeking the following staff for our sites in Loch Craignish and Loch Melfort, Argyll:

**Boatman**  
To skipper a small workboat and carry out general fish farming and husbandry related tasks i.e. feeding, net cleaning, moorings and cage maintenance etc. You must be qualified to at least Level 2 Powerboat although a Boatmaster's certificate would be an advantage. You must be flexible, have good communication skills and the ability to work within a small team.

**Husbandry Worker**  
We are looking for an enthusiastic, motivated employee to work on our sea sites to assist with feeding, grading and general fish husbandry duties. Previous fish farming experience would be an advantage. Due to the remote location of some of our sites, a driving licence is essential.

**Weekend Staff**  
Staff required for our weekend rota to assist full-time staff on our cage sites. Please send your application to:  
Violet McDougall, HR Manager, Meridian Salmon, Tigh MhicLeoid, 3 Lochnell Street, Lochgilphead, PA31 8JL  
Or email to violet.mcdougall@meridiansalmon.com  
Closing date for applications is Friday 4th November.

**SURE-FOOTED SUBARUS  
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At this time of year, when the days are short and the roads become slippery, you could be forgiven for thinking that taking to the roads in Argyll is a bad idea. However, this needn't be the case.

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On slippery surfaces, conventional front- and rear-wheel-drive cars can easily lose grip, sending the vehicle into a dangerous spin. But Subaru's full-time AWD, coupled with its state-of-the-art Vehicle Dynamics Control, provides extra peace of mind, allowing the driver to relax and hit the road with confidence.

Brian Spicer Dealer Principal at S & S Services, said: "Subaru's All-Wheel-Drive model range, including the Forester, Legacy and Outback, provide reliable and safe driving, even in inclement weather conditions. They highlight our commitment to delivering state-of-the-art active safety to our customers, along with excellent build quality and reliability."

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59 Peugeot 207s SWHDI Estate, Silver, 14,000 miles.....	£9,650
59 Renault Megane Exp DCi 68 5Dr Red 15,500 miles.....	£9,595
58 Peugeot Partner Tepee, 1.6 hdi, Grey, 9,700 miles.....	£9,250
59 Renault Clio Dyn, 1.5 DCI, 5Dr, Silver, 28,000 miles.....	£8,950
09 Ford C-Max Style, 1.6, 5Dr, Blue, 15,000 Miles.....	£7,950
08 Renault Clio Freeway, 3Dr HB, Blue, 8300 miles.....	£5,750
07 Renault Clio Exp., 1.4, 3Dr, Red 45,000 miles.....	£4,995
57 Renault Kangoo Exp, DCi, Green, 35,000 miles.....	£6,500
56 Renault Megane Dyn 1.4, 5Dr, Hatchback, silver.....	£4,250
55 Renault Laguna Dyn, 2.0, Red, 38500 miles.....	£4,750
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54 Renault Megane Estate 1.9 DCi, Blue, 76,000 miles.....	£3,500

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57 Renault Traffic SL27+, DCI 115, Silver.....	£8,000 + vat
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PERSONALS

THANK YOU I would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Yadav, his team and all the staff of Ward A, L.I.D.H. for the care and dedication I received after my operation. Also to my family, friends and neighbours for their phone calls, cards and visits both during my stay in hospital and since I have come home. Cammy (Donald) Dempster, Dunbeg

A Celebration for Margaret Ann Oban FM Tuesday 25th October 2011 11am - 1pm Obanfm.org.uk

Thank you Ian and Noreen Gow celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary with family and friends in Furnace Village Hall (where else?) Lovely catering was by Lochgillhead's Smiddy Bistro, Piper Cameron Bell, "Diamond Wedding Hornpipe" composed and played by John Holt. Thanks to the generosity of the guests, substantial donations have been made to a number of charities including the Jubilee Sailing Trust, the Neurophy Trust and Help for Heroes.

Bernie Mouat Wishes to thank her neighbours in Longdale Crescent for their lovely cards and kindness, also her family and friends for all their support following the loss of her darling daughter Mary. God Bless You All.

Una and Willie Campbell would like to thank family and friends for their cards and gifts on their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Oban Times PERSONALS

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**RUBY WEDDING**

**SMITH - MACINTYRE** - On October 22, 1971, James to Susan by Rev Fr Colin MacInnes at St Columba's Cathedral, Oban. - Lawriestone, Achintore Road, Fort William.

**GOLDEN WEDDING**

**HARRISON - WRIGHT** - James to Catherine, October 19, 1961 at Parish Church, Oban by Rev William MacDonald.

**DEATHS**

**GOLL** - Peacefully in Dunarros Hospital on Wednesday, October 12, 2011, Eileen, of Pennyghael, Isle of Mull, much-loved wife of the late Ray and mother of Jonathan. Funeral service at Bunessan Church on Friday October 21, at 12 noon. Family flowers only, please, but donations, if wished, to Cancer Research, the RSPB, or the RNLI.

**MACDOUGALL** - Peacefully on October 12, 2011, aged 80 years, Mary, beloved wife of Danny, much loved mum of Marian, Liz, Charles, Lorna, Fiona, Donald and Kenny, a loving and dearly loved granny and mother-in-law. Sorely missed. RIP.

**MACFARLANE** - Suddenly on October 10, 2011 at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, Kathleen (Kay) MacFarlane (née Field), aged 61 years of Moniaive, Dumfriesshire, much loved and cherished wife of Graeme, wonderful mum and mother-in-law to Garry and Laura and treasured daughter of Agnes. Funeral service took place at Glencairn Church, Kirkland, Moniaive on Tuesday, October 18.

**MACINTYRE** - Peacefully after a long illness, at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on Sunday October 16, 2011, in her 76th year. Flora, beloved wife of Hugh, a much loved mother, granny and great granny. Funeral will take place from St. Columba's Cathedral, Oban on Friday 21 October at 10am. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only, please. Retiring Collection/ Donations if desired for The North Argyll Stroke Association.

**MACKENZIE** - Peacefully at home on Saturday October 15, 2011, in her 90th year, Mary nee Bell, beloved wife of the late Iain MacKenzie, much loved mum of Maïri, Christine and Catherine and a very dear nana to Yvonne, Jamie, Gavin, Oran and Alfie.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**BLUE** - The family of the late Mary Blue would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their kind messages of sympathy, cards and support following their recent sad bereavement. A special thank you to the Rev Dugald Cameron for his words of comfort and prayers during this time of sorrow. Many thanks to Fiona and Roddie of McDonald Funeral Directors Lochgilphead for once again guiding us. To Moreen Gracie for her beautiful floral display. To the staff and doctors of Ward B Lorn and Islands Hospital especially Sian, Rachel and Tracie for their dedicated care and kindness. To the doctors and staff at the Lorn Medical Centre. To Joan, Rae and Louise for the strength and support you gave "Wee Mary". To Chrissie Thomson for her words of comfort and finally to Jessie Scott. Jessie you were a shoulder to cry on and a true friend when mum needed you. You will always hold a special place in our family's heart. We miss you mum and always will.

**GRANT** - Malcolm, Shirley and family would like to thank very sincerely all neighbours and friends for their support and kindness by way of letters, cards, telephone calls and visits following our recent sad loss. Much appreciation to Rev Ann Winning for her moving and comforting service, Barbara Summers for her beautiful music, Helen and Douglas MacIntyre for their caring and efficient handling of the funeral, to Ballachulish Hotel for their hospitality and May MacConnacher for the wonderful flower arrangements. Very special thanks to all that paid their last respects at church and graveside and for the generous donations which will be going to Abbeyfield Mini Bus Fund.

**INNES** - Isabel and Frankie would like to sincerely thank all family, friends and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy shown to us

in so many ways, on our recent sad loss. Special thanks to Craig Nevis Practice, Macmillan Nurses and Belford Hospital for all their medical care and attention. And to the Rev Richard Corbett for his visits and comforting service. Ewen and John for their sensitive handling of funeral arrangements. Tosh at Corpach Hotel for refreshments and last but not least to all who paid their respects, at the church and graveside, and who generously donated £900.00 to the Lochaber Branch of Macmillan Nurses.

**MACFARLANE** - The family of the late Sandy MacFarlane would like to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards, Mass cards, letters and floral tributes received following their sad loss. Grateful thanks to Dr Topham, Acharacle, ambulance and helicopter personnel, the staff of Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, CCU and ICU. Thanks to Monsignor Thomas Wynne for his compassionate service and tribute. Thanks to the organist, flower arranger, piper, Mr Ewen MacLennan and staff for funeral arrangements and Mrs Eileen Anne Chisholm and staff of the West End Hotel for catering. Sincere thanks and admiration for all who came from near and far, in challenging weather conditions, to pay their respects at the church and graveside.

**MACKENZIE** - The family of the late Mary MacKenzie would like to thank all family, friends and organisations for their kind expressions of sympathy and support, cards, flowers and telephone calls, received following Mary's death. Special thanks to the staff of the Beatson Unit, Glasgow and for the support of doctors at Lorn Medical Centre, Oban, plus the wonderful Macmillan team at Lorn and the Isles Hospital, Oban for excellent care and comfort far beyond the call of duty. Grateful thanks to Rev Dugald Cameron for his memorable service, to Lyndsey MacCallum and Karl Teggary for their eloquent memories of Mary, and to the staff of D A Munn for their very professional, sensitive and trustworthy funeral arrangements; not forgetting Soroba House Hotel for catering admirably for so many. The family are overwhelmed and humbled by the number who travelled such distances to pay their respects at the church and the graveside. Their generous donations will allow more than £3,000 to be shared between the Friends of the Beatson, and Macmillan Cancer Support, in Mary's memory.

**MACLENNAN** - The family of the late Mary Anne MacLennan would like to thank all doctors, nurses, carers, neighbours and friends for all their kindness and help over the years. Rev. MacLean for a comforting service, Andy and team for the funeral arrangements and the Lodge Hotel for catering. The sum of £620 was raised by donations and given to The Beatson. The family would also like to thank everyone who attended church and graveside and for the many cards, flowers and telephone calls received.

**MACINNES** - Margaret and the family of the late Duncan MacInnes would like to thank all relatives, neighbours and friends for their sincere messages, cards and flowers of sympathy following their recent bereavement. Many thanks to the doctors and the nurses of Ward 56, Southern General Hospital, Glasgow, and the caring medical staff of Tice Surgery. We would like to thank the Reverend Elspeth MacLean, Lachie MacKinnon and John Gundersen for their kind words and prayers at the comforting service, also the talented musicians Joyce, Daniel and Martin in the church and Coinneach and Niall at the graveside. Andy and the staff at the Co-op for the funeral arrangements, Tice Lodge Hotel for the catering and to all that paid their last respects at Kirkapoll Church and Graveyard and for the generous donation of £550 which will be shared between Tice surgery and Kirkapoll Church of Scotland.

**ROSS/BOYLE** - Martin, Ross, Ian, Ronald and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy extended to them in their recent sad loss of their much loved mum and sister Annie. Thanks also to Rev D MacQuarrie, Mike

McFall, MacDonald Bros and all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside and so generously donated the sum of £850 to the Belford Hospital Medical Unit.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**BISSETT** - Robert, Craigard, Banavie, died October 27, 2005. Always in our thoughts

- From the Stoddart family, Craigard, Banavie.

**FORBES** - My beloved father, Albert Francis, died October 25, 1991, also my darling mother, Rosina, died February 20, 1991. Both loved and remembered everyday.

- By their loving daughter Annette.

**JOHNSTON** - In loving memory of my dear husband Neil who died at home in Tice on October 22, 2005. Always remembered.

- Vivienne.

**MACASKILL** - In loving memory of Margaret Ann (Annie), who died October 16, 2000. Your life was one of kindly deeds

And helping hands for others needs Loved and remembered always.

- Inserted by her loving twin sister Morag.

**MACBEAN** - In loving memory of our dear brother Forbes, who passed away on the October 25, 2000. Sadly missed.

- Janette and Gillian.

**MACCUISH** - Loving memories of my mum Marie, (Merak), who passed away October 29, 2001. Also my sister Maïri.

- Joan.

**MACCUISH** - Treasured memories of my beloved husband Norman who passed away on October 20, 1997. A bouquet of beautiful memories Is sprayed with a million tears

Wishing God could have spared you For just a few more years You gave me many things in life

Gifts both great and small But above all else you gave me love The greatest gift of all. Love and miss you always.

- Flora

**MACGILLIVRAY** - Archie, who was sadly taken from us far too soon on October 17, 2009

He was the best father anybody could have wished for. Life will never be the same for the family who loved him so much. Remember always

- Ian, Graham and David

**MACKILLOP** - Remembering with love our dear mother and nana, Mary, who died on October 26, 2004.

The rolling stream of life goes on But still the empty chair Reminds us of the face, the smile

Of one who once sat there Mum, you are not forgotten Though on earth you are no more Still in memory you are with us

As you always were before. - Helen and Joe.

A special person, a special face Someone we loved and can't replace Never selfish, always kind These are the memories, nana, you left behind.

- Iain, Deirdre and Mhairi.

**MACKILLOP**

Remembering with love a dearly loved and respected brother and uncle, Willie, who passed away October 14, 2007

You always had a smile to share

Time to give and time to care A loving nature kind and true

Is the way that we'll remember you Rest in peace.

- Helen and Joe. There's a face we shall always remember A voice we shall always recall

A memory to cherish forever Of an uncle who was dear to us all

Loved and remembered always.

- Iain, Deirdre and Mhairi.

**MACLEAN** - In loving memory of Eoin, a dear brother, uncle and grand-uncle, died October 21, 2009.

We often sit and think of you And think of how you died We never got to say goodbye

Before you closed your eyes. Our Lady Star of the Sea pray for him.

- Annag and family, Oban and Glasgow.

**MACPHERSON** - In loving memory of our much loved mum and granny, Annie, who died October 21, 2010.

Also remembering our father and grandpa, William, died July 29, 1991.

Sorely missed Billy, Ann, Megan and Mitchell

Jean and Donnie

**MEWILLIAM** - With love we remember Alex, a dear husband, dad, father-in-law, grandad and great grandad, died October 23, 2007, also Sandra, a darling daughter, sister, sister-in-law, aunt and great aunt, died September 21, 2005, dear mummy to Kieren and Brogan, also loved ones gone before and since.

No longer in our lives to share But in our hearts you are always there.

- Mary, Rosemary, Isobel, Trisha and families.

**WATT** - In loving memory of Frances Watt who passed away on October 23, 2010. Forever in our hearts

Beloved wife of Alasdair, much loved mother of Susan, devoted grandmother to Louise, Richard and Laura and great-grandmother to Lauren, Abby, Erin, Shaun, Joseph and Liam.

**Coffee morning brews up a tasty £200**



More than £200 was raised at Oban Congregational Church's coffee morning last weekend. Despite the poor weather, folk turned out to enjoy the church's famous home baking. Crafts were also on sale to boost their coffers. The organisers passed on their thanks to 'Gary's gang' of volunteers as well as all those who supported the event. Pictured are Cath Miller, Beatrice Keenan, Audrey Hunter, Gary Gladman and Mary MacMillan. 15\_1422/0601

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

**Help spread the word about faith in Argyll**

A SMALL group of local people are producing a short book of prayers from Argyll.

It will also include a few words on the church or place each contributor comes from.

We think that so many visitors come here for the scenery and don't see that this is also a place where many people of faith live.

Our idea is to help tourists become pilgrims by telling them about the faith communities living here.

We need your help. Will you send

us something that will allow others to get to know your church?

We suggest a maximum of 500 words in two parts, the first to be prayer/reflection/meditation/musing or a poem on God's creation or Argyll and the second to be a few words telling others what is remarkable or outstanding about the place you worship or about a special person from that place.

If you feel you can only do one part of the above, that is fine - just send your contribution to us and we

will find someone else to write the other half.

We would like to receive your contributions by email in Word format. If this would be difficult for you please talk to one of us and we will find another way of receiving your contribution. We are encouraged by the contributions we have received so far.

We will promote these books to tourists and will encourage them to visit the areas of the contributing groups. There will be a map in the

book to help visitors travel.

If you would like more information please get in touch with one of us either by email: argyllmusings@hotmail.co.uk or by ringing one of these numbers: Alan, 01546 510385 or Margaret 01546 606914.

If we are overwhelmed by contributions then we will save some for Book Two! We will also set up a website and put all contributions received on it.

Alan Hawkins, Margaret Jacobsen, Norman Martin

**'Everything up for discussion' over fish farm legislation**

SCOTLAND'S largest farmed salmon producer has called for the Scottish Government to mediate talks between farmed and wild fishing interests to protect both industries.

The call, from Steve Bracken of Marine Harvest, comes following a BBC documentary that reveals the Scottish Government is considering new legislation which may prevent fish farming in coastal areas identi-

fied as important for the survival of wild fish stocks.

The legislation is being considered in response to claims from anglers and landowners that parasites from farms are at least partly to blame for declines in wild salmon and sea trout stocks.

But Mr Bracken says legislation could have major ramifications for the west coast's fishing industry - one of the area's biggest employ-

ers - and urged the government to have in-depth talks with both sides before coming to any decision.

He said: 'This is a very, very important issue for Scotland and for the west coast in particular.'

'We'd like to see a half way house in this. Can we do more for the wild fisheries, using the skills, expertise and equipment available to us to help them? We'd like to see a meeting of minds on these views rather

than one industry battling against the other. Clearly there needs to be discussions through the Scottish Government.'

In the programme, Scotland's Fishy Secrets, environment minister Stewart Stevenson said: 'Everything is open for discussion.'

The documentary comes as the demand for Scottish salmon booms thanks to a new trade agreement with China.

**ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES**

**ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN**

Campbell Street Church Sunday 23 October 2011 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Phone-In 'Worship Link' available

Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh (01631) 567076 All welcome

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**

Sunday 23 October 2011 Trinity 18 St John's Cathedral, Oban Bible Sunday

Holy Communion .....08.00 Sung Eucharist .....10.15 Sunday School and Creche Loop System

Large Print Hymn Books All Welcome Norman MacCallum, Provost. (01631) 562323

St Columba, Gruline, Mull Mattins ..... 11.00

St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Holy Eucharist .....08.00 Evensong ..... 20.00

**WEDDINGS**



Malcolm McFadyen and Catherine Lilian MacNeil were married on 24th September 2011 at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Castlebay, Isle of Barra. Photo by Ronnie MacNeil.

**CHARITY DONATIONS**

**WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT** Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer West of Scotland Fundraising Office 1st Floor, Erskine House North Avenue, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR Tel 0808 100 6000 In memory of Dawn Joyce

**Oban Hospice** CARING FOR THE FUTURE Donations always gratefully accepted Please contact David Mudie (Treasurer) Oban Hospice Ltd The Croft Kilmore

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**MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE** Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch Donations always gratefully accepted Please contact Mrs Lillian Kermode Tynwald, Glenburn, Soroba Road, Oban 01631 571009

**CANCER RESEARCH UK** Fighting Cancer on all fronts... CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation Commitment of over £15 million each year Cancer Research UK Scotland Suite 1/1, Unit 4 Blair Court Clydebank Business Park Clydebank, G81 2LA

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**Mod week wedding for couple who met through love of music**

A COUPLE who met through their mutual love of Gaelic music have tied the knot at this week's Mòd.

But Murdo and Sheena MacRitchie decided to marry on Monday, so that the bride could compete in solo and choir competitions later in the week. Murdo's best man, and long time friend, Raymond Bremner conducts Sheena's choir, Melvich.

After encouraging his Lewis friend to come up to a ceilidh in Caithness to see his choir, Murdo joked: 'I've heard you have a Herach in your choir. Maybe I'll get off with her.'

Little did Murdo know, the Herach he had referred to would become his wife.

Murdo, aged 46, explained: 'I didn't know who she was, she could have been 16 or 60.'

'When we did meet we got on really well and we got together at the Bettyhill Mòd a couple of weeks later.'

Two-and-a-half years later, the couple were married by Rev Donald John Morrison at the Church of Scotland in Tarbert, Harris.

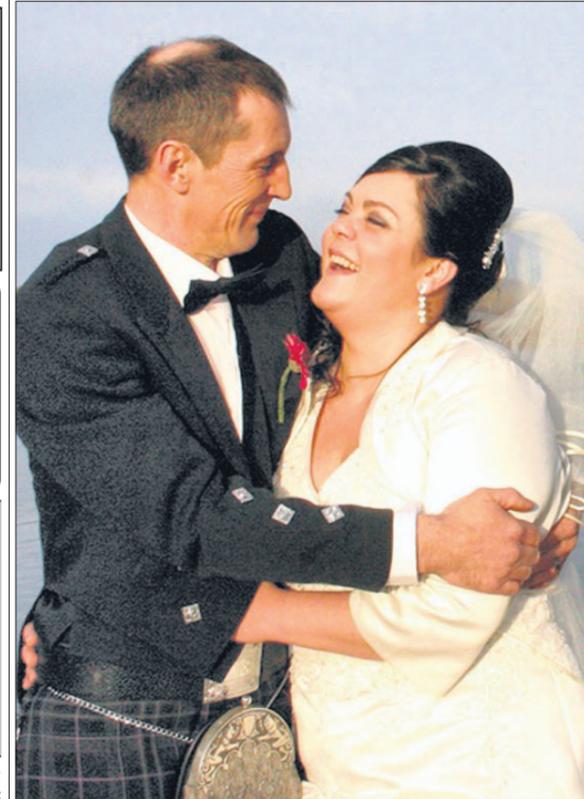
Their reception and wedding dance was held at the North Lochs Community Hall, to the music of Pneumatic Drills, in Murdo's home village of Leurbost.

Murdo added: 'We still go to ceilidhs and we attend every Mòd. Sheena competes but I just take in the atmosphere.'

'The Mòd means a lot to us because that is how we met and it has remained a big part of our lives.'

This week, Sheena, aged 33, who has sung at the Mòd for a number of years, was due to compete in the learners traditional solo competition.

The couple now live in Crieff, where Murdo is a mechanic and Sheena works as a nurse.



Happy couple: Murdo and Sheena MacRitchie, who were married at the Mòd on Monday so the bride could compete in solo and choir competitions.

# Oban Camanachd must rely on results elsewhere

## Newtonmore move level with Kyles

OBAN CAMANACHD go into their final game of the season relying on results elsewhere to ensure they remain in shinty's top flight.

A 5-0 drubbing at the hands of title-chasing Newtonmore on Saturday means Oban occupy the second relegation spot, a point adrift of both Lovat and Inveraray.

The home side raced to a 4-0 lead by half time, aided by Oban's David MacInnes being sent off after half an hour, and the result was never in doubt.

Oban Camanachd now face a vital last match against Kilmallie after the break for the international games.

And even if they were to win that encounter, they must rely on results elsewhere to go in their favour.

Oban Camanachd president, Nigel Evans, said he was particularly disappointed in the manner of his side's defeat against Newtonmore.

'While taking nothing away from Newtonmore, who were worthy winners, our performance level was not good enough, with only Daniel Cameron and David MacMillan, plus the rest of our overworked defence, playing near to the standard needed in the Premier Division. 'Our aim now is to win our

final league game against Kilmallie to ensure we have premier league shinty in Oban next season. That has always been the main priority of all at the club.

'To fall short would be damaging to the club considering all the hard work over the last five years.

'It is up to the players to focus on the last game and ensure we remain in the premier league.'

Nigel believes it will be either Oban or Lovat who will go down.

'Inveraray have enough quality to avoid the drop,' he said.

**Optimistic**

But he remains optimistic. 'Interestingly, half our points have come against the top four sides in the division.

'However, due to a combination of poor finishing and poor officiating, we took no points from the vital games against Lovat, when we were the better side on both occasions.'

It is now an anxious wait until the middle of next month until Oban Camanachd's fate is decided.

No such worries for NEWTONMORE, who have moved level with Kyles Athletic at the top of the premier league as the season nears its climax. With Kyles' game with Kin-

gussie called off due to a waterlogged pitch, the 'More took on struggling Oban Camanachd at the Eilan and the Camanachd Cup champions had little difficulty getting the win, and quickly found themselves a goal up through Danny MacRae's 10th minute strike.

Glen MacIntosh scored his first goal of what turned into a memorable day for the forward when he converted a penalty nine minutes later.

The points were looking secure for the home side after just 24 minutes when MacIntosh grabbed his second of the game, and he completed his hat trick two minutes before half time.

Oban's case wasn't helped by David MacInnes' sending off, but the 'More didn't add to their lead until the 90th minute, when MacIntosh scored his fourth of the game to make the final score 5-0.

**GLENURQUHART** ended their season with a comfortable 4-1 win against bottom side **GLENORCHY**, putting them in fourth position in the premier league.

The win means the Drumadrocht side finish the 2011 season with 20 points - a total manager Jim Barr had previously set as a target for his side. Although they can still

mathematically be overtaken by Kingussie and Kilmallie, the Glen will see this year as a success.

Last weekend's win came courtesy of goals from John Barr and Liam Girvan, who both hit the net twice.

John MacNulty scored for the hosts, only the fifth time Glenorchy have scored in their 18 league games.

**Perfect**

In the final fixture of the South Division 1 season, champions **BUTE** made it 16 out of 16 to complete a perfect league season with a crushing 6-0 win against lowly **KILMORY**.

In North Division 2, **FORT WILLIAM'S** second string went down 1-0 to Glengarry in their final game of the season on Saturday, but still managed to finish in second place in north division two.

The match was moved from An Aird to Invergarry, and Aaron Clark scored the game's solitary goal four minutes into the second half. The 'Garry were looking for revenge after Fort beat them 3-2 earlier in the year.

Fort finished the season one point ahead of Glengarry on 25 points - eight behind runaway league champions Newtonmore.



Action from the Leòdhais Camanachd versus Uist Camanachd Mòd Cup Final played at Sgoil Lionacleit, Benbecula, last Saturday. Photo: Graham Hood

# Mòd Cup success for Camanachd Leòdhais

## Church strikes in each half to secure win against determined Uist outfit

CAMANACHD Leòdhais overcame a determined Uist Camanachd 2-0 to raise the Mòd Cup for the first time on Saturday at Sgoil Lionacleit, Benbecula.

A goal in either half from Will Church was the difference between the two sides that were watched by a good sized crowd, some of whom migrated from the Piping Competitions taking place simultaneously in the school.

Lewis started strongly with Stuart Campbell winning the ball from the centre against his younger Uist namesake Ewen. Uist had not had time to settle when, after two minutes, Church had the ball in the back of the net. A scrappy goal but one the Leòdhais celebrated with vigour.

Uist took a little time to find their feet, hitting against the wind but with Calum 'Trumsgarry' MacDonald and Niall John Campbell making excellent clearances from the back, more often than not they were able to put the Lewis backline under pressure, although Conor MacDonald was not seriously challenged in between the posts.

With about 20 minutes gone, the referee, Henry MacInnes, gave a penalty against Uist, but



Leòdhais Camanachd winners of the Mòd Cup. Photo: Graham Hood

Donald Lamont's shot was saved by Ruairidh 'Blot' MacDonald, which meant that Lamont had spoiled his career perfect record from the spot.

Worse was to come for Lamont when MacInnes adjudged that he had swung out at Uist captain Steven Morrison a few minutes later. Lamont was asked to leave the pitch to be replaced by Sean MacLeod.

Scott Murray was making good progress down the wing, in a more liberated position but Lewis were being particularly wasteful in front of goal with Calum Stammer and Ally MacKenzie not putting MacDonald under any kind of pressure.

Intelligent balls into the Lewis area from Eoghann MacLissac and Ewen Campbell were causing problems and only some scrappy defending kept Graham

Black and Angus MacDonald off the score sheet.

Lewis were reasonably relieved to reach half time with their lead intact but also annoyed that they hadn't extended it. Uist, for their part, sensed that they could have Lewis rocking if they could snatch an equaliser.

**Veteran**

Veteran Angus MacInnes took the field for Uist and his experience provided some very good structure up front and his game intelligence almost caught the Leòdhais off guard. Only some fine defending from Paul Duke saved the day.

On about the hour mark, a Uist touch in the box from MacDonald slipped agonisingly past Conor MacDonald's left post.

This was a pivotal moment of the game as a few minutes later

Church drifted past a couple of defenders to pop the ball home and make Lewis' lead more secure.

Church almost snatched his hat-trick with minutes left and Stuart Campbell blazed the ball only inches over but the score remained the same and although Uist battled gamely until the end, Lewis were able to snuff out any threat as time ran out.

The trophies and medals were presented by Mary MacInnes, whose father Lachlan MacQueen was the last surviving member of the 1907 Tigharry team which won the Uist Shinty Cup.

Stuart Campbell was named MG ALBA player of the match and Lewis were happy to take the Mòd Cup over Caolas na Hearadh.

# Youngsters put through their paces



A shinty camp run by the Camanachd Association in conjunction with the local Active School Co-ordinator Dale Kupris was held at Mossfield Stadium, Oban, last week. The camp was well attended by 24 young players who were put through their paces by Darren Reid, Argyll and Bute Shinty Development Officer, and Glenorchy's Allan MacKechanie. Each child took away a t-shirt courtesy of the Artimis MacAulay Association to mark the occasion.

### Fixtures

**Saturday 22 October**  
There are no fixtures scheduled due to the shinty/hurling international match

### Results

**Saturday 15 October**  
**Scottish Hydro Premier Division**  
Kyles Athletic v Kingussie 17 7 5 19  
Kilmallie v Lovat 15 7 1 7 15  
Inveraray 17 6 1 10 13  
Oban Camanachd 17 5 2 10 12  
Glenorchy 18 0 0 18 0

**Marine Harvest North Division One**  
Kinlochshiel 14 14 0 0 28  
Lochaber 14 9 1 4 19  
Beaully 14 6 5 3 17  
Caberfeidh 14 6 3 5 15  
Lochcarron 14 4 5 5 13  
Skye 14 4 2 8 10  
Inverness 14 1 4 9 6  
Strathglass 14 1 2 11 4

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Kilmory 0 Bute 6

### League tables

Scottish Hydro Premier Division	P	W	D	L	Pts
Kyles Athletic	15	12	3	0	27
Newtonmore	16	12	3	1	27
Fort William	18	10	2	6	22
Glenurquhart	18	9	2	7	20
Kingussie	17	7	5	5	19
Kilmallie	15	7	1	7	15
Lovat	17	6	1	10	13
Inveraray	17	6	1	10	13
Oban Camanachd	17	5	2	10	12
Glenorchy	18	0	0	18	0

Marine Harvest North Division One	P	W	D	L	Pts
Kinlochshiel	14	14	0	0	28
Lochaber	14	9	1	4	19
Beaully	14	6	5	3	17
Caberfeidh	14	6	3	5	15
Lochcarron	14	4	5	5	13
Skye	14	4	2	8	10
Inverness	14	1	4	9	6
Strathglass	14	1	2	11	4

Marine Harvest South Division One	P	W	D	L	Pts
Bute	16	16	0	0	32
Glasgow MA	16	10	3	3	23
Lochside Rvrs	16	8	3	5	19
Taynult	16	7	2	7	16
Ballachulish	16	7	2	7	16
Kyles Athletic	16	7	1	9	13
Oban Celtic	16	4	4	8	12
Kilmory	16	3	2	11	8
Aberdour	16	2	1	13	5

Marine Harvest North Division Two	P	W	D	L	Pts
Newtonmore	18	16	1	1	33
Fort William	18	11	3	4	25
Glengarry	18	12	0	6	24
Kingussie	18	7	2	9	16
Skye	18	7	1	10	15
Lochaber	18	7	0	11	14
Kinlochshiel	18	6	2	11	14
Lovat	18	7	1	10	13
Glenurquhart	18	6	1	11	13
Kilmallie	18	3	5	10	11

Marine Harvest South Division Two	P	W	D	L	Pts
Strachur	14	12	1	1	25
Tayforth	14	11	1	2	23
Bute	14	7	3	4	17
Colglen	14	7	0	7	14
Ballachulish	14	5	1	8	11
Inveraray	14	5	0	7	10
Glasgow MA	14	4	8	7	10
Aberdour	14	1	0	13	2

Marine Harvest North Division Three	P	W	D	L	Pts
Aberdeen U	18	18	0	0	36
Beaully	18	13	2	3	28
Boleskine	18	14	1	4	27
Caberfeidh	18	12	2	4	26
Lochcarron	18	7	2	9	16
Lochbroom	18	6	4	8	16
Inverness	18	5	1	12	11
Strathglass	18	4	1	13	9
Ardnamurchan	18	4	0	14	8
Lewis	18	1	1	15	3

### Kinlochshiel's John Macrae to lead Scotland's under 21s

THE SCOTTISH National under 21s squad for the Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling Internationals has been announced by head coach Donnie Martin, with Kinlochshiel's John MacRae named captain.

The U21s will take on Ireland at Bught Park on Saturday, October 29, with throw up at 12pm. Later in the day, the

senior international sides will go head-to-head.

The squad in full: Paul MacKay (Fort William), Stevie Stewart (Fort William), Daniel Grieve (Lovat), Malcolm Miller (Kyles Athletic), Drew Howie (Lovat), Iain Nicolson (Skye Camanachd), Mark MacDonald (Kinlochshiel), John MacRae (Kinlochshiel) - Captain,

Liam Cameron (Kilmallie), David MacLean (Beaully), Conor Cormack (Beaully), Callum Cruden (Lovat), James MacPherson (Lovat), Ryan Borthwick (Kingussie), Thomas Borthwick (Kingussie), Zander Ferguson (Lochaber), Liam MacDonald (Kilmallie), Neale Reid (Glenurquhart), Leighton Reid (Bute).



## WIN £900

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

**All you have to do**

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

**Easy to enter**

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition Rules**

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

D McAulay  
Forest View, Strachur

D MacDonald  
Mossgiel, Mallaig

# 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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

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## Taynuilt pick up all three points

FOOTBALL

**Glasgow West 3, Taynuilt 4**  
TAYNUILT Amateurs triumphed over Glasgow West for the second time in a month after finishing on top in a thrilling encounter.

A Scott Maitland 20 yard rocket was the pick of the goals, but there was quality from every quarter in a match packed with action.

Glasgow West took the lead against the run of play halfway through the first half, but Kris Gillies brought Taynuilt level with his first goal of the season before the whistle.

Taynuilt started the second half where they left the first, so it was no surprise when the visitors took the lead through Paul Carmichael for a corner kick.

A hand ball in the box from Davie McPhee was spotted by the referee and from the resulting penalty Glasgow West drew level.

With 15 minutes remaining, young Maitland's rocket put Taynuilt back in the driving seat.

Josh Rippon looked to have secured the team's first away win of the season when he added a fourth on his debut with a well placed shot.

But the hosts netted their third in injury time following a great run from their substitute to set up a tense few minutes for Taynuilt.

It looked like the spoils would be shared in the last minute, when the same player found himself space, but his shot hammered the crossbar and Taynuilt went home with the win.

# Local success at Mull Rally

Paul MacKinnon was the clear winner by over five minutes in his Subaru Impreza

THERE was local success at the Tunnocks Mull Rally at the weekend, with Paul MacKinnon clinching top spot with co-driver Ewen MacGillivray.

In total, 116 crews lined up for the start of the event, with dry weather for the opening heralding a rapid three days of competition.

However, so fiendish was the course that 61 drivers retired throughout the event, underlining the challenges facing each team.

MacKinnon was the clear winner in his Subaru Impreza WRC, with over five minutes between him and nearest competitor, James MacGillivray, in a Subaru Impreza.

Third was Daniel Harper, with his BMW Mini Cooper S just 21 seconds shy of second spot.

With the dry weather on the Friday, the first event was an

evening stage, with drivers quickly blasting over the Mishnish Lochs from Tobermory to Dervaig.

Dervaig's Calum Duffy was the early pace setter, taking an advantage of six seconds from his Tobermory based rival, MacKinnon.

But the eventual champion snatched back some vital seconds on the next stage, a 14.5 mile scramble. While the pair were separated by just one second going into the fourth stage, Duffy dropped 30 seconds through the

short Bunessan stage at the south end of the island with gearbox problems.

MacKinnon too had issue on this new stage, and was outshone by visiting crews.

Duffy later retired on the seventh stage of the event with gearbox problems and the remainder of the Friday leg was dominated by a determined MacKinnon.

The daylight stages of Saturday afternoon started in Bunessan, with a dampness in the air. With two crews from the village competing, Craig Rutherford



The podium cars are led through Tobermory by Tunnock's period delivery vehicle. LindsayPhotoSport



Mull Rally winners on the podium. LindsayPhotoSport

## Rugby World Cup Tag Festival

PRIMARY RUGBY

LAST week more than 180 primary children from the Oban area descended onto Oban Lorne's playing fields at Glencruitten to take part in the first ever 'Oban and Lorn Rugby World Cup Tag Festival'. Each team was given a country to represent for the day to promote the 2011 Rugby World Cup which made for a colourful display of teams out on the pitches.

The event was organised by Argyll and Bute rugby development officer, Allan Wright and the Oban and Lorn Active Schools co-ordinator and proved to be huge successes, hopefully raising the profile of the sport to the youngsters in the area and increasing the number of young players.

A large majority of the games were refereed by Scottish Rugby modern apprentices, Emma Roxburgh and Fergus Matheson who were said to be very impressed with the quality and standard of the entertaining Tag Rugby on show from all the teams.

The P4/5 age group was won by Namibia (Lochnell Primary) while Park (Italy) beat Dunbeg (Ireland) in the P6/7 final to lift the shield for the older age category. The finalists were made to work hard all day long with fierce competition from the other schools including teams from Park, Dunbeg, Rockfield, Lochnell and Barcalidne/Ardochattan.

## Saints youth teams back in action

YOUTH FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints youth teams get back to action this weekend after the October school holiday break with the following fixtures: Under 13s v Lenzie Youth Club; Under 14s v Morton BC; Under 15s no game; Argyll Athletic v Under 16s.

## Just Champion at Islay Golf Club

GOLF

GLEANER Oil Champion of Champions at Islay Golf Club: 1 Nigel Carmichael 74 less 5 net 69; 2 Charles Holyoake 76 less 5 net 71; 3 Callum Davy 89 less 17 net 72. C.S. 71

## Class victory for Tobermory driver

RALLYING

TOBERMORY driver John MacCrone finally saw all his hard work and efforts pay off last weekend when he took a class victory and 17th overall on Rally of Scotland, the only UK round of the International Rally Challenge.

The 22-year-old Rally Team Scotland driver had endured a fraught year up until last weekend, his season at home and abroad a tale of mechanical woes and accidents.

But through the classic stages of Perthshire and Stirlingshire, MacCrone - accompanied by regular co-driver Stuart Loudon - held it all together to produce a fantastic result in their rebuilt Tunnock's Fiesta R2.

It was MacCrone's first event since the massive accident the pair suffered on the ADAC Rallye Deutschland in August.

## Season comes to an end at Dalmally

THE end of the season saw several finals being contested amongst the gents of Dalmally Golf Club.

A titanic struggle for the Matchplay Singles Championship saw Davy McLeod lose out in extra time for the second year running, this time to former club champion Des McNulty.

A dramatic match saving putt on the 17th saw Des take the tie down the last before claiming the title on the first extra hole.

In the Doubles Final, Gerry Davies and Shaun Squire played flawless golf to outgun father and son Jim and Scott Livingstone.

The Livingstones' outward better ball score of 31 would have been enough to see daylight

on any other day, but on this occasion the pair were beaten by an incredible 29 from the eventual champions, who never let go on the home run.

The season's finale saw the ten qualifiers from the monthly strokeplay competitions battle it out in the Medal Final.

Net 63s - normally enough to win over the Orchy course - were posted by Robbie Johnston, Andrew Smith and Stuart Buchanan. However it was a late surge from Colin McKay with an excellent 61 that saw the Arrochar man claim the coveted prize.

The final competition to be decided was the new Nine Hole Stableford League. Played over

## Perfect conditions as Proffitt defends his Classic title

DEFENDING champion, Ben Proffitt, took full advantage of perfect weather conditions on the last day of competition to reclaim his title at Tiree Wave Classic.

On what was a thrilling day of action on Friday, the 33 year old pulled out all the stops to fight back and beat three-time winner John Skye to secure the title and maintain his position at the top of the British Wavesailing Association (BWA) Tour.

It was a fitting way to celebrate the event's 25th anniversary, with weather conditions absolutely perfect for what is the most hotly anticipated competition on the calendar.

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# Saints march on in Scottish Cup after good win at Glasgow Green

Fosters Scottish Amateur Cup - First Round  
**Weir Recreation 1**  
**Oban Saints 4**

AT THE third time of asking this Scottish Amateur Cup first round tie got underway after two postponements due to the recent bad weather. The game was transferred to the 3G pitch at Glasgow Green to ensure the match would get played.

The game was billed as the battle of the Graham family - Jamie and Chris playing for the Oban side and Ross, now living and working in Glasgow and a former Saints stalwart, captaining Weirs.

The game got underway at a brisk pace with both teams going at it right from the start. Craig MacEwan thought he

had opened the scoring in the seventh minute when he dinked the ball over the keeper, but Alan Devine was on hand to clear the ball off the line.

The home side took the lead in the 19th minute when Saints gave away a free kick. The ball was floated into the box and wasn't cleared properly. It fell kindly for Simon Young, who wasted no time in drilling an unstoppable shot past the helpless Graham Douglas.

The game change dramatically in the 32nd minute when a net-bound header from Marc MacCallum was handled on the goal line by Martin Guthrie, leaving referee Jim Laird, who had a good game, no option but to point to the penalty spot and show the Weirs' defender

the red card. Donald Campbell stepped up and drilled the ball past Weirs' keeper Mike Connolly and into the net to make the score 1-1.

Saints settled down after this and started to play some good football and were unlucky three minutes later when Donald Campbell played a clever free kick inside the Weirs' defence for Craig MacEwan but his shot hit the post and was scrambled clear.

However, the goal the visitor's play deserved came in the 36th minute when Lewis Cameron made progress up the flank before sending a great pass across the goals for Craig MacEwan who steered the ball past the keeper and into the net.

The 10-man home side were

struggling a bit, but to their credit they never gave up and some poor marking allowed Paul Kelly a free header at goal, much to the annoyance of the Saints manager. Just on the half time

whistle the visitors had keeper Graham Douglas to thank for making a fine diving save low down to his left.

With the manager's message ringing in their ears the boys came out at the start of the second half and played some good football and created several excellent chances, but some poor finishing and good defending denied them the vital third goal which would surely kill the game off.

Although a man down Weirs kept plugging away and pressed forward as often as they could, but with only one man up front they were never a real danger to the Saints rearguard.

The third goal the Oban side needed eventually came in the 61st minute when Willie Gemmill, who had come on for Marc

MacCallum at half time, sent Lewis Cameron through and the youngster calmly slotted the ball past Mike Connolly to make the score 3-1. Lewis had another chance minutes later but the keeper saved his effort.

The man advantage Saints had was taking its toll on the Caledonian League side as they tired visibly as the clock ran down, but the Oban boys should have been doing a lot better with the amount of possession they had.

The visitors passed up an excellent chance to increase their lead when substitute Alan Miller was clean through, but shot straight at the keeper.

Donald Campbell was next to miss a couple of gilt edged chances, one effort hit the woodwork and the other he fired over

the bar from close range.

However, with five minutes remaining Donald did net his second goal of the match when he stroked the ball home to make the final score 4-1.

Manager Iain Jackson was happy to get through to the next round. He said: 'The sending off played a part, but I would like to think we would have gone on to win the game anyway. However, some of our play was sloppy and we need to do a lot better. I will be having a word with the guys at training this week.'

Saints are on their travels again this Saturday when they take on Ayrshire side Caledonian in the second round of the Scottish Cup. The game will be played at Academy Park, Prestwick, with a 2pm kick-off.

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## Weather

**Thursday** Light rain.  
Winds moderate, west, south westerly  
Temperatures 9°C to 10°C

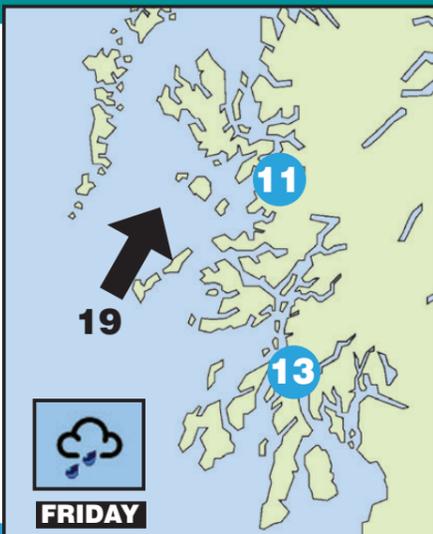
**Friday** Heavy rain.  
Winds moderate, south westerly  
Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.

**Weekend** Cloudy.

**Outlook** Winds moderate, south, south westerly  
Temperatures 10°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 20, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	04.43 1.8 10.28 3.1 17.49 2.1 23.50 2.8	
Fri	06.02 1.8 12.35 3.1 19.24 2.0 *** **	
Sat	02.10 3.0 07.17 1.7 14.13 3.4 20.35 1.7	
Sun	03.01 3.2 08.24 1.4 15.03 3.7 21.27 1.3	
Mon	03.41 3.5 09.21 1.0 15.45 3.9 21.11 1.0	
Tues	04.16 3.8 10.12 0.7 16.25 4.2 22.52 0.8	
Wed	04.51 4.0 10.59 0.5 17.04 4.3 23.32 0.6	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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# **The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.**

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

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**Energy saving in Argyll** see our feature on page 7



also inside this week  
**Photos and reports from the 2011 Royal National Mòd**

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## Tests ordered on Highland danger road

**REPORT** by RICHARD HADDOKK [fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)

TRANSPORT Scotland is to carry out friction tests on a section of the A830 Road to the Isles to discover if a slippery surface could be responsible for a high number of accidents.

The tests will take place later this week on the notorious stretch between Glenfinnan and Lochailort. A Transport Scotland spokesperson said the investigation should only last one day and traffic on the road will not be affected.

Many local drivers have said the road becomes slippery even at slow speeds, causing a disproportionately large number of vehicles to skid and crash.

Northern Constabulary confirmed a number of complaints had been made by members of the public about the section of road along Loch Eilt, and said a high number of accidents have been recorded.

Two local teenagers died on the road last year when their car slid off into the loch.

After a recent meeting between

police from Fort William and Mallaig and Transport Scotland, it was decided the tests were necessary to get to the root of the problem.

Locals have voiced concerns about the safety of the road, with Morar Community Council secretary Deirdre Roberts writing a letter to Transport Scotland area manager Bob Mitchell outlining the local worries.

In her letter, Ms Roberts: 'There have been a large number of unexplained skids and this is outwith the months of cold freezing weather. Two of us on the community council, including myself, have experienced this recently. The car goes momentarily out of control and it isn't from driving too fast.'

Meanwhile, Transerv Scotland has announced six further full and partial closures of the A82

during winter months to allow vitals repair works to be carried out. The section between Tarbet and Crianlarich will be shut between 10pm and 6am from Sunday, October 30, to Friday, November 4. The work was due to take place in September, had to be rescheduled because of poor weather. The section of road will also be closed from Sunday, November 6, to Friday, November 11.

Overnight restrictions will be put in place between Nevis Bridge and Inverloch from Sunday, November 6, to Friday November 11, and from Lochybridge to Carr's Corner in Fort William for a week from Sunday, November 13. There will be closures and restrictions south of Fort Augustus from January 9 to March 16 at Aberchalder swing bridge.

Dates for work to remove an over hanging rock from above the road a mile north of the Corran Ferry have not yet been specified.

## Tug campaigners float alternative cash sources

REPRESENTATIVES from Highland Council and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar have met the Secretary for Scotland Michael Moore MP in Edinburgh to discuss the future of the coastguard emergency tugs.

The UK Government announced plans to axe the emergency tug vessels (ETVs) based at Stornoway and Lerwick as part of a cost-saving exercise, but last month agreed to an extension to the contract for further talks to take place.

The tugs were back on station at the weekend and will continue there for the next three months.

The ETV Task Group identified a number of potential alternative sources of funding for the Department for Transport to explore, including contributions from the Crown Estate, Ministry of Defence, General Lighthouse Board, commercial activities, increasing salvage income, and increased use of the ETVs by other agencies.

Transport environmental and community services chairman Councillor John Laing said the meeting had been 'positive'.

He said: 'It is really encouraging that the Secretary of State has taken the lead on this important issue and is so clearly determined to reach a positive outcome.'

'We are equally determined

to assist Mr Moore and the UK Government in any way that we can to ensure the long term future of the Scottish emergency tugs.'

After the meeting Mr Moore said: 'This was a practical and constructive first meeting. We are determined to do everything we can to find a viable, long-term alternative.'

'Our discussions today were focused on what Scotland needs from its ETVs and what the options may be in finding a long-term replacement. I am confident we can put the huge level of expertise and experience represented on the group to good work.'

## Hannah's Mòd success at first attempt



It's been a successful Royal National Mòd in Stornoway for talented Lochside musician, Hannah MacRae, who won the fiddle competition for Slow Air and March, Strathspey and Reel. Aged just 13, it was Hannah's first attempt at the 13-18 age group competition but adjudicator Gillian Frame, a former Traditional Musician of the Year, said she was 'blown away' by the young Lochaber girl's talent, giving her a mark of 95 out of 100. Hannah also proved her talent stretches beyond instruments by winning her poetry recitation competition for 13-15 years learners.

## Group to 're-assess' indoor sports scheme

AMBITIOUS plans to create a new indoor sports facility in Fort William seem to have fallen at the first hurdle.

Lochaber Sporting Association (LSA) announced plans in the summer to create an £800,000 multi-sport indoor facility on ground near An Aird shinty park and recently applied to The Highland LEADER programme for funding for a feasibility study.

LSA said an alternative playing surface and training area is essential to allow sports to continue during harsh winter weather.

The group was given permission by Highland Council to look into the viability of an astro-turf pitch on the site. The 60m by 40m surface would be suitable for football, shinty and rugby, as well as a variety of other sports such as athletics,

archery and golf practice.

But the application for funding has now been withdrawn, and in a recent newsletter to the association members, LSA chairperson Jane Blanchard explained why the group has to be 'totally realistic' about their plans.

She said: 'Having finally got our application in to LEADER for the feasibility study, we have now come to realise that we have to step back and take a serious look at our options.'

'We have withdrawn our application until we have reassessed the situation, liaised with our councillors, and are more certain about what funding might be available. We also need to establish, beyond any reasonable doubt, whether any planned new facilities will actually be affordable to the clubs in these difficult times.'

## Everything's coming up roses for gardeners

GARDENERS in Caol have been rewarded for their hard work in keeping their gardens beautiful.

Alan Smith, of 12 Fern Court was named overall winner Caol in Bloom, narrowly beating Mr and Mrs A Wilson, of 7 Strone Place and Mr and Mrs R Thomas, of Alveston, Lochside.

Caol in Bloom has been running since 1999, and has been registered as a Scottish charity. This was the first time the competition has been held since one of the founding members, Olwyn MacDonald, died. Ms MacDonald passed away in January this year.

Castle Drive was named as best street, while Mr and Mrs D Cameron, of 6 Erracht Terrace, were given the prize for best ornamental garden. Best vegetable garden was given to Mr and Mrs J Banks, of 50

Glenkingie Street, while the Blar Mor Guest House beat the Lochy Bar to the prize for best commercial garden.

Organiser Daphne Stewart said the level of competition had been high this year.

She said: 'It's well done and congratulations to the hard working gardeners who have put the bloom in Caol, thus helping to make our village bloom better each year.'

'Every garden in Caol was judged in July - our judge this year was Lorna Ungeod-Thomas. Our grateful thanks to her for a job well done.'

Councillor Eddie Hunter handed out the prizes at a ceremony in Caol Community Centre on Tuesday. In addition to the main prizes, highly commended certificates were given to 34 gardens, while 22 received commended certificates.

## Mum-of-five dies after attending music festival

A FORT William mother of five collapsed and died in her home after attending a music event in the town on Saturday night.

Jolene Payne, aged 34, of Banff Crescent, Upper Achintore had been at the DC40 Nevis Festival in the Nevis Centre but collapsed shortly after returning home and was pronounced dead by paramedics at the scene at around 1am on Sunday morning.

A Northern Constabulary spokesman said inquiries into her death are continuing and a report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

## Dolphin washed up at Corpach

FORT WILLIAM Coastguard was called to investigate a report of a dead dolphin in Loch Linne on Monday night. The animal was found at Corpach, and the Edinburgh Zoological Society will carry out a post mortem to discover the cause of death.

## Vandalism on Skye

NORTHERN Constabulary are appealing for new information regarding a Portacabin in Totescore, Isle of Skye being vandalised.

The portable building was located at the Transerv Scotland yard, and sometime between July 1 and July 14 damage was caused to the windows.

Police are appealing to anyone who may have information about the vandalism to contact them at Portree Police Station on 01478 612 888 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## Special meeting

THE NORTHERN Joint Police Board met for a special meeting in Inverness yesterday (Wednesday) to discuss the Scottish Government's plan for police reform in Scotland.

The board were expected to agree to send a response to the Consultation on Reforming Police, outlining why they feel a single police force for the country could lead to problems for areas with lower populations, such as the Highlands.



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### Caol family bridges the generations

Five generations of one Caol family came together to welcome the newest member of the clan - three-month-old baby Taylor Michael.

Taylor was christened in St John's Church in Caol, and the family then went to the community centre to celebrate. Great-grandmother Anna Lopez told *The Oban Times* everyone had 'a great day'.

Pictured are great-great-grandmother Annie Faryma, who turns 86 in December, (front left), great-grandmother Anna (front right), grandmother Dolores Allan (back left) and mother Ashley Allan (right) with baby Taylor.

### Challenging time for kids

'CIRCUS stars' was the theme as Stornoway youngsters who completed a reading challenge over the summer holidays received their certificates and medals.

The children gathered at Stornoway Library, where councillors Archie Campbell and Annie Macdonald were on hand to give out the certificates.

More than 100 children signed up for the challenge, which was to read at least six books over the summer holidays and visiting the library regularly. Each child got special rewards and stickers for completing a book, and they were given a small circus stage to decorate with their stickers and keep track of all the books they read.

Twenty-seven Stornoway youngsters completed the challenge.

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**New training course aimed at weavers**

A NEW training course designed to encourage new weavers into the Harris Tweed industry got underway in specially adapted premises in Stornoway last week.

The 12-week training programme, jointly funded by Skills Development Scotland, the Harris Tweed Industry, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar will accommodate 12 trainees.

The course is accredited by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) at Scottish Vocational Qualification Level 1 (Manufacturing Textile Products) with planned progression to Level 2.

The course will be locally managed by staff within the Comhairle's accredited training and skills section and accredited through their approved SQA Centre.

**Lewis distillery toasts launch of single malt**

THE FIRST legal single malt from the Outer Hebrides was officially launched by Isle of Lewis Distillery Abhainn Dearg on Friday.

The first production run of the new special edition three year-old whisky coincided with the opening of the Royal National Mòd in Stornoway, is limited to 2011 bottles.

Distillery owner Mark 'Marko' Tayburn said: 'We are delighted to launch this special whisky and finally reclaim the heritage of whisky making in the Isle of Lewis which stretches back hundreds of years.'

**Zumba comes to Morar SWRI**

LOCAL Zumba instructor Pam Burns was the speaker for the latest meeting of the Morar Woman's Rural Institute.

After a short talk about her personal history with dance, Ms Burns proceeded to give the ladies some Zumba lessons. Ten members attended the meeting, hosted by Mary Ferguson and Pauline Elwell, including three new SWRI members - Morag Keenan, Sue Barrett and Maggie Hunkin.

The competitions winners were: Homemade toffee - 1, Sue Barrett, 2, Eileen Macphie, 3, Rita MacDonald; Halloween mask - 1, Isobel Morton, 2, Sue Barrett, 3, June Foxwell.

**Hillclimber falls to his death**

A HILLCLIMBER died after falling in the Kintail hills on Saturday afternoon.

Tom Clark, of Woodend Crescent, Aberdeen lost his footing while negotiating the hills above the Clunie Inn.

Kintail Mountain Rescue Team, Search And Rescue Dog Association, police and a rescue helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth attended and carried out a protracted search for the 65-year-old graphic designer. A police spokesman said Mr Clark had 'fallen some distance' and suffered fatal injuries.

A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

**Warning over 'Ukash' scam**

POLICE are warning retailers to be wary of a new scam after a Highland shop fell victim to a fraud using the 'Ukash' prepayment network.

A shop in Golspie received a phone call from a person claiming to be a friend of the shop's owner. The caller persuaded the shop assistant to generate two Ukash payments worth £250 as well as two unique voucher codes.

Before the worker could ask for payment the caller hung up and was able to use the codes for payment on the internet.

Anyone with any information about the scam is asked to contact Northern Constabulary on 01463 715555.



'Exciting find': The Ardnamurchan grave site being excavated by a student.

**Viking burial site uncovered by dig**

THE UK mainland's first fully intact Viking boat burial site has been discovered by archaeologists working in west Lochaber.

The 1,000-year-old find was made by the Ardnamurchan Transitions Project (ATP) - a team led by experts from the universities of Manchester and Leicester, CFA Archaeology Ltd and Archaeology Scotland, which has been excavating land in the area for the past six years.

A five-metre long grave was

found containing a high status Viking who was buried in a ship. He was also buried with an axe, a sword, a spear, and a shield on land on Ardnamurchan Estate.

Viking specialist Dr Colleen Batey from the University of Glasgow has said the boat is likely to be from the tenth century AD.

The team has previously found a knife, a whetstone from Norway, a ring pin from Ireland and Viking pottery in other parts of Ardnamurchan and are awaiting identification of

dozens of other pieces of iron found at the site.

**Surprise** Ardnamurchan resident Jonathan Haylett told *The Oban Times* the find had taken the locals by surprise.

He said: 'With Ardnamurchan sticking out into the sea, Viking ships had to go round the point and would sometimes have to stop, so it was fairly obvious there would be settlements.'

He added: 'There's tons of stuff here, but no-one had guessed they would find some-

thing as exciting as that.'

Project co-director Dr Hannah Cobb said: 'A Viking boat burial is an incredible discovery, but in addition to that, the artefacts and preservation make this one of the most important Norse graves ever excavated in Britain.'

'This is a very exciting find. Though we have excavated many important artefacts over the years, I think it's fair to say that this year the archaeology has really exceeded our expectations.'

**Summit to shout about for charity climbers**

A LOCHABER couple have climbed the highest mountain in Africa and raised almost £6,000 for charity in the process.

Olivier and Jen Deschenes, of Spear Bridge, were part of a 20-strong group who climbed all 5,895 metres of Mount Kilimanjaro to raise money for Caring Matters Now - a charity which helps children affected by a rare disease called Congenital Melanocytic Nevus (CMN).

Olivier and Jen's daughter Mia was born with the virus, causing her to have a large mole covering her back and three smaller moles on her scalp. Mia, aged five, also has numerous 'satellite' moles on her body.

More than £5,700 has so far been raised by the Lochaber pair through the Just Giving website set up for the climb, with the group as a whole raising around £60,000. The money will be donated to Great Ormond Street Hospital for research into CMN. Mia travels to the London hospital for check-ups every six months.



Reached the summit: the group at the top of Mount Kilimanjaro.

Olivier, a technical director with HWEnergy, said: 'It was fantastic. There were a few casualties along the

way, people getting altitude sickness, but nothing serious. 'Caring Matters Now has been a great support to us

because we would have known very little about the condition due to its rarity or known what actions to take.'

**Fundraising sale to aid Rotary**

A FUNDRAISING sale of second-hand books will be held in the Nevis Centre this Saturday.

Hundreds of books on subjects ranging from ancient and modern history to travel, royalty and biographies will be on sale from 11am to 4pm.

The money raised from the event will go to the Rotary Club of Lochaber and Friends of the Old Fort.

**Exhibition raises charity cash**

AN EXHIBITION of work by a Lochaber artist has raised more than £500 for charity.

Glenfinnan-based American woman Gail Wendorf put paintings from her new series CEILIDH! on display in Arisaig House earlier this month, with a percentage of the sales split between two charities - Mercy Ships and Mary's Meals.

Ms Wendorf said: 'The evening was a great success, everyone enjoyed themselves and there was a great turn out. I hope that this

donation will help Mercy Ships continue its good work in West Africa, providing help and healing to those less fortunate.'

Some of the paintings are still available to buy on Ms Wendorf's website, www.gailwendorf.co.uk.

Mercy Ships provides free medical care and humanitarian aid to some of the world's poorest people, while Mary's Meals provides free meals to more than 500,000 children across the world every day.

**Motorcycle ace banned from roads**

Defendant found guilty of drink-driving after trial

**REPORT**

by RICHARD HADDOCK fort@obantimes.co.uk

KINLOCHLEVEN motorcycle ace Gary MacDonald has been banned from driving for 15 months after being found guilty of drink-driving at the end of a long-running trial.

The loss of his licence means MacDonald will not be able to take part in next year's Scottish Six Days Trial.

The retained fire-fighter spent the night of July 24, 2010 drinking with his friend Mark MacMillan in the Tailrace Inn in the village, Fort William Sheriff Court heard during five days of evidence.

He was then seen driving his Ford Focus RS through the village at speeds of up to 60mph, witnesses said. He turned the car and came back along Lochaber Road minutes later, nearly striking Brian Spence, who was standing by the roadside.

Colin Comrie, who was with Mr Spence, said the front of the car was 'wiggling' as it accelerated and 'the noise and speed was outrageous.'

Mr Comrie and his son Mark both identified MacDonald as the driver of the car during their evidence, despite the vehicle's tinted windows.

MacDonald's partner, Kelly



Banned: Gary MacDonald will miss next year's Scottish Six Days Trial after being found guilty of drink-driving.

MacDonald, told the court she had been behind the wheel of the car but that she had not gone over 30mph. She said she was driving to the ATM to get money before getting a lift to a party in Ballachulish. When police officers arrested MacDonald and asked him if he had been driving, he responded: 'I had the keys and I sat in the car. The keys were taken off me.'

During his evidence, the defendant was asked why he had not told a police officer Ms MacDonald was driving.

He said: 'I was gobsmacked. I didn't know why it was happen-

ing. I just stayed silent. I didn't lie to the police but I didn't want to get Kelly into trouble.'

In summation for the Crown, area fiscal Andrew Laing said MacDonald's answer to the police was 'as close as one can get to an admission of driving'.

He said: 'If it had been a simple case of mistaken identity it would have been resolved on that morning. It is a difficult proposition to suggest people who knew the individuals could get them confused. It is a young man and a quite different looking young woman.'

Banning MacDonald and fining him £750, Sheriff Douglas Small said he was convinced the prosecution had proved he was driving the car.

He said: 'I found Mark Comrie and Colin Comrie to both be credible and reliable on that issue. I am satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt Gary MacDonald was the driver of the vehicle.'

MacDonald, of 27 Heatherlee Court, was found guilty of driving on various roads in the village while almost twice the legal limit.

He was also found guilty of driving without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for others using the road, failing to keep proper control of the car and driving at excessive speed.

**Village shop could face closure**

A SOUTH Lochaber village could be set to lose its local shop after authorities rejected moves to turn it into a café and community hub.

Duror Stores owners Hilary Wilson and John MacAskill put the shop up for sale and a number of people showed an interest - but the prospective buyers wanted to turn the local shop into a café and community meeting place.

But Ms Wilson told *The Oban Times* Highland Council planners and Transport Scotland said the premises are located too close to the A82 roadside to be safe for people to use as a café.

Ms Wilson has questioned the decision and said the site is not profitable enough to continue without development.

She said: 'How is it safe for the community to use it as a shop but not as a café? We put it on the market and the only thing people



Future plans for the popular shop have been scuppered by planners. 20.642duor01

want to do with it is make it into a café.

'A café within a community shop would be a boon. Many of the shop's existing customers walk their children to and from the local primary school passing the shop door, the addition of a café would be an excellent meeting point.'

'We also have the new cycle path to consider.'

community of Duror needs to take issue with these authorities to ensure work is done to the road, the pavement, the visibility and the parking facilities to make the shop safe for its existing customers and for the children walking to school.'

Highland Council planning department said they were unable to comment as no official planning application has been made.

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**Hunt for attacker after Oban assault**

POLICE are appealing for witnesses or information after a man in his 60s was assaulted close to Benvoulin Gardens in Oban.

Officers are trying to trace a suspect, described as in his 40s and wearing dark clothing, in connection with the incident. Anyone with any information should contact Constable McAllister on 510500.

**Fishermen hooked at Loch Awe**

THREE men fishing at Loch Awe last week were stopped by police officers in the early hours of Thursday morning. Enquiries revealed they were in possession of a vehicle taken from the Clydebank area without the owner's consent.

A 39-year-old male is the subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal in connection with the incident.

**Teenager guilty of starting blaze**

A TEENAGE girl has been found guilty by a jury of deliberately setting fire to a house in Dalavich.

The 15-year-old, who was 14 at the time of the offence and cannot be named for legal reasons, was found guilty by majority verdict at Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday of setting fire to the house at 29 Dalavich on June 25 last year.

The property was extensively damaged in the blaze.

Sentence has been deferred until November 10 for reports.

**Saturday sailings to Colonsay**

CALEDONIAN MacBrayne will operate a pilot Saturday return sailing to Colonsay between October 29 and Christmas, giving the island four crossings a week in the winter timetable.

Islay Councillor Robin Currie said: 'This service allows them a day return to Oban with a decent amount of time ashore to do their business, visit hospitals or whatever. I hope that it is well used and CalMac is to be congratulated in getting this service implemented.'



Bowmore's Emily Gray, centre, won a gold medal at the Royal National Mòd in Stornoway. Nuala MacDonald from Scourie, left, and Rebecca Swallow from Condorrat won, respectively, a silver and a bronze medal. 20\_ym0d35

**Islay's Emily strikes gold at the Mòd**

ISLAY girl Emily Gray did Bowmore proud when she won the prescribed song for learners aged 5-6. Emily, aged six, is tutored in Gaelic song by Helen Gillies and her family was delighted with her success.

Mum Alison said: 'She has competed for

the last two years, but she has been singing since she was old enough to talk!

Five-year-old Nuala Iona MacDonald may come from Scourie, in Sutherland, but she has very strong Argyll connections. All her grandparents belong to Argyll - her mum

Lisa's dad Fred Schroder lives in Southend, Kintyre, while her dad Jamie's parents Neil and Hilary MacDonald are from Tarbert.

Nuala Iona took the silver medal while Rebecca Swallow, from Condorrat, won the bronze.

**Opinion mixed over turbine proposals for Clachan Seil**

MIXED views were expressed about plans to build a wind farm close to the historic Atlantic Bridge linking the Isle of Seil to mainland Argyll.

Landowner Rory Young wants to erect nine 56-metre turbines near Clachan Seil and organised a community drop-in event last Friday, in advance of submitting a planning application in the coming days.

He argues the project will provide clean, green power without damaging the local environment, generate a lump sum for local communities and interest for tourists.

But Sheila Downie, who runs An Cala Gardens, near Ellenabeich, said visitors to whom she

has talked are against the plans. She said: 'When you explain it to them, everyone thinks it is a bad idea.'

'There are people who want to reduce carbon and they are in principle for, but what we are arguing is that a wind farm should not be put in that iconic beauty spot. I think most people in the area are against it.'

The proposed site lies close to a number of homes at Clachan. One resident, who did not want to be named, told *The Oban Times* she was concerned about the impact of noise and found the proposal 'very depressing'.

Another said she feared the value of her homes will fall and pointed to planning guidance

that turbines should be at least two kilometres from dwellings.

The proposal has divided slate islanders. Peter Hooper, secretary of the Isle of Luing Community Trust, said Mr Young had gone out of his way to involve the community in his plans and listen to their feedback.

Mr Hooper backs the plan, particularly the dividend for local communities.

He said: 'This gives us the chance to have a regular income from which the community will benefit and it will be under our control.'

'In these more straitened times, you can't do anything without some cash.'

Robert Rae, a member of Seil and Easdale Community Council, said the site of the wind farm includes a number of archaeological features, including sites associated with St Brendan.

He added the community council would consider what view to take of the development once the planning application is lodged.

Mr Young said a straw poll at the meeting showed opinion was fairly evenly divided for and against the plans: 'We were very pleased though I don't mind admitting it was a bit of a rollercoaster.'

'Obviously there were some negative points and that's fair enough.'

**Argyll firms miss out on council deals**

Three-quarters of cash is spent outwith local economy

OF THE £109million Argyll and Bute Council spent on services and supplies from external companies last year, only 26 per cent stayed within the local economy.

While a number of specialist services or pieces of equipment could only be sourced from outside the area, most of the purchases that could be made locally were sourced from elsewhere.

Among the larger contracts going to companies based outside Argyll and Bute was the agreement for catering supplies.

Kent firm Brakes Brothers received £831,198 of business from the authority, while Oban based Forteith Foodservice's share of the spend was just over £50,000.

Meanwhile, the council spent £281,844 on stationery supplies in the last financial year, with the entire sum going to English firms. Computing consumables cost £174,827, with only £5,229 staying in Scotland - to a Fife firm.

The figures, released via the SpotlightSpend website this week, have prompted calls for a change to procurement

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

processes. John Forteith, senior partner of Forteith Foodservice, said: 'It is frustrating that Scottish councils choose to procure nationally through the European tendering process, making it extremely difficult for local suppliers who employ locally and who in turn support local producers themselves.'

'Surely the process should be questioned as to whether or not it is proving best value for money for the local economy.'

'Each pound spent with a local business ripples through the local economy.'

Arguing A spokesman for the Federation of Small Business in Scotland said: 'For years, the FSB has been arguing that more Scottish public sector spend should go to the country's small business community.'

'To sort out this problem, we're involved in various projects to try to address some of the practical issues that we think prevent small business from winning work.'

'However, individual public sector bodies must make sure that they do everything they can to open their doors to their local small business community.'

'Further, the FSB continues to be concerned about the effect the aggregation of contracts has on the ability of Scottish small businesses to win work.'

A spokeswoman for the local authority said: 'The vast majority of the spend is subject either to a competitive tendering exercise or in the case of care provision, is contracted through service level agreements with providers.'

'The council is well aware of the potential benefits to the local economy from sourcing locally and we are keen to buy from local suppliers whenever we can.'

The council says some elements such as utilities, computing supplies, new vehicles and heavy plant cannot realistically be sourced locally, while public procurement rules mean they are 'not legally allowed' to favour local suppliers and contractors.

It also says that those companies whose headquarters are based elsewhere but have a local depot are not listed as a local spend.

**Grants worth £500,000 awarded**

MORE than £500,000 has been handed out to community groups and projects in Argyll and Bute in the latest round of LEADER grants.

Argyll and Bute Council received the biggest grant, of £145,000, to expand footpaths and cycle ways in Dalmlally, Oban, Tarbert and Lochgilphead.

Oban Phoenix Cinema received £18,850 for refurbish-

ment. Laura Russell, cinema director, said: 'We are delighted to have received the money and it will go a long way to get the cinema up and running as soon as possible.'

Community group Here We Are will get £24,590 to produce a gazetteer of Cairndow, mapping changes in their community from 1900 to the present day and on into the future.

The Isle of Jura Development

Trust has been given £23,263 to take forward an oral history project, collating information on island life through the ages.

Mull and Iona Community Trust plans to carry out a feasibility study into better resources for visitors to the islands, thanks to their £8,168 grant. Meanwhile on Iona, £10,650 has been allocated to look at the options for developing the island's village hall.

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Most people know Oban as 'the gateway to the isles' with ferries heading to eight destinations in the Inner and Outer Hebrides. But there is so much more to a town dubbed the unofficial capital of the western Highlands. For food lovers, Oban has been officially branded the 'Seafood Capital of Scotland' and is renowned for the variety and quality of seafood landed in the harbour. There are great seafood restaurants offering a wide range of styles and menus. From the net to the table, you can't get fresher. Being well connected by rail, road and air, an increasing number of visitors are choosing to base their break in Oban. For first time visitor, a good way of getting your bearings is to stroll up to McCaig's Tower, a quirky coliseum overlooking the bay. This vantage point shows how Oban Bay is sheltered by the isle of Kerrera with the hills of Mull, the isle of Lismore and the Ardnamurchan peninsula in the distance. The town's south pier is the embarkation point for car ferries to Mull, Coll, Tiree, Barra, South Uist, Colonsay, Lismore and Islay. From these islands, the adventurous can travel on to Iona, Staffa and other smaller, less well known isles. A short distance from the south pier is the slipway for the Kerrera ferry, while a drive south allows explorers to take their car or bike over the Atlantic by bridge to the island of Seil. Staying closer to the town, there is another viewpoint worth the climb at Pulpit Hill, on the southern side of the town. A mile north of the town centre is the 13th century Dunollie Castle while more recent history is explored at the War and Peace Museum on Oban's esplanade. For those who like a wee dram, a visit to the 200-year-old distillery will feature high on a list of things to do. Add to that two cathedrals, the Corran Halls - which offers a busy programme of concerts and stand-up - live music at many of the town's bars and the Skipinich Ceilidh House for an energetic end to an evening and a visit to Oban is sure to be a memorable one.

**Absentee landlords accused of holding up Soroba repair scheme**

A COMMITMENT to spend more than £1million repairing crumbling roughcasting in Soroba is being held up by absentee landlords who are refusing to share their part of the bill.

The Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) wants to completely redo the gables of the housing blocks in the scheme with the roughcasting rapidly disintegrating, allowing damp to seep into the exposed bricks.

With another harsh winter approaching, the association wants to take steps as quickly as possible to make the required repairs.

But the association owns less than half the houses in the scheme and while those owners who live there have shown a willingness to take part, those who live elsewhere and let the properties out have failed to co-operate.

Without their co-operation, work cannot go ahead.

Local councillor and ACHA board member, Roddy McCuish, has described their actions as 'utterly irresponsible.'

He said: 'It's very rare you get anyone wanting to spend £1million improving anything, particularly in this economic climate.'

'Yet for a small proportion of what it would normally cost them to do the job, these absentee landlords are refusing to pay their way.'

'These guys bought these houses years ago for peanuts and have taken money out of Soroba for years, but the first moment they're asked to pay their way to sort out a problem they absolutely refuse.'

'With ownership comes responsibility. I'm not getting at the people who can't afford it; I'm getting at those who can but when asked to do their bit to help they refuse to do so.'

'There's no argument - this work needs to be done and it would be cheaper to do it this way than for each block to carry out their own repairs.'

Work to repair roughcasting on each block would cost approximately £18,000, from which each household has been asked to contribute a few hundred pounds as equal share. ACHA has told owners that grants are available to those who cannot afford the cost and has offered to help with the required paperwork.

However, a meeting with owners in August could not reach a consensus.

The subject was a matter for debate at Monday night's meeting of the Soroba Residents Association.

Chairman, Sean MacIntyre, said: 'For exam ple, I know of one company that owns six flats here and it is not the first time a problem like this has come up.'

The association plans to canvass owners in an effort to persuade them to co-operate with the repair scheme.

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**Man inundated ex-girlfriend with phone calls**

A CAOL man who called an ex-girlfriend's mobile phone more than 40 times in one night despite police telling him to stop has been jailed after failing to comply with his community payback order.

Sean McCuish, of 32 Ardgour Road, was ordered to complete 100 hours unpaid work after admitting causing the girl inconvenience or unnecessary anxiety by phoning her mobile persistently and failing to desist despite being requested by police, placing her in a state of fear and alarm for her safety and wellbeing, at 4 Banavie Road on January 15 and 16.

He also pled guilty to sending Facebook messages of an indecent, obscene or menacing character to the same girl on January 6.

But Fort William Sheriff Court heard he had twice failed to attend an interview with the Scottish Criminal Justice Service, despite letters being sent to his house.

Defending the 20-year-old, Stephen Kennedy said McCuish had recently been working with his uncle in Bo'ness and had not received the letters.

Sheriff John Halley ordered McCuish to be kept in prison until October 26 to ensure the interview could take place.

**Language plan under discussion**

HIGHLAND Council's draft second Gaelic Language Plan will be the focus for debate at a public meeting in Lochaber House, Fort William at 7pm next Friday.

The document builds on the current 2007-2011 plan and lays out the council's commitment to Gaelic from May 2012 to 2016.

The new blueprint centres on six themes - Gaelic in the home, the community, in education, in the workplace, the arts, media and heritage and in economic development.

Copies will be available at key council offices, such as libraries and service points and on the council's website at www.highland.gov.uk/gaelic-languageplan.

Deadline for comments from the public is January 4. Following consultation, the draft plan will be considered by the council in March or April 2012 and submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for final approval.

**Views sought on merger of services**

HIGHLAND Council and NHS Highland are seeking comments from the public on far-reaching plans to integrate health and social services across the two agencies from April 1.

The proposal would see the council lead on children's services and NHS Highland in charge of adult community care. Staff from both agencies would work in joint teams across the two service areas.

Representations should be made to Jan Baird, Transitions Director, Planning For Integration, 2 Ardross Terrace, Inverness IV3 5NQ or by email to p4i@highlandlife.net by December 9.

**All welcome at Arisaig meeting**

ARISAIG and District Community Council holds its monthly meeting in the Astley Hall next Monday at 7.30pm.

Items to be discussed will include setting up a sub-committee to monitor the situation regarding the painting Letters and News at the Lochside, which is currently hanging in Arisaig House.

The council is keen to find out what local people's priorities are and welcome ideas on improving community life. All are welcome to raise any matter at the meeting.

**Newsdesk:**  
01397  
703003



Feelgood factor: Lochaline's quartz sand mine is to reopen under new management and will create about 12 jobs for the area. A well attended public meeting was held last week to hear details of the joint venture company that will extract about 100,000 tonnes of sand a year from late spring 2012.

**Sand mine is latest boost for Morvern**

THE FEELGOOD factor on Morvern continues this week after it was announced Lochaline's quartz sand mine is to reopen new ownership, creating around 12 high-grade jobs.

Lochaline residents turned out in force at a public meeting in the local hall last Tuesday night to hear joint venture company Lochaline Quartz Sand Ltd (LQSL) unveil plans for extracting around 100,000 tonnes of sand each year from late spring 2012.

Proven reserves of high quality, low-iron sand of around 1million tonnes means at least a decade's work - longer if further deposits verify.

The meeting was part of current owners Tarmac's pre-application consultation on extending planning permission at Lochaline from 2018 to 2036.

The company had been looking for a suitable buyer since mothballing the plant in 2008, with the loss of 11 jobs.

Now LQSL, a partnership between global glass manufacturer NSG Group and Italian mining company Gruppo Minerale Maffei, is expected to conclude terms with Tarmac within days.

Copies of the annual report are available from the CAB office in Dudley Road, Fort William or by calling 01397 705311.

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

A formal application to Highland Council is expected shortly thereafter.

Leases have been agreed with the Crown Estate for use of the foreshore, and with landowners Forestry Commission Scotland and Ardtornish Estate, who will both receive royalty payments.

The deal has delighted the remote community of 400, now armed with new mood of confidence after decades of job losses, depopulation and decline.

Ardtornish Estate director Hugh Raven told *The Oban Times*: 'Morvern seems to be defying economic gravity at the moment. We have the new community allotments, the new school, the pontoon development, new houses at Achabeag, new hydro schemes on Ardtornish - and now the mine is reopening.'

'It is the latest fillip in a remarkable turnaround for a community almost despondent when the mine closed three years ago. 'The community effort fight-

ing that closure has brought many dividends and looks set to herald a new era in the life of this fragile community. It's some contrast with the economic gloom prevailing nationally and internationally.'

He added: 'Several million pounds is being spent at Ardtornish on two new hydro schemes, with hopes high for a third, and an arrangement with Highland Council and the local community for community benefit payments at the top end of the scale. The new settlement at Achabeag - which, if it goes according to plan, should be another multi-million pound development - sees the first two houses start on site shortly.'

'There are plans for several more affordable housing units, at Achabeag and possibly Lochaline - now very necessary, with the addition to the local workforce of the 12 positions at the mine.'

Councillor Bren Gormley said: 'Tarmac have behaved fairly and honourably with the community - and I wish to say that publicly. 'I thank Tarmac for their past efforts and my best wishes go to the joint venture for the future.'

**Thousands look to CAB for help and support**

MORE THAN 3,000 people turned to Lochaber Citizens Advice Bureau for help in the 12 months to March, its recent annual general meeting heard.

Advisers handled 3,345 enquiries, mostly relation to debt and benefits, and secured £849,292 extra cash for clients.

Presenting the annual report, bureau manager Stephen Marshall said ongoing job security fears had increased demand for advice on terms and conditions

of employment, redundancy and access to employment tribunals.

Also notable were clients either homeless, or threatened with homelessness, having difficulty accessing services amid ongoing shortages of affordable and social housing.

**Tribute**  
Paying tribute to volunteers and staff 'who work tirelessly to provide free, independent, impartial and confidential advice',

Mr Marshall highlighted the introduction of a grading system to increase access, reduce waiting times and maximise limited resources.

He said: 'Looking to the future, whilst the CAB in Lochaber and throughout the country are already very busy, in the face of Welfare Reform and the current economic conditions demand is likely to increase further. 'Lochaber CAB are to review their business plan and will

continue to invite applications for sufficient volunteers to meet the demand and support the advice needs of the local community.'

The Highland Council-funded bureau also delivered health-related projects, funded by NHS Highland and Macmillan Cancer Support.

Copies of the annual report are available from the CAB office in Dudley Road, Fort William or by calling 01397 705311.



The graduation ceremony at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig marked another milestone for the Gaelic college.

**Students celebrate Gaelic success**

FORMER BBC Radio 2 Folk Singer of the Year Julie Fowlis and Mòd Gold medalist and Trad Award winner Gillebride MacMillan were among 45 students awarded degrees and course certificates at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's annual graduation ceremony.

Julie and Gillebride joined Applecross Heritage Centre curator Gordon Cameron, and SNH Gaelic officer Emily Edwards in graduating with an MA in Material Culture and the Environment.

Course leader, Professor

Hugh Cheape, said the course provided a new perspective on Highland history.

He said: 'Working through the medium of Gaelic allows the students access to community based knowledge and heritage, which is used for research and is then given back to the community through the students' own work.'

**Contribution**  
Sabhal Mòr Ostaig also recognised the contribution made to the Gaelic language by awarding Honorary Sàr Ghaidheal Fellowships for 2011

to two leading Gaels, Jonathan MacDonald from Kilmuir and John Farquhar Munro, of Shiel Bridge.

The inaugural Vice-Chancellor's Medal was awarded to Lachie Dick, who has given signal service to education in the Highlands and Islands first as principal teacher of Gaelic at Inverness Royal Academy, then as Gaelic adviser with the Western Isles Council, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, and latterly as deputy director of education with the Comhairle.

Also celebrating were the first

graduates from the BA (Hons) in Gaelic and Traditional Music course, Roya Maclean and Lisa Moyes.

**Excellence**  
Lisa was awarded the Calum Bán prize for excellence in Gaelic singing and musicianship in memory of the late Calum Robertson, the College's long-serving head of corporate services.

Glasgow Gaelic School head teacher Donald McComb gave the graduation lecture and encouraged graduates to pursue their work with Gaelic.

**Drunk subjected French tourist to 'sustained attack' in Fort William**

A MAN who carried out a late night attack on a French tourist in Fort William town centre has been jailed for 144 days.

Drunk Graham Brown, of 9 Kilmacool Road, Houston, Renfrewshire, admitted the unprovoked assault on the Parade, High Street on June 9.

Fiscal Claire Wilkinson said the Frenchman had arrived in Scotland the night before and was walking back to his bed and breakfast when he passed Brown at around 11pm.

Brown, aged 33, said something to the man and stopped him from walking past, Fort

William Sheriff Court heard.

Ms Wilkinson said: 'He tried to push past the accused who then punched him on the face, knocking him to the ground.'

**CCTV**  
Brown was seen on CCTV stepping away from the man before turning round and kicking him on the body.

He again turned away before returning and punching the man twice and kicking him as he lay on the ground.

Police arrived to find Brown still at the scene and took him into custody.

The tourist was taken to

Belford Hospital and kept in overnight, suffering cuts and bruises to his face and body.

Defending, Stephen Kennedy said his client had 'very little recollection' of the incident and has not drunk since.

Brown pled guilty to assaulting the man by knocking him to the ground causing his head to hit the ground, and repeatedly punching and kicking him on the head and body to his injury.

Sentencing Brown, Sheriff John Halley said: 'This was not a singular punch, but a sustained attack on a visitor to this country.'

**Loud music lands defendant in jail**

A FORT William man with a lengthy list of previous convictions has been jailed for 100 days for disturbing his elderly neighbour with loud music and swearing at police.

Police were called to the apartments in the Old Glenloch Distillery in the afternoon of July 9 after an 83-year-old woman complained about loud music coming from the flat above her.

Fiscal Claire Wilkinson said: 'She was extremely distressed, and was in tears when the of-

ficers arrived. This was the last in a series of complaints about noise.'

Officers knocked on the door of Alexander Brown's flat for 10 minutes but received no reply. Ms Wilkinson said they could hear very loud music and voices coming from inside.

When the door opened drunken Brown was verbally abusive to the police, who arrested him and took him into custody.

Brown pled guilty to the charge in July with sentencing deferred for good behaviour. Fort Wil-

liam Sheriff Court heard he had since committed two further offences and is currently in custody on another matter. Sentencing Brown, Sheriff John Halley said the 40-year-old had a 'truly appalling record'.

Brown, of 3 The Malt Barns, pled guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by playing excessively loud music, causing distress to his neighbour, and shouting and swearing a refusing to turn off the music when asked to by police.

**Joiner bids farewell after 20 years**



A Glen Nevis man who recently retired from Highland Council after 20 years service was given a brand new drill kit as a leaving present. Foreman joiner Hugh Cameron's council career started out with a three-month contract to carry out joinery work but ended with a permanent job. Hugh, pictured right, also served with Fort William Fire Brigade and retired as station officer.

**Attacker found guilty of violent assault**

A CORPACH man has been jailed for six months for carrying out a violent attack on his then-girlfriend in her home.

John MacLellan, of 29 Clerk Drive, was found guilty of assaulting the woman at a trial last month at Fort William Sheriff Court.

He seized her by the throat, compressed her throat, twisted her arms and forced them up her back, and poured a bottle of wine over her, all to her injury. The 23-year-old was also found guilty of behaving in a

threatening or abusive manner by repeatedly shouting and swearing, acting aggressively, preventing the woman from leaving the house and taking her phone and throwing it against the wall. The incidents took place at 7 Drumfada Terrace, Corpach on August 14 and 15.

Defence solicitor Stephen Kennedy said MacLellan, who has been in custody since August 18, had written letters of apology to the woman. He said: 'He accepts what he did here was wrong.'

**Groups' grant boost**

TEN LOCHABER organisations have been awarded cash support under local councillors' discretionary budgets.

Nevis Highland Dancing - attending dance championship, £300;

Lochaber Action on Disability - upgrade of community café, £900;

Lochaber Drug and Alcohol Forum - for interim secretariat, publicity and volunteer expenses support, £1,550;

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge & Achnacarry Community Council - for garden equipment, bulbs etc, £250;

Glenegarry Girls Shinty Club

- attending WCA Camanachd cup final, £300;

Glenegarry Shinty Club - for purchase of freezer/fridge - deferred;

Isle of Rum Community Trust - contribution to housing needs survey - declined;

Lady Lovat Primary School - transport costs for skiing lessons, £300;

Glenegarry Community Council - contribution towards Glenegarry senior citizens Christmas party, £400;

Glenegarry Community Council - contribution towards Kilmallie senior citizens Christmas Party £900.

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## Much improved display as Fort go down at County

'I don't think we had a bad player in the team' - Fort manager Danny Conlon

**REPORT BY RICHARD HADDOCK**  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

FORT WILLIAM FC will have to wait a week to build on an improved performance away to league leaders Nairn County on Saturday.

Despite being under pressure for most of the game, an improved defensive performance saw Fort hold out for much of the match before eventually losing 2-0.

Fort were due to welcome Inverurie Loco Works to Claggan this weekend, but the game has been put off as the away side are busy with their Scottish Cup tie against Clachnacuddin.

Fort were missing a number of key players on Saturday, with captain Andy Martin

and defensive partner Graeme Bamber both missing. Danny Macintosh, Sean MacDonald and Lewis Corbett all missed out, although Michael Ellis and Chris MacLeod returned to the side.

A stubborn display, highlighted by another impressive performance from new 'keeper Jonathan Smith, was not enough to avoid defeat for Danny Conlon's men. But it was Fort who had one of the best chances in the opening 10 minutes, when Kevin Ferguson cut in from the right and fired a shot narrowly over the bar.

Smith was then called into action, making a great double save to keep out a 25-yard shot from Dale Gillespie and the rebound from Glenn Main.

Nairn forward Steven Mackay

then rounded Smith but his shot was blocked on the line by Fort defender Darren Quigg.

Chance after chance fell to Nairn, but a combination of good defending and poor finishing kept the game scoreless. Chris MacLeod had a rare chance for Fort at the other end but shot straight at the goalkeeper.

Four minutes before half time Martin MacDonald got on the end of a cross to nod Nairn into the lead.

After the break Nairn continued to push and doubled their lead through a Mackay header. The league-toppers continued to push but were unable to add to their tally.

Manager Conlon told The Oban Times he was 'disappointed' not to have a game this weekend, but said he was

seeing signs of improvement in his sides performances.

He was also particularly happy with his makeshift centre-back pairing of Iain Foggo and Darren Quigg, saying: 'We had two new centre-backs in to play against high-flying Nairn, who have been scoring a lot lately, and they both played exceptionally well. I don't think we had a bad player in the team.'

Conlon also had praise for his new keeper Smith. 'He was superb,' Conlon said. 'He had a double save in the first half, and I've no idea how he got back up to keep out the rebound. He's coming on leaps and bounds and he's enjoying himself.'

Conlon is trying to organise a friendly for Saturday to keep the team active.



Midfield dynamo: Michael Ellis returned to the Fort starting line-up. 20\_142for01

## Goon squad remain top of the league

### INDOOR FOOTBALL

GOON SQUAD remain top of the Ali Young Premier League after recording a crushing 12-4 win against The Granite House at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

Lochaber Leisure and Achintore FC also have 100 per cent records after three games. Lochaber Leisure edged out TNF United 5-3, while Achintore defeated Ballachulish 6-4.

HWEnergy No-Stars picked up their first win of the season and the biggest win of the weekend by beating Stroke City 13-1.

Livercaol are still stuck at the bottom of the league and looking for their first points after losing 6-4 to league newcomers Steava Sookabreast, while Fire Brigade are also pointless after narrowly losing 3-2 to AA Young.

### Training pitch to be upgraded

### FOOTBALL

THE TRAINING area at the home of Fort William FC is to get an upgrade.

Souter Sports, who recently carried out successful drainage works on the Claggan Park pitch, will work on the improvements to the area with the funds funded by the football club.

The pitch has suffered badly from heavy rain and has seen three games postponed this season before the drainage was improved.

## No fuss as Marie finishes second in tough 24-hour race

FORT WILLIAM rider Marie Meldrum took second place in the solo women's section at No Fuss Events' gruelling Niterider/Relentless 24 hour race on October 8.

Some 260 hardy mountain bikers arrived at Nevis Range and encountered very different conditions to last year's event, which saw fantastic weather and a bone-dry track.

The rain teamed down all day and night, the only saving grace being that the temperature did not dip below 12 degrees.



Marie Meldrum on her way to second place overall in the 2011 Niterider/Relentless 24 hour race at Nevis Range. 20\_142bikes02

### CYCLING

Riders faced a tough figure-of-eight course comprising three climbs and three technical descents linked by fire roads and the old puggy line - a disused railway bed.

The race started bang on 12pm with a Le Mans style run to the bikes, with riders competing for the solo, pairs, trios and quads titles until 12pm the following day - if they survived that long.

Marie, 36, who is from Upper Achintore and teaches PE and business studies at Lochaber High School, completed 14 laps - 112 miles of rough riding - before she stopped at 8.20am on Sunday in worsening conditions.

She told The Oban Times: 'I was absolutely delighted with my performance, particularly considering the weather.'

'My bike broke a few times and one one occasion I found myself lying face up in a ditch. My chain broke as well and my light batteries failed twice, which meant I was feeling my way around in the dark!'

Marie thanked the marshals and all involved with the event for their support.

## Lochaber rugby boys shoot down the RAF

### Lochaber 43, RAF Lossiemouth 3.

LOCHABER Rugby Club crushed RAF Lossiemouth 43-3 last weekend to pick up their first points of the season.

After a tough start, Lochaber got into their groove in testing conditions at Banavie. Driving rain left the park heavy with mud and water, but the match went ahead after the two team

captains decided to play on.

The home side quickly established their superiority and scored three first half tries through Connor Taylor, Niall MacPhee and Jonathan McCook.

After the break Lochaber continued to press and increased their lead, with Kenny Turnbull, MacPhee and Rory MacKay all crossing the line.

Despite the trying conditions, captain Kenny Turnbull was able to convert three of the scores.

### Team Meeting

Turnbull told The Oban Times: 'It was a really good result. We had a team meeting before the game and it really seemed to help.'

'The guys put in a really good performance.'

Lochaber travel to the north

### RUGBY



Pavel Fronio pushes for the try line during Saturday's match against RAF Lossiemouth.

## Mark just fails to win top of the bill fight in a gruelling contest

A YOUNG Lochaber boxer narrowly missed out on victory after taking part in a top-billed bout in Paisley last weekend.

Teenager Mark Curtis' fight with Ross Brackenridge of Renfrewshire ABC was top of the bill despite it only being the Lochaber man's fourth fight.

As soon as the first bell rang Curtis raced across the ring and immediately put pressure on his rival. Brackenridge proved to be quite adept on his feet as first one then the other boxer took it in turns to find success with combinations to body and head.

As the round drew to a close Brackenridge seemed to get a little wild with his shots leading Mark to believe he was feeling the frantic pace that had been set.

The second round saw Curtis get a little overanxious to cut off the ring and whilst he still had plenty of success with his power shots he neglected to use his jab which enabled Brackenridge more room to land his own blistering combinations as he gained a second wind after the minute's break.

Whirlwind Curtis continued to blow through Paisley in round three as he really took the fight to the streets, pinning the Renfrewshire lad to the ropes for long spells, all the whilst working to body and head.

After three enthralling and close rounds the verdict went to Brackenridge by the tightest of margins but Curtis has already

### BOXING

made enquiries as to a rematch.

Meanwhile, his club mate Igor Sliwinski will be taking part in the Scottish Novice Championships in Edinburgh this weekend.

Such is the depth of quality in his division, Sliwinski will have to win three contests over the course of the weekend to be victorious but the coaches at the club have a great deal of confidence that he will succeed in his task.

Club official Steve Docherty said: 'The championships are for any boxer who has had under seven contests. In an ideal world Igor would only have one opponent of his age and weight in his division but we never seem to get such luck at our club and Igor's division is stacked knee deep in talent.'

'However, in my eyes Igor has as much talent as any boxer I have seen for his age and experience and he has a great chance of victory.'

### No winners in Fort Lotto draw

### LOTTERY

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

Numbers were 2-8-1. Prize money rolls over to next week and goes up to £400.

## Weather

**Thursday** Light rain.  
Winds moderate, west, south westerly  
Temperatures 9°C to 10°C

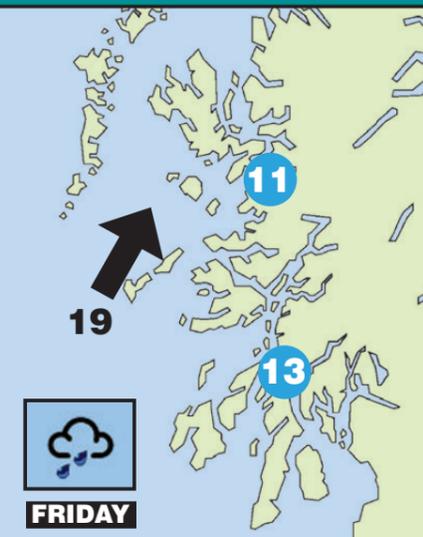
**Friday** Heavy rain.  
Winds moderate, south westerly  
Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.

**Weekend** Cloudy.

**Outlook** Winds moderate, south, south westerly  
Temperatures 10°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 20, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	04.43 1.8 10.28 3.1 17.49 2.1 23.50 2.8	
Fri	06.02 1.8 12.35 3.1 19.24 2.0 *** **	
Sat	02.10 3.0 07.17 1.7 14.13 3.4 20.35 1.7	
Sun	03.01 3.2 08.24 1.4 15.03 3.7 21.27 1.3	
Mon	03.41 3.5 09.21 1.0 15.45 3.9 21.11 1.0	
Tues	04.16 3.8 10.12 0.7 16.25 4.2 22.52 0.8	
Wed	04.51 4.0 10.59 0.5 17.04 4.3 23.32 0.6	

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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