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Tighnabruaich man wins £2,000 Spot the Shinty Ball jackpot

A TIGHNABRUAICH man was left speechless this week after being told by *The Oban Times* he had won £2,000.

Donald Cruickshank won the money after guessing correctly on last week's Spot the Shinty Ball competition - but couldn't believe his ears when told.

He said: 'That's smashing, I'm flabbergasted.'

'I have been watching that amount going up and up every week and thinking someone is going to win it one of these days.'

'I am just thrilled.'

£90,000 Blackface sheep smashes record at Dalmally

TWIN RAM lambs from Blackface sheep breeder Ian Hunter, Dalchirla, Muthill, Crieff smashed the ram lamb record books at United Auctions' Dalmally Auction Mart last Saturday when the auctioneer's hammer fell on one at £90,000 - and the other at £60,000.

The two winning bids almost doubled the previous ram lamb record while the £90,000 bid also equals the all-time Blackface breed record, also held by Ian Hunter, for a ram sold at Dalmally in 2010.

Farmers and ringside spectators were left open-mouthed as the bidding started at £500 and rocketed into the high thousands before finally seeing the hammer fall at £90,000.

Police flown into Tiree after drink driver hits tractor

TWO police officers were flown to Tiree by helicopter on Saturday after a drink driver crashed into a tractor near Coraigmore.

The 41-year-old man was arrested following the incident at 7.25pm on Saturday.

Officers had to be flown to the island to deal with the incident as the island's resident constable was on holiday.

A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.



Mairi finds that winning smile at the Royal National Mòd

Winner of the James C MacPhee medal for girls aged 13-15 (learners) was Islay's Mairi McGillivray, just one of many Islay prizewinners at the Royal National Mòd in Dunoon on Monday. For more from the Royal National Mòd in Dunoon see pages 5, 6, 7, and 8

Dunoon ferry 'bankruptcy' claim dismissed by operator

CLAIMS by Argyll and Bute's MP that the company responsible for the Dunoon-Gourock ferry service could be at risk of going out of business have been dismissed.

Liberal Democrat MP Alan Reid has written to the Scottish transport minister to ask what contingency plans are in place should present operators, Argyll Ferries, be declared bankrupt.

The company's accounts for the last financial year show a profit of £3,000 and net assets of £3,000, which Mr Reid believes leaves the company vulnerable to a drop in passengers.

However, the David MacBrayne Group, which owns the ferry company, says that won't happen.

A spokesman for MacBrayne's, which is wholly owned by Scottish Government ministers, said: 'Argyll Ferries Ltd is backed by the David MacBrayne Group which has significant resources and net assets to support it in the delivery of its contractual obligations.'

In Argyll Ferries' report, director Archie Robertson said: 'The key performance indicator for the company is to achieve a break-even status each financial year.'

Voicing his concerns, Mr Reid claims: 'The unreliability and discomfort of the service is bound to be driving passengers away.'

Fresh hopes for Oban Inn re-opening early next year

AN OBAN public house that closed suddenly four years ago could re-open in the spring after a preferred operator was identified by selling agents, Colliers.

The Oban Inn shut its doors in December 2008 just months after a refurbishment. So quick was the closure that food and drink was left on the tables and kitchen inside the Grade B listed building.

Colliers now hope a new tenant will be in situ early next year, with discussions at an advanced stage.

It had been feared obtaining a new alcohol licence - allowed to expire by Punch Taverns earlier this year - would be difficult with no disabled access to the property, but a new wheelchair ramp was installed at the rear of the building last week.

It is hoped the bidder - understood to be local - will be in a position to apply for a licence in the near future.

The news comes as new interest is expressed in several retail units in the town.

John Forteith is a shadow director of the new Oban Business Improvement District (BID) company set to start trading on October 31. He believes

increased interest in Oban is an indication of the belief in the BID movement.

He said: 'It's excellent news that a site in a prime location that has been vacant for such a long time looks like it is going to be home to a new business.'

'I would say it's also encouraging that some of the other vacant premises in Oban are attracting interest as well.'

'This is a good indicator that Oban is being viewed as an attractive business location and that the BID will improve the trading environment as a whole.'

Oban flights to take off

Glasgow and Barra links on agenda as Oban airport has 30 per cent increase in passenger numbers

A NEW study to look at better use of airports around the Highlands and islands could lead to new flights between Oban, Glasgow and other destinations.

Starting in December, the study by the Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership (HITRANS) will look at how each of the area's Public Service Obligation (PSO) airports could be better used to encourage growth.

Recognising fresh investment is unlikely, given current financial constraints at both local council and government level, the report is likely to focus on how existing routes could be altered to improve existing connections across the area, including to major hubs such as Inverness and Glasgow.

The study comes as fresh moves are made by Argyll and Bute Council to establish flights between Oban and Glasgow in the wake of a 50 per cent rise in summer traffic through the airport.

HITRANS' report is due to be completed in March. Its chairman, Argyll and Bute Council's lead councillor for development and infrastructure, John Semple said: 'This report would take in every PSO airport in the Highlands and islands.'

'What it will hopefully do is influence the Scottish Government and local authorities who own these resources to make appropriate changes to improve the service.'

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.com

'For example, there are currently flights from Barra to Glasgow. I don't think it'd be a great pain if that flight were to stop in Oban on the way.'

'Improving air connections would be to the benefit of businesses and residents across the Highlands and islands and that's why important research projects like this are done.'

Meanwhile, Argyll and Bute Council has revealed more than 3,000 people have flown from Oban to Tiree, Coll, Colonsay and Islay between September 2011 and August this year - a 30 per cent increase on last year.

Oban councillor and deputy lead councillor for tourism, Louise Glen-Lee, said the figures are to be celebrated.

'It is looking good but there's still lots to be done. In terms of a link between the rural areas it serves it is fantastic. The flying club has to be commended as do the staff at the airport.'

'We are in discussions to secure flights to Glasgow. It shouldn't be a luxury but something that's available day to day.'

Mrs Glen-Lee added the Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS) is to take over the concession stand at the airport as part of further improvements.

Police issue 500 parking tickets during three-month Oban trial

Chief Inspector rules out long-term purge

NEARLY 500 parking tickets were issued to motorists in Oban during a three-month pilot scheme which saw police officers enforce metered on-street parking.

Argyll and Bute Council started paying Strathclyde Police to monitor parking since July 9 following the withdrawal of traffic wardens. Officers have handed out an average of 160 parking tickets a month, with the total number of fines issued reaching 479 by the end of the trial.

Oban Chief Inspector Brian Auld said the three-month pilot saw parking meter compliance rise from 35 per cent to approximately 80 per cent and now hopes to hold a meeting with the authority to determine

the next step.

He said: 'We will continue to monitor the spaces in the meantime. To fail to comply with regulated parking is an offence and my message to people is to stick to the rules.'

Even if a deal is agreed for police to continue monitoring parking long-term, Chief Inspector Auld ruled out taking on the duties as part of everyday policing, saying: 'The resources available to me mean that will never happen.'

Argyll and Bute Council hope to decriminalise on-street parking offences in Oban so a community group, such as Oban BID, could take it over.

Cocaine dealer jailed

A YOUNG Oban man 'caught red-handed' with more than £1,000 worth of cocaine was jailed at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday.

Daniel Kelly, currently a prisoner in HMP Greenock, admitted possessing cocaine on August 11 with intent to supply.

The court heard police entered a flat on Shore Street and Kelly was sitting in front of a small table. Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said: 'Directly in front of him was a pile of white powder and a knife and he had a bank card in his hand'. Mr McGinty added: 'He was simply caught red handed chopping up the cocaine in front of him.'

The court heard the cocaine weighed 30.9 grams with a wholesale value of £750 and an estimated street value of £40 to £50 per gram - a potential income of £1,545.

Defending, Edward Thornton told the court Kelly, 22, had 'obtained the drugs on credit' and 'planned to make £600 to £700' from supplying them to others. He said: 'He became involved in this as he felt incapable of providing necessary support for his girlfriend who will soon be having their child.'

Sheriff Raymond McMenamin sentenced Kelly to 16 months in prison and said: 'You were in a situation whereby you decided deliberately and cynically to engage in the supply of a controlled drug and a class A drug at that.'

Kelly's sentence was backdated to August 13 when he was taken into custody. He was also sentenced to 60 days in prison for a charge of possessing cocaine and admonished on a charge of attempting to force open a car with intent to steal.



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Local hearing on Isle of Coll wind turbine proposal

A PLANNING application to develop a 77m wind turbine at Gallanach on Coll will go to a local hearing this week.

Recommended for approval, the application from Neil Smith also outlines details for a crane hardstanding, control building, temporary construction compound and formation of vehicular access to the 750Kw turbine.

Planners moved to hold a hearing on the island in response to the volume of objections from neighbours, who are concerned the character of the island would be affected and that the turbines are incongruous to the surroundings.

The meeting will be held at An Cridhe at 1pm today (Thursday).

Islay lifeboat tows home the Annie

ISLAY lifeboat was called out last Thursday to help the 14-metre fishing boat *Annie* after she developed rudder problems at Blackstone's Bank, 35 miles west of Rhuvaal lighthouse.

A tow was attached to the stricken vessel and she and her five-man crew were taken back to Port Askaig where repairs were carried out.

Lorn historians start new season

A NEW winter season of lectures are about to begin for Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society (LAHS).

The society is fast approaching its 50th year and audiences can once again look forward to informative speakers on a wide variety of topics in history and archaeology.

Those interested in attending should be aware that there is a change of venue this year with meetings now taking place at the St. Columba's Hall, off Corran Esplanade beginning this Friday, October 19, at 7.30pm.

The invited speaker, Angus Martin of Campbeltown, is a well-known author, researcher and local historian who will present 'Kintyre Places and place names'.

As always visitors are welcome to go along.

More details are available on the society website.

NEWSDESK
01631 568000

Directors wanted for Oban BID company

LETTERS have been sent to every business within Oban's 30mph zone to seek nominations onto the town's new Business Improvement District (BID) company.

Ten directors will be elected to sit on the board, with two further directors to be filled by representatives from Argyll and Bute Council. The BID company is due to start its work on October 31.

Scotland's first whole-town BID, the company will be responsible for delivering the five

year business plan drawn up by the BID4Oban steering group. Spaces on the board have been broken down into different categories to ensure each of the town's business sectors is fairly represented.

Retailers and wholesalers will join the leisure and hospitality trades in filling three seats each. The industrial and service sector will fill two seats, as will representatives from the town's office and financial businesses.

Project co-ordinator Pauline Cameron said the numbers were

devised to match the mix of trades in the town.

She said: 'We would like to get as wide a spread of nominations as possible both in terms of business size and geographical location, as well as specific trading sectors.'

'Whether you own an Oban business or manage the local branch of a 'multiple' business which is headquartered elsewhere, we'd like to hear from you.'

'Above all, we're looking for people who have a passion for

improving the local trading environment for the benefit of the whole community.'

All application forms must be returned by November 1. Each should include the name and signature of a 'supporter', who must also be a levy-payer.

If more nominations are received than the allocated number of places, by category, then a meeting will be held at which those wishing to become directors can present their case before a vote is taken.

A seat on the board - which

is unpaid - will involve active participation and involvement in all aspects of the BID for a period of at least three years. This includes attending a minimum of six board meetings each year. Anyone who would like more details on what membership of the BID board would involve should contact either Pauline Cameron on info@bid4oban.co.uk or steering group chairman Graham MacQueen on 07833 948544. Information can be found at www.bid4oban.co.uk



Brother and sister Abby, 4, and Ruairidh MacQueen, 6, help staff at MacQueen Brothers put 'Frances' into storage following its move from Craignure last week. 15_142macqtrain1

Famous 'Frances' moves on

MULL'S famous railway is now a resident of a storage yard in Oban after making its final stop on the island last week.

'Frances', the green engine which helped carry 30,000 passengers a year around the island, was transported by lorry

and ferry to the MacQueen Brothers Oban-based yard, together with the remaining carriages and track from the railway made famous by children's TV show *Balamory*.

When in use, the miniature railway ran from near the

Craignure ferry terminal to Torosay Castle, which has now been sold.

Frances and all of the railway track has been sold to a private buyer in Scotland but it is hoped it will go on public display in a few years time.

Housing provider to hit deadline

ARGYLL'S largest social housing provider has said it will meet Scottish Housing Quality Standards (SHQS) by the April 2015 deadline - only being half way there.

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) chairman Bill McIntyre told the group's AGM that between July 2007 and March 31 2012, £56million of capital investment resulted in the upgrade or repair of more than 5,000 homes.

Of this, 15,000 separate 'elemental' improvements had been made, including installing new windows, kitchen and bathrooms.

This work meant the association had completed 46 per cent of the work required to meet the SHQS deadline, leaving it two and a half years to complete the remainder of the work.

Funding
Christine Johnston, director of housing and neighbourhood services at ACHA, has said both the plan and funding is in place to meet that target.

'There are five main criteria that cover the tolerable standard, repairs, energy efficiency, modern facilities and safety and security,' she said.

'ACHA has a rolling programme of work that covers all these aspects, for instance topping up insulation in loft spaces, repairing roofs and upgrading heating systems.'

'This programme of work will continue until March 2015 when

we plan to meet the standard's criteria.'

'ACHA has a 30-year business plan that is funded by grants from the Scottish Government and private finance. The plan includes enough funding for all the work required to meet the standard in March 2015.'

'ACHA has an annual percentage target for its stock to meet the SHQS. At the end of March 2012, ACHA met its target for the SHQS 2011/12.'

Support
'In spite of the economic climate ACHA has a business plan that will support the rest of the work required.'

Meanwhile, Mr McIntyre said significant progress had been made by the association in meeting its new home targets.

During the past year, 60 new-build homes were completed across Campbeltown, Lochgoilhead and Dunoon. He also indicated, since the start of the new financial year, a further 16 homes went on site in Dalmailly and Port Ellen.

The association plans to build 72 further new homes this year.

At the first board meeting following the AGM, the association's office bearers were elected. Bill McIntyre from Helensburgh was re-elected chairman, George Farquhar from Dalmailly is vice chairman, Norman Beaton from Ardrishaig is secretary and Michael Brown from Cardross is chairman of the finance and audit committee.

Mull Lines

A PUBLIC hearing is to be held regarding the planning application for a fish farm off the Isle of Mull.

The Scottish Salmon Company has applied for the formation of a fin fish farm in Loch Tuath off Gometra. The hearing is expected to be held on Monday November 5 at 10.30am in Dervaig Village Hall.

A LATE night shopping event is being planned for Main Street, Tobermory, just in time for Christmas.

The event, which is planned for November 30, has 12 shops currently taking part. They will be open 6pm until late.

The town's Christmas lights will also be getting switched on that night, promising to make it a real festive occasion.

Stu and Sophie Cattanaugh of the Isle of Mull Soap Company had the idea for the event and are encouraging everyone to get involved.

Sophie said: 'All the shops will be offering festive drinks and nibbles. Here at the Isle of Mull Soap Co we can guarantee cheesy Christmas tunes, mulled wine and mince pies. It should be a great night.'



Dr Mark Astill gives Scott Gates, organiser of the Community Café, his flu jab.

ISLE of Mull residents were queuing up to see the doctor last week - with prevention rather than cure in mind.

Dr Mark Astill, the Buessan GP, was at the Community Café giving older residents, or those vulnerable to infection, their flu jab.

He said: 'I thought it would be a good idea to set up stall at the café to offer the flu jab to all those who need one.'

'People often delay coming to the surgery for their annual jab, which increases their chances of catching flu.'

'The day was a great success and we managed to get a large number of jabs done.'

The Community Café is a monthly event in which locals and visitors get together to have lunch. There are also several stalls selling local crafts and produce.

Any profit is put back into local community programmes.

A MULL animal lover is collecting old blankets and towels to be donated to an Argyll cat shelter.

Catherine Fitness, whose cat Mr T won *The Oban Times* Pet Idol competition, welcomes any donations from the public of material that can be used as bedding for cats at the Small Paws shelter, run by Argyll Animal Aid.

She said: 'They need old towels and blankets for bedding but are always looking for other items too and are very grateful to receive them.'

'I have been very lucky, Mull and Iona Environmentally Sensitive Solutions are good at giving me old towels that are handed in but I always need more to take over.'

If anyone wishes to donate material for bedding for unwanted or stray cats contact Catherine on 01680 812513.

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Argyll UHI hosts graduation day
New principal celebrates students' success

THE NEW principal of Argyll College UHI in Oban had a hectic first week as he presided over this year's graduation ceremony.

Fraser Durie, who has taken over from retiring principal Michael Breslin, celebrated the success of the students at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

He said: 'It's a real privilege to be the new principal of Argyll College, which has a substantial and growing presence throughout Argyll.'

'The college fulfils a key role in the development of the economy of this area which I am committed to continuing.'

'We had students graduating with all levels of award at the ceremony, including Scottish Vocational Qualifications and degrees. Graduation is always a special time for those taking part and the college staff involved.'

'We recognise the hard work and dedication of students and the staff who helped them on their journey. I hope it acts as an inspiration both to potential students who may join us but also to current students on that journey.'

'Our graduation showed very clearly the potential opportunities provided by the college as an Academic Partner of the University of the Highlands and Islands and we will continue, through 2013 and beyond, to develop and nurture exciting educational opportunities for the communities of Argyll and the islands.'

The ceremony saw the presentation of several special recognition awards including the Wilma Campbell Rose Bowl for Argyll College UHI Further Education Student of the Year awarded to Thomas Gallagher of Campbeltown for recently completing his certificate in agriculture.

The Mary MacKenzie Memorial Cup for hairdressing was awarded to Ala Korda, an SVQ2 student from Oban. This cup is awarded to the student who shows outstanding flair and creativity during their course.

There was also a special mention for Claire Gilpin who achieved the BA Child and Youth Studies. Claire initially studied NC Early Education and Childcare five years ago at Argyll College. She subsequently progressed to the HNC Early Education and Childcare gaining an 'A' in her graded unit and has now



Fraser Durie, new principal of Argyll College UHI is 'privileged' to have been appointed to the role.



Thomas Gallagher of Campbeltown won the Wilma Campbell Rose Bowl for Argyll College UHI Further Education Student of the Year.



The Mary MacKenzie Memorial Cup for hairdressing was presented to Ala Korda by Mary MacKenzie's daughter Veronica MacKenzie.



Claire Gilpin achieved a BA in Child and Youth Studies.

Benderloch woodland work gets underway

WORK will start next week to remove 3,000 cubic metres of standing timber from the Beinn Lora area, near Benderloch with much of the path to Eagle's Eyrrie to close for a month.

Forestry Commission Scotland will start the operations on the Beinn Lora site from next Wednesday, October 24 until November 30.

Walkers will still be able to negotiate between half a mile and a mile of the currently open forestry route situated to the left of the car park but will then have to turn back at the junction with the alternative path route back down.

Commission spokesman Andy Hunt said: 'Equipment will be moved in from Barcaldine Forest, so there will be no added disruption for that.'

'Walkers should observe the operational signage that will be in place.'

Walkers will still be able to ascend Beinn Lora from the Barcaldine Forest side, he added.

Meanwhile, geological studies of the section of forest behind houses at the south of Benderloch indicate there will be no risk of landfall during tree harvesting works if good practice is followed.

The study is set to be completed and presented to residents next week.

Former council communications manager's appeal deadline looms

AN APPEAL over the sacking of Argyll and Bute Council's former communications manager will be considered by councillors next month.

Jo Smith was sacked in August despite being cleared of false allegations she used social network websites to 'spy' on locals. The authority instead said she brought it into disrepute by using the word 'spy' in a presentation last September.

The *Oban Times* has learned Ms Smith continues to appeal her dismissal after it failed at two stages.

The third and final stage of appeal will see her case heard by a panel of councillors.

A date for the hearing has not yet been set, but the appeal must be heard by the panel by November 7.

Winter vomiting virus leaves with Oban hotel guests

AN OBAN hotel that was at the centre of an outbreak of the winter vomiting bug has claimed the illness left with the guests.

Thirty people staying at the Bay Great Western Hotel on Oban's Esplanade fell ill with what was believed to be norovirus last week.

Environmental health officers from Argyll and Bute Council were working with hotel owners Shearings to limit the spread of the outbreak.

Guests left
The hotel remained open for business throughout the outbreak but did turn away a pre-booked coach party.

Paul Smith, spokesman for Shearings said: 'Those people with symptoms of the norovirus all left by Saturday.'

'The sickness left with the people that were sick at the time.
'No new cases have been reported.'

'Our environmental health team was notified about a norovirus outbreak in an Oban hotel on Thursday, October 11.'

'Hotel staff have been fully co-operating with the environmental health team.
'There have been no new cases of the norovirus in the hotel and it has been thoroughly

cleaned and disinfected in line with Health Protection Scotland guidelines.
'The hotel remains open.'

'Not unusual'
The council spokeswoman added: 'Norovirus is a viral infection which is spread through aerosols or through contact with bodily fluids, including

diarrhoea and vomit.
'It is also known as winter vomiting disease and it is understood there are a number of similar incidents across Scotland, which is not unusual at this time of year.'

'We would advise anyone who is feeling unwell to contact their GP as normal.'

A83 diversion route delayed

Land deal not signed for Rest and Be Thankful alternative road

A NEW diversion route for motorists to use when landslides close the Rest and Be Thankful has been delayed by at least two months.

News of the delayed alternative route, originally scheduled to open by November, broke this week as it was revealed the Scottish Government has not signed an agreement with the owner of the road for its use.

Minister for Transport Keith Brown this week told the A83 Taskforce that the landowner had issued the government with a letter of comfort, assuring his commitment to enter into an agreement.

As Transport Scotland say the deal will be signed 'as soon as possible', engineers have said they can complete the work on the Old Military Road within nine weeks. In order to meet the November deadline they should have started work on that section of road on August 29.

Speaking after the taskforce



Minister for Transport Keith Brown

meeting, Mr Brown said: 'Good progress has been made in agreeing final terms with the private landowner at the Old Military Road to allow construction on this section.'

'I will continue to ensure everyone involved in the construction is in no doubt that we

need the new emergency route in place and available for use as soon as possible.'

Work on either side of the Rest and Be Thankful is progressing with new road foundations built, road realignment in place and improved drainage. The road has also been widened to accommodate HGVs, with a successful hairpin trial concluded with a local haulier at the west end of the route.

Meanwhile work on the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful saw the traffic lights removed and the flow of two-way traffic on Sunday. Phase two of the netting to catch debris on the hillside has been completed, with phase three expected to start in the next few weeks.

Mr Brown said: 'Our commitment to addressing the problems at the Rest and Be Thankful remains, with the taskforce driving forward the work that is needed to ensure swift and successful delivery.'



Speaking to *The Oban Times* in August, then cabinet secretary for infrastructure and capital investment, Alex Neil, said work to make the Old Military Road a viable landslip diversion route would be completed by November.

Wild campers' behaviour shocks Taynuilt into call for police action



The mess left behind by weekend boozey campers near to Kelly's Pier, Taynuilt. 16_142810v001

UNWANTED campers who pitched up on a popular Taynuilt beauty spot left behind a makeshift toilet and rubbish after a boozey weekend.

The site on shores of Loch Etive, by a local beauty spot known as Kelly's Pier, is used as common grazing for cattle but is also a popular spot for walkers. A children's rope swing hangs just metres from the debris left behind: a makeshift toilet made from a plastic chair and bucket, toilet roll hanging from tree branches, rubbish and discarded empty beer bottles strewn amongst the bushes.

The site, owned by Bonawe Estate, is near a sign indicating no overnight parking or camping is permitted.

One Taynuilt resident, who

lives nearby, said: 'I have never seen anything like it.'

Police enforcement

'People camp here more or less every weekend during the summer but no-one has ever left anything like this behind.'

'What would they say if we left a mess like this in their back yard?'

'It is the children who play here that I am most concerned about but there is also cattle on the common grazing that are at risk.'

Taynuilt Community Council chairman Murray Sim and Billy Neilson, grazing clerk of the Bonawe township, have both reported the matter to the police and called for better enforcement of the area.

Mr Sim said: 'I saw what

was left there and I think it is shocking. That area is used by walkers and children and these people have used it as a toilet. It is only a few yards from the road.'

'I would like to see the police doing more, because residents cannot approach them alone. This is also about visitors needing to be more responsible.'

Oban Police inspector Julie McLeish said: 'This type of behaviour is completely unacceptable and we will be increasing patrols in the area to try and prevent this happening again.
'At the same time enquiries are ongoing to identify the persons responsible and we would like to hear from anyone who may have information relating to this incident.'

Bonawe Pier may become target of community ownership bid

MOVES to bring Taynuilt's Bonawe Pier into community ownership have taken a step forward, with the appointment of consultants to carry out a feasibility study into the its potential uses.

The group, Taynuilt Coastal Resources, is leading the community proposal and said residents should expect the consultation process to begin soon. They will be asked to suggest what the pier could be used for and comment on the potential community ownership.

Campbeltown man dies after town centre incident

A CAMPBELTOWN man has died of serious head injuries following an incident in the town in the early hours of Saturday morning.

David McNaughton was transferred to Glasgow's Southern General Hospital at 1.30am following the incident outside a takeaway, but the 54-year old later died of his injuries.

Police say they are treating the incident as accidental but are appealing for witnesses.

Inspector Tom Harper said: 'We are keen to speak to anyone who was in the Longrow area of Campbeltown at the time of the incident.'

'Our thoughts are with the man's family and friends at this time.'

Anyone with any information should contact Campbeltown Police on 01586 862200.

12-year old charged after motorbike ride

POLICE have charged a 12 year old boy with driving on the pavement following an incident at Corran Esplanade, Oban, on Monday.

The youngster was allegedly driving a motor-bike or scooter down the Dunollie section of the path at 3.40pm.

£500,000 spend on Craobh Haven access road

HALF a million pounds is being invested by the owners of Craobh Haven to improve the marina's access road.

Owners Holt Leisure Group instructed Hillhouse Quarries to commence work this week on the six-week resurfacing programme, which they hope will help attract more people to the Mid Argyll leisure spot.

Once the section from the A816 junction is completed, work will begin to resurface the road to Lunga Riding Stables, funded by the stables. Argyll and Bute Council will adopt the roads when resurfacing is completed.

Assault charge

A 38-YEAR old man was arrested in the early hours of Sunday morning after allegedly assaulting two men in Oban's George Street.

A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Alleged reckless driver caught at Taynuilt

POLICE have charged a man with alleged reckless driving after crossing a double white line in Taynuilt to overtake a bus, then hitting a vehicle turning right onto the road.

The accused is 34 years old and was driving a blue Peugeot when the incident occurred at 2pm on October 9.

Driver denies causing 'movie style' car crash at Ardfern junction

A DRIVER involved in a crash, which a defence lawyer claimed caused a Mini to 'flip in the air Hollywood movie style', is currently on trial at Oban Sheriff Court.

Graham Baxter, of 15 Chestnut Crescent, Hamilton denies causing the accident by

emerging onto the A816 Oban to Lochgilphead road at the Ardfern junction, without due care.

The 64-year-old admitted during evidence that he 'may have been over the white lines' but said there was still 'plenty of space' for drivers to pass.

Baxter claimed he did not realise immediately that he had been hit and said he believed it was a 'glancing blow'.

The court also heard the driver of the other vehicle, a 56-year-old man, received broken ribs and a shattered shoulder as a result of the accident. He told

the court: 'I saw a vehicle come up to the stop line, it hesitated then just came out. By that time I was on top of the junction - all I could do was swerve and try and avoid it.'

During evidence a witness told the court she had been overtaken by the Mini but it was back on

the left-hand carriageway 'well before' the accident. She said: 'The next thing I noticed was the car spinning over in the air, it was sideways on and flipping over itself.'

As *The Oban Times* went to press the trial at Oban Sheriff Court continues.

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Isle of Mull pet owner Catherine Fitness with her Oban Times Pet Idol winner Mr T. 16_142810v001

Mull's Mr T is Oban Times' Pet Idol champion

BLACK cats have long been thought of as lucky and one feline on the Isle of Mull proved that to be the case this week.

Mr T, owned by Catherine Fitness, has won *The Oban Times* Pet Idol competition 2012 and Catherine could not contain her surprise and delight.

The three year old cat had been unwell earlier this year but battled through to be crowned champion of the pet competition.

Catherine said: 'He was very ill in April. I thought I was going to lose him, it was awful. He had a bladder haemorrhage and is now on medication for life.'

'He is a totally changed cat now, he comes up for cuddles which he never used to do.'

Catherine, who also owns Brogan, the sister of Mr T, added: 'We have some laughs with the pair of them, they were five weeks old when I brought them home. When the two of them start it is 100mph round the house - they keep you going.'

Catherine plans to buy Mr T a cat tree with the £100 winnings and he will also receive a goody bag from competition sponsors Pet Logistics.

She added: 'I never for a minute expected him to win when I saw the others that were in it. He was nearly not here at all and now he goes and wins that. He is just my wee champion.'

Oban marine energy event studies options

MARINE Scotland set out its plans to look at possible uses of the country's seas at an event in Oban's Corran Halls on Thursday.

However, the Scottish Government organisation, tasked with managing the country's seas for 'prosperity and environmental sustainability' denied the marine atlas meant every area highlighted had the potential to be developed for renewable energy sources. Instead, visitors to the presentation were told the map outlined 'areas of search for planning options.'

Part of a national roadshow, the event was designed to let people know what Marine Scotland considers when looking at sites, how it considers its options and what areas are being looked at currently.

The areas being looked at by Marine Scotland cover most of the west coast and its isles.

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, Mark Christie from Marine Scotland's consents team said: 'This is to let people see the other potential areas there are for development for renewable technologies such as wind, wave and tidal power.'

'We want to ensure everyone is able to have their say as early as possible on their locality. If people didn't make it here this week, they can still get in touch with us if they want to raise any specific issues.'

For more information, see www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland.

Mull driver charged

A 28 YEAR old man from Mull has been charged with careless driving after crossing double white lines to overtake a vehicle near Craignure on October 9.

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COLONSAY

THE NEW head teacher on Colonsay is enjoying her first holidays since taking over the role.

Miss Gillian, who hails from Bangor, County Down, started her new role on September 17. She said: 'The island is stunning.'

'On my daily commute to work, I've been feeling very fortunate to be in such a beautiful place.'

'The Atlantic is in my blood and it pleases me that I can still see home from certain places on Colonsay.'

'The landscape and weather is similar to the Antrim coast, where I spent many a happy holiday as a child.'

'My initial impressions are that the people of Colonsay are very friendly with a great sense of humour.'

Jodi Callaghan has also recently been appointed childcare and education worker within the school's pre-5 unit.

ISLE OF COLONSAY

THE ISLE of Colonsay's fifth music festival was one of the best, according to Donald 'Pedie' MacNeill, joint organiser of the four-day event.

Crowds of up to 250 visitors and locals packed the village hall for 17 concerts and a ceilidh and filled Colonsay Hotel for six sessions and two workshops.

Ceol Cholasa 2012 got off to a flying start with the appearance of Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain, Scotland's best-loved and most enduring folk duo, who wowed, moved and entertained the audience with their virtuosic playing and top-notch craic.

Another highlight was the chance to witness the sublime skills of Roberto Diana, all the way from Sardinia, who did things with a guitar that you'd never think possible.

Ivan Drever's mellow performance was followed by the crackling tunes and songs of his son, Kris, a Ceol Cholasa regular.

Kathleen MacInnes, from North Uist, won the hearts of everyone with her beautiful Gaelic songs and, as one concert-goer put it, 'making us feel like we were in her front room.'

Local talent was very much to the fore, with no fewer than

18 islanders impressing visitors with their musical skills; only 120 souls currently live on the island.

Caitlin McNeill, a music student at the University of the Highlands and Islands, demonstrated the progress she has made with voice and guitar.

Everyone was also treated to a marvellous singing duet, by island youngsters Mikaela and Donald Carmichael who already have national Mod medals to their names.

Also to the fore were the Machrims McNeills; one song, written by Seamus McNeill whilst gathering sheep, brought a tear to many an eye.

The week wasn't without drama as ferry disruption denied islanders the pleasure of Karine Polwart's company; however, the final night's main attraction, *Manran*, just made it, pitching up in a RIB just over an hour before the start of their concert.

For a full review, read the island's newsletter, the Corncrake, at www.colonsay.org.uk where plans for next year's event will also be outlined.

SPEAN BRIDGE

WITH the summer tourist season coming to an end, locals in Spean Bridge have been tallying up visitor numbers.

Glen Spean and Great Glen Marketing Tourism Group spokesman Peter Wilson told *The Oban Times* despite Lochaber experiencing better weather than the rest of the country for much of the summer, business had been slightly slower than previous years.

He said: 'A lot of people have been saying it was a bit quieter than usual.'

ISLAY

SOME hardy people got into small boats and headed over to MacKenzie Island, just offshore from Portnahaven, to clean around this small island.

It took a squad of people two days over the weekend of September 22 to bag and shift all the rubbish; they collected a tonne and a half of washed-up junk. All the refuse had to be bagged up and carried in small boats to Portnahaven bay for removal.

The island's owner, who bought the property earlier this year, will make a donation to the Rhinns Hall for this work, and Re-JIG's Beach Project will also sponsor the hall committee. In the usual Portnahaven tradition after a village event, a generous spread of food and several large pots of tea were laid on afterwards.

ISLAY'S barley harvest of 2012 has been a difficult stop-start business, with last month's persistently showery weather distinctly unhelpful to island farmers.

This year it was a race between farmers, the weather



Lochaber High School pupils visit New York

A lucky group of 30 Lochaber High School pupils spent the first week of their October break soaking up the sights in New York. The youngsters climbed to the top of both the Empire State Building and the Statue of Liberty, took an open top bus round the city and went to see the musical 'Wicked' on Broadway, as well as browsing the shops.

and incoming wild geese; with farmers all working hard to get the barley grain harvested in good condition, trying to keep ahead of yet more rain or the arriving flocks of thousands of hungry geese.

It will have been a relief to farmers when they finally reached the stage of stacking bales on trailers, ready for storage before use as winter bedding of housed cattle and roughage feeding.

Even with modern, faster machinery, harvest is still hard work and is one of the major efforts of the farming year.

WELL-travelled young Highland dancers from Ella Edgar's School of Dance in Islay have enjoyed a number of successes in late summer season dancing competitions.

Newtonmore Highland Games - Intermediate Section: Sophie Baker: one first prize; four seconds and one third. Premier section: Stacy Baker: two fifth prizes.

Assynt Highland Games - Intermediate Section: Sophie Baker: two firsts; two seconds; two fourth and runner up shield. Premier Section: Isla MacCalman: one second; three thirds and one fourth. Stacy Baker: two thirds and one fourth. Ashley Harrison:

one second; one third and three fourths. Dunoon Festival Competition: Novice Section: Iona Scott: one fourth and one sixth. Intermediate Section: Sophie Baker: three seconds; one third; two fourths; one fifth and runner up trophy. Premier Section: Stacy Baker: one third; one fourth and four fifths.

IONAD Chaluim Chille Ile (ICCI) is pleased to announce the arrival of a new member of staff.

Anna MacQuarrie has joined ICCI to begin work in the role of Cultural Heritage Project Officer, through the Talent Scotland Graduate Placement Scheme.

Anna is a native Gaelic speaker, was educated through Gaelic medium in Inverness and studied archaeology at Edinburgh University. She will be undertaking a number of projects and initiatives relating to cultural heritage on Islay.

With a strong interest in the island's distinct archaeology and cultural identity, Anna would be delighted to meet with Islay people to discuss their local knowledge of the culture, heritage and language.

KILLIN

A STANDING ovation rounded off a particularly successful concert from Killin Community Choir when it played to a packed McLaren Hall in the village recently.

Under the direction of Franny Morrison, the group entertained the full house to a selection of music from a vast

BARCALDINE



Pupils and Poppies boost Macmillan

Barcaldine Primary School children presented Marion MacPherson of Poppies Garden Centre with a cheque for £100 for the Macmillan Cancer World's Biggest Coffee Morning recently. The children decided to donate their rag bag appeal money to this worthwhile charity. The children travelled to Poppies where they entertained the customers, while they enjoyed their coffee and collected more donations.



Cameron Allen with his footballing hero, former Rangers forward Nacho Novo.

Cameron wins charity award

A YOUNG Appin lad, who suffers from a severe form of Brittle Bone Disease, has won a top charity award for his fundraising.

Cameron Allen only expected to raise £100 during a sponsored silence at his school, Strath of Appin Primary, earlier this year. However, the youngster ended up collecting around £6,000 from 431 separate donations - a new record for the charity.

At a recent gala dinner and ceremony in Blackpool, Cameron received the Brittle Bone Society award for financial excellence as the individual raising the most money for them this year.

The Rangers Football Club fan - and budding Paralympian - received hundreds of donations from fellow football fans.

Down Your Way

Ardfern/Kilmelford

CHILDREN in Ardfern will take on the task of rebuilding the church - using only two pence pieces.

An event, to be held in the playground of Craignish Primary School, will see the pupils lay out the outline of Craignish Church using the coins.

It is hoped the unusual activity will encourage the children and others to think about the future of the village church.

The church is in 'urgent' need of repair, according to the Craignish Church Restoration Appeal Group.

A total of £25,000 has already been raised to fund this but more is needed. The children have already begun collecting the two pence coins, which will be their contribution to the fund.

The event, on November 1 runs from 9.45am until 10.15am and members of the community are invited to attend.

There is also an ongoing consultation about the future use of the church building and some of the things that the children have suggested will be announced on the day.

NEW MEMBERS are being sought for Kilmelford and Kilniver Community Council (KKCC) to bring it up to its full complement.

The recent community council meeting saw the resignation of Toni Mitchell from her planning role. Lucy Files has also resigned the secretary post. But both said they would stay on KKCC until they no longer 'felt useful' to the community. Chairman Nigel Mitchell told the audience these, and other available posts, need filled urgently whether by members of the public or community council members. He also warned if the group fell below five members it would no longer be recognised by Argyll and Bute Council.



Some of the Craignish pupils with their art work.

PUPILS at Craignish Primary School showed off their artistic talents recently with a local exhibition of their work.

The children, from the pre-five unit through to primary seven, worked with artist Hannah Tofts to create their lighthouse art exhibition.

The project, which started in August, saw the children using lots of different mediums including acrylic on board, Indian ink and lino cuts. They also used some recycled materials.

Lots of the children named Hannah as their inspiration and she said: 'The children were really game and just flew with the project and the exhibition shows just how professional it can be.'

Anne Wilson, head teacher at Craignish Primary School, said: 'Doing the project with Hannah has raised the game for the children, it is so professional. They have done a fantastic job and produced very, very high quality artwork. They have embraced the techniques and taken a lot of instruction from Hannah.'

Lots of parents helped to set up the exhibition, it has been a big joint effort. We want to thank the parent council, the Galley of Lorne and the school for sponsoring it.'

A PUBLIC hearing is to be held regarding the planning application for the Clachan Seil windfarm.

Mr Rory Young has applied for permission to erect nine wind turbines, which are 77 metres to blade tip. There will also be a construction compound, substation, access tracks and ancillary works. The hearing will be held on October 31 at 11.30am in the main hall of the Corran Halls in Oban.

A PLAN to make communities more 'resilient' during winter was discussed at a recent meeting of Kilmelford and Kilniver Community Council.

A document from Argyll and Bute Council, encouraging communities to prepare for winter emergencies, had been received. Councillor Duncan Macintyre told the meeting £700,000 had been put aside by the council to prepare communities for the worst after the January storms. He suggested funding could be applied for so Kilmelford Village Hall could be used as a refuge for residents in the event of emergencies. Community council members will be attending an information day on the subject, to be held in the Corran Halls in Oban on November 13.

A NEW dance show is to visit Ardfern tomorrow night as part of its tour around the United Kingdom.

The Chinaski Sessions, choreographed by Kylie Walters, features dance, theatre and live rock music. David Hughes Dance Scotland will be coming to Craignish Village Hall at 7.30pm on Friday October 19. Kylie said: 'My challenge was to create a true hang-out on stage which would allow for all sorts of possibilities - be they humorous or sinister. I wanted the energy to be free to surge into both moments of formal beauty and of high chaos - to discover personalities without the ball and chain of character. I hope The Chinaski Sessions brings the federating energy of live rock music, the rapture and fierce elation that it inspires in people, through into the realm of dance.' The show features seven characters trapped in a rock band's home studio as they try to finish their new album. The live sessions become a playing field for old grievances, one-upmanship and reconciliations.

Next week Down Your Way visits Strathfillan with reporter Steven Flanagan. Contact Steven on 01631 568000 or email sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

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Paisley choir 'first' for Dunoon Mòd

PAISLEY'S first ever junior choir was used as an example of how the Mòd had to be forward-looking, despite its long history, says An Comunn Gaidhealach president John MacLeod.

In the 120th year of the Royal National Mòd, which got underway in Dunoon last week, Mr MacLeod defended the committee against some critics who say Paisley is not a traditional, and therefore suitable, venue for the Mòd.

He said: 'The Mòd has a great history but we cannot live on history.'

'We should be forward looking and provide opportunities to use the language and broadcast our culture all over the world.'

'I am pleased to see the first junior choir from Paisley at the Mòd this year.'

He also pointed to the example set by Cathness, which hosted the Mòd in 2010 and has a number of competitors at this year's event.

Mr MacLeod said there was no shortage of venues vying to host the event, adding that An Comunn would welcome bids from any part of the country, provided they had the infrastructure, committee and funding in place.

He said: 'There are a number of places outwith the Highland area that have already approached us.'

Referendum question in Gaelic, asks president

PRESIDENT of An Comunn Gaidhealach, John MacLeod, says the question of whether Scotland should be independent should be posed in Gaelic, as well as English.

It is understood the referendum question will be presented in English only.

Asked why the question was not going to be asked in Gaelic, he replied: 'A request has been sent to the Scottish Government asking them to change that.'

'Surely it would be useful if we are trying to have equal respect for Gaelic that the question is presented in Gaelic.'

Alasdair Allan, Scottish minister for Gaelic, said on Tuesday no decision had been made on whether Gaelic would be on the referendum ballot.

No competition for Sir E Scott School

ADJUDICATORS for the two-part choral singing competition bemoaned the fact Sir E Scott School choir had no competitors for the prestigious Oban Times Challenge Trophy.

The Harris youngsters performed Choisich mi nam inntinn and An dean thu m'fhagail to great acclaim but faced no competition after regular rivals The Nicolson Institute decided not to enter a choir in this year's Mòd.

Judge Iseabail MacTaggart told *The Oban Times*: 'It's a great shame, because it's a wonderful competition, and they were obviously deserving of their win.'

Fellow adjudicator Andrew Dunlop added: 'They performed so well, you don't want to detract from their performance, but it is a shame.'

Sir E Scott received a total score of 365 as they took the ages 13-18 trophy, while the under 13s took home the choral singing Phuirte-a-beul prize and finished second in unison choral singing.

£500 prize for Staffin Primary School folk group

RIGHT - BUN-Sgoil Stafainn folk group (Staffin Primary) scooped a £500 prize after winning the under 13 folk group competition.

The Skye youngsters beat off tough competition from six other groups to be awarded first place in Hanover Street Hall.

The prize money was donated by sponsors Fujitsu, which has backed the competition with Highland Council for the past four years. Highland Council's Gaelic implementation group chairman Hamish Fraser said: 'Yesterday I had the privilege of watching all the young competitors perform. Bun-Sgoil Stafainn did really well to come first as the standard was very high.'

'All the entrants are very talented young people and we've every confidence they will progress and become successful ambassadors for Gaelic.'

Young Ileachs to the fore

Islay dominates learner competitions

ISLAY competitors stormed to a multiple trophy haul after just one day of this year's Royal National Mòd in Dunoon, in a celebration of the island's dialect.

Scoring consistently high marks for Gaelic, despite every competitor speaking with the unique Islay dialect, the young Ileachs dominated learner competitions on Monday.

Seven trophies
Coisir Og Ghaidhlig Ile led the way, winning seven trophies in total, brought about by a double win in the under-19 puirt-a-beul and unison competitions.

The young choir was also victorious in the two part harmony.

Port Ellen Primary School won the choral puirt (under-13), securing the Oliver Campbell MBE Trophy, closely followed by their fellow islanders, Bowmore Primary School in second place.

Coisir Og Ghaidhlig Ile were also buoyed by the news later in the day that choir member

Mairi MacGillivray had won the premier junior learners' solo prize, the James C MacPhee medal.

Mairi, a talented musician and Highland dancer, sang the prescribed song Eilean Eisdeal (Easdale Island).

Twins Anna and Eilidh MacDonald, from Port Ellen, retained their duet title in the 13-15 years learners and thanked their grandmother, Jean MacDonald, who is their Gaelic tutor.

Eilidh MacDonald won the 13-15 years poetry recitation (learners), while Massie Logan won the same competition in the 9-10 age group.

Tutoring
Much of the success was put down to the work of the Gaelic tutor Libby Morris, who coaches most of the youngsters, as well as the adult choir.

Libby, from Ballygrant, said: 'It is very important that the children sing Islay Gaelic. Not only is it a clean and crisp dialect, you have to look after your

own heritage and your own dialect and keep it alive.'

'When I was competing at the Mòd, Islay Gaelic was frowned upon because most adjudicators were from the north of Scotland.'

'I was overwhelmed with the success of the youngsters on Monday but they have worked hard for it and it is well deserved.'

An Comunn Gaidhealach president John MacLeod adjudicators had been instructed to appreciate the different Gaelic dialects when giving marks.

He added: 'When I was growing up in Lewis I had never heard how people on Islay, or Tiree, spoke.'

'But with all sorts of dialects on the likes of Radio nan Gaidheal, you can identify where that person is from.'

'I prefer to see singers using their own dialect, especially if they are singing a song from that area. It is not essential to do that, but I would feel it was appropriate.'



The victorious Coisir Og Ile with conductor Arlene McKerrrel. epmod01p5pic1



Tarbert Academy were winners in the under-19 folk group competition. epmod08p5pic3



Bowmore pair Elizabeth Aitchison (left) and Kayla Woodrow, from Islay, picked up the Angus MacTavish Memorial Trophy for the second year in a row after winning the under 13 singing duet competition. -rhmod02p5pic2



Islay's Alasdair Currie, a Gaelic learner, won the boys open solo, 16-18 years, competition against fluent speakers. epmod19p5pic6



Rory MacDiarmid, of Old Kirkpatrick, had a successful Mòd, winning the accordion March, Strathspey and Reel for under 13s open, and picking up a silver medal in the folk group under 19s. -rhmod21p5pic7

Gaelic teachers are in demand

New course aims to boost fluency numbers

A NEW Gaelic language immersion course is to be funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig to increase the amount of teachers able to teach the language.

It is hoped the course will attract teachers who already have some ability in the language and are seeking to become fluent to enable them to pursue a career teaching in the medium.

The course will enable the secondment of teachers to attend Gaelic lessons and related studies.

The development of the course structure will shortly be put out to public tender.

Short courses are already available to teachers that offer language support training.

One such course, Strep, offers literacy improvement skills for teachers already competent in the language.

Dr Alasdair Allan, minister for skills and learning, science and Scottish languages, said: 'In order to fulfil our commitment to a sustainable future for Gaelic through education we need teachers to do it.'

'This new programme will help train up a new set of teachers capable of taking Gaelic to a fresh generation.'

Head of education and learning at Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Mary MacMillan, said: 'This course will be another step forward in increasing the number of Gaelic teachers.'

New writers award scheme for 2013

A NEW Gaelic Writers Award Scheme for 2013 was launched at the Royal National Mòd in Dunoon this week as part of a scheme to raise the profile of Gaelic writers.

The Gaelic Books Council, working with Stòrlann and a number of Gaelic publishers, launched the new award on Wednesday before presenting this year's Gaelic Literature Awards 2012 in collaboration with An Comunn Gaidhealach.

Michael Bauer's new children's book, *Rònan Agus Ciorstair air a' Chroit*, was also launched at this year's Mòd, as was Stòrlann and Giglets e-book, *Macbeth*, the third e-book in a series of 12 being produced for the teenage and adult learner market.



The Sir E Scott School choir from Harris with The Oban Times Challenge Trophy. rhmod17p5pic8



Bun-Sgoil Stafainn folk group celebrate their trophy win with head teacher Margaret Nicolson and Councillor Hamish Fraser. Photo by Graham Hood



Flying the flag for Mull by winning three choral competitions were Comunn Ghaidhealch Mhuile.



Port Ellen twins Anna, left, and Eilidh MacDonald retained their 13-15 years duet title. epmod10p5pic5



Lorna Young, 16, of Lochgilphead Joint Campus recovered from a recent bout of tonsillitis to impress with her rendition of Tha thu daonn nam smuain in the girls prescribed singing ages 16 to 18 event - her first time competing solo at the Mòd. -rhmod22p5pic12

Five fly flag for Lochaber

A GROUP of five musicians flew the flag for Lochaber on the opening day of the Mòd, winning gold in the under 19 folk group competition.

Sgoil Chiuil Loch Abar - Hannah MacRae, Helena Rose, Kirstin McAdam and Caitrin Edmond, cellist Francesca Rose and keyboard player Ruari Edmond - wowed the judges with three performances of contrasting Highland tunes arranged by tutor Deirdrie Beck.

The youngsters all attend Lochaber Music School. Musical director Peter Rose said he was 'extremely proud' of the group.

He said: 'Thanks to the expertise and lively leadership of Deirdrie Beck, traditional music classes play an integral part in our instrumental programme.'

'Depending on their ears, and denied the use of sheet music, our youngsters have to develop a variety of important skills, and these all help make them more confident, effective all round musicians in both classical and traditional genres. Not least valuable, of course, is the musical Highland heritage that the children are being introduced to and in so many cases excelling in.'

Sgoil Chiuil Loch Abar now start preparations for their forthcoming appearance on BBC Alba's Christmas Service which is to be recorded in St Mary and St Finnan's Church, Glenfinnan.

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And at

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Am Mod Naiseanta Rioghail 2012 Dun Omhain



Iona Middleton won the girls 16-18 years solo on Tuesday. The 17 year old from Kildalton studies music at Langside College. epmod22p6pic1



Brother and sister Cathal and Mairi Callan, admire each other's medals during a very successful Mod for the family. epmod17p6pic3

Double Dunoon delight maintains family tradition

DUNOON has proved a happy hunting ground for a young solo singer and her well-known Mòd family.

Mairi Callan won the under-13 traditional solo (fluent) competition on Tuesday, following in the footsteps of her traditional gold medalist mother, Margaret, who also won the medal in Dunoon in 1994.

The 11-year old, who attends the Glasgow Gaelic School, also won the folk tale for 11-12 years (fluent) on Tuesday.

Her mother, Margaret, who

hails from North Uist, was also awarded the prize for the best Gaelic book on Wednesday.

She said: Mairi won the traditional solo competition for her age group in the same place 1 won my traditional gold medal, so Dunoon certainly seems to be a lucky place for us.

Mairi's little brother, nine-year-old Cathal, who is also a pupil at the Glasgow Gaelic School, continued a very productive day for the family by winning his folk tale, poetry and prescribed song competitions.



Nuala Neary, aged 14, from Dunoon was first in the learners conversation 13-15. epmod11p6pic4



Bunscoil Phort Rìgh (Portree Primary) pupil Iain MacCarmhaigh took second in the boys solo singing ages nine to 10 with his rendition of Am Bata Rannach. The 10 year-old has been competing in Mòds for five years. rhmod18p6pic1b



Inveraray pair Holly Renton (left) and Cara Blyth teamed up to take second place in the duet singing under 13 (learners). rhmod09p6pic8



Kate MacAulay, aged five, competed in her first Mod this year and won the own choice storytelling (fluent) with a story written by her great uncle, Norman Campbell (Tormod a' Bhocsair). Kate's parents, Alasdair and Mairi both come from Lewis but the family now live in Tain, where Alasdair is minister of the Free Church of Scotland. epmod13p6pic12



Second place in the learners duet, 13 - 15 years, were Hannah Prill, left, from Skipness and Emma MacFarlane from Tarbert. epmod05p6pic5



An Comunn Gaidhealach Silver Medal winners are both from Lewis. 14 year-old Mairi MacLennan is from Gress and was second in last year's medal competition. Alex John Morrison, aged 13, is from Barvas and emulates his brother Colin George, who previously won the medal - rhmod24p6pic6



Sisters Lauren Anne, left, and Gillian MacLean from Shawbost, Lewis had a successful Mod, winning prizes in melodeon, keyboard and recitation. epmod14p6pic2



Glasgow Gaelic School entered a choir into the Mod for the first time and were conducted by teacher Kenneth Nicolson, a Lewis native who won the gold medal double in 2001. epmod20p6pic9



Abigail Cavanagh got an early birthday present, winning the girls solo singing ages nine-10 (fluent) the day before she turned 10. Abigail, of Glasgow, has grandparents from Lewis and Skye and is pictured with her mum Catherine.



Emily Robertson, aged 12, gets congratulated by little brother Joel, aged six, after she won the fluent girls solo 11 - 12 years by singing the prescribed song A' fagail Dhiura. epmod15p6pic7



Bowmore Primary Gaelic choir from Islay finished second in the choral singing Puirt-a-beul for under 13s (learners). rhmod13p6pic20



John Alasdair Bain from Back Primary School, Lewis, won the fluent conversation. epmod12p6pic13



Coisir Og an Rubha, from Point, Lewis with conductor Seumas Mac an t-Sagairt. epmod21p6pic14



Mull's Angus MacLennan competed in the boys silver medal on Tuesday. epmod18p6pic18



Islay youngsters from Port Ellen Primary Gaelic choir celebrate winning the choral singing two-part harmony for under 13s (learners). rhmod07p6pic16



Molly Gregory Beard from Appin warmed up with some new gloves on a cold day at the Mod, in between singing a solo for fluent girls nine-10 years. epmod16p6pic17



Angus McLean of Kilmartin Primary School took part in the solo singing for ages seven to eight (learners). rhmod11p6pic18



Coisir Og an Rubha from Point in Lewis picked up the Aberfoyle and District Branch Trophy after winning the choral unison singing for under 13 (fluent). rhmod19p6pic19



Stephanaidh Chaimbeul of Kyle of Lochalsh won a £100 prize as well as the Hugh and Rachel Morrison Trophy



Bunscoil Inbhir Aora (Inveraray Primary) secured third place in the choral unison singing for under 13 (learners). rhmod10p6pic21



Mòds equal money to host community

Chairman of local organising committee claims a Mòd can bring £3m over 10 days

BRINGING events such as the Royal National Mod to Dunoon is the best way to ensure its future prosperity, according to Cowal-based councillor Dick Walsh.



Cowal-based councillor Dick Walsh.

Councillor Walsh, who is also chairman of the local organising committee, referred to Dunoon's Business Improvement District (BID) business plan, which called on more events to be held in the postcode district of Dunoon.

Councillor Walsh, who has been involved with the local committee for 22 years, said: 'This is the back season for our

tourism sector, yet the town is vibrant and will be for the whole week.

'That is the case despite this also being the week many folk in Dunoon leave for their holidays. 'An event like this will bring business into Dunoon, which is part of the BID business plan.' Councillor Walsh denied Dunoon needed the lifeline of an event like the Mod in tough economic times.

An Comunn Gaidhealach president John MacLeod said the Mod brought in an extra £2.1m estimated revenue to the Western Isles, but Highlands and Islands Enterprise studies have shown some venues can benefit by as much as £3m during the 10 days.

Asked about what the legacy of the 2012 Royal National Mod would be, Councillor Walsh replied: 'We hope to develop the language more in the area by encouraging more people to speak Gaelic.'

Investment

'We have had investment in Pre-5 and primary education but there needs to be more investment in secondary Gaelic education.'

'We had the Mod in 1994, 2000 and 2006 and since then we have established a Gaelic Medium Unit and an active local branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach.'



A day of success for Mull was continued by Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile, who lifted the Olive Campbell MBE Trophy for Puirt-a-beul choral singing for their rendition of 'S Miniga Bha Sinn'. rhmod06

Edinburgh could be future Mòd venue

EDINBURGH indicated its intention to host the Royal National Mod in its recently published Gaelic plan - but the city has long way to go before it can host the event, according to John MacLeod, president of An Comunn Gaidhealach.

Mr MacLeod said: 'Amongst Edinburgh's aims in its Gaelic plan was to take the Mòd to Edinburgh but there will have to be a huge amount of work before that happens.'

Mr MacLeod said he would not be drawn on possible future venues for the Mòd but said An Comunn was 'in discussion' with councils. His comments come ahead of the venue of the 2016 Mòd being revealed tomorrow (Friday). Paisley will host the Gaelic festival in 2013, followed by Inverness then Oban.

Scotland's historic sites offer sign of the future for Gaelic

Major boost for language as Historic Scotland agree five-year Gaelic plan

A PLAN by Historic Scotland to promote the use of Gaelic at its sites across Scotland is another breath of good news for the language during Mòd week.

The Government body responsible for supporting Gaelic in Scotland, Bord na Gaidhlig, has accepted Historic Scotland's five-year Gaelic Language Plan which includes the use of bilingual signs at many of the agency's properties throughout Scotland, the production of bilingual publications and the appointment of a Gaelic Language and Policy Officer to take the plan forward, all of which are already in place.

Selected sites, such as Carnasserie and Dunadd, near

Lochgilphead, Iona Abbey and Inverloch Castle, Fort William, will have existing interpretation boards replaced with signs incorporating Gaelic.

Historic Scotland's Acting Chief Executive Ian Walford said: 'Gaelic is a fundamental part of Scottish culture and we at Historic Scotland are keen to support its promotion and recognition, not only as an important part of our country's heritage, but also as a living language.'

'We believe the language has an historical and modern relevance in today's society and we look forward to playing our part in supporting its revival and growth in the years to come.'

The plan will support the use and learning of Gaelic within Historic Scotland and promote the language through the agency's interaction with other organisations, stakeholders and customers across the country

and, where relevant, around the world.

At Bord na Gaidhlig, Cennard (chief executive) John Angus MacKay said: 'Historic Scotland is charged with safeguarding the nation's historic environment, in which the Gaelic language is an integral element.'

In addition to the established Gaelic activity within Historic Scotland, including the appointment of Gaelic Language and Policy Officer Kirsty MacDonald, staff are to be offered Gaelic learning opportunities and the language will increasingly be used within the organisation for everyday activities.

Full details of the Historic Scotland Gaelic Language Plan are available at the Mòd in Dunoon, where Kirsty MacDonald is showcasing the agency's Gaelic materials over five days and can answer questions and offer advice.



Fergus Munro from Corpach won the prestigious James C MacPhee Medal for boys solo 13-15 (learners). epmod09pic2



Coisir Og Dhail Riata from Mid Argyll. epmod04pic3



Sgoil Lionail (Lionel School) pupils made the long journey from the Isle of Lewis to Argyll's Cowal Peninsula to compete in the under 13 folk group event. rhmod03



Right - Soloists Hollie McGregor, left, from Lochgilphead and Tarbert's Emma MacFarlane both competed for the girl's MacPhee medal competition, in which Emma was third. epmod06pic5



Kilmartin boy Alasdair McLean took part in the fiercely contested boys solo singing ages 13-15 (learners) event and achieved second place. rhmod 12



Lismore girls Shona Wright, left, and Sophie King both competed in the 11-12 girls solo (learners). epmod03pic6

Young Lochaber singer produces 'electrifying' performance to win James C MacPhee Memorial Medal

RARELY is a Mod performance described as 'electrifying' but the Lochaber winner of the boys' MacPhee medal on Monday could well have produced just that.

Fergus Munro, from Corpach, won the main learners solo competition having played Danny Zuko in Lochaber High School's production of Grease just a fortnight ago.

The 14-year-old, who won the medal at his first attempt singing Ho ro 's toil leam fhin thu, said the transition from musical to Mod song was not as difficult as it sounded.

Big junior entry leaves organisers adding a day

THE RISE in entries of fluent speakers to the Royal National Mòd's junior sections forced organisers into moving some competitions to another day.

The fluent juniors compete on Tuesday of Mòd week but with a dramatic rise in entries, fuelled by the number of Gaelic Medium pupils entering, more competitions were moved to Monday, traditionally a day for learners.

John MacLeod, president of the organising body, An Comunn Gaidhealach, said the drama and folk group competitions had to be moved, just so all the fluent competitions could be completed in time on Tuesday.

There are 1,536 junior competitors, across 116 competitions, at this year's Royal National Mòd.

Gaelic showcase takes centre stage

DUNOON town centre played host to a marquee of 21 Gaelic organisations, as the Gaelic Showcase took centre stage during Mòd week.

Responding to complaints the showcase did not have enough prominence in previous years, An Comunn Gaidhealach has sited the marquee venue next to the Queens Hall, the Mod's administrative centre.

Visitors to the Mòd are encouraged to visit the showcase, which is open every day this week.

From Abu Dhabi to Dunoon for win

A GIRL from Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates, was a winner at Mod 2012 after taking first in the poetry recitation 11-12 learners category.

Eilidh Ashton was up against 11 others in the competition.



Smiles all round from Sgoil an Rubha youngsters, who travelled from the Isle of Lewis to Dunoon to take part in the under 13 folk group competition. rhmod04



Peter MacCallum, of Kilmartin, came fourth in the boys solo singing ages 13-15 (learners). rhmod 15



Lochgilphead Joint Campus pupil Calum MacDonald, aged 8, took home a gold medal and the Dr Archie MacKinnon (Islay) Memorial Trophy after winning the boys solo singing ages 8 and 9 (learners). rhmod14



The under 13 action song competition saw local youngsters from Bun-sgoil Thaigh a' Chladaich (Sandbank Primary School) perform 'In the Woods' - the story of animals in fear of a hunter. rhmod05

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Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail 2012 Dùn Omhain

'Value in bilingualism'

President highlights increased uptake of Gaelic Medium education, Gaelic learning at school and at adult level

IN HIS opening address to this year's Royal National Mòd in Dunoon, John Macleod, President of An Comunn Gàidhealach, challenged the Scottish education system to keep pace with the rate of demand for Gaelic-based education at all levels.

He stressed: 'The value of bilingualism is constantly highlighted in research reports and this is undoubtedly leading to an increased uptake of Gaelic Medium Education (GME), Gaelic Learning at Primary School (GLPS) and adult levels.'

'We invariably find that as soon as a dedicated Gaelic school opens, it needs to start looking at expansion plans for the building.'

Challenge

'The challenge for the education system is to manage these developments and ensure that sufficient teachers, support staff and resources are available to meet this demand.'

'The challenge for us as a community is to find ways of supporting young and adult learners of Gaelic outwith the classroom. Too often, for many GME and GLPS pupils, their use of Gaelic is limited to the time they spend at school. We need to remember that tuition in school is only part of the process of becoming fluent in Gaelic. We must ensure that Gaelic use is maintained at home, in the community, in recreation, in worship and in the workplace so that the language is given its proper place as a language of value in day-to-day life.'

'This week, we will see around 1,200 youngsters coming to the Mòd to take part in a range of Gaelic language and cultural activities. They come from a variety of backgrounds, but what they get at the Mòd is the opportunity to use their Gaelic, to express themselves in Gaelic and to be involved in a major and well-publicised cultural event. As we know, Gaelic is no

1,500 youngsters come to the Mòd to take part in a range of Gaelic language and cultural activities

longer exclusively the language of the Highlands and Islands. Its range is now national and even international and for many of these youngsters, Gaelic is just one of several languages they can speak. Talk to them, make sure they know that there is a world outside the classroom where Gaelic is spoken, encourage them to use their Gaelic openly, without reservation. And when they speak to you in Gaelic, you will find that will encourage you to use it more and more yourself.'

Business sector

Mr Macleod also touched on what he considered to be encouraging signs coming from the Scottish business sector.

'Recently, several commercial organisations in Scotland have taken to exhibiting bilingual signs in their premises, without being legally required to do so. Could this be an indication of the start of a recognition, similar

to what is seen in Wales, that Gaelic in Scotland has value and is here to stay? Do these companies now recognise that Gaelic speakers deserve to have services available in their own language, working towards the 'equal respect' the law has given us but has yet to be fully implemented to the extent it ought to be.'

'These developments reinforce the very personal responsibility that rests on us all as Gaelic speakers to support the promotion of our language as one that is appropriate for daily use in all situations.'

And he called for the focus of the many organisations that promote the language to remain clear.

'It is in the community that Gaelic will survive and prosper, and Gaelic organisations constantly need to remember that,' he said.

'As we return to Argyllshire

to the roots of the Mòd, but regrettably where Gaelic is not as strong as it used to be, we believe that it is important for today's Royal National Mòd, wherever it goes, to leave a legacy behind, for it to be a springboard to new developments, new growth of Gaelic activity, an event that encourages our people to greater effort to sustain Gaelic for future generations.'

'I hope the presence of the Mòd here will see a resurgence of Gaelic learning in the town and in the surrounding area. We have to be optimistic about the future, use our language with confidence and encourage our fellow Gaels to have the confidence to use it.'



Young piper Alasdair Currie, from Ballachlaven Farm, Ballygrant, Isle of Islay, won the Col Murdoch MacTaggart, Bowmore, Memorial Trophy for playing of Strathspey and Reel at the Royal National Mod 2012 at Dunoon last Friday. Alasdair, who also took second place in the Royal Fusilier Trophy competition, told *The Oban Times* he was: 'very pleased to have won and delighted to be taking an Islay trophy back to the island'.



Young Brighde Chaimbeul from Kyle of Lochalsh 'enjoys' piping and after playing for four years is keen to improve further. Brighde took a very creditable second place in both the Roderick Munro Quaich and the Strathspey and Reel.



Jean-Ann Callendar proudly accepted the Dr and Mrs Atholl Robertson (Oban) Trophy on behalf of Cowal Fiddle Workshop. The group was 'delighted' to have won in their home town of Dunoon.



Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning Michael Russell.

Rising interest in junior piping at Dunoon Mòd

INCREASING interest in piping among the junior ranks led to a very busy opening day of competition at this year's Royal National Mod in Dunoon.

With more than a dozen competitors playing in each of the competitions for Strathspey and Reel and the Roderick Munro Memorial Quaich, there was victory in both sections for 15-year-old Sandy Cameron of Roybridge.

Sandy, a pupil at Dollar Academy, lifted the Munro Memorial Trophy and the Gold Badge for Strathspey and Reel when he narrowly defeated talented Skye youngster Brighde Campbell to both awards.

Ambassador award for journalist spreading Gaelic awareness

AN INVERNESS-based journalist and broadcaster has been presented with the 2012 Gaelic Ambassador of the Year award in recognition for his work in raising the awareness of Gaelic.

Roddy Maclean, who has strong family links with Applecross in Wester Ross and the Isle of Lewis, has helped raise the profile of Gaelic through his popular Gaelic Awareness training days for non-Gaelic speakers, weekly broadcasts on Radio nan Gàidheal, plus Gaelic grammar courses for fellow professionals.

Roddy, whose wife Kerrie, and two children Ciorstaidh and Calum, are all fluent Gaelic speakers, was presented with his award during the official opening ceremony of this year's Royal National Mod at Dunoon last Friday by Mike Russell, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning.

More cash for Gaelic as Russell says 'let's use it'

ARGYLL and Bute Council will have an additional £25,000 to support the roll out of a successful early years Gaelic book scheme.

The additional funding came to light on Friday night as Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning and Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell announced further support of £60,000 at the official opening of the Royal National Mòd.

Also included in the figure are £30,000 for early years support through Bòrd na Gàidhlig and £5,000 to fund more scholarships from Nova Scotia, Canada, to attend a short course at the Skye-based Gaelic college at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

Mr Russell said: 'The Mòd is a world famous celebration of the Gaelic language and provides an incentive for speakers to help it develop and thrive.'

'We are committed to a sustainable and positive future for the Gaelic language in Scotland and recognise that increased and better provision of Gaelic

Medium Education, from the early years right up to secondary school, is a fundamental means to increasing the number of Gaelic speakers.

'This is why we are investing in Gaelic schools such as the new Parkside Primary School in Edinburgh.'

'I am delighted to be able to announce that we are providing additional funding to support Gaelic in the early years, some of which will go directly into Argyll and Bute, the host of this year's Mòd.'

'We will also be welcoming some more Nova Scotians at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO) in the new year. We all have a duty to help the Gaelic language to survive. It is not something the Scottish Government or Bòrd na Gàidhlig can achieve alone.'

'It is time for the people in Scotland who have the language skills to take every opportunity to use it in everyday life and encourage others to follow suit.'

'In other words, let's use it or lose it.'



Mairi McLennan from Sgoil MhicNeacail won the Hebridean Haulage Trophy for playing the melodeon. She is pictured, third right, after the competition with the five other competitors, all six from the Isle of Lewis.



Alexander Sime-Scott, Edinburgh, won The Royal Fusiliers Cup for playing a March. This was Alexander's first major trophy. He attends the James Gillespie School in Edinburgh and has recently joined Stockbridge Pipe Band.



Elinor Evans, a third year music student from Edinburgh, won the Sutherland Cup for fiddle playing. Aged 19, she has been playing the instrument since she was at school.



Brandon MacPhee, Castleton, near Wick, won The Smith Mearns Trophy for accordion playing.



Jack Ferguson from Castlehill Primary School, Campbeltown, took part in the chanter competitions for 13 years.



Competing in the junior piping for youngsters 13 and under was Jamie Niall Campbell of Strachur.



Michael Steele travelled all the way from South Uist to Dunoon for Saturday's piping competitions but said the journey was easy as he 'loves coming to the Mòd'.

RESULTS

- Accordian Open U13**
Daniel G R Burt (Airdrie) Memorial Trophy
1 Rory MacDiarmid, Sgoil Ghàidhlig
2 Zach Ronan, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu
3 Mairi Taylor, Munloch Primary
- Accordian**
March, Strathspey, Reel
The Smith Mearns Trophy
1 Brandon MacPhee, Gairloch
2 Alastair Currie (Jnr), Oban
3 Graham MacLennan, Isle of Lewis
- Accordian Open U19**
Smith Mearns Trophy
1 Eilidh Nic'Phaidin, Eilean Thiriodh
2 Ruairidh Morrison, Ard-sgoil an Obain
3 Craig Macleod, Sgoil MhicNeacail
- Bagpipes Open 13-15**
Strathspey and Reel Own Choice
1 Sandy Cameron, Spean Bridge
2 Brighde Chaimbeul, Kyle of Lochalsh
3 Andrew Brodie, Marr College, Troon
4 Donald C Stewart, Stewarston Academy
- Bagpipes Open 13-15**
Roderick Munro Quaich
1 Sandy Cameron, Spean Bridge
2 Brighde Chaimbeul, Kyle of Lochalsh
3 Callum Wynd, St Modan's HS
4 Micheal Steele, South Uist
- Bagpipes Open 16-18**
Col Murdoch MacTaggart Memorial Trophy
1 Alasdair Currie, Isle of Islay
2 Alexander Sime-Scott, Ard-sgoil Sheumais Ghilleasbaig
3 Magnus Kierner, McLaren High School
- Bagpipes Open 16-18**
Royal Highland Fusiliers Cup
1 Alexander Sime-Scott, Ard-sgoil Sheumais Ghilleasbaig
2 Alasdair Currie, Isle of Islay
3 Magnus Kierner, McLaren High School
- Bagpipes Open U13**
Roderick Ross, Ferintosh, Memorial Trophy
1 Calum Craib, Bun-sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanach
2 Jamie Niall Campbell, Strachur Primary
3 Jamie McKerral, Campbeltown Grammar School
- Chanter Open U13**
Play a March own choice
1 Angus Fionnlagh Mac a' Phi, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis
2 Evonne Jeffrey, St Benedict's
3 Alistair MacRae, Ard-sgoil Lochabair
- Fiddle Groups**
The Dr and Mrs Atholl Robertson (Oban) Trophy
1 Cowal Fiddle Workshop (Na Seann Dhàine)
Fiddle Groups Open U19
1 Sgoil Chithuil, Edinburgh
2 The Westwell Family
3 Cowal Fiddle Workshop Group D
- Fiddle Groups U13**
1 Na Fidhearan Beaga
2 Fidhearan Oga 'Thaigh a' Chladaich
3 Cowal Fiddle Workshop Group A
- Fiddle Open 13-18**
Robert MacCallum Memorial Trophy
1 Hannah MacRae, Ard-sgoil Lochabair
2 Jack Westwell, Broughton High School
3 Jemma Johnson, Ard-sgoil Dhùn Omhain
- Fiddle Open Own Choice**
Sutherland Cup
1 Eilidh Nic'Phaidin, Edinburgh
- Fiddle Open U13**
Play slow Gaelic Air and March Strathspey Reel
1 Jessica Muir, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrat
2 Anna Westhill, Leith Walk School
3 Emily Morrison, Pulteneytown
- Keyboard Open 13-18**
Slow Gaelic Air and March
1 Lauren Anne MacLean, Sgoil Shaboist
Keyboard Open U13
Slow Gaelic Air and March
1 Eilidh Ashton, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Melodeon Open U13
Salar Flaky Smoked Salmon Trophy
1 Gillian Maclean, Sgoil Shaboist
- Melodeon Open U19**
Hebrides Haulage Trophy
1 Mairi MacLennan, Sgoil MhicNeacail
2 Lauren Anne MacLean, Sgoil Shaboist
3 Catriona Bain, Sgoil MhicNeacail
- Piano Open 13-18**
The Margaret Hill-Boyle Memorial Trophy
Slow Gaelic Air and March
1 Jack Westwell, Broughton High School
2 Magnus Westwell, Broughton High
3 Isabelle Bain, Sgoil MhicNeacail
- Piano Open U13**
Jenny M B Currie Kilt Pin
1 Ciorstaidh-Sarah Chaimbeul, Kyle of Lochalsh
2 Emily Robertson, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrat
3 Shona-Mae Nic'Illeathain, Bun-sgoil Stafann
- Piping**
The Argyllshire Gathering Quaich
1 Sgt Alan Johnston,
2 Gavin Ferguson, Glasgow
3 Jonathan Greenlees, Glasgow
4 James MacPhee, Inverness
- Ceòl Beag - The John T MacRae Cup**
1 Gavin Ferguson, Glasgow
2 Jonathan Greenlees, Glasgow
3 Sgt Alan Johnston, West Lothian
4 James MacPhee, Inverness
- Ceòl Mòr**
James R Johnston Memorial Trophy
1 Jonathan Greenlees, Glasgow
2 Gavin Ferguson, Glasgow
3 Sgt Alan Johnston, West Lothian
4 James MacPhee, Inverness

Crofting Commission announce new 'on the ground' link

THE CROFTING Commission has announced the appointment of its new assessor panel, its vital 'on the ground' link with local crofting communities. A total of 90 assessors have been placed, with each covering a specific area, usually a parish, for a five-year term. However, a few areas remain where more assessors are needed - and commissioners are keen to

fill the gaps. The new panel's work will form a valuable part of the commission's effort to re-energise the industry. Top priorities are tackling neglect and absenteeism, ending property speculation in croft land and bringing in new entrants. The new panel, which formally takes over on November 1 from the present panel, will cover a huge area comprising

around 100 parishes. As well as traditional crofting townships, its responsibility extends to new areas designated under the Crofting Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, such as Arran and Moray. The assessors' varied role includes meeting crofters and grazings committees, assisting the commission with queries on local cases and implementing commission initiatives.

Crofting Commission convener Susan Walker welcomed the recruitment of the new assessors and paid tribute to the outgoing panel. She said: 'This is something that only happens once every five years and over that time the Crofters Commission found the links to communities and the dialogue with the assessors extremely useful.

'On behalf of the current commissioners, I would like to thank the panel for all their work, undertaken as highly valued volunteers. Looking forward to the future, we are gratified to see so many people actively engaged and interested in crofting coming forward to be part of the new panel. This provides us with the foundations of a strong and enthusiastic network within

crofting communities, which we will strive to make full use of.' Anyone active in crofting who would like to apply to be an assessor should telephone Jane Thomas on 01463 663479 or email jane.thomas@crofting.scotland.gov.uk. Information on the assessors panel is also available on the Crofting Commission website at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk



Graham Holden and Mark and Roger Whittaker are removing their cask after 23 years. 16_142whisky01

Trio end 23-year wait for a dram

Special cask of Oban Malt comes out of storage

THREE men who own one of only two private casks of Oban malt whisky have removed it from the distillery to be 'shared and enjoyed'. Brothers Roger and Mark Whittaker and friend Graham Holden bought the cask of whisky 23 years ago. The malt was distilled on Mark's birthday, March 23, in 1989. Roger used to work for Distillers, the company that preceded Diageo, and visited Oban distillery when in the area. The men

eventually decided the time was right to lay down a cask. Mark said: 'We're a bit sad to be taking it out. Every year we have talked about doing it and next year we won't have a lot to talk about.' Roger added: 'We have lost a connection with the distillery, but the whisky is at its best right now. There would be none left if we left it in, the angels would be away with it all. We knew the time was right. We tasted it before Christmas last year and

it was absolutely perfection.' The whisky was bought for £250 plus £25 for the cask. They have been paying £20 per year in maturation fees but say the 'big hit' will come when they have to pay excise and duty - expected to be around £3,000. The trio are enthusiastic attendees of the Mull Rally - Roger has been at every single one since it started in 1969. The car club that started the rally was called club 2300 so it seemed significant to the men to take the cask out after

23 years. There is an estimated 50 gallons of whisky in the cask which will make around 240 bottles. The whisky is estimated to be worth £300 per bottle. The whisky will now go to be tested for strength so labels can be produced before being bottled in November. The trio are looking forward to it being 'shared and enjoyed'. Diageo no longer sell private casks and only have one remaining, which was gifted to Princess Anne during a visit.

A83 signs depend on right weather forecast

WARNING signs installed as part of £800,000 landslide mitigation works at the Rest and Be Thankful are activated manually on advice from weather forecasts. Installed last year, the flashing 'wig-wag' signs were installed either side of the A83's most notorious stretch to warn of potential landslide risk and were accompanied by 'enhanced electronic hillside monitoring' equipment to measure potential land slips. Transport Scotland has confirmed to *The Oban Times* though that data gathered by the monitoring equipment plays no part in determining whether the warning signs are activated. Instead, the 'wig-wag' alerts, as well as subsequent traffic warnings on the Traffic Scotland website, are activated in Glasgow in response to projected rainfall figures. Should forecasts show projected 25ml of rainfall in 24 hours, or 4ml per hour of rain, the signs are switched on. Furthermore, there is no rainfall gauge in place at the Rest and Be Thankful, meaning the warnings can be in effect even if the forecast is incorrect. Mike Story, executive director of Argyll and the Isles Tourism Ltd (AIT), who sits on the A83 Task Force, previously told *The Oban Times* that confidence seeps out of Argyll every time the warning signs are activated. He has criticised the activation process as 'completely and utterly unscientific' and wants Transport Scotland to rethink the process. He said: 'They are making a

unilateral decision based on a weather report. 'If you're in England and thinking about taking your family on holiday to Argyll and you see this warning online, are you going to risk it? No, you're not. 'The task force meets in Arrochar on Monday and I will be raising this.' Argyll and Bute Council's deputy leader and lead councillor on transport, John Semple, also sits on the task force and has similar concerns with the frequency of the signs' activation. He said: 'There's been a lot of work at the Rest and Be Thankful and a lot of preventative measures in place now. It might be time to step down or more finely monitor the mechanism to warn people of the risks.' Meanwhile, hauliers say they just ignore the signs, with no realistic alternative in place. One said: 'By the time you see the signs, you just cross your fingers because the alternative is too far away. Everyone who lives here does that anyway.'

Morvern Lines

LAST week I wrote about a stained glass window in Kiel Church: this week it is good to record that after several years the material used in the making of high quality glass is once again being shipped out of Morvern as a raw product. A few weeks ago 2,770 tonnes of the most famous silica sand in Europe left the dedicated jetty inside the entrance to Loch Aline aboard the *MV Arundo* bound for Runcorn on the River Mersey. Built in 1985, the *Arundo* measures 88m x 12m. Her gross tonnage is 1,957 (dead weight 2,892) and she sails under a St Vincent, Grenadines flag. Her cargo, which took eight to nine hours to load, was destined for Pilkington NSG UK for use in the solar glass industry. A week later, thanks to the herculean efforts of the mine staff, a further 2,220 tonnes of excellent, low-iron content sand, was shipped out to Runcorn by the same vessel. Long may the *Arundo* continue to cross the entrance to Loch Aline.



The *MV Arundo* took first shipment of sand from the newly-reopened mine to Runcorn.

WILDCATS have been in the news a lot recently. According to a report by the BBC, less than 30 true Scottish wildcats remain and they may be extinct within months. Morvern has always been home to a large number of these ancient predators and although once persecuted in great numbers, it is difficult to believe they are not only present but increasing in some of the quieter corners of the peninsula today. Frequent sightings would seem to suggest they may be. In 1881-82 they were reported to be not uncommon in Morvern, Sunart and Ardnarmurchan. A few years earlier Mr Murray, the Sunart Estate gamekeeper, killed what was described as a fine specimen near Strontian House. Apparently it took a hen. He followed its tracks in the snow and set traps near the remains and caught it by 10pm that night. Several others were killed in the local woods about the same time but another was captured alive by a shepherd at Camusaine on the north side of Loch Sunart and sent to a Glasgow zoo. Not so very long ago there was a clause in the Achnacarry Estate leases binding tenants to pay the local fox-hunter for killing 'vermin', including wildcats.



THE REV Alexander Stewart (1829-1901) a well-known naturalist and historian from Onich, recorded that in 1875 he was asked by the wife of a neighbouring estate owner for his assistance in supplying her with 15 to 20 wild cat skins for the lining of an 'Ulster' an old fashioned name for a man's coat. It seems he was able to oblige within a few weeks and that some of them had come from Morvern. Perhaps with the decline in farming, rabbits should be reintroduced to the Morvern Peninsula. Not only would they provide much-needed food for wildcats and golden eagles but their availability would make lambs and red deer calves less attractive to the wily fox.

Iain Thornber.

Mòd USA continues to grow as hopefuls head for Dunoon

IT IS accepted competitors from the United States will be in attendance at Mòds every year, including Dunoon this week. However, few people will know there is a Mòd USA, which this year took place between September 21 - 23. More than 20 competitors took part, many of whom competed at Mòds throughout the year to be able to qualify for the main event. A variety of competitions took place including choral competitions, walking songs, puirt-a-beul, recitations, poetry and solos. Beathag Mhoireasdan attended as an adjudicator and Niall Caimbeul, who won the Gold Medal competition at Mòd nan Eilean Siar 2012, and Coineach MacIver, who recorded a radio programme at the time of the Mòd also attended from this side of the pond. An Comunn USA thanked An Comunn Gaidhealach for sending Niall over to this year's Mòd and for its continued support.

Councillor seeks help with fly tippers

AN OBAN councillor is looking for help to identify people fly tipping in the Gallanach area of Oban. Councillor Louise Glen-Lee says 'green' waste has been reported at the shore access at Gallanach Road, near to the Glenmore Road junction. She said: 'The dumping of green waste is an offence which is covered by the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and dealt with in the Court of Law on summary conviction through a fine not exceeding £20,000, or a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months. 'Fly tipping of green waste also causes the spread of invasive species, including Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam. 'I am asking residents for their help in dealing with this problem and ask if you can identify the person, or persons, who regularly carry this out.' Green waste can be placed in the domestic bins or taken to Moleigh Transfer and Recycling.



The group in Fort William after stopping for lunch at the Alexandra Hotel. 20_142bike01

Cyclists complete Land's End to John O'Groats marathon in memory of Crianlarich woman

Journey proves 'much harder' than expected

FOUR men have completed a charity bike ride from Land's End to John O'Groats in memory of Crianlarich woman Fee Taylor. Ms Taylor's husband Olly and sons Robert and Harry Taylor, along with friend Will Goodwin set off on Sunday September 29 and reached Crianlarich last Tuesday where they were joined by support riders from Ms Taylor's family - her brother Niall Bowser, nephews Tom Bowser and Richard Paterson

and niece Lucy Nicolson, who lives in Oban. The mammoth journey raised well over £18,000 for the Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide charity. Ms Taylor took her own life in 2005. When the group stopped for lunch in Fort William last Wednesday they were joined by local charity representative Joyce Mathers and her son, Fort William Football Club Derek McGillivray. Joyce became

involved with the charity after her son Graham committed suicide in 1994 at the age of 26. The riders said the journey had been 'much harder' than they had expected but the weather had been favourable most of the way. Meanwhile, Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide are in the process of setting up a group in Oban and hope to start monthly support meetings in January. For more information contact Joyce on 01397 700958.

Iconic Oban landmark can be greatest asset

A MEMBER of the BID4Oban steering committee has suggested the town's most famous building could be developed to become its greatest asset. Currently, McCaig's Tower is simply seen as a monument, being used for little else than the occasional wedding or photograph. But David Finlayson, also of Oban Town Traders, believes it could be used to much greater advantage. He said: 'McCaig's Tower is a great asset and it's not being used. I'm certain we could make more of it. People are paying £300 or so for a wedding there and there's nothing there, no facilities at all. 'We could do that, possibly have some decorative floodlighting and could use coloured lighting to make it much more attractive looking. 'That could really improve the look of the town.'

First dementia nurse consultant for Highlands

THE HIGHLANDS' first Alzheimer Scotland dementia nurse consultant has been appointed. Working from Raigmore Hospital but covering all NHS Highland's area, Ruth Mantle is one of a network of consultants being appointed to all 14 Scottish health boards. Alzheimer Scotland and the Scottish Government are funding the posts for three years, after which the boards are expected to continue to fund them.

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Marion Brown

BSc MBA Chartered MCIPD HG.Dip.P

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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Value of Royal National Mòd cannot be underestimated

WITH approximately 8,000 people descending on Dunoon over the 10 days of the Royal National Mòd, it is little surprise to read that the event could bring £3million to the area (see page 7).

One could be forgiven for thinking that a conservative estimate – those who have tried to book a hotel anywhere near Dunoon recently would surely nod in agreement.

With that in mind, it is less surprising that other areas are looking at hosting the flagship celebration of the language, with Edinburgh the first big-hitter to declare an interest in taking the event away from its Highland heartland.

The value of the event to this area cannot be underestimated – particularly during the tourism off-season – so it is imperative our local authorities do everything they can to ensure An Comunn Gàidhealach remains committed to its roots.

This year marks the 120th anniversary of the Royal National Mòd's inauguration in Oban. Let's hope the next 120 don't stray too far from home.

GLASGOW LETTER

Duncan Chisholm in Glasgow

ON AN evening when the Scotland football team was being beaten in Wales, not many Scots could say that they were winners.

But those who attended the final concert of Duncan Chisholm's tour in St Andrew's in the Square certainly were.

For some years Duncan has been working on a Strathglass trilogy of CDs and much of the music played was from 'Affric', the final of these. Accompanied on stage by Allan Henderson, on piano, and fiddle and Mathew Watson, on guitar, Duncan set the scene for the evening with the first of many slow airs played during the concert.

From then on a variety of tunes were played including a new composition 'Big Archie' for his younger son, accompanied by explanations of their origins mostly in the area to the north of Beaulieu where the Chisholm clan stayed and for which Duncan has great affection.

The venue for this concert with its excellent acoustics is one much enjoyed by Duncan and he and Allan further delighted the audience, in the well filled hall, with their humour between items.

This was an evening of first class fiddle playing and for those unable to attend they can share that enjoyment by buying the CD.

Plockton Music School Charity

AFTER threat of closure in 2011, Plockton Music School has had to face a cut in its finances with the resulting setting up of the Friends of Plockton Music School Charity aiming to raise enough funds to ensure the musical experience for the pupils is fully supported.

Many pupils have, of course, gone on to further study at the Royal Conservatoire for Scotland and it was fitting that they and many others should take part in a fundraising concert in St Andrew's in the Square.

From the most recent former pupils of the music school to those who took part in the first classes, there was evidence throughout the evening of excellent music that all had thoroughly enjoyed their time at Plockton, as well as improving their musicianship.

To ensure such opportunities will be available to future students the charity is seeking annual membership subscriptions of £30, though any size of donation will be accepted, and this can be done by standing order. For further information contact Suzanne Houston, FPMS Co-ordinator, Flat 3/1, 58, Mavisbank Gardens, Glasgow, G511HL.

Paisley's National Festival - The Spree

THE SPREE is a national festival to be held in Paisley with music, comedy and arts in venues including Paisley Abbey and the Spiegelent, a travelling music and cabaret pavilion which will be located in County Square.

Full details of the festival can be found on the Spree website but the following will be of interest to followers of traditional music. Karen Matheson, with supporting band and guest Dick Gaughan, will perform in Paisley Abbey on Thursday October 25 at 7.30pm and then on Saturday October 27 there will be a unique collaborative performance between Gaelic singer Mairi Morrison and Scottish folk singer-songwriter Alasdair Roberts in Paisley Arts Centre at 8pm.

A special feature of the festival will be the appearance of previous winners of the Danny Kyle Open Stage at Celtic Connections. Danny, from Paisley, was a champion of traditional music and winners such as Karine Polwart, RURA, Rachel Sermani, Malinky and Adam Sutherland have used the competition as a launch pad for their musical success. The stage on this occasion will be the Spiegelent, starting at 2pm, and will feature Breabach.

Diary dates

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

Friday October 19: Acoustic Affair, Cottier Theatre, doors open 8pm, Peter MacCalan Symphony No 1 with Daniel's Beard (String quartet and piano)

Saturday October 20: The World Solo Drumming Championships, Caledonian University, 9am. Acoustic Affair, Cottier Theatre, Doors open 7.30pm, Nimmo Brothers.

Tuesday October 23: Don MacLean, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 7.30pm.

Thursday October 25: Paisley's National Festival until October 28 - see above.

Friday October 26: Glasgow Uist and Barra Association, ceilidh dance, Crawford Hall, Beith Street, Partick, 9pm-1am.

Saturday October 27: Glasgow Skye Association Marag Supper, Crawford Hall, 7.30pm.

Pub Scene

MUSIC in the Park Bar this weekend will be provided by Ballochmyle on Friday, Deoch'n Dorus on Saturday and Colin Garvin on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Crooked Reel on Friday and Ragaels on Saturday.

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



Station Hotel, Kyle of Lochalsh

Regular contributor Colin Armstrong of Coventry submitted this week's flashback photograph taken from his extensive collection of postcards. It features the Station Hotel and Ferry, Kyle of Lochalsh. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Charge motorists to drive in Oban

Sir,
It was with disbelief that I read Dorothy Parker's letter, *The Oban Times* October 11, expounding her idea that pedestrians might be fined for jay-walking in Oban.

No-one would condone behaviour that might cause harm or accident, but I found myself pondering, not for the first time, the broader question of whether towns are primarily for people, as residents, workers, pupils or shoppers, or for the transit of vehicles.

As always, I came to the conclusion that the latter was a secondary function, largely serving the former and, therefore, less important.

With the exception of ferry-bound traffic, this is especially the case in Oban because the majority of traffic enters to deliver people to go shopping or to go to work or school.

Given this, it struck me that vehicle traffic should be treated as the nuisance and that greater restrictions should apply, such as the imposition of a 20mph speed-limit and a greater number of pedestrian crossings.

Indeed, with only two pedestrian crossings along the whole length of George Street, and vehicle traffic often a constant stream, it is no wonder pedestrians step off the pavement and annoy Ms Parker.

We pay too much court to vehicles and too little to the needs of pedestrians.

We should charge vehicles to pass through town rather than fine people who cross the street to use the town's facilities.

Ian Reid, by email.

Councillors have duty to speak out

Sir,
My fellow ward councillors Henderson and Hunter should stop pulling the wool over the eyes of residents by refusing to take up local member votes for local planning applications to avoid controversy.

Everyone knows it is impossible to support both sides when dealing with a controversial planning application, but local members can request votes in order to participate in decisions affecting their own ward.

Councillors Henderson and Hunter have avoided this responsibility. They should be ashamed of themselves.

If they can get themselves involved in spending £900K to dig a hole on the Blar Mor for the Gaelic school and go to extreme lengths to pursue this goal, how not have the bottle to face residents dealing with other controversial applications?

Time after time they are happy to play politics when dealing with applications which could have repercussions on their own standing in the eyes of residents.

Recently, there was an application for change of use of a residential property, Birchwood, Camaghael, to a private residential care home to cater for up to six Lochaber children from troubled backgrounds.

Some residents who objected to this application blamed members who supported approval, while ignoring the fact that councillors Henderson and Hunter refused to vote - which would have meant they had to nail their views to the mast. They did likewise for the £800M hydro application at

Loch Lochy which has divided the Glengarry community. They wish to portray themselves all things to all residents for and against these applications.

It is alright fighting for popular issues but you have a duty to speak out and be heard making decisions - even those that are controversial. This is obviously something these members do not wish to do.

The majority of residents on the Kilfinnan Road and others on the opposite side of the loch deserve to hear the views of those who represent them on the council. This is an £800m project that will have repercussions for some people and benefit others. That is one reason why I called for a site meeting.

Councillors Henderson and Hunter perhaps will take out their option of local member votes on this issue.

Councillor Bill Clark, Caol and Mallaig Ward.

Conflicting ferry arguments

Sir,
When James Knight is forced in your letters page to stoop to personal abuse rather than confronting the facts, it is a sure sign his arguments in favour of the unbundling and privatisation of the ferry services has come unstuck.

Attempting to confuse the issues by throwing up a random barrage of conflicting arguments gets us nowhere.

Despite what James has said, there is no evidence whatsoever to back his assertion that the public who use these lifeline services support unbundling, tendering and, the logical consequence, privatisation.

In fact, public meetings and postbags have been packed with people and postcards supporting the union and community campaign to stop the dismantling of the services and it is as a result of that pressure that we have secured the medium term future of Caledonian MacBrayne and will now press for a long term solution.

James Knight picks a poor example when he raises the issue of British Rail - a service that cost the British people pound for pound a third of its privatised equivalent.

If you want a real example of waste and profligacy in the name of profit look no further than the current chaos on the West Coast Main Line which is now predicted to cost the taxpayer hundreds of millions of pounds as we pick up the pieces for the failures of privatisation.

That same kind of fiasco could have been played out on the CalMac routes if we hadn't stood up and been counted.

James Knight seems to support trade unions only when they are compliant and in bed with the bosses. Luckily, the CalMac unions are independent and responsive to our members and those who depend on the services we run and that's just how it will stay.

Bob Crow, General Secretary, RMT.

Argyll and Bute MP's lamentable record

Sir,
In the last five editions of *The Oban Times*, letters have been printed from Alan Reid MP attacking the SNP.

Yet no-one seems to comment

on Mr Reid's lamentable record as part of the Westminster coalition Government.

His voting record shows he supported tax cuts for the wealthy and voted to increase VAT to 20 per cent, which has a far greater impact on our island communities than on the mainland because of carriage costs.

He voted to retain the Crown Estate's rights over land and the seabed in Scotland, opposing Angus Robertson's bill to bring control north of the border to benefit local communities, including Argyll.

The reduction in housing benefit for poorer families also got his support. This not including his support for a £100 billion replacement for Trident, his support of nuclear power or the continual involvement of British military in a war that borders legality and causes death and injury to many of our young without any tangible benefit to this country.

What has he done to support the good people of Argyll and Bute? Little or nothing.

Robert J L Allan, by email.

Campaign for Euro referendum

Sir,
For years we have been promised a referendum on the UK's future with the European Union and this promise has been broken time and time again.

Because of this, I set up the Campaign for a Referendum which collected 220,000 signatures in support of a referendum.

Many of your readers on the Isle of Islay signed this petition,

so firstly I extend my thanks to them.

Though the politicians did not take any notice, we have registered ourselves as a political entity and will contest the next European elections in 2014 when everyone will have the chance to call for a referendum at the ballot box.

Politicians have proven they cannot be trusted with this issue, so we must have our say.

Nikki Sinclair, We Demand a Referendum, MEP West Midlands Region.

Help sought in family search

Sir,
I was born in Oban - I am 30 now - and used to visit the town every year to stay with my gran who stayed in Lismore Crescent.

Unfortunately my gran died and then my dad, Sandy Tyson, died in 1996. Since then, I have lost all contact with family members from his side of the family.

I was particularly good friends with my cousin's stepson and would like to get in touch with him again.

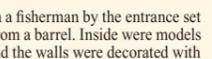
My cousin's surname was Smith but I am not sure if his stepson David took on his name or not. I have been trying to track them down for years to no avail. Facebook certainly has a lot of Smiths on it!

The last I had heard was that my auntie had moved to Perth. Any help you could offer would be greatly appreciated.

Craig Alexander Tyson, 15 North End Cambusbarron Stirling, FK7 9LH. 07736 280507.

Times Diary

Oban's new lifeboat coxswain John Hill is a proud Campbelltown man - to the extent he brought a jacket from his previous posting up the road with him. However, as you can see from our picture, his new colleagues quickly set about customising his Campbelltown RNLi jacket, making these alterations on his first day. 15_142map01



READER Forbes Abercrombie recalls a family visit to Oban in the mid 1960s when they saw signs painted on the asphalt: 'Visit The Fisheries Museum'.
He told *Diary*: 'At the museum a fisherman by the entrance set the tone and was cleaning fish from a barrel. Inside were models of different types of fishboats and the walls were decorated with an assortment of large posters, 'Eat More Fish', 'Make Fish your Main Dish' and so on. 'To our delight there was a restaurant on the second floor and we decided to have supper there. We found a table and I went to place our order with 'the wee wumman', who seemed to be the cook, sweating over a hot stove.
'I'd like to order five plates of fish and chips.'
'Fish and chips?'
'Yes please.'
'Oh, we don't make fish and chips. We have sausage and chips, egg and chips, bacon and chips, chips. No we don't make fish and chips. Sorry!'

Fifty years on, the Forbes says the family still enjoy the story. He returned to Oban last year with his children and their spouses.

AS STUDENTS take their places at Scottish universities we are told a tale of four young English academic friends who all gained places at St Andrew's, Glasgow and Edinburgh centres of excellent education.

They travelled north together to survey their respective new 'homes' for the next few years. As they drove over the border and up the A77 the only girl in the group was delighted to spot a road sign which told them how far they were from Glasgow and Edinburgh. 'Oh, that's handy,' she enthused excitedly, 'Glasgow and Edinburgh are only three miles apart - I didn't realise they were so close together.' Her friends looked at her in bewilderment. 'They are,' she insisted. 'That road sign says the Glasgow is 76 miles away - and Edinburgh is 79 - so they must be three miles apart.' What is the young lady coming to Scotland to study - you guessed it - geography!



Beachd Ailein Ailean Caimbeul

NACH iomadh car a chuir an saoghal bho thachair a' chiad Mòd ud anns an Oban ann an 1892 agus saoil co mhead de na bha an làthair a smaointich gum maireadh an rud a bha air tòiseachadh an sin agus gum fàsadh e chun na h-ìre aig am bheil e an-diugh. Anns an t-seadh sin, 's e fìor dheagh sgeulachd a th' againn leis a' Mhòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail a' gabhail àite gach bliadhna ann an ceàrnaidh eadar-dhealaichte agus tha e da-rìribh taicneach a bhith a' faicinn cho proifeiseanta 's a tha cùisean gan làimh-seachadh aig na fèisean sin an-diugh.

Ged a tha mise a' sgrìobhadh seo beagan air toiseach air an fhèis, tha fios again gun cluinnear sàr Ghàidhlig agus seinn, bho shean is òg, thar na seachdainne. Tha mi cuideachd cinnteach gum bi fàilte bhlaith chridheil romhainn ann an Dùn Omhain mar a bha riamh agus chan eil teagamh nach tèid seann chàirdeas ath-bheothachadh agus còlas ùr a stèidheachadh. Agus nach math an smuain, agus an dòchas, gun till daoine dhachaigh bho Mhòd 2012 le cuimhne air fìor dheagh chuir eile air bruaichean Linne Chluaidh.

Chan eil cho uabhasach fada bho bha luchd-taice na Gàidhlig a' clisgeadh nuair a bha am a' Mhòd a' tighinn dluth, 's gun fhios dè an sgeulachd luideach a bha dol a nochdadh agus dol a nàrachadh na Gàidhlig às ùr. Gun teagamh, cha b' e coire a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealach a bha sin gu tur idir. Bha agus tha nàimhdean aig a' Ghàidhlig nach caill cothrom gus a cur ann an suarachas; ach cha robh dòighean-obrach a' Chomuinn idir tèarainte gu leòr gus clùì na Gàidhlig agus a' Mhòd a dhion cho math 's air am bheil daonnaan feum. Dh'fheumadh sin atharrachadh agus far an robh maoinachadh obair a' Chomuinn agus a' Mhòd barrachd is barrachd an urra ris an sporan phoblach, bha impidh shònraichte ann airson leasachadh. Cha b' ann gun spàirn agus saothair a thachair sin idir agus tha mòran de na ceatharnaich a bha an sàs an lùib a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealach, agus cuid a tha ag obair leis fhathast, ri 'm moladh airson nan atharrachaidh mòra a chaidh a chur an gnìomh. Chan e a-mhàin gum bheil mòdan rianachd na buidhne agus a' Mhòd air an leasachadh, tha cuideachd suidheachadh ionmhais na buidhne air tilleadh gu fallaineachd. Ged nach b' iad an Ceann-suidhe Iain MacLeòid agus an Ceannard Iain Moireasdan a rinn seo nan ònachd, bha pàirt mhòr aca ann agus tha iad le chèile airidh air moladh agus taing.

ALTHOUGH writing in advance of the opening of Mod 2012, I feel confident that this year's festival in Dunoon will be another successful and enjoyable event and a credit to both the organisers and the Gaelic language and culture.

Recognised as one of Scotland's premier annual festivals the Royal National Mod has become an increasingly professional production reflecting welcome advancement in the governance and management of An Comunn Gàidhealach.

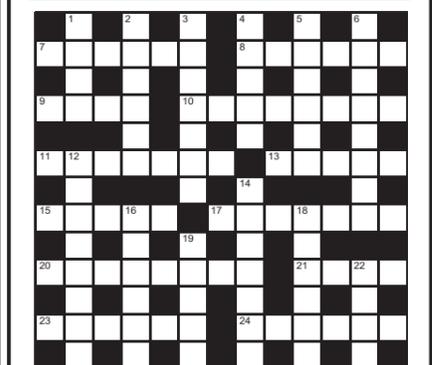
Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell) ailean@obantimes.co.uk.

Le taic bho

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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Great test (6)
 - 8 Uncontrollably (6)
 - 9 Novice (4)
 - 10 Desire (8)
 - 11 Ornamental head (4,3)
 - 13 Panache (5)
 - 15 Aerosol (5)
 - 17 One of a pair to keep things up (7)
 - 20 Adoption (8)
 - 21 Flyers (4)
 - 23 Layers (6)
 - 24 Harden (6)

- Down**
- 1 Heavy cart (4)
 - 2 Where everything is stored (6)
 - 3 Fun (7)
 - 4 A product from exertion (5)
 - 5 Nurses room (6)
 - 6 A weed with many properties, also a tropical tree (8)
 - 12 Facing (8)
 - 14 Low temperature storage vessel (7)
 - 16 Frank acknowledgment (6)
 - 18 Block (6)
 - 19 Written work (5)
 - 22 Hand warmer (4)

Last week's solution

YOUR LETTERS

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page.

The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification.

Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed.

Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

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

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

Strontian police probe 'unexplained' fire

STRONTIAN police are asking local people to come forward with any information they may have regarding 'an unexplained fire' in the Sunart village.

A new wooden croft barn, its contents and a horse trailer were completely destroyed in the October 7 blaze at Upper Scotstoun, which broke out at 7pm.

Fire crews from Strontian, Acharacle and Lochaline attended the incident. The financial losses to the owner totalled an estimated £11,000.

Constable Andrew Irvine told *The Oban Times*: 'We are appealing for anyone who may have seen anything untoward or suspicious in the area to contact us at Strontian on 01967 402022 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.'

London Shield shinty cup final

LOCHABER Camanachd will look to celebrate their return to shinty's top flight with another success on Saturday when the club's under-17 team take the field against Kinlochshiel in the London Shield final.

Throw-up for the match at Bught Park, Inverness, is at 11am.

The game is a curtain-raiser for the Scotland-Ireland shinty/hurling international.

Food and drink fundraiser

THE ROTARY Club of Lochaber is looking to raise money for local good causes at its third annual evening of 'food and drink from around the world' on Friday November 2.

Club president Sheana Fraser said: 'Our international dinners have proved to be a popular event at the onset of winter and this year we are serving courses from China, Australia, Germany, Japan, Hungary, America and Greece.'

Each course will be accompanied by a glass of wine chosen by wine expert Eva Franceschi.

The event at the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, starts at 6.30 for 7pm.

Bookings can be made at the hotel on 01397 702241.

NEWSDESK
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Brother and sister wow Mòd judges

Lochaber brother and sister Hannah and Alistair MacRae wowed judges at the Royal National Mòd in Dunoon, both taking home first prizes. Lochaber High School's Hannah won first place in the open fiddle ages 13-18 event on Saturday before taking part in Sgoil Chiuil Loch Abar's gold medal success in the under 19 folk group competition. On Monday, Lochside Primary School pupil Alistair followed that up by taking top prize in the boys' solo singing ages 11-12 (learners), scoring 183 out of 200 after a competition described by adjudicators as being of a 'very high standard'. □ See our unrivalled Mòd coverage pages 5 to 8.

Bitter planning row erupts over Camusdarach mansion plan

A BITTER planning row over a proposed mansion next to a beach made famous by a cult film has pitched a small west Lochaber community against a south of England couple.

Jane and Mike Pardoe from Reigate want to build a house at Camusdarach sands, which featured in Bill Forsyth's 1983 movie *Local Hero* starring Burt Lancaster.

They own a cottage next to the site, 400 yards along a croft track off the B8008 Morar-Arisaig road.

Highland Council granted planning permission in 2005 - on condition the Pardoes improve access and turning at a public car park next to the B8008.

But Angusina MacDonald-

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

Lewis, whose croft house lies along the track, is refusing to sell the Pardoes land for the upgrade. The Pardoes have now applied for a new consent so they can go ahead without making track improvements.

Ms MacDonald-Lewis, 71, has objected to the council, claiming people 'coming up from London in 4x4s' to what she believes will simply be a holiday home will add to habitat damage and disturbance. 'Already it makes my summers unbearable,' she states. Her son Donald is moving back to Morar with his partner and

five children and the pensioner fears for the children's safety with the extra traffic.

Morar Community Council (MCC) unanimously agreed to object at its October 1 meeting. They state: 'It was reasoned that to grant may lead to the building of a house in an area of natural beauty which is enjoyed by many. The small cottage, which is already there, overlooking the famous Camusdarach beach, is an old croft house and all other housing is well back from the beach and not visible. The community council also wishes to support Mrs MacDonald-Lewis' reasons for denial of access over her land.'

The Pardoes' agent's support letter states: 'The adjoining

proprietor's prerogative to deny the use of these small parcels of ground is accepted. However given the marginal amount of land involved, the fact that access and servicing appears to be functioning satisfactorily at present and the minor effect likely to result from one more house, one questions why, in planning terms, the council should allow one proprietor to block this otherwise acceptable house.'

Local councillor Allan Henderson told *The Oban Times* MCC's objection as a statutory consultee would 'almost certainly' mean the planning committee would decide the issue, probably in December. He will be taking a local member's vote.

Ten-hour A82 road closure prompts new call for action

THE TIME being taken to reopen the A82 following major incidents is back in the spotlight after the lifeline route was closed for 10 hours following a lorry fire.

Fort William Chamber of Commerce (FWCC) members will raise the issue as a key area of concern during a live video conference with transport minister Keith Brown at West Highland College in the town on Tuesday.

The move follows Monday's traffic mayhem north of the Lochaber capital during an operation to remove a burnt out Spar wagon 800 yards north of Torlundy.

Police closed the road in both directions around 6am as two fire crews from Fort William and one from Kinlochleven tackled the blaze.

The A82 finally re-opened at 4pm, reduced to one lane with traffic lights because of fire damage to the southbound carriageway.

A82 Partnership spokesman Stewart MacLean, who also holds the transport brief for FWCC, said the delay was 'unacceptable'.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We will certainly be raising this matter during the chamber's

EXCLUSIVE
REPORT by
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conference video link with Keith Brown on Tuesday. We will be looking into the reasons for the extended closure and requesting that ways be found to improve the situation.

'We will also be asking if there are adequate resources locally to handle these incidents in order to reduce them in future.'

Ferguson Transport managing director Ali Ferguson got a mid-morning call from the vehicle recovery contractor requesting assistance.

The firm was able to send a crane with a giant grab, usually used for loading timber, to the scene.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Fortunately we had equipment available at the time. We were keen to help out and get the road open as quickly as possible.'

'If we had not had the plant available it would have been up to the police and contractors to make other arrangements.'

Asked why the closure period was so long, Acting Inspector Jenny Fraser of Fort William Police told *The Oban Times*: 'It was purely the logistics of

trying to recover everything off the road. The first job was getting the trailer removed and the second was getting the cab away. The problems were caused by it being such a large operation for the recovery people.

'Unfortunately it was the sheer amount of stuff that had to be removed from the roadside that caused the delay.'

MS Fraser said the recovery operation began once Northern Constabulary's control room in Inverness contacted the Automobile Association, which appoints police-approved dedicated contractors to recover vehicles from the A82.

In Monday's incident, Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service gave the 'stop' at 9.13am and fire personnel were off the scene by 11am.

The road remained closed for a further five hours until all debris had been cleared. Traffic was diverted along the Camesky loop road to Leanachan near Spean Bridge and via the B8004 during the removal operation. HGVs were periodically allowed through on the A82. Congestion was made worse when a diverted Citylink bus toppled into a ditch on the B8004 at Muirshearich at 8.30am.

□ See 'traffic mayhem', page 3.

Virus shuts Raigmore hospital ward

A MEDICAL ward at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, remained closed to new admissions on Tuesday night after an outbreak of suspected norovirus.

Ward 2A was shut on Monday after 14 patients fell ill with diarrhoea and vomiting, with nine still experiencing symptoms. Visitors are being asked not

to attend while staff deal with the virus, which spreads in the air and is extremely difficult to contain. Dr Adam Brown, consultant microbiologist for NHS Highland, said it was likely the virus had been brought into the hospital. He said: 'As well as restricting visiting to the affected ward, we are also asking people

not to come to the hospital to visit if they have had any vomiting or diarrhoea within the previous 48 hours. By doing this we will be able to limit the spread as much as possible. Hospital staff will, of course, be very happy to talk to visitors on the phone so they can get updates on how their relatives are.'

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Mallaig's WestWheels on road to secure future

MALLAIG community transport scheme WestWheels has officially registered as a company and is due to take full control of its three-car fleet.

The not-for-profit group was started in 2011 with two cars on a trial basis - but soon had to order a third car following increasing demand.

The group now has 46 members, spread throughout Arisaig, Knoydart, Morar, Mallaig, the Small Isles and Skye.

Club representative Mick Rodgers said: 'This highlights the fact WestWheels is now past the trial stage and building membership towards a viable future, with cars for local people, managed by local people and owned by local people.'

'We have also had a considerable green impact locally, with four of our members scrapping old uneconomic cars and another three who would have definitely bought a car without the availability of WestWheels.'

Club members have access to three Ford cars - two based in Mallaig and one in Arisaig - which they are able to book out when they need it, with the club taking on the responsibility for ownership, maintenance and insurance.

WestWheels also encourages tourists to hire cars as an easy and cheap way to see the local area.



Destroyed: the Spar lorry driver had to flee the vehicle as it was engulfed by flames on the A82 north of Torlundy. 20_142crash02



Michael Chisholm of Ballachulish vehicle recovery firm Chisholm's Garage briefs police officers as his team prepares to pull the bus out. Passengers had to escape the coach via the emergency exit after it ran into a ditch at Muirshearlich. 20_142crash01

Passengers' lucky escape as bus topples into ditch

'Absolute mayhem' as A82 lorry fire forces traffic onto single-track road

PASSENGERS on an early Citylink morning bus from Fort William to Inverness had a lucky escape after it toppled into a ditch while reversing on a narrow road on Monday morning.

The 8.30am accident at Muirshearlich between Banavie and Gairloch happened as the Caledonian Canal-side route was being used as a diversion route following a lorry fire on the A82.

The bus met a lorry on the single-track B8004 and was backing up towards a passing place when it careered into the ditch and fell onto its side.

No-one was injured but one window was smashed by one of the lorry's wheels. Passengers - many in a state of shock - had to clamber out the emergency exit and be helped onto the road.

One, who did not wish to be named, told *The Oban Times*:

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

'It was not really the bus driver's fault. The lorry driver was directing him and put him in the ditch, then just drove off without checking to see if anybody was hurt.'

Eyewitness Angus Ross, 76, whose Seangan Croft is only yards away, said at the scene: 'He [the bus driver] was over the top of the hill and met a vehicle coming down my way.'

'There must have been a wee bit of a debate, but I don't know why the driver reversed. He started off slowly but then took off quite quick and went into the ditch.'

'One woman was next to a window that got smashed when the bus landed on a fence post. She got an awful fright, but she

wasn't hurt.'

He added: 'Everybody had to get out the emergency door and I took them into the house for a heat. We had a big log fire on.'

'There were quite a lot of youngsters on board with cases, so maybe they were going a trip somewhere.'

The 7.30am service was already 40 minutes late because of the blazing lorry 800 yards north of Torlundy on the A82, which was closed in both directions at 6am.

The Spar wagon and its consignment of frozen food were incinerated in the inferno.

Traffic was diverted along the Camesky loop road to Leanachan near Spean Bridge and via the B8004 until the road re-opened just after 4pm - 10 hours after it was shut.

One driver told *The Oban Times* at 3pm it was 'absolute mayhem' on the B8004 as heavy

two-way traffic struggled to find passing places.

A long queue of southbound HGVs parked on the A82 until the lorry was recovered late in the afternoon. Chisholm's of Ballachulish hauled the bus out shortly afterwards. No-one was hurt in either incident.

A Stagecoach spokesman said: 'The bus was travelling at low speed on the single track road when it became stuck in the soft verge around 8.15am. There were 21 passengers on board the bus and no-one was injured. Passengers were taken back to Fort William on a subsequent Stagecoach service travelling from Inverness. We would like to apologise to customers for the disruption to their journey.'

The fire damaged road is currently down to a single lane with traffic lights in operation.

Businesses bid to slash waste disposal costs

ONE OF Lochaber's biggest tourism operators is aiming to slash its waste disposal costs after taking delivery of a huge composting machine.

Nevis Range hopes to save around £500 annually by turning everything from kitchen scraps to weeds into valuable compost for their flower beds.

All organic waste now goes into a huge steel tank to be chopped up and broken down by bacteria, with heat generated by the process killing any pathogens present.

Transporting kitchen waste from the Snowgoose Restaurant 2,000 feet up Aonach Mor presents no problem - it comes down in buckets on the mountain gondola.

The new environmentally friendly system went into operation last week - and could mean 20 fewer 1,100-litre wheelie bin loads, or 16 per cent, being dumped in landfill each year.

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

The move is part of a Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) project to encourage local businesses to cut down on waste and save cash, backed by a £34,000 Highland Leader grant.

Nevis Range managing director Marian Austin said each bin currently costs £23, plus VAT, to be emptied - a figure certain to rise as tough new government targets on reducing waste kick in.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'If we can reduce costs by that much that will save us a considerable amount of money, which helps us to pay for the investment.'

'The cost of putting waste in landfill is only going to go up more, so that's why we are trying to do this. This is the next stage - looking at food waste.'

The company has also started

collecting difficult to recycle plastics such as film, carrier bags and food containers for uplift.

'That's another bit taken out of the wheelie bin,' Ms Austin said.

In west Lochaber, an Acharacle business has also signed up to the LEG initiative.

Ardshellach Lodge owner Jill Gosney is now using a smaller drum composter to boost on site compost production for her vegetable garden.

Ms Gosney grows produce for her restaurant and B&B and strongly believes all waste should be recycled wherever possible.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'I hope the machine will mean we can compost quicker. If a small business has enough space to grow stuff on there's no reason why they can't do this.'

She added: 'The community garden in Plantation in Fort William is great and I think more of these schemes should

be started.' Both businesses are recording the daily weight and composition of their food waste to provide data on eventual savings.

LEG project development officer Anne Nelson told *The Oban Times*: 'This scheme is really to get businesses interested at looking at their costs. They should be looking at how much food they are throwing away and how much that is costing them.'

'They can throw free compost on their gardens. It's almost a full circle - from plate to flower beds or vegetable plots.'

The Scottish Government launched a new national campaign to combat the environmental and financial impact of food waste last week.

Figures show one fifth of the food and drink we buy ends up being thrown away - or £430 per household annually. Visit www.lochaber-environmental-group.org.uk.



Reducing waste: Marian Austin recycles at Nevis Range's composter.



Shopmobility Lochaber committee member and client Tommy MacGregor tries out the new scooter, with help from Billy Ward and Adam Ramsey. 20_142scooter01

Olympic scooter for Fort

FORT William-charity Shopmobility Lochaber has grabbed its own piece of the London Olympics - a reduced price scooter.

A fleet of mobility scooters and wheelchairs were purchased for those attending the games and then put up for sale for £700 plus delivery - more than £1,000 less than the regular price.

Shopmobility Lochaber bought

one of the branded scooters to increase its fleet to 17.

Charity co-ordinator Billy Ward told *The Oban Times*: 'We have recently had to scrap a scooter because we couldn't get parts for it.'

'Our committee decided to purchase one of these scooters for our fleet and it arrived this week.'

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Provost Allan Henderson presented Heather with a silver axe pendant to commemorate her success. 20_142medal02

Local children enjoyed getting their photo taken with Heather Stanning and the Olympic gold medal. 20_142medal01

Golden girl Heather backs Arisaig pitch upgrade plan

OLYMPIC gold medallist Heather Stanning celebrated her Lochaber connections during a visit to Arisaig on Saturday - and gave her backing to plans for upgrading the local playing field.

Around 60 locals came out to congratulate rower Heather on her Olympic success and to have their photo taken, as she visited her parents who have a home in the village. Children and adults queued up to inspect the medal at close quarters.

Heather went to school at Gordonstoun in Moray but spent many holidays in Arisaig as a youngster. She struck gold in London with her rowing partner Helen Glover in the coxless pairs - becoming the first British

females to win Olympic rowing gold.

Heather told *The Oban Times* visiting Arisaig was 'special'.

She said: 'I don't get back up very often really, so it's lovely to be back up. I'm really touched by the number of people who have come out to welcome me.'

Undamaged

There was a moment of worry when Heather dropped the medal while posing for photos but after dusting it off she assured the crowd it was undamaged.

Arisaig Community Trust's (ACT) local development officer Alison Stewart said the village was delighted to see Heather return with a gold medal and to receive

her backing for the playing field plan.

She said: 'The children were thrilled to be given the opportunity to try the medal out for size.'

Plans include an upgraded pitch, an adventure play area with fitness trail and an amenity area for the whole community.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise has provided funding for ACT to employ a specialist firm to carry out an inspection of the site and produce a report.

Lochaber provost Allan Henderson presented Heather with a silver axe pendant to mark her achievements and said the people of Lochaber were 'extremely proud' of her Olympic success.

Macmillan coffee morning success

THE RECENT Macmillan Coffee Morning in the Salen Hotel, Ardnamurchan, raised the grand sum of £1,250, report organisers.

The Salen ladies thank all who attended, Cameron Whyte, Clair and Gerry Ralston for the use of the Salen Hotel and the ladies of Fort William who donate prizes every year to the raffle.

The event will be held again in 2013.

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Society Fellow to give talk in Mallaig

WRITER and broadcaster Owen Dudley Edwards will be the latest Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) to address the Lochaber public in the society's local series of lectures.

Mr Edwards will discuss the author Patrick McGill and how King George V helped him write his masterpiece 'Children of the Dead End' at Mallaig High School on Tuesday October 30 at 7pm.

Currently Reader in Commonwealth and American History at the University of Edinburgh, Mr Edwards' talk, which will be followed by a question and answer session, has as its theme 'The Navy, the Priests and the King'.

Aerial display by starlings

A LOCAL flock of starlings has been spotted performing synchronised aerial displays above the Ferry Stores in Kilchoan, then landing on the chimney of Shore Cottage.

Jon Haylett reports they have every reason for packing themselves together as tightly as possible - the local sparrow hawk continues to be active and will continue to harry them through the winter.

Ale named in energy firm's honour

A LOCHABER renewable energy company is toasting its latest success - an ale named in its honour.

Torlundy-based HWEnergy installed a woodchip biomass boiler at Black Isle Brewery in Munloch to heat the estate house and brewing water.

Delighted owner David Gladwin responded by labelling the celebratory ale 'Wood Fuelled Fury'.

WRI turns back the clock

INVERLOCHY Women's Rural Institute enjoyed a talk from Betty Bruce about well-known characters from Fort William's past.

Mrs Bruce and her husband John showed slides and told stories at the WRI October meeting.

They also judged the competitions, with Christine Anderson winning the treacle scones and Irene Pinkett winning the royal memorabilia.



Fiona MacIntyre receives the Farquhar MacIntosh Memorial Prize for academic excellence from Professor Matthew MacIver.

Fort student lifts top college prize

A FORT William student scooped a top honour at this year's graduation at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI, the Gaelic college on Skye.

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Fiona MacIntyre, from Torlundy, won the Farquhar MacIntosh Memorial Prize for the student achieving academic excellence across all courses.

Fiona, 22, was one of the first three students to graduate with honours from SMO with an MA (Hons) in Gaelic with Education, along with 26-year-old Fiona Rice from South Uist and Amanda Soutter, 22, from Dornie in Lochalsh.

Fiona, who now teaches in Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis (Inverness Gaelic Primary School) told *The Oban Times*: 'This degree is a fantastic opportunity for people with an interest in the Gaelic language and education.'

'As a Gaelic learner, it provided me with an opportunity to develop skills in the language, as well as gaining a teaching qualification within four years. 'It is a challenging degree and therefore the support I received from the tutors at both institutions was greatly appreciated. I thoroughly enjoyed the degree and I would recommend it to anyone who has an interest in teaching Gaelic as a subject or teaching through the medium of Gaelic.'

The new course, a special partnership between the University of Aberdeen and the University of the Highlands and Islands, is designed for secondary teaching, Gaelic as a subject and Gaelic medium primary teaching. It is delivered entirely through



Laura MacLennan from Lower Barvas graduated with first class honours and was awarded Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI Student of the Year.

Gaelic and gives students the chance to gain an honours award and teaching qualification in four years.

Elsewhere, Laura MacLennan, 22, from Lower Barvas on Lewis, was awarded Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI Student of the Year after graduating with first class honours.

John Norman MacLeod, Director of Studies at Sabhal Mòr

Ostaig, said 'it was a source of pride' to staff that in all 42 students were awarded degrees and named certificates, including a number of graduates reaching 'exemplary academic standards' in the past year.

He said: 'We are delighted also that numbers on the higher education courses and the short courses have increased again this year. There is an opportunity at each graduation to acknowledge milestones and the product of particular collaborations. The success of the students who gained the first honours awards on the Gaelic with Education course was particularly satisfying for us.'

In this year's graduation lecture, head of MG Alba Donald Campbell told his audience: 'If there is one thing I would like say to the students who are graduating today, it is that I am very much of the opinion that learning is a life-long undertaking, no matter what form it takes.'

'As the well-known Gaelic poet Dòmhnall Ruadh Chòrùna said, 'We are all on a journey' - and knowledge presents us with new paths and opportunities on that journey. It also opens your mind and allows you to understand the opinions and ways of other people.'

'Just think of how destructive ignorance and closed minds can be. There are plenty of examples which I'm sure you can think of. 'And so I encourage you all to keep asking questions, keep expanding your knowledge and your minds and, when appropriate, use that knowledge to keep adding to your qualifications.'



Celebrating success: Sabhal Mòr Ostaig graduates and staff after the ceremony.

Gaelic award for Barra and Vatersay

BARRA and Vatersay have been named as the winners of the 2012 Gleus Award - and are the new titleholders of Gaelic Community of the Year in the Highlands and Islands.

Now in its third year, the award recognises the contribution of communities to the growth of Gaelic at a local level. Barra and Vatersay pick up £3,000 in prize money.

Local Historical Society Comunn Eachdraidh Bharrach is Bhatarsaigh put forward the winning bid.

Nominations were judged on the use of

spoken Gaelic, particularly amongst young people, its visibility in the community and the provision of Gaelic childcare and education, including Gaelic-learning opportunities.

Murdo Mackinnon, chairman of the Comunn Eachdraidh, said 'Barra is alive with community events', influenced heavily by Gaelic language and culture. He added: 'Gaelic is at the heart of all that we do from the nursery, to the school, to the work-place and to public services such as local authority and health services as well as churches,

shops, hotels and B&Bs, cafes and the fishing industry.' Runners-up in Gleus, receiving £1,500 and £500 respectively, were the communities of Sleat in Skye and South Lochs, Lewis. Congratulating Barra and Vatersay on their success, Na h-Eileanan an Iar MP Angus Brendan MacNeil urged Gaelic speakers: 'If you speak to a young child or baby, speak Gaelic to them.'

Comunn na Gàidhlig run the competition as part of their development contract with Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

VAL's top marks for key programme

VOLUNTARY Action Lochaber (VAL) has received top marks from inspectors for one of its key programmes.

The Care Inspectorate rated Lifestyles 'excellent' in quality of care and support, quality of staffing and quality of leadership and management.

The rating follows an

unannounced visit to VAL's office at An Drochaid in Claggan, Fort William.

Lifestyles delivers housing support to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, as well as a reduction of offending behaviour service to people who have offended in the past.

Project manager Brian Powell told *The Oban Times*: 'VAL is delighted with this achievement, which builds on the 'Committed to Excellence' Award from the European Foundation of Quality Management a year ago, demonstrating the organisation's drive to deliver quality across the services it provides.'

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Small Isles' broadband boost

COMMUNITIES on the small isles have celebrated the launch of a new project which will see homes and businesses served by superfast broadband access.

Local residents on Eigg, Rum, Muck and Canna can now enjoy improved internet speeds after a community project created a new high-speed network.

The project, headed by Eigg man Simon Helliwell, means island internet users can now reach upload

and download speeds of around eight or nine megabits per second - faster than many cities on the mainland.

Eigg Electric director John Booth told *The Oban Times* the new connection was a 'great advance' for the islands.

He said: 'The upload and download speeds are comparable now. The faster system works for me particularly because I often send out photos by email for business and the new system allows you to send them easily without

having to compress.' Mr Booth also said the faster speeds helped webcam communications for services such as Skype.

A ceremony was held at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in Sleat on Friday to mark the launch. The islands' network connects to the internet at the Gaelic college, which collaborated in the initiative.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig principal Professor Boyd Robertson said the college was pleased to be a part of the innovative project.

Missing cat hunt continues

A MAJOR missing person inquiry is underway in the Great Glen - for an 18-month-old grey cat.

Fort Augustus couple Sarah Sutton and partner Jim Murphy were left bereft when 'Mr Smokie' went missing on September 13.

The pair, who run the Invergarry Hotel where Jim is head chef and Sarah manager, plastered posters everywhere - including the local Post Office and bus shelters - but to no avail.

Sarah, 33, told *The Oban Times*: 'We have another family cat - but Mr Smokie is our favourite.'

'He went out one afternoon and never came back. He was always there waiting for us when we drove up in the car.'

'It's devastating. Every single time I get home I expect him to be there, but he's not. It just breaks my heart.'

She added: 'I just hope he's not jumped into a delivery van or a boat - we are right next to the canal.'



Missing: Mr Smokie from Fort Augustus.

Bridge closed for repairs

A BUSY bridge at Glengarry woodland was closed for repairs last week after a small section of nearby embankment fell into the river.

Forestry Commission Scotland said the bridge, just off the A87 at Invergarry, was still 'structurally sound' despite the collapse last Thursday.

Volunteers sought to help plant 3,500 spring bulbs

VOLUNTEERS are being sought by a Lochaber tourism group to plant more than 3,500 bulbs in tubs around Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge.

The date for the project - which will see Brae Lochaber bloom next spring - has been fixed for November 7.

Organiser Marilyn Dennis said: 'If we get enough people the task should take no more than an hour.'

The planting, helped by a £400 grant from the local council's discretionary fund, will also include crocuses purchased as part of the Lochaber Rotary Club polio charity appeal.



Rhona Mackenzie, left, and Ann Mulhern with Paul and Tony from Capelli. Lynne is not pictured. 20_142hair01

Trio's hair-raising charity 'do'

THREE Fort William women went through a hair-raising experience to raise money for cancer charities.

The money raised by the three women, Rhona Mackenzie, Lynne Quigg and Ann Mulhern, will go to Stand Up To Cancer, a new UK-wide fundraising campaign involving Cancer Research UK and Channel 4.

The ladies all had their hair spiked and stretched into a multicoloured mohican by Jackie and Paul at Capelli's Studio in Inverloch and then visited pubs across the town with buckets to collect donations. The activity was organised by

Lochaber Together for Cancer Research UK.

Group vice chairman Billy Ward said: 'Making your hair stand on end is just one of the fun ways to Stand Up To Cancer.'

'Why not encourage family, friends and work mates to get involved and go head-to-head to see who can create the most outrageous hair-do?'

'We need people across Lochaber to join us and stand shoulder to shoulder in the fight against a disease which affects one in three people in the UK at some stage in their lives.'

Residents' chance to quiz hydro scheme developers

BRAE Lochaber residents will have the chance to quiz the company behind plans for a proposed Glen Gloy micro hydro scheme in Spean Bridge on November 6.

Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) and developer Coneloch Renewables submitted plans for a 90kW hydro plant at Upper Glenfintaig, near Spean Bridge, in July. Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council said they are in favour of the development, but do not like Coneloch's plan to run four kilometres of pylons through the glen to connect the scheme to the

national grid. Community council chairman John Fotheringham told *The Oban Times* the pylons could have a negative impact on what was 'a completely unspoilt glen'.

He said: 'We don't want any poles in the glen. Tourism is by far our biggest employer - who is going to come up here if all the hills are covered in pylons?'

'We're in favour of the hydro scheme, we're just not in favour of the pylons.'

Mr Fotheringham said putting the wires underground would solve the problem of 'visual

impact', but he has been told this would be too expensive for the developers to consider. He said: 'The opportunity now exists to get the public to a meeting that could make a difference to the glen.'

In a letter to the community council, head of commercial Mark Rough said SSE were 'more than happy' to discuss community concerns.

He said: 'I have asked Donald MacKinnon, commercial manager, and Ivan Murphy, project manager, to confirm their availability and to prepare a short presentation.'

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THIS week has seen a host of announcements from energy companies that prices will rise again – so what better time to start looking at alternative ways to power your home? Whether for heat, hot water or watching television, the cost of running every appliance in your home, you can find a renewable or energy saving solution that can help you keep more of your hard earned money to yourself. And with recent advances in technology, there has

never been a better time to look at the different options available. From solar panels to windows featuring advanced insulating technology, solar panels to wind turbines, there are companies on your doorstep that can help cut your reliance on the grid – and fend off those ever increasing bills. Thursday also sees the start of the Big Energy Saving Week – meaning great deals on renewable and alternative heating and power solutions.



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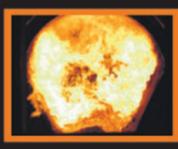
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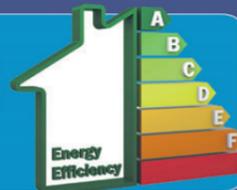
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ANNUAL RUNNING COST COMPARISON

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20 m² room	NOMINAL POWER	% RATIO OF CONSUMPTION	EFFECTIVE RUNNING POWER	NOMINAL POWER	RUNNING COST	NOMINAL POWER	RUNNING COST
	1,600 W	40%	640 W	3,000 W	£507.15	5,950 W	£402.34
	Set to 21°C			Set to 18°C		Set to 21°C	

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Comparison is made according to the following calculations:

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Oban FM's Live Radio Auction DJs who helped raise £8,000 for Oban Cash for Kids by manning the mics for 32 consecutive hours.

Marathon Oban FM radio stint raises £8,000

AN OBAN charity is around £8,000 better off after a marathon broadcasting effort by a local radio station.

Oban FM's non-stop 32-hour broadcast auction marathon came to an end on Saturday, with the station enjoying a terrific response from locals keen to help raise cash for Oban Cash for Kids.

While the presenters could be seen making their broadcast from the Scottish Hydro Electric shop, the station's mobile broadcast

station was on hand in Tesco car park on Friday-Saturday to help promote the fundraiser, while volunteers hit the streets to ask for donations. Meanwhile, the station was inundated with calls from locals requesting songs for the live auction.

The total surpasses last year's £7,500 total.

The station's Linda Crosher said: 'It went fantastically well this year. From 9am Friday to 5pm Saturday, we had an amazing

response. People were putting in bids and making donations throughout. While there's still a lot of money to count, we were at about £8,000.'

Linda thanked everyone who supported the event, from Soroba Community Enterprise, who organised a mile of coins, to each individual who donated.

The station also thanked Zanussi, Beko, AEG and Scottish Hydro Electric for supporting this year's event.

Doors finally open on Callander trust's new café and youth hub

CALLANDER Youth Project Trust (CYPT) has finally opened the doors on its new £350,000 café and youth hub after 13 weeks of work to redesign the old Bridgend Hotel.

The new Bridgend Café was opened by local lad and Olympic torch bearer Paul MacIntyre in front of a crowd of more than 100 locals, all eager to have a look at the new community facility. Inside, there was tasty treats from the menu, served by the youngsters that helped make them, while a series of stalls in the function room highlighted the work of local groups and clubs.

In the garden, a giant mechanical bull did its best to dislodge its shrieking riders.

Callander Youth Project has been running since 1998 and moved into the old Bridgend Hotel in November 2010, finally buying the building in February this year thanks to a £210,000 loan from Triodos Bank. Renovations were possible thanks to a £140,000 grant from Social Investment Scotland.

The ultimate aim of the project is to develop, resource and sustain a meaningful programme of diverse activities for young people from all backgrounds across rural Stirling.

CPYT's Stewart Talbot said: 'We would like to say a huge thank you to all our volunteers who gave up their Saturday to come and help. Thanks also to Zero Waste Scotland for supporting the event. We also thank the trustees for their continued work and support in bringing the Café and Youth Hub to this landmark stage. Most of all we'd like to thank everyone from the local community and beyond who have supported the project and who came to the launch. We look forward to seeing you all very soon.'

Hebridean Book Festival line-up

FACLAN, the Hebridean Book Festival, has announced a stellar line-up of guest speakers for the 2012 event in Stornoway on November 1-3 - including leading author and atheist Professor Richard Dawkins, of the University of Oxford.

The decision to invite Professor Dawkins caused consternation among some church leaders on Lewis, which remains a strongly Presbyterian island where strict Sabbath observance is still common.

Professor Dawkins, author of books such as 'The God Delusion', will argue that belief in a supernatural God is both irrational and harmful to society. Launching the programme, festival director Roddy Murray said 'Creideamh' (Belief) - this year's festival theme - 'has been and is central to the life of many in the islands', whether overtly religious or not.

He said: 'FACLAN is first and foremost a showcase for the literature and culture of the Hebrides, whether this is expressed in Gaelic or English.

'Our programme aims to reflect the complexity of different belief systems - traditional and new - in a fast-changing world.

'We welcome new ideas from wherever they come, but we also ask that respect should be shown to the culture and heritage of the islands.'

Other speakers include:

Emeritus Professor Donald Meek, one of the leading Gaelic scholars of all time, who will speak on 'Am Biobull' (The Bible) and its central role in Gaelic culture.

Morag MacLeod from Scalpay, formerly of the School of Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh, and one of the greatest authorities on Gaelic song and folklore, who will present a session on Gaelic psalm singing in 'Na Salm' (The Psalms).

The Reverend David Robertson of the Free Church of Scotland, who has challenged the views of Professor Dawkins in 'The Dawkins Letters'.

Francis Spufford is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and a practising Christian. His book 'Unapologetic' is a witty, sharp-tongued personal defence of Christian belief.

Professor Philip Davies, Research Professor of Biblical Studies at the University of Sheffield, who will speak on 'The Dead Sea Scrolls'.

The festival, centred at An Lanntair, also includes sessions on novels, poetry, music, film, an exhibition, readings in schools and events in other parts of the Outer Hebrides.

FACLAN is organised by An Lanntair with input from the Islands Book Trust and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Libraries, supported by Creative Scotland.

'Ceilidh King' Fergie launches new CD at Mòd

'CEILIDH King' Fergie MacDonald has invited *The Oban Times* to officially launch his latest CD at the Royal National Mòd in Dunoon today.

'As Highland As It Gets' marks a return to the early Gaelic ceilidh music which famously saw Fergie thrown off the BBC in the 1960s for daring to rebel against the regimented Scottish country dance fare so dominant then. The launch, in The Braes at 1pm, comes after the album - featuring recordings old and new - sold more than 3,000 copies in two weeks.



The performers at the successful Kilmeny Ceilidh in Ballgrant Hall.

Kilmeny ceilidh hits all the right notes

FIZZING - not a word usually associated with ceilidhs - but the only one to describe the atmosphere in Ballgrant Hall for the September ceilidh, the last of the Kilmeny Ceilidh Club's 2012 summer season.

The excitement as young choirs, Keills Primary School and Coisir Oig Ghaidhlig Ile, fresh from their triumphs at Lochgiphead Mod, and a team of Highland dancers, met up was infectious as was their exuberance when they took to the floor for ceilidh dancing. Kilmeny Ceilidh Club, formed early in 2011, and based in Ballgrant Hall, has now run two

ceilidh seasons with monthly events from May to September.

Though set up purely to provide a platform for the local music and dance culture the club has ended in profit each season. At this last ceilidh of the year donations were handed out to Keills School Choir, Coisir Oig Ghaidhlig Ile, the Ella Edgar School of Highland Dancing and Islay Pipe Band. Fear an tìghe and club chairman Andy McCowan said: 'The generosity of the people who attend the ceilidhs has provided the funds.

'We believe that reinvesting it in

the organisations that encourage and tutor our young musicians is our best hope for family ceilidhs continuing into the future.'

In addition to the choirs and Highland dancers two young instrumentalists - Eilidh MacMillan on accordion and Aileas Colthart on fiddle - made their Ballgrant Hall debut, and regular artistes Alasdair Currie, pipes and solos, Mairi McGillivray, fiddle and solos and Niall Kirkpatrick, accordion, were joined by singers Eoin Brown and Alex Brown and Clare Jordan, accordion.

Nostalgic evening at Oban Camera Club

NOSTALGIA was the theme at last Monday's meeting of Oban Camera Club when member Bob McCulloch presented his new 'Since the War' collection of old Oban images.

It was fascinating to see the Oban of 50 years ago, and accompanied by Bob's commentary from his vast

knowledge of Oban gone by. This made for a most interesting evening, which was enjoyed by a good turnout.

Next Monday's meeting in the Regent Hotel at 7.30pm is the result of the Open 1 competition. New members always welcome.

Oban Phoenix Cinema

Mrs Brown Thurs 18th, 14:00

Paranorman Thurs 18th, 17:30 • Fri 19th, 16:00
Sat 20th, 13:00, 16:00
Sun 21st, 13:00, 16:00

The Woman in Black Thurs 18th, 20:00 • Fri 19th, 19:00, 21:00
Sat 20th, 19:00 • Sun 21st, 19:00

The Sweeney Sat 20th, 21:00 • Sun 21st, 21:00
Mon 22nd, 20:30 • Tue 23rd, 20:30

Hope Springs Mon 22nd, 18:00 • Tue 23rd, 18:00
Wed 24th, 18:00, 20:30
Thu 25th, 18:00, 20:30

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Paranorman (PG)
In the town of Blithe Hollow, Norman Babcock is a boy who can speak to the dead, but no one besides his eccentric new friend, Neil, believes his ability is real. One day, Norman's estranged eccentric uncle tells him of an important annual ritual he must take up to protect the town from a curse cast by a witch it condemned centuries ago. Eventually, Norman decides to cooperate, but things don't go according to plan. Now, a magic storm of the witch threatens Blithe Hollow as the accursed dead rise. Together with unexpected new companions, Norman struggles to save his town, only to discover the horrific truth of the curse. With that insight, Norman must resolve the crisis for good as only he can. Get yourselves warmed up for Halloween with this chillingly entertaining animation!

Mrs Brown (PG)
Queen Victoria is deeply depressed after the death of her husband, disappearing from public. Her servant Brown, who adores her, through coars and admiration brings her back to life, but that relationship creates scandalous situation and is likely to lead to monarchy crisis. Starring the Oban Phoenix's masterful patron Dame Judi Dench and national treasure Billy Connolly.

The Woman in Black (12A)
In Edwardian London, lawyer Arthur Kipps still grieves the death of his beloved wife Stella on the delivery of their son Joseph four years ago. His employer gives him a last chance to keep his job, and he is assigned to travel to the remote village of Crythin Gifford. Kipps arrives at an isolated manor where he discovers the vengeful ghost of a scorned woman is terrorizing the locals. Both the original novel and the hugely successful stage adaptation have been terrifying audiences for years and this latest reincarnation in film form does not disappoint. Guaranteed to give you the chills, there are only two similarities between 'The Woman in Black' and 'Harry Potter'; Daniel Radcliffe and one very entertaining film.

The Sweeney (15)
Nailing villains is all that matters to Flying Squad officers Jack Regan and his loyal partner George Carter. When a bank heist takes place, they suspect an old adversary has returned. As the stakes are raised, hard-as-nails Regan will stop at nothing in pursuit of the wrong 'un. Based on the hugely popular 1970's British TV series, this labor of love for director Nick Love was 6 years in the making and took over £1.5 million at the box office opening week so come and see what all the fuss is about in this action-packed cop thriller.

Hope Springs (12A)
Key (Meryl Streep) and Arnold (Tommy Lee Jones) are a devoted couple, but decades of marriage have left Key wanting to spice things up and reconnected with her husband. When she hears of a renowned couple's specialist (Steve Carell) in the small town of Great Hope Springs, she attempts to persuade her skeptical husband, a steadfast man of routine, to get on a plane for a week of marriage therapy. Just convincing the stubborn Arnold to go on the retreat is hard enough - the real challenge for both of them comes as they shed their bedroom hang-ups and try to re-ignite the spark that caused them to fall for each other in the first place.

Go to www.obanphoenix.com for information on our spooky Halloween savings - 4 adult tickets £20, 4 child tickets £13.

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OCTOBER

- 22 Craighouse Village Hall, Isle of Jura, 6.30pm
- 23 Columba Hall, Port Ellen, Isle of Islay, 6.30pm
- 24 Isle of Gigha Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 25 Tarbert Village Hall, 7pm
- 26 Craignure Village Hall, 7pm
- 29 Bunessan Hall, 7pm
- 30 Iona Hall, 7pm

NOVEMBER

- 1 Mull Theatre, Drumnfin, 7pm
- 2 Dervaig Village Hall, 7pm
- 5 Victory Hall, Benderloch, 7pm

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Oban Times LEISURE TIMES

Atlantis Argyll and Bute Local Services Initiative
Wednesday 24th October 1-6pm Spin Studio

Learn how social enterprises work
Learn about the support available for social enterprises
Discover volunteering options
Find training opportunities
Local Social Enterprises will have stands giving you an idea of what they do and how they work
Free tea, coffee and homebaking

Atlantis Leisure in running for social enterprise award

TWO HIGHLANDS and islands social enterprises have been short listed in this year's Scottish Social Enterprise Awards.

Atlantis Leisure, a community sports and leisure provider based in Oban, has reached the finals in the social enterprise of the year category.

Meanwhile James Dunbar, chief executive of New Start Highland, which has a base in Fort William, has been nominated for best social enterprise leader.

The annual awards received double the number of applications this year compared to last and the trophies are all original artworks that have been commissioned from five Scottish creative social enterprises.

Neil Matheson, chairman of Atlantis Leisure said: 'It is very exciting for the staff and all our volunteer supporters, our funders and the board of directors to have been nominated for this award.

'Twenty years in any business is a long time and there are not many community social enterprises that have been around as long as Atlantis - the commitment from all concerned has been outstanding.

'Atlantis provides an exceptional community service and positively impacts the lives of numerous people within the community.

'We regularly have folks from various parts of the country and indeed abroad, to see how the organisation works and we are

happy to show them around. Without fail they are impressed with what is on offer and always comment on the positive attitude of the staff. This is our greatest asset and we are grateful for their fantastic input.'

The winners will be announced on October 25 at RBS Gogarburn, Edinburgh, and prizes will be presented by John Swinney MSP on November 13.

There will be an opportunity to learn more about social enterprises at Atlantis Leisure on October 24 where a variety of organisations will have stands promoting their work.

Members of the public are invited along to learn about the support available from social enterprises, discover volunteering

opportunities and take advantage of free tea, coffee and home baking.

The event, hosted in partnership with Argyll and Bute Local Services Initiative, runs from 1pm to 6pm.

Social enterprises are independent businesses that exist solely for social or environmental purposes. They operate in all markets, selling goods and services to individual consumers, local authorities, central government and private businesses.

Social enterprises exist to make a profit just like any private sector business. However, profits or surpluses they make are always reinvested into their social and environmental purposes.

what's on guide

Friday 19 October > Natalie Clark
Markie Dans

Saturday 20 October > Rock Disco
Markie Dans

Friday 26 October > Chris Suckle
Markie Dans

Saturday 27 October > Chris Suckle
Markie Dans

Wednesday 31 October > Spooky Disco
Markie Dans

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LOCAL NIGHT
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Entry: Adults £3; Children FREE

Oban Congregational Church
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SATURDAY 20TH OCTOBER
10.30am - 2.00pm
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Soup/Bread followed by Tea/Coffee & Cakes
Only £4.00 Sales Stalls
All proceeds to church funds.

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The Political Career of Sir Richard Graham, Viscount Preston (1648-95)
- his Rise and Fall: Peter Hills
Saturday 15 September
Port Appin Hall 2.30pm
ALL WELCOME!
<http://www.appinhistoricalsociety.co.uk>

Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £14.95 (plus VAT)
This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number.
All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page
Please ask for details

TABLE TOP SALE
in aid of 'CHAS'
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Parish Church Hall - Oban
10am - 3pm, Saturday 20th October
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Stirling - Monday

UNITED Auctions sold 1,119 suckled calves at their annual show and sale of suckled calves on Monday.

Bullocks averaged 214.28p (+2.12p) and sold to 288.60p per kg for a 308kg Charolais cross from Grove Farms and £955 for a 378kg Charolais cross from Barmurrie. Heifers averaged 190.42p (-3.02p) and sold to 250p per kg for a 220kg Charolais cross from High Tiferagus and £895 for a 428kg Charolais cross from Longhouse.

Texel gimmers from Panholes sold to £138, with Mule gimmers to £130 and 1-crop ewes from the same home selling to £119 and £118. Panholes also sold Texel rams to £500 and £480.

Ewe lambs sold to £92 for Mules from Craighead.

Dingwall prime

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 60 prime cattle and 386 prime sheep at Dingwall last Tuesday.

Prime bullocks averaged 205.6p (+2.4p) and sold to 221p per kg and £1,469.65 for a 665kg Limousin cross from Bridgend Farm, Dingwall.

Prime heifers averaged 205.4p (-1.1p) and sold to 218p per kg twice for 550kg and 575kg Limousin crosses from Drummond Farm, Evanton, and £1,438.65 for a 695kg Limousin cross from Bridgend Farm.

Lambs averaged 150.6p (+3.1p) and sold to 162p per kg for 39.5kg Texels crosses from Es-sich Farm, Inverness, and £74.00 for 48.5kg Beltex crosses from Torgorm, Canon Bridge.

Dalchirla lamb sells to £90,000 at Dalmally ram sale

Twin lambs sell to £90,000 and £60,000

TWIN RAM lambs from Blackface sheep breeder Ian Hunter, Dalchirla, Muthill, Crieff smashed the ram lamb record books at Dalmally last Saturday when the hammer fell on one at £90,000 - and the other at £60,000.

Breed record
The two, by a £30,000 Aitkenhead and out of a ewe by a £28,000 Midlock almost doubled the previous ram lamb record of 1997 of £52,000.

The £90,000 bid also equals the all-time breed record, also held by Ian Hunter, for a shearing sold at Dalmally in 2010.

Purchasing the top priced Blackie were William Dunlop and sons, Elscleugh, Dunbar; Hugh and Alan Blackie, Muirkirk; and John and Ian Campbell, Glen-rath, Peebles.

The £60,000 lamb went to J W Kay and Co, Gass, Straiton; Archie and John MacGregor, Allanfauld; and the Finlays of Blackraig, Castle Douglas.

The 146 ram lambs on offer at Dalmally on Saturday sold to an average of £2,091, compared to 159 at £732 last year.

Dalchirla averaged at five for £35,240, helped by a third high priced lamb at £24,000. Ian Hunter then turned buyer, spending £4,500 on a lamb by a £800 Dalchirla and out of a home-bred ewe by a £3,500 Dalchirla, from Robert MacKay, Millpark, Oban. At the same price, Castles Estate, Dalmally bought an Elmscleugh lamb by a £17,000 Dyke and out of a ewe by a son of a £20,000 Midlock, while David and Jock Jackson, Pole, Lochgoilhead sold one at £3,200 by a £16,000

Loughash and out of a ewe by a £20,000 Garpel, to Tom Nelson, s/Glengorm Estate, Isle of Mull, before selling another, by a £50,000 Pole and out of a ewe by a £24,000 Dalchirla, at £2,800 to Duncan Macvicar, Lephinchapel, Glendaruel and the Campbells of Drymsynic Estate, Lochgoilhead.

In the shearing ring, the Dalchirla name was also the fore. Ian Hunter selling 35 shearlings at an average of £2,110, with the top bid coming at £13,000 for a shearing by a £26,000 Dalchirla and out of a ewe by a sin of Dalchirla Tiger. Buying this one was the MacGregors of Dyke, Milton of Campsie.

Ian Hunter also sold two shearlings to £9,000, while Nunnerie buying one, while Tom Renwick, Williamhope, Galshiel and Burncastle Farm-

ing Company teamed-up for the other.

Willie McNicol, Crunachy, Dalmally and Jimmy Sinclair, Crookstone, Heriot joined forces to take a son of a £26,000 Dalchirla at £4,500, while the Shaw brothers of Ardfern also paid £4,500 for a shearing by a £14,000 Elmscleugh and out of a ewe by a £28,000 Midlock.

The Jackson of Pole sold one at £5,000 and another at £2,200, with the highest price one going to the Callander partnership of Colin Little, East Bracklinn and John Little, Letar Farm Cottage. Pole then invested £4,000 in one from Connachan.

Despite the high prices at the top end of the trade, the overall sale average for shearlings fell £28 on the year to settle at £625 for 488 sold; as compared with £653 for 499 last year.



Above - the £90,000 record breaker from Dalchirla at Dalmally on Saturday
Picture - Kevin McGlynn



Right - Ian Hunter, Dalchirla invested £4,500 in this Blackface ram lamb from Robert MacKay, Millpark, Oban
Picture - Kevin McGlynn

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SCF maintain pressure over 'hot topic' of EID

THE SCOTTISH Crofting Federation (SCF) has renewed its call to sort out the 'impracticability and injustice' of individual electronic identification of sheep (EID).

The SCF is concerned that costs and red tape associated with the scheme and placing an unnecessary burden on crofters.

The SCF is pressing for change to the legislation in two main areas - that animals six months after entering a flock are considered part of that flock and no longer require special recording, and that sheep should only require EID when they leave the jurisdiction of the keeper at birth.

Returning from Brussels where he was taking part in a series of meetings discussing EID, Norman Leask, parliamentary spokesman for SCF, said both proposals are accepted as not harming traceability, and would be achievable 'if we can gather the evidence to persuade the European Commission to re-visit this ill-conceived legislation'.

He added: 'EID was a hot topic at the Sheep and Goat Meat Advisory Group I was attending.'

'It was the main topic again at the German shepherds' meeting, who are taking the European Commission to the court of human rights in Strasbourg, over EID. This is not something that will just go away.'

He added: 'I was also part of the delegation meeting with DG Agri, organised by Alyn Smith MEP, presenting findings of a survey of Shetland sheep producers.'

'A united front and lots of evidence is required and only the crofters and the sheep farmers who are being severely penalised can supply this.'

Quality calves prove profitable at Fort William

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 461 weaned calves and store cattle, 37 OTM cattle and 18 breeding cattle at Fort William last Saturday when a mixed show met a highly satisfactory demand with top quality calves selling at a premium.

Weaned bullocks averaged 197.1p and sold to 248p per kg for a 250kg British Blue cross from Balmagister, Spean Bridge, and £780 for a 385kg Limousin cross from Strathaird Farms, Isle of Skye.

Weaned heifers averaged 179.9p and sold to 213.5p per kg for a pair of 185kg Charolais crosses from Ardornish Farms and £590 twice for a pair of 340kg Simmental crosses from Traigh Farm, and a 305kg Simmental cross from Strathlinne, Onich.

Store bullocks averaged 156.8p and sold to 204.8p per kg for 315kg Simmental crosses from Isle of Muck Farms, and £910 for a 540kg Aberdeen Angus cross from Ardornish Farms.

Store and bulling heifers averaged 172.3p and sold to 209.5p per kg for a pair of 420kg Simmental crosses from Moy Farm, Fort William, and £940 for a 560kg Simmental cross also from Moy Farm.

Breeding cattle sold to £960 for an in-calf Simmental cross cow from Strathlinne. OTM cows sold to 133.9p per kg for a 575kg Limousin cross from Ardornish Farms, and £950 for a 725kg Simmental cross also from Ardornish Farms.

OTM bulls sold to 114.5p per kg and £790 for a 690kg Whitebred Shorthorn from Sonachan, Kilchoan.

Portree ram sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 275 rams at its annual sale of rams at Portree on Monday.

Rams sold to £600 twice for a Blackface shearing from 13 Peinchorran, Portree and for a Cheviot shearing from 13 Flodrigarry, Portree.



Champion at Oban last week was a Blackface shearing from Glenstrae farmers, Dalmally

Seaview Blue creates new centre record at Oban ram sale

CALEDONIANMarts(Stirling) Ltd had forward 320 rams and ram lambs at their annual top sale at Oban Livestock Centre last week when a new centre record was set.

Shearlings averaged £304 (+£75 on the year) and sold to £1050 for a Blueface Leicester from A MacKellar, Seaview, Benderloch.

Ram lambs averaged £106.25 (-£43 on the year) selling to £150 for a Blackface from D Cameron, Inion.

The 66 Blackface shearlings averaged £256 (+£101 on the year) and sold to £900 twice from Glenstrae farmers, Dalmally.

The 78 Cheviot shearlings and two shears averaged £259 (+£32 on the year) and sold to £650 from Attonburn, while the 44 Suffolk shearlings averaged £425 (+£97 on the year) and sold to £750 from Maidencoats.

Twenty-five Blueface Leicesters averaged £511 (+£141 on the year), selling to £1050 from Seaview.

Texels averaged £326 (-£38 on the year) and sold to £900 from Veltigar.

Ram lambs were topped by Zwarbles from Ardornia, Iona which sold to £100 twice, with Blue De Mains from newton to £100 and Blackfaces from Keilator also at £100.

Texel cross tops as Stirling hosts Rendezvous

UNITED Auctions, Stirling had forward 1,402 rams, ram lambs and Blueface Leicester females at their annual Rendezvous sale at Stirling last Friday.

The sale was topped by M/s Wood and Hunter, Dalchirla, Crieff for a Texel cross shearing which sold at £1,300 to Ballechin Farms.

The Suffolk section was topped at £850 sold by M/s Stewart, Kinninmonth bought by M/s Martyn, Wester Bleaton, while the Texel section was topped at £1200 consigned by M/s Buchan, Torrax and purchased by EJAY Parts.

The Border Leicesters were topped at £900 by M/s Black-hall, Bogfon purchased by M/s Howden, Cowford.

The Cheviots were topped by Phillipaugh Estate purchased by M/s McLaren, Dalcapon at £950. Also at £950 was a Blueface Leicester shearing from M/s J J & D M Ferguson, Kerry Cottage purchased by M/s Grant, Glendamp.

Leyn shearlings sold to £790 from Major D F Walter, Balthayock, purchased by Atholl Estates.

The Beltex section was topped by M/s Taylor, Easter Ochtermuthill and purchased by Mr Copland, Overhouse at £750.

The sale was topped by M/s McLaren, Dalcapon at £950. Also at £950 was a Blueface Leicester shearing from M/s J J & D M Ferguson, Kerry Cottage purchased by M/s Grant, Glendamp.

Leyn shearlings sold to £790 from Major D F Walter, Balthayock, purchased by Atholl Estates.

The Beltex section was topped by M/s Taylor, Easter Ochtermuthill and purchased by Mr Copland, Overhouse at £750.

Lambs averaged £41.70 and sold to £78 for Mule ewe lambs from Ruivard, Ardross.

Ewes sold to £92 for crosses from Mains of Croy, Inverness. Gimmers sold to £80 for Cheviots from 58 Rhue, Ullapool. Feeding sheep sold to £102 for a Cheviot ram from 1 Balcharn.

Breeding sheep sell well at Stornoway
DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd., sold 1,869 sheep at Stornoway, Isle of Lewis last Thursday when a mixed show on offer tended to trade easier but with quality breeding stock selling well.

Store lambs averaged £31.85 and sold to £59 for Blackfaces from 17 Habost, Ness.

Gimmers sold to £64 for Crosses from 7 Hacklett, Uig. Ewes sold to £80 for Suffolks from 15 Vatsiker, Back. Feeding sheep sold to £100 for a Suffolk ram from 9 Back.

Store lambs averaged £31.85 and sold to £59 for Blackfaces from 17 Habost, Ness.

Gimmers sold to £64 for Crosses from 7 Hacklett, Uig. Ewes sold to £80 for Suffolks from 15 Vatsiker, Back. Feeding sheep sold to £100 for a Suffolk ram from 9 Back.

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Market reports

OBAN Caledonian Marts

Blackface: Glenstrae £900 twice; Laigh Aitcane £550, £500, £450, £420; Grunachy £380; Mingary £350; Glengorm £300; Braglenmore £280; Cheviot: Attonburn £650, £520, £500; South Park £450, £400 twice; Woodside £450, £420; Maidencoats £420, £320; Inverbroom £380 twice; Suffolk: Maidencoats £750, £550; Barcaldine Home Farm £750, £720, £650; Newton £550 twice; £520 twice; Balevullin £520; Bluefaced Leicester: Seaview £1050, £720, £650, £620, £600; Maidencoats £750, £720; Bal-ure of Shian £680, £600, £420; Inion £450; Texels: Veltigar £900, £450, £400 twice; Barcaldine Home Farm £620, £500; Fanmore £400; Maidencoats £380. Ram Lambs: Zwarbles - £100 twice Ardornia; Blue De Main - £100 Newton; Blackface - £100 Keilator

FORT WILLIAM Dingwall and Highland Marts

Bullocks up to 200kg - 11 Drinan, Isle of Skye, £450, Ardornish Farms, 234.5p; 201-250kg - Balmagister, £620, 5/6 Bohuntin, Roy Bridge, 239p; 251-300kg - Traigh Farm, £715, Keppoch Farms, Roy Bridge, 246.2p; 301-350kg - Strathaird Farms, £740, 234.9p; 351-400kg - Strathaird Farms, £770, 216.9p; 401-450kg - 8, 9 & 10 Cuilchen-na, Onich, £770, 183.3p. Heifers up to 200kg - 5/6 Bohuntin, £400, 205.7p; 201-250kg - 11 Drinan, £520, Swordie, Isle of Skye, 210.4p; 251-300kg - Keppoch Farms, £570, 207.3p; 301-350kg - Traigh Farms, £580, Moy Farm, 194.3p; 351-400kg - Moy Farm, £800, 205.1p; 401-450kg - Moy Farm, £880, 183.7p. OTM cows: Ardornish Farms, (AA), £830, (ShoX & LimX), £810; Moy Farm, (SimX), £790. OTM cows: Ardornish Farms, (SimX), 131p, (ShoX), 128.6p, (AA), 127.7p. Breeding cattle: Cow with male calf: Blarachaoruinn Estate, (LimX), £970; Markethill, Fort Augustus, (LimX), £930. Cow with heifer calf: Dhivach

PORTREE Dingwall and Highland Marts

Rams: Blackface: Newton of Crathie, Ballater, £550; 13 Peinchorran, £400; Moy & Ruthven Farms, Tomatin, £320. Cheviot: 13 Flodrigarry, £550; Keppoch Farm, Dundonnell, £500; The Gate, Shieldaig, and Keppoch Farm, £450. Texel: Veltigar, Tankerness, £400; Newton of Crathie, £350. Suffolk: Whitebog, Fortrose and Newton of Crathie, £350. BeltexX: Newton of Crathie, £280. Charollais: Whitebog, £220.

STIRLING United Auctions

Bullocks: Up to 250kg - Cromlix £580, 251.1p; 251-300kg - Grove Farms £860, 288.6p; 301-350kg - Grove Farms £905, 287.3p; 351-400kg - Barmurrie £955, 252.6p; 401-450kg - Laigh Aitcane £945, 232.80p; 451-500kg - Longhouse £880, 193.80p; Heifers: Up to 250kg - Grove Farms £610, High Tiferagus 250p; 251-300kg - High Tiferagus £650, Grove Farms 230.10p; 301-350kg - Longhouse £705, 211.90p; 351-400kg - Laigh Aitcane £740, 194.10p; 401-450kg - Longhouse £895, 209.10p. Sheep: Ewe lambs: Craighead (Mule) £92.89; Panholes (Mule) £90.88; Bardrill (Mule) £84; Panholes (TexX) £80. Gimmers: Panholes (Mule) £130 and £128; Panholes (TexX) £138; Panholes (Btex) £150. Ewes: Panholes (Mule-1crop) £119 and £118; Wester Upper Urquhart (Mule-1crop) £100; Panholes (Mule-2crop) £111 and £110; Wester Upper Urquhart (Mule-1crop) £97; Panholes (Mule-3crop) £107 and £160; Panholes (Mule-4crop) £86; Panholes (TexX-1crop) £117; Panholes (TexX-2 crop) £135; Panholes (TexX-3crop) £128; Panholes (TexX-4crop) £106. Rams: Panholes (Tex) £500 and £480; Panholes (BFL) £420.

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Project Manager (Self-Employed)

Outdoor Capital Tourism Business Improvement District (T BID)

Outdoor Capital Tourism Business Improvement District (T BID) has been awarded funding by the Scottish Government to develop a BID in the Lochaber area. A self-employed individual is now sought with experience in Business Planning and Project Management.

A not for profit company will be formed as a result of this project, with a Business Plan outlining what the business will do during the next 5 years. The post holder will develop the BID Business Plan and create a positive climate for business stakeholders to vote for a BID proposal.

The ideal candidate will have frontline business planning and project management experience, strong interpersonal skills, fully conversant with contract procedures, and be an effective communicator. You will be required to work closely with a range of stakeholders.

Salary Level: £30,000 pa pro-rata.

Fixed term to December 2013, initially 2/3 days per week, increasing to 4/5 days.

Job Description and/or general information is available by contacting Roddy MacPhee on 01397 874402 or by e-mail on roddy@lbs.co.uk.

Closing Date for applications: Friday 26th October 2012

Office Administrator

Full-time (permanent)

This important role provides administrative support to the sales and dispatch teams. As well as general office duties you will be communicating directly with customers and liaising with carriers, working to provide the highest level of service at all times.

We are looking for a natural administrator and organiser who is customer facing, efficient, accurate and has the ability to multi-task. You will have excellent phone and written communication skills and have a good level of computer literacy.

Please forward your C.V. to Lucy Burke, lucy@inverawe.co.uk or post to Inverawe Smokehouses, Taynuilt, Argyll. PA35 1HU

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Please reply in writing with CV to Jamie Smith, Ainsley Smith & Co, 21 Argyll Square, Oban PA34 4AT or by email to jamie@ainsleysmith.co.uk. 01631 567007. www.ainsleysmith.co.uk

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Scottish Natural Heritage and Kilmartin House Museum, with support from The Conservation Volunteers wish to recruit a Natural Communities Trainee to engage local people in the nature and history of Kilmartin Glen and Moine Mhor National Nature Reserve. The Trainee will spend a year on placement with SNH and Kilmartin Museum. During the placement you will be supported to learn and put into practice a wide range of natural heritage and community development skills, work towards gaining an accredited qualification and develop and deliver your own community environmental engagement project. For an application form and full job description visit: www.tcv.org.uk/jobs/latest-job-vacancies Contact Rachelle Burn at: r.burn@tcv.org.uk or Rachelle Burn, People Services Administrator, The Conservation Volunteers, Sedum House, Mallard Way, Doncaster, DN4 8DB or 01302 388878

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Key requirements are a clean driving licence, a good knowledge of Scotland and an ability to work well under pressure. A good sense of humour is also helpful.

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Send via email to bcameron@scottishfield.co.uk or by post addressed to Brian Cameron, Scottish Field, Craigrook Castle,

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Sales Assistant

£4,566 p.a. / Hours: 14 hrs pw / Location: Oban
Ref: SA61019OBA

As a sales assistant your key responsibility will be to assist the shop manager and volunteers in dealing with customers to help maximise sales, and present a good image of the British Red Cross.

These positions require people with a flexible and hands on approach. If you have lots of enthusiasm, retail experience, excellent customer care skills and a flair for display/fashion trends, we would like to hear from you. You will need to be numerate and willing to work Saturdays and occasionally Sundays.

To apply online visit www.redcross.org.uk/About-us/jobs.

For an application pack please contact Gina Steven on 01738 625976 or e-mail: gmsteven@redcross.org.uk or send a stamped addressed A4 envelope to Gina Steven,

Red Cross Retail Office, Royal British House, 113 Leonard Street, Perth, PH2 8HA.

Closing date for all positions: Wednesday 24 October 2012.

We are committed to welcoming people from the widest possible diversity of background, culture and experience. The Red Cross undertakes CRB checking of all individuals who have regular contact with children and vulnerable adults.

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See redcross.org.uk/volunteering

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Please apply by email with a full C.V. including contact details to: ali@obantimes.co.uk

Closing date Friday 26th October

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CARRADALE GP SURGERY

We have a vacancy for a new administrator to join our friendly office team, to start part-time in 2013, with a view to developing in the role to a full-time position over time.

The successful candidate will deal initially with a variety of tasks, including general reception and other administrative duties.

Applicants must be flexible, well-motivated and enjoy working as part of a team, with an excellent communication and interpersonal manner, and good IT and organisational skills. Experience in an office environment is desirable, however full training will be provided.

Hours and salary negotiable - dependant on experience.

Please send handwritten covering letter with up to date CV to:

Dr Elder, The Surgery, Carradale, Argyll, PA28 6QG.

For further information contact: 01583 431376.

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Experience of Photoshop, In-design and Illustrator an advantage but not essential as full training will be given.

Full Driver's Licence required.

INTERESTED?

Please send your CV to:

Ali Arden
Wyvex Media
Crannog Lane, Oban PA34 4HB
Email: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

The Scottish Salmon Company

The Scottish Salmon Company is the leading independent producer of superior Scottish salmon. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environment policy.

We are currently recruiting staff to work in our Processing Plant at Cairndow

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Temporary Contracts (Ref POT/10/12)
(Salary £15,991.97 - £7.68 per hour)

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Temporary Contracts (Ref HTOT/10/12)
(Salary £15,991.97 - £7.68 per hour + unsoiciable hour's payment)

We are also seeking a Hygiene Operative; the successful candidate will be involved in the day to day cleaning operations. The role requires a self motivated individual who can work as part of a team or alone, applicants must have a can do approach and should be physically fit due to the nature of the role and have a good understanding of working to Health & Safety guidelines.

The successful applicant will ideally have previous cleaning experience and knowledge of Hygiene Standards. Applicants will ideally be qualified in Basic Food Hygiene, respiratory equipment compliance, and hold a current first aid certificate these qualifications are desirable but not essential as training could be provided.

Applicants must hold a valid full drivers license and own transport as this is essential as the successful candidate will need to be available to work evenings and occasional weekends.

We are, seeking staff that are available to start immediately on fixed term contracts to the 22nd December 2012.

For an application form and job description, please contact:
Suzanne Mawer, HR Department,
The Scottish Salmon Company Ltd,
Arkinglas Estate, Cairndow,
Argyll PA26 8BH
Tel: +44 (0) 1499 600 435 / 415
Email: suzanne.mawer@scottishsalmon.com
Closing date: 5.00pm Friday, 26th October, 2012
Visit our website www.scottishsalmon.com

WYVEX MEDIA

Subscriptions Administrator

A vacancy has arisen within our Accounts Department.

This is a full time position based within a small friendly department at our Oban office.

You would be responsible for the administration of the subscriptions base, covering all our publications, which would include the updating of customer details on an ongoing basis and dealing with enquiries mainly by telephone or incoming mail.

Experience in the use of computer packages, ideally Sage Accounting, Excel Spreadsheets and other Windows based packages, would be desirable.

The successful candidate must be accurate and work in an organised manner. Other accounts department duties may also be required.

A full, current driving licence is essential.

We offer a competitive salary, pleasant working conditions, generous holiday entitlement, company pension, life and medical insurance.

Please apply with full CV and covering letter to Ali Arden, Wyvex Media Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll. PA34 4HB or email: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

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CLOSING DATE 6th NOVEMBER 2012

**A RARE CHANCE TO OWN
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RICH IN MARINE AND BIRD LIFE**

**THE EILEAN MOR & THE CAIRNS OF COLL
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Daldrishaig Cottages
Treslaig, Fort William, Inverness-shire

Two well presented semi-detached cottages for sale in an elevated position and with outstanding views over Loch Linne to Ben Nevis. Close to all local facilities and amenities. The cottages are offered for sale either separately or together and would make either an ideal second holiday home or business opportunity. Accommodation comprises: Hall, lounge, open kitchen, two bedrooms and shower room. Part furnished and equipped. Double glazed. Easily maintained gardens laid to grass. Designated parking for 2 cars per cottage to the rear.

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Detached stone-built family house overlooking Loch Etive.

Two large reception rooms. Four bedrooms and study. Outbuilding with residential potential.

Full details on:
www.house-in-connel.co.uk
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Offers around £310,000

West Coast property service

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at the Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

Refval	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/02108/PP	Renovation of cottage including erection of extension and detached garage and installation of septic tank	3 Vaul Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6TP	Tiree Area Office
12/02123/PP	Installation of 12 air source heat pumps "one per property"	1, 2, 3, 4, 4b, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14 Bealach-Na-Mara Port Appin Argyll and Bute PA38 4DR	Sub Post Office Ledaig
12/02142/PP	Erection of shed for storage purposes	Land South of Units 1-4 Lochavullin Road Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4PL	Oban Area Office
12/02185/PP	Change of use of land for the siting of 3 holiday letting caravans (retrospective)	Taigh-A-Bhalachain Airds Bay Taynuilt Argyll and Bute PA35 1JR	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
12/02210/PP	Variation of Condition 1 relative to planning permission reference 08/02088/OUT (Proposed site for housing development) - extension of time period to allow a further period of three years to submit approval of matters specified by condition	Site at McCaig Road/ Lonan Drive Soroba Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office
12/02211/PP	Erection of porch and over-cladding to existing dwellinghouse and erection of outbuilding to provide additional living accommodation	7 Glen Houses Dervaig Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6QW	Sub Post Office Dervaig
12/02216/PP	Change of use of dwellinghouse to office accommodation	13 Bowman Court (Staff House) Java Road Craignure Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA65 6BH	Sub Post Office Craignure

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Refval	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/01931/PP	Erection of conservatory	7 Shore Street Portnahaven Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA47 7SH	Sub Post Office Portnahaven

Argyll and Bute Council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

O.A.S.I.S

Oban Addiction Support and Information Service

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 24th October 2012 At 7.00 p.m.

OASIS OFFICE, 11 STAFFORD STREET, OBAN

Registered Charity in Scotland No. SCO31814

TO LET

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3 bedroom cedar wood bungalow, with stunning views from large sitting room, with wood burning stove. Tighnabraich 12 miles, Dunoon 24 miles, Glasgow Airport 1 hour 40 mins, Refs essential, No DSS, £500pcm.

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NEW BROCHURE DEADLINE 11TH OCTOBER scottish-cottages.co.uk

COMMUNITY COUNCILS

**NOTICE OF BY-ELECTIONS
ELECTIONS OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS
BY-ELECTION DAY - 6 DECEMBER 2012**

1. By-Elections are to be held for the return of Community Councillors to fill vacancies on the undernoted Community Councils within the Oban, Lorn & the Isles area of Argyll and Bute.

Iona AA51

Oban AA36, AA37, AA38, AA39, AA64

Kilniver and Kilmelford AA63, AA68

Dunbeg AA67

Ardrichattan AA72, AA73, AA74

2. Nomination papers must be lodged with the Depute Returning Officer, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AR, on any day except a Saturday or Sunday after the date of this notice, but not later than 4.00pm on Monday 5 November 2012 and withdrawals of persons nominated must be intimated at the same address not later than 4.00pm on Monday 5 November 2012.

3. Forms of nomination and withdrawal may be obtained from the Depute Returning Officer at the addresses below.

Municipal Buildings

Albany Street,
Oban PA34 4AR

Breadalbane Street, Tobermory,
Isle of Mull PA75 6PX

Sally Loudon, Returning Officer/Kilmory, Lochgilphead PA31 8RT

15 October 2012

www.highland.gov.uk



**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
12/03805/FUL	Strathmore, 24A Glencoe Ballachulish	Extension to house
12/03817/FUL	Land 30m South East of Whitebarn (Site 2) Greenfield, Duror	Erection of house
12/03849/FUL	Allt Choirea/Bhalachain Invergarry	Construction of small hydro electric scheme
12/03875/PIP	20m East of 1 Lorn Cottages, West Laroch Ballachulish	Demolition of storage shed and erection of house

Time period for comments is 14 days

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX

Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

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Regional Press
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**Forestry Commission Scotland
Public Notice**

Benderloch Upper Ben Lora will be closed to the public from Wednesday October 24, 2012 to approximately 30 November 2012 to clear storm damage.

The lower walks will be open but please follow all operational signage.

For further information log onto www.forestry.gov.uk or telephone 01546 602518

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

DUNBARTONSHIRE AND ARGYLL AND BUTE VALUATION JOINT BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2011/12
Regulation 6(2) Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 1985

Notice is hereby given that copies of the certified Abstract of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2012 together with the Auditor's Report thereon have been deposited in the offices of the Treasurer, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton. It may be inspected free of charge from 9.15a.m. to 1.00p.m. and 2.00p.m. to 4.00p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays. Any person who is unable to attend at the times stated should make a written application to the Treasurer and alternative arrangements will be made.

Copies of the Abstract of Accounts can be purchased at a cost of £10.00 per copy, or can be downloaded from www.dab-vjb.gov.uk/best-value/

Stephen West, Treasurer, Council Offices, Garshake Road, DUMBARTON, G82 3PU

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are used they do not
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2006 Vauxhall Corsa SXI 1.2Ltr Silver 3DR 77,600 miles £3,175
2003 Vauxhall Corsa sxi 1.2ltr blue 3dr 89,000 miles £2,400
2004 Vauxhall Vectra 1.8ls grey 87,000 miles £2,280
1997 BMW 528 I se auto 111,325 customers car £1,250

VAN SALES

2006 vw lt28 2.5tdi swb red 75,000 miles £3,795+vat
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11 Renault Clio Extreme 1.2, 3dr, Grey, 5,500 miles £8,650
60 Renault Clio Dyn, 1.5 DCI Sport Tourer, Black, 11,000 miles £9,500
10 Renault Clio i-music 1.2 5dr Blue, 18,000 miles £8,450
59 Renault Megane Exp 1.5 DCI 5dr Black, 12,800 miles £9,950
59 Renault Scenic Dyn DCI 105, silver, 28,000 miles £9,500
59 Peugeot 207s SWHDI Estate, Silver, 18,000 miles £9,650
59 Renault Clio Dyn, 5dr, Red, 11,000 miles £8,950
09 Peugeot 308 SDT, Silver, 5dr hatchback £6,500
08 Renault Megane Dyn Auto, Estate, Black, 25,000 miles £6,500
56 Renault Kangoo Venture DCI 86, Silver, 50,000 miles £4,750
56 Renault Clio Exp. 1.2, 3dr, Blue, 38,000 miles £4,350
06 Renault Clio Dyn 1.4, 5dr, Black, 24,000 miles £4,750
55 Renault Laguna Dyn, 2.0, Red, 50,000 miles £3,995
04 Mazda 2S 5dr, Red, 48,000 miles £2,650

COMMERCIALS

11 Renault Kangoo, Silver, 6,000 miles £8,500
08 Renault Master, SWB, white £8,000
08 Citroen Berlingo 600 HDi 1.6, White, 76,000 miles £4,250 + VAT
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CONGRATULATIONS

Anna Ryan Kennedy on achieving your BA Degree in Contemporary Screen Acting at University of the West of Scotland (Ayr). Good luck with your honours this year. Love from mum and all the family.

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COPPER, BRASS, LEAD zinc, stainless, all types cable, household and armoured, top prices paid. Telephone 07770 724851 or 07788 961791.

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PERSONALS

CONGRATULATIONS Anna Ryan Kennedy on achieving your BA Degree in Contemporary Screen Acting at University of the West of Scotland (Ayr). Good luck with your honours this year. Love from mum and all the family.

PERSONALS

Dugald and Katie Mary Carmichael wish to thank family and friends for gifts, flowers, and cards for our diamond wedding. Special thanks to Christine for the lovely buffet, Elaine for the special cake. A day to remember. 17 Millpark Avenue.

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BIRTHS



MACKAY - LOVE
Donald and Karen are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Carrie Janet Love MacKay born on October 7, 2012, in Oban, a wee sister for Calum. A fourth grandchild for Jake and Jane MacKay, Inveraray and first granddaughter for Fiona and the late James Love, Oban. Many thanks to all midwives in Oban.

GOLDEN WEDDING

CAMPBELL - MUNRO
At Oban Parish Church on October 20, 1962 by Rev. Iain Kennedy, Iain to Jean. Present address Inverlorn, Taynuilt.

HAVLIN - MALLOCH
John and Moira, Kinlochleven, were married at St. Mun's Church, Ballachulish on October 18, 1962. Love from all the family.

SERVANT - MACKFARLANE
At Muckairn Parish Church, Taynuilt on October 20, 1962, by Rev. J.R. Thomson, Leslie to Jessie. Present address Inverawe, Taynuilt.

DEATHS

ANDREW - At home, 7a Quarry Road, Oban, on Monday, October 8, 2012. Fred, a loving father to Gordon and grandfather to Ross. Thank you to Lala for all her support. Funeral will take place on Friday, October 19, 2012 at 1.00 p.m. at the graveside in Kilbrandon Cemetery. All welcome. Rest peacefully Fred.

BELL - Peacefully, after a long illness bravely borne, at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on October 11, 2012, in his 70th year, John Bell, dear son of the late Betty and John Bell. Sorely missed.

GARVIE - Peacefully at Dunarros Hospital, Isle of Mull on October 11, 2012, Alastair Garvie aged 88 years, late of Greenock and Tobermory. Much loved husband of Hilary. Funeral Service was held at Tobermory Parish Church on Wednesday, October 17, 2012 thereafter to Tobermory Beadoun Cemetery.

KEENAN - Peacefully at Lynn of Lorne Care Home, Benderloch, on October 10, 2012, aged 97 years, Winifred Kate, beloved wife of the late Daniel Keenan, dearest mum to Danny, Carol and the late Maureen and Christopher and a much loved granny and great granny. Rest in Peace.

LITTLE - Mary (Molly), died peacefully at home on Friday, October 12, 2012, a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral to be held at Kilmallie Parish Church, Corpach, on Thursday, October 18, 2012 at 2pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired will go to Crossroads (Lochaber).

MACINTYRE
Suddenly but peacefully at Dalnaglar Care Home, Crieff, on Wednesday, October 10, 2012, Elizabeth C (Betty), aged 86 years, of Gilmerton, Crieff, (formerly of Inverae, Minard, Glenturret and Monzie), beloved wife of the late Alastair MacIntyre, loving father of Archie, Anne and Jan and a loving granny. Funeral service has taken place at Monzie, Crieff.

PATERSON - Peacefully in the tender care of the nursing staff at Balhousie Care Home, Pitlochry on Friday October 12, 2012, Sandy in his 94th year, husband of the late Betty, father of Jock, Marion, Davy, Archie, Colin and Janet. Grandfather and great grandfather to many, sadly missed - a legend. Funeral service to which all friends are invited will be at Perth Crematorium on Tuesday October 23, at 11.30am. No flowers at Sandy's own request. Donations if desired may be made in aid of Save The Children Fund.

WYLIE - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on October 15, 2012, in her 83rd year, Margaret, beloved wife of the late Allan Wylie, mother of Roy, Sheena, Jim, Sandra and Duaine and a much loved granny and great granny. Funeral will take place at St. Oran's Church, Connel on Thursday 18, October (today) at 1 pm. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring Collection / donations if desired for Action on Dementia.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CHALMERS - Mary and family would like to thank all relatives and friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and support after their recent bereavement. The family would also like to thank Dr. Massie, Julie Corner (Cardiac Nurse), Iain King (Physio), Belford Hospital and all the staff at the medical centre and all who took care of Bill. Thanks also to Ewen MacLennan, Funeral Director and Mr. Eric Walker who conducted the service. Also to the organist. A total of £250 was collected in aid of Heart Start Lochaber.

KERR - Sandra, Thomas and family would like to thank all who attended mum's funeral. They also express much appreciation for all calls, cards and flowers. A special thanks to Doctors, Roseanne and mum's carers through the years. To Mary and staff of Eadar Glinn who cared for mum and family through this difficult time. To Donald MacKinnon for his care and touching service. To Ian of D & A Munn's for their professional service. To the Royal Hotel for catering. A Retiral Collection for Eadar Glinn Residents fund raised £115.89.

RANKIN - Our brother David E Rankin, died in Mossbank on October 3, 2012. The Rankin family would like to thank everyone for the lovely cards and flowers sent to them at this sad time, also Mabel Wallace for the lovely service at the Dunscamburgh MacIntosh. Special thanks to Rusty Duncan and also Ewen MacLennan and Scott for the funeral arrangements at Kilmallie. Donations to Mossbank, whom we can't thank enough was £152.53. Thanks to doctors, nurses, carers and everyone else who looked after David over the last 4 years. God Bless David, we will always love you. - Janet, Roberta, Elizabeth, Margaret and Heather.

MEMORIALS
CAMPBELL - With love for my son Kenny, who was taken so suddenly on October 18, 2009 aged just 24 yrs. I think of you, I love you, and, as in life You are still with me. Love you Kenny. Always have, always will. - Mum x
CLARK - In loving memory of our brother George, who died October 2, 2010. In a lovely garden sleeping Where the flowers softly sway Lies our precious brother George Who we love and miss each day. - From May and Gwen.
JOHNSTON - In loving memory of my dear husband Neil, who died at home in Heanish, Tise, on October 22, 2005. Always remembered. - Vivienne.
MASCASKILL - Treasured memories of Margaret Ann (Annie), a loving and caring twin sister who died October 16, 2000. You left a place no one can fill I miss you now and always will. - Your loving twin sister Morag.
MACCALLUM - In memory of a loving wife and mother Isobel who died October 18, 1982. Remembering you is easy We do it every day Missing you is a heartache That just won't go away. - Inserted by her husband Donald and family, 11 Longsdale Terrace, Oban.
MACCUISH - Treasured memories of my beloved husband Norman who passed away 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.
MACCUISH - Fond memories of Puggy who died October 19, 2011. Also my mum and sister. - Joan
MACINTYRE - Treasured memories of my darling wife Flora who passed away on October 16, 2011. Always in my thoughts. R.I.P. I thought of you with love today But that is nothing new I thought about you yesterday And days before that too

I think of you in silence And I often speak your name All I have are my memories And your picture in a frame Your memory is my keepsake With which I will never part One year ago you left me But you are forever in my heart Flora. - Ever loving husband Hughie and son Hugh.
MACINTYRE - In loving memory of our precious much loved mum, granny, and great granny Flora, who passed away on October 16, 2011. We shared so many happy times for you were such a special mum in every single way. But I know you're up in heaven now. With angels watching over you as you always watched over us. No words could ever say how much you are missed and loved by all of us. - Your loving daughter Fiona and son-in-law Frank, Steven, Andrew, Chelsea, Steven and Gracie xxx
MACINTYRE - Treasured memories of a very special mum, Flora, who passed away on October 16 2011. My precious mum. Life is not the same without you. Just for a fleeting moment I forget that you're not here. Not here to share a cosy chat or give me sound advice, to ask about the things I've planned or if my day was nice. That's why life doesn't seem the same for when yours had to end the world lost someone special and I lost my best friend. Love and miss you so much mum. - Love Shona and James xx
MACINTYRE - Flora. Losing you is the hardest thing to accept. Remembering you Granny is easy, I do it every day. Missing you is the heartache that never goes away. Love you lots. - Jamie and Claire xx
MACINTYRE - Our one in a million granny and great-granny who passed away October 16, 2011. Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts. - Michelle, Willie and family. My best friend forever Miss you and love you my angel. - Love Beckie xxx In my heart forever, day by day, year by year I will hold on to you, never letting go. - Love Eilidh xxx
MACINTYRE - Remembering with affection my sister-in-law Flora, who passed away on October 16, 2011. R.I.P. Treasured memories. - Flora.
MACINTYRE - In loving memory of Flora, a dear Sister-in-law and Aunt, who passed away on October 16, 2011. A year has gone since you went away Really can't find the words to say How much you're missed everyday Deep in our hearts you will always stay. - Irene and family.
PATERSON - In loving memory of my dear brother, brother in law and uncle Donnie, who passed away October 20, 2011. Those special years will not return When we were all together But with all the love that's in our hearts You will walk with us forever. - Billy and Mairi.

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 care 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.
MACKINNON - Joan. Creagan, Hough, Isle of Tiree, died September 30 1997. In loving memory. - from Neil, Kaide, May, Monica and grandsons James, Calum and Charlie.
MACLEAN - In loving memory of a dear brother, uncle and grand-uncle, Eoin, 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 - Anna and family, Oban and Glasgow.
MACLENNAN - Ewen, died October 23, 1992. Can't believe it's 20 years Tenderly we treasure the past With memories that will always last. - Donald, Irene, Lorna and Vicky.
MACLEOD - Treasured memories of Ian, a loving husband, father and papa who died October 14, 2002. Sadly missed along life's way Quietly remembered everyday Greatly loved. - By Nancy, Mary, Iain and families.
MATHERS - In loving memory of my brother and our uncle Freddie, who died October 13, 2010. Love and miss you every day. - Your sister Joyce and all the family.
PATERSON - Special memories of a much loved brother and uncle Donnie, who passed away October 20, 2011. A year has gone since you went away Really can't find the words to say How much you're missed everyday Deep in our hearts you will always stay. - Irene and family.
PATERSON - In loving memory of my dear brother, brother in law and uncle Donnie, who passed away October 20, 2011. Although we smile and make no fuss You're deeply missed by all of us Memories are a gift to treasure Ours of you will last forever. Simply the best. - Isabel, Bob, Emma, Karen and Glenn.
PATERSON - In loving memory of our dear brother Donnie, who died October 20, 2011. Those special years will not return When we were all together But with all the love that's in our hearts You will walk with us forever. - Billy and Mairi.

PEARSON - 28.7.28 - 20.10.92. In loving memory of my dear husband David. Thank you for the love we shared. The good times we had as a family. A beautiful nature A heart of gold These are memories I'll always hold Love and miss you always. - Loving wife Margaret. Sadly missed by son Gordon.
THOMSON - Precious and loving memories of our Calum, who left us on October 21, 2011. The world is a darker place since you left us, you lit up our lives with your Love for Life, family and friends. We can never put into words how much we love and miss you, except to say "You were our North, our South, our East and our West". We love you with all our hearts. Always yours. - Mum, Dad and Eilish.
THOMSON - In memory of Calum, a sensitive, fun and talented young man, taken too soon and missed by so many. Forever in our thoughts. - Linzi, Al, Ben and Cameron.
WOOD - In loving memory of a much loved husband, dad and papa John, who died October 18, 2010. Forever in our thoughts. - Morag and family.

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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

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Thought for the Week

THE MÒD is a cultural highlight in Scotland's calendar. In song, the heritage of our country is celebrated. And importantly, many young people will be speaking Gaelic and encountering others who do so too. Dunoon will be a focus of hope for the future. Hope has not always been so prominent as the people of the Highlands and Islands have had to battle against absent landowners and those who have thought a title has brought them an exaggerated entitlement to power. The people's language, Gaelic, suffered. In Matthew's Gospel it says 'you know that in the world the recognised rulers lord it over their subjects and their great men make them feel the weight of authority'. In the faith it should not be this way. Instead, 'whoever wants to be great must be your servant'. In other words, we have a responsibility to each other. We see this worked out today in the land reform legislation, community buyouts and social enterprises - each being a servant to the other. So may the Mòd be one of many signs of revival and hope for the future. Ach ge be neach len aill a bhith mor nur meas, bidh e na oglach agaibh. Rev Dugald Cameron: Kilmore and Oban.



Our Lady of the Angels Church marks 150th anniversary

Bishop of Argyll and the Isles Right Rev Joseph Toal with local parish priest Father Angus McLaughlin after the service to mark the 150th anniversary of the dedication of Our Lady of the Angels Church, Mingarry, Acharacle. The church was funded by James Robert Hope Scott, a philanthropic barrister whose wife was the granddaughter of Sir Walter Scott. The owner of Loch Shiel Estate, Hope Scott, earlier built a Catholic school at Mingarry.



Golden wedding smiles: Hamish and Teresa Hoey. 16_142hoey01

Oban couple celebrate golden wedding

A WELL known Oban couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary last weekend with a special mass at St Columba's Cathedral. Hamish and Teresa Hoey have been together for 53 years, when Teresa was just 18 and Hamish had just left the Forces at the age of 22. The pair, who have seven children, 16 grandchildren and one great grandson, set up Hamish Hoey and Son, a joinery and funeral director business and worked together for years. Hamish attributes the success of the marriage to always 'doing what he's told'. He said: 'We got on very well and she knows what I'm thinking more than I do.'



Cancer Research Oban manager Erica Smith, right, and volunteer Ally Tomney promote the Stand Up To Cancer campaign in Oban's Tesco store last week.

Shop volunteer appeal

THE NEW manager at the Cancer Research shop in Oban's George Street has made an urgent plea for more volunteers as she organises an open day for this coming weekend. Erica Smith has been busy over the past week promoting the charity's Stand Up To Cancer campaign, which will culminate in a national telethon on Channel 4 tomorrow (Friday). This Saturday, the shop will welcome families to an open day when there will be children's games and face painting, along with other activities. Erica is desperate to attract more helpers and is working towards a staff list of 40 volunteers. She currently has five. She said: 'I look forward to seeing as many people as possible on Saturday because the shop has had a complete revamp and I want people to find out exactly what we do. We always need help and I have tried to dispel the myth that Cancer Research is somehow a 'well-off' charity.' Erica is also organising a 'glamorous' retro fashion show to be held in Glencruitten Church Centre on November 23 and is on the lookout for adults of all ages to model. If you would like to become a shop volunteer or help out at the fashion show, contact Erica at the Cancer Research shop.

GRADUATIONS



Isaac Robinson of North Connel graduated from Oatridge College, Ecclesmachan, with an HNC Horticulture. Isaac is selected as one of four trainee gardeners working at the prestigious MacRobert Trust at Tarland, Aberdeen.



Katherine Reid graduated from Argyll College UHI with an HNC in Early Education and Childcare and is at present studying for a BA in Child and Youth studies at UHI. Katherine is the daughter of Catriona Reid and the late Leslie Reid, Oban.

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Mull Rally proves to be another big success

The sheer pace and determination of Duffy ruled the island's 'speed kings'

JUST 72 of 120 runners finished this year's thrilling Mull Rally, with Calum and Iain Duffy, a delighted and somewhat relieved Calum Duffy said: 'What a talent young John MacCrone is, but I'll be back next year. I don't want to make it easy for him.'

Driving their Ford Escort MkII, the all-local team scorched over the island's rain-soaked roads to win by two minutes from Dervaig's John MacCrone and his Uddingston co-driver Stuart Loudon.

Just back from their latest World Rally Championship success in Rally France, MacCrone and Loudon were the sensations of the event.

Their Ford Fiesta R2 gave away 100 bhp to many of the other top seeded cars around them. But it was the sheer pace and determination of Duffy which ruled the island's 'speed kings' as they delighted the home crowd

with their victory. At the floodlit finish in Dervaig village, a delighted and somewhat relieved Calum Duffy said: 'What a talent young John MacCrone is, but I'll be back next year. I don't want to make it easy for him.'

'Neil MacKinnon - 12 times winner of the Mull Rally - has done it to me for years, so it's my turn to do it to John.'

Toughest
Mull Rally is regarded as the toughest amateur rally in the UK, a reputation proved by the number of cars to make it over the finishing line by the end in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Salen's Eddie O'Donnell Jr finished fifth overall with his father Eddie Sr co-driving 'the family' Ford Escort MkII. Tobermory's Lewis Gallagher

RALLYING

finished in eighth place with his English co-driver Nigel Dodds. Lewis had been on course to score a top six result but on the final night of the rally, his Subaru Impreza slid off the road into a ditch. It took the crew nearly a minute to extricate the car and salvage a top ten finish.

Donnie MacDonald and Paul Beaton from Inverness surprised many with their 12th overall placing. It was Donnie's first time on the rally, prior to which he professed he didn't like tarmac events.

John Morrison from Conon Bridge was 16th with his co-driver Peter Carstairs, St Andrews, in their Mitsubishi Lancer while Salen's Angus and Robert Mathieson were 19th



The top three racers celebrate their positions on the podium with the traditional champagne shower after an exciting Mull Rally.

in their Subaru Impreza. Just outside the top 20 were Mull pairing Craig Rutherford and Peter MacCrone and they were lucky to do so, requiring a little surreptitious outside help to make the afternoon Time Control in Salen when a driveshaft broke on their Honda Civic. The car was having difficulty climbing the hill so bystanders gave the boys a helping hand which kept them in the rally till repairs could be effected. That helped them to score fourth in class. Tobermory's Geoffrey

Gallagher and Ross Laurie finished in 26th place in their Mitsubishi Lancer just ahead of Alec Brown, Tobermory, and Stephen Marshall, Newton Stewart, who finished second in their class.

They fought back from an alternator failure and broken shock absorber on two stages on Friday night to finish second in Class B behind John MacCrone. Stewart Morrison from Oban finished inside the top 30 with English co-driver Sam Bould in his MkII Ford Escort in 28th

place. They were the lucky ones. Iain 'Ogg' MacKenzie and Angus Mackenzie, Dervaig, crashed out on the second stage on Friday night, his Ford Fiesta coming to rest the wrong way up well off the road. Oban's Stephen and Kevin Lockhart retired with gearbox failure in their Mitsubishi on Saturday afternoon and Salen pairing Cameron MacLean and Ian Fraser retired their Ford Escort with engine failure shortly afterwards. Brora's Euan MacKay and his

Inverness co-driver Michelle Falconer had a lucky escape when their Peugeot 106 crashed on the final stage in the early hours of Sunday morning. The crew escaped without injury but when the car went on fire and the fire brigade had to be called out. Final results: 1 Calum Duffy/Iain Duffy, Ford Escort MkII, 2hrs 25mins 34secs. 2 John MacCrone/Stuart Loudon, Ford Fiesta R2, 2:27:41. 3 John Cope/Rob Fagg, Subaru Impreza, 2:31:01. 4 Tristan Pye/Andrew Falconer,

Subaru Impreza, 2:31:50. 5 Eddie O'Donnell Jnr/Eddie O'Donnell Sr, Ford Escort RS, 2:34:00. 6 Jonathan Mounsey/Richard Wardle, Mitsubishi Evo 6, 2:35:10. 7 John Cressley/Martin Cressley, BMW MINI S, 2:35:27. 8 Lewis Gallagher/Nigel Dodds, Subaru Impreza, 2:35:51. 9 Alistair Inglis/Colin Inglis, Mitsubishi Evo 5, 2:37:13. 10 Daniel Harper/Chris Campbell, BMW Mini, 2:37:17

Phoenix boxers head for Scottish Championships

TWO LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club boxers travel to Ravensraig this weekend for the Scottish Novice Championships with high hopes of coming away with the titles in their respective divisions.

Senior welterweight Liam Jordan and 13-year-old Kevin Aitchison carry Lochaber hopes

and both are in great shape after working extremely hard since pre-season training started.

Coach Vince Lopez doesn't want to tempt fate - but reckons both boxers have what it takes to become champions.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Liam has as much ability at this stage of his boxing career

as anyone we have taken to the novice championships and has a great opportunity this weekend.'

Intelligent
'He has great balance and rhythm, good speed and power and a very intelligent boxing brain. Basically all the attributes needed for success and if he believes in himself as much as

everyone in the club believes in him then we could have a great weekend.'

He added: 'Kevin is starting to blossom as a boxer and hopefully his new found dedication to training will bear fruit this weekend where his stamina, quality straight punching and will to win should send him far

BOXING

in the tournament. We've had future Scottish champions in Chris Bradley and James Aitchison not win the novice championships in the past so if Kevin can do it it will be a real feather in his cap.'

This week the Phoenix club helped Kinlochleven based boxing club Claymores ABC in their preparations for the championships.

Claymores boxers Callum Clement and Ben Wilson travelled to Fort William for sparring with the experienced Chris Bradley and James Aitchison.

Lopez said: 'Any help we can give to our other local club we will. All the boys sparring ten rounds and hopefully the ability and experience of James and Chris rubbed off a wee bit on the Claymore boys and they will do well this weekend.'

Meanwhile, all the Lochaber Phoenix boxers should be on show locally on November 3 at the Nevis Centre at the club's home show - which promises to provide plenty of thrills, spills and quality boxing.

Ticket information from the Nevis Centre on 01397 700707 or Niall Clark on 07554 994744.



Colin MacNiven in action.

Treble up for Oban kart racer

OBAN kart racer Colin MacNiven is celebrating winning all three British Club Championship titles in one season for the first time.

After a long season of travelling up and down the country, the grand final was held this year at the famous West of Scotland Kart Club, home to all Scottish motor sport legends.

Two days of racing through various heats and finals for all regions of English and Scottish racers ensued to find the overall champions, with Colin carrying on his good form from the rest of the

KARTING

season to clinch the Masters, Veterans and weight category titles.

He said: 'I won the championship two years ago and I knew I'd be in with a shout this year, but this is the first time I've won all three titles.'

'It's a bit special and I'm really chuffed. 'Very special thanks must go to Inverawe Smokery for their very kind support and to Saltire Motor Sport for their karts and engines.'



Claymores boxers Ben Wilson and Callum Clement take to the ring with James Aitchison and Chris Bradley of Lochaber Phoenix on Monday night. Photograph by The Write Image.

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.
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Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.
In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.
The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.
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Congratulations to D Cruickshank, 'Rockliffe', Kames, Tighnabruich who won the jackpot of £2000

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I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

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Brave Sophie competes again after serious back injury

ONE COMPETITOR at this year's Tiree Wave Classic was told not to use her arms in the run up to the event - due to an injury on the back she broke five years ago.

Part-time model Sophia Joy Gilje, who graduated with a masters in sustainable development at the University of St Andrews, feared she would never walk again after a snow-boarding accident in the Pyrenees in 2007.

She was able to recover from the injury, but hurt her back when competing earlier this year, an injury doctors warned could have serious repercussions if she did not spend several hours a day building her strength back up again.

Advice
Thankfully, their advice paid off and she travelled to Tiree keen to build on the second position she recorded at her first Tiree Wave Classic - also her first competition - last year.
She said: 'Maybe because of my studying, I hadn't been training enough.'

'My vertebrae isn't the same shape as it used to be, and I hurt myself badly. It was very frustrating and it's not the first time it's happened.'

'But now I'm ok - and I'm really excited, and just can't wait to get back to Tiree.'

The Tiree Wave Classic is Britain's most important and longest-standing event on the British Wavesailing Association's UK Wave tour.

This year's competition started on Saturday and Sophia was excited to be back.

'Last year it was the beginning of it all for me and I'm really looking forward to seeing everyone again,' said Sophia, who was born in France but brought up in Norway.

'I loved the whole atmosphere and the conditions were good. The little roads, the amazing beaches - but best of all the

WIND SURFING

wilderness of the place, it just feels really special,' she said.

Sophia is currently second in the women's standings in the UK Wave tour after events in Wales and Ireland.



Sophia Joy Gilje in the back brace she is using at this year's Tiree Wave Classic, an event she came runner-up in last year.

Rule change may help Scots to first series win since 2008

Despite BBC2 coverage, a large crowd is expected in Inverness for the first leg at Bught Park



Scotland shinty forward Shaun Nicolson in action in the 2011 shinty/hurling international against Ireland in Inverness. Photograph by Kenneth Stephen.

A RULE change ahead of this weekend's shinty/hurling international in Inverness may enhance Scotland's chances of securing their first series victory since 2008.

Drew McNeil's squad face John Meyler's Irish hurling outfit at Bught Park on Saturday October 20 in the crucial first leg of the annual two-game series starting at 1.15pm.

Despite live BBC2 coverage, a large crowd is expected in Inverness for the Marine Harvest cross-codes clash and a historic rule switch could help sway things in Scotland's favour.

Normally a goal in open play is worth 3 points and, with shinty players more suited to ground play, their instinct is to go for goals more often than strikes over the uprights. Ireland's hurlers, on the other hand, are more naturally inclined to shoot from distance over the posts, amassing single points. Now, in a bid to promote more goals in the hybrid rules fixture, the authorities in Ireland and Scotland have agreed to hike up the points awarded for a goal to 5.

Forward Shaun Nicolson of Lochaber, starting in the Scottish team for the fifth year, believes, cautiously, that the change could benefit the dark blues. 'I think it could give us an advantage. We should be getting more goals than Ireland but, in saying that, it is a very strong Irish team this

year. There are a lot of big names in their side and it will be very competitive although you want to play against the best.

'Last year, in Inverness we were on top of them but, once they got into a rhythm, they were very difficult to stop. They can be quite a force and we have to work out how to stop them this time. The boys are really committed, though. We train so much just for these two matches and it would be great to get a series win. In 2010, we won at Croke Park in Dublin, which was a great result, but then threw it away here. Hopefully we won't do that this time.'

Scotland manager Drew McNeil has welcomed the rule change but knows their manager has picked players to suit.

Elite tier one hurlers like Tommy Walsh, Shane Dooley, Patrick Meher and Patrick Horgan have been drafted into an already experienced green and white line-up. 'There is no doubt in my mind that the side Ireland have selected reflects the rule change,' said McNeil. 'They have basically picked the core of the 2010 side that scored 7 goals against us and I don't think there is any accident in that. They, too, will benefit from the change, just as we will. Make no mistake about it, this is a strong Irish side with a lot of experience.'

'Personally, I don't mind that. I think it will make for a really

SHINTY

compelling two matches, starting with the first leg in Inverness on Saturday. We need to have the courage to play our own game.'

With the smallest of margins between the two countries in recent years, the 2012 series is set to command major attention on both sides of the Irish Sea.

Admission prices are £10 per adult with concessions paying only £5 while under 12s can watch the match free. On the day there will be quality local food and drink for the spectators as well as live music.

Gates are open at 10.30am for the supporting event of the Marine Harvest London Shield final between Kinlochshiel and Lochaber.

Tickets for the home leg in Inverness are available online via Eden Court Theatre <https://www.eden-court.co.uk/whats-on/shows/marine-harvest-shinty-hurling-international> or can be purchased at the gate on the day. Camanachd Association members get a 20 per cent discount with a membership card.

For the return leg in Ennis, County Clare, on October 27, the hosts have organised a week long cultural festival to coincide with the fixture. The Ennis International Hurling/Shinty Festival comprises the senior and U21 internationals and the ladies camogie challenge as well

as a festival concert and grand parade.

Fact file

Shinty/hurling is a cross of two sporting codes, Scottish shinty and Irish hurling. It is a unique sporting and cultural exchange with no parallel anywhere in the world.

The history of shinty/hurling dates back to 1896. One of the first matches, between Glasgow Cowal and Dublin Celtic, was played at Celtic Park, home of Glasgow Celtic FC.

Shinty/hurling has been staged as a support event for the international rules football match between Ireland and Australia. When the Scots won 19-11 at Croke Park, Dublin, in November 2006, there were 45,000 spectators in the stadium by the end of the game.

In shinty, there are 12 players in a team. There are 13 in a shinty/hurling team. Whilst shinty comprises two halves of 45 minutes, a shinty/hurling match comprises two halves of 35 minutes.

Goals deployed are those used in hurling matches, with five points for a goal into the net below the bar, one point for a hit over the bar and two points for a hit over the bar from a stationary ball.

Each nation gets one point for a win. If any nation scores two goals or more, they also receive a bonus point.

Results

Saturday 13th October

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Lochcarron v Lochaber
Postponed Lochcarron unable to field a team, points to Lochaber Stats

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Aberdeen Uni v Glenurquhart
Postponed - unplayable Field Stats

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Kyles Athletic 9 - 1 Bute

Fixture

Saturday 20 October

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Glenurquhart v Kingussie
Throw-up 11am



Kyles Athletic added the Mòd Cup to this year's trophy cabinet on Saturday when their South Division Two team defeated Bute in the final match of the league programme for both teams. The re-scheduled league fixture was played at Dunoon Stadium to allow it to be used as the Mòd Cup match and while Bute held out for the majority of the first half, Kyles upped the pace over the second 45 minutes and ran out 9 - 1 winners at the final whistle. Roddy MacColl led the scoring with five goals, while Scott MacDonald added two and David Martin, and Mathew MacColl one-a-piece. Ruairidh Soane scored for Bute. The trophy was presented by John Macleod, President of An Comunn Gàidhealach.

Oban Lorn and the Isles Tag Rugby Festival

MORE than 230 primary school children from nine schools in the Oban area gathered on the playing fields of Oban Lorne RFC last week for the annual Oban Lorn and the Isles Tag Rugby Festival.

The event, organised by Rugby Development Officer Allan Wright and Active School co-ordinator Dale Kupris, saw the largest uptake ever seen at

the event. The children were given the chance to show off their skills on the rugby field and most importantly have fun doing so, inkeeping with the theme of the day as no scores and results are taken from the games.

Boost

It is hoped the event will boost the numbers of mini rugby players at Oban Lorne RFC who train every Sunday from 1-2pm

PRIMARY RUGBY

at Glencruitten. All players welcome from P4-7.

Argyll Rugby and Active Schools would like to thank all the schools who made the effort to take part and Oban High School PE department for providing a high standard group of sports coaches who refereed the games on the day.

Amateur football results and fixtures

LAST Saturday's results: West of Scotland Cup - Lochgilhead Red Star v The Harp walkover to Red Star; Campsie 1, Tarbert 4; Mauchline United v Oban Saints, postponed; Premier Division Two - Hillington 2, Campbeltown Pupils 2. Division 1A - Dunoon Athletic 8, East Kilbride YM 3.

Saturday's fixtures: Scottish Amateur Cup, second round - Dunoon Ams v DTI; Glasgow Deaf v Campbeltown Pupils; Houston v Tarbert; Lochgilhead Red Star v Dunoon Athletic.

Mull cadets take to the water

SAILING

IT HAS been a successful year for the Western Isles Yacht Club with 'incredible' weather providing some of the best sailing in years for cadets.

Nigel Hewitt, sailing instructor, said: 'Over the year the cadets got better and more confident sailing and most can now rig a boat and take it for a sail.'

'We spent time this year learning knots and boat safety as well as points of the wind and I feel that many cadets have mastered the old question of which way is the wind blowing?'

Mr Hewitt also wanted to thank all of the club's volunteer helpers and businesses and organisations, including the John Merricks Sailing Trust, for helping replace equipment and 'kindhearted' contributions.

He added: 'It is so very rewarding to have such local support for the cadets. We are still on the lookout for more sailing boats, first aid kits and any ropes or shackles.'

'We are very much looking forward to next year's sailing session with our new boats. We are planning to hold sailing regattas with some of the mainland clubs and details will be available shortly.'

Planning
'We are planning to have two additional sailing instructors for the club next year and we will be offering adult sailing tuition next year.'

Contact instructor@wiyec.org.uk for details and bookings or if you can help with supplying equipment.

For more on the cadets' progress see the next issue of Mull and Iona Life.

Lack of wind at start of Tiree Wave Classic

Tiree's been at its beautiful best, with glorious sunshine and blue skies so we can't complain'

DOZENS of windsurfers are making the most of sunshine and blue skies on Tiree after the wind failed to arrive for the annual Wave Classic.

Nearly 50 competitors for the 2012 event have been patiently looking forward to gusty conditions, with the action yet to get underway.

'We'd of course love to see epic conditions from day one,' said Jim Brooks-Dowsett, event organiser with Pura Vida Boardriders.

'But at the same time Tiree's been at its beautiful best, with glorious sunshine and blue skies, so we really can't complain.'

'The wind will come, we're sure of that, and when it does it'll be even better.'

The Event Scotland-backed event again has been well attended, with sailors from across UK and Europe travelling long distances to get to the Inner Hebridean isle.

On Saturday, a briefing was held with all the entrants, including several newcomers,

where safety, scoring and etiquette were among the items discussed.

Sunday saw the pro fleet, including some of the best windsurfers in the world, giving the amateurs top tips, including how best to prepare their equipment.

The lack of winds has given the sailors the freedom to enjoy even more of a taste of island life, with beaches being explored and the bar at the Tiree Lodge Hotel well attended.

Great bunch

'It's been great, they're a great bunch, we love having their custom,' said John MacPherson, manager of the hotel.

'The weather's been glorious - maybe not as windy as they'd like - but if it means more of them spend an hour or two longer in the bar with us, that suits us fine,' said John.

Lucy Robson from Brighton, who this month quit her job as a solicitor for a life on next year's Professional Windsurfers Association World Tour, is one of

WIND SURFING

those taking part. 'The distance most of us have to travel is quite extreme to get here. It's taken me 19 hours of solid travelling to get here,' Lucy, 32, said.

'But I'm so pleased I've done it, it's a beautiful island and the competition is fantastic.'

The Tiree Wave Classic is the third of four legs of the British Wavesailing Association's UK Wave tour, with the event in its 26th year.

'It's brilliant to see so many people here this year,' said BWA Tour Manager Nigel Treacy.

'The important thing for us is that everyone has a great time, and comes back next year too.'

'It's one of those things that windsurfers sometimes have to wait for perfect conditions - but everyone's happy and just delighted to be here. We just can't wait for the action proper to start.'

The competition is due to finish on Friday October 19.



With little or no wind, action was at a premium during the opening days of this year's Tiree Wave Classic



Instead of riding the ocean waves, these two competitors have to settle for a stroll along the beach.



Almost 50 competitors have been patiently waiting and looking forward to gusty conditions.

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Dervaig's Duffy brothers win Isle of Mull Rally



John MacCrone starts the final stage of the Mull Rally, with the Dervaig driver finishing second overall behind fellow Muileach Calum Duffy. See page 26 for rally report. Photo: LindsayPhotoSport

Lancaster B set the pace in pool league

POOL

OBAN Pool League got its season off to a flying start last week with The Lancaster B team the early pacesetters of the competition.

Markie Dans A's attempt to become the first team to successfully defend the league championship got off to a slow start as they had to battle to earn a point against The Claredon in the opening round of matches.

Title contenders The Lancaster A and The Cellar both took advantage of the early slip-up with wins over Markie Dans 'B' and The Kelvin respectively.

But the early pacesetters are The Lancaster B who showed no mercy against The Gluepot almost securing the whitewash. Unfortunately, The Lochavullin and Lochnell's match was postponed in what otherwise was a successful return to action.

Results from October 11 - Lancaster A 7, Markie Dans B 3; Cellar 6, Kelvin 4; Markie Dans A 5, Claredon 5; Gluepot 1 Lancaster B 9.

Matches for October 18 - Claredon v Cellar; Markie Dans B v Markie Dans A; Lochnell v Lancaster A; Lancaster B v Lochavullin; Kelvin v Gluepot

Glencruitten golf

GOLF

DECLAN Curran won the Saturday Stableford Sweep at the weekend with a score of 41 points.

Alan Garret was second (BIH) with 35 points and Andrew MacMillan third with 35 points.

The previous weekend Declan Curran, Willie McAdam and Hughie MacIver all scored 37 points in the Saturday Stableford, which will be running through the winter. The draw for the winter league has taken place and matches are to be arranged.

Oban Saints youths

YOUTH FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints youth teams are taking a well earned break at the moment during the October school holidays, and don't start playing again till Saturday and Sunday October 27 and 28 with the following fixtures.

Saturday 27 - Under 13s v Kilmartin; Under 16s v Lenzie Colts. Sunday 28 - Under 14s v Clydebank; Under 15s v Morton BC.

Islay Golf Club

GOLF

RESULTS from Islay Golf Club: Summer League played October 3 - 1 Ian T Beck 38 Pts; 2 David Livingstone 36 Pts; 3 Kenny Gillies 35 Pts.

October Medal played October 14 - 1 Iain MacCuaig 76 Less 5 Net 71; 2 Sam Johnston 78 Less 4 Net 74; 3 Jim Rozga 81 Less 6 Net 75.

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Saints on Scottish Amateur Cup duty

OBAN Saints are on Scottish Amateur Cup duty on Saturday when they take on Crosslands United from Glasgow in the second round.

The game will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off.

Manager Iain Jackson should have a strong squad to choose from for this important game although Bulgarian striker Asen Gaydardzhiev is home on holiday, Marc MacCallum is suspended and Jamie Graham is still out injured, but Alex Craik and Ross Maitland should return to the squad.

Iain said: "We don't know too much about Crosslands, who play in the Glasgow and District Saturday Morning League but we won't be taking them lightly and will give them the respect they deserve. They play in Division One and are lying in sixth position at the moment. 'We're playing well just now,

although we haven't had a game for the last two Saturdays due to Bishopton pulling out of the Scottish Cup and our West of Scotland Cup game against Mauchline being postponed because of the weather last weekend, so I'm hoping the

The Oban side is already in the final of the Centenary Cup, but they still don't know who their opponents will be.

Aikenhead Thistle defeated Campbeltown Pupils 8-1 in the quarter final so they now take on Alba Thistle in the semi. A venue and date for the final have still to be announced.

Saints secretary David Buchanan said: "I've spoken to Robert Marshall, the SAFL match secretary regarding the final, but his hands are tied as the Scottish and West of Scotland Cup competitions are now taking place and they take priority over all other games. He will have to wait and see who we meet in the final before he can arrange a date and venue suitable to both teams."

Oban Saints manager Iain Jackson.

FOOTBALL

lay-off won't affect the boys too much and they will be raring to go on Saturday."

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Oban Saints manager Iain Jackson.

'Green Machine' can go top of the league

OBAN Lorne RFC find themselves in a very good position going into this Saturday's game against Uddingston RFC.

After a three-week break, 'The Green Machine' can claim joint top spot in the RBS West Division 3 League if they secure a bonus point win against their rivals.

This season has been a successful one so far for Oban, with a 100 per cent win record from their first three games, securing bonus points each time. However captain Robin MacQueen is taking nothing for granted:

"We've made a really solid start to the campaign this year and morale is high amongst the boys. But we can't go into any fixture thinking it's won already. This league is very tight and on any given Saturday, any team can come out on top."

MacQueen's statement rang true this past weekend for Oban's opponents, when Uddingston

suffered defeat at home to struggling team Clydesdale. This defeat for the South Lanarkshire team has opened up a gap at the top of the league. Current leaders Loch Lomond have played one more game than 'The Green Machine' but have notched up bonus point wins in each fixture. 'The Green Machine' know that they have to make their game in hand count to stay up there with the league leaders from Dumbartonshire.

'The Green Machine' will have a harder job to do as they have a few players listed as doubtful through injury, including utility player Connor Ferris who suffered a twisted knee at training. However, for the first time this season, all three members of the Wright family are available for selection with winger Allan recovered fully from a knee injury of his own. The experienced winger is happy to be back in contention for a starting berth.

"I've been desperate to get back playing again but had to take my time to rehabilitate my knee," he said. "It's tough watching from the sidelines each week, but I'm glad the team has managed to win without me."

Last year, Uddingston and Oban were playing against each other in the RBS West League Division 2, with both teams suffering relegation at the end of last season. Both games between the sides were tight last season, with each team winning their home fixture. Without doubt, Oban Lorne are aiming to make it a clean sweep this time around. Regardless of the end result, you can be guaranteed an excellent, competitive and fast-paced game of rugby. The game takes place at the Bothwell Castle Policies ground, kick-off 3pm.

You can get live score updates by following Oban Lorne RFC on twitter @obanlornerfc. Also, visit the club's new website

RUGBY

for all of the latest news and match reports: www.pitchero.com/clubs/obanlorne.



Oban Lorne captain Robin MacQueen in action.

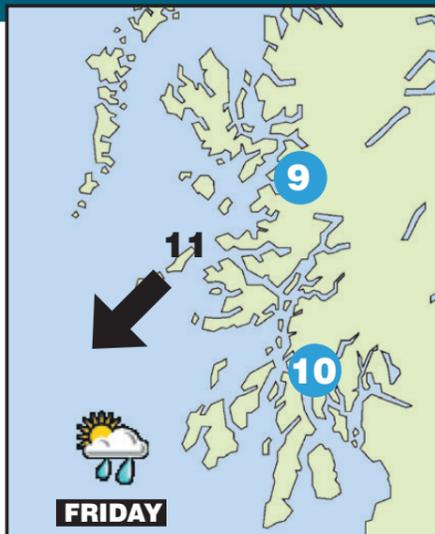
Weather

Thursday Light rain showers
Winds moderate north easterly
Temperatures 7°C to 10°C

Friday Light rain showers
Winds moderate north westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 10°C.

Weekend Light rain
Outlook Winds moderate south easterly
Temperatures 9°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 18, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	07.00	4.1	13.29	0.5	19.18	4.0
Thur	01.08	0.5	07.00	4.1	13.29	0.5	19.18
Fri	01.52	0.7	07.43	3.9	14.18	0.7	20.01
Sat	02.40	0.9	08.32	3.7	15.12	1.0	20.49
Sun	03.35	1.1	09.29	3.4	16.13	1.3	21.49
Mon	04.39	1.4	10.53	3.2	17.23	1.6	23.38
Tues	05.56	1.5	12.58	3.2	18.46	1.7	*** **
Wed	01.56	2.8	07.21	1.5	14.13	3.3	20.13

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Thursday 18 October, 2012

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Strontian police probe 'unexplained' fire

STRONTIAN police are asking local people to come forward with any information they may have regarding 'an unexplained fire' in the Sunart village. A new wooden croft barn, its contents and a horse trailer were completely destroyed in the October 7 blaze at Upper Scotstoun, which broke out at 7pm. Fire crews from Strontian, Acharacle and Lochaline attended the incident. The financial losses to the owner totalled an estimated £11,000. Constable Andrew Irvine told *The Oban Times*: 'We are appealing for anyone who may have seen anything untoward or suspicious in the area to contact us at Strontian on 01967 402022 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.'

London Shield shinty cup final

LOCHABER Camanachd will look to celebrate their return to shinty's top flight with another success on Saturday when the club's under-17 team take the field against Kinlochshiel in the London Shield final. Throw-up for the match at Bught Park, Inverness, is at 11am. The game is a curtain-raiser for the Scotland-Ireland shinty/hurling international.

Food and drink fundraiser

THE ROTARY Club of Lochaber is looking to raise money for local good causes at its third annual evening of 'food and drink from around the world' on Friday November 2. Club president Sheana Fraser said: 'Our international dinners have proved to be a popular event at the onset of winter and this year we are serving courses from China, Australia, Germany, Japan, Hungary, America and Greece.' Each course will be accompanied by a glass of wine chosen by wine expert Eva Franceschi. The event at the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, starts at 6.30 for 7pm. Bookings can be made at the hotel on 01397 702241.



Brother and sister wow Mòd judges

Lochaber brother and sister Hannah and Alistair MacRae wowed judges at the Royal National Mod in Dunoon, both taking home first prizes. Lochaber High School's Hannah won first place in the open fiddle ages 13-18 event on Saturday before taking part in Sgoil Chiuil Loch Abar's gold medal success in the under 19 folk group competition. On Monday, Lochside Primary School pupil Alistair followed that up by taking top prize in the boys' solo singing ages 11-12 (learners), scoring 183 out of 200 after a competition described by adjudicators as being of a 'very high standard'. See our unrivalled Mòd coverage pages 5 to 8.

Bitter planning row erupts over Camusdarach mansion plan

A BITTER planning row over a proposed mansion next to a beach made famous by a cult film has pitched a small west Lochaber community against a south of England couple. Jane and Mike Pardoe from Reigate want to build a house at Camusdarach sands, which featured in Bill Forsyth's 1983 movie *Local Hero* starring Burt Lancaster. They own a cottage next to the site, 400 yards along a croft track off the B8008 Morar-Arisaig road. Highland Council granted planning permission in 2005 - on condition the Pardoes improve access and turning at a public car park next to the B8008. But Angusina MacDonald-

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS

snorris@obantimes.co.uk Lewis, whose croft house lies along the track, is refusing to sell the Pardoes land for the upgrade. The Pardoes have now applied for a new consent so they can go ahead without making track improvements. Ms MacDonald-Lewis, 71, has objected to the council, claiming people 'coming up from London in 4x4s' to what she believes will simply be a holiday home will add to habitat damage and disturbance. 'Already it makes my summers unbearable,' she states. Her son Donald is moving back to Morar with his partner and

five children and the pensioner fears for the children's safety with the extra traffic. Morar Community Council (MCC) unanimously agreed to object at its October 1 meeting. They state: 'It was reasoned that to grant may lead to the building of a house in an area of natural beauty which is enjoyed by many. The small cottage, which is already there, overlooking the famous Camusdarach beach, is an old croft house and all other housing is well back from the beach and not visible. The community council also wishes to support Mrs MacDonald-Lewis' reasons for denial of access over her land.' The Pardoes' agent's support letter states: 'The adjoining

proprietor's prerogative to deny the use of these small parcels of ground is accepted. However given the marginal amount of land involved, the fact that access and servicing appears to be functioning satisfactorily at present and the minor effect likely to result from one more house, one questions why, in planning terms, the council should allow one proprietor to block this otherwise acceptable house.' Local councillor Allan Henderson told *The Oban Times* MCC's objection as a statutory consultee would 'almost certainly' mean the planning committee would decide the issue, probably in December. He will be taking a local member's vote.

Ten-hour A82 road closure prompts new call for action

THE TIME being taken to reopen the A82 following major incidents is back in the spotlight after the lifeline route was closed for 10 hours following a lorry fire. Fort William Chamber of Commerce (FWCC) members will raise the issue as a key area of concern during a live video conference with transport minister Keith Brown at West Highland College in the town on Tuesday. The move follows Monday's traffic mayhem north of the Lochaber capital during an operation to remove a burnt out Spar wagon 800 yards north of Torlundy. Police closed the road in both directions around 6am as two fire crews from Fort William and one from Kinlochleven tackled the blaze. The A82 finally re-opened at 4pm, reduced to one lane with traffic lights because of fire damage to the southbound carriageway. A82 Partnership spokesman Stewart MacLean, who also holds the transport brief for FWCC, said the delay was 'unacceptable'. He told *The Oban Times*: 'We will certainly be raising this matter during the chamber's

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS

snorris@obantimes.co.uk conference video link with Keith Brown on Tuesday. We will be looking into the reasons for the extended closure and requesting that ways be found to improve the situation. 'We will also be asking if there are adequate resources locally to handle these incidents in order to reduce them in future.' Ferguson Transport managing director Ali Ferguson got a mid-morning call from the vehicle recovery contractor requesting assistance. The firm was able to send a crane with a giant grab, usually used for loading timber, to the scene. He told *The Oban Times*: 'Fortunately we had equipment available at the time. We were keen to help out and get the road open as quickly as possible. 'If we had not had the plant available it would have been up to the police and contractors to make other arrangements.' Asked why the closure period was so long, Acting Inspector Jenny Fraser of Fort William Police told *The Oban Times*: 'It was purely the logistics of

trying to recover everything off the road. The first job was getting the trailer removed and the second was getting the cab away. The problems were caused by it being such a large operation for the recovery people. 'Unfortunately it was the sheer amount of stuff that had to be removed from the roadside that caused the delay.' MS Fraser said the recovery operation began once Northern Constabulary's control room in Inverness contacted the Automobile Association, which appoints police-approved dedicated contractors to recover vehicles from the A82. In Monday's incident, Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service gave the 'stop' at 9.13am and fire personnel were off the scene by 11am. The road remained closed for a further five hours until all debris had been cleared. Traffic was diverted along the Camesky loop road to Leanachan near Spean Bridge and via the B8004 during the removal operation. HGVs were periodically allowed through on the A82. Congestion was made worse when a diverted Citylink bus toppled into a ditch on the B8004 at Muirsherrich at 8.30am. See 'traffic mayhem', page 3.

Virus shuts Raigmore hospital ward

A MEDICAL ward at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, remained closed to new admissions on Tuesday night after an outbreak of suspected norovirus. Ward 2A was shut on Monday after 14 patients fell ill with diarrhoea and vomiting, with nine still experiencing symptoms. Visitors are being asked not

to attend while staff deal with the virus, which spreads in the air and is extremely difficult to contain. Dr Adam Brown, consultant microbiologist for NHS Highland, said it was likely the virus had been brought into the hospital. He said: 'As well as restricting visiting to the affected ward, we are also asking people

not to come to the hospital to visit if they have had any vomiting or diarrhoea within the previous 48 hours. By doing this we will be able to limit the spread as much as possible. Hospital staff will, of course, be very happy to talk to visitors on the phone so they can get updates on how their relatives are.'



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Golden Charter Funeral Plan

LAT chairman Donald Cameron of Lochiel visits Lochaber Rural Education Trust to see the new equipment. 20_142grant01

Trust unveils new garden shredder

STAFF and youngsters at the Lochaber Rural Education Trust unveiled their new garden shredder, bought with a £500 grant from Lochaber Agricultural Trust (LAT). LAT annually makes small donations to local community groups and charities and last year gave LRET the money to buy the shredder and other gardening equipment to deal with composting from the Torlundy centre's Seed to Supper project. LAT chairman Donald Cameron of Lochiel visited the site to see the new machinery be unveiled and used for the first time by LRET chairwoman Isobel Campbell last week. Youngsters enjoying a week-long holiday club at An Clachan also took part in the unveiling.

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Society Fellow to give talk in Mallaig

WRITER and broadcaster Owen Dudley Edwards will be the latest Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) to address the Lochaber public in the society's local series of lectures.

Mr Edwards will discuss the author Patrick McGill and how King George V helped him write his masterpiece 'Children of the Dead End' at Mallaig High School on Tuesday October 30 at 7pm.

Currently Reader in Commonwealth and American History at the University of Edinburgh, Mr Edwards' talk, which will be followed by a question and answer session, has as its theme 'The Navy, the Priests and the King'.

Aerial display by starlings

A LOCAL flock of starlings has been spotted performing synchronised aerial displays above the Ferry Stores in Kilchoan, then landing on the chimney of Shore Cottage.

Jon Haylett reports they have every reason for packing themselves together as tightly as possible - the local sparrow hawk continues to be active and will continue to harry them through the winter.

Ale named in energy firm's honour

A LOCHABER renewable energy company is toasting its latest success - an ale named in its honour.

Torlundy-based HWEnergy installed a woodchip biomass boiler at Black Isle Brewery in Munloch to heat the estate house and brewing water.

Delighted owner David Gladwin responded by labelling the celebratory ale 'Wood Fuelled Fury'.

WRI turns back the clock

INVERLOCHY Women's Rural Institute enjoyed a talk from Betty Bruce about well-known characters from Fort William's past.

Mrs Bruce and her husband John showed slides and told stories at the WRI October meeting.

They also judged the competitions, with Christine Anderson winning the treacle scones and Irene Pinkett winning the royal memorabilia.



Fiona MacIntyre receives the Farquhar MacIntosh Memorial Prize for academic excellence from Professor Matthew MacIver.

Fort student lifts top college prize

A FORT William student scooped a top honour at this year's graduation at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI, the Gaelic college on Skye.

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Fiona MacIntyre, from Torlundy, won the Farquhar MacIntosh Memorial Prize for the student achieving academic excellence across all courses.

Fiona, 22, was one of the first three students to graduate with honours from SMO with an MA (Hons) in Gaelic with Education, along with 26-year-old Fiona Rice from South Uist and Amanda Soutter, 22, from Dornie in Lochalsh.

Fiona, who now teaches in Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis (Inverness Gaelic Primary School) told *The Oban Times*: 'This degree is a fantastic opportunity for people with an interest in the Gaelic language and education.'

'As a Gaelic learner, it provided me with an opportunity to develop skills in the language, as well as gaining a teaching qualification within four years.'

'It is a challenging degree and therefore the support I received from the tutors at both institutions was greatly appreciated. I thoroughly enjoyed the degree and I would recommend it to anyone who has an interest in teaching Gaelic as a subject or teaching through the medium of Gaelic.'

The new course, a special partnership between the University of Aberdeen and the University of the Highlands and Islands, is designed for secondary teaching, Gaelic as a subject and Gaelic medium primary teaching.

It is delivered entirely through



Laura MacLennan from Lower Barvas graduated with first class honours and was awarded Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI Student of the Year.

Gaelic and gives students the chance to gain an honours award and teaching qualification in four years.

Elsewhere, Laura MacLennan, 22, from Lower Barvas on Lewis, was awarded Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI Student of the Year after graduating with first class honours.

John Norman MacLeod, Director of Studies at Sabhal Mòr

Ostaig, said 'it was a source of pride' to staff that in all 42 students were awarded degrees and named certificates, including a number of graduates reaching 'exemplary academic standards' in the past year.

He said: 'We are delighted also that numbers on the higher education courses and the short courses have increased again this year. There is an opportunity at each graduation to acknowledge milestones and the product of particular collaborations. The success of the students who gained the first honours awards on the Gaelic with Education course was particularly satisfying for us.'

In this year's graduation lecture, head of MG Alba Donald Campbell told his audience: 'If there is one thing I would like say to the students who are graduating today, it is that I am very much of the opinion that learning is a life-long undertaking, no matter what form it takes.'

'As the well-known Gaelic poet Dòmhnall Ruadh Chòrùna said, 'We are all on a journey' - and knowledge presents us with new paths and opportunities on that journey. It also opens your mind and allows you to understand the opinions and ways of other people.'

'Just think of how destructive ignorance and closed minds can be. There are plenty of examples which I'm sure you can think of.'

'And so I encourage you all to keep asking questions, keep expanding your knowledge and your minds and, when appropriate, use that knowledge to keep adding to your qualifications.'



Celebrating success: Sabhal Mòr Ostaig graduates and staff after the ceremony.

Gaelic award for Barra and Vatersay

BARRA and Vatersay have been named as the winners of the 2012 Gleus Award - and are the new titleholders of Gaelic Community of the Year in the Highlands and Islands.

Now in its third year, the award recognises the contribution of communities to the growth of Gaelic at a local level. Barra and Vatersay pick up £3,000 in prize money.

Local Historical Society Comunn Eachdraidh Bharraigh is Bhatarsaigh put forward the winning bid.

Nominations were judged on the use of

spoken Gaelic, particularly amongst young people, its visibility in the community and the provision of Gaelic childcare and education, including Gaelic-learning opportunities.

Murdo Mackinnon, chairman of the Comunn Eachdraidh, said 'Barra is alive with community events', influenced heavily by Gaelic language and culture. He added: 'Gaelic is at the heart of all that we do from the nursery, to the school, to the work-place and to public services such as local authority and health services as well as churches,

shops, hotels and B&Bs, cafes and the fishing industry.' Runners-up in Gleus, receiving £1,500 and £500 respectively, were the communities of Sleat in Skye and South Lochs, Lewis. Congratulating Barra and Vatersay on their success, Na h-Eileanan an Iar MP Angus Brendan MacNeil urged Gaelic speakers: 'If you speak to a young child or baby, speak Gaelic to them.'

Comunn na Gàidhlig run the competition as part of their development contract with Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

VAL's top marks for key programme

VOLUNTARY Action Lochaber (VAL) has received top marks from inspectors for one of its key programmes.

The Care Inspectorate rated Lifestyles 'excellent' in quality of care and support, quality of staffing and quality of leadership and management.

The rating follows an

unannounced visit to VAL's office at An Drochaid in Claggan, Fort William.

Lifestyles delivers housing support to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, as well as a reduction of offending behaviour service to people who have offended in the past.

Project manager Brian Powell told *The Oban Times*: 'VAL is delighted with this achievement, which builds on the 'Committed to Excellence' Award from the European Foundation of Quality Management a year ago, demonstrating the organisation's drive to deliver quality across the services it provides.'

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ASHLEIGH BAIRD, LINDSAY MACDONALD AND MARK WATSON, SCOTLAND.

Small Isles' broadband boost

COMMUNITIES on the small isles have celebrated the launch of a new project which will see homes and businesses served by superfast broadband access.

Local residents on Eigg, Rum, Muck and Canna can now enjoy improved internet speeds after a community project created a new high-speed network.

The project, headed by Eigg man Simon Helliwell, means island internet users can now reach upload

and download speeds of around eight or nine megabits per second - faster than many cities on the mainland.

Eigg Electric director John Booth told *The Oban Times* the new connection was a 'great advance' for the islands.

He said: 'The upload and download speeds are comparable now. The faster system works for me particularly because I often send out photos by email for business and the new system allows you to send them easily without

having to compress.' Mr Booth also said the faster speeds helped webcam communications for services such as Skype.

A ceremony was held at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in Sleat on Friday to mark the launch. The islands' network connects to the internet at the Gaelic college, which collaborated in the initiative.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig principal Professor Boyd Robertson said the college was pleased to be a part of the innovative project.

Missing cat hunt continues

A MAJOR missing person inquiry is underway in the Great Glen - for an 18-month-old grey cat.

Fort Augustus couple Sarah Sutton and partner Jim Murphy were left bereft when 'Mr Smokie' went missing on September 13.

The pair, who run the Invergarry Hotel where Jim is head chef and Sarah manager, plastered posters everywhere - including the local Post Office and bus shelters - but to no avail.

Sarah, 33, told *The Oban Times*: 'We have another family cat - but Mr Smokie is our favourite.'

'He went out one afternoon and never came back. He was always there waiting for us when we drove up in the car.'

'It's devastating. Every single time I get home I expect him to be there, but he's not. It just breaks my heart.'

She added: 'I just hope he's not jumped into a delivery van or a boat - we are right next to the canal.'



Missing: Mr Smokie from Fort Augustus.

Bridge closed for repairs

A BUSY bridge at Glengarry woodland was closed for repairs last week after a small section of nearby embankment fell into the river.

Forestry Commission Scotland said the bridge, just off the A87 at Invergarry, was still 'structurally sound' despite the collapse last Thursday.

Volunteers sought to help plant 3,500 spring bulbs

VOLUNTEERS are being sought by a Lochaber tourism group to plant more than 3,500 bulbs in tubs around Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge.

The date for the project - which will see Brae Lochaber bloom next spring - has been fixed for November 7.

Organiser Marilyn Dennis said: 'If we get enough people the task should take no more than an hour.'

The planting, helped by a £400 grant from the local council's discretionary fund, will also include crocuses purchased as part of the Lochaber Rotary Club polio charity appeal.



Rhona Mackenzie, left, and Ann Mulhern with Paul and Tony from Capelli. Lynne is not pictured. 20_142hair01

Trio's hair-raising charity 'do'

THREE Fort William women went through a hair-raising experience to raise money for cancer charities.

The money raised by the three women, Rhona Mackenzie, Lynne Quigg and Ann Mulhern, will go to Stand Up To Cancer, a new UK-wide fundraising campaign involving Cancer Research UK and Channel 4.

The ladies all had their hair spiked and stretched into a multicoloured mohican by Jackie and Paul at Capelli's Studio in Inverloch and then visited pubs across the town with buckets to collect donations. The activity was organised by

Lochaber Together for Cancer Research UK.

Group vice chairman Billy Ward said: 'Making your hair stand on end is just one of the fun ways to Stand Up To Cancer.'

'Why not encourage family, friends and work mates to get involved and go head-to-head to see who can create the most outrageous hair-do?'

'We need people across Lochaber to join us and stand shoulder to shoulder in the fight against a disease which affects one in three people in the UK at some stage in their lives.'

Residents' chance to quiz hydro scheme developers

BRAE Lochaber residents will have the chance to quiz the company behind plans for a proposed Glen Gloy micro hydro scheme in Spean Bridge on November 6.

Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) and developer Coneloch Renewables submitted plans for a 90kW hydro plant at Upper Glenfintaig, near Spean Bridge, in July. Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council said they are in favour of the development, but do not like Coneloch's plan to run four kilometres of pylons through the glen to connect the scheme to the

national grid. Community council chairman John Fotheringham told *The Oban Times* the pylons could have a negative impact on what was 'a completely unspoilt glen'.

He said: 'We don't want any poles in the glen. Tourism is by far our biggest employer - who is going to come up here if all the hills are covered in pylons?'

'We're in favour of the hydro scheme, we're just not in favour of the pylons.'

Mr Fotheringham said putting the wires underground would solve the problem of 'visual

impact', but he has been told this would be too expensive for the developers to consider. He said: 'The opportunity now exists to get the public to a meeting that could make a difference to the glen.'

In a letter to the community council, head of commercial Mark Rough said SSE were 'more than happy' to discuss community concerns.

He said: 'I have asked Donald MacKinnon, commercial manager, and Ivan Murphy, project manager, to confirm their availability and to prepare a short presentation.'

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Mallaig's WestWheels on road to secure future

MALLAIG community transport scheme WestWheels has officially registered as a company and is due to take full control of its three-car fleet.

The not-for-profit group was started in 2011 with two cars on a trial basis - but soon had to order a third car following increasing demand.

The group now has 46 members, spread throughout Arisaig, Knoydart, Morar, Mallaig, the Small Isles and Skye.

Club representative Mick Rodgers said: 'This highlights the fact WestWheels is now past the trial stage and building membership towards a viable future, with cars for local people, managed by local people and owned by local people.'

'We have also had a considerable green impact locally, with four of our members scrapping old uneconomic cars and another three who would have definitely bought a car without the availability of WestWheels.'

Club members have access to three Ford cars - two based in Mallaig and one in Arisaig - which they are able to book out when they need it, with the club taking on the responsibility for ownership, maintenance and insurance.

WestWheels also encourages tourists to hire cars as an easy and cheap way to see the local area.



Destroyed: the Spar lorry driver had to flee the vehicle as it was engulfed by flames on the A82 north of Torlundy. 20_142crash02



Michael Chisholm of Ballachulish vehicle recovery firm Chisholm's Garage briefs police officers as his team prepares to pull the bus out. Passengers had to escape the coach via the emergency exit after it ran into a ditch at Muirshearlich. 20_142crash01

Passengers' lucky escape as bus topples into ditch

'Absolute mayhem' as A82 lorry fire forces traffic onto single-track road

PASSENGERS on an early Citylink morning bus from Fort William to Inverness had a lucky escape after it toppled into a ditch while reversing on a narrow road on Monday morning.

The 8.30am accident at Muirshearlich between Banavie and Gairloch happened as the Caledonian Canal-side route was being used as a diversion route following a lorry fire on the A82.

The bus met a lorry on the single-track B8004 and was backing up towards a passing place when it careered into the ditch and fell onto its side.

No-one was injured but one window was smashed by a post. Passengers - many in a state of shock - had to clamber out the emergency exit and be helped onto the road.

One, who did not wish to be named, told *The Oban Times*:

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

'It was not really the bus driver's fault. The lorry driver was directing him and put him in the ditch, then just drove off without checking to see if anybody was hurt.'

Eyewitness Angus Ross, 76, whose Seangan Croft is only yards away, said at the scene: 'He [the bus driver] was over the top of the hill and met a vehicle coming down my way.'

'There must have been a wee bit of a debate, but I don't know why the driver reversed. He started off slowly but then took off quite quick and went into the ditch.'

'One woman was next to a window that got smashed when the bus landed on a fence post. She got an awful fright, but she

wasn't hurt.'

He added: 'Everybody had to get out the emergency door and I took them into the house for a heat. We had a big log fire on.'

'There were quite a lot of youngsters on board with cases, so maybe they were going a trip somewhere.'

The 7.30am service was already 40 minutes late because of the blazing lorry 800 yards north of Torlundy on the A82, which was closed in both directions at 6am.

The Spar wagon and its consignment of frozen food were incinerated in the inferno.

Traffic was diverted along the Camesky loop road to Leanachan near Spean Bridge and via the B8004 until the road re-opened just after 4pm - 10 hours after it was shut.

One driver told *The Oban Times* at 3pm it was 'absolute mayhem' on the B8004 as heavy

two-way traffic struggled to find passing places.

A long queue of southbound HGVs parked on the A82 until the lorry was recovered late in the afternoon. Chisholm's of Ballachulish hauled the bus out shortly afterwards. No-one was hurt in either incident.

A Stagecoach spokesman said: 'The bus was travelling at low speed on the single track road to pass an articulated lorry when it became stuck in the soft verge around 8.15am. There were 21 passengers on board the bus and no-one was injured. Passengers were taken back to Fort William on a subsequent Stagecoach service travelling from Inverness. We would like to apologise to customers for the disruption to their journey.'

The fire damaged road is currently down to a single lane with traffic lights in operation.

Businesses bid to slash waste disposal costs

ONE OF Lochaber's biggest tourism operators is aiming to slash its waste disposal costs after taking delivery of a huge composting machine.

Nevis Range hopes to save around £500 annually by turning everything from kitchen scraps to weeds into valuable compost for their flower beds.

All organic waste now goes into a huge steel tank to be chopped up and broken down by bacteria, with heat generated by the process killing any pathogens present.

Transporting kitchen waste from the Snowgoose Restaurant 2,000 feet up Aonach Mor presents no problem - it comes down in buckets on the mountain gondola.

The new environmentally friendly system went into operation last week - and could mean 20 fewer 1,100-litre wheelie bin loads, or 16 per cent, being dumped in landfill each year.

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

The move is part of a Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) project to encourage local businesses to cut down on waste and save cash, backed by a £34,000 Highland Leader grant.

Nevis Range managing director Marian Austin said each bin currently costs £23, plus VAT, to be emptied - a figure certain to rise as tough new government targets on reducing waste kick in.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'If we can reduce costs by that much that will save us a considerable amount of money, which helps us to pay for the investment.'

'The cost of putting waste in landfill is only going to go up more, so that's why we are trying to do this. This is the next stage - looking at food waste.'

collecting difficult to recycle plastics such as film, carrier bags and food containers for uplift.

'That's another bit taken out of the wheelie bin,' Ms Austin said.

In west Lochaber, an Acharacle business has also signed up to the LEG initiative.

Ardshellach Lodge owner Jill Gosney is now using a smaller drum composter to boost on site compost production for her vegetable garden.

Ms Gosney grows produce for her restaurant and B&B and strongly believes all waste should be recycled wherever possible.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'I hope the machine will mean we can compost quicker. If a small business has enough space to grow stuff on there's no reason why they can't do this.'

She added: 'The community garden in Plantation in Fort William is great and I think more of these schemes should

be started.' Both businesses are recording the daily weight and composition of their food waste to provide data on eventual savings.

LEG project development officer Anne Nelson told *The Oban Times*: 'This scheme is really to get businesses interested at looking at their costs. They should be looking at how much food they are throwing away and how much that is costing them.'

'They can throw free compost on their gardens. It's almost a full circle - from plate to flower beds or vegetable plots.'

The Scottish Government launched a new national campaign to combat the environmental and financial impact of food waste last week.

Figures show one fifth of the food and drink we buy ends up being thrown away - or £430 per household annually. Visit www.lochaber-environmental-group.org.uk.



Reducing waste: Marian Austin recycles at Nevis Range's composter.



Shopmobility Lochaber committee member and client Tommy MacGregor tries out the new scooter, with help from Billy Ward and Adam Ramsey. 20_142scooter01

Olympic scooter for Fort

FORT William-charity Shopmobility Lochaber has grabbed its own piece of the London Olympics - a reduced price scooter.

A fleet of mobility scooters and wheelchairs were purchased for those attending the games and then put up for sale for £700 plus delivery - more than £1,000 less than the regular price.

Shopmobility Lochaber bought

one of the branded scooters to increase its fleet to 17.

Charity co-ordinator Billy Ward told *The Oban Times*: 'We have recently had to scrap a scooter because we couldn't get parts for it.'

'Our committee decided to purchase one of these scooters for our fleet and it arrived this week.'

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Provost Allan Henderson presented Heather with a silver axe pendant to commemorate her success. 20_142medal02

Golden girl Heather backs Arisaig pitch upgrade plan

OLYMPIC gold medallist Heather Stanning celebrated her Lochaber connections during a visit to Arisaig on Saturday - and gave her backing to plans for upgrading the local playing field.

Around 60 locals came out to congratulate rower Heather on her Olympic success and to have their photo taken, as she visited her parents who have a home in the village. Children and adults queued up to inspect the medal at close quarters.

Heather went to school at Gordonstoun in Moray but spent many holidays in Arisaig as a youngster. She struck gold in London with her rowing partner Helen Glover in the coxless pairs - becoming the first British

females to win Olympic rowing golds.

Heather told *The Oban Times* visiting Arisaig was 'special'. She said: 'I don't get back up very often really, so it's lovely to be back up. I'm really touched by the number of people who have come out to welcome me.'

Undamaged There was a moment of worry when Heather dropped the medal while posing for photos but after dusting it off she assured the crowd it was undamaged.

Arisaig Community Trust's (ACT) local development officer Alison Stewart said the village was delighted to see Heather return with a gold medal and to receive



Local children enjoyed getting their photo taken with Heather Stanning and the Olympic gold medal. 20_142medal01

her backing for the playing field plan.

She said: 'The children were thrilled to be given the opportunity to try the medal out for size.'

Plans include an upgraded pitch, an adventure play area with fitness trail and an amenity area for the whole community.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise has provided funding for ACT to employ a specialist firm to carry out an inspection of the site and produce a report.

Lochaber provost Allan Henderson presented Heather with a silver axe pendant to mark her achievements and said the people of Lochaber were 'extremely proud' of her Olympic success.

Macmillan coffee morning success

THE RECENT Macmillan Coffee Morning in the Salen Hotel, Ardnamurchan, raised the grand sum of £1,250, report organisers.

The Salen ladies thank all who attended, Cameron Whyte, Clair and Gerry Ralston for the use of the Salen Hotel and the ladies

of Fort William who donate prizes every year to the raffle. The event will be held again in 2013.

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Tighnabruaich man wins £2,000 Spot the Shinty Ball jackpot

A TIGHNABRUAICH man was left speechless this week after being told by *The Oban Times* he had won £2,000.

Donald Cruickshank won the money after guessing correctly on last week's Spot the Shinty Ball competition - but couldn't believe his ears when told.

He said: 'That's smashing, I'm flabbergasted.'

'I have been watching that amount going up and up every week and thinking someone is going to win it one of these days.'

'I am just thrilled.'

£90,000 Blackface sheep smashes record at Dalmally

TWIN RAM lambs from Blackface sheep breeder Ian Hunter, Dalchirla, Muthill, Crief, smashed the ram lamb record books at United Auctions' Dalmally Auction Mart last Saturday when the auctioneers hammer fell on one at £90,000 - and the other at £60,000.

The two winning bids almost doubled the previous ram lamb record while the £90,000 bid also equals the all-time Blackface breed record, also held by Ian Hunter, for a ram sold at Dalmally in 2010.

Farmers and ringside spectators were left open-mouthed as the bidding started at £500 and rocketed into the high thousands before finally seeing the hammer fall at £90,000.

Police flown into Tiree after drink driver hits tractor

TWO police officers were flown to Tiree by helicopter on Saturday after a drink driver crashed into a tractor near Coraigmore.

The 41-year-old man was arrested following the incident at 7.25pm on Saturday.

Officers had to be flown to the island to deal with the incident as the island's resident constable was on holiday.

A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

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Mairi finds that winning smile at the Royal National Mòd

Winner of the James C MacPhee medal for girls aged 13-15 (learners) was Islay's Mairi McGillivray, just one of many Islay prizewinners at the Royal National Mòd in Dunoon on Monday. For more from the Royal National Mòd in Dunoon see pages 5, 6, 7, and 8

Dunoon ferry 'bankruptcy' claim dismissed by operator

CLAIMS by Argyll and Bute's MP that the company responsible for the Dunoon-Gourock ferry service could be at risk of going out of business have been dismissed.

Liberal Democrat MP Alan Reid has written to the Scottish transport minister to ask what contingency plans are in place should present operators, Argyll Ferries, be declared bankrupt.

The company's accounts for the last financial year show a profit of £3,000 and net assets of £3,000, which Mr Reid believes leaves the company vulnerable to a drop in passengers.

However, the David MacBrayne Group, which owns the ferry company, says that won't

happen.

A spokesman for MacBrayne's, which is wholly owned by Scottish Government ministers, said: 'Argyll Ferries Ltd is backed by the David MacBrayne Group which has significant resources and net assets to support it in the delivery of its contractual obligations.'

In Argyll Ferries' report, director Archie Robertson said: 'The key performance indicator for the company is to achieve a break-even status each financial year.'

Voicing his concerns, Mr Reid claims: 'The unreliability and discomfort of the service is bound to be driving passengers away.'

Fresh hopes for Oban Inn re-opening early next year

AN OBAN public house that closed suddenly four years ago could re-open in the spring after a preferred operator was identified by selling agents, Colliers.

The Oban Inn shut its doors in December 2008 just months after a refurbishment. So quick was the closure that food and drink was left on the tables and kitchen inside the Grade B listed building.

Colliers now hope a new tenant will be in situ early next year, with discussions at an advanced stage.

It had been feared obtaining a new alcohol licence - allowed to

expire by Punch Taverns earlier this year - would be difficult with no disabled access to the property, but a new wheelchair ramp was installed at the rear of the building last week.

It is hoped the bidder - understood to be local - will be in a position to apply for a licence in the near future.

The news comes as new interest is expressed in several retail units in the town.

John Forteith is a shadow director of the new Oban Business Improvement District (BID) company set to start trading on October 31. He believes

increased interest in Oban is an indication of the belief in the BID movement.

He said: 'It's excellent news that a site in a prime location that has been vacant for such a long time looks like it is going to be home to a new business.'

'I would say it's also encouraging that some of the other vacant premises in Oban are attracting interest as well.'

'This is a good indicator that Oban is being viewed as an attractive business location and that the BID will improve the trading environment as a whole.'

Oban flights to take off

Glasgow and Barra links on agenda as Oban airport has 30 per cent increase in passenger numbers

A NEW study to look at better use of airports around the Highlands and islands could lead to new flights between Oban, Glasgow and other destinations.

Starting in December, the study by the Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership (HITRANS) will look at how each of the area's Public Service Obligation (PSO) airports could be better used to encourage growth.

Recognising fresh investment is unlikely, given current financial constraints at both local council and government level, the report is likely to focus on how existing routes could be altered to improve existing connections across the area, including to major hubs such as Inverness and Glasgow.

The study comes as fresh moves are made by Argyll and Bute Council to establish flights between Oban and Glasgow in the wake of a 50 per cent rise in summer traffic through the airport.

HITRANS' report is due to be completed in March. Its chairman, Argyll and Bute Council's lead councillor for development and infrastructure, John Semple said: 'This report would take in every PSO airport in the Highlands and islands.'

'What it will hopefully do is influence the Scottish Government and local authorities who own these resources to make appropriate changes to improve the service.'

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

'For example, there are currently flights from Barra to Glasgow. I don't think it'd be a great pain if that flight were to stop in Oban on the way.'

'Improving air connections would be to the benefit of businesses and residents across the Highlands and islands and that's why important research projects like this are done.'

Meanwhile, Argyll and Bute Council has revealed more than 3,000 people have flown from Oban to Tiree, Coll, Colonsay and Islay between September 2011 and August this year - a 30 per cent increase on last year.

Oban councillor and deputy lead councillor for tourism, Louise Glen-Lee, said the figures are to be celebrated.

'It is looking good but there's still lots to be done. In terms of a link between the rural areas it serves it is fantastic. The flying club has to be commended as do the staff at the airport.'

'We are in discussions to secure flights to Glasgow. It shouldn't be a luxury but something that's available day to day.'

Mrs Glen-Lee added the Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS) is to take over the concession stand at the airport as part of further improvements.



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Benderloch woodland work gets underway

WORK will start next week to remove 3,000 cubic metres of standing timber from the Beinn Lora area, near Benderloch with much of the path to Eagle's Eyrie to close for a month.

Forestry Commission Scotland will start the operations on the Beinn Lora site from next Wednesday, October 24 until November 30.

Walkers will still be able to negotiate between half a mile and a mile of the currently open forestry route situated to the left of the car park but will then have to turn back at the junction with the alternative path route back down.

Commission spokesman Andy Hunt said: 'Equipment will be moved in from Barcaldine Forest, so there will be no added disruption for that.'

'Walkers should observe the operational signage that will be in place.'

Walkers will still be able to ascend Beinn Lora from the Barcaldine Forest side, he added.

Meanwhile, geological studies of the section of forest behind houses at the south of Benderloch indicate there will be no risk of landslide during tree harvesting works if good practice is followed.

The study is set to be completed and presented to residents next week.

Former council communications manager's appeal deadline looms

AN APPEAL over the sacking of Argyll and Bute Council's former communications manager will be considered by councillors next month.

Jo Smith was sacked in August despite being cleared of false allegations she used social network websites to 'spy' on locals. The authority instead said she brought it into disrepute by using the word 'spy' in a presentation last September.

The Oban Times has learned Ms Smith continues to appeal her dismissal after it failed at two stages.

The third and final stage of appeal will see her case heard by a panel of councillors.

A date for the hearing has not yet been set, but the appeal must be heard by the panel by November 7.

Winter vomiting virus leaves with Oban hotel guests

AN OBAN hotel that was at the centre of an outbreak of the winter vomiting bug has claimed the illness left with the guests.

Thirty people staying at the Bay Great Western Hotel on Oban's Esplanade fell ill with what was believed to be norovirus last week.

Environmental health officers from Argyll and Bute Council were working with hotel owners Shearings to limit the spread of the outbreak.

Guests left
The hotel remained open for business throughout the outbreak but did turn away a pre-booked coach party.

Paul Smith, spokesman for Shearings said: 'Those people with symptoms of the norovirus all left by Saturday.'

'The sickness left with the people that were sick at the time. No new cases have been reported.'

'Our environmental health team was notified about a norovirus outbreak in an Oban hotel on Thursday, October 11.'

'Hotel staff have been fully co-operating with the environmental health team. There have been no new cases of the norovirus in the hotel and it has been thoroughly

cleaned and disinfected in line with Health Protection Scotland guidelines.'

'The hotel remains open. Not unusual'
The council spokeswoman added: 'Norovirus is a viral infection which is spread through aerosols or through contact with bodily fluids, including

diarrhoea and vomit. It is also known as winter vomiting disease and it is understood there are a number of similar incidents across Scotland, which is not unusual at this time of year.'

'We would advise anyone who is feeling unwell to contact their GP as normal.'

A83 diversion route delayed

Land deal not signed for Rest and Be Thankful alternative road

A NEW diversion route for motorists to use when landslides close the Rest and Be Thankful has been delayed by at least two months.

News of the delayed alternative route, originally scheduled to open by November, broke this week as it was revealed the Scottish Government has not signed an agreement with the owner of the road for its use.

Minister for Transport Keith Brown this week told the A83 Taskforce that the landowner had issued the government with a letter of comfort, assuring his commitment to enter into an agreement.

As Transport Scotland say the deal will be signed 'as soon as possible', engineers have said they can complete the work on the Old Military Road within nine weeks. In order to meet the November deadline they should have started work on that section of road on August 29.

Speaking after the taskforce



Minister for Transport Keith Brown

meeting, Mr Brown said: 'Good progress has been made in agreeing final terms with the private landowner at the Old Military Road to allow construction on this section.'

'I will continue to ensure everyone involved in the construction is in no doubt that we

need the new emergency route in place and available for use as soon as possible.'

Work on either side of the Rest and Be Thankful is progressing with new road foundations built, road realignment in place and improved drainage. The road has also been widened to accommodate HGVs, with a successful hairpin trial concluded with a local haulier at the west end of the route.

Meanwhile work on the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful saw the traffic lights removed and the flow of two-way traffic on Sunday. Phase two of the netting to catch debris on the hillside has been completed, with phase three expected to start in the next few weeks.

Mr Brown said: 'Our commitment to addressing the problems at the Rest and Be Thankful remains, with the taskforce driving forward the work that is needed to ensure swift and successful delivery.'



Speaking to The Oban Times in August, then cabinet secretary for infrastructure and capital investment, Alex Neil, said work to make the Old Military Road a viable landslip diversion route would be completed by November.

Wild campers' behaviour shocks Taynuilt into call for police action



The mess left behind by weekend boozey campers near to Kelly's Pier, Taynuilt. 16_14281v01

UNWANTED campers who pitched up on a popular Taynuilt beauty spot left behind a makeshift toilet and rubbish after a boozey weekend.

The site on shores of Loch Etive, by a local beauty spot known as Kelly's Pier, is used as common grazing for cattle but is also a popular spot for walkers. A children's rope swing hangs just metres from the debris left behind: a makeshift toilet made from a plastic chair and bucket, toilet roll hanging from tree branches, rubbish and discarded empty beer bottles strewn amongst the bushes.

The site, owned by Bonawe Estate, is near a sign indicating no overnight parking or camping is permitted.

One Taynuilt resident, who

lives nearby, said: 'I have never seen anything like it.'

Police enforcement

'People camp here more or less every weekend during the summer but no-one has ever left anything like this behind.'

'What would they say if we left a mess like this in their back yard?'

'It is the children who play here that I am most concerned about but there is also cattle on the common grazing that are at risk.'

Taynuilt Community Council chairman Murray Sim and Billy Neilson, grazing clerk of the Bonawe township, have both reported the matter to the police and called for better enforcement of the area.

Mr Sim said: 'I saw what

was left there and I think it is shocking. That area is used by walkers and children and these people have used it as a toilet. It is only a few yards from the road.'

'I would like to see the police doing more, because residents cannot approach them alone. This is also about visitors needing to be more responsible.'

Oban Police inspector Julie McLeish said: 'This type of behaviour is completely unacceptable and we will be increasing patrols in the area to try and prevent this happening again. At the same time enquiries are ongoing to identify the persons responsible and we would like to hear from anyone who may have information relating to this incident.'

Bonawe Pier may become target of community ownership bid

MOVES to bring Taynuilt's Bonawe Pier into community ownership have taken a step forward, with the appointment of consultants to carry out a feasibility study into the its potential uses.

The group, Taynuilt Coastal Resources, is leading the community proposal and said residents should expect the consultation process to begin soon. They will be asked to suggest what the pier could be used for and comment on the potential community ownership.

Driver denies causing 'movie style' car crash at Ardfern junction

A DRIVER involved in a crash, which a defence lawyer claimed caused a Mini to 'flip in the air Hollywood movie style', is currently on trial at Oban Sheriff Court.

Graham Baxter, of 15 Chestnut Crescent, Hamilton denies causing the accident by

emerging onto the A816 Oban to Lochgilphead road at the Ardfern junction, without due care.

The 64-year-old admitted during evidence that he 'may have been over the white lines' but said there was still 'plenty of space' for drivers to pass.

Baxter claimed he did not realise immediately that he had been hit and said he believed it was a 'glancing blow'.

The court also heard the driver of the other vehicle, a 56-year-old man, received broken ribs and a shattered shoulder as a result of the accident. He told

the court: 'I saw a vehicle come up to the stop line, it hesitated then just came out. By that time I was on top of the junction - all I could do was swerve and try and avoid it.'

During evidence a witness told the court she had been overtaken by the Mini but it was back on

the left-hand carriageway 'well before' the accident. She said: 'The next thing I noticed was the car spinning over in the air, it was sideways on and flipping over itself.'

As The Oban Times went to press the trial at Oban Sheriff Court continues.

Oban marine energy event studies options

MARINE Scotland set out its plans to look at possible uses of the country's seas at an event in Oban's Corran Halls on Thursday.

However, the Scottish Government organisation, tasked with managing the country's seas for 'prosperity and environmental sustainability' denied the marine atlas meant every area highlighted had the potential to be developed for renewable energy sources. Instead, visitors to the presentation were told the map outlined 'areas of search for planning options.'

Part of a national roadshow, the event was designed to let people know what Marine Scotland considers when looking at sites, how it considers its options and what areas are being looked at currently.

The areas being looked at by Marine Scotland cover most of the west coast and its isles. Speaking to The Oban Times, Mark Christie from Marine Scotland's consents team said: 'This is to let people see the other potential areas there are for development for renewable technologies such as wind, wave and tidal power.'

'We want to ensure everyone is able to have their say as early as possible on their locality. If people didn't make it here this week, they can still get in touch with us if they want to raise any specific issues.'

For more information, see www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland.

Mull driver charged

A 28 YEAR old man from Mull has been charged with careless driving after crossing double white lines to overtake a vehicle near Craignure on October 9.

Campbeltown man dies after town centre incident

A CAMPBELTOWN man has died of serious head injuries following an incident in the town in the early hours of Saturday morning.

David McNaughton was transferred to Glasgow's Southern General Hospital at 1.30am following the incident outside a takeaway, but the 54-year old later died of his injuries.

Police say they are treating the incident as accidental but are appealing for witnesses.

Inspector Tom Harper said: 'We are keen to speak to anyone who was in the Longrow area of Campbeltown at the time of the incident.'

'Our thoughts are with the man's family and friends at this time.'

Anyone with any information should contact Campbeltown Police on 01586 862200.

12-year old charged after motorbike ride

POLICE have charged a 12 year old boy with driving on the pavement following an incident at Corran Esplanade, Oban, on Monday.

The youngster was allegedly driving a motor-bike or scooter down the Dunollie section of the path at 3.40pm.

£500,000 spend on Craobh Haven access road

HALF a million pounds is being invested by the owners of Craobh Haven to improve the marina's access road.

Owners Holt Leisure Group instructed Hillhouse Quarries to commence work this week on the six-week resurfacing programme, which they hope will help attract more people to the Mid Argyll leisure spot.

Once the section from the A816 junction is completed, work will begin to resurface the road to Lunga Riding Stables, funded by the stables. Argyll and Bute Council will adopt the roads when resurfacing is completed.

Assault charge

A 38-YEAR old man was arrested in the early hours of Sunday morning after allegedly assaulting two men in Oban's George Street.

A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Alleged reckless driver caught at Taynuilt

POLICE have charged a man with alleged reckless driving after crossing a double white line in Taynuilt to overtake a bus, then hitting a vehicle turning right onto the road.

The accused is 34 years old and was driving a blue Peugeot when the incident occurred at 2pm on October 9.

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Quote OBT

Isle of Mull pet owner Catherine Fitness with her Oban Times Pet Idol winner Mr T. 16_14281v01

Mull's Mr T is Oban Times' Pet Idol champion

BLACK cats have long been thought of as lucky and one feline on the Isle of Mull proved that to be the case this week.

Mr T, owned by Catherine Fitness, has won The Oban Times' Pet Idol competition 2012 and Catherine could not contain her surprise and delight.

The three year old cat had been unwell earlier this year but battled through to be crowned champion of the pet competition.

Catherine said: 'He was very ill in April. I thought I was going to lose him, it was awful. He had a bladder haemorrhage and is now on medication for life. He is a totally changed cat now, he comes up for cuddles which he never used to do.'

Catherine, who also owns Brogan, the sister of Mr T, added: 'We have some laughs with the pair of them, they've five weeks old when I brought them home. When the two of them start it is 100mph round the house - they keep you going.'

Catherine plans to buy Mr T a cat tree with the £100 winnings and he will also receive a goody bag from competition sponsors Pet Logistics.

She added: 'I never for a minute expected him to win when I saw the others that were in it. He was nearly not here at all and now he goes and wins that. He is just my wee champion.'

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FW

Local hearing on Isle of Coll wind turbine proposal

A PLANNING application to develop a 77m wind turbine at Gallanach on Coll will go to a local hearing this week.

Recommended for approval, the application from Neil Smith also outlines details for a crane hardstanding, control building, temporary construction compound and formation of vehicular access to the 750Kw turbine.

Planners moved to hold a hearing on the island in response to the volume of objections from neighbours, who are concerned the character of the island would be affected and that the turbines are incongruous to the surroundings.

The meeting will be held at An Cridhe at 1pm today (Thursday).

Islay lifeboat tows home the Annie

ISLAY lifeboat was called out last Thursday to help the 14-metre fishing boat *Annie* after she developed rudder problems at Blackstone's Bank, 35 miles west of Rhuvall lighthouse.

A tow was attached to the stricken vessel and she and her five-man crew were taken back to Port Askaig where repairs were carried out.

Lorn historians start new season

A NEW winter season of lectures are about to begin for Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society (LAHS).

The society is fast approaching its 50th year and audiences can once again look forward to informative speakers on a wide variety of topics in history and archaeology.

Those interested in attending should be aware that there is a change of venue this year with meetings now taking place at the St. Columba's Hall, off Corran Esplanade beginning this Friday, October 19, at 7.30pm.

The invited speaker, Angus Martin of Campbeltown, is a well-known author, researcher and local historian who will present 'Kintyre Places and place names'.

As always visitors are welcome to go along.

More details are available on the society website.

NEWSDESK
01631 568000

Directors wanted for Oban BID company

LETTERS have been sent to every business within Oban's 30mph zone to seek nominations onto the town's new Business Improvement District (BID) company.

Ten directors will be elected to sit on the board, with two further directors to be filled by representatives from Argyll and Bute Council. The BID company is due to start its work on October 31.

Scotland's first whole-town BID, the company will be responsible for delivering the five

year business plan drawn up by the BID4Oban steering group.

Spaces on the board have been broken down into different categories to ensure each of the town's business sectors is fairly represented.

Retailers and wholesalers will join the leisure and hospitality trades in filling three seats each. The industrial and service sector will fill two seats, as will representatives from the town's office and financial businesses.

Project co-ordinator Pauline Cameron said the numbers were

devised to match the mix of trades in the town.

She said: 'We would like to get as wide a spread of nominations as possible both in terms of business size and geographical location, as well as specific trading sectors.'

'Whether you own an Oban business or manage the local branch of a 'multiple' business which is headquartered elsewhere, we'd like to hear from you.'

'Above all, we're looking for people who have a passion for

improving the local trading environment for the benefit of the whole community.'

All application forms must be returned by November 1. Each should include the name and signature of a 'supporter', who must also be a levy-payer.

If more nominations are received than the allocated number of places, by category, then a meeting will be held at which those wishing to become directors can present their case before a vote is taken.

A seat on the board - which

is unpaid - will involve active participation and involvement in all aspects of the BID for a period of at least three years. This includes attending a minimum of six board meetings each year. Anyone who would like more details on what membership of the BID board would involve should contact either Pauline Cameron on info@bid4oban.co.uk or steering group chairwoman Graham MacQueen on 07833 948544. Information can be found at www.bid4oban.co.uk



Brother and sister Abby, 4, and Ruairidh MacQueen, 6, help staff at MacQueen Brothers put 'Frances' into storage following its move from Craignure last week. 15_142macqtrain1

Famous 'Frances' moves on

MULL'S famous railway is now a resident of a storage yard in Oban after making its final stop on the island last week.

'Frances', the green engine which helped carry 30,000 passengers a year around the island, was transported by lorry

and ferry to the MacQueen Brothers Oban-based yard, together with the remaining carriages and track from the railway made famous by children's TV show *Balamory*.

When in use, the miniature railway ran from near the

Craignure ferry terminal to Torosay Castle, which has now been sold.

Frances and all of the railway track has been sold to a private buyer in Scotland but it is hoped it will go on public display in a few years time.

Housing provider to hit deadline

ARGYLL'S largest social housing provider has said it will meet Scottish Housing Quality Standards (SHQS) by the April 2015 deadline - only being half way there.

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) chairman Bill McIntyre told the group's AGM that between July 2007 and March 31 2012, £56million of capital investment resulted in the upgrade or repair of more than 5,000 homes.

Of this, 15,000 separate 'elemental' improvements had been made, including installing new windows, kitchen and bathrooms.

This work meant the association had completed 46 per cent of the work required to meet the SHQS deadline, leaving it two and a half years to complete the remainder of the work.

Funding
Christine Johnston, director of housing and neighbourhood services at ACHA, has said both the plan and funding is in place to meet that target.

'There are five main criteria that cover the tolerable standard, repairs, energy efficiency, modern facilities and safety and security,' she said.

'ACHA has a rolling programme of work that covers all these aspects, for instance topping up insulation in loft spaces, repairing roofs and upgrading heating systems.'

'This programme of work will continue until March 2015 when

we plan to meet the standard's criteria.

'ACHA has a 30-year business plan that is funded by grants from the Scottish Government and private finance. The plan includes enough funding for all the work required to meet the standard in March 2015.'

'ACHA has an annual percentage target for its stock to meet the SHQS. At the end of March 2012, ACHA met its target for the SHQS 2011/12.'

Support
'In spite of the economic climate ACHA has a business plan that will support the rest of the work required.'

Meanwhile, Mr McIntyre said significant progress had been made by the association in meeting its new home targets.

During the past year, 60 new-build homes were completed across Campbeltown, Lochgoilhead and Dunoon. He also indicated, since the start of the new financial year, a further 16 homes went on site in Dalmailly and Port Ellen.

The association plans to build 72 further new homes this year.

At the first board meeting following the AGM, the association's office bearers were elected. Bill McIntyre from Helensburgh was re-elected chairman, George Farquhar from Dalmailly is vice chairman, Norman Beaton from Ardrishaig is secretary and Michael Brown from Cardross is chairman of the finance and audit committee.

Mull Lines

A PUBLIC hearing is to be held regarding the planning application for a fish farm off the Isle of Mull.

The Scottish Salmon Company has applied for the formation of a fin fish farm in Loch Tuath off Gometra. The hearing is expected to be held on Monday November 5 at 10.30am in Dervaig Village Hall.

A LATE night shopping event is being planned for Main Street, Tobermory, just in time for Christmas.

The event, which is planned for November 30, has 12 shops currently taking part. They will be open 6pm until late.

The town's Christmas lights will also be getting switched on that night, promising to make it a real festive occasion.

Stu and Sophie Cattanaugh of the Isle of Mull Soap Company had the idea for the event and are encouraging everyone to get involved.

Sophie said: 'All the shops will be offering festive drinks and nibbles. Here at the Isle of Mull Soap Co we can guarantee cheesy Christmas tunes, mulled wine and mince pies. It should be a great night.'



Dr Mark Astill gives Scott Gates, organiser of the Community Café, his flu jab.

ISLE of Mull residents were queuing up to see the doctor last week - with prevention rather than cure in mind.

Dr Mark Astill, the Buessan GP, was at the Community Café giving older residents, or those vulnerable to infection, their flu jab.

He said: 'I thought it would be a good idea to set up stall at the café to offer the flu jab to all those who need one.'

'People often delay coming to the surgery for their annual jab, which increases their chances of catching flu.'

'The day was a great success and we managed to get a large number of jabs done.'

The Community Café is a monthly event in which locals and visitors get together to have lunch. There are also several stalls selling local crafts and produce.

Any profit is put back into local community programmes.

A MULL animal lover is collecting old blankets and towels to be donated to an Argyll cat shelter.

Catherine Fitness, whose cat Mr T won *The Oban Times* Pet Idol competition, welcomes any donations from the public of material that can be used as bedding for cats at the Small Paws shelter, run by Argyll Animal Aid.

She said: 'They need old towels and blankets for bedding but are always looking for other items too and are very grateful to receive them.'

'I have been very lucky, Mull and Iona Environmentally Sensitive Solutions are good at giving me old towels that are handed in but I always need more to take over.'

If anyone wishes to donate material for bedding for unwanted or stray cats contact Catherine on 01680 812513.

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Argyll UHI hosts graduation day
New principal celebrates students' success

THE NEW principal of Argyll College UHI in Oban had a hectic first week as he presided over this year's graduation ceremony.

Fraser Durie, who has taken over from retiring principal Michael Breslin, celebrated the success of the students at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

He said: 'It's a real privilege to be the new principal of Argyll College, which has a substantial and growing presence throughout Argyll.'

'The college fulfils a key role in the development of the economy of this area which I am committed to continuing.'

'We had students graduating with all levels of award at the ceremony, including Scottish Vocational Qualifications and degrees. Graduation is always a special time for those taking part and the college staff involved.'

'We recognise the hard work and dedication of students and the staff who helped them on their journey. I hope it acts as an inspiration both to potential students who may join us but also to current students on that journey.'

'Our graduation showed very clearly the potential opportunities provided by the college as an Academic Partner of the University of the Highlands and Islands and we will continue, through 2013 and beyond, to develop and nurture exciting educational opportunities for the communities of Argyll and the islands.'

The ceremony saw the presentation of several special recognition awards including the Wilma Campbell Rose Bowl for Argyll College UHI Further Education Student of the Year awarded to Thomas Gallagher of Campbeltown for recently completing his certificate in agriculture.

The Mary MacKenzie Memorial Cup for hairdressing was awarded to Ala Korda, an SVQ2 student from Oban. This cup is awarded to the student who shows outstanding flair and creativity during their course.

There was also a special mention for Claire Gilpin who achieved the BA Child and Youth Studies. Claire initially studied NC Early Education and Childcare five years ago at Argyll College. She subsequently progressed to the HNC Early Education and Childcare gaining an 'A' in her graded unit and has now



Fraser Durie, new principal of Argyll College UHI is 'privileged' to have been appointed to the role.



Thomas Gallagher of Campbeltown won the Wilma Campbell Rose Bowl for Argyll College UHI Further Education Student of the Year.



The Mary MacKenzie Memorial Cup for hairdressing was presented to Ala Korda by Mary MacKenzie's daughter Veronica MacKenzie.



Claire Gilpin achieved a BA in Child and Youth Studies.



The champagne flowed during the celebrations at Spean Bridge – 20_f42lochaber04

Champagne corks pop in Spean as Lochaber celebrate

REPORT BY
RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

SPEAN Bridge saw the champagne bottles finally uncorked on Saturday as Lochaber Camanachd were presented with the Marine Harvest north division one trophy.

Lochaber were confirmed as champs on October 6 when Strathglass were forced to concede the points as they were unable to field a team.

The trophy presentation was delayed, but after Lochcarron pulled out of last weekend's tie for similar reasons, Lochaber decided to hold their ceremony at home after a bounce game between the first and second teams.

Camanachd Association director of communications Donald Campbell and Davie Corrigan of sponsors Marine Harvest congratulated Lochaber on their fine season before handing the trophy to captain Hughie Innes.

The delay in being handed the trophy didn't appear to deter the Lochaber squad as they cheered their captain.

Mr Campbell said: 'This club is a model to other clubs across Scotland. They would do well to look at how Lochaber are set up and how you go about your business.'

Mr Corrigan added: 'You had

a fantastic season and I think you'll do pretty well next year.' Innes thanked his players and everyone connected with the club.

He said: 'Thanks for a great season. Everyone put in 120 per cent and we couldn't have done it without you.'

A small band of supporters came along to the playing field to see the champions take on the second team in a good natured match, epitomised by goalkeeper Calum Macdonald swapping places with Scottish international defender Neil MacDonald for most of the game.

Lochaber are now just one tie from completing an unbeaten 2012 league season. Their final scheduled game is at home to Inverness on Saturday November 3, following the Scotland vs Ireland shinty/hurling matches. MacDonald and top scorer Shaun Nicolson have both been

selected for the squad, with Ben Delaney, Zands Ferguson and Martin Johnstone in the under 21 squad.

Manager Michael Delaney, who missed the celebrations, also led his side to a Balliemore Cup win and the final of the MacTavish Cup.



Champions: Marine Harvest north division one winners Lochaber Camanachd – 20_f42lochaber01

Under 20s take on Hibs in Youth Cup

GLORY beckons on Sunday for Fort William FC's under-20 team – if they can find a way to beat Hibernian FC in the third round of the Scottish Youth Cup.

John Matheson, who manages the team along with Paul MacLennan, told The Oban Times the tie, being played at the Edinburgh club's football academy at Tranent, would be the biggest game of his young players' careers – but feared Fort's Highland League clash against Huntly the day before

Fort on the lookout for an Under 15 coach

YOUTH FOOTBALL

FORT WILLIAM FC are on the lookout for a new coach for their under 15 side.

A club spokesperson said: 'We will assist anyone interested in coaching the under 15s in managing the team and gaining the necessary qualifications.'

YOUTH FOOTBALL

could be prove a big handicap.

He told The Oban Times: 'Most of the boys will be playing for the first team against Huntly so that does not bode too well as they could tire later in the game against Hibs.'

'But they have been looking forward to playing at this level ever since the draw was made.'

'We played Falkirk last year and got a wee bit of stage fright in the first 30 minutes until we realised we can play at this level.'

'So now we know what to expect - and the boys are looking forward to the opportunity to show what they can do.'

Matheson added: 'We should have a full squad barring any injuries they may pick up on Saturday. Our priority is still the first team - we can't forget that.'

As the Oban Times went to press on Tuesday night, the team was playing Barra at Claggan Park on to help them prepare for the Hibs match.

High-flying Huntly visit Claggan on Saturday

REPORT BY
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

FORT WILLIAM take on strong-going Huntly at Claggan Park on Saturday still desperately seeking the elusive first win of the season that would mean so much in terms of morale.

Huntly lie fifth in the league and, ominously, have won both their away games so far, while the Fort have banked a single point away at Keith on September 1. Since then it has been a tale of unmitigated woe for Danny Conlon's men, who go into Saturday's match with a record of played four, lost four at Claggan in the league.

However hope springs eternal after last week's 3-1 defeat at Inverurie Locos, which provided flickering signs the team can play a bit of football when they put their minds to it.

Conlon watched his side post a much-improved performance - but is under no illusions that knocking over Huntly will be no easy matter.

He told The Oban Times: 'They are scoring goals for fun

but also losing a few as well and I think that's something we have to take into account.'

First team

'A lot of the first team are play-

ing Hibs in the under-20 Scottish Cup on Sunday, so it will be a big task for us.'

'Selection-wise, I think I will be looking at some of our older

boys to get more game time than they would usually get.'

Ian MacLeod will be in goal again as Jay Smith recovers from a groin injury, while Ryan

MacDonald - who had a superb game against Locos - has a niggling hip problem.

'We have to be careful with him,' Conlon said.

Against Locos, Fort were two down at the break before a Darren Quigg penalty had the hosts looking over their shoulders until Gordon's header clinched matters.

Disappointed

Conlon said: 'I was disappointed with the result but not with the performance, which was a lot better.'

'We decided to defend with them coming down the slope in the first half and that was working pretty well until we lost a goal right on the stroke of half-time from another set piece, an area that has been a problem for us all season.'

'In the second half we created a few chances and they got a bit nervy when we got it back to 2-1, but their third goal - another set piece - killed us.'

'If we had converted one of those chances we might have pushed on - but there were encouraging signs in that second half.'



Darren Quigg sells Locos' Ryan Broadhurst a cute dummy to set up another Fort attack.

Photo: Brian Battensby

Tied at the top

INDOOR FOOTBALL

THREE teams are tied at the top of the All Young Premier indoor football league after the second round of matches in the Nevis Centre.

Lochaber Leisure head the table on goal difference after thumping HWEnergy No Stars 9-3, followed by Ballachulish after their 7-1 win over Portoway.

And Achintore FC made it two wins from two after edging out Goon Squad in a five-goal thriller.

Elsewhere, Old Codgers and Caol FC fought out a 4-4 draw, while All Blacks scored a fine 3-0 victory over AA Young to get their first points on the board.

New season starts

TABLE TENNIS

THE NEW Fort William Table Tennis Club season starts this Monday evening at 6.30pm in the Nevis Centre.

Club member Jim Hinchley said: 'If there is anyone out there that played a few years ago and just wants to get their hand back in, then come on down, the time is right.'

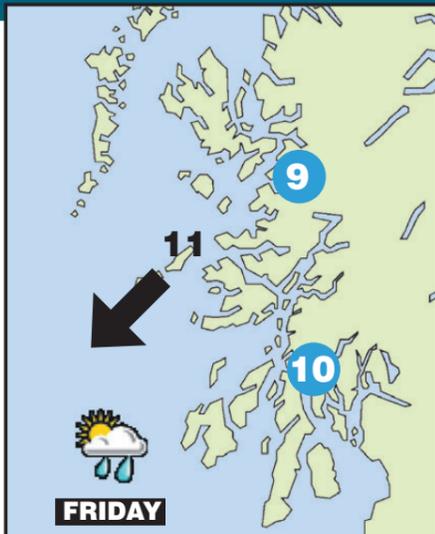
Weather

Thursday Light rain showers
Winds moderate north easterly
Temperatures 7°C to 10°C

Friday Light rain showers
Winds moderate north westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 10°C.

Weekend Light rain
Outlook Winds moderate south easterly
Temperatures 9°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 18, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	01.08 0.5 07.00 4.1 13.29 0.5 19.18 4.0	
Fri	01.52 0.7 07.43 3.9 14.18 0.7 20.01 3.7	
Sat	02.40 0.9 08.32 3.7 15.12 1.0 20.49 3.4	
Sun	03.35 1.1 09.29 3.4 16.13 1.3 21.49 3.0	
Mon	04.39 1.4 10.53 3.2 17.23 1.6 23.38 2.8	
Tues	05.56 1.5 12.58 3.2 18.46 1.7 ** ** *	
Wed	01.56 2.8 07.21 1.5 14.13 3.3 20.13 1.6	

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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