

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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### PHOTOS, REPORTS, RESULTS AND VIDEO FROM THE 2010 ROYAL NATIONAL MOD

#### Cold weather monitoring moves closer to North Argyll pensioners

PENSIONERS in north Argyll are more likely to receive cold weather payments this year as the UK Government is installing a new weather station in Dunstaffnage.

The Department for Work and Pensions has agreed to measure temperatures for cold weather payments for Oban, Lochgilphead and east Mull from Dunstaffnage after thousands of vulnerable people failed to receive payments last year.

In previous years temperatures for north Argyll were recorded in Machrihanish, some 90 miles south of Oban.

#### Below freezing

This meant that only one week's cold weather payment was made last winter despite the temperature being below freezing point for weeks.

Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid had called for the system of measuring temperatures to be reviewed.

He said: 'It was a disgrace that people in these areas only got one week's cold weather payment last year.'

The MP also raised concern for residents living in the west of Mull as temperatures for that area will be measured in Tiree, which Mr Reid claims has a much milder climate.

Bill Sturrock, aged 83, from Benderloch, brought the issue to Mr Reid's attention last year. He said: 'I am pleased that the weather station is now closer to Oban but I would prefer it to be further inland. Temperatures on the coast are always warmer than inland.'

The amount that will be paid this year is currently being reviewed as part of the Government's spending review.



HRH The Duke of Rothesay charmed Gaeldom when he presented a speech at the Royal National Mòd in Thurso which 'was very inspirational and supportive of Gaelic language and culture.'

#### 'Suas leis a' Ghaidhlig' says Prince

HRH THE Duke of Rothesay became the first honorary member of An Comunn Gàidhealach as he delivered a rousing speech in support of Gaelic and the Royal National Mòd.

#### Gold medals

The heir to the throne visited the Mòd by helicopter last Thursday to present the two gold medals in Thurso High School's games hall.

Before handing over the top solo singing prize to Connel's Joy Dunlop and Glasgow's Ian G MacLean,

who is originally from Skye, The Duke of Rothesay said: 'The Mod exists to promote the Gaelic language and culture and we owe a great deal of gratitude to An Comunn Gàidhealach for the enormous effort that goes into organising this most important annual festival.'

He also backed An Comunn's decision to base a Mod in Caithness, saying: 'The argument has been made that the language has no direct relevance

to this part of the world [Caithness].

'I would suggest that Gaelic belongs to all the people of a nation, whether or not they are directly involved in it. So Gaelic will flourish, or perish, depending on what is happening in the whole of Scotland.'

During the speech The Duke of Rothesay tried a few phrases in Gaelic and received a cheer by ending his speech with 'Suas leis a' Ghaidhlig', a motto for the language meaning, 'Raise

the standard for Gaelic.'

An Comunn Gàidhealach president John MacLeod said the arrangements for the Duke of Rothesay's visit had gone well, adding: 'His address to the audience was very inspirational and supportive of Gaelic language and culture.'

'It's extremely important to have such a strong support from the heir to the throne, who is not afraid to express his opinions, and it was a privilege to have him with us.'

## Argyll braced for massive jobs blow

### One in three may be affected

'ALARMING' figures reveal Argyll and Bute may be in line for massive job losses under proposed spending cuts.

Figures reveal at least one third of families in Argyll and Bute will have a relative whose job will be under threat as more than 36 per cent of people in the area are employed in the public sector.

A government document, shown to The Oban Times, gives evidence that the west coast has a far higher-than-average number of employees who work for the public sector.

The Whitehall document shows that Argyll has the eighth highest number of public sector workers in the UK and possibly the highest number in Scotland. It also confirms that Argyll does not have the volume of sustainable private or manufacturing industry that may act as a buffer in other areas.

The implications of any cut to public sector employment such as National Health

Service, Argyll and Bute Council or within other governmental organisations employing in Argyll, has huge implications for the area. Argyll and Bute Council alone employs 5,000 members of staff.

#### EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by

LOUISE LEE

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Earlier this year the council sent letters to every member of staff asking for notes of interest in voluntary redundancy. Chief Executive Sally Loudon has said the council will look very carefully at every application but only take up the option if it is in the best interest of the council. However, with cash cuts looming in the council of £9-13 million it is inevitable that jobs will be lost.

Mike Russell MSP, constituency candidate for Argyll and Bute, is fearful for the future of the area. He

said: 'These figures are very alarming.'

'In May this constituency sent a Liberal MP to Westminster to fight for jobs and services; now it appears that his party in government is posing the biggest threat to jobs in Argyll and Bute that we have ever seen.'

'In UK terms Argyll and Bute is now in the front line and we must unite to defend our communities against the Liberal Conservative slashing of public expenditure which is going too far and too fast - and here could be fatal in terms of our most vulnerable communities and families.'

MP Alan Reid countered: 'The country has a mountain of debt to pay back. Today it was revealed that the previous Government made the situation even worse by ordering two extremely expensive aircraft carriers, but without any aircraft for them to carry.'

'Sorting out this mess will be difficult, but the 36 per cent figure is complete nonsense.'

#### Kerrera parrot expert gains worldwide acclaim from animal welfare group

KERRERA'S parrot expert, Yvonne Macmillan, has received global recognition for her work in rescuing and rehabilitating the exotic birds.

The award from the International Fund for Animal Welfare comes after years of tireless dedication to the animals, with Yvonne single-

handedly looking after up to 60 parrots at a time on the grounds of her home.

Yvonne, whose Parrot Sanctuary became a registered charity in April, didn't quite believe she had won the award.

She said: 'I'm gobsmacked. I didn't even know I was in line for it.'

'When the IFAW phoned to tell me I'd won I thought it was a joke. It wasn't a joke!

'Obviously, I'm thrilled, but the award isn't for me, it's for the birds.'

The award was presented to Yvonne at Tuesday's IFAW's prestigious Animal Action Awards ceremony, hosted by

Baroness Gale, at the House of Lords.

Robbie Marsland, UK Director of IFAW, said: 'We are very pleased to be able to reward Yvonne's amazing dedication to rehabilitating parrots and wanted to recognise her outstanding contribution to animal welfare with our

Sanctuary Award.'

Yvonne said: 'People don't know how to look after parrots. They are intelligent and have the intellect of a five year old. Keeping them in a small cage is the equivalent of locking a five year old child in the bathroom - can you imagine the outcry if that happened?'



## Isle of Mull abattoir destroyed by fire

MULL Slaughterhouse will be closed until next year after fire ripped through the building on Tuesday afternoon.

Both members of staff managed to escape safely from the blaze, which is believed to have started between 1pm-2pm as a result of an electrical fault in the office Portakabin.

Three engines from Strathclyde Fire and Rescue attended at the fire, which was extinguished by around 3pm.

Half of the building was

destroyed, but the chairman of the community co-operative that owns the slaughterhouse, Tom Nelson, has already pledged that it will be rebuilt.

He said: 'We feel that the support and enthusiasm from local people is such that we will rebuild it and it will reopen next year.'

It is estimated the repairs to the abattoir, staffed by one full time and one part time employee, will cost 'tens of thousands' of pounds.



Firefighters investigate the cause of the blaze at Mull Slaughterhouse on Tuesday afternoon.

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**Blown off course - the rare warbler that caused quite a flutter**

THE island of Tiree welcomed a flock of 'twitchers' recently after a bird that's never been seen in Scotland blew in from the USA.

The northern parula, a colourful warbler smaller than a blue tit, landed in the garden of local RSPB officer John Bowler, who has a number of native trees near his house to attract migrant birds.

While the parula has been seen in England and Northern Ireland, those sightings are few and far between.

Twitchers sometimes travel long distances to catch sight of a rare bird, usually species that are non-native to the UK, so it was little surprise

when 75 of them turned up after the photogenic bird was first spotted.

John said: 'The northern parula is such a beautiful bird, it's been a real treat to have it as a visitor on Tiree.'

'It caused quite a stir among twitchers and we've had about 75 people come to the island just to get a glimpse of it, which has been great for the local economy.'

'It's actually the first major twitch we've ever had on Tiree, so we've had two firsts!'

The RSPB says the bird was most likely carried across the Atlantic Ocean by strong westerly winds when it was migrating to central America.



The tiny northern parula that landed in Tiree recently. It is the first time the bird has ever been spotted in Scotland and its presence attracted 75 visitors to the island. t43parula1no

**Friends reunited after more than 50 years**

**Inseparable pals who went to Strath of Appin Primary had not seen each other since 1953**

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN  
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A WEBSITE about a small Argyllshire village has reunited two childhood friends that were over 10,000 miles apart and hadn't seen each other since 1953.

Lillian Carmichael and Flora Chisholm were inseparable when they went to Strath of Appin Primary School together, the closest of friends in the class of just four pupils.

But Flora's family moved to Fort William when she was six years of age and the pair hadn't seen each other since.

In that time, Lillian moved to Ganavan, Oban with husband Ellis, while Flora moved to Perth, Australia following her divorce in 1981.

Flora has a permanent soft spot for the village of her birth though and she was delighted when she stumbled across the website, Oldappin.com.

She decided to email the website's creator to compliment his efforts - little did she know it would lead to an incredible coincidence that would see her meeting

again with her childhood best pal.

Lillian said: 'My son, Stuart, said he had received an email from someone from Perth, Australia and did I know her.'

'That's how it all started.' Lillian and Flora exchanged emails for a few weeks, before Flora decided to make the mammoth journey over to Scotland.

Flora's father used to work as a gardener at Kinlochlaich House at Appin, so she took great delight in staying in one of the flats there for the duration of her stay. The pair met up last week and took a trip round the village to rekindle old memories.

Lillian said: 'The first time I saw her I said, 'you've still got the accent!'

'Flora talked a lot about her memories of Appin. We even remember the teacher, Miss MacKinnon.'

'It was really good to see Flora and obviously, we'll stay in touch.'

Flora, who gets called Margarine in Australia, said: 'It was just a fantastic trip and Ellis and Lillian were wonderful.'

'I don't think this would have happened if it wasn't for the internet.'



Catching up - Lillian, left, is pictured with Flora at Stalker Castle during their reunion last week.

**Let private operators tender for isles routes, urges Dunoon ferry boss**

ABOLITION of the single bundle subsidy package for Scotland's ferry routes is the best way to protect services to the isles, it was claimed this week.

Gordon Ross, the managing director of Western Ferries in Dunoon, believes that allowing private firms to tender for routes currently serviced by CalMac would unburden the taxpayer and result in a better service.

With the UK Government set to announce budget cuts across all sectors, Mr Ross believes there's no time like the present.

Speaking after submitting his own response to the Scottish Ferries Review, he said: 'The justifications for protecting the single bundle monopoly no longer hold water and just as there is a need to make improvements to the current service levels there is also a need to modernise the way ferry services are tendered and delivered.'

'Given the pressure on public sector budgets, the Scottish Government needs to find a mechanism that ensures the continuity of subsidised ferry services and provides for improvements at the same time as reducing the cost to the taxpayer.'

'The private sector can be part of that equation.'

Mr Ross believes that, even by just tendering some routes out to private firms with service guarantees written into contracts, more money would be available to improve services along the subsidised routes.

Not all routes require to be subsidised either. He said: 'Our experience on the Gourock to Dunoon service has proven that not all ferry services require subsidy.'

'The time is now right to look at single route tenders to test objectively the actual need for public subsidy on each of the routes in Scotland.'

In its response to the Scottish Ferries Review, CalMac's chairman, Peter Timms, said: 'We must ... voice our strong concern at the proposal that the "bundle" of routes in both CHFS and Northern Isles contracts be "split" because we know this will bring loss of efficiency and scale economics, and will sweep away the capability to provide back-up when a vessel or port problem is encountered.'

**Distiller reverts to traditional method**

A DISTILLER that produces whisky on Mull and Islay has taken the bold step of reverting to old-fashioned techniques.

But Burn Stewart Distillers, producers of the Bunnahabhain, Tobermory and Ledaig malts, say the 'backward' move will in fact improve the quality of their whiskies.

In recent years, all whisky from Burn Stewart Distillers has been chillfiltered, where the temperature of the malt is reduced to near freezing before filtration.

This stops the drink becoming hazy when chilled or when water or ice is added, but it is believed by some enthusiasts that this process has an adverse affect on the whisky.

Master blender for Burn Stewart Distillers,

Ian MacMillan, said: 'Whisky spends all those years maturing in the casks, developing the aroma and flavour.'

'By un-chillfiltering, nothing is taken away or added so whisky lovers can enjoy the whisky at its very best, giving them a better whisky experience. Each dram retains a depth of flavour, allowing the gentle, subtle notes of the malt to come through, providing a purer taste, nose and appearance.'

The process has been introduced across the distiller's Bunnahabhain 12 year old, Tobermory 10 Year Old and Ledaig 10 Year Old malt, and will be used in a new addition, Deanston Virgin Oak.

The bottles of Islay, Tobermory and Ledaig malts will also receive a makeover.

**Team to devote its energy insulating homes on Islay**

ISLAY Energy Trust has recruited five assessors to help in the delivery of the government's Home Insulation Scheme.

The team will visit every home on Islay, Jura and Gigha between the end of this month and late December to offer a free home energy check, identify individual insulation needs and offer advice on any offers homeowners may be eligible for.

The assessors will make three attempts at visiting each home in an effort to ensure nobody misses out, but if someone does miss all three visits, a home energy check can be completed by the homeowner either by phone or online.

When the survey work is complete, an installer will be contracted to complete all commissioned insulation work within a strict timeframe.

The team will be seconded from the Changeworks, the managing organisation for the insulation scheme. The organisation's head of commercial operations, Tom Kenny, said: 'Working with locally based staff offers so many advantages in terms of service delivery that the partnership made good operational sense.'

'Building up further expertise for the benefit of the community also fits well with Changeworks' strategy of support for island and rural based communities on behalf of its Energy Saving Scotland advice centres.'

Information from the energy checks will also be used to build up a picture of housing across the islands, for example identifying the proportion of 'hard-to-treat' houses such as those with solid walls or coombed ceilings.

A spokesperson for the Islay Energy Trust (IET) said: 'It is hoped that feeding this information back to the Scottish Government may help to make a case for subsidised measures to treat these, so participation is vital.'

'Even if you have completed a HEC form in the past, it's important that you take a few minutes with one of the assessors to complete a new one.'

'This is a great opportunity for the islands and IET are delighted to have played a part in ensuring that some of the associated employment comes to Islay.'

'We wish all the new recruits the best of luck with their training, and look forward to seeing them in their new uniforms very soon.'

**Skye Lines**

THE NEW season of the Isle of Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club got off to a flying start in the Royal Hotel, Portree on the first Thursday of October when club chairman and MC Jim Campbell, invited talented Portree fiddler, Cairina Campbell, on stage to get proceedings under way.

Cairina's polished performance was further enhanced by the fine accompaniment on keyboards from visiting bandleader, Gary Forrest. Particularly appreciated was their wonderful playing of Tom Anderson's slow air, Ian S Robertson.

The audience was fortunate to be entertained by two other fiddlers during the course of the evening - Wendy Riva, of Kilmuir, and one of the club's youngest players, 11-year-old Ellie MacPherson, of Achachork.

Club stalwart John MacGilvray, of Borve, on piano accordion was joined by local drummer, Donald John Campbell, for marches, waltzes and reels and, making her debut on the club stage with a fine solo performance, was young Hannah McDiarmid, of Torvaig.

After an absence due to work commitments it was a pleasure to welcome back on stage Aly Cruikshanks, of Staffin, with his piano accordion. Aly's talent on accordion is well known at the club and he provided some superb music to keep the audience's feet tapping.

Guests for the evening were the Gary Forrest Ceilidh Band comprising Gary leading on piano accordion, Paul Capaldi on second box and Tam Rankin on drums.

Gary had been a very popular guest in the early days of the club so his return was eagerly anticipated. The audience were not to be disappointed as Gary and his band displayed their virtuosity with a varied and lively programme, which delighted the audience bringing an evening of fine music to a close.

John Grundy

SLEAT Community Trust has raised more than £2,000 towards their proposed purchase of Tormore Forest.

The trust has until March 2011 to raise the £330,000 needed to buy the forest south of Armadale from the Forestry Commission.

A proportion of the money, £20,000, must come from local sources in order for the trust to proceed with the transaction and lever in funding from elsewhere.

To help it raise cash locally, SCT set up the Tormore Community Forest Appeal in August, which allows people to sponsor an acre of land for £20.

Trust secretary Henry Mains told The Oban Times he is confident they will raise the necessary money, saying: 'It's an amazing project and there is absolutely no question we'll get there.'

TORAVAIG House Hotel in Sleat has been shortlisted in the 2011 Johansens Awards for Excellence.

The Teague-based establishment is pitted against the Alexandra Hotel and Restaurant and the Captain's Club Hotel, both Dorset, in the 'most excellent waterside hotel' category.

Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony at The Mayfair, London, on November 8.

A GROUP of Fort William flute players are expanding their activities - thanks to a training course in Skye and a grant from the Postcode Lottery.

The amateur musicians, Flutes in the Fort, attended a five-day residential course in the Sligachan recently to receive tuition from alto and bass flute specialist, London-based Carla Rees.

The trip was organised after the People's Postcode Trust, the grant giving body of People's Postcode Lottery, gave the group cash two specialised 'big' flutes - an alto and a bass - and tuition.

The new instruments have a much lower range and will allow the players to extend their repertoire.

Now that the group has got to grips with the new flutes, they are inviting any interested musicians and potential new members along to an open rehearsal at Kilmallie Hall from 5.30pm on Thursday October 28 to see and hear them in action - and even have a go.

Musical director Liz Wilshaw said: 'None of this would have been possible without this funding, so we'd like to say a huge thank you to the players of People's Postcode Lottery, who have made such a difference to what we can achieve.'

For more information, contact Michelle on 07918 606374.

**Mull Lines**

EAGLE diary: This week at Loch Frisa, the white tailed eagles, Skye and Frisa have been kept busy fending off intruders.

A three-year-old male flew across the loch and engaged in some stunning talon grappling with Skye, our 16-year-old male.

Frisa, the female, remained close by, keeping a close eye on the situation. The spectacle took place right in the front of the viewing hide much to the delight of our visitors.

Skye, more experienced, was able to chase the male out - no doubt getting ideas above his station.

We were also visited by a three-year-old female but again, age and experience won the day, with Frisa chasing her off.

The warm sunny weather has been great for seeing our eagles and we have been enjoying some wonderful views of a family of golden eagles - both adults and the juvenile circling and soaring in the beautiful blue skies.

The deer rut is in full swing and the glen has echoed to the sound of the bellowing stags - a true sign of autumn. The eagle hide at Loch Frisa will be open throughout the winter.

To book a visit, please contact our friends at Craignure Visitor Centre on 01680 812556.



Mid air battle of the giants as eagles go head-to-head over territory.

**Appin's Delhi link**

APPIN residents took part in the closing ceremony of Delhi's Commonwealth Games last week without leaving the village.

Pictures projected onto a giant helium-filled balloon above the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium travelled along Appin's back road, featuring farmer Hamish MacMillan waving from his tractor, Marjory Gifford and her granddaughter Sarah, and hill runner Nicola Meekin crossing Ballachulish Bridge.

The film company, Marque Creative, produced the shots for the ceremony marking the handover from Delhi to Glasgow at the Games. They visited Appin in May and were impressed by its beauty. MG

**Tiree firm miss out**

TIREE firm Roots Design Workshop has missed out on being named Shell Livewire's UK Entrepreneurs of the Year.

The innovative firm, run by Micheal Holiday (25) and Chris Hall (30), were named Scotland's Entrepreneurs of the Year 2010, but were pipped at the post for the UK title.

**Cancer ceilidh date**

A CANCER Research Ceilidh is set to paint Oban pink.

Organisers of the annual event are keen to point out that all donations come back into the local area.

The ceilidh is one of the biggest fundraisers for the group. This year the Royal Hotel is hosting the event on Friday October 29 with a whole host of local talent taking part. Michael Garvin and his band will be joined by members of the Oban High School Pipe Band, dancers Kirsty and Jenna MacInnes, singer Helen Pearson, fiddler Rosie Stevenson and singer Peter Sinclair.

Tickets are on sale now.

**Rural housing on conference agenda**

THE rural housing shortage and the needs of rural communities will feature high on the agenda at the Scottish Rural and Islands Housing Conference today (Thursday) and tomorrow (Friday).

Held in Aviemore, the conference comes the day after the UK Government's comprehensive spending review, which will set the landscape for public services in Scotland in the coming months.

**Oban man to be kept in custody**

AN OBAN man was remanded in custody after pleading guilty at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday to a breach of the peace.

Daniel Kelly, aged 20, admitted to brandishing a bottle and uttering threats at a house in Oban on October 15. Kelly, of 5 West Bay Apartments, Oban committed the offences while on bail from Stirling Sheriff Court.

Sheriff Paul Crozier deferred sentencing Kelly until November 8, pending the outcome of a social enquiry report.

**Intersport gains another week**

THE Oban, Fort William, Lochgilphead and Campbeltown branches of Intersport will remain open for another week as its parent firm continues to look for a buyer. Sport Centre Retail Ltd had originally intended to close all of its Intersport stores at the end of this week, but has decided to postpone the closures by seven days.

Four people are employed at both the Oban and Campbeltown branches, with two employed at both Fort William and Lochgilphead.

One staff member told the Oban Times that morale remained high, adding: 'We're all just keeping our fingers crossed,' he added.

**Crown prosecution service deny procurator fiscal has left town**

THE CROWN prosecution service has confirmed it is 'expected' that Oban's procurator fiscal, who is currently on secondment, will return next year.

The announcement is a bid to quash rumours circulating within the legal profession that the town's procurator fiscal has left for good.

The Oban Times

understands that Procurator Fiscal Craig Harris, who is on secondment to the Crown Prosecution office in Edinburgh, will not return to the post and that there are no plans to find a permanent replacement.

A court service insider said: 'It is my understanding that the post has not been advertised and that the

prosecution service plans to continue the practice of importing fiscals from other districts to fill the role on a day-to-day basis.'

The informant added that this practice resulted in inconsistency and that fiscals could not be as familiar with the cases as they would be if they were here on a permanent basis.

A spokeswoman for the Crown Prosecution Service said Mr Harris is currently assisting with 'an ongoing project in Edinburgh'.

She said: 'It is expected that Mr Harris' secondment will conclude in early 2011, when it is expected that he will return to Oban.'

She added: 'During his secondment, Mr Harris

continues to be involved with Oban cases, and is being supported in his role as district procurator fiscal by colleagues from other procurator fiscal offices in Argyll and Clyde.

'The Crown Prosecution Service is committed to serving Scotland's communities and will continue to ensure that

Oban cases are dealt with fairly, independently and in the public interest.'

However, there are calls for a procurator fiscal to move to the area and gain a sense of what the problems are in Oban. It is believed that it has been almost seven years since a procurator fiscal lived and worked in the Oban district.

**Oban woman jailed for nine months**

AN OBAN woman was sentenced to 288 days in prison for a series of offences after appearing at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Patricia Maguire, aged 46, had been charged with a breach of the peace in the early hours of August 30 2010, when she was found fighting with another female by police officers on Stevenson Street, Oban.

A month earlier Maguire had been arrested for driving without a licence and insurance.

Maguire, of Room 12, Ross House, Breadalbane Street, Oban had also been charged with stealing a bottle of wine from an Oban shop on August 1 this year.

The court heard that Maguire had committed the offences whilst on probation from Dumfries Sheriff Court. She pled guilty to all four offences at earlier hearings in Oban Sheriff Court.

She was also fined £135 and banned from driving for one year.

**Consultations took place over CHORD claims board**

ARGYLL and Bute Council have refuted claims that groups were not consulted during CHORD project deliberations.

The project board, made up from local councillors and representatives from the local business community, were asked to answer who they had consulted during the pontoon process.

A document, revealed to The Oban Times, shows that 35 partners were involved in the consultations. These include people who would be affected by the current CHORD project proposals of Oban Bay developments and on the proposed development road.

**Kilmelford ceilidh**

HOLIDAYMAKERS joined the community of Kilmelford and Kilninver to celebrate work done to the village hall.

Members of the community marked the completion of a £28,000 insulation project with a ceilidh featuring local musicians. The event raised £570, which will be put towards further improving facilities at the hall.

**Poppies of Remembrance**

POPPIES to commemorate Remembrance Day will go on sale this week at various venues throughout Oban.

Members of British Legion and volunteers will be taking to the streets on November 8 to sell poppies and raise awareness of Remembrance Day.

A special parade to the Oban war memorial will take place on Sunday November 14.



ACHA's regional manager Iona MacPhail is pictured at the bridge with local councillor Roddy McCuish and chief inspector Glen Bland. 15\_1433orobabgr1

**New £800,000 Oban footbridge is target of extensive vandalism**

SOROBA'S new £800,000 footbridge should not be repainted following extensive vandalism, it was claimed this week.

The old 'blue bridge,' which is now green, was only opened in May but already has been covered with offensive graffiti.

While admitting it is an eyesore, local councillor Roddy McCuish believes repainting it would be 'a waste of money,' as it would simply provide a blank canvas.

He said lights should be erected to act as an additional deterrent to the proposed public-drinking ban in Soroba, mimicking byelaws effective elsewhere in Oban.

Mr McCuish said: 'This bridge carries more than 100 people a day from Soroba.

I feel sorry for the people that have to use it, but I'm reluctant to paint it again as in a couple of weeks time it could be vandalised again. It'd be a waste of money.'

He said he would support any community initiative to repaint it, however.

**Wanton damage**

The bridge was commissioned by Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) and handed over to the council on completion as part of a deal struck in November 2006. Replacing the crumbling bridge, built in 1973, the project was funded by the Scottish Government's Early Action Fund.

ACHA's chief executive Alastair MacGregor said: 'After all the investment that went into the facility it is particularly disappointing

that a number of persons see fit to cause such wanton damage. We ask for support from the community in passing on details of perpetrators to the police.'

Strathclyde Police's chief inspector at Oban, Glen Bland, said additional patrols will be diverted to the bridge to act as a deterrent for the foreseeable future and has urged anyone with information about who is frequenting the bridge to come forward.

He said a number of activities are planned for the Soroba area in the coming months. 'Young Scot is starting in November,' he said. 'It provides discounts at various shops for youngsters and diversionary activities.'

'It was worked well in other areas of Scotland.'

**Coll windfarm caught up in red tape farce**

A COLL crofter hoping to build a wind turbine on his land has been left feeling high and dry over an accreditation body that doesn't know what it accredits.

Colin Kennedy believes that the 50KW Coemi Skywing turbine he wants to erect on his croft, Caolos, is the most efficient available and hopes to take advantage of the government's incentive scheme, the Feed In Tariffs (FITs) to help pay for the £166,000 development.

But in order to do so, the turbine requires the approval of the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS).

The turbine is not yet listed as accredited on the MCS website and when he phoned them to ask why or when it would be, he couldn't get an answer.

Colin claimed that not only are they oblivious to the testing procedure, but they didn't know what the required criteria was for accreditation.

Furthermore, he said, the testing process, which is carried out by other bodies,

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

appears so slow that it could take at least two years for the current model to get approval.

With the FITs up for review in 2013, approval might only come when the incentive is no longer available.

Colin is now worried that other farmers or landowners are being asked to pay 50 per cent deposit up front for a turbine that might never qualify for the tariffs.

Colin said: 'This turbine looks to me to be the most efficient available, but to

*"If the MCS can't tell you anything, you have to wonder what they are actually doing."*  
**Isle of Coll crofter Colin Kennedy**

qualify for the FITs you need to have an MCS certificate. If you can't get the FITs what's the point?

'I don't know how long it will take for MCS to give a certificate, or even if they are likely to. Nobody seems able to give me a straight answer.'

There are 13 certification bodies noted on the MCS website, but only four out of 99 turbines are listed as accredited.

A spokeswoman for the MCS confirmed it didn't approve the turbines, nor does it set the testing criteria. Its role, the spokesperson said, was to act as a go-between. She said: 'We just facilitate the database. The certification is carried out by the certification bodies.'

The MCS could not say how long testing of any particular turbine lasts.

Colin said: 'If the MCS can't tell you anything, you have to wonder what they're actually doing.'

Electricity regulator OFGEM was contacted for comment but did not respond at the time of going to press.

**Oban soldier heads for Afghanistan with Argylls**

OBAN soldier and former face of the Territorial Army (TA), Vinnie Kennedy, is heading to Afghanistan this week to help train the country's own police force.

Vinnie (29), now a private with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (5 SCOTS), will join his comrades in Helmand Province in carrying out one of the most important roles in the conflict; running the Police Development, Training and Advisory Team (PDATT).

However, the exact scope of his own role is not yet fully known as 5 SCOTS will also be carrying out foot patrols in the region.

Having transferred from the Territorial Army in



Private Vinnie Kennedy, who this week headed to Afghanistan with 5 SCOTS to help train the country's police force. 08\_1433soldier01

Private Kennedy is looking forward to his first front-line deployment.

He said: 'I've been posted to France, Poland and Tenerife before, but this is my first proper tour.'

'I am nervous, but I'm also confident.'

'Most of the trouble in Afghanistan is with infiltration in the police, so it is dangerous. There are still firefights and there are IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) to deal with.'

'I think it will be exciting though as I've been training for three years for this.'

During his six-month tour of duty, Private Kennedy's regiment will train Afghan National Policemen on how to deal with IEDs and to

interact with the local people to build trust and confidence in the developing Afghan National Security Forces.

He will also have to endure extreme variations of temperature, with the mercury dipping to minus 24°C at night, and climbing to 30°C during the day.

With the rainy season now in full swing, there is even a chance of snow at night.

Private Kennedy, who has lived in Oban for 11 years, hopes to advance his own army career on his return.

He said: 'After this tour I will be able to go for the tours that are more desirable. There's one in Cyprus that looks good, but I've asked to get into the parachute regiment.'

**Port Askaig pier upgrade brought forward after crash**

WORK to repair Port Askaig's damaged linkspan will coincide with upgrade work to accommodate the new Islay ferry, the *MV Finlaggan*.

Last week, the *MV Isle of Arran* collided with the linkspan. It is believed a gust of wind blew the boat off course.

The damage was such that all ferry services to the island were diverted to Port Ellen until repairs could be carried out.

But with the damaged linkspan due to be upgraded for next year's arrival of the *MV Finlaggan*, the decision was taken to perform the upgrade right away.

A spokeswoman for Argyll

and Bute Council, which owns and operates the Port Askaig linkspan, said: 'The linkspan sustained significant damage to the hinges. Detailed inspections have confirmed that they need to be replaced, and some of the concrete also needs to be repaired.'

'There is no requirement to replace the linkspan. It is anticipated that the works to accommodate the *MV Finlaggan* will be undertaken during this forthcoming eight weeks whilst the other repairs are carried out.'

'Argyll and Bute Council is instructing the repairs, working closely with Calmac Ferries Ltd, who agreed to fund the repair.'

**Lost cat lands in Castlebay**

A TOMCAT took a ferry big adventure and ended up stranded on the Isle of Barra.

Islanders believe the striking white cat, nicknamed Alfie, landed in Castlebay by sneaking onto the Oban to Barra ferry.

He was eventually taken to the island of Eriskay after it's owner did not come forward to claim him. He is now in the care of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

Amanda MacDonald, SPCA officer, said: 'Alfie was seen at the ferry terminal trying to get back aboard the ferry to Oban. Obviously staff couldn't let him travel back. We would like to find his owners because he is a well loved animal as is very affectionate.'

A Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) spokesman said: 'If the cat has travelled to Barra by ferry it is most likely that it stowed-away in a car or van, as I am sure it would have been spotted walking on the linkspan or gangway.'

'All pets travel free with CalMac, so its owner, if found, doesn't need to worry about getting a bill for his fare.'

Anyone with information should call Amanda on 07921 941327.

**Wide load offence**

A COMPANY has been reported to the procurator fiscal's office for allegedly failing to notify Strathclyde Police that it was moving an abnormally wide load in Argyll.



'Alfie' went AWOL after jumping on the boat to Barra

**Mary's Meals calls in connection**

INTERNATIONAL charity Mary's Meals has used a Celtic connection to increase the profile of its work in the third world.

The Dalmally-based charity has musicians Donald Shaw, from Taynuilt, and Colin Macintyre, Mull, to come to Malawi to see the charity workers in action.

Donald, of Capercaillie fame and current artistic director of the Celtic Connections festival, is a school friend of charity founder Magnus MacFarlane Barrow.

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LISMORE

**Your correspondent is Pauline Dowling: 01631 760293**

**Energy project**

ON September 30, the Lismore Energy Project held its first public meeting to discuss community based renewable energy options for the island.

Three speakers with experience in various renewable fields were invited to share their expertise and experience.

Ian Macfarlane spoke about BioMara, a new UK and Irish joint project based at Sams, that is investigating the possibilities of farming seaweed for use eventually as a biofuel.

Ian explained that the seaweed would be farmed, not collected, as it grows extremely rapidly and farming would not deplete a natural resource or disturb the ecological balance.

Tony Philpin, the Energy Education Officer of ALI-energy (Argyll Lomond and the Islands Alternative Energy project managed by Lismore's Dr Amanda Currie) lives on Gigha and was involved with their community trust and wind project.

He spoke about the viability of various types of wind turbines, outlining how other comparable communities (Eigg, Gigha etc) were managing their alternative programmes.

Adrian Laycock who lives on Easdale, has for many years run a company that specialises in water resources engineering.

He spoke about his work with micro and macro-hydro power projects and, he said, even very small water sources can be harnessed to produce electricity for a small community.

Tony Philpin and Adrian Laycock stayed on the island to look around at possible sites for alternative energies to be developed.

**Christmas Craft Fair**

AFTER the great success of the first Christmas Craft fair in December last year, the event is to be repeated only this time on Sunday, November 21, from 11am-4pm. The standard of island crafts is very high and it will be full of great gifts and a chance to lunch on soup, sandwiches and hot drinks. Anyone wanting a stall should contact Katy Crossan as soon as possible.

**Isle of Lismore Café**

BETH Campbell will be celebrating Friday, November 5 with fireworks, food and fun with soup, stovies, haggis pies, teas and coffees at £10 per adult, £5 per child (high and primary school) and free for pre school. The café will be closed from November 13 to December 2.

KILMORE

**100 Club**

THE October winner of the 100 Club was M MacKinnon.

**Hallowe'en party**

THERE will be a Hallowe'en Party in Kilmore Hall on Saturday, October 30, at 7.30pm.

There will be children and adults fancy dress parades, prizes, games, dooking for apples and a light supper will be provided. Entry is free to everyone in fancy dress.

Music will be supplied by The Swing Band and there will be a licensed bar.

For those not in fancy dress, admission will be £5.



The Barcaldine pupils with their Christmas cards for the Go Cardz appeal.

**Pupils prove a whizz at making cards**

BARCALDINE Primary School is playing its part in Blue Peter's Christmas appeal for Whizz-Kidz.

Whizz-Kidz, the disabled young people's charity, has been chosen as the BBC programme's appeal charity for 2010-11.

The Blue Peter Go Cardz appeal is asking children to make Christmas cards that will be made available to buy in selected Tesco Superstores and Extra stores nationwide from November 15.

The children of Barcaldine Primary aim to make 92 Christmas cards to help raise as much money as possible for Whizz-Kidz.

The Blue Peter Go Cardz appeal aims to raise £80,000 to fund a network of 100 Whizz-Kidz clinics around the UK - helping more than 400 disabled children receive an assessment and fitting for essential mobility equipment by a trained therapist.

The school has also recently completed level four of the Royal Horticultural Society Campaign for School Gardening benchmark scheme. Barcaldine has since received £250 of gardening vouchers as one of the first 200 schools in the UK to reach this level.

**Mallaig couple's golden day**

A WELL known Mallaig couple have celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

James and Jessie Hepburn, both born and raised in the town, married on October 4, 1960 and have four children.

James worked for fish merchant George Walker and Sons as a manager and was one of the most well known faces in the Scottish fishing industry.

The golden couple kept their celebrations quiet, with a small family gathering.

Provost Allan Henderson, who worked with James at George Walker and Sons, presented them with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of Highland Council.

He told The Oban Times the pair were popular entertainers in the Highlands, saying: 'Jessie was a wonderful traditional singer and James played the accordion. Any fundraising event they would be involved with.'

'They put a lot into the community and the area - no ceilidh would be complete without them.'



Fifty golden years - James and Jessie being presented with a bouquet of flowers by Provost Allan Henderson.

**School nature club's SOW appeal - Save our Worms!**

LOCHALINE Primary School pupils turned detective before the October holidays - to track down slow worms before construction on their new school begins.

The children, members of the Nature Club, laid out mats, carpet tiles and strips of corrugated iron in the garden to attract the cold-blooded animals, which bask under any material warmed up by the sun.

The exercise follows advice from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) on how to minimise disturbance to the species during building work and relocate them away from the development site.

School headmaster, Keith Adams, will keep the slow worms in his garden compost heap for the winter. The children plan to bring some of them back to the school grounds once the new school has been built.

Mr Adams said: 'These slow worms are now a protected species and the children in my school have the chance to carry out valuable conservation work, which will ensure that children of the future will be able to see slow worms.'

'I am always telling them that they are the future rangers, botanists, biologists and protectors of our valuable flora and fauna. This work highlights that point for them.'



Lochaline head teacher Keith Adams and pupils save a slowworm

**Mystery of the Argyll masonic medallion**

A MASONIC medallion, apparently from a redundant Argyllshire lodge of the Order of the Eastern Star, is perplexing its new Welsh owner.

Robert Jones, of Deganwy in Conwy, north Wales, caught sight of the unusual item at an auction house. Intrigued, he bought it and set about trying to uncover its story.

But that's proving far more difficult than he could imagine. He said: 'A friend of mine is in the masons so I bought it. He looked at it but he's got no clue about where it came from.'

'I'm just intrigued. I'd love to know where the lodge is.'

The gold medallion is inscribed with the words: 'Sister M. Johnston Worthy Matron' and

'Gylen and Dunollie 155' but the Order of the Eastern Star website doesn't list the lodge.

The position of Worthy Matron is the highest a female can hold in any chapter.

Mr Jones said: 'I'm dying to know if it's a secret lodge!'

Anyone who can help Mr Jones should contact 01492 584264 or email roban@btinternet.com.

**Lollipop lady's farewell**

Kinlochleven Primary School's lollipop lady Veronica Bradshaw waved goodbye to the school last week. On her final day, pupils and staff presented Veronica with flowers and a card to thank her for assistance and care of the pupils over the years. Veronica supervised the crossing at Wades Road before moving to the Lochaber Road crossing when the new school opened in 2008.



**Around the rurals**

**Kilbrandon**

SUE Moss welcomed members of Kilbrandon SWRI to the first meeting of the new session, held in Seil Island Hall on September 7.

Sue introduced the speaker for the evening, Hazel Munro.

Hazel gave a talk and demonstration of the Bowen Technique, which was developed in Australia in the 1950s by the late Thomas Bowen.

The technique involves a gentle form of body work in which very subtle moves performed over the muscles and connective tissue send messages deep into the body, retrieving cellular memory of a relaxed, balanced way of well-being.

The vote of thanks was given by Betty Clark.

**Morar**

OUR 2010/2011 session was opened by new president, Eileen Macphie and 11 ladies attended.

A warm welcome was given to Flora Lawrie who has come to join us.

Angus MacIntyre, our local ranger, entertained us by showing us some of his beautiful photographs taken on his organised walks featuring our stunning scenery and wildlife. We extend a big thank you to Angus.

Competitions: Treacle scones, 1 Pauline Elwell; 2 Ann Currie; 3 Mary Ferguson; 4 Eileen Macphie.

Witch's hat, 1 June Foxwell; 2 Heather Simpson.

The raffle was won by Ann Currie. Hostesses were Jessie Gillies and Heather

Simpson.

**Fort William**

MAURIN MacDonald, a WRI member, got the new session off to a good start.

Maurin, assisted by Liz, a Dolphin Pool volunteer, and leisure centre manager Garry Davidson, gave a most interesting insight into 'the benefits of hydrotherapy' and all the help and facilities available at the Dolphin Pool and leisure centre.

After a lively question time president Isobel McGavin gave a vote of thanks.

Competitions: Favourite plate, 1 Eileen Cameron; 2 Phyllis Knox. Raffle, Rosa McDiarmid, Shiela Sutton.

The institute meets in Lochaber College on the first Monday of each month. All welcome.

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## Call for protection from landslide threat

A MID Argyll councillor has said more needs to be done to protect rural communities and small businesses following repetitive landslides on the A83.

Councillor Alison Hay tabled a motion before fellow council members asking that the local authority schedule a meeting with the Minister for Transport, Stewart Stevenson, to discuss ways of ensuring communities and businesses are protected from the expensive detours and financial pressures associated with landslips.

The council will now look to secure a meeting with Mr Stevenson 'as soon as possible'.

Councillor Hay said: 'This motion comes in light of the short slip which occurred on the A83 last month.'

'It again highlighted the vulnerability of people who are on the wrong side of landslides and the need for something more to be done.'

Councillor Hay explained: 'When a slip occurs the detour for drivers, particularly businesses such as haulage firms and loggers, is an hour and a half.'

'The extra expense such as fuel costs for a long diversion can be crippling on an already fragile business.'

She added that alternative detour routes had to be looked at; these included using the old road through the Rest and Be Thankful, the Glen Croe forestry road and the Portavadie Ferry for people living South of the landslip.

Supporting Councillor Hay, Islay councillor, Robin Currie, said: 'We would be failing in our duties if we stopped calling for upgrades of the A83.'

'This is about looking after the people of Argyll and Bute.'

Oban councillor and spokesperson for Transport and Infrastructure, Duncan MacIntyre, said: 'With reference to diversion routes they have been costed and I can say that the A83 is a huge spend and requires major investment.'

Councillor Hay's motion was passed by a majority vote.

## Don't fall for paper advertising scam

SCAMMERS claiming to be from newspapers that don't exist are contacting local companies and attempting to sell advertising.

Hodge Fencing, in Oban, has twice been phoned by the con artist, who has attempt to sell ads to be printed in the Argyllshire and Bute Gazette and the Argyllshire Gazette.

But both titles are fictional. Hodge Fencing's Elspeth Hodge has warned other businesses to be on their guard.

She said: 'We first had a call a few weeks ago from someone claiming to be from the Argyllshire and Bute Gazette. We knew it didn't exist so we hung up.'

'A few days ago I got a call from a female claiming to be from the Argyllshire Gazette.'

'They said that they were going to print that day and had a space to fill. They had seen our advert in the Argyllshire Advertiser and wanted to make it bigger for £90.'

'She was quite pushy too and when I said 'no' she said 'why's that?'

'It was very obviously a con and I hung up. 'People should be aware of this.'

## Kilmelford hall's improvement plan

PLANS to upgrade Kilmelford Village Hall were given a boost this month as Community Links Scotland (CLS) pledged its support to the project.

The charity, which supports local community groups to create and access improved services across Scotland, has selected Kilmelford Village Hall as one of six projects to be given assistance.

Members of the organisation will spend eight days with representatives of the community to draw up an outline business plan for the hall.

They will also identify various funding bodies to which the community can apply for grants to carry out improvements to the hall.

The planned upgrade includes refitting the kitchen, installing a more efficient and greener heating system, installing solar panels for hot water, re-carpeting the corridor, replacing flooring in the lesser hall and installing acoustic panels in the main hall.

Community Links Scotland will also be conducting a survey with Kilmelford, Kilmilver and Arduaine residents asking what sort of activities, services and facilities they would like at the hall as part of the project.

## Sound of Mull guide backed by council

A SET of guidelines to govern which future developments in the Sound of Mull should be supported for the next five years has been agreed by Argyll and Bute Council.

The Sound of Mull Spatial Plan, created by the Scottish Marine Environment Initiative (SMEI), was agreed by councillors without discussion at the authority's latest meeting of the full council earlier this month.

The plan could be a significant piece of guidance in the use and development of the marine and coastal area of the Sound of Mull.

It aims to improve efficiency in evaluating the merits of proposed developments, help minimise conflicts of interest and guide future investment in the area.

Representatives from the SMEI worked closely with Argyll and Bute Council's planning department to ensure the spatial plan complements the existing local area development plan.

Mull was one of four areas selected by the SMEI to develop a spatial plan in 2007.

The SMEI, led by the Scottish Government, aims to develop and evaluate approaches to the sustainable management of Scotland's marine areas.

# £1 million village centre to open its doors early

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

DALMALLY'S new £1million community centre could be ready for use by the end of this month, nearly two weeks ahead of schedule.

Mull firm TSL completed the build stage last week and all that remains is for Scottish Water to complete the plumbing and issue the necessary certificate.

It brings to an end 12 years of work for the Dalmally Community Company, who bought the land for the centre - next to the village pharmacy - about eight years ago.

The new building will replace the now antiquated village hall, which was constructed in 1911 for the Territorial Army and is no longer deemed fit for purpose.

Company secretary and treasurer, John Burke, believes the new centre is already living up to its promise.

He said: 'It's got everything that you would want in a modern hall. There are meeting rooms, a big stage, green room, storage and a kitchen. The main hall has got a sprung wooden sports floor there's plenty of room for the badminton court. We've also paid special attention to the acoustics. Overall it has come out really well.'

'We're just waiting to get the



Tim Boardman (right) from the Dalmally Community Company thanks TSL site manager, Allan Paterson, for completing the hall ahead of schedule.

water connected now and there are one or two little bits and bobs to get finished off this week. We're hoping to be in by the end of the month.

'We'll be having a shindig next spring to officially open it as we didn't want to do that in the winter.'

The centre's designs were altered early on to make it as eco-friendly as possible. The result is that the walls and ceilings are super insulated, there is an air to water heat pump and a ventilation heat recovery system.

The company will now turn its full

attention to the installation of a sports field adjacent the hall.

John said: 'Plans are now going ahead for the shinty pitch, but we haven't got the money yet.'

'We're just waiting to get the plans and the cost before we go forward.'

## Airports continue to record growth in passenger numbers

PASSENGER numbers at Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd for September are up on last year's figures.

The company saw an overall growth of 1.5 per cent across its 11 airports, carrying 111,606 passengers against 110,008 in 2009/10.

Much of that can be attributed to new oil related businesses at Sumburgh and diversions there due to bad weather, and a 13.6 per cent increase at Wick.

Small increases were also seen at Benbecula, Campbeltown, Islay,

Dundee and Tiree.

The biggest decline came at Barra's airport, which saw its passenger figures drop by 14.6 per cent to 1,057, while Kirkwall, Stornoway and Inverness endured small losses.

Full year figures are still 8.1 per

cent, or 54,934 passengers, down on 2008/09.

Charter business has continued to perform well ahead of last year, with over three times as many passengers and aircraft movements this year compared to last.

## What to do if you lose TV services on 27 October

To get your channels back, you'll need to re-tune your Freeview TV or box\*. You should be able to do this by 6am, but some of you will need to wait until late afternoon.

### How do I re-tune?

- Switch on your Freeview TV or box.
- Press 'menu' on the remote control.
- Select the 'set up' or 'installation' option.
- Select the 'first time installation' option (sometimes called 'factory reset', 'full re-tune' or 'default settings').
- Press 'OK' if your equipment asks if you want to delete all your channels. Don't worry, this is normal.
- If you are prompted for a code, try 0000 or 1234.
- Channels will be automatically installed. This may take a few minutes and your equipment may shut down and restart.
- After re-tuning, you may have to reset your 'favourites' list. If you re-tune a digital TV recorder, you should reset future recordings.



Keep this, it might be useful

These instructions are a guide only. For detailed re-tuning instructions of popular makes and models visit [digitaluk.co.uk/retuning](http://digitaluk.co.uk/retuning). Satellite and cable TV sets will not be affected.

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# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Caitness proves the doubters wrong

NEW HOST towns always have to go the extra mile to prove they are capable of running the Royal National Mòd.

Established venues, such as Oban, Stornoway and Fort William, have a tried and tested formula and will always be considered as a future hosts. News that the Gaelic festival would be going to Thurso and Wick, however, was greeted with cynicism in some quarters.

It is a testament to the Mòd Ghalldaibh organisers, and the faith shown in them by An Comunn Gaidhealach, that Mòd-goers will be more than happy to return to Caitness.

### GLASGOW LETTER

#### Glasgow successes at the Mòd

NORMALLY in my first column after the Mòd I take the opportunity to give an update of how the week went for the huge contingent from Glasgow but for this year I fear, such was the level of success, that this will not be necessary since elsewhere in this publication all the details will be provided.

From the beginning of the week, the name Glasgow appeared with great frequency in the results for the juniors and indeed this would not change as the week progressed.

Many of the prize winning performances had a link with the senior choirs in the Glasgow area with Emma Deans, from the Cumbernauld Choir, leading the way when she was the winner of the Silver Pendant and she was followed by Iain MacLean's very worthy winning of the Gold Medal.

Iain is, of course, a member of the Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir and their success continued with the two quartets from the choir taking first and second place in that competition and Jennifer Campbell's first place in the Kennedy-Fraser solo singing competition.

The big day for the choirs belonged to the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association, or the GG's as they are probably better known, taking first place in all but one of the four competitions they entered and missing out only in the ladies competition where they took second place. Well done to them and to their conductor Kenneth Thomson.

The GG's have been there or thereabouts in the prize winning lists over the past years while the Govan Gaelic Choir has been experiencing difficult times and it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Govanites on their change of fortune in Cataibh.

A third place in the Lovat and Tullibardine and a top mark for music in the Peurt a Beul competition were creditable performances and will be a huge boost for the choristers and their new conductor Donald Feist.

Donald, from Islay, is a student at the RSAMD and is to be congratulated on turning round the fortunes of the choir in such a short space of time. Can we now look forward to a Govan Choir annual concert returning to the social calendar?

At competitive festivals such as the Mòd the actual prizewinners are applauded but sometimes those behind the performances are forgotten. Step forward Kirsteen Grant who coached husband Iain to success in the Gold and also Joy Dunlop, winner of the Ladies' Medal. In addition she arranged the music and coached both the quartets from her choir.

How was Cataibh then as a venue? I can only speak first hand for Wick, since that is where we were based, and I am happy to record that a better welcome would not be possible. Most of those I spoke to were of the same opinion and our hotel the staff, many from different

parts of the world, had even learned some Gaelic phrases.

Other Mòd venues could learn from Cataibh where the Mòd was viewed as a bonus for business and not one to be exploited.

#### Ulpan courses

THE University of Glasgow Ulpan courses for Gaelic learning commence on Tuesday, October 26, for six weeks. Ulpan is a fast and efficient way of learning Gaelic concentrating on speaking and is based on the model used in Wales to bring fluency in Welsh to huge numbers of the population.

If you have an income less than £22,000, funding may be available for attendance at these courses. More details are available at [www.cli.org.uk](http://www.cli.org.uk) and for funding information at [www.gla.ac.uk/departments/students](http://www.gla.ac.uk/departments/students).

There will also be Gaelic taster courses on Saturday, October 23, and October 30. The university also runs regular once a week Ulpan courses details of which are available at the above web address following adult education instead of the student link.

#### Clydebank ceilidh

THE Napier Hall in Old Kilpatrick was once again the venue for the October ceilidh and while the attendance was slightly down on the usual it was a most enjoyable evening.

Ailean Dhomhnaillach, last year's winner of the Traditional Gold Medal, was in the chair and sang while the other singers were Alison Wood and Sheena Walker with Kirsteen Grant as accompanist. Andrew Caulfield was the piper, Lex Keith and Jean-Ann Calendar provided instrumental selections and Betty Campbell whose mother won An Comunn's Gold Medal back in 1930 gave Scot's readings.

#### Uist and Barra

##### Association Ceilidh Dance

THE association kicks off its new season of ceilidh dances tomorrow evening at 9pm in the Crawford Hall on Beith Street, Partick, close to the old fire station. On this occasion the music will be played by the very popular Monach Isles Ceilidh Band.

#### Diary dates

THURSDAY, October 21: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Skyhook; Friday, October 22: Uist and Barra Association ceilidh dance (see above); Saturday, October 23: Glasgow Skye Association marag supper, Partick Burgh Halls, 7.30pm; Monday, October 24: Post Mòd Ceilidh, Glasgow area Gaelic choirs and friends. Hillhead Sport's Club, 7.30pm; Thursday, October 28: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Bill Adair.

#### Pub Scene

IN the Park Bar this weekend the music will be provided by Ballochmyle on Friday, Pneumatic Drills on Saturday and Stewart Cameron/Simon Moran on Sunday while in the Islay Inn, it will be the Keelies on Friday and the Clachies on Saturday.

#### On a mission to learn more about Donald

Sir, I would be interested to hear from any readers who may know anything of the late Donald Cameron, a missionary of the United Free Church who served the St Kilda community between 1919 and 1926.

Donald was born on the slate island of Belnahua on June 20, 1873. His father, Donald Cameron, was a police constable from the parish of Kilmallie and his mother Christine was from the island of Gigha.

He was a lay missionary between 1912-1919 on the Isle of Lewis, marrying Uist-born Mary Flora MacCorquodale on September 26, 1912.

Whilst in Stornoway he received the call from the Free Church authorities in Edinburgh to serve the remote island community of St Kilda. Donald, Mary along with their two daughters Mary and Christina, relocated to Britain's remotest archipelago where Donald was employed as a missionary and Mary taught the children. The family lived in the manse on the main island of Hirta between 1919-1926, four years before the island was evacuated.

The family are believed to have relocated to Easdale near Lochaline, where Donald once again served the spiritual needs of the St Kildan community after they were relocated to Morvern in 1930.

I would be interested to know what became of the late Donald Cameron and his family after this time.

William A Cameron, 12 Lochy Road, Inverloch, Fort William, PH33 6NJ, email [billcam1@hotmail.com](mailto:billcam1@hotmail.com)



## Letters to the editor

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#### Oban taxi drivers

Sir, Every autumn, as air temperatures drop, the behaviour of Oban's taxi drivers changes in response.

As many as 10-15 gather in the square in front of the railway station, but, unlike in the warm season, each sits cocooned in his or her vehicle with its engine running in order to provide heat.

The demand for taxi services is such that this defensive (in)activity occupies more time than does use of the taxi for its primary purpose – getting passengers from A to B.

Over an eight-hour shift, that adds up to a lot of time and a lot of wasted diesel. And, while used as a space heater, each taxi is polluting the local environment and making its own unnecessary contribution to global warming and the end of the climate as we currently know it.

Far more energy efficient and far less polluting would be a purpose-built building where cabbies could wait in warmth, enjoy a heart-warming cuppa and engage in convivial conversation.

This modest building could be sited in the square off Station Road or Queen's Park Place.

Customers would know exactly where to go to engage a cabbie and cab.

The taxi booth could be part of the South Pier and/or transport interchange that is being mooted as one way of investing the CHORD cash that will now not go to construct the transit marina.

It would improve the lot of a significant number of cabbies and it would improve air quality for everyone who crosses the square off Station Road, including all those waiting for buses.

Nobody blames the taxi drivers for wishing to keep reasonably warm. But, for some common-sense investment, the urban and global environment could be improved and protected.

Ian Reid, Oban.

#### Dogs off the leash

Sir, Am I alone in being upset at seeing the amount of domestic cruelty inflicted in dogs who are permanently walked on leads?

These animals are full of natural energy and need to have the opportunity to run free and work it off in order to be well-adjusted, sociable dogs.

How would owners like to be permanently restrained themselves if they did not wish to be?

Think of the problems it would cause them if they felt permanently frustrated and unable to do the things they loved to do.

It is the duty of every dog owner to learn to control their dog sufficiently so that they are able to be exercised free of restraint, off the lead.

To real dog lovers, there is no sadder sight than an energetic dog pulling on a lead looking miserable, while a dog off the lead, yet under control, looks totally content with his lot.

You see it in its whole demeanour.

Please, dog owners, if you really care about your dog, you'll want it to be happy and the way to do this is to lose the lead.

At least keep it for obvious occasions.

How often do people say 'I can't let it off because it won't come back'?

It will if it isn't coming back only to be tied up again – I promise!

Beth Williams, Inverary.

#### Classic account

Sir, At this time of the year the noise of the rutting red deer stags resounds among the hills of Lochaber and stalkers and their guests are busy with the annual stag cull.

One of the finest books on the subject called 'The High Tops of Blackmount' has now been reprinted.

It was written by the Gaelic speaking Marchioness of Breadalbane and first published in 1907.

The author, clad in square-heeled boots, a large, ankle-length grey skirt, a short jacket and a flat cap, was an excellent shot who once killed six stags with six shots.

Her outlook, in an age when it was considered unusual for a woman to go stalking, can be summed up by a sentence in one of her chapters: 'There is no country like Scotland, and no sport like deer-stalking.'

This new edition is a classic account of deer stalking in Argyll and will be of interest not only to deerstalkers but also hill walkers and naturalists.

Iain Thornber, Morvern

#### Best Mòd ever?

Sir, I have returned home from, probably, the best Mòd I have attended. There were five points where it excelled: good place, good people, good food, good drink and good craic.

The locations were stunning with fantastic views out to Orkney and the Pentland Firth. The views on the way up to Caitness were also equally stunning especially going up the Ord. The local people were very friendly and nothing seemed to be a bother for them.

The local food was fantastic and well cooked and presented in the eating places that I attended.

Also, very importantly, you could get food at anytime during the day up to ten at night or maybe later. The drink, which I kept separate from the food was equally appreciated. Nice to see that the hoteliers and publicans were not, for a change mercenary.

And finally, the craic was very good wherever you went. The local organising committee have to be praised and thanked for the amount of work they put in to make sure it was going to be a success despite the misgivings when it was announced that Caitness was going to host this prestigious event. It was so successful that maybe a certain Mr Rosie will be leading the fight to get bilingual road signs! Well we can hope. As the Duke of Rothesay said: 'SUAS LEIS A GAIDHLIG'.

Le meas,  
Eanruig MacAonghais.

## Still a potent symbol - why the poppy is needed more than ever in 2010

THE year 2010 will be remembered by the British Armed Forces as one of the most bloody in modern history with more than 300 fatalities in Afghanistan and many more injured.

Since the conflict began there have been over 3,800 aero-medical evacuations of UK military and civilian personnel. Last year 55 soldiers lost part or all of a limb, including 26 who lost more than one.

These are the bald facts but they do not tell us of the growing numbers of dependants and family members whose lives have been shattered too, nor the mental suffering imposed on both the combatants and their loved ones.

To Poppyscotland, the organisers of the Scottish Poppy Appeal, the figures represent a huge challenge which must be met for years to come.

The poppy, of course, is not just a symbol of remembrance but a crucial fundraiser for the victims of war too. This is why the appeal is as relevant now as it has ever been and its organisers are confident that Scotland will respond as never before.

Ninety-five years ago, Canadian surgeon Lt Colonel John McRae sat down and wrote a poem during a lull in the 1915 Battle of Ypres.

It begins with the haunting: 'In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row.'

From that moment on remembrance had an emblem. The poem later appeared anonymously in Punch and instantly, if unexpectedly, hit a national nerve.

The concept was seized upon by those anxious to pay homage to their war dead. It took until 1921 for the first Poppy Appeal but when the red paper blooms appeared, it was a runaway success.

To the surprise of some who predicted its demise, the appeal continues to flourish in the 21st century.

Better than that, it's growing; last year the Scottish Poppy Appeal achieved a record £2.2 million – an 8.3 per cent increase over 2008.

During the past three years the appeal has seen a 41 per cent increase in donations. The impact of war is brought home to the public almost every day by news from Afghanistan.

New war memorials are being unveiled and the public has reacted with rising observance to the returning bodies from Afghanistan while military funerals receive widespread coverage.

For the first time in generations, military units are holding homecoming parades – and receiving large scale welcomes.

Though the poppy will always have an emotional link with the First World War, it quickly became representative of those that fell in WW2 and the many conflicts since; Palestine, Korea, Malaya, Cyprus, the Falklands and Northern Ireland to name just a few.

The cost of our military history is a price that we must continue to pay and in this respect the poppy has transcended symbolism to become a core fundraiser.

The theme of this year's appeal, run

by Poppyscotland, is 'Small things, big difference' to highlight the breadth of its work.

The money raised by the Scottish Poppy Appeal helps by providing direct financial assistance to individuals through one-off or annual grants.

Last year £791,930 was given to 1,400 people. More than £1 million went to 13 support organisations.

For instance, Poppyscotland is funding £1 million of a £6 million housing project run by Scottish Veterans' Garden City Association to help them build 60 new houses for veterans with disabilities. Recently, 10 flats were unveiled in Scone, Perthshire, named Poppy Court, and in October four bungalows were formally opened in Penicuik, Lothian.

The demands on Poppyscotland's services are growing, not diminishing. War victims and families will need support for years to come and the poppy remains the most potent symbol of remembrance, which also brings a quiet determination to care for those who paid such a heavy price for their service. The poppy links the men in the trenches that John McRae knew to the troops in today's Afghanistan. Its place in our culture is firmly rooted.

Remembrance, from the mud of Flanders to the dust of Helmand, remains strong and so, too, is the duty of care. That is why the Poppy remains such a compelling symbol and why we will never forget.

Neil Griffiths  
Royal British Legion Scotland

## A view from the tower

by McCaig

### Do we want austerity again?

BY now, we will all be au fait with the austerity measures that Messrs Cameron and Osborne have been promising with an unalloyed certainty since that night when Mr and Mrs Brown and their two sons walked away into the gloaming from Downing Street.

They had fought a losing battle and were slipping off for a well-earned rest but fearful of what would be said about them and their erstwhile Cabinet colleagues as the triumphant Tories brayed warnings of sadistic times for everyone, especially the middle classes who had put them there, assisted by the Liberal-Democrats who had campaigned to do very little of what they were about to have to support as the price of some sort of proportional representation in elections and a number of Cabinet posts through which they hoped to modify the worst excesses of those who were now enjoying what could best be described as 'uncaring dictatorship'.

Those who are under 40 won't have experienced real austerity, as the last Tory reign, despite the 'grocer' economics of Margaret Thatcher, was by and large a period of economic growth and the establishment of the banks' 'spend now, pay later' policy which laid the foundation for many of the problems which are the cause of so much of the current economic strife.

This was the start of the 'bread and circuses' era which continued under the rule of 'warmonger' Tony Blair, the alleged 'prudence' of Gordon Brown's shorter time-in-charge and still more unnecessary participation in conflicts started and promoted by the United States, led by that arch right-winger: George W Bush.

Just think about that last sentence as we now have a bullish man of the right in charge in No.10 and another as Secretary of State for Defence in Liam Fox. Don't be surprised if we suddenly find ourselves 'involved' in an alleged 'freedom' mission in some part of the Far East from which no exit strategy has been pre-determined and which we most definitely cannot afford.

I hope not, as what I'll be writing about next week will be painful enough without the antics of 'latter day Victorians' still believing that Britain has a Divine Right to interfere in any alleged 'threat to freedom' that some drinking club at Eton talked about as dawn broke, the port was finished and the 'old prune' – a disgusting concoction distilled from the skin and stone of the plum – almost down to the dregs.

The eternal optimist

AS the Scottish National Party conference drew to a close last weekend there was much speculation about how its leader, Alex Salmond, would handle the

current British economic situation as, whether he likes it or not, that is what determines so much of his financial room to manoeuvre.

While in one part of his oration he seemed to recognise that cuts would have to be made because the 'wicked' Westminster government was going to dock the Scottish Block Grant by whatever horrendous figure he chose to pluck from the air he, and I'm sorry to say his deputy, Nicola Sturgeon, went on to make the most absurd promises which they know that their Finance Minister, John Swinney, cannot justify.

When the late Sir Alex Douglas-Home became a Tory Prime Minister he talked to Britain about his 'match-stick' economics and was scorned by all the barrack-room bankers who thought him at least stupid if not certifiable.

Maybe he appeared naive but all he was illustrating was that age-old adage: 'look after the pennies and the pounds will look after themselves'.

If Ms Sturgeon, Mr Osborne and Dr Cable followed Sir Alec's sentiments we might not be in the very difficult situation in which we find ourselves today.

### A good week for the arts

I'M glad to hear that the Royal National Mòd in Wick and Thurso was a success despite the fact that the number of visitors appearing seems to have been fewer than it should have been.

Congratulations to Joy Dunlop, from Connel, on winning the Ladies Gold Medal, to all the Mull competitors who collected a basin-full of cups, and medals as well as Taynuilt Gaelic Choir who always take home some silver and to Kenny Thomson and his Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association (the 'GGs' for brevity) on once again annexing the Lovat & Tullibardine Trophy for choral singing.

However, while I greatly enjoy having Mary Anne Kennedy present the Mòd coverage on television I, and many others, wonder why it has to be so late in the evening although some provision is now made for viewers in some parts of Scotland.

But, it wouldn't be Mòd week coverage if there wasn't a brickbat awarded to someone in the BBC.

This year, I award it to whoever chose the choirs to be shown in the children's concerts: why did we have to have three songs from one prize-winning choir and none from others? Meanwhile, congratulations to John Lowrie Morrison (Jolomo) on his latest exhibition in Oban's Kranenburg Fine Art Gallery. That's where to pick up the best investments currently available and be able to enjoy them as well.

McCaig

### PRESS POLICY

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# My Village Taynuilt

**Willie Campbell was born and bred in Taynuilt, working as a plumber, janitor and, currently, an award-winning lollipop man. And despite having seen a lot of the country while touring with the Gordon and Sutherland Highlanders, there is nowhere the 76-year-old would rather be than the Lorn village he is happy to call home.**

**What makes Taynuilt special for you?**

There's not a place like it. I don't think you can get better scenery anywhere, in my opinion. You can go walking anywhere and you'll see impressive scenery and if you want to relax you can go down to Airds Bay and sit on the beach.

I saw a lot of Scotland with the Gordon and Sutherland Highlanders but I still haven't seen anywhere like Taynuilt.

It has always been a good village for sport. I like to play golf and we have a nice course here. There is a shinty club and a junior rugby club and the village has always produced good footballers. My father, Donald Campbell, played for Blackburn Rovers and people said he was one of the best players to come out of this area.

There are still good family-run shops in the village; the current butcher has maintained the traditional feeling in the shop and Ian Campbell in Graham's Grocers gives an excellent service. I don't know what a lot of the older people would do if we didn't have that shop.

**Does it have an interesting history?**

Taynuilt has a very important history. One of the most talked about events in the village's history is its connection to the Battle of Trafalgar. The iron furnace here made cannonballs used in the battle and following Nelson's victory, the men from the furnace erected a monument in the village in Nelson's name.

**What was the village like when you were younger?**

When I was a child the village was thriving with shops and the main street

was a busy place. At one point there were three grocers, two butchers, a draper's shop, a sweet shop, car hire business, coal supplier and a post office - all in this wee village.

I remember my sister, Kate, and I would walk from Airds Bay to school and back every day, as well as walking home for lunch. At the top of the hill brae we would first pass by Grierson's Grocers, then in the main street was MacInnes the grocers and Graham's Grocers, which is still there today. The sweet shop, which only closed down in the past 10 years or so, was there and every break time in school we would run down the hill and form a queue to buy sweets or an apple from the shop.

I was pleased to see the Robin's Nest Tearoom re-open. I remember it the first time round, when it was run by Mrs MacNaughton, then it became the doctors' surgery with Drs Corson and Bain.

The village looked completely different to how it looks today.

I was at school during the war so we had more than 100 evacuees in with us. Some of them were real 'hard nuts' from Glasgow but they soon calmed down. It was really hard for them being away from the city and having to stay with strangers.

**How has the village changed since you were a child?**

The most notable change has been the number of houses we have in the village now.

It seems like every available piece of land has been taken up by housing and some of it is very expensive.

When I was young all the crofts were being worked and in the summer you would see everyone out doing their bit



Taynuilt's Willie Campbell is an award-winning lollipop man. 07\_142w101

and that is something you never see now.

The people have changed too and the village is getting a lot bigger. I'm worried that the place will lose its community feel but there are things keeping everyone together, such as the monthly ceilidhs, which have always been on the go in Taynuilt.

One of the big changes I have noticed, through my job, is the school.

I returned to the old school as a janitor and worked there for eight years, which was quite strange at first. By that point it was a cold and damp building; I would have to start work at 5.30am to get the heating going! When we moved up to the new school it was lovely and in such a beautiful setting, with Ben Cruachan in full view.

I'll tell you something that hasn't

changed in my 17 years as school janitor and 18 years as lollipop man: The children. I have never had any trouble from any of them and they are very respectful. It's always 'hello Mr Campbell' and the majority of them say thank you when I help them cross the road. I am really lucky to work with a school with such nice children.

**What are the challenges facing the village, or how could it be improved?**

The place seems to have been downgraded and needs a good clean up. It used to be spotless. Another problem is the afternoon traffic through the village. I often have to direct the traffic in the village when I'm waiting for the kids to come down from the school. The main road is another

problem because of the speed some cars go through there. It's a 30mph speed limit but I've seen cars doing at

least twice that and I have even seen cars overtaking. Everyone is in such a rush these days!

To be fair to the police, they quite often do speed checks on the main road.

**Is there anyone famous from the village?**

The writer and former Oban High School teacher Iain Crichton Smith is one of the better-known Taynuilt folk and the founding members of the Celtic band Capercaillie.

Donald Shaw and Karen Matheson, are from here.

But few people know that Robert Burns' forebears lived at Balindore.

Although he was not famous around the country, one of the best-loved Taynuilt folk of recent times was a Dr MacNicol who, in the 1940s, home-delivered all the babies in the community. He also played the piano at ceilidhs and events and was very highly thought of as an integral part of the community.

**Do you have a favourite place in the village?**

Airds Bay is extra special for me because I was born there. I enjoy it for its peace and tranquillity; sitting there and looking across to Bonawe and right up Loch Etive to Glen Salloch.

**Do you have a favourite time of year in Taynuilt?**

I think the autumn time is best; the place looks fantastic with all the different colours you get from the trees turning.



Above, the Taynuilt Hotel lies in the centre of the village. 07\_142tay02

Left, Muckairn Parish Church lies in the shadow of Ben Cruachan. 07\_142tay01



**20 Years Ago**

**Those Were The Days**

Thursday October 25, 1995

**Film makers quit 'jinxed' Skye**

A FILM company has quit the island of Skye after a series of disasters 'jinxed' their attempts to make a supernatural movie there.

Reels of film for the planned thriller were found to be ruined, film lights were damaged and members of the team, including the first aid girl and the safety officer, were injured in falls.

The session was almost like a sitcom had it not been serious.

First aid girl Petrine Veitch, of Glasgow, suffered three fractured ribs in a fall down a six foot hole as the team prepared for a filming session at Skeabost.

Two of her colleagues also fell down the concrete-floored culvert, while Petrine was still stranded at the bottom. Then as she was being stretchered into an ambulance, the film safety officer, Paul Wynne, fell down the hole in a repeat performance.

Mr Wynne was also taken to hospital after tearing ligaments in his leg.

**Cheaper to destroy sheep than to sell**

WEST Coast sheep have been selling for as little as £1 each at the end of a disastrous year of decline for the farming industry.

Director of the Scottish Crofters' Union, Mr George Campbell, said that, on paper, it would have been cheaper for some people to destroy their animals in the fields than bring them to the market.

Some Western Isles cast ewes selling at £1 to £1.50 had cost £1.50 a head to transport to the market.

A spokesman for Inverness market commented: 'I suppose they are dealt with a little more humanely if they're brought to the market.'

He said farmers were faced with the option of holding on to the sheep in the hope that they would fatten up next year, but the poorer animals would be unlikely to survive another west coast winter.

At Hamilton's Auction Mart, Dingwall, a spokesman said they had

not seen such low figures for 15 years, 'but then I don't think we have ever seen animals in such poor condition.'

**Housing scheme 'slum' claim**

A TENANT'S association claims that Lochaber District Council has allowed a housing scheme to become a 'slum.'

The Plantation Tenants Association is alarmed by Lochaber District Council's attitude towards the deterioration of the homes.

At a recent meeting of the association, not one of the invited district council officials turned up.

A spokesperson for the group said: 'The committee must come to the conclusion that the district council seems to have little interest in this scheme. The representatives from the council, which included housing, environmental and architectural officers and the chief executive, did not attend - with not even the courtesy to answer the invitation.'

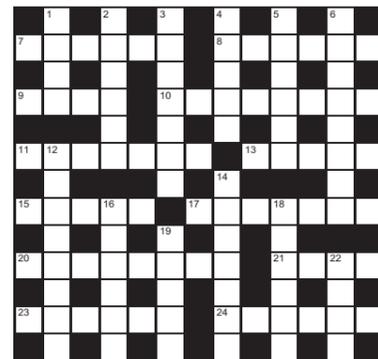
**GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD**

**Across**

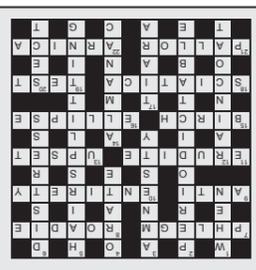
- 7 Fruit to begin using programme (6)
- 8 Seafood dish (6)
- 9 Soon (4)
- 10 Consign (8)
- 11 Firm texture (2,5)
- 13 Additional (5)
- 15 Behind (5)
- 17 Bid with un-named suit (2-5)
- 20 Lecherous (8)
- 21 Unwell (4)
- 23 Likeness (6)
- 24 Outsider (6)

**Down**

- 1 Airy (4)
- 2 Drop (6)
- 3 Repeat (7)
- 4 Church song (5)
- 5 Grub (6)
- 6 Higher in the water... (8)
- 12 ...ride for emergencies (4,4)
- 14 Drums for cats? (3-4)
- 16 Extremity covering the creature (6)
- 18 Withstand (6)
- 19 Shade of green (5)
- 22 Keep it up so to speak! (4)



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Markie Dans	
Friday 22 October >	Chris Suckle
Markie Dans	
Saturday 23 October >	Wallace Mair
Markie Dans	
Friday 29 October >	Mini Monsters Ball
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	
Friday 29 October >	Halloween Party
Markie Dans	with Crooked Reel
Saturday 30 October >	Halloween Party
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	
Friday 12 November >	Relentless
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	

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**ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th** 090 6612 4520  
The second Full Moon in four weeks in your sign is likely to bring up what's been a recurring theme in your situation, that of the need to focus on relationships. The balance of power in even long standing ties is shifting, but there's a lot to gain from this, insofar as helping you to understand more deeply your needs and those of someone you are involved with. Call for your love scope in full...

**TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st** 090 6612 4521  
The Sun moves into Scorpio sparking a more competitive spirit within you. Yet Mercury cautions you to tune into others too - so work at your listening skills. In love - especially if you're single, and wish to meet someone, you can be determined to make things happen. This can see you look to set up a date or accept an invite. It can give you a rush to be more dashing. Call now for your love scope...

**GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st** 090 6612 4522  
You may find yourself pulled to being more practical in your choices, just when you have achieved a moment of realization about something at a more sentimental or human level. If you have been searching for work, stay totally open minded, the offer that drops for you may be doing something new, but this could turn out to be a real winner - give it time. Call me for your in-depth forecast...

**CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd** 090 6612 4523  
A surge of energy lifts your spirits. This is an excellent time for taking on new interests and for travel. Your sex life can also perk up. Cancer. Even in a settled tie there can be more of a spark between you and yours, but if you are a free spirit someone with a unique characteristic, job or attitude can seem much more appealing than a safer, more conventional bet. Call for more news and astral advice...

**LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd** 090 6612 4524  
Even if you're settled in your home, something can happen which can enliven things. For example, a youngster may bring home their first serious partner to meet you, which creates a lot of interest. If you're looking to start a family this is a good time to do so. A home upgrade is also possible, yet equally you may decide to downsize to free up spare cash to enjoy. Call for your financial scope...

**VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd** 090 6612 4525  
Wow - this week really can be a lively one Virgo, so hold onto your hat for you could find yourself whooping with delight as your most spontaneous side takes hold! All sorts of novelties and eccentricities can appeal and you can have some really brilliant conversations. Yes, you can be someone who carefully analyses situations, however, now you'll crave lots of action. Call for more...

**LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd** 090 6612 4526  
You'll want to feel that you can get the best deals, and this can see you hunting around the autumn sales or going more on-line to look for value. Someone can offer you the chance to buy an item really inexpensively, and you may find yourself making a snap decision to go for it. However, equally, you may snaffle yourself a new and snazzy domestic appliance. Call for your financial forecast in full...

**SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd** 090 6612 4527  
You'll power forwards. In fact, this is likely to be the most energized you have felt for many a week. And, because of this, whatever life fires in your direction you are going to be in the mood to capitalize or face down any pressures. You can also feel more sure footed and confident. If you have been feeling as if you have been drifting, this will rapidly fade. Call for your in-depth forecast...

**SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st** 090 6612 4528  
At the end of this week, you may find yourself becoming less concerned with undercurrents and politics and more concerned with getting things done, and getting your voice heard. But before then, some deeply personal issues can come up. You may also find out something to do with your roots or background that comes as quite a surprise, yet perhaps a thrill too. Call for more news and advice...

**CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th** 090 6612 4529  
You may find yourself alternating between splendid isolation or at the heart of a group. If you are an individualistic kind of Goat, your star is in the ascendant, and the more unusual, the more people will seem to want to spend time as part of your group. If you are into social networking, expect the lines of communication to be absolutely buzzing. Enjoy all this sparkle. Call your prediction line for more...

**AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th** 090 6612 4530  
Just because you care for others doesn't mean that you should espouse success for the better you do, the more you can spoil buddies or give money to causes. And your name has an excellent chance of being up in lights now. This can be locally, or further afield. Don't hold back on your ambitions, some golden opportunities can come - if you are open to them. Call now for more news and astral advice...

**PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th** 090 6612 4531  
Widen your horizons for if you do, you're in for an exhilarating time. This can be through further education, languages or travel. If you've ever fancied parachuting for a charity, for example, go for it. Don't think that anything is beyond you Pisces, because this is a period when the main blockage to progress, will be from inner fears rather than external constraints. Call for more news and advice...

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# Landscape takes centre stage for new TV series

REPORT by EDEL KENEALY  
ekenealy@obantimes.co.uk

TAKING a look at how man has shaped the Scottish landscape - Argyll and the Highlands takes centre stage of BBC Scotland's latest nature programme.

*Making Scotland's Landscape*, presented by Professor Iain Stewart, is a five-part television series, which takes a fresh perspective on man's influence on this natural wilderness.

Each week Iain takes a different theme - trees, earth, sea, water and climate - and reveals how these and man have combined to make the land we know today.

In the first episode on trees, to be shown on October 24, Argyll's forests light up the screen.

Iain forages for food in Glen Nant with woodland expert Patrick McGlinchey, finding out how the early hunter-gatherers lived sustainably in the forests.

In the second episode, Earth, Iain takes to Glencoe and Glenfeshie to see the results of the Clearances, before taking the ongoing battle for land control onto modern times on Eigg. Here he celebrates the island's independence day with residents, who bought the island in 1997.

Iain revisits Argyll in the fourth programme, Water, which sees him visit Ben Cruachan. Here he discovers how Scotland got into hydroelectric



Life in the wild - from left, Peter MacArthur of the forestry commission, survival expert Patrick McGlinchey and Prof Iain Stewart take shelter in Glen Nant Forest.

power, the only energy source that can literally be available immediately at the press of a button.

The television series is part of a wider schedule of programmes across TV, radio and the internet, designed

to celebrate Scotland's landscape. The day after each episode BBC Radio Scotland listeners will be able to take their own tour with Iain in a series of downloadable audio walks reflecting on themes or places in the

television series. A photo gallery of classic archive shots is also available at [bbc.co.uk/Scotland](http://bbc.co.uk/Scotland), where members of the public can upload their own pictures that mark the changing landscape of the country.

## Oban author up for Glenfiddich award

AUTHOR Alan Warner has been nominated for a prestigious Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Award in the writing category.

Born in Oban, Alan's newest novel, *The Stars in the Bright Sky*, was long-listed for the 2010 Man Booker Prize. In the Glenfiddich, he faces competition from three other writers, Denise Mina, Andrew O'Hagan and James Robertson.

The awards are now in their 13th year and were established to recognise individuals who lead the way in various aspects of Scottish culture.

Elizabeth Lafferty, from Glenfiddich, said: "The pioneering spirit shown by all of this year's nominees is amazing. We firmly believe that it should be recognised and celebrated wherever possible and established the Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Awards to do just that. We wish all of the nominated candidates well in this year's awards."

There are nine categories in the Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Awards - music, art, business, environment, sport, writing, screen, food and top Scot. The winners of the awards are determined by public vote and will be announced at a glittering ceremony in Edinburgh in December. To vote in this year's awards visit [www.glenfiddich.com/spirit](http://www.glenfiddich.com/spirit).

## Kintyre miners' story to be told at Human Rights Film Festival

JAN Nimmo's film about coal mining in Kintyre, which proved such a hit when it had its premiere at The Picture House, Campbeltown, this summer, has been selected for screening at an international film festival.

*The Road to Drumlehan* tells the story of Kintyre's last coal mine, The Argyll Colliery, which worked from 1947-1967.

The film has been selected for Document 8; Human Rights Film Festival to be held in Glasgow on October 31 and it will be given a community screening at The Village Hall, in Machrihanish, on November 6.

Jan's dad, Neil, was the shot firer at the colliery and when he died she realised there was an urgency to gather the stories of the remaining miners.

Through their personal narrative the film gives an insight into working life, its hardships and camaraderie. The stories span the life of the mine and pay tribute to all of the men who worked invisibly beneath the wild and unspoilt shores of western Kintyre.

It was such a success that it had to be shown twice on the night of its premiere and all DVD copies sold out, prompting Jan, a former Campbeltown Grammar School pupil, to organise a second batch. The film is also attracting considerable praise. The writer and poet, Gerry Loose said: '*The Road to Drumlehan* is a tribute to the miners of the Argyll Colliery and the rich oral history of a hidden Scotland. Not just Kintyre but the whole country is enriched by this moving, witty, compassionate landmark film.'

## Speakers Club winter session gets off to an excellent start

AT THE opening meeting of its winter programme, members of Oban Speakers Club were treated to excellent speeches on a variety of subjects.

The speakers were Roy Wood on J M Barrie, Alex Clark on Photography and Bill Leech on The Isles of Scilly. The speakers and their critics were introduced by the chairman Willie Melville.

The topics session was introduced

by Eamonn Arthur and he gave a variety of topics to Frank Walton, Ian Fullerton, John Maclean, Bill Leech, Jim Fraser and Guido Faccenda.

Timekeeper for the evening was Peter Abbott and the general evaluation of the evening's proceedings was given by Donald MacAskill.

The next meeting will be held today (Thursday) in the Regent Hotel at 8pm.



Pupils and chaperones involved in the Laurinburg exchange pictured with their Oban Times at the city limit.

## Exchange students keep up with the Times

A COPY of *The Oban Times* winged its way to Laurinburg, North Carolina as part of Oban High School's annual exchange trip.

The 11 pupils and three chaperones from Oban High travelled to the US during the

October holidays, having hosted their American counterparts from Scotland High School in the summer.

This is the 18th annual exchange between the schools. Representing Oban High School this year are: Amanda

Noddings, Anna Smith, Breagh Cameron, Nicola Burgar, Rowen MacAskill, Louisa Stage, Kerry Yadav, Jessica Bichard, Kirsty MacLean, Katherine Jackson and Ross Jespersen, with chaperones Aisling McGuire, Jillian Gibson and Donald MacLeod.

## Performers make a meal of charity show

A DALMALLY-based charity will host a series of top Scottish performers at Glasgow's Old Fruitmarket this month to help feed children in third-world countries.

Mary's Meals already feed 420,000 children around the world, but hope their latest fundraiser, in conjunction with Celtic Connections, will help expand their reach further.

Among the big names set to play at the gig are the Glasgow-based Oban band Washington Irving, Mull's Colin MacIntyre, Eddi Reader and Jon Fratelli. The event takes place on October 29.

## Theatre group's £650 for restoration appeal



The Three Wee Crows Theatre Company has raised £650 for the St Conan's Kirk restoration fund by performing seven shows at the venue this year. The group, which casts Kilchrenan's Vivienne Price and Tainuult women Kathleen Hannigan and Carol Thomson in the lead roles, plans a further season at the kirk next year and would like to thank everyone who supported it and the kirk during the 2010 season.

# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

**WAKE UP TO WOOD FUEL**

How Mull's woodlands can heat your property

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010

Isle of Mull Hotel, Craignure, 7.30pm

Come along if you:

- Are replacing your heating system
- Want to know more about wood fuel boilers, the costs and types of systems
- Want to know about quality control for wood fuel and security of wood supply

For more information contact ALL Energy: 01631 565 183

CANCER RESEARCH UK

Oban Local Committee

**PINK CEILIDH DANCE**

Breast Cancer Awareness Week

Friday 29th October

7.30 pm in Royal Hotel, Oban

Michael Garvin Band

And lots more

Tickets £10 / Children £5

From Royal Hotel, House & Home and at the door

**HALLOWEEN**

Sponsored Circuit Training

Wednesday 27th October

6.30pm - 7.30pm

At the Dojo

Prizes and Goodie Bags

**MEUR LOCHABAIR CEILIDH DANCE**

West End Hotel,

Fort William

Friday, 22nd October at 7.30pm

Artists: Ian MacKay, Morag Smith, Jimmy Cameron

Music by Ian Joseph Band

Admission £8 includes tea.

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## Lochaber can pull through downturn insists trade chief

THE NEW chairman of Fort William and District Chamber of Commerce is confident the town can survive the current economic downturn.

In an exclusive interview with *The Oban Times*, Robert Hawkes says Lochaber faces some serious problems but can cope by focusing on the area's strengths, such as tourism - although attracting new businesses can sometimes be a problem.

Mr Hawkes, commercial director of Fort William company Hotcot, says tourism is the key to taking the area forward, but is worried the industry in Lochaber may take visitors for granted.

He said: 'Obviously it is the biggest business here, but I think the town has got too complacent in the past. It relies very much on tourists coming no matter what's on offer, and I think the town has to dramatically up its offer as far as tourism is concerned, both in the range of facilities on offer and the quality of those facilities.'

'Fort William is a bit of a microcosm - we never actually have the peaks but we don't have the troughs either. I don't think it is so immediately affected by the cuts being made.'

'I think it's because of the type of business we've got here, they tend to work closely with other businesses. There's mutual support here, which does help us get through.'

But he added: 'Running a business in Fort William quite a challenge because of our location. The disadvantages are transport, with the A82, and broadband not being up to standard, which makes us uncompetitive.'

'There are advantages of doing business here



Chamber of Commerce chairman Robert Hawkes

10\_f43chamber01

as well - it's easy to get staff, and you can keep your costs down and compete with the central belt.'

Mr Hawkes believes the High Street needs to move away from retail to survive.

He said: 'Rates and rents on the High Street are not affordable. Several businesses have become marginal, and we are aware of some that are not likely to survive the downturn. Shoppers want out-of-town shopping - high streets are changing to become cultural and recreational centres of the community.'

Meanwhile, at the Alexandra Hotel on Monday evening the chamber looked at ways members can beat the recession.

Mr Hawkes provided details of a business mentoring scheme being run through Scottish chambers of commerce, which gives businesses access to a wealth of business experience free of charge.

David Fraser, deputy chair of Fusion, the Scotland-wide entrepreneurial support group, highlighted networking and creating mutual trust as key aspects for the future of Lochaber businesses.

## Tweed for Topman

THE HARRIS Tweed industry has received another boost as leading high street retailers Topman is to feature the fabric in a new international collection.

Shawbost-based Harris Tweed Hebrides supplied the tweed to Topman in traditional and specially commissioned patterns for a range that stretches from coats to bow ties.

The retailer plans to carry the collection

in flagship stores, including New York, Tokyo and Edinburgh, from November 8.

Mark Hogarth, creative director of Harris Tweed Hebrides, said: 'The choice of tweed and the cut on the designs are exquisite. We are confident that this collection will bring Harris Tweed to the attention of a whole new generation.'

Production in 2010 at Shawbost is up 50 per cent on last year.

## Litter louts warning

LITTER louts and fly tippers are being warned that enforcement teams will be in Fort William for two weeks from Monday - and they will be adopting a zero

tolerance approach. Anyone found dropping litter or dumping waste will be handed an on the spot fixed penalty notice of £50.

# War hero's last bitter battle

## Crofter Donald stands up to laird's tourism development

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS and RICHARD HADDOCK

A LOCHABER war veteran is fighting a last bitter battle - with the Highland laird who wants part of his croft for a tourism development and tree planting.

Donald Cameron was only 21 when his 9th Battalion Parachute Regiment fought free from German encirclement at Arnhem in September 1944.

Now, at 87, the former paratrooper is locked in combat with West End musical theatre producer Sir Cameron Mackintosh, of whose 13,000-acre Nevis Estate he is a tenant, for the right to buy the 711-acre Swordlands croft he runs at Loch Morar, near Mallaig.

The dispute has already dragged on 12 years but a Scottish Land Court hearing in the Moorings Hotel, Banavie, this week should finally settle the issue.

Sir Cameron's Nevis Estates Ltd wants three adjoining parcels of land of Mr Cameron's croft to develop a bunkhouse, holiday homes and a woodland scheme, taking nine acres next a road to the loch and jetty, 14 acres of grazing and 27 acres of woodland at South Tarbet Bay.

Highland Council gave the project outline planning permission last year, ruling that the ongoing Land Court action was 'not a relevant consideration'.

Mr Cameron wants to purchase his croft in its entirety on the grounds that without the



Arnhem veteran Donald Cameron is looking to win his battle with Sir Cameron Mackintosh over the development of his croft on the Nevis Estate. 10\_f43crofter01

disputed area it would not be viable.

Giving evidence on behalf of Mr Cameron, blackface sheep farmer Ewan MacMillan, whose father was manager of Arisaig Estate, told the court Mr Cameron's sheep rely on the woodland for cover in bad weather, and building a development there would force the animals elsewhere.

He said: 'A bunkhouse in the woods would prevent the sheep going there for shelter,

they wouldn't become accustomed to people living near them.'

'Anyone with knowledge of blackface sheep on hills knows they will make way for humans, steer clear.'

'Take the shelter away and sheep will have to take shelter on hillsides and in gullies.'

When asked by Sir Crispin Agnew QC, for the estate, if taking the woodland away would have a negligible effect on the croft,

Mr Macmillan answered: 'No, a considerable one.'

Mr Cameron, of Torlundy Road, Caol, told on Tuesday how he continued to work the croft he was born and brought up on.

The woodland, he said, was vital to the welfare of his 360 ewes and 88 hogs, 48 of which belong to his daughter Catherine, who helps on the croft.

'There's shelter from the east wind and the west wind and other areas do not offer that,' he said.

'It's where I take feed to the sheep in the winter time - there could be 100 in there at times.'

'They winter better because they have more shelter and the grass comes earlier.'

His solicitor, Lewis Kermack, asked: 'If the land was taken from you, what effect would that have on your crofting operation?'

'It would reduce it to half because I could not keep the same number of sheep on it,' Mr Cameron replied.

'It would have a knock on effect on the whole lot. It's the best bit of ground I have got and it's more accessible - I can drive my quad bike there and take feed blocks in.'

'And if it were said to you that you might be better off not keeping any sheep and living off the farm subsidy?'

Mr Cameron said: 'Then you are not a crofter any more, are you? That's very important to me. It's a way of life.'

□ The hearing continues. Read the latest on the case at [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk).

## Skipper Blair on the mend

LOCHABER Rugby Club captain Blair MacRaidl is making a speedy recovery at his Fort William home after sustaining a horrific head injury during a game against Highland Reds on October 9.

Blair suffered a serious skull fracture as he tackled Highland's Fijian fullback and was airlifted to the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow after his condition at the Belford deteriorated.

He was discharged last Friday and is now well on the mend. Although a final decision on whether he can return to rugby rests with the medical profession, the risks would appear too great.

Club president Alistair MacKinnon told *The Oban Times*: 'I went to see Blair on Saturday. This was his first year as club captain and the worst thing is that he won't play rugby again.'

'It will be at least a year before he can drive and he'll be off work for 14 weeks. He does not remember Saturday or Sunday at all.'

'There are plenty of other things at the club he could do, such as coaching the younger players. But he is still with us - that's the most important thing.'



Blair MacRaidl in action during the fateful game: now he's on the mend. 10\_f43rugby01

## Award makes it two in a row for Skye architects

A HOUSE on the Isle of Skye has been named the best residential building in the UK at an award ceremony in Manchester.

Skye-based architecture practice Dualchas Building Design won gold at the Roses Design awards last week for their design for a house in Aird of Sleat.

Mary Arnold Fraser designed the house for Liz and David Singleton. It is the second year in a row Dualchas has picked up Roses Design award. The building of the house was filmed for ITV's 'Dream Homes' and will be shown later in the year.

## Small boat sailing club nets £10,000 lottery cash

PLOCKTON Small Boat Sailing Club (PSBSC) has been awarded £10,000 following a successful application to the National Lottery 'Awards for All' scheme.

The money will be used for the purchase of five sailing dinghies to boost the club's junior sailing programme.

The award follows an earlier charitable donation also aimed at increasing opportunities for young sailors locally. The new boats will be available for the 2011 sailing season. Club membership now stands at more than 140 - up 20 per cent on 2009.

## Gaelic conference 'in the wrong place and too expensive'

TWO LOCHABER councillors, both strong supporters of Gaelic, have hit out at what they claim are exorbitant booking fees for a major conference on developing the language.

Eddie Hunter and Donald Cameron also say the venue, Edinburgh, is the wrong choice because the overwhelming majority of people attending will be from the Gaidhealtachd.

The Gaelic Medium Education, Driving for Sustainability event at the Hilton Grosvenor Hotel on November 17 costs commercial delegates £292 to attend, councillors £175 and school and charity delegates £116.

The duo had intended attending the conference, arranged by Holyrood magazine, to raise serious concerns about Gaelic secondary education.

However, conscious of current economic realities the councillors decided to remain in Lochaber.

Councillor Cameron told *The Oban Times* he welcomed the conference to address plans for Gaelic medium education, had intended attending and 'was happy' to cover the travelling costs.

'However, we are not prepared to stump up £175 each for the day's fee to listen to four keynote speakers who are salaried from the public purse. The fees are fanciful and do not reflect the austere times we have in front of us and could prevent concerned individuals from attending.'

'The Grosvenor Hotel, Edinburgh is a fine venue near the seat of power but I think that there are equally fine venues in the Gaidhealtachd. I can't imagine the Basques heading for Madrid to discuss the fragility of their language.'

'The looming budgetary pressures aside, there are concerns regarding the lack of teachers to teach the language in secondary schools never mind Gaelic medium education. We are a long, long way from providing all subjects in Gaelic in senior schools. There has to be a worry that, despite an increasing demand for GME Primary schools, we are leading children and parents up a cul-de-sac.'

He added: 'There is a danger that this conference day could turn into a love-in for senior politicians and those with a vested interest who work in the industry. I hope that searching and awkward questions are asked for the sake of Gaelic education.'

Councillor Hunter said: 'I would have thought that it would have made more sense to hold a conference on Gaelic medium education in the heart of the Gaidhealtachd.'

Holyrood magazine receives no public funds and pitched prices as competitively as possible, helping to provide councils with the publication free of charge, a spokesperson said. The venue had been decided 'in close collaboration' with the Gaelic community.

## Young storytellers' efforts highlighted in contest

A CREATIVE story about a statue in Achnacloch Garden has won a group of Achaleven Primary pupils recognition in a national competition.

While the story, jointly penned by Codie Watson, Daniel Speirs and Ruairidh Nickell, didn't win the competition, they were selected as runners up in the Eco Schools event, entitled, Beauty and the Beastie - Scotland from Flow to Forest.

Each child received a year's membership to the National Trust for Scotland at an awards ceremony at the Royal Society Buildings in Edinburgh, while the school received a goody bag full of facts about the environment and a digital camera.



## Woman who attacked neighbour given one final chance by sheriff

AN Oban woman who appeared in court charged with attacking a neighbour just days after being convicted of a stabbing offence was spared a jail sentence.

Charlene MacDonald, 25, of 21 Combie Court, was put on probation for 18 months when she appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week after previously admitting that, on September 15, she had assaulted her neighbour by grabbing her hair.

She was also ordered to complete 200 hours community service, attend counselling for alcohol addiction, has been electronically tagged and is subject to a home curfew between 7pm-7am every day for four months.

The Oban court appearance came just days after MacDonald was convicted by a jury of stabbing a man in the chest to his injury.

Defence agent Ruben Murdanaigum said his client was in fact good friends with the woman she attacked last month and that they had already put the incident behind them.

He said: 'It's all forgotten because they've been able to talk about it.'

Mr Murdanaigum then pointed towards MacDonald's traumatic personal history, saying while it has had bearing on her behaviour, she has been receiving counselling in an effort to improve.

She has also been working as an outreach worker for people who have experienced similar problems.

He said: 'There are lots of things missing in her life. She's been punished in her life with what happened to her all those years ago. She is not dross. She can contribute to society. I would ask this court to help her so she can help

herself and others.'

'She should have kept out of trouble but she understands that if she does something else wrong she will end up back here in court. The court has given her as many chances as possible. I'm asking for a final chance.'

Mr Murdanaigum added that MacDonald's partner has been a stabbing influence for her and has stood by her and her young child throughout her recent difficulties.

Sheriff Peter Hammond said that, taking all things into account, he was willing to give MacDonald one final chance to avoid jail.

Sheriff Peter Hammond said: 'You should understand that you have come very close to a custodial sentence. You must therefore consider prison inevitable if you come to this court again.'

OT

Officers plan to monitor energy

A LOCHABER initiative to help local households cut fuel bills and install small-scale renewable energy systems has appointed two new project officers.

Robert and Justine Dunn, who run a mushroom business at the Old Manse, Longrigg, Strontian, hope to develop a pilot project to install energy monitors in schools and homes under the Renew scheme, run by Lochaber Environmental Group.

The six-month initiative aims to create a largely self-sustaining network of homeowners and micro-renewable installers capable of becoming self-sufficient once external funding ceases

A Renewable Energy Fair in March 2011 is also planned.

Bridal backing for Lochaber company

ALOCHABER company has made the shortlist for best wedding industry newcomer after an online poll of 3,000 brides.

Ballachulish-based Oxox Design and Events now progresses to the final of the Bridal Magazine 2010 wedding supplier awards.

Owner Lorna MacAskill set up her business a year ago and brings brides from all over the world to have their wedding in Lochaber.

Teenager lashed out at constable

A YOUNG Corpach woman has been placed on 18 months probation after lashing out at police who found her drunk in the street.

Selena Harley, 17, of 26 Clerk Drive admitted being drunk and incapable, kicking a police constable at the police van in Clerk Drive and again at Fort William Police Station on July 23.

Harley had not responded to her mother's request to come into the house and behave herself, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Placing Harley on 18 months probation, Sheriff Kenneth Hogg told her: 'The police have better things to do than have trouble with you.'

Caol woman admits racist remarks

A CAOL woman racially abused police who discovered her drunk in Fort William town centre.

Hayleigh Dilley, 18, of 93 Blar Mhor Road, admitted at Fort William Sheriff Court assaulting an officer by spitting at him, making racist comments, conducting herself in a disorderly manner and breaching the peace in Middle Street on September 5. Sentence was deferred for reports and Dilley's restriction of liberty order was extended.



Out of order: The graffiti-covered information screen at Fort William bus station. 10\_143bus01

Drunk attacker jailed for 80 days

A MAN who brutally assaulted two women in a drunken rage in a house at Kinlochleven has been locked up.

David Robertson sprang off the couch in the living room during a September 18 drinking party in Lismore Road and attacked Ann MacDonald, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Robertson, 41, then threw over the coffee table and viciously stamped on and kicked his then girlfriend Mary Milligan, who had tried to stop the assault on her friend.

Both women suffered head and facial injuries in the unprovoked attack.

The drunk, of 1 Chapel Court, Aberfeldy, admitted assaulting Ms Milligan by

stamping on her head and repeatedly kicking her on the face to her injury, and assaulting Ms MacDonald by repeatedly punching her on the head, also to her injury.

Defending, Stephen Kennedy said Robertson 'has no recollection of assaulting anybody' and had owned up to police when he noticed his knuckles were swollen.

'He is disgusted with himself. 'He can't explain why he behaved in that manner,' Mr Kennedy said.

The lawyer asked Sheriff Kenneth Hogg to consider options other than a custodial sentence, adding that Robertson would be starting a job in a week or two.

'If he does not undertake some focused work there is the potential for him to cause more serious injury to adult female partners,' he said.

'He is a man that needs to get some help. 'He acknowledges that and is very frank about that,' he added.

But Sheriff Hogg said the 'gratuitous and vicious' assault merited only one outcome - and sentenced Robertson to 80 days behind bars.

He told Robertson: 'You are a man who has not learned his lesson and you are at the end of the road. You are going to the jail.'

Hi-tech info screens on track at last

Real time information a boost for bus passengers

REAL-TIME bus information will finally arrive in Fort William next year - more than two years after the first electronic screen was installed.

The display at the bus station, which is supposed to provide up-to-the-minute timetable information, was set up around 18 months ago as part of the 'Lochaber real-time information project', but has been out of order ever since and is defaced with graffiti.

HiTRANS, the body responsible for implementing the scheme, recently received £15,000 of extra funding from the EU to complete it.

Partnership manager Randal Robertson told The Oban Times 'a logjam of issues' had delayed progress.

He said: 'There are

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

various reasons the screen hasn't been working. It was installed using the last of our capital funding, the timetables changed, and getting a similar system in Inverness and running focused our attention and the signs suffered.

'But the logjam has now been cleared and in the not too dim and distant future, Fort William will have a real-time information system.'

According to the timetable set out by HiTRANS at a recent partnership meeting, the project, which will cost a total of £18,115, should be completed by the end of March 2011.

It will include the screen

at the bus station, two new information screens on Middle Street and electronic displays on nine local buses.

Speaking to The Oban Times, Highland Council transport committee vice convener, Councillor Brian Murphy, welcomed the news that the extra funding had been secured.

'I'm very pleased to see this project finally going ahead,' he said.

'The screen at the bus station has been blank since it was installed but the new funding allocated for the Fort William area will not only put real-time information on the screen, but will also see the installation of screens at Middle Street bus shelters and units on local buses. It will be an improvement to the local transport infrastructure.'

Motorist denies drink-drive charge

A LOCHABER man has denied being almost three times the drink-drive limit while behind the wheel in Linnhe Road, Fort William

on August 19. Kenneth Douglas, 26, of 12B Linnhe Buildings in the town, also denies failing to give information to police as

to the identity of the driver of the vehicle. A further hearing will take place at Fort William Sheriff Court on October 28.

Bus driver denies causing accident

A BUS driver has denied his alleged careless driving caused a pedestrian to suffer serious injuries in an accident at Morrison's petrol station forecourt in Fort William on June 17.

Edward Hunter, 43, of 13 Elsher Road, Llanbryde, Elgin, is accused of driving without due care and attention and losing control of his coach, whereby it collided with Gordon Neil, mounted the kerb and came to rest in a shrubbery, trapping Mr Neil underneath to his severe injury.

Mr Neil, from the Glasgow area, was transferred from the nearby Belford Hospital to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley for surgery and amputations to both legs.

Fort William fire station manager Chris Findlay later received the Chief Fire Officer's Commendation for 'outstanding professional conduct' in co-ordinating Mr Neil's rescue, which involved his team using inflatable airbags to lift the coach clear of the badly injured man.

Defending Mr Hunter, Stephen Kennedy said told Sheriff Kenneth Hogg an expert was preparing a report on whether a fault existed in Volvo coach's transmission system at the time. The case was continued to a further hearing on October 28.

On the cards

THE OUTDOOR Capital of the UK and Room 13 International are to produce a seasonal greetings card featuring scenic images used to form panels in the newly refurbished Fort William underpass. It is hoped the cards will promote the area and support local initiatives.

Monolith will mark links to Commandos

FORT WILLIAM town centre is to have its own memorial to commemorate the long association between the Commandos and Lochaber.

The polished black granite monolith, fashioned by stonemasons John Hood and Son of Dingwall, will be unveiled on November 13, the day before Remembrance Sunday.

The four-foot tall sculpture, in the shape of a cube, has been carved from a raw granite block shipped in from India.

The stone will carry an inscription commemorating Lochaber's links with the Commandos, which have endured ever since the elite force began training at Achnacarry in 1940.

The sculpture will complement

the Commando memorial at Spean Bridge, which draws thousands of visitors every year, national secretary of the Commando Veterans Association Geoff Murray told The Oban Times.

He said: 'There's nothing in Fort William to signpost anything that represents the long relationship between the Commandos and the people of Lochaber.'

'The Commando Veterans Association has enjoyed many years of friendship and support from the good people of Lochaber - and in particular Fort William. To show our sincere appreciation for this, we will be installing a commemorative stone on The Parade. 'Subject to the availability of

the crane, at the minute it looks like the sculpture will be installed the day before the ceremony.

'Local builder Brian McDermott has prepared the ground for us. He will be there when the stone is dropped in and will dress the area once that operation is completed.'

He added: 'It's an open invitation to the people of Lochaber to attend. The stone will be unveiled by Donald Cameron of Lochiel at noon in the presence of many wartime Commandos and their families and friends - and hopefully many of the local people from in and around Lochaber.'

The Rev Donald MacQuarrie will make a short address before giving the blessing.

New group to run Christmas Leven Festival



Nicola Lyden formally hands over the running of the festival to Kay MacDuff, chairperson of the Christmas Leven Fund.

FUNDRAISING has begun for the 2010 Christmas Leven Festival with a new committee in charge.

Kinlochleven Business Forum has handed over the reins to another local group, the Christmas Leven Fund, which will now set about building on the past two years' successes.

In 2008 the business forum opened a charity shop to raise funds for Kinlochleven Christmas lights - and sufficient funds remained for a local children's Christmas party. The event proved a big hit and paved the way for an even bigger fundraising effort last year, which saw the free party extended to all children living around Loch Leven. The day attracted more than 1,000 local people.

Faced with organising the festival again in 2010, the business forum decided the time was right for the Leven Fund to take over.

'This has become a very important day in Kinlochleven's Calendar and benefits many local charities,' said KBF secretary Nicola Lyden.

'Having a committee focused on the management of the event will secure its future for many years to come.'

The fundraising shop at Leven Road is open Monday to Saturday 10am to 2pm.

The 2010 festival will be held at The Ice Factor, Kinlochleven, on Saturday November 27.

Community council to light up Ballachulish

BALLACHULISH Community Council will put up the village's Christmas decorations after facing a £600 charge for the Highland Council to provide the service.

Highland Council has

traditionally provided lights and a tree for the village. The community council recently received a letter from the council which said the service would cost them £600, a 50 per cent increase on last year's £400 charge.

The community council decided it would store the lights in the village and put up the decorations to avoid the charge.

Chairman Mel MacAskill said: 'It seems to me that this is a pretty big increase.'

Advertisement for Craignure Information Centre Tasting & Sampling Day on Saturday 30 October 10.30am - 3.00pm. Includes details about local produce and contact information.

Advertisement for krisp print, 'Advertise your business all year round'. Promotes corporate calendars and provides contact details for Burnbank, Burnside Street, Campbeltown.

Advertisement for Mallaig student joining friends for a marathon trek to boost funds for Cancer Research. Mentions a sponsored walk in aid of Cancer Research UK.



Advertisement for Fish Farmer magazine, 'Special Edition Celebrating 30 years of Scottish aquaculture'. Includes a timeline of the industry and contact information for ordering.



# PHOTOS, REPORTS AND RESULTS FROM THE 2010 ROYAL NATIONAL MÒD

## Lovat and Tullibardine crown for GGs

Conductor Kenny Thomson leads from front as Glasgow choir sweeps board



Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association, pictured with conductor Kenny Thomson, won the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield. 07\_143mod68

TORRENTIAL rain drumming on the roof of the main venue in Thurso threatened to drown out the singing of Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association (GGs) as they swept to victory in this year's prestigious Lovat and Tullibardine Shield competition.

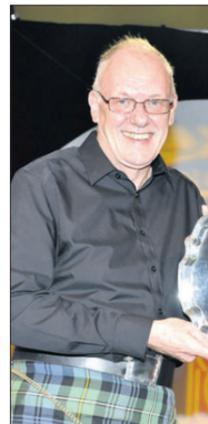
As the rain thundered off the roof of Thurso High School's Games Hall during the Glasgow-based choir's rendition of *Moladh Beinn Dobhrain*, the 30-strong choir then raised the bar with an upbeat performance to earn 184 marks for Gaelic and 182 marks for music – in the Royal National Mòd's top choral competition.

Leading the GGs to success was a conductor who has been with them for more than 27 years and is one of the most popular characters in the world of Gaelic music. For him, this year's success proved an emotional roller coaster.

Conductor Kenny Thomson said he was 'delighted' at the win and explained his selection of an upbeat arrangement for the choir's 'own choice' song.

'All the other choirs sang a lament as their second song whereas we sang an upbeat arrangement, one that I had previously arranged for Coisir Ghaidhlig Ile.

'It would have been too difficult to sing a lament.'



Kenny Thomson 07\_143mod68

Kenny's Islay-born wife Valerie was tragically killed as she crossed Great Western Road, Glasgow in late July last year.

He thanked the choir members saying: 'Over the last 15 months the choir has been a great support to me.'

Kenny continued: 'This time last year was very difficult and I could not have coped with all that goes with winning.'

As the conductor of the choir for 27 years it is the fifth time that Kenny has secured the top award and he believes that his choir can still grow from their success. He highlighted that the choir has a high proportion of

Gaelic speakers, in part due to the fact it attracts singers who move to the city from the islands.

He said: 'We have a good choir with a strong number of members.'

So much so that this year Kenny had to leave out two choir members, who had travelled to Thurso, on the day of the performance.

'I was glad that they came with us – but we could only take 30 people onto the stage,' he said.

The choir's impressive haul of silverware from the 2010 Mòd includes The Lovat and Tullibardine Shield; The Malcolm G MacCallum Silver Baton for the conductor of the winning choir; The Donald Thomson Memorial Quaich for the Gaelic tutor of the choir gaining the highest Gaelic marks; The Weekly Scotsman Quaich for the highest marks in Gaelic; The Donald J MacAskill Memorial Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic and The Oban Times Silver Salver for the highest mark in music.

Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association's men's choir were also successful in the Mull and Iona Shield competition, while the GGs women were pipped at the post by Argyll's women's choir, Atomic Piseag in the Esme Smythe Trophy.

## Islay wins award as Argyll's top choir



The Hugh MacCowan Trophy for the Argyll choir with the highest aggregate mark in all competitions was presented to Iseabail Mactaggart, conductor of Islay Gaelic Choir by Caledonian MacBrayne's marketing manager Susan Paterson. 07\_143mod63

## Sister and brother strike solo silver and gold at Mòd Muileachs steal the show in Caithness

IT WAS the island of Mull's year at the Mòd with every day bringing a fresh trophy for the island's small but growing band of Gaelic singers and musicians.

It is generally agreed that one woman, Riona Whyte, is behind the success of the current batch of island performers.

Riona had individual success at this year's Royal National Mòd winning the prestigious Oban Times Gold Medal, but everyday the Isle of Mull's name came to the fore.

Even the decision to host a Mod in Caithness may be partly down to a hint from the Salen-based singer.

'I knew they were looking for a venue for the 2010 Mòd – so I suggested to Raymond Bremner that he should consider it,' said Riona.

The rest is history, as

Raymond became local convenor and the event was staged in Wick and Thurso.

### 'What a week'

Riona told The Oban Times: 'What a week. On Monday, the junior choir won unison and harmony competitions while my pupil Fiona McAdam won the James MacPhee Memorial Medal.

'On Tuesday, another pupil, Shannon MacLean, won the 11-12 girls solo singing competition, while on Wednesday, I won The Oban Times Gold Medal, and my brother Stuart Jackson won the Silver Pendant,' she added.

On Thursday, Mull Gaelic Choir won the ladies and mixed competitions and on Friday Atomaig Piseag,' of which Riona is a founder member, swept the boards in the ladies competitions.'

Riona nearly didn't enter

this year's solo competition for The Oban Times Gold Medal after numerous attempts to win one of the Mòd's top solo awards.

'I wasn't going to enter this year until I saw the prescribed song and I knew that it was the style of music and wonderful lyrics that I love singing.'

Riona added: 'I set up Mòd Club in 2003 when I was working in the Gaelic Medium Unit as a language auxiliary.

'When I left the school people were worried that we would not continue but here we are all these years later – competing and winning in the Mòd.'

Despite having a relaxed attitude to tutoring pupils Riona said: 'I work the young people hard. I expect a lot of them but we have good fun and I trust them to get on and do the work.'



Brother and sister Stuart Jackson and Riona Whyte were delighted to win medals at the 2010 Mòd. Stuart was this year's silver medal winner while Riona brought The Oban Times Gold Medal back to Argyll. 07\_143mod55

## Praise for police could lead to a Stornoway Mòd repeat performance

THIS YEAR'S very popular 'Mòd Plods' may be in line for a call-up to the Royal National Mòd again next year. But only if their superior officer is asked to send them to Stornoway.

The 'old style' policing of Acting Inspector George Murray and Acting Sergeant Torquil MacLeod, who patrolled the streets of Wick then Thurso all day and all night, proved a big hit with Mòd goers. The two native Gaelic speakers, originally from the Isle of Lewis, made sure that there was not a hint of trouble during the 10-day event.

Chief Inspector Matthew Reiss, based at Wick and Thurso, said: 'I was very pleased with the service that George and Torquil gave to the Mòd. I was on the street on Friday and I heard many compliments about these two officers. I was very chuffed with the feedback. They have obviously worked very hard. There were no problems during the Mòd. Not a single solitary call-out related to the Mòd. That was down to the good style of policing of George and Torquil.'

'Applications for their services next year should be made to Western Isles area command chief inspector Gordon MacLeod. I am sure if he was to be asked he would consider it positively.'

Joy Dunlop, gold medal winner from Connel, Argyll said: 'George and Torquil are officially my favourite Mòd police officers. They went some way to making everyone feel at home.'

Acting Inspector George Murray, from Wick, said: 'It was a privilege for us to be the police officers for the Mòd. We would be delighted to be given the opportunity to go to Stornoway next year.'

'It was a wonderful meeting of the Gaels in a fairly unusual location. But it worked none the less.'



Oban Times editorial director Stewart MacKenzie presents The Oban Times Silver Salver for highest marks in music in the Lovat and Tullibardine choral competition to Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association conductor Kenny Thomson. 07\_143mod60



Atomaig Piseag, the Argyll ladies choir, celebrate a clean sweep of trophies in the ladies' choir competition. Pictured front row are Gaelic tutor Joy Dunlop, who also sings with the choir, Mary Anne Kennedy, who arranged the choir's own choice song, 'Am Bruadar', and conductor Raymond Bremner. 07\_143mod99



# PHOTOS, REPORTS AND RESULTS FROM THE 2010 ROYAL NATIONAL MÒD

## Lasting legacy of Caithness Mòd

GAELIC culture in Caithness has left a lasting impact on visitors, claim organisers.

The Royal National Mòd had a high number of entrants from Caithness and many people have taken up a Gaelic language class thanks to the festival being in the area.

Raymond Bremner, convener of the local organising committee for Mòd Ghàlaibh said: 'We are delighted that the week has been so successful.'

'Caithness has embraced the Mòd and this is evident by the number of Caithness entries and successes in the various competitions.'

'The Royal National Mòd has left a legacy of the Gaelic culture and I hope that Caithness has left a lasting impact on our visitors as a place they will visit again for the friendly welcome that is typical of our community.'

## 'Meet the people' bus takes ferry company on tour

FERRY company Caledonian MacBrayne's visit to the 2010 Royal National Mòd allowed the company's management an opportunity to speak directly to customers.

This year, the conversations took place aboard a 1967 MacBrayne coach - one of a number once used to take passengers up and down the west coast.

Managing director of Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) Phil Preston, said: 'The Mòd provides an invaluable opportunity each year for us to meet people from all over our network and get their feedback on the ferry services we provide.'

'This year, for the first time, we brought a vintage MacBrayne bus with us and this has proved a popular addition to the Mòd landscape, with many people sharing their happy memories of travelling on the familiar red and green buses.'

'We have also been delighted by the warm welcome we have received and the support for the Mòd from everyone in Caithness has been evident everywhere you go.'

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Broadford Primary School choir. 07\_142mod23



Quartet winners na h-Uiseagan from Glasgow. 07\_143mod51



The Oban Times editorial director Stewart MacKenzie presents The Oban Times Gold Medal to Mull's Riona Whyte. 07\_142mod38



Iain MacPherson from Campbeltown won the Bank of Scotland Cup and the Katie Stewart Memorial Trophy in qualifying for the silver medal final. 07\_143mod39



Eilidh Munro from Glasgow won a number of prizes in the clarsach competitions. 07\_143mod34



Maria Clark, aged seven, from Oban had support from her little brother, Oliver, when she took part in four competitions for fluent speakers. 07\_142mod16



Emma Deans from Cumbernauld won the Margot Campbell Trophy on her way to victory in the silver pendant. 07\_143mod33



Ruairidh MacIntyre of Glasgow, who is originally from South Uist, won the Oran Mor while qualifying for the gold medal final. 07\_143mod37



Connel's Becky Hill played in a number of clarsach competitions. 07\_142mod35



Sole singers: Duet winners Nicola Pearson and Wilma Kennedy show off their silverware and their tartan shoes. 07\_143mod52

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# PHOTOS, REPORTS AND RESULTS FROM THE 2010 ROYAL NATIONAL MOD



Coisir Ghaidhlig an t-Stratha, Strath Gaelic Choir, from Skye gave a resounding performance in the Rural Choirs competitions. 16\_t43mod12



Coisir Ghaidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich won The Sheriff MacMaster Campbell Memorial Quaich and The Selma Shield for the highest marks in Gaelic. 16\_t43mod13



Mull ladies choir won the Grampian Television Trophy, the Angus MacTavish Memorial Trophy and the Rotary Club of Blairgowrie Trophy in music. 16\_t43mod14



Donnie MacLeod of Coisir Sgìr A Bhac, won the Captain Angus Stewart Trophy for the highest marks in music during the rural choir competitions and was presented by Councillor Margaret Davidson. 16\_t43mod19



Islay Gaelic Choir with conductor Ishbel MacTaggart, who is nine months pregnant, won the Hugh MacCowan Trophy for the highest marks in senior choir competitions 16\_t43mod15



Left: Melvich Gaelic Choir who competed in the rural choir competitions. 16\_t43mod16

Right: The Ladies of Coisir Ghaidhlig Tairbeart Loch Fin, Tarbert and Loch Fyne Gaelic Choir, who competed in the rural choir competitions at the Mod. 16\_t43mod 18

## Highland capital to host Mòd in 2014

THE CITY of Inverness will host the Royal National Mod in 2014.

It has been 17 years since the annual Gaelic cultural festival was last held in the Highland capital and An Comunn Gaidhealach President John Macleod said that there should have not have been such a long gap.

Speaking as the 2010 Caithness Mod drew to a close last week, president Macleod said as announced Inverness's winning bid: 'It is well placed, with lots of venues and a strong Gaelic community. And it is a good situation for the Mòd as it is very easy to get to.'

'I'm delighted that Inverness is again to host the Mòd.'

Inverness Deputy Provost

Councillor Fraser Parr travelled to Thurso to be present at last week's announcement.

'It's a fantastic event that highlights the culture of Gaelic in all its shapes and form,' he said. 'We hope that the Mod coming to Inverness will really help the pupils that are learning Gaelic, it will become a living language to them.'

The successful bid to secure the 2014 Mod is aimed to boost end of season tourism numbers in Inverness in the same year that Scotland is scheduled to host the next Homecoming event and the Commonwealth Games.

Stornoway will host the Royal National Mòd in 2011, Dunoon in 2012 and then the event goes for the first time to Paisley in 2013.



Beachd Ailein  
Ailean Caimbeul

MEALADH NAIDHEACHD air na bha an sàs ann an deasachadh Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail Ghallaibh; rinn iad fìor mhath agus bha Mòd sgoineil againn an sin! Agus taing mhòr dha muinntir Inbhir Sheòrsa agus Inbhir Ùige airson a cuid càirdeis bhlàth, agus airson cho aoigheil sa bha iad rinn uile a bha a' tadhal air an sgìre. Cha robh mi riamh ann an àite a bha na bu chàirdeil, agus 's e fìor mholadh a tha an sin! Tha an seuglachd seo a' dearbhadh mar a dh' fhaodas fiaradh naidheachd ro làimh daoine fhàgail amharasach agus a' sùileachadh nach biodh cùisean mar 's dòcha a dh' iarradh iad. Tha mar a thachair an seo a daingneachadh cho cudromach 's a tha e gum bheil beachdan coimhearsnachd air am foillseachadh seach beachdan nam beagan aig am bheil inbhe, neo an guth is àirde! Tha mi den bheachd gur dòcha gun robh muinntir Ghallaibh fhèin gu math moiteil cuideachd leis mar a chaidh dhan chiad Mòd Nàiseanta aca san sgìre.

Dh' fhàg luchd-tadhail a' Mhòid Ghallaibh le deagh chuimhne air an àite, agus cha d' rachainn an urras nach biodh mòran a thilleas gu tuath an ùine nach biodh fada. Agus b' e an seòrsa buannachd eaconomaigeach sin aon de na h-amasan a bh' aig luchd deasachaidh, agus cuideachd aig feadhainn de na buidhnean-taice.

A dh' aindeoin 's nach eil Gàidhlig làidir as an sgìre thàinig adhartas thar nam bliadhnaichean a bhathas a' deasachadh airson a' Mhòid, agus bha e sònraichte tlachdmhor a' bhith a' faicinn agus a' cluinntinn clann Fèis Ghallaibh a' seinn cho grinn, agus a' buinnigh dhuaisean thar chàich! 'S e pòsadh air leth a bha seo eadar obair ionmholta nam Fèisean agus am foillseachadh cudromach a tha an cànan a' faotainn tron Mhòd. Gun teagamh tha dileab an sin a mhaireas, agus nach math a bh' smaointinn gum faicear farpaisich Ghallach aig Mòdan as na bliadhnaichean a tha romhainn.

Thug Mòd Ghallaibh dileab shònraichte eile dhan Ghaidhlig cuideachd oir chual' an saoghal mòr Diùc Bhaile Bhòid a' cur a' thaise fhèin ris a' chànan mar phàirt de dhualchas nàiseanta na dùthcha air am bheil còir aig a h-uile duine. Mhol e na bha a' Mòd a' cur ri leasachadh agus inbhe na Gàidhlig.

CONGRATULATIONS and thanks to Caithness for making the 2010 Royal National Mod such an enjoyable experience! Visitors headed home with good memories of warm friendly hospitality, and I hope Caithness takes pride in how well things went. I am sure that many will return to Caithness and deliver an economic legacy of the Mod.

Despite Gaelic being sparse in Caithness today the local Fèis children excelled, and it is a heartening legacy to look forward to young Caithness competitors at future Mods. The Gaelic language and culture also received a significant political boost from the strong statement of support given by HRH The Duke of Rothesay, who recognises the language as a special part of every citizen's national heritage!

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



Anne Barlow from Taynuilt accepts the Grace Robertson Memorial Baton for the conductor of the choir gaining the highest marks in music. Presenting the award was Susan Paterson, marketing manager for Caledonian MacBrayne. 16\_t43mod20



MSP Alistair Allan sang with Coisir Sgìr' A Bhac, Bhac Choir, before making an early start the following day for the SNP Conference in Perth. 16\_t43mod17



Raymond Bremner, convenor of the local organising committee, enjoyed conducting impromptu choral singing while waiting for adjudicators to select winners. 16\_t43mod30

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# PHOTOS, REPORTS AND RESULTS FROM THE 2010 ROYAL NATIONAL MOD

## Mull singer follows in mother's footsteps

A MULL woman has followed in her mother's footsteps by winning the Kennedy-Fraser Cup for solo singing. Jennifer Campbell, who lives in Glasgow but hails from Tobermory sang against her mother Janet in the Mrs Kennedy-Fraser's Songs from the Hebrides competition last Wednesday. Janet has won the competition on two previous occasions and was delighted that her daughter has now added her name to the long list of winners.

Both sang with Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir and Janet also competed with champion rural choir Mull Gaelic Choir, which won the Sheriff MacMaster Trophy. Jennifer's quartet, Na h-Oranaiche, finished in second place in their competition last Thursday. Mother and daughter teamed up for a very competitive duet competition last Wednesday and finished in third place behind Kerrie Finlay and Jean MacKay. Wilma Kennedy and Nicola Pearson won the duet competition with marks of 95 and 94.

## Prince becomes first honorary member

THE DUKE of Rothesay has continued the Royal family's association with the Royal National Mod by becoming an honorary member.

His mother, HRH The Queen, is the Mod's patron and last Thursday, Prince Charles gratefully received the first ever honorary membership.

John MacLeod, president of Mod organisers An Comunn Gaidhealach, said: 'During his inspirational speech at the gold medal competition he stated how grateful he was to be made our first honorary member. 'His speech will leave its mark for the future of the language, which is why it is so important to have his support.'

## Thurso's final fling

MOD GHALLAIBH signed off in style with two ceilidhs in Thurso on the final Friday and Saturday of the event.

The final ceilidh on Friday was held in two different rooms at Thurso High School, offering revellers a choice of bands, including Watersay Boys and Skipinnish, and finished around 5am on Saturday. The finale featured a who's who of young traditional musicians, including Angus MacPhail, Andrew Stevenson Rachel Walker and James Graham.

On Saturday night the Mod organisers held another ceilidh with Gunna Sound in the Royal British Legion Hall as a thank you to the week's volunteers.

# Connel gold medallist is 'honoured' to win

## Men's champion makes debut appearance in competition at 65

CONNEL'S Joy Dunlop won the Royal National Mod gold medal to Royal acclaim when The Duke of Rothesay presented the top solo prize.

The 27-year-old had narrowly missed out on the women's medal on the past three occasions but achieved her ambition last Thursday.

Joy, a freelance Gaelic teacher, launched her first solo album, Dugadh, earlier this year and hopes her gold medal win will further raise her profile as a singer.

But she stressed that the 'honour' of being a gold medallist was more of a reward.

Speaking to The Oban Times on Monday Joy said: 'It still has not sunk in yet because the past few days have flown by, but it has been really exciting and I am thrilled to have won.'

'It is a real honour to get the gold medal when you consider who has won it in the past. Some wonderful singers have won this medal before me and it's amazing

to be part of that.'

The men's gold medallist, Iain G MacLean, entered the competition for the first time this year at the age of 65. Well known as a chorister with Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir for a number of years, it took the choir's conductor, Iain's wife Kirsteen Grant, to convince him to enter the solo competition.

Iain said: 'Kirsteen is a former gold medallist and she really helped me with the music and Gaelic for my songs. It's great to have won

and I'm thankful to Kirsteen for her help.'

But Iain thinks he was also helped along by the prescribed song in the final of the gold medal - An t-Eilan Sgitheanach - a song about his native Skye. He said: 'Adjudicators talk about putting expression and feeling into the songs. It was easier for me to do that because of the feelings I have for Skye.'

The Duke of Rothesay met all nine finalists for a cup of tea after the presentation.



Gold medal winner Joy Dunlop, from Connel, gets a kiss from mother and father, Moira and Sandy, who were stewards throughout the Mod week. 07\_143mod48



Gold medal winners Joy Dunlop and Glasgow's Iain G MacLean, formerly of Waternish, Skye. 07\_143mod47



Jennifer Campbell of Glasgow, formerly of Mull, won the Kennedy-Fraser Cup for a 'Song of the Hebrides'. 07\_142mod36

## Traditional singers from Western Isles strike gold in Caithness

TWO SINGERS topped off a fantastic day for their Lewis choir, Còisir Sgir a' Bhac, by winning the traditional gold medal.

Last Thursday the newly-crowned traditional gold medallists, Eoghainn MacLeod and Margaret McLeman, rushed from the competition to join their choir and were applauded onto the stage.

Còisir Sgir a' Bhac then put in a stunning performance to win the Lorn Shield competition.

Margaret, who is from Back, said: 'It has been a great day for the choir and with two of us winning gold medals it is all the more special.'

Both singers had waited for some time to win the solo prize, for very different reasons.

Margaret has been a finalist on five previous occasions while 32-year-old Eoghainn had not competed in solo competitions since he was 16.

Margaret said: 'My fear was that I would always be the bridesmaid and never the bride but my day has finally come.'

A shocked Eoghainn could not believe he had won the traditional gold at his first attempt.

Originally from Scalpay, the Strathclyde policeman added: 'I won the junior gold medal when I was 16 but that was the last time I had competed in a solo competition.'

'I can't describe the feeling I have just now.'



Traditional gold medal winners at this year's Mod: Eoghainn MacLeod, Scalpay, and Margaret McLeman, Back, Lewis. 07\_143mod98



Ally Weir from Fort William was first in poetry and second in storytelling for 11-12 years (fluent). 07\_142mod25



Mull girls Georgina Durie, left, and Katrina MacLean competed in the open solo singing for 16-18 years. 07\_142mod30



Sir E Scott School from Harris won The Mrs Schroder Cup and The Aberfoyle and District Branch Trophy for under-13 choral competitions. 07\_142mod26



Little Ealasaid MacLean from North Connel had great fun competing at the Mod and won storytelling for 5-6 years (fluent). 07\_142mod19



The Waalking group from Laxdale, Lewis. 07\_143mod54

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# PHOTOS, REPORTS AND RESULTS FROM THE 2010 ROYAL NATIONAL MOD

## Results - Wednesday

Clarsach Juniors, Advanced, 1 Erica Sinclair, Cathness, 2 Calum MacLeod, - Dùn Èideann. Clarsach Open, Ensembles, 1 Ceòl nan Teud Ghlaschu. Clarsach Open, Original Composition, 1 Amy Westwell, Telford College, 2 = Eilidh Munro, Glasgow Islay Junior Gaelic Choir and Elinor Evans, George Watson's College. Clarsach open, Comunn na Clarsaich (Edinburgh Branch) Trophy, 1 Eilidh Munro and Kristina MacDonald, Glasgow Islay Junior Gaelic Choir. Clarsach Introductory, The Helmsdale Trophy, 1 Anna Westwell, Leith Walk Primary School, 2 Cameron MacDonald, 3 Shannon MacDonald, Bun-sgoil Shlèite.

Clarsach Self Accompaniment, The Glendale Quaich, 1 Eilidh Munro, Glasgow Islay Junior Gaelic Choir, 2 Meg Buchanan, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, 3 Kristina MacDonald, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu. Clarsach Elementary Juniors, The Florence Wilson Trophy, 1 Sin Mac Dhòmhnaill, Bun-sgoil Crois na Cise, 2 Josephine Dair, 3 Ciorstaidh-Sarah Chambeul, An Caol. Clarsach Advanced Juniors, Duncan Chisholm Trophy, 1 Karen Pollard, Lockerbie Academy, 2 Amy Westwell, Telford College, 3 Elinor Evans, George Watson's College. Clarsach Intermediate 1 Juniors, K Barry Milner trophy, 1 Catriona Clark, Castle Douglas High School. Clarsach Duets 13- U19, Comunn na Clarsach Cup, 1 Elinor Evans and Megan Bruce, 2 Meg Buchanan and Caragh MacKinnon.

**Gold Medal Heat Prescribed Ladies**, Mary C MacNiven Memorial Silver, 1 Joy Dunlop, Glasgow, 2 Eilidh J Davies, 3 Catriona Watt, Lewis.

**Gold Medal Oran Mòr Ladies**, Mr and Mrs Archibald MacDonald Trophy, 1 Joy Dunlop, 2 Ceitidh Smith, Kyle of Lochalsh, 3 Eilidh J Davies, Invergarry.

**Gold Medal Heat - Men**, The Caledonian MacBrayne Trophy, 1 Iain G MacLean, Glasgow, 2 Calum MacLeod, Dùn Èideann, 3 = Ruairidh MacIntyre, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association, John Howieson, Portree.

**Gold Medal Heat Oran Mòr Men**, F S Cameron-Head Memorial Trophy, 1 Ruairidh MacIntyre, 2 = Dòmhnall-Iain MacLèidhe, Glasgow, Calum MacLeod.

**Silver Pendant Heat - Ladies**, The Margot Campbell Trophy, 1 Emma A C Deans, Comar nan Allt, 2 Sine NicLeòid, Inbhir Uige, 3 Bronwen Currie, Isle of Islay.

**Silver Pendant Heat - Men**, The Katie Stewart Memorial Trophy, 1 Iain MacPherson, Campbeltown, 2 Stuart A Jackson, 3 Lawrence Butler Perks, Aberdeen.

**Silver Pendant Working Song - Ladies**, Catherine M B Dunlop Quaich, 1 Emma A C Deans, Comar nan Allt, 2 Rena Gertz, Prestonpans, 3 Ann Marie McLean, Campbeltown.

**Silver Pendant Sea Song - Men**, Bank of Scotland Cup, 1 Iain MacPherson, Campbeltown, 2 Ruairidh McKay, Inverness, 3 Stuart A Jackson, Morvern.

**Traditional Medal Heat - Men**, The Lochaber Rotary Club Trophy, 1 Eoghann MacLeòid, Stirlingshire, 2 Donald N Morrison, Lewis, 3 Steven MacLomhair, Ross-shire.

**Traditional Medal Heat - Ladies**, The Moray Trophy, 1 Christine Stone, Cathness, 2 Margaret McLennan, Lewis, 3 Alison Buchanan, Glasgow.

**Puir-a-Beul Ladies and Men Open**, Duncan Johnston Memorial Trophy, 1 Sandy Nic Dhòmhnaill Jones, Uibhist a Deas, 2 Nicola Pearson, Carnoustie, 3 = Graham Neilson, Edinburgh, Marsaili NicLeòid, Strathnaver.

**Oban Times Gold Medal**, Prescribed song composed by a Lorn bard, 1 Riona J Whyte, Mull, 2 Lisa Anne Fiona Nic Dhòmhnaill, Sgoilhairidh, 3 Gillian MacDonald, Dunkeld.

**Traditional Song Learners**, The George Clavey Memorial Quaich, 1 Linn Phipps, Lewis, 2 = Stuart A Jackson, Morvern, Sandy Brodie, Glasgow. **Provincial Mod Winners**, The Lochewe Branch Cup, 1 Philip Todd, Wick, 2 Elizabeth Campbell, Erskine, 3 Gillian MacDonald, Dunkeld.

**Kennedy - Fraser Cup**, Songs of the Hebrides, 1 Jennifer H Campbell, 2 Linn Phipps, Harris, 3 Elena Piras, Glasgow.

**Sarah Weir Trophy Ladies/Men**, Song related to Mull or Iona, 1 Catriona Lang, Stirlingshire, 2 Jennifer Mary Speirs, Siabost, 3 Elena Piras, Glasgow.

**Skye or Sutherland Song**, John D Gillies Memorial Trophy, 1 Philip Todd, Wick, 2 Catriona Lang, Stirlingshire, 3 Elena Piras, Glasgow.

**Results - Thursday**

**Choral Rural Open - Ladies**, Grampian Television Trophy, 1 Còisir Ghàidhlig an Eilein Mhullach, 2 Còisir Sgìr a' Bhac, 3 Còisir Ghàidhlig Tairbeart Loch Fin.

**Choral Rural Puir-a-Beul**, Aline MacKenzie Memorial Trophy, 1 Còisir Ghàidhlig Ile, 2 Còisir Sgìr a' Bhac, 3 Còich a' Chinn a Tuath.

**Senior Prose Learner**, 1 Sylvia Ladlow, Lewis.

**Senior Poem Learner**, 1 Sylvia Ladlow, Skye, Ali Abbas Memorial Cup.

**Senior Speech Learner**, 1 Sylvia Ladlow, Skye.

**Senior Reading Learner**, 1 Sylvia Ladlow, Skye, 2 Raghall MacAoidh, East St Kilda, Australia.

**Senior Humorous Monolog Open**, Anglo Chilean Trophy, 1 Aileen Dòmhnallach, Inverness.

**Gold Medal Final Ladies**, An Comunn Gàidhealach Gold Medal - 1 Joy Dunlop, Glasgow, 2 Ceitidh Smith 3 Eilidh J Davies.

**Gold Medal Final Men**, An Comunn Gàidhealach Gold Medal - 1 Iain G MacLean, Glasgow, 2 Calum MacLeod, Dùn Èideann, 3 Dòmhnall-Iain MacLèidhe, Glasgow.

**Traditional Medal Final Ladies**, Gold Medal in memory of Mary Lamont, 1 Margaret McLennan, Lewis, 2 Alison Buchanan, 3 Christine Stone.

**Traditional Medal Final Men**, Gold Medal in memory of Mary Lamont, 1 Eoghann MacLeòid, Stirlingshire, 2 Donald N Morrison, 3 Steven MacLomhair, Ross-shire.

**Quartet Competition Senior Open**, Stormoway Gaelic Choir Cup, 1 Na h-Uiseagan, 2 Na h-Oraniche, 3 Strath Gaelic Choir Quartet.

**Senior Folk Group**, Marshall Stormonth Memorial Trophy, 1 Sundach, 2 An t-Eilean, 3 Fonnmhòr.

**Results - Friday**

**Oran Luaidh, Waulking song**, 1 Comhlan Luadh Bhaideanach, 2 Mnaith Lacasdail, 3 Luaidh le Mire.

**Choral**, Margat Duncan Trophy, 1 Dundee Gaelic Musical Association, 2 Nairn Gaelic Choir, 3 Edinburgh Saltire Gaelic Choir.

**Choral Area**, Lovat and Tullibardine Shield, 1 Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association, 2 Dingwall Gaelic Choir, 3 Govan Gaelic Choir.

The "Weekly Scotsman" Quaich and the Donald J MacAskill Memorial Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association.

The "Oban Times" Silver Salver for the highest marks in Music, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association.

Donald Thomson Memorial Quaich for the Gaelic Tutor of the winning choir, Mina Smith.

Malcolm G MacCallum Silver Baton for the winning conductor, Kenneth Thomson.

Choral Area Ladies, Esmé Smythe Trophy, 1 Atomaig Piseag, 2 Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association, 3 Dingwall Gaelic Choir.

The Donald U Johnstone Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic, Atomaig Piseag.

The Angus Johnstone Trophy for the highest marks in Music, Atomaig Piseag.

Choral Open Men, Mull and Iona Shield, 1 Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association, 2 = Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir, Dingwall Gaelic Choir.

The Glen Balchulsh Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association.

The Cor Meibion Bro Glyndwr Trophy for the highest marks in Music, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association.

The Hector Russell Dirk to the conductor of the winning choir, Kenneth Thomson.

Choral Area, Puir-a-Beul, 1 Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association, The Greenock Gaelic Cup, 2 Govan Gaelic Choir, 3 Cumbernauld Gaelic Choir.

The Colin Grant Sangster Memorial Silver Baton to the conductor of the winning choir, Kenneth Thomson.



Coisir Ghaidhlig Tairbeart Loch Fin took part in a number of competitions. 16\_143mod4



Left: Mull Gaelic Choir member Janet MacDonald and conductor Elizabeth Jack are presented with the Lorn Shield and the Dalriada Cup for rural choir competitions by Caledonian MacBrayne management team, from the top, Phil Preston, David Cannon and Susan Paterson. 16\_143mod8



Right: Adudicator Donald Feist presents folk group Sunndach with the Marshall Stormonth Memorial Trophy. 16\_143mod5



Kristina MacDonald of Glasgow won a number of poetry and prose competitions and was placed in the clarsach and folk group competitions. He father is Angus MacDonald from Eriskay. 16\_143mod3



Taynuilt Gaelic Choir won the highest marks for Gaelic in the rural choir competitions. 16\_143mod6



Avril Duncan of Coisir Sgìr A' Bhac was presented with the Lorn Shield by Caledonian MacBrayne managing director Phil Preston. 16\_143mod9



Lairg Gaelic Choir are joined by conductor Ken Black, centre front, after competing in the rural choir competitions. 16\_143mod7



The Royal National Mòd's newest contestants, Coilich a Chinn a Tuath, from the north west of Scotland competed in a number of competitions including the rural choirs 16\_143mod10



# PHOTOS, REPORTS AND RESULTS FROM THE 2010 ROYAL NATIONAL MOD



Dingwall conductor Kirsteen Menzies accepts the second-placed prize from An Comunn Gaidhealach president John MacLeod at the Lovat and Tullibardine competition. 07\_143mod61



Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir. 07\_143mod57



Above - Lothian Gaelic Choir. 16\_143mod32



Gaelic Ambassador Allan Campbell presents HRH Prince Charles with his honorary membership of An Comunn Gaidhealach. 07\_143mod44



Catriona Bain from Back, Lewis. 07\_143mod57



Oran Mor winners Ruaraidh MacIntyre and Joy Dunlop. 07\_143mod3



Above - Cumbernauld Gaelic Choir. 07\_143mod35



Right - Govan Gaelic Choir. 16\_143mod37

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Oban Times director Stewart MacKenzie presents the Weekly Scotsman Quach for highest marks in Gaelic to Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association conductor Kenny Thomson. 07\_143mod59



Dingwall Gaelic Choir were runners-up in the Lovat and Tullibardine 16\_143mod34



Stirling Gaelic Choir. 16\_143mod33



The newly formed North of Scotland men's choir, Coilich a' Chinn a Tuath. 16\_143mod31



Tina Morrison, on behalf of the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association, collected the prize for top Gaelic marks in the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield competition from Highland Councillor Hamish Fraser. 07\_143mod62



**The Scottish Salmon Company** is a leading producer of high quality Scottish salmon. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy.

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The ideal candidate will be an enthusiastic, self motivated individual with excellent time management and communication skills (written and oral). You must be able to work well under pressure, independently and within a variety of teams within the company. You will have experience in a data entry environment, responsible for the collection and analysing of data such as hydro-graphic surveys, with the requirement of producing general environmental reporting in relation to environmental indicators and monthly reports, identification of projects and initiatives required to drive environmental improvements forward. Provide advice and best practices in the management assessment and documentation of environmental data.

Prior experience of using mapping tools within ArcGIS (ESRI) packages is essential where it is a must to have good working knowledge of using Microsoft office software, including good presentation and analytical skills with proficiency in project management. The ability to assist our existing team to provide support for application processes and information thus further assisting with development of the Company. Ideally, the candidate will have knowledge of the aquaculture industry, experience with SeaZone and AutoDepomod modelling, as well as an understanding of current environmental legislation. Previous experience working with local authorities SEPA, SNH and other industry regulators would be advantageous.

A full, clean driving licence is also essential for this position.

In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package.

For an application form and job description, please contact:

HR Department,  
The Scottish Salmon Company Ltd., Ardkinglas, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BH  
Tel: 01499 600 435  
E-mail: cairndowhr@scottishsalmon.com  
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The successful candidate will enjoy working as part of a team, but must also be capable of working without supervision and manage their own workload effectively. They also will be practical, spatially aware and computer literate with excellent oral and written communication skills.

The post is likely to be based in South Shian, by Oban but will require short periods working at other company sites; a full clean driving licence is therefore essential. A competitive salary and benefits package is offered.

To apply, please write enclosing an up-to-date CV to:  
**Russell Ferguson, Scottish Sea Farms Ltd., Laurel House, Laurelhill Business Park, Stirling, FK7 9JQ**  
The closing date for applications is Friday 05 November 2010

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**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**



Lauren Powell from Dalmally Primary School was one of five pupils from her school who joined the First Minister Alex Salmond for breakfast.

**Pupils enjoy breakfast with First Minister**

FIVE pupils from Dalmally Primary School had breakfast with First Minister Alex Salmond as they promoted the work of international charity Mary's Meals.

The school is a supporter of the Dalmally-based charity, as is St Mary's Primary School in Edinburgh, which also had two representatives at the breakfast in Bute House, Edinburgh.

The First Minister and the children also marked World Porridge Day, which took place earlier this month and is expected to raise thousands of pounds for Mary's Meals to feed children around the world.

Dalmally Primary School head teacher George Kay said: 'We had to leave Dalmally at 4.30am but we were looked after admirably well in Edinburgh.'

'The First Minister spent 40 minutes with the children and was very relaxed; the children thoroughly enjoyed it.'

After breakfast Mr Salmond arranged for the Dalmally children to have a tour of Edinburgh Castle and the Scottish Parliament.

Mary's Meals works in 15 of the poorest countries in the world, providing daily school meals for 400,000 of the neediest children.

**Initial repairs to subsea electricity cable**

INITIAL repairs to the power cable that feeds electricity to Islay and Colonsay will be completed in early November.

However, the full repair will not be completed for some months as Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) continue to investigate the cause of the outage.

Back-up power is being provided with the use of a generator on Islay, with fuel deliveries arriving

almost daily to keep it running.

There had been fears that, with damage to Port Askaig's linkspan putting it out of operation for eight weeks, any closure at Port Ellen could see the power supply disrupted yet again.

But SSE say that won't happen as there are sufficient contingency plans in place to deal with any 'longer-term' problems.

A spokesperson said: 'We do

have enough fuel stored, more than enough for the short term, and contingency plans in place for longer terms.'

'There's no reason for anyone to worry about their lights going out.'

The spokesperson added that the cause of the fault on the sub-sea power line may become clear during the process of repairing the cable.

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Closing Date - Monday 15th of November  
This post is subject to an enhanced disclosure check

**Oban Times Oban Times RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT**

**Scottish Sea Farms**  
Scottish Sea Farms, the UK's leading producer of farmed Atlantic salmon, is looking to recruit a skilled, versatile, engineer to lead its maintenance engineering team within its marine farming operations throughout the West Coast of Scotland.

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As team leader, good communication and interaction with other team members is essential. We expect the successful applicant to be a self starter, highly motivated and with a positive attitude. It is essential that the Team Leader "walks the talk" and ensures that all tasks are completed in a professional manner with H&S requirements and good house-keeping practices underpinning all activities.

All applicants are required to have a full, clean drivers licence. Application packs can be obtained from:  
**Claire Scott on 01786 445521 or email claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com**  
Closing Date: Friday 05 November 2010

**Oban Times Oban Times Oban Times RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT**

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For further information and application forms contact GRAB on 01546 604227 or 01631 569174 or jean.kennedy@argyll-bute.gov.uk  
Closing date for applications is 1st November 2010  
Interviews are planned for 8th or 9th November, if you are interested in this post you will need to make yourself available.

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The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments
10/03583/FUL	Land 160m South East of Ardgor House Ardgor	Erection of Lodge House	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/03806/PIP	Land 110m East of Woodside Cottage Glen Borrodale Acharacle	Erection of house (amended site layout to 10/01112/PIP)	Acharacle Service Point (14 days)
10/03820/FUL	Land 150m South of Bothan Nan Creag Rosheen Glenaig	Erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/03919/FUL	Garden House Galmisdale Isle of Egg	Removal of existing house and erection of new house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/03982/PIP	Land 40m South of Rowanbank Steading Morvern Crescent Lochaline Morvern	Erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/04067/FUL	Land 145m South East of Cluaron Annet View Corpach Fort William	Change of use of part of storage & distribution shed to retail outlet	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/04131/FUL	Glenfinnan Station Museum Glenfinnan	Section 42 application to vary Condition 4 of Planning Permission 07/00555/FULLD regarding footpath upgrading	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/04186/FUL	Ben View Guesthouse Balford Road Fort William	Change of use from Guest House to dwelling house + 4 No. letting units	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

Planning and Development Service  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

### Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

## PLANNING

#### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrossaig PA30 8DX and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrossaig PA30 8DX by the 11/11/2010

● **Ref No: 10/01588/PP**  
Applicant: Beaton And McMurphy Architects Ltd  
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Land South East Of Lower Cragabus Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Ellen

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Councils website [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

#### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR, at the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR within 21 days of the appearance of this notice. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

#### SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS

● **Ref No: 10/01649/PP**  
Applicant: Mull Developments  
Proposal: Demolition of Existing Buildings and Erection of 2 dwellinghouses (affordable housing)  
Site Address: Plots 1 And 2 The Old Bake House Bunnass Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunnass Isle of Mull

#### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR by the 11/11/2010

● **Ref No: 10/01481/PP**  
Applicant: Argyll Community Housing Association  
Proposal: Replacement doors and windows  
Site Address: 7A, 7B, 7E, 9A, 9C, 9D, 9E, 11A 11B 11D, 11E Miller Road Oban Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● **Ref No: 10/01509/PP**  
Applicant: Mr David Hamilton  
Proposal: Demolition of existing boathouse store and erection of new boathouse store.  
Site Address: Rudha A Chruidh Kerrera Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4SX  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● **Ref No: 10/01561/PP**  
Applicant: Ganavan Sands Developments Ltd  
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse and formation of vehicular access  
Site Address: Plot 21 Ganavan Sands Oban Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● **Ref No: 10/01567/PP**  
Applicant: Donald Campbell  
Proposal: Installation of replacement windows.  
Site Address: Flat E 12 Miller Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4DX  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● **Ref No: 10/01584/PP**  
Applicant: Iain A Mackinnon  
Proposal: Erection of 2no 50kw (18 metres to hub height) wind turbines.  
Site Address: 34 Bolephetrish Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6UY  
Location of Plans: Tiree Area Office

● **Ref No: 10/01587/PP**  
Applicant: Mr And Mrs D Leadbetter  
Proposal: Erection of 1no dwellinghouse and detached garage.  
Site Address: Land South East Of Lonan Site Barran Caltum Oban Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● **Ref No: 10/01608/PP**  
Applicant: West Highland Housing Association - Oban  
Proposal: Erection of Dwellinghouse  
Site Address: The Glebe Kilmelford Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Kilmelford

● **Ref No: 10/01657/PP**  
Applicant: Mrs Sheila Mitchell  
Proposal: Formation of terraced deck  
Site Address: Cnoc Crom Clachan Seil Isle Of Seil Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4QZ  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Balvicar

● **Ref No: 10/01665/PP**  
Applicant: M And K MacLeod Ltd  
Proposal: Erection of 8 dwellinghouses  
Site Address: Development Site McKeilvie Road Oban Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Councils website [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document. Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site. The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy. Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered. Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess)

**An Invitation from Social Work Department, Crossroads, Health, Dementia Resource Centre, Telecare and North Argyll Carers Centre to the Community especially Carers and the Cared for.**

At the Glencruitten Church Hall on the 26th October from 2.00 until 5.00

Coffee, tea and cakes will be served and you may wish to:

- Have your blood pressure checked
- Talk to a Benefits officer
- Receive advice from an Occupational Therapist or Telecare
- Find information about available services
- Find out if you can access training
- Enjoy the company of others for a pleasant chat
- Share your ideas



### Mallaig Harbour Authority

Wish to invite -

#### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR SHOREWORKS AT MALLAIG HARBOUR, MALLAIG, INVERNESS-SHIRE

Mallaig Harbour Authority seek expressions of interest from suitably qualified contractors to undertake the shoreworks required for new pontoon berthing facilities, at Mallaig Harbour. The works comprise minor road works, concrete shore and abutment foundation blocks and construction of a small rock armoured tidal reclamation to form a parking area. Rock fill for the works is to be excavated from a local source.

In addition to this newspaper advertisement a notice has been placed on the Public Contracts Scotland Website inviting requests to participate ("Pre-Qualification Submissions") from interested parties to be selected to tender.

The number of candidates which will be invited to tender is envisaged as a minimum of 5 (five) and maximum of 6 (six), provided sufficient are qualified. To register your interest in this notice and obtain additional information please visit the Public Contracts Scotland website at [www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk](http://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk).

This project is funded under the Sail West Project, which is part-financed under the INTERREG IVA Programme.

European Union European Regional Development Fund Investing in your future

The Special EU Programme Body is the managing Authority for the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme



### Mallaig Harbour Authority

Wish to invite -

#### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR PONTOON DEVELOPMENT AT MALLAIG HARBOUR, MALLAIG, INVERNESS-SHIRE

Mallaig Harbour Authority seek expressions of interest from suitably qualified contractors to undertake the design, construction and installation of pontoons, moorings and steel access bridges required for new berthing facilities at Mallaig Harbour.

In addition to this newspaper advertisement a notice has been placed on the Public Contracts Scotland Website inviting requests to participate ("Pre-Qualification Submissions") from interested parties to be selected to tender.

The number of candidates which will be invited to tender is envisaged as a minimum of 5 (five) and maximum of 6 (six), provided sufficient are qualified. To register your interest in this notice and obtain additional information please visit the Public Contracts Scotland website at [www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk](http://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk).

This project is funded under the Sail West Project, which is part-financed under the INTERREG IVA Programme.

European Union European Regional Development Fund Investing in your future

The Special EU Programme Body is the managing Authority for the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme

### GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Evan Fraser Munro trading as Kwifish Ltd of The Bowmore House, Shore Street, Bowmore, Isle of Islay, PA43 7LB is applying for a licence to use Unit 8, Whinpark, Industrial Estate, Bridgend, Isle of Islay, PA44 7NZ as operating centre for 1 Goods Vehicles. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Scottish Transport Office, Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6BF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

### Dunbartonshire and Argyll and Bute Valuation Joint Board

### ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2009/10

**Regulation 6(2) Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 1985**

Notice is hereby given that copies of the certified Abstract of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2010 together with the Auditor's Report thereon have been deposited in the offices of the Treasurer, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dunbarton. It may be inspected free of charge from 9.15a.m. to 1.00p.m. and 2.00p.m. to 4.00p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays. Any person who is unable to attend at the times stated should make a written application to the Treasurer and alternative arrangements will be made.

Copies of the Abstract of Accounts can be purchased at a cost of £10.00 per copy.

**Joyce White, Director of corporate Services, Council Offices, Garshake Road, DUMBARTON, G82 3PU.**

### DARTS - TEAMS NEEDED

Oban and District Darts League will be holding it's AGM on Friday 29th of October at Glencruitten Golf Club, Oban at 8pm

If you cant make it contact Cammy Maccallum on 07745366064

Sports Page for more info

### GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Beinn Dorain Farming LLP c/o Eilam Oxtoby and Peck LLP, The Farm Office, Furze Farm, Horton-Cum-Studley, Oxford, OX33 1DG is applying for licence to use Auch Estate, Bridge of Orchy, Dalmally, Scotland, PA36 4AF, as an operating centre for 1 Goods Vehicle. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Scottish Transport Office, Hills Crest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6BF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

## Youngsters celebrate handover of Commonwealth flag



**MORE than 30 children gathered at Oban's Atlantis Leisure Centre last week to celebrate the handover of the Commonwealth flag to Glasgow for 2014's games. The free event saw the kids taking part in different sports including tennis, rugby, archery and shinty, with each sport having a specific challenge at the end. A spokesperson for the centre said: 'The kids and coaches all had a great day and we can now look forward to Glasgow hosting the 2014 Commonwealth Games.'**

### Hydro plan for Argyll woodland

A NEW wave of 'green' power could be introduced to Argyll forests as part of a hydro scheme.

The Forestry Commission Scotland has joined forces with a consortium made up of Broadland Properties and Gilbert Gilkes & Gordon Ltd to investigate developing small scale hydro projects.

Forests across Scotland, including those in Argyll, will now be assessed for their suitability and, if agreed, the consortium will develop the plans further.

It is estimated that the national forest estate has the potential to develop at least 50 MW of power from run-of-river hydro schemes.

Communities in the vicinity of projects will also have the chance to invest in the schemes and active community groups in the vicinity of a development will receive a leading edge annual sum of £5,000 per MW.

### Police on trail of online pervert's obscene pictures

CAMPBELTOWN Police are hunting a Facebook pervert who is leaving a trail of obscene photos across Kintyre.

'Indecent photographs have been downloaded from the internet and then the faces of local women taken from their Facebook pages and superimposed on them,' a police spokesman said.

'These are then printed on A4 sheets and have been left scattered around the Kintyre area.'

Police ask that anyone finding any of these photographs hand them into the Campbeltown Police Station and say when and where they were found.

'In the meantime we recommend that people make sure they have the highest privacy settings on their Facebook pages,' he added.

### Dog fouling signs taken down, community council told

PEOPLE have been taking down dog fouling warning signs in the villages of Kilmelford and Kilniver.

The problem of dog fouling was once again raised at the Kilmelford and Kilniver was Community Council meeting. The dog warden at Argyll and Bute Council has issued advice to villagers, asking them to report any individual incidents of dog fouling or call the council on 01546 605514 to lodge a complaint.

**69%** of the business community read the regional press

Source: Business Choice 8, The Newspaper Society

Regional Press CLOSER TO HOME

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

## Pupils' playground time capsule buried safely under new wall

PUPILS of Invergarry Primary School have preserved their legacy for future generations - by burying a time capsule in their playground and building a wall on top of it.

As part of the school's bio-project, the 25 pupils, with help from seven nursery children, helped design and build the dry-stone wall.

But before construction began, they made a time capsule, and each child put in a photo and a note detailing their hopes and dreams. The project began at the start of the 2010, and the building of the wall was finished last week.

Head teacher Jane Strachan told *The Oban Times* the school wants to see the dyke taken over by plant life. She said: 'Hopefully it will be colonised by local plants, and we can see what comes to live on the wall.'



Hand built: pupils of Invergarry Primary with their dry-stone wall. 10\_f43wall01

## Attacker texted victim from his police cell

A LOCHABER man who wrecked his then girlfriend's phones and laptop before trying to get her to retract a statement to police has been placed under curfew for six months and fitted with a tagging device.

Alexander Watson, of Room 1, The Willows, Achintore Road, Fort William, smashed Eileen Kennedy's mobile phone and ripped the connecting cord of her house phone from the wall during a drunken outburst, fiscal Iain Smith told Fort William Sheriff Court.

Miss Kennedy tried to throw Watson out, grabbing him by the scruff of the neck, but he snatched the laptop from Ms Kennedy and 'snapped it in two'.

Police arrested Watson, 27, but while in custody he texted Ms Kennedy the next day to withdraw her testimony.

Defending, Stephen Kennedy said after the event Watson accepted what he did was 'totally unreasonable and totally unacceptable'.

However, under the influence of alcohol his attitude was 'somewhat different'.

'He is determined to try to sort himself out,' he said. 'He has pushed the self destruct button and has lost his job over this.'

Watson admitted destroying or damaging two phones and the laptop at an address in Nairn Crescent on July 16.

He also admitted keeping a mobile phone hidden at Fort William Police Station the following day and sending two texts to Ms Kennedy inciting her to retract her statement in an attempt to pervert the course of justice.

Sheriff Kenneth Hogg spared Watson imprisonment, instead placing him under a six-month restriction of liberty order.

Watson will be fitted with an electronic tagging device to ensure he does not leave his home during his curfew hours of 6pm to 6am.

Sheriff Hogg told him: 'Clearly, you are a deeply unpleasant drunk. If you are brought back here again you will go to jail.'

## Eight-year-old shot in face by BB pellet

A FORT William youth has been fined and ordered to perform community service for hitting a child in the face with a pellet from his BB gun.

Joshua Beaton, of 16 Poloma, admitted recklessly firing the gun from the window of his home into a public footpath on September 11 to the danger of children there, and striking an eight year-old child with a pellet on the face to his injury.

The child suffered 'a degree of pain and discomfort for a short time', Fort William Sheriff Court was told.

Sheriff Kenneth Hogg told Beaton: 'I understand that now you are beginning to grasp how foolish this was and you are not going to be so stupid again. You need to learn your lesson.'

Beaton, 16, was fined £150 and told to complete 30 hours unpaid work in the community. The gun and pellets were confiscated.

## No ban for motorist who reached 100mph

A LOCHABER man who admitted driving at more than 100mph across Rannoch Moor has escaped a driving ban.

Civil engineer Niall McLean, aged 32, of Druimindarich, West Lamoach, Ballachulish was doing 105mph when clocked by police on the A82 at Loch Ba on the evening of June 4, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

After being told McLean employed 20 people in the Lochaber area, Sheriff Kenneth Hogg decided against imposing a period of disqualification.

He said: 'You employ local people, and a ban may adversely affect both your business and their livelihood.'

Describing the offence as 'the height of stupidity', Sheriff Hogg endorsed McLean's licence with six penalty points and fined him £600.

He told the businessman: 'You will now be one offence away from an automatic ban. Your driving is going to have to improve dramatically.'

## Mix-up over minister

THE OBAN Times would like to clarify that the new minister of Fort William Baptist Church is Rev David White, not Rev Dr Jim Gordon as previously reported.

## Kinlochleven P1 pupils on parade



Kinlochleven Primary School's new primary one pupils smile for the camera.

## Villages' 'urgent need' for windfall trust fund

A COMMUNITY Trust fund to manage the cash flow and assets of the Kilmelford and Kilniver communities should be set up as a matter of urgency.

Members of Kilmelford and Kilniver Community Council were told that a community organisation had to be set up immediately in order to take advantage of an expected windfall for the villages.

Both communities could receive a significant financial boost in the coming months and years through profits from the proposed windfarm in Clachan, the possible development of land in and around the village hall as well as grant funding.

The meeting heard that, should the proposed development of the Clachan windfarm go ahead, the community's share of the

revenue could potentially be managed by Argyll and Bute Council if they failed to find a suitable way to manage the money.

Community council chairman, Nigel Mitchell, said: 'If we don't do it, it will be done for us and that means we will have less say on how the money is spent in our area.'

Mr Mitchell said the community council could not form the trust and so called on members of the community to take action quickly.

Fellow community council member, Mathew Anderson, said setting up a not for profit company limited by guarantee could be the ideal way forward and called on professionals within the community to lend their skills to such a scheme.

He said: 'Something like this needs to be in place so that if assets are given

to the community we have a mechanism to properly manage them to the best advantage of the community.'

The possible development of the land around the Kilmelford and Kilniver Community Hall could result in £75,000 for the community to invest in future projects.

Community Links Scotland is also working with Kilmelford and Kilniver residents to identify possible areas where grants can be sought to make improvements to the village hall.

MEMBERS of the Kilmelford and Kilniver Community Council voted in favour of receiving a cash return on the profits generated from the proposed Clachan windfarm.

The community council decided on the Community Benefit Payments option

after an earlier visit from a representative of Energy4All who outlined three possible ways for generating finance for the community.

The two other options, the Community Investment Model and The Development Trust Model, which would see the communities own and manage the finances for a wind turbine over a 20-year period, were deemed too complex and timely by council members.

The proposed windfarm at Clachan Farm, adjacent to Duachy and the Toad of Lorn, involves the installation of 11 Enercon E44 900kw turbines, 56 meters to hub height and 78 meters to tip height.

The turbines would be connected to a substation on Clachan by underground cable and from there over to the Kilniver substation by overhead line.

## Dad's search for paramedics who saved son's life

A FORMER Oban resident is looking for the paramedics who broke a picket line in 1989 to save his son's life before he was born.

Paul Henderson wants to say thank you to those men he describes as 'heroes' for putting their own problems aside on November 29, 1989, to help bring his son Alex into the world.

Alex has since gone on to become a three time martial arts world champion and Paul is keen to let them know that their selfless act was more than worth it.

Not only was Alex overdue but his mother, Nora, had developed her own health difficulties and the birth could only be carried out at Vale of Leven in Dumbarton.

With no transport of their own, they had to rely on the kindness of the paramedics to take them there by ambulance.

Paul, who moved Corby, in his native Northamptonshire, not long after Alex was born, said: 'In 1989, Mrs Thatcher wasn't very popular in Scotland. The paramedics were striking for a reason, so



Feeling champion - Alex Henderson, whose life was saved by Oban paramedics.

it was a great relief when they agreed to help.

'We were very grateful, but didn't get a chance to say too much to them.'

'I think all I said 'thanks very much'. Alex was late but weighed only 4lbs 5.5oz, so we were so pleased he arrived in one piece.'

'I've got no idea who these guys are or where they might be. I've actually just returned from a trip to Oban to say thanks, but couldn't find them. I just want to say thank you.'

Unfortunately, Nora's health difficulties continued after her son's birth and she passed away some time later.

Alex, however, has become one of the brightest new talents in the martial arts world.

He took up the sport aged just four-and-a-half and by 12 he finished second at the US and World Martial Arts Championships in Florida.

He has come on leaps and bounds and now has three world championship titles

# Clubs agree to merger of sports groups

LOCHABER is to have a single sports promotion and development body after clubs affiliated to Sportlochaber and Lochaber Sports Council delivered a unanimous thumbs-up to a merger.

The move, exclusively revealed in *The Oban Times* two weeks ago, comes after a survey of local clubs and organisations on unifying sporting interests under a single banner.

Clubs will be asked to vote on a name for the new organisation at its first AGM on November 9. Suggestions so far include Lochaber Sports Partnership and Lochaber Sports Association.

Sportlochaber chair Jane Blanchard said: 'This is a very exciting development for sport in Lochaber, as it means that there is now one representative body, which will aim to support member clubs and give them a strong voice both locally and in the

REPORT by  
STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

national arena.

'The new organisation will be a company limited by guarantee and with charitable status, which means that it will have great potential to access many sources of funding, both independently and in partnership with other local bodies.'

The current Sportlochaber board will be retiring, with four directors, Jane Blanchard (chair), Duncan MacPhee (secretary), Damian Forster and Christine Falconer standing for re-election to the new body.

Nominations are being sought to fill the vacant positions and these should be submitted to the current secretary, Duncan MacPhee at

DuncanMacPhee@macphee.co.uk by Monday October 25. They should include the nominee's name, address, telephone number,

email address, occupation and relevant experience.

To ensure the new board is democratically elected and meets with general approval, the information will be circulated to member clubs for consideration.

Qualities required, according to Ms Blanchard, are 'energy, commitment, community and team spirit'.

'Nominees should not represent the interests of a particular club, sport, individual, group or business and should wish to further the interests of Lochaber's sports clubs and the wider community, aiming for the best for all,' she said.

'The reward for successful nominees will be the knowledge that they will be helping to build a healthier future for generations to come.'

Further suggestions for the new organisation's name should be submitted to Mr MacPhee by Monday, November 8.

## Disabled offered help with plans

HIGHLAND Council has adopted new guidelines to ensure planning applications for people with disabilities are processed quickly.

The protocol governs

works to improve a disabled person's access to a public building, or to improve the access, safety, health or comfort of a person with a disability at their home.

Customers with disabilities applying to adapt their homes will be offered practical help with filling in forms and providing supporting information.

## Lorn Lines



OBAN'S fresh fish, scenery and whisky has gained a clutch of new fans in Japan thanks to the town's Rotary Club.

As part of Rotary International's theme of 'Building Communities - Bridging Continents,' members welcomed five guests from the Tokyo Rotary Club, who lived and worked in the area for a week, as well as visiting the area's attractions and cultural venues.

Oban Rotary Club president, John Hyde, said: 'Our Japanese visitors enjoyed their visit and said they would like to come again with their families.'

'They particularly praised the families and businesses that hosted them, the friendliness of the community, our scenery, the seafood and our whisky.'

Among those placements was Mrs Mami Aoki, an English teacher who spent time working at Rockfield Primary school with Veronica O'Reilly. In a strange twist of fate, Veronica once worked as an English teacher in Tokyo.

Pictured at the exchange of club pennants are, from left: Junichi Takita, a hotelier who worked at the Manor House Hotel, Oban, Yumiko Inoue, a graphic designer for Benetton who worked with local dress maker Sharon Pirie and Oban High School's art department, the president of Oban Rotary Club, John Hyde, the president of Tokyo Rotary Club, Mankichi Kuramochi, who spent time with McQueen Brother Charities, Mami Aoki and Riu Yokota, a web design engineer who worked at both Energie Fitness and McQueen Brother Charities.

OBAN will gain a new service as Scotland loses a piece of fishing history.

The town is to get an office for the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen but across the UK the last of the traditional missions are to close.

In Scotland the final five, Mallaig, Peterhead, Fraserburgh, Scrabster and Eyemouth, will be phased out over the next five years.

The new Oban office will offer practical help and pastoral care for the fishing community.

The closures have come about, the mission says, because of the reduction in the number of donations and legacies it receives and the decline of the fishing fleet.

The closure of the traditional canteens at the missions will see the loss of 30 jobs nationwide.

Captain Dan Conley, who is the chief executive of the Royal National Missions, said of the closures: 'I think it is rather reflective that British people are less maritime-conscious than once they were and there are fewer fishermen in the industry so there are fewer to support our organisation.'

OBAN Photographic Club held its first educational cheese and wine evening at the town's Regent Hotel last week.

The event saw the older, more experienced members imparting advice to some of the newer photographers.

The next meeting, on October 25, will be the results of the club's first Open competition.

# West Coast property service

www.westcoastpropertyguide.co.uk

**Argyll 4Sale** ESTATE AGENT 10 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8LZ



**4 MacCallum Court, Lochgilphead**  
3 bedroom end terraced house situated within a small development, close to the town centre. The property is double-glazed, has modern off-peak heating and a modern fitted kitchen. There is a small garden to front and rear and off road parking to side.

**Offers Over £68,000**

- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- 3 Bedrooms

Tel: 01546 603118 Tel: 07793 810749  
Tel: 07799 504790 Fax: 01546 603733

**Argyll 4Sale** ESTATE AGENT 10 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8LZ



**49 Sound Of Kintyre, By Campbeltown**  
Mid terraced house situated in the popular and peaceful residential area of the Sound Of Kintyre. The property benefits from full double-glazing and electric heating and small manageable garden to front and rear.

**Fixed Price £65,000**

- Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- 2 Bedrooms
- Box Room/Study

Tel: 01546 603118 Tel: 07793 810749  
Tel: 07799 504790 Fax: 01546 603733

**Argyll 4Sale** ESTATE AGENT 10 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8LZ



**50 Sound Of Kintyre, By Campbeltown**  
End Terraced House situated in the popular and peaceful residential area of the Sound Of Kintyre. The property benefits from full double-glazing and electric heating and small manageable garden to front and rear.

**Fixed Price £65,000**

- Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- 2 Bedrooms
- Box Room/Study

Tel: 01546 603118 Tel: 07793 810749  
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**E. Thornton & Co.** SOLICITORS NOTARIES AND ESTATE AGENTS Visit our website at www.ethornton.co.uk



**ARNABOST, 8 MOSSPARK, NORTH CONNELL, PA37 1TD**  
Ideal family home situated in a large well maintained garden in a secluded position with views of the majestic Beinn Lora.

- 4 bedrooms (1 en suite)
- Vestibule, hall, sitting room
- Fitted kitchen and utility room
- Bathroom
- Fully double glazed
- Electric storage heating
- Double Garage and Parking for 4 cars

**Offers Over £240,000**

17/19 LOCHSIDE STREET, OBAN, ARGYLL, PA34 4HP  
☎(01631) 566771 info@ethornton.co.uk

**FOR SALE:**  
**Three Bedroom Terraced Cottage.**  
**Offers over £99,500.**  
Close to Campbeltown.

Fully modernised with easy care garden, DG, EH and multi fuel stove. Carpets and curtains inc. Great location with nice views. Home report.

Tel: 07731 790240

**M C & D Mactaggart** Solicitors KINTYRE ESTATE AGENCY



**50 Limecraigs Road, Campbeltown**  
Semi-detached family house situated in a popular and quiet residential area. Extensive garden ground to front, side and rear of property.

**Offers over £75,000**

- Livingroom
- Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom

Castlehill, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6AR Telephone (01586) 552317 Fax (01586) 554719 (24-Hour Answering Service)  
57 Lochmell Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8JN Telephone (01546) 602581 E-mail: mail@cdm-law.co.uk

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The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES  
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www.obantimes.co.uk

**MacPhee & Partners**



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SUBSTANTIAL DETACHED VILLA  
STUNNING PANORAMIC VIEWS OVER OBAN BAY  
CLOSE TO TOWN CENTRE  
KITCHEN/DINER  
LOUNGE  
FAMILY ROOM  
5 BEDROOMS

BATHROOM  
UTILITY ROOM  
DOUBLE GLAZING (BEDROOM)  
5 AND STAIR WINDOW  
- SECONDARY GLAZING)  
GAS FIRED CENTRAL HEATING  
LARGE GARDEN WITH FEATURE DECKED AREA

**FIXED PRICE: £370,000**

Tel: 01631 565251 Fax: 01631 565434 property@macphee.co.uk  
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**WANTED**

**Wanted: Holiday Cottages**

- High occupancy levels and payment in advance
- FREE property inspection, photos and rental advice
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www.SykesLettings.co.uk

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**HOLIDAY COTTAGES WANTED**

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www.scottish-cottages.co.uk

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The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES  
Be seen by over 40,000 readers  
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www.obantimes.co.uk

**TO LET**

**TO LET Modern 3 Bedroom Terraced Cottage.**  
Close to Campbeltown. DG, EH, multi fuel stove and garden. White goods and furniture included. Would suit a professional couple.  
**Rent £420 per month. Deposit £420.**  
07731 790240.

**TO LET Two single-bedroomed furnished flats in pleasant Main Street close with harbour views.**  
No DSS. Refs required  
**£300 pcm each, plus utilities**  
Contact Argyll Property Shop  
Tel: 01586 552345

**Are you looking to move house?**

40% of those planning on buying a house in the next year have been exposed to advertising in the regional press, which is double the number in any other medium.

Regional Press

**HOUSE FOR RENT**  
4 bedroom detached house in country location 5 miles south of Oban.  
Available for long term let. References required.  
No D.S.S.  
**Rent £650 pcm + C/Tax etc.**  
Contact 07795972665

**Room to let / house share Lochgilphead**  
Quiet area  
References required  
**£250 p.c.m + bills**  
Telephone 01546 606515

**TO LET One bedroom flat Tarbert**  
**Ground floor near all amenities**  
**£300 pcm + Council tax**  
Contact: 07920 759697

West Coast Property Guide West Coast Property Guide West Coast Property Guide

**MACARTHUR STEWART**



**COILLE GRIANACH DERVAIG, ISLE OF MULL PA75 6QR**  
Well presented bungalow with attached garage approximately one mile from the village of Dervaig. Occupying an elevated position and situated within 3 acres of ground with views to the surrounding countryside and overlooking the village from part of the garden. At present a holiday home and self catering unit but would make an ideal family home. Accommodation comprises: vestibule, hall, lounge, kitchen, 2 bedrooms and bathroom. Viewing recommended.

**Offers in the region of £210,000**

OBAN OFFICE ☎(01631) 562215  
Visit our website at www.macarthurstewart.co.uk

**DRIVETIMES**

**WANTED**  
Landrover 90 or 110, new or old models, also Toyota Hilux and Land Cruiser, Range Rover and all Japanese models, high miles, damaged, anything considered, motorhomes and caravanettes also required.

Contact James 07866 590583 or 07966 293996.

**TOYOTA COROLLA 1.4 WTI**  
3 Door Hatchback  
Metallic Green  
10 Month MOT  
Very Clean and Good Condition.  
Electric windows + electric side mirrors.  
Telephone: 07594885051  
**£995**

**Y REG SKODA FABIA**  
1.4 16v, only 38,000 miles, good condition but no MOT, good project for someone.  
Telephone: 01586 552698 or 07788 923890  
**£550**

**NISSAN NAVARA DOUBLE CAB PICKUP**  
05 plate, 81,000 miles, new engine and clutch fitted by Nissan at 74,000 miles, FSH, taxed and MOT'd. Excellent condition.  
Telephone: 07810 818866 or 01586 553563  
**£4995 o.n.o.**

**RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE 1.6**  
16v Automatic, petrol, 30K miles, FSH, Tax, MOT.  
Telephone: 07795150479 or 01546 870647  
**£4250 o.n.o.**

**Bell Ingram** dm estates 01631 566 122  
2 Gibraltar Street, Oban PA34 4AY bellingram.co.uk



**23 Achinreir, Barcaldine**  
Well presented semi detached property situated within a pleasant residential development in a popular rural area with views to the side and rear

- Vestibule, hall, lounge, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, W.C. and utility/store room
- Double glazed
- Total Control electric heating
- Open fire with back boiler
- Sizeable, mature and easily maintained gardens
- Off street parking

**Offers in the region of £155,000**

s1homes.com rightmove.co.uk

**TEREX HR 12 MINI DIGGER**  
1.5 tonne - Rubber tracks - 2000 hrs  
Expandable track carriage  
Piped, c/w 4 buckets - twin doors  
Good Condition.  
Reg 2004  
Telephone: 07789 071188  
**£7950 o.n.o.**

**04 CITROEN DISPATCH FRIDGE VAN**  
Fridge unit and van body in good condition, engine runs but needs attention.  
Telephone: 01586 552698 or 07788 923890  
**Offers**

**CUSTOMISED WILLERBY LEVEN 34 IN TYNDRUM**



Laminate floor, fire wall n hearth with pot belly stove, bed settee recliner chair, fab kitchen, sleeps 4. Full length decking plus extras. Must be seen.  
Tel: 01567 829307  
**£3700 o.n.o.**

**NISSAN X-TRAIL AVENTURA DCI**



Black, estate, reg 16/10/07, 11 months MOT, 2 months Tax, new tyres, 22,095 miles, diesel, excellent condition.  
Tel: 01586 553770  
**£14,000**

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All prices include full colour, all photographs and are inclusive for 3 weeks. Prices are exclusive of VAT

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TEL MARGARET ON 01631 568000 OR EMAIL adverts@obantimes.co.uk  
offer exclusive to re-sale property only

**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXI**  
2006, 49,000miles.  
M.O.T March 2011  
3 Doors  
Excellent Condition.  
Telephone: 07900 990462  
**£4500 o.n.o.**

**SUBARU IMPREZA 2.0LT SPORT**  
N reg, 1996,  
Tax/MOT  
November 10  
Telephone: 01586 551813  
**£790 o.n.o. Quick sale**

**2 BERTH MONZA CARAVAN TOURER**  
Tyndrum, first £250 takes it away buyer must collect.  
Telephone: 01567 829307  
**£250**

**FORD FIESTA COURIER**  
1.8 diesel  
02 reg  
Woodlined  
Roof rack  
8 1/2 months MOT  
4 good tyres  
CD player  
Good condition for year  
Good on fuel  
Telephone: 07795 341113  
**£950 o.n.o.**

**WANTED**  
Toyota Hilux 4 x 4 or 4 wheel drive, petrol or diesel, any condition, top prices paid.  
Telephone 01250 884306 or mobile 07885 203020

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**S&S Services Subaru** **Tel: 01292 880080/880440** **www.sandsservices.co.uk**

**UNLIKE OTHER CARS, WE'RE STILL GOING WHEN IT'S SNOWING.**

When it comes to showing true grit in snowy conditions, trust a Subaru to stay the course no matter what. The quick-thinking All-Wheel Drive system (AWD) enhances straight-line traction and provides sure-footed grip through corners, giving Subaru drivers total peace of mind in rain, ice and of course, snow.

And with the option of Subaru's Boxer Diesel engine, the world's first horizontally opposed diesel engine, your journey will be smooth, quiet and incredibly responsive, regardless of the road conditions.

In a country always caught out by winter weather, a Subaru just ploughs on regardless.

**CALL IN OR CALL US TODAY TO ARRANGE A TEST DRIVE.**

UNCOMMON ENGINEERING  
UNCOMMON STABILITY  
UNCOMMON ROADHOLDING  
UNCOMMON SENSE



**CORSA 1.2 VAGAS. 1997**



57,000 Miles. One owner from new. 12 months MOT. Taxed end November. VGC.

Telephone: 01866 822 529 or 07811 282922

**£650**

**2003 03 REG HONDA CB500**



Black, 5600 miles only, Taxed Feb 2011, MOT May 2011, Engine bars & fly screen fitted.

Telephone: 01770 302341

**£1500 ono**

**SUZUKI GRAND VITARA**



03 Reg 54,200 miles MOT March 11 Taxed Jan 11 Blue, Good condition Ideal car for winter.

Telephone: 07712678104

**£2500 o.n.o.**

**TOYOTA RAV-4 GX VVTI**



51 Plate. Only 84000 miles. Full Service History. One Year MOT. Tax till Nov 10. 5 Doors, 4x4, Manual, Petrol, Black. Very well maintained inside and out, 4 new tyres and front pads just fitted.

Telephone: 07814758812 or 07827777875

**£3000**

Oban Times DRIVE TIMES

**2005 MITSUBISHI L200**



Single Cab 4 Work Pickup

Tel: 01631 564620 (after 6pm)

**Robertson Van Sales**  
14 Crannog Lane, Oban PA34 4HB  
Mobile: 07990 548046

58 Mini Cooper, Diesel, metallic black, leather interior, 19,000 miles, full service history **£12,400**

05 Vauxhall Vivaro SPORT, silver, tow bar, wood lined, cd player, mot Jun 2011 **£4100**

07 Citroen Berlingo, white, 1.6 diesel, side door, service history, cd player, mot July 2011 **£3650**

06 Vauxhall Combo Blue side door, rear shelves, LOTS of EXTRAS, 30,000 miles mot July 2011 **£3650**

04 Citroen Berlingo, white, 2.0 HDI lined, mot April 2011, Full Service History **£2200**

All prices are exclusive of VAT.

**30FT VERSITILITY**



Sealed deck. Ford Lehman 4D 254 diesel engine. 2 Berths, Sea toilet, Cooker & Sink. Radio, Fish finder, Dual steering. Ideal Workboat.

Tel: 01967 421688

**£10,250**

**6M RIB**

Orange hull and tubes, 115HP Suzuki Outboard, Galvanised Trailer, Fair condition.

Telephone: 07976 012314

**£4,500 o.n.o.**

**RENAULT LAGUNA 1.6 EXPRESSION**



02 plate, 69,000 miles, 6 CD changer, alloy wheels, good condition inside and out.

Tel: 01546 602 831

**£1650 o.n.o.**

**2003 RENAULT LAGUNA 1.6 16V AUTHENTIQUE**



53,500 Miles. Tax April 2011 and MOT Oct 2011.

Tel: 01631 565697

**£2000 o.n.o.**

**FORD TRANSIT 280 SWB**



2005 one owner from new outstanding condition one years mot six months tax electric windows PAS, CD player, remote locking, very good on fuel drives like new.

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Scotland's most established Renault dealer




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New and Pre-Reg Renaults ready for immediate delivery

These are just a small selection of cars currently in our showrooms

**USED CARS**

59 Renault Clio Exp. Dci Sport Tourer, silver, 4,500 miles.....£11,500

59 Renault Clio Dyn 1.2 TCE, 3Dr, Blue, 6200 miles .....£8950

09 Renault Koleos Dyn Dci 4WD, black, 13,000 miles.....£15,995

09 Renault Kangoo AUTH, 1.2, Silver, 14000.....£7750

58 Peugeot 308 S HDi 107 Estate, grey, 5,600 miles .....£10,995

08 Renault Scenic Dyn Dci 106, black, 15,000 miles .....£10,950

08 Renault Megane Sport Tourer Dyn Dci 130 auto, black, 21,000 miles.....£8,950

08 Renault Twingo Dyn 1.2, 3dr, black, 17,500 miles.....£6,550

07 Renault Megane Senic Exp, DCI 86, Silver, 46000 .....£6750

07 Renault Megane Extreme 1.4, 5Dr, Hatchback, Silver, 17000, .....£5650

07 Renault Laguna Sport Tourer , Dci 150, 38,000miles.....£8,500

07 Renault Clio Camus 3dr, black, 16,000 miles .....£4,595

06 Renault Megane 1.6 5dr, cherry red, 36,500 miles.....£5,995

06 Renault Modus Dyn, black, 22,000 miles.....£5,550

04 Ford Ka Style, 3dr, blue, 42,000 miles.....£2,650

53 Honda Civic SE 1.6 5door, silver 82,500 miles.....£3,450

54 Rover 45 1.8 auto, grey, 31,000 miles.....£3,350

**COMMERCIALS**

08 Renault Traffic, SL27 Dci.....£8,950 +vat

08 Renault Kangoo, SL17 Dci .....£5,650 +vat

04 Renault Kangoo, SL17 Dci .....£2,500 +vat

SELECTION OF LOW PRICE CARS UNDER £2000 TO CLEAR CAR AND VAN HIRE FROM BOTH BRANCHES

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Approved Renault Dealer

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**S. D. MacDOUGALL AUTOSERVICES CAR OF THE WEEK**



Vauxhall Corsa Comfort 11tr Blue (2001) £2595.00 Low low mileage, 18,655 miles New Mot at time of purchase

Unit 6 Lochavullin Estate, Oban PA34 4HB Tel 01631 566502 Fax 01631 566470 VAT Registration Number 717 2772 26

**Ben Nevis Motors** 

Found your favourite model? Then *drive* over to our **NEW** website for the perfect pictures

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**FORD**

59 Ford Mondeo 2.2 TDCi Titanium X Sport Black 1 owner Sat Nav Huge Spec only 11,000 Miles ..... £18,495

08 Ford Kuga 2.5 TDCi Zetec Black 1 Owner Roof Rails AC Alloys Keyless Start..... £15,995

08 Ford Focus 2.5 ST3 5dr Colorado Red Full leather Recaro Interior Only 14,000 Miles ..... £12,995

10 Ford Fiesta 1.6 Zetec S Grey Alloys 120ps Remote /Locking..... £11,995

09 Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi Zetec Silver 5dr £20 Road Tax Heated Windscreen A/C..... £10,995

09 Ford Focus 1.6 Titanium 5dr Blue A/C Privacy Glass Auto Headlights Alloys..... £9,995

09 Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec 5dr Blue Heated Windscreen Alloys Spoiler A/C..... £8,995

08 Ford Focus 1.8 TDCi Zetec 5dr Blue £90 Road Tax Heated Windscreen CD Player ..... £8,495

58 Ford Fiesta 1.25 Style 3dr Silver New Shape 1 Owner Only 3,849 Miles Immaculate ..... £7,495

08 Ford Fiesta 1.25 Style 5dr Choice of 2 Remote C/Locking E/Windows Only 17,000 Miles ..... £6,995

57 Ford Focus 1.8 Style 5dr Grey A/C E/Windows CD Player Remote C/Locking ..... £6,995

59 Ford Ka 1.2 Studio Sea Grey Only 1 owner Only 838 miles!! £30 Road Tax..... £6,595

58 Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 3dr Silver Privacy Glass A/C Alloys CD Player Remote C/Locking ..... £6,495

07 Ford Fusion 1.4 Zetec Silver 1 Owner Only 17,826 Miles Alloys A/C..... £6,495

08 Ford Fiesta 1.25 Style 5dr Blue E/Windows ABS Remote C/Locking..... £5,995

06 Ford Focus 1.6 LX Estate Automatic Only 19,000 Miles A/C Parking Sensors Heated Windscreen ..... £5,495

54 Ford Fiesta 1.4 Flame 3dr Black A/C Roof Spoiler Alloys CD Player..... £4,495

54 Ford KA 1.3 Blue Power Steering Low Mileage Excellent First Car Cheap Insurance..... £2,995

**COMMERCIALS**

07 Ford Ranger 2.5 TDCi Thunder Super Cab Tow Bar Load Liner Leather..... £9,995 + VAT

56 Ford Transit 2.2 TDCi 110 280 White Tow Bar Fully Lined ..... £6,995 + VAT

**OTHER MAKES**

05 Subaru Impreza 2.0 WRX Grey Very low mileage Only 28,000 miles..... £7,995

52 BMW 330Ci Clubsport Blue Stunning Rare Car Full Leather TV..... £6,495

58 Hyundai i10 1.2 Comfort 5dr Grey 1 Owner Only 9,000 Miles £35 Road Tax 5 Year Warranty ..... £6,495

06 Vauxhall Vectra 1.9 CDTI Exclusive Blue 6 Speed Cruise Control A/C Low Mileage..... £5,995

02 Mazda MX5 1.8 Sport Convertible Only 19,000 Miles Leather Hard Top ..... £5,995

Ben Nevis Motors North Road Fort William Tel: 01397 700110



**E.M. COMMERCIALS LTD**



06 MITSUBISHI L200 Animal double cab pickup, leather, roll bars, shutter cover, black, 60k £11,950

06 MITSUBISHI L200 Warrior double cab pickup, black £10,950

57 MITSUBISHI L200 Animal double cab pickup, leather, parking sensors, grey £11,250

07 MITSUBISHI L200 Elegance double cab pickup auto full spec, leather, 40k £10,950

07 MITSUBISHI L200 Warrior double cab pickup, manual, e-park, alloys, black, 26k £10,950

07 MITSUBISHI L200 Animal double cab pickup, leather, black, 47k £11,250

07 MITSUBISHI L200 Animal, double cab pickup, manual, full leather, sat nav, e-park, alloys, black, £8,950

06 MITSUBISHI L200 single cab pickup, 4wd, truckman canopy, mot silver £7,950

06 MITSUBISHI L200 Single Cab Pickup, New Shape, 4WD, 420, 40k, £7,950

06 MITSUBISHI L200 double cab pickup, Truckman canopy, white £6,950

06 MITSUBISHI L200 Animal, double cab pickup, leather, sports top, black £6,950

57 NISSAN Navara Outlaw, double cab pickup, air con, cruise control, met grey, 37k £11,950

57 NISSAN Navara Sport, Double cab pickup, E pack, Alloys, Black, 34k £10,450

07 NISSAN Navara, double cab pickup, manual e-pack, 8 speed, canopy, silver, 60k £8,950

07 NISSAN Navara Outlaw, D/cab Facelift Model, 8 speed, Cruise Control, A/C, Canopy Black £8,950

54 NISSAN Navara, long cab pickup, manual, e-pack, alloys, canopy, met. Blue, 70k £5,950

06 FORD Transit 350 1000 tipper pickup, white £9,450

57 FORD Transit 350 crew cab tipper, low bar, white, 60k £8,950

07 FORD Ranger, Double cab pickup, 2 ton tow, E pack, White, 24k £8,750

07 FORD Ranger, Single cab pickup, 4wd, 3 ton tow, met blue, 24k £7,950

07 FORD Transit 350 TDCI Jumbo LWB Hightop van, white £7,750

07 FORD Transit 350 TDCI LWB Hightop White 50k £6,550

58 FORD Transit 2200s 115 Trend Limited Edition, Sat Nav, Dvd, Cd, Side Step, A Bar, Silver 17k £6,000

50 FORD Transit 280 85 SWB Van, white, 50k, choice £4,650

04 FORD TRANSIT 350 115 LWB crew cab tipper, alloy body, crane £5,950

06 VAUXHALL Astra van club model, e-pack 6 speed, cd, met silver, 60k £5,950

06 VAUXHALL Combo van, CDTI, side door, air con, e-park, blue, 25k £4,650

55 MERCEDES 311 CDI 12 Seat Mini Bus, mva, high roof, sat, 60k, white £2,950

98 NEW HOLLAND 95 wheeled excavator, 4 in 1 bucket, 4 wt, 4000 hrs, very clean £12,950

05 NEW HOLLAND TC21 compact tractor, 4wd hot mid mount mower + grass collector 350 hrs £7,350

WOR WILLIAMS 141 Tr-Axel Stock Trailer, Full sleep decks and division gate. Very tidy £2,950

WOR WILLIAMS 101t allow body to suit Ford Transit, alloy gates & division £1,750

Many other vehicles in stock All above vehicles plus VAT at 17.5% Kilwinning, Ayrshire Tel: 01294 554098 or 077696 88110 Fax: 01294 554560 www.emcommercialsltd.co.uk

**new car index**

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Helensburgh  
Tel: 01436 672779  
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**RENAULT W.D. Semple**  
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Tel: 01499 302150

**ISUZU**  
S & S Services  
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Heathfield, Ayr  
Tel: 01292 880080 / 880440

**SUBARU S & S Services**  
Old Bridge Road,  
Heathfield, Ayr  
Tel: 01292 880080/880440

**HELENSBURGH HONDA**  
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Helensburgh, G84 7PJ  
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HOME CINEMA AV RECEIVER Pioneer VSX-C100 Audio/Video multi-channel receiver/AMP in silver. Good condition with remote and manuals, £49.99 Telephone 01855 821033.

BABY EQUIPMENT

MAMAS AND PAPAS BABY BOUNCER has 3 teddies hanging, music and vibrate feature. Baby bath included, this is a yellow bath with top and tail tray, £15 Telephone 01631 569678.

BICYCLES

CHILD'S BUMPER BLAZER Bike, 18 in wheel, suit age 5-8 yrs, royal blue, Hardly used, excellent condition, cost £99 new, accept £49.99. Telephone 01546 600039.

BUILDING / DIY

ALUMINIUM RODDING POINT 5 x Aluminium oval rodding access points, couple of months old as new. £49.99 Telephone 07974713488.

SLATES - Green Peggies 10"x8", approx one thousand and seventeen hundred. VGC. Offers around £750, on pallets. Telephone 01499 302654.

AXMINSTER BS350 Axminster BS350 1.5kw Bandsaw £200.00, Jet BD31A Belt and Disc Sander, £500.00, ABAC B3914 150HP3 Workshop Air Compressor £300.00. All single phase, little used and in excellent condition. Prices as above or £900 for the lot. £0 Telephone 07810483763.

3000 BALLACHULISH SLATES ready for uplift. Can be palletised if required. £750.00 per 1000 or £2000.00 the lot. Tel 01855 811654

NEW DELONGHI RADIATORS 1600 x 600 radiators, brand new, two of, £100 each. Also, Albion direct invented hot water cyl with expansion vessel 90L. £80. Telephone 01631 710468.

ROOF TILES two pallets of roof tiles, mid brown, £200 ono, buyer collects. Telephone 07849 186235.

WORK LIGHT halogen, good condition, £10 Telephone 01631 564578.

CAR ACCESSORIES

FORD FOCUS / C MAX ROOF BARS genuine Ford Roof Bars to fit Ford Focus / C Max, comes complete with fitting kit, keys & instructions, £49.99 Telephone 07974 713488.

CARS AND CAR PARTS UNDER £250 CAR TYRES four, 165 x 13, never used, different makes. For classic car or ideal for trailers £10 each or £30 for four. Telephone 01631 564578.

RENAULT MASTER (NEW SHAPE) ENG 03/04 plate, £249 Telephone 01586 552698 or 07788 923890.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES BT WIRELESS HOME HUB 2.0 Brand new in box, never opened BT wireless hub/ router colour black, £10 Telephone 01866 833202.

KEYBOARD & MOUSE black, never used, £10 Telephone 01546 606978.

LAPTOP COMPUTER Packard Bell, Easy Note, Windows XP, 768MB RAM, clear install of Windows, anti virus and office software, first offer of £150 secures. Telephone 01631 566722 or 07769 570156.

NINTENDO WII GAME SECRET FILES Second hand game in excellent condition. Platform game experience of a classic adventure as a spy trying to solve a mystery, £6 Telephone 01546 830181.

If you don't sell in the first week, we will insert your paid for advert FREE in the next available issue

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

3 CARPET CLEANERS free for collection. Telephone 01631 720222.

ELECTRIC COOKER Tricity Bendix ceramic hob, top oven with grill, bottom fan oven, vgc, £175 Telephone 01631 562711.

ELECTRIC OVEN AND HOB Moffat MSS600 single oven 'built under' (for below kitchen worktop) & 4 plate electric hob, both white and in good working order, £85 Telephone 01880 820925.

MORPHY RICHARDS BREADMAKER 48267 Fastbake Breadmaker (Stainless Steel/White) as recommended by Which magazine. Boxed, as new, hardly used, £49.99 Telephone 01855 821033.

SMALL DRYER that can be easily put away when not needed, £15 Telephone 01546 602446.

DOMESTIC PETS

BORDER COLLIE PUPS working or pets. Telephone 07740 964233.

FURNITURE

2 CLEAN DIVAN BEDS with headboards, £10 each Telephone 007789 460356.

2 OUTSIDE TWIN BEDS 7' long, in excellent condition can be put together as a double bed, £49.99 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

2 SEATER COUCH Small 2 seater couch and 2 chairs, suitable for conservatory or small lounge. Cream, pink and beige, £150 Telephone 07748 715943 (Oban).

3 PIECE SUITE green dralon, in first class condition, spotless, £39 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

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BLACK SHELF UNIT 6' x 2 1/2', £9 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

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CORNER TV UNIT solid pine, with storage, good condition, £25 Telephone 01631 563584.

DOUBLE WARDROBE attractive wood with short Queen Anne legs, £19 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

FIRESIDE CHAIR spotless pink dralon upright, £29 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

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GLASS FRONTED BOOKCASE teak, with cupboard section. 45" w x 31" h, £15 Telephone 01631 720256.

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MODERN STORAGE UNIT Ikea large wooden, £29 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

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SETTEE two seater, dark blue/gold colours, vgc, £95 Telephone 07733 365290.

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PINE DRESSING TABLE with matching 3 panel mirror, £20 Telephone 01546 602446.

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THREE PIECE SUITE only 18 months old, beige and black, genuine reason for sale, £650 ono Telephone 07917 034653.

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DVD PLAYER Bush, good condition, comes with remote, £15 ono Telephone 01546 606978.

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PERSONALS

Francis MacLeod would like to express his sincere thanks to family and friends near and far for the wonderful evening on the occasion of my retirement and 70th birthday party. Over £1,000 was raised for chosen charities. Moran Tang

Happy 21st Kirstin All our love Mum, Dad, David and Leo xxx

Argyll Motor Services AMSOL John and Mel

Would like to thank all their customers for their support over the last 30 years. We will be closing for business on Friday 22nd October. Well earned retirement at last for John!

MAIRI BEATON Would like to thank her family and friends for the gifts, cards and good wishes on her 50th birthday and to thank all who came to the party and made it such a great night

Thank You To all who gave to St John's Ballachulish Graveyard Fund. All donations are very much appreciated. Iain MacKenzie.

WORDS BY THE WAYSIDE "...your faith and hope might be in God."

Vain will be your trust in men and churches for heaven. Salvation for you is of The Lord, and of The Lord Jesus alone.

Oban Times PERSONALS

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Oban Times PERSONALS

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**BIRTHS**



**ANDERSON**

Karen and Drew are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Riley McCree Anderson, a beautiful grandson for Sarah and Ian Irvine and Veronica and Andy Anderson, Oban.

**GOLDEN WEDDING**

**MACALLISTER** - Johnny and Ann, celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Married on October 20, 1960 in Glasgow and renewed their vows at St Columba's Cathedral, Oban. Congratulations from all the family.

**DEATHS**

**ALLAN** - Suddenly but peacefully on October 15, 2010, at Riverview Retirement Home, Brantford, Ontario, in his 88th year, Alex, loving husband of the late Elizabeth Sproat, loving and much loved dad of Janette, brother of James and the late Mary, Jenny, John, Willie, Nana and Cathie, a much loved uncle, grand uncle and great grand uncle.

**HUTTON** - Gordon Hutton, of Inverneil House, Argyll. After a long illness passed away peacefully at home in Ardrossan, on Sunday October 17, 2010, aged 77 years. Funeral service will be held at Ardrishaig Parish Church on Friday October 22, 2010, at 11am, thereafter to Cardross Crematorium at 2.15pm. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Ardrishaig Public Hall Fund. Feel free to dress casually.

**MACCALLUM** - Sadly but peacefully in the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on October 18, 2010, in his 79th year, Donald, 'Kinloch Croft' Ledaig, Benderloch, beloved husband of Elizabeth, father to Donald, James, Fiona and Elspeth. Loving grandfather, brother of Colin and uncle. Will be greatly missed. Funeral service will take place on Monday, October 25, 2010 from St Modans Church, Benderloch, at 1pm, thereafter to Achnaba Cemetery.

**MATHERS** - Suddenly at home on October 13, 2010, Alfred Donald (Freddy), aged 58, dear son of Flora and brother of Joyce, Billy and Sandra and much loved uncle. Funeral at Caol Church of Scotland, on Friday, October 22 at 1pm, thereafter to Kilmallie Cemetery. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide. Will be sadly missed by all the family.

**McFADYEN** - Mary. Peacefully on October 13, 2010 near Cambridge, aged 92, only daughter of the late Sir Ian and Lady Malcolm of Pottaloch.

**POTTAGE** - Helen Cecilia (née Keir), died peacefully at her home in Roy Bridge on October 13 after a long illness, wife of Raymond Pottage and the widow of Laurence Sellar, mother of Quentin Sellar and a loving grandmother and great grandmother. There will be a graveside service farwell in New Kilmallie Cemetery, Corpach, Fort William at 12 noon on Monday, October 25, to which friends will be welcomed. Family flowers only please.

**WATSON** - Peacefully at home on Saturday, October 16, 2010, Margaret Ann Watson (née Bennett), beloved wife to John, beloved mother to Julie and

Lyndsay, fantastic fun loving grandmother to Kevin, Stephen, Heather, Rory and Becky, much loved mother in law to Freddy and Alan, a wonderful Mar to Lesley, Jimmie, Fiona, Grant, Craig and Andrew. Local celebrity radio DJ at Oban FM. The sun was shining when you left us. The wind was calm and still. The world had stopped to say goodbye. To a woman so wonderful. Donations if desired to Hamish Hoey & Sons, 37-39 Stevenson Street, Oban, for Macmillan and Marie Curie Nurses.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**GIRVAN** - Fiona and Caitlin would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all who have helped them through this difficult time since Jimmy's tragic death. All the cards, letters, floral tributes, words of comfort and the large number who attended his service were simply overwhelming and your support was sincerely appreciated. Jimmy will be sadly missed but the wealth of stories and fond memories we share will ensure he will never be forgotten. Special thanks to Coltness Car Club organisers, Griffin Stage Commander Colin Christie and his team of marshals; Chief Medical Officer Dr. John Harrington and the rescue units at the scene; Eric McNee and Alison Salmean of Tayside Police; Campbell Roy and Derek Campbell. Our thanks are also extended to the Reverend Derek Brown, George J. Chisholm of D. Chisholm & Sons, Funeral Directors and the Management and Staff of the Kingsmills Hotel for their professional and personal help in ensuring the day provided a fitting tribute to Jimmy. Jimmy made our lives shine brighter and will continue to do so as we remember the happy times we shared together.

**MACKAY** - Norah and family of the late Donald Mackay would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the cards, flowers and expressions of sympathy. Thanks to Tweeddale Surgery, Macmillan Nurses and special thanks to all the staff of Belhaven Ward for their kind care and attention throughout Donald's stay. Thanks to Rev D MacQuarrie for his comforting service and Mike McFall for his sensitive and professional service and to all who paid their respects and gave so generously the sum of £764 to Macmillan Nurses Bedford Hospital.

**IN MEMORIAM**

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

**CAMERON** - Treasured memories of our dear mother and granny, Isa Cameron, who died October 25, 1996. You are in our hearts and thoughts each day. As we were always in yours. - Grace, Colin, Shiona, Colin, David & Serena, Serenity, Fort William.

**CAMPBELL** - In loving memory of Archie John, a dear brother and brother-in-law who died October 20, 2009. Someone to special to ever forget. Hector and Catherine, Aberfeldy.

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

- By their loving daughter Annette.

**CHARITY DONATIONS**

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

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**HOLLAND** - Treasured memories of Gary James, a dearly loved son, brother, nephew, uncle and friend who died aged 18 as a result of an accident on October 24, 1990, also his dad Robert, who died March 15, 1991. 20 years have passed us by, but at times it seems like yesterday. How can you write on paper, the feelings we have inside. The loneliness, the heartache when someone you loved had died. To us you were so special Gary, what more is there to say. Except we treasure the times we had with you and wish you were here with us today. Loved, remembered and sorely missed each and everyday. Love Mum, Sharon, Dougie, the rest of family and friends.

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

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

**MACCORQUODALE** - Remembering Kenneth taken from us October 25, 1990, aged 26 years and all our loved ones gone since. A sadness still comes over us. Tears in silence often flow. Memory keeps you ever near us. Though you died 20 years ago. Loving and missing you always. - Mum xx - Iain and Diane xx - Ewan, Kenny, Iain and Rowan xxxx

**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.

**MACKENZIE** - Remembering today as everyday Marion (Mama), much loved sister, aunt and great aunt, passed away October 26, 2009. Norman and family, Ballachulish.

**MACKILLOP** - Remembering with love our dear mother and nana, Mary, who died on October 26, 2004. The rolling stream of life goes on. But still the empty chair. Reminds us of the face, the smile. Of one who once sat there. Mum, you are not forgotten. Though on earth you are no more. Still in memory you are with us. As you always were before. - Helen and Joe. A special person, a special face. Someone we loved and can't replace. Never selfish, always kind. These are the memories, nana, you left behind. - Iain, Deirdre and Mhairi.

**MACLEAN** - Remembering with love a dear brother, uncle and grand-uncle Eoin, died October 21, 2009. We often sit and think of you. And think of how you died. We never got to say goodbye. Before you closed your eyes. Annag and family Oban and Glasgow.

**McWILLIAM** - With love we remember Alex, a dear husband, dad, father-in-law, grandad and great grandad, died October 23, 2007, also Sandra, a darling daughter, sister, sister-in-law, aunt and great aunt, died September 21, 2005, dear mummy to Kieren and Brogan, also loved ones gone before and since. No longer in our lives to share. But in our hearts you are always there. - Mary, Rosemary, Isobel, Trisha and families. **ROBERTSON** - In loving memory of William, a dear husband, father, grampa and great-grampa who passed away on October 23, 2008. Forever in our thoughts. - From Betty and all the family. **WALKER** - In memory of a loving wife and mother. Marjory, who passed away October 26, 2001. Always in our thoughts. Allan and family, Islay, Gartmore and Blanehead. **WELSH** - Precious memories of our mam and nana Jessie who died October 27, 2005. There are moments that mark your life. Moments when you realise nothing will ever be the same. And time is divided into two parts. Before this and after this. Miss you so much. - Love Eileen and Martin xx

**Schools mark harvest festival**

**CHILDREN** from St Columba's and Rockfield Primary School held an ecumenical service in the school hall to celebrate thanksgiving. Kind hearted children brought along gifts of food and household items to donate to Oban charity, The Lord's Larder. Who will in turn give food parcels to individuals and families in need.



16\_43harvest1



Home-Start volunteers Irene Harrower and Anne Hart are reunited at a special reception held in Oban last week. 08\_143home01

**Thought for the Week**

APART from the National Mòd, the other big event that has been attracting a lot of attention recently is the Commonwealth Games in India. Having had a rather bumpy start due to bad publicity about unfinished accommodation, the games seem to have proved popular and successful. And we didn't need to travel to India to enjoy the games as they have been broadcast regularly on our television screens. It's good to see so many countries involved, represented by individuals and teams in a wide variety of sports. It makes no difference whether we have an interest in sport or not, we are all happy to see Scotland represented and also to see Scotland winning a number of medals. Our congratulations go the prize winners. The apostle Paul pictured the Christian life as being like running in a race. With athletes at the Commonwealth Games only the best can win the prize.

But in the Christian race of life every athlete is a winner. Paul writes to the Philippians: 'I press on ... to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' (Philippians 3:14) The starting post for the Christian race is repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We run the race trusting in him to save us from sin. We look to him as the beginning and end of our faith, believing that he will keep his promise of eternal life for all who follow him. Surely there can be no greater prize than that. Have you responded to the call of God in the gospel of Jesus Christ? Are you running in the race of faith? If not, come to him and begin the race today. Otherwise you may miss out on the wonderful prize of eternal life.

Rev George G Cringles  
Minister of Coll with Connel  
Parish Church of Scotland

**ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES**

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Sunday 24 October 2010  
Oban High School Main Hall 10:30am  
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All welcome

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Bible Sunday  
Holy Eucharist.....08.00  
Sung Eucharist.....10.15  
Loop System  
Large Print Hymn Books  
All Welcome  
Norman MacCallum, Provost. (01631) 562323  
St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich  
Holy Eucharist.....11.00  
St Columba, Gruline, Mull  
Holy Eucharist.....11.00  
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona  
Holy Eucharist.....08.00  
Evensong.....20.00

**GRADUATIONS**

**Amy Robertson**  
Graduated from Dundee University with MA Honours in English and American Studies. Attended Rockfield and Oban High School.

**WEDDINGS**

**Colin Partridge married Ann Marie Welch on 10th April 2010 in Randolph Hall, Glasgow University. The couple also held their reception at the University.**  
Photo by Gary Bonar, Photography

**Oban visit proved Anne's inspiration**

CHALLENGES facing families transcended class, race, ethnicity and continents as Home-Start Lorn volunteers met their African counterpart Anne Hart.

REPORT by EDEL KENEALY  
ekenealy@obantimes.co.uk

Anne launched Home-Start South Africa after visiting Oban 11 years ago and returned to the town last week to visit the people who inspired a decade's charitable work.

South African-born Anne was brought to Oban in 1999 by her parents, who insisted she and her siblings see the seaside town.

The family stayed in a Bed and Breakfast owned by Home-Start volunteer Irene Harrower who, at the time of Anne's visit, was helping two Oban toddlers.

Intrigued by Irene's work for the charity, Anne kept in touch with Irene when she returned home.

Some 18 months later, in 2001, Home-Start South Africa was born and the first resource centre opened in Benoni. This was followed by a second in Daveyton in 2004.

Anne said: 'The people in these towns face so many problems including crime, extreme poverty and HIV and aids.'

Anne and her team of volunteers provide a sanctuary for children and their families affected by these issues by providing support for parents, play time for children who have witnessed crime and food parcels for those in poverty.

Home-Start South Africa currently has 19 volunteers working with 63 children across 35 families.

Anne's return to Irene's bed and breakfast proved to be an emotional experience as she was greeted by the sound of bagpipes, played by the two toddlers she had seen all those years ago.

She said: 'The last time I saw them they were two-years old, they are now 13 and are well-adjusted, beautiful young men. They were my inspiration. My return to Oban makes me feel like I have come full circle.'

At a special reception, held last week, Ann presented Oban Home-Start volunteers with a book of African myths and legends and a picture of her fellow Home Start volunteers in South Africa.

Home Start Lorn co-ordinator, Aileen Binner, said: 'This evening clearly demonstrates the passion volunteers feel for the work they do for Home-Start. It doesn't matter where in the world you live, the support Home-Start offers is universal.'

Home-Start is the UK's leading family support charity. The organisation recruits and trains volunteers to offer support to parents with at least one child under the age of five in their own homes.

Through the charity, parents support other parents in a variety of situations including isolation, bereavement, multiple births, illness or disability.

There are 32 Home Start groups in Scotland.



Runners Matt Sims (right) and Matt Buck are appealing for accommodation along the route of their coast to coast charity effort.

**Charity runners' plea for a bed during 125-mile marathon**

TWO amateur athletes from England are appealing for accommodation as they aim to run from Oban to St Andrew's over five days for charity.

Starting in August next year, Matt Buck and Matt Sims, both from Guildford, in Surrey, will run a marathon a day over hilly terrain as they go from coast to coast for children's charity, Action Medical Research.

Their aim is to raise as much money as possible for the charity during the 125 mile run, but hope some kindhearted locals will put them up for a night at every stage along the way.

Oban to Dalmally, Ledcharrie, Loch Earn, Crief, Glenfoot and finally St Andrew's.

Matt Buck said: 'We're just starting out with all the planning so very much looking around for people to help us out. The more places we can stop the more money we can raise for the charity.'

The two Matts will start their coast to coast run on August 23 next year. If you're able to offer accommodation on any of the days, you can contact Matt Buck on 07725366831 or email mbuck@action.org.uk More details can be found online at www.action.org.uk/sponsor/coast2coast.

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### Charolais cross bullock from High Tirfergus is UA's Dalmally champion

UNITED Auctions held their annual show and sale of suckled calves at Dalmally Auction Mart when they had a catalogued entry of 1150 head.

An excellent entry of mainly spring born suckled calves were on offer. The bullock calves averaged £502.50 per head or 179 pence per kilo which recorded a drop of £56 on the year. Heifer calves sold to average £444.09 per head or 168 pence per kilo which recorded a drop of £48 on the year.

At the show prior to the sale, judging was in the hands of Mr A Morrison, Nether Blairmaud, Cornhill, Aberdeen-shire and he awarded as follows:

Bullock calf: 1st: High Tirfergus, 2nd: Lephinkill, 3rd: Tombuie. Heifer calf: 1, 2 and 3: Lephinkill Shepherds class: 1st: Keilator (Heather Clement), 2nd: Barguilean (Home), 3rd: Barguillen (C Dempster)

Champion calf: High Tirfergus £805. Reserve champion: Lephinkill £940.

## Crofters praised as corncrake numbers rise for first time in three years

CROFTERS and farmers across Scotland are being praised after one of the country's rarest birds, the corncrake, increase its population for the first time in three years.

Counts of the elusive bird, restricted almost exclusively to Scotland but once widespread across the UK, rose this year to just under 1,200.

After long-term declines dating back to the early 20th century, the species' fortune was turned around following the introduction of a successful conservation programme in 1993, a partnership between RSPB Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Scottish Government and, most importantly, farmers and crofters.

It aimed to maintain habitat by offering financial support to manage land in a way that was sympathetic to corncrakes.

Since the start of the scheme, the Scottish corncrake population has trebled, reaching a high of over 1,200 in 2007. Despite a modest, but concerning, decline in 2008 and 2009, counts conducted this year show the total Scottish population of calling males was 1,193, a rise of 66 on the previous year.

This is largely down to the efforts of crofters and farmers working closely with conservation bodies, while Scottish Government payments have allowed land-owners to manage hay meadows and

field margins in a way that is sensitive to the species' needs.

North Uist crofter, Alistair MacDonald, said: 'I'm very lucky that the land I manage is home to a number of corncrakes. You don't often see these unusual birds but you definitely hear their 'crake crake' call coming from the tall grass.

'It's a good feeling knowing I am helping to save a rare species, while at the same time making a living for my family. I doubt I would be able to do both without the money I receive from agri-environment payments. I'm not sure how many farmers or crofters would be able to consider corncrake-friendly farming without them.

'For land-managers to be able to continue supporting corncrake recovery we have to make sure there's enough money in the scheme and putting an application in isn't too complicated.'

The head of habitats and species at RSPB Scotland, Dr Paul Walton, said: 'The Scottish Government's Rural Priorities scheme has proved vital in assisting corncrake recovery. Without it, and the hard work of crofters, farmers and our other partners, that distinctive call may have disappeared from our countryside forever.

'However, we have reports of land-managers facing difficulty getting into the new scheme due to it being online and the long waiting list for advisors. This has to be addressed.'



The population of corncrakes has increased for the first time in three years

### Quality calves in demand at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 2,064 calves at their special annual district ballot show and sale at Dingwall last Thursday when a very satisfactory sale saw held quality calves selling exceptionally well.

Judge, D Morrison, Kinlochberrie, awarded his overall championship to a five-month old Limousin cross bullock from the Firm of J. Munro & Son, Invercharron, Ardgay, scaling in at 300kg and realising £830.

The reserve was a 290kg, five-month old Charolais

### Orkney Texels top Oban ram sale

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had forward 525 rams and ram lambs at their annual tup sale at Oban last Wednesday.

Shearlings averaged £259 (+£24 on the year), selling to £750 (twice) for Texels from CM Paterson, Veltigor, Orkney.

Ram lambs averaged £161 (+£15 on the year), selling to £380 for a Blueface Leicester from Allan MacKellar, Seaview, Benderloch.

### Skye cattle feature in Dingwall sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 189 weaned calves and store cattle, 48 breeding cattle and 38 OTM cattle at Dingwall when, with a large percentage of weathered calves, trade looked in buyers favour although quality medium sized spring calves sold at decent rates.

Bullocks sold to 187.5p per kg for a 240kg Limousin cross from 6 Osaig Park, Isle of Raasay, and £550 for 460kg Simmental cross from 1 Feorlig, Dunvegan.

Heifers sold to 194.4p per kg for a 180kg Simmental cross from 1/2 of 3 Garalpin,

Portree and £470 for a 380kg Luing cross from 5 Mill Park, Isle of Raasay.

In-calf heifers sold to £1080 twice for Aberdeen Angus crosses from Upper Cullermie, Ballloch.

In-calf cows sold to £820 for a Simmental cross from 11 Borreraig, Dunvegan.

Cows with calves at foot sold to £770 for a Simmental cross cow with heifer calf from 1 Halistra, Waternish.

OTM cows sold to 98.3p per kg for a 600kg Limousin cross heifer from 5 Mill Park, and £660 for an 820kg Charolais cross from 1 Feorlig.

### Fort William sheep sale meet firm trade

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 1,162 store sheep of all classes at Fort William when all classes met a firm enquiry.

Lambs averaged £34.90 and sold to £65 for Suffolk crosses from White House, Fort Augustus. Suffolks ewes from White House sold to £68. Feeding sheep sold to £57 for a Beltex cross gimmer and a Blackface gimmer from Ardochy, Whitebridge. Rams sold to £96 for a Blackface from Hillside Farm, Kilchoan.

### Cheviots show big increase at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 3,895 store sheep at Dingwall last Friday when all classes of lambs met an improved trade with Cheviots showing the biggest increase.

Lambs averaged £48.25 and sold to £66 for a Texels from Craggiemore, Daviot.

Ewe lambs averaged £52.84 and sold to £75 for Mules from Ruivard, Adress.

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Cost including lunch is £40.00 plus VAT for primary food producers, £50 plus VAT for other interested parties. Call Lyn Matheson on 0131 666 0847

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## Market reports

### DALMALLY United Auctions

**Bullocks**  
Aberdeen Angus X: £575(3) and £560 Barndromin £510 Barndromin Sorrisdale £485 and £450 £475 (2) Ballygown and High Tirfergus.  
Beef ShorthornX: £470 Tretigan Farm CharolaisX: £940 Lephinkill Farm £840 Cairnbaan, Benderloch £805, High Tirfergus £800 Lephinkill Farm £790 and £660(2) Ederline Estate £660 Barglenmore(2), Lephinkill Farm and Barglenbeg £650 Barglenmore(4) and Barglenbeg £645(2) Lephinkill Farm £640(3) Barglenmore £620 Balliemeanoch £615(7) Lephinkill Farm £610(4) and £605 High Tirfergus £600(27) Ederline Estate  
LimousinX: £650 Craigmore and Tombuie £645 Garvie £635 Tiraghoil (4) and Tombuie £625(2) Garvie £620 (5) Craigmore and Tiraghoil.  
Luining: £520 Bonawe Croft and Bonawe HF (6).  
SalerX: £605, £590 and £560 Curacao £550(2) and £540(8) 7 Craigneich, Lismore.  
ShorthornX: £605 and £530(2) Arileod, Coll £505 Kilvarae £500 Raera.  
SimmentalX: £800 5 Kilvarae £760 Pitcastle Estate £695(2) Blarghour Farm £680 Duallin Farm £635 Dunans, Robmar and Blarghour Farm £630(2) Duallin £620(2) Barachander Farm £605 Dunans £600 (5) and £595 (4) Barguilean £590 Craig Farm, Ballygown, Keilator (Clement) and Barachander Farm £580 Pitcastle Estate.  
**Heifers**  
Aberdeen Angus X: £510 Barndromin £450 Sorrisdale.  
Beef ShorthornX: £640(2) Barbreck

Farm.  
CharolaisX: £810 and £740 Cairnbaan, Benderloch £670(2) Barglenbeg £650 High Tirfergus £595 Barglenmore £555 Lephinkill Farm £550 Pitcastle Estate £545 Balliemeanoch.  
LimousinX: £650 Garvie Farm and High Tirfergus £630 Barguilean £565, £560(3) and £525(3) Tiraghoil £500 Craigmore.  
Luining: £550 Pitcastle Estate.  
SimmentalX: £670, £650(3) and £640(2) Blarghour Farm £620(2) Duallin £610(2) Blarghour Farm £600 Benmore Farm(2) and Barachander £590 Blarghour Farm £580 Benmore Farm(3) and Barachander £560 Duallin Farm and Reara £550(2) Benmore Farm £540 Barachander £525(2) Duallin £505(2) Keilator £500 Dunmans.  
**Prices per kilo**  
**Bullocks**  
Aberdeen Angus X: 187p, 186p(6) and 177 High Balintyre 175p (2) Ballygown  
Beef ShorthornX: 189p(3) Stronmagachan 173p Tretigan Farm.  
CharolaisX: 227p High Tirfergus 226p Lephinkill Farm 224p(11) Ederline Estate 218p(7) Lephinkill Farm 215p(5) Ballygown Farm 211p(2) Ederline Estate 210p Tullochmore Farm 204p Ederline Estate(15) and Ballygown Farm(3) 203p(4) and 202p High Tirfergus 200p (16) Ederline Estate 195p(2) Lephinkill 191p Tullochmore.  
LimousinX: 209p Glenshellach 205p Cladich Farm(4) and Ardlarach 203p Lephinkill Farm(2) and Culainne 202p Cladich, Tiraghoil(2), Ballygown(2) and Brechoille Farm(2) 199p Brechoille 198p(2) 3 Bohuntin, Craig Farm(6), Fuinary(2) and Tiraghoil 197p Garvie, Craig Farm(4) and Culainne(2) 196p(6) Dunans 195p Fuinary and Craigmore.  
Luining: 188p Gallanach Farm 183p

Muckairn 180p Ederline Estate 175p Muckairn.  
SalerX: 179p Achnacarron farm 178p(8) 7 Craigneich, Lismore 175p(3) Tullochmore and Curacao.  
SimmentalX: 222p Dunans 215p Ballygown Farm 203p(2) Dunans 201p Ardachule Farm 200p Barguilean Farm 198p(5) Barguilean and Barachander Farm(4) 197p Balindore 196p (3) Keilator, Dunans and Barguilean Farm(4) 195p Barguilean Farm.  
**Heifers**  
Beef ShorthornX: 294p(2), 229p(2) and 217p(2) Stronmagachan.  
CharolaisX: 205p(5) Ballygown Farm 196p Morenish 188p(6) Ederline Estate 185p High Tirfergus 183p(7) Lephinkill 181p(14) Ederline Estate and Ballygown(7) 180p(9) Ederline Estate and Ballygown.  
LimousinX: 200p(4) Brechoille Farm 189p Craigmore 188p Achnacarron and Craig Farm(3) 185p Cladich 184p Lephinkill 181p(2) Glenshellach 180p Cladich and Ballygown(2) Luining: 173p(3) Gallanach Farm.  
SimmentalX: 263p(3) Keilator Farm 241p(2), 227p and 224p(2) Benmore Farm 223p Barachander Farm 222p(4) Keilator Farm 221p(3) and 220p Benmore Farm 219p(2) and 217p(2) Keilator Farm 216p(2) Barachander Farm 209p(4) Keilator Farm 207p and 205p Barachander Farm 202p(2) Keilator Farm.  
**Breeding cattle**  
In-Calf Cows £900, £880(2) Raera

**FORT WILLIAM Dingwall and Highland Marts**

Store lambs:

BeltexX: White House, £64;  
TexelX: Glenquoich, Invergary, £56;  
Cross: Kilmalee, Ardgour, £53.50;  
Blackface: Blargie Farm, Laggan, £50.50;  
CharollaisX: White House, £48;  
Cheviot: 7 Blaich, Fort William, £44;  
Bleu d'Isle: White House, £43;  
Lley: Gorten, Acharacle, £40;  
Jacob: Ardery, Stronach, £35.  
**Ewes:**  
Correct:  
Cheviot: Glenquoich, £50.50;  
Suffolk: White House, £46;  
Blackface: Achanellan, Roy Bridge, £46;  
Lley: Glenquoich, £46;  
Cross - Giehellil, Kilchoan, £45;  
TexelX: Bumbank, Ardgour, £38.  
Broken Mouth:  
Lley: Greenfield, Invergary, £36;  
Cross - Monessie Farm, Roy Bridge, £30;  
Blackface: Ardormish Farms, £30.  
**Feeding sheep:**  
Blackface: Gorten, Acharacle, £33;  
Cross - Giehellil, £27.50.  
Feeding sheep:  
Blackface: Kilmoinvaig, Spean Bridge, £45;  
Jacob: Ardochy, £39.  
**Rams:**  
Blackface: Blargie Farm, Laggan, £71;  
Swaledale: Blargie Farm, £56; Cheviot: Giehellil, £55.  
**OBAN Caledonian Marts**

Shearlings:  
Blackface: Balliemeanoch £480, Glenstrae Farms, £420, £380, £300, Laigh Aitiche £380, £300 (twice), Glengorm £320;  
Cheviot: Inverbroom £650, Attonburn £620, £500, £480, South Park £620,  
£520, £450; Tiraghoil £450; Woodside £450 (twice);  
Texel: Veltigor £520, £480, £450, Blythbank £480, £450 (3 times), £420, Shira Cottage £480;  
Suffolk: Woodside £520, £480, £400; Barcardine Home Farm £450, £420, £400;  
Blueface Leicester: Seaview £620, £500, £490, Maidencrofts £520, £420, Inion £480, £450, £420; Beltex: Maid-crofts £350, £320.  
**Ram lambs:**  
Blackface: Brisbane Glen Est £350, Mid Linthills £200, Balliemeanoch £200; Suffolk: Manual House £240, Tyree £280; Blueface Leicester: Seaview £280.  
Averages:  
Blackface Shearling £196 (+£2);  
Cheviot Shearlings £257 (+£82);  
Texel shearlings £305 (-£10);  
Suffolk shearlings £295 (-£5).  
**DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts**

Lambs:  
TexelX: 15 Achnaim, £64.50;  
Mule: Lower Gaich, Duallin Bridge, £64;  
Cheviot: Upper Bogue, Berriedale, £64;  
CharollaisX: Ruivard, £63.50;  
SuffolkX: Dunganach, Muir of Ord, £62.50; LleyX: Upper Bogrow, Ed-derton, £62;  
Chamoise: Rheindown, Beauly, £61;  
BeltexX: Barrogill Mains, Mey, £60;  
Cross: Crasky, Duncaiton, £58.50.  
Ewe lambs:  
TexelX: Eilean Darrach Farm, Dundonnell, £71;  
Cheviot: Blackmuir, Heights of Docharty, £62;  
Blackface: Carn Eilrig, Nethy Bridge, £53.  
Ewes:  
Cross: Drynie Farm, Dingwall, £69;  
Cheviot: Garbeg, £56;  
TexelX: 15 Achnaim, £52;  
Blackface: Garbeg, £51; SuffolkX: 5A Inshes, Inverness, £40;  
BeltexX: Upperton, Balnain, £40.  
Rams:  
Cheviot ram: Golvail, £170.  
**PORTREE Dingwall and Highland Marts**

# Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

All you have to do

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

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

**Easy to enter**

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition Rules**

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:  
I Millen, Main Street, Callander and I Brown, Seaview Terrace, Easdale

I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box)  The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

## Bowling Club donate to local charities

TWO LOCHABER charities are each £200 better off thanks to the generosity of the Railway Bowling Club in Fort William and its members.

Heart Smart Lochaber and the Glengarry Centre received the cash from club president Duncan Gillies after the club's final day of the season last Sunday.

The Railway BC stages three special charity competitions each year at which all money from entry

### BOWLS

fees and raffles goes into a charity pot.

The committee then invites suggestions to whom the money should go, with the only condition being that the recipients are local.

'We change the charities around every year,' club secretary Gogs Hamilton said. 'That's our season finished now until next April or May.'



President Duncan Gillies, centre, hands over the £200 cheques to Sammy Cameron for Heart Smart Lochaber, left, and to Patrick McGrail, right, and Peter Plumridge, rear, for the Glengarry Centre.

## Glenurquhart deny Kingussie final points of shinty season

KINGUSSIE failed to add to their tally of Premier Division points when the curtain finally came down on the shinty season at Drumnadrochit.

Glenurquhart stunned their more fancied opponents to claim what must be their first win against their league rivals in living memory.

With both teams fielding young teams, and with Kingussie's Ronald Ross starting in a defensive role, Glenurquhart wasted no time in stating their intentions with a goal in the opening minute.

Calum Millar got on the scoresheet and the Glen may consider themselves unlucky not to have added to their goal tally as the majority of the play became bogged down in midfield.

### SHINTY

Ronald Ross switched into a more accustomed role in Kingussie's front line at the start of the second period and he wasted no time in equalising after only five minutes of the restart.

Both teams created chances over the remainder of the 90 minutes but the result was settled in the 72nd minute when Neale Reid struck what proved the match winner for the home side.

Glenurquhart finish in sixth place on the Premier table with 15 points from their 18 starts. Kingussie end with 25 points from 11 wins over 18 games - the same points as Kyles Athletic, but ahead on goal difference.

## Search for new president of Camanachd Association begins

THE Camanachd Association has begun the process of electing a new president.

Current president, Duncan Cameron, finishes his term of office at the Camanachd Association AGM on April 29, 2011.

Nominations are now invited for a president-elect to take up the position as early as possible in the six months leading up to the

### SHINTY

2011 AGM. This period will provide the president-elect with the opportunity to shadow the current president and learn about the role prior to them assuming the role of president for a term of three years following the 2011 AGM.

## Strathglass and Glengarry avoid promotion/relegation play off

STRATHGLASS will not face the risk of relegation from North Division One after the Camanachd Association changed its mind about forcing a play-off between Strathglass and Glengarry.

If the Cannich side were to lose against Glengarry, they would drop into North Division Two.

Strathglass pointed out that with Kilmallie being promoted from the Marine Harvest North Division One to the Scottish Hydro Premier Division, North Division One would become an eight-team league.

It would also mean that Strathglass's senior side

would be entitled to play in junior cup competitions, leaving their reserve side with nothing substantial to play for.

However, it would now appear that a compromise has been reached and The Oban Times understands that Glengarry will be invited to take their place in the Marine Harvest North Division One line-up next season.

Glengarry's reply to the invitation is expected within the next couple of weeks to allow the planning of next season to get underway.



John Grant prepares to serve at Fort William Table Tennis Club's session in the Nevis centre on Monday night. 10\_43table01

## New members wanted for table tennis club

FORT WILLIAM Table Tennis Club is on the lookout for new recruits as the season gets underway at the Nevis Centre.

The club has league and handicapped matches planned for all abilities and, due to popular demand, is extending the one month free trial for junior players in 'junior hour' from 6.30-7.30pm.

Organiser Jim Hinchley extended 'a warm welcome' to players of all levels and ages.

He said: 'If there is anyone out there, who played a few years ago and wants to give it a go again - come on down, the time is right.'

'With winter coming upon very shortly we are also hoping to get some inter-school matches planned if anyone can help with these it would be very much appreciated.'

Fort William Table Tennis Club meets every Monday evening from 6.30-9.30pm. For more information call Jim on 01397 708827.

## High school pupils do well in junior golf championship

OVER 40 of the best young golfers in Highland and Moray teed off in the eighth annual Highland Junior Golf Championships at Spey Valley Golf Course, Aviemore, last Thursday.

Lochaber High School pupils and Fort William GC junior members Alasdair Ross, Craig Brown and Scott McEachen all played well, with Scott coming third in the Boys' Handicap (9-16) competition.

Ross Munro of Thurso High won the Highland clubgolf Trophy, helping his school to take the Highland team event. Forres Academy won the Moray competition.

Jordan Shaw of Kingussie High School won the Duncan Allan Quaich for recording the lowest boys' scratch score of 73, while Hannah McCook, Grantown Grammar, won the Grant Trophy for the best girls' scratch score, with a 76.

### GOLF

The event was hosted and sponsored by Macdonald Aviemore Highland Resort and the North Highland College UHI Millennium Institute. Prizes were presented by Councillor Sandy Park, convener of Highland Council.

Murray Urquhart, PGA Professional, at Spey Valley Golf Course, said: 'I am delighted to see so many juniors return with improved performances this year. The golf course is not getting any easier so they must be getting better.'

Willie MacKay, Highland junior golf manager, added: 'The juniors made a tremendous impression on all with both their skill and general conduct on and off the course.'



Junior golf manager Willie MacKay, Highland Council convener Sandy Park, Lochaber High School pupils and Fort William Golf Club members Alasdair Ross and Craig Brown, North Highland College UHI lecturer Alan Fleming and Spey Valley GC PGA professional Murray Urquhart line up after the event.

## Kyle told to 'pull his punches'

A NETHER Lochaber ABC boxer was told to pull his punches in his debut bout in Glasgow on Friday night - by boxing officials.

Kyle MacLellan had been due to make his boxing debut against Stephen Durie of Duries ABC (Glasgow) at the Bellahouston ABC show at the Swallow Hotel in Ibrox.

However, at the weigh in, the official in charge declared that the weight difference between the two boxers was too great, even though they were both within the middleweight category of 69-75kg.

Both boxers and their coaches were keen to go ahead with the contest - but it was only allowed to take place as a non-scoring 'exhibition' bout.

MacLellan, 21, as the heavier boxer, was instructed

to go easy on his opponent and not to throw his strong right hook.

MacLellan, from Bail'Ur, North Ballachulish, left



Kyle MacLellan: low-key start to his boxing career.

### BOXING

to join the British Army's elite Paratroop Regiment on Monday - but both clubs' coaches were so impressed with their boxer's performances that they are keen to get this back on as a proper contest once MacLellan has completed his six weeks basic training in mid-December.

Nether Lochaber ABC head coach, Martin Glenesk, an ex-serviceman himself, said: 'Although this was hugely frustrating for MacLellan, the experience will have allowed him to overcome any nerves and he will go into his first contest brimming with confidence.'

'On behalf of myself and all at the club, I would like to wish Kyle all the best in his new career as a soldier.'

## Phoenix step up competitive bouts

LOCHABER Phoenix ABC boxers are stepping up their competitive bouts as the club works towards its home show at the Nevis Centre on November 6.

The exciting pair of 12 year-old James Aitchison and 13 year-old Chris Bradley will sharpen their skills when they appear for Scotland against an England select in a Grassroots boxing show in Glasgow this weekend.

The following weekend it is the turn of 16 year-old Artom Jevstijejk and senior heavyweight Chris Donnelly in the Scottish novice championships, where they will seek to prove they are the best in Scotland at their respective weight divisions for boxers of their experience.

Light welterweight Stephen Cameron is also scheduled to appear on a separate bill in Renfrewshire as he continues his quest to face the best in his weight class in the country.

As the countdown to the November 6 continues, the local boxers are looking to be in the best possible shape for the event, when

### BOXING

around 500 fans are expected to pack into the Nevis Centre to cheer on their favourites.

Some 12 bouts have been provisionally scheduled and up to 10 Fort William boxers, ranging in age from 12 to 30 and in weight from 35kg all the way to super heavyweight, will step inside the ropes.

#### Special Guests

The club hope to have a few special guests in attendance including Scotland's newest and only current world champion Ricky Burns, former British and Commonwealth champion John Simpson and incredibly heavyweight Derek Chisora who challenges Vladimir Klitschko for the world heavyweight title in December.

The show will also feature a raffle and an auction, which includes a signed Amir Khan glove, signed David Haye poster and signed Rangers top. Tickets are available from the Nevis Centre and coaches Niall Clark on 07887711457 and Vince Lopez on 07979321025.

## Fort William go down at Huntly

### FOOTBALL

Highland League Huntly 3,

Fort William 0

FORT William remain rooted to the bottom of the Highland League having picked up just four points from their first 10 matches.

The Lochaber men travelled to Huntly on Saturday and fell behind after just four minutes, when Michael McGinlay raced in behind the defence to open the scoring for the home side.

McGinlay left Fort with a mountain to climb when he got on the end of a Paul Young pass and doubled Huntly's lead just three minutes later.

The home side threatened to extend their lead but Fort keeper John Campbell pulled out some good stops to keep the score 2-0.

Minutes after denying Huntly from adding to their lead, Fort defender Andy Martin nearly scored, firing Sean Ellis' corner just the past post.

Hopes of a Fort comeback were extinguished when Huntly scored again just after half time through Young, and Huntly eased to the win.

Fort's next game is against high-flying Turiff United on Saturday October 30.

## Hampden dream comes true

### FOOTBALL



Marc MacLean with Phil Bardsley before the game against Spain

MARC MacLean from Caol walked proudly onto the Hampden turf with Scotland right back Phil Bardsley last Tuesday night as one of the team's mascots for the game against world champions Spain.

A fighting performance saw the Scots denied a point by a late goal in the 3-2 thriller, watched by Marc, mum Yvonne, dad Jim and brothers Scott and Jamie from the stand.

The MacLean family's big day out came courtesy of Marc's participation at a football open day in Fort William run by the Scottish FA's community partner McDonald's and local restaurant franchisee, Craig Duncan.

## Lochaber lose out to well-organised Stornoway side

Caledonia Division Two - North West Stornoway 36, Lochaber 10

LOCHABER made the long trip to Stornoway last weekend in the hope of continuing their recent good run of form.

But it was not to be as a well-organised Stornoway side with an excellent home record had other ideas.

A depleted Lochaber squad, bleeding a couple of juniors out of necessity, started well enough, perhaps surprising the Stornoway players with good confident play in attack and defence.

This resulted in Lochaber going the first score of the afternoon - a team effort that saw the ball worked right for winger McCook to run in on the overlap and have the confidence to continue under the posts for an easy conversion that he took himself.

Stornoway then settled to their task, and some questionable commitment in the tackle from Lochaber saw the home side gain the advantage with a couple of quick scores. Lochaber earned a penalty, which saw the score to be 19-10 at the break and there was real hope that Lochaber could regain the lead in the second half, as there were good positive signs of what they were capable of.

#### Capitalise

Respect to Stornoway though, they were good enough and able enough to take their own chances and capitalise on Lochaber's weaknesses, adding two converted tries and a penalty to take the final score to 36-10.

Stornoway are a formidable home side for all the obvious reasons and the small, young Lochaber squad were somewhat exposed, but they can still learn from the experience and

### RUGBY

look forward to the rest of the season. Outsaid centre Stephen Traill told The Oban Times: 'It was hard work for the forwards - Stornoway were the better side on the day. We gave away too many penalties from offsidies and made too many silly mistakes.'

'A lot of the boys were tired because they had to get up at 5.30am to catch the ferry from Ullapool.' Lochaber man of the match was Craig Moorehouse.

Lochaber scorers: Jonathon McCook (try, conversion, penalty).

Team: Liam Allan, Jonathon McCook, Stevie Traill, Tom Baxter, Andy MacLeod, Tristan Sanders, Ross Wallace, Ian Smith, Rory Mackay, Neil Craik, William Stuart, Ben Thomas, Craig MacPherson, Chris Simpson, Calum Moorehouse, Andreas.

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## Good away win for depleted Oban Lorne

OBAN Lorne secured their first away win of the season with a solid display at Cumnock.

Oban, who were missing a few players to work commitments and holidays, travelled with only one reserve on the bench and realised it would be a tough game ahead.

But the visitors got off to a good start by a dive-over try from Colin Chadwick in the first five minutes.

Cumnock, however, fought back and took the lead with two tries out wide.

The boot of youngster Angus MacCallum got Oban back into the game, converting a long distance penalty, and following a good drive from the 'green machine' Malcolm Downie played a pick-and-go from the ruck to score a try. The half time score was 15-14 to Oban.

The second half started off with the same high tempo and both teams came close to scoring early on.

Oban used good tactical

### RUGBY

kicking to get into Cumnock's 22 and allowed Jamie MacMillan to score a try. Oban kept the pressure on, with big tackles in defence giving them the chance to steal the ball. One such turnover allowed Corrie Louw to score a try, which gave Oban a bonus point.

Oban got a fifth try though a quick tap-and-go penalty. Andy MacDougall passed to Louw, who played in Struan Smith and the captain managed to squeeze the ball over the line.

The home side didn't give up at this point and scored a try in the last two minutes of the game.

The final score was 32-21 to Oban. Man of the match was Corrie Louw. Next Saturday Oban are at home against Millbrae with a 3pm kick off.

Team: M Downie, K Kennedy, D Williams, A MacDougall, J MacMillan, M MacQueen, S Smith, C Louw, F Matheson, C MacDonald, A Munro, R MacDonald, A MacCallum, A Beaton, C Chadwick, E Smith.



**Ben Proffitt, the winner of the Tirie Wave Classic 2010 and new British champion, shows his skill at the competition on Friday. Inset: Winner of the Skykon Tirie Wave Classic 2010 Ben Proffitt (centre) collects his trophy at the prize giving ceremony at An Talla on Friday. Andy 'Bubble' Chambers (left) placed second and John Skye (right) finished third. Photos by John Carter.**

## A life on the ocean wave

A FRUSTRATING week of nice, calm weather finally broke on Friday, resulting in an exciting climax to the Skykon Tirie Wave Classic 2010.

Competitors were forced to wait until the last day of the event for the remaining three heats of the competition to be held.

Only the women's title, won by newcomer Debbie Kennedy from Cornwall, could be completed on the previous Saturday, before the weather drastically improved.

The wait was worth it though as top seed Ben Proffitt produced a terrific performance in challenging conditions to take first place. With a win already under his belt from a previous round at Brandon Bay, Ireland, the Tirie victory saw him named the British Wavesailing Association's 2010 Champion.

Proffitt was closely followed in the Tirie championship by freestyler Andy 'Bubble' Chambers and third placed John Skye.

Elsewhere, in the amateur category, Scotland's Scotty McDowell finished in first ahead of Adam Sims and Jim Brooks-Dowsett.

Russ Jenkins took first in the masters category, followed by Craig Hamilton in second and Mark Lloyd in third.

Of his win, Ben said: 'It feels great to have finally got out on the water after a week of waiting. With two firsts in the championship, I've won the title outright.'

**Freestyler**  
Andy Chambers was another happy man. He said: 'I'm a freestyler rather than a wave sailor so I'm definitely happy with my result.'

John Skye paid tribute to his rivals. 'I prefer bigger waves but Ben and Bubble were really ripping today,' he said. 'They both deserve their results.'

Head judge, Duncan Coombs, said the fresh north westerly breeze at Balephuill Bay produced

### WINDSURFING

'small and clean' conditions for the 20-minute heats. He said: 'It was pretty challenging for the guys out there but everyone was relieved to get out after waiting for the best part of a week.'

'The conditions were average but it was enough to show the true winner.'

Until Friday, much of the week had been occupied by competitors and spectators playing beach volleyball, football and rounders in the blazing sun, organised by volunteers from Telford College in Edinburgh.

Glasgow-based band, The Fortunate Sons, played at the prize giving ceremony on Friday night at the packed An' Talla community hall.

On Monday, up and coming singer Carrie Mac flew in to perform an intimate acoustic set for the frustrated windsurfers at the Tirie Lodge Hotel.

## Tides

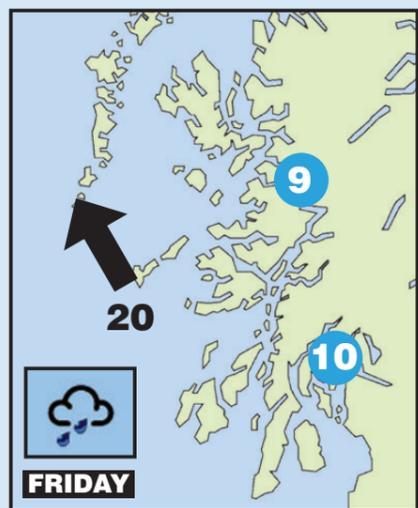
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, October 21, 2010** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 04.28	3.6 10.54 1.2 16.47 3.9 23.04	1.1
Fri 05.05	3.8 11.23 1.1 17.20 4.0 23.34	1.0
Sat 05.30	3.9 11.52 1.1 17.51 3.0 ***	**
Sun 00.06	1.0 05.57 3.9 12.22 1.1 18.20	4.0
Mon 00.37	1.0 06.25 3.9 12.52 1.2 18.49	3.9
Tues 01.08	1.0 06.56 3.8 13.22 1.3 19.21	3.7
Wed 01.42	1.1 07.30 3.7 13.58 1.4 19.57	3.5

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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## the weather

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**Thursday**  
Heavy rain  
Winds moderate to strong westerly  
Temperatures 7°C to 10°C

**Friday**  
Heavy Rain  
Winds light south, south easterly  
Temperatures 7°C to 10°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
Heavy rain showers  
Winds light south westerly.  
Temperatures 3°C to 10°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tirie - As above  
Kennacraig to Islay - As above



## Oban football team have new supporters club

Oban's Neil Matheson from 'Friends of Pebane' recently travelled on an aid mission to Mozambique. Pebane is a remote area with very few people having the basic essentials in life. 90 per cent do not have electricity so Neil took solar panels as well as basic medical essentials on the mission. The people in the area are mad keen on football, so Oban Saints FC donated a full set of strips for Neil to give to the local team. Argyll and Bute Council's football development department also donated footballs and training equipment to go along with the strips. Neil is pictured with some of the adults and children who will benefit from the new gear.

## Saints sail down the Clyde and pick up all three points

Scottish Amateur League - Premier Division  
**Inverclyde 2**  
**Oban Saints 4**

SAINTS travelled down to the Tail o' the Bank to take on Inverclyde at Darroch Park, Gourrock, and it was the Oban side who picked up all three points, netting two goals in each half to win an entertaining game 4-2.

Manager Iain Jackson reinstated the experienced Alex Craik into the centre of the defence, moved Dene Cassells into midfield and pushed Keith Millar up front alongside Donald Campbell.

**Dividends**  
This move paid dividends as early as the sixth minute when Dene Cassells brilliantly turned his marker in the box before despatching a low shot past the helpless Clydekeeper Simon Eldridge to open the scoring.

The visitors were on top in

the early stages and had three good penalty claims turned down by referee Alessandro Saverese.

The home side came more into the game as the half wore on and equalised in the 20th minute when Saints gave away a free kick 25 yards out. The ball was fired into the box and the unmarked Stevie Morris headed the ball home from close range. The Oban defence will not be too happy with their marking at the free kick.

Saints retook the lead when they were awarded a throw-in near the Clyde corner flag. Willie Gemmell fired in one of his specials and Paul Carmichael steaming in at the front post bulleted the ball home with his head to make the half time score 2-1.

The second half was pretty evenly balanced and the next goal was going to be the

vital one. The home side had a couple of half chances, but they never really troubled keeper Graham Douglas too much.

With the game entering the final 15 minutes Saints got that vital third goal which made sure of the points.

**Combined**  
Substitutes Mattie Rippon and Craig MacEwan who had come on for Myles McAuley and Chris Graham combined to set up Donald Campbell who cut inside his marker before firing a low shot past keeper Simon Eldridge to make the score 3-1.

Any chance of an Inverclyde come-back was killed off three minutes later when a Donald Campbell shot came back off the post and fell kindly for Craig MacEwan who thumped the ball home to make the score 4-1.

Mattie Rippon was unlucky

## Atlantis half marathon

THE RECENT Atlantis Leisure half marathon attracted 71 runners.

Results Super vet: 1 Paul Thompson, Helensburgh, 1.18.08; 2 Tony Wayte, Crief, 1.30.29.  
Veteran (male): 1 Tim Brand, Benderloch, 1.21.30; Charlie Dott, Campbeltown, 1.29.22, John Galbraith, Campbeltown, 1.33.51.  
Veteran (female): 1 Sheila Lawson, Easdale, 1.45.14; 2 Anita Brown, Fort William, 1.54.24; 3 Ellen Morrison, Fort William, 1.56.17.  
Senior (male): Alan Ross, Fort William, 1.22.23; 2 Michael Bossard, Oban, 1.25.95; 3 Gregor MacGregor, Oban, 1.31.11.  
Senior (female): Lesley MacFadyen, Inveraray, 1.28.47; Ruth Gibson, Oban, 1.31.15; 3 Raeanne Miller, Oban, 1.44.32.

## Oban Sailing Club results

Races on October 3: Race 142, Frostbite 9: 1 Krabby Patty, Laser, T Bleazard.  
Race 163, Frostbite 9: 1 Topper, L. Peden; 2 Glen Engineering, Topper, T Carter; 3 Unspponsored 2, Topper, J Sinclair; 4 Owen Sails, Topper, B Carter.  
Race 143, Frostbite 10:

### SAILING

1 Krabby Patty, Laser, T Bleazard.  
Race 162, Frostbite 10: 1 Topper, L. Peden; 2 Unspponsored 2, Topper, J Sinclair; 3 Glen Engineering, Topper, T Carter; 4 12, Topper, M Peden.

## Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

### FOOTBALL



### Dene Cassells opened the scoring in six minutes.

with a header that hit the crossbar, with the Saints contingent claiming the ball had crossed the line when it came back down off the bar, but the referee waved away the claims.

Credit to the home team

### FOOTBALL

they never gave up and were rewarded in the final minute when they were allowed far too much room on the right of the Saints defence. The ball was crossed into the penalty box and Matthew Kyle made no mistake to make the final score 4-2.

**Performance**  
Manager Iain Jackson was reasonably happy with the performance of his team. He said: 'Darroch Park is always a difficult place to get a result, but we deserved the three points today against a hard working Inverclyde team.'

This Saturday Saints are on West of Scotland Cup duty when they play host to Central Scottish League side Kilsyth. The match will take place at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off.

## Teams wanted for Oban Darts League

### DARTS

ANY PUB interested in entering a team to the Oban and District Darts League must attend the league's annual meeting next Friday, October 29.

The usual team rules apply and each team must have at least six players for six singles matches and three doubles. All games will be played on a Friday night.

This year the league is hoping more pubs from villages outwith the town will enter.

The annual meeting will be held in Glencruitten Golf Club at 8pm.

Anyone who is interested in entering a team but cannot attend the meeting should contact Kenny Carmichael on 07934 026 127 or Cammy MacCallum on 07745 366 064.

## Saints organise coaching course

### FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints FC, in conjunction with the Scottish Football Association, will be holding a coach in-service session at Oban Community Pitch on Monday, November 1, from 6pm-9pm for all coaches who have attained Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications.

The course is only available to SFA Quality Mark clubs and will be taken by former Celtic winger Brian McLaughlin, Danny Bisland and Martin Rae.

## Oban Pool League

### POOL

OBAN Pool League got underway last Thursday. Here is the league table after the first round of matches.

	P	W	L	Pts
Cellar Bar	1	1	0	2
Lancaster B	1	1	0	2
Lochnell	1	1	0	2
Kelvin	1	1	0	2
Claredon	1	1	0	2
Lancaster A	0	0	0	0
Markie Dans B	1	0	1	0
Golf Club	1	0	1	0
Harbour	1	0	1	0
Markie Dans A	1	0	1	0
Lochavullin	1	0	1	0

## Shaun retires from Rally of Scotland

### RALLYING

CONNEL driver Shaun Sinclair had to retire from the Rally of Scotland following mechanical problems near the beginning of the weekend event.

The rally, part of the Intercontinental Rally Challenge, was held in Perth, Stirling and Kinross last weekend.

Shaun and his co-driver Neil Shanks, in a Mitsubishi Lancer Evo IX, retired after Special Stage three. The event was won by Finland's Juno Hanninen and Mikko Markkula.

## Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

### FOOTBALL

WEEKEND results: The Under 13, 14s and 15s had no games. Unfortunately the Under 16s lost 3-0 away to Renton Youth. This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Clydebank BC; Baljaffray v Under 14s; Under 15s no game; Under 16s v Largs Colts

## Saints ladies

### FOOTBALL

SAINTS Ladies lost 5-1 at home to Dumfries last Sunday. The Saints goal was scored by Donna Smith.

This Sunday the ladies are at home to Kilwinning Sports Club. Kick-off is 2pm on the 3g community pitch at Oban High School.