

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8118

Thursday 25 October, 2012

www.obantimes.co.uk

79 pence

**DON'T FORGET TO PUT YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR THIS SUNDAY**

### Oban to top £1 million festival boost

Secret finale to winter event

A SPECTACULAR secret finale will help round off this year's Oban Winter Festival as the organisers aim to top last year's much needed £1million boost to the local economy. The event helped generate a seven-figure sum for local businesses and organisations last November, but with 65 different events and attractions lined up for this year's festival, it is hoped that figure will be bettered and help welcome Christmas in memorable fashion. Starting on November 16 under the theme of Victorian steam trains, the 10-day celebration will host events for every member of the family, from a festive series of films at Oban Phoenix Cinema – as well as the venue's first ever non-film attraction – to special performances from Ballet West and Sequence, a range of outdoor activities at Kibowie Outdoor Centre and a special food and drink market. Following the success of last year's skating rink, a special

roller rink will be created at Atlantis Leisure. There will also be art exhibitions, workshops and presentations from a number of different groups – not to mention a programme of amusing performances thanks to Oban Comedy Club. **Reindeer parade** The traditional reindeer parade and market is again set to be one of the biggest attractions, with a number of surprises lined up to make it the best Christmas lights switch on yet. Not only will there be new lights this year, there will also be a special winter fairground at the Corran Halls. One of the volunteer organisers, Pamela Lockhart, said: 'It's bigger, better and even more exciting. There are already lots of people coming into town specifically for this year's festival and with good reason. Lots of shops are opening late and putting on a series of special limited products only for the 10

days of the festival.' Fellow organiser, Eleanor MacKinnon, said: 'The festival is for everyone in the community so we need the community to turn out to support it. Lots of people have been asked to be a part of it and they've been really supportive. Lots of people are really getting into it.' Graham MacQueen, who chaired the BID4Oban steering group and is now a director of the shadow board of the BID company, said: 'The festival gives the whole town increased prosperity and that means everyone benefits. The effort of the volunteers who organise this for no direct benefit to themselves has to be commended.' The committee is keen to hear from model railway enthusiasts to help decorate shop windows throughout the town. To get in touch, follow the link on the festival's website obanwinterfestival.com.



Dingwall Gaelic Choir conductor Kirsteen Menzies is joined on stage by her two sons, Hector and Finlay. epmod53

### Dancing with delight in Dingwall after Mòd win

ELATED conductor Kirsteen Menzies was joined by her two sons on stage after Dingwall Gaelic Choir won the Royal National Mòd's most coveted choral prize, the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield. Although this was the fourth win in Kirsteen's five years with

the baton, she said this year's win was her 'proudest moment' by virtue of her family's involvement in the celebrations. And six-year-old Finlay, who competed in junior competitions earlier in the week, and three-year-old Hector may have been required to help their

mother with the choir's haul of seven trophies. The end of the choir competition marked the unofficial conclusion of the Gaelic festival. Speaking towards the climax to proceedings, adjudicator Anne Lorne Gillies, from Oban, praised the high quality

of the Lovat and Tullibardine competition. 'There is nothing better for the heart and soul than the social activity and enjoyment of taking part in a Gaelic choir,' she added. See pages 5-9 for unrivalled coverage of this year's event.

### Residents evacuated during Ganavan gas leak

FIREFIGHTERS have been praised for their bravery after residents of Ganavan Sands were evacuated because of a gas leak in the estate, near Oban. Police and fire and rescue were alerted to the area at around 7.50pm last Friday after receiving reports that at least one of the four 200-litre tanks holding liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) was leaking. A 200-metre exclusion zone was set up by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue around the tanks, meaning 25 properties had to be evacuated and some residents taken to the Oban Bay Hotel. A further 16 people were allowed to remain in their homes but were given safety advice. Resident Mandy Bosworth, who has lived at Ganavan Sands for two years, told The Oban Times: 'I was very impressed with the fire fighters. They don't get paid a fortune but they put their lives on the line for us. They patrolled the estate to keep people out of the way and kept us up to date with what was happening.' Mandy and her husband, Richard, were among those who waited outdoors in the rain while the leak was fixed by Calor Gas engineers. Mandy added: 'It was a shame it was a nasty night but we just sat under an umbrella, wore warm clothing, and sang songs to pass the time. There wasn't any panic from anyone because the fire fighters were so efficient and induced calm in all of us.' The leak was closed off at 10.16pm and residents returned to their homes at 11pm. A spokeswoman for Calor Gas said: 'This was a very minor leak, which was rectified quickly. The safety of Calor's customers is our number one priority and as such, we have rigorous safety procedures in place to ensure that isolated incidents such as this should not recur.'



### Coll wind turbine planning to be challenged in court

A CONTROVERSIAL decision last week to grant planning permission to build a 77-metre wind turbine on Coll is to be challenged in the courts. Members of Argyll and Bute Council's planning committee gathered on Coll on Thursday and approved the application from Neil Smith to build the turbine at Gallanach, despite widespread local opposition. In total, there were 78 objections to the proposal, of which 67 signed a petition. There were 21 notes of support. There is anger on the island that the planning committee

disregarded the guidelines in its own Wind Energy Capacity Study (WECS), which states: 'There is no scope to site the larger and the small-medium typologies [on islands] due to the significant adverse impacts that would be likely to occur on a wide range of landscape and visual sensitivities.' It says there is 'some very limited' scope for single and small groups of turbines of the 'smaller typology', those under 50m. Colin Scott represents 102 homeowners on Coll in the Coll Protection Group and said a legal challenge was a 'certainty'.

'We cannot appeal the decision itself as objectors,' he said. 'However we certainly will be questioning the legality of it. They cannot just set aside, as planners, a document adopted by the council to guide these decisions.' Meanwhile, planners have dismissed suggestions from the community that a decision on whether to grant permission to build the turbine was made prior to the site meeting. The chairman of the committee, Sandy Taylor, said: 'Everyone takes the information as it comes.'

**NEW TAKEAWAY MENU OUT NOW!**

The Olive Garden

COME AND JOIN US THIS FESTIVE SEASON

**3 Course Lunch**  
Includes glass of Bucks Fizz  
**£13.95**

**3 Course Dinner**  
**£25.00**

AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT DECEMBER

Check out our website or call us for more information...

Tel: 01631 570 347  
www.theolivegardenoban.co.uk

**Bru 'bangers' hit the spot**

AN OBAN butcher has started selling sausages containing Scotland's 'other national drink' that will really tickle your taste buds. Wynne the Butchers, on Combie Street, has been doing a roaring trade in special Irn Bru and chilli flavoured sausages since they started making them a month ago. Shop owner, Iain Darling said they just wanted to 'try different things'. He added: 'They are going very well, people are saying the sausage are great and it's something very different but they are a bit surprised at first. We do a haggis and black pudding sausage too, they are big sellers. Coke has been tried in sausages but it makes them go too soggy. Irn Bru is Scottish, so we prefer to use it anyway.' The sausages have proved so popular Irn Bru will be added to another flagship product – the sausage roll. 'We thought anything you can add to sausages you can put in sausage rolls, so our next one will be Irn Bru flavoured sausage rolls,' Iain added. The sausages are available in both Oban and Fort William shops or at LORN market in Benderloch, where they are much in demand. 'The first time we took them to the market we sold out in about 20 minutes. The haggis and black pudding ones usually sell out in an hour,' said Iain.

Iain Darling with his new Irn Bru and chilli sausages. 16\_e43sausages01

**New Clyde ferries named**

THE SOUND of Seil will be the name of the next Western Ferries vessel, after work on the new ferry got underway last week. Birkenhead-based shipyard and engineering firm Cammell Laird will also commence construction on its sister vessel, to be named Sound of Soay, in November. Both vessels are due to be handed over to Western Ferries in late summer 2013. The ferries will be used on the company's service between Dunoon and Gourock. In a ceremony at Cammell Laird, Western Ferries chairman Alistair Ross formally laid the keel.

**Manor House Hotel & Restaurant**

Now is the time to book your special Christmas time Party

Overlooking the harbour  
Gallanach Road • Oban  
01631 562087  
www.manorhouseoban.com

**THE BIG DEAL @ The Olive Garden IS BACK!**

**50% OFF All Main Courses\***

\*Excludes Express Menu & Takeaway items

2 Railway Pier, Oban, Argyll PA34 4LW  
Call us on 01631 570 347  
www.theolivegardenoban.co.uk

OT

**Cash confiscated from drug dealer**

A CONVICTED drug dealer from Oban had more than £1,000 confiscated from him through proceeds of crime legislation. Daniel Kelly, aged 22, currently resident in HMP Greenock, had £1,025 seized from him in Oban Police Office on May 4. His girlfriend, Stephanie Duffy, claimed part of the cash belonged to her but an order was made on October 18 that the money did not come from legitimate means and should be forfeited. Court papers state 'no legitimate explanation' has been offered by Stephanie Duffy or Daniel Kelly for having the cash and it is 'consistent with involvement' in drug dealing.

**Kintyre turbines could come to Clachan Seil**

TURBINES for the controversial proposed Clachan Seil wind farm near Oban could come from Machrihanish following an agreement this month.

Wind Towers (Scotland) Limited, Machrihanish, met with Clachan Community Energy recently to sign a memorandum of understanding to provide nine turbines for the proposed farm on land above Loch Seil.

Developer Rory Young says the company wants to support economic growth and reduce the carbon footprint as much as possible. David Steele, head of business development at Wind Towers (Scotland) Limited, said that with a 'competitive cost structure and significant experience of wind tower production', it is able to support a development such as Clachan.

**Ardrossan cemetery searched for Dasher link**

A POSSIBLE mass grave containing the bodies of those who fell during World War II will be investigated at Ardrossan Cemetery this week.

Carried out by Guard Archaeology Limited, archaeologists will remove top soil at the area as part of a three-day investigation.

This section of ground was previously investigated by the Glasgow University Archaeology Department at the instigation of John and Noreen Steele, authors of The American Connection to the Sinking of HMS Dasher.

**Dalmally trip ends in Oban court date for Fife man**

A MAN who was visiting Dalmally for a 'weekend break in a log cabin' ended up assaulting his partner and another woman before injuring a third. David Turner, of 5 Collinswell Drive, Burntisland, Fife, had previously admitted the

offences and appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday for sentencing.

The court heard Turner, 29, had travelled to Dalmally with a group of people and they had went out to the pub on June 26. Turner returned to the cabin

'covered in mud' after falling into a stream. The court heard he was 'considerably angry' and his partner tried to 'calm him down'. The court heard others became involved and Turner assaulted another female who was 'pushed to the ground'.

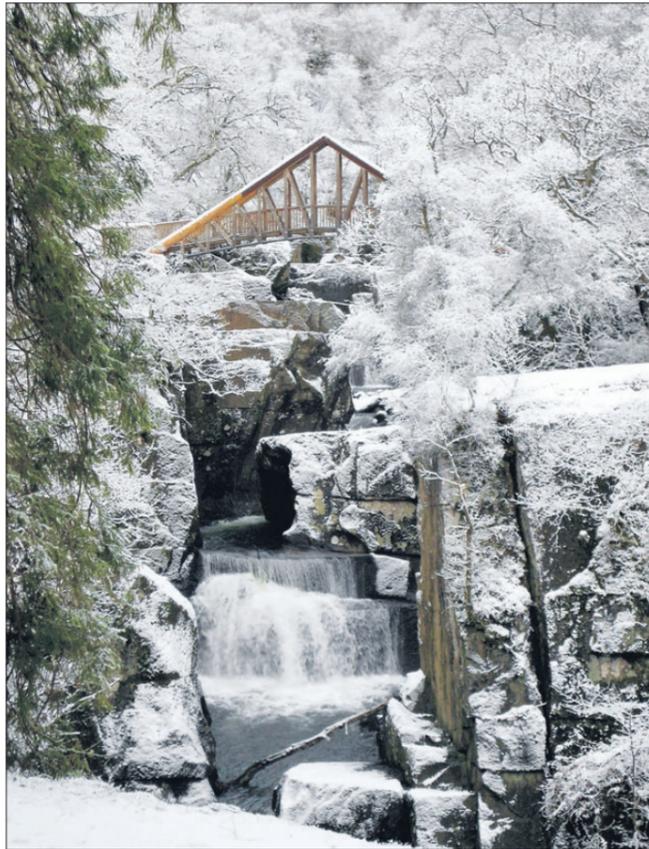
The court heard Turner threw a glass which smashed against a wall injuring a woman's hand.

Defending, Edward Thornton said Turner was heavily intoxicated at the time but he hadn't drank since.

He added: 'It was a one off

incident which will never happen again.'

Turner was ordered to carry out 115 hours of unpaid work as part of a community payback order and instructed to pay compensation totalling £400 to his victims.



This stunning photograph of Bracklinn Bridge in the snow helped Callander's Alasdair Murphy win the under 16s category in the photo competition.

**Photographs show park in different light**

**Aberfoyle woman wins Loch Lomond and Trossachs park photography competition**

A SERIES of stunning images captured by amateur photographers across Scotland is showing Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park off in a new light.

More than 1,000 entries were submitted for the national park's 10th anniversary photography competition, but only six photographs were deemed good enough to clinch top prizes.

The overall winner was Helen Smith from Aberfoyle who captured an atmospheric morning walk in Queen Elizabeth forest in her picture, Morning Walk. Helen also won the top prize in the flora and fauna category with a stunning photo of a fallow deer taken near Gartmore. Her prize was £700 in Amazon vouchers and two first class sleeper tickets to London, courtesy of First Scotrail.

Callander's Alasdair Murphy won the under 16s category with his striking image, Snowy Falls, of Bracklinn Bridge in his home town.

Alasdair claimed £100 in Amazon vouchers for his efforts, as did Sheila Robertson of Broughty Ferry who won the National Park at Work category. People's vote winner Thomas Gorman, Clydebank, won a hamper from Scottish Hampers for his photo of Luss Pier.

Fiona Logan, Chief Executive Officer of the National Park Authority, said: 'People have

captured the real essence of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs. We are celebrating 10 years of being a National Park and we're pleased that so many people have been inspired to explore all that this park has to offer from the people who enjoy it, the stunning landscapes and the wonderful wildlife we have here.'

'Congratulations to all our winners and thanks to everyone who shared their special moments in this fantastic National Park.'

Sally Magnusson, one of the judges, commented on the winning shots: 'I was delighted to be a part of the judging panel and to see such fantastic photographs.'

'I'm very fond of this special part of the world and the competition entries have made me want to get out and see even more of it.'

Scottish photographer and fellow judge Colin Prior added: 'Having taken many photographs throughout Loch Lomond and The Trossachs during my career, I was very impressed with the standard of the entries on show.'

All of the shortlisted photographs will be displayed as part of the tenth anniversary at National Park HQ in Balloch and in the National Park office in Callander.

**Argyll and Bute study private rents**

RESEARCH will be carried out into the private rented sector in Argyll and Bute at an estimated cost of £45,000 to the council.

The work, which is currently out to tender, will last for less than five months and help Argyll and Bute Council 'better understand the dynamics of the private rented sector within the local authority area'.

More than 50 per cent of council housing has been lost through the right to buy. This has resulted in a shortage in

the supply of social rented housing and increasing levels of homelessness.

Research will be carried out in many housing market areas including Lorn, Mid Argyll, Mull and Iona and Kintyre.

The company awarded the contract will be required to 'profile the characteristics of private rented sector tenants' and 'identify any particular client groups/sub-markets'.

'This includes information on age, employment status,

income, numbers on housing benefit and mobility, household composition and future intentions/aspirations'.

The council wishes to 'understand householder's motivations and choices in terms of their accommodation and reasons for choosing to live in the private rented market'.

Tenders must be submitted by October 31.

The contract will start on November 8 and end on March 31 2013.

**Highland flight numbers drop**

PASSENGER numbers throughout the Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL) network fell slightly in what was a mixed month for the company.

In total, 115,443 passengers travelled through the regional airport operator's 11 airports in September, a drop of 2.8 per cent on last year.

However, year to date passenger numbers from April to September show a modest increase of 1.5 per cent, up from 499,638 to 710,231.

HIAL puts the monthly drop down to service reductions at Inverness, slowing demand in the domestic market and a drop in business related traffic.

Campbeltown was the best performing airport in the network with a 9.4 per cent increase in passenger numbers. Barra and Benbecula both saw growth as a result of increased demand for the Glasgow service. Sumburgh also recorded an increase in traffic.

Elsewhere, Tiree andIslay saw reductions of nine and 8.1 per cent respectively, with Wick the worst performing airport in the network with a 19.3 per cent drop. HIAL says this is because a higher number of charter flights were diverted to the airport last year.

At Inverness, HIAL's largest airport, numbers fell by 3.9 per cent. An increase in passengers to Amsterdam was offset by a reduction in services to Luton and Kirkwall, as well as fewer charter movements.

With the new winter schedule including one less flight a day to Gatwick, numbers are expected to drop further in the coming months, although this will be partly offset by the introduction of a larger aircraft on the Amsterdam service. Inglis Lyon, managing director of HIAL, said: 'The economic climate is clearly having an impact on demand for air travel, particularly in the domestic market, which is the core of our business.'

'As we approach the quieter winter season, we can expect further contraction in this key market.'



The car crash injured three people and closed Soroba Road, Oban, for over two hours. 16\_143Crash01

**Driver fined £850 after Oban car crash closes road**

A WOMAN who collided with two vehicles in Oban earlier this year was fined £850 at Oban Sheriff court last Tuesday.

Shona Carmichael, 55, of 28 Belmont Street, Glasgow, admitted driving without due care and attention and losing control of her vehicle causing it to collide with oncoming traffic.

The incident, which took place on June 27, saw several people injured with one woman breaking vertebrae in her back.

The main thoroughfare to the south side of Oban, Soroba Road, was closed for more than two hours as a result of the crash at around 7.40pm.

Defence agent Laura Russell

**Mull Lines**



Iolo Williams from BBC Springwatch with RSPB Mull officer Dave Sexton and a keen young eagle fan of Mull Eagle Watch.

A MULL visitor attraction is flying high after receiving a prestigious five stars from Scotland's national tourism body. Mull Eagle Watch received the accolade from VisitScotland after ten years in operation. The wildlife attraction is only the second in the country to get five stars.

The partnership project is run by Forestry Commission Scotland, Mull and Iona Community Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage, RSPB Scotland, Strathclyde Police and local volunteers.

It has been upgraded from four stars which means excellent to five stars which is considered exceptional.

RSPB Scotland Mull Officer Dave Sexton said: 'This five star accolade is further evidence of what stunning white-tailed eagles and other Scottish wildlife tourism can do for a rural economy. The eagles put places like Mull and indeed the whole of Scotland right up there on the world stage for exceptional wildlife watching experiences.'

'We are really looking forward to working with fellow wildlife operators to deliver something really special for 2013, the Year of Natural Scotland.'

Paul Wheelhouse, minister for environment and climate change, welcomed the new rating. He said: 'White-tailed sea eagles are often referred to as flying barn doors due to the birds' massive and broad wingspan - it is like no other bird seen in Britain. The eagles are a success story in a number of ways and the fact that up to £5 million is brought into the local economy each year through the project is a major achievement for all involved.'

In total, there are 37 businesses across Scotland accredited by VisitScotland as wildlife experiences, however, only two are five star level, Mull Eagle Hide and Hetherlea Bird Watching trips in Nethybridge.

This year, for the first time, the popular Mull Eagle Watch 'Date with Nature' project came from Forestry Commission Scotland's Glen Seilsideir forest allowing the public to follow the fortunes of white-tailed eagle pair Fingal and Iona.

A YOUNG Mull man has admitted breaking into and stealing from a caravan and taking cigarettes and tobacco after breaking into a wooden store on the island.

Iain Martin, 18, of Caravan, Lee, Bunnass, Mull, pled guilty to the offences when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday. His brother, Donald, 19, had a not guilty plea of stealing from the store accepted by the crown.

Sentencing was deferred for the preparation of reports and Iain Martin is due to appear again on November 13.

A HUNGARIAN man who lives on the Isle of Mull was fined £400 and banned from driving for one year by Oban Sheriff Court last Wednesday.

Balazs Kotlarik, 39, an employee and resident of the Isle of Mull Hotel in Craignure, Mull, admitted drink driving in Tobermory on April 27.

Kotlarik was found to be more than twice the legal limit for driving. He had 175mg of alcohol in 100ml of blood. The legal limit is 80mg.

**Bat hops on train at Crianlarich**

HALLOWE'EN came early for passengers on a recent train from Oban to Glasgow as an unexpected visitor boarded at Crianlarich.

A pipistrelle bat got on the First Scotrail train as other passengers watched in amazement.

According to reports the creature flew up and down the carriage a few times before disembarking at Ardlui.

While a few passengers moved into another carriage most people watched and enjoyed the harmless but somewhat bewildered bat in action. The mammal eventually settled for a few minutes on the wall of the carriage and a 'kind-hearted' passenger calmly and gently caught it in his jacket and released it safely out of the door when the train came to a stop at Ardlui.

Other passengers broke into a spontaneous round of applause to thank the wildlife rescuer.

It is thought the bat, a protected species, may have followed a moth or other insect into the carriage, attracted by the bright lights.

RSPB Mull officer Dave Sexton said: 'It will soon be hibernating for the winter and will hopefully find its way back to its more familiar haunts of Crianlarich Station where it may well roost in the roof space of the building.'

A ScotRail spokeswoman said she wasn't aware there had been a bat on the train but added: 'We hope it enjoyed the fantastic scenery on the West Highland line.'

Don't let nasty weather turn into a nasty situation

**Heavy rain, strong winds and snow. Over the last few years, we've seen it all. Scotland's weather has brought freezing temperatures, flash floods, and storms. And this changeable weather can have a real impact on our lives.**

Like getting stranded when we're out and about, being stuck indoors for a few days or losing the things we depend on, such as heat, light or being able to keep in touch with family and friends.

Bad weather can happen at any time of year, so it's worth thinking about what we can do now to be prepared. So let's not get caught out, let's make sure we're ready. By doing a few small things now, we can save ourselves a lot of trouble later.

For useful tips on how to be prepared, go to [readyscotland.org](http://readyscotland.org)

**Get ready for winter.**

safer scotland  
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

**Benderloch artist releases cancer charity calendar**

A BENDERLOCH artist is to raise money for Cancer Research UK by releasing her first calendar after losing her husband to the disease seven years ago.

Gloria Young is now in her mid-80s but despite having sold nearly 1,700 paintings in her career, has not yet created anything 'commercial' from her work. Now, encouraged by friend and neighbour Steve Eccles, she has put together a compilation of 12 works charting her life and travels, demonstrating amply her eye for humour and character.

In tribute to her late husband Derek, £2 from each calendar sold will go towards the charity.

Gloria has raised money for Cancer Research for many years and hopes the money will help progress the charity's goals.

'My husband Derek passed away because of cancer and I wanted to use the calendar to raise money for the charity,' she said. 'I hope this will help in a small way.'

The pictures selected for the new calendar show life in a different light both in and around Argyll and the west coast - as well as the occasional trip abroad. The artist, who first moved to Oban in the '70s, previously ran the youth hostel on Corran Esplanade.

The calendar is available now from Munro's Supermarket in Benderloch.



Benderloch artist Gloria Young, whose new calendar will help raise money for Cancer Research UK. 16\_143gloria1

## Housing association goes to court to evict Oban drug dealer

AN OBAN man who was convicted of being concerned in the supply of drugs has now been evicted as part of a 'zero tolerance' policy to dealing.

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) evicted 37-year-old tenant Craig Duffy from one of its Miller Road properties. ACHA brought a successful

court action against Duffy, who has several convictions for drugs related offences, to have him removed from his home as it has a policy of zero tolerance against drug dealing in its properties.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's chief executive, said: 'We have given a commitment that we will pursue, through the courts, those

convicted of unlawful activity related to drugs.

'I am pleased that the continuing partnership involving ACHA staff, the police, the courts and, crucially, members of the community, is delivering tangible results against drug dealers.'

He added: 'We regularly see the

tragic consequences, particularly among the young, of drug dealing in our communities.

**Signal**

'We hope that the actions we are taking send a powerful signal, if you deal in or around ACHA homes you will lose your ACHA home.'

Argyll and Bute Council leader,

Roddy McCuish approves of the decision. He said: 'I am fully supportive of this action taken by ACHA, done properly and legally through the courts and with partnership working. This sends a clear message that drug dealing in any shape or form will not be tolerated.'

'I am especially pleased

with the increasing role the community play in such cases. They are clearly saying enough is enough and they deserve our full support.

'Everyone has the right to be safe in and around their own homes.

'Action like this will go a long way to ensuring that is the case.'

## Council TV planned for November

£21,000 outlay in first year

RESIDENTS in Argyll and Bute should be able to get news from their council direct to their televisions as early as November.

Argyll and Bute Council is planning to implement the Looking Local service, which will allow people who have Sky, Virgin or YouView to access council information.

Viewers will be offered web content including news, service disruption updates and information on council services. They will also be able to place service requests.

The material will also be available on web enabled games consoles, smartphones, apps and social media sites. Other languages, including Gaelic, will be available.

The estimated cost of Looking Local is £21,000 for one year and a working group has been convened to look at proposals which would see council meetings broadcast live.

Louise Glen-Lee, lead councillor for community and communications said: 'We are looking at ways of meeting the needs of the community through new multimedia platforms. We feel as a local authority that unless we start looking at this now we'll be left behind.'

'We want people to engage with council meetings and to be able to see what happens and see that what they pay for is administered properly.'

'In other council areas people maybe have to travel 15 minutes to sit in a meeting but here it can take hours. We want people to be able to sit in a room at home and feel part of the meeting.'

Television network URTV propose establishing a dedicated local television channel for Argyll and Bute Council which 'would allow the council to have more editorial control over the content which is put into the public domain'.

URTU proposes to video 13 council meetings a year for £1,400 per meeting. This price would fall to £800 per meeting if 26 were filmed.

If the proposal is accepted, the recordings will be available on the internet within 48 hours, subject to any edits required by the council.

But Councillor Glen-Lee is adamant she doesn't want to restrict what the public can see. She added: 'Editing content flies in the face of what we are aiming for and that is why we need to decide what we need rather than go for what a media organisation thinks we need.'

'That's no reflection on them. They are a really great media company and provide a fantastic service to the community.'

Argyll and Bute Council will now be inviting proposals for different options of how best to deliver a service that suits the needs of people in their communities.



Frontline accident and emergency staff at Oban Ambulance Station were recently awarded their Diamond Jubilee medals. Every staff member who had served at least five years was awarded medals. 15\_143ambulance01

## Driver who caused 'Holywood movie style' accident keeps licence

A MOTORIST who caused a crash which caused a car to 'flip in the air Hollywood movie style' has been fined at Oban Sheriff Court.

Graham Baxter, of 15 Chestnut Crescent, Hamilton, denied causing the crash by emerging onto the A816 at the Ardfern junction but was found guilty after a trial.

The 64-year-old was found to have caused the crash by 'encroaching onto the carriage-way'.

Sheriff Raymond McMenamin said: 'I'm of the view it was a momentary misjudgement and an unfortunate one at that.'

'You failed to pay sufficient heed to other traffic on the road.'

The court heard the driver of the other car, a 56-year-old man, was injured as a result of the collision.

He had broken ribs and a shattered shoulder.

During evidence a witness to the incident told the court she

saw a Mini 'spinning over in the air'. She said: 'It was sideways on and flipping over itself.'

Defence agent Laura Russell told the court a driving licence was very important to Baxter if he hoped to gain employment after being made redundant.

She said he had 45 years driving experience and had been travelling, on average, 40,000 miles per year.

Sheriff McMenamin fined Baxter £600 and placed five penalty points on his licence.

## Police appeal for witnesses after Oban hotel assault

POLICE are seeking witnesses to an alleged assault outside the Lancaster Hotel on Oban's Esplanade last Thursday.

It has also been alleged a second assault on the same 27-year-old male victim took place within toilets inside the hotel.

Both incidents are reported to have occurred between 9.30pm - 10pm on Thursday October 18. Anyone with any information should contact PC Niall Barbour on 01631 510 500.

## Lorn Lines

A SMALLER attendance than normal at last week's meeting of Oban Speakers Club meant that those present had a busy evening.

First half chairman John Maclean introduced Tom Clegg who gave an interesting talk on the Olympics.

Roy Wood then took an unexpected approach to his subject 'Life before electricity'.

Finally Eamonn Arthur talked about his experiences and feelings on 'Smart phones and apps'.

Their immediate critics were Donnie Graham, Alex Clark and John Maclean.

After a short teabreak topics chairman Alec Clark asked Roy Wood, Eamonn Arthur, Tom Clegg and Guido Faccenda to talk on subjects varying from 'Jumping from the edge of space' to 'Plans for a new High School in Oban'.

Timekeeper for the evening was Jim Fraser and the general evaluator was Willie Melville.

The next meeting will be held in the Church Centre, Glencruitten Road, on Thursday November 1 at 8pm.

LORN Garden Club met recently to hear an amusing talk on 'Gardens of the Riviera', by Louise Bustard, education officer at Glasgow Botanic Garden.

Louise is a popular speaker and her presentation on this occasion was as down to earth as ever; an honest look at a few hectic weeks in the life of a tour guide set amongst the beautiful gardens of the French and Italian Riviera.

Lorn Garden Club meets once a month throughout the winter in St John's Cathedral Hall and welcomes new members. The group welcomes, in particular, those who enjoy gardens, gardening and home baking.



OBAN airport welcomed its funkiest visitor last week when Jamiroquai front man Jay Kay landed in his private helicopter there on Friday.

The funk and soul star said hello to staff at the airport, with John MacDonald taking the opportunity to have his picture taken with the singer, before heading off to his west coast retreat.

MEMBERS of the Oban Classic Vehicle Club held their last run of the season when members travelled to Tyndrum to meet with Stirling Car Club and the Capri Club of Scotland.

There was a static display of around 30 vehicles in the car park at the Green Welly Stop ranging from a Ford Model T up to the more modern classics.

The convoy left Tyndrum and headed to Kingshouse Hotel for a lunch stop, before continuing through Glencoe and then returned to Oban.

The club's annual general meeting will be held in the Lochnell Arms Hotel North Connel at 7.30pm on Thursday October 25. Anyone interested in joining the club is welcome to attend.

**Burnside Joiners & Builders**  
M.R.C, Barcaldine, near Oban and 5 Mill Lane, Oban  
Mob: 077191 58777 Office: 01631 720789 Home: 01631 720700  
www.burnside-builders.co.uk mmckay796@btinternet.com



MRC Barcaldine depot, 2 display sheds for sale, 8 x 8 £850.00 inclusive of VAT and 8 x 6, £450.00 inclusive of VAT.

We undertake an extensive range of joinery & building work to include:

- Improvement & Repairs to any existing shed that you have
- Wooden chalet's and Garages
- Summer Houses
- Agricultural Buildings
- Stables
- Home Offices
- Decking & Fencing
- Installing fitted kitchens
- Manufacture and installation of windows
- Home renovation
- Loft conversions
- New Anti-Slip decking now available

**NOW AVAILABLE Budget Sheds, starting from just £475.00 + Vat**



Log Stores available

Please phone for a free quotation. We have our sheds on display at the following locations

- MGM timber, Oban
- Our unit at the MRC in Barcaldine
- Our new unit in Mill lane, next to Hazelbank Motors, Oban

Please phone Willie for more information 07719 158777 or 01631 720700

**Abbeyfield**  
Where older people find care in housing

**Abbeyfield Carradale and District Society Ltd.**  
Older people find care and companionship either on a permanent basis or by using our respite service on a temporary basis.

Abbeyfield House, High Airds, Carradale PA28 6RY  
Tel. (01583) 431717 or 431278  
email: stuartirvine@fsmail.net



**Quality Local Family Butchers**  
Wholesale/Retail Suppliers of Venison, Beef, Poultry and Fish

**Quality Xmas Hampers**  
available to your specifications. Various prices to suit all budgets

**Free local delivery**

Unit 10 Annat Industrial Estate, Corpach, Fort William PH33 7NA  
Tel: 01397 772042 Fax: 01397 772043  
E-mail: lochabergame@msn.com

**We will make you smile**

The Denture Designers @ Argyll and Bute Cosmetic Dentures have over 40 years experience in hand crafting cosmetic dentures.

Postal service available.

Teeth whitening service now available.

As mouth cancer is a serious issue in the West of Scotland, please come into our studio to pick up a leaflet on detecting mouth cancer.

We are not dentists.

We have hundreds of testimonials from satisfied clients from all over Scotland and from countries as far a field as Russia, Argentina, USA, South Africa and most of the Commonwealth countries.

**Most importantly we listen to what the client wants**

We can provide Dentures on the same day and also a half hour Denture repair service

**CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT**

**1b Combie Street, Oban**  
**01631 566 631**

**2 day only Happy Birthday Sale**

from Highland Blindcraft

**Discounts throughout our store**

**Blindcraft makes all the difference**

Highland Blindcraft Beds  
They work like a dream

www.highlandblindcraft.co.uk  
38/39 Ardconnel Street, Inverness

Telephone 01463 233662  
OPEN Mon - Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-4pm  
Charity no: SC030764

COLONSAY

MARINE Harvest, which plans to build a fish-farm off the north-east coast, has told Colonsay Community Council the Environmental Impact Assessment for the project is nearing completion.

A crucial vote by islanders, which will determine whether or not the farm goes ahead, is now scheduled to take place within the next two months.

IN THE Colonsay Show, Mike Peacock, who works for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds on Oronsay, took both the cup and the best exhibit prize in the root and grain category.

Annie Lawson won the baking cup, Alison Hendry and Diane Clark shared the homecraft cup, Rosie Musgrave Dance took the junior cup (girls), whilst Seamus Dady lifted the boys' cup.

MORAR

MORAR Women's Rural Institute held its first meeting of the 2012-13 season recently, with Pauline Elwell and president Christine Haynes hosting.

Sue Coyne of Arisaig gave a talk to members about the work of charity Mary's Meals.

Isobel Morton took first place in the rock cake competition with Christine Haynes second and Eileen Macphie third. Eileen Macphie also won the raffle and there were seven correct crossword entries.

INVERGARRY

A COFFEE morning in Invergarry raised nearly £350 for Macmillan Cancer Care.

Around 22 locals gathered at Karen Campbell's house for coffee, cakes and craic as part of Macmillan's 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' event.

Cake sales raised £53 with a further £295 from donations.

ISLAY

PUPILS from Islay High School took inspiration from woodlands, gardens and the shores of Lochindaal for a photography workshop hosted by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

A total of 24 students from the school had a day out with their cameras around the island, after a workshop and talk by Lorne Gill, SNH's photographer earlier this month. Youngsters Zoe Wells and



Torlundy rural trust holiday club fun

Around 60 children aged four to eight from across Lochaber enjoyed baking, gardening and looking after animals at a week-long holiday club at Torlundy's Lochaber Rural Institute. Gracie Knox, back, and Charlotte Irons enjoyed making Halloween muffins.

Hannah Gillies said: 'We had lots of fun and learned to look at nature from a different perspective. We will definitely take more pictures in the future. Overall, a great experience.'

As soon as the group arrived, the cameras were out and the snapping began. Lorne encouraged them to look at their surroundings from different angles and take notice of the patterns, textures and colours.

The workshop was followed by a feedback day where the students were able to see their photographs.

More than 4,700 pictures had been taken and Lorne had the task of looking through them and selecting the most impressive photos from each student. Rae McKenzie from SNH added: 'It was great to take the group out and about and see them appreciating nature close to where they live. We hope the workshops have helped develop new skills, given their confidence a boost and inspired them to get out and enjoy the outdoors more often.'

The school hopes to include the photos in a fund-raising exhibition later in the year.

GRANDTULLY

AN AWARD winning chocolatier from Grandtully, near Aberfeldy, has been celebrating six years of operating in the village.

Iain Burnett, known as the Highland Chocolatier, celebrated the anniversary during National Chocolate Week and announced plans to extend his renowned team.

Since opening up shop in Grandtully in 2006, Iain has gained the respect of Michelin Star chefs and five star hotels throughout the UK, receiving a number of awards.

He puts his success down to using only fresh ingredients, including pure Scottish cream and fruits from the local area together with rare premium grade cocoa, which he says gives the chocolates an intense flavour profile and an 'exceptionally long journey through the palate'.

Such is the Highland Chocolatier's reputation that the business is growing at a rapid speed and to fulfil the volume of orders now being received, the

bespoke chocolate kitchen has had to triple in size. Meanwhile, the business has just opened its first wholly-owned retail outlet in Aberdeen and has just entered the London scene as one of the leading luxury chocolatiers represented

by Alexeeva and Jones in their chocolatier boutique in Notting Hill. Iain and his team have also announced plans to have a presence at both the Commonwealth Games and The Ryder Cup.

BALLACHULISH



Ballachulish pupils Morvern MacLeod (P2), Taylor Fox (Nursery) and Molly McLachlan (P1) proudly show off their trophies won at Glencoe Flower Show. The silverware had been away being engraved, so it was a while before they got a close look at them!

KILMORE

TWENTY-TWO members attended the Scottish Women's Rural Institute meeting on October 10 in Kilmore Hall where Rhoda Thomas demonstrated how to make sugar paste flowers for decorating cakes.

After the demonstration, members had a chance to make their own flowers, with varying degrees of success.

Flowers were produced ranging from extremely realistic roses to their more impressionistic relations, but much fun was had by everyone.

The two competitions for the evening were chocolate truffles and a flower arrangement in a whisky shot glass.

There was an excellent number of entrants for both competitions. Results: Chocolate truffles - 1 Mamie Nicolson; 2 Anne Tully. Flower arrangement - 1 Margaret Whitten; 2 Anne Tully.



Mamie Nicolson.



Margaret Whitten.

MINARD

COFFEE and crafts were the order of the day in Minard last weekend as the village's martial arts club raised funds.

Minard Martial Arts Club held its twice-annual fundraiser on Saturday morning in Minard Village Hall.

The family run club, led by chief instructor Kim Cogan, will be using the money raised to buy new equipment and pay insurance.

Kim said: 'Nathan started as an official instructor in July so we need to raise money to cover his insurance. It would be nice to get around £170, the same as last time.'

'There's lots of different crafts so there's lots of choice for people.'

Kim added the club members, who range from seven years old to 63, have seen a 'big improvement' since the hall has been renovated and a new floor installed.

The coffee morning featured lots of crafts including photography and jewellery. There was also plenty of home baking on offer.

ROY BRIDGE

LOCAL residents and Highland Council have tackled an outbreak of the invasive plant Japanese knotweed in Roy Bridge.

An area of around 40m<sup>2</sup> outside St Margaret's Church was brought to the attention of the council at a recent community council meeting.

Highland Council provided weed killing chemicals and equipment and the plant was sprayed thoroughly. The process will be repeated before winter in the hope of stopping the plant spreading through the village and along the River Roy. A powerful weed killer is the only way to remove the weed, as cutting it down can result in it spreading further.

Japanese knotweed spreads through its crown, underground stem and stem segments, rather than its seeds. The weed can grow a metre in a month and can cause heave below concrete and tarmac, coming up through the resulting cracks and damaging buildings and roads. Studies have shown that a one cm section of stem can produce a new plant in 10 days.

BOHUNTINE

THE GROUND moved for some residents of a settlement near Roy Bridge after it was hit by a small earthquake.

Some locals in Bohuntine reported feeling the quake - which had a magnitude of 1.3 - when it occurred at around 9.30pm on Friday October 12.

Mòd successes

ILICH everywhere took pride and delight in the successes enjoyed by local competitors at the Royal National Mòd at Dunoon last week.

Everyone was particularly impressed by the winning performances from the island youngsters who largely dominated the learners' section of the children's competitions.

The general standard of their Gaelic was also praised by the adjudicators and the island's unique Gaelic dialect was fully taken on board. This is a major stride in the right direction as each area's own dialect is an integral content in the linguistic treasure chest. Island competitors enjoyed success in piping, solo singing, duets, poetry and choral items and this reflects well on those who devote time and energy in teaching these various skills to the participants.

Senior island competitors also tasted success and we laud them all. And while glorying in our own successes, let us also commend all the other competitors who featured so highly in the Mòd Dhùn Omhain prize lists. Meal ar naidheachd uile.

Paul Jones in concert

CHRISTIAN vocalist, actor and radio and television presenter Paul Jones, formerly of Manfred Mann and the Blues Band, will be appearing in concert in Bowmore Hall on Saturday October 27 at 7.30pm.

During the lead singer and harmonica player's career with Manfred

Mann, the group enjoyed a number of top ten hits which included their chart topper *Do Wa Diddy*.

The broadcaster and entertainer converted to Christianity in the mid 1980s after being invited by Sir Cliff Richard to attend a Luis Palau evangelistic event. He is married to the actress and entertainer Fiona Hendley-Jones who will also be appearing at the Bowmore event.

This is a joint venture between the folk at Bowmore's Round Church and the island's Baptist congregations. Admission is free and the organisers promise an evening of 'praise, witness and quality music'.

Special constable retires

RHINNS farmer and special constable James Brown has retired after 21 years of dedicated community service in special police duties in his native isle.

At a special presentation service in Bowmore police office, Chief Inspector David Pettigrew, area commander for Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands, paid wholesome tribute to James whom he described as 'a huge character' whose presence and contribution will be greatly missed by his police colleagues on the island.

Among the farewell gifts received by the former special constable was a personalised bottle of whisky and commemorative Strathclyde Police glasses.

James and his wife Sheila farm

at Octomore where they continue a well-established family farming tradition.

New ferries

WESTERN Ferries chairman Alastair Ross formally laid the keel for the first of two new ferries being built for the company at the Cammel Laird shipyard in Birkenhead.

The new ferry will be named *Sound of Seil*, continuing a company tradition of naming their vessels after Scottish sounds. Construction of a sister ship *Sound of Soay* begins next month and both vessels are due to be handed over to the company in late summer 2013.

Speaking at the ceremony the company chairman said: 'This is a historic day for us and the beginning of a journey which we believe will make a massive difference to our company and to the local community for many years to come.'

The Western ferries chairman and his wife Judith live in Bowmore. He has spent his life in the whisky industry and is a former manager of Morrison's Bowmore Distillery.

Birthday girl

HEARTY congratulations to my next door neighbour Jean Ferguson who celebrated a special birthday on October 19.

I am much too gallant to bandy figures about so let 'many happy returns Jean' suffice. Slàinte mhath! **Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX, Telephone: 01496 810658.**

Down Your Way

Strathfillan

TYNDRUM'S Real Food Café has been allowed to keep its temporary covered seating area for a further 18 months, as it works towards building a permanent extension.

The popular restaurant on the A82 has had the canopy in place since 2009 and had hoped to have built a permanent structure by now.

However, in her application, Sarah Heward said the business had been frustrated by the impact of the current economic conditions. An extension of permission to use the canopy would provide breathing space to gather funds to complete the plans.

A new financial plan indicates the business should be in a position to start building a permanent structure next year. Ms Heward had sought a 24 month extension, but the park board moved to grant permission for 18 months following correspondence from Strathfillan Community Council.

In making its decision, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Board's planning department said: 'The proposal is contrary to the adopted National Park local plan as the design and appearance has a negative impact on the visual amenity of the area.'

'However given the benefits of continued operation of the premises with this additional seating area, a further period of consent for 18 months can be supported.'

The canopy structure must be permanently removed by 28 February 2014 and the business is not allowed to display advertising on the structure.

AUCHTERTYRE Camping Site has lodged a retrospective planning application for 25 'wigwam' holiday chalets at its Crianlarich base.

The plans for pre-fabricated timber properties also detail the new shared facilities chalet.

Explaining why the work was carried out without full planning permission the applicant, John Curry from the Scottish Agricultural College, said it was partly carried out under a temporary planning application that had expired.

The application outlined an extension to car parking by 25 to 35 spaces. Planners at Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Board will consider the retrospective application on December 8.

A NEW community led plan in Strathfillan could see local services such as street cleaning, gardening and facility maintenance managed by locals.

Stirling Council will meet with representatives from Strathfillan, Killin and Balquhider, Lochearnhead and Strathgryre (BLS) community councils in Killin this week in a bid to determine how the 'portfolio for the environment' would work.

While each area has its own requirements, each is similar in its remoteness from Stirling Council's facilities and it is hoped the move would provide a drastic improvement to the appearance and maintenance of the communities.

Grass cutting and litter removal have been identified as priorities for the scheme.

Strathfillan could be used as a pilot for the scheme, with the other two community councils also involved in the process.

Strathfillan community councillor Alan Smailes said: 'The meeting will be between the community councils, Stirling Council and local councillors. Hopefully we'll be able to thrash something out to see how we'll go on with that.'

'We had previously thought about a Breadalbane network, but I think costs of setting something like that up has made that a non-starter. What we're now looking at is a smaller area as a pilot. I think we've got a consensus to go ahead with it but we'll have to see what the other community councils think.'

ONE PLAN to ensure passing trade still comes into Crianlarich bypass after the new bypass of the village is built will be discussed at the area's community council next month.

Raymond Travers of planning, design and transport company Grontmij will give a talk about how the village can be signposted on the new road, on which construction is due to start next year. Local community group Crianlarich into Action (CiA) was set up specifically to deal with the challenges the bypass could pose to local businesses and have been in talks with the government and Grontmij about how best to highlight its assets. Proposed is a brown information sign highlighting all the assets and amenities available at the village. The community council next meet on November 12 at 7.30pm in Crianlarich Village Hall.

Next week Down Your Way visits Lochaweside and Dalmally with Chief Reporter Euan Paterson. Contact Euan on 01631 568000 or email [epaterson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:epaterson@obantimes.co.uk)



The entrants line up for the first Fèis nan Garbh Chriochan Fundraising Mini Triathlon.

ISLAY LETTER

Triathlon boosts fèis funds

FIFTEEN brave entrants took part in the first Fèis nan Garbh Chriochan Fundraising Mini Triathlon on September 23.

The testing event saw competitors take on a 1.5 mile sprint, 1.6 mile sprint cycle and a gruelling one mile sea swim to Castle Tioran.

The event finished with a BBQ at Dorlin with music provided by fèis tutors and young musicians. Acharacle Primary School head teacher Lyndsay Bradley, who took part in the triathlon, said: 'Huge thanks to everyone who supported the event and gave their time to volunteer, cook, marshal, man rescue boats, timekeep, provide first aid, donate prizes and, of course, sponsor the participants.'

'Money is still to come in but it looks like the event will have raised around £2,000 for Fèis nan Garbh Chriochan. Mòran taing!'

Winners were: 1 Male and 1 overall - Ewan Robertson; 2 and 1 female - Laura McConnachie; 3 equal - Colin Jamieson and Grant Waters; 2 female - Lyndsay Bradley; 3 equal female - Jill Gosney, Heather MacIver and Ellen MacGillivray; 3 male - Donald MacAulay.

**KS REFRIGERATION & AIR CONDITIONING**  
Sales, Service & Installation

**Air Source Heat Pumps**  
Low Energy Heating Systems Supplied & Installed  
KS Refrigeration and Air Conditioning provides low energy heating systems using the very latest in air source heat pump technology.  
Working in conjunction with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries we aim to provide one of the most efficient ways of heating your home.  
All house styles are individually calculated then designed to meet your specific heating requirements.  
Energy Efficiency A-F  
Tel: 01855 811641  
Mobiles: 07970 824252 / 07970 824506  
On Call 24/7

**ROY BRIDGE**  
LOCAL residents and Highland Council have tackled an outbreak of the invasive plant Japanese knotweed in Roy Bridge. An area of around 40m<sup>2</sup> outside St Margaret's Church was brought to the attention of the council at a recent community council meeting. Highland Council provided weed killing chemicals and equipment and the plant was sprayed thoroughly. The process will be repeated before winter in the hope of stopping the plant spreading through the village and along the River Roy. A powerful weed killer is the only way to remove the weed, as cutting it down can result in it spreading further. Japanese knotweed spreads through its crown, underground stem and stem segments, rather than its seeds. The weed can grow a metre in a month and can cause heave below concrete and tarmac, coming up through the resulting cracks and damaging buildings and roads. Studies have shown that a one cm section of stem can produce a new plant in 10 days.

**BOHUNTINE**  
THE GROUND moved for some residents of a settlement near Roy Bridge after it was hit by a small earthquake. Some locals in Bohuntine reported feeling the quake - which had a magnitude of 1.3 - when it occurred at around 9.30pm on Friday October 12.

**Mòd successes**  
ILICH everywhere took pride and delight in the successes enjoyed by local competitors at the Royal National Mòd at Dunoon last week. Everyone was particularly impressed by the winning performances from the island youngsters who largely dominated the learners' section of the children's competitions. The general standard of their Gaelic was also praised by the adjudicators and the island's unique Gaelic dialect was fully taken on board. This is a major stride in the right direction as each area's own dialect is an integral content in the linguistic treasure chest. Island competitors enjoyed success in piping, solo singing, duets, poetry and choral items and this reflects well on those who devote time and energy in teaching these various skills to the participants. Senior island competitors also tasted success and we laud them all. And while glorying in our own successes, let us also commend all the other competitors who featured so highly in the Mòd Dhùn Omhain prize lists. Meal ar naidheachd uile.

**Paul Jones in concert**  
CHRISTIAN vocalist, actor and radio and television presenter Paul Jones, formerly of Manfred Mann and the Blues Band, will be appearing in concert in Bowmore Hall on Saturday October 27 at 7.30pm. During the lead singer and harmonica player's career with Manfred

**ROY BRIDGE**  
COFFEE and crafts were the order of the day in Minard last weekend as the village's martial arts club raised funds. Minard Martial Arts Club held its twice-annual fundraiser on Saturday morning in Minard Village Hall. The family run club, led by chief instructor Kim Cogan, will be using the money raised to buy new equipment and pay insurance. Kim said: 'Nathan started as an official instructor in July so we need to raise money to cover his insurance. It would be nice to get around £170, the same as last time.' 'There's lots of different crafts so there's lots of choice for people.' Kim added the club members, who range from seven years old to 63, have seen a 'big improvement' since the hall has been renovated and a new floor installed. The coffee morning featured lots of crafts including photography and jewellery. There was also plenty of home baking on offer.

**ISLAY LETTER**  
WESTERN Ferries chairman Alastair Ross formally laid the keel for the first of two new ferries being built for the company at the Cammel Laird shipyard in Birkenhead. The new ferry will be named *Sound of Seil*, continuing a company tradition of naming their vessels after Scottish sounds. Construction of a sister ship *Sound of Soay* begins next month and both vessels are due to be handed over to the company in late summer 2013. Speaking at the ceremony the company chairman said: 'This is a historic day for us and the beginning of a journey which we believe will make a massive difference to our company and to the local community for many years to come.' The Western ferries chairman and his wife Judith live in Bowmore. He has spent his life in the whisky industry and is a former manager of Morrison's Bowmore Distillery.

**Birthday girl**  
HEARTY congratulations to my next door neighbour Jean Ferguson who celebrated a special birthday on October 19. I am much too gallant to bandy figures about so let 'many happy returns Jean' suffice. Slàinte mhath! **Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX, Telephone: 01496 810658.**



# 'Proud' Kirsteen leads Dingwall to Lovat and Tullibardine glory

'This is my proudest moment' - Kirsteen Menzies

CONDUCTOR Kirsteen Menzies described her 'proudest moment' after leading Dingwall to the Lovat and Tullibardine title last Friday.

The 38-year-old won her fourth title in only five years but this year's trophy win was extra special, as she was joined on stage for the presentation by her father and former conductor Hamish Menzies and her young sons Finlay and Hector.

Kirsteen, who lives on the Black Isle, said: 'I am completely overwhelmed and thrilled to bits to have won. 'I couldn't do what I do without the support of my husband and my parents. They are just incredible, so I am so happy they can share this with me. This is my proudest moment.'

The win meant Dingwall retained the trophy, forcing the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association (GG) into second place for the second year running. Inverness were third to make up the same top three places as last year.

After a superb rendition of the challenging

set piece 'Cumha Coire Cheathaich', Dingwall impressed with its own choice piece, Marache nan Cuantan, arranged by Aberdeen's Anne McDermott.

As well as the choir winning The Oban Times Salver for top music marks, Dingwall's Gaelic tutor Uisdean MacRae was awarded The Weekly Scotsman Quach for the highest Gaelic marks in the competition. Asked about her successful run of results, Kirsteen said it was down to her 'lucky shoes'. She said: 'This is the fourth time we have won in my five years as conductor and the only year we didn't win - Caithness in 2010 - I wasn't wearing my lucky shoes!'

However, the successful choir also has its own superstition before going on stage. As a warm up, the choir sings 'Athchuinge', a song that asks God to give his blessing to the children of Gaeldom.

Dingwall has a strong tradition of Lovat and Tullibardine wins under Kirsteen's father, and predecessor as conductor, Hamish.



## Oban exceeds all expectations

OBAN Gaelic Choir exceeded all expectations by taking fourth place in this year's Lovat and Tullibardine Shield competition at the Royal National Mòd.

Having struggled to get close to the top three choirs in recent years, the result in Dunoon came as a welcome boost to a choir that last won the competition at the 1994 Mòd in Dunoon. It was also the best result since Sileas Sinclair took over as conductor in 2003.

Sileas took much of the plaudits, as her arrangement on Oban's own choice song, 'An t'Aparan Goirid', received positive feedback from all Mòd commentators.

Sileas said: 'We definitely exceeded our own expectations. I was delighted when they read out the marks and I have to admit I read them over twice to make sure.'

'It was a really difficult test piece but I think we saved our best performance for the competition.'

'It is very pleasing that the adjudicators and everyone else liked my arrangement of 'An t'Aparan Goirid' and I am very happy to be among the top choirs in a very high standard of competition.'

Sileas also paid tribute to the choir's Gaelic tutor, Christine MacIntyre from Ardrishaig.

Top right - Dingwall Gaelic Choir posted the highest Gaelic and music marks to win the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield. smmod43

Right - The Oban Times editorial director Stewart MacKenzie presents The Oban Times silver Salver to Kirsteen Menzies after her choir had the highest marks for music in the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield competition. smmod40

Far right - Kirsteen Menzies celebrates the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield win with Dingwall's Gaelic tutor Uisdean MacRae. epm053

## Rule changes aimed at improving Gaelic learning standard in time

RULE changes to the main learners solo competition, the silver medal, meant only three men entered - but adjudicators heaped praise on the standard of the singers they heard.

A change in the rules this year required entrants to have obtained a silver card, a higher level of fluency than bronze card holders who were previously eligible to compete.

Acknowledging low numbers in the men's section, adjudicators Anne

Lorne Gillies and Kirsteen MacDonalld said the standard was extremely high after hearing the first qualifier.

'The change to silver cards has definitely pushed the standard up,' said Kirsteen. 'At the moment, you can see how that has affected the numbers but that is something that will repair itself over a number of years.'

Anne said: 'For us as adjudicators, there is nothing more pleasant than

listening to nice, clean Gaelic, so the rule change has helped in that respect. However, considering the low number of entrants, perhaps there could be another competition for real beginners, to encourage more singers.'

Asked whether the low number of entrants was a concern, An Comunn Gàidhealach president John MacLeod admitted a drop off in numbers had been anticipated this year.

## Smiles in the Isles as 2016 venue announced

THERE were plenty of smiles in the Western Isles after it was announced that the 2016 Royal National Mòd would be heading over the Minch to the islands.

With the event forecasted to bring a £2million-plus economic boost to the area, Norman Macdonald, convener of Western Isles Council, hinted that several venues could see the benefits.

'While the Mòd will be centred in Stornoway, we now have excellent new venues in Tarbert, Harris and Balivanich in Benbecula,' he said.

## Isles care homes to get boost from 'Maroot's' book



Donald 'Maroot' MacLeod with his Awful Joke Book. epm045

MOD FUNNYMAN Donald MacLeod has collated his famous one-liners in a book that will be sold to raise money for Western Isles care homes.

Adorned with the distinctive MacLeod of Lewis tartan, Donnie Maroot's Awful Joke Book is being sold in aid of Bethesda Care Home and Hospice in Stornoway, Harris House in Tarbert, Harris, Tasga Uibhist in Balivanich and Cochair Bharraigh in Castlebay.

Speaking to *The Oban Times* during the Royal National Mòd in Dunoon, where he competed with the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association (GG), the Lewis native said: 'The care home charities are a really good cause; let's face it, I'll probably be there one day myself, so that is an incentive to sell as many books as possible!'

As he posed for a photograph, the Glasgow-based actuary quipped: 'I haven't got a joke about photographers, but I could probably make one up in a flash.'



Argyll's Dealrach came second in the quartet competition. From left: Nicola Pearson, Oban; Joy Dunlop, Connel; Riona Whyte, Mull; and Audrey Paterson, Taynuilt. smmod20



Aberfeldy and District Choir celebrate after winning the Margaret Duncan Memorial Trophy for area choirs. The choir also won the John McNicol Memorial Trophy for highest marks in Gaelic. smmod33

## ROAD TO THE ISLES

# COMMUNITY SAVINGS PH30 to PH40

### Road To The Isles Community Savers Promotion

At MRH Retail's Bp Service Station in Fort William, we are currently running an excellent promotion to build links with the local community and to help local residents during the tough economic climate we are currently suffering in.

Anyone living within the PH30 to PH40 postal code area can save up to 4p per litre on their fuel purchases, just by filling up at our service station. All they need to do is bring some proof that they live within the area, e.g. drivers licence or recent utility bill and they save 1p per litre on the first fill-up, 2p on the second, 3p on the third and a maximum of 4p on the fourth fill-up. The maximum purchase is 75 litres, so more than enough to fill the average family car.

Whilst visiting the site, customers also have the chance to shop in our newly refurbished store with an off-licence, Costa Express Coffee and grocery range.

Save 3 PENCE PER LITRE on fuel on presentation of this voucher at MRH Retail's Bp Service Station, Fort William.

Voucher cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Expires 30th of November 2012

PICK UP YOUR COMMUNITY SAVINGS CARD NOW

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

1. MRH Retail Ltd Community Savings Card Scheme is open to members of the public that live in the specified post code area and are aged 18 or over. Employees of the participating MRH Retail Ltd sites and its affiliates are not eligible to participate in the scheme. 2. The specified post code area will be communicated via advertising at the site. Full details are available on request at the participating petrol station. 3. The Community Savings Card remains the property of MRH Retail Ltd of all times. 4. To participate in the Community Savings Card scheme, members must present proof that they live in the specified post code area. This proof is to be in the form of a current driving licence or utility bill. The information will be verified by a member of staff at the time of registration. 5. The information will be recorded at the participating petrol station. MRH Retail Ltd will NOT use or sell any information you have provided to enter the scheme. The information is ONLY used for verification & auditing purposes. 6. An advertisement that has been accepted to be included in the scheme will be communicated via email to customers of the scheme by MRH Retail Ltd at any affiliated Company. 7. The registration of the Community Savings Card forms part of the terms & conditions and MRH Retail Ltd reserves the right to vary the terms & conditions as necessary during the promotion for legal or regulatory reasons. 8. In the event of a member's deliberately misuse of the scheme or failure to comply with the terms & conditions, MRH Retail Ltd reserves the right to withdraw the Community Savings Card. 9. To obtain the Community Savings Card, members must present their card to the designated petrol station. 10. New applicants may use their Community Savings Card for the first time for 90 days or provided they register with the scheme as outlined in the terms & conditions. 11. No responsibility can be accepted for lost or damaged cards. 12. MRH Retail Ltd reserves the right to withdraw any Community Savings Cards from the scheme at any time. 13. MRH Retail Ltd reserves the right to vary the rate at which the discount is awarded. 14. A maximum of 2 weeks notice will be given prior to the end of the scheme. This notice period will be communicated at site level. 15. The card information will be given in the form of an advertisement. 16. The discount will revert to the starting level if no transactions are made for 3 consecutive weeks. 17. The maximum fuel purchase per transaction that is eligible for discount is 75 litres. 18. The Community Savings Card can only be used with retail purchases of petrol and Diesel. Transactions on Pre-Paid, Pay Fuel, Service, Oil Fuel, and Fuel Cards are excluded. 19. The maximum fuel purchase per transaction that is eligible for discount is 75 litres.

## ROAD TO THE ISLES

# COMMUNITY SAVINGS CARD

## PH30 TO PH40

LOOK OUT FOR FURTHER SAVINGS ON FUEL, ADVERTISED ON SITE

**Site facilities:** 5 grades of fuel which includes the 2 premium Bp Ultimate grades, Unleaded & Diesel & LPG  
 • Jet Wash • Vacuum & Air • ATM • Open 24 hours, 365 days a year  
 New, Fully refurbished shop which includes apart from the usual range: News & Magazines, Costa Coffee, Off Licence, Chilled range of foods, Groceries, Gas/ Electric/ Mobile Phone Top Ups, Collect Parcel Exchange Service, Sim Cards & Gift Cards



# Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail 2012 Dùn Omhain



Video of this available online [OBANTIMES.CO.UK](http://OBANTIMES.CO.UK)



Oban Gaelic Choir was fourth in the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield. epmod50



Còisir Ghàidhlig Tairbeart Loch Fin won the prestigious Sheriff MacMaster Trophy. epmod44



The Caithness-based Collich a' Chinn a Tuath won the male voice competition with an unprecedented 190 marks for music. snmod22



Argyll ladies choir Atomaig Piseag won the Esme Smythe Trophy. snmod29



Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association conductor Kenny Thomson, left, from Campbeltown, is presented with the Rev William MacDonald Quach for the highest aggregate Gaelic marks across four choral competitions by Rev MacDonald's son, Duncan MacDonald, from Oban. snmod41



Winner of The Oban Times gold medal, Andreas Wolff, Connel, receives his prize from the newspaper's editorial director Stewart MacKenzie. epmod31

## German wins Oban Times Gold Medal

A GAELIC journalist, who hails from Germany has been given 'teuchter' status by fellow competitors after he won this year's *Oban Times* gold medal.

Andreas Wolff, from Connel, hails from Berlin but studied Gaelic at Sabhal Mor Ostaig on Skye before taking up a job with BBC Alba.

His win in Dunoon on Wednesday - the first by any foreign competitor in *The Oban Times* competition - came off the back of an impressive Gaelic mark of 91.

Andreas, who speaks five languages fluently, including

Gaelic, said: 'I feel like I'm part of the Gaelic community after winning the medal. One of the other Taynuilt chorists said I'm 'a real teacher' now.

'I try to get a good Lorn 'blas' in my singing and I have Brigadier John MacFarlane to thank for that. I also want to thank Audrey Paterson from Taynuilt for helping me with my singing.'

A member of Taynuilt Gaelic Choir, this was Andreas' third year at the Mod.

He has been asked to sing a solo on the upcoming Taynuilt Gaelic Choir album.



The north end of Skye celebrated more success at the Royal National Mod when Highland dancer Lexie MacLeod, aged six, from Staffin, won four gold medals, and seven-year-old Beth Campbell from Kilmuir won a gold in the clarsach. Lexie's mum Joanna told *The Oban Times* Lexie has only been dancing for a year. snmod32



Mull won the Grampian Television Trophy for rural ladies choirs. snmod45



Taynuilt Gaelic Choir with conductor Ann Barlow and Gaelic tutor Donald MacLeod. epmod38



Argyll choir Còisir Ceann an Tuirc, with conductor Joy Dunlop, were third in the male voice competition. snmod38

### Public Exhibition

Infinis invites you to an initial exhibition for our proposed Musdale wind farm

The exhibition will be held at:

**Kilmore Village Hall**  
Friday 26th October  
12 noon - 7.30pm

And at

**Ford Village Hall**  
Saturday 27th October  
10am - 4pm

Members of the Infinis team will be available to answer your questions

For further information about the project, please contact Jamie Grant on 0131 243 1380 or [musdale@infinis.com](mailto:musdale@infinis.com)



John Howieson of Portree competed in the gold medal competition. epmod51



Edinburgh brothers Simon, left, and Cameron McDonald from Bun Sgoil Cros na Cise competed in clarsach competitions. snmod44



**Kyle singer injured in car crash before competition**

A GAELIC singer from Kyle of Lochalsh competed in the gold medal competition in Dunoon this year, despite being injured in a car crash the evening before.

Ceitidh Smith, above, was travelling to Dunoon with her mother, Barbara, last Tuesday when they were involved in a three-car collision on the A815 at Sandhaven, near Sandbank.

Mother and daughter escaped with minor injuries and Ceitidh composed herself to sing the following morning and take third place in the first qualifier.

The 25-year-old narrowly missed out on qualifying for the final this year.

Dunoon police say enquiries into the incident, which occurred around 5.30pm, are ongoing and anyone with any information should contact PC Scott Gallacher at Dunoon Police Station on 01369 763055.

# Girl who almost walked away from singing wins gold

## Men's gold medal winner unlikely to compete again at the national Mòd

THE WINNER of this year's women's gold medal almost didn't compete this year, having failed to make the final in 2011.

Eilidh Davies, from Invergarry, had made the final on two previous occasions but after missing out last year in Stornoway, considered giving up competing altogether.

The 33-year-old journalist and broadcaster said: 'I am over the moon. To win the gold medal is really a dream come true.'

'Last year was so disappointing but it was certainly a turning point.

'I knew I would have to either up my game, or just draw a line under it and move on.'

Fortunately for Eilidh, she

decided to continue competing and enlisted the help of well-known tutor Kenna Campbell, on top of the coaching she already received from Fort William's Chrissie MacEachan and former Campbeltown man Kenny Thomson.

Her gold medal win coincided with the inaugural presentation of the Gold Medal Prize in Memory of Innis MacLeod, Shawbost.

Innis, who won the gold medal in 2000 in Dunoon, died suddenly at the age of 30 in 2007.

The trophy will be awarded each year to the gold medal competitor who has the highest aggregate marks for Gaelic and

music and it was fitting Eilidh's was the first name on the trophy.

Eilidh won the silver pendant in 2000 at Dunoon, the same year Innis MacLeod won his gold medal, and the two of them sang together in Aberdeen Gaelic Choir.

Innis' parents Neil and Rhoda MacLeod made the presentation after the gold medal final last Thursday.

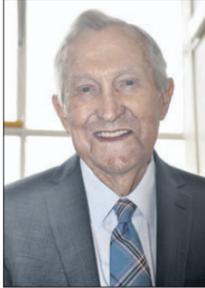
Rhoda said: 'I am delighted the trophy's first home will be with someone Innis knew.'

'I want this to be a happy day today, because 12 years ago was a happy day, just as it will be for this year's winners and their families.'

The winner of the men's gold



This year's Mòd gold medallists Eilidh Davies, Invergarry, and Calum MacLeod, Edinburgh. epmod35



**Islay winner presents gold**

AN ISLAY man who won the gold medal 60 years ago said he was honoured to present the prize last Thursday at this year's Royal National Mòd.

Donald MacLeod, from Portnahaven, took the top solo prize in Rothesay in 1952 with the famous Islay song Tuirèadh nan Treun but returned in 2012 to Dunoon, where he presented the gold accolades to Calum MacLeod and Eilidh Davies.

The 87-year-old said: 'I felt honoured to make the presentation. I didn't get the chance to say a few words on stage at the presentation but if I had I would have told this year's winners, 'congratulations and keep singing'.

Donald said the Mòd had changed a lot since he won his gold medal. 'There seemed to be more competitors at the Mòd in those days,' he said.

Donald began his working life as a joiner before inheriting Croft Number One at Portnahaven, where he still lives today. A few years ago, Donald's songs were collated on CD and released to raise money for Islay and Jura Sick Children's Fund.



The Oban Times northern editor Stephen Norris launched Fergie MacDonald's latest CD 'As Highland As It Gets' in The Braes bar and restaurant in Dunoon last Thursday at the Royal National Mod. Fergie and his band played at the popular venue throughout the week. snmod12p7pic9



Sandy NicDomhnaill Jones from Askernish in South Uist won the Mr and Mrs Archibald MacDonald Memorial Trophy for fluent song and the Joyce Murray Trophy for the competitor gaining the most marks in Gaelic. snmod10p7pic11



Coisir Ghaidhlig Ile (Islay Gaelic Choir) president Fergus Muir was a proud man when they won the puirt-a-beul by a single mark from Lochs Gaelic Choir. snmod16p7pic02



Traditional Golf Medal winners Christine Stone from Caithness and Alex MacDonald from the Isle of Lewis. snmod3



Inverlochly lad Ally Weir, who attends Lochaber High School, won The Rev Dr George MacKay Memorial Cup for the highest aggregate marks in conversation, storytelling and poetry for 13-15 year olds. epmod33



Coisir Ghaidhlig Ile won the puirt-a-beul by a single mark from Lochs Gaelic Choir. epmod41

THIS year's traditional gold medals went to two singers who originally came from the Isle of Lewis.

While Alex MacDonald still lives at Bresclate, minister's wife Christine Stone left her native Upper Coll, near Back, and now lives in Caithness.

Alex was brought up amongst a strong tradition of Gaelic singing and chose to sing a song written by his grandmother's brother.

'I'm just proud that I can sing the old songs,' said Alex after admitting he had been very nervous going into the final round of the competition.

For Christine it was third time lucky in this competition.

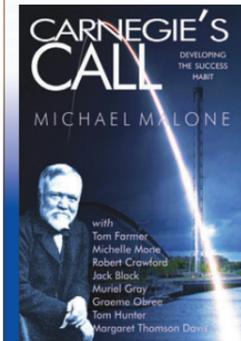
'I wasn't in as strong a position going into the final as last year,' she said.

'But I decided to sing the songs that I love to the people in the audience that I knew.'

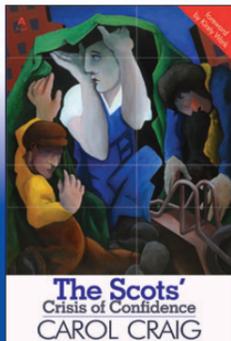
She also took time to thank Morag McLeod of the School of Scottish Studies who 'saw something in me' and encouraged her to keep singing.

**ARGYLL PUBLISHING**  
 Argyll Publishing, Glendaruel, Argyll PA22 3AE Scotland  
 tel 01369 820229  
 www.argyllpublishing.co.uk  
 email argyll.publishing@virgin.net

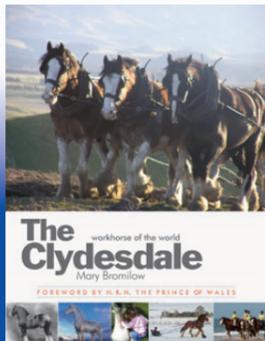
great gift ideas. . .  
 for more ideas look on our website



pbk 9781908931030 £7.99 out NOW  
 How can Scots develop the success habit? Learn from the successful!



pbk 9781906134709 £9.99 . . . will become one of the standard texts on Scottish character.  
**Michael Russell, Holyrood Magazine**



hbk 9781906134655 £20 illustrated in colour throughout 'a very beautiful tribute to Scotland's Clydesdale horse'

Set in parts in Elgin, Buckie and Cullen as well as Highland Argyll, Mary McCabe's *Stirring the Dust* is Book of Year material. Exceptionally fine writing.

'... it is through the actions and words of McCabe's characters that the great sweep of their story is revealed. And that story is told through some very fine writing - witty, economic and moving - in a number of registers. McCabe's accomplished interweaving of English, urban Scots, the Doric of the north-east and even Gaelic makes this something of a national epic. *Stirring the Dust* has all the fascination of real, lived history, and all the imagination and emotion of good fiction. It is a remarkable achievement, and it feels like an important book.' **James Robertson**

'An epic saga of family, its history and Scotland's, two seams richly mined by the three languages of its telling - an exciting linguistic first for Scottish writing.'  
**Janet Paisley**

*Stirring the Dust*

a biography of families we know  
**Mary McCabe**

pbk 9781908931030 £9.99  
 ltd edit hbk 9781908931115 £14.99  
 out NOW



# Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail 2012 Dùn Omhain



Kirsty Watt, aged 18, from Stornoway, claimed first place and the George Clavey Memorial Quaich in the learners' traditional song (competitors' choice) with an excellent mark of 92. 5nmod04p8pic03

## Kirsty takes inspiration from her sister

'I really admire her get up and go attitude.'

THE WINNER of a learners traditional singing competition at this year's Mòd said she was inspired to victory by her older sister, last year's gold medalist Catriona Watt.

Kirsty Watt won the George Clavey Memorial Quaich in Dunoon's Hanover Street Hall. Her achievement comes exactly six years after Catriona won the same competition, in the same venue, the last time the Royal National Mòd was held in Dunoon.

The 18-year-old, a finalist in the Young Traditional Musician of the Year in 2011, is tutored and mentored by her gran Kirsty Mary MacDonald.

But the Lewis girl says her main inspiration has been the determination of her older sister. She said: 'Catriona has always inspired me because she has never given up. She didn't always get on that well in competitions

when she was younger but she went on to win the gold medal. 'I really admire her get up and go attitude.'

Kirsty, an arts and social studies degree student at Lews Castle College in Stornoway, won her competition courtesy of a song handed down to her by her grandmother, who heard the song as a child at ceilidhs on her native Berneray.

**High quality**  
'U Stu Sgur Eh Tu Air Maire', which roughly translates into 'You are my special one', earned Kirsty first place in a high quality competition.

Kirsty told *The Oban Times*: 'It's my gran's song - she knew it very well and used to sing it back in the time they held weddings and ceilidhs in local houses. My gran learned it when she was a wee girl from the older folk. The song is about a woman whose sweetheart has

gone away and left her. It is in between a love song and a tragedy.'

Kirsty sang beautifully - despite a slight hiccup which kept her waiting before she took the stage. She said: 'I handed in my music as required to the Mòd office but it somehow went missing. I had to wait a wee while!'

Kirsty was helped with her Gaelic by her Stornoway neighbours and family friends Donald John and Alice MacDonald. Donald John was born and brought up a son of the manse in Leubost while Alice hails from Northton on Harris.

Kirsty's mum Anne comes from Great Bernera and dad Calum from Aberdeen. Kirsty has been singing in Mòds for a number of years and her previous highlight was winning the James C MacPhee Memorial Medal in Oban three years ago as a junior.



Emma Leitch opens the door to the High Kirk in Dunoon, where her first gold medal qualifying competition took place. epmod26p8pic17

## Fort William woman defies medics to sing at Mòd

A FORT WILLIAM woman, who was told by doctors that her hearing was too badly damaged to appreciate music, has competed at her first Mòd as a solo singer.

Emma Leitch was born prematurely and suffers from Dyscalculia, a condition that affects her dexterity and mobility and has damaged her hearing.

At five years of age, doctors told her parents she would be tone deaf and would never appreciate music because of her condition.

However, the 31-year-old Gaelic learner has defied the medics by competing in the gold medal competition, arguably the premier solo singing competition at the Mòd.

Emma, a former Gaelic Nursery teacher in Roybridge, said: 'I have never competed at a Mòd before but I have watched it on the telly every year since I was a teenager.'

'When we went on our October holidays we would stay somewhere with a terrible television signal and I remember getting my dad to hold the aerial at different angles so that I could see the Mòd on telly.'

'I have sung at ceilidhs before but this type of singing is more disciplined and I didn't think it would be my scene.'

'It wasn't until I spoke to Katherine Grant from Roybridge, who suggested I compete at the Mòd that her husband, Alasdair, became my tutor.'

Asked what her first Mòd experience was like, Emma replied: 'It was fab. I absolutely loved it. I think there is a great atmosphere here and it is definitely better than watching it on the telly!'

Emma, who is originally from Irvine, studied at Sabhal Mor Ostaig for three years, graduating in 2006. She then went on to study at the Benbecula campus of Lews Castle College.

Currently unemployed, Emma spends her time volunteering and works with Talk Lochaber, the talking newspaper charity.'



Clarsach player Eilidh Munro of Glasgow won the self-accompaniment singing competition. epmod24p8pic10

## Gaelic website gains further funding

A FURTHER £20,000 and plans for a promotional campaign for the website Learn Gaelic.net was announced at this year's Royal National Mòd in Dunoon.

Alasdair Allan MSP Minister for Education, Learning and Skills (with responsibility for Gaelic and Scots), was in attendance at the Royal National Mòd in Dunoon and said: 'We must not lose sight of online activity as a means of developing Gaelic skills.'

'I am very pleased to see the continuing evolution of learnGaelic.net and am very pleased to be able to invest an additional £20,000 into the site to produce additional online materials for learners of all ages.'

'Learning Gaelic shouldn't just be classroom-based and I hope to see the website attract new learners to its pages in the coming months.'



Port Ellen's Kirsten Laurie won The Kennedy-Fraser Cup for singing a Song of the Hebrides. Kirsten, who is tutored by Mairi Carmichael, sang Gradh Geal Mo Chrìdh. epmod27



Lews Castle College Honours Gaelic student Iain Murdo MacMillan, 19, from Lewis, won The Doctor Alasdair Patrick Barden Memorial Salver for Psalm Presenting. 5nmod04p8pic16



Robert Robertson won both qualifying competitions for the silver pendant final. epmod27p8pic2



Maryhill woman Fiona Ross, a member of the Glasgow-Skye Society, claimed a creditable fifth place out of 23 competitors for the John D Gillies Memorial Trophy, which was a solo singing qualifier for the Gold Medal. Nurse Fiona, 29, has strong family connections to Skye. Her father Calum and grandparents Donald Ross and Peggy Stewart all came from the north end of the island. 5nmod04p8pic06



Rachel Walker, Gairloch, and Calum MacLeod, Edinburgh, won the first gold medal qualifying competition, taking home the Mary C MacNiven Memorial Salver and Caledonian MacBrayne Trophy. Calum also won the Juhn MacArthur Memorial Trophy for the best marks between the two competitions. epmod25p8pic7



Nicola Pearson and Wilma Kennedy won the highly competitive duet open own choice competition with a beautiful rendition of Duthaich nan Craobh (Land of the Trees). The girls bought matching pairs of tartan shoes to bring them luck. 5nmod06p8pic03

## Lucky tartan shoes seal win for Wilma and Nicola

OBAN girl Nicola Pearson struck gold with singing partner Wilma Kennedy from Dundee in the duet traditional song competition in the Hanover Hall last Wednesday - thanks to matching red tartan shoes.

The standard of Gaelic and musicality on show before a standing-room only audience of more than 100 was high but after a long deliberation it was Nicola and Wilma who came out top from an entry list of 20 - one of the biggest at the Mòd - to win

the Neil MacLean and Jenny M B Currie Trophy.

The talented duo had been in the habit of sporting tartan footwear at previous Mòds - but this year managed to buy matching pairs for the first time.

Speaking to *The Oban Times* after their success, an over-the-moon Wilma, somewhat tongue in cheek, suggested the 'talismanic tartan' slip-ons had been their lucky charm.

She said: 'We bought them on an online auction site in the days

leading up to the Mòd - and the fact they were a matching pair seemed to work for us.'

'We didn't have as much practice as we should have, to be honest. So there was a wee bit of trepidation because the arrangement was very difficult.'

'It was my sister Mary Ann's arrangement and I asked her if it was okay to make a few alterations - but we didn't really know how complex it would be until we began to practice it. But it all came good in the end.'

Photographs from this year's Royal National Mòd at Dunoon are available from The Oban Times. Telephone 01631 568000

SHE WAS ELDERLY,  
LIVED ALONE...



...WE DID EVERYTHING  
WE COULD.

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS AT RISK FROM FIRE CALL OR TEXT US TODAY TO ARRANGE A FREE HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT FROM STRATHCLYDE FIRE & RESCUE JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST FIRE

CALL 0800 0731 999 TEXT 'CHECK' TO 61611

We are urging members of the public to become involved in making communities fire-safe by referring family members, friends or neighbours for FREE Home Fire Safety Visits



Anna Westwell from Leith Walk Primary won the juniors' intermediate clarsach competition, one piece prescribed, one own choice. 5nmod09p8pic08



Domhnaill-Iain MacLille Dhuinn, originally from the Isle of Tiree but now of Glasgow, won the FS Cameron-Head Memorial Trophy for fluent solo song. 5nmod07p8pic13



Katrina MacLean, from Mull, competed in The Oban Times' gold medal competition. epmod29p8pic12



Mull's Georgina Durie competed in the traditional gold medal competition. epmod30p8pic15



Gaelic-speaking policewoman Mary MacIntyre, from South Uist's sister, Sineag, is a double gold medal winner. epmod23p8pic11



Comhlan Luaidh Bhaideanach (Badenoch Waulking Group) are all smiles after winning the waulking song competition and the Harris Tweed Authority Trophy. ssmmod25



Brother and sister Mhairi and Calum Macleod from Edinburgh with the Carloway flag which was flown at the Mòd in Dunoon. While Calum was winning the gold medal for solo singing, sister Mhairi was conducting the Carloway choir made up of singers with strong Carloway connections. smp7lag



Avril Duncan of Lochs Gaelic Choir was presented with the Lorn Shield by Mary Ann Campbell of Caledonian MacBrayne after the choir won the rural choir competition by 12 marks. smp7lorn



Laura Penman, left, and Ceit Lamb of Bun Sgoil Cros na Cise won the clarsach duet. ssmmod46



Mull Gaelic Choir's trophy haul included The Grace Robertson Memorial Baton for the highest music mark in the Sheriff MacMaster Campbell Quach competition. epmmod40



Taynuilt Gaelic Choir will feature on European television after a Spanish film crew followed their progress at the Royal National Mòd last week. smp7film



Mikaela and Duncan Carmichael won the under-15 duet singing (fluent). The pair were representing James Gillespie's High School and Tollcross Primary in Edinburgh. Duncan also won his solo. Their family has Colonsay and Dunoon connections.



Còisir Sgìr a' Bhac with their Lorn Shield competition trophy haul. epmmod42



Melvich Gaelic Choir with conductor Raymond Bremner. epmmod37



Waulking song chairwoman Elma MacArthur of Tiree, now of Dunoon, and Louise Oehler from California, right, with Comhlan Luaidh Bhaideanach leader Sheila MacKay from Harris. ssmmod26



Inverness Gaelic Choir were third in the Lovat and Tullibardine and won the puirt-a-beul. epmmod47



Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir. epmmod52



Tarbert Ladies Gaelic Choir performed without a conductor. epmmod43



Còisir Ghàidhlig Thunga competed in the ladies' competition. ssmmod13



Còisir Sgìre Phort Rìgh (Portree Gaelic Choir), conducted by Karen Macrae, were placed fifth in the Margaret Duncan Memorial Trophy. ssmmod35



Còisir Dun Eideann (Edinburgh Gaelic Choir). ssmmod34

**WYNNE THE BUTCHERS**  
 4 Combie Street, Oban. Tel: 01631 567400  
 Email: darling.4@btinternet.com

Find us on our Facebook page at **Iain Darling Butchers trading as I Wynne & Sons**  
 Enquiries welcome for nationwide deliveries

**New Specialities**  
 Irm Bru Sausages, Also Haggis and Black Pudding Sausages.  
 We are now taking Christmas Orders  
 Contact Iain or Graham 01631 567400

**ALLAN R WRIGHT**  
**PIANO TUNER**

All types of work carried out, tuning, maintenance and valuations on pianos, harpsichords and small chamber organs.  
 Harpsichord hire also available  
 Quality friendly service - distance no object  
**Tel: 07970 443 456**

[www.obantimes.co.uk/digital](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/digital)

**Relax and enjoy**  
**Your local news from wherever you are.**

Frustrated in waiting for your Oban Times?  
 Our new E-Edition is delivered direct to your inbox on the day of publication.

- User friendly, professional page viewer
- 'Flip' through pages
- Zoom in and out
- Print pages
- Search

# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Oban must embrace Winter Festival

TRADITIONALLY a thriving tourist town, Oban could once upon a time graft through the summer, safe in the knowledge its efforts would see it through the quiet winter months.

However, this trend seems to be under threat with many businesses, especially those within the tourism sector, sharing perennial disappointment with the season's takings.

Last year's maiden Winter Festival was an unknown quantity. It sounded fun, but would it make a huge difference to the local economy?

Its impact astounded even the organisers; an extra £1m boost at a time when the town would otherwise be near hibernation.

Having demonstrated its value in the most emphatic way, it makes sense for Oban to get behind its fledgling festival and encourage the continued development of this early Christmas gift.

## Dunoon sets the Mod standard

A WELL-run Royal National Mod usually goes unnoticed; a disorganised event always attracts more comment.

Dunoon has been there and done it, of course, but its experience told, as it quietly went about running the potentially chaotic mix of competitions. Paisley has a hard act to follow.

## GLASGOW LETTER

### Glasgow at the Mod

WITH success in the senior piping competitions and the accordion competitions for youngsters on the first competitive day of this year's Royal National Mod, the scene was set for all the competitors from the Glasgow area for the rest of the event.

The growth of Sgoil Ghaidhlig Glaschu has resulted in increasing numbers participating and appearing amongst the prizewinners. Bun-sgoil Chondobhrait was also represented, with particular success in the oral competitions, and there was also a first appearance at this level for Bun-sgoil Bheinn Chamshroin, from East Kilbride.

In the choral competitions, Falkirk Junior Gaelic Choir was placed first in its two-part harmony competition with Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir Juniors taking second place in the Puirt-a-Beul competition for under 19s.

Outwith the Gaelic education system, there was much success for the Callan family, pupils at the High School of Glasgow. As in recent years, there was also success for Glasgow in the senior competitions. Jennifer Campbell, a member of Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir, won the Silver Pendant for learners and Eilidh Davies, from Invergarry and a member of the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association, won the Ladies' Gold Medal.

Alex MacDonald, from North Lanarkshire, won the Traditional Gold Medal with Alison Buchanan from Glasgow coming second in the same competition for ladies. Eilidh Munro, from Glasgow won the solo clarsach, a recitation and the puirt-a-beul and Donald Iain Brown won the Oran Mor.

The quartet from Cumbernauld Gaelic Choir were also winners. In the choral competitions, the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association won the overall trophy for Gaelic and came second in the Lovat and Tullibardine having earlier in the day been second in the men's and Puirt-a-Beul competition.

In the ladies' event Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir was placed third.

**Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association**  
THE GLASGOW Lewis and Harris Association will get the gathering season underway at its usual venue - the Woodside Halls, near St George's Cross - on Friday November 2 at 7.30pm.

An excellent programme has been arranged featuring singers Kathleen MacInnes, Joan Morrison, Darren

MacLean and Calum Alex Macmillan, accordionist Charlie Kirkpatrick and the association pipers.

Well-known singer Margaret I Macleod will be in the chair and will be the principal guest at the dinner which will be held in the Pond Hotel the previous evening.

Please note the dance after the concert will be held this year in Queen Margaret Student Union, 22 University Gardens, from 10pm-2am and not in the Glasgow University Union as in the past.

Admission for the concert and dance will be £10 each.

### Post Mod ceilidh

THE POST Mod Ceilidh featuring the three Glasgow Gaelic choirs will take place in Hillhead Sports Club this coming Monday, October 29, at 7.30pm.

### Glenfiddich Championships

IT WILL be possible this year, on Saturday October 27, to listen to the Glenfiddich Solo Piping Championships from the comfort of your own home online via the National Piping Centre's website from 10am.

Simply visit the website [www.thepipingcentre.co.uk/livestream](http://www.thepipingcentre.co.uk/livestream) and enter your details to receive your unique password for access.

### Diary dates

**Thursday October 25:** Paisley's National Festival: The Spree, Karen Matheson with Dick Gaughan, Paisley Abbey, 7.30pm. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Wizz Jones.

**Friday October 26:** Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Ceilidh Dance, Crawford Hall, 9pm to 1am.

**Saturday October 27:** Glasgow Skye Association Marag Supper, Crawford Hall, 7.30pm. Mairi Morrison and Alasdair Roberts, Paisley Art's Centre, 8pm.

**Sunday October 28:** Danny Kyle at the Spree featuring Breabach and other Award winners, Spiegeltent.

**Monday October 29:** Post Mod Ceilidh - see above.

**Thursday November 1:** Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Annual Dinner, Pond Hotel, 7.15pm to 7.30pm. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Pilgrim's Way.

**Friday November 2:** Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Annual Concert and Dance - see above.

### Pub scene

MUSIC in the Islay Inn this weekend will be provided by the Keelies on Friday and Trail West on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be Eriskay Lilt on Friday, Monach Isles on Saturday and Willie Cameron/Martin Pottinger on Sunday.

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

## YOUR LETTERS

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

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

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

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

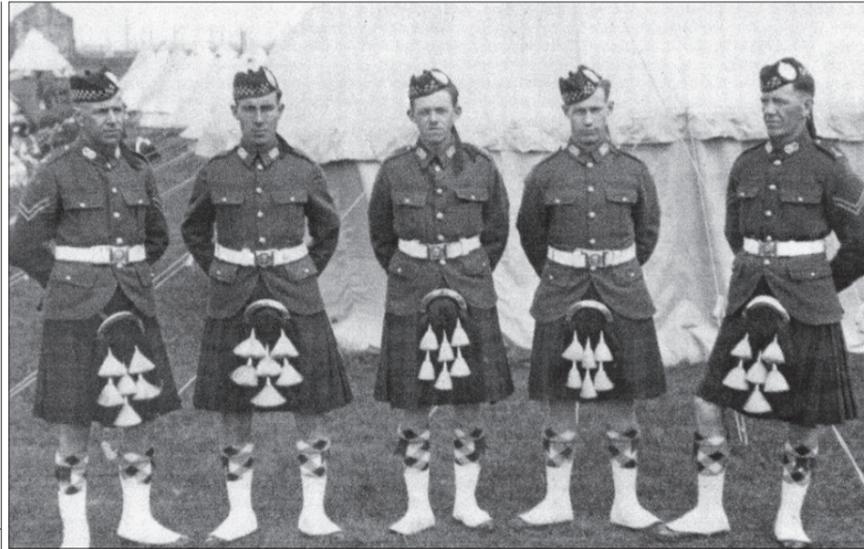
## PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

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



## Ballachulish members of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

This week's flashback photograph features five Ballachulish men who were members of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in days gone by. It was submitted by Ian MacKenzie of Ballachulish. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk). Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

## Letters to the editor

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB  
email: [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

Telephone: 01631 568000  
Fax: 01631 568001

### Police action on drug offenders to be commended

Sir, We would like, through the pages of *The Oban Times*, to publicly commend the efficient and positive actions of chief inspector Brian Auld and his staff for their recent arrests leading to convictions of drug offenders.

Drug use is endemic in our society and it is only through the commitment and dedication of local police officers that the streets of Oban and the surrounding areas are safer places to live.

These convictions send out a clear message that the people of Oban, Lorn and the Isles will not tolerate drug dealing and violence in our communities.

**Councillors Roddy McCuish and Mary Jean Devon, Oban South and the Isles.**

### Rapid response praised

Sir, On discovering our unlocked detached garage had been burgled, we duly called at Oban Police Office and reported our loss to a pleasant duty officer who took details, and promised his colleagues would be out to our address to view the crime scene and make a list of stolen items.

My wife and I drove straight home and to our surprise, a police van, complete with two constables was parked in our driveway. What service! After listing the stolen items the constables told us a fingerprint team would be calling next day, and left.

At 1.50am our telephone rang and Oban Police Office told us they had apprehended a suspect and that items we had described were there to be identified. At that time of the morning we were loathe to leave the house, so the items were duly delivered to our door, and by 2.30am 90 per cent of the stolen property, including a £200 petrol strimmer, was back with us.

Praise indeed to Oban Police. Many thanks again and, yes, the door is now locked.

**Richard E A Bingham, name and address supplied.**

### BID good news for town

Sir, With regard to Councillor Clark's letter of Thursday October 18 'Councillors must speak out' I am disappointed, but not surprised, that Councillor Clark - of the vote to close Invernevis House and then march at the front of the keep it open campaign fame - has tried to land a cheap shot, a blow under the belt to his real Independent colleagues.

Unfortunately for Councillor Hunter and myself, Councillor Clark must have been having a quiet week when he had time to issue this letter.

I did not realise that the press was his chosen method of communication. I will leave councillor Hunter, who is unavailable and will still be, when the Power Storage Project is considered, to speak for himself.

Contrary to Councillor Clark's statement, I have taken a local member vote on this huge issue and in fact argued successfully that Highland Licensing Board change the date of the next meeting to accommodate me.

get drenched by traffic splash opposite Argyll Mansions or at the pelican crossing after it rains? Could we give pavements back to pedestrians and move litter bins onto parking bays? Could we increase the number of hanging flower-baskets? And increase litter removal?

We residents will watch with interest what impact Oban BID has on the town in which we have already invested and which we hope will continue to be successful in attracting both visitors and residents.

**Ian Reid, Oban.**

### Plastic Gaelic

Sir, I recently saw the speech at the Dunoon Mod from Argyll MP Mike Russell about Gaelic, 'Use it or Lose it' and all its propaganda.

Gaelic these days is abused and not that well spoken grammatically or otherwise.

The language in the past 30-odd years has been hi-jacked by academics and media and is now mostly used as a plaything - without doubt very far removed from the grass roots and native speaker with the correct culture and grammar.

I'm afraid it's all propaganda and for the sake of education-type quangos, where many have made secure employment out of its manipulation.

Sadly I do not see it surviving and if it does survive it will be a mongrel, a grammatically incorrect 'plastic Gaelic'.

It's so sad for me and other real and true Gaelic speakers, who incidentally do not go near a Mod, to see such abuse and manipulation of our heritage.

**Angus Campbell, Garrynamonie, Isle of South Uist.**

### The Oban Times

Sir, In my younger days in Argyll we always had to specify 'The London Times' to the newsagent.

Otherwise we got *The Oban Times*, a newspaper with a remarkably high circulation among the West Highland diaspora.

**Ian Tegner, Kilniver, Argyll.**

### Cheap shot at council colleagues

Sir, With regard to Councillor Clark's letter of Thursday October 18 'Councillors must speak out' I am disappointed, but not surprised, that Councillor Clark - of the vote to close Invernevis House and then march at the front of the keep it open campaign fame - has tried to land a cheap shot, a blow under the belt to his real Independent colleagues.

Unfortunately for Councillor Hunter and myself, Councillor Clark must have been having a quiet week when he had time to issue this letter.

I did not realise that the press was his chosen method of communication. I will leave councillor Hunter, who is unavailable and will still be, when the Power Storage Project is considered, to speak for himself.

Contrary to Councillor Clark's statement, I have taken a local member vote on this huge issue and in fact argued successfully that Highland Licensing Board change the date of the next meeting to accommodate me.

Councillor Clark forgets that he previously made sure that I was not on the planning committee, hence I am the Licensing Board Member.

This does still allow me a local member's vote on planning matters, but unfortunately I was otherwise engaged on August 21, on other council business, when the Birchwood planning application was discussed.

As Councillor Clark was on the planning committee, this was not a problem, as I trusted him implicitly, to fairly and honestly represent the views of the local residents.

He is well aware I have a completely different remit to him within the council, with me being involved in business, tourism and transport for the whole area.

Last week, for instance, I was at four meetings that Councillor Clark could have been at, but was not. I did not consider that a big deal. It is not possible to cover all the council committees.

**Allan Henderson, Councillor Caol & Mallaig (Ward 12)**

### Growing island support for 'unbundling'

Sir, Mr Crow should read letters more carefully.

The imbecilic union leaders I referred to were those who destroyed their unions and sometimes their industries; offhand I could name four. The German union leader I admire is President of IG Metall which has 30 times the RMT's membership.

The RMT has about 80,000 members all told, including a few thousand seafarers.

Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) is, I'm told, the largest single employer of them. This, I think, is why he is so sensitive about the possibility of competition on part of CalMac's network: he fears RMT seafarer members will become extinct and his union would be diminished thereby.

No-one is proposing seafarers' pay or pensions should be reduced, though we would like to see the more than 90 per cent who live elsewhere re-locate and become respected and well paid members of island and adjacent mainland communities.

At present about 40 per cent of the subsidy paid by the Scottish Government to maintain our ferry services disappears outside our area as absentee wages.

I have attended many ferry meetings in the past few years, none remotely like his description.

The 600 written responses to the consultation showed an almost even balance on 'unbundling' but 80 per cent of them accepted changes were necessary.

It is noteworthy that he is careless with figures.

The west coast rail mainline fiasco is expected by the *Financial Times* to cost the taxpayer rather more than £40m, not several hundred £m as he alleges. The overall subsidy to the rail network cost the taxpayer £4.6 billion in 2009-2010, so, though I hope people will be fired for carelessness, it is relatively a small amount, well under two per cent.

From telephone calls I have received I judge that his letters have increased island support for 'unbundling' and that many

people share my annoyance that his behaviour has humiliated an elected Government. The abuse of power by anyone, whether it be Rupert Murdoch, Charles Windsor or Bob Crow is unacceptable.

**James Knight, Craignure, Isle of Mull.**

### Remembrance Sunday Oban parade

Sir, The Oban branch of Royal British Legion Scotland (RBLs) will once again be hosting the Remembrance Service Parade, on Sunday November 11.

*HMS Middleton* is expected to arrive in Oban on November 9 and we are pleased to announce some members of the crew will be joining the parade.

All organisations and individuals who wish to attend will be most welcome.

There will be buses available to transport those unable to march to the war memorial and anyone who wishes to take advantage of this should gather at the Corran Halls for 10am.

All groups and members of the public who wish to take part in the parade must assemble at the Corran Halls by 10.15am. The parade will march off for 10.30am.

Observation of the two-minute silence, a short service led by the RBLs local chaplain and the laying of the wreaths will take place at the war memorial.

The parade will return to the Corran Halls giving a General Salute to the Lord Lieutenant's Deputy and Company of *HMS Middleton*, stopping at the 51HD Cairn where the Colour Party will take up positions and hold a short wreath laying by RBLs Oban branch. The parade will then continue to the car park for dismissal.

The colour party and wreath layers will then proceed to Ganavan Sands to pay respect to the memorial cairn there.

Anyone wishing more information should contact parade organiser Ian Blair-Simmonds on 01631 570421.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

**Lesley Blair-Simmonds, chairman of Oban RBLs.**

### Take care of pets during fireworks festivities

Sir, Fireworks festivities are set to go off with a bang over the next few weeks.

While this signals fun for people, a recent Dogs Trust survey revealed that 72 per cent of pet dogs are frightened of fireworks. If you're organising a local fireworks display please consider your neighbour's pets. A bit of forward planning can go a long way to make life less stressful for pets at this time of year.

For advice on how to make fireworks season less of an ordeal for your dog visit [www.dogstrust.org.uk/az/fireworks/](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk/az/fireworks/) or please come along to Dogs Trust West Calder's firework talk on Saturday October 27 at 2pm at the Rehoming Centre in Bentyhead, West Calder.

Entry is free and refreshments will be provided.  
**Julie Morrison, Dogs Trust, Training and Behaviour Advisor.**

## Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

FAD ÙINE Mhòr, nuair a bhiodh am Mòd Nàiseanta seachad 's gann a bhiodh guth ga chluinntinn mun Ghàidhlig feadh nam meadhanan chun an t-èideadh an ath Mhòd.

Tha mi a' creidsinn gun robh mòran de mhuinntir coimhearsnachd na Gàidhlig, luchd-frith-ealaidh Mhòdan agus eile, a bha glè chofhurtail sa bheachd gun robh a' Ghàidhlig sàbhailte am measg sluaigh a cuid coimhearsnachd agus nach b' eagal dhi fhad 's a bha a' choimhearsnachd sin ann.

Bha feadhainn eile a' frithealadh Mhòdan aig nach robh an cànan agus aig nach robh ùidh sam bith a h-ionnsachadh. Chithear cuid dhiubh sin na lùib fhathast agus tha e cudromach aithneachadh gum bheil mòran dhaoine aig nach eil an cànan air uabhas a chur ri leasachadh na Gàidhlig, agus tha sinn fada nan comain airson sin.

Ach tha saoghal na Gàidhlig air atharrachadh agus tha buaidh aig an atharrachadh sin air Mòdan mar a th' aige air iomadh raon eile anns am bheil an cànan a' nochdadh. Tha inbhe na Gàidhlig nas àirde na bha e fad iomadh linn agus tha luach ga chur air comas anns a' chànan mar nach fhacas riamh roimhe. Mar a bhiodh dùil, cluinnear agus chithear toradh foghlaim tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig aig Mòdan, ach tha sin cuideachd a-nise ri fhacinn ann an saoghal gnìomhachais de gach seòrsa is aise ga thoirt dhan luach mhalairteach a dh'fhaodas a bhith aig a' chànan.

Dealbh mhisneachail ma-thà, ach chan eil sin na dhearbhadh sam bith air tèarainteachd dhan Ghàidhlig. Ann am beagan mhiosan, tha còir gun nochd fiosrachadh à Cunntas Sluaigh 2011 agus bidh luchd-taice is iomairt na Gàidhlig air bhioran le dòchas gun nochd tionndadh ann an àireamhan luchd-cleachdaidh a' chànan. Bidh e fìor mhath ma 's ann mar sin a bhios ach cha bhì fhì 's naidheachd air fàs den t-seòrsa sin na dhearbhadh gum mair an cànan beò.

Tha slighe fhada eadar far am bheil sinn an-dràsta agus rud ris an canamaid suidheachadh làidir, far am bheil clann ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig bhon cuid phàrantan agus i mar sin a' ruith gu nàdarra bho linn gu linn. Tha iomadhach dùbhan roimhe thuige sin, ach mar a thathas ag ràdh cho tric, 's e fear de na ciad ceumannan agus fear den fheadhainn as cudromaiche a th' ann, 's e a bhith ga cleachadh anns a h-uile suidheachadh agus cho tric 's a ghabhas!

Cha chluinnear cànan far nach fhaicear sluaigh! 'S iomadh adhbhar a th' againn a bhith moiteil às ar cuid cànan is dualchas agus nach bu mthach an t-amas dhuinn uile leigeil leis an t-saoghal cluinntinn gum bheil e againn!

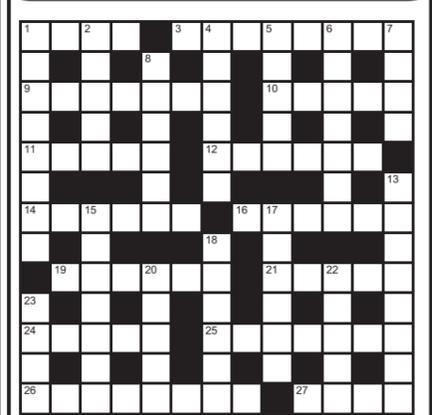
GAELIC supporters will be hoping that the 2011 census might prove that the language erosion has been halted and that user numbers are growing.

Even if such good news does appear, Gaelic still has a long way to go to become self-sustaining again.

One critical requirement is to use the language wherever and whenever possible.

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

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- Fashionable show (4)
  - Nasty (8)
  - Destitute (4-3)
  - Avoid (5)
  - Change, as a clock (5)
  - Beneath the skin (6)
  - Devoid of people (6)
  - Cloth with a diamond shaped pattern (6)
  - Drink dispensers (6)
  - Urchin (5)
  - Israeli port (5)
  - Hopefully comes after a fight! (7)
  - Usually (8)
  - Lose hair (4)

- Down**
- Understandable (8)
  - Exists (5)
  - Stew with pastry (6)
  - Age before adulthood (5)
  - Metalworks (7)
  - Bad look (4)
  - Married (6)
  - Showing tears (4-4)
  - Entrance to the church? (7)
  - Belt (6)
  - Lash out at (6)
  - Adult insect (5)
  - Spike of a comb (5)
  - Stylish (4)

Last week's solution

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

**A830 update**

TRANSPORT Scotland will update the public on improvements to the A830 at a briefing in the Astley Hall in Arisaig tomorrow at 6.30pm. Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson, who arranged the event, encouraged 'as many people as possible' to attend. He said: 'At the previous meeting in November 2011, Transport Scotland committed to providing the community with an update and will be reporting on investigations carried out since last year.'

**BaseCamp shuts up shop**

A BIKE rental shop and café at a Laggan mountain biking centre is to shut next week after eight years in business.

BaseCamp, located at Wolftrax in Strathmashe Forest, will close its doors after owners Lindsay and Gail Carruthers said Laggan Forest Trust's (LFT) plans to create a new forest centre nearby would leave their business untenable.

But contrary to some press reports, the Forestry Commission-run Wolftrax will not close and a new business will be sought to take over the vacated premises.

LFT development manager Robin Jackson told *The Oban Times* he was 'surprised and disappointed' to hear BaseCamp was closing and said they would have been invited to apply to run any new bike rental shop. He said: 'There is no intention of closing Wolftrax, in fact it is going from strength to strength. The Forestry Commission will be looking to advertise for someone to take over as a franchise.'

**Taste of Benbecula in Italy**

BENBECULA oatcakes and shortbread are among traditional foods of the machair being showcased at an international congress in Italy opening today.

Hebridean weaving from Ardanish Mill in Mull and sheaves of landrace cereals still grown on Uist also feature at the five-day Salone del Gusto and Terra Madre in Turin.

More than 200,000 people are expected to attend the event.

**NEWSDESK**  
01631 568000



**Robert hits the high notes in Mòd silver medal**

Singer Robert Robertson's star continues to rise as he dominated the men's silver medal competition at the Royal National Mòd in Dunoon last week. The 18-year-old from Fort William was the clear winner by 20 marks ahead of Lawrence Butler-Perks from London after winning both qualifying competitions and the final. After winning the final last Wednesday night, Robert celebrated in McClure's Bar where he performed an impromptu gig with *Gunna Sound*. See full Mòd coverage pages 5 to 9. [epmod32](#)

**Patient safety group speaks out over pensioner's painful hospital death**

A GROUP of NHS professionals pledged to 'whistleblow' on patient safety issues has expressed its condolences to a Skye family whose sister died in Broadford's MacKinnon Memorial Hospital.

Patients First Scotland (PFS) spoke out after *The Oban Times* revealed how 87-year-old Joan Maclean died in agony from a perforated bowel after medicines diagnosed severe constipation too late.

NHS Highland changed their procedures following a complaint from Miss Maclean's distraught brother Murdo, 85, and sister Charlotte, 84, who lived with Joan in Carbost.

PFS, through a health professional member in the Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT**

by STEPHEN NORRIS

[snorris@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:snorris@obantimes.co.uk)

area, said: 'Patients First Scotland would ask *The Oban Times* to extend sincere condolences and emotional support to Joan Maclean's family following her unnecessary suffering and death on March 20 this year in Broadford hospital due to system failures in the NHS. It was a failure of basic nursing care.'

'Patients First applauds Charlotte and Murdo Maclean for having the courage to whistleblow the story to *The Oban Times*.

'This brave act was undertaken at a time when they were both still grieving the sudden loss

of their dear sister, an elderly lady admitted to hospital with infected swollen legs.

'The question remains as to why they had to go to *The Oban Times* when this matter should have been resolved in the hospital when the family first raised their concerns on behalf of their sister.

'This poor lady died inappropriately of constipation brought on by high level of constipating-making pain relief medication with aperients only administered after it was too late to save her life.

'The bravery of Mr Maclean to speak out openly from his home on Skye needs recognition since it highlights the fact that relatives of patients have nothing to lose, and as Murdo stated he

was 'glad I did because it might help some other poor soul'.

'Unfortunately doctors and nurses are unable to speak up and raise concerns so freely since they risk bullying and subsequently having their careers and personal lives trashed if they do raise concerns over unmanageable workloads and grossly understaffed hospitals and many other patient safety issues too numerous to mention. This is because the NHS investigation system is not supporting staff who raise genuine concerns over patient safety issues.'

Patients First states its purpose is to reduce death and harm in the NHS by campaigning to ensure the NHS becomes 'open and accountable'.

**A82 recovery shake-up in pipeline**

New standards being considered to ensure road closure delays are kept to a minimum

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT**

by STEPHEN NORRIS

[snorris@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:snorris@obantimes.co.uk)

Transport minister Keith Brown told Fort William Chamber of Commerce (FWCC) prolonged road closures following accidents was a 'bugbear' - and hinted new standards could be brought in to ensure delays were kept to a minimum.

Tuesday's conference in West Highland College followed an *Oban Times* exposé of last Monday's traffic mayhem north of Fort William, which saw the A82 shut by a lorry fire for 10 hours and a bus crash on the diversion route.

Addressing Mr Brown via video-link, FWCC transport spokesperson Stewart MacLean said 'questions must be asked' on why A82 recovery operations were taking so long.

And Ballachulish recovery firm boss Mike Chisholm branded the handling of last Monday's A82 incident as 'catastrophic'.

He told Mr Brown: 'All fire engines left around 10am at which time I would have said a risk assessment should have taken place. The trailer should have been removed and the site made safe.'

'Looking at the scene, the

job could have been done in two hours, apart from putting the traffic lights up. There are other resources out there that are simply not getting used.'

Mr Chisholm was tasked to pull out the bus on the B8004 diversion but said police ordered him to stand down until the A82 was re-opened. After five hours, without instruction, he decided to recover the coach at 3pm.

He said: 'I broke the rules and took the coach away in 18 minutes. The police were not too happy with me.'

Mr Brown accepted problems existed - and hinted Scotland's single national police from next April could prompt big changes.

He said: 'There are particular aspects of this that give me cause for concern. This is a real bugbear for me.'

'Transport Scotland, the justice minister [Kenny MacAskill] and police are looking at this. This is the time to effect the changes they will want to see and I want to see as well.'

'Part of that is making sure local resources are used - and if they are the most appropriate resources that's what should

be used. We can't have road closures and economic activity stopped because of that.'

He added: 'A prolonged incident like this which does not involve a fatality clearly raises questions in my mind.'

'I see the move to a single police force as an opportunity to look into this, perhaps having performance standards for getting roads open again.'

'It is the police who have the right to close the road and also the responsibility for the contracts for recovery.'

Speaking after the meeting, Mr Chisholm told *The Oban Times*: 'I think there needs to be serious changes in the way the vehicle recovery contractors are managed.'

'I think the whole thing should be managed in house by Transport Scotland, rather than by third party venture capitalist companies who are only there for the coin.'

'Only then would there be more transparency.'

Mr MacLean added: 'I think the meeting was very constructive and the minister gave reassurances on a number of points. When he can talk in detail about incidents it shows he is going to do something about it.'

More on the conference in next week's *Oban Times*.

**Disappointment expressed as two MSPs resign from SNP**

SKYE, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson has expressed his disappointment after two Highland MSPs resigned from the SNP.

John Finnie and Jean Urquhart took their decision after the party ended its long-standing opposition to North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) at its autumn conference in Perth last weekend.

Mr Thompson told *The Oban Times* he understood Mr Finnie and Ms Urquhart's decision but had no plans to follow their lead. He said: 'I'm disappointed they've chosen to resign from the SNP over this issue, but it is an issue people hold very strong views about.'

'Personally I was against the change in our policy and campaigned very strongly against it.'

'The conference debate was excellent and showed democracy clearly at work. At the end of the arguments a vote was taken, a decision was made and I'm going to work now to secure and build on the guarantees we were given during the debate.'

The SNP's stance for the last 30 years has been to oppose NATO, the defence alliance involving the US, UK and other countries.

**Flexible Bonds with access to your money**

Our 18 month Flexible Bond gives you access to up to 30% of your money during the life of the bond.

<b>2.35%</b> AER/Gross p.a. (Deposits of £1 to £49,999)	<b>2.55%</b> AER/Gross p.a. (Deposits of £50,000 to £99,999)	<b>2.75%</b> AER/Gross p.a. (Deposits of £100,000 to £1m)
---	--	---

Visit us in branch, at [barclays.co.uk/flexible](http://barclays.co.uk/flexible) or call 0845 3010 346



18 month Flexible Bond Issue 15 gives you 3 withdrawals of up to 10% each time and is a limited offer which may be withdrawn at any time. Rates featured are for interest paid at the end of the 18 month term. Monthly interest option also available. Rates are fixed for the term of the Bond, but the amount of interest you receive will depend on the number and size of the withdrawals you make, and withdrawals may take you into a lower tier. Additional deposits are not allowed. Rates correct at time of going to press 10/10/2012. AER (Annual Equivalent Rate) illustrates what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and compounded once each year. Gross means the rate of interest payable before income tax is deducted. Interest can be payable without the deduction of income tax to UK non-taxpayers subject to required certification. Otherwise, income tax will be deducted at the basic rate. Available to UK residents aged 18 years or over. For BT residential customers, calls will cost no more than 4.5p per minute, plus 13.1p call set-up fee (current at Sept 2012). The price on non-BT phone lines may be different. Calls may be monitored or recorded for security and training purpose.

# care in the community

HAVING limited mobility doesn't mean you can't still be active or get out and about. In fact, quite the contrary.

There are numerous groups, clubs and activities throughout the west highlands that cater for people with limited mobility; each of which can cater for any number of needs.

For the basics of just getting about, there are various companies that can provide high quality mobility aids again suitable for all kinds of needs. Whether you just want a high quality walking stick to a top-of-the-range mobility scooter, you can find what you're after with little difficulty.

These aids will not only help you get around a lot easier, but ensure you retain your independence to get around as you please.

Sometimes there is a nervousness or trepidation to moving to such equipment but once used, you'll wonder why you ever resisted.

Getting about sometimes means going further afield and that can mean a car. Thankfully, local garages can offer motability vehicles, fitted out to suit your exact needs. Not only will they help you get from town to town, but you can ensure maximum comfort for you and your passengers.

It's not always easy to pop a mobility scooter in the back of a car though, so look for Shopmobility sites when making shopping trips to ensure a smooth ride throughout.

Away from the basics, there are plenty of groups out there who can help even those with limited mobility enjoy active past-times. Most people are now familiar with the Riding for the Disabled (RDA) movement. These voluntary groups are growing in popularity thanks to the unique experience they offer.

Not only do participants get to learn new skills, they build a rapport with the animals and with everyone else there. Not just an activity, the RDA offers a real social occasion that provides a fun experience for both the riders and the volunteers.

If you're not keen on riding a horse itself, don't worry, RDA driving schools are also available, meaning you can take charge of a horse from the comfort of a carriage. Either way, it provides a healthy and fun experience.

Numerous outdoor activity groups also provide experiences tailored for people with limited mobility, with everything from abseiling to kayaking and archery on offer. Each organisation offers different activities,

so it is best to check with them directly to see if they cater for your own specific needs.

Carers are not neglected either, with many outdoor activities groups arranging specific training days or camps to provide respite from caring duties – as well as an experience to remember.

So regardless of your situation there is always an opportunity to get out and about – and it doesn't have to be a chore. Look and see how our local businesses, charities and organisations can help you live life to the full.

### Lochaber Women's Aid

We believe that women have the right to live without fear of violence and abuse. We aim to relieve the suffering and distress of women, children and young people who are experiencing or have experienced domestic abuse and to improve their lives, allowing them to regain their self-respect and rebuild their lives.

Through 1-2-1 support and group work sessions the experienced staff of Lochaber Women's Aid can help you rebuild your self-esteem and confidence. We can offer help with emotional, legal, financial and housing support issues caused by domestic abuse and help you plan for a safer future. Don't feel isolated or threatened, contact Lochaber Women's Aid.

We can meet you at home, at our offices on Belford Road or at any convenient place which suits.



If you're worried about what's happening to you or a parent you can contact us for confidential support and advice.

### North Argyll House

We are an independent residential Care Home for the elderly, whose aim is to provide the highest standard of care in a comfortable, homely and secure environment. Our skilled and qualified staff specialise with Dementia, Parkinson's Disease, and Visual impairment care. The home offers a range of facilities to make our residents feel at home and give you peace of mind. We also provide Respite care to give relatives/carers a much needed rest or break. Please contact us for more information.

### Marion Brown Psychotherapist

THE HUMAN GIVENS APPROACH to Health and Wellbeing

Our essential physical and emotional needs and our innate resources – the 'givens' of human nature – are at the heart of the human givens approach. If our innate needs are not met we can suffer from disabling conditions such as: sleep problems, anxiety, depression, addictions, phobias, obsessions, anger, panic attacks, etc. The brain has an essential primitive alarm system designed to keep us safe. When people suffer from the above conditions it is usually because the

alarm system has gone into overdrive.

Human givens practitioners can show people how to bring arousal and harmful stress levels down and use imagination positively to rehearse successful outcomes instead of bad ones. People can be helped, quickly and painlessly, to overcome phobias, panic attacks and traumatic memories – and, most importantly, to discover ways to meet their emotional needs effectively. Further information can be found at [www.hgi.org.uk](http://www.hgi.org.uk)

### Lochaber Hope

Lochaber Hope Employment Assisted Programme (EAP) is a provision for local employers to be able to offer staff members face to face counselling. Counselling for employees can help 'nip problems in the bud' and stop them escalating into long term absences as feelings of isolation, depression and anxiety about going back to work often proving more debilitating than the original reason for absence. This year CIPD research identified stress as the number one cause of long-term sickness absence for the second year.

More employers are recognising that sickness management is vital for success and are taking a proactive approach which includes early access to services.

"The vital role of line managers within wellbeing strategies cannot be disputed. Early detection of health issues and ensuring the correct support is in place helps people stay in or return to work." CIPD Oct 2012

For information on Counselling for Employees contact alyson.smith@lochaberhope.org.uk or tel 01397 705077 visit [www.lochaberhope.org.uk](http://www.lochaberhope.org.uk) for information on Lochaber Hope Services.

### Encompass

What does Encompass do: We help residents of Argyll & Bute who are experiencing problems due to their own or someone else's drinking or use of drugs.

What does this mean for me? We provide a counselling service to individuals affected by drink and/or drugs. You may not necessarily have a problem yourself, but maybe someone close to you does – perhaps your partner, child,

or close friend? We can also provide you with lots of useful information and other support services.

Whatever we do for you it will cost you nothing and will be strictly confidential. All our counsellors are trained to COSCA standards and their work is supervised by our qualified practice supervisors.

Home support: Where appropriate home support can be provided (again at no cost) to assist people experiencing problems from alcohol and drug issues to maintain their tenancy and address the practical needs of their everyday lives.

### Oban Healing Rooms

Oban Healing Rooms reopens on Friday 26th October 11am-1pm in a new venue – the Pipe Band Hall on Shore Street. What's a Healing Room? It's simply a private place where anyone can come to receive healing prayer for any condition, physical, emotional or spiritual. It's free and no appointment is necessary. When someone visits they can expect a warm welcome in a reception area where they will be made to feel comfortable

and be offered refreshments. After completing a simple form detailing their prayer need, they are invited into a private room where they receive prayer from a team of two or three people. It's completely confidential and pressure-free. People are encouraged to return for further prayer or to report any healing that has taken place. Everyone is welcome!

### Crossroads

Personal Planning is undertaken with the client(s) in order that the 'Care Plan', developed for every client, is personal to them securing the safety, independence and dignity of all clients. This Plan may be reviewed and adjusted at any time to suit changing circumstances or needs.

Our Management team are friendly and experienced having many years service in social care between them. Our Care staff is trained to the highest standard and PVG Disclosure Checks carried out on every member of staff.

**Psychotherapy**

- Group Analytic Psychotherapy
- Individual Psychotherapy
- Trauma Counselling
- Clinical Supervision
- Staff support and process groups

Liz McLure  
MSc, M. Inst.GA, MBACP, MSHR, UKCP reg  
Phone: 0795 220 6084  
[www.liz-mclure-psychotherapy.co.uk](http://www.liz-mclure-psychotherapy.co.uk)  
info@liz-mclure-psychotherapy.co.uk

**Lochaber Hope**

Lochaber Hope is a life skills, personal development and recovery project, open to the whole community. Support is available through confidential counselling, mentoring, employment programmes, personal development courses and drop in.

To find out more call Alyson or Scott on 01397 705077 or email [reception@lochaberhope.org.uk](mailto:reception@lochaberhope.org.uk) or [www.lochaberhope.org.uk](http://www.lochaberhope.org.uk)

Call in to see us above the Hub cafe, 30 Fassfern Road, Fort William PH33 6QX

**Coffee Corner**

Argyll Square, Oban

**Winter Opening from November**  
Tuesday - Saturday

**ROBIN'S NEST TEA ROOM**

Main Street, Taynuilt

**Winter Opening Hours from 28/10/12**  
Thursday - Sunday 10.00am - 4.30pm

**RELATIONSHIPS SCOTLAND**

Couple Counselling Argyll

We give professional relationship counselling to couples & individuals experiencing difficulties with a close personal relationship.

OBAN, LOCHGILPHEAD, DUNOON & ROTHESAY.  
& Telephone Counselling  
call us on 01631 563297  
[www.argyllcouplecounselling.org](http://www.argyllcouplecounselling.org)

Couple Counselling Argyll  
the operating name of Argyll Couple Counselling  
Charity: SC023995 Reg. Co-SC359930

**Encompass Counselling & Support**

Encompass - Alcohol and Drugs Counselling and Advisory Service

We offer a free service assisting people who are experiencing problems because of their own or someone else's drinking and/or use of drugs - contact 01631 566090 for more information

Market Street Centre, Oban, Argyll  
Tel: 01631 566090  
[www.encompass-argyll.org.uk](http://www.encompass-argyll.org.uk)

ECS Oban Market St Centre Market St 01631 566090  
ECS Mid Argyll 45 Drovers St Ardrossburgh 01546 602880  
ECS Mid Custom House Main St Bunnah 01496 301455  
ECS Bute 26 Bishop St Rattray 01700 505855

**North Argyll House**

Bealach an Rìgh, Oban

North Argyll House care home for older people has been established in Oban since 1955 and is a non profit making organisation. Our aim is to provide the highest standard of care in a comfortable, homely and secure environment.

We are dedicated to person centred care taking account of personal choices and abilities.

We are registered with the Care Inspectorate and Local Authority.

North Argyll House, Bealach-An-Rìgh, Oban, PA34 5TG  
01631 562168

**Bossards**

patisserie & coffee shop

Winter Opening Hours from November  
Mon-Fri 9.00am-4.00pm  
Sat 9.00am-5.00pm  
Supporting the Community

**OBAN HEALING ROOMS**

Open every Friday 11am-1pm in Oban Pipe Band Hall Shore Street Oban



**If you or someone you know is being abused**

Don't be Scared Tell Someone

**Lochaber Women's Aid**

offer confidential, sensitive support and advice to women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse

We have specialist workers who will understand your concerns and help you

Contact us on: 01397 705734  
3 Belford Road, Fort William, PH33 6BT  
E-mail: [lwa@lochaberwomensaid.org](mailto:lwa@lochaberwomensaid.org)

A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee  
Registered in Scotland No: SC330605  
Scottish Charity Number SC034484



**Argyll & Bute CARE & REPAIR**

If you are over 60 and/or disabled you could benefit from this service.

- Free independent confidential advice and assistance on repairing, improving and adapting your home.
- Small repairs such as changing lightbulbs, installing security chains, changing smoke alarm batteries free of charge.
- For a small charge minor repairs such as easing doors and windows, flatpack assembly, fitting shelves, etc.

For more information please contact  
120 George Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5NT  
Tel: 01631 567780 Fax: 01631 567486  
Scottish Charity No SC033875

**Marion Brown**

BSc MBA Chartered MCIPD HG.Dip.P

**HUMAN GIVENS PSYCHOTHERAPIST**

MARION BROWN is a fully qualified and registered Human Givens Psychotherapist offering effective and practical help with: Depression, Anger, Addiction, Anxiety, Sleep problems, Relationship difficulties, Obsessions, Trauma (including Post-Traumatic Stress, Phobias and more

For further information or to make an appointment contact:  
**Marion Brown**  
[mmarionbrown@gmail.com](mailto:mmarionbrown@gmail.com)  
Tel: 01436 810787  
Garelochhead, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire G84 0AB

**Caring SCOTLAND**

- **Respite** – Offering Carers a much needed break and spending quality time with the cared for person.
- **Homecare Service** – personal care, including support with bathing, showering, shaving, medication, shopping and light domestic duties as required.
- **Overnight Service** – Sleeping "on call" offering security and support in the case of an emergency. Waking – providing overnight care and support as detailed in Personal Plan.
- **Palliative Care Service** – Specially trained Care Attendants working closely with GP's Community Nurses provide comforting care and support at home in final days.
- **Escort and Support** – For people of all ages who may need one to one support
- **24/7 Care Packages** – provision of round the clock care for individuals with complex needs. From Personal Care to promoting independence and realising outcomes.

Elspech Nopier Service Manager Direct Line: 01397 701020  
Mobile: 07760 766790  
Email: [lochaber@crossroads-scotland.co.uk](mailto:lochaber@crossroads-scotland.co.uk)

Glenloy Street | Cool Shopping Centre | Cool | Fort William | PH33 7DR  
National Office: 0141 226 3793 | [www.crossroads-scotland.co.uk](http://www.crossroads-scotland.co.uk)

## Claymore boxer wins place in medal bout

KINLOCHLEVEN-based Claymore Amateur Boxing Club is celebrating after one of its boxers won through to the Scottish Novice Championships finals.

Callum Clement from Tyndrum outfought Connor Cowe of Kinloch ABC at Ravenscraig sports centre to book his place in the gold medal bout last weekend.

Now Callum, aged 15, will take on Edinburgh boxer James Brown at the same Motherwell venue this Saturday.

Callum's clubmate, 13-year-old Ben Wilson, narrowly lost in what was only his second appearance in the ring.

Claymore's head coach Martin Glensk told *The Oban Times*: 'This was an impressive display by young Callum as Cowe was widely thought of as the hot favourite to win this group.'

'Callum is now guaranteed a silver medal at these championships and goes on to box for gold at next weekend's final against James Brown from Zetland ABC, Edinburgh.'

Fort-William-based Lochaber Phoenix ABC boxers, senior welterweight Liam Jordan and 13-year-old Kevin Aitchison also just missed out. Kevin lost to Inverness's Brodie Grant by a single point.

Lochaber Phoenix official Steve Docherty said their boxers had 'learned so much'.

He added: 'Both lads will take that on board and improve immeasurably.'



Callum Clement: through to finals.



NASA astronaut Bonnie Dunbar meets Glenelg and Arnisdale Trust development officer Emma MacLean at Saturday's celebrations.



Left: The marquee planetarium gave a spectacular view of the cosmos - and doubled up as a ceilidh venue.

# Bright Glenelg future written in the stars

IT IS written in the stars - Glenelg could be in for a stratospheric tourism boost after cosmic celebrations at the weekend.

In travel terms, the remote Lochalsh community had previously been known only for its tiny turntable ferry the *MY Glenachulish*, which runs over the sea to Skye in the summer.

But now Glenelg is twinned with a much more distant destination - a patch of Mars dubbed Glenelg by US Government National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) boffins as their Curiosity rover explores the Red Planet.

The unlikely link propelled the community to worldwide fame - and brought in former NASA space shuttle astronaut Bonnie Dunbar to Glenelg for the 'Space, Stars and Mars - 2012' launch on Saturday.

By STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Ms Dunbar, who flew in from the US, unveiled a sign 'Glenelg - Twinned with Mars' and addressed a packed planetarium - a huge marquee erected for the occasion.

Other eminent scientists taking part included Astronomer Royal for Scotland Professor John C Brown and - via video link - NASA's Mars exploration programme director Doug McCuiston.

And Shetland Astronomical Society brought its remote-controlled model of NASA's Mars Rover, which trundled over a mock Martian landscape in the school hall. In all, 500 people landed for the weekend, indicating that Glenelg's interplanetary fame could be a big earner for the local economy.

Next steps include applying for 'Dark Skies' status - areas whose night skies are free of light pollution - to attract stargazers and amateur astronomers.

Glenelg and Arnisdale Trust development officer Emma MacLean said making imaginative use of local resources was the only way to keep Glenelg 'healthy and vibrant'. She said: 'The arrival of Mars rover at Glenelg will be used to showcase the quality of the dark skies we have in Glenelg and Arnisdale. With so little light pollution the skies above are truly spectacular, especially at the moment with the Northern Lights activity.'

The event coincided with the launch of Geocache Glenelg - a treasure hunting game where participants use GPS to find containers hidden at local sites. The craze has taken off internationally.

## Commando Memorial site extended

MORE space has been made available at the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge for the upcoming Remembrance Sunday service on November 11.

Hundreds of people will gather at the memorial for the event to pay their respects to the men and women of the British Armed Forces.

But so many flowers, cards and photos are laid at the site every year that the Commando Veterans Association asked Highland Council, which owns and maintains the monument, to expand it. They said more room was needed for the large number of tributes and ashes being scattered in the memorial garden, which also commemorates soldiers killed in more recent conflicts, including Afghanistan and Iraq.

The garden has been extended to include an additional outer circle with a new area created for the scattering of ashes and the entire site upgraded.

The final cost of the work, which has now been completed, ran to £31,000.

## 'A watershed for Gaelic'

A ONE-DAY conference on Harris next month will discuss the impact of the Education (Scotland) Act 1872, which made education compulsory for all but ignored Gaelic.

Speakers in the Sir E Scott School in Tarbert on November 3 include Elizabeth Ritchie of the University of the Highlands and Islands and Prof Matthew Maciver. Tasglann nan Eilean Siar (Hebridean Archives) is organising the 10am-2pm conference entitled 'The Education (Scotland) Act 1872 - A watershed for the Gaelic language'.

## Firework warning

POLICE are warning Western Isles residents to be wary of potentially dangerous and counterfeit fireworks being sold from the back of a van through the Uists and Benbecula.

A Northern Constabulary spokesman said: 'Anyone who has bought these cheap fireworks should not use them and contact the local police or trading standards for further advice.'

## Drink drive bank manager fined

A BANK manager has been banned from driving for a year and fined £500 after being caught behind the wheel of a car in Fort William while nearly twice the legal alcohol limit.

Tom Burt, 26, admitted to having 'several beers over the course of the evening' before attempting to drive in the early hours of September 23.

Police spotted the car being driven erratically on Middle Street shortly after it pulled out of a nearby car park. Fort William Sheriff Court heard. Burt, of Wet Lane, Draycott, Somerset, was in Lochaber visiting his girlfriend who studies at the University of the Highlands and Islands.

Sheriff Colin McCrory told Burt he had recorded a 'high reading'.

He said: 'You had far too much. In fact, it's a good idea not to drink at all when you are driving a vehicle.'

## Careless driver narrowly avoids losing licence

A KINLOCHLEVEN woman has avoided losing her driving licence after admitting carrying out a careless overtaking manoeuvre in the village.

Kathleen MacLean pled guilty to overtaking Colin Comrie's car on Lochaber Road close to the junction with Kearnan Road, where a third car was about to pull out on Saturday May 5.

Defence lawyer Stephen Kennedy said: 'The other car was driving well below 30mph, almost crawling along.'

'She made the decision to overtake Mr Comrie's

vehicle and thought she had plenty of room to get back in her lane before reaching the junction.'

Mr Kennedy also asked Sheriff Colin McCrory to award the 22-year-old less than six points, which would have seen her lose her licence as she only passed her test in June 2011.

MacLean, who battled leukaemia as a teenager, is unemployed and on disability benefit.

Mr Kennedy said: 'The car is her lifeline - without it she has very limited ways of getting about.'

Sheriff McCrory gave MacLean, of Taobh-an-Allt, Wades Road, five penalty points and fined her £125.

He said: 'This was a careless manoeuvre. You should not have attempted this overtake with a junction nearby.'

Mr Comrie's son Mark was sentenced to two years in jail in July after being found guilty of setting fire to a house belonging to MacLean's elder sister, which fiscal Alison Wylie said had caused a 'feud' between the families.



Jane Stuart-Smith receives the Restaurant of the Year Award at the Drumossie Hotel.

## Morvern restaurant celebrates success

A MORVERN eatery is celebrating after a weekend of success in London and Inverness.

The Whitehouse Restaurant in Lochaline was named as a Scottish runner-up in the Observer Magazine Restaurant of the Year awards - then won Restaurant of the Year at the Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards (HIFDA).

Sarah Jones, who set up the

Whitehouse with Jane Stuart-Smith in 2003, told *The Oban Times*: 'We were up against over 15,000 other restaurants nominated for the [Observer] prize and we are really proud to be one of the three runners-up in Scotland.'

Food map 'These awards have helped to put the Whitehouse on the food map.'

Co-owner Jane Stuart Smith

said: 'It has been quite a weekend. We were up against some stiff competition [at Inverness] and to win the best was a tribute to head chef Mike Burgoyne's and sous chef Lee Myers' incredible cooking.'

Local suppliers

We are also thrilled the judges appreciated our passion for working with local suppliers and we thank all of them for their support over the years.'

Other winners at the HIFDA ceremony at the Drumossie Hotel included the Kishorn Seafood Bar (best other eatery) and Sally Swinbanks of The Tobermory Fish Company (young shining star award).

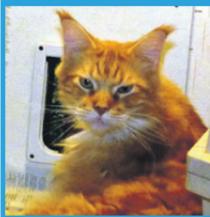
More than 250 representatives from local businesses attended the event, which was opened by rural affairs secretary Richard Lochhead and hosted by Kirsty Wark.

# ARGYLL ANIMAL AID

Registered Charity SC013211

## CATS AND DOGS LOOKING FOR HOMES

### BENSON



Friendly Maine Coon boy. Would prefer to be an only cat. Likes to stay indoors. 4 years old

### BUFFY



Friendly fluffy boy. 4 years old. Used to other cats.

### BRAMBLE



Sweet torty girl. 1 year old. Used to other cats and children.

### ROWAN



Sweet torty girl, 1 year old. Used to other cats and children.

### MOLLY



Friendly black girl, around a year old.

### ARTHUR



Friendly black and white boy. Has been here for a long time.

### SAMMY



Friendly boy, around 4 or 5 months old.

### HARLEY



Sweet and friendly boy, around 18 months old.

### HUMPHREY



Nice black boy around 18 months old. Not used to children, other cats or dogs. Prefers to be inside.

### MISCHIEF



Nervous, but getting better, wee girl. Around 4 months old.

### DAISY



Tabby/torty girl. Probably not suitable with children. Used to a country life-style.

### BONNIE



Nervous, but getting better, wee girl. Around 4 months old.

### MINTY



Friendly black and white girl, has been here for ages.

### MAC



Lab X, 9 Months old, very lively!

### SANDY



9 months old Kelpie boy. Not used to children

### KYEBA



18 months old Husky. Loves to play. Needs to go to somebody with this breed experience.

Dog enquiries please phone Jean on 01631 566406

Cat enquiries please phone Pat on 01852 300362

OT

**Victim named**

THE MAN killed in a motorcycle crash on the A896 near Shieldaig, Wester Ross, last week has been named as Mark Darren Shaw from Doncaster, Yorkshire.

The 47-year-old's bike was the only vehicle involved in the accident.

**Bonfire and fireworks**

LOCHABER Rugby Club's popular bonfire and fireworks display returns to Banavie on Saturday November 3.

The night, which started as a club night but has grown into a well-supported community event, is free with a bucket for donations passed round.

Two of the youngest volunteer helpers - Connie and Rosie MacLennan - have made the Guy for this year's bonfire.

The club bar will be open and drinks and snacks will also be available from a stall in the club car park. After police concerns about spectators spilling onto the road at The Moorings Hotel, the club's car park will be the designated viewing area.

**Man admits**

**smashing window**

A MAN has admitted smashing the window of a Fort William home by throwing a stone at it.

Stephen Potter, of 36 George Court, Hamilton, pled guilty to willfully or recklessly causing £80 of damage to the window of 1 Brown Court on January 21.

Defence solicitor Stephen Kennedy said his unemployed client had not travelled to Fort William Sheriff Court due to a 'lack of funds'.

Sheriff Colin McCrory deferred sentencing the 47-year-old until November 21 for reports and a personal appearance.

**Lab success**

A RAIGMORE Hospital lab is analysing tissue samples from Highland patients 30 per cent faster than the national average, latest figures show.

Ryan Cooper, healthcare science lead for NHS Highland, said quicker turnarounds and diagnoses could mean patients being treated sooner, with 'obvious consequences' for their health and wellbeing.

**Clarification**

THE OBAN Times would like to clarify the Camanachd Association director of communications is Donald Stewart, not Donald Campbell as stated in 'Champagne corks pop in Spean as Lochaber celebrate' last week.



Friends, colleagues and family packed the Montrose Centre to say goodbye to Sheena. 20\_643retire01

**Sheena 'gobsmacked' with surprise retirement send-off**

A POPULAR Lochaber social care worker was given a surprise send off on her last day of work before retirement.

Friends, family and colleagues came from across Lochaber to say goodbye to Sheena MacGruer with a party at the

Montrose Centre in Inverloch on her last day. She said she was 'gobsmacked' to see so many people turn out for her.

Thank you Speaking with a tear in her eye, she said: 'I've had loads of challenges in my time in social

care and I've really enjoyed them all. Thank you to everybody here today.'

Provost Allan Henderson presented flowers to Sheena on behalf of Highland Council and said she would be 'a big miss to us all'.

He added: 'Thank you for all the work you've done. Enjoy your retirement.'

Sheena, of Corpach, will spend the first six weeks of her new found spare time visiting her son in Sydney, Australia, with her husband Michael.

She had been in charge of the Invernevis Care Home in Fort William since May, and previously helped set up the dementia care service in Lochaber after spending more than 30 years working in health care.

**History group's book unearths more echoes from designer McQueen's past**

A BOOK sequel about the Isle of Skye community where fashion designer Alexander McQueen is buried will be launched on Saturday.

More Echoes from the Past looks into McQueen's family links with Trotternish, where he spent a lot of time escaping from the pressures of the fashion industry.

The ashes of the talented designer, who clothed the rich and famous from the worlds of music, film and fashion, were interred in Kilmuir following his death in 2010.

McQueen regularly celebrated his island roots and Scottish background in his fashion collections, which once included a controversial show themed on the Highland Clearances.

An eye-catching headstone was erected by his family in Kilmuir cemetery, just yards from the memorial to Flora MacDonald, who helped Bonnie Prince Charlie escape after Culloden.

The volunteer-led Kilmuir and Kilmaluag History and Heritage group is behind the publication, which follows the sell-out success of Echoes from the Past.

A roll call of the district's young men killed in the world wars, a bleak letter received by a Kilmuir man from relatives who left during the Clearances and photographs of crofters harvesting corn, fishing and selling livestock taken by the late American scientist Tom Simkin also feature.

A spokeswoman for the heritage group hoped the book would stand as an important historical record of the island community, the people and past way of life. She added: 'I trust it will make interesting reading now and in the future for the generations to come. If local history like this is not recorded, it will almost certainly be lost.'

'It is vital to record the past and the history of the area while

there are still people living who can document it. We are very grateful to the people who have contributed to the book both in a written and a pictorial context.'

More Echoes from the Past will be launched at Kilmuir Village Hall at 2pm.

The publication is being supported by £5,450 European funding from the Scottish Government and the Highland LEADER 2007-2013 Programme.

Copies will be available from shops on the island or via post (£12.50 to include postage) by enclosing a cheque to Mary MacKenzie, Kilmuir History and Heritage Group, 8 Hungladder, Kilmuir, Isle of Skye IV51 9YT. Any profits will be used for community projects.

**Glen Nevis community litter pick**

A NEWLY landscaped area in Glen Nevis will be officially opened with a community litter pick on Sunday November 18.

The Curling Ponds area has been regenerated by The Nevis Partnership, with new benches and tables installed.

Friends of Nevis (FoN) has also done its part, tidying the area and removing shrubbery before the contractors got on site.

FoN co-ordinator Anna Trafford said: 'If you haven't been on a litter pick before they are a fun way to give the Nevis area some TLC, without having to slog up a hill carrying tools.'

All safety and litter picking equipment will be provided, together with refreshments and lunch.

**Former council leader on new fire board**

FORMER Highland Council leader Michael Foxley has been announced as one of the 11 members of the new Scottish Fire and Rescue Service board.

Dr Foxley and his colleagues will work closely with chairman Pat Watters and chief officer Alasdair Hay to ensure a smooth transition when the national service replaces eight regional services on April 1 next year.

Members are expected to put in 10 to 15 days per month up to the changeover and up to 10 days per month for the first full year. The appointment attracts a daily fee of £280.

All members will serve for four years. Dr Foxley, from Achaphubail near Fort William, is also a member of the Highland NHS board and chairman of West Highland College UHI.



Dr Michael Foxley: new fire service post.

Follow us on facebook www.facebook.com/obantimes

**Corpach speed cut call**

**Worried residents want 30mph hour limit**

CORPACH residents are calling for the speed limit on a section of the busy A830 Road to the Isles through the village to be reduced.

Kilmallie Community Council say a half-mile long section of the trunk road where the traffic speed can increase from 30mph to 40mph should be slowed to reduce danger to pedestrians.

KCC press secretary Russell Leaper told The Oban Times there was 'a lot of local concern' about speeding vehicles.

He said: 'We think we've got a strong case to reduce the limit. It's a particularly dangerous section. Children getting off the bus have to cross the road there and there's a lot of pedestrians about.'

KCC has contacted Transport Scotland's north area manager Bob Mitchell about the issue and was told a review of speed limits on trunk roads was currently ongoing.

A letter was sent to local residents from KCC asking for their views on the possible change. It said: 'With housing on both sides of the road and bus

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

passengers including school children needing to cross within the 40mph zone, we believe the whole of Corpach should be a 30mph zone.

'This would also be consistent with the policy along the A82 through Fort William where there are 30mph zones in areas where there are fewer reasons for pedestrians to cross the road than in Corpach. For the half mile stretch at Corpach travelling at 30mph rather than 40mph would add 15 seconds to the journey time.'

KCC has written to Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson to ask for his support and say it also has the backing of the three local councillors - Bill Clark, Eddie Hunter and Allan Henderson.

Meanwhile, fears have also been raised about the 60mph speed limit over Banavie Swing Bridge. KCC said it will be looking to get the limit reduced once the new roundabout at the nearby Blar Mhor is completed, probably to 40mph.



On site at Lochailort: Ling Fen of COFCO, Marine Harvest managing director Alan Sutherland, environment minister Paul Wheelhouse and Marine Harvest business development manager Steve Bracken.

**Lochailort hatchery gets seal of approval**

A NEW 'world class' smolt hatchery being built at Lochailort is expected to be finished next year.

And Marine Harvest's state-of-the-art facility - one of the biggest of its kind on the planet when completed - got the seal of approval from Scottish environment minister Paul Wheelhouse at a site visit last Wednesday.

Mr Wheelhouse also met representatives from the China National Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Corporation - one of China's biggest food manufacturers, processors and trading companies - who were visiting Marine Harvest.

Mr Wheelhouse said: 'Marine Harvest operate to high environmental standards and is committed to growing sustainably in Scotland, therefore I'm pleased they are demonstrating this commitment through plans for a world class facility in Lochailort.'

'The aquaculture industry makes an important economic contribution, particularly in remote communities such as the Fort William area, bringing investment and jobs to rural Scotland. Indeed, Marine Harvest employed 367 people in Scotland last year.'

'Businesses like Marine Harvest deliver high quality seafood products that are highly sought after around the world. New markets are opening up, particularly in the Far East, as

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

demonstrated by this visit from a Chinese delegation.'

The Oban Times was given an exclusive first look at the facility in a guided tour with site manager Steve McCaig and hatchery technician Paul Fletcher in May.

Since then, the 150,000 square foot building where around 13 million Atlantic salmon smolts will be housed has been taking shape.

When it is finished the facility will house 12 staff - six of them in the hatchery.

Around 110 people have been working on the site as contractors Robertson aim for a completion date of early 2013.

Seven miles of pipe have been laid and the 11 metre-tall building will be screened by a protective green to lessen visual impact on the local landscape.

During site preparation works, all excavated material was reclaimed and crushed on site for use in building works.

Mr Wheelhouse added: 'I want fish farming to have a long-term future in Scotland, with companies continuing to invest. That's one of the reasons for the introduction of the Aquaculture and Fisheries Bill.'

'The bill will support the aquaculture industry's ambitions for sustainable growth, with due regard to the marine environment.'

**Cooker Boiler £2458 +VAT**

**Piping Hot Boilers Cookers Stoves**

**0845 643 6145**

**93 KW PELLET BOILER £4220 +VAT EARN £9551 PER YEAR!! WITH RHI SUBSIDY**

[www.pipinghotstoves.com](http://www.pipinghotstoves.com)

**Piping Hot Cookers specialises in wood fired/ biomass stoves, cookers and boilers covering the whole of the UK.**

**All our models are Italian and superbly made. They are very MUCH less expensive than other brands, because the Italian market is very competitive.**

**Cookers from under £900, boiler cookers that heat 7-14 radiators and hot water, from £2580, on logs. Pellet boilers give FREE heat under the commercial RHI scheme for 20 years, and from next year, that applies for 7 years for domestic RHI approved systems. £950 RHPP grant AND 5% VAT on installations**

**We do suitable MCS approved boilers from £2200 after RHPP grant.**

**Call us on 0845 6436145 / 01327 307130.**

**Straight answers, and the right advice is our speciality.**

**Extra elderly services considered**

HIGHLAND Council will today (Thursday) consider proposals to invest an additional £1million in new preventative services for Highland's elderly.

With the area's elderly population expected to double in the next 20 years, the council is keen to provide early care to allow people to remain living at home.

Amongst the proposals are:  developing more community-run services for social interaction and personal support  additional support for the most vulnerable older people

helping people living in care homes to live more independently and reduce their reliance on formal services

more leisure and learning for the elderly, including sports, dance, outdoor activities and adult learning classes tailored for older people

eight new staff in NHS Highland's integrated service for adults to support early intervention with older people when they first experience difficulties.

Adult and Children's Services Committee chairman Alasdair Christie said: 'There must be a shift towards services which offer real opportunities to help people become more independent, both in the way they live their lives and how flexibly they can use services.'

Council leader Drew Hendry added: 'This is the approach that older people tell us they want, in all of our consultation exercises.'

'This also makes good professional and financial sense as it allows us to support more people for longer. It enables us to delay or - for some people - prevent the need for admission to more costly residential care.'

**Election deadline**

THE DEADLINE for nominations for a Comhairle nan Eilean Siar by-election is 4pm on Monday afternoon.

The Sgir' Uige agus Ceann A Tuath nan Loch ward is currently unrepresented after SNP councillor Bill Houston, aged 60, died last month. Councillor Houston had previously worked as head of leisure and learning before being elected to the Comhairle in May.

Voting for the ward will be held between 7am and 10pm on Thursday November 29.

**Otter charity stalwart wins animal welfare award**

THE WOMAN behind Broadford-based International Otter Survival Fund has been given an award for her efforts to protect otters in Scotland and around the world.

Grace Yoxon travelled to the House of Lords in London on Tuesday to collect the prize at the International Fund for Animal Welfare's (IFAW) Animal Action Awards event.

Grace and her husband Paul set up the animal charity in 1993 having moved to Skye in 1980, and they spend much of their time providing hands-on care for orphaned and injured otters. The fund has successfully released more than 100 rehabilitated otters back into the wild.

Grace, who was nominated by her daughter for her award, said she was 'amazed' to have won.

She said: 'I began the work because after the enjoyment of watching otters in the wild I really wanted to give something back.'

'When we have nursed an orphaned or injured otter back to health people often say you must be sad to let it go, but the opposite is true. Seeing them

back in the wild where they should be is so satisfying.'

IFAW director Robbie Marsland said Grace was 'a great example to others'.

As reported in The Oban Times last month, the fund recently successfully released a young Irish otter back into the wild after caring for it for more than a year.

**Morvern Lines**

IAN LAMB, the universally popular gardener and plants man at the Ardtornish Estate Gardens, is leaving Morvern soon.

Ian and his late wife Helen came to Ardtornish in 1980 and recreated a garden out of a jungle. Their wide knowledge and infectious enthusiasm took away a wilderness of bramble and thorn and revealed fine soil and hidden botanical treasures.

Their ready advice and wisdom gave other, less talented gardeners, the courage they badly needed and every year the Lambs' vegetables, bedding plants and hanging baskets were eagerly sought by locals and visitors from miles around.

As Kipling wrote, 'The Glory of the Garden lies in more than meets the eye.' It will be difficult to think of the head of the loch without Ian's quiet, modest presence. He takes with him the best wishes of the community.



IT IS disturbing to see that several hundred acres of some of the finest sheep and cattle grazing in Morvern are being planted with trees along the Sound of Mull. With world food shortages and high food prices charities are already feeding 6,000 people a day in Scotland.

The time cannot be very far away when we need every acre possible to produce food, not trees. When is Scotland's rural affairs Secretary Richard Lochhead going to stop throwing SRDP funding into such a fertile part of Scotland already saturated in timber?



Mrs Elizabeth Wotherspoon next to the iron stag at Dubh Dhoire. Mrs Wotherspoon is the daughter of the late John Munro, head stalker on Ardtornish Estate - probably the last man to use the target with guests in need of shooting practice.

YOU CAN say what you like about the Victorians but they did things well.

Nowhere was this more obvious than when sport, instead of agriculture, became the priority for the new southern lairds who rushed to Morvern when the Duke of Argyll began selling his northern properties in the 19th century.

Bitten by the bug for owning an estate in the Highlands, industrialists with enormous wealth derived from burgeoning middle England, poured millions of pounds into these little kingdoms.

At Kingairloch, Rahoy, Laudale and Fiunary old stalking lodges were renovated and enlarged and grand new ones built at Ardtornish and Glencripesdale - some with lifts and hot and cold running water in the staff quarters which was unheard of.

Large ocean-going steam yachts appeared in the sea lochs, new cottages were built to high standards with every convenience of the times and dozens of bridges and hundreds of miles of paths and roads were constructed.

Everything was done properly and without government grants. The emphasis was on taste and style and for decades more people were employed in servicing the deer stalking industry on the hill and in the house than in any other - Downton Abbey eat your heart out!

Strict rules were rigorously applied to the welfare and selection of animals. Before going to the hill guests were taken to targets to show that they could shoot accurately. One target in the form of a life size stag has survived the march of time and can be found more or less intact at Dubh Dhoire behind Ardtornish Towers near the head of Loch Aline.

It is made of heavy iron plate mounted on wheels on a circular base enabling it to be turned broadside to a number of different firing points set up at various distances to simulate the real thing.

Guests were required to be able to kill a beast at a hundred yards with no more than two rounds. Anyone exceeding it was persona non grata and was expected to leave on the next available boat for Oban.

For young bloods out to impress their companions, the icy admonishment from the host that evening, 'Not good enough for my deer forest, old boy!' must have been an unimaginable humiliation. Judging by the position of some of the bullet holes in the iron stag more than a few 'gentlemen' must have caught the boat.

Stags were not shot at after 4pm in case they were wounded and could not be followed up before darkness fell. If it wasn't found that day the stalkers went out early the next morning to look for it. If it had crossed onto another estate it was dispatched and left until the owner was informed and permission given to remove it.

Sanctuaries were established on most estates to allow the deer some respite before and after the shooting season. Sunday shooting of red deer, although not illegal, was never done as it was against a long-standing tradition and more importantly, provided both deer and stalkers an opportunity to rest for at least one day a week.

Stalkers, dressed in individual estate tweeds, were allowed to keep the tusks, skins and the offal and could also expect gratuities of varying size depending on how much the guest had enjoyed his day - few women went stalking in those days.

'Royals' and 'Imperials' - stags with 12 and 14 points respectively, commanded really good tips ranging from inscribed gralloching knives, telescopes, bottles of malt whisky to guinea notes - a fortune in these early days.

Old and infirm beasts were carefully selected and woe betides the stalker who allowed a guest to shoot any other. On one occasion a trainee stalker arrived back at the Kingairloch larder with a young stag which the guest had shot in error, prompting the head keeper to ask rather sarcastically: 'And did he have his mother with him Christopher?'

A point had to be long enough to support a watch chain. At times it was not unknown in the case of an 11 pointer for the stalker to apply a little knife work to quickly transform it into a 'Royal' before the unsuspecting guest arrived on the scene!

There were no deer management groups in these days and of course SNH, the John Muir Trust and our other new age conservation bodies, had not been dreamt of. Yet deer, sheep, cattle, rabbits, eagles, wildcats, plants and indigenous trees all coexisted in perfect harmony and in plenty which says much for the gifted and tested local stalkers.

Iain Thornber.

**Ross of Mull boosts local hospice funds**

RESIDENTS of the Ross of Mull were hard at work fundraising for a local hospice during the summer months.

**Generosity in Bunesan**  
The Friends of Oban Hospice received £1,750 thanks to the generosity of people in Bunesan Community Centre.

The friendship group wanted to say 'well done and thank you' to the people of the Ross, and to everybody on Mull for their support.

They said: 'This includes the

captain and crew of the MV Isle of Mull for their courtesy shown towards us in our collecting day during the summer.'

People in Bunesan organised a market day and stalls, a bingo evening and a centre open day when Elizabeth Maclean's 're-owned' home baking graced the tables.

This is the second cheque the Friends of Oban Hospice have received recently bringing the total to over £3,000 from the Ross of Mull.

**Mystery illness strikes Argyll fish processing plant**

AN INVESTIGATION is continuing into the cause of a sickness which saw staff in the processing plant of a west coast fish farm walk out over fears for their health.

**Coughing and vomiting**  
Staff at Scottish Sea Farms' site near Benderloch left their posts on October 11 after feeling ill, coughing and vomiting.

One Scottish Sea Farms employee, who did not wish to be named, said the sickness had been ongoing for 'two to three' weeks.

The staff member has worked

at the South Shian site, which employs 37 people in the processing area, for several years and has never experienced issues like this before.

He said: 'Everyone in the processing area is coughing, vomiting and feeling like their chest is tight. Over 20 people are feeling ill on a daily basis.'

'There is usually at least seven people off per day.'

He added: 'We thought we should talk to management, we don't want to be sick, we are all worried - we all have families and children.'

'We asked management again, they said people who have a problem can go home, people who don't have a problem can stay.'

'Most of us left, I'd say about 98 per cent of staff left and went straight to the doctor who said it could be a public health problem.'

**Flu-like illness**

Argyll and Bute Council said they had been told of cases of a flu-like illness involving respiratory symptoms at the site by NHS Highland's consultant in public health medicine.

A spokeswoman said: 'Investigations carried out by the company, including visits from the council's environmental health team and NHS Highland, have not identified a source.'

'Environmental health officers have examined company procedures and have not found any cause for concern.'

'Water sampling has not revealed any issues, and medical examination of the employees concerned has not highlighted anything indicating a single source.'

'The council continues to

liaise with the company.'

A Scottish Sea Farms spokeswoman said on October 11: 'A number of our employees at the South Shian site have today been sent home feeling unwell. We have carried out all the necessary health and safety checks and there is nothing untoward with the working conditions at the plant.'

The company continued processing as normal during the incident and had an occupational health nurse on site 'examining the remaining members of the workforce'.

**Taynuilt Hotel not sold say administrators**

RUMOURS the Taynuilt Hotel has been sold to new owners have proved unfounded, although administrator RSM Tenon says it is working with an interested party.

The hotel's former owners, Glenorchy Lodge Hotels, went into administration last October and although a number of potential buyers have previously expressed interest in the property, it remains in the hands of administrators.

There was hope a buyer would be found in May, when RSM Tenon got to the latter stages of a deal, but this collapsed.

The continued struggle to find a buyer has re-ignited interest in a community buy-out, an idea that was first discussed at the end of 2011.

Lewis Young of RSM Tenon said its agents would still be open to receiving new offers for the hotel.

**Scottish Water to investigate Pennyfuir 'stink'**

SCOTTISH Water is to launch an investigation following complaints of foul smells from its waste water treatment plant near Oban.

Passers by and visitors to the adjacent Pennyfuir cemetery complained about the smells last week, with the stench particularly noticeable last Tuesday.

A spokesman for the water operator said: 'Scottish Water will investigate these complaints immediately. We would encourage customers to report any odour issues to us as quickly as possible in order that we can investigate such enquiries and address them promptly.'

'Customers can do so using our specialist helpline number 0845 601 8855.'

**Oban man denies threatening calls**

AN OBAN man accused of making threatening phone calls and sending abusive messages appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Iain MacCall, 45, of 89 McKelvie Road denies the charge and was released on bail. He is due to stand trial on January 7 next year and is expected to appear again on December 11.

**Taynuilt whist**

A WHIST drive held in Taynuilt Village Hall has raised £168 for Children in Need.

Cardmaster for the seven tables was Dougie MacDougall. Ladies competition: 1 Marilyn Henderson, 2 Judith Day, 3 Christine Allen, 4 Florence Anderson. Consolation prize - Mary Morse. Travelling prize - Dr Alison Davies, Connel.

Gents competition: 1 Stella Huntingford, 2 Gail MacGregor, Oban, 3 John Ross, 4 Lily Wilson. Consolation prize - Andy Davies. Travelling prize - Lily Wilson. The next whist drive will be held on November 16.

**Benderloch man on drink drive charge**

A MAN caught drink driving in Benderloch last week appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

David Laverty, 52, of Caravan 3, Elderberry Caravan Site, Benderloch admitted being in charge of a vehicle with 43mcg of alcohol in 100ml of his blood. The legal limit is 35mcg.

Sentence was deferred until November 13.

**Savile 'deceptive' claims Oban religious broadcaster**

No conscience and living by his own rules

AN OBAN broadcaster who interviewed Jimmy Savile months before he died says the former DJ came across as 'deceptive'.

Dr Stuart Chalmers presents the Highest Praise programme on Oban FM and secured an interview with the former DJ - who is now being posthumously investigated for alleged sex offences against children - for his first show in 2010.

Stuart says he found it difficult to get a straight answer from Savile, who hinted at dark aspects of his character throughout the interview.

**'Tricky all over the country'**

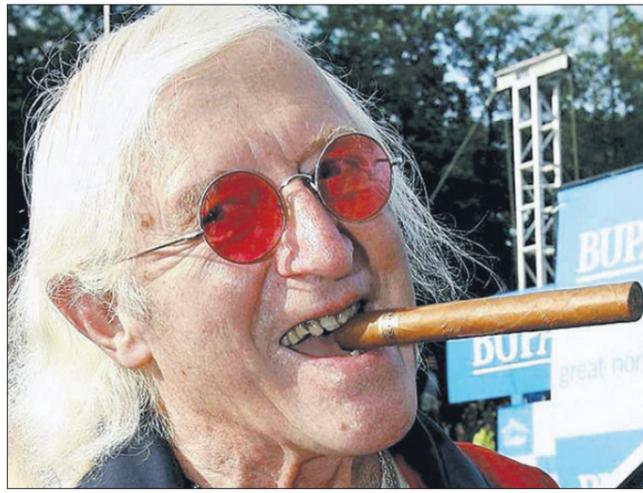
He boasted about how he was 'tricky all over the country', suggested repeatedly that he'd use violence against those that disagreed with him, and, despite claiming to be a devout catholic, said he didn't have a conscience. Stuart has removed videos of the interviews from the website Youtube after vulgar comments were posted on them.

He has also rejected claims he cut the videos to make them appear worse, saying they were produced long before he was aware of the allegations against Savile.

**'Sassanach'**

During the interview, Savile was asked if people knew what to make of him. He said: 'People are not quite sure what to make of me - how a Sassanach can come all the way up from England and be chiefain of the Lochaber Games.'

'If anyone comes up ever to question me or challenge me,



'One or two of the answers he gave were not the answers you'd get from someone who was a staunch Catholic, as he claimed to be'

after two seconds with me they'll decide they would be a lot healthier if they didn't.'

He added: 'One of the benefits of being thick is people don't know what you are.'

Savile went on to tell the religious programme that, if St Peter denied him access to heaven, he'd 'threaten to break his thumbs'.

**Poem for headstone**

The interview was secured thanks to mutual friend Julie Ferguson, the former Oban

resident who wrote the poem which appeared on Savile's now destroyed headstone.

Stuart said: 'To me it was a faith based programme and I wanted to know what his faith was and how he lived by it.'

'One or two of the answers he gave were not the answers you'd get from someone who was a staunch Catholic, as he claimed to be - particularly when he said he had no conscience and was living by his own rules.'

'He claimed to be tricky. That

to me means deceptive or not truthful and that's certainly what came to mind.'

'He was very good with words and I never knew what the truth was.'

Stuart has criticised some sections of the media though for the way his interviews have been reported on, saying: 'The way it has been turned around is ridiculous. I'm not saying what is being alleged now isn't true, but it's easy to look for things after someone has died.'

**Theft from toilets**

OBAN Police is currently investigating an attempted theft at the North Pier toilets in Oban.

Police say an attempt has been made to open a secured cupboard door, a soap dispenser has been pulled from the wall and an attempt was made to open a secured door. The attempted theft took place sometime between 3.30pm and 6pm last Friday.

Anyone with any information can contact PC Danny McBeth at Oban Police Station.

**Car vandalised**

FOLLOWING reported damage to a car in Oban's Nelson Road, a 28-year-old man has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

The alleged vandalism took place around 11pm last Friday.

**BID company launches recruitment drive to deliver £840,000 business plan**

OBAN is on its way to having its own events manager as part of a recruitment drive by Oban's new Business Improvement District (BID) company.

**Recruitment**  
Adverts have been placed by the BID looking for an events manager and a BID manager. The posts are deemed vital to the success of the BID to help deliver more of the scheme's £840,000 five year business plan.

The BID manager would have overall responsibility for overseeing projects and services, while the events manager's primary task will be to improve the town's existing events and festivals and help establish additional attractions throughout the year.

Project co-ordinator Pauline Cameron, who has managed the Oban BID process from its inception through to the successful ballot and the setting up of the new company, said filling the two posts would be key to the ongoing success of the project.

She said: 'These posts will be at the very heart of everything the BID becomes involved in over the next five years.'

**Challenge**  
'We need to make sure that whoever fills them is not only up to the challenge of setting Oban on its new path, but also capable of ensuring that the town gets the maximum possible benefit from the opportunities the BID will present.'

Both posts are advertised as 20 hours a week. They may be applied for individually or as

one full time role.

Local businessman John Fortie, who was on the BID4Oban steering group and is now a director of the shadow BID4Oban board, said: 'I don't think it's an exaggeration to say Oban's future prosperity relies, at least to some extent, on getting the right person or people for these positions.'

Job descriptions, person specifications and the BID4Oban's full five year business plan are available to view at www.bid4oban.co.uk



**National campaign aims to end stigma of mental ill-health**

PEOPLE in Argyll and Bute are being encouraged to explore their attitudes towards those with mental health difficulties.

'See Me', Scotland's national campaign to end the stigma of mental ill-health, is asking residents in the area to help tackle the stigma and discrimination that surrounds mental health.

Recent research conducted by 'See Me' has revealed that 40 per cent of Scots would find it hard, or are unsure how, to discuss or talk about mental ill-health.

To help address the stigmatising behaviour that still exists in Scotland, 'See Me' has launched an innovative, free app called Defeat Stigma and is urging people to show their support by downloading it.

'See Me' hopes the app will provide people with a unique and interactive way of learning about mental health issues.

Suzie Vestri, 'See Me' campaign director said: 'With nearly two thirds of us in contact with someone who has experience of a mental health problem, we need to make sure more people feel comfortable talking about it.'

'It is only through being open and honest and creating an open dialogue about mental health that we will be able to challenge the stigma and discrimination which still exists in Scotland.'

'We hope the app will help people throughout Argyll and Bute to understand how they can better support those around them so we can stamp out stigmatising behaviour in Scotland once and for all.'

To download the app visit www.seeapp.org on your smartphone or go to http://bit.ly/Wdices for more information about the new app.

**Three serious assaults tarnish Oban's crime record**

HAVING recorded no cases of serious violent crime in the first six months of the fiscal year, Oban police officers had to deal with three such incidents over as many hours last weekend.

In a recent presentation at a community engagement day in Oban, chief inspector Brian Auld reported no incidents of serious violent crime had been recorded in Oban, Lorn and the Isles from April to September this year.

However, from 11.30pm on Friday to 2.25am on Saturday there were three alleged assaults, all in Oban.

The first occurred in Oban's McKelvie Road, where a 22-year-old man is accused of assaulting a 48-year-old man and a 43-year-old woman.

The male victim was allegedly punched repeatedly in the face, resulting in a broken facial bone, while the woman suffered permanent disfigurement to her face after a bottle was allegedly thrown at her.

The accused is also charged with assaulting a police officer when he was arrested.

At around 2.25am the following day an incident in Station Road, Oban, resulted in a 27-year-old man sustaining a fractured cheek bone, broken nose and scars around his eyes.

A 22-year-old man is accused of causing the injuries during a violent attack.

**Drug arrest after search**

AFTER searching a property in Lorn Avenue, Oban, police have recovered a three-figure quantity of diazepam tablets.

A 35-year-old man has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

**DAVID PETRO FORESTRY SERVICES**

- ▲ Tree surgery
- ▲ Site clearance
- ▲ Stump Grinding
- ▲ Dangerous tree removal
- ▲ Tree Surveys and Consultancy
- ▲ Forest Establishment work
- ▲ Chipper/Stump grinder hire
- ▲ Fully NPTC Certificated
- ▲ Fully Insured
- ▲ 24 Hr Emergency Call-out
- ▲ Insurance approved

Contact:  
Office: 01369705564  
Mobile: 07884434257  
Email: petro.glen@btinternet.com  
Web: www.dpforestry.co.uk

**Mull writer in running for prestigious national award**

A WRITER from the Isle of Mull has reached the finals of a prestigious awards ceremony covering the whole of Britain. Yvonne Marjot, from Tobermory, has been short listed in the poetry category of the Brit Writers' Awards (BWA) 2012 for her entry Five Poems. Yvonne, who has written poetry all her life, moved to Mull in 2000 and describes it as 'such a great place to live if you have a creative instinct'. She said: 'It is the most amazing feeling to be short listed, it's just lovely. They told me the poetry category is a very tough one but I hope I'm in with a chance. Three of the five poems were sonnets inspired by an exhibition at An Tobar a few years ago. It was called Sonnets of the Sea by Bruce Killean. That is what I mean by Mull being such an inspiring place to live.'

Yvonne, whose accolades until now consist of a case of port for winning a poetry competition, says the awards ceremony is a 'scary' thought but she's 'looking forward to it'. The judges were 'inundated' with entries this year and took six months to read and consider all of the entries. They said the standard of entry had been 'particularly high'. Yvonne, who also publishes novels on Amazon, will now attend a 'glamorous' awards evening on December 1 in London where the overall winners will be announced.



**Table top sale brings HOPE to CHAS**

A table top sale at Glencruitten Church Centre has helped raise money for two good causes, thanks to fundraising walker Alex Milligan. Next year, Alex will take on the heat of the Sahara desert as he aims to raise money for the children's hospice charity, CHAS, with proceeds from the sale of tables going towards the cause. Refreshments were provided by Oban's HOPE Kitchen, with proceeds being donated to the homeless charity. Alex is pictured with Jess MacPhee from the HOPE Kitchen during Saturday's busy sale. 16\_143chascosf01



The musical society performed at intervals throughout the morning to the delight of those in attendance. 9\_143musical01

**Singers hit the high notes at coffee morning**

IT WAS music to the ears for those who were at a special Mid Argyll coffee morning last Saturday. Mid Argyll Musical Society hosted their annual musical coffee morning in Ardrishaig's North Church Hall to raise money for their upcoming show. Iain MacInnes, chairman of the society said: 'We'll be putting on Christmas Carol

the Musical between December 5 and 8. This year is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens so we thought the time was right. It is a new show and this will be the West of Scotland premiere. 'We are a small group, around 30 people, and we need to raise money to hire costumes as everyone knows the story so we need to try and keep it authentic. We also need to

hire an accompanist and pay for hall hire but the costumes alone will cost over £1,000.' The coffee morning saw a raffle and bottle stall as well as lots of home baking for sale, all donated to help raise money for the show. The Christmas Carol Musical, which will also include the 24 members of the Mid Argyll Youth Chorus, will be in Ardrishaig Public Hall from December 5 to 8.

**A look back in time to wartime Tiree**

New book launched on island features archive photos and stories from the past

A NEW book looking back at the isle of Tiree during wartime has been launched on the island, featuring many archive photographs and accounts of the time. Written by Mike Hughes and Dr John Holliday, *Tiree - War Among the Barley and Brine* focuses on life on the Hebridean isle during the Second World War, when it was unexpectedly thrown into the front lines by the Battle of the Atlantic. A major RAF base was built there in 1940, changing the landscape and wrenching its culture into the 20th century. One crofter even maintained that 'Hitler was the best councillor Tiree ever had' as a three-runway aerodrome was laid down, cart tracks became tarmacked roads and 2,000 servicemen from all over the world were stationed on the Hebridean island.

Although never under direct enemy attack, Tiree saw its fair share of dramas - the destroyer *HMS Sturdy* was wrecked there in 1940, two Halifax planes collided in mid-air over the island, the weather report that postponed the D-Day landings by a crucial day came from RAF Tiree and plans for the Royal family to escape to Canada via the island were laid in the event of a Nazi victory. However, the main star of this story is the island itself - how the servicemen came to feel about Tiree, how the islanders themselves felt about this invasion, and how two very different cultures met. The authors to a large extent let the people tell their own story - a story that goes far beyond the island itself to examine the profound effect the war had on the Gaelic-speaking Island,

an effect from which it is still recovering. Mike Hughes has been researching the Second World War in Scotland for almost 20 years. Married to a Tiree girl, he has a particular interest in the island and has a huge archive of papers, letters and photographs about the RAF base there, sent to him by ex-servicemen. Dr John Holliday has been the GP on Tiree for 25 years. Fascinated by the island's history, he set up *An Iodhlann*, the island's historical centre, and has a particular interest in the place names of the island and oral history. *Tiree - War Among the Barley and Brine* is published by the Islands Book Trust and is available from www.theislandsbooktrust.com or by phoning 01851 880737. It is also available through bookshops.



Men from RAF Port Mor on Balevullin beach during World War II.



Follow us on facebook  
www.facebook.com/obantimes

**GET SAFE ONLINE**

Make your identity top priority in online safety

Of all the areas of Internet safety we need to know about, protecting our identities should be top of the list. James Varga, CEO of online identity service miiCard, runs through his tips on online safety:

- Lock it down:** Secure all of your accounts using those extra protection features, like multiple email addresses and 2-step verification with your phone, for secure access or recovery.
- Own your online presence:** Read the Terms and Conditions, privacy and security policies for the sites you sign up to and understand how and where your information will be used. Manage your privacy and security settings to suit and check back on them from time to time to see that they haven't changed.
- Share with care:** Particularly in social networks where information can be shared so easily, it is important to limit the personal information we post. Details like our address, date of birth and hometown are commonly used to commit identity fraud.
- Puzzling passwords:** The longer and more mixed up your passwords, using letters, numbers and symbols, the stronger they are. This is your biggest defence against having your account taken over so use multiple passwords, change them regularly and never share them with anyone.
- Secretly secure:** Answers to those additional security questions like "What's your mother's maiden name?" are easily found with so much information about us available online these days. Fool the fraudsters by answering these types of questions with wrong answers that no one could ever guess.

**SYSTEMS • REPAIRS • MAINTENANCE • SUPPORT • NETWORKS**

**SPECIAL OFFER!** WIDE RANGE OF NEW LAPTOPS AND NETBOOKS IN STOCK  
**Laptops from only £299 and Netbooks from only £199**

**MATRIX COMPUTERS**

CALL US ON 01631 571 571

- Friendly, Expert Advice**  
Need help with your computer? Give us a call and our technical staff will be happy to offer you free, impartial advice.
- Laptop, PC and Printer Repairs**  
Virus/malware/spyware removal, data recovery and data transfer. Full laptop repair service including screen replacement and DC jack repairs. Laser printer repairs and servicing.
- Peripherals & Components**  
Monitors, printers, keyboards, mice, cables, flash drives, hard disks, laptop chargers, Wi-Fi routers etc.
- Business Support & Maintenance**  
On and off-site IT support including remote access and telephone support. Maintenance contracts available.
- Wired & Wireless Networks**  
CAT5/CAT6 wired networks. Indoor and outdoor Wi-Fi installations, including Wi-Fi hotspots for guest access.

DUNOLLIE HALLS, DUNOLLE ROAD, OBAN

www.matrixcomputers.co.uk

**Fed up with night storage heaters?**  
Now you can take control of your heating!

**AeroFlow** German Made Electric Radiators



**30 Year Warranty**

**DIRECT TO THE PUBLIC AT TRADE PRICES**

- 100% Energy Efficient • 100% Controllable
- Fireclay Core • Programmable thermostats
- No pipes or plumbing • No fluids • No Maintenance

Prices and purchasing available online or by phone

\*\*We do not send salespeople to your property\*\*

0113 2746799

www.germanelectricheating.co.uk

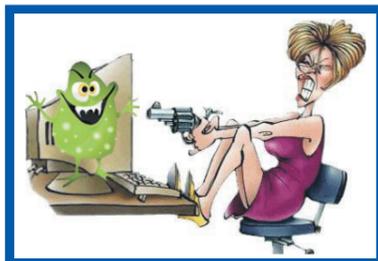
Electrorad Electric Heating

MADE IN GERMANY PRODUCT

**The friendly local computer shop**

**You don't have to go to these lengths to get rid of viruses, just give Telepoint a call!**

01397 706060 - admin@telepoint.co.uk





Blair Taylor, six, from Cairnbaan, and seven-year-old Daniel Logan from Ardishaig enjoying Gala-ween. 9.43galaweent01

## New spotlight on work of Mary's Meals

A POWERFUL new documentary about the work of Dalmally charity Mary's Meals will be shown in Oban as well as across the world next month. *Child 31* will be screened at the Phoenix Cinema on November 10 at 6pm but will officially be launched on November 4 at Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. More than 300 screenings of the film have been scheduled across the world already, including in the United States, Germany, Austria, Croatia, Canada, Malawi, India and the Philippines. Award winning Brooklyn production company Grassroots Films is behind the film, which documents the charity's work in Malawi, India and Kenya to see how it helps change lives. Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, chief executive of Mary's Meals, said: '*Child 31* tells the story of Mary's Meals through the eyes of children - children who benefit from receiving Mary's Meals and children who fundraise on our behalf.'

**Endure**  
'All over the world there are people who will not accept that any child in this world of plenty must endure a day without a meal.'

'As a result of their good deeds, thousands of children, who would otherwise be hungry and working for their next meal, are instead sitting in a classroom with a full stomach, learning how to read and write.'

The film tells the stories of children like Lette who, at the age of 12, has the sole responsibility for looking after her family and Muksi, who lived on a rubbish dump alongside other orphans in Kenya, before starting at a school where Mary's Meals is served.

*Child 31* has been described as a captivating, uplifting and inspiring watch that focuses on the difference just one meal every school day can make to children living in extreme poverty.

To see a trailer of the film and for more information on the charity, visit [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk).

## Special event raises £1,000

MORE than £1,000 was raised at the weekend as Hallowe'en came early for youngsters in Lochgilphead.

The Mid Argyll MS Centre hosted Gala-ween, a special Hallowe'en themed family fun day on Saturday, raising cash to pay for the running costs of the much-loved Campbell Street centre.

Karen McCurry, centre manager said: 'This is the first time we have had such a big special Hallowe'en day.'

The centre, which costs

£80,000 per year to run, is constantly in need of funds and Karen said events like Saturday's are just one of the ways they are keeping going.

**Fancy dress**  
The day saw youngsters getting into the spirit in fancy dress and hooking ducks, bobbing for apples and creating spooky crafts including witches hats.

Karen added: 'This is just something for all the family. There is soup and sandwiches for parents and lots of fun and crafts for the kids.'

## Macmillan plans fundraising art auction

THE OBAN and Argyll branch of the Macmillan Cancer Support Group will hold a fundraising art auction next month, with a selection of works from renowned local artists.

Among those items to be sold under the hammer are works from Ian Gowdie and Bob McCullough, although the group is still looking for contributions from those hoping to help raise more

cash. Auctioneers for the evening will be Jack Degnan and Frank McKenna.

Group secretary Kate Turner said: 'You could be very lucky and buy one of the works on offer for a very reasonable price - great for Christmas presents.'

'We are still looking for donations to put to the auction so if you have any paintings you no longer hang on your

walls or if you have works you'd like to contribute, please get in touch.'

The auction will be held in the Regent Hotel, Oban, on Friday November 16 with doors opening at 7pm for viewing before the auction starts at 7.30pm.

For more information or to donate, contact Kate on 01631 562 589 or chairwoman Rosemary Young on 01631 562268.



**Session A9**  
Session A9 are seven leading Scottish folk musicians who first came together in 2001. Renowned for their energetic sets, the results of this CD are stupendous. The band have successfully toured Scotland and England playing at many of the major music festivals in the UK including, Glastonbury, Cambridge folk festival, Celtic Connections and many more. European festival include Origuera (Spain), Tonder (Denmark) with additional concerts in Switzerland, Italy and the USA.

**Mary Macmaster & Donald Hay - Hook**  
A collection of instrumentals, traditional and contemporary songs, four of which were written by the duo, showing the versatility of the harp, using a lot of samples of harp noises, such as chords or the sound of the bow on the bass string of the electro harp. Mary has worked with Sileas and The Poozies and is a leading exponent and innovator of the metal-strung clarsach and the Camac electro harp.

**Donald MacRae - Dom Chairdean**  
Some of the earliest recordings of Donald from the 1950s feature in this 15 song compilation. A nostalgic trip back in time. Donald is a well known and respected singer. He was brought up on the island of Lewis and when he moved to Glasgow he became a regular singer at the famous Park Bar, the hub of Gaelic social life. He was also often to be heard at the Highlanders' Institute.

[musicscotland.com](http://musicscotland.com)

Over 4000 Scottish, Irish, Roots, World, Folk and Celtic music CDs, DVDs, books and sheet music titles, with mp3 music samples. Worldwide despatch next working day of in-stock titles



<b>Hope Springs</b>	Thurs 25th, 18:00, 20:30 • Fri 26th, 18:45
<b>The Perks of Being a Wallflower</b>	Fri 26th, 16:30, 21:00 • Sat 27th, 17:30 • Sun 28th, 18:00
<b>Casper</b>	Mon 29th, 18:00, 20:30 • Tues 30th, 18:30 • Thurs 1st Nov, 18:00, 20:30
<b>The Corpse Bride</b>	Sat 27th, 13:00
<b>28 Days Later</b>	Sat 27th, 15:30
<b>Wallace &amp; Gromit in the Curse of the Were Rabbit</b>	Sat 27th, 20:30
<b>The Nightmare Before Christmas</b>	Sun 28th, 13:00
<b>The Wicker Man</b>	Sun 28th, 15:30
<b>Beetle Juice</b>	Sun 28th, 21:00
<b>Hocus Pocus</b>	Tues 30th, 21:00
<b>Halloween</b>	Wed 31st, 18:00
<b>The Texas Chainsaw Massacre</b>	Wed 31st, 20:00

**Hope Springs (12A)**  
Kay (Meryl Streep) and Arnold (Tommy Lee Jones) are a devoted couple, but decades of marriage have left Kay wanting to spice things up and reconnect with her husband. When she hears of a renowned couple's specialist (Steve Corall) in the small town of Great Hope Springs, she attempts to persuade her skeptical husband, a steadfast man of routine, to get on a plane for a week of marriage therapy.

**The Perks of Being a Wallflower (12A)**  
Based on the novel written by Stephen Chbosky, 15-year-old Charlie (Logan Lerman), an endearing and naive outsider, coping with first love (Emma Watson), the suicide of his best friend, and his own mental illness while struggling to find a group of people with whom he belongs.

**Casper (PG)**  
Furious that her late father only willed her his gloomy-looking mansion rather than his millions, Carrigan Crichton is ready to burn the place to the ground when she discovers a map to a treasure hidden in the house. But when she enters the rickety mansion to seek her claim, she is frightened away by a wicked wave of ghosts.

**The Corpse Bride (PG)**  
Set in the late 1800s in a Victorian village, Victor Van Dort and Victoria Everglot are betrothed because the Everglots need the money or else they'll be living on the streets whereas the Van Dorts want to increase their standing in society.

**28 Days Later (18)**  
Four weeks after a mysterious, incurable virus spreads throughout the UK, a handful of survivors try to find sanctuary from a deadly (or undeadly) force of zombies.

**Wallace & Gromit in the Curse of the Were Rabbit (U)**  
It's 'vege-man' in Wallace and Gromit's neighbourhood, and our two enterprising chums are cashing in with their humane pest-control outfit, 'Anti-Pests.'

**The Nightmare Before Christmas (PG)**  
Jack Skellington, the pumpkin king of Halloween Town, is bored with doing the same thing every year for Halloween. One day he stumbles into Christmas Town, and is so taken with the idea of Christmas that he tries to get the resident bats, ghouls, and goblins of Halloween town to help him put on Christmas instead of Halloween - but alas, they can't get it quite right.

**The Wicker Man (15)**  
We all know the plot, a police sergeant is called to an island village in search of a missing girl whom the locals claim never existed.

**Beetle Juice (15)**  
Adam and Barbara are a normal couple... who happen to be dead. They have given their precious time to decorate the house and make it their own, but unfortunately a family is moving in, and not quietly. Adam and Barbara try to scare them out, but end up becoming the main attraction to the money making family. They call upon Beetlejuice (Michael Keaton) to help, but Beetlejuice has more in mind than just helping.

**Hocus Pocus (PG)**  
After 300 years, three sister witches are resurrected in Salem Massachusetts on Halloween night, and it's up to two teenagers, a young girl, and an immortal cat to put an end to the witches reign of terror one and for all. Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker and Thora Birch plus a talking cat and a very very catchy tune, what more is there to say, Disney did good.

**Halloween (1978) (18)**  
The year is 1963, the night: Halloween. Police are called to 43 Lampkin Ln. only to discover that 15 year old Judith Myers has been stabbed to death, by her 6 year-old brother, Michael. After being institutionalized for 15 years, Myers breaks out on the night before Halloween.

**The Texas Chainsaw Massacre (2003) (18)**  
The film which you are about to see is an account of the tragedy which befell a group of 5 youths. It is all the more tragic in that they were young. Enter Leatherface and prepare to scream.

## Xmas Party Nights

### FORT WILLIAM

With Christmas less than eight weeks away, preparations for festive parties in Fort William are in full swing.

If you're looking for some festive cheer, the town has a number of top notch restaurants and bar for you to get into the party mood.

Popular High Street venues such as the Ben Nevis Bar and Restaurant are sure to be the location for a number of office and workplace parties this year.

And as well as being available for private bookings, the Ben Nevis Bar will also hold a series of party nights in the bar, with entertainment and music from live bands.

To get ready for the big night, why not head down to one of the town's many hair and beauty salons, such as Unique Hair and Beauty on the High Street.

Unique offers everything from hair styling and highlights, to massage, spray tan and semi permanent make up.

And if the idea of making a roast dinner and clearing up afterwards for Christmas Day seems daunting, why not let professionals do the hard work?

Ben Nevis Bar and Restaurant will be open for the big day, offering a full traditional Christmas dinner. With a view overlooking Loch Linnhe, the whole family will enjoy a meal to remember.

So with Christmas round the corner, Fort William has all your bases covered for a festive party season to remember.

**THE BEN NEVIS BAR**  
High Street, Fort William

Invites you to come and join in the fun on our festive party nights on 7th, 8th, 14th, 15th, 21st and 22nd of December with live music and great food and lots of fun.

Why not join us and celebrate Christmas day with a 5 course meal for only £42.00

Please contact Ann to book on 01397 702295

**Unique Hair and Beauty**  
Kelly Macdonald Hair Stylist Rebecca Clelland Hair Stylist Susan Bell Beautician

We believe in bringing the very best of the services to the Highlands. We offer complete re-styles, blond highlights to dye for, A-Lift facials, body spray tans, massage, semi permanent lashes, botox, lip fillers, semi permanent make up

Tel: 01397 708542 or 07507493090

**Eye to eye with John Wallace**

### How Times Have Changed

Last week I visited London with my young son. Amongst the many places visited was the Science Museum. One of the halls dealt with home life during the twentieth century. As my son is of the generation that downloads music onto his iPhone he found it highly amusing looking at the old record players I grew up with. It certainly was very nostalgic for me. Lots of household items I grew up with were featured in various display cabinets. One that brought back memories was an old 'Hoover' dating from the early 1930's. My grandmother was still using the same model purchases in the early 30's until shortly before her death in the 90's. In the next display cabinet was a pack of Acuvue One Day daily disposable contact lenses. In the space of two steps in the museum I went from an appliance that had lasted my grandmother for almost seventy years to the ultimate in disposability... a contact lens that is used once and thrown away. I found it hard to believe a contact lens featured in a museum. But when I started thinking about the history of contact lenses it is actually surprising they don't feature more often. The concept of contact lenses was first postulated by Leonardo da Vinci and they were first manufactured in Germany in 1888. For the next fifty years contact lenses were made of glass. You can imagine how uncomfortable they must have been! During the Second World War served it was observed Perspex when embedded in the corneas of injured pilots caused no reaction. From then on contact lenses were manufactured in Perspex. In the sixties soft contact lenses made from modified Perspex were invented in Czechoslovakia by Wichterle and Lim. As the saying goes, the rest is history.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP  
**Wallace Optometrists**  
The West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic  
11/12 Argyll Square, Oban  
Tel: 0845 230 3937 (EYES)  
[www.wallaceoptometrists.co.uk](http://www.wallaceoptometrists.co.uk)

**Oban Winter Festival art competition**

**The Steam Train comes to Oban**

How would you interpret this year's theme? Drawings, paintings or even sculptures are welcome!

**WIN £50 voucher for Alba art shop**

Entrants must be 18 +

Hand your entry into the Corran Halls with entry fee (£2) on Thursday 8th November between 4-6pm

Entries will be displayed in Corran Halls studio Theatre.

**GOOD LUCK!**

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**

For more great offers visit: [www.obantimes.reader.travel](http://www.obantimes.reader.travel)

**The Dutch Bulb Fields of Keukenhof**

Friday departures, 5, 12 & 26 April and 3 May 2013  
From Edinburgh airport, from £449pp  
From Glasgow airport, from £484pp

Enjoy a delightful spring weekend break with a distinctive Dutch flavour visiting the magnificent, world-famous bulb fields at Keukenhof, and also the Netherlands' capital city Amsterdam, the charming seaside town of Scheveningen, the seat of the Dutch government The Hague and the quaint fishing village of Volendam.

- Return flight from Edinburgh or Glasgow airports to Amsterdam Airport Schiphol
- Airport taxes and coaching throughout the Netherlands
- 2 nights stay at the 4 star Van der Valk Hotel Almere, with dinner & breakfast
- Entrance to the gardens at Keukenhof
- Visits to Amsterdam, Scheveningen, The Hague and Volendam

**Cyprus - Jewel of the Eastern Mediterranean**

Wednesday departures, 13 & 27 February 2013  
From Edinburgh airport

- Return flight from Edinburgh airport to Paphos
- Airport taxes and return transfer from Paphos airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 4 star Athena Beach hotel, Paphos with dinner & breakfast
- Entrance to the Mosaics in Paphos
- Admission to the Cathedral of St. John and the Byzantine Museum in Nicosia

Included excursions to the Troodos Mountains & Nicosia, and a sight-seeing tour of Paphos

**Malta & Gozo**

Tuesday departures, 14 May & 8 October 2013  
From Edinburgh airport

- Return flight from Edinburgh airport to Malta
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 4 star Park Hotel, Sliema with dinner & breakfast
- An included excursion to Gozo
- A visit to Valletta including admission to The Maltese Experience

Includes an excursion to The Three Cities; Cospicua, Senglea & Vittoriosa

**Andalucian Capitals**

Thursday departures, 6 & 13 June, 19 September and 17 October 2013, from Glasgow airport

- Return flight from Glasgow airport to Malaga
- Airport taxes & return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 6 nights stay at the 4 star Hotel Antequera Golf, Antequera with dinner & breakfast
- A guided tour of the Great Mosque of Cordoba (Mezquita)
- Admission to the Alhambra Palace & the Generalife in Granada

Included excursions to Cordoba, Granada & Seville

For more information or to book, please call:  
**01524 37500**

Quote OB7

**paparazzi**  
cafe bar & restaurant

**FUNKY XMAS PARTIES**

**PARTY WITH ELVIS**

AVAILABLE FOR SOME DATES

Book before 20th Nov for FREE Bottle of Bubbly!

**4 COURSE DINNER £22.00**  
BOOK DURING THE WEEK MON-THURS £18.95  
with CHAMPAGNE COCKTAIL  
**LIVE BAND OR D.J**

SOME WEEKEND DATES STILL AVAILABLE!

BOOK NOW. 01631 565421/07770 931 967

BREADALBANE STREET, OBAN, PA345NZ. [paparazzioban@aol.com](http://paparazzioban@aol.com).

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**Light the Fire(again)**  
Dream for AFRICA ASIA AMERICA . . .  
God's LOVE expressed through His people in Scotland

- Feeding HIV orphans in S Africa
- Building for orphans in Kenya
- Giving eye-care in Africa
- Flying doctors into remote locations
- Bringing health-care to isolated tribes in S America
- Caring for our neighbours

**Sat 3rd Nov**  
**Corran Halls, Oban**  
**10am - 10pm**

Welcome to a day of presentations by volunteers who serve others followed by an evening of praise and worship

**Admission FREE ALL welcome**

**AN EVENING WITH ALASTAIR MCDONALD**  
OBAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
THURSDAY 1ST NOVEMBER AT 7PM

In aid of church funds  
Tickets - Adults £5.00 (accompanied children free) available from  
Oban Music, Argyll Square and Oban FM  
Tel: 01631 562939 for information

Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club  
**Monthly Club Night**  
Thursday 1st November 2012  
Argyllshire Gathering Hall 7.30pm

Audience and Players Welcome

Special Guest Artist  
Archie MacPhee & the Bogroy Band  
Admission £4  
Come Along and Enjoy the Music

**HOLLY TEA**  
Glencruitten Parish Church Hall  
Saturday 3rd November at 2.00 pm

in aid of Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre Oban  
Donation at door  
Tea / Coffee, Hot Mince Pies, Shortbread Home Baking Stall, Bric-a-brac, Books, Christmas Cards and Lots more  
Please give us your support today

**Halloween Event**  
Achnabreac Forest Park  
Friday 26th October 7pm to 9pm  
Scary Trail, Ghostly Games, and More!

**Booking is not required for this FREE event**  
[www.kilmartin.org](http://www.kilmartin.org)  
01546 510278

**CHARITY ART AUCTION**  
Saturday 10th November 2012

**Stag Hotel, Lochgilphead**  
Viewing 2pm - 4pm  
Auction 4pm - 6pm

Artworks kindly donated by: Jolomo; Sheena Devitt; Melanie Cromelewski; Alex Hamilton; Stuart McEllan; Audrey MacDougall; Lesley Burr; Claire McIlwain; Pip Weaver; Alastair MacDougall and local Primary Schools  
Proceeds to Carr Gomm's 'Catch the Dream' Fund

**Donegal's Best Music**  
DARYL B & PAUL GALLACHER

Live in B.A. Club, Fort William on Fri 26th Oct  
Doors Open 8.30pm  
Admission £10

“The Oban Times is read by over 40,000 people every week making it the largest selling newspaper in the Highlands & Islands”

Source: Jpegg data as at 01/01/2011

**The Oban Times**  
WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Tel: 01631 568000  
email: [adverts@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:adverts@obantimes.co.uk)  
[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

Follow us on facebook  
[www.facebook.com/obantimes](http://www.facebook.com/obantimes)



**WEST COAST BUILDERS**  
All types Of Building Work Undertaken

**BUILDING**  
• Extensions • Renovations • Garages • Conversions • Porches Slating  
Brickwork/Block • Plastering • Property Maintenance

**ALL TYPES OF JOINERY**  
• Kitchens • Decking • Chalets & Log Cabins made to order • Sheds • Facias

**PLUMBING**  
• Bathrooms • External Taps  
• New Water Mains • Drainage  
Septic Tanks • Gutters and Down Pipes

**GROUNDWORKS**  
Groundworks • Sun Rooms • Patios  
• Hard Landscaping  
**NO VAT**

**Call Us Now For A Quote**  
Tel: 01631 710334 or 01631 710851  
Mob: 07796390411 or 07730654693

**J.C. BUCHANAN**  
ROOFING CONTRACTOR

**J.C. Buchanan**  
ROOFING CONTRACTOR  
Slatings • Tiling • Cementwork • Leadwork  
Tel: 01631 570724 mobile 07780 723883

Slatings/Tiling/Cementwork/Leadwork  
All general roofworks undertaken  
Mob: 07780 723883 Home: 01631 570724

**J PLANT HIRE**  
All works undertaken

- Tracked Diggers
- Earthworks
- Block Paving
- Tipper Hire
- Drainage
- Tarring
- Boat Hire

Contact Jamie Miller  
Mobile: 07901 620359 | House: 01546 602309  
Ardshiel, Bishopton Road, Lochgilhead

**OES**  
Oban Electrical Services Ltd  
01631 564203

**Proud to have served the West Highlands and Islands for 40 years**  
With over four decades of experience and an exceptional range of skills, services and products, we are the contractor of choice for building service solutions across every market sector.  
www.oes-group.co.uk info@oes-group.co.uk

**OBAN ELECTRICAL SERVICES LTD**  
19 Stevenson St, Oban PA34 5NA.  
Tel 01631 564203 Fax 01631 562387

**DONALD G. FILES**  
Plumbing & Heating Engineer  
Tel: 01631 565043 Mob: 07732732447  
donald.files@sky.com

**Donald Files**  
**PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEER**  
Telephone 01631 565043  
Mobile 077327 32447

**J.M. BOYD** Plumbing & Heating Contractors Ltd.

Central Heating Systems • Underfloor Heating  
Oil Fired • Natural Gas • LPG • Solid Fuel  
Complete Bathrooms supplied & fitted  
Tiling, Bathrooms & Kitchens • Joiner & Electrical work  
Tel: 01631 562383 • Fax: 01631 565512  
Mobile: 07774 480 393  
Email: boydnjl@supanet.com  
16 Airds Crescent, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5SJ

**HIGHLAND KWIK PASS**  
DRIVING SCHOOL

**ONE WEEK INTENSIVE DRIVING COURSES**  
PATIENT DRIVING STANDARDS  
AGENCY APPROVED INSTRUCTOR  
16 YEARS EXPERIENCE  
FULL COURSE PACKAGES AVAILABLE INCLUDING BOTH TEST FEES  
CHRISTMAS GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE

**7 DAY COURSES AVAILABLE IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS**  
OBAN MALLAIG FORT WILLIAM  
BALLACHULISH  
PHONE GED ON  
**0751 222 6360**

**gardensmith**

Providing affordable solutions to commercial, domestic and holiday cottage grounds upkeep

- Clearances
- On-site shredding and chipping
- Wood cutting/Chopping
- Hedge Reductions

For an efficient, reliable, friendly service call Tom to discuss your requirements.  
Let Gardensmith take the strain this winter!  
Tel: 01631 710391 Mob: 07778 872259  
gardensmith@hotmail.co.uk

**MIKE McFALL**  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Independent Funeral Services  
Devoted to excellence and professionalism.  
Founded on care, dignity and knowledge of local traditions.

10 Battlefield Crescent  
Inverlochey  
Fort William, PH33 6NB

24 Hour Caring Service  
Tel/Fax: 01397 701110  
Mobile: 07789918554

Email: mike@mikemcfallfuneraldirectors.org.uk  
www.mikemcfallfuneraldirectors.co.uk

**MAURICE LOCKHART**  
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

**SELECT REGISTERED**

All types of electrical work undertaken  
T: 01631 564628 M: 07766428380  
mauricelockhart2@aol.com

**sky**

**McLeod Television Ltd**  
**THE BEST DEALS FOR NEW CUSTOMERS**  
Your local Sky expert  
tel: 01631 564 310 email: sales@mcleodtv.co.uk  
UNIT 2 MCLEOD BUILDING  
LOCHAVULLIN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, OBAN, PA34 4PL

**1st Choice**  
Roofing & Building Maintenance Ltd

Slating	Guttering Repaired or Replaced	Flat Roofs Repaired or Replaced
Tiling	Velux Windows Supplied and Fitted	General Building Repairs and Maintenance
Chimney Work	Moss Removal on Roof and Garages	Insurance Work and Storm Damage
Roughcasting		
Leadwork		
Cement Work		

Free Estimates and Advice Distance No Object!  
Tel: 01887 858610 Mob: 07871 861235

# FARMING

Sponsored by NFU Mutual  
Oban, call Euan Warnock  
and Donna MacDougall  
on 01631 567 036 for  
your insurance needs.  
Agent of The National Farmers Union  
Mutual Insurance Society Limited.



## Lamb averages up on the week at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 2012 store cattle, 143 cows and 3,677 store sheep at Stirling last Wednesday.  
Lambs averages were up on the week with Suffolk cross lambs selling to £52.78 (+£1.47p on the week) and Texel cross lambs to £55.20 (+£3.12p on the week).  
Bullocks averaged 188.76p (+0.77p) and sold to 243.9p per kg for a 537kg Charolais cross

## Lleyn gimmers from Llangal top Fort William

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 1,744 store sheep of all classes at Fort William.  
Lambs averaged £31.76 per head and sold to £65.50 for a Suffolk crosses from Blargie Farm, Laggan.  
Ewes sold to £65.00 for Cheviots from Glenquoich, Invergarry.  
Gimmers sold to £68.00 for Lleyns from Llangal.  
Feeding sheep sold to £49 for Cheviot rams from Burnside, Isle of Mull.

## Quality lambs sell at Oban

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had forward 3208 store and breeding sheep at Oban last Tuesday.  
Lambs averaged £34.17 (-£7.07 on the year) selling to £60 for Suffolk crosses from R Leplar, Newcrofts.  
Ewes averaged £35.10 selling to £74 for Cheviots from R S McColl, Stalker Cottage, Appin.  
Ewe lambs averaged £38.40 selling to £50 for Blackfaces from A Buchanan, Achnaba, North Connel and Mules from D MacDonald, Tyree, Benderloch.  
Lambs meet improved trade  
DINGWALL Highland Marts Ltd sold 3,070 store sheep at Dingwall last Thursday when strong lambs met an improved trade on the last sale, all other classes were similar.  
Lambs averaged £42.30 and sold to £62 for Cheviot lambs from 1 Milltown, Applecross.  
Ewes sold to £70 for Texels from Teanluick, Beauly.  
Rams sold to £240 for a Cheviot ram from Achteuie, Drumna-drochit.



Robert Dempster is presented with The Oban Times Young Handlers Quaiach by judge Stewart MacKenzie

## Robert wins young handlers' award

YOUNG Highland cattle handler Robert Dempster was awarded The Oban Times Quaiach at the recent Highland Cattle Society Show and Sale at Oban.  
Robert, from the Glenkinglass Fold, near Dalmailly, had earlier brought out the champion yearling heifer and won the Young Handler's competition from a very strong entry.  
Judge Stewart MacKenzie, Highland cattle breeder and editorial director with The

Oban Times presented Robert with his award.  
"There was a big increase in the number of young handlers forward for the competition this year which positively reflects on the number of young people who are trying hard to establish themselves within the farming industry," said Stewart.  
"Due to their docile nature, Highlanders offer an ideal start for youngsters who would like to try their hand at showing cattle."  
"Robert made an excellent job of bringing out his heifer and showed the patience and understanding that allowed the young heifer to be presented at her best," he added.  
Robert said: "I was delighted, and a little surprised to win. It's been a great day for me."  
With so much interest in the competition, Highland Cattle Society secretary Hazel Baxter increased the number of prizes presented, with the judge adding to the prize fund.  
Stewart MacKenzie added: "Such has been the level of interest this year, we will have discussions with the Society ahead of next year's competition to see if we can accommodate different age groups and perhaps different classes of animal."  
"We are very pleased with the way the competition has gone and I know that the Society will be keen to maintain the momentum by encouraging more youngsters to get involved with the Highland breed."

## Lepinkill takes champion and reserve at Dalmailly show and sale

UNITED Auctions held their annual October show and sale of suckled calves and store cattle at Dalmailly Auction Mart last Saturday when 1215 head of all classes was sold.  
Bullocks sold to average £572.12 or 204pence per kilo against £585.47 or 213pence per kilo last year.  
Heifers sold to average £483.88 or 189pence per kilo against £524.19 or 204pence per kilo last year.  
All classes of continental breeds easily maintained last year's values, particularly bullocks, whilst native breeds were harder to cash.  
The show was judged by Mr J Murdoch, Flemminghill, Kilmarnock and the following were his awards: Autumn Born Bullocks - 1st, 2nd & 3rd M/s Kennedy, Lepinkill.  
Autumn Born Heifers - 1st Lepinkill.  
Spring Born Bullocks - 1st Lepinkill, 2nd & 3rd A McGilivray, Achuran, Lismore.  
Spring Born Heifers - 1st M Hall, Tombuie.  
Champion Lepinkill - Autumn Born Bullock.  
Reserve Champion, Lepinkill, Spring Born Bullock.  
Best Shepherd's Calf - Dempster, Barguillean.

## Limousin bullocks sell to 255p per kilo at Lochmaddy show and sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 279 weaned calves and store cattle and 15 breeding cattle at their annual show and sale at Lochmaddy when the dry summer was evident in the improved quality of the stock with all classes selling extremely well, with quality kinds particularly sought after.  
Prior to the sale the judge Mr B. Grigor, Redfield Farm, North Kessock, awarded the following results - Overall champion and first prize bullock: J. Maclean, 38 Liniue, 390kg, £910. Reserve champion and first prize heifer: L. Macinnes, Hastain, 345kg, £770.  
Second prize bullock: A. Macdonald, Ahmore, 450kg, £920 and second prize heifer: L. Macinnes, Hastain, 300kg, £660.  
Weaned bullocks averaged 21p and sold to 255.6p per kg for a 270kg Limousin cross from 15 Liniue, Creagorry, and £920 for a 440kg Limousin cross from 22 & 10 Balmore, Bayhead.  
Weaned heifers averaged 191.9p and sold to 232.2p per kg for a 345kg Limousin cross from Hastain, Bayhead, and £780 for a 380kg Limousin cross from Ardmhor, 15 Carinish.  
In-calf heifers sold to £1,550 for a Simmental cross from 1 Ahmore, Lochmaddy.

## Markets reports

### DALMALLY

#### United Auctions

**Bullocks**  
Aberdeen AngusX: £640 Dall and Barndromin(2).  
Beef ShorthornX: £630 Tiretigan.  
Blonde D' AquataineX: £865(4) Laggan Farms.  
CharolaisX: £1100, £1045(2), £985 (3) - Lepinkill £830 (6) - Bregleennore £825(3) - Couston Farm Co £795 - Braegleennore £785(3) - East Laggan £780 - Brough Farm £740(7) and £735 (11) - Ederline Estate £725 (2) - Braegleennore £705 - Brough Farm £700 (13) - Ederline Estate £695 - Tullochmhor (6) and Brough Farm £685(6) - Ballygowan £675 - Dunans £670 (9) - Colintrave Farm £660 - Ledcharrie £655 - Ederline Estate(6) £635(6) - Ballygowan.  
LimousinX: £1100 and £960 - Lepinkill £900 - Tombuie £860 - 9 Killeonan £840 - Dunans and Ledcharrie £835 - Balliemeanoch £820 and £800 - Tombuie £785 - Dall and 9 Killeonan £780(2) - Ledcharrie £770 - Tom Na Coille £760 (4) - Barguillean £755(6) - Tiraghoil £745 - Glenshellach £725 - Barguillean £715 - 2 Keil Crofts £710 - Barguillean £705 - Achuaran and Craigmore(4) £685 - Craig Farm (3) and Musdale Farm £680 - Craig Farm and Lepinkill Farm (2) £670 - Lepinkill Farm(3) and Barguillean £665 - Brechoille £660 (4) - Keilator £655 - Lochuisge, Achuaran, Ardsignish, Musdale Farm and Boreland Farms(4) £650 - Tom Na Coille(3), 9 Killeonan and Dunans £645(2) - Tom Na Coille £640 - 9 Killeonan, Barguillean and Brechoille (2) £635 - Balliemeanoch and Musdale Farm(4) £625 - Tiraghoil, Craig Farm, Musdale Farm(3) and Boreland Farm(7) £610 - Ledcharrie £605 - Lochuisge and Glenshellach(6) £600 - Garvie(4) and Craigmore(2).  
Luing: £1020(2) and £960(2) - Ardulp.  
SimmentalX: £875 - Killinoc-honoch £865 - Tiraghoil £825 - Feringa Farming £805 - Tiraghoil £770 - Duallin £755(2) - Tiraghoil £745 and £725 - Caolis, Coll £720(8) - Feringa Farming £715(3) - Tiraghoil £705 (5) - Barguillean £695 - Balindore £685 - Craig Farm £675 - Dunans £670(3) - Craig Farm £665 - Dunans £660(6), £655(2) and £645(3) - Pitcastle Estate £645 - Balindore £640(3) - Barguillean £635 - Feringa Farming £630(2) - Dunans £625 - Keilator(2) and Craig Farm(2) £620(3) - Barachander Farm £615 - Balindore £610 - Ledcharrie(2) and Shellfield(3) £605 - Tiraghoil, Dunans(11) and Feringa Farms(3) £600(2) - Craig Farm.  
**Heifers**  
CharolaisX: £840 - Lepinkill Farm £785 and £715 - Brough Farm £710 (6) and £665 - Lepinkill Farm £650 - Braegleennore Farm £645 - East Laggan £625(3) - Braegleennore Farm £620 - Ederline Estate (12) - Colintrave Farm (2) and Braegleennore Farm (4) £610(3) - Braegleennore Farm.  
LimousinX: £820 and £700(2) - Tombuie £645(2) - Barndromin £630 - Tom Na Coille and Lepinkill(2) £625(6) - Tiraghoil Farm £620(2) - Craigmore £610 - Craig Farm and Tombuie(2) £600 - Dall and Barguillean(4).  
SimmentalX: £765 - Feringa Farms £730 - Dall £700 - Pitcastle Estate £610(2) and £600(3) - Keilator.  
**Prices per kilo**  
**Bullocks**  
Beef ShorthornX: 225p - Tiretigan Farm 200p - Stronmagachan. CharolaisX: 260p(5) - Ballygowan 259p(13) - Ederline Estate 259p(2) - Braegleennore 257p - Ederline Estate (6) and Ballygowan (6) 255p (11) - Ederline Estate 251p - Tullochmhor(6) and Colintrave Farm(9) 249p - Ederline Estate (2) and Colintrave Farm(2) 244p(6) - Tullochmhor (6) 238p (7) - Ederline Estate 237p - Ballygowan (6) and Dunans 229p (6) - Braegleennore 224p(2) - East Laggan 218p - Braegleennore and Lepinkill Farm(2) 215p - East Laggan 211p - Brough Farm 209p(3) - Lepinkill Farm 203p(3) - Couston Farm.  
LimousinX: 266p - Dall Farm 260p - Glenshellach 257p (2) - Boreland Farms 256p - Lepinkill Farm 252p, 248p(2) and 247p - Achuaran 247p(4) - Brechoille Farm 245p - 2 Keil Crofts 240p(2) - Inveroy 239p - Glenshellach(6) and Boreland Farms(7) 238p(4) - Lochuisge 237p - Tombuie 232p(3) - Cuilaine 231p - Craig Farm 230p(4) - Keilator Farm 229p - Inveroy(3) and Balliemeanoch 227p - 2 Keil Crofts 226p - Tom Na Coille(2) and Lochuisge(2) 225p(3) - Lochuisge 223p - Craig Farm and Brechoille(2) 222p - Lochuisge and Tiraghoil (2) 221p(4) - Boreland Farms 220p - Inveroy 219p - Balliemeanoch(2) and Brechoille (5) 218p - Inveroy and Barguillean 217p - Lochuisge(2) and Dunans 215p - Pitcastle Estate, Achuaran(2), Ardsignish, Musdale Farm and Boreland Farms (3) 214p - Craigmore(2), Barguillean and Craignafeoch(7) 213p - Tiraghoil (8), Clachan Farm(4) and Cuilaine(2) 211p - Tom Na Coille(3), Craigmore(4) and High Balantyre(3) 209p - Musdale(2) and Cuilaine 208p - Fingals View(2), Garvie(4), Glenshellach, Craig(3) and Lepinkill 207p - Tom Na Coille(3), Garvie(4), 9 Killeonan and Dunans 205p - Craignafeoch(6) 204p - Keilator and Musdale(3) 203p - Tiraghoil, Lepinkill and Ledcharrie(2) 202p - Tom Na Coille(2), Inveroy, Tiraghoil, Glenshellach and Dunans 201p - Barguillean 200p - Tombuie(2) and Brechoille(2).  
Luing: 200p(7) - Pitcastle Estate. SallerX: 207p(5) - High Balantyre 202p(2) - Tullochmhor.  
ShorthornX: 200p - Stronmagachan and Tigh Na H-Aibhne.  
SimmentalX: 246p - Keilator(4) and Craig Farm 241p(4) and 237p(10) - Keilator 237p - Dunans 235p (5) - Barguillean 231p(2) - Craig Farm 229p - Dunans(2) and Shellfield(3) 228p(6) - Pitcastle Estate 227p - Keilator(2) and Feringa Farming

225p(3) - Pitcastle Estate 224p - Barachander Farm 223p (2) - Keilator 222p - Caolis, Coll 220p - Airds Croft 217p(2) - Shellfield 215p(11) - Dunans 214p - Craig Farm(2) and Balindore 213p(2) - Tiraghoil 212p - Feringa Farming(8) and Barachander(3) 211p (9) - Pitcastle Estate 210p - Keilator(6) and Duallin(4) and Caolis(Coll) 209p - Duallin(4), Craig Farm(3) and Barachander 208p - Craig Farm 207p - Balindore 205p - Duallin(4), Dunans and Feringa Farming 203p - Tiraghoil(8) 202p - Balindore and Feringa Farming(4) 201p(3) - Barguillean 200p - Dunans(2) and Barachander.  
**Heifers**  
Beef ShorthornX: 221p - Brechoille.  
CharolaisX: 272p(6) - Lepinkill 230p(6), 229p(15) and 215p(12) - Ederline Estate 213p(4) - Colintrave Farm 210p(13) - Ederline Estate.  
HerefordX: 206p - Garvie LimousinX: 245p(6) - Tiraghoil Farm 238p(2) - Lepinkill Farm 229p - Tombuie 218p - Boreland Farms 213p - Tombuie 208p - Craig Farm 207p - Tom Na Coille 206p - Inveroy 204p(2) - Brechoille 202p - Tiraghoil(8) and Cuilaine(2) 200p - Tom Na Coille, Brechoille(2) and High Balantyre.  
Luing: 211p(3) - Scallagass. SimmentalX: 247p(3), 239p(2), 230p(2), 229p(2), 226p(3), 225p(4) - Keilator Farm 223p - Dunans 215p - Stroneskar, Dunans(2) and Barachander(3) 212p(2) - Pitcastle Estate 211p - Lower Tervine 208p - Craig Farm(2) and Barachander 202p - Ardachule 200p - Pitcastle Estate and Barachander.  
**OBAN**  
**Caledonian Marts**  
Lambs:  
Suffolk: £58 Achadaphail; Cheviot: £55 Dunach Est Continental- £55 Bentangaval Cheviot- £52 Pine Lodge Mule: £52 Fiart CheviotX: £51 Birchfield; Cross: £51 Tuirfuir SuffolkX: £50.50 Glengorm Est.  
Ewes:  
Cheviot: £70 Stalker Cottage Texel: £65 Balnagowan Croft Cross: £62 Kilbride TexelX: £61 Fannore Blackface: £60 Loch-na-Meal, CheviotX: £60 Lach-na-Meal, Ensay; Swale: £58 Achalic.  
Ewe lambs:  
Blackface: £47 Achnaba Cheviot: £47 Lettermore CheviotX: £45.20 Dunach Est; SuffolkX: £43.50 Lettermore Blackface: £40 Corrylorn.  
Gimmers:  
Cross: £75 Stronachullin Blackface: £68 Achnaba SuffolkX: £66 Stronachullin

£55; Mule: Moy Farm, £52; Blackface: Ockle, Achateny, £46; Cheviot: 2 Mandally, Invergarry, £45.  
Ewes:  
Suffolk: Carnoch Farm, Ardour, £61.  
Feeding sheep:  
Blackface ewe - Insh Farm, Spean Bridge, £49.50;  
Cross ewe - Altdarroch, Kinlochiel, and Achnaha, Kilchoan, £46;  
Cheviot ewe - Glenquoich, £46; Blackface wedder - Mamore, Fort William, £44;  
Cheviot wedder - Ardornish Farms, £43.  
**LOCHMADDY**  
**Dingwall and Highland Marts**  
Weaned bullocks:  
201-250kg - 2 Hosta, Tigharry, £530, 220.8p;  
251-300kg - 20 Rushgarry, £710, 8 Clachan Sands, 254.9p;  
301-350kg - Glebe, Tigharry, £800, 1 Clachan Farm, 254.0p;  
351-400kg - 38 Liniue, £910, 233.3p;  
401-450kg - 1 Ahmore, £920, 22 & 10 Balmore, 209.1p;  
451-500kg - 25 Balmore, £820, 174.5p.  
Weaned heifers:  
201-250kg - 2 Hosta, £505, 210.4p;  
251-300kg - Hastain, £660, 220.0p;  
301-350kg - Hastain, £770, 1 Clachan Farm, 210.6p;  
351-400kg - 1 Knockline, Bayhead, £740, Ardmhor, 205.3p.  
401-450kg - 1 Knockline, £740, 182.7p.  
**DINGWALL**  
**Dingwall and Highland Marts**  
Lambs:  
TexelX - Teanluick, £61.00, Fannabur, Kiltarity, and Ballachraggan, Kildary, £60.00, Carol Farm, Brora, £59.50;  
SuffolkX - Garbeg, Drumna-drochit, £57.00, Eilean Darrach, Dundonnell, £56.00, Toscaig, Applecross, £50.00;  
Cheviot - Eilean Darrach, and Carol Farm, £56.00, Knockglass, Dornoch, £54.50, Ashcroft, Kyle of Lochalsh, £54.00;  
Mule - Abersky, Torness, £56.00, Gorthleck Mains, Inverness, £55.00, Bochruben Farm, Torness, £53.50;  
Blackface - 2 Camusterrach, Applecross, £54.00, Millburn, Strathaird, £52.00, Gorthleck Mains, £47.00;  
Cross - 2 Kingsburgh, Snizort, £50.00, Dundreggan Croft, Glenmoriston, £48.00, Tombeg, Tomatin, £44;  
BeltexX - Upperton, Balmaln, £50.00.  
Ewes:  
SuffolkX - Brae of Cantray, Croy, £62.00;  
Cheviot - Culrain Mains, £61.00, Achteuie, £51.50, Muirton, £50.00; Blackface - Achteuie, £51.00; Cross - Achteuie, £46.00, Strathaird

**Steel Framed Buildings**  
NOBLE CONSTRUCTION  
www.nobleconstr.co.uk  
60' x 30' x 13' General Purpose Buildings from £8,150  
100' x 40' x 12' Cattle Buildings from £10,650  
100' x 50' x 14' Cattle/Stock Buildings from £13,930  
100' x 60' x 15' Dutch Barns from £13,750  
We also supply Indoor Riding Arenas, Grain Stores, Industrial Buildings, Sports Halls and Much More!  
Groundworks • Foundations  
Erection • Design & Planning  
and All Concreting Services  
Please email or phone for details and quotes  
info@nobleconstr.co.uk  
07717 414 697

**KEIL ENGINE SERVICES**  
Sales of new and used ATV's  
All makes supplied and serviced  
Get serviced for Winter!  
Tyres, brakes, cables, bearings, batteries, filters always in stock Seat cover fitting service  
Heated handlebars, grips, helmets  
For the best deals  
phone 01631 720380  
ask for Lachie or Liam  
Email: keilengines@gmail.com

**ARGYLL AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS**  
TAKEUCHI KRONE Landini  
NOW STOCKING POLARIS  
Hardest working. Smoothest riding.  
POLARIS  
www.polaris-britain.com  
Tel: 01631 565011 email: info@argyllagricultural.co.uk Mob: 07831 609128

**T.H. Jenkinson**  
Full range of trailers in stock at very keen prices.  
Also large selection of used trailers, details on website.  
Ayr: 01292 619193  
www.thjenkinson.co.uk

**COVENTRY for FENCING**  
Scotland's No. 1 WIRE, STOCK FENCING, BARBED, HIGH TENSILE, MILD STEEL BEST PRICES  
TIMBER DIRECT FROM OUR SAWMILL  
Depots throughout Scotland • Delivery available  
For a competitive quote please call 01631 566866

**Morris Leslie Monthly Auctions**  
Wednesday 31 October, 10am Errol Airfield, Perth PH2 7TB  
FULL ONLINE BIDDING FACILITIES AVAILABLE  
In this auction there's a selection of plant, vehicles and equipment from contractors, agri-businesses, private individuals etc. Also, from National Power Company: 2004 Mercedes Atego Bespoke 4x4 Flat 18t c/w Atlas 85.2 Remote Control Crane; 2004 Mercedes Atego Bespoke 4x4 Flat 18t c/w Atlas 85.2 Remote Control Crane; 2003 Mercedes Atego 1318 Drosipde 12.7t + Palfinger PK950 Crane; 2006 Timberwolf Woodchipper 45/90 Turbo Vortex; 2005 Timberwolf Woodchipper TW190DH. Parcel of Plant from National Hire Company: selection of JCB Excavators - Mini/ Micro Excavators; JCB Tracked Dumper; Tracked Roller; Benford 4wd Dumper. Plus over 100 lots of small tools and equipment. Parcels of Vehicles from Scottish Councils: various Ford Transit Vans; DAF Trucks; Merlo Handler; Mini Bus with chairlift.  
See online catalogue for lot details.  
www.morrisleslie.com

**RADIATORS, INTERCOOLERS, OIL, COOLERS HEATERS, ETC**  
REPAIRED, RECORED OR SUPPLIED NEW.  
FOR ALL TYPES AND MAKES OF VEHICLE AND MACHINERY  
TRACTORS, DIGGERS, COMBINES, FORKLIFTS, 4X4'S, TRUCKS AND BUSES ALL CATERED FOR.  
For more details telephone: RADIATOR SERVICES SCOTLAND  
On 01307 820771, or 07719 034 694

**Cattle wintering available inside or outside.**  
Contact: John Junor, Dell Farm, Fair, Inverness, IV2 6XH  
Tel: 01808 521 259 (Home & Fax)  
Mobile: 07778 229 940

**WANTED**  
All classes cattle and sheep including calf, cows and bulls  
Payment on collection.  
Contact Tom Holmes  
07808 662400

**SELLING YOUR FARM STOCK?**  
The Oban Times  
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES  
Be seen by over 40,000 readers  
Tel: 01631 568000  
www.obantimes.co.uk

**Oban Times FARMING**  
**Oban Times FARMING**  
**Oban Times FARMING**  
**Oban Times FARMING**  
**Oban Times FARMING**



# ScottishField

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WORKING FOR SCOTLAND'S LEADING LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE?

## ADVERTISING/MEDIA SALES - EDINBURGH

£ EXCELLENT BASIC + PRIVATE HEALTH + PENSION + BENEFITS

If you are a motivated, self starter with a talent for persuasion then we would like to hear from you. Working as part of our advertising sales team based in Edinburgh you will get to know our existing customers as well as identifying new ones, to offer advertising solutions within the magazine and online at [www.scottishfield.co.uk](http://www.scottishfield.co.uk)

Experience in a sales environment would be useful but is not essential as training will be provided. Key requirements are a clean driving licence, a good knowledge of Scotland and an ability to work well under pressure. A good sense of humour is also helpful.

### INTERESTED?

Please apply today enclosing your CV and a covering letter. Send via email to [bcameron@scottishfield.co.uk](mailto:bcameron@scottishfield.co.uk) or by post addressed to Brian Cameron, Scottish Field, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL or call me on 0131 551 1000 if you want any further information.

PASSIONATE ABOUT SCOTLAND? THEN COME AND WORK FOR SCOTLAND'S LEADING LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE?

# WYVEX MEDIA

## Subscriptions Administrator

A vacancy has arisen within our Accounts Department.

This is a full time position based within a small friendly department at our Oban office.

You would be responsible for the administration of the subscriptions base, covering all our publications, which would include the updating of customer details on an ongoing basis and dealing with enquiries mainly by telephone or incoming mail.

Experience in the use of computer packages, ideally Sage Accounting, Excel Spreadsheets and other Windows based packages, would be desirable.

The successful candidate must be accurate and work in an organised manner. Other accounts department duties may also be required.

A full, current driving licence is essential.

We offer a competitive salary, pleasant working conditions, generous holiday entitlement, company pension, life and medical insurance.

Please apply with full CV and covering letter to Ali Arden, Wyvex Media Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll. PA34 4HB or email: [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)

# WYVEX MEDIA

## Administration Assistant

OBAN - Temporary Contract

A temporary vacancy has arisen within our Accounts Department to provide support over the busy seasonal period. The contract will be for a 3 month period for 35 hours per week.

The successful candidate will assist in functions including credit control, invoice processing, subscriptions administration, banking and other accounts related tasks.

Although training will be given the successful candidate must be able to work in an organised manner and be meticulous in attending to detail when keying information. The ideal candidate would have experience in dealing with the general public and businesses and have a pleasant and courteous telephone manner.

Please apply in writing enclosing a full C.V. with contact telephone number to: Ali Arden, Wyvex Media Limited, Crannog Lane, Oban PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. email: [ali@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ali@obantimes.co.uk)

# The Scottish Salmon Company



The Scottish Salmon Company is the leading independent producer of superior Scottish salmon. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environment policy.

We are currently recruiting staff to work in our Processing Plant at Cairndow

## Processing Operatives

Temporary Contracts (Ref POT/10/12)  
(Salary £15,991.97 - £7.68 per hour)

Processing can be challenging at times due to the nature of the work and the requirement for low temperatures when dealing with a fresh product.

Ideal candidates must be Hard Working, Self Motivated, and Reliable. And be able to work as part of a team. The successful applicants will be trained in aspects of fish processing, including good working practises and health hygiene.

Working Hours will normally be 40 hours per week Monday to Friday; with some weekend working required and additional hours during the week.

## Hygiene Operative

Temporary Contracts (Ref HTOT/10/12)  
(Salary £15,991.97 - £7.68 per hour + unsoiciable hour's payment)

We are also seeking a Hygiene Operative; the successful candidate will be involved in the day to day cleaning operations. The role requires a self motivated individual who can work as part of a team or alone, applicants must have a can do approach and should be physically fit due to the nature of the role and have a good understanding of working to Health & Safety guidelines.

The successful applicant will ideally have previous cleaning experience and knowledge of Hygiene Standards. Applicants will ideally be qualified in Basic Food Hygiene, respiratory equipment compliance, and hold a current first aid certificate these qualifications are desirable but not essential as training could be provided.

Applicants must hold a valid full drivers license and own transport as this is essential as the successful candidate will need to be available to work evenings and occasional weekends.

We are, seeking staff that are available to start immediately on fixed term contracts to the 22nd December 2012.

For an application form and job description, please contact:  
Suzanne Mawer, HR Department,  
The Scottish Salmon Company Ltd,  
Arkinglas Estate, Cairndow,  
Argyll PA26 8BH  
Tel: +44 (0) 1499 600 435 / 415  
Email: [suzanne.mawer@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:suzanne.mawer@scottishsalmon.com)  
Closing date: 5.00pm Friday 2nd November 2012  
Visit our website [www.scottishsalmon.com](http://www.scottishsalmon.com)

# Do you have a Flair for design?

Wyvex Media are looking for a *graphic designer*

Based in Oban you will be responsible for creating commercial print jobs to our customer's specifications as well as the opportunity to work on our many newspaper and magazine publications.

This is a fantastic opportunity for the right candidate to develop a career in the design industry, focusing on print and publishing. We offer a competitive salary with benefits package.

Experience of Photoshop, In-design and Illustrator an advantage but not essential as full training will be given. Full Driver's Licence required.

**INTERESTED?**  
Please send your CV to:  
Ali Arden  
Wyvex Media  
Crannog Lane, Oban PA34 4HB  
Email: [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)

# SALES EXECUTIVES

We are offering an exciting opportunity to build a career in local newspapers to develop, expand and strengthen the potential of our advertising sales teams.

We are seeking to appoint an experienced and/or trainee sales person who is lively, enthusiastic, a good communicator and committed to customer satisfaction. The successful candidate will join our Campbeltown Courier sales team and work across a variety of publications and products. Ongoing in-house training will be given as required. A full driving licence is essential as you may not necessarily be office based but could have the opportunity to travel throughout Argyll and surrounding area in one of our company vehicles.

We offer an excellent rate of pay, generous annual holiday entitlement, company pension scheme, life assurance and private medical insurance.

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

Please apply by email with a full C.V. including contact details to: [ali@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ali@obantimes.co.uk)  
Closing date Friday 26th October

# BID4Oban Ltd

The new Oban BID Company is seeking to recruit 2 positions which will be key in delivering the £840,000+ BID Business Plan 2012-17.

## Oban BID Manager

Do you want to take the lead in giving Oban a brighter future?  
£25-28,000 p.a. based on 40 hour week, pro rata 20 hours per week, 5 year fixed term

We're looking for an outstanding project manager with:

- excellent communication and marketing skills
- ability to build strong partnerships
- experience of managing complex successful projects within budget
- commitment to exceptional customer service and quality driven
- possess industry knowledge of variety of business sectors

## Oban Event Manager

Are you up to the challenge of improving Oban's events and festivals offer throughout the year?  
£22-25,000 p.a. based on 40 hour wk, pro-rata 20 hours per week, 5 year fixed term

We need a marketing or events management professional with:

- Proven track record of delivering successful events and marketing strategies
- Experience of making partnership work with a range of stakeholders
- Proficiency in using web-based information services and social media

Generating additional project funding through grants income. Job descriptions, person specifications and the Business Plan are available at [www.bid4oban.co.uk](http://www.bid4oban.co.uk)

The posts may be applied for individually or as one full time role. To apply, please send a CV and covering letter by 8 November to: John Forteith, Director, shadow BID4Oban Board Bid4Oban Ltd, c/o CGL Ltd, 15 Lochside Street, PA34 4HP Or by email to [info@bid4oban.co.uk](mailto:info@bid4oban.co.uk)

# Oban Times RECRUITMENT

# MACLEOD

MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LTD

REQUIRE

## ROOF TILER / CEMENT WORKER

WRITTEN APPLICATIONS, WITH C.V. TO

Kilmory Industrial Estate  
Lochgilthead PA31 8RR  
e-mail - [lil@mkmacleod.co.uk](mailto:lil@mkmacleod.co.uk)

# ARGYLL HOMECARE

Argyll HomeCare Ltd provides a professional, flexible, reliable and high quality service for those individuals requiring additional support or care at home.

**Deputy Care Manager - (£20,856 per annum - pro rata, plus on-call allowance)**

We are seeking to recruit a highly motivated individual who has a passion for delivering high quality, individualised and personalised care to individuals living in the Mid Argyll & Kintyre area.

**Duties will include:-**

- Developing, implementing & reviewing individualised plans of care. Staff support & management, including staff supervision. Roster planning & monitoring. Recruitment & training. Liaising with other professionals. On-call rota

**The successful applicant will have:**

- Experience in the care sector. Excellent communication skills combined with the proper aptitude to work smoothly with our many stakeholders - clients, relatives, staff, Local Authority, Health Care Professionals etc.
- SVQ 4 (or equivalent) or willingness to undertake.
- Experience in a supervisory role preferable but not essential. A good level of IT skills. Full driving licence.
- A real commitment to providing a first class service for all of our clients.

**HomeCare Support staff - (£15,767 per annum - pro rata (£7.56 per hour), plus mileage allowance)**

Mid Argyll & Kintyre area  
Full Time & Part Time required. Care experience is desirable but not essential as comprehensive training is provided.  
A full driving licence and access to a vehicle is essential for all the above posts. All staff will be subject to an enhanced disclosure check (PVG).  
For further information and an application pack please contact 01546 600333 or email [info@argyllhomecare.co.uk](mailto:info@argyllhomecare.co.uk)  
Closing date: 6th November 2012.

# TEMPORARY DISTRIBUTORS REQUIRED

TO DELIVER THE BT PHONE BOOK IN FORT WILLIAM, MALLAIG, KYLE, PORTREE, ULLAPPOOL, AVEMORE, BONAR BRIDGE, MILTON, LAIRG, HELMSDALE, WICK, WATTEN, OBAN, SPEAN BRIDGE, SKYE, LEWIS AND SURROUNDING AREAS.

GOOD RATES OF PAY AND FLEXIBLE WORKING HOURS  
YOU WILL NEED A CAR TO TRANSPORT YOUR DIRECTORIES  
CALL 0844 742 1333  
[www.thomsondirectories.com/distribution](http://www.thomsondirectories.com/distribution)  
Text BTHIGH to 07786 208008

# Appin Community Sport and Leisure Association (ACSALA)

(Registered Charity: SC037267)

## Sports Co-ordinator-part-time contract over 2 years (£20,000)

ACSALA welcome applications from individuals and/or organisations who have experience and a track record of developing and co-ordinating sports and recreational activities, preferably associated within all-weather multi-sports environment. The position will be based at the new facility currently under construction at Strath of Appin Primary School.

Contact ACSALA for a Job Description and to register your interest. Please send your CV with a covering letter highlighting your skills and experience, and the names, addresses and contact numbers of two referees to:

Gerry Boyle, Chair ACSALA, c/o Strath of Appin Primary School, Appin, Argyll. PA38 4BG by telephone 01631 730345 or email: [gerry.boyle@strathappin.argyll-bute.sch.uk](mailto:gerry.boyle@strathappin.argyll-bute.sch.uk)  
**Closing Date 9 November 2012** - Evening Interviews to be held on 22 November 2012 with a contract start date of early December 2012.

# krisp print

For a hassle free service throughout Argyll call Krisp Print on 01631 568015

PO Box 1  
Lochavullin Industrial Estate  
Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB  
email: [sales@krispprint.co.uk](mailto:sales@krispprint.co.uk)  
[www.krispprint.co.uk](http://www.krispprint.co.uk)

- Design
- Copy
- Print

# McDougalls

103 George Street, Oban

## Vacancy for Sales Assistant

30 hours per week

Please collect an application form from the shop

# argyllholidays

## Hairdresser & Beautician required at Drimsynie House Hotel, Lochgoilhead

Salon lease available from 01/11/12. You must be fully qualified, be adaptable and work to the requirements of the business. To register your interest email sarah@argyllholidays.com

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

# ALIENERGY

## Finance Officer

We are looking for a well organised and motivated individual to help ALIENERGY's Manager to organise our budget and manage our financial systems. Duties will include managing accounting systems; maintaining financial records for all our projects and programmes; preparing financial plans, reports and grant claims and helping to develop and review budgets.

14 hours per week; location: Oban  
Salary: ca £22,884 (pro rata); contract for 6 months initially, but likely to become a long term contract. We are also willing to consider a self employed contractor.

Closing date: Friday 9th November  
Interview date: Monday 19th November  
Job pack available from: Jenny McLeish ([jenny@alienergy.org.uk](mailto:jenny@alienergy.org.uk); 01631 565183) or downloaded from [www.alienergy.org.uk](http://www.alienergy.org.uk). For further information contact Dr Mandie Currie on 0791 937 3097 or [mandie@alienergy.org.uk](mailto:mandie@alienergy.org.uk)

# Drive safe this winter!

**WINTER** is almost upon us and motorists are being urged not to be caught out by the weather this year.



Last year may not have been the coldest, but it was one of the wildest winters in recent memory, with high winds and heavy rains bringing havoc to the roads. Just one year prior, we experienced one of the coldest winters in memory, with temperatures plummeting to such an extent even the gritters struggled to get around. It just goes to show that you cannot predict exactly what conditions to prepare for – so be ready for anything. A given for most vehicles is to ensure winter tyres are fitted. Many people think these a luxury, but one or two icy mornings would quickly reassure you of their merit. There are other essentials for all vehicles too. A torch in case of problems in the dark, safety escape kit, de-icer and scraper, spare tyre and a charged mobile phone – all simple yet essential items for unexpected events. Remember to keep warm clothing in the car at all times.

Some snacks are handy too – you'll be glad you did if you break down in a remote place when the cold chill is biting in. Another good idea would be to look at the vehicle you're driving. In the rural west highlands, sometimes only a 4x4 vehicle will do. These are most suited to driving in hazardous conditions and can often be the only way to negotiate the harshest of winter weather. For example, in slippery conditions traditional front-wheel drive vehicles struggle to find traction. With the drive train unable to control the back wheels, the front wheels can often spin wildly out of control. This is exacerbated on uneven surfaces. In some conditions, the result can be a loss of control of the vehicle, damage to the tyre or even worse. Snow can be even more difficult, particularly with narrow wheel arches susceptible to packing with slush.

Neither set of conditions would tax a 4x4 vehicle too much. Most modern off-road capable vehicles are able to apply a greater or lesser amount of traction to each wheel depending on the grip and type of surface. If, for example, you find yourself having to negotiate frozen slush on the roads, the car will compensate to give the best possible driving experience. High wheel arches also mean the movement of your wheels won't be impacted quite as easily by packed snow or slush. A caveat though, this doesn't mean you can simply put the foot down – caution is still required – but a 4x4 will still hold the road better than a front wheel drive. It can make the difference between getting to your destination or not. Of course, one of the most sensible things you can do is drive to the conditions; regardless of your vehicle. Don't drive if it is unsafe to do so, don't go too fast and don't brake too hard when approaching bends or hazards. Finally, ensure you give yourself plenty of time to react to traffic ahead and leave a greater stopping distance between cars than you would in ideal conditions. It could save your life.

**Make sure your vehicle is fit for winter**

Green Flag AA RBC

- Winter safety checks
- Battery & anti freeze checks
- Certified to BSPA43 for recovery work
- Fuel • Repairs

For more than just an accident

**MacDougall's Garage**

Corrie Glen, Fionnphort Tel: 01681 700294

**CROFT MOTOR SERVICES**

Service & Parts

Service maintenance on all vehicles

Get your winter checks here

Vauxhall Warranty

24 hour breakdown & Recovery Service

Unit 5B Ben Nevis Estate, Fort William PH33 6PR

01397 703877 (24 hours)

**HEGARTY'S ACCIDENT REPAIR CENTRE**

Keeping your wheels on the road

**'GOLD SELECT' APPROVED ACCIDENT REPAIRERS**

Panel Beating & Spray Painting

Vehicle & Light Commercial Repairs

Courtesy Cars Available

Simon and his team would like to wish all drivers safe driving this winter

Call for your estimate today 01397 705566

**Kerrie's Tyre Service**

We supply & fit quality new tyres to all types of vehicles.

24 hour breakdown service

Also • Batteries • Brakes

• General Servicing

• Exhausts

Quarry Road, Oban

Tel/Fax: (01631) 570000

**Scott Robertson Accident Repairs**

- Car & Light Van Body Repairs
- Insurance and Private Work

Tel: 01631 569441

Quarry Road, Oban, PA34 4DP

**S.D. MacDougall AUTOSERVICES**

**GET READY FOR SAFE WINTER MOTORING THIS YEAR WITH A SAFETY CHECK AND TOP UP DRIVE SAFE THIS WINTER!**

Mot's, Car Repairs, Services and Car Sales

Unit 6, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban

Tel: 01631 566502/566470

**LOOKING FOR A QUALITY USED VOLVO?**

Volvo XC90 EXECUTIVE, Black With Black Leather Interior, 30,000 Miles, .....	£26,000
Volvo S80 2.4 D5 SE 4DR GEARTRONIC [185].....	£11,000
Volvo C30 2.0 SE LUX 3DR .....	£13,000
Volvo C30 2.0D SE LUX 3DR POWERSHIFT .....	£11,000
Volvo S80 2.4 D5 SE 4DR GEARTRONIC [185].....	£11,000
Volvo C30 1.6D R DESIGN SPORT 3DR.....	£10,000
Volvo V50 2.0D SE 5DR [EURO 4] .....	£7,200

**IAN CATTANACH CAR SALES**

TEL: 01463 717200 MOBILE: 07713642892

WWW.USEDEVOLVOCARS.COM

**Andrew Storry Independent Land Rover Specialist**

Land Rover Range Rover 3.0 Td6 auto 2003MY .....	£9,250
Land Rover Discovery 2.5Td5 (7st) auto 2004MY ES Premium, ...	£8,995
Kia Sportage 2.0CRDi XS,2005 .....	£4,995
Hyundai Tucson 2.0 16v (4WD) GSI,2006 .....	£3,995
Land Rover Freelander 2.0Td4 2004MY .....	£3,995
Land Rover Freelander 2.0Td4 2003MY Serengeti .....	£3,500
Honda CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC SE Sport,Auto,2002 .....	£2,995
Hyundai Tucson 2.0CRTD auto CDX,4X4,2004 .....	£2,995
Toyota RAV4 2.0 VVTi GX,2002 .....	£2,750
Land Rover Freelander 1.8 2001MY .....	£1,850

West Badallan Farm, Fauldhouse EH47 9AG

Mob: 07879 897 011

Landline: 01501 770615

For all stock view el Motors Key in a story 4x4

**Get a grip... Winter Weather Tyres**

In the same way that you change your footwear to suit the weather conditions underfoot, it is worth considering changing your tyres to suit conditions on the road.

**TOYOTA**

ALWAYS A BETTER WAY

**LOMOND CAR CENTRE**

If you are looking for a new car or 4x4, please call or check

Lomond Car Centre, Tel: 01389 765666

www.lomondcarcentre.co.uk

Lomond Auto Centre, Tel: 01389 756655

www.lomondautocentre.co.uk

Investing in Winter Weather Tyres and alternating between these and your standard tyres can increase the lifespan of both sets, saving you money by requiring replacements less frequently. If you have any questions we are here to answer them at Helensburgh Toyota.

For further information give David or Matthew a call on 01436 672779

**HELENSBURGH TOYOTA**

No1 for customer care

5-7 John Street

Helensburgh G84 8BA

T: 01436 672779

helensburgh.toyota.co.uk

**Gunns Garage**

Tyneribbie, Appin PA38 4DB

For all your servicing and mechanical needs.

Contact us on 01631 730279

Telephone: 01631 565565

**Express WINDSCREEN Services**

**DRIVE SAFE THIS WINTER**

Glenshellach Business Park, Glengallan Road, Oban

### Are you ready for Winter? Get a grip with Toyota winter weather tyres

Would you go outside wearing flip-flops in the snow? No – so why continue using standard summer tyres when the temperature drops? Investing in winter weather tyres and alternating between these and your standard tyres can increase the lifespan of both sets, saving you money in the long run – not to mention providing you with a better, safer drive in cold weather.

When should you change to winter weather tyres? Winter weather tyres are designed to provide better grip on the road surface in conditions where the temperature is less than 7°C. In the UK this is between October and March. The tyres are manufactured with higher levels of natural rubber and silica which is combined with a tread pattern designed to help the tyre bond with the road at lower temperatures. This gives better grip and improved stopping distances versus standard tyres in cold weather, improving the vehicle's handling characteristics.

How do winter weather tyres affect stopping distances? Dry road: Winter weather tyres had an improved stopping distance of 11m. Snowy road: Winter weather tyres had an improved stopping distance of 8m

Are winter weather tyres only for use in the heavy snow? Definitely not. All modern winter weather tyres are designed for optimal safety below 7°C, in the cold, wet, ice and snow, offering superior performance in all winter conditions.

Can I drive at my normal speed on winter weather tyres? Winter weather tyres, by design may have a slightly lower speed rating than standard tyres. For example a winter weather tyre that has an H rating has a maximum speed of 131mph and this should not compromise your driving in winter conditions.

Do winter weather tyres wear out quicker? No, winter weather tyres are designed to perform and last better in colder conditions.

When should I change back to my standard tyres? It is recommended that in March, when average temperatures should be nearing 7°C in the morning, you should change back to standard tyres.

For further information, storage recommendations and a quote, please contact David or Matthew at Helensburgh Toyota on 01436 672779

Editorial courtesy of Helensburgh Toyota



#### E.M. COMMERCIALS LTD

- 10 MITSUBISHI L200 WARRIOR, Double Cab Pickup, Manual, Leather, Cruise, Epack, Met Silver £13,450
- 09 MITSUBISHI L200 ANIMAL, Double Cab Pickup, Auto, Sat Nav, Alloy, Met Grey, 50k miles £11,950
- 09 MITSUBISHI L200 ANIMAL, Double Cab Pickup, Auto, Sat Nav, Alloy, Met Grey, 50k miles £9,950
- 09 MITSUBISHI L200 4Life Double Cab Pick-up, Canopy, E-Pack, Air Con, Metallic Silver, 50k miles £8,950
- 09 MITSUBISHI L200 Raging Bull, double cab pick-up, auto, canopy, leather, met grey £10,950
- 09 MITSUBISHI L200 WARRIOR, double cab pick-up, auto, leather, silver £9,950
- 08 MITSUBISHI L200 WARRIOR, double cab pick-up, manual, E-pack, alloys, cruise, black, 25k £12,950
- 08 MITSUBISHI L200 4 WORK, Single Cab Pickup, Manual, CD, tow bar, Red, 50k £8,450
- 07 FORD TRANSIT 4301 15 TDCI JUMBO VAN, twin rear wheel, 90,000 £9,950
- 07 MITSUBISHI L200 (Shogun) Edge, SWB, Commercial, Manual, E-Pack, Alloy, Air Con, Metallic Grey 60k miles £9,950
- 07 MITSUBISHI L200 4Life, Single Cab pickup, 4WD, White, 30k £7,950
- 06 Mitsubishi Shogun EQUIPE Commercial SWB, manual, epack alloys, tow bar, met. silver £5,950
- 06 MITSUBISHI L200 WARRIOR, double cab pick up, new shape, leather, black £5,950
- 05 FORD TRANSIT 280 4Life, double cab pick up, alloys, E-pack, met black, 80k £5,950
- 05 NISSAN NAVARA D22 2.5TD, single cab pickup, 2WD, mt, 13,000 miles £5,950
- 05 NISSAN NAVARA OUTLAW dbe cab pickup, manual, alloy cover, epack, alloys, black £8,950
- 05 NISSAN NAVARA TREK, King cab pick up, mountain top, black, 30k £8,950
- 05 NISSAN NAVARA ADVENTURA de pic up, auto leather, sat nav, 6 speed, Canopy, black £9,950
- 07 NISSAN NAVARA TREK King cab pickup, 6 speed, head-line met blue, 25k £9,950
- 09 FORD TRANSIT 350 TDCI mtwb dropside pick-up, alloy body £7,950
- 08 FORD TRANSIT 350 LWB, 1.8t, alloy, drop-side, pick up, tail lift, CD, tow bar white £7,950
- 07 FORD TRANSIT 280, SWB Semi High Van, SL2, CD, Roof Rack, Dark Blue, 60k £5,450
- 06 FORD RANGER, Single Cab Pickup, 4WD, CW Ford Alloy Dropside Tipper Body, White, 40k miles £4,950
- 06 FORD TRANSIT 260, SWB, LX Van, 100HP Electric Windows, Met Grey, 60k £4,950
- 09 LANDROVER 110, double cab pick up, 6-speed, manual, canopy, tow-pack, blue 40k £13,950
- 08 VAUXHALL COMBO CTD VAN, side door, silver, 50,000 £4,250
- 08 LANDROVER DISCOVERY 3 TOWB auto commercial, cruise control, air con, met green £12,950
- 08 VW CRAFTER 50, LWB, High top van, 50k gross, 6 speed, Twin wheels, E-Pack, Blue, 80k miles £9,950
- 08 VW CRAFTER, CRIS, TDI, 109 LWB High top van, E-pack white £8,750
- 08 ISUZU RODEO, Denver Double Cab pick-up, manual, 3 ton tow, met mt, 70k £9,950
- 07 MAZDA B50 Double Cab pick-up, manual, E-Pack, canopy, Met Silver, 50k miles £7,950
- 07 JCB 8045 2TS EXCAVATOR, Rubber Tracks, Scaper Blade, Q-Hitch, 4K Hours £14,250
- 12ton Schmitz Tandem Axle Tractor Drawn, hydraulic brake, electric controls, very tidy, £8,950
- CASE INTERNATIONAL 555, 2WD v/w Diesel Power Loader, Front Bucket, 900 Hours Only, Direct Council £7,950





**OWNERS CLUB UP TO 15% DISCOUNT**



**SPECIALIST BIKE INSURANCE.**

Bikesure Insurance Services has launched a new range of policies which reflect the low risk nature of island life. If you take out a bike insurance policy with us, you can save up to 50% compared with similar policies on the mainland. Call us today for a free, no obligation, quote.

**FREEPHONE 0800 089 2000**  
QuoteLine hours: Mon to Fri 9am-7pm | Sat 9am-4pm

bikesure.co.uk  
Part of Adrian Flux Insurance Services  
 Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority



## new car index

<b>ISUZU S &amp; S Services</b> Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel: 01292 880080 / 880440	<b>RENAULT W.D Semple</b> Inveraray & Lochgilphead Tel: 01499 302150	
 <b>SUBARU S &amp; S Services</b> Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel: 01292 880080/880440	<b>S &amp; S SERVICES</b> Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel: 01292 880080/880440	

**TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000**

RS

**used cars**

Tel: 07590 914 558 / 07733 888 392

Dunollie Road, Oban PA34 4PJ

Trade-ins welcome and Finance available

Open 7 days

Free Warranty with every car.

www.rsusedcars.co.uk

## DRIVE TIMES

<p><b>1973 MG MIDGET &amp; 1967 MG MIDGET</b></p>  <p>1973 MG Midget – Tax Free – Rover 1600cc Twin Cam Engine 5sp g/box. Professional conversion. Current MOT. £5,995.00.                  1967 MG Midget (1275). Complete but not running. £750.00. Both for £6,250.00</p> <p>Tel: 01770 700286</p> <p><b>£5,995.00</b></p>	<p><b>SKODA FABIA VRS 1.9TDI - 130BHP</b></p>  <p>Reg 05, Taxed 2/13, MOT 5/13                  Mileage 81600, Good condition,                  One owner, FSH.</p> <p>Tel: 01852 200371</p> <p><b>£3950</b></p>	<p><b>WANTED</b></p> <p>All Types of Diggers, Mini Diggers, JCBs 3CXs, Also MF and CASE, Any Condition, Any Age</p> <p>Telephone: 01250 884306                  07885203020                  gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk</p>	<p><b>WANTED</b></p> <p>Are you looking for a secure free way of selling your 4 x 4, any age, make, model, mileage, colour then click onto instant4x4buyer.com or call Stephen Lynch Direct tel 07751026953</p>	<p><b>WANTED FOR EXPORT</b></p> <p>Landcruisers, Hilux, also 2 w/d Vauxhall Bravos, any 4 x4 considered old or new, running or not, immediate payment on collection.</p> <p>Telephone 07703 490572</p>	<p><b>WANTED</b></p> <p>All types of 4 x 4's and light commercials, Ford, Mercedes, Toyota etc. Finance settled, company clearances welcome, high miles, non runners considered, cash buyer.</p> <p>Telephone 07734304924</p>	<p><b>WANTED</b></p> <p>4x4 any type, year, condition, also commercial van or pick up, will pay cash and collect.</p> <p>Telephone: 07832 008156</p>
<p><b>JEEP CHEROKEE 2.5 CRD (DIESEL)</b></p>  <p>2005, SILVER, 81,000K MILES                  EXCELLENT CONDITION</p> <p>Tel: 07748005015</p> <p><b>£3500 ONO</b></p>	<p><b>2008 COACHMAN LAZER</b></p>  <p>640/4, twin axle, fixed bed, rear bathroom, full Inaca awning, porch awning, water butts and everything you need</p> <p>Tel: 07517694410</p> <p><b>£11,000 ono</b></p>	<p><b>FORD KA</b></p>  <p>Reg 10/2004, 59,500 miles, Taxed 03/13, MOT 10/2013                  In good condition</p> <p>Tel: 01631 565895 or 07976 589961</p> <p><b>£900 ono</b></p>	<p><b>2000 VW BEETLE 2.0L</b></p>  <p>86,000mils. Great condition with plenty of service history, excellent tyres all round. T&amp;T until Feb 2013, lady owner and genuinely looked after vehicle. New car forces sale</p> <p>Tel: 07525 448184</p> <p><b>£2,000</b></p>	<p><b>TOYOTA RAV 4 T180</b></p>  <p>06 reg, 57,371 miles, 2.2 Diesel, 6 speed, leather heated electric seats, dual climate control, sunroof, cruise control, factory fitted Sat-Nav, multi function leather steering wheel, rain sensitive wipers, keyless entry and go, roof rails, auto headlights, 4 months road tax, 1 years MOT</p> <p>Telephone: 07788 438667</p> <p><b>£8,800 ono</b></p>		

**AUDI A3 E SPORT TDI**



5 door hatchback, 1900cc diesel, black, 50,000 miles approx, new MOT and taxed till February 2013, reluctant sale, owner moving abroad, vgc. 59 plate.

Tel: 07786864877

**£10,500**

**16FT ROWING BOAT**

Fibreglass, oars, life jackets.  
 Loch Lomond  
 Telephone: 07977148625

**£60 o.n.o.**

# SELLING YOUR OLD VEHICLE?

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**

Be seen by over 40,000 readers

Tel: 01631 568000

To advertise your car in Drive Times telephone 01631 568000



BIRTHS



MACGREGOR Arran would like to announce his safe arrival on October 12, 2012, son to Stuart and Christine (nee MacFadyen), grandson to Catherine and Stewart, Oban and Alex and Cynthia, Mull. Little cousin to Laura, Greig, Abbie, Megan and Caillie. Thanks for everyone's support and best wishes.

DEATHS

BRAIDWOOD - John T. (JB) of Coe Gardens Oban. Sadly and peacefully with his family at his bedside, John passed away after a long illness bravely borne with dignity on October 22, 2012. Beloved husband to Mabel and loving father to Dawn, Matthew and Zoe and the late Jason and John. Darling Papa to the family, respected father, father-in-law, brother, brother-in-law, uncle and friend. Service at 10am, Friday October 26 at St. Columba's Cathedral.

DUFFY - Sadly, but peacefully, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on October 21, 2012, in her 79th year, Ann, (Nancy), 34 Kerrera Terrace, Oban, beloved wife of the late Albert, devoted mother to Katherine and Allan and the late James and Eileen and a dear sister of Walter. Will be sorely missed.

FENTON - David - aged 83, beloved husband of Lucita, in Oban Hospital, on October 19, 2012. Funeral service in St. Oran's Church, Connel, at 1.00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 6, 2012. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Help for Heroes and RNLI. In celebration of his life, David always said no black necessary.

FERGUSON - Ian. At home peacefully on October 23 2012, Ian Ferguson (retired livestock auctioneer). Much loved husband, father, brother and grandfather. All are welcome to attend a celebration of Fergie's life which will take place at Perth Crematorium on Thursday November 1, 2012 at 2pm. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, to a charity on the day.

SCOBIE - Sarah. Peacefully at Lillyburn Care Home, Sarah MacMillan Scobie (nee Black) in her 90th year, beloved wife of the late Dr James Scobie, from Bearsden, loving mother of George, Carol, Shelagh and James, dear mother-in-law, granny and great-granny to all the family. She was predeceased by brother Colin and sister Jean and is survived by brother James, all from 3, Baligrundle, Lismore. Funeral service at Clydebank Crematorium, North Dalnottar, on Monday, October 29, at 1.30pm. Family flowers only.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LITTLE - Dick and family would like to thank all relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy, many cards and support at Molly's funeral. The family would also like to thank Dr Massie, Barbara and Crossroads carers, Catriona the Macmillan nurse, Jackie and Joan the district nurses. Thanks also to Mike McFall funeral directors also Rev Richard Corbett for the lovely service at Kilmallie Church. A total of £263.90 was collected for Crossroads.

ORR - Mamie's family thank all who attended the service, also for cards and flowers, Duncan MacDonald, Dougie McNeillage and Wm. McClymont. £300 collection to RNLI.

MEMORIALS

BIRSE - In memory of loving wife Margaret who died October 30, 2002. October is here with sad regrets. The day, the month, we'll never forget. Wishing your absence Was just a dream.

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 16 years today. It isn't what we write It isn't what we say It's how we feel inside As we think of you today. - Love always Grace, Colin, Colin, Shiona, David and Serena.

CLARK - Treasured memories of a dear husband, father, father-in-law, granda and great granda Alexander (Tam), who passed away October 26, 2011. Gone are the days we used to share. But in our hearts you're always there. Never more than a thought away. Loved and remembered every day. - Your loving wife Margaret and family xxx

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

FRASER - In loving memory of Betty, beloved mum, gran and great-gran, died October 28, 2011. Your presence we miss Your memory we treasure Loving you always Forgetting you never. - The Fraser family.

JACKSON - Loving memories of Alasdair who passed away October 28, 2005. A page in our book of memories is gently turned today. - Inserted by his wife Creina and family in Skye, Mull and Lochalme.

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

MACPHAIL - In loving memory of my father Neil MacPhail MBE, (late of Kirkcubbin, Tیره), who passed away 20 years ago on October 28, 1992. Dearly loved and remembered always. - Mairi and George.

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.

MORRISON - Treasured memories of Ian (Heiker). A loving husband, dad and granpa, died October 29, 2009. Sorely missed. - Love always Petra, Duncan and family xxx

ROBERTSON - Fond memories of William a loving husband, father, grandpa and great grandpa who passed away on October 23, 2008. Greatly missed. - Betty and family Tیره, Aberdeen and Glasgow.

SIMPSON - Catherine (Cathie). In loving memory of a darling wife and mother who passed away on October 28, 2009. It's hard to believe it's been 3 years since you passed away. You're in our minds, our thoughts, our hearts, every day. You've left a gap in our lives that no-one else can fill. We miss you more than words can say and we always will. Joey and William xx

SIMPSON - In memory of a dear aunt, Marion who died October 23, 2009. You left a place no one can fill. Always in my thoughts. - Archie.

SIMPSON - In memory of a dear aunt, Cathie who died October 28, 2009. You left a place no one can fill. Always in my thoughts. - Archie.

SMITH - In loving memory of our dear dad, Dugie, who passed October 24, 1995. Missing you is heartache that never goes away. Love and miss you every day. Elinore, Norelle, Vanessa, and Victoria. xxxxx

WALKER - In loving memory of a wife and mother Marion, who passed away on October 26, 2001. Always in our thoughts. - Allan and family, Islay, Gartmore and Blanehead.

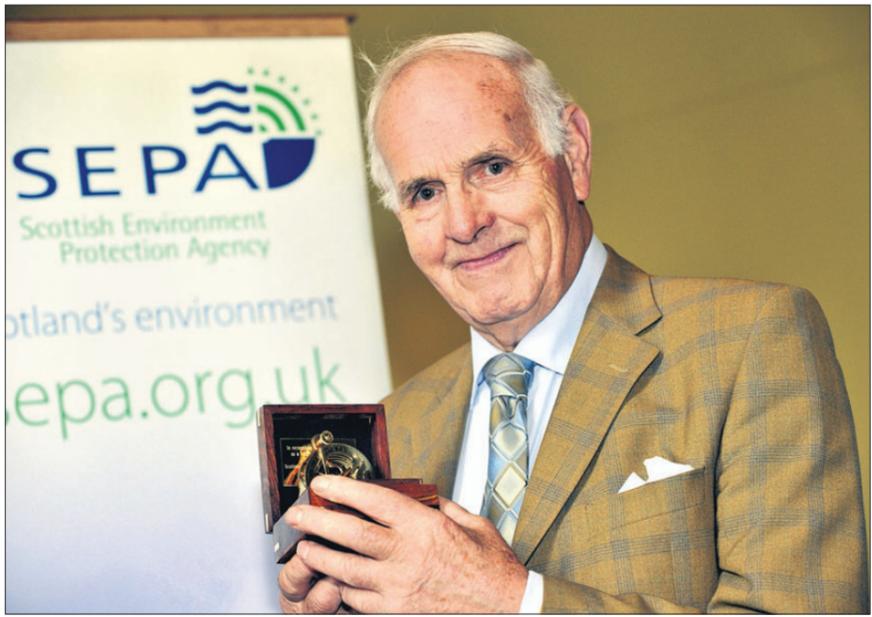
WELSH - In loving memory of our mam and nana Jessie, who passed on October 27, 2005. Beautiful memories treasured forever. Of wonderful years spent together. Life is eternal, love will remain. In God's own time, we will meet again. Miss you so much. - Love Eileen and Martin xx

Oban welcomes HMS Middleton

OBAN will welcome mine hunter HMS Middleton next month ahead of November 11's Remembrance Service Parade. The Oban branch of the Royal British Legion will once again host the parade, which will be attended by some of the crew of the 685 tonne vessel, which is usually posted in Bahrain.

All organisations and individuals who wish to attend will be welcome and there will be buses available to transport those unable to march to the war memorial. Any who wish to take advantage of this should gather at the Corran Halls for 10am.

All groups and members of the public who wish to take part in the parade must assemble at the Corran Halls by 10.15am. The parade will march off 15 minutes later. Observation of the two minute silence, a short service led by the British Legion local chaplain and the laying of the wreaths will take place at the war memorial. The parade will return to the Corran Halls, where there will be a general salute to the Lord Lieutenant's deputy and commanding officer of HMS Middleton, stopping at the 51st Highland Division cairn, where the colour party will take up positions for a wreath laying. The colour party and wreath layers will then proceed to Ganavan Sands to the Memorial Cairn there.



Ian Weir from Appin receives his award.

Ian's 'winning in the rain'

AN ARGYLL man who has been recording rainfall for 35 years has been rewarded for his dedication this week.

Ian Weir, who records the rainfall gauge at Dungrainach in Appin was given an award by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Met Office on Monday as Scotland's longest serving rainfall observers were presented with awards at a ceremony in Glasgow.

Hosted at the city's Royal Concert

Hall, the event saw 14 volunteers, from across the country, recognised for their long term contributions to data collection for the national rainfall archive.

Speaking of his experience Mr Weir said: 'I have been observing rainfall for over 30 years and I still get surprised by what I find in the gauge in the morning.'

'We run some holiday cottages and our English guests are always telling me how sunny it is where they live.

At least I can tell them how wet it has been in Argyll!

James Curran, SEPA chief executive, said: 'The voluntary rainfall observers provide an invaluable service and it is important we recognise their outstanding commitment and dedication.'

'The information they collect is crucial to a number of nationwide services and the awards are a way of showing our appreciation to the longest serving observers.'

GRADUATION



Louise Ann MacRae graduated from UHI with a BA in Childhood Practice, daughter of Ian and Isobel MacRae, Lochyside, Fort William. Louise is a former pupil of Caol Primary and Lochaber High School and is now currently working as a Senior Nursery Practitioner at Little Learner's Nursery, Oban.

WEDDINGS



Louise Sutherland - Paddy Curtis Both the bride and groom are from Creag Ghlas, Caimbaan, Lochgiphead. The ceremony and reception took place at the Stag Hotel, Lochgiphead and was attended and celebrated by family and friends on 22nd September 2012. Photography by Highland Photos.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN

Campbell Street Church Sunday 28 October 2012 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Phone-In 'Worship Link' available. Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh (01631) 567076 All welcome

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Sunday 28 October 2012 Trinity 21 St John's Cathedral, Oban Holy Communion..... 08.00 Choral Mattins..... 10.15 Sunday School and Creche Parish Eucharist..... 11.30 Loop System Large Print Hymn Books and Victoria. xxxxx Nicola NeNelly Provost (01631) 562323 St Columba Gruline, Mull Mattins..... 11.00 St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Holy Eucharist..... 10.00

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

MEMORIALS

Stokes Memorials

Serving Argyll and the Highlands & Islands for over 35 years. Established 1973 - Fraser Downie, Master Sculptor. - New and traditional memorials. - Work carried out in any cemetery. - Additional lettering. - Free estimates and advice. - Cleaning and renovations. - House signs. - Pet memorials. 312/314 Argyll Street, Dunoon • Tel/Fax 01359 702162 • Email: info@stokesmemorials.co.uk

CHARITY DONATIONS

CANCER RESEARCH UK

Fighting Cancer on all fronts... CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation. Commitment of over £15 million each year. Cancer Research UK Angel Building 407 St John Street London EC1V 4AD

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE

Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch. Donations always gratefully accepted. Please contact Mrs Lillian Kermode Tynwald, Glenburn, Soroba Road, Oban 01631 571009

WE ARE CAMMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

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

Oban Hospice

CARING FOR THE FUTURE. Donations always gratefully accepted. Please contact Jack Tolan Birch Hill Achnacreebeag North Connel, PA37 1RE

Mid Argyll welcomes new beaver kit

THE PITTER patter of baby beaver feet could be heard in Mid Argyll recently as trial staff spotted a new youngster in the forest.

The Scottish Beaver Trial, situated in LochanBuic, the southern area of Knapdale Forest, is alive with the excitement of a new arrival.

Trial field staff made the discovery after reviewing camera footage from the site and spotted the first time parents, Trude and Eoghann, emerge from their lodge with their new born youngster following closely behind.

Roisin Campbell-Palmer, Scottish Beaver Trial field operations manager said: 'It's yet more fantastic news for another of our beaver families.'

'This time it was the turn of Eoghann and Trude who had their very first kit - a great addition to our beaver population.'

The kit was first spotted at the end of September and the youngster, who has been identified as a little female has just received her first health check from the trial team.

In August, three beaver kits were spotted. They came from the pair living on the Dubh Loch, north of Lochan Buic.



Thought for the Week

Stories worth telling

FRIDAY October 26 is National Tell-a-Story Day.

All over Scotland, in schools and community halls, in gatherings large and small, stories will be told - folk tales, tall tales, situations involving saints and sinners, funny, sad and surprising. Everyone loves a story and telling them is an art, never been completely lost, that's being revived right now.

Stories aren't just for children. Whether we're following the world news, or discussing local community life, it's usually the human stories that capture our imaginations, speak to our hearts - such as that of Malala, the courageous 14 year old from Pakistan. When we begin to share stories that are important to us, of things that have happened or traditions we value, about our local church or people we know, the telling may bring out the truth or can distort it. There is a responsibility in storytelling - for it not to become propaganda or gossip.

Each of us has our own story. This Friday I will be travelling to conduct a friend's funeral. As often happens at such a time, her story will be told in the service and in many conversations during the day: one life-story seen from many angles. For Christians, inspiration and hope comes from the parables - the down-to-earth stories - told by Jesus, and the good news embodied in his caring life and sacrificial death, and the hope of new life for all through his resurrection: a story worth telling over and over again. Jan Stuch Pickard, Methodist Lay Preacher, Mull.

Mod results

The Royal National Mod: Thursday 18 October 2012: Highland Dancing

Convenor: Mr George Mitchellson; Judges: Miss Sheila Anderson, Miss Claire Hammell.

This year's contest was held in the Hunter's Quay Holiday. The event attracted a large entry, from all over Scotland, from the Islands and Highlands, and with one competitor making the long journey from Moscow. Competition was very keen, and results are listed below.

Primary: 4 Years Pas De Basques: Rachel Reid, Dunoon; Pas De Basques & High Cuts: Rachel Reid; 5 Years Pas De Basques: Eva Grace Kell, Rothesay; Pas De Basques & High Cuts: Eva Grace Kell; Highland Fling: Eva Grace Kell; Sword Dance: Eva Grace Kell; 6 Years Pas De Basques: Lexi Anna MacLeod, Staffin; Pas De Basques & High Cuts: Lexi Anna MacLeod; Highland Fling: Lexi Anna MacLeod; Sword Dance: Lexi Anna MacLeod.

Beginner: 8 Years: Highland Fling: Lucy Stewart, Lanark; Sword Dance: Lucy Stewart; Seann Truibhas: Lucy Stewart; Reel: Charlie Leigh McDonald, Dunoon; 14 Years: Highland Fling: Heather Mai MacKay, Rothesay; Sword Dance: Heather Mai MacKay; Seann Truibhas: Kirsty Livingstone, Lochgoilhead; Reel: Allana Miller, Dunoon; Trophy Fling: Kirsty Livingstone, Lochgoilhead; Flora MacDonald: Allana Miller, Dunoon; Scottish Lilt: Kirsty Livingstone; Overall Winner: Kirsty Livingstone; Second Place Overall: Allana Miller. Novice: 10 Years: Highland Fling: Breda Mackinnon, Paisley; Sword Dance: Shona Marie Steele, Lochboisdale; Seann Truibhas: Breda Mackinnon, Paisley; Reel: Iona Scott, Gruinart; Trophy Fling: Breda Mackinnon, Paisley; Flora MacDonald: Lily Muir, Sandbank; Scottish Lilt: Iona Scott, Gruinart; Overall Winner: Lily Muir; Second Place Overall: Shona Marie Steele, 12 Years & Over: Highland Fling: Laura Jane Steele, Lochboisdale; Sword Dance: Laura Jane Steele; Seann Truibhas: Laura Jane Steele; Reel: Alexandra Kareeva, Moscow; Trophy Fling: Alexandra Kareeva; Flora MacDonald: Alexandra Kareeva; Scottish Lilt: Alexandra Kareeva; Overall Winner: Alexandra Kareeva; Second Place Overall: Laura Jane Steele.

Intermediate: 9 Years: Highland Fling: Lisa McGillivray, Dunoon; Sword Dance: Abby Louise Livingstone, Glenrothes; Seann Truibhas: Abby Louise Livingstone, Glenrothes; Reel: Abby Louise Livingstone; Barrack's Johnny: Abby Louise Livingstone; Flora MacDonald: Lisa McGillivray; Scottish Lilt: Lisa McGillivray; Sailors' Hornpipe: Lisa McGillivray; Overall Winner: Lisa McGillivray; Second Place Overall: Abby Louise Livingstone.

15 Years: Highland Fling: Iona McKinlay, Campbeltown; Sword Dance: Emily McLean, Campbeltown; Seann Truibhas: Hannah Stalker, Glasgow; Flora MacDonald: Emily McLean; Scottish Lilt: Emily McLean; Sailors' Hornpipe: Emily McLean; Overall Winner: Emily McLean; Second Place Overall: Hannah Stalker. Premier: 9 Years: Highland Fling: Eilidh Jones, Dunfermline; Sword Dance: Eilidh Jones; Seann Truibhas: Eilidh Jones; Reel: Eilidh Jones; Barrack's Johnny: Eilidh Jones; Flora MacDonald: Eilidh Jones; Scottish Lilt: Eilidh Jones; Sailors' Hornpipe: Melissa Lumsden, Monifieth; Overall Winner: Eilidh Jones; Second Place Overall: Melissa Lumsden; 11 Years: Highland Fling: Cerys Jones, Dunfermline; Sword Dance: Cerys Jones; Seann Truibhas: Libby MacLean, Blairmore; Reel: Mollie Anderson, Sanquhar; Barrack's Johnny: Cerys Jones; Flora MacDonald: Libby MacLean, Blairmore; Scottish Lilt: Cerys Jones; Sailors' Hornpipe: Libby MacLean; Overall Winner: Cerys Jones; Second Place Overall: Libby MacLean; 12 Years: Highland Fling: Erin Maguire, Pennilsee; Sword Dance: Erin Maguire; Seann Truibhas: Erin Maguire; Reel: Erin Maguire; Barrack's Johnny: Erin Maguire; Flora MacDonald: Shannon Gray, Gourcock; Scottish Lilt: Erin Maguire; Sailors' Hornpipe: Erin Maguire; Overall Winner: Erin Maguire; Second Place Overall: Shannon Gray. Premier: 13 Years: Highland Fling: Caitlin Fleming, Glasgow; Sword Dance: Caitlin Fleming; Seann Truibhas: Caitlin Fleming; Reel: Caitlin Fleming; Barrack's Johnny: Caitlin Fleming; Flora MacDonald: Natalie Struth, Monifieth; Scottish Lilt: Caitlin Fleming; Overall Winner: Natalie Struth; Second Place Overall: Natalie Struth.

Premier: 14 Years: Highland Fling: Caragh MacKinnon, Paisley; Sword Dance: Caragh MacKinnon; Seann Truibhas: Caragh MacKinnon; Reel: Caragh MacKinnon; Barrack's Johnny: Caragh MacKinnon; Flora MacDonald: Caragh MacKinnon; Scottish Lilt: Caragh MacKinnon; Sailors' Hornpipe: Caragh MacKinnon; Overall Winner: Caragh MacKinnon; Second Place Overall: Nicole McKinlay, Campbeltown. Premier: 15 Years: Highland Fling: Catriona Clark, Castle Douglas; Sword Dance: Catriona Clark; Seann Truibhas: Laura Jane McCall, Dunoon; Reel: Laura Jane McCall; Barrack's Johnny: Laura Jane McCall; Flora MacDonald: Jennifer Stevenson, Coyton; Scottish Lilt: Catriona Clark; Sailors' Hornpipe: Courtney Cowden, Dunoon; Overall Winner: Catriona Clark; Second Place Overall: Laura Jane McCall. Premier: Adult: Highland Fling: Kate Crawford, Kelty; Sword Dance: Kate Crawford; Seann Truibhas: Kate Crawford; Reel: Kate Crawford; Barrack's Johnny: Kate Crawford; Flora MacDonald: Kate Crawford; Scottish Lilt: Kate Crawford; Sailors' Hornpipe: Kate Crawford; Overall Winner: Kate Crawford; Second Place Overall: Kirsty Barrett, Rothesay.

The Oban Times

& West Highland Times THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL

The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsagents every week



Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB Tel: 01631 568000 www.obantimes.co.uk

Editorial

Editorial Director Stewart MacKenzie editor@obantimes.co.uk

Northern Editor Stephen Norris snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Chief Reporter Euan Paterson epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

Senior Reporter Steven Flanagan sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter Faith Orr forr@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter Richard Haddock rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

Web Co-ordinator Marian Miller mrmiller@obantimes.co.uk

Newsdesk 01631 568060 editor@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising

Advertising Sales Manager Fiona MacInnes fmacinnes@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Executive Rhona McKillop adverb@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Executive Fiona Bennett fbennett@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Sales Executive Nadine Ross nross@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Sales Executive Mairi Auld mauld@obantimes.co.uk

Branch Offices

Fort William Tel 01397 703003 Fax 01397 702495

Lochgilhead Tel 01546 602345 Fax 01546 602661

Campbeltown Tel 01586 554646 Fax 01586 553006

Arran Tel 01770 302142 Fax 01770 302021

www.obantimes.co.uk

Visit us online



# Saints not at their best but still march on

'We were a bit sloppy at times, but won fairly comfortably in the end'

Fosters Scottish Amateur Cup 2nd Round  
**Oban Saints 4**  
**Crosslands United 0**  
CROSSLANDS United were the visitors to Glencruitten for this Fosters Scottish Amateur Cup second round tie and although Saints were not at their best they won this match fairly comfortably. Due to Bishopton United scratching from the first round of the Scottish Cup and the West of Scotland Cup tie against Mauchline postponed last week it meant that the Oban side hadn't played a competitive game for three weeks and in the opening stages it certainly showed with some slack play throughout the team. The players were taking an extra touch on the ball and the passing was poor. However, credit to the players they got their act together as the game wore on and played some good football at times. The manager stuck by the starting line-up that beat Inverclyde 5-0 in the semi final of the Centenary Cup with the only

change being Alex Craik coming back into defence after injury to replace the suspended Marc MacCallum which meant Keith Millar, Willie Gemmell, Ross Maitland, Mattie Rippon and PJ Sinclair were on the bench. The home side started off very sloppily with passes going astray, players holding on to the ball too long and with no tempo to the play and it was Crosslands who created a half chance in the first minute. **Frustrate** The Glasgow side played with only one man up front and flooded the midfield in an attempt to frustrate the home team and in the opening quarter of the game this tactic worked to a certain extent, but eventually when the Oban lads got the ball down, upped the tempo and got their passing game together there was only going to be one winner. It took the home side until the 21st minute to create the first real chance when Lewis Cameron turned his marker before slotting a great ball through to Donald

Campbell who raced in on goals, but the ball took a wicked bounce just as the Saints front man was going to shoot and he ended up knocking the ball past the post. However, the goal Saints' play deserved was only delayed by two minutes. Chris Graham found Donald Campbell with a well flighted free kick and the Saints striker made no mistake this time slotting the ball past United keeper Ronnie Spence to open the scoring. The visitors were playing well enough, but they were getting little change out of the now hard-working Saints midfield and defence. The home side doubled their lead in the 39th minute when Craig MacEwan set up Donald Campbell who thumped a great shot goalwards which the keeper failed to hold and Lewis Cameron was on hand to knock the ball home to give his team a 2-0 lead at the interval. Just like the opening period of the first half Saints failed to get out of the starting blocks at the beginning of the second half and

ie Rippon whose thunderbolt from 25 yards crashed off the underside of the crossbar and into the net. It was damage limitation for Crosslands as the game entered the latter stages, but they managed a couple of half decent breaks going forward, one of which Daniel Cassells had to be on his toes to push the ball away for a corner. With ten minutes remaining Eddie Swift thought he had scored goal number five when he thumped a great shot into the back of the net but his celebrations were cut short as referee John Scott had blown for offside. **Well saved** With the game entering the final minutes Willie Gemmell had a free kick well saved as the Crosslands goalkeeper touched the net-bound rocket onto the bar. There was no further scoring



Saints' Myles McAuley and Paul Kerr play a neat one-two in mid-field to leave Crosslands skipper Jim Gilmore stranded.

**FOOTBALL**

## The green machine slips up at Uddingston

RBS West Division Three Uddingston 27  
**Oban Lorne 12**  
OBAN Lorne's march to the summit of West Division Three was halted at the weekend after some scrappy play and poor conditions contributed to their first defeat of the league season at Uddingston. A strong squad travelled to

Lanarkshire but were left disappointed after a 27-12 defeat. Oban Lorne came into the game knowing that a bonus point win could put them joint top of the league, keeping up the pace with leaders Loch Lomond. But upon arrival in Uddingston, it was plain to see that the wet weather had taken its toll on the playing surface, with the

pitch very soft underfoot. This set the game up to be a messy encounter but there was nothing messy about Oban's start. On the stroke of five minutes, a superb line break from Struan Smith, followed by a beautiful offload to twin brother Cammy, allowed Oban to score their first try in the corner. But Oban failed to build on the lead they had worked so hard for and gave away three penalties in 10 minutes. Luckily, the home team could only score one of the resulting kicks, reducing Oban's lead to two points. Soon after however, Uddingston went over the line for their first try of the game, followed by a successful conversion. Uddingston then found themselves five metres out in the dying minutes of the first half, but strong defence and some brutal tackling from Angus Munro halted the home team's drive. As the second half began, Oban found themselves under heavy pressure from their opponents. Some poor handling cost

The Green Machine momentum through knock-on penalties and Uddingston's confidence was growing, despite a powerful Oban scrum from the front row, led by Robin MacQueen. Even the usually dominant Oban Lorne lineup was misfiring and this added to the growing frustration of the Oban players, culminating in yet another kickable penalty to Uddingston. Their fly-half duly slotted the kick home to extend the lead by another three points. Six minutes later, and an Uddingston chip kick from midfield took a good bounce and was gathered up masterfully by their centre, who raced home in open field to score under the posts. Another successful conversion made it 20-5 to the home team. Nonetheless, Oban kept battling and found themselves pushing hard towards the Uddingston line through some direct running from Andy MacDougall and Corrie Louw. The sheer power of the forwards was finally on show

**RUGBY**

as they drove the Uddingston defence back. MacDougall smashed his way over for a try, converted by Craig Wright. As Oban pushed forward, Uddingston got a break from a loose ball and took full advantage to finish off the game with a try. Despite the poor conditions, head coach Louw made no excuses for the performance. He said: 'We didn't execute our game plan at all today. We scored early and sat back rather than keeping the momentum going. 'This week, we have to work hard at training to prepare for our next game. We can't afford another loss like today.' Oban Lorne have another tough away game next week, this time in Paisley. A win against the Renfrewshire team could put The Green Machine back on track in the league, as they have a game in hand against the teams above them.



Oban Lorne coach Corrie Louw.

## Youngsters take to the surf

A DOZEN young windsurfers have been enjoying an introduction to wave sailing on Tیره during this year's Wave Classic. The young competitors were taking part in the Royal Yachting Association's T15 initiative, which aims to encourage youngsters to continue their favourite form of sailing into adulthood. Nine of those involved made a four hour ferry journey to the Inner Hebridean island from the Scottish mainland - with the others from Tیره itself. After meeting members of the professional fleet, the youngsters - aged from eight to 16 - took to a loch where they received hands-on coaching, ahead of a planned competition in the sea off one of Tیره's many beautiful beaches. RYA Event instructor Robin Nicol said: 'It went well. The weather could do with being a bit warmer, but today is nice and sunny, the kids are really enjoying it and getting into it. 'The kids here are definitely

**WIND SURFING**

committed to windsurfing, it is just about expanding their horizons, not just about racing, it's all showing them other types of windsurfing. 'We'd love to make this an annual event, and encourage more kids to take part.' The Tیره Wave Classic is the third of four contests within the British Wavesailing Association UK Wave Tour.

**Glencruitten GC**

**GOLF**

STEVEN Murphy (24) won the Saturday Stableford with a total of 44 points. John Plunkett (6) was second with 38 points and Philip Murphy (1) was third with 37 points. Alan McKie won the Pickfords Trophy the previous Sunday beating Philip Murphy 7 and 6 in a 36 hole final. This Saturday there will be a continuation of the Saturday Stableford.

**Scottish Amateur Football League results and fixtures**

**FOOTBALL**

SCOTTISH Amateur Cup, second round - Dunoon Ams 3, DTI 1; Houston 5, Tarbert 3; Lochgilhead Red Star 4, Dunoon Athletic 4; Glasgow Deaf v Campbeltown Pupils, postponed; Oban Saints 4, Crosslands United 0. This Saturday's fixtures - Scottish Amateur Cup, second round - Glasgow Deaf v Campbeltown Pupils; second round replay - Dunoon Athletic v Lochgilhead Red Star; SAFL Premier Division - Oban Saints v Thorn Athletic; Premier Division Two - Carlton YM v Dunoon Ams.

## Colonsay and Oronsay Gun Club hold autumn shoot

COLONSAY and Oronsay Gun Club held its autumn meet at Machrins links on the afternoon of Saturday, October 13. Eleven men and one woman competed. Club secretary Kirsty MacAllister, who presented the prizes in Colonsay Hotel in the evening, said: 'It's a pity the weather wasn't as good as it was on the Sunday and Monday, but I think everyone enjoyed the day anyway.' Prizewinners: Finlay McFadyen Memorial Cup - 1 Les Robinson; 2 Donald MacAllister Snr; 3rd Donald MacAllister Snr. Peter MacAllister Memorial Quail - 1 Donald MacAllister Snr; 2 George Broly 3 Dave Binnie. Benoran Cup - 1 Donald MacAllister Snr; 2 Les Robinson; 3 George Broly. Catherine Clark Cup - 1 Les Robinson; 2 Lewis Nisbet; 3 George Broly. Silver Cartridge (double rise) - 1 Gavin Clark; 2 Chris Nisbet. A.S.McNeill Memorial Quail (aggregate scores) - 1 Les Robinson; 2 Donald MacAllister Snr; 3 George Broly.



Les Robinson in action.

# 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.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

**Easy to enter**

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition Rules**

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company. In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box)  The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Name .....

Address .....

..... Tel No. ....

Please tape your £1 coin here

**WIN £550**

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

C Cameron  
Iona Drive, Oban

V Currie  
Bowmore, Islay

# International series hopes kept alive by two late goals

'The key difference was that Ireland took their chances on the day'

SCOTLAND captain Norman Campbell believes the Scots can still secure the 2012 Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling trophy in Ireland this weekend, providing they become more clinical.

The 33 year old Newtonmore defender was relieved to see Caberfeidh's Kevin Bartlett and Lochaber's Neil MacDonald grab two late five-point goals against the Irish in Inverness last Saturday.

Had those two counters failed to materialise, Drew McNeil's men would have been traveling to County Clare having to make up a 16-goal deficit at 25-9.

Instead, they will take the field at Cusack Park in Ennis 25-19 down and with only six points to make up.

With five points awarded for a goal this year, that is certainly not impossible.

#### Influence

And skipper Campbell, again a huge influence at Bught Park, reckons the Scots will be confident despite losing to a Patrick Horgan-inspired Ireland team in leg one.

'It's all to play for now,' said Campbell, who was awarded the Marine Harvest Player of the Year 24 hours before the first leg.

'We were a little fortunate to get the last goal but we'll take it and it has kept the tie alive for us. Technically, one goal would bring the game back within our reach and we'll take a lot from the second half performance in Inverness because dominating Ireland is something we have struggled to do in recent years.'

Campbell was deployed in an advanced role in the first half in Inverness before being anchored back into the centre of defence in

the second 40 minute period.

That gave Scotland a platform from which to build but the captain knows there is work still to be done.

He also feels Scotland could have been heading to County

Clare only four points adrift, believing linesmen failed to spot a two-point hit he converted in the first half.

'The key difference was that Ireland took their chances on the day. We had a few really good

#### SHINTY/HURLING

opportunities to get goals and struggled to get them.

'We also punished ourselves by not converting over the bar. All the boys were hitting them great in training but it was different on the day and that is maybe something we need to look at.'

'In terms of the first one I took over the bar, the linesmen were 15 to 20 metres away.'

'I am not sure they could say it was in or not. There is all to play for but we have to take the chances we get.'

John Meyler's Irish side dominated the first half in the Highland capital and went in 16-6 ahead at the break.

Of those 16 points, Cork man Horgan scored 15 including two five-point goals where he ghosted in behind the Scottish defence from the right before converting.

Shane Dooley, scourge of the Scots in 2010, shot Ireland's other point over the uprights.

Scotland looked ragged at this stage but converted three two-point strikes over the bar through Bartlett (twice) and Premiership Player of the Year Steven MacDonald of Newtonmore.

The second half was much brighter for Scotland and will provide hopes for this weekend.

Horgan still managed seven points, including his third five-point goal, and Tommy Walsh and Neil McManus struck singles over the uprights.

However, Scotland were more unified and the late goals by Bartlett and MacDonald were complemented by a two pointer by Bartlett and a single point by Niall MacPhee of Fort William.



Ireland's dangerman Patrick Horgan of Cork scored an impressive 22 points including a hat-trick of goals. Photo: John MacTavish



Scotland captain Norman Campbell of Newtonmore tries to block this Irish effort during the Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling Series international played at the Bught Park in Inverness last Saturday. Ireland won a close game 25 points to 19. Photo: John MacTavish

## Ross calls for Under 21s to restore pride

NEW Scotland U-21 Shinty manager Ronald Ross MBE has called on his side to restore pride this Friday (October 26) as the Scots startlets face Ireland's youngsters in County Clare.

This will be the Kingussie and Scotland legend's first match in charge since succeeding Donnie Martin and he is under no illusions how difficult it will be.

Scotland's youths have suffered in recent years against their hurling counterparts and lost last year's international in Inverness 17-8.

However, Ross has built his side around captain and relative Rory Kennedy of Newtonmore,

the sport's young player of the year in 2011.

'We have to try to close the gap and set a benchmark,' said the coach - the first Scot in any sport to score 1,000 goals.

'The gulf recently has been big and we need to put in a better performance because the Irish take this fixture very seriously.'

'I've had some researching their side and the breakthrough hurler of the year is in their squad as well as forwards playing for the likes of Kilkenny senior team.'

'We know how difficult it will be but, for me, we have guys who all deserve to be playing because

they are playing senior level for their clubs and there are a few who could be in the Scotland senior team.

'Rory Kennedy, our captain, is probably the main defender at Newtonmore and Greg Matheson scored loads of goals for Lovat in the Premiership.'

'It has been a bit of a bugbear of mine that we haven't been able to get our best players out at U-21 level but I feel we are closer to that this time.'

#### Floodlights

Scotland head into the unknown at Gurteen on Friday evening as the match, which throws-in at 7pm, will be staged under floodlights.

It is not something the Scots have encountered before.

'We did one session under the lights at a rugby club in Inverness to try and get the players used to it because it will be new for us,' said Ross.

'All in all, we have had six sessions so the preparation couldn't be greater. We have to go with a bit of confidence and belief and get a positive result.'

Scotland's Ladies shinty team are also in action against a County Clare Camogie Select at 11am on Saturday, just three

hours before the senior international second leg.

Sarah Corrigan and Laura MacKay's 20-strong squad will be looking to build on recent successes and a resounding victory last year in Inverness.

Since the female internationals started in 2004, Scotland have won five to Ireland's three.

The coaches are confident the

2012 squad can eke out another victory.

'This year's international team was difficult to select due to the high quality of players from across Scotland,' said Sarah Corrigan.

The ladies will play at the Father McNamara Camogie Field in Ennis, which will later be officially opened.



The action was fast and furious. Photo: John MacTavish



Ireland's Steven Clynh beats Scotland's Niall MacPhee to the ball. Photo: Donald Cameron



No quarter was asked or given in this midfield battle as Kinlochshiel's Keith MacRae and Newtonmore's Steven MacDonald lock horns with the Irish. Photo: John MacTavish

## Kinlochshiel defeat Lochaber in London Shield final at Kiltarlity

London Shield  
Kinlochshiel 3  
Lochaber 2

KINLOCHSHIEL'S percocious U-17 side added more silverware to the Balmacara cabinet on Saturday, lifting shinty's Marine Harvest London Shield 3-2 against Lochaber.

The match was due to be played before the senior Shinty/Hurling international at the Bught Park's Outside pitch on Saturday at 11am.

However, standing water on the park necessitated a switch to Balgait, Kiltarlity, following a pitch inspection.

The short journey did not deter Kinlochshiel, who crowned an

excellent campaign with a victory.

The Balmacara youths scored an impressive 41 goals on their way to the final and Alasdair Nixon (10), Connal Fraser (15) and Fergus Dobson (79) were all on target.

#### Losing out

Spirited Lochaber, 2-0 down in the opening period, pulled back to 2-2 through Stuart Matheson (25) and Shane Latto (35) before losing out in the second half.

The win means Murdo Fraser's Kinlochshiel add the London Shield to the North of Scotland U-17 MacTavish Cup, secured earlier in the campaign with a 4-2 win over Skye.



The victorious Irish squad with the Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling Series Trophy. Photo: John MacTavish



### Results

Saturday 20 October  
Marine Harvest  
North Division 2  
Glenurquhart 1 v 1 Kingussie  
John Matheson - 11am

### Fixture

Saturday 27th October  
Marine Harvest  
North Division 2  
Aberdeen Uni v Glenurquhart  
Graeme MacMillan - 2.30pm

E-mail your sports copy to  
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk  
or  
design@obantimes.co.uk  
to arrive no later than  
1pm on a Monday

Sports Desk  
01631 568000

**Corporate stationery**  
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

**Personal stationery**  
Matching paper & envelopes, postcards, address labels

**krisp print**

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery, Burnbank, Burnside Street, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JD  
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk  
www.krispprint.co.uk

## Susie tests Formula One car at Silverstone

Susie's dream to be first lady of Formula One is a step closer

OBAN racing driver Susie Wolff has called time on her career in the DTM on Sunday as she nears ever closer to becoming the first woman to compete in Formula One.

The Williams Formula One team's development driver contested her last race in the German touring car series at the DTM season finale and finished 13th at Hockenheim in her trademark pink TV Spielfilm Mercedes AMG C-Coupe.

### MOTOR RACING

Over the past seven years, the 29 year old has contested 73 DTM races for Mercedes-Benz to date. Her best results were two seventh places during the 2010 season.

Susie made her DTM debut in 2006 with Mucke Motorsport and earned respect straight away in her first race in the AMG Mercedes C-Class at Hockenheim, where she achieved a top 10 finish.

At the end of her debut DTM season, she moved to Team Persson, which has also prepared her TV Spielfilm Mercedes AMG C-Coupe this season.

Susie earned her first points with a seventh place finish at the Lausitzring in 2010, going on to

repeat that result at Hockenheim in the October of the same year and with a total of four points, she finished in 13th place in the 2010 standings after enjoying the most successful of her seven seasons in the DTM.

Susie has been a development driver for the Williams F1 team since the start of 2012 and completed her first Formula 1 test for the team earlier this week.

Susie, who met and married her husband Toto Wolff while involved in DTM, said: 'Driving for Mercedes-Benz AMG in the DTM, one of the best championships in the world, has been an incredible journey

that started seven years ago for me and I am very proud to have been part of such a great team.

'Along the way I have enjoyed some really exciting racing, had some tough fights and met some brilliant people.

'I am very grateful and feel lucky to have achieved this and will always be thankful for the opportunity Mercedes-Benz AMG and HWA gave me.

'The DTM has been a challenge and it's disappointing to not have achieved my best results this season. I always pushed hard, however, and I'm proud of what I've achieved in my racing career at the highest level.

'It's been an amazing period of my life, not only will I take with me great memories, but also the most special prize, my husband.

'Most importantly, thank you to all of my fans who have supported me. Be assured I am by no means ready to hang up my helmet yet and am looking forward to exciting new opportunities in the future.'

Norbert Haug, vice president of Mercedes-Benz Motorsport, admitted seeing Susie drive her last race in DTM was a poignant moment for the team.

He added: 'For seven seasons, Susie has been an important part of this closely fought

championship and every one of her colleagues and rivals will tell you how well, tough and fair she drives.

'Susie may not have achieved spectacular results in the DTM, but she gave us some highlights in mixed conditions, in the wet and racing wheel to wheel; and her race pace was always better than her starting positions suggested.

'She earned her place in the DTM against the toughest of competition and Susie is, and remains, a wonderfully skilled and likeable representative of our brand. Thank you Susie, on behalf of us all.'



Mechanics prepare Susie Wolff's car ahead of her first test drive in the Williams FW33 at Silverstone last week.



Susie in action at Silverstone

### Lancaster 'B' still top the table

#### POOL

THE KELVIN picked up their first points of the season against a much improved Gluepot outfit, securing victory in the concluding match.

The Markie Dan's derby was a one-sided affair with the 'A' team easing past their junior counterparts, surrendering only one game on the night.

The Cellar sealed the two points early on away to The Claredon to maintain their 100 per cent start to the season, although planning a title winning party would certainly be premature if the below-par performances persist in the Scotch Doubles.

The Lancaster 'B' remain top of the championship table, albeit on game difference, after finally seeing off a dogged Lochavullin side and setting up a mouth-watering clash away to The Cellar next week.

The Lochnell will finally commence their campaign with two games in the space of a week, starting with the re-arranged fixture against The Lancaster 'A' on Monday evening.

Results: The Claredon 4-6 The Cellar; Lancaster B 6-4 The Lochavullin; Markie Dan's B 1-9 Markie Dan's A; The Kelvin 6-4 The Gluepot.

Fixtures for October 25: Lancaster A v The Claredon; The Lochavullin v The Kelvin; Markie Dan's A v The Lochnell; The Gluepot v Markie Dan's B; The Cellar v Lancaster B.

### Oban Saints youths

#### YOUTH FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints youth teams get back in action this coming weekend after the October school holidays with the following fixtures.

Saturday 27 - Under 13s v Kilpatrick; Under 16s v Lenzie Colts. Sunday 28 - Under 14s v Clydebank; Under 15s v Morton BC.

## Oban takes part in the world's biggest international squash tournament

OBAN'S squash players took part in the world's biggest international tournament last week as part of a bid to have the sport recognised by the Olympic Games.

Globally, 11,098 matches were played in World Squash Day, which saw local clubs go up against one another as part of either Team Squash or Team 2020.

#### Locally

In Oban, 46 players took part, with the age of participants ranging from 10-60. Team Squash

### SQUASH

came out on top locally, with 20 wins to 15. Team Squash won overall with 5,642 wins to 5,456.

The club's Jackie Kersley said: 'It was an absolutely brilliant day. We had regulars there and guys that had never played in a tournament before and they really enjoyed the experience.'

Meanwhile, there will be a race night at the Caledonian Hotel on November 2 in aid of club funds.

THERE were still a few winners on Tiree last week despite a lack of wind during this year's Wave Classic.

Star windsurfer Ben Proffitt has made it an unprecedented three Tiree Wave Classic wins in a row, with his thrilling 'expression session' masterclass enough for the Shropshire star to secure first place in the pro fleet.

Patience was needed though, with the weather proving fickle throughout the six days of competition.

Ben, one of several world-class competitors to make the trip, said: 'This week's been hard but let's not forget we've had a result in every category, so Tiree's delivered again and to win it for the third time does feel good.'

Keeping up the hat-trick theme, Troon's Davey Edmiston won the Masters title for the third time, and Tris Levie from Millport on the Isle of Cumbrae won the youth category.

Cornish windsurfers enjoyed great success at this year's Wave Classic, with Ian Ross from Penzance winning the amateur's division, while Debbie Kennedy from Hayle won the ladies' title.

'I'm delighted - it's been such a good event, I'm over the moon

## Lack of wind at Tiree Wave Classic



Phil Horrocks was in action at the Tiree Wave Classic, but was not able to consolidate his position at the top of the BWA UK tour table with the weather proving too calm to record full results. He finished in second place at the Classic.

to win. It is the second event in a row I've won too. It's brilliant,' said Ian.

Debbie - whose victory was her third in a row in Tiree - said: 'I'm really pleased to have won. It's been a long week, waiting for wind and waves, but it all came good in the end for me.'

'I used to dream about coming

to Tiree when I was windsurfing as a kid, and to think I've been here three years in a row and won it each time - it's crazy.'

Event organiser Jim Brooks-Dowsett said: 'While we were waiting for conditions at times, it has still been great. These guys really know how to make the most of whatever conditions

### WIND SURFING

came up and we saw some great performances.

'We really are grateful for the support of EventScotland and Argyll and Bute Council and we're looking forward to working with them again in 2013.'



Some of the players who took part in Saturday's event are pictured. They are, from left, Jackie Kersley, Emma Thompson, Annalise Bateman, Grace Thompson, Ian Stewart and Trish Boyd.

16\_1433squashday1

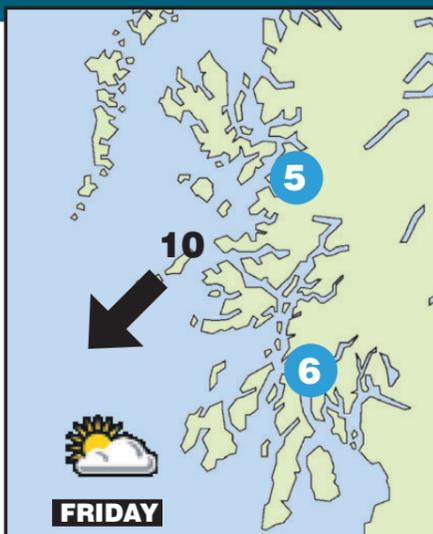
## Weather

**Thursday** Cloudy  
Winds light north north easterly  
Temperatures 3°C to 9°C

**Friday** Sunny intervals  
Winds light north easterly  
Temperatures 0°C to 6°C.

**Weekend** Sunny intervals  
**Outlook** Winds moderate north north westerly  
Temperatures 4°C to 6°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, October 25, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	03.10 3.0 08.36 1.4 15.05 3.5 21.14 1.5	
Fri	03.43 3.2 09.32 1.2 15.42 3.6 21.57 1.3	
Sat	04.01 3.4 10.16 1.1 16.15 3.8 22.32 1.2	
Sun	04.29 3.6 10.56 1.0 16.47 3.9 23.05 1.1	
Mon	05.00 3.8 11.32 1.0 17.18 4.0 23.37 1.0	
Tues	05.31 3.9 12.06 1.1 17.50 4.0 *** **	
Wed	00.11 1.0 06.01 4.0 12.38 1.2 18.22 4.0	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with



website: [www.northwestmarine.co.uk](http://www.northwestmarine.co.uk)  
Address: 7E Glengallan Rd., Oban, Argyll. PA34 4HG  
Ph: 01631 565740 Fax: 01631 565780  
email: [enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk)

# **The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.**

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8118

Thursday 25 October, 2012

www.obantimes.co.uk

79 pence

**DON'T FORGET TO PUT YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR THIS SUNDAY**

**FORT WILLIAM & LOCHABER EDITION**

### A830 update

TRANSPORT Scotland will update the public on improvements to the A830 at a briefing in the Astley Hall in Arisaig tomorrow at 6.30pm. Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson, who arranged the event, encouraged 'as many people as possible' to attend. He said: 'At the previous meeting in November 2011, Transport Scotland committed to providing the community with an update and will be reporting on investigations carried out since last year.'

### BaseCamp shuts up shop

A BIKE rental shop and café at a Laggan mountain biking centre is to shut next week after eight years in business. BaseCamp, located at Wolftrax in Strathmaschie Forest, will close its doors after owners Lindsay and Gail Carruthers said Laggan Forest Trust's (LFT) plans to create a new forest centre nearby would leave their business untenable. But contrary to some press reports, the Forestry Commission-run Wolftrax will not close and a new business will be sought to take over the vacated premises.

LFT development manager Robin Jackson told *The Oban Times* he was 'surprised and disappointed' to hear BaseCamp was closing and said they would have been invited to apply to run any new bike rental shop. He said: 'There is no intention of closing Wolftrax, in fact it is going from strength to strength. The Forestry Commission will be looking to advertise for someone to take over as a franchise.'

### Taste of Benbecula in Italy

BENBECULA oatcakes and shortbread are among traditional foods of the machair being showcased at an international congress in Italy opening today.

Hebridean weaving from Ardalinish Mill in Mull and sheaves of landrace cereals still grown on Uist also feature at the five-day Salone del Gusto and Terra Madre in Turin. More than 200,000 people are expected to attend the event.



### Robert hits the high notes in Mòd silver medal

Singer Robert Robertson's star continues to rise as he dominated the men's silver medal competition at the Royal National Mòd in Dunoon last week. The 18-year-old from Fort William was the clear winner by 20 marks ahead of Lawrence Butler-Perks from London after winning both qualifying competitions and the final. After winning the final last Wednesday night, Robert celebrated in McClure's Bar where he performed an impromptu gig with *Gunna Sound*. See full Mòd coverage pages 5 to 9. [epmod32](#)

### Patient safety group speaks out over pensioner's painful hospital death

A GROUP of NHS professionals pledged to 'whistleblow' on patient safety issues has expressed its condolences to a Skye family whose sister died in Broadford's MacKinnon Memorial Hospital.

Patients First Scotland (PFS) spoke out after *The Oban Times* revealed how 87-year-old Joan Maclean died in agony from a perforated bowel after medics diagnosed severe constipation too late.

NHS Highland changed their procedures following a complaint from Miss Maclean's distraught brother Murdo, 85, and sister Charlotte, 84, who lived with Joan in Carboth.

PFS, through a health professional member in the Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh

### EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by  
STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

area, said: 'Patients First Scotland would ask *The Oban Times* to extend sincere condolences and emotional support to Joan Maclean's family following her unnecessary suffering and death on March 20 this year in Broadford hospital due to system failures in the NHS. It was a failure of basic nursing care.'

'Patients First applauds Charlotte and Murdo Maclean for having the courage to whistleblow the story to *The Oban Times*.

of their dear sister, an elderly lady admitted to hospital with infected swollen legs.

'The question remains as to why they had to go to *The Oban Times* when this matter should have been resolved in the hospital when the family first raised their concerns on behalf of their sister.'

'This poor lady died inappropriately of constipation brought on by high level of constipating-making pain relief medication with aperients only administered after it was too late to save her life.'

'The bravery of Mr Maclean to speak out openly from his home on Skye needs recognition since it highlights the fact that relatives of patients have nothing to lose, and as Murdo stated he

was 'glad I did because it might help some other poor soul.'

'Unfortunately doctors and nurses are unable to speak up and raise concerns so freely since they risk bullying and subsequently having their careers and personal lives trashed if they do raise concerns over unmanageable workloads and grossly understaffed hospitals and many other patient safety issues too numerous to mention. This is because the NHS investigation system is not supporting staff who raise genuine concerns over patient safety issues.'

Patients First states its purpose is to reduce death and harm in the NHS by campaigning to ensure the NHS becomes 'open and accountable'.

## A82 recovery shake-up in pipeline

New standards being considered to ensure road closure delays are kept to a minimum

THE SCOTTISH Government is actively considering a shake-up of road recovery operations on the A82 and other main routes, it emerged this week.

Transport minister Keith Brown told Fort William Chamber of Commerce (FWCC) prolonged road closures following accidents was a 'bugbear' - and hinted new standards could be brought in to ensure delays were kept to a minimum.

Tuesday's conference in West Highland College followed an *Oban Times* exposé of last Monday's traffic mayhem north of Fort William, which saw the A82 shut by a lorry fire for 10 hours and a bus crash on the diversion route.

Addressing Mr Brown via video-link, FWCC transport spokesperson Stewart MacLean said 'questions must be asked' on why A82 recovery operations were taking so long.

And Ballachulish recovery firm boss Mike Chisholm branded the handling of last Monday's A82 incident as 'catastrophic'.

He told Mr Brown: 'All fire engines left around 10am at which time I would have said a risk assessment should have taken place. The trailer should have been removed and the site made safe.'

'Looking at the scene, the

### EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by  
STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

job could have been done in two hours, apart from putting the traffic lights up. There are other resources out there that are simply not getting used.'

Mr Chisholm was tasked to pull out the bus on the B8004 diversion but said police ordered him to stand down until the A82 was re-opened. After five hours, without instruction, he decided to recover the coach at 3pm.

He said: 'I broke the rules and took the coach away in 18 minutes. The police were not too happy with me.'

Mr Brown accepted problems existed - and hinted Scotland's single national police from next April could prompt big changes.

He said: 'There are particular aspects of this that give me cause for concern. This is a real bugbear for me.'

'Transport Scotland, the justice minister [Kenny MacAskill] and police are looking at this. This is the time to effect the changes they will want to see and I want to see as well.'

'Part of that is making sure local resources are used - and if they are the most appropriate resources that's what should

be used. We can't have road closures and economic activity stopped because of that.'

He added: 'A prolonged incident like this which does not involve a fatality clearly raises questions in my mind.'

'I see the move to a single police force as an opportunity to look into this, perhaps having performance standards for getting roads open again.'

'It is the police who have the right to close the road and also the responsibility for the contracts for recovery.'

Speaking after the meeting, Mr Chisholm told *The Oban Times*: 'I think there needs to be serious changes in the way the vehicle recovery contractors are managed.'

'I think the whole thing should be managed in house by Transport Scotland, rather than by third party venture capitalist companies who are only there for the coin.'

'Only then would there be more transparency.'

Mr MacLean added: 'It think the meeting was very constructive and the minister gave reassurances on a number of points. When he can talk in detail about incidents it shows he is going to do something about it.'

More on the conference in next week's *Oban Times*.

### Disappointment expressed as two MSPs resign from SNP

SKYE, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson has expressed his disappointment after two Highland MSPs resigned from the SNP.

John Finnie and Jean Urquhart took their decision after the party ended its long-standing opposition to North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) at its autumn conference in Perth last weekend.

Mr Thompson told *The Oban Times* he understood Mr Finnie and Ms Urquhart's decision but had no plans to follow their lead. He said: 'I'm disappointed they've chosen to resign from the SNP over this issue, but it is an issue people hold very strong views about.'

'Personally I was against the change in our policy and campaigned very strongly against it.'

'The conference debate was excellent and showed democracy clearly at work. At the end of the arguments a vote was taken, a decision was made and I'm going to work now to secure and build on the guarantees we were given during the debate.'

The SNP's stance for the last 30 years has been to oppose NATO, the defence alliance involving the US, UK and other countries.

**Lochleven Seafood Café**

**WINTER PROMOTION**

**SPANISH NIGHTS ARE BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND**

THURSDAY EVENINGS FOR 3 MONTHS ONLY  
NOVEMBER FEBRUARY AND MARCH  
TAPAS, PAELLA AND SPANISH DESSERT  
2 COURSE £15.95 - 3 COURSE £19.95  
BOOKING ESSENTIAL  
OUR SEAFOOD MENU IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE  
PLEASE CALL FOR OUR WINTER OPENING TIMES

Menus can be viewed on our website on [www.lochlevenseafoodcafe.co.uk](http://www.lochlevenseafoodcafe.co.uk)

**Fisherman lands biggest catch of his life**

A LOCHABER fisherman has landed the biggest catch of his life - a brand new Lexus 4x4 hybrid. Banavie man Alistair MacGillivray was awarded the prize after being crowned Fly-Fishing Grand Final European champion at Chew Valley Lake in Somerset. Alistair, 58, finished first in a field of 100 qualifiers from across the continent.

Competition sponsors Lexus gave Alistair the keys to the £45,000 vehicle for the next year, with the option to buy for a reduced price in 12 months time. Alistair, a member of the Corpach-based Scottish Pulp and Paper Mill fishing club, told *The Oban Times* being named European champion was 'unbelievable'. He said: 'I've represented Scotland in the past, but this is the biggest individual prize you can win. And it's such a wonderful prize as well.'

His wife Kate, head teacher at Spean and Roy Bridge primary schools, said: 'It's quite a bit of luxury, it's a lovely car to drive. We just bought a new car a few months ago, but that's the way it goes!'

Alistair has been fishing since childhood and despite his amateur status defeated a number of professionals to win the competition.

The electrician was one of only two fishers able to land the 10 trout limit in the allotted time, and his combined catch weight of 26lb 10oz was 2lb 11oz better than second-placed Craig Barr. Sky Sports was present to film Alistair's achievement, and the event will be broadcast in coming weeks.

Alistair MacGillivray, left, being handed the keys to his prize by Paul Cliffe of Lexus.

**LEISURE CLUB FESTIVE MEMBERSHIP**  
1st NOV till 31st DEC '12 FROM ONLY £49.99 + NO JOINING FEE!

- \* Indoor Pool \* Gymnasium \* Sauna \* Sports Massage
- \* Includes FREE Fitness Assessment and Programme
- \* PLUS...a FREE Personal Training Session (not compulsory)
- \* PLUS...Spinning and Aqua Classes

To join or for more information:  
Call: 01397 706129 Email: [bennevisleisure@strathmorehotels.com](mailto:bennevisleisure@strathmorehotels.com)  
Ben Nevis Hotel & Leisure Club, North Road, Fort William PH33 6TG

*Offer and classes subject to availability, terms and conditions apply.*

**highlandmotors**

- All Vauxhall Warranty Work
- New & Used Vauxhalls
- Servicing
- MoT
- Repair
- Tyres, Batteries & Exhausts
- Air Con
- Diagnostics

**NEW BODY SHOP**

Highland Motors Ltd,  
Borve, Isle of Skye IV519PE  
Telephone: 01470 532 264  
Email: [info@highlandmotors.co.uk](mailto:info@highlandmotors.co.uk)  
[www.highlandmotors.co.uk](http://www.highlandmotors.co.uk)

All Insurance work undertaken  
Vauxhall warranty repairs

**10% OFF YOUR NEXT VISIT WITH THIS ADVERT**

FW

**Victim named**

THE MAN killed in a motorcycle crash on the A896 near Shieldaig, Wester Ross, last week has been named as Mark Darren Shaw from Doncaster, Yorkshire. The 47-year-old's bike was the only vehicle involved in the accident.

**Bonfire and fireworks**

LOCHABER Rugby Club's popular bonfire and fireworks display returns to Banavie on Saturday November 3.

The night, which started as a club night but has grown into a well-supported community event, is free with a bucket for donations passed round.

Two of the youngest volunteer helpers - Connie and Rosie MacLennan - have made the Guy for this year's bonfire.

The club bar will be open and drinks and snacks will also be available from a stall in the club car park. After police concerns about spectators spilling onto the road at The Moorings Hotel, the club's car park will be the designated viewing area.

**Man admits smashing window**

A MAN has admitted smashing the window of a Fort William home by throwing a stone at it.

Stephen Potter, of 36 George Court, Hamilton, pled guilty to willfully or recklessly causing £80 of damage to the window of 1 Brown Court on January 21.

Defence solicitor Stephen Kennedy said his unemployed client had not travelled to Fort William Sheriff Court due to a 'lack of funds'.

Sheriff Colin McCrory deferred sentencing the 47-year-old until November 21 for reports and a personal appearance.

**Lab success**

A RAIGMORE Hospital lab is analysing tissue samples from Highland patients 30 per cent faster than the national average, latest figures show.

Ryan Cooper, healthcare science lead for NHS Highland, said quicker turnarounds and diagnoses could mean patients being treated sooner, with 'obvious consequences' for their health and wellbeing.

**Clarification**

THE OBAN Times would like to clarify the Camanachd Association director of communications is Donald Stewart, not Donald Campbell as stated in 'Champagne corks pop in Spean as Lochaber celebrate' last week.



Friends, colleagues and family packed the Montrose Centre to say goodbye to Sheena. 20\_643retire01

**Sheena 'gobsmacked' with surprise retirement send-off**

A POPULAR Lochaber social care worker was given a surprise send off on her last day of work before retirement.

Friends, family and colleagues came from across Lochaber to say goodbye to Sheena MacGruer with a party at the

Montrose Centre in Inverloch on her last day. She said she was 'gobsmacked' to see so many people turn out for her.

Thank you Speaking with a tear in her eye, she said: 'I've had loads of challenges in my time in social

care and I've really enjoyed them all. Thank you to everybody here today.'

Provost Allan Henderson presented flowers to Sheena on behalf of Highland Council and said she would be 'a big miss to us all'.

He added: 'Thank you for all the work you've done. Enjoy your retirement.'

Sheena, of Corpach, will spend the first six weeks of her new found spare time visiting her son in Sydney, Australia, with her husband Michael.

She had been in charge of the Invernevis Care Home in Fort William since May, and previously helped set up the dementia care service in Lochaber after spending more than 30 years working in health care.

**History group's book unearths more echoes from designer McQueen's past**

A BOOK sequel about the Isle of Skye community where fashion designer Alexander McQueen is buried will be launched on Saturday.

More Echoes from the Past looks into McQueen's family links with Trotternish, where he spent a lot of time escaping from the pressures of the fashion industry.

The ashes of the talented designer, who clothed the rich and famous from the worlds of music, film and fashion, were interred in Kilmuir following his death in 2010.

McQueen regularly celebrated his island roots and Scottish background in his fashion collections, which once included a controversial show themed on the Highland Clearances.

An eye-catching headstone was erected by his family in Kilmuir cemetery, just yards from the memorial to Flora MacDonald, who helped Bonnie Prince Charlie escape after Culloden. The volunteer-led Kilmuir and Kilmaluag History and Heritage group is behind the publication, which follows the sell-out success of Echoes from the Past.

Characters The new book documents local characters including revered postmistress 'Peigi Bheag' MacPherson who lived to the age of 107, policeman Roderick MacDonald - 'Ruairidh Mor' - who helped feed the poor in the poverty stricken times and cycling crofter Hugh MacLeod, who transported a huge stallion

around the district. A roll call of the district's young men killed in the world wars, a bleak letter received by a Kilmuir man from relatives who left during the Clearances and photographs of crofters harvesting corn, fishing and selling livestock taken by the late American scientist Tom Simkin also feature.

A spokeswoman for the heritage group hoped the book would stand as an important historical record of the island community, the people and past way of life. She added: 'I trust it will make interesting reading now and in the future for the generations to come. If local history like this is not recorded, it will almost certainly be lost.'

'It is vital to record the past and the history of the area while

there are still people living who can document it. We are very grateful to the people who have contributed to the book both in a written and a pictorial context.'

More Echoes from the Past will be launched at Kilmuir Village Hall at 2pm.

The publication is being supported by £5,450 European funding from the Scottish Government and the Highland LEADER 2007-2013 Programme.

Copies will be available from shops on the island or via post (£12.50 to include postage) by enclosing a cheque to Mary MacKenzie, Kilmuir History and Heritage Group, 8 Hungladder, Kilmuir, Isle of Skye IV51 9YT. Any profits will be used for community projects.

**Glen Nevis community litter pick**

A NEWLY landscaped area in Glen Nevis will be officially opened with a community litter pick on Sunday November 18.

The Curling Ponds area has been regenerated by The Nevis Partnership, with new benches and tables installed.

Friends of Nevis (FoN) has also done its part, tidying the area and removing shrubbery before the contractors got on site.

FoN co-ordinator Anna Trafford said: 'If you haven't been on a litter pick before they are a fun way to give the Nevis area some TLC, without having to slog up a hill carrying tools.'

All safety and litter picking equipment will be provided, together with refreshments and lunch.

**Former council leader on new fire board**

FORMER Highland Council leader Michael Foxley has been announced as one of the 11 members of the new Scottish Fire and Rescue Service board.

Dr Foxley and his colleagues will work closely with chairman Pat Watters and chief officer Alasdair Hay to ensure a smooth transition when the national service replaces eight regional services on April 1 next year.

Members are expected to put in 10 to 15 days per month up to the changeover and up to 10 days per month for the first full year. The appointment attracts a daily fee of £280.

All members will serve for four years. Dr Foxley, from Achaphubail near Fort William, is also a member of the Highland NHS board and chairman of West Highland College UHI.



Dr Michael Foxley: new fire service post.

Follow us on facebook www.facebook.com/obantimes

**Corpach speed cut call**

Worried residents want 30mph hour limit

CORPACH residents are calling for the speed limit on a section of the busy A830 Road to the Isles through the village to be reduced.

Kilmallie Community Council say a half-mile long section of the trunk road where the traffic speed can increase from 30mph to 40mph should be slowed to reduce danger to pedestrians.

KCC press secretary Russell Leaper told The Oban Times there was 'a lot of local concern' about speeding vehicles.

He said: 'We think we've got a strong case to reduce the limit. It's a particularly dangerous section. Children getting off the bus have to cross the road there and there's a lot of pedestrians about.'

KCC has contacted Transport Scotland's north area manager Bob Mitchell about the issue and was told a review of speed limits on trunk roads was currently ongoing.

A letter was sent to local residents from KCC asking for their views on the possible change.

It said: 'With housing on both sides of the road and bus passengers including school children needing to cross within the 40mph zone, we believe the whole of Corpach should be a 30mph zone.'

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

This would also be consistent with the policy along the A82 through Fort William where there are 30mph zones in areas where there are fewer reasons for pedestrians to cross the road than in Corpach. For the half mile stretch at Corpach travelling at 30mph rather than 40mph would add 15 seconds to the journey time.'

KCC has written to Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson to ask for his support and say it also has the backing of the three local councillors - Bill Clark, Eddie Hunter and Allan Henderson. Meanwhile, fears have also been raised about the 60mph speed limit over Banavie Swing Bridge. KCC said it will be looking to get the limit reduced once the new roundabout at the nearby Blar Mhor is completed, probably to 40mph.



On site at Lochailort: Ling Fen of COFCO, Marine Harvest managing director Alan Sutherland, environment minister Paul Wheelhouse and Marine Harvest business development manager Steve Bracken.

**Lochailort hatchery gets seal of approval**

A NEW 'world class' smolt hatchery being built at Lochailort is expected to be finished next year.

And Marine Harvest's state-of-the-art facility - one of the biggest of its kind on the planet when completed - got the seal of approval from Scottish environment minister Paul Wheelhouse at a site visit last Wednesday.

Mr Wheelhouse also met representatives from the China National Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Corporation - one of China's biggest food manufacturers, processors and trading companies - who were visiting Marine Harvest.

Mr Wheelhouse said: 'Marine Harvest operate to high environmental standards and is committed to growing sustainably in Scotland, therefore I'm pleased they are demonstrating this commitment through plans for a world class facility in Lochailort.'

'The aquaculture industry makes an important economic contribution, particularly in remote communities such as the Fort William area, bringing investment and jobs to rural Scotland. Indeed, Marine Harvest employed 367 people in Scotland last year.'

'Businesses like Marine Harvest deliver high quality seafood products that are highly sought after around the world. New markets are opening up, particularly in the Far East, as

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

demonstrated by this visit from a Chinese delegation.'

The Oban Times was given an exclusive first look at the facility in a guided tour with site manager Steve McCaig and hatchery technician Paul Fletcher in May.

Since then, the 150,000 square foot building where around 13 million Atlantic salmon smolts will be housed has been taking shape.

When it is finished the facility will house 12 staff - six of them in the hatchery.

Around 110 people have been working on the site as contractors Robertson aim for a completion date of early 2013.

Seven miles of pipe have been laid and the 11 metre-tall building will be screened by a protective green to lessen visual impact on the local landscape.

During site preparation works, all excavated material was reclaimed and crushed on site for use in building works.

Mr Wheelhouse added: 'I want fish farming to have a long-term future in Scotland, with companies continuing to invest. That's one of the reasons for the introduction of the Aquaculture and Fisheries Bill. 'The bill will support the aquaculture industry's ambitions for sustainable growth, with due regard to the marine environment.'

Don't let nasty weather turn into a nasty situation

**Heavy rain, strong winds and snow. Over the last few years, we've seen it all. Scotland's weather has brought freezing temperatures, flash floods, and storms. And this changeable weather can have a real impact on our lives.**

Like getting stranded when we're out and about, being stuck indoors for a few days or losing the things we depend on, such as heat, light or being able to keep in touch with family and friends.

Bad weather can happen at any time of year, so it's worth thinking about what we can do now to be prepared. So let's not get caught out, let's make sure we're ready. By doing a few small things now, we can save ourselves a lot of trouble later.

For useful tips on how to be prepared, go to [readyscotland.org](http://readyscotland.org)

**Get ready for winter.**



**Extra elderly services considered**

HIGHLAND Council will today (Thursday) consider proposals to invest an additional £1million in new preventative services for Highland's elderly.

With the area's elderly population expected to double in the next 20 years, the council is keen to provide early care to allow people to remain living at home.

Amongst the proposals are:  developing more community-run services for social interaction and personal support  additional support for the most vulnerable older people

helping people living in care homes to live more independently and reduce their reliance on formal services

more leisure and learning for the elderly, including sports, dance, outdoor activities and adult learning classes tailored for older people  eight new staff in NHS Highland's integrated service for adults to support early intervention with older people when they first experience difficulties.

Adult and Children's Services Committee chairman Alasdair Christie said: 'There must be a shift towards services which offer real opportunities to help people become more independent, both in the way they live their lives and how flexibly they can use services.'

Council leader Drew Hendry added: 'This is the approach that older people tell us they want, in all of our consultation exercises.'

'This also makes good professional and financial sense as it allows us to support more people for longer. It enables us to delay or - for some people - prevent the need for admission to more costly residential care.'

**Election deadline**

THE DEADLINE for nominations for a Comhairle nan Eilean Siar by-election is 4pm on Monday afternoon.

The Sgir' Uige agus Ceann A Tuath nan Loch ward is currently unrepresented after SNP councillor Bill Houston, aged 60, died last month. Councillor Houston had previously worked as head of leisure and learning before being elected to the Comhairle in May.

Voting for the ward will be held between 7am and 10pm on Thursday November 29.

**Otter charity stalwart wins animal welfare award**

THE WOMAN behind Broadford-based International Otter Survival Fund has been given an award for her efforts to protect otters in Scotland and around the world.

Grace Yoxon travelled to the House of Lords in London on Tuesday to collect the prize at the International Fund for Animal Welfare's (IFAW) Animal Action Awards event.

Grace and her husband Paul set up the animal charity in 1993 having moved to Skye in 1980, and they spend much of their time providing hands-on care for orphaned and injured otters. The fund has successfully released more than 100 rehabilitated otters back into the wild.

Grace, who was nominated by her

daughter for her award, said she was 'amazed' to have won.

She said: 'I began the work because after the enjoyment of watching otters in the wild I really wanted to give something back.'

'When we have nursed an orphaned or injured otter back to health people often say you must be sad to let it go, but the opposite is true. Seeing them

back in the wild where they should be is so satisfying.'

IFAW director Robbie Marsland said Grace was 'a great example to others'.

As reported in The Oban Times last month, the fund recently successfully released a young Irish otter back into the wild after caring for it for more than a year.

## Claymore boxer wins place in medal bout

KINLOCHLEVEN-based Claymore Amateur Boxing Club is celebrating after one of its boxers won through to the Scottish Novice Championships finals.

Callum Clement from Tyndrum outfought Connor Cowe of Kinloch ABC at Ravenscraig sports centre to book his place in the gold medal bout last weekend.

Now Callum, aged 15, will take on Edinburgh boxer James Brown at the same Motherwell venue this Saturday.

Callum's clubmate, 13-year-old Ben Wilson, narrowly lost in what was only his second appearance in the ring.

Claymore's head coach Martin Glensk told *The Oban Times*: 'This was an impressive display by young Callum as Cowe was widely thought of as the hot favourite to win this group.'

'Callum is now guaranteed a silver medal at these championships and goes on to box for gold at next weekend's final against James Brown from Zetland ABC, Edinburgh.'

Fort-William-based Lochaber Phoenix ABC boxers, senior welterweight Liam Jordan and 13-year-old Kevin Aitchison also just missed out. Kevin lost to Inverness's Brodie Grant by a single point.

Lochaber Phoenix official Steve Docherty said their boxers had 'learned so much'.

He added: 'Both lads will take that on board and improve immeasurably.'



Callum Clement: through to finals.



NASA astronaut Bonnie Dunbar meets Glenelg and Arnisale Trust development officer Emma MacLean at Saturday's celebrations.



Left: The marquee planetarium gave a spectacular view of the cosmos - and doubled up as a ceilidh venue.

# Bright Glenelg future written in the stars

IT IS written in the stars - Glenelg could be in for a stratospheric tourism boost after cosmic celebrations at the weekend.

In travel terms, the remote Lochalsh community had previously been known only for its tiny turntable ferry the *MY Glenachulish*, which runs over the sea to Skye in the summer.

But now Glenelg is twinned with a much more distant destination - a patch of Mars dubbed Glenelg by US Government National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) boffins as their Curiosity rover explores the Red Planet.

The unlikely link propelled the community to worldwide fame - and brought in former NASA space shuttle astronaut Bonnie Dunbar to Glenelg for the 'Space, Stars and Mars - 2012' launch on Saturday.

By STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Ms Dunbar, who flew in from the US, unveiled a sign 'Glenelg - Twinned with Mars' and addressed a packed planetarium - a huge marquee erected for the occasion.

Other eminent scientists taking part included Astronomer Royal for Scotland Professor John C Brown and - via video link - NASA's Mars exploration programme director Doug McCuiston.

And Shetland Astronomical Society brought its remote-controlled model of NASA's Mars Rover, which trundled over a mock Martian landscape in the school hall. In all, 500 people landed for the weekend, indicating that Glenelg's interplanetary fame could be a big earner for the local economy.

Next steps include applying for 'Dark Skies' status - areas whose night skies are free of light pollution - to attract stargazers and amateur astronomers.

Glenelg and Arnisale Trust development officer Emma MacLean said making imaginative use of local resources was the only way to keep Glenelg 'healthy and vibrant'. She said: 'The arrival of Mars rover at Glenelg will be used to showcase the quality of the dark skies we have in Glenelg and Arnisdale. With so little light pollution the skies above are truly spectacular, especially at the moment with the Northern Lights activity.'

The event coincided with the launch of Geocache Glenelg - a treasure hunting game where participants use GPS to find containers hidden at local sites. The craze has taken off internationally.

## Commando Memorial site extended

MORE space has been made available at the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge for the upcoming Remembrance Sunday service on November 11.

Hundreds of people will gather at the memorial for the event to pay their respects to the men and women of the British Armed Forces.

But so many flowers, cards and photos are laid at the site every year that the Commando Veterans Association asked Highland Council, which owns and maintains the monument, to expand it. They said more room was needed for the large number of tributes and ashes being scattered in the memorial garden, which also commemorates soldiers killed in more recent conflicts, including Afghanistan and Iraq.

The garden has been extended to include an additional outer circle with a new area created for the scattering of ashes and the entire site upgraded.

The final cost of the work, which has now been completed, ran to £31,001.

## 'A watershed for Gaelic'

A ONE-DAY conference on Harris next month will discuss the impact of the Education (Scotland) Act 1872, which made education compulsory for all but ignored Gaelic.

Speakers in the Sir E Scott School in Tarbert on November 3 include Elizabeth Ritchie of the University of the Highlands and Islands and Prof Matthew Maciver. Tasglann nan Eilean Siar (Hebridean Archives) is organising the 10am-2pm conference entitled 'The Education (Scotland) Act 1872 - A watershed for the Gaelic language'.

A Northern Constabulary spokesman said: 'Anyone who has bought these cheap fireworks should not use them and contact the local police or trading standards for further advice.'

## Firework warning

POLICE are warning Western Isles residents to be wary of potentially dangerous and counterfeit fireworks being sold from the back of a van through the Uists and Benbecula.

A Northern Constabulary spokesman said: 'Anyone who has bought these cheap fireworks should not use them and contact the local police or trading standards for further advice.'

## Drink drive bank manager fined

A BANK manager has been banned from driving for a year and fined £500 after being caught overtaking in the village.

Kathleen MacLean pled guilty to overtaking Colin Comrie's car on Lochaber Road close to the junction with Kearnan Road, where a third car was about to pull out on Saturday May 5.

Defence lawyer Stephen Kennedy said: 'The other car was driving well below 30mph, almost crawling along. She made the decision to overtake Mr Comrie's

## Careless driver narrowly avoids losing licence

A KINLOCHLEVEN woman has avoided losing her driving licence after admitting carrying out a careless overtaking manoeuvre in the village.

Mr Kennedy also asked Sheriff Colin McCrory to award the 22-year-old less than six points, which would have seen her lose her licence as she only passed her test in June 2011.

MacLean, who battled leukaemia as a teenager, is unemployed and on disability benefit.

Mr Kennedy said: 'The car is her lifeline - without it she has very limited ways of getting about.'

vehicle and thought she had plenty of room to get back in her lane before reaching the junction.'

Mr Kennedy also asked Sheriff Colin McCrory to award the 22-year-old less than six points, which would have seen her lose her licence as she only passed her test in June 2011.

MacLean, who battled leukaemia as a teenager, is unemployed and on disability benefit.

Mr Kennedy said: 'The car is her lifeline - without it she has very limited ways of getting about.'

Sheriff McCrory gave MacLean, of Taobh-an-Allt, Wades Road, five penalty points and fined her £125.

He said: 'This was a careless manoeuvre. You should not have attempted this overtake with a junction nearby.'

Mr Comrie's son Mark was sentenced to two years in jail in July after being found guilty of setting fire to a house belonging to MacLean's elder sister, which fiscal Alison Wylie said had caused a 'feud' between the families.

## Morvern restaurant celebrates success

A MORVERN eatery is celebrating after a weekend of success in London and Inverness.

The Whitehouse Restaurant in Lochaline was named as a Scottish runner-up in the Observer Magazine Restaurant of the Year awards - then won Restaurant of the Year at the Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards (HIFDA).

Sarah Jones, who set up the

Whitehouse with Jane Stuart-Smith in 2003, told *The Oban Times*: 'We were up against over 15,000 other restaurants nominated for the [Observer] prize and we are really proud to be one of the three runners-up in Scotland.'

Food map 'These awards have helped to put the Whitehouse on the food map.'

Co-owner Jane Stuart Smith

said: 'It has been quite a weekend. We were up against some stiff competition [at Inverness] and to win the best was a tribute to head chef Mike Burgoyne's and sous chef Lee Myers' incredible cooking.'

Local suppliers

We are also thrilled the judges appreciated our passion for working with local suppliers and we thank all of them for their support over the years.'

Other winners at the HIFDA ceremony at the Drumossie Hotel included the Kishorn Seafood Bar (best other eatery) and Sally Swinbanks of The Tobermory Fish Company (young shining star award).

More than 250 representatives from local businesses attended the event, which was opened by rural affairs secretary Richard Lochhead and hosted by Kirsty Wark.

**Burnside Joiners & Builders**  
M.R.C, Barcaldine, near Oban and 5 Mill Lane, Oban  
Mob: 077191 58777 Office: 01631 720789 Home: 01631 720700  
www.burnside-builders.co.uk mmckay796@btinternet.com



MRC Barcaldine depot, 2 display sheds for sale, 8 x 8 £850.00 inclusive of VAT and 8 x 6, £450.00 inclusive of VAT.

We undertake an extensive range of joinery & building work to include:

- Improvement & Repairs to any existing shed that you have
- Wooden chalet's and Garages
- Summer Houses
- Agricultural Buildings
- Stables
- Home Offices
- Decking & Fencing
- Installing fitted kitchens
- Manufacture and installation of windows
- Home renovation
- Loft conversions
- New Anti-Slip decking now available



Log Stores available

Please phone for a free quotation.

We have our sheds on display at the following locations

- MGM timber, Oban
- Our unit at the MRC in Barcaldine
- Our new unit in Mill lane, next to Hazelbank Motors, Oban

Please phone Willie for more information  
07719 158777 or 01631 720700

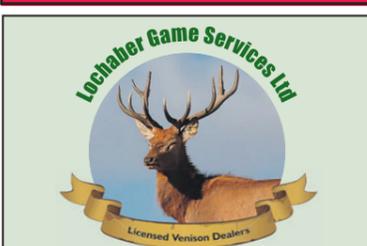
## Abbeyfield

Where older people find care in housing

### Abbeyfield Carradale and District Society Ltd.

Older people find care and companionship either on a permanent basis or by using our respite service on a temporary basis.

Abbeyfield House, High Airds, Carradale PA28 6RY  
Tel. (01583) 431717 or 431278  
email: stuartirvine@fsmail.net



Quality Local Family Butchers  
Wholesale/Retail Suppliers of Venison, Beef, Poultry and Fish

Quality Xmas Hampers available to your specifications. Various prices to suit all budgets

Free local delivery

Unit 10 Annat Industrial Estate, Corpach, Fort William PH33 7NA  
Tel: 01397 772042 Fax: 01397 772043  
E-mail: lochabergame@msn.com

## We will make you smile

The Denture Designers @ Argyll and Bute Cosmetic Dentures have over 40 years experience in hand crafting cosmetic dentures.

Postal service available.

Teeth whitening service now available.

As mouth cancer is a serious issue in the West of Scotland, please come into our studio to pick up a leaflet on detecting mouth cancer.

We are not dentists.



We have hundreds of testimonials from satisfied clients from all over Scotland and from countries as far a field as Russia, Argentina, USA, South Africa and most of the Commonwealth countries.

Most importantly we listen to what the client wants

We can provide Dentures on the same day and also a half hour Denture repair service

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT

1b Combie Street, Oban  
01631 566 631

**2 day only Happy Birthday Sale**  
from Highland Blindcraft  
Discounts throughout our store

**Blindcraft makes all the difference**  
Highland Blindcraft Beds  
They work like a dream  
www.highlandblindcraft.co.uk  
38/39 Ardconnel Street, Inverness

Telephone 01463 233662  
OPEN Mon - Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-4pm  
Charity no: SC030764

# Oban to top £1 million festival boost

## Secret finale to winter event

A SPECTACULAR secret finale will help round off this year's Oban Winter Festival as the organisers aim to top last year's much needed £1million boost to the local economy.

The event helped generate a seven-figure sum for local businesses and organisations last November, but with 65 different events and attractions lined up for this year's festival, it is hoped that figure will be bettered and help welcome Christmas in memorable fashion.

Starting on November 16 under the theme of Victorian steam trains, the 10-day celebration will host events for every member of the family, from a festive series of films at Oban Phoenix Cinema – as well as the venue's first ever non-film attraction – to special performances from Ballet West and Sequence, a range of outdoor activities at Kilbowie Outdoor Centre and a special food and drink market.

Following the success of last year's skating rink, a special

roller rink will be created at Atlantis Leisure. There will also be art exhibitions, workshops and presentations from a number of different groups – not to mention a programme of amusing performances thanks to Oban Comedy Club.

### Reindeer parade

The traditional reindeer parade and market is again set to be one of the biggest attractions, with a number of surprises lined up to make it the best Christmas lights switch on yet. Not only will there be new lights this year, there will also be a special winter fairground at the Corran Halls.

One of the volunteer organisers, Pamela Lockhart, said: 'It's bigger, better and even more exciting.'

'There are already lots of people coming into town specifically for this year's festival and with good reason.'

'Lots of shops are opening late and putting on a series of special limited products only for the 10

days of the festival.'

Fellow organiser, Eleanor MacKinnon, said: 'The festival is for everyone in the community so we need the community to turn out to support it.'

'Lots of people have been asked to be a part of it and they've been really supportive. Lots of people are really getting into it.'

Graham MacQueen, who chaired the BID4Oban steering group and is now a director of the shadow board of the BID company, said: 'The festival gives the whole town increased prosperity and that means everyone benefits.'

'The effort of the volunteers who organise this for no direct benefit to themselves has to be commended.'

The committee is keen to hear from model railway enthusiasts to help decorate shop windows throughout the town.

To get in touch, follow the link on the festival's website [obanwinterfestival.com](http://obanwinterfestival.com).



Dingwall Gaelic Choir conductor Kirsteen Menzies is joined on stage by her two sons, Hector and Finlay. epm055

## Dancing with delight in Dingwall after Mòd win

ELATED conductor Kirsteen Menzies was joined by her two sons on stage after Dingwall Gaelic Choir won the Royal National Mòd's most coveted choral prize, the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield.

Although this was the fourth win in Kirsteen's five years with

the baton, she said this year's win was her 'proudest moment' by virtue of her family's involvement in the celebrations.

And six-year-old Finlay, who competed in junior competitions earlier in the week, and three-year-old Hector may have been required to help their

mother with the choir's haul of seven trophies.

The end of the choir competition marked the unofficial conclusion of the Gaelic festival.

Speaking towards the climax to proceedings, adjudicator Anne Lorne Gillies, from Oban, praised the high quality

of the Lovat and Tullibardine competition.

'There is nothing better for the heart and soul than the social activity and enjoyment of taking part in a Gaelic choir,' she added.

See pages 5 – 9 for unrivalled coverage of this year's event.

## Residents evacuated during Ganavan gas leak

FIREFIGHTERS have been praised for their bravery after residents of Ganavan Sands were evacuated because of a gas leak in the estate, near Oban.

Police and fire and rescue were alerted to the area at around 7.50pm last Friday after receiving reports that at least one of the four 200-litre tanks holding liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) was leaking.

A 200-metre exclusion zone was set up by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue around the tanks, meaning 25 properties had to be evacuated and some residents taken to the Oban Bay Hotel. A further 16 people were allowed to remain in their homes but were given safety advice.

Resident Mandy Bosworth, who has lived at Ganavan Sands for two years, told The Oban Times: 'I was very impressed with the fire fighters. They don't get paid a fortune but they put their lives on the line for us.'

'They patrolled the estate to keep people out of the way and kept us up to date with what was happening.'

Mandy and her husband, Richard, were among those who waited outdoors in the rain while the leak was fixed by Calor Gas engineers.

Mandy added: 'It was a shame it was a nasty night but we just sat under an umbrella, wore warm clothing, and sang songs to pass the time.'

'There wasn't any panic from anyone because the fire fighters were so efficient and induced calm in all of us.'

The leak was closed off at 10.16pm and residents returned to their homes at 11pm.

A spokeswoman for Calor Gas said: 'This was a very minor leak, which was rectified quickly. The safety of Calor's customers is our number one priority and as such, we have rigorous safety procedures in place to ensure that isolated incidents such as this should not recur.'

**NEWSDESK**  
**01397 703003**

## Coll wind turbine planning to be challenged in court

A CONTROVERSIAL decision last week to grant planning permission to build a 77-metre wind turbine on Coll is to be challenged in the courts.

Members of Argyll and Bute Council's planning committee gathered on Coll on Thursday and approved the application from Neil Smith to build the turbine at Gallanach, despite widespread local opposition.

In total, there were 78 objections to the proposal, of which 67 signed a petition. There were 21 notes of support.

There is anger on the island that the planning committee

disregarded the guidelines in its own Wind Energy Capacity Study (WECS), which states: 'There is no scope to site the larger and the small-medium typologies [on islands] due to the significant adverse impacts that would be likely to occur on a wide range of landscape and visual sensitivities.' It says there is 'some very limited' scope for single and small groups of turbines of the 'smaller typology', those under 50m.

Colin Scott represents 102 homeowners on Coll in the Coll Protection Group and said a legal challenge was a 'certainty'.

'We cannot appeal the decision itself as objectors,' he said. 'However we certainly will be questioning the legality of it. They cannot just set aside, as planners, a document adopted by the council to guide these decisions.'

Meanwhile, planners have dismissed suggestions from the community that a decision on whether to grant permission to build the turbine was made prior to the site meeting.

The chairman of the committee, Sandy Taylor, said: 'Everyone takes the information as it comes.'

### Flexible Bonds with access to your money

Our 18 month Flexible Bond gives you access to up to 30% of your money during the life of the bond.

<b>2.35%</b> <small>AER/Gross p.a. (Deposits of £1 to £49,999)</small>	<b>2.55%</b> <small>AER/Gross p.a. (Deposits of £50,000 to £99,999)</small>	<b>2.75%</b> <small>AER/Gross p.a. (Deposits of £100,000 to £1m)</small>
---	--	---

Visit us in branch, at [barclays.co.uk/flexible](http://barclays.co.uk/flexible) or call 0845 3010 346



18 month Flexible Bond Issue 15 gives you 3 withdrawals of up to 10% each time and is a limited offer which may be withdrawn at any time. Rates featured are for interest paid at the end of the 18 month term. Monthly interest option also available. Rates are fixed for the term of the Bond, but the amount of interest you receive will depend on the number and size of the withdrawals you make, and withdrawals may take you into a lower tier. Additional deposits are not allowed. Rates correct at time of going to press 10/10/2012. AER (Annual Equivalent Rate) illustrates what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and compounded once each year. Gross means the rate of interest payable before income tax is deducted. Interest can be payable without the deduction of income tax to UK non-taxpayers subject to required certification. Otherwise, income tax will be deducted at the basic rate. Available to UK residents aged 18 years or over. For BT residential customers, calls will cost no more than 4.5p per minute, plus 13.1p call set-up fee (current at Sept 2012). The price on non-BT phone lines may be different. Calls may be monitored or recorded for security and training purpose.

## Housing association goes to court to evict Oban drug dealer

AN OBAN man who was convicted of being concerned in the supply of drugs has now been evicted as part of a 'zero tolerance' policy to dealing.

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) evicted 37-year-old tenant Craig Duffy from one of its Miller Road properties. ACHA brought a successful

court action against Duffy, who has several convictions for drugs related offences, to have him removed from his home as it has a policy of zero tolerance against drug dealing in its properties.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's chief executive, said: 'We have given a commitment that we will pursue, through the courts, those

convicted of unlawful activity related to drugs.

'I am pleased that the continuing partnership involving ACHA staff, the police, the courts and, crucially, members of the community, is delivering tangible results against drug dealers.'

He added: 'We regularly see the

tragic consequences, particularly among the young, of drug dealing in our communities.

**Signal**

'We hope that the actions we are taking send a powerful signal, if you deal in or around ACHA homes you will lose your ACHA home.'

Argyll and Bute Council leader,

Roddy McCuish approves of the decision. He said: 'I am fully supportive of this action taken by ACHA, done properly and legally through the courts and with partnership working. This sends a clear message that drug dealing in any shape or form will not be tolerated.'

'Action like this will go a long way to ensuring that is the case.'

with the increasing role the community play in such cases. They are clearly saying enough is enough and they deserve our full support.

'Everyone has the right to be safe in and around their own homes.'

## Council TV planned for November

£21,000 outlay in first year

RESIDENTS in Argyll and Bute should be able to get news from their council direct to their televisions as early as November.

Argyll and Bute Council is planning to implement the Looking Local service, which will allow people who have Sky, Virgin or YouView to access council information.

Viewers will be offered web content including news, service disruption updates and information on council services. They will also be able to place service requests.

The material will also be available on web enabled games consoles, smartphones, apps and social media sites. Other languages, including Gaelic, will be available.

The estimated cost of Looking Local is £21,000 for one year and a working group has been convened to look at proposals which would see council meetings broadcast live.

Louise Glen-Lee, lead councillor for community and communications said: 'We are looking at ways of meeting the needs of the community through new multimedia platforms. We feel as a local authority that unless we start looking at this now we'll be left behind.'

'We want people to engage with council meetings and to be able to see what happens and see that what they pay for is administered properly.'

'In other council areas people maybe have to travel 15 minutes to sit in a meeting but here it can take hours. We want people to be able to sit in a room at home and feel part of the meeting.'

Television network URTV propose establishing a dedicated local television channel for Argyll and Bute Council which 'would allow the council to have more editorial control over the content which is put into the public domain'.

URTV proposes to video 13 council meetings a year for £1,400 per meeting. This price would fall to £800 per meeting if 26 were filmed.

If the proposal is accepted, the recordings will be available on the internet within 48 hours, subject to any edits required by the council.

But Councillor Glen-Lee is adamant she doesn't want to restrict what the public can see. She added: 'Editing content flies in the face of what we are aiming for and that is why we need to decide what we need rather than go for what a media organisation thinks we need.'

'That's no reflection on them. They are a really great media company and provide a fantastic service to the community.'

Argyll and Bute Council will now be inviting proposals for different options of how best to deliver a service that suits the needs of people in their communities.



Frontline accident and emergency staff at Oban Ambulance Station were recently awarded their Diamond Jubilee medals. Every staff member who had served at least five years was awarded medals. 15\_143ambulance01

## Driver who caused 'Hollywood movie style' accident keeps licence

A MOTORIST who caused a crash which caused a car to 'flip in the air Hollywood movie style' has been fined at Oban Sheriff Court.

Graham Baxter, of 15 Chestnut Crescent, Hamilton, denied causing the crash by emerging onto the A816 at the Ardfern junction but was found guilty after a trial.

The 64-year-old was found to have caused the crash by 'encroaching onto the carriage-way'.

Sheriff Raymond McMenamin said: 'I'm of the view it was a momentary misjudgement and an unfortunate one at that.'

'You failed to pay sufficient heed to other traffic on the road.'

The court heard the driver of the other car, a 56-year-old man, was injured as a result of the collision.

He had broken ribs and a shattered shoulder. During evidence a witness to the incident told the court she

saw a Mini 'spinning over in the air'. She said: 'It was sideways on and flipping over itself.'

Defence agent Laura Russell told the court a driving licence was very important to Baxter if he hoped to gain employment after being made redundant.

She said he had 45 years driving experience and had been travelling, on average, 40,000 miles per year.

Sheriff McMenamin fined Baxter £600 and placed five penalty points on his licence.

## Police appeal for witnesses after Oban hotel assault

POLICE are seeking witnesses to an alleged assault outside the Lancaster Hotel on Oban's Esplanade last Thursday.

It has also been alleged a second assault on the same 27-year-old male victim took place within toilets inside the hotel.

Both incidents are reported to have occurred between 9.30pm - 10pm on Thursday October 18. Anyone with any information should contact PC Niall Barbour on 01631 510 500.

## Lorn Lines

A SMALLER attendance than normal at last week's meeting of Oban Speakers Club meant that those present had a busy evening.

First half chairman John Maclean introduced Tom Clegg who gave an interesting talk on the Olympics.

Roy Wood then took an unexpected approach to his subject 'Life before electricity'.

Finally Eamonn Arthur talked about his experiences and feelings on 'Smart phones and apps'.

Their immediate critics were Donnie Graham, Alex Clark and John Maclean.

After a short teabreak topics chairman Alec Clark asked Roy Wood, Eamonn Arthur, Tom Clegg and Guido Faccenda to talk on subjects varying from 'Jumping from the edge of space' to 'Plans for a new High School in Oban'.

Timekeeper for the evening was Jim Fraser and the general evaluator was Willie Melville.

The next meeting will be held in the Church Centre, Glencruitten Road, on Thursday November 1 at 8pm.

LORN Garden Club met recently to hear an amusing talk on 'Gardens of the Riviera', by Louise Bustard, education officer at Glasgow Botanic Garden.

Louise is a popular speaker and her presentation on this occasion was as down to earth as ever; an honest look at a few hectic weeks in the life of a tour guide set amongst the beautiful gardens of the French and Italian Riviera.

Lorn Garden Club meets once a month throughout the winter in St John's Cathedral Hall and welcomes new members. The group welcomes, in particular, those who enjoy gardens, gardening and home baking.



OBAN airport welcomed its funkiest visitor last week when Jamiroquai front man Jay Kay landed in his private helicopter there on Friday.

The funk and soul star said hello to staff at the airport, with John MacDonald taking the opportunity to have his picture taken with the singer, before heading off to his west coast retreat.

MEMBERS of the Oban Classic Vehicle Club held their last run of the season when members travelled to Tyndrum to meet with Stirling Car Club and the Capri Club of Scotland.

There was a static display of around 30 vehicles in the car park at the Green Welly Stop ranging from a Ford Model T up to the more modern classics.

The convoy left Tyndrum and headed to Kingshouse Hotel for a lunch stop, before continuing through Glencoe and then returned to Oban.

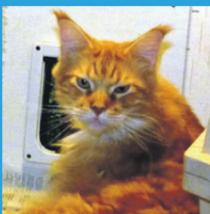
The club's annual general meeting will be held in the Lochnell Arms Hotel North Connel at 7.30pm on Thursday October 25. Anyone interested in joining the club is welcome to attend.

# ARGYLL ANIMAL AID

Registered Charity SC013211

## CATS AND DOGS LOOKING FOR HOMES

### BENSON



Friendly Maine Coon boy. Would prefer to be an only cat. Likes to stay indoors. 4 years old

### BUFFY



Friendly fluffy boy. 4 years old. Used to other cats.

### BRAMBLE



Sweet torty girl. 1 year old. Used to other cats and children.

### ROWAN



Sweet torty girl, 1 year old. Used to other cats and children.

### MOLLY



Friendly black girl, around a year old.

### ARTHUR



Friendly black and white boy. Has been here for a long time.

### SAMMY



Friendly boy, around 4 or 5 months old.

### HARLEY



Sweet and friendly boy, around 18 months old.

### HUMPHREY



Nice black boy around 18 months old. Not used to children, other cats or dogs. Prefers to be inside.

### MISCHIEF



Nervous, but getting better, wee girl. Around 4 months old.

### DAISY



Tabby/torty girl. Probably not suitable with children. Used to a country life-style.

### BONNIE



Nervous, but getting better, wee girl. Around 4 months old.

### MINTY



Friendly black and white girl, has been here for ages.

### MAC



Lab X, 9 Months old, very lively!

### SANDY



9 months old Kelpie boy. Not used to children

### KYEBA



18 months old Husky. Loves to play. Needs to go to somebody with this breed experience.

Dog enquiries please phone Jean on 01631 566406 Cat enquiries please phone Pat on 01852 300362

FW

**Cash confiscated from drug dealer**

A CONVICTED drug dealer from Oban had more than £1,000 confiscated from him through proceeds of crime legislation.

Daniel Kelly, aged 22, currently resident in HMP Greenock, had £1,025 seized from him in Oban Police Office on May 4. His girlfriend, Stephanie Duffy, claimed part of the cash belonged to her but an order was made on October 18 that the money did not come from legitimate means and should be forfeited. Court papers state 'no legitimate explanation' has been offered by Stephanie Duffy or Daniel Kelly for having the cash and it is 'consistent with involvement' in drug dealing.

**Kintyre turbines could come to Clachan Seil**

TURBINES for the controversial proposed Clachan Seil wind farm near Oban could come from Machrihanish following an agreement this month.

Wind Towers (Scotland) Limited, Machrihanish, met with Clachan Community Energy recently to sign a memorandum of understanding to provide nine turbines for the proposed farm on land above Loch Seil.

Developer Rory Young says the company wants to support economic growth and reduce the carbon footprint as much as possible. David Steele, head of business development at Wind Towers (Scotland) Limited, said that with a 'competitive cost structure and significant experience of wind tower production', it is able to support a development such as Clachan.

**Ardrossan cemetery searched for Dasher link**

A POSSIBLE mass grave containing the bodies of those who fell during World War II will be investigated at Ardrossan Cemetery this week.

Carried out by Guard Archaeology Limited, archaeologists will remove top soil at the area as part of a three-day investigation.

This section of ground was previously investigated by the Glasgow University Archaeology Department at the instigation of John and Noreen Steele, authors of The American Connection to the Sinking of HMS Dasher.

**Dalmally trip ends in Oban court date for Fife man**

A MAN who was visiting Dalmally for a 'weekend break in a log cabin' ended up assaulting his partner and another woman before injuring a third.

David Turner, of 5 Collinwell Drive, Burntisland, Fife, had previously admitted the

offences and appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday for sentencing.

The court heard Turner, 29, had travelled to Dalmally with a group of people and they had went out to the pub on June 26. Turner returned to the cabin

'covered in mud' after falling into a stream. The court heard he was 'considerably angry' and his partner tried to 'calm him down'. The court heard others became involved and Turner assaulted another female who was 'pushed to the ground'.

The court heard Turner threw a glass which smashed against a wall injuring a woman's hand. Defending, Edward Thornton said Turner was heavily intoxicated at the time but he hadn't drank since.

He added: 'It was a one off

incident which will never happen again.'

Turner was ordered to carry out 115 hours of unpaid work as part of a community payback order and instructed to pay compensation totalling £400 to his victims.



This stunning photograph of Bracklinn Bridge in the snow helped Callander's Alasdair Murphy win the under 16s category in the photo competition.

**Photographs show park in different light**

**Aberfoyle woman wins Loch Lomond and Trossachs park photography competition**

A SERIES of stunning images captured by amateur photographers across Scotland is showing Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park off in a new light.

More than 1,000 entries were submitted for the national park's 10th anniversary photography competition, but only six photographs were deemed good enough to clinch top prizes.

The overall winner was Helen Smith from Aberfoyle who captured an atmospheric morning walk in Queen Elizabeth forest in her picture, Morning Walk. Helen also won the top prize in the flora and fauna category with a stunning photo of a fallow deer taken near Gartmore. Her prize was £700 in Amazon vouchers and two first class sleeper tickets to London, courtesy of First Scotrail.

Callander's Alasdair Murphy won the under 16s category with his striking image, Snowy Falls, of Bracklinn Bridge in his home town.

Alasdair claimed £100 in Amazon vouchers for his efforts, as did Sheila Robertson of Broughty Ferry who won the National Park at Work category. People's vote winner Thomas Gorman, Clydebank, won a hamper from Scottish Hampers by his photo of Luss Pier.

Fiona Logan, Chief Executive Officer of the National Park Authority, said: 'People have

captured the real essence of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs. We are celebrating 10 years of being a National Park and we're pleased that so many people have been inspired to explore all that this park has to offer from the people who enjoy it, the stunning landscapes and the wonderful wildlife we have here.'

'Congratulations to all our winners and thanks to everyone who shared their special moments in this fantastic National Park.'

Sally Magnusson, one of the judges, commented on the winning shots: 'I was delighted to be a part of the judging panel and to see such fantastic photographs.'

'I'm very fond of this special part of the world and the competition entries have made me want to get out and see even more of it.'

Scottish photographer and fellow judge Colin Prior added: 'Having taken many photographs throughout Loch Lomond and The Trossachs during my career, I was very impressed with the standard of the entries on show.'

All of the shortlisted photographs will be displayed as part of the tenth anniversary at National Park HQ in Balloch and in the National Park office in Callander.

The winning images can also be viewed on the National Park website www.lochlomond-trossachs.org.

**Argyll and Bute study private rents**

RESEARCH will be carried out into the private rented sector in Argyll and Bute at an estimated cost of £45,000 to the council.

The work, which is currently out to tender, will last for less than five months and help Argyll and Bute Council 'better understand the dynamics of the private rented sector within the local authority area'.

More than 50 per cent of council housing has been lost through the right to buy. This has resulted in a shortage in

the supply of social rented housing and increasing levels of homelessness.

Research will be carried out in many housing market areas including Lorn, Mid Argyll, Mull and Iona and Kintyre.

The company awarded the contract will be required to 'profile the characteristics of private rented sector tenants' and 'identify any particular client groups/sub-markets'.

'This includes information on age, employment status,

income, numbers on housing benefit and mobility, household composition and future intentions/aspirations'.

The council wishes to 'understand householder's motivations and choices in terms of their accommodation and reasons for choosing to live in the private rented market'.

Tenders must be submitted by October 31.

The contract will start on November 8 and end on March 31 2013.

**Highland flight numbers drop**

PASSENGER numbers throughout the Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL) network fell slightly in what was a mixed month for the company.

In total, 115,443 passengers travelled through the regional airport operator's 11 airports in September, a drop of 2.8 per cent on last year.

However, year to date passenger numbers from April to September show a modest increase of 1.5 per cent, up from 499,638 to 710,231.

HIAL puts the monthly drop down to service reductions at Inverness, slowing demand in the domestic market and a drop in business related traffic.

Campbeltown was the best performing airport in the network with a 9.4 per cent increase in passenger numbers. Barra and Benbecula both saw growth as a result of increased demand for the Glasgow service. Sumburgh also recorded an increase in traffic.

Elsewhere, Tiree and Islay saw reductions of nine and 8.1 per cent respectively, with Wick the worst performing airport in the network with a 19.3 per cent drop. HIAL say this is because a higher number of charter flights were diverted to the airport last year.

At Inverness, HIAL's largest airport, numbers fell by 3.9 per cent. An increase in passengers to Amsterdam was offset by a reduction in services to Luton and Kirkwall, as well as fewer charter movements.

With the new winter schedule including one less flight a day to Gatwick, numbers are expected to drop further in the coming months, although this will be partly offset by the introduction of a larger aircraft on the Amsterdam service.

Inglis Lyon, managing director of HIAL, said: 'The economic climate is clearly having an impact on demand for air travel, particularly in the domestic market, which is the core of our business.'

'As we approach the quieter winter season, we can expect further contraction in this key market.'



The car crash injured three people and closed Soroba Road, Oban, for over two hours. 16\_1439crash01

**Driver fined £850 after Oban car crash closes road**

A WOMAN who collided with two vehicles in Oban earlier this year was fined £850 at Oban Sheriff court last Tuesday.

Shona Carmichael, 55, of 28 Belmont Street, Glasgow, admitted driving without due care and attention and losing control of her vehicle causing it to collide with oncoming traffic.

The incident, which took place on June 27, saw several people injured with one woman breaking vertebrae in her back.

The main thoroughfare to the south side of Oban, Soroba Road, was closed for more than two hours as a result of the crash at around 7.40pm.

Defence agent Laura Russell

**Mull Lines**



Iolo Williams from BBC Springwatch with RSPB Mull officer Dave Sexton and a keen young eagle fan of Mull Eagle Watch.

A MULL visitor attraction is flying high after receiving a prestigious five stars from Scotland's national tourism body.

Mull Eagle Watch received the accolade from VisitScotland after ten years in operation. The wildlife attraction is only the second in the country to get five stars.

The partnership project is run by Forestry Commission Scotland, Mull and Iona Community Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage, RSPB Scotland, Strathclyde Police and local volunteers.

It has been upgraded from four stars which means excellent to five stars which is considered exceptional.

RSPB Scotland Mull Officer Dave Sexton said: 'This five star accolade is further evidence of what stunning white-tailed eagles and other Scottish wildlife tourism can do for a rural economy. The eagles put places like Mull and indeed the whole of Scotland right up there on the world stage for exceptional wildlife watching experiences.'

'We are really looking forward to working with fellow wildlife operators to deliver something really special for 2013, the Year of Natural Scotland.'

Paul Wheelhouse, minister for environment and climate change, welcomed the new rating. He said: 'White-tailed sea eagles are often referred to as flying barn doors due to the birds' massive and broad wingspan - it is like no other bird seen in Britain. The eagles are a success story in a number of ways and the fact that up to £5 million is brought into the local economy each year through the project is a major achievement for all involved.'

In total, there are 37 businesses across Scotland accredited by VisitScotland as wildlife experiences, however, only two are five star level, Mull Eagle Hide and Hetherlea Bird Watching trips in Nethybridge.

This year, for the first time, the popular Mull Eagle Watch 'Date with Nature' project came from Forestry Commission Scotland's Glen Seilsideir forest allowing the public to follow the fortunes of white-tailed eagle pair Fingal and Iona.

A YOUNG Mull man has admitted breaking into and stealing from a caravan and taking cigarettes and tobacco after breaking into a wooden store on the island.

Iain Martin, 18, of Caravan, Lee, Bunnass, Mull, pled guilty to the offences when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday. His brother, Donald, 19, had a not guilty plea of stealing from the store accepted by the crown.

Sentencing was deferred for the preparation of reports and Iain Martin is due to appear again on November 13.

A HUNGARIAN man who lives on the Isle of Mull was fined £400 and banned from driving for one year by Oban Sheriff Court last Wednesday.

Balazs Kotlarik, 39, an employee and resident of the Isle of Mull Hotel in Craignure, Mull, admitted drink driving in Tobermory on April 27.

Kotlarik was found to be more than twice the legal limit for driving. He had 175mg of alcohol in 100ml of blood. The legal limit is 80mg.

**Bat hops on train at Crianlarich**

HALLOWE'EN came early for passengers on a recent train from Oban to Glasgow as an unexpected visitor boarded at Crianlarich.

A pipistrelle bat got on the First Scotrail train as other passengers watched in amazement.

According to reports the creature flew up and down the carriage a few times before disembarking at Ardlui.

While a few passengers moved into another carriage most people watched and enjoyed the harmless but somewhat bewildered bat in action. The mammal eventually settled for a few minutes on the wall of the carriage and a 'kind-hearted' passenger calmly and gently caught it in his jacket and released it safely out of the door when the train came to a stop at Ardlui.

Other passengers broke into a spontaneous round of applause to thank the wildlife rescuer.

It is thought the bat, a protected species, may have followed a moth or other insect into the carriage, attracted by the bright lights.

RSPB Mull officer Dave Sexton said: 'It will soon be hibernating for the winter and will hopefully find its way back to its more familiar haunts of Crianlarich Station where it may well roost in the roof space of the building.'

A ScotRail spokeswoman said she wasn't aware there had been a bat on the train but added: 'We hope it enjoyed the fantastic scenery on the West Highland line.'

**Benderloch artist releases cancer charity calendar**

A BENDERLOCH artist is to raise money for Cancer Research UK by releasing her first calendar after losing her husband to the disease seven years ago.

Gloria Young is now in her mid-80s but despite having sold nearly 1,700 paintings in her career, has not yet created anything 'commercial' from her work. Now, encouraged by friend and neighbour Steve Eccles, she has put together a compilation of 12 works charting her life and travels, demonstrating amply her eye for humour and character.

In tribute to her late husband Derek, £2 from each calendar sold will go towards the charity.

Gloria has raised money for Cancer Research for many years and hopes the money will help progress the charity's goals.

'My husband Derek passed away because of cancer and I wanted to use the calendar to raise money for the charity,' she said. 'I hope this will help in a small way.'

The pictures selected for the new calendar show life in a different light both in and around Argyll and the west coast - as well as the occasional trip abroad. The artist, who first moved to Oban in the '70s, previously ran the youth hostel on Corran Esplanade.

The calendar is available now from Munro's Supermarket in Benderloch.



Benderloch artist Gloria Young, whose new calendar will help raise money for Cancer Research UK. 16\_1439loriat

**Cooker Boiler £2458 +VAT**

**Piping Hot Boilers Cookers Stoves**

**0845 643 6145**

**93 KW PELLET BOILER £4220 +VAT EARN £9551 PER YEAR!! WITH RHI SUBSIDY**

**www.pipinghotstoves.com**

**Piping Hot Cookers specialises in wood fired/ biomass stoves, cookers and boilers covering the whole of the UK.**

**All our models are Italian and superbly made. They are very MUCH less expensive than other brands, because the Italian market is very competitive.**

**Cookers from under £900, boiler cookers that heat 7-14 radiators and hot water, from £2580, on logs. Pellet boilers give FREE heat under the commercial RHI scheme for 20 years, and from next year, that applies for 7 years for domestic RHI approved systems. £950 RHPP grant AND 5% VAT on installations**

**We do suitable MCS approved boilers from £2200 after RHPP grant.**

**Call us on 0845 6436145 / 01327 307130.**

**Straight answers, and the right advice is our speciality.**

**Corporate stationery**  
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

**Personal stationery**  
Matching paper & envelopes,  
postcards, address labels

**krisp print**

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery,  
Burnbank, Burnside Street,  
Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JD  
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk  
www.krispprint.co.uk

## Improved performances please manager

'The last two games have been encouraging and it's given us something to build on'

**REPORT BY RICHARD HADDOCK**  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

IMPROVED performances in recent weeks have pleased Fort William manager Danny Conlon – but now he wants to see his side picking up points.

Fort have just one point from nine games this season and face one of the top Highland League teams this weekend when Wick Academy visit Claggan Park.

Fort have slipped to the bottom of the league despite playing well in their last two games against Huntly and Inverurie Locos, and are still looking for their

first win. Conlon told The Oban Times that Wick represented another tough challenge.

He said: 'From what I've heard they're carried on from last season. They get the ball down and play. They were very impressive when we played them up there. 'We're going to have to play as well, if not better, than the last two weeks if we're going to get something.'

'The last two games have been encouraging and it's given us something to build on. But it's just a bit of a foundation – we've got to try and get some points on the table. It would make a huge difference to the players.'

Fort will be without young

midfielder Ryan MacDonald who injured his foot against Huntly. Full back Farquhar MacRae is doubtful after picking up a calf injury in the same game and Gary Farquhar is another doubt with a hamstring injury.

Fort were unlucky to leave Claggan with nothing to show for their efforts against in-form Huntly last Saturday, going down 1-0 thanks to an Andrzej Kleczkowski goal in the 78th minute.

The Lochaber side started well with Lewis Corbett driving a shot just wide of the goal in the sixth minute.

Neither side was able to create many chances in the

**FOOTBALL**

first half, with Fort able to match second-placed Huntly in midfield.

Fort keeper Ian MacLeod was called into action a number of times and made some impressive saves, but was unable to do anything about Kleczkowski's winner. After the Fort defence was unable to properly clear a free kick, the Pole struck a volley into the roof of the net.

Fort had once final chance when Lewis Campbell picked out the unmarked Logan Barker at the back post, but his low volley was well saved by the Huntly keeper.



Fort defender Andy Martin struggled in the air against giant Huntly forward Lukasz Stasiak. f20\_143for01

### Tight at the top in Ali Young League

#### INDOOR FOOTBALL

THREE teams are tied at the top of the Ali Young Premier indoor football league with 100 per cent records after three games.

Lochaber Leisure are top on goal difference after a 3-0 win over Goon Squad at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night, while Ballachulish won by the same scoreline against AA Young.

Achintore FC won their third game of the season, notching up a 6-0 win against All Blacks.

Meanwhile, Caol FC moved up to fourth after defeating Portowcy 6-0. The night's other game saw HWEnergy move into fifth with a 4-1 win over Old Codgers.

#### Free coaching at table tennis club

#### TABLE TENNIS

FORT WILLIAM Table Tennis Club is providing free coaching to anyone wishing to return to, or take up the sport.

The club meets every Monday night in the Nevis Centre from 6.30pm-9pm. New members are welcome.

#### New badminton club at Corpach

#### BADMINTON

A NEW weekly badminton club has started in Kilmallie Community Centre, Corpach.

Players of all abilities are welcome to come along to the sessions at 7.30pm on Wednesday evenings.

#### New winter season

#### CYCLING

WEST Highland Wheelers will hold their first race of the winter season this Sunday with the Fort 2 Fort event.

Club members and guests will leave Fort Augustus top lock at 11am and cycle to Lochaber Rugby Club in Banavie.

#### Jackpot rolls over

#### LOTTERY

A ROLLOVER jackpot of £200 is up for grabs this week in Fort William FC's weekly lotto draw. Numbers last week were 12-17-20.

### Youngsters taught a harsh lesson

A YOUNG Fort William team were dealt a harsh lesson in football as they were heavily beaten 13-1 by a focused Hibernian under 20 team in the Scottish Youth Cup on Sunday.

The match didn't start well for the Fort at Hibs' multi-million pound training centre as they quickly found themselves 4-0 down after only 30 minutes. But they were rewarded for their hard work as Lewis Corbett fired a 20 yard shot high into the net for Fort's consolation goal to make it 4-1.

Corbett was one of a number of Fort payers involved with the first team's game against Huntly on Saturday.

#### YOUTH FOOTBALL

However, the quality and class of the Hibernian team created numerous chances throughout the game and they finished as they had started by pressing the game right to the end and running out easy winners.

To Fort's credit the players continually worked hard throughout but they were unable to match these Hibernian full time players, whom for many have been involved in their senior team and are pushing to win back the Youth Cup after their previous victory two years ago.

### Lochaber rugby boys get back to winning ways and keep pressure on league leaders

LOCHABER got back to winning ways and kept the pressure up on league leaders Garioch with a hard fought 16-12 win over Highland in Inverness on Saturday.

As always in Lochaber vs Highland matches it was gritty encounter with neither side taking a back step, and it took to the 12th minute before some ill discipline by Highland gave Lochaber a penalty, which was narrowly missed.

Highland scored a converted try after 20 minutes, and Lochaber were hit with a double blow

as experienced scrum half Ross Wallace was taken off with a broken collar bone.

There was no further scoring before the break despite some end to end play and last minute defence on both sides.

**Composure**

Lochaber started the second half with much more purpose and composure and within 10 minutes Connor Taylor went over for an unconverted try.

Lochaber now had the bit between the teeth and Highland began to give away a series of penalties two of which were

converted by Lochaber's Rory MacKay to lead 11 - 7.

Highland then brought on all their substitutes and managed to score from a breakaway to regain the lead 12 - 11.

Lochaber could have folded at this point but the team spirit is strong within this Lochaber side - demonstrated by Niall MacPhee. Fresh from playing in the Scotland vs Ireland shinty/hurling match earlier in the day, MacPhee came on as a substitute to help shore up the defence.

Lochaber continued to soak up pressure from the home side

#### RUGBY

before exerting some of their own, which resulted in a well deserved try for centre Brodie Watkins.

**Flourish**

Despite a late flourish by Highland the game was over and Lochaber had recorded a hard fought 12 - 16 win.

Lochaber, who now have six wins from seven games, travel to take on Aberdeen University Medics this weekend, looking to close the gap on Garioch.



Lochaber's Rory Bell tries to contain Plockton's Daniel Murray during the youth tournament at Banavie. f20\_f43rugby01

### Lochaber pipped at the post by Highland

#### YOUTH RUGBY

FOUR teams of some of the Highland's brightest young rugby talent came together for an under 16 round robin tournament at Banavie on Sunday.

The home side Lochaber lined up against Plockton High School, Highland Rugby Club and Nairn High School on a sun-drenched afternoon.

Taking their cue from the senior side's current run of success, Lochaber started well and recorded wins against Nairn and Plockton before facing up against Highland, who also had a 100 per cent record, in the decider.

However, the Inverness side proved too strong and ran out tournament winners.

Lochaber's Pauline Donaldson helped organise the event. She said: 'It was a great day and there was good quality rugby from all teams.'

### Skye street stunt rider meets up with Olympic champion

YOUTUBE phenomenon and street stunt rider Danny MacAskill swapped his trials bike for a racing model for a day – to take on Sir Chris Hoy in the first ever lap at Glasgow's newly completed velodrome.

The duo were filming a promotional video for the 2014 Commonwealth Games at the stunning new arena, which has been named in honour of the six-time Olympic gold medalist.

Danny, from Dunvegan on Skye, has never ridden a velodrome before - so racing on a bigger, faster bike with ultra thin tires was a challenging experience.

But he pushed hard to get a good lap time and notched 21 seconds – just four seconds slower than the world's best.

Danny said: 'Sir Chris is just a legend and having the opportunity to work with him was

#### CYCLING

quite a surreal experience and to be honest one I'll never forget.'

Before their inaugural ride, Danny put on a little demonstration outside to show Sir Chris just what street trials is about – and Scotland's greatest ever Olympian was impressed.

He said: 'Having the opportunity to film with Danny was brilliant. It was amazing to watch him negotiate the bollards, walls and handrails on his bike. He's incredible and he's got so much skill.'

'He can turn a fairly mundane object on the street into something interesting and it's not just the skill, it's the bravery of what he can do.'

The dynamic duo can be viewed at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63o\\_cPZh84](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63o_cPZh84)



Impressed: Sir Chris Hoy checks out Danny MacAskill's skills.

### Weather

**Thursday** Cloudy  
Winds light north north easterly  
Temperatures 3°C to 9°C

**Friday** Sunny intervals  
Winds light north easterly  
Temperatures 0°C to 6°C.

**Weekend** Sunny intervals

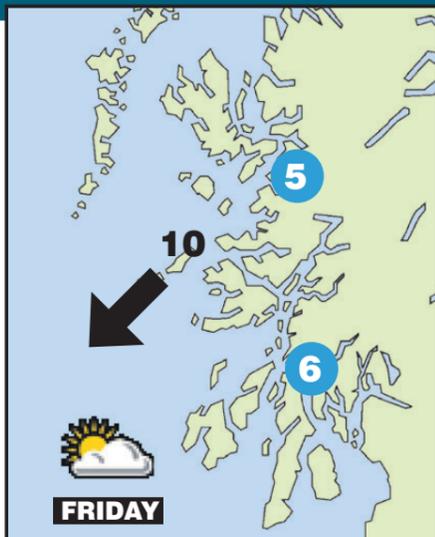
**Outlook** Winds moderate north north westerly  
Temperatures 4°C to 6°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate

Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate

Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



### Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, October 25, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 03.10	3.0 08.36 1.4 15.05 3.5 21.14 1.5	
Fri 03.43	3.2 09.32 1.2 15.42 3.6 21.57 1.3	
Sat 04.01	3.4 10.16 1.1 16.15 3.8 22.32 1.2	
Sun 04.29	3.6 10.56 1.0 16.47 3.9 23.05 1.1	
Mon 05.00	3.8 11.32 1.0 17.18 4.0 23.37 1.0	
Tues 05.31	3.9 12.06 1.1 17.50 4.0 *** **	
Wed 00.11	1.0 06.01 4.0 12.38 1.2 18.22 4.0	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with



website: [www.northwestmarine.co.uk](http://www.northwestmarine.co.uk)  
Address: 7E Glengallan Rd., Oban, Argyll. PA34 4HG  
Ph: 01631 565740 Fax: 01631 565780  
email: [enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk)