

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Oban for Business

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INSIDE

Exciting new supplement
highlighting the best in
Oban's industry



Am Mod Naiseanta Rioghail Paisley 2013
The Royal National Mod Paisley 2013

See inside for full coverage including
photos and results from this year's Mod

Oban fears over ferry trial

OBAN Community Council (OCC) has been urged to fight to keep all the ferry services connecting the town with the Outer Isles.

New member Duncan Elliot made the plea following CalMac's decision to trial a Lochboisdale ferry service to Mallaig for three years over the winter months.

Mr Elliot urged the community council not to be complacent, saying the permanent loss of the route to Castlebay on Barra and Lochboisdale on South Uist would be to Oban's detriment.

He warned: 'If there's no response to this it's a death knell for the route. We as the people of Oban have got to make a case for it not to become permanent.'

His view was backed by OCC member Sean MacIntyre, who had previously raised concern over the change.

Meanwhile, Donald Morrison of United Auctions has criticised the trial run, saying the ramifications of a permanent shift have not been thought through properly, with 'several logistical challenges' facing freight and the movement of livestock to and from Mallaig. He said: 'There are three low bridges between Mallaig and Fort William - what is the point of going if the trailers can't get through there? They're all too low for these double-deck trailers.'

Mr Morrison stressed he'd have nothing against the proposal if the low bridges were fixed first.

But he added the lack of a lairage facility in Mallaig would drastically hit the movement of livestock if a ferry is unable to sail - meaning farmers may have to return home with their stock if the weather takes a turn for the worse. We have to be sensible about this - so far it's just for tourists,' he said.

The criticisms met a withering response in Lochaber, with Councillor Allan Henderson describing the bridge fears as 'red herring'.

Councillor Henderson also claimed the additional route would 'enhance' existing services.

□ See Mallaig councillor discusses ferry fears, page 7.



Royal waiting game pays off for Lismore youngster

Wee Ealasaid MacLean, aged 8, from Lismore almost got tired of waiting to hand over her bouquet to HRH The Princess Royal. But she was finally rewarded for her patience when she got to meet Her Highness and have a few words with her. The princess visited the Royal National Mod on Tuesday for the third day of children's competitions. Ealasaid, a pupil at Bun-sgoil Strath na h-Appaine (Strath of Appin Primary School) had been competing in storytelling competitions in the morning when she heard that royalty was in town. After waiting almost an hour to present the flowers, Ealasaid was finally able to hand over her gift to the princess. A large crowd had gathered to see Princess Anne. During her visit she presented children's silver medals to Emma MacLeod of Sir E Scott School and Michael Callan of the High School of Glasgow, before making a brief visit to Paisley Abbey. Full Mod coverage on pages 8, 9, 10, 11 and 22. llmaclean42

Pensioner left out in the cold for two hours

AN ELDERLY man was left outside 'hanging over his zimmer frame for hours' as care staff stayed inside their building refusing to help.

The incident at Bowman Court in Craignure on Mull left the frail pensioner hypothermic, dehydrated and disorientated.

West Highland Housing Association, which operates the facility, has confirmed it is investigating how the man was left outside for two hours in a helpless state.

The elderly tenant had signed a lease to take on a flat in the supervised accommodation just two days before.

One island witness said: 'The staff weren't sympathetic. The old man wouldn't go in. He was still outside after two hours, he was hanging over his zimmer frame. He said he couldn't go back in as they weren't nice to him.'

The incident is the latest in a string of controversies to hit the multi-million pound facility, which is now fully occupied.

The property is registered as a block of flats - despite islanders receiving assurances it would be a replacement for Dunara, the former care home in Salen.

Michael Shilson, who acted as

chairman at last week's meeting of Mull Community Council, said: 'If someone goes out of their front door and gets into a situation that is threatening for their health and well-being there is no-one there to support them in a helpless state.'

'On the Monday the man

signed a lease meaning he was able to be in his own flat but on the Wednesday that happened.'

He added: 'We had a strict assurance from Nicola Sturgeon that no-one would need to go off the island for care but no-one can stay on Mull because there is nowhere for them to go - we have lost the beds.'

MCC has written again to the former health minister complaining that the flats' tenancies are inheritable by family, partners and carers, meaning those most in need could lose out.

The current care in the community model 'does not work' for vulnerable old people who previously would have been

assessed as needing sheltered care, MCC claimed.

They added: 'They should not be left living alone in their own homes - they need proper full-time care, not just someone popping in occasionally.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'If tenants at Bowman Court require a level of supervision if they are out walking in the campus grounds then this should be provided either at a distance or beside the tenant as required.'

'Each resident will be treated differently in relation to their physical and mental health needs and the expressed wishes of the service users will be considered in agreeing their support plan.'

A Scottish Government spokeswoman added: 'While it is for each local authority to determine how to provide and fund appropriate care for those in need of residential care, we are working with all local authorities through COSLA, and the third sector to shape the future of residential care for Scotland.'

'As part of this work we would hope to resolve this issue of availability of residential care places.'

□ See leader page 12.

Damning report on council

A DAMNING report by Audit Scotland has highlighted a 'culture of mistrust' between councillors, as well as councillors and officers, at Argyll and Bute Council.

Ongoing political instability at the council is noted as a major concern, which also points out a 'lack of collective strategic leadership by councillors' and the political management arrangements were contributing to problems. While the council's new leader, Dick Walsh, promises the turmoil is over at Kilmory,

he is the fourth leader since last year's elections in May.

Mr Walsh said: 'We now have a sound, strong and stable administration with a focus on effective, efficient political leadership and culture.'

Communicate

'As we do business, we will make sure we are inclusive, that we communicate with each other and that we listen to each other.'

It is also important to remember that the report looked at the past several months.

Over the last few weeks, there

have already been significant and productive changes. Allegations of interference from Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell and the SNP's National Executive Committee, when the coalition administration was led by the SNP, were pinpointed.

Responding, Mr Russell said 'it is scarcely surprising that I and others have found it necessary to pay close attention to Kilmory on behalf of the people of the area, many of whom attend my surgeries to make complaints about council services'.

Heating crisis meeting arranged

A MEETING has been arranged between ACHA, Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) and Dimplex to discuss heating issues affecting homes across Argyll and the isles.

Confirmation of the meeting, to be held on October 29, comes as SSE announce a price hike of 8.2 per cent from November 15, adding further to the woes of those forked up to £300 a month due to a series of problems with heating systems.

Argyll Community Housing Association's (ACHA) chief executive, Alastair MacGregor, meanwhile, says the organisation will 'do all it can to assist its tenants', adding that it does 'not control the pricing, the policy framework that determines that pricing or the tariff system operated by the utility companies.'

Suggesting fuel poverty is the main problem and not the heating systems in ACHA homes, he further commented: 'If, following our meeting with SSE, there are technical recommendations within the control of the association, then we will look at them.'

New policy

ELDERLY people are at the heart of a new prosecution policy - which aims to see them live free from the fear of crime.

Scottish prosecutors have been issued with new guidance which sets out how the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service will deal with crimes against older people. The move comes as research shows being a victim of, or a witness to, crime can have a significant impact on a pensioner's health and well-being.

Fish farm info online

INFORMATION on west coast fish farms will be released as part of a new government scheme.

Marine Scotland will start publishing information tomorrow (Friday) on 'activities conducted under its statutory inspection programs'. The information, available on www.scotland.gov.uk, will include details on diseases, sea lice and enforcement action.



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Three Oban brothers jailed for 'vicious' town centre assault

THREE Oban brothers previously described in court as 'wild animals' are behind bars today after being convicted of a 'vicious assault'.

Paul MacMillan, 25, and Gavin MacMillan, 19, were both sentenced to 20 months' detention, but Gavin will serve his time in a young offender's institution. Sean MacMillan, 22, was sentenced to 15 months in prison.

The sentence follows a nine-day jury trial where the Paul and Gavin were found guilty of repeatedly knocking Stuart Reid to the ground in Oban's Station Square, punching and kicking him on the head and body and striking his head against a bollard to his severe injury, permanent disfigurement and danger of his life on December 1 last year.

The sentence follows a nine-day jury trial where the Paul and Gavin were found guilty of repeatedly knocking Stuart Reid to the ground in Oban's Station Square, punching and kicking him on the head and body and striking his head against a bollard to his severe injury, permanent disfigurement and danger of his life on December 1 last year.

Mr Reid spent several days in hospital following the attack, which left him needing 26 staples to re-attach a flap of his scalp.

Sean was found guilty of joining his brothers in the assault, but was cleared of punching and kicking Mr Reid. Paul MacMillan was also convicted of punching Mr Reid earlier in the night in Sloan's bar. Their co-accused, Steven MacLeod, 28, of 8 Hazeldean Crescent, Oban, was ordered to carry out 100 hours of unpaid work as part of a community payback order after the jury found him guilty of assaulting Mr Reid by knocking him to the ground.

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'So far as I'm concerned the first named accused, Steven MacLeod, falls into a different category.' But he said after considering the case carefully he formed the opinion that 'no sentence other than a custodial sentence is appropriate' for the three brothers, all of Smerclair, Pulpit Drive, Oban.

He told the court: 'The injuries sustained by Stuart Reid are very aptly described as horrific. The surgeon considered the injury to be severe and life threatening due to the size and location of the injury and because of the amount of force that would be required to cause such an injury.'

He added: 'It is very fortunate Stuart Reid did not die from his injury.' But after reading references relating to the MacMillan brothers Sheriff Small said: 'It is quite clear this is a family that is well respected in the community, particularly as far as the parents are concerned.'

Adding Value to Accountancy

Wylie & Bisset LLP provide comprehensive accounting and advisory services to local businesses in the Argyll & Bute area.

A reminder that paper returns should be submitted to HMRC by 31st Oct and on-line returns by January 31st 2014

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Grant turns up the heat at Lismore village hall

ISLANDERS on Lismore will no longer have to tolerate a draughty, cold village hall, following the award of a £25,266 grant.

The funding, from the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund (CCF), will pay towards insulation and draught-proofing in the venue.

This award follows on from a previous Community Energy Project on Lismore in 2010, which was also funded by CCF.

Robert Hay, one of the directors of Lismore Public Hall, said: 'This is very welcome news for the islanders who have had to put up with a draughty, cold building with rising heating costs and very little comfort in winter.'

'The insulation and draught-proofing of the building will reduce carbon emissions, energy bills and transform the hall into a comfortable and warm hub for island activities.'

Weddings

Among the organisations, events and activities that currently use the hall are Lismore dances, island weddings, weekly country dancing, art group, bowls and a film club.

The hall was also the focal point for the island's recent 24-hour ceilidh.

In addition to the building work, the Lismore Hall Energy Project will provide a programme of energy conservation activities over the coming year to raise awareness of climate change and help people save energy in all sorts of ways.

An extra £10.3 million of Climate Challenge Fund cash was recently announced by Minister for Environment and Climate Change Paul Wheelhouse MSP extending the fund until March 2016.

Duisdale House up for top award

A SLEAT hotel will represent the Highlands and Islands at the annual VisitScotland Thistle awards in Stirling Castle on November 15.

Duisdale House, owned by Scotland's 2011 Hoteliers of the Year Anne Gracie and Ken Gunn, will be up against rivals from three other regions.

The hotel booked its place in the final after being named Best Hotel at the recent Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards.

Holiday home plan for ruined castle

PLANS to change an ancient ruined castle in west Lochaber into a luxury holiday home have been lodged with Highland Council.

Mingary Castle, near Kilchoan, has been undergoing extensive excavations in recent months, with several artefacts found which tell part of the history of the 800-year-old building.

Owner Donald Houston has now applied for a change of use to a residential property, which would then be let out.

Mingary Preservation Trust says the project is the best way to stop the castle from falling into further ruin.

Public comments can be made on the plans on Highland Council's website until October 25.

Call to increase litter and fly-tipping fines

HIGHLAND Council wants fixed penalties for littering increased to £80 and stiff fines imposed for fly-tipping.

In a submission to the Scottish Government's consultation on 'Towards a litter-free Scotland', the council argued the proposed £200 penalty for fly-tipping was set too low.

'If fly-tipping saves an individual £1,000 in disposal costs then the penalty should be commensurate with clean-up costs plus a financial punishment,' the council said.

TEC services committee chairman Graham Phillips said: 'Tackling litter and fly-tipping is a key priority of the council and our support for a long term campaign of action is reflected in our response to the Scottish Government.'

Isle of Mull residents step up bid to save Salen petrol station

RESIDENTS on the Isle of Mull have banded together in an effort to save a rural petrol station from closure.

Rowley's Filling Station in Salen has been up for sale for the past 18 months but with no buyer coming forward owner Martin Rowley is looking at closing down the business as a last resort.

The closure of Salen's only petrol station would mean village residents face a 20-mile round trip to get fuel - with the situation even

worse for those from outlying areas such as Ulva Ferry, Gribun and Torloisk.

But now a steering group, run by the Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT), has been set up to attempt a community buyout of the petrol station from the Rowleys.

The move follows a public meeting where the 35 people in attendance voted unanimously to try and rescue the essential service station from closure. They were backed up by 15 letters of support from people who could not attend.

Fergus Whyte, from Salen, is one of the steering group volunteers. He said: 'Like many folk here, I care passionately about the village and the island in general and I am really encouraged that there is such strong support for us to try and secure the future of the filling station.'

Mr Rowley, who works full time with the ambulance service, says he is now optimistic a buyer will come forward.

He added: 'The last thing I want is this to

close. It is smack bang in the middle of the island and people on the west coast depend on us. It would be a very hard decision to shut it. If the community can put up a package that would be great - it would be brilliant news.'

Initial research by MICT has shown a number of other filling stations in Scotland have been saved by communities taking ownership to preserve the essential service in rural locations.

A valuation of the petrol station has been

commissioned and a specialist has been appointed to help with development of a business plan, both paid for with funds secured by MICT.

If the business plan looks positive it will be used as the basis for an application to the Scottish Land Fund to support the cost of buying the filling station.

If you would like more information and to offer support please contact Moray Finch on 01680 812905 or mfinch@mict.net.co.uk.

Double award-winning Tiree Music Festival worth £1/2m to island

THIS year's Tiree Music Festival (TMF) was worth almost £500,000 to the local economy, according to an independent Economic Impact Report.

The statistics come as the festival, run by Tiree men Stewart MacLennan and Daniel Gillespie, was presented with an award for its contribution to tourism in the Highlands and Islands.

Following on from its second consecutive Best Small Festival title at the Scottish Events Awards, TMF was recently named Best Culture Event at the Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards, beating competition from Belladrum Festival and Heb Celt.

Asked about the festival's success at awards ceremonies, Mr Gillespie replied: 'The biggest thing that comes back from surveys is the atmosphere of the festival. 'We can't compete with Belladrum and Heb Celt on artists but I don't think any other festival can rival us for location.'

'This year Crossapol Bay looked like a holiday destination in the sunshine, with horses on the beach and watersports going on. When we get the weather like that it makes for a unique and special location.'

According to the Economic Impact Report, the net direct economic impact of visitors to the festival is valued at £314,138 but when multiplier effects are taken into consideration the economic impact off the event is £493,197 - an increase of 49 per cent on last year's figure.

Attendance at the event was 20 per cent higher than in 2012 and 89 per cent of the 1,500 festival goers this year were visitors to Tiree.

Nearly 90 per cent of visitors surveyed said they were on Tiree as a result of the festival and the average spend per visitor was estimated to be £264 - a 21 per cent increase on the 2012 figure.

Mr Gillespie said the success of the festival was testament to the work of the organising team. He said: 'Many of the team don't have Tiree connections but have totally embraced the whole concept.'

'They are so focused on making it better and are always thinking how we can improve the festival.'

Next year's festival will be extended by an extra day and will run from July 18 - 20.



Brian Wilson and Mark Hogarth of Harris Tweed Hebrides receive the Scotland's Fashion Ambassador award from Hilary Alexander.

Harris Tweed Hebrides announces £1m investment

HARRIS Tweed Hebrides (HTH) has announced a £1 million investment programme as the award-winning Isle of Lewis-based company looks to underpin half a decade of growth and success.

The plans include further expansion of the firm's Shawbost mill, installation of new machinery and investment in information technology.

An international marketing campaign and the provision of new looms for lease to weavers are also in the pipeline.

The announcement coincided with HTH being named as Scotland's Fashion Ambassador of the Year at the Scottish Fashion Awards in London last week.

Company chairman Brian Wilson said: 'We are confident that the time is right for a further investment programme to consolidate the advances of the past five years. On the basis of existing orders, we have told

both mill-workers and weavers that full-scale production will continue throughout the winter months. One of our greatest successes to date has been to take seasonality of employment out of the production cycle.'

He added: 'The autumn and winter collections of many leading designers and retailers, now becoming available, include stunning examples of how Harris Tweed can be used which can only reinforce the fabric's standing. We are also seeing strong growth in the interiors sector.'

Earlier this year, HTH - which produced its first tweed in 2008 and now accounts for around 90 per cent of Ork-stamped production - was named Textile Business of the Year at the UK Fashion and Textile Awards, also in London.

HTH currently employs around 80 people and provides work for 140 home weavers in Lewis and Harris.

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John MacMillan, chairman of Lochboisdale Development Ltd, said the closing out of the causeway was 'an important milestone'.

The causeway is part of the Lochboisdale Port of Entry Regeneration project, which community landowner Stòras Uibhist predicts will boost business activity round the harbour when completed.

Construction is scheduled to be complete by February 2015, when a new 51-berth marina, with associated shore facilities, will be ready to welcome

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Lorn Lines

ON A RECENT visit to Oban, Her Royal Highness Princess Anne hosted a special luncheon for captain Stuart Ross retiring master of the *MV Pole Star* in recognition of his family's long history of service to the Northern Lighthouse Board.

Captain Ross's father, the late James Ross of Hazeldean Crescent, was an engineer.

□□□

PERFORMING his last duty as president of Oban Speakers Club for the year 2012/13 Guido Faccenda passed the chain of office on to new president Frank Walton.

The meeting took the normal format with chairman Eamonn Arthur introducing speakers Willie Melville, who spoke on Mighty Ben Nevis; Guido Faccenda, who spoke on Alcatraz and Tom Clegg on Captain Bligh.

The topics session had been prepared by Bill Leech but, as he was unable to attend, it was introduced by Frank Walton.

He gave some rather testing topics to Jim Fraser, Nick Maclean, Martin Wilson, Peter Mills, Roy Wood and Eamonn Arthur.

The timekeeper for the evening was Archie McPhail and a comprehensive and humorous general evaluation was given by John MacLean.

The next meeting will be held in the Ambo Room, Oban's Glencruitten Church Centre on October 24 at 8pm.

□□□

MEMBERS of the Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club met up with members of the Kirkintilloch Classic Car Club, the Capri Club of Scotland, and the Stirling and District Classic Car Club at Tyndrum on Sunday October 13.

Between 60 and 70 classic vehicles from all marques and all ages met up, and then travelled to Kingshouse Hotel for lunch. The cars from the central belt then returned home via Tyndrum, and the Oban club cars continued through Glencoe, stopping at Castle Stalker View, Appin, for afternoon tea.

The oldest car on the run was a 1924 Model T Ford, which belongs to a member of the Oban Club.

A photograph of the group of classic cars.

Staff from Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital spent a morning in the town's Tesco store promoting diabetes awareness.

Pictured are dietitian Lesley Bakos-Hodge, Fiona Thompson, diabetic nurse specialist and Rosie O'Hagan, student dietitian, who provided information to staff and customers on diabetes, as well as answering any questions they had on the topic.

Leaflets about diabetes, healthy eating and a healthy lifestyle were also on offer for people along with a display of two shopping baskets, one containing 'unhealthy' food and the other containing healthier alternatives.



Caillie Campbell, Archie Malloch and Calin McGuigan show off the pictures that saw them named winners of this year's Winter Festival art competition, which is open to all Oban and Lorn schools. 16.142wintfest1

Pupils celebrate festival art success

CRABS, the Oban whale and a sunken ship are set to feature in this year's Winter Festival parade - thanks to some talented school pupils.

St Columba's pupils, six year-olds Callie Campbell and Calin McGuigan, and Park Primary's Archie Malloch, aged seven, won the Oban Winter Festival's annual art competition - and now their artwork will become part of the spectacular parade.

The announcement of the winners marks the start of the countdown for the November 22-December 1 festival.

Local artist Tara Coia will take charge

of the lantern parade - and she's promising a feast for the eyes. Caillie's crab will be animated, while Archie's picture of the Oban whale - affectionately named Oor Wullie by some - is set to be the centrepiece. Calin's sunken ship promises to offer a few surprises too. Tara said: 'This year we want it to be a bit more theatrical, hence the reason we've themed the parade, under the sea. The parade will feature a school of fish moving in and out of seaweed and the whale will feature prominently.'

Parents and all those working with children are being invited to help make the

event as visually stunning as possible, with a workshop being held at Oban Distillery on October 27.

Organiser Pamela Lockhart said: 'We're looking for everyone from teachers to Brownie leaders to come to a workshop and learn how to make the lanterns - then take that back to the kids to help make lots of them.'

Meanwhile, Oban Winter Festival is one of several events across Scotland to benefit from £350,000 of Scottish Government funding for communities celebrating St Andrew's Day.

Groups share bumper MacQueen trust payout

A BUMPER payout of £25,500 has been shared among 16 local charities as the Oban-based MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust celebrates its most generous year yet.

In total, the trust has disbursed £50,000 to local good causes in 2013, the most it has ever handed out in a single year.

And the charity's 'sustainability fund' to finance a move of its popular shop from the White Building free of charge and the shop being run entirely by volunteers.

'I'm also able to offer the support of my business for transport free of charge too, which keeps costs as low as possible.'

Among those benefiting from the payout is Oban Community Playpark, which received £5,000.

HOPÉ Kitchen, Oban Sensory Garden, Oban Winter Festival, Dunollie Projects' Fasanta event,

Oban Hockey Club, the OLDS Committee, Oban Sailing Club and Lynn Court.

Oban War and Peace Museum received £7,500 while Lorn Live Chamber Music received £500, as did Argyll and Bute Council's Summer Sensations programme.

Atlantis Leisure received £3,000 for a pool inflatable,

while the Lismore Historical

railway, 97 per cent goes back to the community.

'That comes from Argyll and Bute Council giving us the use of the White Building free of charge and the shop being run entirely by volunteers.'

'I'm also able to offer the support of my business for transport free of charge too, which keeps costs as low as possible.'

Among those benefiting from the payout is Oban Community Playpark, which received £5,000.

HOPÉ Kitchen, Oban Sensory Garden, Oban Winter Festival, Dunollie Projects' Fasanta event,

Oban Hockey Club, the OLDS Committee, Oban Sailing Club and Lynn Court.

Oban War and Peace Museum received £7,500 while Lorn Live Chamber Music received £500, as did Argyll and Bute Council's Summer Sensations programme.

Atlantis Leisure received £3,000 for a pool inflatable,

while the Lismore Historical

Society was handed £600. Oban and Lorn RDA and Argyll Youth Theatre both received donations of £300.

Plans to redesign the North Pier for the new planned transit marina means the White Building will be reused or sold by the council, with surveyors looking at the building last week.

The charity has been preparing for that eventuality and is now certain to find an alternative premises.

Mr MacQueen added: 'We've set aside £200,000 - that belongs to the community but one way or another will go to benefit the community. It will secure the future of the operation for the long term.'

'We're looking at a number of premises in the town but if that fails we will give over ground [from MacQueen Bros Removals] free of charge to the charity to build a shop.'

See delight at War and Peace Museum award, page 14.

Got a story?
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Community council call to have dog warden removed

OBAN Community Council has called for the removal of the town's dog warden - after accusing him of failing to do his job.

The group was told by Argyll and Bute Council that the warden had fined no-one in the past year - something member Neil MacIntyre said raised questions over the value of the post.

Chairwoman Marri Malloy added: 'This is a guy who has a job and he's not doing the job. If that was with any other place, they'd be paid off long before now.'

All the community council wants the man to do is his job.'

Sean MacIntyre, community councillor, suggested inviting the warden to one of the group's

meetings to discuss their concerns.

A spokeswoman for the local authority said: 'Argyll and Bute Council would not make any comment about an individual member of staff.'

This warden covers the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area and dog fouling is only one part of his job.

The warden is also responsible for littering, car park fines, pest control, nuisance dogs, stray dogs, abandoned cars, fly tipping, education programmes in schools and clubs, commercial agreements and issuing warning letters for most of the above.'

BID4Oban reviews progress over past year

AMBASSADORS patrolling the streets on behalf of BID4Oban have spoken to more than 11,000 people from all over the world since May 1, the organisation has claimed.

At its latest business forum, the Business Improvement District (BID) initiative reviewed progress over the last year which saw £5,000 distributed among 21 companies to improve their frontages - bringing the total spend on upgrading shop fronts to more than

£20,000. In addition, all work has been carried out by local firms.

Round two of the scheme is now underway and initial signs are pointing to another good level of interest by local businesses.

Meanwhile, Love Oban gift vouchers will be launched at the end of the month, aimed at encouraging locals to spend their money locally.

Only levy payers and associate members will be invited to redeem

vouchers once launched, with the BID set to recruit businesses over the next few weeks. Other schemes to improve the look of the town, namely the flower baskets along the Esplanade and the 'Tale of the Whales' window vinyl have attracted positive feedback. It has also emerged that the events grants scheme was oversubscribed, with applications from 12 organisations requesting more than £41,000 in funding both in and out of the main season.

He said: 'Without the support of the community, this wouldn't be possible. Of all the money we

raise, 97 per cent goes back to the community.'

'That comes from Argyll and Bute Council giving us the use of the White Building free of charge and the shop being run entirely by volunteers.'

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Pair deny rogue trader charges

TWO MEN, one from Lochaber, have denied they are rogue builders who conned an Oban pensioner into having expensive work done at his home and then botching the job.

It is alleged that between October 20 and 31 last year William McPhee, aged 29, of Pitch 5, Kentallen Travellers Site, and John McPhee, 35, of 58 Wingate Avenue, Dalmally, visited a 79-year-old man's home at Mull Terrace and told him structural work was needed on the roof which would cost £700, with further work costing £1,200. The pair deny the work they did was 'negligent and unworkman-like' and that the money was obtained fraudulently.

The men also deny that while acting as traders they failed to give the pensioner notice of his right to cancel the contract and that they unlawfully entered his house with intent to steal.

The pair went on to deny that they visited a house at Nant Drive in Oban on November 11 and pretended to a woman that her husband had agreed to them carrying out maintenance to outdoor piping and attempted to obtain payment.

Both William and John McPhee entered pleas of not guilty to all five allegations, which are said to have taken place while they were on bail.

The men are due to stand trial on November 1.

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Police praise alert Oban bank staff

POLICE have praised the action of bank staff who prevented an elderly man from being conned out of several thousand pounds.

Employees at the bank became alarmed when the elderly man called in and asked to withdraw £7,000 in cash, saying it was for work to his roof.

So concerned were the tellers that they advised the man it would take a while to get the cash and contacted the police.

PC Jeremy Moore praised the staff's quick thinking at last week's meeting of Oban Community Council.

He said: 'They became alarmed when they were told it was to pressure wash and paint his roof. It turns out there were several criminal aspects detected.'

'It's not really illegal to quote someone a price and then get them to pay it, but there's various things being looked at now.'

'It was great that the bank staff did that, but I would urge anyone who has a doubt about something like that to give us a call.'

He added: 'The sad thing was the guy whose roof it was said he'd have them back because he enjoyed their company.'

Man accused of dangerous driving

A 39 YEAR-old man has been reported for dangerous driving after being accused of performing a series of hazardous manoeuvres on the A85.

The driver of a white Volvo

was reported for performing the manoeuvres between Taynuilt and Dalmally around noon last Wednesday.

Coach driver reported for careless driving

A COACH driver has been reported for careless driving after a collision with the A82 near Bridge of Orchy on Sunday.

The 64-year-old man, who was driving a busload of tourists, was allegedly involved in a collision with another vehicle at around 11am after passing through roadworks.

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Clock ticking for church bids

Congregation's concern over potential rival Plockton offer

THE CHURCH of Scotland general trustees have fixed a closing date of October 25 for offers for Plockton Church.

The building was advertised for sale last month with offers over £90,000 being invited.

The Free Church congregation in Plockton and Kyle has declared its intention to lodge a bid, but as of last Friday had not yet done so.

It is understood the eight-strong deacons court will meet tomorrow to decide how much cash they should put on the table.

Minister Roddie Rankin told *The Oban Times*: 'We had better get our skates on. We have said all along that we intend to make a bid and we will put in an offer.'

'It is a difficult building to develop and not ideal because it is surrounded by a grave yard on three sides and somebody else's land on the other.'

'It is also an A-listed building and it would be difficult to see how a developer could use it.'

'We intend to keep it as a church and use it as a church, and hopefully upgrade it a bit. It

By STEPHEN NORRIS
smorris@obantimes.co.uk

think most people in the village would like that. But there's a wee bit to go in the story yet.'

Rev Rankin denied there was 'animosity' between the Free Church and the Friends of Plockton Church, who have also expressed an interest in the property.

He said: 'Nothing could be further from the truth. We have been talking to them all along. They have a steering group of 12 folk, some of them have been at meetings we have held and some of us have been at meetings the have held.'

The Friends have indicated that if they are successful the building would still be available for us to use. Either way we hope the building will be kept for the community.'

The Friends' decision to pursue their interest followed a 23-5 vote in favour at a recent public meeting flagged up in 400 letters sent out to Plockton and district households beforehand.



Plockton Church of Scotland: could be subject of two local bids.

Plockton Community Council chairman Charlie Macrae expressed concern a potential rival bidder had emerged.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We are very disappointed that the Friends have thought they might make an offer. I have been ask-

ing people in the village their views and everybody seems to be backing the Free Church.'

The Friends say they would retain the church 'for worship for all denominations for services, weddings, christenings and funerals'.

However, activities and events which complement the village hall' and 'small book/music festivals' would be encouraged, while 'liaising with local schools and extending the tourist season', together with using the church as 'a base for heritage

and culture to create stronger inter-generational bonds' are also envisaged.

The Friends' Maggie Byrne did not provide a comment.

Two Church of Scotland committees will consider the offers by November 5.

Oban Justice of the Peace Court

AN OBAN man has been fined £70 after he rolled down his van window and repeatedly punched his neighbour on the head.

Fraser McQueen, 43, of 22 Nelson Road, Oban, admitted the offence at Oban Justice of the Peace Court last week but defence agent Jane Thomson said there had been a 'significant background' to the incident.

The court heard the altercation happened after the complainant, John McKay, claimed McQueen had said his name 'sarcastically' and McKay asked if he 'wanted a square go'.

Miss Thomson added: 'The complainant was in this court for chasing my client with an axe.'

'There has never been any provocation for what [Mr McKay] is doing - my client is just trying to live a quiet life.'

A CYCLIST who pedalled along a busy pavement 'narrowly missing pedestrians' was fined £40 last week at Oban Justice of the Peace Court.

Alan Kerr, 42, of 3 Lora View, Connell, admitted cycling carelessly on the busy footpath, causing pedestrians to take evasive action to avoid a collision with his bike.

Prosecutor fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court Kerr was 'weaving' through walkers on his bike narrowly avoiding a crash.

Defence agent Jane Thomson said Kerr 'wanted to stay off the road and out of the way of oncoming traffic'.

A WOMAN'S forgetfulness landed her in Oban Justice of the Peace Court last week after she forgot to update her car tax - then forgot to pay the fine.

Jane Madej, 40, of 13a Corran Brae, Oban, admitted using her vehicle without displaying a valid tax disc in January. She was fined £70.

A MOTORIST who sped through Taynuilt at almost twice the legal limit was fined £250 at Oban Justice of the Peace Court last week.

Colin Thomson, 44, of 44 Fairies Road, Perth, admitted travelling at 57 mph in the village when the maximum allowed speed is 30mph. He also had four penalty points placed on his licence.

AN OBAN woman has been banned from driving after being caught on her mobile phone while behind the wheel.

Gillian Walker, 33, of 7 Park Road, Oban, admitted the offence and because she had nine points on her driving licence it qualified her for a four-week ban. She was also fined £60 at Oban Justice of the Peace Court last week.

A DUNBEG man ended up with a

very expensive tipple after he was fined £70 at Oban Justice of the Peace Court for stealing a £4.49 bottle of wine.

Ian Lockhart, 33, of 53 Lochmull Road, Dunbeg, admitted the theft from Oban's Co-operative but his defence agent Jane Thomson told the court he 'couldn't remember taking the alcohol from the store'.

She added: 'He had money in his pocket and could have paid for it. It was a stupid thing to do but he was very drunk.'

A DRIVER who was found 'slumped over his steering wheel' after crashing into a bridge has pled guilty to careless driving.

Scott McCracken, 36, whose address is listed on court papers as 3a Kilmoluaig, Tiree, was airlifted to the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow following the smash on Tiree in April.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said: 'Police followed markings on the road and saw his vehicle had crashed into the bridge parapet.'

'It was ascertained from that that his driving would be less than expected.'

Oban man McCracken was living and working on Tiree at the time of the accident. Defending, Edward Thornton said McCracken had the use of two vehicles, one of which was his normal one which was taxed and

insured. He added: 'The other car was kept off the road pending repairs. On this occasion he was working at Baledhuie 10 miles away from where he was staying.'

He had planned to walk home but then came across this vehicle and rather stupidly he decided it was late, the roads were quiet and he took advantage of the fact it would save him a 10-mile walk.'

The accident took place at a sharp corner and McCracken accepted he was driving too fast.

He also admitted not having valid tax or insurance and was fined £370 and had six penalty points placed on his licence.

A MOTORIST who went speeding down the A85 near Arrochar at 27 miles above his vehicle's legal limit has been fined £170.

Daniel Edward, 22, of 34 Woodside Road, Elie, Leven, pled guilty to travelling at 77mph in a van, when 50mph was the maximum for that vehicle.

Edward also had four penalty points placed on his licence at Oban Justice of the Peace Court last week.

AN OBAN man who hit a pedestrian as he pulled out from a junction in his car has admitted careless driving.

Murdo MacKenzie, 68, of

Seanabhaile, Laurel Crescent, Glencruitten, Oban, pled guilty to the offence in a letter to Oban Justice of the Peace Court last week.

He was fined £170 and had three penalty points placed on his licence.

A MOTORIST who failed to stop at a red light in Oban has been fined £80 and had three penalty points placed on his licence.

Scott Greig, 41, of Hillwood Terrace, Ratho Station, Newbridge, admitted the offence in a letter to Oban Justice of the Peace Court last week.

A MOTORCYCLIST who was caught doing 99mph on the A85 near Tyndrum has been fined £350.

Stuart Peat, 41, of 173 Albion Street, Coatbridge, admitted speeding in the 60mph zone and had six penalty points placed on his licence when he appeared at Oban Justice of the Peace Court last week.

A MOTORIST who sped through the village of Lochawe has been fined £80 near Tyndrum.

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Mull Lines

Gordon Buchanan.

A WORLD renowned cameraman, who hails from the Isle of Mull, has been nominated for a Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Award for the environment.

Gordon Buchanan, from Tobermory, has been selected for his work which includes BBC documentary series *The Polar Bear Family and Me*. He faces competition for the award from three other nominees: Hedgehog Rescue Centre founder, Sandy Boyd; Gordon and Lorna Milton, owners of Elan, an eco-friendly hair salon; and Bute Forest's manager, Emma Cooper.



One Show presenter Mike Dilger with John Clare.

'ELUSIVE' animals were being tracked by the BBC on the Isle of Mull last week as crews from Autumnwatch and The One Show sought out the wild goats that roam the rugged coastline around Carsaig on the south coast.

John Clare, a local wildlife expert, was their guide. He said: 'We managed to film the goats on each of the five days that the film crews were here, getting spectacular shots of these fascinating creatures that play such an important role in maintaining wildlife habitats for the rare invertebrates such as marsh



Caught on camera: one of the Mull wild goats.

Customer slapped shop assistant

AN ANGRY customer will have to pay £100 to an assistant at Oban's Tesco store after slapping him.

Andrew MacKenzie, aged 31, Flat 3/1, 19 High Street, Oban, admitted slapping the man on the head on June 3.

Oban Sheriff Court heard MacKenzie went to the customer services desk to complain about a faulty cash machine outside the store. The conversation deteriorated and the assistant was slapped, his glasses being knocked off in the process.

MacKenzie's defence agent said his client had no recollection of the event but accepted it had happened after seeing the store's CCTV recording.

Sheriff Douglas Small also fined MacKenzie £315 on top of the £100 compensation order.

Residents in charge of keeping Fort Augustus clean and tidy

New project sees services transferred to villagers

LOCAL people took charge of street cleaning and grounds maintenance in Fort Augustus and Invermoriston on Monday through a new Highland Council initiative to transfer key services down to community level.

Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company (FAGCC) took over from the council on Monday after becoming one of only two successful applicants to the Community Challenge Fund.

One council employee has transferred to the company, which has also employed an additional member of staff

to provide a more extensive service to the community.

Under the scheme, local groups must deliver at least the same level of service for less money or provide a better service at no extra cost.

FAGCC is now in charge of maintaining Auchterawe, Kilchuumen and Strathoidich cemeteries, cleaning streets, planting flower displays and carrying out other improvements to brighten up their part of the Great Glen.

Chairperson Harry Whiteside was confident the new-look 'community caretaking' would bring real benefits.

She told The Oban Times: 'We have won a service level agreement to do this and will be investing community benefit money from SSE and Falck Renewables as well.'

'That money has allowed us to employ a second employee since July and we are pleased to have completed the transfer of the existing council staff member to us, because he has been doing such a good job.'

'But this is about much more than brushing pavements - there are 1,200 daffodil bulbs coming to be planted, street furniture will be in place for

spring and we are looking after the cemeteries as well. The whole idea is that people have seen, and will continue to see, a big difference through what we are doing.'

She added: 'Invermoriston will have one dedicated day per week where the area will be cleaned and tidied up, and will get a better level of service.'

'We are confident of reaching better standards - that is the whole point of the Community Challenge Fund.'

The service agreement runs until March 2016 and is renewable after that date.



Harry Whiteside: local people will see 'a big difference' under the new community-run grounds maintenance and street cleaning programme. 20_f42fund01

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Party-goer pleads guilty to assaulting woman

ATTEMPTING to break up an argument at a party cost an Oban man £300 at the town's sheriff court on Monday.

Alan Duncan, aged 22, formerly of Flat 4/4 Stevenson Street and now living at a guest house in the town, pled guilty to assaulting a woman at the Stevenson Street address on Sunday, seizing her and pushing and pulling her before pushing her onto a bed.

His defence agent said Duncan, who had no previous convictions, had been attempting to calm matters down but someone tipped off police about the party and officers attended.

Oban man assaulted then arrested on same night

A NIGHT out for a 23-year-old Oban man ended with him being assaulted and then arrested, Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday.

Craig Hendry, of 15 Airds Crescent, admitted he was threatening and abusive on Stevenson Street in the town, shouting and swearing and uttering threats. He was on bail at the time.

Procurator Fiscal Isobel Martin told the court that at 1.30am on April 14, police officers came across Hendry being helped up off the ground by passers by.

'He came towards the police officers, shouting and swearing. He was very aggressive, very angry and it appeared he wanted to fight. One of the officers thought he was going to be hit.' Hendry was handcuffed.

Defence agent Edward Thornton said that his client had been drinking, but he had also been attacked, knocked to the ground and was so agitated he thought his attackers had returned.

'When he realised they were police officers he calmed down,' Mr Thornton said.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence until December 10.

Former US Marine violently attacked wife

A FORMER US Marine was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder when he violently attacked his wife during their honeymoon in Kinlochleven.

Last week Fort William Sheriff Court heard Iraq and Afghanistan war veteran James Gilligan punched Heather Becker several times on the body after she admitted she had cheated on him.

The 32-year-old also pled guilty to throwing the woman off a sofa bed, dragging her across the floor by her legs and putting his hand over her mouth to conceal her screams, all to her injury.

The incident occurred at the Blackwater Hostel on September 10 while the couple were on an extended trip around Europe.

The woman was taken to Fort William's Belford Hospital and treated for bruising around her eyes, on the back of her head and her sternum.

Gilligan had been self-medicating for PTSD using cannabis since he left the forces several years ago, defence solicitor Stephen Kennedy said.

He said Gilligan planned to fly back to the USA as soon as possible and seek treatment in Los Angeles.

Mr Kennedy added: 'He is deeply ashamed of his actions.'

Sheriff Noel McPartlin deferred sentencing for eight weeks for good behaviour, and said he was taking into account the fact Gilligan had already spent 27 days in custody.

ISLAY

A PARAMEDIC, whose role in the community has been described as 'invaluable', has been recognised by the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS).

Joe Hughes, the Paramedic Team Leader on Islay won the SAS Chief Executive's Special Award in this year's prizegiving.

Often in his own time, Joe has made a huge contribution to the development of clinical skills for SAS and other NHS staff on the island. He hosted the Mobile Skills Unit facility that provided NHS staff with access to the development and upkeep of clinical skills.

He also developed a multi-agency exercise on the island with more than 30 participants including GPs and emergency doctors, Coastguard and Royal National Lifeboat Institution to provide clinical skills training and development.

APPIN

A LARGE crowd was welcomed as the North Lorn Group of the SWRI held a coffee evening in Appin Hall on October 4.

Alison MacCorquodale, on behalf of the group, gave a welcome to guests, who enjoyed a delicious selection of home baking.

When the raffle had been drawn, May MacDonald and all those who had helped to make the evening a success.

The splendid sum of £730 was raised for Friends of the Beatson.



Achaleven porridge day boosts Mary's Meals

Pupils at Achaleven Primary School dressed in the blue of Mary's Meals to help promote the Dalmally-based charity at their World Porridge Day event last Thursday. The pupils helped to host the event at their school, where residents of Connel came for a hearty porridge breakfast in exchange for a donation to the charity. A total of £144.56 was raised. 16_142achaleven01

KILMORE

KILMORE100 Club-September winner was I MacDonald and the October winner D Morrison.

KYLE OF LOCHALSH

KYLE of Lochalsh lifeboat had five shout in 36 hours over Saturday October 5 and Sunday October 6.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution volunteer crew was called out four times to assist with the search for a missing person in the Loch Hourn area,



Lochside pupils hand out harvest food

Lochside RC primary pupils celebrated the annual harvest festival by handing out bags full of fresh foods to local elderly people. The youngsters held an assembly in the school hall before heading out, where they told parents and friends about the importance of the festival and how it is celebrated around the world. 20_f42harvest01

Fantastic offer for new subscribers

OBAN Times readers are being offered a fantastic Christmas gift when they subscribe to the newspaper, in print or digital, for one year.

From today until stocks last, two beautiful Christmas candles, courtesy of McKelvie Candle Company, and a free West Highland 2014 calendar will be on their way to new subscribers.

The tinned candles, named Slainte Mhath and Christmas, are specially chosen from McKelvie's Christmas range and are worth £9.99 each

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Don't forget to quote OTNS1013 when purchasing your subscription. Terms and conditions apply.



John Paterson cuts his cake at the presentation night held in his honour.

JURA

A POPULAR Jura ferryman was given a presentation from the island community for his 19 years of service to the Islay to Jura ferry crossing.

John Paterson was presented with a set of Jura glasses and a cheque from the Jura Ferry operator.

SLEAT

SLEAT Community Council could be looking for new members after one councillor said she would be stepping down at the end of the year.

Claire Hannah will leave her role with SCC after two years

community in thanks for his dedicated service on the route. He also received a gift from ASP Ship Management, the present ferry operator.

of involvement. Secretary Rob Ware will write to Highland Council to establish the way forward for SCC.



New Bowmore primary one pupils

This year's primary one intake at Bowmore Primary School Gaelic Medium Unit.



Alister pedals off with Dunbeg prize

Dunbeg Primary School pupils recently passed their cycling proficiency test and last Thursday were presented with their certificates. Winner of the Maclines Family Cycling Proficiency Prize, for the pupil who showed the most promise throughout the training and the test, was 11-year-old Alister Bryce. 15_t42cycling01



Gaelic success story: Sabhal Mòr Ostaig students and staff celebrate at the college's graduation ceremony.

Gaelic college celebrates graduations

SKYE'S Gaelic college, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, celebrated the achievements of Gaels young and old at its recent graduation ceremony.

A total of 52 students - the highest number ever - received higher education qualifications, all delivered through the medium of Gaelic. The occasion also saw two champions of

Gaelic, Dr Finlay MacLeod and Duncan MacQuarrie, awarded the honour Sàr Ghàidheal, for their work for the language. Dr MacLeod, from Lewis, was one of the original college trustees and Mr MacQuarrie, originally from Mull, was chairman of the trustees from 1978 to 1983.

Vice principal and director of studies John Norman MacLeod

said afterwards: 'We are very pleased that we have the largest cohort ever and that those graduating are from different parts of Scotland and beyond.'

'Since the first graduation in 1985, we have had more than 800 graduates and undoubtedly they have had a huge influence in different spheres, including Gaelic-related careers, research,

language initiatives and community development work.'

'Student numbers continue to grow, with increased opportunities now available to undertake distance learning.'

Skye woman Erica Morrison, now creative director of Gaelic Arts agency, Pròiseact nan Ealaín, gave the graduation lecture.

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BALLACHULISH

THIS year's bonfire and fireworks display in Ballachulish will be held on Saturday November 9.

Hundreds of locals and visitors flock to a former slate quarry in the village to attend the annual celebrations.

GLENCOE

THE THATCHER in charge of the re-thatch of the Glenco and North Lorn Folk Museum has sourced the heather required for the project, curator Karen Maillie-Watt reports.

Building repairs such as chimney flashings and roof re-felting have begun but because the thatcher has to harvest the heather by hand, the re-thatch may not start for a few weeks.

KILLIN

KILLIN SWRI kicked off their winter season with a packed meeting which saw a talk on acupuncture by Lou Bradford from Aberfeldy.

The event, held on October 3, was hosted by president Yvonne McPherson who welcomed a 'good turnout of ladies' to the first of the weekly meetings.

Killin SWRI will continue to meet until April. The next meeting is on November 7 in the Lesser McLaren Hall at 7.30pm with a guest speaker from Glen Lyon Coffee Roasters. All welcome.

CORROUR

THE STATION House at Corrour has undergone improvement works to help it withstand the elements as winter approaches.

The building in wild east Lochaber, now a B&B and restaurant, stands next to the highest mainland rail station in the UK. It is 17 miles from the nearest road. Philip Dean, factor and estate manager at Corrour, said: 'The original windows let far too much heat escape and we were finding our heating bills, especially in winter, went through the roof.'

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Wendy Robertson, left, with daughter Emily Campbell, before the start of the Great Scottish Run.

EASDALE

AN EASDALE mum and her two daughters have remembered a good friend lost at sea with a kind deed.

Wendy Robertson and daughters Emily and Megan laced up their trainers and collected sponsorship; Wendy, aged 54 and Emily, 30, completed the Great Scottish run in Glasgow on Sunday and Megan, 26, ran the Inverness 10K on September 29. Wendy and Emily's time was 2hrs 20 mins and Megan completed the 10K in 1hr 14mins.

Together they have raised nearly £1,000 for the Fishermen's Mission in memory of family friend Scott MacAlister, of Luing, who was lost when his creel boat *Speedwell* sank off Easdale on April 25 this year.

Emily said: 'We want to thank everyone who sponsored us and are so glad to raise money for the Mission as a thank-you for the help it gave to Scott's family. We all really enjoyed the runs.'

Matthew Ramsay, Mission Officer for Kintyre, Oban and Mallaig, said: 'It is an amazing amount of money and they deserve a pat on the back for taking on this challenge.'



Megan Robertson after the Inverness 10K.

The Fishermen's Mission provides emergency support and practical care for fishermen and their families. More than 13,000 men and women work in the deep sea fishing industry which is the UK's toughest and most dangerous peacetime occupation. On average every year 68 fishermen are killed or seriously injured and 25 boats are lost. The mission also helps the nation's 50,000 retired fishermen and their dependants.

Down Your Way

Coll

COLL Sailing Club will hold its first dinner dance this weekend to celebrate the achievement of its members over the year.

One of the best supported groups on the island, the club decided to hold the event to help with costs after a combination of high insurance premiums and poor weather over the past two years stretched resources.

While this is the first time the event will be held, it could become an annual gathering.

Sailing Club Commodore John McCann said: 'We've been looking at the insurance premium, which is now hitting £900 per year. The last two years the weather has been so poor we've had very few visitors sailing. We've been thinking, "this is getting awfully close to not being able to pay for this", so we decided we'd try a dance to help meet the costs.'

Development Coll has donated the use of An Cridhe for the event, which will welcome a trio of talented musicians - Coll brothers Ewan and Sam Rutherford and Tíre's Sophie Isaacson.

There will also be a raffle with a host of prizes, including food and drink and toys for the kids, up for grabs.

John says the gathering is already causing quite a stir.

'It should be quite a night,' he said. 'We've got a lot of family so it should be great.'

'We'll start off with the prizegiving before we have some music and the raffle later, it's the big event on the island this weekend.'

Funds raised from the event will be split between the sailing club and Ewan Rutherford, who is raising money to take a trip to Malaysia with island charity Project Trust next year. Saturday's gathering at An Cridhe starts at 7.30pm.



HAVING been granted a lease to the old Village Hall, Coll Recycling Group is now in the process of developing its activities.

The group is applying for planning permission to change the use of the old hall, but is already being used by the group as a storage area and table-top sale area until the process is completed.

Previously known as RecyColl, the group is looking for new members.

Anyone looking to help the project should contact Julian Senior on 01879 230488.



COLL Community Council will continue without an election after eight people were nominated to stand on the body. Current chairman Rob Wainwright continues in the role, joined by Douglas Young, Douglas Brown, Patricia Graham, Peter Ings, Kenneth MacIntyre, Julian Senior and Alex MacLean-Bristol.



A LACK of affordable housing on Coll could cause a depopulation of the island by limiting employment opportunities, prompting an island group to set up a task force.

The subject was raised by Development Coll after Rural Housing Scotland decided to launch an architectural competition, Our Island Homes, to design a two-bedroom house for island families, and is willing to provide funding to address the issue.

But Development Coll has decided to set up a sub-group to look into the issue further after Argyll and Bute Council stated it considers the island in need, particularly for young families, and is willing to provide funding to address the issue.

Next week Down Your Way visits South Mull and Iona with reporter Faith Orr. Contact Faith on 01631 568000 or email for@obantimes.co.uk

Spean Bridge homes and business plan

PLANS for a large new housing and industrial area at Spean Bridge have been lodged with Highland Council.

Local firm RE Campbell Joinery want to build 28 new homes and 11 business or commercial units on an area of land near the western entrance to the village.

Also included in the plans are picnic areas, a playing field and a play area.

The area of land earmarked for the development lies on the north side of the A82 opposite the former Little Chef building.

Forestry Commission hosts fun events for all at Cow Hill

A SERIES of events on and around Cow Hill in Fort William is planned for the first weekend in November.

Forestry Commission Scotland, which runs the site, will be holding a treasure hunt, an adventure walk, an exploration walk for families and a barbecue on Saturday November 2 and Sunday November 3.

FCS communities recreation and tourism ranger Ruari Watt said: 'The main aim is really to make people aware that it is a Forestry Commission site and they are welcome there at any time throughout the year.'

'It is a great place for people to get out and enjoy the outdoors straight from town and suitable for a range of different ages, abilities and activities.'

Concern over BID plan consultation

FORT William Community Council is to write to Highland Council expressing concerns about the consultation process for the Lochaber Business Improvement District proposal.

The decision was made after community councillor Drew Purdon claimed 80 per cent of businesses on the town's High Street had not yet been contacted by Living Lochaber.

Mr Purdon also said 69 per cent of business across Lochaber had not been consulted.



Keeping it in the family at national Mod

The Caimbeuls of Kyle: Eòsaph, 10, is flanked his big sisters Brighde, 15, left, and Ciostaidh, 13. Between the three of them, they competed in 16 competitions. They were not the only siblings to compete at the Royal National Mod 2013 in Paisley this week, in everything from piping, accordion and melodeon to singing, recitation, poetry and choral competitions. Participants from all over the West Highlands and Islands have gathered in Renfrewshire. See pages 8 to 11 and page 22 for all the best coverage and results from the start of Am Mòd Naiseanta Rioghaill Pàislig 2013. 15_142mod28

West Lochaber GP rethink call after two recruitment bids fail

A CALL has been made for NHS Highland to rethink its plans for the planned West Lochaber Medical Practice after two attempts to recruit GPs proved unsuccessful.

The offer of a 'golden hello' as well as an annual salary of £75,000 was not enough to attract the seven doctors needed for the new model, which would cover Acharacle, the Ardmurcharan peninsula and Strontian as well as Knoydart, Glenmuig and the Small Isles.

Acharacle Community Council chairman Hugh MacPherson told *The Oban Times* locals wanted the situation to be sorted as soon as possible.

He said: 'It can't keep going the way it is just now, it's not sustainable.'

Continuity

People want continuity of care and the locums are changing all the time.

'And it must be costing the NHS a lot of money.'

'We're hoping to speak to

the other two community councils [Sunart and West Ardmurcharan] and look at how we take this forward.'

'Maybe the model needs relooked at.'

An NHS Highland spokesman said: 'Both NHS Highland and Dr Garthorne remain strongly committed to the development of West Lochaber Medical Practice model and are currently exploring ways in which the model can be strengthened which would support recruitment.'

This further work will start to take shape in the next few weeks and we will ensure that we discuss these ideas locally as they start to develop.'

He continued: 'In the meantime, we will continue to support the practices in Acharacle and the Small Isles with locum GP cover as we have been doing to date.'

Mr MacPherson said ACC hoped to get NHS officials to attend their next monthly meeting on November 5 to discuss the way forward.

Fort sawmill lends support to home-grown timber week

BSW TIMBER'S Fort William sawmill is lending its support to Grown in Britain Week, which celebrates the valuable contribution that forestry and home-grown timber products make to the UK economy.

The week-long series of activity and events, which began on Monday, has been organised as part of a national campaign to raise awareness of the nation's forestry sector, which contributes £1 billion to the UK economy and supports 170,000 mostly rural jobs.

The company's Fort William mill produces around 250,000 m³ of sawn timber each year, mainly for the UK's construction, fencing and landscaping market.

All timber is sourced from local woodlands and forests, helping to provide almost 200 jobs at mill, plus thousands more across the local supply chain.

Welcoming the launch of Grown in Britain Week, BSW Timber chief executive Tony Hackney said: 'The Grown in Britain Campaign comes at a critical time for UK producers - both to highlight the importance of timber to the UK and to galvanising industry and Government support for British forestry and forestry products.'

'There has never been a better time to celebrate UK timber and the role it plays in improving and driving forward our economy - and supporting jobs and investment in areas such as Fort William, as well as the local supply chain.'

As part of Grown in Britain Week, 28 delegates representing timber interests across Europe visited the Fort William mill on Tuesday in advance of the industry-leading International Softwood Conference, being held in Edinburgh.



Supporting home-grown timber: BSW Fort William employees Justine Walker, Ben Delaney, Stephen McAllister and Alison MacIsaac.

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Councillor dismisses ferry fears

By STEPHEN NORRIS
[norris@obanttimes.co.uk](mailto:norris@obantimes.co.uk)

with feedstuff going up and fish coming down without any difficulty. We know that there are high furniture vans and four-deck trailers which won't go through the bridge but those are the exception.

'This is just a red herring that's put in our way all the time. All the Mallaig-Lochboisdale service will do is enhance a service that is already there.'

He added: 'If people would only see that the islands are poorly served - I think this is a gift that has been put in front of them and they have to seize it with both hands.'

'We don't want to disrupt Oban or Barra services in any way whatsoever. I have many Barra friends who are desperate to cut out these long connections.'

□ See Oban fears over ferry trial, page 7.

CAOL and Mallaig councillor Allan Henderson has hit out at claims that the three-year winter trial by CalMac of the Mallaig-Lochboisdale ferry crossing could potentially lead to service reductions on the Oban-Barra route.

Oban Community Council member Duncan Elliot warned the shorter Mallaig service could prove to be the 'death knell' for the Oban-Castlebay service if it was made permanent.

Meanwhile, another critic, Donald Morrison of livestock sellers United Auctions, said the trial failed to address a lack of lorryage for sheep and cattle at Mallaig.

Mr Morrison added that low bridges on the A830 between the port and Fort William meant high-decked livestock wagons could not use the road, meaning

Talks planned in bid to solve car park concerns

HIGHLAND Council officials are to meet with the company behind Fort William's West End development in a bid to solve the ongoing problem of its inaccessible car park.

Ashford Property Group's development - which contains a pub and a 60-room

hotel - opened earlier this year, but since then a barrier has been in place across the car park entrance.

Local councillor Thomas MacLennan said creating parking spaces had been part of the planning agreement, but he was unsure if the council could make

them open it. He said: 'If you build a house we can force you to put in a driveway, but we cannot force you to use it. I think on a massive scale, that's what we're dealing with here.'

'So we're going to have a meeting with the developers and take it forward from there.'

Venues seek to extend weekend opening hours

THREE Fort William High Street venues want to extend their opening hours at weekends.

Ossians Hotel has applied to Highland Council to move its nightclubs closing time from 2am to 3am on Fridays and Saturdays, with Skipinian Ceilidh House wanting the same increase on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

The Volunteer Arms pub wants to increase its hours from

1am to 2am on Fridays and Saturdays, and both it and Ossians want to open an hour earlier

at 11am on Sunday mornings.

Ossians and Skipinian have also both applied for permission to drop a local condition which forces them to serve all drinks in plastic glasses after 9pm. Fort William Community Council is objecting to the applications. Fears were raised at their meeting on Tuesday night about a

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Rape sparks man-hunt in Lochgilphead

her. Police say the woman is 'extremely upset and shaken' over the incident, but she did not require hospital treatment.

Detective Inspector Kate Jamieson of the National Rape Task Force said: 'The young woman is traumatised and it is vital that we trace the person.'

Information

An incident room has been set up at Lochgilphead Police Office and anyone with information is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101 or 01546 70220.

Alternatively CRIMESTOPPERS can be contacted on 0800 555 111, where anonymity can be maintained.

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Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rioghail Pàislig 2013

CalMac gains feedback from its customers at the Mod

CALMAC says supporting the Mod gives 'unrivalled opportunity' with customers.

The ferry company uses the annual festival to 'gain feedback' on services the company provides.

Martin Dorchester, managing director of Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac), said: 'CalMac has been privileged to sponsor the Royal National Mod for many years and has formed strong ties with organisers and competitors alike.'

'In addition to demonstrating our support for the Gaelic language and Gaelic culture, the Mod presents an unrivalled opportunity to engage with customers from across our network in a single location over the course of a week and to gain feedback on the services we provide.'

A significant number of those taking part will have travelled with CalMac to reach the Mod highlighting another way in which our ferry services are of value to the communities we serve.'

Sheriff Roddy John MacLeod opens the Mod

SHERIFF Roddy John MacLeod QC officially opened the 2013 Royal National Mod.

In his opening remarks, the chairman of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig board, welcomed people to Paisley. He said: 'Gaelic belongs to the people of Scotland and not just to Gaeldom.'

He continued: 'I have every confidence the festival will turn out to be a successful Mod. The sun will shine; that arrangements will go smoothly; that the good people of Paisley will take the Mod to their hearts, and this Mod will be the means of ushering in a lasting Gaelic revival in this area where once it was so commonly heard.'

Weather woman Kirsty hosts Mod concerts

TV WEATHER woman Kirsteen Macdonald hosted Mod concerts on both Monday and Tuesday evenings.

The Inverness woman, who won the gold medal at the Mod in 2006, is the first Gaelic-speaking forecaster on the BBC.

New look for evening concerts

CONCERT goers at this year's Royal National Mod in Paisley are enjoying a change to the 'winners' concerts'.

For the first time, leading traditional musicians and singers appear alongside competition winners to give the evening events a new look.



Kyle Renton, 16, from Inveraray took part in singing competitions.
t42mod31

Teenager who speaks six languages gains Gaelic Learner of The Year award

A TEENAGER who speaks six languages has been named Gaelic Learner of the Year by Royal National Mod organisers, An Comunn Gàidhealach.

Alexander Mulholland was awarded the 2013 winner's medal by sponsors the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland on Tuesday morning of the Mod in Paisley.

Paisley-born Alexander, 18, who now lives in Blairgowrie in Perthshire, is recognised for his steep curve in achieving a very high standard of the Gaelic language in a short time.

In just 18 months at Breadalbane Academy he went from Intermediate 2 level to Advanced Higher in Gaelic.

His teacher Finlay MacSween recognised his potential and recommended he pursue his learning further.

Alexander said: 'Originally I'd been learning Russian at school and I wanted to try a new language. Because I live in Perthshire, we're surrounded by lots of hills and mountains, and I saw all of the hill names and strong Gaelic heritage and wanted to understand the history more. It was one of the hardest languages to learn, however, after starting I really enjoyed it.'

Alexander, who is studying Czech, Polish and Gaelic at Glasgow University, also speaks Russian and German.

His mother, Alison, comes from Wales and Alexander already has ambitions to learn Welsh as his next language.



Alexander Mulholland with his Gaelic learner's medal.
15_t42mod24



Fifteen-year-olds Amy MacKay, left, from Northton, Harris, and Emma MacLeod from Scalpay had a successful Tuesday. Amy won the girls' traditional solo and Emma won the girls' silver medal.
15_t42mod32



Cara Blythe, 12, from Inveraray won the solo singing girls' learner competition in a large number of entries.
15_t42mod28



Rebecca Woolcock, left, and Ottie Lawrence from Tobermory High School took part in the 13-15 years learners' duet competition.
15_t42mod46



Winners of the duet for learners aged 16-18 were Tarbert girls Emma MacFarlane, left, and Hannah Prill.
15_t42mod18



Abbie Morris, aged 10, from Port Ellen had a very successful day on Monday, winning her poetry and solo singing competitions.
15_t42mod09



Fourteen-year-old Port Ellen twins Eilidh, left, and Anna Macdonald won a duet competition for the fourth year running at the Mod, defending their duet 13-15 years title.
15_t42mod17



Condorrat Primary School's 10-year-old Rhiannon Kilpatrick, Cumbernauld, took her third solo singing title in four years after winning the fluent 9-10 years solo.
15_t42mod23



Glasgow's Michael Callan won the boys' silver medal for fluent speakers. His mother, Margaret, is from North Uist.
15_t42mod30



Port Ellen Primary School Gaelic Choir.
15_t42mod08

Port Ellen win trophy renamed in memory of Susan Paterson

AN ISLAND primary school is the first winner of a trophy renamed by Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) in memory of former marketing manager, and Mod supporter, Susan Paterson.

Awarded

The Susan Paterson Caledonian MacBrayne Trophy was awarded for the first time at the Royal National Mod in Paisley on Monday.

It was presented by Susan's

partner, Iain Martin, to Port Ellen Primary School Gaelic Choir, which had an extremely successful day on Monday.

Martin Dorchester, managing director of CalMac, said: 'Susan was at the forefront of CalMac's presence at the Royal National Mod for many years and a well-known face for organisers and competitors alike.'

'When she died after a long illness last year, we decided

to rename an existing CalMac trophy, which had been donated to the Mod in the 1950s, in her memory.'

Thrilled

'Although she wasn't a Gaelic speaker she loved the Mod and we know she would have been both humbled and thrilled to be remembered in this way.'

John Morrison, chief executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach, which organises

the Mod, said: 'Susan made a huge contribution to the Mod, not just on behalf of CalMac, but also had some great ideas about the event which we've been happy to incorporate over the years.'

Delighted

'Everyone at an communn knew Susan well and are delighted her contribution to and support for the Mod is being recognised through this trophy.'



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The Royal National Mòd Paisley 2013



Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile won the Mrs Miller Trophy for two-part harmony choral singing, learners under 19. 15_t42mod34



Seumas Campbell outside the town hall in Paisley. 15_t42mod05



Bethan Sexton, left, and Shannon MacLean from Mull took part in the duet singing for fluent speakers. 15_t43mod45



Kerrie MacGillivray, 12, from Mull took part in the under 13s solo singing competitions. 15_t43mod44

Standard of Gaelic today is the highest it's ever been

A WELL-KNOWN Gaelic adjudicator and former Mod medallist, who first competed at the event 50 years ago, says the standard of Gaelic today is higher than it's ever been.

Seumas Campbell, who hails from Gruinard, on the Isle of Skye, first attended the Mod in 1963 with the Lothian Celtic Choir, while a student at Edinburgh University. He has since competed with Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir as a chorister, conductor and Gaelic tutor and in 1971 won the gold medal. He won the traditional gold medal in 1974 and in the same year won a gold medal for poetry. He is the only person to hold all three gold medals.

Asked what had changed most in his 50 years attending Mods, the 68-year-old replied: 'I have noticed huge improvements in the standard of Gaelic, Gaelic Medium education and the feis movement have made a huge difference.'

'At the Mod these days I hear children chatting together in Gaelic; I never heard that when I was younger. It was almost frowned upon.'

Seumas, a retired Glasgow police constable, will adjudicate this year's gold medal final.

Now living in Bridge of Allan, Seumas says his love of Gaelic singing is what brings him back to the Mod every year.



Ruairidh Morrison, 17, of Oban won the Smith Means Trophy for playing a March, Strathspey and Reel on the accordion. Ruairidh is an apprentice electrician at Oban Electrical Services and plays with the up-and-coming band Ceol an Aire. The band has released a CD 'It'll be fine'. 15_t42mod14



Angus Macaskill from Inveraray celebrated his ninth birthday at the Mod and competed in a poetry competition. 15_t42mod04



Bowmore Primary School Gaelic Choir. 15_t42mod07



Holly Renton, 12, left, and Cara Blyth, 12, from Inveraray won the duet singing competition in the under 13s category. 15_t42mod30

New Gaelic education information pack released by Bòrd na Gàidhlig

BÒRD na Gàidhlig has announced the release of a new Gaelic education resource for parents at this year's Royal National Mod.

The information pack, Fios is Freagairt (Information and Answers), provides an audio and visual resource for people with an interest in accessing Gaelic education from the early years to the high school sector.

The pack gives parents and other interested parties, including prospective teachers, an insight into Gaelic education and answers frequently asked questions.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig Cathairche (chairman), Iain Campbell, said: 'The choices you make regarding your child's

education is one of the most important that parents have to make.'

'One of the most crucial decisions is the language you choose to educate your child in.'

'Gaelic Medium Education is open to everyone, whether you are from a Gaelic speaking background or not.'

'Although parental knowledge of, and interest in, Gaelic medium education is growing there is still a need to inform people about Gaelic education at all stages.'

'We hope that the Fios is Freagairt packs will help inform parents, young people and teachers in highlighting the significant benefits of Gaelic medium education.'

Included in the highly colourful packs are new DVDs about the benefits of bilingualism, leaflets about resources available in Gaelic-medium education and contacts to organisations and groups that can provide support for each stage of Gaelic education.

Distributed

The packs will be distributed through all local authorities currently offering Gaelic education, through Comann nam Parant's Parental Advisory System and from the board's own education officers.

With support from the Scottish Government, Bòrd na Gàidhlig will help distribute 10,000 copies of the packs nationwide.

Ellida Cormack, the former winners' prize for soloists under 19 years, the third time she has won the competition. Daughter of Art Cormack, the 17-year-old attends Portree High School. 15_t42mod14



Emma McFarlane, Tarbert, won the James C MacPhee Medal, the top solo prize for learners. She is tutored by Dr Neil MacDonald. 15_t42mod19



Sir E Scott School, Harris, won seven trophies on Tuesday, including The Oban Times Challenge Trophy. 15_t42mod33



Cois Og Ghaidhlig Ile swept the boards winning seven trophies in choir competitions. Conductor Arlene McKerrell holds baby Freya, while the family of Tom Crawford are on hand to present the trophy given in his name. 15_t42mod33



Bowmore's Rachel Johnston won the learners' solo singing for 7-8 years and also competed in duet, poetry, folk group and choir competitions. 15_t42mod10



Folk group from Bowmore Primary School Ella McLellan, 11, Elizabeth Aitchison, 12, Iona Scott, 11, Kayla Woodrow, 11 and Isla MacCalmont, 12, also took part in a number of solo and duet competitions. 15_t42mod43

Be sure to get your copy of next week's Oban Times for the best Mòd coverage

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rioghail Pàislig 2013

Paisley's unique festival double

ORGANISERS put together a fringe programme for the Royal National Mod allowing those people not used to the Gaeldom to 'dip their toes' into the annual festival.

Renfrewshire Council has taken the opportunity to host two major festivals alongside each other. The initiative will see TV and radio presenter and comedian Fred MacAulay share a 10-day programme with Gaelic favourites. The Spree, Scotland's national arts festival, returns to venues across Paisley and the mix with the Mod is being celebrated. There are more than 70 Spree and Mod fringe events taking place over 10 days, in addition to the Mod.

Council chiefs in Renfrewshire believe the combination of both events will deliver a significant boost to the on-going regeneration of Paisley town centre.

Renfrewshire Council Leader Mark Macmillan said: 'I am sure that the welcome from the people of Paisley, and the town's rich cultural, historical and architectural traditions, will provide an appropriate setting.'

'There's something extra special this year with the Mod running in parallel with The Spree. That combination offers a unique chance for people to try different performances and activities.'

Ealasaid MacDonald, Convenor of Mòd Phàislig said: 'Organisations, businesses and members of the public in Paisley have shown tremendous support to the local organising committee.'



Conductor Donald Feist led a performance of the Renfrewshire Junior Gaelic Choral Association, affectionately known as The RJs, to rapturous applause from the large crowd. 142mod8



Penny Fish congratulates her big brother, Oscar, after he won the Dr Archie MacKinnon (Islay) Memorial Trophy for solo singing, learner boys 9-10. They are from Portvoller, Lewis. 15_142mod11



The competition in the Melodeon music. Isabelle Bain, 16; Catriona Bain, 14; Ar MacLennan, 15 were all pupils of Calum girl



Little Liam Gray, from Bowmore, Islay, won the Joan Campbell Memorial Trophy for learners' solo 5-6 years in his first ever Mod. He is congratulated by big sister Emily, who won her learner 7-8 years poetry competition and finished second in learners 7-8 years solo singing. 15_142mod2



Craig F Macleod, 18, from the Isle of Lewis competed in the accordion, March, Strathspey and Reel. 142mod11



Talented pupils from Lochgilphead High School took part in the learner under-19 choral singing competitions. The choir, Coisir Og Dhailriata, was second in puit-a-beul and third in the two-part harmony. 142mod37



Anne Hall, provost of Renfrewshire Council, along with the people of Paisley gave a stunning welcome to the arrival of the Royal National Mod. With pipers, fire dancers and a torchlit procession many agreed this was a spectacular start to Gaeldom's annual festival. 142mod9



Elizabeth Aitchison, 12, from Islay took part in the under 13s solo singing competitions. 142mod41



Rachel Bolton, 11, from Lochaline is affectionately known as the choir mascot for Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile. 142mod47



Katie McFarlane, left, from Kilchoan and Vaila Kennedy from Lochaline were first and second respectively in the learners' poetry 13-15 years. 15_142mod15



Brothers Finlay and Sandy Cameron of Roy Bridge were successful in the piping competitions. Finlay, front, won the Under 13s piping Roderick Ross, Ferintosh, Memorial Trophy and 16-year-old Sandy won the under-19 piblaireachd open piping on the first morning of competitions at the Mod. 142mod20

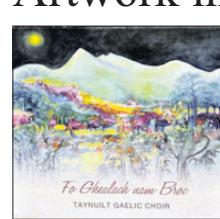


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Taynuilt Gaelic Choir. 15_142taycd02

Artwork inspires choir album title



Fo Ghealach nam Broc. 15_142taycd01

THE WORK of Taynuilt artist Val MacFarlane has inspired the title of the village Gaelic choir's second album.

Coisir Ghàidhlig Thaigh an Uillt (Taynuilt Gaelic Choir) released Fo Ghealach nam Broc last week, in time for this year's Royal National Mod in Paisley.

The CD, which features songs from the full choir, the ladies choir, soloists and a duet, features a painting, Cruachan

Under a Badger Moon, by Val MacFarlane on the front cover.

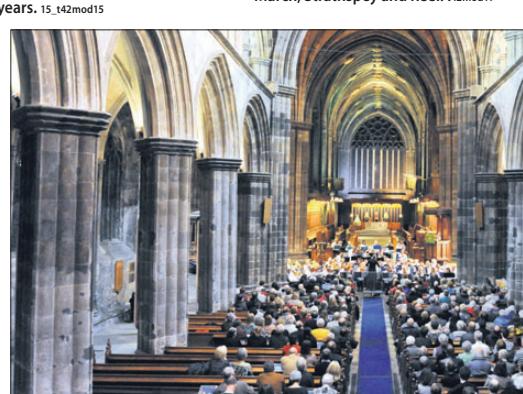
Since reforming in 1997, Taynuilt Gaelic Choir has gone from strength to strength and has enjoyed much success at both provincial and national Mòds. The new CD will be on sale for £10 at the National Mod office in Paisley or on-line at joydunlop.com and will shortly be available to download from iTunes.



Iona Scott, 11, took part in the under 13s solo singing. 142mod42



Kilchoan's Hannah Hunter and Innes Ferguson enjoyed competing on Monday. 15_142mod21



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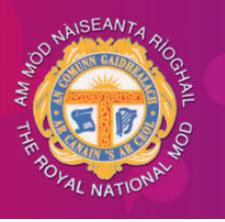


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The Royal National Mòd Paisley 2013



This section was all the more interesting when pupils from one school competed. Left to right: Anna Niclìlinne, 14, winner of the Hebrides Haulage Trophy; Gillian Maclean, 13 and Máiri MacKay, of Barra, a peripatetic teacher of music on the island of Lewis. The majority of the schools are also involved with music workshop Faram. t42mod15



Piano adjudicator Kathryn Wilkie, from Oban, presents Magnus Westwell, of Orkney with the Margaret Hill-Boyle Memorial Trophy for Piano music. Magnus played his slow Gaelic Air and March 'beautifully' in a strongly contested competition. t42mod17



Left: The Glasgow choirs collective of combined Glasgow choristers, led the audience at the opening ceremony in singing of Suas leis a Ghàidhlig. The conductor was Donald Fiest. t42mod10



Ally Weir of Lochaber High School was in fine form and fine tune at the Paisley Mod. The youngster had a good day in the piping competitions and was supported at the competition by his mum and dad. t42mod21



John Norman Macleod, of Skye, centre, was named Gaelic Ambassador of the Year at the Royal National Mod. John is vice principal and director of studies at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on the Isle of Skye. He was presented the award by MSP Dr Alasdair Allan, left, minister with responsibility for Gaelic, and John MacLeod, right, president of An Comunn Gàidhealach. t42mod22

Ready for the challenge

DIRECTOR of Studies at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, John Norman Macleod has been named Gaelic Ambassador of the Year.

The presentation was made at a special event hosted by Caldonian MacBrayne and kicked off the Royal National Mod in style.

John Norman was presented with his specially hand-made stained glass trophy by Dr Alasdair Allan MSP and John MacLeod, An Comunn Gàidhealach president.

John Norman was born and raised in Staffin, in the district of Trotternish, Skye. He attended Digg Primary School followed by Portree High School, where

he became the School Captain. He taught History at Plockton High School for five years, and was then appointed in 1983 as the first lecturer at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, teaching Highlands and Islands Studies.

He is involved in various community organisations and projects such as Lasair – Action Group for Gaelic in Skye and he is chairman of the Sleat Historical Society. Married to Janet Macleod, with two children, Calum and Morna, the whole family are to some extent involved in Gaelic language and cultural activities. He considers himself very fortunate to have been raised in a community full of Gaelic and to have been working at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig for 30 years – where hundreds of students have been educated in Gaelic and where Gaelic development and benefit is at the heart of every subject. He strongly believes in partnership working and the importance of community and family influences combining with formal education provision to offer enhanced opportunities for individuals to reach fluency, leading to greater confidence in language use. Away from the college, he likes nothing better than football or shinty – although he says he forgets that he is not as young as he was.



Michael Steele, 16, of South Uist competed in the junior piping competitions. t42mod22

Below: It was a packed Paisley Abbey for the annual fiddlers rally. Performers from all over the west coast performed for a large audience. t42mod25



Left: Jamie Munro, aged 10, from Ardrishaig and Kilmartin's Angus MacLean, nine, competed in the learner boys 9-10 years solo. t42mod01

Campbeltown-born conductor in hall of fame

Education organisation, Hands Up for Trad has named the singer and conductor former Campbeltown man Kenneth Thomson as its newest member in its hall of fame.

Kenny was presented the award at a special dinner in Glasgow on Friday evening. This year, Kenny, celebrates his 30th anniversary as conductor of Ceòrlraadh Ghàidhlig Glaschu – Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association (GGMA) Scotland's oldest Gaelic choir.

Racking up 45 years as a member of the choir, he has consistently directed it to victory at local and national Mòds, steering 'the GGs', as they're fondly known, and their repertoire firmly into the 21st century as a leading Gaelic choir. Kenny was born in Campbeltown in 1949, to a non-Gaelic-speaking family, although his father had 'a few words'.

He attended Dalintober Primary School, Campbeltown Grammar School and Keil School in Dumbarton. When he and his wife-to-be, Valerie, were visiting a friend whose father was president of the GGMA, he said that they were short of basses and would Kenny sing with them to perform at the 1968 Mòd. He joined for what was supposed to be six weeks and never looked back.

Clearly motivated by his new Gaelic music environment, he won the Silver Pendant for Gaelic learners at the 1975 National Mod, then took a crash course and evening classes in Gaelic language. At the 1979 National

Mòd it paid off when he won the Gold Medal as a soloist. In 1980 he was invited to conduct East Kilbride Gaelic Choir, which went on to win the Margaret Duncan Trophy at the Mod, then in 1983 he was invited to become conductor of his old associates, the GGMA.

In 1988 he led the GGMA to victory in the première choral competition in the National Mod, the Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy. The choir has since scooped the 'L' and 'T' a further four times and has come second in all but one of the remaining years since 2001.

Kenny has arranged more than 80 songs for choirs and other

vocal combinations, as well as composing some of his own, including waltzes for the weddings of both his children.

He runs workshops on choral technique and conducting, and has adjudicated at local and national Mòds, as well as at the Pan-Celtic festival.

As a conductor, he jokes that the only view audiences ever get of him is his backside, but his commitment to the choir and their music is primary.

He said: 'My commitment comes from the great folk in the choir and their enthusiasm. I love working with them and, although it may occasionally shout at them, they are a great bunch.'



Kenneth Thomson.

Gaelic learners celebrate £100,000 cash boost

PROJECTS to help Gaelic learners at every level improve their language skills are to share more than £100,000.

Minister for Scotland's Languages Dr Alasdair Allan made the funding announcement as the Royal National Mòd got underway in Paisley.

The investment will be shared as follows:

£41,000 to Bòrd na Gàidhlig, £21,000 of which will produce more multi-media packs to help parents of Gaelic Medium Education (GME) pupils use the language at home and give them practical support and resources to draw from. The remaining £20,000 will expand the Bòrd's successful campaign to recruit GME teachers.

£30,000 will be used to train GME teachers through the Gaelic Learning in Primary Schools (GLPS) method.

£20,000 to Féisean nan Gàidheal for their work with schools on drama workshops to incorporate Gaelic lessons.

£10,000 to An Comunn Gàidhealach to fund a music tuition co-ordinator to work with the choirs association to develop a programme of junior Gaelic choirs.

Dr Allan said: 'The Royal National Mòd is a time of celebration and reward for the many groups and individuals who have worked tirelessly to maintain Gaelic's pivotal role in our heritage.'

Shinty Mòd Cup won by Bute

THE annual Shinty Mòd Cup final, saw Glasgow Mid-Argyll defeated by Bute. The island club are currently enjoying the most successful period in the club's history.



Inveraray Junior Gaelic Choir. t42mod06



Lorna Young, 17, competed in the solo singing competitions. Lorna, a pupil of Lochgilphead High School also sings with Coisir Og Dháiríriata. t42mod35

Be sure to get your copy of next week's Oban Times for the best Mòd coverage

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

IN THE autumn edition of NHS Highland News there is an article which explains NHS Highland took over responsibility for adult social care from the Highland Council in April 2012. NHS Highland now has at least 15 care homes under its wing.

It states: 'We very much want our care homes to have a close meaningful relationship with the communities they serve.'

This is exactly what was envisioned for Bowman Court on Mull when the community tirelessly fundraised to bring the building to fruition. The land was also donated by the Bowman family. But the building that is now on site is registered as a block of flats - and fully occupied - meaning anyone who now needs care and is unable to stay in their own home will need to leave the island, a situation the community was promised would not arise.

In a letter to Argyll's Community Health Partnership, Fiona Brown of Mull Community Council rightly questions why it was decided that Argyll and Bute Council should be responsible for adult social care instead of NHS Highland, which clearly has a completely different approach to care.

How is it possible that two regions, under the same health board have very separate approaches to care? We're not suggesting for a second that the standard of care in the Highlands should be brought into line with Argyll - but the opposite. If care homes can be provided so plentifully in one area there should be a similar service for a nearby neighbour.

GLASGOW LETTER

Mòd Phaislig 2013

WITH A crowd of 4,000 turning out for the torchlight procession and having been entertained by the Greater Glasgow Police Scotland Pipe Band, with Pipe Major Duncan Nicolson, it was up to Capercaille to provide the entertainment for those not attending the official opening ceremony on Friday October 11.

And surely this was most appropriate. Celebrating their 30th anniversary and with their roots in Taynuilt, Argyll, Capercaillie have taken traditional music worldwide during these years and they showed they are better than ever with this performance in Paisley Abbey.

During the evening Karen Matheson referred to her past involvement in the Mod and I am sure that those in the near capacity audience without any connections to Gaelic music would have left the Abbey suitably enthused and looking forward to more of the same during Mod week.

Much of the programme was taken from their new CD, 'At the Heart of it All', which was the cover track and the only English song on the programme.

For those who missed this concert there will be an opportunity, not only to buy the CD, but also to view Capercaillie's anniversary tour as the BBC were in attendance and will be showing their footage close to Christmas.

Tiree drama

THERE will be an evening of dinner, drama, music and song when the West End Players perform the bilingual play An Dileag (The Will), created by Mabel MacArthur.

This will be in Ralston Community Hall, Allanton Avenue, at 7pm on Saturday October 26. To order tickets, £12, telephone Morag-Anne on 07763 126309.

Diary dates (Paisley)

Thursday October 17: Domhnall Munro, Speigeltent, 7.30pm. Rural Choir Concert with Robert Nairn's Band, Wynd Centre, Convenor's Ceilidh, Wynd Centre, Paisley, 10pm. From Thursday until Saturday, Angus - The Weaver, Paisley Arts Centre.

Friday October 18: Closing Concert, Paisley Town Hall, 7.30pm with prizewinners, Robert Nairn's Band and Marloch (Calum Alex MacMillan, Iain MacInnes and Coll MacDonald) and Calum Alex together with his dad Seanaidh of Lochies fame. Closing Ceilidh Dance, Lagoon Leisure Centre, with the Vatersay Boys and Cherrygrove, 10.30pm. For travel arrangements see above.

Saturday October 19: Massed Choirs, Paisley

YOUR LETTERS

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 200 words in length for publication on this page.

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

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

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

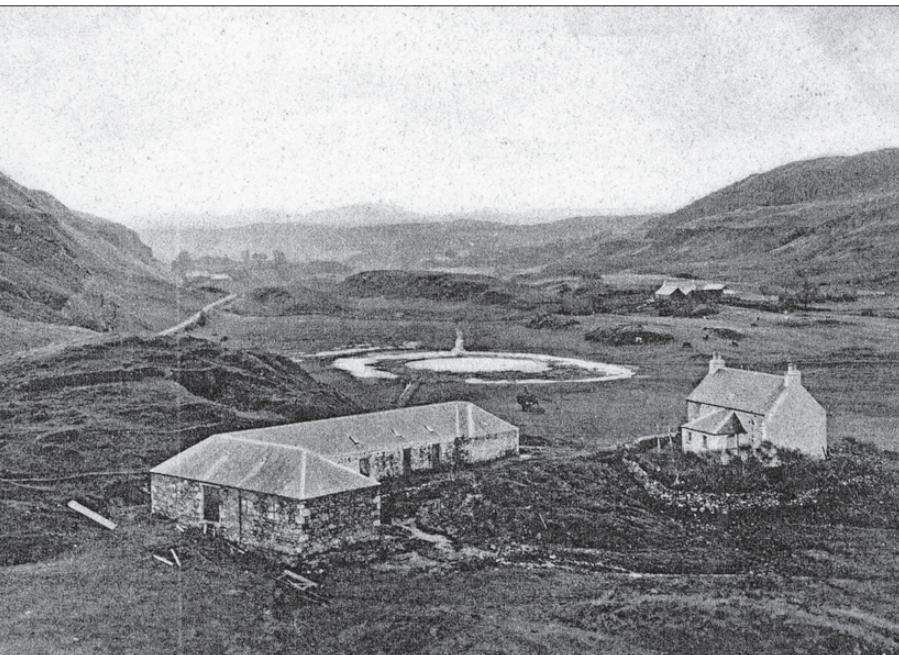
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WE AT The Oban Times do our utmost to make sure that all our reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing the biggest local newspaper in the West Highlands.

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

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



Glenshellach, Oban, in days gone by

Regular contributor Colin Armstrong, of Coventry, submitted this week's flashback photograph which features Glenshellach, Oban, from the top of the glen. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Concern continues over Mull and Iona residential care

Sir,

It is scandalous Mull and Iona have lost their residential care home.

Saturday October 20: Highlander's Club, Partick, 7pm - Donnie and Diane's Band, World Solo Drumming Championships, Glasgow Caledonian University.

From Monday October 21 to Friday October 25: A Play, a Pie and a Pint, Oran Mor, 1pm, Doran Duinte with Catriona Lexy Campbell.

Tuesday October 22: Glasgow Gaelic Society, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Glaschu, 7.30pm, Growing up in North Uist, the Rev Roderick MacLeod (in English), Live at the Star, Admirals Bar, 72 Waterloo Street, 8pm, Andy Thorburn.

Friday October 25: Glasgow Uist and Barra Association, Crawford Hall, 9pm to 1am, Oran Mor, Battlefield Band, 7pm, Gaelic Service, St Columba's Church of Scotland.

Saturday October 26: Glasgow Skye Association Marag Supper, Crawford Hall, 7.30pm, Glasgow Tiree Association Drama Night - see above, Fundraising concert with Beardsen Fiddlers, Broomhill Church, Randolph Road, 7.30pm.

Pub scene

THE PARK Bar will continue their week of music while the Mod is in Paisley with, this evening (Thursday) Gunna Sound and the Urban Teachters who have sung there on many occasions.

The following evening it will be Skippinish with Jig'n Time on Saturday and on both of these evenings the same singers as on Thursday - if they last the pace!

Robert Robertson will play in the Park on Sunday.

In the Islay Inn it will be the Keelies on Friday and Ragads on Saturday.

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

inadequate and incompetent. However, there is no criticism of the caring staff who do a superb job in difficult circumstances.

Mull Community Council.

Funds being sought for island improvements

Sir,

I write in response to the letters from John Hole and Brenda Galbraith about car parking and toilets on Mull.

I agree with the comments made and I share the frustration that the existing viewpoints constructed by Mull and Iona Community Council and NHS Highland asking for Bowman Court to have the same care provision as Dunaros, has been dismissed.

This is in spite of the Mull and Iona community raising more than £300,000 to retain the care provision and the land for the new site being donated by a local land owner.

Bowman Court is a block of 11 private flats administered by West Highland Housing Association and one respite flat.

The tenancy of the 11 private flats is inheritable, with the 'care package' in these 11 flats identical to any other home in Mull and Iona. As all the flats in Bowman Court are now allocated, anyone now needing residential care provision must leave the island, which contravenes the assurances from Nicola Sturgeon and Alex Neil.

Why does NHS Highland have different policies for Argyll and Bute and for Highland region?

This is unacceptable as in Highland region, where NHS Highland are responsible for adult care, there are at least 15 care homes.

Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership has failed under Article 174 of the EU Lisbon Treaty to protect the interests of the island communities of Mull and Iona.

In addition, during the past year the community is alarmed by the number of incidents relating to the safety and well-being of the residents. It seems that the managerial structure, and its appraisal procedures for Bowmorn Court, are woefully

days a week, and to some people in our more rural areas, this is often the only person they see all day.

Already many postal staff are at breaking point, doing far more than they are contracted to do, just to get the job done. Please do not begrudge them their shares, as they fully deserve them.

My personal view is that privatisation will only benefit the few, not our dedicated postal work force, and certainly not the public they serve.

I know they will be grateful for anything that you can do to support them.

**Councillor Roddy McCuish,
Ward 4 Oban South and the
Isles.**

Independence support comes from Germany

Sir,

It has always been our great wish to go to Scotland once in our life, then in 2013 it was done - we had a Scotland tour with a stop in Fort William, before travelling on to Loch Ness, Inverness and Edinburgh. I can say our Scotland tour made a deep impression on me in three ways - firstly the great scenery, secondly the many traditions and customs and thirdly the Scottish people.

We are trying to secure funding for the major part of the project and in the meantime opportunities are being taken to put in solutions on a piecemeal basis as part of other smaller scale projects.

I would welcome any offers of help or suggestions.

**Moray Finch, Mull and Iona
Community Trust.**

Support postal workers

Sir,

Through your letters page, can I ask the community to support their local postal workers during this time of uncertainty for them?

Irrespective of your views on privatisation, they provide us with a first class service six

into its own hands. I think that this will be more than an experiment because Scotland has enormous natural resources like oil and gas for being successful in the field of economy.

And you should never forget that the Scottish people themselves are the greatest national resource to further build up the country successfully.

In our press I read the results of a survey in which English voters were asked for their opinion on Scottish independence. It showed that 43 per cent of them were surprisingly for and only 32 per cent against Scotland's independence.

Hansdieter Liebisch, Germany.

Bracken worse than knotweed

Sir,

While not wishing to detract from the concerns raised by your correspondent about the spread of Japanese knotweed and its destructive properties, I would submit it is less dangerous than bracken.

This pest, which is now out of control throughout the whole of the West Highlands and Islands, is toxic and responsible for some forms of cancer at various stages of its growth.

It is listed by the World Conservation Union as one of the world's hundred worst invasive species, outcompeting most other noxious weeds. It harbours sheep tick which can transmit diseases such as louping-ill to sheep, grouse and occasionally deer and more importantly, Lyme disease in humans.

For years successive governments have been encouraging land managers to take a more responsible attitude to bracken eradication but have been largely unsuccessful.

I agree with your correspondent that all rhododendron eradication schemes should be halted and that the massive grants which are available to landowners from whose policies and gardens these very bushes are directed in the first place, be directed to the bracken problem.

To safeguard grazing perhaps it is fine times were also imposed. **Iain Thorburn, Morvern.**

ISLAY LETTER

Kilmory ceilidh

SEPTEMBER saw the last in the current series of Kilmory ceilidhs held on a monthly basis before appreciative audiences in Ballygrant village hall.

This evening of traditional music, song and dance has enjoyed great local appeal and also attracts tourists in large numbers.

The monthly entertainment is sustained by a core of popular local performers and their efforts are often augmented by visiting guest artists as well as by willing participants from the audience.

Keeping the programme together is resident fear an taighe Andrew McCowan who often shows that he is no slouch at the singing either.

Although non-profit making, the ceilidhs enjoy generous support and at the end of the session the organisers make various donations to a number of island causes.

Sharing this year's bounty are Coisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ille, the Eile Edgar Highlanders and the island's pipe band. A further donation goes to the Kilmory Senior Citizens' Christmas Fund.

The Kilmory ceilidh goers will tunefully kick off their new season in May next year.

New teachers

THREE new teachers are now in post at the Art, English and Maths departments at the island's high school at Bowmore.

Art teacher Neil Galligan, originally from Glasgow, studied fine art at the Duncan Jordanstone College of Art and Design in Dundee. After completing teacher training at the University of Strathclyde, he taught at Sgoil Lionacleit at Benbecula for one year.

He spent a further two years at Westhill Academy in Aberdeenshire before heading west again.

Norma Broad joins the English department after spending seven years in a similar capacity at Wick High School.

A Glasgow University graduate, she completed her teacher training at Jordanhill.

Completing the new teacher hat trick is Maths teacher Graeme Johnston who

has a degree in Mathematics, Statistics and Accounting from the University of Strathclyde.

Following teacher training in Glasgow, he taught at Dunbar Grammar School before moving to the MoD's Queen Victoria's School at Dunblane.

We wish the appointees every success in their new posts.

Interim Moderator

ARGYLL Presbytery has appointed the Rev Thomas M Bryson, minister of Tarbert Loch Fyne and Kilberry, as the Interim Moderator for the now vacant island parishes of Kilarrow linked with Kildalton and Ona linked with Jura.

The vacancies in the triple-linked parishes follow the recent departure of the Rev Dr Rob Barlow, now minister at Auchterarder Parish Church.

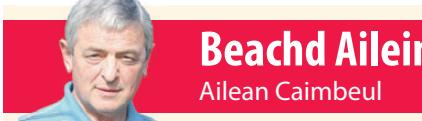
Coffee morning

THE NEXT of the Round Church coffee mornings takes place in Bowmore buffet hall on Saturday October 26 at 10.30am.

Home baking, produce and cut price books are among the bargains to be had and the admission is £3.

All proceeds will go to the Kilarrow Church fabric fund.

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



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

BIDH Mòran agaibh a dh'aontaicheas nach e

Father and son lead park drive

A KINLOCHLEVEN father and son are leading a drive to create a new skate and bike park in the heart of Kinlochleven. Mark Macgregor and his 12 year-old son Connor decided to try and revive the idea for building the facility in the village after a previous plan fell through several years ago.

As well as creating a concrete area for skateboards and bikes, the pair want to make a small area for local trials bikers to practice on objects such as tyres, rocks and crates.

Kinlochleven Community Trust says an area of land formerly owned by Rio Tinto in the centre of the village behind the post office, which was to be used for the previously planned park, is still available if needed.

Mr Macgregor told The Oban Times if the plan was successful would be a boost for Kinlochleven and south Lochaber.

He said: 'It's still in the very, very early stages. We contacted KCT and asked if the land was still available, and they said it was.'

'It's an optimistic plan, but we are keen to get a skate park in the village.'

'It's mainly the kids, my son and his friends, that are pushing it forward.'

Mr Macgregor said the next step for the skate park would be to set up a committee, draw up a business plan and look at different funding avenues.

A mobile skate park normally based in Mallaig has been erected in Kinlochleven school car park this week to give youngsters in the area a taste of what might be in store for them in the future.

Project group seeks to win over Mallaig

REPRESENTATIVES of Living Lochaber, the group proposing a business improvement district (BID) for the area, will seek to win over the Mallaig business community to the idea at a public meeting on October 29.

BID project manager Helen MacGillivray will attend, with steering group members Finlay Finlayson, Marian Austin, Don Hind and Derek MacGillivray also pencilled in to field questions at Mallaig and Morar Community Centre.

The gathering is being hosted by the Road to the Isles Marketing Group (RIMG), which in last week's Oban Times criticised the BID as being too unwieldy.

The group has also raised concerns the scheme could spark disputes between different areas over allocation of funds, cut across already successful local marketing efforts and be biased towards Fort William projects such as a cinema/conference and town centre regeneration.

Under the BID plan, all Lochaber businesses with a rateable value over £2,000 would pay compulsory levies on a sliding scale from £198 to £4,100.

Living Lochaber claims £360,000 would be generated

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

annually - £1.8million over the five-year BID period - enabling much more funding to be levered in for new projects, marketing campaigns and infrastructure improvements.

Ms MacGillivray accepted there was work to be done in convincing Lochaber businesses in outlying communities that the BID would work for them.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'All the marketing groups are working in their own locality and it is very important the BID is not seen as a threat to that.'

'The view outwith the centre tends to be more "how do we make sure we are getting our share?" - and I think that's perfectly justifiable.'

'As outlined in the business plan, the key point we must make is that we sell Lochaber to the visitor so that they come to experience the whole area. That's the feedback we got in the consultation.'

'We need to go out to Mallaig to assure them that's very much where we are coming from.'

Ms MacGillivray defended the decision to go for an all-Lochaber BID, rather than one solely for Fort William.

She said: 'We recognise that Lochaber is our strength rather than our difficulty. The main priority of the BID is to try to attract people to come here, to stay longer and spend more money in Lochaber - and to do that we have to take the businesses with us.'

She added: 'A Fort William BID would have a very different set of objectives.'

RIMG chairman Andrew Simpson said the meeting, which he would not be chairing to ensure impartiality, had been called 'to allow people to make an informed judgement' on the Lochaber BID.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We are hoping to have an independent moderator in the chair. The meeting is open to the whole business community and the public as well. Nobody will be shut out - people can ask questions of the steering group to allay their anxieties if possible and get the information they need to know.'

The Mallaig meeting comes two days before ballot papers are posted out to every business eligible to vote 'yes' or 'no' to the scheme.

Papers must be returned by December 12, with the result being declared the following day.



Lochaber BID project manager Helen MacGillivray: preparing to answer questions on the proposal at a public meeting in Mallaig on October 29. 20_f42bid01



Drs Macleod Memorial Committee co-ordinator Margaret MacQuarrie and Dr John Gillies are all smiles after the Macleod GPs memorial was unveiled on Banca Mòr. Photograph: Island News and Advertiser.

Place-name guide

A NEW Gaelic/English guide to place-names in Lochaber was launched at the Royal National Mod in Paisley on Tuesday.

Gaelic in the Landscape: The Rough Bounds of Lochaber, was co-ordinated by Scottish Natural Heritage and Aineamh-Aite na h-Alba. It was produced as part of the Year of Natural Scotland 2013 and received additional funding from Soilse, the national research body set up to revitalise the Gaelic language.

Renewable heat and energy fair

LOCHABER Environmental Group is to host a renewable heat and energy fair in Fort William on November 2.

The event is designed to highlight the benefits of renewable technologies as electricity prices continue to spiral.



Banavie big-hearts donate food parcels

Big-hearted Banavie Primary School pupils delivered food parcels to local senior citizens following their special harvest assembly. The youngsters gathered three tables full of fruits, vegetables and tinned food for the assembly in the school hall before distributing the packages to the grateful recipients. The special harvest delivery has become an annual fixture on the school's extra-curricular calendar. 20_f42harvest01

Lochaber Ideas Week speakers revealed

ORGANISERS of the inaugural Lochaber Ideas Week from November 18-23 have announced some of the key speakers on the programme.

John Hutchison from the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust will lead discussions on local initiatives and outline the importance of communal spaces and schemes.

Norrie MacLean will talk on his involvement in community-based projects in Fort William such as the Belford Gardens improvement and the rejuvenation of the Old Fort.

Ken Johnston of the Upper Achintore Regeneration Group in the town will discuss his work on the ongoing Pine grove park project, giving an in-depth insight into planning and developing community facilities in the area.

The ideas week, being billed as 'a catalyst to stimulate new initiatives and ventures', will also feature a 'Dragon's Glen' competition for budding entrepreneurs and 'Around Lochaber in 80 Tables', a business networking event.

Jackpot winner keeps on playing Spot the Shinty Ball

A SPEAN Bridge pensioner who won £500 in *The Oban Times*' 'spot the shinty ball' competition plans to carry on playing.

James Smith, 74, who is originally from Dunfermline, plays the contest every week despite not following the sport. He told *The Oban Times* it was 'quite a nice surprise' to be told he had won. 'With winter coming and the bills going up it'll come in very handy,' he said. 'I've just put it in the bank.'

'Every Thursday I go to the shop and buy *The Oban Times*, and I've done spot the shinty ball ever since I came up to the area 18 years ago. I've nearly won a couple of times before, but I only got about £25.'

Police files

A CYCLIST travelling south on the A82 Ballachulish Bridge was struck by the wing mirror of a silver Vauxhall Corsa at about 5.50pm on Friday October 11.

A FENCEPOST was removed from near the Old Glencoe Road in Glencoe between Monday September 30 and Friday October 11.

ONE VEHICLE failed to stop after a two-vehicle collision on the A82 near Turlough. The incident occurred at around 9am on Monday October 7.

A CAR parked at Inverlochy Court, Fort William, had its locks tampered with in an attempt to break in between 6pm on Saturday October 5 and 4am the following day.

A SILVER vehicle travelling north narrowly missed a southbound car while trying to overtake on the A82 near Inchree in the early afternoon on Tuesday October 1.

ITEMS were removed from a trailer parked behind a house on Glenkingie Street in Caol between August 19 and September 5.

Anyone with any knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact local police on 101, the confidential line on 01397 702000 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

GIVE THEM A SMALLER MOUNTAIN TO CLIMB.



NOVEMBER ISSUE OUT NOW

SPIRIT OF SPEYSIDE Charles MacLean on his home from home

RENAISSANCE MAN - JOHN BYRNE

The weird world of Craig Hill
10 OF SCOTLAND'S MOST WICKED WITCHES

Ayrshire's animal rescue sanctuary

BEST RESTAURANT ON THE ISLE OF SKYE?

Scottish Field

SCOTLAND'S BIGGEST ANNUAL FOOD & DRINK PUBLICATION

WIN £500 SHOPPING SPREE

SPIRIT OF SPEYSIDE Charles MacLean on his home from home

RENAISSANCE MAN JOHN BYRNE

Plus MEDIEVAL SCOT FIGHTS TO FLY THE WEIRD WORLD OF CRAIG HILL'S ANIMAL RESCUE SANCTUARY

BEST RESTAURANT ON ISLE OF SKYE?

10 OF THE BEST

10-PAGE WHISKY SPECIAL Our readers unveil their favourite malt whiskies of 2013

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10-PAGE WHISKY SPECIAL Our readers

what's on

THE OBAN TIMES
FREE EVENT LISTING

THURSDAY - October 17

All day, Tiree Wave Classic.
7.40am, Ramblers Scotland Spean Bridge walk, meet Oban's Longdale Road car park, N Ballachulish PS at 8.30am, Fort William Woollen Mill at 9am or Spean Bridge Woollen Mill at 9.20am.
10am, LORN Market, Kintaline Farm, Benderloch.
1.30pm, Mull Musical Minds, An Roth, Craignure, Mull.
7.30pm, IOM Bird Club, Craignure Hall, Mull.
9pm, John 'the box' Turnbull, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

FRIDAY - October 18

All day, Tiree Wave Classic.
9.30am, Is the Public Sector Right for You workshop, Argyll Hotel, Inveraray.
11.30am, Art in Nature, Corchie Clematis, near Taynuilt.
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.
9.30pm, Karaoke, Claredon Hotel.

SATURDAY - October 19

All day, Fasanta, Dunollie 1745 House and Corran Halls, Oban.
8am, Ramblers Scotland Morvern walk, meet Oban's Longdale Road car park, N Ballachulish PS at 8.50am, Corran Ferry slip for 9.15am sailing or Strontian tourist info at 9.45am.
10.30am, IOM Bird Club field trip, meet Bunessan car park, Mull.
11am, Nearly new sale, Congregational Church Hall, Oban.
11.30am, Art in Nature, Tree Shop, Loch Fyne Oyster Bar.
2.30pm, Vegetarian Cookery Demonstration, Salen Church Hall, Mull.
2.30pm, Appin Historical Society, Port Appin Hall.
7.30pm, Family Whist Drive, Salen Church, Mull.
9.30pm, AC/DC Tribute Band, Claredon Hotel.
10pm, Live band, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

SUNDAY - October 20

All day, Fasanta, Dunollie 1745 House and Corran Halls, Oban.
7pm, Disco, Claredon Hotel.
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

TUESDAY - October 22

1.30pm, Bog safari, Moine Mhor National Nature Reserve, Kilmartin.
7.30pm, Light of the World, Creich Hall, Fionnphort, Mull.

WEDNESDAY - October 23

9pm, Pub quiz, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

THURSDAY - October 24

9am, Ramblers Scotland Loch Etive walk, meet Ballachulish Tourist Information or Oban's Longdale car park at 9.30am.
5.30pm, Alzheimer Scotland film evening, Oban Phoenix Cinema, Oban.
8pm, Mull Film Club, An Tobar, Tobermory, Mull.
9pm, John 'the box' Turnbull, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

FRIDAY - October 25

7pm, Howling Halloween, Achnabreac Forest Park, Kilmartin.
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

SATURDAY - October 26

10am, SIMBA cake and coffee morning, Glencruitten Church Centre, Oban.
10am, Chocolate day, Kilmartin Museum.
6.30pm, Dinner and live music, Taynuilt Hotel.
10pm, Live band, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

SUNDAY - October 27

8am, Ramblers Scotland Lochaline walk, meet Oban's Longdale car park, Ballachulish tourist info at 8.50am or Corran Ferry slip for 9.15am.
12pm, Table top sale, Craignure Hall, Mull.
2pm, An Dorus open day, Salen, Mull.
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

Four out of five adults use their local paper to find out what's on
★★★★ "your local paper - a must-see"
Source: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society
Local Origins Rural Network
Argyll Apple Day
Fruity Fun
Scottish Apple Collection
Community Producers Market
Thurs. 17th October
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch
10 am to 3 pm
01631 720223
facebook.com/lornargyll



Ancient tartans inspire first ever Oban textiles festival

THE COUNTDOWN is on to Fasanta, Oban's first festival of fashion and textiles, with full programmes of activities and events running simultaneously at the Corran Halls and Dunollie over the whole weekend.

Originally inspired by ancient and beautiful tartans discovered at Dunollie, the festival has grown into an extravaganza of fashion and textile workshops, exhibitions and events including a

catwalk show, and a specially commissioned show of music, dance and Gaelic song by Rachel Walker and her team as the climax to the weekend.

The festival base will be at the Corran Halls, opening 10am on Saturday, October 19.

All ages will get a chance to take part in activities throughout the weekend, including tambour beading, Shetland knitting, felting,

pattern making, quilting and embroidery. There will be plenty for children, with workshops and activities including the creation of a large textile piece over the two days. There will also be a market place and cream teas throughout the weekend.

Textile and tartan design has been taken to new levels through the keenly contested Fasanta Design Award, with designs on show at the Corran Halls and judged by international designer Sandra Murray, and founder of 21st Century Kilts Howie Nicholsby.

Community designers will be strutting their stuff on the catwalk in the Fasanta Community Award on Saturday evening, showing off their creations with tartan.

Sunday will be a day for ideas, with Howie Nicholsby and others appearing on a 'Flight for Fashion' discussion panel, followed later by talks on tartan and its use in the history of costume.

Meanwhile, less than a mile away, and reached by a shuttle bus throughout both days, the 1745 House at Dunollie celebrates textile and costume history as never before, with an array of exhibitions including the last working handloom from the great mills of central Scotland, a haberdasher's shop, and the fragile and ancient Dunollie plaid which inspired Fasanta

in the first place.

Tickets will also include an exclusive tour of a display of historic costume in the Dunollie House Drawing Room. This is the first time the private quarters of Dunollie House have been opened for general public tours, and people are urged to book their tickets as soon as possible for what is a rare opportunity to glimpse the private collection of the Chiefs of Clan MacDougall.



Original tartan plaid will be on display in an exhibition of costume, weapons and luxury objects from the 17th and 18th centuries.



Janet Timms is travelling to Dunollie from Dover to give workshops in Tambour Beading during Fasanta.

Wild Lochaber Festival 2014 dates announced

ORGANISERS of the Wild Lochaber Festival have announced dates for next year's event.

Centered in Fort William, the festival runs from May 17-25 and promises to be a celebration of the incredibly varied wildlife and landscapes Lochaber has to offer, both on land and at sea.

The announcement of the 2014 event, organised by the Outdoor Capital of the UK, follows the successful launch of the Wild Lochaber Trail leaflets, of which more than 4,000 have been downloaded.

David Findlay, Lochaber Geopark representative on the Wild Lochaber Festival committee, said: 'The week-long festival will showcase all that is available relating to the natural environment in Loch-

aber and will provide a wealth of information relating to local biodiversity.'

'Many local organisations and tour operators which provide wildlife and landscape activity events, will offer special events during the week of the festival, together with daily events.'

'A series of organised events will be held, designed to show visitors and residents the best areas to spot wildlife and see the most interesting landscapes.'

'These will include wildlife guided tours on land and sea, walks, geology 'rock safaris', children's activities and talks.'

Also featuring will be a photography competition for the best wildlife and landscape photographs taken by local school children, together with an open photography competition.

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David Findlay, Lochaber Geopark representative on the Wild Lochaber Festival committee, said: 'The week-long festival will showcase all that is available relating to the natural environment in Loch-



Perfect symmetry: Ben Nevis reflected in the waters of Loch Linne sums up the beauty and grandeur of Lochaber. 10_f42wpncheque1

Oban War and Peace Museum looks forward to a debt free future



Oban War and Peace Museum's chairman Charles Struthers accepts a cheque for £7,500 from Peigi Robertson, who has volunteered in the White Building charity shop since it opened. 16_142wpncheque1

AN OBAN museum which took a loan to move from the North Pier's White Building has been helped out of debt - by the charity that moved into its former home.

Nine years ago, the Oban War and Peace Museum was forced to look for other premises when Argyll and Bute Council served it notice to quit, hoping to put the building on with a no-strings grant of £7,500.

The museum took out an interest-free loan of £127,000 from a local businessman to

finance a move into The Oban Times' former home on Corran Esplanade in 2006 - and vowed to be out of debt by 2014 - its 20th year of operation.

But with £10,000 left to pay off before next year the museum feared the target would be missed - until the MacQueen Brothers Charitable Trust, which now occupies the White Building, stepped in with a no-strings grant of £7,500.

Museum chairman Charles Struthers said 'words cannot express' how important the cash gift was. He told The Oban Times: 'It was far more than we expected and we are indebted to the trustees for their support.'

The current outstanding loan taken in 2004 stands at £10,000, however, with this grant from the trust plus £2,500 from museum income, we can fully repay the loan.

'It is the start of a new era for Oban War and Peace Museum as we can look to the future knowing that we now fully own a secure home for our collection for years to come.'

He added: 'It is a wonderful feeling when the saying 'charity begins at home' becomes a total reality. Again we thank both our local benefactor for the loan in the first place and the MacQueen Brothers Charitable Trust for helping us secure our future.'

Graham MacQueen said the charity was 'delighted' to support the museum, which he said was an important part of Oban's success as a visitor destination.

Faclan Hebridean Book Festival in Stornoway prepares for another great year

WITH YET another stellar cast and a rich programme, the theme for this year's Faclan Hebridean Book Festival at An Linnairt in Stornoway from October 30 to November 2 is 'taisteal is turas - pilgrimage and journey'.

Among those taking part will be:

- Former Home Secretary Alan Johnson on This Boy, his acclaimed memoir of an impoverished and arduous childhood in the '50s and '60s.

- Legendary maritime explorer Tim Severin, relives The Brendan Voyage from 1976 with the remains of an early 18th century murder victim found on Arnish Moor on Lewis in 1964, compares with other preserved bodies unearthed during peat-cutting in north-

Faroës and Iceland in a leather boat.

- Timothy Neat, presents three of his exceptional films - The Summer Travellers and Rathad nan Ceard (The Tinkers' Road) accompanied by Gaelic legend Norman Maclean, and Hallraig - The Poetry and Landscape of Sorley MacLean.

- National Museums expert Trevor Cowie with an illustrated talk, Bog Bodies, which will reveal how the

- remains of an early 18th century murder victim found on Arnish Moor on Lewis in 1964, compares with other preserved bodies unearthed during peat-cutting in north-

western Europe.

- Ian Stephen makes the connection between navigation and storytelling and human ecologist Alistair McIntosh explores pilgrimage and island spirituality.

that some of the most estimable people in their field have agreed to join us.

'We will accompany them as they travel into darkness, into madness, into the past, into the woods, beyond the veil of death, out of poverty and when the road home has vanished.'

Faclan is supported by the Islands Book Trust and a Creative Scotland Festivals award.

Further information: www.faclan.org.

People urged to get out and about in Scotland's forests during autumn

FORESTRY Commission Scotland is encouraging people across Lochaber to check out the spectacular autumn colours in its woodlands - and consider a national tree for Scotland at the same time.

One of the best locations is Glencoe Lochan's circular waymarked trails through mixed woodlands, which can be a stunning sight in October.

Other favourites include the Righ Falls at Inchree and a walk along the river Strontian through the Atlantic oakwoods at Ariundle. Make sure you let us know!

National tree ideas can be logged at www.forestry.gov.uk/scotlandsnationaltree.

The commission hopes at this time of year more people will be appreciating woodlands, encour-

Join Jason Chamakese and Robert Gladue for an entertaining evening of traditional native American storytelling and music

Oban Library
Friday 25th October
at 6pm

For more information telephone 01631 571444

First Briton to conquer Everest brings presentation to Argyll



Doug Scott MBE, a patron of the Roses Charitable Trust and the first British man to conquer Everest, will give a talk in Oban next weekend.

DOUG Scott CBE, the first British man to climb Mount Everest, will visit Oban next weekend to give a personal account of a lifetime in the mountains.

Doug is taking his new presentation, Significant and Joyous Moments of Being in the Mountains, to Dumbeag's Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) in an event to raise money for Connel-based Roses Charitable Trust - of which he is a patron - and his own charity Community Action Nepal.

The lecture will discuss the highs and lows of mountaineering, exploring his humble rock climbing beginnings through to breaking routes on huge vertical walls all around the world.

Featured climbs include routes in the Italian Dolomites, the Troll Wall in Norway, Mount Asgard in the Arctic Circle and the Ogre in Karrakoram - as well as his conquest of Everest.

Doug said: 'It is so often inferred by climbers who have not actually experienced Everest that it is not that special - how wrong is that assumption, since everyone I know that has been there has been quite changed by the experience, including myself.'

'I look forward to sharing this and other im-

portant moments of my mountain life during my new lecture tour.'

In addition to his talk, Doug will be auctioning signed prints of his time in the mountains and the Roses Charitable Trust will auction a selection of outdoor adventure activities donated by various organisations.

Up for auction is a Sealife Adventures whale watching trip, a Land Rover Off road session at Dunkeld donated by Morrisons of Stirling, fitness session with Ian Milarvair, a Seafreedom kayaking session, climbing in Glen Coe with Hebridean Pursuits and a Fusion Marine planter for garden enthusiasts.

The Roses Charitable Trust delivers challenging residential, personal development, outdoor activity courses for groups of marginalised young people from its centre, Tavool House, on the Isle of Mull.

The range of activities includes abseiling, kayaking, camping, rock climbing, gorge walking, canyoning, hill and coastal walking.

The lecture starts at 3pm on Saturday, October 26. For tickets or more information, contact Jane Sayer on 01631 720 002 or email rosescharity@aol.com.

Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club kicks off for the season in style

OBAN Accordion and Fiddle Club's season got off to a flying start in the Argyllshire Gathering Hall with younger players taking centre stage.

Michael Garvin, club chairman, welcomed everyone and with a packed audience the evening was started off with the club's young members, accompanied by their teacher and Mr Garvin. The audience heard from Zoe and Emma Brown, Caitlin Curran, Emma McPhee and Shanna Rodgers - all 'smashing players in the making'.

Other supporting players for the evening were Hector McFadyen, Clare Jordan, Fraser MacInnes, Alec MacKinnon, Seumas MacArthur

and Neil Kirkpatrick. It is hoped Neil will be a regular face at the club this season as he is now based on the Isle of Mull ferry.

The club then welcomed the guest band for the night, Dochie McCallum and Friends, comprised of Dochie on lead accordion, Rikki Franci on second accordion, Neil MacMillan on piano and Gus Millar on drums.

The band provided an outstanding programme of music, much appreciated by the audience. The night was rounded off with everyone joining in for a lively stramash. The next club night will be on November 7 with guests Duncan Black and Marie Fielding.



Dochie McCallum and Friends.



Oban women Sharon Robertson and Nichola Brown recently hiked to the top of Ben Nevis to raise money for Cancer Research. The previous day they also organised a cake bake sale and fundraiser to guess the number sweetsies in a jar. All these combined have raised more than £500 for the charity.

Oban Phoenix Cinema prepares for opening of second screen

BUCKET seats are in place and the bean bags are waiting to be flopped into - Oban Phoenix Cinema will raise the curtain on its second screen next month.

Final preparations are being made to the multi-purpose screen at the community-owned picture house, with the state-of-the-art digital projector being installed over the coming week ahead.

The work will produce a room that can be used for baby and toddler-friendly screenings, while the seats will be used as part of the new cafe, which cinema management hope will be in place by the end of the year.

The redesign has seen the box-office moved from the front of the foyer to the up the stairs, leaving more room for the concession stand

queue.

Meanwhile work to have live-streams shown from the cinema is progressing apace, with hopes high streams from events such as the opera or the Proms could be seen at the cinema next year.

The cinema's Eleanor MacKinnon said: 'We're just finalising the projector now for screen two and we'll have to make sure it's working, but we are working towards making screen two multi-purpose.'

I'm pretty interested in starting mother-and-toddler screenings, but it can also be used as a meeting room.

Live streaming will be in next year as we've got to do lots of advance bookings for it, but that will give us the capability to look at broadcasting arts events such as opera or theatre.'

Lifeboat open day welcomes many aboard

AN OPEN day saw around 50 people of all ages venturing on board Oban's lifeboat on Saturday afternoon.

Colin Wilson, a volunteer and doctor on the crew of the Mora Edith

Macdonald, said: 'The lifeboat should be open annually to allow people to see where their money goes. The day has been busy with quite a lot of people coming through.'



Pictured are budding young lifeboat crew members with their dads - also volunteer crew members with the RNLI. From left, Ian Stevenson with his four-and-a-half-year-old son Owen and David Isaac with his son Nathan, who is 23 months old. 16_142rnl101

Screen Machine to show films by various Hebridean film-makers on next tour of the Western Isles

TO CELEBRATE its 15th year on the road, the Screen Machine has teamed up with FilmG, MC ALBA's Gaelic Short Film Competition, to show films by various Hebridean film-makers during this month's tour of the Western Isles.

These films will be shown prior to the main feature when the screen machine visits Daliburgh, Lochmaddy and Tarbert.

Jonathan Melville, the Screen Machine 15th Anniversary Co-ordinator, said: 'It's an exciting year for the mobile cinema and we're pleased to be able to show films with a Hebridean connection before our main features. If the response to these Gaelic shorts is positive, we'd be keen to screen more on future tours.'

FilmG Project Manager Floraith Forrest, who is herself from South Uist, is delighted with this collaboration, she said: 'We now have an archive of more than 300 Gaelic short films and although all the films are available to view on our website, we feel

it is important to get them screened publicly too. We've had some really good entries from the Western Isles over the years so it is great to get them shown on home turf.'

As well as film screenings, FilmG and Screen Machine will hold a sci-fi workshop for teenagers, led by filmmaker Uisdean Murray, on Saturday 26 October at Sgoil Lionacleit. The workshop will focus on low-budget filmmaking and teenagers are asked to bring their own filming equipment with them such as mobile phones.

Floraith said: 'The workshop should be great fun, Uisdean will get the kids to set up a scene and film it in the morning and then in the afternoon they'll get to do some editing. The workshop will be followed by a screening of the classic Back to the Future - what better way to spend a Saturday?'

For more details visit www.screen-machine.co.uk and www.filmg.co.uk. FilmG is now open for entries contact fios@filmg.co.uk.

Documentary about a modern crofting family in the Highlands airs next week

AN ILLUMINATING but humorous insight into the life of a modern crofting family in the Highlands is provided by the new documentary, Power to the Pocoicks.

Iain, 42, and Sasha, 36, their four children, 19 horses, 12 sheep, geese, chickens, five pigs, six dogs and two cows are living 'the good life' in the middle of one the country's last wildernesses, at their croft beside Glen Affric National Park.

Miles away from urban life and

living off the grid, they grow their own veg, milk Poppy the cow, butcher their own meat and continually hunt for firewood to heat the family home. It is a lifestyle which demands every member of the family pitches in.

The hour-long documentary follows them across a year in their life, when the 21st century has come knocking rather loudly, with older children growing up and leaving.

Power to the Pocoicks is on BBC Two Scotland at 9pm next Thursday.

Oban Phoenix Cinema	Sunshine on Leith I Know Where I'm Going Turbo	Thursday 17th Thursday 17th Friday 18th Saturday 19th Sunday 20th Monday 21st Tuesday 22nd Wednesday 23rd Thursday 24th	14.00, 21.00 18.30 13.00 3D, 15.30 12.00 3D, 15.00 12.00 3D 15.30 15.00 3D 15.00 12.00 3D
	White House Down	Friday 18th Saturday 19th Sunday 20th Monday 21st Tuesday 22nd Wednesday 23rd Thursday 24th	18.00 21.00 21.30 18.00 21.00 17.30 14.30
	Prisoners	Friday 18th Saturday 19th Sunday 20th Monday 21st Tuesday 22nd Wednesday 23rd Thursday 24th	21.00 17.30 18.30 21.00 18.00 20.30 21.00
	Titanic 3D Quartet	Sunday 20th Thursday 24th	14.30 17.30

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Sunshine on Leith (PG)	With the help of his tricked-out streetwise crew, this ultimate underdog puts his heart and shell on the line to prove that no dream is too big, and no dreamer too
White House Down (12A)	84 years later, a 101-year-old woman named Rose DeWitt Bukater tells the story to her granddaughters, Caledon Hockley, Meanie, and Ally, who have to learn how to live life in Edinburgh after coming home from serving in Afghanistan. Both struggle to learn to live a life outside the army and to deal with the everyday struggles of family, jobs and relationships.
I Know Where I'm Going (U)	I Know Where I'm Going is an ambitious and stubborn middle-class English woman, determined to move forward since her childhood. She meets her father in a fancy restaurant to tell him that she will marry the wealthy middle-aged industrial Robert Bellinger in Kiloran Islands in the Hebrides Islands, Scotland. She travels from Manchester to the Island of Mull, where she stays trapped due to the windy weather. While in the island, she meets Torquil McNeil and as the days go by they fall in love with each other.
Turbo 3D & 2D (U)	Turbo 3D & 2D (U) From the makers of Madagascar and Kung Fu Panda, "Turbo" is a high-speed 3D comedy about a snail who dares to dream big - and fast. After a freak accident, Turbo kicks into overdrive and embarks on an extraordinary journey to achieve the seemingly impossible: competing in the world's fastest race, the Indianapolis 500.
Part of Scottish Mental Health Month	How far would you go to protect your family? Keller Dover is facing every parent's worst nightmare. His six-year-old daughter, Anna, is missing, together with her young friend, Joy, and as minutes turn to hours, panic sets in. The only lead is a dilapidated RV that had earlier been parked on their street. Heading the investigation, Detective Loki arrests its driver, Alex Jones, but lacks proof of evidence and multiple leads and pressure mounts, knowing his child's life is at stake. The frantic Dover decides he has no choice but to take matters into his own hands. But

White House Down (12A) Captain Philip 'Phil' Cole has been denied his dream job with the Secret Service protecting President James Sawyer. Now wanting to let down his little girl with the news, he takes her on a tour of the White House, when the complex is overtaken by a heavily armed paramilitary group. Now with the option's government falling into chaos and time running out, it's up to Cole to save the president, his daughter, and the country. Starring Channing Tatum and Jamie Foxx this is an action packed movie that you don't want to miss!

Quartet (12A) At a home for retired musicians, the annual concert to celebrate Verdi's birthday is disrupted by the arrival of Jean, an ornamental diva and the former wife of one of the residents. The directorial debut of Dustin Hoffman, QUARTET is a high-drama comedy about temperamental divas and old grudges, passion and pride, romance and Rigoletto, starring Maggie Smith, Tom Courtenay, Billy Connolly and Pauline Collins as four retired opera singers.

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Oban & Lorn Lions Club OLD OBAN SLIDESHOW with Bob McCulloch & Charlie Drummond in the Great Western Hotel, Oban Wednesday 23rd October at 8pm Silver Collection Refreshments available	Nearly New Sale Saturday 19th October 11am - 2pm in Congregational Church Hall Tweeddale St Teas, Coffees and home baking £2.50	APPIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY THE RISE AND FALL OF THE SLATE ISLANDS INDUSTRY Saturday 19 October at 2.30pm Port Appin Hall ALL WELCOME! www.appinhistoricalsociety.co.uk
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Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th October
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Christmas Party Nights

THE THOUGHT of planning the annual office Christmas party is for many an uncertain and scary prospect.

But you can banish the blues of last year's office bash by heading out to one of the wonderful venues that Argyll has to offer.

If you are planning on organising a Christmas party with your colleagues this year now is the time to start thinking about it.

It may sound a bit early but most hotels

and restaurants will already have prepared festive menus and lots will offer a set price per head, with many great deals to be found.

Deciding where to go can be the tricky bit and finding somewhere everyone agrees on is a real achievement. But we can be sure there will be something to tickle every tastebud out there.

Once you've arranged the venue don't forget to invite everyone, letting them know the date and time, and, if required, get their

meal orders in advance.

You can also order arrival drinks and should decide whether to pre-pay for wine with your meal or just order and pay as you go.

Pre-booking taxis home at the end of the night is also a good idea but if you're not sure what time the night will end just make sure you have a list of local taxi company numbers handy.

Wherever you go this year get your party hats on, pull a cracker and have a very merry Christmas.

Kings Knoll Hotel

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- choose where to go
- provisional numbers
- reserve the venue
- invitations
- select a menu
- confirm numbers
- place orders
- pay deposit
- organise arrival drinks
- book taxis home

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make real savings with top tips from energy saving week 2013

1. Draught excluder

Unless your home is very new, you're likely to be losing some heat through draughts around doors and windows, gaps around the floor, maybe up a chimney or two, and a whole host of other little holes around the house.

So why not buy some proper draught proofing products for the doors and windows, seal your skirting boards with silicone sealant, and fit a chimney draught excluder or sealed fire guards? DIY draught proofing of windows, doors and blocking cracks in floors and skirting boards could cost up to £115, but could save £55 a year in a draughty home, so these works can pay for themselves in just over two years.

2. Turn it off

Try to be aware of unnecessary lights left on, and appliances left plugged-in or on standby. Nearly all electrical and electronic appliances can safely be turned off at

the plug without upsetting their systems – some satellite and digital TV recorders may need to be left plugged in so they can keep track of any programmes you want to record – but check the instructions on any appliances you aren't sure about.

A typical household could save between £50 and £90 a year just by remembering to turn off appliances left on standby.

3. Careful in the kitchen

You can save over £55 a year¹ just by being careful how you use your kitchen appliances.

The following tips can help you reach this saving:

- Set your washing machine to wash at 30°C.
- Using a bowl to wash up rather than leaving the hot tap running.
- Don't fill your kettle right up every time – just boil the amount of water you need.

4. Get a head

If you've got a shower that takes hot water straight from your boiler or hot water tank (rather than an electric shower) then you may be able to fit a water-efficient shower head and that could reduce your hot water usage whilst still maintaining the sensation of a powerful shower.

Some water companies are giving shower heads away for free, so maybe contact your water company to see if you could receive one. Through installing a water-efficient shower head, a family of four could save around £75 a year on gas for water heating, as well as a further £90 on water bills if they have a water meter.

1 Comprises a saving of £13 by washing at 30 rather than a higher temperature; £35 by washing using a bowl rather than under a running tap; and £8 by only boiling what you need in the kettle.



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Medium cost tips**5. New heating controls**

Whatever the age of your boiler, the right controls will let you set your heating and hot water to come on and off when you need them, heat just the areas of your home you want, and decide how warm you want each area to be. Installing a room thermostat if you didn't have one before could save £70 a year.

This also means you can then make savings by using your controls more effectively, for example, turning down your room thermostat by just one degree if it's too warm inside could save around £65 a year.

6. Loft insulation

We recommend having at least 270mm (ten inches) of loft insulation, so it might be worth checking whether you could make your home warmer by topping up levels of loft insulation. You could save up to £180 a year if your loft is uninsulated by installing 270mm of insulation. Even if you have some insulation by topping up from 100mm to 270mm could save around £25 a year.

You can now get LED spotlights that are bright enough to replace halogens, as well as regular energy saving bulbs ('compact fluorescent lamps' or CFLs) for pretty much everything else. They come in a variety of shapes, sizes and fittings. If the average household replaced all their remaining old-fashioned bulbs with CFLs and all their halogens with LEDs it would cost around £110 and save around £60 a year.

7. Lighten your load

Have you changed all your light bulbs for low-energy ones? Even the halogen spots?

**Higher-cost tips****8. Cavity wall insulation**

If a home was built after 1920, the chances are that its external walls are made of two layers of brick with a gap or cavity between them. Cavity wall insulation fills that gap, keeping the warmth in to save energy. The average installation cost for cavity wall insulation is between £450 and £500 and can save up to £140 a year. The measure could pay for itself in under four years.

9. Greater savings and income for renewable technology

Whilst the Feed in tariff for electricity generating solar PV panels is going down, the average cost for electricity is going up. In addition the cost of panels is going down which means that now could be a great time to invest in solar PV. A typical 4kWP panel could generate and save you £785 per year. Despite costs falling over the last year, they do vary between installers and system sizes (costs can be between £5,500 and £9,000), so we recommend getting quotes from at least three MCS accredited installers.

It's also worth exploring re-

newable heating technologies, such as heat pumps, following the announcement of financial incentives through the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). Not only will households benefit from energy savings but they will also receive additional income for the energy produced!

10. Hard-to-treat walls

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) provides assistance for homes with hard-to-treat cavity and solid walls. You may be able to receive funding from your energy company to insulate your walls as part of the scheme's Carbon Saving Obligation.

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look at the benefits generating your own energy can bring your family

Ever fancied generating your own energy at home? Well, with energy prices rising and government financial incentives available, there's never been a better time to install renewable technologies in your home. You can even earn an income from the energy you generate!

To find out more about financial incentives for renewable technology get in touch.

take a break to start saving energy at work

It's the little things that make all the difference. Like filling the kettle with just enough water for a cuppa.

There are dozens of little things we can all do at work this week to support Energy Saving Week.

To find out how you can make a difference this week, visit the Energy Saving Trust website for more ideas.

find out why changing your light bulbs is such a bright idea

If the average household replaced all their remaining old-fashioned bulbs with Carbon Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) and all their halogens with LEDs it would cost around £110 and could save around £60 a year.

join us in supporting energy saving week and make a big difference

Join us in supporting Energy Saving Week by following some small steps that can make a big difference.

Find out how more by visiting the Energy Saving Trust website. With hints, tips and advice, energy efficiency has never been simpler.

unlock the mysteries of your heating system to make real savings

Finding out how your heating system works can be worth your while. Nearly everyone can save money by changing the way they use their heating, and that doesn't mean a colder home.

If you have heating controls installed in your home, turning down your room thermostat by just one degree if it's too warm inside could save around £65 and 260kg carbon dioxide a year.

look at the benefits generating your own energy can bring your family

Ever fancied generating your own energy at home? Well, with energy prices rising and government financial incentives available, there's never been a better time to install renewable technologies in your home. You can even earn an income from the energy you generate!

To find out more about financial incentives for renewable technology get in touch.

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Energy Saving Week

Your local Home Energy Scotland is holding an Energy Saving Week to provide free, impartial advice on how to save energy in the home. Home Energy Scotland, funded by the Scottish government and managed by the Energy Saving Trust will be visiting Whiting Bay Hall on Friday 25 October between 12pm and 7pm.

The drop in session will take place in the lesser hall, where specialist advisors will be on hand to answer your questions and give you tips and advice to help you on your way.

On Saturday 26 October, an energy showcase exhibition will take place in Brodick Hall between 10am and 3pm.

Energy Advisors will be joined by a number of accredited installers who work in the local area, to allow residents to find out more about switching to greener sources of energy and to hear about the range of renewable technologies that could prove to be a realistic and more affordable source of heating.

Advisors can also arrange a free home visit to talk through renewables technologies best suited to different property's and circumstances; explain savings and discuss any technical or planning issues or arrange for you to find out directly about actual costs and savings by arranging a visit to one of the Green Homes Network homes.

Home Energy Scotland centre manager Bob Baillie said: 'There are a range of financial incentives to support householders moving over to renewable energy, such as the Home Energy Scotland Renewables Loan scheme which offers interest-free loans of up to £10,000 for renewable heating installations, and up to £2,500 for renewable electricity systems.'

'There are also grants for renewable heating systems through the Renewable Heat Premium Payment Scheme, and financial support through the Renewable Heat Incentive and Feed in Tariff schemes.'

'We urge everyone who is interested in finding out more to come along and speak to our friendly advisors to find out what is available.'

If you are unable to attend and would like to find out more, call Home Energy Scotland on 0808 2282.

Get ready for winter with six steps to saving energy straight away:

1 Turn it down – Try turning your thermostat down by 1 degree. Every degree that you turn your heating down could save you around £65 a year.

2 Turn it off – Make sure you turn your lights, appliances and chargers off when you're not using them. You could save between £50 and £90 a year by just remembering to turn things off.

3 Careful in the kitchen – Save £40 a year just by being careful how you use your appliances. Set your washing machine to wash at 30 degrees and only use your tumble dryer when you can't dry your clothes outside.

4 Get a head – An eco-shower head will cost around £27 and could save a family of four around £75 a year on water and heating if they have a shower that utilises their boiler or hot water tank (rather than an electric shower).

5 Don't lag behind – Lag your tank instead. It's easy to fit yourself, the materials will only cost you around £25 a year and you'll save £60 a year.

6 Be a draught excluder – Unless your home is

very new, you're likely to be losing some heat through doors, windows, gaps around the floor and even chimneys. Depending on your house, materials could cost up to £160 but you could save up to £75 a year so they'll pay for themselves in around two years.

Get free advice and take action

Home Energy Scotland advice centres operate across Scotland giving free, impartial energy efficiency advice to householders, community groups, businesses and the public sector.

Your local centres' telephone advisors can answer your questions about heating and insulating your home, saving energy and cutting costs.

They can also carry out a Home Energy Check with you that will help you to find out about energy efficiency offers that may be available to help you get ready for winter.

No matter what your circumstances, call free on 0808 808 2282 to speak to a specialist advisor and find out how you can start saving today.

Home Energy Scotland is funded by the Scottish government and managed by the Energy Saving Trust.

Fuel efficiency important

With fuel costs very high – and continuing to rise – you could save 15 per cent off your petrol and diesel costs by using Home Energy Scotland's fuel efficient driving tips.

As well as saving money and fuel, fuel efficient driving will help you to drive safely and reduce wear and tear on components like tyres, clutch and gearbox.

Become a fuel efficient driver today by following these simple tips:

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Mitsubishi Electric's range of Ecodan air source heat pumps use the latest heat pump technology to provide low cost, low carbon heating and hot water for your home, all year round. Super quiet to run (46dBA) with low maintenance, Ecodan air source heat pumps are quick and easy to install as they are self contained units only requiring electricity, with no need for gas supplies, flues or ventilation.

2. Ecodan packaged cylinder unit
Developed and built in the UK, the pre-wired and pre-plumbed latest generation packaged cylinder features integrated hydraulic components and advanced user friendly controls. The packaged cylinder provides improved performance with simplified controls.

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- 1 Shift to a higher gear as soon as possible
Driving at lower engine speeds reduces fuel consumption. Change up between 2,000 and 2,500 rpm.
- 2 Anticipate road conditions and drive more smoothly
Rather than last minute braking, decelerate smoothly by easing off the accelerator as early as possible. This allows the car to decelerate using engine braking.
- With the car in gear and the accelerator released, a modern car uses virtually no fuel at all. This form of braking is also gentler on the car and its occupants.
- 3 Maintain a steady speed in as high a gear as possible
Driving at a steady speed requires little effort for the engine. Avoiding unnecessary acceleration and heavy braking helps reduce your fuel consumption.
- 4 Drive a little slower
Stick to the speed limits and make your fuel go further. For most cars the most efficient speed is 45-50 mph. The faster you go above this, the more fuel you will use. Driving at 50mph rather than 70mph reduces your fuel consumption by 10 per cent at a stroke.
- 5 Switch off if you're stationary for more than a minute
When stuck in traffic or waiting for someone, switch off your engine. Switching off whenever it's safe to do so can soon lead to significant savings.
- 6 Keep your tyres properly inflated
Under-inflated tyres not only lead to poor road holding but also cause excessive drag and resistance, increasing fuel consumption. Both over and under-inflated tyres can be dangerous to road holding, so make sure your tyres are at their recommended pressure.
- 7 Switch off air conditioning
Use air conditioning sparingly as your engine has to work harder to power the air conditioning machinery. If driving at low speed, open the window instead.
- 8 Close your windows if travelling at 50mph or more
The aerodynamic drag on your car of an open window at speeds of 50mph or more adds to your fuel usage. Keep your windows closed at high speeds.
- 9 Remove roof boxes and racks if not being used
Car designers try hard to make their vehicles as aerodynamic as possible. Adding a roof box or rack spoils this by increasing drag on your car, making your engine work harder and increases fuel usage.
- 10 Remove unnecessary items
Carrying excess weight in a vehicle increases fuel consumption. Heavy or large items, such as tool kits and golf clubs should be removed when not required.

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Subsidised by Transport Scotland a limited number of sessions are available for only £12 per person! Training normally costs £40 per person, so make sure you benefit from this special offer by calling Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 to book a future session in Arran or the mainland.

Business transport advice

Arran businesses looking to save money are urged to take advantage of a free offer to help make their transport and travel arrangements more environmentally sustainable.

Local transport support officer Bobby Howe is on hand with tailored support to match your organisation's needs.

Bobby said: 'The first step to lowering your transport costs is to allow us to carry out a free sustainable transport review.'

'We can give recommendations to help your organisation reduce the cost and carbon impact of current transport and travel arrangements, replacing them with new, more efficient alternatives.'

'With fuel costs continuing to rise, you could also help your employees understand how to become fuel efficient drivers with FuelGood training sessions.'

To find out more about how to reduce your business' carbon footprint and fuel costs of your transport and travel arrangements, contact your local Home Energy Scotland advice centre free on 0808 808 2282 ask to speak to your local specialist transport support officer.

Plug into the benefits of electric vehicles

With an increasing number of electric vehicles (EVs) available, and charging points being fitted on the island, now is the perfect time to review whether investing in an electric car or van could save your organisation money.

There are a number of tax incentives and funding opportunities available for EV buyers, and with the continuing rise in the price of fuel at the pump, there's never been a better time to go electric.

Through the ChargePlace Scotland project, grant

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funding is available for the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charge points for workplaces. The aim of this funding is to complement the national network of charge points being installed across Scotland to promote electric vehicle use.

Funding is currently available for installations up to £10,000, dependant on applicants meeting the appropriate conditions and legal agreement sign-off.

By installing an EV charge point your organisation would benefit in a number of ways:

Opportunity to be at the forefront of EV and infrastructure technology

Promotion of organisation through inclusion in Scotland's Plugged-in Places map

Allow any future EV purchase to have its own charging facility (with shared public access)

Promotion of EVs to staff and enhancement of organisation's green credentials

For further information as to how EVs can benefit your organisation, please contact your local Sustainable Transport Advisor on 0808 808 2282.

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Saturday

Accordion Music Open U19: 1 Kyle Gordon Rowan, Firthill High School, £50 (An Comunn Gàidhealach), 2 Ruairidh Morrison, Oban, £30 (An Comunn Gàidhealach), 3 Amina Davidson, Firthill High School, £20 (An Comunn Gàidhealach); Piobaireachd Open U19: 1 Sandy Cameron, Dollar Academy, £50 (An Comunn Gàidhealach), 2 Bridget Chaimbeul, An Caol, £30 (An Comunn Gàidhealach), 3 Scott Barrie, Ayrshire, £20 (An Comunn Gàidhealach); Piano Open 13-18: 1 Magnus Westwell, Broughton High School, The Margaret Hill-Bowe Memorial Trophy and Gold Badge, 2 Jack Westwell, Edinburgh Silver Badge, 3 Emily NicDhomhaidh, Greenfaulds High School, Bronze Badge; Piano Open U13: 1 Anna NicNeacail, Bun-sgoil Stafainn, The Jenny M B Currie Kilt Pin and Gold Badge, 2 Isla NicLéod, Bun-sgoil Stafainn, Silver Badge, 3 Lewis Sutherland, Sgoil Ghàidhligh Ghlaschu, Bronze Badge; Melodeon Open U19: 1 Annie NicUillmein, Sgoil MhicNeacail, Hebrides Haulage Trophy and Gold Badge, 2 Mairi MacLennan, Sgoil MhicNeacail, Silver Badge, 3 Isabelle Bain, Sgoil MhicNeacail, Bronze Badge; Melodeon Open U13: 1 Duncan Shirkie, Sgoil Shiabha, Salar Flaky Smoked Salmon Trophy and Gold Badge, 2 Calum MacLennan, Sgoil a' Bhac, Silver Badge, 3 Elizabeth Mackenzie, Sgoil Lionail, Bronze Badge; Accordion Open U19: 1 Ruairidh Morrison, Oban.

The Smith Mearns Trophy and Gold Badge, 2 Craig F Macleod, Isle of Lewis, Silver Badge, 3 Ciarnadh-Sarah Chaimbeul, An Caol, Bronze Badge; Accordion Music- March, Strathpey, Reel: 1 Brandon MacPhee, Caithness, The Smith Mearns Trophy, 2 Graham MacLennan, Stormoway; Accordion Open U13: 1 Kyle Gordon Rowan, Firthill High School, The Daniel G R Burt (Chapelhall) Airdrie Memorial Trophy.

The Smith Mearns Trophy and Gold Badge, 2 William Campbell, Thurso High School, Silver Badge, 3



Sophie Anne King, left, and Shona Wright, both Lismore competed in the James C MacPhee Memorial Medal. Shona finished third in the competition. 15_142mod03

Rory MacDiarmid, Sgoil Ghàidhligh Ghlaschu, Bronze Badge;

Fiddle Groups Open U19: 1 The Westwell Family, Gold Badges; Fiddle Groups U13: 1 The Clydeside Fiddlers, Gold Badges, 2 Na Brogan Dearga, Silver Badges; Fiddle Groups: INa Seann Dhaoinne, The Dr and Mrs Atholl Robertson Trophy (Oban), £100 (An Comunn Gàidhealach); Fiddle Open U19: Choice 1 Elinor Evans, Edinburgh, The Sutherland Cup, £50 (An Comunn Gàidhealach), 2 Jemma Johnson, Dunoon £25 (An Comunn Gàidhealach); Fiddle Open 13-18: 1 Magnus Westwell, Broughton High School, The Robert MacCallum Memorial Trophy and Gold Badge, 2 Hannah MacRae, Ard-sgoil Lochabar, Silver Badge, 3 Jack Westwell, Broughton High School and Louis Barron, Isle of Lewis, Bronze Badges; Fiddle Open U13: 1 Anna NicWestwell, Leith Primary School, Gold Badge, 2 Anna Jean Mackenzie, Sgoil Ghàidhligh Ghlaschu, Silver Badge, 3 Abigail Cavanagh, Sgoil Ghàidhligh Ghlaschu, Bronze Badge; Piping: 1 Gordon F MacCready, Paisley, The Argylshire Gathering Quaich, £200 (The Argylshire Gathering), 2 Gavin Ferguson, Glasgow, £75 (The Argylshire Gathering), 3 Calum Watson, Midlothian, £50 (An Comunn Gàidhealach); Piping Ceol Beag: 1 Pipe Major Gordon Walker, Ayrshire, The John T MacRae Cup, £100 (An Comunn Gàidhealach), 2 Johnathan Greenlees, Glasgow, £75 (An Comunn Gàidhealach), 3 Calum Watson, Midlothian, £50 (An Comunn Gàidhealach); Piping Ceol Mòr: 1 Johnathan Greenlees, Glasgow, The James R Johnston Memorial Trophy, £150 (An Comunn Gàidhealach), 2 Gordon F MacCready, Paisley, £100 (An Comunn Gàidhealach), 3 Gavin Ferguson, Glasgow, £75 (An Comunn Gàidhealach); Bagpipes Open 16-18: 1 Scott Barrie, Ayrshire, Col-Murdoch MacTaggart, Bowmore, Memorial Trophy and Gold Badge, 2 Sandra Cameron, Dollar Academy, Silver Badge, 3 Blair Wishart, Park Matrix High School, Bronze Badge, 4 Connor Jardine, Hamilton College, Bronze Badge, Bagpipes Open 16-18: 1 Scott Barrrie, Ayrshire, The Royal Highland Fusiliers Cup and Gold Badge, 2 Cawton Wynd, St Modan's High School, Silver Badge, 3 Blair Wishart, Park Matrix High School, Bronze Badge; Bagpipes Open 13-15: 1 Donald C Stewart, Stewarton Academy, Gold Badge, 2 Bridget Chaimbeul, An Caol, Silver Badge, 3 Connor Jardine, Hamilton College, Bronze Badge, Bagpipes Open 13-15: 1 Bridget Chaimbeul, An Caol, The Roderick Munro Quaich and Gold Badge, 2 Donald C Stewart, Stewarton Academy, Silver Badge, 3 Connor Jardine, Hamilton College, Bronze Badge; Bagpipes Open 13: 1 Finlay Cameron, Spean Bridge Primary, The Roderick Ross, Ferintosh Memorial Trophy and Gold Badge, 2 Angus Finlay MacPhee, Acadamhaidh Rioghail Inbhir Nis, Silver Badge, 3 William Campbell, Thurso High School, Bronze Badge; Chanter Open U13: 1 Fionn Coineach Cuimeanach, Bun-sgoil Ghèarlich, Gold Badge, 2 Euan MacDonald, Ard-sgoil Sheumas Ghileasaig, Silver Badge, 3 Ian Hamilton, Paisley Grammar School, A Donald MacDonald Memorial Trophy,

Taste of America in Dunbeg

American fever was running high recently at Dunbeg's Primary School with a US-style theme lunch organised by the school's kitchen staff. The dinner hall was dressed in stars and stripes as were some of the pupils. On the menu there was everything from hamburgers to corn on the cob, pancakes and maple syrup. Pictured with Mickey Mouse who made a special appearance is eight year old David Ogilvy. 142twentys01



Lochaber competitors on song at National Mòd

Lochaber competitors Eilidh Davies, Sandra Henderson, Katherine Ann Munro and Beverley Henderson take a break from the solo singing of a prescribed song, girls over 14 and under 16 years of age at the National Mod. 142twentys03

Monday

Sing walking songs Open U19: Singing Thronairnis, The Harris Tweed Authority Award, 2 Bun-sgoil Ghàidhligh Inbhir Nis, Choral 2 Part Harmony Learner 13-18: 1 Communn Gàidhealach Muile, The Mrs Miller Trophy; Choral 2 Part Harmony Learner 19: 1 Còisir Og Ghàidhligh Ile, The Tom Crawford Trophy, 2 Rinnagan Rois (Na Deugarean), 3 Còisir Og Dhàrlaith; Choral Puirt-a-beul Learner 13-18: 1 Còisir Og Ghàidhligh Ile, Bronze Badges; Duet Learner 16-18: 1 Hannah Prill & Emma MacFarlane, Tarbert Academy, Gold Badges, 2 Niamh MacKaveney & Rebekah MacPherson, Tarbert, Argyll, Silver Badges; Duet Learner 13-15: 1 Eilidh MacDonald & Anna MacDonald, Isle of Islay, The Donald Ross Memorial Trophy and Gold Badges, 2 Laura Woodrow & Natalie Dunn, Còisir Og Ghàidhligh Ile, Silver Badges, 3 Hannah Gillies & Zos Wells, Còisir Og Ghàidhligh Ile, Bronze Badges; Duet Learner 13: 1 Holly Renton & Cara Blyth, Lochgilphead Joint Campus, The Angus MacFavish Memorial Trophy and Gold Badges, 2 Elizabeth Aitchison & Kaye McWhirter, Bun-sgoil Bogh Mòr, Silver Badges, 3 Juliet McKenzie & Oscar Fish, Bun-sgoil Steòrnabhagh, Bronze Badges; Solo Singing Open U19: 1 Eilidh NicCarmain, Ard-sgoil Phort Righ, The Skelmorlie and District Highland Association Quaich and Gold Badge, 2 Isabelle Bain, Sgoil MhicNeacail, Silver Badge, 3 Eilidh Jenkins, Sgoil Ghàidhligh Ghlaschu, Bronze Badge; Solo Singing Learner 13-15 Boys: 1 Fergus Munro, Ard-sgoil Lochabar, James C MacPhee Memorial Medal, Gold Badge, 2 Kyle Renton, Lochgilphead Joint Campus, Silver Badge, 3 Alasdair McLean, Lochgilphead Joint Campus and Jonathan Fairgrieve, Sgoil MhicNeacail, Bronze Badges; Solo Singing Learner 13-15 Girls: 1 Emma MacFarlane, Tarbert Academy, James C MacPhee Memorial Medal, The Alexander Hamilton Trophy and Gold Badge, 2 Isla Bain, Feis Ghàlaibh, Silver Badge, 3 Shona Wright, Lismore, Bronze Badge; Solo Singing Learner Boys 11-12: 1 Lewis Davey, Islay, Dunoon Observer & Argyllshire Standard Medal and Gold Badge, 2 Caitlyn Yule, Bun-sgoil Chondobhair, Silver Badge, 3 Eva Munro, Port Ellen Primary School, Bronze Badge; Poetry Recitation Learner 5-6: 1 Mhairi Smith, Bun-sgoil Chondobhair, The Phemic Wilson Memorial Trophy and Gold Badge, 2 Lachlan MacLeod, Sgoil Ghàidhligh Ghlaschu, Silver Badge; 3 Mairi Kennedy, Bun-sgoil Chondobhair, Bronze Badge; Story Telling Learner 5-6: 1 Innes John Gray, Bun-sgoil Bogh Mòr, Silver Badge; 2 Ailish Ashton, Abu Dhabi, Gold Badge, 2 Rachel Grigor, Ard-sgoil Brughair, Silver Badge, 3 Elizabeth Aitchison, Bun-sgoil Bogh Mòr, Bronze Badge; Story Telling Fluent 9-10: 1 Abbie Morris, Port Ellen Primary School, The Cowal Trophy and Gold Badge, 2 Freya MacLean, Còisir Og an Rubha, Silver Badge, 3 Elizabeth MacMillan, Port Ellen Primary School, Bronze Badge; Poetry Recitation Fluent 9-10: 1 Alice Nic a' Mhaolein, Còisir Og an Rubha, Sir E Scott School, Reverend Donald Stewart (Duntulm Memorial Quaich and Gold Badge, 2 Rhianon Kilpatrick, Bun-sgoil Chondobhair, Silver Badge, 3 Eòin Coineach Cuimeanach, Bun-sgoil Ghèarlich, Bronze Badge; Story Telling Fluent 7-8: 1 Daniel MacLeod, Sgoil a' Bhac, Gold Badge, 2 Annra Monk, Sgoil Ghàidhligh Ghlaschu, Silver Badge, 3 Seumas Staflain, Sgoil Ghàidhligh Ghlaschu and Ronna MacLeod, Tain Royal Academy, Bronze Badges; Poetry Recitation Fluent 9-10: 1 Alice Nic a' Mhaolein, Còisir Og an Rubha, Sir E Scott School, Reverend Donald Stewart (Duntulm Memorial Quaich and Gold Badge, 2 Rhianon Kilpatrick, Bun-sgoil Chondobhair, Silver Badge, 3 David Ralston, Sgoil Ghàidhligh Ghlaschu, Bronze Badge; Story Telling Fluent 7-8: 1 Annra Monk, Sgoil Ghàidhligh Ghlaschu, Alasdair MacMhines Cup, Gold Badge, 2 Molly Fox, Bun-sgoil Staflain, Sgoil Ghàidhligh Ghlaschu, Silver Badge, 3 Ruairidh Gray, Sgoil Dhalaibrog, Bronze Badge; Story Telling Fluent 11-12: 1 Isla NicLeòid, Bun-sgoil Staflain, Gold Badge, 2 Ceitidh McLuskey, Ard-sgoil Chondobhair, Silver Badge, 3 Maria Monk, Sgoil Ghàidhligh Ghlaschu, Alasdair MacMhines Cup, Gold Badge, 2 Rhianon Kilpatrick, Bun-sgoil Staflain, Silver Badge, 3 Ruairidh Gray, Sgoil Dhalaibrog, Bronze Badge, Story Telling Fluent 5-6: 1 Maria Monk, Sgoil Ghàidhligh Ghlaschu, 2 Eòin NicLíofa, Bun-sgoil Staflain, Silver Badge, 3 Eilidh Quinn, Sgoil Ghàidhligh Ghlaschu, Bronze Badge; Ancient Folk Tale Fluent 9-10: 1 Cathal Callan,

Thomson, Renfrewshire Junior Gaelic Choral Association, Bronze Badge; Solo Singing Learner 5-6: 1 Liam Gray, Bun-sgoil Bogh Mòr, The Joan Campbell Memorial Trophy and Gold Badge, 2 Mhairi Smith, Bun-sgoil Chondobhair, Silver Badge, 3 Lauren Morris, Bun-sgoil Bogh Mòr, Bronze Badge; Poetry Recitation Learner 13-15: 1 Katie Annie MacFarlane, Isle of Islay, The Donald Ross Memorial Trophy and Gold Badges, 2 Laura Woodrow & Natalie Dunn, Còisir Og Ghàidhligh Ile, Silver Badges, 3 Hannah Gillies & Zos Wells, Còisir Og Ghàidhligh Ile, Bronze Badges; Duet Learner 16-18: 1 Liam Gray, Bun-sgoil Bogh Mòr, The Joan Campbell Memorial Trophy and Gold Badge, 2 Mhairi Smith, Bun-sgoil Chondobhair, Silver Badge, 3 Lauren Morris, Bun-sgoil Bogh Mòr, Bronze Badge; Poetry Recitation Learner 13-15: 1 Katie Annie MacFarlane, Isle of Islay, The Donald Ross Memorial Trophy and Gold Badges, 2 Laura Woodrow & Natalie Dunn, Còisir Og Ghàidhligh Ile, Silver Badges, 3 Hannah Gillies & Zos Wells, Còisir Og Ghàidhligh Ile, Bronze Badges; 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Farming

Successful sale sees animals shipped off across Europe



Female champion is Primrose 10th of Knockendon, two years old, from Ronald and Frances Fergie of Knockendon, Ayrshire. She was brought out by stockman Angus MacGillivray. 16_t42hcs01



Male champion is Gregor of Gray Brae, three years old, from Douglas and Hilary Crane, Gray Brae, Peeblesshire. 16_t42hcs02

LAST weekend's Highland Cattle Society Show and Sale saw animals shipped off across Europe – with the female champion commanding a leading price.

Primrose 10th of Knockendon, from Ronald and Frances Fergie of Knockendon, Ayrshire took top spot at the show. She was brought out by stockman Angus MacGillivray.

The two-year-old heifer, which sold to 3,000gns, was sired by James Beusach of An Sidhean. Her dam is Primrose 2nd of Knockendon, which was the female champion at Oban in 2006.

Reserve female champion went to three-year-old heifer Milis Dubh 9th of Earn, from Mrs H Corrigan, Earn, Easter Ross. She was sired by Howard of Earn and her dam is Milis Dubh 2nd of Earn. She was also the champion at Dalmally this year.

It was Willie MacLean's first

time judging in Oban and while the Barcaldine man had kind words for the female cattle he was disappointed with the quality of the bulls.

He said: 'The females were quite good, I liked the champion, a big strong heifer for her age, well brought out, well shown and well fleshed.'

'The reserve champion was also a nice heifer but not the same standard as the champion, a bit small for her age.'

Enjoyed
I was disappointed with the quality of the bulls and the numbers weren't great but overall I enjoyed the show.'

The best young handler trophy was won by Sandy Keys, from Kerra. The 16-year-old has been showing for four years.

The highest price on the day was Furran Gun Diul 12th of Glengorm, which was sold by Glengorm Estate, Mull for 4,200 gns to a buyer in Wiltshire. Other

cattle went to France, Austria and Denmark.

President of the Highland Cattle Society Charlie Bruce, from Turriff, said: 'The show went quite well, the judge did an excellent job and there was some nice animals there for him to pick and choose between.'

'The two-year-old that's overall champ is an exceptionally well fleshed Highlander and overall the quality was quite good.'

'I'm encouraged to see quite a number of buyers from throughout Europe, there are a number of Irish across this time and I hope they find something that will take their fancy and go home and do well with them.'

Male champion at the show was Gregor of Gray Brae, three years old, from Douglas and Hilary Crane, Gray Brae, Peeblesshire. Reserve to him was Mac Dubh of Kintore Castle, from J and J Singer, Kintore Castle, Kincardineshire.

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The highest price on the day was Furran Gun Diul 12th of Glengorm, which was sold by Glengorm Estate, Mull for 4,200 gns to a buyer in Wiltshire. Other

reserve overall champion Milis Dubh 9th of Earn by Mrs Heather Corrigan, 2 Demi 2nd of Cladich – Mrs JH Strickland sold for 2,400 gns to Mr R Tylden-Wright, Laggan; 3 Neagan 1st of Isle of Bute App A – R McMillan & Mrs E Lawrence sold for 2,600 gns to S & R Hunter, Lanarkshire; 4 Furran Gun Diul 12th of Glengorm – Glengorm Estate sold for 4,200 gns to Mr S Brown, Wiltshire.

Class Two: 1 Champion 3 year old and reserve overall champion Milis Dubh 9th of Earn by Mrs Heather Corrigan, 2 Furran Magadh 5th of Glengorm – Glengorm Estate sold for 2,800 gns to Mrs JH Strickland, 3 Katlin 2nd of Isle of Bute App A – R McMillan & Mrs E Lawrence sold for 1,600 gns to S & R Hunter, Lanarkshire, 4 Furran Gun Diul 12th of Glengorm – Glengorm Estate sold for 4,200 gns to Mr S Brown, Wiltshire.

Class Three: 1 & Reserve Champion: 3 Milis Dubh 9th of Earn by Mrs Heather Corrigan, 2 Furran Magadh 5th of Glengorm – Glengorm Estate sold for 2,800 gns to Mrs JH Strickland, 3 Katlin 2nd of Isle of Bute App A – R McMillan & Mrs E Lawrence sold for 1,600 gns to S & R Hunter, Lanarkshire, 4 Furran Gun Diul 12th of Glengorm – Glengorm Estate sold for 4,200 gns to Mr S Brown, Wiltshire.

Class Four: 1 & Champion two year old and overall champion Primrose 10th of Knockendon – Mr & Mrs H Corrigan sold for 2,500 gns to Mr I Gunn Caithness, 3 Robag 2nd of Isle of Bute – R McMillan & Mrs E Lawrence sold for 1,500 gns to J Ure, Denmark.

Other Prices: Lilian 3rd of Isle of Bute – R McMillan & Mrs E Lawrence sold for 1,200 gns to J Ure, Denmark; Lady 4th of Hyndford – Mr CA Prentice sold for 1,100 gns to Mr M MacLean, Inverness-shire.

Class Five: 1 Milis Dubh 9th of Earn by Mrs H Corrigan sold for 2,100 gns to Mr S Hale, Co Durham, 2 Maci of Earn – Mrs H Corrigan sold for 1,300 gns to Mr M MacLean, Inverness-shire, 3 Sguilchin 5th of Glengorm – Glengorm Estate sold for 2,800 gns to Mr S Hale, Co Durham, 4 Maci of Earn – Mrs H Corrigan sold for 1,300 gns to Mr M MacLean, Inverness-shire.

Class Six: 1 Rhona 6th of Glengorm – Mr Stuart Park sold for 1,200 gns to Mr David Keys, Kerra, 2 Seonag 1st of Binn Esk – Patricia Smith & Paul Burns sold for 900 gns to Blairlogie Highlanders, Stirling, 3 Isobel 8th of Glen Nevis – Mr EA Cameron sold for 700 gns to E Warnock, Kilinver, 4 Diorbal 1st of Cnoc Na Sith – Mr Ian Mackay.

Class Seven: 1 Sheila 2nd of Glen Nevis – Mr EA Cameron, 2 Corrina Sean of Killochries – Killochries Fold sold for 900 gns to Mr Wallace, Mauchline, 3 Hazel 9th of Knockendon – R & Fergie, 4 Bean Ruadh 29th of Munlochy – Hugh Sydne Mitchell sold for 600 gns to Mr E Finlay, Islay. Other Prices: Gemma Dubh of Binn Esk – Patricia Smith & Paul Burns sold for 1,100 gns to Mr H Porter, Islay; Dileas 6th of Cnoc Na Sith – Mr Ian Mackay sold for 700 gns to J Pignet, France; 3 Cuileann 11th of Achناclach – TL Nelson 1992 Trust sold for 700 gns to J Fraser, Aberdeen; Hazel 8th of Knockendon – R & Fergie sold for 700 gns to Mr E Finlay, Islay; Malda 4th of Knockendon – R & Fergie sold for 700 gns to Mr D MacNaughton, Fife; Helen Ruadh 6th of Knockendon – R & Fergie sold for 600 gns to Mr E Finlay, Islay.

Yearling Heifers: Section Three: Class Eight: 1 Champion yearling and winner of Braces of Greenock Challenge

Two Year Old Heifers: Section Two: Class Four: 1 & Champion two year old and overall champion Primrose 10th of Knockendon – Mr & Mrs H Corrigan sold for 2,500 gns to Mr I Gunn Caithness, 3 Robag 2nd of Isle of Bute – R McMillan & Mrs E Lawrence sold for 1,500 gns to J Ure, Denmark.

Other Prices: Lilian 3rd of Isle of Bute – R McMillan & Mrs E Lawrence sold for 1,200 gns to J Ure, Denmark; Lady 4th of Hyndford – Mr CA Prentice sold for 1,100 gns to Mr M MacLean, Inverness-shire.

Class Nine: 1 Aoibhle Kimberly Duhie of Ceannacraig – Dunlosit (Farming) Ltd sold for 2,000 gns to Mr D MacNaughton, Fife, 2 & reserve champion yearling June 14th of Hyndford – Mr CA Prentice, 3 Dosan Og 89th of Achnaclach – TL Nelson 1992 Trust sold for 1,000 gns to Tordarroch Estate, Inverness, 4 Alice Bheag of Benmore – Mrs Emma Paterson;

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Highland Cattle Society Show and Sale results

Overall Female Champion, winner of Invernairn Cup and winner of George Bruce Memorial Trophy for best 2 year old heifer: Primrose 10th of Knockendon bred by Ronald and Frances Fergie and shown by stockman Angus MacGillivray. By James Beusach of An Sidhean and out of Primrose 2nd of Knockendon this heifer was sold for 3,000 gns to Mr Gunn, Benmore – Mrs Emma Paterson;

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Three Year old Heifers: Section One: Class One: 1 Morag 54th of Woodneuk – Ference Holdings (Woodneuk) Ltd William & Tom Thomson sold for 2,800 gns to Douglas Fountain, Lockerbie, 2 Demi 2nd of Cladich – Mrs JH Strickland sold for 2,400 gns to Mr R Tylden-Wright, Laggan; 3 Neagan 1st of Isle of Bute App A – R McMillan & Mrs E Lawrence sold for 2,600 gns to S & R Hunter, Lanarkshire; 4 Furran Gun Diul 12th of Glengorm – Glengorm Estate sold for 4,200 gns to Mr S Brown, Wiltshire.

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The Pressure builds - October is tyre safety month

Motorists are being put under pressure this month to ensure that their tyres are properly maintained as tyre safety October gets into action. The campaign has been organised by TyreSafe and is being supported by Helensburgh Toyota and thousands of garages across the UK. Helensburgh Toyota will be encouraging drivers to make monthly checks on their tyre pressures to ensure they remain safe on the road.

By driving on correctly inflated tyres, motorists will help their tyres to last longer and even lower their fuel costs. "As the weather changes, it is important that drivers ensure that their tyres are safe and fit for the future winter weather," explains Ernie Cowan, Director at Helensburgh Toyota. "The most basic tyre inspection should be carried out at least every 4 weeks, it is simply checking that your tyres are properly inflated. The tread depth and tyre condition are also very important and to help drivers make

these assessments, we will be offering free safety tyre checks throughout the month." Despite how easy it is to carry out regular tyre pressure checks, it's a task that many drivers simply neglect to do.

The correct tyre pressure is vital to your safety on the road. Under inflated tyres affect the handling and grip, causing irregular or unpredictable vehicle behaviour. They are also much more likely to suffer from a dangerous blowout especially on motorway journeys.

By keeping your tyres at their recommended pressure, running costs are also reduced. Under-inflated tyres require a bigger force to make them turn, so your car uses more energy. Tyres which are not set to their correct pressure wear out more quickly. So, to benefit from lower fuel bills, longer tyre life, increased safety and reduced CO₂ emissions, make sure you check your tyre pressures at least once a month and before a long journey. Call in and see us for your free check and for further Tyre Safe information.

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Last year may not have been the coldest winter the west of Scotland has ever seen - but that doesn't mean this winter will be so kind to us.

With the weather in this part of the world as unpredictable as it is - with the chance temperatures could be fine one day and plummet the next - it is only sensible to ensure you are prepared for all eventualities.

This also applies to your car. You wouldn't go out in a hail storm without an umbrella or some sort of waterproof protection so why drive your car without suitable winter preparations.

Of all the seasons, winter requires the most care and preparation if you're to stay safe and avoid a breakdown.

One of the simplest changes you can make to your car is to fit winter tyres. This is a quick change and although it may seem expensive at the time the cost is negated with the savings in your ordinary wheels. Remember winter tyres are not just one use - you can put them back on next year.

If you choose to stick with your usual tyres experts advise at least 3mm of tread for winter motoring with absolutely no less than 2mm considered sufficient. Don't reduce tyre pressures to get more grip - it doesn't work, and reduces stability.

There are also more minor changes you can make such as ensuring you have warm clothes or a blanket in your vehicle in case of a breakdown. It is also handy to keep snacks too - you'll appreciate these if you get stuck in a remote place.

Other essential items include a torch in case of problems in the dark, safety escape kit, de-icer and scraper, spare tyre and a charged mobile phone - all simple yet essential items for unexpected events.

Handy too is spare windscreen washer and water. If you run out, your windscreen can become much dirtier much quicker than it would in summer, with all the grit and slush on the roads. Besides being dangerous this could also see you face a hefty fine.

If the roads are really mucky it is wise to clean your headlights every so often as dirt can build up on these reducing your visibility.

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One of the most important things you can remember however is to alter the way you drive. Even the best drivers in the world slow down when there are hazards such as sleet, snow or ice. It can make the difference between getting to your destination or not.

Don't drive if it is unsafe to do so, don't go too fast and don't brake too hard when approaching bends or hazards. If possible find out in advance which route is likely to be most clear for your journey. If you have to spend a little bit longer on the road by sticking to main arteries it could be worth it to avoid getting stuck on side roads.

Ensure you give yourself plenty of time to react to traffic ahead and leave a greater stopping distance between cars than you would in ideal conditions. It could save your life.

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Of all the seasons,
winter requires
the most care
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if you're to stay
safe and avoid a
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'Community Contacts' is an innovative new Carr Gomm volunteering project, funded by the Scottish Government to operate across Argyll and Bute. The aim of the project is to recruit and train volunteers to be knowledgeable about Self Directed Support (SDS) so that project staff and volunteers can assist individuals who are interested in the SDS option to explore what possibilities there are locally, formulate their person centred plan and implement.

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Please quote job reference number 373 when applying for this vacancy

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For an application pack, which contains further project information, visit our website: www.carrgomm.org, e-mail: recruitment@carrgomm.org, phone: 0131 659 4770, or contact Carr Gomm, SPACE, 11 Harewood Road, Edinburgh EH16 4NT.

Closing Date for applications: Noon, Monday 4th November 2013

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Lochgilphead/Campbeltown Ref: CXH00194

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Campbeltown Ref: CTC00244

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To apply visit our websitewww.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs**Caledonian MacBrayne**

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You must be able to commute to the Oban Ferry Terminal on a daily basis.

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t: 01475 650100 f: 01475 650268

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You will also be required to participate in a Standby Rota. Role holders must have a current driving licence. For further information please contact David Innes on David.Innes@scottishwater.co.uk Please visit www.scottishwater.co.uk current vacancies section for full details on how to apply.

Closing date for receipt of applications is Thursday 31 October 2013.



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Oban Times RECRUITMENT**Meridian Salmon Farms (Argyll) Ltd****Skipper and Assistant Skipper (2 Posts)**

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Violet McDougall, HR Manager, Meridian Salmon Farms (Argyll) Ltd, Tigh MhicLeod, 3 Lochnell Street, Lochgilphead, PA31 8JL.
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Interested applicants should contact claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com or call 01786 445521 for a job description and application form.

Closing date for applications is Friday 1st November 2013. A full, clean driving licence is essential.

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7 hours per week (Sat & Sun)

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Email: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

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Replies in the first instance to: Alison Arden, Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Oban PA34 4HB. Email: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

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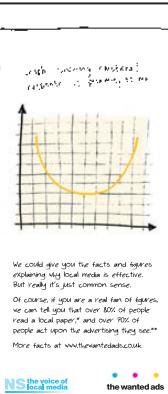
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COSATTO BABY CHANGING TABLE cream, has concealed baby bath, plus handy storage compartments and trays for nappies, wipes etc. Excellent condition, £40 Telephone 07795 180964.

MAMAS & PAPAS LUNA MIX Pushchair orchid/purple in colour, complete with apron, footmuff, raincover & bag, in very good condition. Campbeltown, £45 Telephone 07886 362627.

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DOMESTIC PETS

PATTERDALE PUPS four bitches and one dog smooth coated ready end of October. Telephone 01360 660609/ 07749 931144 / 07767 254392.

EQUESTRIAN

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FURNITURE

BEDROOM UNIT ex Mathesons, 3 piece, teak bedroom unit, £49.99 Telephone 07881 882563 Oban.

CHEST OF DRAWERS ex Mathesons, 5 drawer teak, £25 Telephone 07881 882563 Oban.

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STORAGE HEATER with 3 spare elements, £35 Telephone 07950 253281.

YEOMAN DEVON MULTIFUEL STOVE flat top, 8kw, very good condition, £250 Telephone 07778 568436.

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MARINE KELVIN Hughes, Model Huson 60 marine radio 12v. In gwo with dual watch, 25w @ 1 watt output @ telephone handset, £45 Telephone 07809 143406.

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WANTED

SCRAP METAL all types of scrap metal, we uplift scrap cars, call Mr Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals. Telephone 01499 500638 or 07787 991636.

SECOND HAND two foot digger bucket for 3 ton digger. Telephone 01631 740277.

PERSONALS

GOLDEN WEDDING THANK YOU

Thank you to Dave and Linda for letting us share their special day.

Family and friends for presents, cards and good wishes, the beautiful bouquet of golden flowers presented by Mary Jean on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council. Also thanks to Oban Bay Hotel where a great time was had by all.

Slainte

Dochie and Agnes

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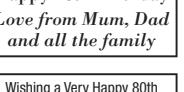
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Email strathmore-tackle@gmail.com

Becky Wilson



Happy 18th Birthday
Love from Mum, Dad
and all the family

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Also other makes of old tackle

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ENGAGEMENTS

BAIN - THOM - Both families have much pleasure in announcing the engagement of Stephanie, daughter of Jim and Lorna to Steven Thom, son of Janet and Alastair.

MARRIAGES

CAIN-HERSHMAN - Alasdair and Michelle (of Isle of Seil and North Virginia, U.S.A.) were married in Paris on October 5, 2013, and are making their home in Washington D.C.

REFFIN-GRAHAM - On September 25, 2013 at Wild Horse Canyon, Las Vegas, NV, Donna, daughter of Joe and Margaret Reffin, Taynuilt to George Graham, son of Helen and the late George Graham, Lanark.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

CRAIG - Peter to Isa at The Parish Church, Oban on October 21, 1963 by the late Rev William MacDonald. Present address: 2 Bayview Road, Dunollie, Oban PA34 5AY.

DEATHS

DOCKER - Eddie, formerly of Tyningsham. Very suddenly at home in Oban on October 9, 2013, much loved partner of Anne Bruce, father of Allan, a loving grandfather and sorely missed by all the family. Funeral service at Seafield Crematorium, Edinburgh on Monday October 21, at 1.00 pm. A celebration of his life will be held at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban on Tuesday October 22, at 6.30 pm. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection / Donations if desired for Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease.

KENNEDY - Peacefully, on Sunday October 13, 2013, Archie Kennedy, loving father of John and father-in-law of Catriona. Funeral service at St Mary's, Glencoe, today (Thursday) October 17, at 1pm, thereafter to St John's Cemetery, Ballachulish. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to the Renal Unit, Belford Hospital. Enquiries to John McLellan Funeral Directors, Tel. 01397 702128.

MACDONALD - Peacefully, on Saturday, October 12, 2013, at his home in Connel, after a short illness cheerfully and bravely borne, Peter MacLean MacDonald, beloved long time partner of Dolly MacNiven, loving father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother. A Service of the Celebration of Peter's life, will take place in St. Oran's Church, Connel, on Sunday October 20, 2013 at 7.00 p.m. to which all friends are invited. Retrial collection/donations will be taken for Macmillan Cancer Support and Marie Curie Cancer Care. Followed by interment on Monday October 21, 2013 at Elgin Cemetery at 1.30 p.m.

MACFADYEN - Peacefully at her home Ardeas, Tiree, (formerly Kerrera), on October 9, 2013, Mairi, née Campbell, aged 86, beloved wife of the late John MacFadyen and dear mother of Lachie, Iain, Catriona, Morag, Grace and Neil. A much loved granny and great-granny. Sadly missed.

WILLIAMS - Peacefully at home at Lynn Court, Mrs Catherine Jane (Rena) Williams nee Clarke on October 13, 2013. Burial at Pennyfuir Cemetery 12.15pm Friday October 25, 2013. Service in celebration of her life at Oban Free High Church 1pm. As the Cemetery may be cold and wet, we expect friends may prefer to go straight to the service at the Church where they will be very welcome. Heartfelt thanks to all involved in her care.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACARTHUR - The family of late Gwyneth MacArthur would like to thank everyone most sincerely for the many kind expressions of sympathy received on their recent bereavement. Special thanks to all medical staff and carers for kind care and attention, to Rev Louis Bezuidenhout and Dr Roddy MacLeod for a comforting service and fitting tribute, to Stan Lupton Funeral Directors for professional services, to the George Hotel for excellent catering and to all who paid their last respects at church and graveside. The joint collection, for the British Red Cross and carers, raised £410.

MCLOSKY - Nicola, Amanda and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many expressions of sympathy, kindness and support following the death of Ian. Thanks to Craig Nevis Medical Practice, Macmillan Nurses, District Nurses and Moss Park Care Home. Thanks also to McLennan Funeral Directors and Reverend Butler. The retiral collection to be shared with Lochaber Community Nursing Fund and Macmillan Cancer care raised £220.00.

SCOTT - The family of the late Eddie Scott would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards, letters, phone calls and flowers received following

the sad loss of a dear dad and papa. Thanks to the staff of North Argyll House for their care over the past year, and to the staff of Ward A, Lorn and Islands Hospital for their care over the last few weeks. Special thanks to Rev Dugald Cameron for his visits to dad, for his visits to ourselves and for conducting a very comforting and fitting service. To Ian and staff at D&A Munro for their professional and efficient services, to Maureen for beautiful flowers, and to the Oban Bay Hotel. Finally to all who paid their respects at the Church and Pennyfuir, and to all who contributed to the collection amounting to £314 for Alzheimer Scotland.

TOMAN - Frankie, Frances, Jackie and Christine would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their many kind expressions of sympathy received following their sad loss. Grateful thanks to Dr Richard Wilson and Dr Emma Boyle, all district nurses the O.T. girls and Carr Gomm staff, for all their outstanding care and kindness they gave to Mairi, also thanks to Rev Ken Hunter for his comforting and uplifting service, Catriona Hoey for the funeral arrangements and the Royal Hotel for refreshments. Finally to everyone who came to pay their last respects at the church and graveside and who contributed to the sum of £590.00 which will go to the Parkinson's Group.

DAMORA - Christine (née Toman), Gioria and Steven, would like also to thank everyone for their support and kindness shown after the sudden loss of their husband and father, Nicola.

YOUNG - Donald and Marlene and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy received on the sad loss of their mum and nana Margaret. Grateful thanks to the Rev Malcolm Kinnear for his visits and comforting service, to Barbara for playing the organ, to Scott at McLellan Funeral Directors for his efficient and caring arrangements, to Highland Gateway for refreshments and all the staff at Abbeyfield for their care over the years. The Retrial Collection raised £298 for Abbeyfield.

MEMORIALS

JOHNSTON - In loving memory of my dear husband Neil, who died in Heanish, Tiree, on October 22, 2005. Always in my thoughts.

- Vivienne.

MACCALLUM - In memory of a loving wife and mother Isobel, who died October 18, 1982.

Oh so many years have passed Where have they gone, we often ask But still our memories remain intact Never to fade, we know is a fact.

- Inserted by her husband Donald and family, 11 Longsdale Terrace, Oban.

MACCUISH - Treasured memories of my beloved husband Norman, who passed away on October 20, 1997. A bouquet of beautiful memories Is sprayed with a million tears Wishing God could have spared you For just a few more years You gave me many things in life

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

MCDONALD - 10 years. In loving memory of our dad Donald Alick (Moy) Macdonald, who died October 20, 2003, also our mum Meg (Millar) Macdonald, who died December 4, 2010. Loving parents, parents-in-law and grandparents. Always in our thoughts x.

- Alasdair, John, Mairi, Sandra and all the family.

MACINTYRE - Treasured memories of my darling wife Flora, who passed away October 16, 2011.

To your resting place we travel We place our flowers with care No one knows our heartache As we turn to leave you there How constantly we think of you With hearts and eyes that fill The love we had for you in life In death grows stronger still You left us precious memories That made us laugh and cry The love you planted in our hearts No millionaire can buy. R.I.P.

- Ever loving husband Hughie and son Hugh.

MACINTYRE - Remembering with love a dearly loved mum Flora, who passed away on October 16, 2011.

Loved and remembered every day

Never more than a thought away

- Love Margaret xxx

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of our loving mum, granny and great-granny Flora

MacIntyre, who passed away on October 16, 2011. Deep in our hearts we keep a memory box Which makes us smile or shed a tear each time it unlocks We have all the happy memories when you were here with us.

- All our love Fiona, Frank, Michelle and Andrew xxxx Gentle Jesus up above, please give our granny all our love. - Eilidh, Beckie and Gracie xxx

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of my precious mum Flora. Death changes everything Time changes nothing My life changed forever the day I lost you. I still miss the sound of your voice, the chats we had, just being with you. I will be forever grateful for having a mum like you. So no, time changes nothing I miss you today as much as the day you died.

Till we meet again Mum - Shona and James xx Love and miss you more each day Granny - Jamie x

MACKILLOP - In loving memory of a much loved dad and papa Willie. Deep in our hearts you will always stay Loved and remembered every day.

- All our love Donald John, Margaret, Dean and Megan.

MACLEOD - Treasured memories of Ian, a loving husband, dad and papa who died 14 October, 2002. Sadly missed along life's way Quietly remembered everyday. - 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.

THOMSON - Loving memories of our darling son, Calum Andrew Ritchie Thomson, whom we lost on October 21, 2011, aged 23. There is not a day goes by where we don't think of you. Our heartbreak knows no bounds. You are and always will be, Our North, Our South, Our East and Our West.

- With all our love Always, Mum, Dad and Eilish. Xxx

CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Sunday 20 October 2013 Trinity 21

St John's Cathedral, Oban

Holy Communion.....08.00 Sung Eucharist.....10.15 Children's Corner Loop System Large Print Hymn Books All Welcome

Nicki McNelly, Provost (01631) 56223 St James, Ardbrackish, Cladich Holy Eucharist.....11.00 St Columba, Grulin, Mull Holy Eucharist.....11.00 St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Holy Eucharist.....08.00 Evensong.....20.15 Holy Eucharist..... Wed 23 October 14.30

MEMORIALS

OBAN MEMORIALS

A & D MacLean Master Sculptor Glenalma, Soroba Road, Oban Design and prices on request

LETTERING AND RENOVATING DONE IN ANY CEMETERY TEL: 01631 563123 / 565269

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MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE

Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch

Donations always gratefully accepted

Please contact
Mrs Lillian Kermode
Tynwald, Glenburn,
Soroba Road, Oban
01631 571009

WE ARE MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer

West of Scotland Fundraising Office
1st Floor, Erskine House
North Avenue, Clydebank
Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR

Tel 0808 100 6000
In memory of Dawn Joyce

CANCER RESEARCH UK Scotland Fighting Cancer on all fronts... CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation Commitment of over £15 million each year Cancer Research UK Angel Building 407 St John Street London EC1V 4AD

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CARING FOR THE FUTURE
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Birch Hill
Achnacreebaig
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WEDDINGS



Donna Elizabeth Reffin, Taynuilt and George Thomson Graham, Lanark were married at Wild Horse Canyon, Las Vegas, NV on September 25, 2013. Donna is the daughter of Joe and Margaret Reffin, Taynuilt. George is the son of Helen Graham and the late George Graham, Lanark.

Dunollie Castle set to close for urgent structural repair work

URGENT work to secure the future of Dunollie Castle's structure will see it closed to the public for up to six years from the end of the month.

The first phase of work to repair and reinforce the structure of the castle, costing £100,000, will start on October 28, to be completed by March next year. This will see the loose wall-top stones stabilised, while vulnerable and at-risk parts of the fabric of the building will be treated to prevent water ingress and erosion, to both extend its life and manage decay.

Work will also be done to safeguard the flora and fauna during and after the works, as well as to enhance the ecological interest and diversity of the monument.

A £50,000 Ancient Monuments Grant from Historic Scotland has helped to pay for the first phase of the work.

Further phases to safeguard the building will

likely see it shut for at least four years - although it could be 2019 before the structure is opened to the public again.

The castle's courtyard and the 1745 House, meanwhile, will remain open throughout.

Mike Robertson of the Dunollie Preservation Trust said: 'One of the things we are making special arrangement for is to ensure that the courtyard at the castle remains open for the vast majority of the work. We're erecting a storyboard too, explaining what's being done and why it's being done.'

The full extent of the later restoration work won't be known until engineers start phase one, which will provide an opportunity to take a more detailed view of the structure's safety.

Mr Robertson added: 'This will be spread over several years but getting it safe first is the priority.'



Dunollie Castle is to be closed for up to six years from the end of the month to allow restoration work to take place, but the courtyard and 1745 House will remain open throughout. 16_t42dunollie

Ross of Mull and Iona left with no resident GP after both doctors resign

THE ROSS of Mull will be left with no resident GP cover after both doctors resigned because of 'discomforting pressure' from parts of the community.

The comments came in a letter to the Ross of Mull and Iona Patient Participation Group, which also cited the difference between NHS practices and community expectation as 'chaotic'.

Dr Mark Astill and Dr Julia Henshaw have both withdrawn from the NHS24 service, reverting to being on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

But they say this 'isn't feasible' and have 'regretfully' tendered their resignations to NHS Highland although they will serve a six-month notice period.

The move follows confusion in NHS procedures leading to the doctors not always being notified, or being told too late, when residents contact 999 or NHS24.

Although not compulsory and not common practice elsewhere doctors have traditionally attended

medical incidents on the Ross of Mull.

Fiona Brown, a resident of the Ross and member of the patient group, said: 'We were so lucky to have two very good GPs on the Ross of Mull and they have been forced to resign because of this chaotic mess up, that is the real tragedy.'

Dr Astill told The Oban Times: 'After three highly rewarding and challenging years working as the doctor for the Ross of Mull and Iona I have made the decision to resign the post.'

'I would like to thank those members of the local community whose kindness has made these years such a positive time for me and my family. I would also like to thank my colleagues at the surgery, I could not have worked with a better team.'

A spokesman for NHS Highland said: 'A range of options are currently being explored by NHS Highland but patients served by the practice can be assured that GP services will continue to be available and that there will be no change to the range of health services provided from the practice.'

CalMac sees drop in passenger numbers and fall in profits

POOR weather and a 400,000 drop in passenger numbers has been partly blamed by ferry operator David MacBrayne for a £1.5million fall in profits.

The company that runs Caledonian MacBrayne and Argyll Ferries also blamed the loss of the Northlink Ferry contract for the Orkney and Shetland on the drop in figures, with revenue down from £201million to £157million. The loss of the tender saw the workforce fall from 1,667 to 1,374.

Vehicle numbers actually increased over the 2012/13 year, up 100,000 to 1.2million, but grants from the Scottish Government dropped from £121.8million to £87million.

Group chairman David McGibbon said: 'This has been yet another successful year for the company that has seen us pick up several industry awards for customer excellence. Our core business of providing ferry services in the Clyde and on the west coast remains profitable and reliable, punctuality and customer satisfaction on all our routes remains high.'

He added: 'I'm looking forward to the coming year that will see several new initiatives coming on stream. Work is progressing to improve our customers' experience of our services including the revamp of our ticketing and online booking system and introduction of WiFi across the fleet.'

'Our rolling programme of boat replacement also continues with the MV Loch Seaforth on schedule for the Ullapool-Stornoway route next year and our two new innovative diesel hybrids MV Hallaig and MV Lochinvar also due to enter service in the coming months.'

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6. The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of

First ever win in Fintry for Oban Lorne

Green Machine take on league leaders Garnock this weekend

RBS West Division Two Strathendrick 3 Oban Lorne 26

OBAN Lorne made the trip to Fintry last Saturday to take on eleventh placed Strathendrick hoping to extend their great start to the season. The Green Machine had never won in Fintry but with Strathendrick sitting in a lowly league position the team knew this was their best opportunity to do so.

It was the home side who made a good start to the game winning a penalty in their own half after five minutes. Oban Lorne were failing to get the journey out of their system with some poor tackling and sloppy play at the breakdown with the host's fullback kicking a successful penalty to lead 3-0.

But Oban didn't take long to start dominating the game. The pack continually shoved the home scrum backwards with

the Strathendrick players also giving away several penalties at the rucks. A Corrie Louw pick from a five metre scrum and offload to Struan Smith brought the first try of the day. Smith sailed through a huge gap in the defence to touch down, Craig Wright converted for a 7-3 lead to Oban.

Andy MacDougall who found himself on the wing for the day extended Oban's lead shortly after. A good miss pass from centre Graham MacEachan found MacDougall in space on the 22. The powerful winger brushed past three defenders with ease to score Oban's second try of the afternoon. Wright missed narrowly with the boot for Oban to lead 12-3.

As Oban looked to build on their lead the home side grew into the game and found themselves with some pressure in the visitors 22 after a succession of

penalties. The hosts had a try disallowed for double momentum before half time and threatened on a couple more occasions. The Oban defence stood still for a 12-3 halftime lead.

Strathendrick started the second half as they ended the first by camping themselves in the Oban 22. While the hosts never really looked like scoring Oban failed to get the ball out of this area mainly down to poor decision making of running the ball rather than kicking to touch.

Oban managed to hold out and extend their 12-3 lead with a bizarre try. A knock on from the Oban backs landed out in touch on the home side's 22. Strathendrick elected to take a quick lineout but a poor pass went straight into the hands of Oban flanker Crawford Brown.

The men in green were now

pressing hard and were looking for their fourth try to give them a bonus point win. The try did come with 10 minutes to go. Cammy Smith scored his second of the afternoon with a surging run from 30 metres out. Wright kicked over a difficult conversion to extend the lead to 26-3.

Oban threatened for a fifth try but the score remained 26-3 as the final whistle went. The Green Machine had won their first ever game in Fintry and first against Strathendrick in many years. With first placed Garnock winning 30-27 against Carrick it means Oban have risen to

second place in West Division 2 and could go top of the league next weekend as Garnock travel to Glencruiettin.

This is the biggest game for Oban since last season's trip to Murrayfield. The club are hoping for a large and vocal home support. Kick off 3pm.



Oban Lorne hooker Tommy Sutherland hands off a Strathendrick player during the Green Machine's 26-3 win over Strathendrick in last Saturday's game at Fintry. Photo: Stephen Lawson

Record field frustrated by the lack of wind at Tiree Wave Classic

A RECORD field of 53 windsurfers are taking part in this year's Tiree Wave Classic, with the event also welcoming a record turnout of 14 younger wave riders.

However, as is becoming a tradition, the wind hasn't quite arrived yet, with Wednesday set to be the first day of gusts to allow proper competition.

Running until Friday, the event

has once again welcomed a host of stars for this year's competition. Among the 13 professionals taking part this year is Spanish star, Albert Pijoan, who normally competes in the Professional Wavesailing Association (PWA) tour. It is the first time the 29 year old has taken part in the British Wavesailing Association (BWA) tour, and he can't wait for the action to start.

A further 12 amateurs are competing this year, with eight in the masters competition and six vying for the ladies title.

Among them is Sophia Joy Gilje, who competed for the first time at the Tiree Wave Classic last year - part of a remarkable comeback from the competitor who was told in 2007 that she'd never walk again after breaking her back.

The 25-year-old told *The Oban Times*: 'To be honest, I go because I love going to Tiree and it's one of my favourite windsurfing spots. I'm my own competitor, so my result doesn't matter that much to me. I will enjoy it whatever.'

'Everyone is excited about the stormy conditions predicted for the middle of the week, with strong easterly winds and a big south westerly swell,' he added.

Ben Proffitt from Shropshire is the defending men's champion.



One unlucky windsurfer takes leave of his board when trying out the swell on Monday afternoon.



One of the competitors at this year's Tiree Wave Classic gets in a bit of practice ahead of the big storms predicted this week.

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.

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

M Gracie, Laurel Road, Oban

C O'Doherty, Erray Road, Tobermory

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



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 in to The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. 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 decline the competition null and void if it is in its sole discretion to do so and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Oban Athletic pay the penalty

West of Scotland Cup Port Glasgow 1 Oban Athletic 1

(Port Glasgow won 4-3 on pens) ATHLETIC suffered a disappointing third straight defeat when they travelled to take on Port Glasgow in the West of Scotland cup last Saturday, albeit in a dramatic penalty shootout.

The match itself was not much of a spectacle, with the first half passing without any real chances created or quality football on show.

The second half was much the same with only set pieces bringing any action. Kris Gillies had an effort tipped on to the post, then Scott Maitland rifled home a cracking free kick from 25

yards to put Athletic in front.

The Oban side held firm to Port Glasgow's direct approach until the fifth minute of added time, despite the referee indicating three would be played.

A high free kick was played in and knocked across goal where one of four Port Glasgow players were on hand to knock the ball into the net, which fuelled disbelief for both the goal being offside and the two extra minutes that were added on.

The extra time was played with tired legs and the only chance came from a Dean Smith volley.

The inevitable penalty shoot

out ensued and Ben Pollock

thought he had pulled the visitors out of a hole by saving after

FOOTBALL

a Mark Ferguson miss, only for Dean Smith to slip as he struck the ball. Port Glasgow held their nerve and progressed to the next round.

Manager Calum Fox said: 'The lads were flat, lacked composure and were maybe a bit naive. However, a lot of players are inexperienced at this level and will learn from losing a late goal and about concentration. It seems to be a bad habit Oban have had over the years so we will work on motivating the boys until the 95th minute in future.'

Athletic are away to Antonine in the League Cup this Saturday.

Oban Pool League up and running

POOL

LAST week's results in Oban Pool League - Markie Dans A 7, Markie Dans B 3; Outreach 3, Creagan Inn 7; Cellar 6, Lancaster B 4; Kelvin 2, Claredon 8; Lancaster A 10, Lochavullin 0; Lochnell 6, Gluepot 4

This week's fixtures - Outreach v Markie Dans A; Lancaster B v Creagan Inn; Claredon v Cellar; Lochavullin v Kelvin; Gluepot v Lancaster A; Markie Dans B v Lochnell.



Fraser takes flight during this year's UCI Downhill Mountain Bike World Cup.

Photo: KSG Photography

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL COMPETITION

WIN £600

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.

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C O'Doherty, Erray Road, Tobermory

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Name
Address
Tel No.

Please tape your £1 coin here



Islay

ISLAY Golf Club October Medal played Sunday 13th October 1st D.Livingstone 78 - 8 = 70 2nd F.Cannon 85 - 15 = 70 3rd A.Livingstone 82 - 11 = 70 C.S.S.71

Fort William

FORT WILLIAM GOLF CLUB'S winter league is currently led by Eric Wallace on 77 points.

Rusty Duncan is seven points back in second, while Iain Robertson in third on 62 points.

Saturday's back nine stableford was won by Ronnie MacDonald with a score of 21.

Stevie Jamieson was second on 20, with Eric Wallace third on 19 points.

David MacPherson's better inward three holes won him the front nine competition on Sunday after he and Davie MacDonald tied on 22 points. Andrew Brown was a point behind in third.

Fraser happy with first season in the Elite category

MOUNTAIN BIKING

APPIN mountain biker Fraser McGlone recently completed his first season in the Elite category of the world cup.

The 19 year old ended the season at Leogang, Austria, despite a serious crash during practice, in which he sustained head and wrist injuries.

Fraser said: 'There was no way I was going to be able to perform anywhere near the level I would have wanted, but it was the last race of the year and I wasn't going to be watching from the side, so I went up to the start gate and just suffered through it.'

The week before, Fraser had flown out to Hafjell, Norway and, in extremely wet conditions, managed to put a clean and fast run down, finishing in 32nd place, his highest finish of the season.

The previous week was the Scottish round in Fort William, which acted as a warm up for his European dates.

The teenager finished in first place, his first win at Elite level. Fraser said he has been happy with the season overall, finishing in 56th position in the overall World Cup rankings for the year.

He added: 'I would like to say a massive thanks to all my family, my team and sponsors.'

Saints top of the table after home win over Alba Thistle

'We were the better team on the day and deserved all three points.'

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division **Oban Saints 2** **Alba Thistle 0**

ALBA Thistle were the visitors to Glencruitten for this premier division league match, but the Paisley side found their Oban counterparts to be in good form and they headed back down the road on the end of a 2-0 defeat.

Saints manager Iain Jackson kept the same line-up as the one that started against Inverclyde the previous Saturday.

Alba, who defeated Saints on penalties in the final of the Centenary Cup last season were making their first visit to the town and unfortunately they had to take on the high-flying

Oban side minus several injured players, but they can have no excuses, the better team won on the day.

The game started well for the home side who were soon buzzing around the Alba defence, and the visitors had to be on their toes to get to grips with home strikers Allan MacKay and Lewis Cameron, who looked sharp up front.

Credit to the visitors they were defending well and looked dangerous on the break although the Saints defence were giving nothing away and Daniel Castells didn't have all that much to do between the sticks.

Alba netminder John Young had to save a pile driver from

FOOTBALL

Marc MacCallum in the 19th minute but luckily the ball was hit straight at him.

This was followed by a last ditch tackle from Jags central defender Adam Kerr which denied Lewis Cameron a clear shot on goal.

There was no more goalmouth incidents and the half time whistle arrived with the scoreline blank.

Determined

The second half started with Saints determined to make the breakthrough but the visitors were defending in depth and making it difficult for the Oban attack.

The home side thought they had taken the lead in 53rd minute when Allan MacKay rose above the Alba defence to head home a corner, but the celebrations were cut short as the 'goal' was chalked off by referee Gordon Kelso who judged that Allan had fouled his marker before heading the ball home.

Saints had most of the territorial advantage as the half wore on and it was no surprise when they took the lead through Donald

GOALS

in the 66th minute when Donnie Campbell was upended in the box, but the referee, who had a good game, waved away the claims.

Jags keeper John Young came to his team's rescue with a great save from an Allan MacKay shot which looked to be heading for the back of the net until the keeper dived full length to turn the ball away for a corner.

For the second week in a row Saints had only one goal advantage as the game moved into its latter stages which meant Alba were still in with a chance of picking up at least a point, but thankfully this week the match was killed off with four minutes remaining when Allan MacKay got on the end of a Willie Gemmell cross to head the ball home to make the final score 2-0.

Iain Jackson was happy with the performance. He said: 'Alba

defended well and made things difficult and for us, but we played some good football and we were the better team on the day and fully deserved to pick up all three points.'

Saints get a break from league duty this Saturday when they play on Coathridge side Independent in the second round of the Scottish Amateur Cup. The game will take place at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off.

Saints' striker Lewis Cameron races goalwards during Oban Saints 2-0 win over Alba Thistle at Glencruitten last Saturday.

Scottish Amateur League - Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Saints	7	4	3	0	21	7	15
Finnart	6	4	1	1	23	11	13
Haldane United	6	3	2	1	16	13	11
St Joseph's	6	2	4	0	16	12	10
Busby	7	3	1	3	15	25	10
Thorn Athletic	8	2	2	4	13	16	8
Inverclyde	6	2	1	3	13	16	7
Castlemilk	5	1	3	1	15	16	6
Alba Thistle	6	2	0	4	8	13	6
Kilbowie Union	7	0	1	6	12	23	1



Geo Adam celebrates his victory with his sponsor Hasmat Ali, co-owner of Kebabish. 15_t42ge001

West is best as Geo wins prestigious pool title

OBAN'S Geo Adam has become West of Scotland singles champion after winning the sixth regional tour event of the Scottish Eightball Pool Federation.

At one point it looked like the

four-time winner of the event would be making an early exit in the first round but determination and skill saw him through and he sailed his way through to the final where, for the second

time this year, he met fellow Scottish International Gordon McKenzie.

Although the on-form Gordon took a 5-0 lead, Geo managed to pocket six frames in a row to gain his fifth tour win out of 12.

Geo, who is sponsored by Kebabish Curry House, Oban, has just returned from the home internationals, receiving his first Scotland cap.

He will again represent Scotland at the European Championships in Malta in March.



Camanachd award winners

Oban Camanachd shinty club held their presentation night in Cuan Mor recently when the following prizes were handed out. Back row: Brian MacCallum, Lochside Top Goalscorer; Iain 'Gussey' Campbell, Oban Camanachd Player of the Year; Sean Morgan, Lochside Player of the Year. Front Row: Craig Easton and Ross MacMillan, joint winners of the Under 14 Player of the Year Award.

POOL

time this year, he met fellow Scottish International Gordon McKenzie.

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Shinty League Tables

The Orion Group Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	17	15	1	1	67	18	31
Lovat	18	9	8	1	38	17	26
Inveraray	18	7	5	6	32	31	19
Lochaber	18	6	5	7	28	34	17
Kyles Athletic	16	6	4	6	29	25	16
Kingussie	17	8	0	9	31	34	16
Glenurquhart	18	6	4	8	25	29	16
Kinlochshiel	18	5	5	10	33	46	15
Fort William	18	3	6	9	18	38	12
Oban Camanachd	18	3	2	13	19	48	8

Marine Harvest North Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kilmallie	15	14	0	1	72	13	28
Beauly	15	12	1	2	43	15	2
Caberfeidh	15	7	1	7	36	32	15
Skye	15	6	2	7	28	26	14
Strathglass	15	1	3	11	17	49	5
Inverness	15	1	1	13	14	75	3



Oban Bowling Club champions Robert Dairon and Maureen Goldie.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glasgow MA	16	13	2	1	71	7	28
Bute	16	11	2	3	68	22	24
Glenorchy	16	9	3	4	39	20	21
Lochside Rovers	16	10	1	5	38	28	21
Aberdour	16	6	1	9	33	49	13
Taynuilt	16	5	2	9	31	48	12
Oban Celtic	16	5	1	10	26	53	11
Kilmory	16	2	3	11	21	53	7
Strachur	16	2	3	11	21	68	7

Marine Harvest North Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	18	15	1	2	70	20	31
Lovat	18	10	7	1	47	29	27
Skye	18	11	3	4	39	34	23
Beauly	18	8	4	6	42	30	20
Glenurquhart	18	8	3	7	29	28	19
Kingussie	18	5	5	8	42	40	15
Glengarry	18	5	1	12	29	42	11
Fort William	18	5	1	12	31	60	11
Aberdeen Uni	18	3	4	11	25	44	8
Kinlochshiel	18	3	5	10	25	52	7

Marine Harvest South Division 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts

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A dream comes true as MacCrone wins the Tunnock's Mull Rally

DERVAIG'S John MacCrone realised a boyhood dream when he powered to a dominant win in the 44th running of the Tunnock's Mull Rally.

The 24-year-old delivered a controlled, professional drive, in his MSport-prepared Ford Fiesta S2400, through the final four stages before a flying finish in his home village. MacCrone, co-driven by Uddington's Stuart Loudon, said: 'It doesn't get any better than this. But that was tough, really tough.'

Second place at the rally was taken by Carlisle's Peter Taylor alongside co-driver Andrew Roughhead while third was scooped by Salen's Eddie O'Donnell with Tobermory's Matt Ratcliffe.

Last year's winners Calum and Iain Duffy took

first place on the first two stages but went off the road in the third, forcing them into retirement with a broken alternator bracket. The pair rejoined the rally on the Saturday.

MacCrone's biggest challenge was that he started the final four stages leading the Ford Focus WRC of Carlisle 22-year-old Peter Taylor by 1min 14secs.

The dilemma he faced was whether to keep attacking and risk going off, or breaking something on the car; or back off and pace the car to the finish. In the end, he resorted to type. 'I always like to drive flat-out,' he said.

MacCrone's victory was clinched on the closing loops of the opening stage, the 14.79-miles at

Glen Aros/Mishnish Lochs. While he powered flawlessly through the stage, clocking 12mins 33secs, Taylor hit trouble, twice spinning off as he pushed in an effort to apply pressure on the Scot.

Taylor exited the stage with his Focus WRC looking battered and bruised, with no front bumper and the whole intercooler visible. 'We were off twice in there and dropped good amount of time,' Taylor admitted. 'I was pushing hard trying to close the gap on John, but I just made mistakes.' The excursions cost the youngster 1min 11secs.

Unaware Taylor had suffered damage and dropped time, MacCrone kept the pressure on, powering through the next three stages. In the end he won comfortably by 3mins 57secs ahead of Taylor.

The Englishman, bidding to be the first non-islander to win on Mull since Daniel Harper in 2002, ended up nursing his car to the finish line. With no suspension spares, he had to cope with a car which had a broken shock absorber, which was then compounded by brake problems in the final stage.

O'Donnell held off Richmond's Tony Bardy to clinch the final podium spot, with both drivers clocking exactly the same time over the final 22-mile stage. Only seven seconds separated them at the end.

With Tristan Pye conquering the slipping clutch problems he endured all rally on his Subaru, seal-

ing fifth, the top 10 was rounded off by Jonathan Mounsey (Mitsubishi), Alan Gardiner (Escort Mk1), Richard Cook (Subaru), Peter Gibson (Mitsubishi) and Chris (Curly) Haigh in his Mk1 Escort.

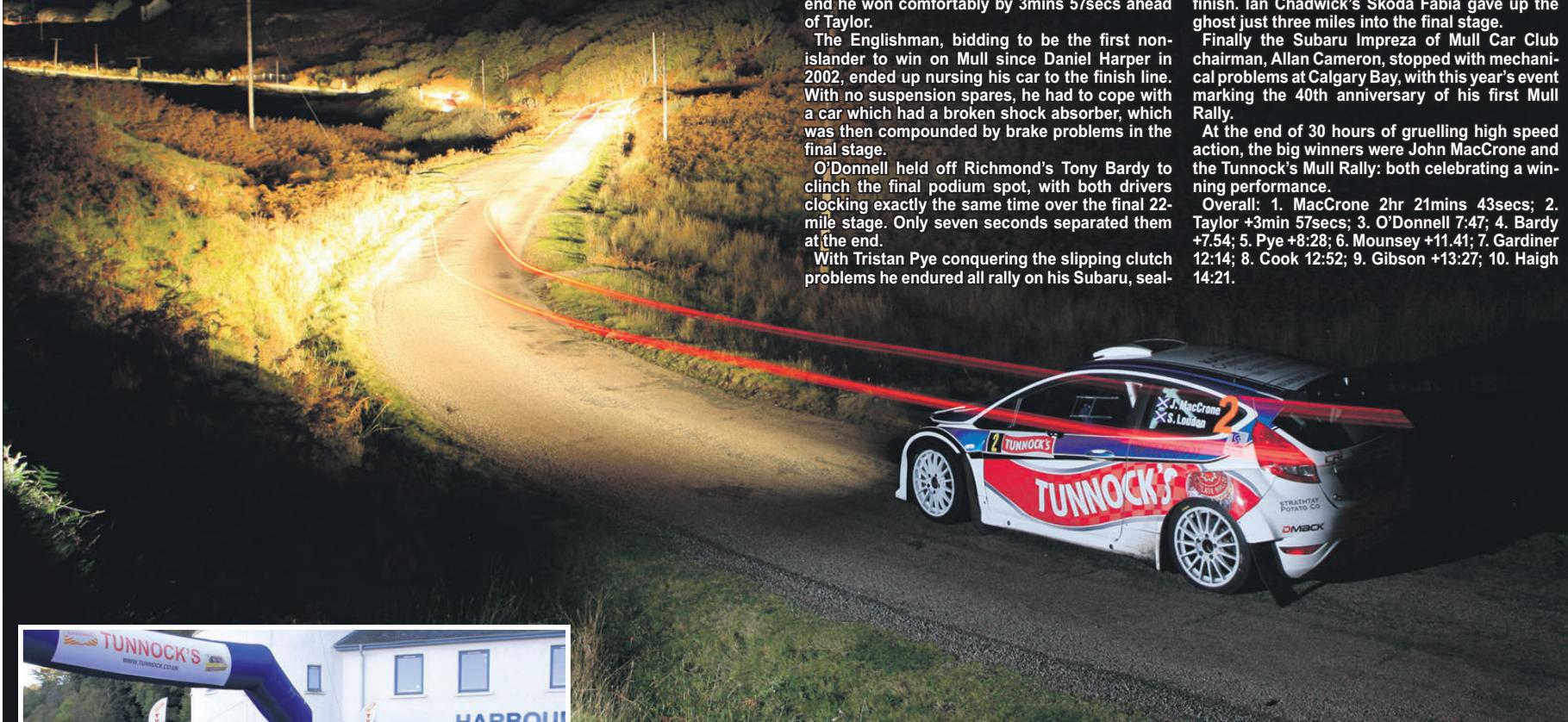
Salen teenagers Ruairidh Allan and Jamie Maclean entered the rally for the first time and proved their worth - despite finishing last - by completing the challenge while more experienced competitors crashed out.

There was heartbreak on the final stage for a number of crews. Bungay's David Mann finished with his Subaru on its roof on the beach. Both he and co-driver Chris Hamill were okay. Then Billy Bird's Vauxhall Chevette went off, dashing his and co-driver Plug Pulley's hopes of a top 10 finish. Ian Chadwick's Skoda Fabia gave up the ghost just three miles into the final stage.

Finally the Subaru Impreza of Mull Car Club chairman, Allan Cameron, stopped with mechanical problems at Calgary Bay, with this year's event marking the 40th anniversary of his first Mull Rally.

At the end of 30 hours of gruelling high speed action, the big winners were John MacCrone and the Tunnock's Mull Rally: both celebrating a winning performance.

Overall: 1. MacCrone 2hr 21mins 43secs; 2. Taylor +3min 57secs; 3. O'Donnell 7:47; 4. Bardy +7:54; 5. Pye +8:28; 6. Mounsey +11:41; 7. Gardiner 12:14; 8. Cook 12:52; 9. Gibson +13:27; 10. Haigh 14:21.



Major prizewinners pictured after the Tunnock's Mull Rally.



Carlisle's Peter Taylor finished in second place.

Salen's Eddie O'Donnell and co-driver Matt Ratcliffe from Tobermory finished third.

Weather

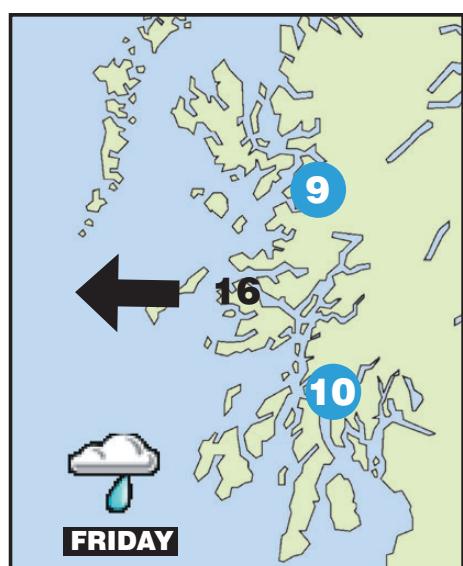
Thursday Cloudy
Winds light south easterly
Temperatures 8°C to 11°C

Friday Light rain
Winds moderate easterly
Temperatures 8°C to 10°C.

Weekend Outlook Sunshine and showers
Winds moderate east south easterly
Temperatures 6°C to 14°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist
Oban to Coll/Tiree
Kennacraig to Islay

Moderate
Moderate
Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from

Thursday, October 17, 2013

are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	04.25	3.6 10.35 0.8 16.40 4.1 22.55 0.9
Fri	04.55	3.8 11.17 0.7 17.14 4.2 23.32 0.8
Sat	05.27	4.0 11.57 0.7 17.47 4.2 *** **
Sun	00.07	0.8 05.59 4.0 12.35 0.8 18.19 4.1
Mon	00.43	0.8 06.31 4.0 13.11 1.0 18.51 4.0
Tues	01.18	0.9 07.02 4.0 13.46 1.2 19.24 3.8
Wed	01.55	1.1 07.35 3.8 14.21 1.5 19.58 3.6

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardriishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

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Thursday 17 October, 2013

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FORT WILLIAM & LOCHABER EDITION

Oban for Business

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INSIDE

Exciting new supplement
highlighting the best in
Oban's industry



Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rioghail Pàislig 2013
The Royal National Mòd Paisley 2013

See inside for full coverage including
photos and results from this year's Mòd

Spean Bridge homes and business plan

PLANS for a large new housing and industrial area at Spean Bridge have been lodged with Highland Council.

Local firm RE Campbell Joinery want to build 28 new homes and 11 business or commercial units on an area of land near the western entrance to the village.

Also included in the plans are picnic areas, a playing field and a play area.

The area of land earmarked for the development lies on the north side of the A82 opposite the former Little Chef building.

Forestry Commission hosts fun events for all at Cow Hill

A SERIES of events on and around Cow Hill in Fort William is planned for the first weekend in November.

Forestry Commission Scotland, which runs the site, will be holding a treasure hunt, an adventure walk, an exploration walk for families and a barbecue on Saturday November 2 and Sunday November 3.

FCS communities recreation and tourism ranger Ruari Watt said: 'The main aim is really to make people aware that it is a Forestry Commission site and they are welcome there at any time throughout the year.'

'It is a great place for people to get out and enjoy the outdoors straight from town and suitable for a range of different ages, abilities and activities.'

Concern over BID plan consultation

FORT William Community Council is to write to Highland Council expressing concerns about the consultation process for the Lochaber Business Improvement District proposal.

The decision was made after community councillor Drew Purdon claimed 80 per cent of businesses on the town's High Street had not yet been contacted by Living Lochaber, the team behind the BID.

Mr Purdon also said 69 per cent of business across Lochaber had not been consulted.



Keeping it in the family at national Mod

The Caimbeuls of Kyle: Eòsaph, 10, is flanked his big sisters Brighde, 15, left, and Ciorstaidh, 13. Between the three of them, they competed in 16 competitions. They were not the only siblings to compete at the Royal National Mod 2013 in Paisley this week, in everything from piping, accordion and melodeon to singing, recitation, poetry and choral competitions. Participants from all over the West Highlands and Islands have gathered in Renfrewshire. See pages 8 to 11 and page 22 for all the best coverage and results from the start of Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rioghail Pàislig 2013. 15_142mod28

West Lochaber GP rethink call after two recruitment bids fail

A CALL has been made for NHS Highland to rethink its plans for the planned West Lochaber Medical Practice after two attempts to recruit GPs proved unsuccessful.

The offer of a 'golden hello' as well as an annual salary of £75,000 was not enough to attract the seven doctors needed for the new model, which would cover Acharacle, the Ardnamurchan peninsula and Strontian as well as Knoydart, Glenug and the Small Isles.

Acharacle Community Council chairman Hugh MacPherson told *The Oban Times* locals wanted the situation to be sorted as soon as possible.

He said: 'It can't keep going the way it is just now, it's not sustainable.'

Continuity People want continuity of care and the locums are changing all the time.

'And it must be costing the NHS a lot of money.'

'We're hoping to speak to

the other two community councils [Sunart and West Ardnamurchan] and look at how we take this forward.'

'Maybe the model needs relooked at.'

An NHS Highland spokesman said: 'Both NHS Highland and Dr Garthorpe remain strongly committed to the development of West Lochaber Medical Practice model and are currently exploring ways in which the model can be strengthened which

would support recruitment.'

This further work will start to take shape in the next few weeks and we will ensure that we discuss these ideas locally as they start to develop.'

He continued: 'In the meantime, we will continue to support the practices in Acharacle and the Small Isles with locum GP cover as we have been doing to date.'

Mr MacPherson said ACC hoped to get NHS officials to attend their next monthly meeting on November 5 to discuss the way forward.

The Volunteer Arms pub wants to increase its hours from

consultation has not been handled very well and I am a bit concerned about that. I want to get to the bottom of it if I can. But I want to wait until the meeting to decide.'

He added: 'The council only has one vote on the BID in spite of all the misinformation going around.'

BID steering group chair, Frazer Coupland, said work on setting up a database of businesses involved with the BID had gone on longer than expected.

He said: 'Work on the database has been much bigger than could have been envisaged, so the time period has been extended.'

'The money will see the campaign through to the end. It will cover the project officers wages, admin costs, office costs.'

'Without the money, the steering group would have to do it on a voluntary basis, which isn't conceivable.'

□ See BID team goes to Mallaig - page 3.

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BID team facing cash shortfall

LIVING LOCHABER, the group promoting an all-Lochaber Business Improvement District (BID), is facing a funding crisis just days before postal ballot papers on the proposal are due to go out.

Highland Council has received a request for additional cash from the BID team after 'stretching their original £40,000 budget to the limit', according to correspondence obtained by *The Oban Times*.

Another £2,500 is required 'to release enough funding from HIE and the private sector to cover operational and PR costs' to keep the project officer in post until the ballot in mid-December. For that to happen, around £5,000 will be needed, plus another £2,500 for miscellaneous costs.

Reasons for the cash plea include 'the longer period of time required to go out to ballot and the increased costs from covering such a wide geographic area'.

It is understood any extra funding from the

council, if awarded, would be for the project officer 'to keep various elements continuing', including website maintenance, arranging public meetings and drafting the operation plan and structure for the new company if formed.

The original £40,000 package was funded by £20,000 from the Scottish Government, £10,000 from HIE and £10,000 from the council.

Councillor Andrew Baxter will not be backing the request.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I will not be voting to award extra money. I think they have had plenty of public funding already and I don't think the need any more, for what essentially will be publicity.'

The BID manager would be organising public meetings which indirectly would be publicity for the 'yes' campaign. That is unfair when those businesses against the BID can't access the same sort of funding to promote their cause.'

Mr Baxter's ward colleague, Councillor Brian Murphy, said: 'I know some people reckon the

consultation has not been handled very well and I am a bit concerned about that. I want to get to the bottom of it if I can. But I want to wait until the meeting to decide.'

He added: 'The council only has one vote on the BID in spite of all the misinformation going around.'

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□ See BID team goes to Mallaig - page 3.

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Father and son lead park drive

A KINLOCHLEVEN father and son are leading a drive to create a new skate and bike park in the heart of Kinlochleven. Mark Macgregor and his 12 year-old son Connor decided to try and revive the idea for building the facility in the village after a previous plan fell through several years ago.

As well as creating a concrete area for skateboards and bikes, the pair want to make a small area for local trials bikers to practice on objects such as tyres, rocks and crates.

Kinlochleven Community Trust says an area of land formerly owned by Rio Tinto in the centre of the village behind the post office, which was to be used for the previously planned park, is still available if needed.

Mr Macgregor told The Oban Times if the plan was successful would be a boost for Kinlochleven and south Lochaber.

He said: 'It's still in the very, very early stages. We contacted KCT and asked if the land was still available, and they said it was.'

'It's an optimistic plan, but we are keen to get a skate park in the village.'

'It's mainly the kids, my son and his friends, that are pushing it forward.'

Mr Macgregor said the next step for the skate park would be to set up a committee, draw up a business plan and look at different funding avenues.

A mobile skate park normally based in Mallaig has been erected in Kinlochleven school car park this week to give youngsters in the area a taste of what might be in store for them in the future.

Project group seeks to win over Mallaig

REPRESENTATIVES of Living Lochaber, the group proposing a business improvement district (BID) for the area, will seek to win over the Mallaig business community to the idea at a public meeting on October 29.

BID project manager Helen MacGillivray will attend, with steering group members Finlay Finlayson, Marian Austin, Don Hind and Derek MacGillivray also pencilled in to field questions at Mallaig and Morar Community Centre.

The gathering is being hosted by the Road to the Isles Marketing Group (RIMG), which in last week's Oban Times criticised the BID as being too unwieldy.

The group has also raised concerns the scheme could spark disputes between different areas over allocation of funds, cut across already successful local marketing efforts and be biased towards Fort William projects such as a cinema/conference and town centre regeneration.

Under the BID plan, all Lochaber businesses with a rateable value over £2,000 would pay compulsory levies on a sliding scale from £198 to £4,100.

Living Lochaber claims £360,000 would be generated

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

annually - £1.8million over the five-year BID period - enabling much more funding to be levered in for new projects, marketing campaigns and infrastructure improvements.

Ms MacGillivray accepted there was work to be done in convincing Lochaber businesses in outlying communities that the BID would work for them.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'All the marketing groups are working in their own locality and it is very important the BID is not seen as a threat to that.'

'The view outwith the centre tends to be more "how do we make sure we are getting our share?" - and I think that's perfectly justifiable.'

'As outlined in the business plan, the key point we must make is that we sell Lochaber to the visitor so that they come to experience the whole area. That's the feedback we got in the consultation.'

'We need to go out to Mallaig to assure them that's very much where we are coming from.'

Ms MacGillivray defended the decision to go for an all-Lochaber BID, rather than one solely for Fort William.

She said: 'We recognise that Lochaber is our strength rather than our difficulty. The main priority of the BID is to try to attract people to come here, to stay longer and spend more money in Lochaber - and to do that we have to take the businesses with us.'

She added: 'A Fort William BID would have a very different set of objectives.'

RIMG chairman Andrew Simpson said the meeting, which he would not be chairing to ensure impartiality, had been called 'to allow people to make an informed judgement' on the Lochaber BID.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We are hoping to have an independent moderator in the chair. The meeting is open to the whole business community and the public as well. Nobody will be shut out - people can ask questions of the steering group to allay their anxieties if possible and get the information they need to know.'

The Mallaig meeting comes two days before ballot papers are posted out to every business eligible to vote 'yes' or 'no' to the scheme.

Papers must be returned by December 12, with the result being declared the following day.



Lochaber BID project manager Helen MacGillivray: preparing to answer questions on the proposal at a public meeting in Mallaig on October 29. 20_f42bid01



Drs Macleod Memorial Committee co-ordinator Margaret MacQuarrie and Dr John Gillies are all smiles after the Macleod GPs memorial was unveiled on Banca Mòr. Photograph: Island News and Advertiser.

Place-name guide

A NEW Gaelic/English guide to place-names in Lochaber was launched at the Royal National Mod in Paisley on Tuesday.

Gaelic in the Landscape: The Rough Bounds of Lochaber, was co-ordinated by Scottish Natural Heritage and Aineamh-Aite na h-Alba. It was produced as part of the Year of Natural Scotland 2013 and received additional funding from Soillse, the national research body set up to revitalise the Gaelic language.

Renewable heat and energy fair

LOCHABER Environmental Group is to host a renewable heat and energy fair in Fort William on November 2.

The event is designed to highlight the benefits of renewable technologies as electricity prices continue to spiral.



Banavie big-hearts donate food parcels

Big-hearted Banavie Primary School pupils delivered food parcels to local senior citizens following their special harvest assembly. The youngsters gathered three tables full of fruits, vegetables and tinned food for the assembly in the school hall before distributing the packages to the grateful recipients. The special harvest delivery has become an annual fixture on the school's extra-curricular calendar. 20_f42harvest01

Lochaber Ideas Week speakers revealed

ORGANISERS of the inaugural Lochaber Ideas Week from November 18-23 have announced some of the key speakers on the programme.

John Hutchison from the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust will lead discussions on local initiatives and outline the importance of communal spaces and schemes.

Norrie MacLean will talk on his involvement in community-based projects in Fort William such as the Belford Gardens improvement and the rejuvenation of the Old Fort.

Ken Johnston of the Upper Achintore Regeneration Group in the town will discuss his work on the ongoing Pine grove park project, giving an in-depth insight into planning and developing community facilities in the area.

The ideas week, being billed as 'a catalyst to stimulate new initiatives and ventures', will also feature a 'Dragon's Glen' competition for budding entrepreneurs and 'Around Lochaber in 80 Tables', a business networking event.

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Jackpot winner keeps on playing Spot the Shinty Ball

A SPEAN Bridge pensioner who won £500 in *The Oban Times*' 'spot the shinty ball' competition plans to carry on playing.

James Smith, 74, who is originally from Dunfermline, plays the contest every week despite not following the sport. He told *The Oban Times* it was 'quite a nice surprise' to be told he had won. 'With winter coming and the balls going up it'll come in very handy,' he said. 'I've just put it in the bank.'

'Every Thursday I go to the shop and buy *The Oban Times*, and I've done spot the shinty ball ever since I came up to the area 18 years ago. I've nearly won a couple of times before, but I only got about £25.'

Police files

A CYCLIST travelling south on the A82 Ballachulish Bridge was struck by the wing mirror of a silver Vauxhall Corsa at about 5.50pm on Friday October 11.

A FENCEPOST was removed from near the Old Glencoe Road in Glencoe between Monday September 30 and Friday October 11.

ONE VEHICLE failed to stop after a two-vehicle collision on the A82 near Torlundy. The incident occurred at around 9am on Monday October 7.

A CAR parked at Inverlochy Court, Fort William, had its locks tampered with in an attempt to break in between 6pm on Saturday October 5 and 4am the following day.

A SILVER vehicle travelling north narrowly missed a southbound car while trying to overtake on the A82 near Inchree in the early afternoon on Tuesday October 1.

ITEMS were removed from a trailer parked behind a house on Glenkingie Street in Caol between August 19 and September 5.

□ Anyone with any knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact local police on 101, the confidential line on 01397 702000 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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Investigations continue into nursery assault allegations

INVESTIGATIONS into reports of children being sexually assaulted at a Lochaber-based nursery are ongoing, the Crown Office has confirmed.

No date has yet been set for the man accused of carrying out the abuse, Mark MacLennan, to next appear in court.

Mr MacLennan, whose address was given as 'the Stirling area', has been charged under the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 Section 20, which relates to sexual assaults on youngsters aged under 13.

The 29 year-old appeared in private at Fort William Sheriff Court in June. He made no plea or declaration and was released on bail.

Players named in national shinty squad

TWO young Kinlochshiel shinty players have been named in the Scotland under 21 squad for next month's international shinty/hurling game against Ireland.

Duncan 'Acki' MacRae and Oliver MacRae were both chosen by head coach Ronald Ross, along with Lochaber forward Ben Delaney.

The game will be held at Bught Park, Inverness on Saturday November 2.

Winter roadshow rolls into Stornoway

THE SCOTTISH Government's Ready for Winter? roadshow will roll into Stornoway next month.

The campaign will focus on providing simple action plans to avoid severe weather disruption in four key areas - community, at home, on the move, and in the workplace.

The Tesco and Co-operative stores in Stornoway will host the roadshow on November 8 and 9, respectively.

The events will follow a 'community resilience' public meeting to discuss how people can better prepare for emergencies such as power failure, snow or flooding.

It was such a stunning day and the monument really looked spectacular and can be seen from quite a distance.'

She added: 'There was such an amazing response from the whole island and much further afield.'

'Everything needed for the day was done by local people for no charge because of the respect in which the Macleod doctors were held.'

She added: 'I have been involved in a lot of projects and I have never seen anything like this before. The MacLeod family were really delighted with everything.'

The monument was made by Alastair Harkness's Dumfries firm Border Signs and Graphics.

STORNOWAY'S Hogmanay celebrations are one of 19 New Year events across the country which have been allocated a share of £350,000 of Scottish Government funding.

The four-day ceilidh festival at An Lannair will feature a ceilidh band and local musicians, and will have a focus on the promotion of Gaelic and traditional arts.

Oban fears over ferry trial

OBAN Community Council (OCC) has been urged to fight to keep all the ferry services connecting the town with the Outer Isles.

New member Duncan Elliot made the plea following CalMac's decision to trial a Lochboisdale ferry service to Mallaig for three years over the winter months.

Mr Elliot urged the community council not to be complacent, saying the permanent loss of the route to Castlebay on Barra and Lochboisdale on South Uist would be to Oban's detriment.

He warned: 'If there's no response to this it's a death knell for the route. We as the people of Oban have got to make a case for it not to become permanent.'

His view was backed by OCC member Sean MacIntyre, who had previously raised concern over the change.

Meanwhile, Donald Morrison of United Auctions has criticised the trial run, saying the ramifications of a permanent shift have not been thought through properly, with 'several logistical challenges' facing freight and the movement of livestock to and from Mallaig. He said: 'There are three low bridges between Mallaig and Fort William - what is the point of going if the trailers can't get through there? They're all too low for these double-deck trailers.'

Mr Morrison stressed he'd have nothing against the proposal if the low bridges were fixed first.

But he added the lack of a lairage facility in Mallaig would drastically hit the movement of livestock if a ferry is unable to sail - meaning farmers may have to return home with their stock if the weather takes a turn for the worse. We have to be sensible about this - so far it's just for tourists,' he said.

The criticisms met a withering response in Lochaber, with Caol and Mallaig councillor Allan Henderson describing the bridge fears as 'red herring'.

Councillor Henderson also claimed the additional route would 'enhance' existing services.

□ See Mallaig councillor dismisses ferry fears, page 7.



Royal waiting game pays off for Lismore youngster

Wee Ealasaid MacLean, aged 8, from Lismore almost got tired of waiting to hand over her bouquet to HRH The Princess Royal. But she was finally rewarded for her patience when she got to meet Her Highness and have a few words with her. The princess visited the Royal National Mod on Tuesday on the third day of children's competitions. Ealasaid, a pupil at Bun-sgoil Strath na h-Appaine (Strath of Appin Primary School) had been competing in storytelling competitions in the morning when she heard that royalty was in town. After waiting almost an hour to present the flowers, Ealasaid was finally able to hand over her gift to the princess. A large crowd had gathered to see Princess Anne. During her visit she presented children's silver medals to Emma MacLeod of Sir E Scott School and Michael Callan of the High School of Glasgow, before making a brief visit to Paisley Abbey. Full Mod coverage on pages 8, 9, 10, 11 and 22. ILMaclean42

Fort sawmill lends support to home-grown timber week

BSW TIMBER'S Fort William sawmill is lending its support to Grown in Britain Week, which celebrates the valuable contribution that forestry and home-grown timber products make to the UK economy.

The week-long series of activity and events, which began on Monday, has been organised as part of a national campaign to raise awareness of the nation's forestry sector, which contributes £1 billion to the UK economy and supports 170,000 mostly rural jobs.

The company's Fort William mill produces around 250,000 m³ of sawn timber each year, mainly for the UK's construction, fencing and landscaping market.

All timber is sourced from local woodlands and forests, helping to provide almost 200 jobs at mill, plus thousands more across the local supply chain.

Welcoming the launch of Grown in Britain in Britain Week, BSW Timber chief executive Tony Hackney said: 'The Grown in Britain Campaign comes at a critical time for UK producers - both to highlight the importance of timber to the UK and to galvanising industry and Government support for British forestry and forestry products.'

'There has never been a better time to celebrate UK timber and the role it plays in improving and driving forward our economy - and supporting jobs and investment in areas such as Fort William, as well as the local supply chain.'

As part of Grown in Britain Week, 28 delegates representing timber interests across Europe visited the Fort William mill on Tuesday in advance of the industry-leading International Softwood Conference, being held in Edinburgh.



Supporting home-grown timber: BSW Fort William employees Justine Walker, Ben Delaney, Stephen McAllister and Alison MacIsaac.

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Year of Natural Scotland 2013

Pensioner left out in the cold for two hours

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by FAITH ORR
for@obantimes.co.uk

AN ELDERLY man was left outside 'hanging over his zimmer frame for hours' as care staff stayed inside their building refusing to help.

The incident at Bowman Court in Craignure on Mull left the frail pensioner hypothermic, dehydrated and disorientated.

West Highland Housing Association, which operates the facility, has confirmed it is investigating how the man was left outside for two hours in a helpless state.

The elderly tenant had signed a lease to take on a flat in his own flat but on the Wednesday that happened.

One island witness said: 'The staff weren't sympathetic. The old man wouldn't go in. He was still outside after two hours, he was hanging over his zimmer frame. He said he couldn't go back in as they weren't nice to him.'

The incident is the latest in a string of controversies to hit the multi-million pound facility, which is now fully occupied.

The property is registered as a block of flats - despite islanders receiving assurances it would be a replacement for Dumaros, the former care home in Salen.

Michael Shilson, who acted as

assessed as needing sheltered care, MCC claimed.

They added: 'They should not be left living alone in their own homes - they need proper full-time care, not just someone popping in occasionally.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'If tenants at Bowman Court require a level of supervision if they are out walking in the campus grounds then this should be provided either at a distance or beside the tenant as required.'

'Each resident will be treated differently in relation to their physical and mental health needs and the expressed wishes of the service users will be considered in agreeing their support plan.'

A Scottish Government spokeswoman added: 'While it is for each local authority to determine how to provide and fund appropriate care for those in need of residential care, we are working with all local authorities through COSLA, and the third sector to shape the future of residential care for Scotland.'

'As part of this work we would hope to resolve this issue of availability of residential care places.'

□ See leader page 12.

Heating crisis meeting arranged

A MEETING has been arranged between ACHA, Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) and Dimplex to discuss heating issues affecting homes across Argyll and the isles.

Confirmation of the meeting, to be held on October 29, comes as SSE announce a price hike of 8.2 per cent from November 15, adding further to the woes of those forked up to £300 a month due to a series of problems with heating systems.

Argyll Community Housing Association's (ACHA) chief executive, Alastair MacGregor, meanwhile, says the organisation will 'do all it can to assist its tenants', adding that it does 'not control the pricing, the policy framework that determines that pricing or the tariff system operated by the utility companies.'

Suggesting fuel poverty is the main problem and not the heating systems in ACHA homes, he further commented: 'If, following our meeting with SSE, there are technical recommendations within the control of the association, then we will look at them.'

New policy

ELDERLY people are at the heart of a new prosecution policy - which aims to see them live free from the fear of crime.

Scottish prosecutors have been issued with new guidance which sets out how the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service will deal with crimes against older people. The move comes as research shows being a victim of, or a witness to, crime can have a significant impact on a pensioner's health and well-being.

Fish farm info online

INFORMATION on west coast fish farms will be released as part of a new government scheme.

Marine Scotland will start publishing information tomorrow (Friday) on activities conducted under its statutory inspection programme. The information, available on www.scotland.gov.uk, will include details on diseases, sea lice and enforcement action.

NEWSDESK
01631 568000

Rape sparks man-hunt in Lochgilphead

THE 'SERIOUS' rape of a 22 year-old in Lochgilphead has sparked a man-hunt by police in the town.

The National Rape Taskforce has been brought in to oversee the investigation, looking for a white man, described as between 5'8 and 5'9 tall, of medium build and with dark brown hair after the attack, at the rear of Manse Brae where it meets Thistle Way at around 045am on Sunday morning.

He was wearing a dark hooded top and blue jeans.

The woman, who is understood not to be local, was grabbed from behind by a man, who pulled her into bushes, where he assaulted

her. Police say the woman is 'extremely upset and shaken' over the incident, but she did not require hospital treatment.

Detective Inspector Kate Jamieson of the National Rape Task Force said: 'The young woman is traumatised by what has happened and it is vital that we trace the person.'

An incident room has been set up at Lochgilphead Police Office and anyone with information is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101 or 01546 70220.

Alternatively CRIMESTOPPERS can be contacted on 0800 555 111, where anonymity can be maintained.

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Lorn Lines



ON A RECENT visit to Oban, Her Royal Highness Princess Anne hosted a special luncheon for captain Stuart Ross retiring master of the *MV Pole Star* in recognition of his family's long history of service to the Northern Lighthouse Board.

Captain Ross's father, the late James Ross of Hazeldean Crescent, was an engineer.

□□□

PERFORMING his last duty as president of Oban Speakers Club for the year 2012/13 Guido Faccenda passed the chain of office on to new president Frank Walton.

The meeting took the normal format with chairman Eamonn Arthur introducing speakers Willie Melville, who spoke on Mighty Ben Nevis; Guido Faccenda, who spoke on Alcatraz and Tom Clegg on Captain Bligh.

The topics session had been prepared by Bill Leech but, as he was unable to attend, it was introduced by Frank Walton.

He gave some rather testing topics to Jim Fraser, Nick Maclean, Martin Wilson, Peter Mills, Roy Wood and Eamonn Arthur.

The timekeeper for the evening was Archie McPhail and a comprehensive and humorous general evaluation was given by John MacLean.

The next meeting will be held in the Ambo Room, Oban's Glencruitten Church Centre on October 24 at 8pm.

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MEMBERS of the Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club met up with members of the Kirkintilloch Classic Car Club, the Capri Club of Scotland, and the Stirling and District Classic Car Club at Tyndrum on Sunday October 13.

Between 60 and 70 classic vehicles from all marques and all ages met up, and then travelled to Kingshouse Hotel for lunch. The cars from the central belt then returned home via Tyndrum, and the Oban club cars continued through Glencoe, stopping at Castle Stalker View, Appin, for afternoon tea.

The oldest car on the run was a 1924 Model T Ford, which belongs to a member of the Oban Club.

A photograph shows three women standing behind a table in a supermarket, displaying items related to diabetes awareness.

Staff from Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital spent a morning in the town's Tesco store promoting diabetes awareness. Pictured are dietitian Lesley Bakos-Hodge, Fiona Thompson, diabetic nurse specialist and Rosie O'Hagan, student dietitian, who provided information to staff and customers on diabetes, as well as answering any questions they had on the topic. Leaflets about diabetes, healthy eating and a healthy lifestyle were also on offer for people along with a display of two shopping baskets, one containing 'unhealthy' food and the other containing healthier alternatives.

BID4Oban reviews progress over past year

AMBASSADORS patrolling the streets on behalf of BID4Oban have spoken to more than 11,000 people from all over the world since May 1, the organisation has claimed.

At its latest business forum, the Business Improvement District (BID) initiative reviewed progress over the last year which saw £5,000 distributed among 21 companies to improve their frontages - bringing the total spend on upgrading shop fronts to more than

£20,000. In addition, all work has been carried out by local firms.

Round two of the scheme is now underway and initial signs are pointing to another good level of interest by local businesses.

Meanwhile, Love Oban gift vouchers will be launched at the end of the month, aimed at encouraging locals to spend their money locally.

Only levy payers and associate members will be invited to redeem

vouchers once launched, with the BID set to recruit businesses over the next few weeks. Other schemes to improve the look of the town, namely the flower baskets along the Esplanade and the 'Tale of the Whale' window vinyl have attracted positive feedback. It has also emerged that the events grants scheme was oversubscribed, with applications from 12 organisations requesting more than £41,000 in funding both in and out of the main season.

Among those areas causing most concern for Mr McCann is the possible impact on basking sharks. Coll and Tiree both have been identified as major sites for the marine giant, which feeds on the abundant plankton in waters off the islands. Sea lice larvae, a type of plankton, are also prevalent in the area - and Mr McCann thinks that in itself would pose a problem for fish farm developers. He also believes

the chemicals used to kill the lice could also destroy plankton essential to basking sharks' survival.

He said: 'We have no idea what that would do to the basking sharks so why risk it? This is a beautiful spot and the water is so clear. It'd be a disaster if that was lost for fish destined for China.'

Marine Harvest is currently looking at Coll as a potential site for a fish farm.

The men are due to stand trial on November 1.

Petition calls for Coll coast fish farm block

MORE than 600 people have signed a petition in just a week calling for a ban on fish farms off the coast of Coll because of pollution concerns.

John McCann, commodore of Coll Sailing Club, launched the campaign, Stop Fish Farms Around the Isle of Coll, after learning how toxic chemicals used to kill sea lice afflicting salmon could potentially harm other marine life.

Police praise alert Oban bank staff

POLICE have praised the action of bank staff who prevented an elderly man from being conned out of several thousand pounds.

Employees at the bank became alarmed when the elderly man called in and asked to withdraw £7,000 in cash, saying it was for work to his roof.

So concerned were the tellers that they advised the man it would take a while to get the cash and contacted the police.

PC Jeremy Moore praised the staff's quick thinking at last week's meeting of Oban Community Council.

He said: 'They became alarmed when they were told it was to pressure wash and paint his roof. It turns out there were several criminal aspects detected.'

'It's not really illegal to quote someone a price and then get them to pay it, but there's various things being looked at now.'

'It was great that the bank staff did that, but I would urge anyone who has a doubt about something like that to give us a call.'

He added: 'The sad thing was the guy whose roof it was said he'd have them back because he enjoyed their company.'



Caillie Campbell, Archie Malloch and Calin McGuigan show off the pictures that saw them named winners of this year's Winter Festival art competition, which is open to all Oban and Lorn schools. 16.142wintfest1

Pupils celebrate festival art success

CRABS, the Oban whale and a sunken ship are set to feature in this year's Winter Festival parade - thanks to some talented school pupils.

St Columba's pupils, six year-olds Callie Campbell and Calin McGuigan, and Park Primary's Archie Malloch, aged seven, won the Oban Winter Festival's annual art competition - and now their artwork will become part of the spectacular parade.

The announcement of the winners marks the start of the countdown for the November 22-December 1 festival.

Local artist Tara Coia will take charge

of the lantern parade - and she's promising a feast for the eyes. Caillie's crab will be animated, while Archie's picture of the Oban whale - affectionately named Oor Wullie by some - is set to be the centrepiece. Calin's sunken ship promises to offer a few surprises too. Tara said: 'This year we want it to be a bit more theatrical, hence the reason we've themed the parade, under the sea. The parade will feature a school of fish moving in and out of seaweed and the whale will feature prominently.'

Parents and all those working with children are being invited to help make the

event as visually stunning as possible, with a workshop being held at Oban Distillery on October 27.

Organiser Pamela Lockhart said: 'We're looking for everyone from teachers to Brownie leaders to come to a workshop and learn how to make the lanterns - then take that back to the kids to help make lots of them.'

Meanwhile, Oban Winter Festival is one of several events across Scotland to benefit from £350,000 of Scottish Government funding for communities celebrating St Andrew's Day.

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Groups share bumper MacQueen trust payout

A BUMPER payout of £25,500 has been shared among 16 local charities as the Oban-based MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust celebrates its most generous year yet.

In total, the trust has disbursed £50,000 to local good causes in 2013, the most it has ever handed out in a single year.

And the charity's 'sustainability fund' to finance a move of its popular shop from the White Building free of charge and the shop being run entirely by volunteers.

'I'm also able to offer the support of my business for transport free of charge too, which keeps costs as low as possible.'

Among those benefiting from the payout is Oban Community Playpark, which received £5,000, HOPE Kitchen, Oban Sensory Garden, Oban Winter Festival, Dunollie Projects' Fasanta event, Oban Hockey Club, the OLDS Committee, Oban Sailing Club and Lynn Court.

Oban War and Peace Museum received £7,500 while Lorn Live Chamber Music received £500, as did Argyll and Bute Council's Summer Sensations programme.

Atlantis Leisure received £3,000 for a pool inflatable, while the Lismore Historical

Society was handed £600. Oban and Lorn RDA and Argyll Youth Theatre both received donations of £300.

Plans to redesign the North Pier for the new planned transit marina means the White Building will be reused or sold by the council, with surveyors looking at the building last week.

The charity has been preparing for that eventuality and is now certain to find an alternative premises.

Mr MacQueen added: 'We've set aside £200,000 - that belongs to the community but one way or another will go to benefit the community. It will secure the future of the operation for the long term.'

'We're looking at a number of premises in the town but if that fails we will give over ground [from MacQueen Bros Removals] free of charge to the charity to build a shop.'

See delight at War and Peace Museum award, page 14.

Community council call to have dog warden removed

OBAN Community Council has called for the removal of the town's dog warden - after accusing him of failing to do his job.

The group was told by Argyll and Bute Council that the warden had fined no-one in the past year - something member Neil MacIntyre said raised questions over the value of the post.

However, the authority has defended their employee, saying the warden has a host of other duties aside from issuing fines.

Referring to the lack of fines, Mr MacIntyre said: 'Can he not find any dog mess?' 'What are we going to do about

it as the situation doesn't get any better.'

'We're paying a guy for doing nothing. If there is a problem finding the dogs, then let's find out what the problem is. To have no fines at all is a nonsense given the mess the town is in.'

Chairwoman Marri Malloy added: 'This is a guy who has a job and he's not doing the job. If that was with any other place, they'd be paid off long before now.'

'All the community council wants the man to do is his job.'

Sean MacIntyre, community councillor, suggested inviting the warden to one of the group's meetings to discuss their concerns.

A spokeswoman for the local authority said: 'Argyll and Bute Council would not make any comment about an individual member of staff.'

This warden covers the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area and dog fouling is only one part of his job.

'The warden is also responsible for littering, car park fines, pest control, nuisance dogs, stray dogs, abandoned cars, fly tipping, education programmes in schools and clubs, commercial agreements and issuing warning letters for most of the above.'

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Free entry for Fort's game against Forres

Three trialists on the bench as Fort lose out to Lossiemouth

REPORT BY

RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

FORT William will be hoping for a bumper home support for this weekend's clash against Forres Mechanics at Claggan Park, with free entry on offer for all spectators.

Lochaber Pipe Band will also be brightening up the park with performances before the kick off as part of the club's open day.

And in the evening a race night will be held in the social

club, which will be open from mid-day.

Fort FC chairman Ronnie MacLean said the day was a chance for locals to see how the club has progressed over recent months.

He said: "This is an opportunity for the wider community to enjoy a good game of Highland League football and to appreciate the commitment of the players and the coaches."

"We have made considerable progress off the field this season and, with the backing of the community, we can make progress

FOOTBALL

on the field. We are grateful to MacLean Electrical of Dingwall for funding the free entry."

The game will also be filmed by the Highland League with highlights broadcast online.

Forres will provide stiff opposition and go into the game high on confidence following last weekend's 1-0 win away to Wick Academy.

Fort manager Danny Conlon will be hoping his side can provide some entertainment on the



Goon Squad top on goal difference

Cameron Whyte of Lochaber Phoenix: boxing in the national novice championships this weekend. 10_42box01



Lochaber boxers head for novice championships

SIX YOUNG boxers from Lochaber will be heading down to Ravenscraig this weekend to compete in the 2013 Amateur Boxing Scotland Novice Championships at Ravenscraig.

Making the long trip south to Motherwell will be four boys from Fort William-based Lochaber Phoenix ABC - Dan Nixon, Kein Johnstone, Cameron Whyte and Robert Stewart-MacDonald - who will all box in the 2001 age group category.

All four were on the bill at the club's recent home show in the Nevis Centre.

Coch Niall Clark said: "They are all dedicated boys who have trained hard and I think they will do quite well, as long as they make the weight."

Meanwhile, Claymores ABC in Kinlochleven will send Eilidh

BOXING

Smith and Ally Banks, both aged 14, to the championships.

Coach Martin Glenesk said Eilidh has been working hard in the gym since last week to shed three kilos to make the 54kg weight.

He added: "All Ally has to do is win one bout and that's him in the final. If he does that he is guaranteed a silver medal at least."

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