

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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### Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail Pàislig 2013

### The Royal National Mòd Paisley 2013

### Results, photos and round-up inside!

See pages  
8,9,10,  
11+12

## Oban marina plan takes a step forward

PLANS for a short stay transit marina in Oban took a step forward this week as councillors agreed a design team should be appointed.

The 30-berth facility would be sited on the south side of the North Pier and tie in with other developments revealed at Tuesday's CHORD meeting.

Councillor Louise Glen-Lee, chairwoman, said: 'We have progress. We have come out with shared vision and we hope that we have agreed today will give a clear message to our community.'

Councillor Glen-Lee told the meeting five things had been agreed.

These include progressing a single harbour authority for Oban, developing 'complementary projects' with the Lorn Arc TIF, and taking forward the most 'cost effective' option for regeneration of the White Building - possibly

demolition and redevelopment. Stafford Street will also be 'detrunked' by Christmas at the latest to allow public realm works to progress.

Councillor Glen-Lee added: 'On the South Pier we are developing a design to be progressed to a shovel-ready stage, allowing the submission of a European Fisheries Fund bid by November 2014.'

A business case will now be started for the marina. Sandy Mactaggart, Argyll and Bute Council's head of development and infrastructure, told the meeting further expansion of the North Pier was possible.

Following the meeting *The Oban Times* attempted to speak to Linda Houston, Oban CHORD project manager, to gather more details on the proposals but council policy forbids Ms Houston from having conversations with the media without express permission.

## Man, 44, dies in road crash near Dalmally

A 44-YEAR-old man who died in a road crash near Dalmally on Sunday had not been named by police as *The Oban Times* went to press.

The man was a front seat passenger in a Daewoo car on the A85, near to its junction with the A819, when the vehicle was involved in a collision with a Mercedes A-class at around 5.35pm.

The two occupants of the

Mercedes and the female driver of the Daewoo were all taken by ambulance to Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban, where they were kept in overnight.

The road was closed for approximately 11 hours while police carried out their investigations.

Any witnesses, or anyone with information that may assist police enquiries is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101.

## No plan to upgrade path

OBAN'S Tesco supermarket has confirmed it has no plans to upgrade the footpath from its car park to Glenshellach Terrace - despite getting the go ahead a year ago.

The store received planning permission on October 17 last year to construct steps and a timber fence on the well-used thoroughfare, but the path remains muddy - with stones used as footholds the only support for the steeper descents.

John Boden, who commented on Tesco's planning application, said: 'The existing, ad-hoc, steep slippery track is a hazard to all users.'

'Its continued existence is

amazing and is no credit to either the council or Tesco and is entirely due to the popular demand for access from the road above the car park.'

Tesco has shelved the £60,000 upgrade despite organisations, including Oban Community Council, campaigning for work to be done on the busy walkway.

The path is owned jointly by three separate parties, Tesco, West Highland Housing Association (WHHA) and a third party, understood to be a private developer.

A spokeswoman for Tesco said: 'There are currently no plans for work to be done on the informal footpath at Glenshellach Road.'



Donald Feist holds aloft the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield after Govan Gaelic Choir's victory.

## Young Islay conductor leads Govan choir to Mòd glory

A YOUNG conductor from Islay who led Govan Gaelic Choir to the Royal National Mòd's premier choral prize says his island upbringing was key to his success.

Donald Feist's Govan choir was an outside bet for the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield last Friday, but pulled off a surprise victory, thanks in part to an own choice song, *Horo Illean*, that Donald arranged.

The 23-year-old said that growing up in Port Charlotte gave

him a love for traditional music. He added: 'My first instrument was the pipes and I have always loved Gaelic music.'

'On Islay you grow up with it. It's just in-built and whenever I hear it I enjoy it; it's music that comes from the heart.'

The Glasgow-based primary school teacher has this week told *The Oban Times* his prize-winning Mòd experience has inspired him to enter next year's competition as a soloist.

Donald, a teacher at Elmvale

Primary School in Glasgow, also conducts the school choir, the East Dunbartonshire Boys Area Choir and the Renfrewshire Junior Gaelic Choral Association, affectionately known as the RJs.

Since Donald took on the conductor's role with Govan four years ago, at the age of 19, the choir has never finished outside of the top four in either area choir competition at the national Mòd.

For more on this year's Mòd see pages 8 to 12.

## Residents face mammoth trek to collect festive parcels

### Strike could see customers having to travel to cities to collect post

RESIDENTS across Argyll and the Western Isles could face travelling to Glasgow to collect their packages in the run up to Christmas as posties prepare for further strike action.

The Communications Workers Union (CWU) announced last week it was to go on a 24-hour national strike on November 4 as it demands protection for its current terms and conditions in the newly privatised Royal Mail, including protection for rural services.

However, members are already being balloted on further strike action should no agreement be reached in time.

That could mean those in the PA and HS postcode area - including those from as far afield as Tiree, Coll, Barra and Lewis - having to embark on a mammoth journey to Glasgow to collect packages sent by third party couriers while those in the Highland area could face travelling to Inverness.

Jim McKechnie, CWU secretary for the PA and HS postcode areas, said: 'We just want a fair deal and we now have

some weeks to try and achieve that. We've started balloting members on boycotting mail sent by private couriers such as DHL or TNT.'

'They don't want to do the last mile and a lot of people don't realise we do that for these couriers. It could mean people from Oban and the isles having to travel to Glasgow to collect parcels, as these companies aren't interested in the last mile or rural areas.'

He said the proposals facing the Royal Mail could further mean customers across the west Highlands paying more for postage.

He added: 'We don't want to go on strike and we don't want to fight our customers. We don't want them to suffer though - we want to protect the service.'

Fears are growing too that a system echoing that in the Netherlands that allows anyone with a lockable garage to become a 'postie' could be introduced.

'We want a deal to secure our terms and conditions for the next seven to 10 years, to give our guys long-term assurances, and

to protect the service we have,' Mr McKechnie added.

Oban councillor and former postie Roddy McCuish has firmly backed the action, saying he will join the picket line on November 4 together with an army of local former posties.

He said: 'What is happening to the Royal Mail is crazy; privatisation might work in the cities but it won't work in rural areas. These are the most damaging changes to Royal Mail since it was established and I 100 per cent support this action. I really do worry about the future of Royal Mail.'

A spokesperson for Royal Mail said its offer of an 8.6 per cent increase in pay over three years in a £300 lump sum in the first year is fair, adding: 'Any industrial action, or the possibility of disruption, is damaging to our business, especially in the run up to Christmas, our busiest time. We will do all that we can to protect our business and minimise the impact of any industrial action on our customers' mail.'

## Don't forget - clocks go back

REMEMBER folks, your clocks will fall back by one hour this Sunday, October 27, at 2am.

British Summer Time is officially coming to an end and we'll be back on Greenwich Mean Time - but at least you get an extra hour in bed.



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## Dental hospital move deal stalls

DENTISTS will not move to Oban's new dental hospital this month after NHS Highland failed to agree a contract in time with the practice set to move in.

It had been thought that a deal to see the Argyll Square Dental Practice move into the new, purpose-built facility would be agreed in time for an October fit - but that plan has had to be scrapped.

NHS Highland has now said it expects arrangements to be complete in the coming weeks to allow the practice to move into the Oban Dental Access Centre before the end of the year.

A spokesman for the Argyll Square Dental Practice to move to the new Oban Dental Access Centre are in the final stages of completion and we expect the practice to be operating from the Dental Centre before the end of the year.'



Everybody's heard about the bird, but the word is he wasn't too happy about being rescued.

## 'Angry Bird' causes a flap in Tobermory after 'rally excess'

ISLANDERS got in a flap on Mull as they helped a waterlogged pigeon out of Tobermory Bay at high tide.

Heather Lorne was out for a walk on the town's Main Street with her dog Ellie when the Yorkshire terrier started barking over the harbour wall.

The pigeon had become trapped in the cold water on the final day of the Mull Rally, leading some to believe it had enjoyed the celebrations a bit too much.

But a few kind hearted passers by flew into action, borrowing a ladder from the church hall to rescue the pigeon, which was trapped among seaweed.

The ladder was lowered into the water and another local resident braved the chill to retrieve the bird.

The pigeon, which thought it was auditioning for the next Angry Birds game when it had its photo taken, received excellent 'tweetment' and is now on the way to recovery.

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**'Easdale Rocks' in memory of lost fisherman**

A CONCERT in memory of a fisherman lost at sea off Easdale will take place in Seil Island Hall on November 2.

Scot MacAlister, 40, was last heard from when he issued a mayday call on April 25 to say the boat he was on, the *Speedwell*, was 'going over'. All profits from the Easdale Rocks event will be donated to the Fisherman's Mission.

The evening, which kicks off at 8pm, will see performances from The Antics, The Lush Puppies and Mudslide. Admission is free for accompanied under 16-year-olds and adults can bring their own bottle.

**Primary school talent on show**

SOUTH Lochaber primary age youngsters will get the chance to show off their wide range of abilities at a talent show in Ballachulish next month.

The event, which was originally due to be held in February, will be held in the village hall on Saturday November 16 from 6.30pm.

Prizes will be on offer for first, second and third, with individuals and groups allowed to enter.

**More trees to be planted in Tormore Forest**

SLEAT Community Trust is to plant another 25,000 trees in Tormore Forest at Ardsvar over the winter under long term plans to develop the 1,000-acre woodland.

The trust planted 50,000 trees last winter as it began an ambitious programme to transform the forest into a commercial and recreational asset.

Community forester Chris Marsh said this year's saplings would include birch, rowan, alder and willow, as well as spruces and firs. He told *The Oban Times*: 'We will again be using local planting squads. It is all part of a community restructuring of the forest, which is a 30-year project involving felling and replanting. We have an annual felling programme which gives us ground for replanting. Ground preparation will start soon and we'll be planting in January and February.'

**Drama festival celebrates 60 years**

AS PART of its 60th anniversary celebrations, North Lorn Drama Festival is staging an evening entitled *Drama For All* at Appin Village Hall on Friday November 1.

It is aimed at people interested in any aspect of amateur dramatics, from directing to making the tea, and includes acting, scenery-making, writing and everything else connected with entering a play at the popular festival. The next North Lorn Drama Festival will be held during the week beginning March 24, 2014.

# Business group insists good work being done

AS IT approaches its first birthday, Oban's business improvement co-operative admits it needs to market itself better as criticism of the group grows in the town.

BID4Oban's manager Nic Jones has acknowledged more needs to be done to make people aware of the work of the organisation, with groups such as Oban Community Council joined by several businesses in questioning what the

organisation is doing. But Mr Jones said plenty of good work has already been done - with more positive developments on the way.

'We've helped organisations, we've helped a number of events and brought a lot of spending into the town,' he said. 'Our ambassadors spoke to more than 11,000 people this summer and we've helped more than 20 businesses improve their frontages,' he said.

'There is a lot happening with the BID and it is very good for a lot of people, but there will always be people that will disagree with it.

'We are very aware though we need to market ourselves better - perhaps the message isn't getting out there and we are going to take steps to do more.'

At Oban Community Council's most recent meeting, chairwoman Marri Malloy said: 'BIDS don't seem to be doing

things quickly enough for me.' But Nic added: 'You've got to remember we've not even been going for one year and we're working to a five year plan so you're not going to see everything happen at once.

'We have put a lot in place but we need to build on the work that's been done so far and put more in place.'

Next to be launched by BID4Oban is the new LoveOban voucher scheme, with more than

30 local traders signed up to it in the run up to Christmas.

It will see shoppers buy vouchers in £5, £10 or £20 denominations, which can then be used in any participating business. The business can then exchange the vouchers for the full cash sum, with no commission taken.

'This is something that's being done at no extra cost to businesses and it's been positively received,' added Nic.



A rockfall blocks the A890 at Stromferry in January 2012. Now work is underway to find an alternative route.

## Transport survey underway to find alternative by-pass route

BUSINESSES and organisations using the A890 Stromferry Bypass are being urged to complete a transport survey to help shape options for improving or building an alternative route to the road between Lochcarron and Kyle.

Highland Council has appointed consultants URS to carry out the study, which opens the second phase of a lengthy process to find a permanent and cost-effective solution.

The first phase of assessment, unveiled at Lochcarron Village Hall in April, identified nine options for by-passing or improving the rockfall-prone 12km-long section along the

southern shore of Loch Carron. Those in the 'northern corridor' include a bridge or barrage across the loch, with access through or by-passing Lochcarron.

Options identified in the 'online corridor' along or close to the A890 itself include a viaduct, tunnel, avalanche shelter or sharing with the adjacent railway. A 'do-minimum' option - maintaining the existing route - is also mooted.

A high-level route through Glen Udalain to Attadale was suggested as the only option in the 'southern corridor'.

Findings from the new 27-question survey,

a 'strategically critical transport study', according to the council, will provide invaluable information on which options should be pursued.

'Questionnaires will shortly be sent to a targeted audience,' a council spokesperson said.

Landslides and rockfalls have closed the A890 on several occasions over recent years, forcing drivers to make a 140-mile detour via Inverness. The road was shut either completely or partially for around four months to April last year as the unstable rock face was shored up.

## Luining man nominated for BAFTA

A LUING man has been nominated for a BAFTA award for his contribution to the documentary *We Are Northern Lights*.

Filmmaker Norman Bissell will have something to celebrate if the movie wins the Bafta Scotland Cineworld Audience Award - as he is credited as a co-director.

Norman joins 120 other contributors to Scotland's micro-budget film, which shows off the country and its people, who will share in the accolade if creative director Nick Higgins wins.

Norman said: 'I feel deeply honoured and delighted to have some of my film footage of Luining selected for *We Are Northern Lights* and to receive this BAFTA Scotland Audience Award nomination as a co-director.'

'The Isle of Luining Community Trust showed it to a packed audience on Luining last week and they loved seeing the children of Luining Primary School playing their ukeleles and singing in the film, seeing the Luining postbus, a Luining bull and older residents talking about the island when they were young.'

'The wonderful views over the Sound of Luining from Cullipool also featured in the film.'

As one of this year's eight nominated films, *We Are Northern Lights* will tour Cineworlds in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen from Sunday 20 October to Tuesday 29 October.

Members of the public can vote online for their favourite film at [www.cineworld.co.uk/baftascotland](http://www.cineworld.co.uk/baftascotland) until October 29. The winner will be announced in November.

Mr Higgins said: 'The whole Northern Lights story is incredible; firstly, just the fact that the Scottish public responded with so much footage and then, that they came to see the film in the cinema - and now we are delighted to have a chance to win a BAFTA.'

## Mull Lines

RESIDENTS on the Ross of Mull have asked for NHS Highland and a local bus company to work together to avoid a nine-hour round trip to attend clinics.

West Coast Motor's new winter timetable, which took effect on October 20, sees the 12.34pm service from the Mull and Iona Community Hospital cut on Mondays and Wednesdays. The service didn't previously operate on Fridays.

Fiona Brown, a Pennyghael resident and member of Mull Community Council, said: 'The only days people can go up and back without having to spend several hours there are Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is hours - not an hour - waiting, which would be acceptable.'

The bus, service number 496, leaves Fionnphort at 7.20am every day except Monday or 9.20am every day except Friday, arriving in Craignure at 8.30am and 10.30am respectively.

But it is the return journey that causes problems for patients with buses available at 10.30am on Mondays and Wednesdays - too early for many appointments, 12.34pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays

or around 4.30pm Monday to Friday, arriving in Fionnphort at 6pm - almost nine hours after departure.

Fiona suggests NHS Highland assists with the problem by allocating appointments for residents based on location, so community transport or car-sharing can be arranged.

Clinics held at the hospital include psychiatry, audiology, paediatrics, ophthalmology, midwifery, dietician, podiatry and physiotherapy.

An NHS Highland spokesman said: 'NHS Highland understands that sometimes it can be difficult for people to access services due to the remote and rural nature of many of the communities in Argyll and Bute and as far as possible we take these issues into consideration when arranging our clinics.'

'If however anyone does have problems then we would ask them to get in touch. It is also important to highlight that because we have the new Mull and Iona Community Hospital we have been able to increase the number of clinics that are available on Mull which therefore reduces the need for patients to travel to Oban for treatment.'

## GUIDED night-time walks which incorporate live performances from *Giants in the Forest* will be taking place at Calgary soon.

The event, hosted by Calgary Art In Nature, will see walkers taken on a journey through the Dark Wood to experience the sounds and the stories of the *Giants in the Forest*. As these are night-time events those attending are advised to bring a torch and dress for the weather. The performances, which run every 15 minutes, may not be suitable for young children. The event takes place on November 1 and November 2 from 7pm until 9pm each evening. Each guided trip lasts around 30 to 45 minutes. Only 12 people are admitted per group. Call 01688 302211 to book.

RESIDENTS in the south of Mull have won the right to buy Tiroran Forest and are one step closer to community land ownership.

The application to the National Forest Land Scheme, made on behalf of the community by the Ross of Mull and Iona Development Group, has been approved by Forestry Commission Scotland.

The group now has 18 months to prepare a business plan and secure funding before the land can be transferred. The forest covers 792ha and could be fundamental in driving economic, social and environmental benefits for the South Mull communities.

Community benefits are expected to include a productive forest which is actively managed with employment opportunities, woodland crofts to give local people more access to land and wider access so people can enjoy the areas of the forest which are rich in archaeological remains, natural history and landscape heritage. Morven Gibson, local development officer for the Ross of Mull and Iona,

said: 'This is an ambitious project for the communities and the next 18 months will be crucial, with much hard work and due diligence involved.'

'Once we have clarified the appropriate corporate structure for the community forest we will then be in a position to advertise for and appoint directors.'

Jon Hollingdale, chief executive of the Community Woodlands Association (CWA), added: 'The Community Woodlands Association congratulates the Ross of Mull and Iona Development Group on their successful application to acquire Tiroran forest through the National Forest Land Scheme.'

'Tiroran will present some significant management challenges, but as 150 CWA members can attest, community ownership of woodlands provides a fantastic opportunity to support community regeneration, bolster resilience and deliver a wide range of public benefits.'

For more information please contact Morven on 01681 708000 or [mgibson@mict.co.uk](mailto:mgibson@mict.co.uk).

## Police operation snares 19 people and recovers £20,000 worth of drugs

POLICE Scotland have reported 19 people to the procurator fiscal and seized around £20,000 worth of drugs following a Highland-wide operation.

Class A, B and C drugs were all recovered, as well as £5,500 in cash during the ongoing 'Operation Ram', which targets drug dealers in local communities.

Acting detective chief inspector Brian

Mackay said: 'Information received from members of the public has been crucial in the course of our investigations and has contributed to these successes.'

'I again ask for this continued support and for anyone with information about drug dealers in their local area to contact police on 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.'

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**Teenagers charged with letting off fireworks in street**

TWO TEENAGERS who let off fireworks in an Oban street have been charged with three offences.

The 17-year-olds were allegedly shooting rockets near to the Kelvin Hotel on Shore Street at around 1am last Friday.

They have since been charged under the Explosives Act 1875, The Fireworks Regulations 2004 and for culpable and reckless conduct.

**Driver reported**

A MAN has been reported to the procurator fiscal after allegedly carrying out an overtaking manoeuvre that caused a cyclist to veer off the road and crash into a fence.

The incident happened Monday, October 14, around 1.30pm on the A816 near Kilniver, three miles south of the primary school. The driver of the overtaken vehicle stopped to give the cyclist assistance.

The 37-year-old accused driver was later traced by police.

**Man, 76, charged with drink driving**

AN ELDERLY driver has been charged with drink driving after police noticed he was driving through Oban at night without any headlights.

The 76 year old was spotted by officers at around 9pm driving through the town centre.

Upon stopping the man, police smelt alcohol from him and carried out a roadside breath test, which produced a positive reading.

**Town hall's £1m lottery boost**

A MASSIVE refurbishment and modernisation of Campbelltown Town Hall is to go ahead thanks to a £1 million windfall from the Big Lottery Fund.

The money was granted this week to South Kintyre Development Trust which will take over the running of the B-listed hall for the community.

A £1.7 million project to renovate and redevelop the hall from the ground floor to its roof is expected to begin next spring and take just over a year to complete.

'This is fantastic news for the town,' said Kintyre councillor John Semple. 'It shows what people can do when they all work together.'

The new hall will create a community hub providing offices to rent, conference and meeting facilities and a one-stop shop for accessing community activities and services from more than 50 local organisations.

**Generator stolen**

A FILM crew from Ireland, who left a £2,500 generator in a car park overnight returned to find it stolen.

The Honda generator was left in a lay-by near Bridge of Orchy between October 15 - 16.



Shauna MacKenzie with Janette Sermanni, who the youngsters presented a cheque to. 16\_143steps01

**Youngsters give it welly and raise £1,000**

YOUNGSTERS at 1st Steps Day nursery in Oban have raised more than £1,000 by completing a Welly Waddle.

The children, who walked from the Corran Halls through Dunollie Woods at the end of September, presented a cheque for £1,189.30 to Scottish Cot Death Trust last week.

Janette Sermanni, volunteer for SCDT, said a 'big thank you' to the boys and girls at the nursery as she collected the cheque.

She added: 'It is absolutely fantastic. We

are such a small charity that it is quite hard to get funds for research. People don't see the illness like they do for other charities. It is after the event for us so it is harder to get support.

'We are the only charity in Scotland for cot death, we have one nurse that does everything.

'We appreciate this so much it is a fantastic amount of money.'

Nursery manager Fiona Moloney said:

'We decided as a nursery to try and raise awareness on this subject and support this charity in carrying out further research into cot death.

'We were overwhelmed by the support of the parents and delighted to raise £1,189.30. Staff, children and parents all had great fun on our Welly Waddle.'

Shauna MacKenzie, who organised the waddle, added: 'We didn't expect to get anywhere near the much.'

**Fatal road crash witness appeal**

POLICE are anxious to establish the cause of an accident that killed one Campbelltown man and left ten others injured, some seriously.

Sixty-two year-old Andy Rennie died at the scene after the minibus he was driving was involved in a collision with a Mitsubishi 4x4 vehicle on the A83 at Kennacraig, about five miles south of Tarbert around 7.10am last Thursday morning.

The 21-year-old driver of the Mitsubishi was taken to Campbelltown Hospital and released after treatment for minor injuries.

There were 10 male passengers on the MacLeod Construction minibus. Six were taken by ambulance to Mid Argyll Hospital in Lochgilphead. One of them was then transferred to the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow and another transferred to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley.

Four passengers were taken to Campbelltown Hospital for treatment.

The A83 was closed for more than nine hours until specialist crash investigators had carried out their enquiries.

This week Sergeant James Crawford, of the Road Policing Unit, said: 'We are urging any



Police and specialist crash investigators at the scene of the accident last Thursday. Inset: Andy Rennie, who died in last Thursday's car crash.

witnesses to the crash, or with any information that may assist us, to contact Police Scotland on 101.

Mr Rennie, a father-of-three, drove the MacLeod minibus every working day, taking Campbelltown-based colleagues to jobs before going on to work at the company's quarry near Lochgilphead.

Described as 'a jovial man', he was well known in Campbelltown.

Jane MacLeod, a director of MacLeod Construction, said this week: 'Andy Rennie was employed by us for more than 15 years and was a highly respected member of our company.'

'We have been receiving messages of sympathy and support

from throughout Argyll and Bute and beyond, and on behalf of the company I would like to thank everyone for their support and offers of help for Andy Rennie's family and also for the injured men and their families.'

Mr Rennie's funeral will be tomorrow (Friday) at 1pm at Lorne and Lowland Church, Campbelltown.

**Doors close on one of Oban's oldest businesses**

Owner appeals to residents to support local shops

OBAN residents have been urged to support local shops after one of the town's oldest businesses, McDougall's Home Hardware on Soroba Road, was forced to close its doors.

John McDougall shut the shop last week after struggling to cope with competition from the internet - ending nearly 150 years of trading from the site.

'While dwindling customer numbers is the main cause for the closure, which resulted in four people losing their jobs, John cited high business rates - £12,000 per year - and the extra contribution for the BID4Oban levy as contributing factors to the decision.

The closure doesn't affect the family's other business in the town, McDougall's in George Street, which continues to trade as normal.

John says he's devastated to have had to close Home Hardware, which has been

trading as a hardware store from the site since the 1950s and has been home to the business historically since 1865.

'It is just very sad,' he said. 'My father, Alan, started the shop and now I'm having to close the doors. It wasn't an easy decision, but in the current economic climate we didn't have a choice.'

'It's very sad for the staff who have been with me. One lady in the office has been with me for 38 years.'

'Everybody is shopping online now - and they aren't supporting Oban retailers.'

'If local stores aren't supported the town is going to end up with no quality stores.'

'This has a knock on effect. Tourists like to browse local shops. If they're not there the tourists will just pass through.'

He added his disappointment at the lack of support for the business from local bodies.

John said: 'The local authority hasn't helped with rates - they're a killer for business and take no account of changes in turnover.'

'BID4Oban hasn't been of any great help to us either. It's just another overhead and you're not getting very much for it.'

'Because I felt it was good for the town we voted yes for the BID, but with the economic downturn the extra rates have been detrimental to us.'

John added: 'I'd like to extend my family's thanks and gratitude for the support of our many loyal customers throughout the years.'

'We do understand the difficulties of spending in this economic climate and are saddened that so many independent shops have closed.'

Nic Jones, BID4Oban's manager, said: 'I'm really sad a well established company like that has had to fold, but BID is working hard in the background to get things going.'

**CMAL chief executive sails off after six years at helm**

GUY Platten, the chief executive of Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) is leaving after six years at the helm.

Mr Platten, who was appointed to CMAL in August 2007 at its inception, is leaving early next year to take up a role with the UK Chamber of Shipping as chief executive.

CMAL owns the ferries, ports and harbours and infrastructure for vital ferry services serving the west coast of Scotland.

During his tenure, Mr Platten oversaw the launch on the Clyde of the world's first sea-going roll-on roll-off diesel electric

passenger and vehicle hybrid ferry in December 2012, followed by the second vessel of its class in May this year. He has also commissioned a replacement £42million ferry to serve the Stornoway to Ullapool route, alongside significant investments in harbour infrastructure at a number of ports, including Largs and Port Ellen.

Mr Platten said: 'It has been a privilege to lead the team at CMAL and help establish the organisation as a key player in the delivery of vital, lifeline ferry and port infrastructure to Scotland.'

**Have a brew with Mull lifeboat crew**

MEMBERS of the public considering volunteering with the RNLI are invited to have a 'brew with the crew' this weekend on the Isle of Mull.

Tobermory Lifeboat Station is open from 11am until 2pm on Saturday October 26 for any potential volunteers who can spare their time and skills to help the RNLI to drop in for a chat and a cuppa. There are a variety of roles available, including fundraisers and shorehelpers.

**Pub landlord searches for new Argyll home**

A PUB landlord is looking for a new home in Argyll after the premises she leased in Crieff was sold from under her.

Mandy Silver ran the Curly Coo whisky bar in the town for four years, earning a listing in the Lonely Planet Travel Guide 2013 and receiving an American magazine's acclaim, being the 'Best Whiskey Bar in the World'. It also earned five star awards from Trip Advisor for both 2012 and 2013 - but Mandy was forced to look for alternative premises when the owner of the building sold up in June.

Now, with a gantry of 120 malt whiskies, she wants to move into Argyll. She said: 'I was really keen on the Tigh Line, Lochawe, but I've not had success so far. I don't have a lot of cash, but I'm sure there's someone on the west coast who will be prepared to offer the Coo a new home?'

Mandy can be contacted at curlycoo@gmail.com.

**Lorn Lines**

MEMBERS of the Lorn and Mid-Argyll Scottish Wildlife Trust centre enjoyed a talk by Kerry MacKay who told of her university student expedition to the Antarctic peninsula.

Kerry 'enthralled' the group with some impressive images of landscapes and wildlife from this remote and stunning region.

The expedition was organised by Students on Ice, an international organisation which fosters awareness of both polar regions.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday November 21 in the Scottish Marine Institute at Dunstaffnage, when Pat Batty will speak on Dragonflies of Argyll.



Oban's Family Mediation Centre has welcomed two new members of staff after they became accredited mediators with Relationships Scotland. Susan Mair and Catriona Johnstone have taken up the role of helping young or old families - with or without children - through difficult times. Susan, pictured left, and Catriona, right, were welcomed to the team by mediation supervisor Carol Hope, mediator Tanya MacDougall and Stuart Valentine, chief executive of Relationships Scotland. The organisation's AGM will be held on the November 16 at 2pm in its office in Alexandra Place. All welcome with an open session of the centre from 3.30pm to 5pm. If you wish to attend the AGM contact 01631 570101.

FORMER members of the 1st Oban Boys' Brigade are invited to a reunion at Glenclutten Golf Club this Saturday. The celebration will be on from 2pm

until late and will show photos of previous companies, followed by a slideshow by Bob McCulloch at 4pm and music from early evening.

LORN Garden Club members were treated to an armchair tour of the wilds of the Falklands on Tuesday.

Dr James Fenton visited the group to give a talk on the island's flora and fauna, a place where seals hide among the 'tussock' grass and where Scottish heather, Caluna Vulgaris, is a pest species. Dr Fenton imparted his knowledge on

the geology, landscape, wildlife and flora of the 500 islands which make up the Falklands. Club members and visitors were fascinated to see shots of sheep grazing amongst the penguins. They heard that although the landscape looks similar to parts of Argyll, it is much drier. Their next meeting is on Tuesday, November 19 on growing and using herbs.

**Suppliers urged to tap into potential oil and gas boom**

A POTENTIAL oil and gas boom could be heading towards Argyll and Bute - with local suppliers urged to pick up where the north east is struggling to cope.

Contractors, fabricators and suppliers across the west Highlands and islands were invited to attend the Energy North Oil and Gas Taskforce meeting at the Cairnbaan Hotel, near Lochgilphead on Wednesday, with the new group saying several opportunities are there to be taken as the industry in Aberdeen admits it is struggling to keep up.

Speaking ahead of the meeting, Ian Couper, chief executive of Energy North,

said: 'From our conversations with the industry in Aberdeen, it is clear it is in desperate need of new supply-chain partners as it is currently struggling to keep up with demand by sourcing its requirements from the north east alone.'

'Argyll is already experienced in sectors such as fabrication, engineering, environmental research and marine services. All of these represent sought-after services in the oil and gas industry.'

'We are very keen to work with Argyll businesses and support them to diversify so they can capitalise on opportunities in oil and gas. I will

be providing more advice about this at the meeting and, as part of the taskforce, we will be organising a range of learning journeys, trade visits, share fairs and meet the buyer events.'

'Moreover, Energy North will be developing a supply-chain directory, which will document all of the services, skills, facilities and capabilities that are available across the Highlands and Islands. This will be shared widely across the industry.'

As well as supply chain and support, the task force will look at developing the skills of school pupils to provide opportunities in the oil and gas sector.

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# Diluted police force warning

A DILUTED police force could lead to a reduced service and greater risk to the public, warns Oban's former chief inspector.

Fred Hall, now a councillor, has said he has "huge concerns" about proposals that will see the division covering Argyll and Bute lose one Chief Inspector and one Inspector, while worries grow that a reduction of civil staff across Police Scotland will increase the administrative burden on officers. Centralisation of the court service - so sheriff and jury trials are held in Dumbarton - would exacerbate the force's woes, he said, with officers likely to require to travel for hearings,

reducing the numbers on the street. While Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan pledges his management reorganisation proposal for the division is achievable without causing a noticeable impact to the public, Mr Hall says the plan will inevitably lead to difficulties.

The changes come as Police Scotland aims to save £180million over the course of the next three years.

Speaking at Oban Community Council, Mr Hall said: 'You just have to look to history. When Strathclyde Police was formed all the burgh forces lost resources because it leads to the centralisation of resources.

The reduction will reduce quality and impact on the force's ability to investigate complaints productively. Also, you're losing the experience of senior cops to guide the juniors.

'One of my main worries is the pursuit of a target-culture. If you're working in a city, it's like shooting fish in a barrel. Here, it's a completely different story. If you plan your resource allocation to your target-model then your rural areas are going to get less of a service.'

He added that, previously, greater resources were allocated to Argyll and the Isles given the geographical challenge, but believed that would be dispensed with under the new model.

Oban Community Council is to write to Police Scotland to express its concerns over the move.

CS McEwan, however, says the fears are unfounded, adding he's working to secure half a dozen new constables for Argyll and Bute and a new sergeant for Oban if the proposal, which is currently out for public consultation, is approved.

'I'm more than confident the proposed structure I'm looking to put in place is the right structure for Argyll and Bute,' he said.

Not only will the use of Argyll and Bute's service points help mitigate the closures of four front desks across the division, including those in Bowmore

and Tobermory, but the system could be rolled out across the whole county.

'There's only three staff going,' he said. 'Nobody is going from Oban, Lochgilhead or Dunoon, for example.'

Video links would aid offers in participating in jury trials after they move from Oban, he added.

He added: 'It is out for consultation and we will be going round the community councils to talk more about the proposals.'

He added no special dispensation had previously been given for geography. Should it be approved, the management restructure would take place at the turn of the financial year.

## Morvern Lines

BY THE time these lines appear in print the red deer stag season in Scotland will have closed for another year.

The stags, the captains and kings, the old Etonians, the Harrovians and the Carthusians, will have departed, each to their customary wintering grounds. The former, to Morvern's low-lying straths and thickets - at least those which haven't yet been planted or flooded by hydro electric schemes - the latter to exchange their tweeds and



Deer stalking is worth more than £100 million in revenue to the Scottish economy. cromacks for bowler hats and umbrellas as they alternate between their city offices and Europe's watering-holes, content in the knowledge that all will be the same next season - or will it?

ALL sport attracts criticism - the smaller the number who enjoy it, the louder the outcry. Stalking to some means 'toffs running around with guns,' to professional stalkers and the 'common man' born and brought up in the glens, it is a way of life and 'The King of Sports'.

The nobility of the stag, the romance of the hill and its hidden mysteries, the long days amongst Nature in its most inspiring, the ever changing light and beauty of the landscape, the fascination of watching and being close to a truly wild animal when it is unaware of being watched; all form a strong, invisible thread joining man to his ancient past.

Or, as one old stalker more fluent in Gaelic than in English, said: 'I never once went to the hill but the stags didn't send me to university.'

ALTHOUGH red deer have lived in Scotland since they walked across from Europe on the dry floor of the North Sea when the ice fields melted some 10,000 years ago, stalking is a modern innovation; so much so that a little more than a century ago it was considered ungentlemanly for a land owner to go to the hill to shoot a deer for himself. That job was left to others.

For centuries deer have fed and clothed the nation and although worth over £100 million a year to the Scottish economy, they are now considered by some as little better than a nuisance. The main protagonists are the giddy, office-bound conservationists who see the Highlands as some sort of upland Amazonia which they feel they must protect at the expense of the indigenous people. They are not! They are a nutrient-low, species-poor, weather beaten tundra which only the deer can properly utilize.

THE environmental lobby is determined to reduce the deer population to an all time low which means stalking is often being degraded to fairground shooting galleries. Unfit trophy hunters are driven up to the firing point and measure the success of their day by the amount of ammunition they can loosen off in the direction of the deer or the number of points the stag has on its antlers.

Not for them the curve of the hill, the historical placenames, the lifting of the mist, the croak of the raven or any respect for the blue blood of the prehistoric beast filling their telescopic sights. On the island of Rum full grown stags and wild goats are shot and left lying where they fall to provide fertilizer and food for raptors while Third World nations starve. 'SNH,' someone said to me the other day, 'must be an abbreviation for See No Humans.'

FOR years deer managers and stalkers have been warning landowners and the Scottish Executive of the serious effect declining deer numbers will have on tourism and job losses in fragile rural communities such as Morvern.

It is all very well for the screen-huggers and the new age conservationists to Twitter about deer damaging the 'natural heritage' but trees and flowers, which have withstood their presence from time immemorial, won't put food in people's mouths. It has to be a question of balance and commonsense and at the moment the scales are tipped heavily against the deer.

GENERAL Smuts, the famous South African and British Commonwealth statesman and philosopher, wrote: 'When we reach the mountain summits we leave behind us all things that weigh heavily down below on our body and spirit. We leave behind all sense of weakness and depression. We feel a new freedom, a great exhilaration, an exaltation of the body no less than of the spirit. We feel a great joy.' Or, in the words of the poet J M Barrie: 'Not to know the hills, is like never having been in love.'

RED deer were once recognised as a national asset to the Scottish Highlands and as a permanent condition of their prosperity. They deserve respect and support. If the stalkers amongst the influential politicians remain silent for much longer the real monarchs of the glen will be relegated to theme parks and woodland plantations.

Iain Thornber  
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

## Oban Sheriff Court

### Assault pair pay hefty price

TWO 20-YEAR-old Oban men who carried out an assault which caused severe injury to their victim have been ordered to pay £1,200 each to him in compensation.

Keiran McLarny, of 24a Shuna Terrace, and Marco Lopez, of 3 Hynish Crescent, were also ordered to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work when they appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

The court heard the man who was assaulted suffered concussion, a broken nose and other injuries. He now suffers from flashbacks and sleepless nights.

### Mull man had ecstasy tablet

A YOUNG Mull man has been fined £200 after admitting possessing a single ecstasy tablet when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Darren Clark, 17, of 10 Millbrae, Bunessan, was found with the drug when he was searched at Oban Police Office on July 14.

Defence agent Stephen Macleod told the court: 'The tablet said love on it but it certainly didn't bring Mr Clark any happiness.'

### Drunken feud lands hotel worker in court

A HOTEL worker who invited his friend up for the day before the pair embarked on a drunken feud has been fined £375 - as well as losing his job.

Gerard Coyle, 26, of flat 5/6, 160 Charles Street, Glasgow,

### Drug treatment testing order for Oban man

TESTING for drugs will be carried out on one Oban man for the next 18 months after he was found in possession of heroin and diazepam.

John Johnstone, 32, of room four, Solas, Albany Street, also previously pled guilty to supplying diazepam when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court.

Johnstone was placed on a drug treatment testing order by Sheriff Douglas Small last week.

### Man admits swallowing drugs

OBSTRUCTING officers by swallowing drugs in Oban Police Office landed one man in the town's sheriff court last week.

### Landlord to stand trial

A LANDLORD accused of leaving his tenant without adequate running water or heating for more than one year will stand trial at Oban Sheriff Court.

Ozzy Russell, 45, of 5h Colonsay Terrace, Oban, denies all charges, including failing to provide a rent book and threatening eviction by telling his tenant he would kick a door

### Hotelier to stand trial on sexual assault charges

AN OBAN hotelier is awaiting trial accused of inappropriate behaviour toward female staff members - including making sexual remarks, slapping bottoms, touching hair and bodies and pressing against them.

Raymond Hyams, 57, of Cuanra, North Connel, was not present when his solicitor submitted a not guilty plea on his behalf at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

### Pensioner ordered to carry out unpaid work

A PENSIONER who stole white goods from his neighbours house has been ordered to carry out 100 hours of unpaid work and take part in alcohol counselling.

Stanley Madej, 72, of 3 Stalcraig Crescent, Oban, admitted the offence but 'couldn't remember taking the items', Oban Sheriff Court heard last week.

### Road link plan submitted

HIGHLAND Council has lodged a planning application for the Inverness West Link Road to connect the A82 with the A9 via the Southern Distributor Road.

The new link will run from the roundabout at Dores Road, on the east bank of the River Ness, to the A82 just before Tomnahurich Cemetery, via bridges across the River Ness and the Caledonian Canal.

The road is designed to ease city centre congestion and cut east-west journey times.

The public has 28 days to comment or respond to the application, which will be dealt with early in the new year.

The application can be viewed at [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk).

### Great Tapestry goes on display

THE 'Great Tapestry of Scotland' has gone on display in East Lothian - including the handiwork of Banavie woman Joan Kerr.

The work is made up of 164 handmade panels telling the story of Scotland, and is the world's longest embroidered tapestry.

Joan's panel, made in honour of mountaineer Sir Hugh Munro, also features a local landmark - Corpach lighthouse.



Jane Burns learns the nuances of pattern cutting from Karen Liverside at the Corran Halls, who has worked for some of the largest fashion manufacturers in the world. 07.143fasanta04

## Castle hosts inaugural Fasanta festival

DUNOLLIE'S 1745 House and the Corran Halls were in fashion at the weekend - for the inaugural Fasanta festival.

The venues hosted several workshops, displays and markets across the two-day event, culminating in a concert at the Corran Halls on Sunday evening.

Among the activities on hand for participants on Saturday were textile workshops for children and adults, a series of talks, a community fashion show and guided tours of the 1745 House - including a look at the original

Dunollie Tartan, which is now being rewoven by the Dunollie Preservation Trust, first for a series of scarves.

Sunday saw a Flight for Fashion discussion, with award-winning fashion designer Sandra Murray MBE joined by Howie Nicholas, the founder of 21st Century Kilts, Amanda Millen of HIE Creative Industries and Brian Wilton MBE, the director of the Tartan Authority, discussing how tartan and tweed industries can continue to influence the fashion scene.

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Take an hour to prepare now and save yourself a lot of trouble later. Start by visiting [readyscotland.org](http://readyscotland.org)

Get Ready for Winter



## SSE Engagement Event

Argyll and Bute Communities and Business  
10:00 to 16:00, Tarbert Village Hall, Wednesday 6 November



Over the next decade it is likely that SSE will be investing between £5 - 10bn solely in the Highlands and Islands, in areas ranging from renewable generation and energy infrastructure to energy services and large scale construction projects.

We have a significant pipeline of projects in planning, construction and operation throughout Argyll & Bute and are committed to involving the local supply chain.

Our project teams for the consented Cour wind farm which is due to go into construction late 2014 and the Kintyre-Hunterston Link which is already under construction will also be available on the day to answer any questions you might have.

Our engagement event is an information day to meet local businesses of all sizes and understand the services that they can offer. Our 'Open4Business' team will be present to answer queries, discuss opportunities, and introduce local suppliers and service providers to our new online business portal: [www.sseopen4business-highlands.com](http://www.sseopen4business-highlands.com)

There will be a drop in session throughout the day with the additional opportunity for one to one discussion with representatives from key areas of the business. This will provide a great opportunity to meet SSE and find out how your business can benefit. To make a 1 to 1 appointment please email the 'Open4Business' team at [sse.open4business.highland@sse.com](mailto:sse.open4business.highland@sse.com)



**Lismore mourns passing of Donald Black**

A FUNERAL service on the Isle of Lismore tomorrow (Friday) will mark the passing of one of the island's most respected characters. Donald Black of Achnacroish, who died on Monday at the age of 84, was a retired roads worker, crofter, author, historian, church elder and community stalwart, who will perhaps be best remembered as a founding member of the successful Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mor.

Along with fellow islanders Margaret MacDonald and Cathie Carmichael, Donald helped establish the historical society in 1994, becoming chairman and a leading light in establishing the current heritage centre.

Mrs MacDonald said: 'The heritage centre has become a great asset to the island and Donald worked so hard to get it. He was a straight person, very kind and welcoming. He will be greatly missed.'

Mr Black was a successful runner in his youth and also had a flair for art. A native Gaelic speaker, he was a champion for the language.

**Trespass store returns to Oban**

TRESPASS is coming back to Oban after taking over Stead and Simpson's former home in George Street.

Shopfitters started transforming the premises at 79 George Street last week, with the new outdoor clothing store to be open on October 31.

The move will create six new jobs, a manager, supervisor and four sales assistants.

A spokesperson said: 'Previously Trespass's presence in Oban was through a Franchise. We have now found a property for our own dedicated Trespass store in the town centre.'

'Oban being the gateway to the Scottish islands and the perfect destination for day trippers, makes it the perfect location for our latest store.'

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Iona Augier receives the top prize for equine studies at Scotland's Rural College from West Lothian provost, Tom Kerr.

**Skye student wins top college prize**

SEVENTEEN-year-old Iona Augier can head to Skye proud in the knowledge that she has lifted the top equine prize at Scotland's Rural College.

Iona, the daughter of Karen Augier who owns Portree Riding Stables, was named Best Student on the Higher National Diploma course in Equine Studies at the Oatridge campus in West Lothian, passing with distinction.

She was one of Oatridge's top 25 students in the class of 2013 who were honoured.

She received her prize from Tom Kerr, the Provost of West Lothian, who served on the board of Oatridge College before it became part of SRUC.

**Group drives A83 road plan forward**

Move to re-brand Rest and Be Thankful as tourist attraction takes shape

A NEW marketing plan to re-brand the Rest and Be Thankful as one of Europe's most stunning roads will start to take shape next month.

The move to make the route a tourist attraction in its own right comes as Mike Story, executive director of the Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative, is appointed as chairman of the new A83 Marketing Group, a successor to the A83 Task Force which aimed to tackle the problems caused by repeated landslides there.

First step for the campaign is to 'debunk' some of the myths that have arisen about the route and the problems it faces, before embarking on a national campaign to brand it as one of the Great Scenic Roads of Scotland.

Mr Story said: 'One of the things about the Rest and Be Thankful is it is stunning and that's a positive message we want to get out.'

As well as preparing a marketing plan, the group will work with Transport Scotland and BEAR Scotland to ensure extra effort is to be made to monitor the hillside along the A83.

That will include working closely with the European Space Agency to provide regular and more detailed satellite images of the area, as well as operating drones to take a close-up look at possible problems and prevent them, where possible.

**Inspiration**

Mr Story, who last week attended a meeting of the new group with fellow Task Force member Jane MacLeod, said inspiration for the marketing plan comes from Norway.

He said: 'In Norway they took their troublesome roads and turned them into tourist attractions thanks to a big marketing campaign.'

'Things such as better parking, information boards and even visitor centres were used to great success.'

'We want to do similar and celebrate this as one of Scotland's great routes.'

Plans for extra signs are already being drawn up to highlight the history of the route and the wildlife often spotted there, while a visitor centre is not being ruled out in the future.

Meanwhile, BBC's top motoring show, Top Gear, has been invited to use the route for filming.

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**Trust future fears allayed**

DOUBTS over the future of Morar Community Trust (MCT) have been allayed after three new directors joined the organisation.

The trust had faced the prospect of being wound up when treasurer Keith Elwell stepped down and Gemma Van der Zanden moved away.

The loss meant the number of directors required for the group to continue functioning was fewer than required under its constitution.

But question marks over MCT's survival were removed when Grace Henderson, Linda MacKenzie and Dierdre Roberts were appointed.

Acting chairperson Tiina Heinonen told *The Oban Times*: 'When one director stepped down and the other moved on, that took us below a quorum. It was touch and go whether the trust was going to continue or not.'

'But now we are looking into the possibility of employing a project manager who will look into finding external funding. There is still a commitment to keep it alive.'

Ms Heinonen said future projects included the demolition of the hall in the north end of the village and, in the longer term, building a new community hub on the Lovat Memorial Playing Field next to the A830 Road to the Isles.

**Chip shop outside seats - for now**

AN APPLICATION to establish an outdoor seating area in George Street by a chip shop looks set to receive permission this week - albeit temporarily.

Argyll and Bute Council's planners have recommended the change of use of the pavement north of 17 George Street be approved on the condition the permission lapses at the end of August next year. It follows a letter from Oban CHORD's project manager, Linda Houston, who made the suggestion after a meeting with the applicant, John Stewart, of the George Street Fish and Chip Company. In her letter, she said: 'Capita Symonds have been approved as the Oban CHORD funded, Oban Bay Public Realm design team and I have asked them to consult with the applicant. We currently envisage implementation of the chosen design scheme beginning once the main summer trading season has been completed next year. Hence the suggested timeframe.'

The decision was due to be made yesterday (Wednesday).

**NHS told to be more open after information failures**

NHS HIGHLAND had the second highest number of complaints from the public about Freedom of Information (FOI) requests for any regional authority in Scotland, it has emerged.

NHS Highland had 15 appeals from April 2012 to April 2013, with several still ongoing.

Of those already decided, Scottish Information Commissioner Rosemary Agnew ruled in favour of the complainer in eight cases and for NHS Highland in just one.

Three appeals related to a failure to respond, including 'pay scales for the financial year 2013-2014' and questions about the staff accommodation at Raigmor Hospital. The query which NHS Highland was not ordered to answer related to a contract at Inveraray and Furnace Medical Practice.

Anyone dissatisfied with how their request has been dealt with by a public body can appeal to Ms Agnew. Under the FOI law, public authorities must respond within 20 working days.

Ms Agnew slammed public bodies who fail to respond to FOI requests, saying it harms public relations.

Her comments came as she revealed 27 per cent of appeals over the last year related to a failure by public authorities to respond in time or at all. She said: 'These findings concern me. Eight years on from the introduction of FOI, we would expect authorities to be more effective at handling requests, not less so.'

'When they don't respond, authorities fail to respect people's legal rights to information: information which can be extremely important to individuals and communities. By contrast, authorities that perform well take a customer focussed approach, respond promptly and engage with requesters.'

Highland Council was the focus of nine appeals, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Western Isles NHS Board one each.

Argyll and Bute Council faced two appeals, one of which, partially upheld, involving a request for information relating to Kilerreggan Pier, pontoons and ferry service.

Northern Constabulary, Strathclyde Police and Strathclyde Fire Board all faced a number of appeals but these paled in comparison to the 122 appeals that related to the Scottish Government.

In contrast, Caledonian MacBrayne Limited, the ferry operator for the west of Scotland, faced no appeals to the commissioner.

**MSP hosts patients' group meeting**

SKYE, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson is to host a Patients First Scotland (PSF) meeting with parliamentarians and other interested groups in the Scottish Parliament on November 27.

The lobby group has already highlighted the case of a Skye family whose elderly sister died in tragic circumstances in the MacKinnon Memorial Hospital in Broadford last year, after *The Oban Times* broke the story. PSF chairwoman Fiona van der Meer said: 'This meeting will be an opportunity to discuss the role government can play in protecting whistleblowers who raise concerns about unacceptable standards of care within the NHS.'

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**INVERGARRY**

INVERGARRY Church of Scotland is to host Edinburgh University Chamber Orchestra for an evening of chamber music on Saturday November 2. The concert is free entry and everyone is welcome.

**ARMADALE**

CLAN Donald Skye will hold the last local food fair of the season at The Stables, Armadale, on Saturday from 11am to 3pm.

**FORT AUGUSTUS**

FORT Augustus Village Hall will be hosting two events on Saturday November 9. A senior citizens' fundraiser sale will be held from 10am to 4pm. This will be followed by a Highland Hospice social event, which starts at 6.30pm.

**BROADFORD**

A BROADFORD man has been named young coach of the year at sportsScotland's Highland Coaching Awards 2013. Football coach Ben Yoxon won the award after being nominated by friends, family and local athletes. Mr Yoxon has now been entered into the Highland and Island Coaching Awards and sportsScotland's Coaching, Officiating and Volunteering Awards.



Young coach of the year: Ben Yoxon.



The youngsters cycled up to the Duncan Ban MacIntyre monument.

## Dalmally pupils make the most of the great outdoors

PUPILS at Dalmally Primary School have been making the most of the outdoors recently as 28 youngsters between primary three and primary seven got on their bikes. The children cycled from the school through the forest, stopping for lunch on the way before heading up to the summit of the Duncan Ban MacIntyre monument. They managed to find a geo cache at the top and had great fun jumping from a rock down the hill. It was a 'day free from costs but rich in learning'.

Pupils at the school also recently hosted a Fair Trade Café for friends and family in the community. The youngsters had been learning about Fair Trade and what it means for farmers and producers. They made their own fair trade items for sale, costing out their materials and jointly deciding on a fair price. Everyone was delighted with the children's efforts and £120 was raised which will be split between Tradecraft and Mary's Meals.

**KILLIN**

HOPES are high that a community project to upgrade Killin's Breadalbane Park will gain funding after submitting an application to the BIG Lottery Fund for £130,000.

The park has been beset with drainage problems in recent years and the Breadalbane Park Enhancement Project hopes to address that with a significant upgrade programme, together with installing a new hard-standing, path network and additional play equipment. Resolving drainage problems will account for £80,000 of the work, while £50,000 will be used for the rest of the work. Meanwhile, the community group looking to upgrade the park is looking at other funding possibilities.

Work to improve the park has been ongoing for six years, with the community group being able to put together a final design for upgrade thanks to support from the BIG Lottery Fund and City Design Co-operative, led by Richard East.

KILLIN is to lose its GP dispensary after an appeal against a decision to grant Davidson's the Chemist permission to open in the town failed.

Davidson's plan to open the chemist on March 1, meaning the surgery's dispensary will run down its stocks over the next six months before letting the two dispensing jobs go.

KILLIN'S Old Mill has appointed Frances Morrison, known as Franny, as its new manager.

**GLENCOE**

A SPOOKY Hallowe'en party for youngsters will be held at the Glencoe Visitor Centre on Saturday October 26.

Witches, wizards and ghouls will be joining in the free fancy-dress fun from 2pm to 3.30pm. The party is being organised by Glencoe Young Naturalists Club.

**BALLACHULISH**

BALLACHULISH Community Council hope its new website will be up and running by the end of the month.

Chairman Mel MacAskill told *The Oban Times*: 'It'll have the council minutes on it, updates of events and anything people want to put up there. It'll allow people to let us know what's happening.'

The new site's address will be ballachulish.org.uk.



## Mingary Castle maze

A maze of scaffolding has been erected around Mingary Castle near Kilchoan as renovation works continue. Castle owner Donald Houston is restoring the crumbling 800-year old building, and plans to turn it into a luxury holiday home. f43mingary1no

## Work starts on two new mountain bike tracks

WORK is underway on two new mountain bike tracks at the Nevis Range Trail Centre in Lochaber.

The green (beginner) and blue (intermediate) downhill routes are being designed with technical features to encourage the skills of budding downhillers - as well as being fully accessible to cross country trail enthusiasts, including families and small children.

Two more jump lines alongside the World Cup Downhill dirt jumps are planned, along with an easy 'up' trail to allow mountain bikers an interesting ascent to

the beginning of the new trails. Marian Austin, managing director of Nevis Range said: 'Over the last few years funding has been concentrated on retaining the World Cup events and building our unique red cross country trail which is accessed by the gondola.'

'It is now recognised that we need to encourage more people to develop the skills to be able to ride these World Class trails and they have to start on easier trails with achievable challenges.'

The £229,363 project is being funded by SportScotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise,

Nevis Range and West Highland Wheelers.

SportScotland is providing almost half the project costs.

Chairwoman Louise Martin said: 'Once the tracks are completed, the world-class site will help to inspire future generations to be the best they can be.' And Elaine Jones from Highlands and Islands Enterprise said the development would attract 'even more visitors' to the area. The centre is already home to the UCI World Cup Downhill track, the Nevis Red and 48km of trails through Leanachan Forest.



Nevis Range cycle track supervisor Damian Forster and marketing manager Heather Negus tour one of the new routes under construction. f42nevis1no

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**ABERFELDY**

HOLLYWOOD star and Aberfeldy's most famous son, Alan Cumming OBE, will return to his hometown next month to formally open the Birks Cinema.

Having been a patron of the cinema campaign since 2009, Alan has lent considerable weight to the project, both in fundraising and raising the profile of the Birks.

He was key to the eventual £1.3million renovation programme which saw the community venture re-open the cinema.

To celebrate the official opening of the renovated cinema, Alan will be welcomed to the town on Saturday November 30 for a red-carpet gala event and a private screening of his latest film *Any Day Now*.

Alan is delighted to finally see his hometown's cinema since its dramatic and much-lauded rebirth.

'I'm truly delighted to be visiting Aberfeldy and I'm very much looking forward to seeing The Birks Cinema in all its finery,' he said.

'Everyone involved in this project has shown true dedication and commitment and I'm very excited to finally see it for myself.'

General manager Paul Foley is also looking forward to welcoming Alan: 'We are very grateful to Alan Cumming for his support and delighted he has been able to make the trip over to Scotland to formally pronounce us open.'

'I'm looking forward to rolling out the red carpet, welcoming Alan to The Birks Cinema and making this St Andrew's Day a memorable and historic one for Aberfeldy.'

For more information on The Birks Cinema please visit www.birkscinema.co.uk.



Alan Cumming OBE will return to Aberfeldy next month to formally open the new Birks Cinema.



Aberfeldy's Birks Cinema.

## Rare bird blown thousands of miles off course to Tiree

AN UNUSUAL bird, that would normally only be seen in the USA, has been photographed in a garden on Tiree.

The cedar waxwing, which is just a bit bigger than a house sparrow, is thought to have been blown thousands of miles off course by strong westerly winds during its migration.

This brightly coloured fruit-eating bird is so rare in Britain that it has only been recorded previously on two occasions: in Shetland in 1985 and in Nottingham in 1996.

Local RSPB Scotland officer John Bowler, said: 'When it turned up in a really exhausted state, the garden's

owner was unable to identify it, so gave me a ring. We get all sorts of unusual birds turning up at this time of year, so I'd no idea what to expect, but I was a bit shocked when I finally saw it.'

'Cedar waxwings are such rare and exotic visitors that it would normally have attracted a large number of twitchers to the island. However, since it was in a private garden, its appearance had to be kept a secret until after it had gone.'

'It feasted on cotoneaster berries for several days, regaining its strength, and was last seen at the end of September before heading south.'



An unusual spot for Tiree, this cedar waxwing was found in a garden on the island after strong winds blew it off course - from the USA.

**KYLE AND LOCHALSH**

KYLE AND Lochalsh Community Trust has issued an appeal for new members.

Ordinary membership is free, but confined to Lochalsh residents aged over 18 within the postcodes of IV40 (excluding the Isle of Raasay), IV52, IV53 and IV41 8PG.

The application form states: 'In the unlikely event of KLCT being wound up during the period of your membership, no more than £1 would become payable.'

Forms can be picked up from Kyle Post Office.

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Walkers found after night on hills

TWO WALKERS who got lost in the hills near Glen Spean have been found safe and well after spending the night outdoors. The pair, a man and a woman, called police to ask for help just after 6pm on Monday evening while in the Beinn a'Chaoirinn and Beinn Teallach area. RAF Rescue Helicopter 137 and the Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team looked for them but the search was called off due to poor conditions and low visibility. The search started again early on Tuesday morning and the two walkers were found at 1.30pm.

Request to defer vote on Fort BID

FORT William Community Council has asked Highland Council to defer its decision on the proposed Lochaber Business Improvement District (BID) over concerns about the consultation process. Councillors are due to discuss the plans at a meeting in Inverness today (Thursday), with officials recommending they put forward a 'yes' vote. But FWCC chairman Neil Clark has written to council chief executive Steve Barron to question whether the consultation process was 'satisfactorily undertaken'. He said: 'FWCC would not wish Highland Council to veto the BID proposal, but would ask for a deferral on support for proceeding until there is clarification on the ballot process and the information provision to affected businesses.'

Ferry study details revealed

HIGHLAND Council has announced details of the socio-economic impact study which will be carried into the controversial Corran Ferry fare increase. The study will be carried out by consulting engineers Aecom during November and December and will look at the impact the increase will have on the local community. The results of the study are expected to be reported to the Lochaber Area Committee in January as well as being shared with local community groups. The report will be considered by the TECS committee in March.



Fort William's Robert Robertson celebrates his gold medal win. 15\_t43mod08

Gold medal winner the pride of Fort William

STUDENT Robert Robertson became the pride of Fort William last week by winning the prestigious An Comunn Gaidhealach Gold Medal at the Royal National Mòd in Paisley. But in the wake of his comprehensive 13-point victory the 19 year old - the youngest singer in the competition - was quick to praise the work of fellow Lochaber musician Rachel Walker who has tutored him from the age of 10.

Robert, who is a student at Glasgow University, had sought advice in the past year from former gold medal winners but insisted Achnacarry musician Rachel had been a driving force in his fledgling career. Speaking after his win last Thursday, he said: 'If it hadn't been for Rachel teaching me as a wee boy I might not be singing Gaelic at all. I have always loved traditional music but when I was 10 Rachel really encouraged my singing.'

Rachel was not able to see Robert's win in Paisley but congratulated him on facebook, saying: 'Over the years he has worked hard, grown up, acquired a passion for Gaelic song and developed a lovely style of his own. I know he's had lots of help from many great tutors over the years, but it's his own dedication and commitment that has seen him achieve so much.' For more on this year's Mòd see pages 8 to 12.

Royal National Mòd returns to Lochaber in 2017

THE ROYAL National Mòd will be heading back to Lochaber in 2017, An Comunn Gaidhealach has announced. Fort William last hosted the Mòd in 2007, and Lochaber Area Committee leader Thomas MacLennan said it was great news the event was returning. He said: 'This is great news for Lochaber, a stronghold of the Gaelic language and culture. Those attending the Mòd can be assured of a warm and friendly welcome in 2017 and I am sure it will be a great success.'

The Mòd is set to be held in Inverness next year, Oban in 2015 and the Western Isles in 2016.

The Mòd is set to be held in Inverness next year, Oban in 2015 and the Western Isles in 2016.

Highland games back after four years

Councillors pledge support for Fort William showpiece event

FORT William's showpiece Highland games are set to return in 2014 following a gap of four years after local councillors pledged their support. The Lochaber Area Committee will make funding available to help set up next summer's Lochaber Highland Games and Highland Council staff from TEC Services will prepare the grounds at An Aird.

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

any impediments to a successful Highland Games are removed as soon as possible. 'The team is not as numerous as it once was and what is needed is for some people to step forward and get involved with the event and help share the load. 'The hiatus has also allowed for a period of reflection and now people need to get together to make decisions and prepare for a successful re-launch of the Lochaber Highland Games.'

The Lochaber Area Committee will make funding available to help set up next summer's Lochaber Highland Games and Highland Council staff from TEC Services will prepare the grounds at An Aird. The Games, which regularly drew crowds of more than 3,000, were last staged at Fort William Shinty Club's home park in 2010. But with the park unavailable for the following two years due to upgrades to the pitch the day was cancelled. The popular event had been expected to return to the town this summer but a lack of volunteers meant it was postponed again

leading to fears it could fall by the wayside. Lochaber councillors met with games committee member Allan Lindsay on Monday to discuss what needed to be done to ensure a successful re-launch. Area leader Thomas MacLennan told The Oban Times more volunteers were needed to guarantee the future of the event. He said: 'We all owe Allan and the team a lot of thanks for the stalwart effort they have put in over the years organising this event. 'Allan highlighted issues that we needed to be aware of and we are striving to ensure that

The colourful spectacle, usually held on the last Saturday in July, ran for more than 40 years. Traditionally beginning with a march from Fort William High Street to An Aird, the games featured Highland heavy events, athletics and a host of other

Four screen town cinema viable, says backer

THE MAN behind the proposal to bring a four screen 450-seater cinema to Fort William says the town is big enough for the business to be viable. And Rob Arthur - who helped set up and run the cinema in Thurso - says the new facility could be up and running as early as next summer if things go to plan. Up to 20 jobs could be created. The Thurso Cinema and Outdoor Capital of the UK (OCUK) are collaborating on the plan to create a 'digital cinema and cultural hub' in the town. The project was also included in the business plan for the proposed Lochaber Business Improvement District (BID). Mr Arthur said: 'I have a keen interest in developing a modern cinema in Fort William. 'It is fairly similar in terms of profile, population as Thurso, and in the UK Fort

William is probably furthest away from a cinema of any town in the mainland. The Thurso Cinema has convinced me there is scope for further development of cinema across the Highland region, and Fort William seems like the natural next step. OCUK's Frazer Coupland, who is also chairman of the group behind the BID project Living Lochaber, told The Oban Times the cinema plan was not dependant on the BID being successful. He said: 'Rob has said he wants to open a cinema in Fort William and BID is a vehicle to help realise that. Funding 'It is in the BID business plan as the ideal example of private sector money being used to lever in funding. 'That would be the BID's relationship with the cinema, to help leverage in public funding.

'If the BID doesn't happen private investment will still need to be found. That may or may not be more difficult. The BID is one avenue that is being explored, but it is certainly not resting on the BID.' Three locations are currently being looked at in the town to house the cinema, but Mr Arthur said the former cinema building in the town would not be used as it was 'not fit for purpose'.

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# Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail Pàislig 2013

## Gearing up for next year's Mod in Inverness

THE Highland Council and An Comunn Gàidhealach looked ahead to the Royal National Mod in Inverness next year and announced that Lochaber will host 2017 Mod.

Provost of Inverness Councillor Alex Graham and Councillor Hamish Fraser, chairman of The Highland Council's Gaelic Implementation Group, were both present in Paisley at the 2013 National Mod to welcome the Mod back to Inverness next year and to jointly announce the venue for 2017.

**Delighted**  
Councillor Alex Graham said: 'The Council is delighted that the Mod will be staged twice in the Highlands in the coming years and that is returning to the Highland capital after 17 years.'

'The Gaelic language is thriving in Inverness, home to a rapidly expanding Gaelic school and a place with a great Gaelic heritage. Having the Mod here will give Gaelic another boost.'

## Robin presented with a gold medal for his work with An Comunn

OBAN man Robin Banks was presented with a gold medal all of his own at this year's Mod.

The award was given in recognition of more than 58 years work with An Comunn Gàidhealach. Robin, a former

Argyll and Bute councillor, has retired as a director of the Gaelic organisation and An Comunn president John MacLeod called Robin an 'encyclopedia' of Gaelic. He praised Robin and his wife Ishbel for their stalwart work.

Accepting the specially made gold medal Robin said: 'You may wonder why a man who doesn't speak Gaelic would take such an interest.'

He went on to explain that he regretted that his grand parent's families had Gaelic, and yet it was never passed onto him.

It wasn't until 1951 when an aunt phoned him and asked him to go to the Mod's final night concert that he came face to face with the size and nature of the Gaelic world. He was then asked to join the An Comunn committee by Ishbel Clark, a 'Gaelic stalwart', who thought the newly qualified lawyer would be helpful to An Comunn.

Robin praised his wife, adding: 'I could not have done it without Ishbel. She has been at my side to help in this and all my work.'



Robin Banks and wife Ishbel with the gold medal he was presented with for his work of more than 58 years with An Comunn Gàidhealach. 15\_143mod22



Eagerly awaiting the results of the Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy are conductors Sileas Sinclair, Oban, Kenny Thomson, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association, and Kirsteen Menzies, Dingwall. 15\_143mod27



Govan Gaelic Choir celebrate their victory in the Lovat and Tullibardine. 15\_143mod31



Largs Gaelic Choir were winners in the Margrat Duncan Memorial Trophy. 15\_143mod32



Lewis' Còisir Ghaidhlig nan Loch with conductor Ronnie Murray. 143mod15



Oban Gaelic Choir. 15\_143mod21



Winners of the duet competition were Dundee's Nicola Pearson, left, who is originally from Oban, and Wilma Kennedy. 15\_143mod16



Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir. 15\_143mod26



Aberfeldy and District Gaelic Choir.



Inverness Gaelic Choir won the choral puirt-a-beul. 15\_143mod25



Joan Morrison of Newton Mearns and Calum Angus MacDonald of Lanarkshire won the traditional gold medals. Both hail from Lewis and Calum also sings with Govan Gaelic Choir. 143mod25



Mary Ann Kennedy, conductor of Inverness Gaelic Choir, receives The Oban Times Silver Salver for the highest marks in music at the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield competition. 15\_143mod29

## Priest reaches Mod gold medal final

A SINGING priest from the Isle of Benbecula has written himself into the history of the Royal National Mod by reaching the final of this year's gold medal competition.

Father Ross Crichton, from St Mary's Church, Grimsburgh, believes he is the first priest to compete in the final of the Mod's premier solo competition and was distinctive in his dog collar during his performances.

Father Crichton, who was competing in his first national Mod, said he conducted both English and Gaelic services, so was used to singing Gaelic song.

He said: 'I'm fine with singing Gaelic because that is what we do in our community.'

'This type of singing is a more distilled experience because of the competitive side of it. You have to be far more aware of what you are doing.'



Father Ross Crichton is believed to be the first priest to compete in the gold medal final. 15\_143mod06

'I am comfortable wearing the dog collar. It is like our wedding ring.'

'There are a lot of islanders here who know me and if they saw me in a shirt and tie I would worry about what they were thinking.'

Father Crichton grew up in Rutherglen but his mother's family hail from Ardnamurchan and spoke to him in Gaelic from a young age.



Còisir Ghaidhlig Tairbèr Loch Fin with conductor Karen MacRae. The Skye-based choir were in fine form. 143mod16



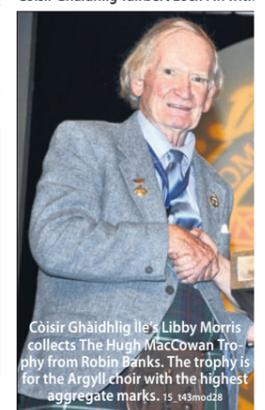
Dingwall Gaelic Choir. 15\_143mod24



Còisir Ghaidhlig An t-Strath with conductor Karen MacRae. The Skye-based choir were in fine form. 143mod16



Portree Gaelic Choir.



Còisir Ghaidhlig Ile's Libby Morris collects The Hugh MacCowan Trophy from Robin Banks. The trophy is for the Argyll choir with the highest aggregate marks. 15\_143mod28

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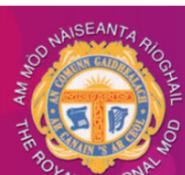
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# The Royal National Mòd Paisley 2013



Argyll woman Ainsley Hamill, from Cardross, won the Silver Pendant. But the fame hasn't gone to her head just yet, as her first gig following the competitions was in Argyll Care Home in Helensburgh. 143mod6



Lewis' Còisir Sgìr a' Bhac, conducted by Avril Duncan, won The Lorn Shield. 15\_143mod09



Còisir Ghàidhlig Ile won the Sheriff MacMaster Campbell Memorial Quach. The choir was conducted by Iseabail MacTaggart, front right, who will hand over her baton to Arlene McKerrell for next year. 15\_143mod10

## Govan Gaelic Choir lifts top choral trophy

GOVAN Gaelic Choir won the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield at this year's Mod - 40 years after last winning the premier choral prize.

The conductor, Donald Feist, who opened the Royal National Mod, was the last man standing on Friday afternoon, as many members of his choir had returned to their hotel thinking that they had no chance of winning.

Donald, who comes from Port Charlotte on Islay, said

he had lost his confidence of a win when he heard all the other choirs on the stage during the area choirs competition.

But his choir sung its way to victory with a score of 367 points, with an amazing 188 for use of Gaelic.

A thrilled Donald said: 'You'll need to put me in The Oban Times again.'

The 23 year old was visibly emotional at receiving the prize.

He said: 'This is absolutely

incredible. The choir has worked hard, and it is the choir members' enthusiasm and passion that has brought this prize home to Govan.

'I am very pleased, in fact delighted they've done it.'

Donald, a primary school teacher in Glasgow, is also the conductor of the Renfrewshire Junior Gaelic Choral Association, known as the RJs.

Govan's Gaelic tutor is Marion Craig from Glasgow and Harris.



Glasgow Islay conductor Kirsteen Grant receives The Cor Meibion Bro Glyndwr for the highest marks in music in the male voice choir competition from Janet Macdonald, director of An Comunn Gaidhealach. 15\_143mod14



Cumbernauld Gaelic Choir. 15\_143mod19



conductor Hilary Macdonald. 143mod11



Dingwall Gaelic Choir celebrate their male choir's victory, as conductor Kirsteen Menzies receives the Mull and Iona Shield from Janet Macdonald. 15\_143mod15



### Campbeltown man is a Mod faithful

RAIBERT McCallum is a Mod faithful of many years, and if there was Mod royalty he would certainly be in the standing for a throne.

The Campbeltown man is a well-kent face around the Mods and can often be seen conducting a massed choir.

But Raibert is also up for just about anything. During this year's Mod he took part in an unofficial Mod competition in Hamishes' Hoose, winning over the crowd with his own composition Tuiginn Leam gu Eilean Na Hear-

radh. Raibert, aged 75, has a Gaelic calibre that is second to none. His father achieved 13 Lovat and Tullibardine wins as the conductor of Campbeltown Gaelic Choir. Raibert himself was the conductor of Carradale Gaelic Choir, winning the Sheriff MacMaster in both 1965 and 1966, and the successful Glasgow Hebridean Choir. Raibert was born in Dalintober and, after living in Glasgow for 40 years, has moved home to Campbeltown.



Two former pupils of Port Appin Primary School met for the first time in 50 years at this year's Royal National Mod in Paisley. Renfrewshire Council deputy provost John Caldwell, left, whose father, Robert, was the gardener at Ardtur, is pictured with Connel's Sandy Dunlop, a regular volunteer at the Mod. 15\_143mod23



Còisir Dhùn Eideann. 15\_143mod20



Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association.



Some of Argyll's Còisir Ceann an Tuirc celebrate their third place in the male voice choral competition. 143mod24



Lothian Gaelic Choir. 15\_143mod18

### Paisley benefits from the Mod

PAISLEY saw a swell in visitor numbers of more than 10,000 people especially to take part in the Mòd.

Mark Macmillan, Renfrewshire Council leader, said: 'It has been a fantastic week with around 10,000 visitors coming to Paisley and Renfrew, and the welcome from the people of Paisley has been warm.'

'Having the Mòd in Paisley has certainly generated a buzz in the town, and a lot of local people have visited events or at the very least been curious and have enjoyed everything happening in the town.'

'In my lifetime nothing has happened like this, and together with the Fringe and Spree event, it has been a truly fantastic week. It has shown Paisley off in terms of its architecture and colour in the town, it truly is the jewel in the urban crown. Paisley Abbey and the Town Hall as well as the many other venues were fantastic backdrops for the events that have been running.'

'Our thanks to everyone who has organised the event and to the local Mòd convener Liz Macdonald. It's been a great event for Paisley and Renfrewshire.'

### What a Burach in Lochaline!

WHAT a Burach the newest Gaelic choir is causing amongst rural competitors.

The choir, conducted by Riona Whyte, has no less than five members of the same family in the line up.

Burach was formed one Hogmanay, when Riona was convinced by her friends that it would be a good idea to start a choir in Lochaline.

And daughter and son, Megan and Alasdair along with brother and sister Stuart and Mairi followed her into the breach.

Riona explained that only a few members of Burach had been in a choir previously. The Tobermory-based conductor explained: 'Barra in 2012 was our first outing. We only really started rehearsing a few months before and we weren't ready for the Royal National Mòd that year.'

'We have been singing together at various events including church at Christmas.'

'Of course one of the biggest pressures facing any choir, is fundraising. We have been very lucky with one of our members who undertook a Five Ferry Fandango and raised £2,500 and we've had Race Nights and so on.'

'Everyone in the choir is keen and we have a complete mixture of novices and those with more experience. I think we could be best described as a social choir.'

### 'Who's who' of Gaelic singing

AJUDICATOR David Henderson called this year's duet competition a 'who's who' of Gaelic singing.

He said the 17-strong competition was akin for him 'as a banquet'.

Among those competing were former gold medalists Kirsteen Menzies, Wilma Kennedy and Steven MacIver.

### Paisley hotel bars run dry

MOST Mod goers will tell you that Paisley made a very successful debut as a host town.

However, some of the licensed premises were caught short during the 'Whisky Olympics'.

One hotel had run out of whisky by Thursday night.



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# Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail Pàislig 2013



Anne Barlow, centre back, conductor with Còisir Ghadhlig Thaigh an Uillt. t43mod14



New boys on the block, Hector MacKechnie of Savary, front, and Craig Lindsay, of Lochaline, both competed for the first time at the Royal National Mod. Hector took the bronze medal for the learners traditional song. The men are both pupils of Riona J I Whyte, of Salen, and have been learning Gaelic for little more than a year. They are also members of the Gaelic choir Bùrach. t43mod4

## Work of teachers praised by An Comunn Gaidhealach president

THE PRESIDENT of An Comunn Gaidhealach, the organisers of the Royal National Mod, has praised the work of teachers after welcoming a huge entry of youngsters on Mod Monday and Tuesday. John MacLeod made his comments ahead of the busy fluent children's competitions last Tuesday, the day 13 venues were used to host 40 competitions. The Mod is held during the October school holidays. Mr MacLeod said: 'I have noticed how important teachers are in promoting singing and our language and heritage. I want to thank all the teachers who took groups to the Mod. I think they deserve out thanks and respect.'



Eilidh Munro and Robert Robertson with their gold medal prizes. 15\_t43mod07

# Youngsters hit the gold medal trail in Paisley

'When you're singing at the Mod, everyone is silent and everyone is an adjudicator'

THE YOUNGEST competitors in this year's gold medal final came away with the prestigious top honours after some assured performances against far more experienced competitors.

Robert Robertson, 19, from Fort William and Eilidh Munro, 20, from Bishopbriggs both said they were shocked to have won the Royal National Mod's premier solo prize.

Robert was the front runner for the award from the first qualifying competition last Wednesday – The Caledonian MacBrayne Trophy – when he was awarded marks of 93 for both Gaelic and music.

Later that day he also won the Oran Mor competition to take a sizeable lead into the final on Thursday morning.

After also winning the final, Robert was named the clear winner by 13 marks in what was his first attempt at the medal.

The Glasgow University English literature student said he felt 'huge elation' after winning the prize.

He added: 'The fact it was the gold medal final, I was aware how big the competition was and I was really nervous.'

'Ever since I started competing at Mods I always looked up to gold medalists. If you look at the past winners you see names like Calum Kennedy, names that my grandmother and grandfather would listen to.'

Robert is no stranger to performing, regularly play-

ing Glasgow's Park Bar and touring the Highlands with the band Skipinnish.

But he admitted the gold medal final was a lot more nerve-wracking.

'When you're singing at the Mod, everyone is silent and everyone is an adjudicator,' he said.

Robert won the silver medal for learners at last year's Mod in Dunoon by an incredible 20 marks and had to improve his Gaelic over the past year in order to compete at gold standard.

Eilidh is also no stranger to Mod prizes but said her gold medal win, at her second attempt, was 'unexpected'.

### Winning margin

Sitting in third place going into the final, Eilidh won the final by nine marks, giving her an overall winning margin of six marks.

The Edinburgh University Celtic Studies student, who went through Gaelic Medium Education at Meadowburn Primary School, said: 'I was one mark from making the final last year and I would have been happy with fourth place this year.'

'I couldn't really believe it when my name was read out. The general attitude is you have to do the medal for a few years before you can win it – I think that's why Robert and I were so surprised.'

An accomplished composer, Eilidh has ambitions to release an album of her music after she leaves university.



Còisir Sgìr a Bhac with conductor Avril Duncan. t43mod7



Winners of the quartet competition were Na Boireannaich Eile (The Other Woman), from left: Catriona Lang, Rhona Morrison and twins Rachel and Emma Deans. The quartet is a new take on a previous winning foursome involving the Cumbernauld twins called Na Boireannaich Alainn (The Beautiful Women). 15\_t43mod12



Còisir Ghadhlig Mhealbhaich with conductor Raymond Bremner. t43mod12



Còisir Ghadhlig an Eilein Mhuilich with conductor Elizabeth Jack. t43mod13



Mull's Donna Dugdale was second in the ladies' silver medal and won the Cathie Gemmell Memorial Trophy and the John A Macrae Cuach. 15\_t43mod13



Fergus Muir from Islay competed as a soloist in the Kennedy-Fraser Cup. 15\_t42mod41



Janet Campbell from Tobermory on Mull was third in The Sarah Weir Memorial Trophy competition and first in the Kennedy-Fraser Cup as a soloist. 15\_t42mod43



Iain MacPherson, of Southend, competed in the The Sarah Weir Memorial Trophy for singing a prescribed song relating to Mull or Iona. t43mod1



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# The Royal National Mòd Paisley 2013



Ceitidh Smith from Kyle of Lochalsh won The Oban Times Gold Medal, 16 years after her mother Barbara won the same competition. 15\_142mod45

## Oban Times prize makes up for gold medal disappointment

A GAELIC singer from Kyle of Lochalsh got over the disappointment of finishing runner up in the An Comunn Gàidhealach Gold Medal final by taking home The Oban Times Gold Medal. Ceitidh Smith was leading the An Comunn competition after the first day but lost out

to Eilidh Munro in the final last Thursday. However, the 26-year-old Gaelic teacher, who now lives in Forfar, had already won The Oban Times Gold Medal the previous day, 16 years after her mother, Barbara, won the prize. The solo competition requires

competitors to sing a prescribed song by a Lorn bard. This year's piece was An t-Eilean Beag Liosach. Ceitidh also sang with Inverness Gaelic Choir, helping them to win the choral puirt-a-beul and finish second in the Lovat and Tullibardine competition.

## Former Pop Idol winner competes at the Mod

FORMER Pop Idol winner Michelle McManus qualified for this year's silver pendant final – but admitted she was unlikely to compete again after this year's Mod.

The 33 year old entered the pendant, the top Mod solo prize for learners, after learning Gaelic and gaining her silver card in order to compete.

Michelle sang two qualifying songs on Wednesday morning and admitted she was 'shocked' to have qualified for the final after finishing fifth and second, respectively.

She added: 'It was amazing to qualify for the final, passing my silver card test was probably the hardest thing I have ever done.'

'Learning Gaelic hasn't come easy for me and this type of singing is something totally removed from what I normally do.'

'I sing country and pop, where you are encouraged to ad lib and not stick to the music; in my first song today I lost marks because I didn't stick to the music and my Gaelic is not as good as the other girls'.

'I don't think I will compete again but I will continue to sing Gaelic music.'

Michelle first became interested in Gaelic culture and music on a trip to Barra, as part of a television programme about her family history.

She began learning the language by attending a weekly class and through the website LearnGaelic.net, as she prepared for this year's Royal National Mod.

Michelle said: 'The Mod is amazing and more people should know about it. Gaelic is so accessible now.'



Michelle McManus competed in this year's silver pendant competition.



Winning the only competition he performed in, Stuart Jackson of Morven, left, took the Skye and Sutherland Cup, the John D Gillies Memorial Trophy. He was presented his award by Kenneth Thomson, who was recently inaugurated into the Hands up for Trad Hall of Fame. 143mod2



Emma Deans from Cumbernauld won the Sarah Weir Memorial Trophy for singing a song relating to Mull and Iona. 15\_143mod05



Ten year-old Maria Clark was one of the few junior competitors from Oban at the Paisley Mod. She took part in solo singing, poetry and conversation competitions. 15\_142mod36



Little Beth Campbell from Kilmuir on Skye competed in the clarsach intermediate section, as well as the waulking song, action song and Highland dancing. 15\_143mod44



Paisley's Christina Gorman, 15, who has family in Benderloch, won storytelling and folk group competitions, as well as finishing second in the fluent speakers' junior silver medal. 15\_142mod35



Islay's Mairi McGillivray was one of many Islay juniors who won awards at the Mod. The 16 year old won the open 16 – 18 years solo singing competition on Tuesday, claiming four trophies in the process. 15\_142mod34



Ally Weir of Lochaber High School won the George Memorial Cup for fluent speakers, aged 13-15. The youngster competed in both piping, and speaking competitions. He was rewarded for his aggregate marks in storytelling, poetry recitation and conversation. Ally won gold, silver and two bronze medals. 143mod3



Alison Buchanan from Glasgow qualified for the gold medal final by winning the Mr and Mrs Archibald Macdonald Memorial Trophy. 15\_143mod4



Helen Watt and Davy Paterson, both from Taynuilt, took part in duet singing. The duo also sing with Taynuilt Gaelic Choir. 143mod5



Aberfeldy's Gillian MacDonald and May Brown were second in a high-quality duet competition. 15\_143mod03

## Gaelic teacher recruitment to be redesigned

GAELIC teacher recruitment is to be redesigned by Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

The move comes as the rise in demand for Gaelic educators has increased.

The Bòrd will undertake a redesign of its website, creation of new digital adverts and the designing of new advertising materials in order to attract more teachers.

The new campaign will aim to get new students into the profession. It will also aim to reinforce to others already qualified to

teach how they can benefit from this fast growing education system.

Mary MacMillan, Bòrd na Gàidhlig Head of Education and Learning, said: 'Marketing is an extremely useful tool in helping us to recruit new teachers.'

### Portfolio

'We have constantly been adding to our portfolio of developments over the two years, and are delighted we are now in a position to redesign our whole initiative.

'There is a need to strengthen

the infrastructure of Gaelic education and learning generally by supporting the recruitment of a confident, appropriately trained workforce in order to service the expansion of Gaelic education.'

Along with the help of the Scottish Government, local authorities and further education institutions, the Bòrd will support initiatives to increase the range of courses available to those who wish to enter teaching, or to transfer to teaching Gaelic or through the medium of Gaelic.'



Aberdeen's Lawrence Butler Perks was this year's silver medal winner. 15\_142mod38



Oban's Alison MacVicar, 17, was second in the fluent speakers' 16 – 18 years poetry competition. 15\_142mod31

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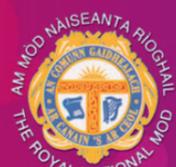
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# The Royal National Mòd Paisley 2013



## Wednesday results

Peggy Darroch Memorial Trophy: Calum E Mac a' Phi, Sgioba Dràma Uibhist; Conversation Fluent 16-18: 1 Isabelle Bain, Sgoil MhicNeacail, Gold Badge; Reading Prose Fluent 13-15: 1 Catriona Bain, Sgoil MhicNeacail, Gold Badge, 2 Mara Drysdale, Ard-sgoil Sheumais Ghilleasbaig, Silver Badge, 3 Ally Weir, Ard-sgoil Lochabair, Bronze Badge; Conversation Fluent 13-15: 1 Frances Driscoll, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Silver Medal and Gold Badge, 2 Catriona Bain, Sgoil MhicNeacail, Silver Badge, 3 Ally Weir, Ard-sgoil Lochabair, Bronze Badge; Reading Prose Fluent U13: 1 Isla NicLeòid, Bun-sgoil Stafainn, Gold Badge, 2 Eòin Coinneach Cuimeanach, Bun-sgoil Ghearrloch, Silver Badge, 3 Eòsaph Caimbeul, An Caol, Bronze Badge; Bible Reading Fluent 9-10: 1 Isla NicLeòid, Bun-sgoil Stafainn, Gold Badge and Bible, 2 Eòin Coinneach Cuimeanach, Bun-sgoil Ghearrloch, Silver Badge and Bible, 3 Eòsaph Caimbeul, An Caol, Bronze Badge and Bible, Bibles from the late Mrs Stewart-Simla; Conversation Fluent 11-12: 1 Dòmhnall Lachlann Peutan, Bun-sgoil Cnoc na Creige, Gold Badge, 2 John Alasdair Bain, Sgoil MhicNeacail, Silver Badge, 3 Hannah C MacLeod, Sgoil a' Bhac, Bronze Badge; Conversation Fluent 9-10: 1 Eòin Coinneach Cuimeanach, Bun-sgoil Ghearrloch, The Ewen Dingwall Memorial Trophy and Gold Badge, 2 Innes Scullion, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Silver Badge, 3 Marion Mary MacCorquodale, Uibhist a Deas and Calum MacMillan, Sgoil Dhalabroig, Bronze Badges; Conversation Fluent 7-8: 1 Eubha Fraser, Whitehills Primary, Forfar, Gold Badge, 2 Eilidh Logie, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrat, Silver Badge, 3 Alec Macdonald, Bun-sgoil Bogh Mòr, Bronze Badge; Writers Award book for Writing for Children: Dealbh-chluich do Chloinn le Peigi Flòraidh NicDhòmhnaill air a chlo-bhualadh le Acair; Video Project Primary: Fionnlagh Lawson, Dùn Eideann; Radio Project Primary: 1 Gaidheil, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Gold Badges, 2 Reagaidh Reagaidh Rèid, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Silver Badges, 3 Réid, Non Sgoitean, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Bronze Badges; Art Poster Open 13-15: 1 Nathan Ritchie, Ard-sgoil Mhalag, Gold Badge, 2 Ida McVarish, Ard-sgoil Mhalag, Silver Badge, 3 Aimee Sneddon, Ard-sgoil Mhalag, Bronze Badge; Art Poster Open 11-12: 1 Kay Rodgers, Ard-sgoil Mhalag, Gold Medal, 2 John Alasdair Bain, Sgoil MhicNeacail, Silver Medal, 3 Hannah C NicLeòid, Sgoil



Na Seudan, the five piece folk group from Tarbert Academy, enjoyed success at the Mod, winning silver in the under-19 folk competition. Performing two new arrangements - Am Buchaille Ban and Huga air a bhonaid mhor, the girls achieved the highest music marks in the competition. They lost out on first place to Glasgow Gaelic unit, which achieved one mark more in the Gaelic score. The group is tutored in Gaelic by Neil MacDonald and for music by Susan Rhodes. From left: Hannah Prill, Niamh MacKaveny, Emma MacFarlane, Naomi Stanesby and Emma Kok.

a' Bhac, Bronze Medal; Art Poster Open 9-10: 1 Fionnlagh MacLinn, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, Gold Medal, 2 Jessica Havidge, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, Silver Medal, 3 Lois NicLeòid, Inbhir Nis, Bronze Medal; Art Poster Open 7-8: 1 Anndra Monk, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Gold Badge, 2 Ealasaid NicGilleathain, Bun-sgoil Strath na h-Apaim, Silver Badge, 3 Daniel MacLeòid, Sgoil a' Bhac, Bronze Badge; Art Poster Open 5-6: 1 Màiri NicIlinein, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, Gold Badge, 2 Maria Monk, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Silver Badge, 3 Mairei Jean Nic a' Ghobhainn, Fòram Gàidhlig na h-Eaglaise Brice, Bronze Badge; Literary Fluent 16-18: 1 Faith Kemp, Ard-sgoil Thiriodh, Gold Badge, 2 Emma Beaton, Ard-sgoil Phort Rìgh, Silver Badge, 3 Rachel Ellen NicAoidh, Ard-Sgoil MhicNeacail,

Bronze Badge; Literary Fluent U13: 1 Christopher Clyne, Ard-sgoil Phort Rìgh, The Falkirk Tryst Trophy and Gold Badge, 2 Maria NicAsgaill, Ard-sgoil Phort Rìgh, Silver Badge, 3 Moilidh NicGriogair, Glaschu, Bronze Medal; Literary Fluent 11-12: 1 Rory MacDiarmid, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Gold Badge, 2 Emily NicMhathain, Bun-sgoil Stafainn, Silver Badge, 3 Anna NicGriogair, Glaschu, Bronze Badge; Literary Fluent 9-10: 1 Eòin Coinneach Cuimeanach, Bun-sgoil Ghearrloch, Gold Badge, 2 Anika Dowling, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, Silver Badge, 3 Murdo Angus Ceannadach, Bun-sgoil na Pàirce, Bronze Badge; Non Fiction Prose (c 2000 words): Cairistiona Stone, Gallabhaig, 4 part Musical Arrangement 1 Sandy NicDhòmhnaill Jones, Uibhist a Deas, £40, 2 Ruairidh Mac an t-Saoir, Glaschu, 3

Ruairidh Mac an t-Saoir, Glaschu, Short Story less than 2000 words: 1 Cairistiona Stone, Gallabhaig, £50, 2 Kerry Anne NicLeòid, Eilean Leòdhais, 3 pieces of Poetry: 1 Micheal Mac an t-Saoir, USA, Ailisa Quaiach and Lewis & Harris Gold Medal, 2 Father Ross SJ Crichton, Beinn a' Bhaoghla, 3 Sandy NicDhòmhnaill Jones, Uibhist a Deas; Writing: Cairistiona Stone, Gallabhaig, £30; Play: Kerry Anne NicLeòid, Am Bac, Leòdhais; New Gaelic Song, set to music: 1 Robbie MacLeòid, Dùn Eideann, £200, 2 Fiona NicChoinnich, Inbhir Pheofharain, 3= Father Ross SJ Crichton, Beinn a' Bhaoghla and David McEwan, Campbelltown; Writers Award book for Seniors: fonn - The Campbells of Greepe air a chlo-bhualadh le Acair, £150; Senior Drama - Premier Award: Sgioba Dràma Uibhist; Senior Drama - Best Acted Play: Sgioba Dràma Uibhist; Senior Drama - Best Original Gaelic Play: 4 Cluicheadairean Thiriodh: Iain Dòmhnallach, Buidheann Dràma Chille Mhoire; Senior Drama - Best Actor: Calum E Mac a' Phi, Sgioba Dràma Uibhist; Senior Drama - Best Actress: Ails NicAmhlaidh, Sgioba Dràma Uibhist; Senior Drama Best Stage Presentation: Sgioba Dràma Uibhist; Senior Drama - Best Producer: Morag Fheargasdan, Sgioba Dràma Uibhist; Clarsach open: 1 Andrew Lyle & Blair Hendry, Bun-sgoil Innis an Uillt agus Bishophriggs Academy, Communn na Clarsach (Edinburgh Branch) Trophy and Gold Badges, 2 Cliona McCabe & Tuesday Rose McDonagh, Ard-sgoil Sheumais Ghilleasbaig; Clarsach Seniors: 1 Anne Stephen & Catriona Gorgas, Aberfoyle & Milngavie, Drumzier Quaiach, 2 Rachel Rutherford & Grace Guse, Glasgow, 3 Grace Gallacher & Sue Mackay, Glasgow; Clarsach Open: 1 Buidheann Chlarsach Acadamaidh Dhìghlais, Pilgrims Harp Trophy; Clarsach Duets 13-19: 1 Finlay Cuniffie & Sean MacPherson, Ard-sgoil Sheumais Ghilleasbaig, Communn na Clarsach Cup and Gold Badges, 2 Catriona MacGregor & Anna MacKenzie, Edinburgh, Silver Badges, 3 Anna Westwell & Sophie Darbyshire, Leith Walk Primary, Bronze Badges; Clarsach Duets U13: 1 Ceitidh McLuskey & Sheena McGregor, Ard-sgoil Sheumais Ghilleasbaig, The Lord Birsay Trophy and Gold Badges, 2 Calum McCabe & Finlay Lawson, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce, Silver Badges, 3 Laura Penman & Ceit Lamb, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce, Bronze Badges; Clarsach Open: 1 Neil Wood, Eastwood High School, The Margaret Balfour Trophy, 2 Anna Westwell, Leith Walk Primary, 3 Sophie Joint, Douglas Academy; Clarsach Juniors: 1 Rachel Rutherford, Glasgow, The Elspeth A Hillsted Trophy, 2 Grace Guse, Glasgow; Clarsach Senior: 1 Anne Stephen, Aberfoyle, Jean C Campbell Award, 2= Sue Mackay, Dumbarton and Catriona Gorgas, Glasgow; Clarsach Advanced Juniors: 1 Màiri-Louise NicDhòmhnaill, St Mary's Music School, Edinburgh, The Duncan Chisholm Trophy, £10 (Catherine L MacDonald Memorial) and Gold Badge, 2 Alice Guse, Craigholme School, Silver Badge, 3= Finlay Cuniffie, Ard-sgoil Sheumais Ghilleasbaig and Sean MacPherson, Ard-sgoil Sheumais Ghilleasbaig,

Bronze Badge; Clarsach - Intermediate 2 (Open): 1 Ciorstaidh-Sarah Chaimbeul, An Caol, The Lawrence MacDuff Cup and Gold Badge, 2 Loxa Flexen, Broughton High School, Silver Badge, 3 Sophie Joint, Douglas Academy, Bronze Badge; Clarsach Intermediate 1 Juniors: 1 Anna Jean MacKenzie, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, The K Barry Miller Trophy and Gold Badge, 2 Meredith Kiemer, Aberfoyle, Silver Badge, 3 Joy Guse, Craigholme School, Bronze Badge; Clarsach Elementary Juniors: 1 Abigail Cavanagh, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, The Florence Wilson Trophy, Gold Badge, 2 Abigail Campbell, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce, Silver Badge, 3 Laura Penman, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce, Bronze Badge; Clarsach Introductory: 1 Sandy MacGregor, Edinburgh, The Helmsdale Trophy and Gold Badge, 2 Sonny Gibb Flexen, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce, Silver Badge, 3 Iona Spooner, Our Lady of the Missions, Bronze Badge; Clarsach Self Accompaniment: 1 Ceitidh McLuskey, Ard-sgoil Sheumais Ghilleasbaig, The Glendale Quaiach and Gold Badge, 2 Tawana Maramba, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce, Silver Badges, 3 Eilidh Jenkins, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Bronze Badge; Senior Presenting: 1 Iain Murdoch MacMillan, Isle of Lewis, Dr Alasdair Patrick Barden Memorial Silver and £50 (Gaelic Society of the Episcopal Church), 2= Isabel MacLeod, Càrlabhagh and Dòmhnall MacLeòid, Càrlabhagh, Senior Duet Singing: 1 Nicola Pearson & Wilma Kennedy, Carnoustie, The Neil MacLean & Jenny M B Currie Trophy and £20 (Mull Local Mod), 2 Gillian MacDonald & May Brown, Dunkeld and £15 (Mull Local Mod), 3 Steven MacLomhair & Kirsteen S Menzies, Dingwall, £10 (Mull Local Mod); Skye or Sutherland Song: 1 Stuart A Jackson, Morvern, The John D Gillies Memorial Trophy, 2 Emma A C Deans, Comar nan Allt, 3 Michael Henderson, Caithness; Provincial Mod Winners: 1 Ainsley Hamill, Glasgow, Lochewe Branch Cup, 2 Alison G NicRath, Stormway, 3 F Ann MacLean, Isle of Lis-

more; Sarah Weir Trophy Ladies/Men: 1 Emma AC Deans, Comar nan Allt, The Sarah Weir Memorial Trophy and £20 (Mull & Iona Association), 2 Anne Bennett, Dundee, £15 (Mull & Iona Association), 3 Janet H Campbell, Tobermory; Kennedy-Fraser Cup: 1 Janet H Campbell, Tobermory, The Kennedy-Fraser Cup, The Johanna Fortune Memorial Trophy and £20 (ACG), 2 Alison Campbell, Erskine, £20 (ACG), 3 Karen MacRae, Portree; Silver Pendant Sea Song - Men: 1 Campbell McKenzie, Stormway, Bank of Scotland Cup, 2 Lawrence Butler Perks, Aberdeen, 3 Alastair Gray, Caithness; Silver Pendant Heat - Men: 1 Lawrence Butler Perks, Aberdeen, The Katie Stewart Memorial Trophy and £20 (Alasdair C Gillies Memorial Prize), 2 Alastair Gray, Caithness, 3 Pól Younger, Glasgow; Silver Pendant Working Song - Ladies: 1 Ainsley Hamill, Glasgow, Catherine M B Dunlop Quaiach, 2= Michelle McManus, Glasgow and Donna Dugdale, Tobermory; Silver Pendant Heat - Ladies: 1 Ainsley Hamill, Glasgow, The Margot Campbell Trophy, 2 Donna Dugdale, Tobermory, 3 Ellen Beard, Edinburgh; Traditional Song Learners: 1 Rena Gertz, Prestonpans, The George Clavey Memorial Quaiach, 2 Donna Dugdale, Tobermory, 3 Hector MacKechnie, Savary; Oban Times Gold Medal: 1 Ceitidh Smith, Kyle of Lochalsh, 'Oban Times' Gold Medal, 2 Alison G NicRath, Stormway, 3 Eilidh Munro, East Dunbartonshire; Puirt-a-Beul Ladies and Men Open: 1 Eilidh Munro, East Dunbartonshire, The Duncan Johnston Memorial Trophy and £10 (John MacRae Glasgow), 2 Iseabail Nic an t-Sagairt, Isle of Islay, 3 Alison NicAnnain, Glasgow; Traditional Medal Heat - Men: 1 Tormod MacLeòid, Eilean Leòdhais, The Lochaber Rotary Club Trophy, 2 Neil Macritchie, Càrlabhagh, 3 Ruairidh MacCarmag, Portree Traditional Medal Heat - Ladies: 1 Joan Morrison, Newton Mearns, The Moray Trophy and The Donald Murray Memorial Trophy, 2 Michelle MacNeil, Glaschu, 3 Eilidh Munro, East Dunbartonshire; Gold Medal

Heat Oran Mòr Men: 1 Robert Robertson, Fort William, The F S Cameron-Head Memorial Trophy and £10 (John A MacRae, Glasgow), 2 Andreas Wolff, A' Choineag, 3= John Howieson, Harraop and Ruairidh Mac an t-Saoir, Uibhist a Deas; Gold Medal Oran Mòr Ladies: 1 Alison NicAnnain, Glasgow, The Mr & Mrs Archibald MacDonald Memorial Trophy and £10 (Jessie M MacLachlan Memorial Prize), 2 Ceitidh Smith, Kyle of Lochalsh, 3= Sandaith NicDhòmhnaill Jones, Uibhist a Deas and Eilidh Munro, East Dunbartonshire, The Joyce Murray Trophy was shared by Alison NicAnnain and Isabel NicLeòid, Càrlabhagh; Gold Medal Heat - Men: 1 Robert Robertson, Fort William, The Caledonian MacBrayne Trophy and The John MacArthur Memorial Trophy, 2 Dòmhnall-Iain MacLèidh, Glasgow, 3 Ruairidh MacCarmag an t-Saoir, Uibhist a Deas; Bible Reading Open 13-15: 1 Alex John Morrison, Sgoil MhicNeacail, Gold Badge and Bible, 2 Catriona Bain, Sgoil MhicNeacail, Silver Badge and Bible, 3 Somhairle MhicLeòid, Ard-sgoil Sheumais Ghilleasbaig, Bronze Badge and Bible, Prizes from the late Mrs Stewart-Simla; Gold Medal Heat Prescribed Ladies: 1 Ceitidh Smith, Kyle of Lochalsh, The Mary C MacNiven Memorial Silver, 2 Eilidh Munro, East Dunbartonshire, 3= F Ann MacLean, Isle of Lismore and Alison NicAnnain, Glaschu.

Choral Rural Puirt-a-Beul: 1 Còisir Ghàidhlig Ile, Aline MacKenzie Memorial Trophy, John Young Memorial Baton to the conductor (Iseabail MacTaggart) and £50 Royal Mail, = Evelyn Huckbody Memorial Trophy, 2 Còisir Ghàidhlig nan Loch, £30 Royal Mail and Calum Robertson Memorial Trophy, 3 Còisir Ghàidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich and £20 Royal Mail, = Evelyn Huckbody Memorial Trophy, Choral Rural Open - Ladies: 1 Còisir Ghàidhlig Thunga, Grampian Television Trophy, £50 (Royal Mail) and Angus MacTavish Memorial Trophy, 2 Còisir Ghàidhlig Thaigh an Uillt, £30 (Royal Mail) and Rotary Club of Blairgowrie Trophy, 3 Còisir Ghàidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich, £20 (Royal Mail); Choral Rural: 1 Còisir Ghàidhlig Ile, The Sheriff MacMaster Campbell Memorial Quaiach, The Selma Shield for the highest marks in Gaelic and £60 (Royal Mail), 2 Còisir Ghàidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich and £50 (Royal Mail), 3 Còisir Ghàidhlig Thaigh an Uillt and £40 (Royal Mail); The Grace Robertson Memorial Baton to the conductor (John Brozovsky) of the choir (Lairg Gaelic Choir) gaining the highest marks in Music; Choral Rural: 1 Còisir Sgìra' Bhac, The Lorn Shield, The Mrs Catherine C MacDonald Silver Baton to the Choir Conductor (Avril Duncan), £100 (An Communn Gàidhealach), The Dalriada Cup and =The Captain Angus Stewart Trophy, 2 Còisir Ghàidhlig nan Loch, £60 (An Communn Gàidhealach) and =The Captain Angus Stewart Trophy, 3 Còisir Ghàidhlig an t-Sratha and £40 (An Communn Gàidhealach); Solo Self Accompaniment: 1 Anna E Mackenzie, Isle of Lewis, The Largs Trophy and £30 (An Communn Gàidhealach), 2 Iain Blair, Isle of Skye, £20 (An Communn Gàidhealach), 3 Pól Younger, Glasgow; Senior Folk Group: 1 Mo Chreach, Marshall Stormonth Memorial Trophy, Silver Medal to each member of winning group and £30 (An Communn Gàidhealach), 2 Turrallach, 3 An t-Eilean; Quartet Competition Senior Open: 1 Na Boireannach Eile, The Stormway Gaelic Choir Cup, £30 (An Communn Gàidhealach), The Marshall Stormonth Memorial Trophy and The Ian Lrichton Memorial Trophy, 2 Fuaimreach, 3 Strath Gaelic Choir Quartet; Senior Prose Fluent: 1 F Ann MacLean, Isle of Lismore, £30 (An Communn Gàidhealach); Senior Poem Fluent: 1 F Ann MacLean, Isle of Lismore, £30 (An Communn Gàidhealach), 2 Rachel Urquhart, Inbhir Nis, Traditional Medal Final Men: 1 Calum Angus Macdonald, Lanakshire, Gold Medal in memory of Mary Lamont, The Islander Shield and £20 (Gaelic Arts Project), 2 Ruairidh MacCarmag, Isle of Skye, £50 (Gaelic Arts Project), 3 Neil Macritchie, Càrlabhagh, £20 (Anne and John MacPhee); Traditional Medal Final Ladies: 1 Joan Morrison, Newton Mearns, Gold Medal in memory of Mary Lamont, The Islander Shield, £200 (Gaelic Arts Project) and The Scotia Trophy, 2 Michelle MacNeil, Glasgow, £50 (Gaelic Arts Project), 3 Iseabail Nic an t-Sagairt, Isle of Islay, £20 (Anne and John MacPhee).



Dingwall's Hamish Menzies leads a massed choir with audience members while they wait for the results of the Lovat and Tullibardine competition. 15. 143mod37



The Princess Royal visited this year's Mod and was treated to a Highland dancing display.



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## Friday's results

Oran Luaidh: 1 Còmhlan Luaidh Bhaideanach, Harris Tweed Authority Trophy and £50 (An Communn Gàidhealach), 2 Mnatann Lacsadail, £30 (An Communn Gàidhealach); Choral Area: 1 Còisir Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, The Greenock Gaelic Choir Cup, The Colin Grant Sangester Memorial Silver Baton to the conductor (Mary Ann Kennedy) and £60 (ACG), 2 Dingwall Gaelic Choir, £50 (ACG), 3 Govan Gaelic Choir, £40 (ACG); Choral Open Men: 1 Dingwall Gaelic Choir, The Mull & Iona Shield, The Hector Russell Dirk to the conductor (Kirsteen Menzies), £100 (ACG), £30 (Martin MacKay Memorial Prize) and The Glen Ballachulish Trophy, 2 Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association, £60 (ACG), 3 Còisir Ceann an Tuirc, £40 (ACG); Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir, The Cor Meibion Bro Glyndwr Trophy; Choral Area Ladies: 1 Atoamaig Piseag, The Esme Smythe Trophy, £100 (ACG), £10 (MacLean-Nicol Endowment), £25 (Alex MacArthur Memorial Prize), The Donald U

Johnston Trophy and The Angus Johnston Trophy, 2 Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association, £60 (ACG), 3 Dingwall Gaelic Choir, £40 (ACG); Choral Area: 1 Largs Gaelic Choir, The Margrat Duncan Memorial Trophy, An Communn Silver Baton Choir Cup, The John MacNeil Memorial Trophy, The Staffinders Quaiach and £100 (ACG), 2 Còisir Sgìre Phortrigh, £60 (ACG), 3 Dundee Gaelic Musical Association, £40 (ACG); Choral Area: 1 G o v a n Gaelic Choir, Lovat & Tullibardine Shield, Malcolm G MacCallum Silver Baton for conductor (Donald Feist), £250 (ACG), Donald Thomson Memorial Quaiach for the Gaelic Tutor (Marion Craig), The 'Weekly Scotsman' Quaiach and The Donald J MacAskill Memorial Trophy, 2 Còisir Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, £200 (ACG) and The 'Oban Times' Silver Salver, 3 Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association, £150 (ACG) and The Rev William Macdonald Memorial Quaiach, 4 Dingwall Gaelic Choir, The J Norman McConachie Trophy.



Argyll choir Atoamaig Piseag had a clean sweep of the trophies in the ladies competition. Conductor Raymond Bremner, left, collected the prizes from Renfrewshire Council deputy provost John Caldwell, who grew up in Port Appin.

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**Police files**

A VEHICLE parked outside an address at Eastbay, Mallaig, was scratched down the full length of one side sometime between 9.30pm on Friday, October 18 and 10am the following morning.

FUEL was stolen from a vehicle in Dornie Quarry in Torlundy sometime between Saturday October 19 and Monday October 21.

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

**Stornoway woman wins national writing competition**

A STORNOWAY woman beat more than 300 other entrants to win a national writing competition.

Alayne Barton's short story about her granny 'Granny Special' will now be included in a new collection called 'Treasures' after the Scottish Book Trust contest. Alayne said: 'When I opened the email I thought, 'Oh dear, I'd better tell them they've sent this to the wrong person'. I'm still thinking it now. I really hope they haven't though because I'm so thrilled and excited about it I can hardly speak.'

More than 150,000 free copies of 'Treasures' will be distributed in book shops, libraries, train stations and elsewhere throughout the country to celebrate Book Week Scotland at the end of November.

**New Fergie song marks independence referendum**

CEILIDH musician Fergie MacDonald has released a new song to mark next year's Scottish independence referendum.

Hot on the heels of Fergie's success with 'The Shinty Referee', his new tune 'Yes is the vote for Bonnie Scotland' hit the shops on Monday.

**Fire service charity fundraiser**

A NIGHT to raise money for two charities is being held at the Ben Nevis Hotel in Fort William on Saturday, November 9.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service event - which is raising money for the Scottish Burned Children Club and Help for Heroes - will see local favourites *The Shine* performing before a disco with free buffet to take the party into the early hours. For tickets and more information contact Pauline Ferguson at Fort William Fire Station on 01397 707670.

**Lochaber Pipe Band raises funds at annual ceilidh and dance**

LOCHABER Pipe Band held its annual fundraising ceilidh and dance at the West End Hotel in Fort William on Saturday night.

Father Roddy MacAulay was Fear an Taighe for the night as the band and guests Hannah MacRae on fiddle, Alex MacLean on accordion and duo Eriskany lilt played for the dance.

All funds raised on the night will go towards the bands operating costs including their tuition programme which provides free tuition on chanter, pipes and drums.



**Psalm singing night raises £200 for Macmillan**

Nearly £200 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Support at a traditional psalm singing night at Kilmallie Free Church in Caol on Friday night. The night was held to mark the 70th birthdays of Marion Smith and Isabel Campbell, and included representatives from Acharacle Free Church, Kilmallie Parish Church, Duncansburgh MacKintosh Church, Fort William Free Church, Kilmallie Free Church, St. John's Church and the Salvation Army. Isabel said: 'We had a super evening. Everyone enjoyed it so much that they want another one.'

**Acharacle gets fuel duty discount despite not having petrol station**

EYEBROWS were raised in Acharacle last week when Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander included the remote village in the UK Government's extended fuel duty discount scheme.

The remote west Lochaber community was announced as one of one seven in the Highlands recommended for a 5p per litre price cut at the pumps - despite not having had a petrol station for two decades.

The bemused chairman of Acharacle Community Council, Hugh MacPherson, told *The Oban Times*: 'The whole thing is wrong. We have not even got a petrol station - the one at the Loch Shiel Hotel shut 20 years ago.'

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

'It's good we are getting a reduction - if we could buy petrol in Acharacle, that is. I presume it should be Strontian, or Kilchoan, where there's still a wee station. They should have generalised and included the whole area.'

The move, if rubber-stamped by the European Commission, would extend the scheme to the mainland for the first time. It is already operating in the Hebrides, the Northern Isles, the Firth of Clyde islands and the Scilly Isles.

Appin, Dalwhinnie, Ach-na-sheen, Carrbridge, Gairloch and Strathpeffer are also in line to receive the 5p fuel duty

reduction, along with remote communities in England. All have high fuel prices, are more than 100 miles from the nearest refinery and have a population density of less than 135 people per km<sup>2</sup>.

The policy is designed to offset the costs of higher fuel prices in remote rural areas compared with urban centres.

But with no filling station in Acharacle, it is unclear whether Kilchoan or Strontian will receive the 5p duty reduction should Europe approve the UK Government bid.

Either way, Mr MacPherson is sceptical a small cut in fuel duty will make much difference to Acharacle. He said: 'Going to Strontian

involves a round trip of 25 miles so a lot of people will still fill up in Fort William.'

'We try to use Strontian two or three times a year because we are better using it than losing it. But with Corran ferry fares going up we tend to go the other way via Lochailort.'

Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy said: 'If this bid is successful and the fuel subsidy extended, it will be another important step towards realising my goal of a fuel subsidy across the Highlands. 'We are not there yet though - and we must still navigate the corridors of the European Commission.'

The EC is expected to make a decision early in 2014.

**Green light for Kishorn renewables base plan**

PLANS to transform a former oilrig platform fabrication yard in the West Highlands into a major base for the offshore renewable energy sector have been given the go-ahead by Highland Council.

Kishorn Port Ltd's ambitious multi-million pound scheme includes fabrication sheds and warehouses, reclaiming the foreshore, upgrading the pier and refurbishing the dry dock - one of Europe's largest.

Re-establishing the deepwater port as a full manufacturing

centre could create up to 2,500 jobs, the company estimates.

Council planners had backed the proposal and the north planning applications committee agreed to grant permission after a short debate in Inverness on Tuesday afternoon. A separate application to create an accommodation camp for up to 1,500 workers was also granted.

The plans for the port have attracted several complaints from local residents and businesses with almost 70 letters of representation received

- 27 in favour and 32 against. However, Lochcarron, Sheldaidg and Torridon and Kinlochewe community councils were all in favour, as was the Applecross Trust.

Planner Emma Forbes told the committee several conditions had been attached to the plans on controversial issues such as traffic, lighting and noise. Those factors, she added, had to be balanced by the fact the port was already currently a functioning industrial site.

She said: 'Although there may

well be some impact, on balance we conclude the application should be approved.'

Local councillor Biz Campbell backed the plans, saying: 'This will boost the Highland economy and provide year-round employment.'

Councillor Audrey Sinclair said the scheme would provide large scale job opportunities unavailable elsewhere on the west coast. She said: 'A good number of conditions have been applied and hopefully they will cover any issues.'

**New Co-op store opening delayed until new year**

THE CO-OP has confirmed its new store in Ballachulish will miss out on the Christmas rush after its opening date was pushed back until the New Year.

The new shop being constructed next to the village's tourist information centre in Old Station Yard had originally been set for a December opening.

But the Co-op said that date had been pushed back a month to help with a 'smooth relocation' from the existing store at Loanfern.

A Co-op spokesperson said: 'We have moved the planned opening date for our new store in Ballachulish back to January next year. This is to allow for the smooth relocation from our existing store in the village,

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

while ensuring we can continue to provide a good service to shoppers during the busy Christmas and New Year period. The new store will be larger than our existing outlet. Once it opens it will allow us to provide an even better service, and we are sure customers will enjoy shopping there.'

Locals will now have to get their festive supplies from the Loanfern store, which they had complained was too small for the village, or elsewhere. Ballachulish Community Council chairman Mel

MacAskill told *The Oban Times*: 'It's the Co-op that's going to miss out, we'll just have to find somewhere else to do our shopping.'

The new slate-roofed 230m<sup>2</sup> shop will have a cash machine, and parking is also being created on site with access coming through the existing tourist information centre car park.

Small changes are being made to the road layout around the new shop to allow delivery vehicles in and out, and new street lighting put in place.

Work was originally planned to start on the store in 2009, but the company contracted to carry out the project went into liquidation on the day they were due to start work.



Work is ongoing on the new Co-op in Ballachulish: but the store will not be open before Christmas.

**Fort 'lap dancing' rumours quashed**

A FORT William hotel owner has denied she's bringing lap dancing to the town after applying to Highland Council to allow 'adult entertainment' to take place in its function room.

Ossian's Hotel on the town's High Street has asked the council's licensing board for permission to increase its

weekend opening hours. And included in the application was a request to allow 'adult entertainment' as an activity taking place during core hours within the premises - raising questions of what constituted 'adult entertainment'.

But owner Janice Wallace said the move was 'just to cover any

loopholes'. The hotel regularly caters for hen and stag parties, she said, and the new permission would cover their activities and make sure the hotel was fully compliant with licensing conditions. The licensing board will decide on the application at its next meeting on Tuesday November 5.



Lochaber Pipe Band before the start of the fundraising ceilidh night.

**Energy minister visits underwater centre**

FORT William's Underwater Centre was visited by the Scottish Government's Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism Fergus Ewing on Monday.

Mr Ewing was discussing development plans for the subsea training facility and seeing its two new vessels which it has recently purchased.

Centre general manager Steve Ham said: 'We are pleased to have hosted a visit by Mr Ewing and have the opportunity to show him the investment which is being made by the centre and its partners in industry.'

'The new barges will also allow us to run more courses, which is great news for the local area as it means there will be a significant jobs boost as we seek to fill several posts to help run these courses.'

**Fort FC monthly draw**

FORT William FC's monthly 300 Club draw took place on Saturday, with K and L Gillespie winning the top prize of £200. A MacLellan won £50, while E Luetzow and C MacQueen both picked up £25 each.

**Group drives forward with High Street Ford car statue plan**

FORT William High Street could be set to become home to a life-size bronze statue of the Model T Ford which drove to the top of Ben Nevis in 1911.

Partly inspired by the success of the 'Sair Feet' statue at the new end to the West Highland Way at the end of the High Street, a group has been set up which hopes to place the sculpture in Cameron Square.

The project is estimated to cost around £85,000, which will be gathered through fundraising and donations.

West Highland Museum committee chairman Chris Robinson is one of those behind the drive, and he said they were hopeful Ford would also donate some money to the cause.

Mr Robinson said he was looking for local volunteers to get involved with the group.

He said: 'It would be a great asset to the High Street. This isn't just about celebrating the Model T, this is about a new focal point in the town. It would add to the quality of the street.'

'The plan is that the Model T will sit in the square at an angle of about 45 degrees up against the wall of the PDSA building as if it's about to head off down the High Street and up the Ben.'

Model T specialist Neil Tuckett, who was involved with the group who carried the classic car in parts to the top of the Ben in 2011, has already pledged £10,000 towards the cost.

The statue is not part of the council's ongoing project to revamp Cameron Square, but a space for the statue will be included in the plans.

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# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

ONE of the key roles of a newspaper is to bring you, the community, news of developments in the area as and when they happen. We think it is important, then, that we ask questions of those involved in projects that affect every resident in the area - particularly when it involves public money.

It is frustrating that Argyll and Bute Council's 'communications policy' prevents just that - as demonstrated when we tried to speak to Linda Houston, CHORD project manager for Oban, after the group's meeting on Tuesday.

Our reporter was keen to clarify a couple of points with Ms Houston. While she wanted to speak to us, council policy prevented her from doing so until we made a formal request with the press office.

It is not the first time we have come across this hurdle, but I'm sure our readers would share our concern over this policy.

## GLASGOW LETTER

### Mod Phaislig 2013

IT TOOK years of hard work for the local committee and now it is over it is time to reflect on how much success there was for competitors from the local area and to reflect on Paisley as a venue for its first Royal National Mod.

Soloists from around Glasgow featured frequently on the prize lists. Ainsley Hamill, from West Dumbarton, and currently a student at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, was winner of the Silver Pendant for Ladies, a tribute to the hard work she has put in to learn the language. The same is true of the winner of the Ladies Gold Medal, Eilidh Munro. Eilidh started to learn the language in Meadowburn Primary School, Bishopbriggs, before going on to Bishopbriggs Academy and then a final year at the Music School in Douglas Academy. During most of her school years she was a member of Glasgow Islay Junior Gaelic Choir.

There was also success for Eilidh as winner of the Puirt-a-Beul competition and as a finalist for the Traditional Medal which was won by Joan Morrison, Newton Mearns, a member of Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association.

In the final of the Gold Medal Eilidh was joined by Alison Buchanan another former member of the same Junior Gaelic Choir.

Originally from Lochaber, the Men's Gold Medal was won by current Glasgow resident Robert Robertson who as well as having his own band often performs with Skipinnish.

Donald Iain Brown, another GG member, was runner-up in the Gold Medal.

The Glasgow choirs were well represented in the prize lists. Congratulations, first of all, to Govan Gaelic Choir, winners of the coveted Lovat and Tullibardine Shield, their first success in the competition since 1973. This win would have delighted choir members after all their hard work, guided by conductor Donald Feist and Gaelic Reader Marion Craig, but credit must also go to the stalwarts within the choir who toiled for many years to ensure Govan Gaelic Choir would still be in existence 84 years after it formed.

The lean years since their last win must now seem far away with President Calum Angus MacDonald providing an extra bonus by winning the Traditional Gold Medal.

A win for Govan in Paisley seems appropriate as they are both locations which at one time in their prosperous industrial years were well populated with Gaels but have both seen their indigenous industries decline.

Govan Choir, of course, won several of the prizes which are part of the main competition as well as third place in the Puirt-a-Beul with the GG fourth. The latter were placed second in both the Male Voice and Ladies' competitions while Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir's Men took the top prize for music. Congratulations, once again, to Mina Smith, Gaelic Reader, and the GG Choir who retained the trophy for the overall highest marks in Gaelic, an award they have won for many years.

Not a bad week for Glasgow then but more importantly Paisley as a venue had many positives. The work of the local committee and the support of Renfrew Council are worth special mention.

Like Glasgow, Paisley has witnessed a population move of Gaelic speakers from the inner locations to the suburbs and beyond so hopefully the Mod will have brought the Gaelic language and its culture to a wider audience. Certainly opinion on the streets was positive with the well behaved children creating an excellent impression early in proceedings.

The weather deteriorated and this meant the final event, the massed choirs, had to be held in the Town Hall, one of

the many first class venues provided by Paisley.

Many will be happy that having travelled to Paisley they were able to visit the beautiful abbey, while others will return home feeling privileged to have sung there and experienced its exceptional acoustics.

Hand in hand with the Mod, the town had the Spruce with bands such as *Daimh, Manran*, Donnie Munro and *Breabach* bringing their own brand of traditional music to Paisley audiences.

Forward now to 2014 and to Inverness whose organisers are now in possession of the Mod Flag.

### CD launch

FORMER members of the Glasgow Islay Junior Gaelic Choir were to the fore during the Mod and Fiona Hunter, who was in the choir for many years, has together with her band launched her first CD.

Fiona spent several years with the band *Malinky* and this is another stage in her successful singing career.

### Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Annual Gathering

THE ANNUAL dinner, as in previous years, will take place in the Glasgow Pond Hotel on Thursday October 31 at 7.15pm for 7.30pm.

To reserve a place telephone 0141 882 1787 by today (Thursday), cost £27.50.

This year both the concert and dance will take place in Glasgow University Union with the concert, cost £10, at 7.30pm and the dance at 10.30pm. Tickets for the dance are available from the usual sources.

John MacLeod, president of An Comunn, will be chairman at the concert when the artists will be James Graham, Sineag MacIntyre, Iain MacKay, Ishbel Ann Martin and pianist Alasdair Paterson, who is a finalist in the Young Traditional Musician of the Year 2014 competition to be held as part of Celtic Connections.

### Diary dates

**Thursday October 24:** Battlefield Band, Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh, 7.30pm.

**Friday October 25:** Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Ceilidh Dance, Crawford Hall, 9pm to 1am. Gaelic Service, St Columba's Church of Scotland, 7.30pm. Battlefield Band, Oran Mor, 7pm.

**Saturday October 26:** Glasgow Skye Association, Marag Supper, Crawford Hall, 7.30pm. Tíre Association Drama, Ralston Community Hall, Allanton Avenue, 7pm, An Dileag, the best new play at this year's Mod Phaislig. For tickets telephone 07763 126309. Charity Fiddler's Rally, Broomhill Church, Randolph Road, 7.30pm.

**Monday October 28:** Glasgow Choir's Post Mod Ceilidh, Crawford Hall, 7.30pm.

**Tuesday October 29:** Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72, Waterloo Street, 8pm, Peter Coc.

**Thursday October 31:** Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Annual Dinner-see above. Karine Polwart, St Andrew's in the Square, 7.30pm.

**Friday November 1:** Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Annual Gathering Concert and Dance - see above.

**Saturday November 2:** Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm, Eliz Carthy/Tim Eriksen.

### Pub scene

THE PARK Bar will be hosting this year's winner of the Gold Medal, Robert Robertson, on Sunday evening while on Friday it will be Scott Harvey and on Saturday Calum Iain MacCorquodale.

In the Islay Inn it will be Trail West on Friday and Crooked Reel on Saturday. Neil Murray. Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.



## Royal Hotel, Oban, porters 1971-1994

Mrs Ruth Grant of Tain, Ross-shire, submitted this week's flashback photographs which feature some of the porters Mrs Grant and her late husband employed when they managed Oban's Royal Hotel from 1971 to 1994. The boys worked after school and in the holidays. Mrs Grant said: 'We were very proud of them. Many of them will be married and have children now so I thought it might be nice to see themselves in your paper.' Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

## Letters to the editor

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB  
email: editor@obantimes.co.uk

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000  
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### Lochaber BID plan support

Sir, I support the BID proposal. Why? I don't immediately see the connection between my business and tourism or visitor numbers.

But maybe that's not the point. Maybe it's about the contribution that I can make towards a larger pot that could be spent within Lochaber, for the benefit of Lochaber.

Do I know it will work? No. Do I know what difference it will make? No. I don't have the answers. But I'm an optimist. Where others see problems I see opportunities.

This BID is a leap of faith. I'll contribute £360 each year to the collective pot. I'll expect the BID board to use my contribution wisely. And I hope that they will use it to lever funds from other sources. They will be members of the Lochaber business community and I have faith that they will do a good job.

Corpach Boatbuilding Co financially supports a number of local groups. Does it make a difference, yes, I think so, and I see small changes taking place. When I make a contribution I don't ask for a business plan, or to see their accounts, I have faith that they will use my contribution wisely, but I see a greater opportunity to make a bigger difference with the levy I will be asked to pay towards the BID.

And if the BID is unsuccessful? What then? Will it affect my businesses? No, not really. I'll carry on as before. And what will happen to Lochaber? Will it be left behind as other areas develop better facilities for visitors and inhabitants? Will we be able to lever government funding to support future improvements? I really don't know, but my gut feeling is that in the current financial and political climate, if we don't have a BID, we will lose out.

And if you think I'm talking rubbish? Fine, vote NO. It's up to us to decide whether we want it or not. Just make sure you vote, and that the result really does reflect what the Lochaber business community want.

**Donald Hind, Managing Director, Corpach Boatbuilding Company.**

### Bowmore police counter closure alarm

Sir, I was alarmed to read about the closure of our local police counter in Bowmore on Islay and the inevitable local job loss of someone who has worked diligently for over 25 years.

We were all told this would never happen under the latest plan to centralise and amalgamate our many local police forces, but once again promises have been broken by the Scottish Government.

Now this letter is by no means party political; I am a firm believer almost all centralisation is a bad idea and to the detriment of the taxpayer.

The people of Islay will be dismayed that once again our local provision of public services

are being reduced despite the fact central governments and assemblies across the UK and of all political persuasions benefit substantially from the vast sums of tax revenue amounting to hundreds of millions per year in whisky revenue alone.

I have never made any secrets about my staunch unionist views and whatever decision Scotland makes in 2014 I will respect it, but I feel the next question to ask is: does Islay, and the other Western Isles for that matter, need the Scottish Government, UK Government and the EU as much as they need us, or are we better off without the lot of them? Because so far it seems like a very one sided relationship.

**Alastair Redman, Islay.**

### Adequate internet connection essential

Sir, While I welcome the recent announcements of the roll out of superfast broadband to areas of the Moray Firth and the commitment to further announcements of roll out on a quarterly basis I do have to question what is happening elsewhere.

I am relatively lucky in Muir of Ord to have reasonable internet speeds (most of the time). I do not yet have 3G service for my phone and iPad at home from my current provider and if I travel in the rural Highlands the likelihood of any reasonable internet or 3G access on the move is minimal.

In a mainly rural area where small businesses are the norm and where tourists expect to maintain some contact with family and friends when travelling and when the ability to respond via the internet in real time is expected can we not get adequate connections sorted?

Adequate internet to do the basics without waiting hours for a download of a simple document and 3G phone access would go a long way to supporting local tourism and other small businesses.

**Jean Davis, 22 The Cairns Muir of Ord.**

### Memories of Glencoe's Archie Kennedy

Sir, It was with great sadness that I read of the passing of Archie Kennedy of Carnoch, Glencoe, The Oban Times, October 17.

Mr Kennedy was the son of the last manager of the Ballachulish slate quarries which closed in 1955.

In 1996 he gave me a short interview in which he dictated five little stories in Gaelic on the subject of the slate industry.

They were published in the magazine *Gairm* in the autumn of 1998.

Both Archie and Mrs Kennedy showed me great kindness and hospitality when I visited them. I last saw Archie at the time of the An Comunn annual general meeting in Fort William in 2007.

Tapadh leibh airson a h-uile cail, a Gilleaspuig, Bithidh mi gur ionndrain.

**Richard Deveria, Gaelic Historian, Aberfeldy.**

### Vital tool to help people make ends meet

Sir, With colder weather around the corner and further gas and electricity price rises predicted, millions of people across the UK will be extremely concerned about how they'll pay their fuel bills this winter.

We know that this issue is widespread amongst the people we help, and our research last winter found that almost two-thirds of people on low incomes were not sure if they could meet their fuel costs without experiencing financial hardship. In addition to rising energy prices, the costs of other everyday essentials are on the increase.

With personal finances being increasingly stretched and in response to the largest shake-up of the UK benefits system, Turn2us has launched a new, free and easy-to-use online Benefits Calculator at [benefits.turn2us.org.uk](http://benefits.turn2us.org.uk). The new calculator is a vital tool to help more people access the financial support they may be entitled to.

The calculator helps individuals to find out what welfare benefits they are entitled to, how much they should receive and how to make a claim. It also links to our grants search tool to help people find other sources of support from charitable funds.

**Alison Taylor, Director, Turn2us, 200 Shepherds Bush Road, London, W6 7NL.**

### Sign up to Action Earth campaign

Sir, As a keen environmentalist and lover of the great outdoors, my passion for maintaining Scotland's natural heritage remains unwavering.

The Community Service Volunteers (CSV) Action Earth campaign provides grants of up to £500 thanks to the support of Scottish Natural Heritage. This allows individuals and groups to volunteer to improve their local environment. There has been a strong uptake of these grants

this year, and only a few remain. I am encouraging people to play their part by transforming their local community, reclaiming derelict or empty spaces, planting trees and flowers and boosting wildlife habitats. Last year's campaign saw 8,310 trees planted and around 1.25 million square metres of land transformed - that's roughly 175 Hampden Park football pitches.

However there is still progress to be made and I am once again urging people to sign up with CSV Action Earth. Sign up now by visiting [www.csv.org.uk/actionearth](http://www.csv.org.uk/actionearth) or call 0131 222 9083.

**John Michie, Actor and CSV Action Earth supporter.**

### Questions over independence

Sir, Much is being said by those favouring independence for Scotland that would suggest a land of milk and honey.

Everybody in that movement from Alex Salmond downwards is ignoring the questions and the reality of an independent Scotland. The politicians assume we would get straight into the EU. Why are they frightened to give the people of Scotland the right to a referendum on that question the same way they have pushed for the referendum on independence? Why leave the United Kingdom to join an organisation that dictates over 95 per cent of the law put in place anyway? Is it not the case that all new countries joining the EU have to use the Euro for currency?

What about all the European Nationals (which would include the English, Welsh and Northern Irish) if Scotland does vote for independence. According to all legal opinion (except the word of Alex Salmond), an independent Scotland would have to wait until independence before it can apply to join the EU (providing the population wants to).

With less than 12 months to go, it is time the 'Yes' campaign came out with the reality of what an independent Scotland will really be like and forget the Brigadoon version.

**James A Mackie, Garmouth.**

## Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

BHEIL mionaig agad? Nach tric a chanas sinn sin le làn-fhios gum bheil sinn a' ciallachadh mòran a bharrachd sin de dh'ùine!

Nach math gum bheil ùine againn airson facal crac le nàbaidh neo dìreach a bhith a' togail faire air seallaidhean àlainn a tha cho bitheanta nar dùthaich. 'S e firinn na cùise nach eil sinn 's dòcha idir a' cur uimhir de luach air ùine 's a bu chòir, tha sinn ga caitheamh gun chus smaintinn. Nach math an còthrom!

Nuair a choimnicheas tu ri caraid air an t-sràid neo sa bhùth, tha e furasta gu leòr fichead mionaig neo fìu 's leth-uair a chur seachad a' cabadaich agus chan fhaireach thu an ùine a' dol seachad. Agus còrdaidh an conaltradh leat oir a' c' math dha 'd' inntinn is dhad shlàinte a bhith a' coimneachadh 's a' bruidhinn.

Smaointich a-nise air na bheil de sheann daoine feadh na rìoghachd seo a tha a' fuireach nan aoine agus nach eil a' faicinn cha mhòr duine bho latha gu latha.

A bharrachd air gum bheil mòran aca a' fulang le trioblaidhean slàinte, tha a' mhòr-chuid aca air leth anranach agus chan eil teagamh nach dèanadh còthrom crac le cuideigin airson beagan ùine gach latha feum air leth dhaibh.

Sin cuid den taic luachmhor a bha luchd-cuideachaidh-dachaigh a' toirt seachad nuair a bhiodh iad a' tadhal air seann daoine thall 's a-bhos, ach beag air bheag mar a bha ionmhas nan seirbheisean poblach ga fhàsgadh, chaidh na h-uairean obrach aig an luchd-cuideachaidh sin a ghearradh chun na h-ìre is gum bheil a-nise a' moladh nach bi iad ach còig mionaidean deug anns gach dachaigh. Dè an feum a ni neach-cuideachaidh ann an ùine den t-seòrsa sin? Dè an ìre còmhraidh a ghabhas àite?

Dè an ìre tuigse a gheibhear air staid slàinte is inntinn an t-seann neach ann an ùine cho goirid sin? Saoidh mi fhìn gum bheil cùisean a' dol a' rian gu tur leis an fhèallsanachd seo agus gum bheil an neach-cuideachaidh a bhith dìreach a' seasamh ann an dachaigh air a mheas mar dhearbhadh air taic nach eil idir ann an da-rìribh gu bhith air a libhrigeadh. Tha fhios gur e seo suidheachadh far am bheil na caomhaidhean aig an riaghaltas air a dhòl ro fhada buileach agus ma ghabhas naire a chur air daoine a tha cho ladarna is bragail, tha an t-àm sin a dhèanamh orra!

Aig an aon àm 'b' fhaich dhuinn uile cuimhneachadh air an luach a chuireas feadhainn a tha leotha fhèin air beagan companas.

WHY DO people find it so hard to believe that government ministers understand the pressures which public sector funding economies are imposing on communities.

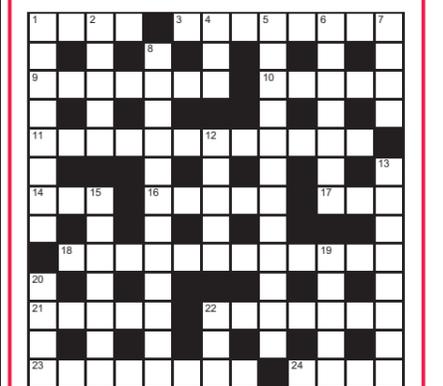
Perhaps one need only consider the proposal that home-helpers should spend a maximum of 15 minutes on each visit. For thousands of housebound people it is unquestionably 'good to talk' and too many politicians forget that it is also important to listen.

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

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  - Apply gently (3)
  - Plant fibre used to make fabric (5)
  - African antelope (3)
  - Bags for important work (7,5)
  - Where another says you were to get you out of trouble (5)
  - Many times more (7)
  - Likeable (8)
  - Blacken (4)
- Down
- Professionally built (4-4)
  - Similar to a racoon (5)
  - Me! (3)
  - Brilliant (12)
  - Port in Germany (7)
  - Key university? (4)
  - uses less man-hours (12)
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# ISLAND fling



One of Scotland's most picturesque islands, the Isle of Skye, comes alive in autumn with the seasonal colours only enhancing the already spectacular views.

Hotels and eateries remain open from the tourist season, but the rush of the summer has gone leaving fresh air and empty roads to be enjoyed.

North and South Uist and Benbecula, meanwhile, offer something a bit different for visitors, with their long sandy beaches, machair and beautiful seascapes.

Wildlife is very important to the area, with North Uist boasting a wide range of bird life and South Uist home to a nature reserve of international importance. The islands also cater well for residents, with a range of services and utilities on offer.

As well as spectacular scenery and it's unique beach airport, Barra is growing a reputation for its terrific local produce; thanks in no small part to community enterprise, Bùth Bharragh.

The community produce shop has become a focal point for the island's growers and crofters, as well as those crafters who take inspiration from their stunning surrounds.

The inner Hebrides are also worth a visit. With Mull being such a short hop from the mainland

– only 45 minutes by ferry – it is the ideal location for a short break.

The island has a plethora of small producers making everything from cheese and chocolate to fish and fashion.

You can enjoy seaside strolls before curling up in front of open fires in luxurious hotels which serve the finest shellfish the sea around the island offers.

And for even more fun and frolics head down to Fionnphort and jump on the ferry for the short crossing to Iona. On this sacred isle you'll find much to explore as well as it being the perfect place to just have some 'me time'.

If you're after more liquid pursuits be sure to pay a visit to Islay. The whisky island has no fewer than eight distilleries producing malts as well as turning out some of the finest Scottish gin.

There are also some picturesque walks on Islay taking in stunning beaches, nature reserves and interesting visitor centres, churches and chapels which detail the history of the island. There are also more active pursuits including pony trekking.



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# what's on

THE OBAN TIMES  
FREE EVENT LISTING

## THURSDAY - October 24

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

## FRIDAY - October 25

6pm, Storytelling Festival, Oban Library.  
7pm, Howling Halloween, Achnabreac Forest Park, Kilmartin.  
7.30pm, Oban Art Society, Lorn Resource Centre, Soroba Road, Oban.  
8pm, Oban Mic, O'Donnell's, Oban.  
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

## SATURDAY - October 26

8am, Golf tournament in aid of Parkinsons Support Group, Glencruitten Golf Club, Oban.  
10am, SIMBA cake and coffee morning, Glencruitten Church Centre, Oban.  
10am, Chocolate day, Kilmartin Museum.  
3pm, Doug Scott MBE and Charity Auction, SAMS, Dunbeg.  
6.30pm, Dinner and live music, Jaynuit Hotel.  
10pm, Live band, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

## SUNDAY - October 27

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

## MONDAY - October 28

11am, Community Café, Bunnass Hall, Mull.

## TUESDAY - October 29

1.30pm, Fun with flax activity, Kilmartin Museum.

## WEDNESDAY - October 30

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

## THURSDAY - October 31

8am, Ramblers Scotland Loch Tay walk, meet Fort William Woollen Mill, Oban's Longdale Road car park at 8.15am or Glencoe Village car park at 8.30am.  
10am, Croileagan na h-Apaimn Halloween party, Appin Hall.  
1.30pm, Mull Musical Minds, An Roth, Craignure, Mull.  
1.30pm, Metal embossing, Kilmartin Museum.  
7.30pm, Mull Through the Lens, Church Hall, Dervaig, Mull.  
9pm, John 'the box' Turnbull, The Lorne Bar, Oban.  
Halloween party with Chris Suckle, Markie Dans, Oban.

## FRIDAY - November 1

7pm, Giants in the Forest, Calgary Art in Nature, Mull.  
7pm, Race Night in aid of Parkinsons Support Group, Glencruitten Golf Club, Oban.  
7.30pm, Drama for all, Appin Village Hall.  
9pm, Karaoke, McCaig's Return, Oban.  
Chunks, Markie Dans, Oban.  
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

## SATURDAY - November 2

8.50am, Ramblers Scotland Kerrera walk, meet Fort William Woollen Mill, Ballachulish tourist info at 9.15am or ferry slipway for 10.35 sailing.  
11am, Coffee morning, Pennyghael Community Centre, Mull.  
1pm, Oban Darts Open, Glencruitten Golf Club, Oban.  
2pm, Charities fair, Salen School, Mull.  
2pm, Western Isles Yacht Club AGM, Aros Hall, Tobermory, Mull.  
Opportunity Knocks auditions, Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban.  
7pm, Giants in the Forest, Calgary Art in Nature, Mull.  
8pm, Monsters Ball Halloween party, Papparazzi, Oban.  
8pm, Easdale Rocks, Seil Island Hall.  
9.30pm, Paul P, McCaig's Return, Oban.  
10pm, Live band, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

## SUNDAY - November 3

7pm, Disco, McCaig's Return, Oban.  
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

Send your events to [whatson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:whatson@obantimes.co.uk).

# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**"ECHOES OF THE MOD"**  
Skipinnish Ceilidh House  
Saturday 7th  
November 7.30pm  
More details to follow

To advertise in the  
**WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD**  
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North Lorn Drama Festival  
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Come and see what it's all about!  
Friday 1 November at 7.30pm  
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Guest Player  
**Angus MacColl**  
Wednesday 30th October  
In the Argyllshire Gathering Halls at 7.30pm  
Entry: Adults £3  
Children Free

**OBAN DARTS OPEN**  
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1pm start - names taken until 12 noon on the day  
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**HOLLY TEA**  
Oban Parish Church Centre  
Saturday 2nd November at 2.00 pm  
in aid of Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre Oban  
Donation at door  
Tea / Coffee, Hot Mince Pies, Shortbread. Also Home Baking Stall, Bric-a-brac, Books, Christmas Cards and lots more

Croileagan na h-Apaimn  
**Halloween Party**  
Games, Crafts and storytime for preschool children.  
Fancy Dress Optional!  
Appin Hall 10am - 12 noon  
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Contact Jocelyn Miller for further details 07990 585087  
Funded and supported by the Big Lottery Fund and Bord na Gaidhlig

**OBAN ART SOCIETY**  
Talk / Demonstration with **Colm Docherty** on **Paintings & Drawing in Chinese ink** on Friday 25th October in Lorn Resource Centre, Soroba Road, Oban  
7.30 - 9.30pm  
Visitors welcome

# Bar staff rewarded with business trip to New York

A MULL pubman is introducing a taste of the USA by teaching his staff American service standards - with a trip to New York thrown in for a spot of training.  
Neil Morrison, who runs Macgochans in Tobermory, ran a year long competition between the bar's staff to decide who joined him on the trip.  
Staff members voted for Mikey MacDonald and Steven Higson to head Stateside with Neil and the trio will set off next Thursday, October 31.  
Neil said: 'I want to introduce the American style of service into the bar. I want to get

the staff used to how good it should be and in my opinion the service in New York is the best in the world.'  
Neil hopes to take his staff to one of Danny Meyer's dozen restaurants in the city during the four-night trip. Mr Meyer, the author of best selling book, *Setting the Table*, is one of the world's leading figures in the hospitality industry.  
The trio will also attend Webster Hall, one of the city's biggest and most legendary Halloween parties, which has taken place in Webster Hall, now NY's biggest nightclub, since 1886.

Neil added: 'I really want to show Mikey and Steven both sides of the New York service industry, letting them experience it as a customer.'  
'Staff are the most important key to the success of my business and motivation and training is essential to compete in the current market.'  
'The competition encouraged teamwork and has been a good incentive, but is also a good bonus for them at the end of the year.'



Right: Mikey MacDonald, Neil Morrison and Steven Higson prepare to jet off Stateside.

# Isle of Mull's community boat build now underway

A BOAT available for use by the entire community is being built on the Isle of Mull.  
The island is the latest to get involved in the St Ayles skiff boom, with the Western Isles Yacht Club (WIYC) leading the project.  
The group wants to promote coastal rowing on Mull alongside its sailing activities for all ages, from cadets to veterans.  
The 21-foot skiff, designed by Iain Oughtred of Skye, is a light, fast boat crewed by four rowers and a coxswain.  
One of the WIYC's committee members, John Addy, recently built a 16 foot sailing dinghy by the same designer and he will be building a skiff for the club this winter.  
Neil MacInnes, WIYC commodore, said: 'The boat will be built in John's workshop at Dervaig and other club members will also contribute their skills and time.'  
'All manpower, tools and workshop facilities will be given as voluntary contributions to the project. We are now launching an

appeal for funds to cover the costs of the materials. The suppliers of the kit recommend a budget of £3,500 for materials and this is the target for our first boat.'  
Cost  
WIYC is inviting people to share in the cost of materials. They are seeking 60 contributions at £60 each.  
Neil added: 'Of course we'd be delighted if members of our community, whether individuals or businesses wished to contribute more than one share of the materials cost.'  
'If this appeal is oversubscribed, any surplus will be put to a second boat and/or a trailer.'  
'We are also looking for people of all ages who would be interested in either rowing themselves or helping to organise rowing crews next season. So if you fancy having a go please contact any of the committee members.'  
The growth in popularity of skiffs has meant that there are now more than 50 of these vessels around Scotland.



The skiff build getting underway.

# Oban ladies keep up with busy trade at successful coffee morning and sale

A combined coffee morning and nearly new sale at Oban Congregational Church Hall drew plenty of visitors - and buyers - on Saturday, to raise money for church funds.  
So popular were the refreshments, that the volunteers were kept busy washing dishes all morning.



Pictured getting through the load are, from left, Lillian Wren, Eala Hume, Catherine Campbell, Lottie Wilson and Eleanor Sheppard. 16,143c0ff6e1

# Island musicians to feature in Tiree concert during Celtic Connections

TIREE'S own accordion legend, Gordon Connell, has inspired a special concert at next year's Celtic Connections festival, featuring the cream of the island's musical crop.  
Skipinnish, Gunna Sound, Skerryvore and Trail West will all play at Tiree: Outside the Box in an event inspired by the BBC Alba documentary of the same name.  
Gordon, who was honoured as music tutor of the year at the 2010 Scots Trad Music Awards, was a hugely influential figure in the development of all four Tiree-based bands.  
Each of the bands will perform individual sets before a massed, collaborative finale.  
Celtic Connections is held between January 16 - February 2 this year, with scores of musicians playing in 14 venues across Glasgow.  
For more information, see [celticconnections.com](http://celticconnections.com).

# Success for Oban karate teacher

OBAN karate teacher Robert Neil has shown his pupils the way after clinching a quartet of bronze medals in a frantic fighting fortnight.  
The 50-year-old instructor for Oban Kar@e Club clinched the first of his bronze double-doubles two weeks ago, finishing third in the over-18 individuals event and the over-18 team rotation event at the SKA Scottish Karate Championships in Dundee.  
He added to his tally at the weekend, with gongs at the over 18 team rotation event and as a member of the Scottish Karate Alliance at the European Karate Championships in Sheffield.  
The club meets every Tuesday at 6.30pm in Oban Scout Hall.

# Free entry results in museum's busiest year yet

WEST Highland Museum in Fort William has seen a big rise in visitor numbers since scrapping its entrance fee two years ago.  
It is on course to attract around 44,000 visitors this year, nearly double the number who crossed the door in 2010.  
Sales in the museum's gift shop are also up 25 per cent this year compared with 2012.  
Chris Robinson, chairman of the museum management committee, said the success was due in part to the hard work to staff and volunteers.

# 2013 Oban Winter Festival programme released

FULL details of the 2013 Oban Winter Festival are now available.  
This year's event promises to be bigger and better than ever with 10 days packed full of events including a food and drink market, reindeer parade and fire art. Keep an eye out for the festival programme in The Oban Times.  
The full programme for the festival, which runs from November 22 until December 1, can also be found at [obanwinterfestival.com/events](http://obanwinterfestival.com/events).

# Singer-songwriter Allan Taylor comes to Benderloch

BENDERLOCH'S Victory Hall will welcome celebrated singer-songwriter Allan Taylor next month.  
One of the most covered artists to play in Benderloch, his music has been covered all over the world - with one song in particular, It's Good to See You having been a hit in many different countries. There are currently 80 different cover versions of this song available.  
Taylor's songs are written from a lifetime of travelling - always the observer passing through. He describes each song as a vignette of life, like a story told over a drink in a bar.  
Allan Taylor plays the Victory Hall on Saturday, November 16. For more information, contact Campbell or Joy Cameron on 01631 720247.

# Tim Kliphuis Trio prepare to delight at concert in Oban



The Tim Kliphuis Trio. Picture by A Surridge.

A GROUP founded seven years ago after they met in a Russian cultural café will be performing in Oban at the start of November.

The Tim Kliphuis Trio, which performs both classical and folk music, will be taking centre stage at St John's Cathedral as Oban Music Society's (OMS) winter

season continues in style. Graham Moore, OMS secretary, said: 'Tim, Nigel and Roy play a boundary-crossing mix of various musical genres.'

'Tim's classical roots are reflected in the choice of repertoire well-known to the classical world. His love for French gypsy jazz maestro Stéphane Grappelli ensures a

heavy dose of swing improvisation. 'Nigel brings his background in Celtic folk, but also contemporary guitar techniques into the mix and Roy's sound recalls the various rhythms that define New Orleans street music.'

'In deciding what pieces to play, the trio are led by music that they come across dur-

ing their travels, and repertoire suggested by their fans or during collaborations with other musicians and ensembles.'

The Tim Kliphuis Trio will be performing on Sunday, November 3 at 3pm. Graham promises it will be an 'afternoon to excite and appeal to classic, jazz, Celtic and folk fans'.

## Walkers reminded to prepare for unpredictable winter weather

CLIMBERS and walkers are being urged to 'winterise' their backpacks and prepare for the chilly, winter weather.

The Mountaineering Council of Scotland has reminded walkers that with the clocks going back this weekend, already shorter days will seem to pass by even quicker - something that requires more preparation from those keen to take to the wilds of Argyll.

Mountain safety expert

Heather Morning said: 'A head torch is a crucial bit of kit for these shorter days. It can make the difference between getting home safely and spending the night out on the mountainside, lost or injured. A spare battery is crucial, just in case your route takes a wee bit longer than expected.'

'It is also worth considering putting away those lightweight, bendy summer boots and changing into a more rigid pair.'

'Consider wearing extra layers of clothing too, with a synthetic duvet jacket and emergency shelter stored in the bottom of your rucksack just in case you are stationary on the hill for any length of time. 'Our autumn and winter weather is notoriously unpredictable and you won't always wear this extra kit, but it should be there in your rucksack so that it's available when you really do need it.'

## Killin Rocks music festival donates £4,000 to charities

KILLIN Rocks music festival has handed a cheque of £2,000 to the Maggie's Centre on behalf of the late Tam Weir, who organised the event.

It is only half of the money that will be presented from the £4,000 raised by this year's event, with

another £2,000 going towards the Friends of the Beaton Centre at Glasgow's Gartnavel Hospital.

This year's mini-music festival, held on August 31, attracted over 200 fans to watch 22 musical acts.



Handing over the cheque is Tam's son, Tommy Weir, and mother Jeanette, right, handing the cheque over to Marion Taylor of the Maggie's Centre.

## Special guest to attend charity auction

A CHARITY auction on Saturday, preceded by a talk from the first British man to conquer Everest, Doug Scott MBE, will welcome a special guest auctioneer.

Donald Morrison of United Auction has agreed to oversee the sale at the

end of the event, which will raise funds for the Connel-based Roses Charitable Trust.

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

## Scottish folklore recordings to be made available online

A SKYE-based project to digitize, catalogue and make available online thousands of hours of folklore and folklife recordings made in Scotland over the past century is launching an online fundraising campaign to support its work.

Tobar an Dualchais/Kist o' Riches at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO), the Gaelic college in Sleat, is digitising some of the country's most important audio archives for public listening online.

The collection is an important documentary source of information on the enormous social and economic changes that occurred in 20th century Scotland.

Ordinary people across the country are recorded, both in Gaelic and Scots, describing the last days of centuries-old working practices and the corresponding effects on their communities.

The project's website contains many thousands of tracks, but several thousand more hours of recordings from the School of Scottish Studies Archives and John Lorne Campbell's Canna Collection are still waiting to be catalogued and added to the site.

To help it achieve this goal, Tobar an Dualchais is inviting members of the public to donate to a new crowdfunding campaign.

The online fundraiser, hosted by Sponseume, is at sponseume.com/project/tobardualchais and runs until December 15.

Donors can choose from a range of rewards, including limited song releases from our recent Gaelic and Scots artists in residence at SMO, traditional musicians Julie Fowles and Chris Wright, short-courses at the college and a year's membership of the National Trust for Scotland.

## 30th anniversary of 'Local Hero' film marked by public showing

THE 30TH anniversary of the release of one of Scotland's most successful films will be marked with a public showing near two Lochaber beaches where much of it was filmed.

'Local Hero' director Bill Forsyth and producer Iain Smith will introduce the showing of the movie in the Screen Machine at Mallaig on Saturday November 2.

The famous silver sands of Morar Beach and Camusdarach Beach were

used as a prominent location for the 1983 film, which told the story of the canny residents of the fictional fishing village Ferness and their dealings with an American oil tycoon.

It starred Hollywood legend Burt Lancaster, Dennis Lawson, Alex Norton and the new Doctor Who, Peter Capaldi.

The screening is part of the Creative Scotland-funded Natural Scotland on Screen project.

## Swing Jazz Festival begins on Skye next week

SLEAT will enjoy a trip back to the 1930s, '40s and '50s when it plays host to a new four-day music festival at the end of the month.

The Swing Jazz Festival, being organised by Skye Events for All and Sleat-based FOTS Records, starts on Thursday October 31 and runs to Sunday November 3.

The Sage Gateshead's 'Jambone Youth Ensemble' and Corrie Dick, winner of Young Scottish Jazz Mus-

ician of the Year will be among the performers during the festival.

And one of the highlights will be the 1940's Big Band Night, when a 16-piece band perform the music of Artie Shaw, Glenn Miller and others.

Dance classes in conjunction with SKYEDANCE are also being held in the run up to the festival, with around 50 people of all ages taking part each week.

<b>Turbo</b>	Thursday 24th	12.00 (3D)
	Friday 25th	15.30 (2D)
	Saturday 26th	12.00 (3D), 14.30 (2D)
	Sunday 27th	13.00 (3D)
<b>White House Down</b>	Thursday 24th	14.30
<b>Prisoners</b>	Thursday 24th	21.00
<b>Quartet</b>	Thursday 24th	17.30
<b>Rush</b>	Friday 25th	18.00
	Saturday 26th	20.00
	Sunday 27th	18.30
	Monday 28th	18.00
	Tuesday 29th	21.00
	Wednesday 30th	18.00
	Thursday 31st	13.00
<b>Fifth Estate</b>	Friday 25th	21.00
	Saturday 26th	17.00
	Sunday 27th	15.30
	Monday 28th	21.00
	Tuesday 29th	18.00
	Wednesday 30th	21.00
	Thursday 31st	16.00
<b>The Conjuring</b>	Thursday 31st	19.00
<b>Insidious: Chapter 2</b>	Thursday 31st	21.30
<b>Hotel Transylvania</b>	Thursday 31st	18.00
<b>Casper</b>	Saturday 2nd	13.00
<b>Frankenweenie</b>	Sunday 3rd	14.00

**Turbo 3D & 2D (U)**  
From the makers of Madagascar and Kung Fu Panda, Turbo is a high-velocity 3D comedy about a snail who dares to dream big - and fast. After a freak accident infuses him with the power of super-speed, Turbo kicks into overdrive and embarks on an extraordinary journey to achieve the seemingly impossible: competing in the world's fastest race, the Indianapolis 500. With the help of his tricked-out streetwise small crew, this ultimate underdog puts his heart and soul on the line to prove that no dream is too big, and no dreamer too small.

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

**Prisoners (15)**  
How far would you go to protect your family? Keller Dover is facing every parent's worst nightmare. His six-year-old daughter, Anna, is missing, together with her young friend, Joy, and as minutes turn to hours, panic sets in. The only lead is a dilapidated RV that had earlier been parked on their street. Heading the investigation, Detective Loki arrests its driver, Alex Jones, but a lack of evidence forces his release. As the police pursue multiple leads and pressure mounts, knowing his child's life is at stake the frantic Dover decides he has no choice but to take matters into his own hands. But just how far will this desperate father go to protect his family?

**Part of Scottish Mental Health Month**

**Quartet (12A)**  
At a home for retired musicians, the annual concert to celebrate Verdi's birthday is disrupted by the arrival of Jean, an eternal diva and the former wife of one of the residents. The directorial debut of Dustin Hoffman, QUARTET is a

high-drama comedy about temperamental divas and old grudges, passion and pride, romance and Rigoletto, starring Maggie Smith, Tom Courtenay, Billy Connolly and Pauline Collins as four retired opera singers.

**Rush (15)**  
Set against the sexy, glamorous golden age of Formula 1 racing in the 1970s, the film is based on the true story of a great sporting rivalry between handsome English playboy James Hunt (Hemsworth), and his methodical, brilliant opponent, Austrian driver Niki Lauda (Brühl). The story follows their distinctly different personal styles on and off the track, their loves and the astonishing 1976 season in which both drivers were willing to risk everything to become world champion in a sport with no margin for error: if you make a mistake, you die.

**Fifth Estate (12A)**  
A dramatic thriller based on real events, THE FIFTH ESTATE reveals the quest to expose the deceptions and corruptions of power that turned an Internet upstart into the 21st century's most fiercely debated organization. Starring Benedict Cumberbatch as WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, The Fifth Estate shows what happened when Assange and Berg gain access to the biggest trove of confidential intelligence documents in U.S. history, they battle each other and a defining question of our time: what are the costs of keeping secrets in a free society - and what are the costs of exposing them?

**The Conjuring (15)**  
In 1971, Carolyn and Roger Perron move their family into a dilapidated Rhode Island farm house and soon strange things start happening around it with escalating nightmarish terror. In desperation, Carolyn contacts the noted paranormal investigators, Ed and Lorraine Warren, to examine the house. What the Warrens discover is a whole area steeped in a satanic haunting that is now targeting the Perron family wherever they go. To stop this evil, the Warrens will have to call upon all their skills and spiritual strength to defeat this spectral menace at its source that threatens to destroy everyone involved.

**Insidious: Chapter 2 (15)**  
The famed horror team of director James Wan (Saw and The Conjuring) and writer Leigh Whannell (Saw), creators of the original Insidious are back with Insidious Chapter 2, a terrifying sequel to the acclaimed horror film. With Josh (Patrick Wilson) and Renai (Rose Byrne) coming to terms with the death of parapsychologist Elise (Lin Shaye), the Lambert family move into grandmother Lorraine's home (Barbara Hershey) while the police investigate the bizarre incident. However with Josh's increasingly odd behavior following his return from the Further, Renai and Lorraine are forced to seek help from Elise's paranormal investigators to protect their family and uncover the truth to why this dangerous spirit world still haunts them, they soon learn the shocking reality...Josh didn't come back alone.

**Halloween Showings for kids in Cinema 2! Cinema 2 will be open for showing 3 Halloween films for kids. Come and try out our new beam-bogel Cinema 2 has a capacity of 20. So get your tickets before they're all gone!**

**Hotel Transylvania (U)**  
Sony Pictures 87mins  
Dracula, who operates a high-end resort away from the human world, goes into overprotective mode when a boy discovers the resort and falls for the count's teen-aged daughter. An excellent choice for the kids this Halloween! Showing in our newly refurbished Screen 2!

**Casper (PG)**  
A paranormal expert and his daughter bunk in an abandoned house populated by 3 mischievous ghosts and one friendly one. Come and enjoy this classic comedy with Bill Pullman and Christina Ricci!

**Frankenweenie (PG)**  
From creative genius Tim Burton (Alice in Wonderland, The Nightmare Before Christmas) comes Frankenweenie, a heartwarming tale about a boy and his dog. After unexpectedly losing his beloved dog Sparky, young Victor harnesses the power of science to bring his best friend back to life - with just a few minor adjustments. He tries to hide his home-own creation, but when Sparky gets out, Victor's fellow students, teachers and the entire town all learn that getting a new leash on life can be monstrous.

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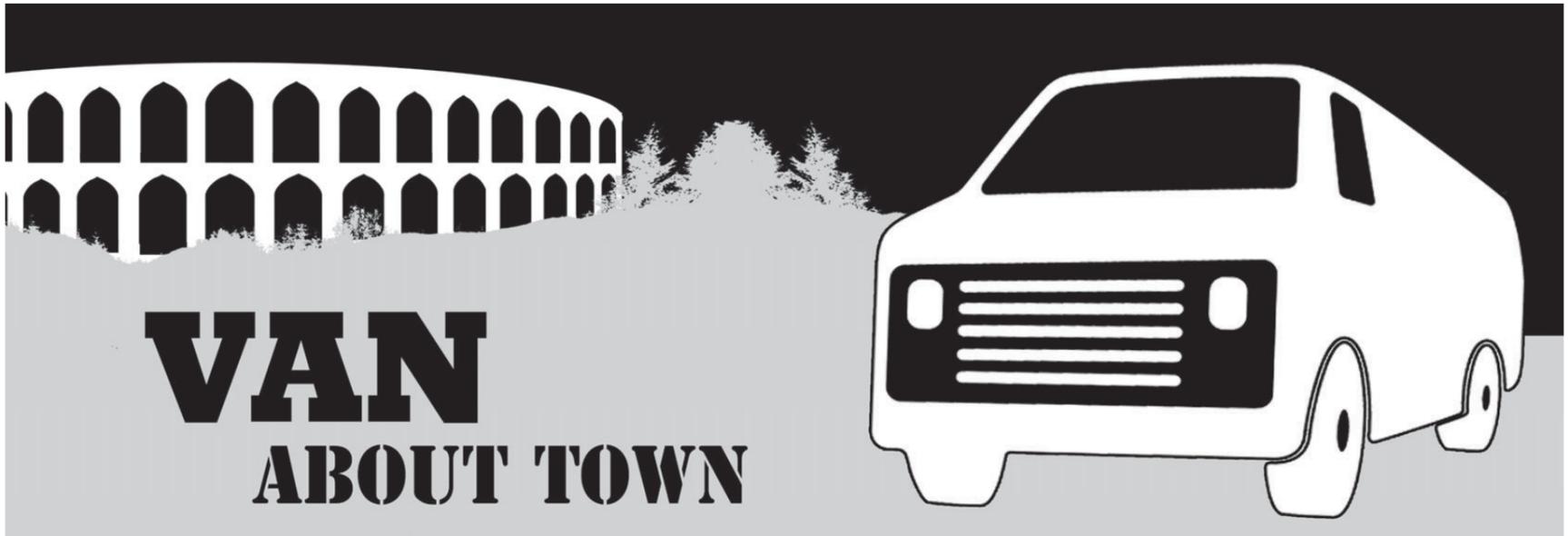
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# Bentley's new Flying Spur leaves big impression

£140,000 price tag a sizeable hint no corners cut on engineering or aesthetics

NOBODY does big quite like Bentley – and big is certainly a word that springs to mind when you first set eyes on the new Flying Spur.

At just over 17 feet long and more than six feet wide, this is a car that has no intention of hiding. Quite the opposite in fact; this is one vehicle you'll want to make sure is seen – with its £140,000 price tag a sizeable hint there are no corners cut in either the engineering or the aesthetics by Bentley.

The sharp-eyed among you will have already noted that the Spur, which sits between the sportier Continental GT and the top of the line Mulsanne, has had a much-needed redesign. It's just as well, as the old Spur Continental

By STEVEN FLANAGAN  
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

looked a little too much like a Rover 75 for my liking. Gone are the overly-showy grille-heavy nose and chubby profile, with Bentley returning to what it does best – powerful, defining lines with a front-end that catches the eye instead of the back of your throat. Even the swapping of the headlights so the larger of the two on each wing sits on the outside is an indication from Bentley that it is finally more confident in living in its own skin again. This is gravitas without a hint of brash.

The interior is as you'd expect with Bentley. Big, again, with more leather and wood than

you would find in a Norwegian forest, all placed together by hand and polished with utmost care. Opulence is given as much priority as comfort. Make no mistake, this is a car that's designed to be sat in as a passenger as much as – if not even more so – than it is to drive.

It's no surprise then that the rear-seat passengers are given a smartphone style controller to not only monitor the driver's speed, but to play with the ridiculously rich sounding audio system. You can access the internet from the handset thanks to the car's built in WiFi – while optional LCD screens can be used to watch films, browse the internet or Skype your business

clients from across the world. Even the voice control for the onboard sat-nav and mobile phone connection works from the rear.

From a practical viewpoint there's so much space in this car an estate agent would have a field day; two grown adults could easily sleep in the boot, for example. Not that I'm suggesting you do – or start smuggling people – but you won't have too many problems carrying luggage in the Spur, which is as true a grand-tourer as they come.

So, before the car even sets off it massages your senses and takes you on a journey all of its own. It's a relief, then, that the Spur has had just as much attention paid on it by the engineers as it has the designers.

Take a glance at the specs and that word 'big' springs up again. Two and a half tonnes of car, with a 6.0 litre, W12 quad-turbo engine that generates 616bhp and a quoted top speed of 200mph. It could make your head spin – especially when you discover it reaches 60mph from dead in just 4.3 seconds.

Frankly, Dr Who would struggle to get something so heavy moving so fast without the use of a jet engine. As expected, nothing quite as jolting is used here.

Fire up the engine and you'll find the massive engine purrs away unobtrusively – merely hinting at the wild animal it contains beneath. Such is the grace of the eight-speed auto-gearbox that you can glide away from a stop without too much drama. There are flappy paddles should you want to select your own gears but I don't find them entirely intuitively positioned – a problem that carries over



A redesigned nose gives the Spur a much more confident and assured look. 16\_142fspur2



Hand stitched, Scandinavian leather is used for the interior because the colder climate ensures fewer bugs to attack livestock - with Bentley only using the hide from bulls to ensure the smoothest possible consistency. 16\_142fspur3

from the new GT – meaning you mostly ignore them. Taking it from Parks of Hamilton's showrooms in Hamilton down to the M8 and on to Eurocentral was a breeze, with the car giving no hint whatsoever that you're handling something quite so well, big. An extra squeeze of the accelerator delivers power in carefully measured spades – with the excellent gearbox responsive enough not to leave you frustrated if encountering one of Argyll's rare overtaking opportunities. Even negotiating tight corners and roundabouts was plain sailing – with the

turning circle broad enough to get you round all but the tightest of turns. The knobs, dials and controls are all where you'd want them – even if the air-con looks a little button-heavy – while the touch-screen sat-nav and computer is a cinch to operate.

Taking the car off the public roads was a chance to test Bentley's quoted figures further. Slipping the car into sport mode toughens the suspension and delivers an extra kick of power. As promised, 60mph passes in a flash, and you quickly discover the brakes in the Spur are as impressive as the engine. It's enough to deliver an oomph of adrenaline, but you wouldn't want to take it out on the track.

There is a weakness in the Spur though. In an era when everyone else is looking at economy and efficiency, the Spur somewhat flies in the face of this. A combined mpg of 19 isn't going to get those who watch their carbon-footprint interested – a 90 litre fill will carry you just under 400 miles – nor is the 343g/km

of CO2 emissions. However, such figures won't deter when the top-consideration is style, comfort and, most strikingly, driving performance.

It's almost a travesty that most of the people who will buy the Spur will do so to be driven around. Yes, it is very nice to sit in the back and be chauffeured from A to B, especially when you could comfortably sprawl out and, I don't know, play the stock market or buy a new helicopter from the back seat. But why would you want to when the driving experience is so good?

At £140,000 for the basic model, the Spur isn't cheap, but make no mistake, it will take another chunk out of Rolls Royce's Ghost and could well persuade a few Mercedes or Maserati owners to switch over to the unashamedly British Bentley.

What is beyond question is this is a car that leaves a big impression – regardless of whether you're the driver, the passenger or the passer by.



Steven Flanagan put the new Bentley Flying Spur through its paces, courtesy of Parks of Hamilton. 16\_142fspur1



James Gunn and Mairead Stiubhart - Harding. 15\_143twenty02

## Gold medallist follows in father's footsteps

HISTORY was in the making when James Gunn picked up the 1993 Men's Gold Medal. For his father, George, clinched the same honour at last year's Mod in Oban.

James, 18, of Kilmuir Road, Inverness, is presently studying travel and tourism at Inverness College. He hopes to find a job which incorporates both travel and Gaelic.



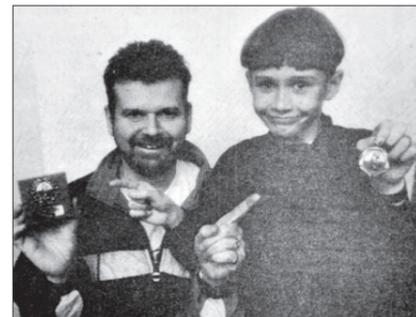
Ballachulish Camanachd is 100 years old next week and to celebrate the event, a centenary buffet dance is being held in the grand marquee at the Glencoe Hotel on Friday November 12. Guest speaker is Mr G Y Slater and music will be provided by Sound Affair. 15\_143twenty05

## Ballachulish Shinty Club celebrates 100 years with dance



## New strips for Saints

Oban Saints Football Club wearing their new strip donated by sponsors Keyline Builders Merchants. As well as a substantial cheque, new training tops, substitutes jackets and club bags were handed over by Keyline's Oban branch manager Angus MacEachen. From left, David Dunlop, Stewart Duncan, David MacLeod, Iain Jackson (player/manager), Andrew Wilson, Finlay O'Rourke, Alan MacLellan, Colin Campbell, David Buchanan (secretary/treasurer). Front Row from left, Frank Beaton, David Campbell, Keith MacCallum (captain), Donald MacLennan and Marek Madej. 15\_143twenty04



## Father and son double

THERE may be 30 years between them but it didn't stop Kenny Fisher and his son Bobby scoring a double triumph in the same sport this autumn.

Kenny, 41, received a cup winners' medal when his team, the Dynamos, won the Lochaber Welfare Football League Championship at the end of the

season. Not to be outdone, son Bobby, nine, matched dad when his team, Upper Achintore Primary, won the Lochaber Primary Schools B Division Championship.

**Youngest**  
It was his first season with a side in which he is the youngest player. 15\_143twenty06



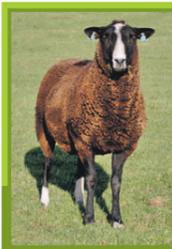
## Fund-raising cycle for orphanage work

A 21-year-old Fort William waitress is doing a sponsored cycle to raise cash for a three-month trip to Romania. Debbie Dunlop, of Castle Drive, Lochside, is planning to volunteer at the Nightingales Orphanage, Cernavoda. Debbie is pictured with some friends after a training stint. 15\_143twenty07

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## Public urged to take care with garden clippings

NFU SCOTLAND is urging the general public to take care with their garden clippings this autumn after the accidental poisoning of cattle on an Ayrshire farm.  
Yew clippings disposed of into a field were consumed by a group of heifers, resulting in the death of four of the animals and severe illness in others.  
The Union is reminding the public that clippings from shrubs and hedges - including yew, rhododendrons, aconite, boxwood, lupins, laurel, laburnum - can be poisonous if consumed by livestock.  
Members of the general public are being asked to never throw any clippings over the hedge onto farmland and to make use of the recycling routes provided by local authorities.  
NFU Scotland spokesman Bob Carruth said: 'This unfortunate

accident serves as a sharp reminder that many of our common and garden shrubs, bushes and hedges are highly dangerous to livestock if not disposed of properly.  
'Clippings from these shrubs should never be thrown over the hedge into fields where cattle and sheep graze.  
'In some of these plants, the toxic substances are most active when the clippings begin to wither. Animals are more prone to consuming them when they are in this condition and that can have deadly consequences.  
'If in any doubt, it is a safe rule to regard all garden trimmings as unsafe for farm animals.  
'To avoid livestock suffering in this manner again, we would urge all members of the public to dispose of clippings and trimmings safely this autumn, using their recycling bins or local disposal sites.'



People have been warned to be careful when disposing of garden waste after the accidental poisoning of cattle in Ayrshire.

## Crofters get say on grazing rule change proposals

CROFTERS across the Highlands are to be consulted on possible changes to grazing regulations.  
The role of common grazings is central to the contribution crofting can make to the sustainable development of communities throughout the Highlands and Islands. Crofting provides a unique way to use these assets through registered Grazing Committees and, last week, the Crofting Commission launched two consultation exercises aimed at getting the views of committees and other interest groups.  
The consultations will run until November 22 and cover common grazing regulations and the grazing committee duty report. The aim of the consultation on Grazing Regulations is to ask for comments on a new template or model set of regulations, which have been drawn together to provide grazing committees with a framework for the effective regulation of grazings.  
As Susan Walker, convener of the Crofting Commission explains: 'The grazing regulations have not been updated for decades. We receive many calls from concerned grazing clerks, committee members, shareholders in the grazing and members of the public that, one way or another, relate back to the regulation of common grazings. We decided as a commission we need to assist committees by producing an up to date template which groups can adopt or adapt, to give clearer guidance for committees and shareholders about how common grazings are regulated.'  
Grazing Committees, crofting Assessors and other interest groups have until November 22 to submit a response to the consultations. Notices providing details of the consultations have been sent to all registered grazing committees. Any representatives of unregistered grazings who would also like to submit a response should contact the Crofting Commission on cc2013@crofting.scotland.gov.uk or by phoning 01463 663 439.

## Market reports

### Dingwall and Highland Marts: Fort William

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 2,187 store sheep of all classes at its Fort William sale on Monday.  
Lambs averaged £34.85 per head and sold to £72 gross for Suffolk crosses from Arisaig Farms, Arisaig.  
Ewes sold to £46.00 gross for Mules from Glendoe Estate, Fort Augustus.  
Feeding sheep sold to £90 gross for a Lleyn ram from Torlundy, Fort William.  
Other leading prices per head:  
Store lambs: Chev - Tom an Uisge, Faichemard, £60.50; Cross - Fersit, Roy Bridge, £59.50; SuffX - Arisaig Farms, £58; Tex - Armadale, Sleat, Isle of Skye, £56; TexX - Kinlochouran, Invergarry, £54.50; BeltX - Kilmonivaig, Spean Bridge, £53; BF - Insh Farm, Spean Bridge, £50; Lleyn - Steal, Camaghael, £49. Ewes: BF - Ockle, Achateny, £44; Chev - Ockle, £44; Mule - Glendoe Estate, £42; Lleyn - Glenquoich, Invergarry, £41. Feeding sheep: Lleyn ram - Torlundy, £48; BF wdr - Croft of Clune, Newtonmore, £46; Chev wdr - Ardnarmurchan Estate, Kilchoan, £46; Tex ram - Armadale, £44.

### Dingwall and Highland Marts: Lochmaddy

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 321 weaned calves and store cattle, nine breeding cattle and 10 OTM cattle at their annual Lochmaddy show and sale, where all classes met a very satisfactory demand in line with all other sales.

Prior to the sale the judge Mr G McConachie, Berrybrae Farm, Insh, awarded the following results:  
Overall Champion and first prize bullock: L Macinnes, Hastain, 400kg, £1,200  
Reserve Champion & second prize bullock:  
R Maclean, 22 Balemore, 360kg, £1,120  
Weaned bullocks averaged 248p (+37p on year) and sold to 311.1p per kg for the reserve champion from Bayhead, and £1,200 gross for a pen of 450kg Charollais crosses from Clachan Farm, a 435kg Limousin cross from 38 Linique, Eochair and the Champion from Hastain.  
Weaned heifers averaged 223.6p (+31.7p on year) and sold to 313p per kg for a 230kg Limousin cross from 7 Borve, Berneray, and £980 gross for the 1st prize heifer a 415kg from No. 1 Clachan Farm.  
Store bullocks averaged 218.8p and sold to 276.2p per kg and £1,160 gross for a 420kg Limousin cross from 3 Hosta, Tigharry.  
Store heifers averaged 211.8p and sold to 280.5p per kg for a 385kg Limousin from 3 Hosta, and £1,180 gross for a 465kg Limousin cross from 13 Aird, Benbecula.  
Breeding cattle sold to £1,450 for a Hereford cross in calf cow from 1& 2 Gramsdale, Benbecula. OTM cattle sold to £940 gross for 780kg Limousin cross from 25 Balemore, Bayhead. Other leading prices per head and per kilo: Weaned bullocks: 201-250kg - 1 Ahmore, Lochmaddy, £660, 264p; 251-300kg - 2 Hosta, £880, 293.3p; 301-350kg - 2 Hosta, £1,000, 298.5p; 351-400kg - 22 & 10 Balemore, Bayhead, £1,120, Hastain, 300p; 401-450kg - 38 Linique, £1,100, 275.9p. Weaned heifers: 201-250kg - 7 Borve, Berneray, £720, 5 Baleshare,

Lochmaddy, 250p; 251-300kg - 2 Hosta, £720, Crois Moirag, Lochmaddy, 247.1p; 301-350kg - 8 Clachan Sands, Lochmaddy, £900, 260.9p; 351-400kg - 5 Knockintorran, Bayhead, £940, 241p; 401-450kg - No. 1 Clachan Farm, 236.1p.

### Caledonian Marts: Oban

CALEDONIAN Marts had forward 3,746 store lambs and feeding ewes at its Oban sale on October 8, where short keep lambs sharper by £7 to £8 with long keep lambs sharper by £3 to £4.  
Store Lambs to £68 for Suffolk x from H McDonald, Callart.  
Feeding Ewes to £65 for Texel from R Horne, Keepers Park.  
Leading prices:  
Lambs: Suff averaged £58.06 (+£12 on previous sale) - £63.50 Callart; £61.50 Dalvore, Upper Largie & Kilbride, £59 Achna-Bheinn & Frackersaig:  
Tex averaged £57.24 (£13 on previous sale) - £65 Slaterich; £64 Callart; £59 Tinfuir; £57 Loch-Na-Meal; £56 Homestead; £54 Glenaros; BF averaged £33.90 (+£2.62 on previous sale) - £46 South Achindue; £45 Fiart; £44 Slaterich; £43 Birchfield; £42.50 19 East Hynish; £42 Gorsteneorn:  
Cross averaged £53.69 (+6 on previous sale) - £59 Poltalloch and Baligarve; £58 Drumrover; £56 Kilbride; £54 19 East Hynish; Ewes: Tex - £56 Frackersaig; Mule - £56 Drumrover; Cross - £52.50 Baligarve; Chev - £52 Slaterich; Suff - £50 Scoor; BF - £49.50 Balure:  
Ewe Lambs: Mule - £71 Dalrannoch;

### Caledonian Marts: Stirling

CALEDONIAN Marts had on offer 2,571 Prime Lambs and 886 Cast Ewes and Rams at its Stirling sale last week.  
Prime Lambs sold to 218p and £96 for 44kg Beltex's from J B Guthrie, Cuitburn to average 171.73 (+4.42p on the week).  
Light Ewes averaged £41.67 and sold to a top of £55 for Chev Ewes from Mr Mitchell, Victoria. Heavy Ewes averaged £60.92 and sold to a top of £91 for Texels from Mr Duncan, Drumheldric.  
Tups sold to a top of £93 for Texels from Mr G Crichton, Duncricvie Farm.  
Leading Prices: Lambs: Bel - 216p & £95 Lochend; Belt - 214p & £94 Strageath; Cont - 210p Cowgrove, £90.50 Easter Ochtermuthill; Tex x - 200p Mains of Burnbank, £95 Craighead & Ledlation; Tex - 208p Hillcroft, £94 Duncricvie Farm; Suff x - 196p & £90 Oldwalls; Suff - 195p Greenhills Farm, £88.50 Allanfauld; Mule - 162p & £73.50 Scart Farm; Cross - 159p West Kirkton, £71 Bankhead Farm; BF - 163p East Moorhouse, £73.50 Burnhead Farm; Ewes: Tex - £89 Victoria; Tex x - £86.50 Ardacheranmore; Cont - £86 Millhill; Cross - £85 Drumheldric; BTex - £84 Easter Ochtermuthill; Chev - £77 Victoria; Mule - £65 Eastoun; BF - £46 Mid Linthills; BF - £40 MeikleSeggie; Tups: Tex - £73 Chalmerston; Cont - £64 Pytree; BF - £39 Inverdunning.

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# Business

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## Project hosts Gaelic focus group in Oban

THE COMPANY behind a research project to determine the economic and social value of Gaelic as an asset is to host a focus group discussion in Oban next week.

DC Research Associates are organising the meeting at the Corran Halls on Thursday, October 31, and have invited people from various industries to discuss the value of the Gaelic language, its social impact and economic potential as well as the opportunities and challenges facing it.

The research is being carried out on behalf of Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Scottish Natural Heritage, Creative Scotland, Highland Council, Argyll and Bute Council, and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

## Increase in Gross Domestic Product

GROSS Domestic Product (GDP) in Scotland grew by just over half a per cent for the second quarter of the year.

Scotland's chief statistician, reported GDP for the period between April to June increased 0.6 per cent, which was also a 1.8 per cent leap on the same period last year.

The services sector, which accounts for nearly three quarters of the economy, grew by a third of a per cent during the latest period. The production sector grew by one per cent, and construction grew by 2.1 per cent.

## Connell man new systems director of leading software company

A CONNELL man has been appointed as systems director at a leading specialised software firm to help further its expansion plans.

BusinessPort has taken on Alan McInnes as health and safety systems director at its Aberdeen headquarters to help clients fully implement all the health, safety and environmental features of the firm's task management software.

Mr McInnes, who is originally from Kilsyth, near Glasgow and also grew up in Connell, near Oban, has more than 25 years of experience of health and safety business management systems.

He previously worked at several firms in the north-east including Viking Supply Ships Ltd, AdviSafe UK Ltd as UK managing director, QHSE Advisors Ltd, LR Integrity Limited, Wood Group Fire and Safety Ltd and Langstane Press Ltd.

Speaking after his appointment, he said: 'I'm very much looking forward to getting stuck in to my new job by helping clients get the most out of their AgilityBMS software.'

'I've worked with some great companies in Aberdeen over the years and knew that BusinessPort was a fantastic company with a great product so I am delighted to be working here.'



Connell's Alan McInnes has been appointed a systems director at Aberdeen-based BusinessPort.

## Business Gateway launches Scotland's first free advice app

ENTREPRENEURS across Oban can now download Scotland's first free business advice app.

Business Gateway's MyBusiness app will provide a new, mobile route to its comprehensive sources of information and advice for all existing business owners, those starting a new enterprise and people considering setting up a new business.

The free app has three principal sections.

The MyBusiness Idea section will assist those exploring the idea of setting up a new business while Starting MyBusiness has been designed to assist those at the early stages of running their new company. Existing businesses will benefit from the Growing MyBusiness guides which provide advice tailored to the requirements of those growing or looking to grow their business.

Each section provides users of the MyBusiness app with a wide range of free business support guides and video tutorials, with an events finder that shows a range of free workshops in Oban which they can then book on to, all from their iPhone and iPad devices. An Android app will be launched in autumn.

It will also provide checklists through its reminder and personal planner system helping busy business people prioritise and complete tasks that can sometimes be overlooked or

forgotten. To keep the process as simple as possible users can choose one of the existing job lists on the app or create their own based on the advice within each guide.

Hugh Lightbody, chief officer at the Business Gateway National Unit, said: 'We know that business is done on the move more than ever now, so quick and easy access to important information and advice, literally at the touch of a button, is highly desired and valued by those

running businesses as well as those thinking about it for the first time.'

The app allows important information and guides to be downloaded onto a user's iPhone, minimising the need for WiFi access or any form of mobile network. Business users can also ask a question, which will be answered by the Business Gateway enquiry team. They can request a free call back via the app and an advisor will call at their chosen time and date.

## Green energy company takes on two new apprentices

A LOCHABER-based green energy company has employed two local apprentices to help service a four-year £1.2 million per year contract with the Highland Council.

Torlundy-based HWEnergy Fort William have taken on 19 year-olds Donald Livingstone and Wallace Hastings, both from Fort William, as the go-ahead biomass firm continues to expand.

Donald is studying for a Service and Maintenance SVQ at North Glasgow College and Wallace for an electrical apprenticeship at Inverness College UHI.

The duo recently demonstrated biomass boilers to council leader Drew Hendry and University of the Highlands and Islands principal James Fraser at Inverness.

The teenagers' jobs were created thanks to the council's decision to switch to renewable heating.

Some 61 sites across the Highlands, including schools, leisure centres and care homes, will now be provided with a cleaner, greener energy source long into the future.

It is estimated the contract will mean 40 per cent less spent on

heating fuels, saving around £900,000 and 7,500 tonnes of carbon per annum.

Highland Council leader Drew Hendry said it was 'a real bonus' the council was saving money and cutting carbon emissions - and that another two apprentices had been employed as a result of the contract.

He said: 'Biomass heat allows us to generate significant cost savings against oil which we can use to support other services in the area. It also creates huge carbon savings which helps the environment and indirectly through local fuel supply it helps stimulate jobs and the local economy. It's a win win situation all round.'

Bruno Berardelli, managing director of HWEnergy said: 'We are committed to helping young people learn a trade and Donald and Wallace are very welcome new additions to the company as we see more and more organisations realise the real benefits of renewable energy.'

HWEnergy now has an in-house team of more than 50 who install, maintain and service biomass boilers as well as supply wood chips and pellets.



Council leader Drew Hendry, left, and UHI Principal James Fraser, right, with apprentices Donald Livingstone and Wallace Hastings.

## Isle of Arran Brewery seals deal to expand into St Fillans site

LOCH EARN is to be home to a new hotel brewery and visitor centre as the Isle of Arran Brewery announced ambitious expansion plans.

A finance deal with the Bank of Scotland means the new facility at St Fillans, the value of which has not been disclosed, will open next year.

The deal will see Isle of Arran Brewery rejuvenate the entire site to create a major new visitor destination for the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park.

As well as launching a brewery, which will produce a variety of new Loch Earn specialist ales, the site will include a newly refurbished hotel offering 30 guest rooms, three new restaurants, two bars, a visitor centre and a gift shop.

The brewery's latest plans to develop a new venture at

St Fillans on the shores of Loch Earn, will allow them to expand their brewing portfolio with a range of new premium ales, as well as attract and cater for visitors to the popular Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park.

The development will create at least 20 new jobs and a new high quality attraction that expects to welcome around 30,000 visitors in its first year of trading.

Gerald Michaluk, managing director of Isle of Arran Brewery believes securing the new premises marked an exciting time for the company, which is eager to get the development underway.

He said: 'The St Fillans site offers the brewery the chance to diversify and expand, producing a range of fresh and exciting brews in a new region of Scotland. The new premises



Paul Knight, second from left, launching the £1.3million Coastal Knight offshore renewables support vessel. The boat will operate under Knight's Offshore Support, a subsidiary of PDK Shellfish.

## Oban firm sets sail in new direction

### PDK moves into offshore windfarm servicing

AN OBAN shellfish company is embarking on a £1.3million expansion - into windfarm servicing.

Paul Knight owns PDK Shellfish which operates from Gallanach Road, but decided in the spring to order the 18.5metre Coastal Knight as part of a diversification plan to take advantage of an impending boom in offshore renewables.

The modular CTruck 20T MPC boat can be used to service wind and wave turbines - or even be used as a general cargo ship due to its adaptability.

Now operational under the subsidiary Knight's Offshore Support Ltd, Paul will also take on eight extra staff to run the business, which will cover the entire UK coastline as a contractor for national servicing firm, CWind.

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, Paul said: 'I've been thinking about doing this for three or maybe four years, but I ordered the boat about six months ago.

'We're involved in export of live shellfish to Spain, but the future of that market isn't looking very good; you just have to look at the economy there. So we had an idea some time ago to look at boats to go down the windfarm route - then we got a very big loan and built a boat.

'We're trying to get ourselves established early in the industry. There's a handful of very big players and it's hard for new people to get into the industry, so if we can get ourselves known now it's a big help.

'Wherever possible, renewables firms like to use local contractors so we thought the best thing to do was to get involved now in work elsewhere, then when work in Scotland comes we'll be ready. We're the first company in Scotland that's got one of these boats.'

While the boat's main purpose will be to take technicians to renewables, the boat can carry up to 20tonnes of equipment as well, or 15 tonnes of fuel for



The Coastal Knight.

service equipment. Paul said the introduction of the new boat will provide further resilience for PDK Shellfish, which employs 12 people, as well as supporting several west coast fishermen.

'I am excited about the future,' he added. 'I feel this avenue gives people like me a chance to look to a different future.'

'The fishing industry is having a really hard time and this is an area I can see a lot of fishermen moving into.'

'I know there's a lot of different thoughts on renewables but the way I'm looking at it is if these projects are going to happen, we'd be better to be a part of it than not.'

## Woolly wonders swing into action

ONE OF Scotland's most dramatic golf courses, Machrihanish Dunes, is celebrating the Year of Natural Scotland by herding an unusual bunch of 'locals' onto the course.

Keeping it neatly nibbled during the winter months, the maintenance of this stunning coastal course is a labour of love for these 'natural lawnmowers'; a flock of 40, black Hebridean sheep.

Swinging into action last week, the woolly wonders are not only a hit with visitors but provide a perfect example of environmentally-friendly practice in Scotland, the Home of Golf. So much so, these 'natural lawnmowers' can be credited with helping Machrihanish Dunes secure the 2012 Association of British Travel Agents title of 'Number 1 Eco Golf Course in the World'.

VisitScotland Chairman Mike Cantlay said: 'These will have people flocking to see them in action, mowing this truly breathtaking golf course.'

'Golf in Scotland is now a £1billion industry and our reputation as the Home of Golf will be reinforced as we host one of the biggest events on the global golf calendar at Gleneagles in 2014 - the Ryder Cup.'

**Big hit**  
'The green keepers there, however, will have to book our fleecy friends well in advance as I've feeling they'll be a big hit with golf courses across Scotland.'

David Southworth, President and CEO of Southworth Development, owners and managers of Machrihanish Dunes, said: 'By using the 'natural lawnmowers' to thin out the rough on the course we are able to help preserve several rare and protected species of orchids that grow here on this site and in few other places. The added benefit is visitors can enjoy the company of these unique companions as they play a round.'

Machrihanish Dunes Golf Club is the first golf course to be built on a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It is also the first 18-hole links golf course to be built on the west coast of Scotland in 100 years. Set hard against the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, Machrihanish Dunes shares breathtaking views with the adjacent Machrihanish Golf Club links.

## New project inspires youth enterprise

A NEW project could see 200 young people across the Outer Hebrides explore enterprise and more than 30 set up a business or community project.

Enterprise on the Edge is the first project based in the Highlands and Islands to be shortlisted in a competition for funding from RBS Inspiring Youth Enterprise.

Designed to show that the potential for young enterprise in the Highlands and Islands is significant, the project works with the North Uist community arts centre, Taigh Chearsabhagh - with the 30 young people supported through Enterprise on the Edge will record their journeys in video and other media to inspire others, and

convince that enterprise is possible, even on the very edge. Enterprise at the Edge had appealed for public votes for the competition. Should it have secured the funding from RBS, the project will work closely with local communities across the Outer Hebrides, especially the community land trusts.

More than 50 per cent of land in the Outer Hebrides is now community owned.

Enterprise on the Edge will work closely with the local Prince's Trust Youth Business Scotland and other local agencies.

The winners of the RBS Inspiring Youth Enterprise Awards will be announced in November.

## Harris Tweed forges innovative fashion link

HARRIS Tweed Hebrides has created a new link with Scotland's leading centre for technical and creative innovation in the textiles sector.

The year-long collaboration between Harris Tweed Hebrides and Heriot-Watt University's school of textiles and design, based at the organisation's Galashiels campus, will keep the heritage of the iconic fabric firmly at the centre of innovations and new products.

The £125,000 project, supported by Creative Scotland through the 'Creative Futures' Fund, hopes to develop new woven fabric and product ranges for interiors and fashion.

Workshops on the islands and at Heriot-Watt, in the Scottish Borders, will draw on the distinctive heritage of the craft of making Harris Tweed, while introducing its makers to new design practices and textile technology innovations.

Participants will include designers, managers, mill workers and weavers, reflecting the range of skills needed for the production of Harris Tweed cloth.

'They'll draw on the university's experts and its extensive resources, which include textile labs, design studios, research library, the textile archive - and the largest weave shed in Europe.

The project partners will showcase the outcomes of the 12-month long collaboration in winter 2014, at an exhibition with accompanying publication.

Margaret MacLeod, brand development director at Harris Tweed Hebrides, said: 'We very much look forward to working with the school of textiles and design to develop both skills and innovative practices which will ensure our unique heritage cloth continues to flourish in a global marketplace, while also helping

to secure rural employment for our workforce, independent weavers and the local businesses we support.'

Caroline Parkinson, director of creative industries at Creative Scotland, said: 'This project will develop innovative textile design methods using tweed, which will set in motion benefits which will be felt for years to come and keep Harris Tweed at the heart of Scotland's fashion and textile industry.'

## EDITOR

Fish Farmer Magazine & Websites

# Fish Farmer

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Established for over 30 years the industry leading Fish Farmer Magazine is seeking an Editor with relevant industry experience.

Based in Edinburgh and Oban to ensure close liaison with our Edinburgh based sales team, the position will involve travel to constantly raise the profile of the magazine in this important fast developing industry. A company car will be made available. The candidate will also be responsible for the development of two websites fishupdate.com and fish-farmer-magazine.com.

**Please supply a full CV with covering letter to:**  
ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS ENTERPRISE

### Appointment of Board Members

Appointments for three years

HIE is an ambitious public body with the key remit of economic development and community support for more than fifty per cent of Scotland's land mass. Would you like to shape and direct the strategy for developing a sustainable and buoyant economy in the Highlands and Islands? If so, you can find an application pack and full details at [www.appointed-for-scotland.org](http://www.appointed-for-scotland.org)

If you experience any difficulties accessing our website, please contact the Public Appointments Centre of Expertise on Freephone 0800 015 8449 or by email at [paapplications@mailbox.scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:paapplications@mailbox.scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

Tha sinn a' cur fàilte air iartrasan bho luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig. Tha barrachd fios air ar làrach lìn [www.appointed-for-scotland.org](http://www.appointed-for-scotland.org)

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Application forms from **01631 569 550**.

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All of these recruitment ads can also be viewed on our jobs website [www.westcoastjobs.co.uk](http://www.westcoastjobs.co.uk)

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Telephone: 01586 820 258  
Mobile: 07717 531 242

### Interpreters

Global Connects are currently recruiting Interpreters over a wide range of languages for locations throughout Scotland.

You'll ideally have the DPSI (Scottish legal option) and practical experience of interpreting within the Scottish Criminal Justice system.

Please send your CV with qualifications and experience to [recruitment@globalconnects.com](mailto:recruitment@globalconnects.com)

## The Scottish Salmon Company

The Scottish Salmon company is the leading independent producer of Scottish salmon. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy.

### Hygiene Assistant Supervisor

Ref: HAS/10/13  
Based at Cairndow, Argyll  
Hourly rate £8.173 plus allowance of £15 per night

We are currently recruiting an individual to join our existing Hygiene Team at Cairndow in Argyll. The successful candidate will be required to have a fundamental knowledge of food safety and good hygiene practice of effective cleaning processes. The ideal applicants must have previous Supervisory experience and be able to motivate, encourage and develop staff. Have significant Hygiene Knowledge. Hygiene and chemical awareness handling is essential. All applicants must be hardworking and flexible in their attitude. As well as having a sound understanding of the importance of food hygiene. A valid full driver's licence and own transport is essential to be available to work evenings and occasional weekends.

Closing Date: for application forms Friday 1st November 2013

For an application form and job description, please contact  
Veronica Anderson HR Coordinator,  
Tel: 01499600415 or Email: [veronica.anderson@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:veronica.anderson@scottishsalmon.com)  
Or forward your CV to: The Scottish Salmon Company Ardringlas Estate  
Cairndow PA26 8BH

### Ambitious for Scotland

Operating across half of Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise is one of Europe's most highly-regarded development agencies. HIE's unique integration of economic and community development is central to its success in generating sustainable economic growth in every part of the Highlands and Islands.

The Argyll and the Islands team is currently recruiting to two front line positions which will directly impact on the success of the areas economy. The team covers a large geography and hosts a wide range of exciting regional developments across the priority sectors including the European Marine Science Park.

### Senior Account Manager

Lochgilthead – £30,786 - £38,241 Ref: 311

The post holder will be undertaking a senior account management role with a portfolio of businesses and social enterprises that have growth ambitions and will be responsible for developing HIE's key sector's for the Argyll and the Islands area, which will involve supporting key projects and identifying emerging opportunities.

You will bring experience of working at a senior level with or in the private sector to deliver significant growth, along with experience in financial appraisal and project management skills.

Closing date: 3 November 2013.  
Interview date: 14/15 November 2013.

### Account Manager

Lochgilthead – £24,511 - £29,318 Ref: 313

In this role you will account manage a number of local businesses and social enterprises to facilitate economic development, assisting clients with growth plans and accessing external investment. You will also assist in developing key projects to provide local infrastructure through collaboration with partner organisations.

You will bring excellent relationship building skills, an interest in economic development and experience of working with businesses or in business and, ideally, a knowledge of the Argyll and the Islands business community.

Closing date: 3 November 2013.  
Interview date: 14/15 November 2013.

If you are interested in being considered for this position, please apply online by visiting our website at [www.hie.co.uk](http://www.hie.co.uk) For a hard copy application pack, e-mail: [recruitment@hient.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@hient.co.uk) or call 01463 244 414 quoting the reference number.

## THE TOURING NETWORK

HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS

### MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

#### ARGYLL & BUTE

The Touring Network is looking for a motivated and committed individual to work across Argyll & Bute to develop and strengthen the performing arts, building networks, skills and knowledge amongst promoters in the region.

This position may be filled by one 4 days/week position or 2 positions of 2 day/weeks each.  
Salary: £23,000 pro rata.

For details of how to apply and full information packs visit [www.thetouringnetwork.com](http://www.thetouringnetwork.com)

Deadline for all posts Friday 8 November 2013.

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RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

### Mull and Iona Community Trust

### Vacancy – Energy Advisor

Salary £24,000 p.a.

Mull and Iona Community Trust is recruiting an Island Energy Advisor to help Islanders to access the most appropriate and affordable solutions to their needs for reducing energy bills.

The Applicant must have excellent and sensitive communication skills with a sympathetic awareness of customer needs and means. Applicants should demonstrate the ability to motivate householders and businesses towards energy saving measures.

A relevant qualification or prior experience of energy efficiency projects would be desirable but is not essential. Full training will be provided to ensure that the successful candidate can carry out Green Deal Assessments and detailed energy efficiency audits to help householders qualify for the highest level of support available from the government and energy companies. The project will be run in conjunction with academic, commercial and housing partners to develop new solutions for Island housing stock particularly hard to treat properties.

The project is funded by the Climate Challenge Fund and will be administered by Mull and Iona Community Trust.

THE POSITION is for a fixed term contract ending in March 2015. The aim is to develop projects which will ensure that the post can become sustainable and a permanent resource for the community.

For a full job description visit [www.mict.co.uk](http://www.mict.co.uk) then Contact Moray Finch, General Manager of the Community Trust (enquiries@mict.co.uk) for an application pack.

The closing date for application is Monday 11th November 2013

# 51% of people turn to their local newspaper first when looking for a new job.

Source: Recruitment Choice, The Newspaper Society 2005

## PUBLIC NOTICES

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

### PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/02255/PP	Installation of replacement windows and doors (including alteration of windows to door openings) and installation of biomass heating system	Bonawe House Taynult Argyll and Bute PA35 1JQ	Sub Post Office Taynult
13/02256/LIB	Installation of replacement windows and doors (including alteration of windows to door openings) and installation of biomass heating system	Bonawe House Taynult Argyll and Bute PA35 1JQ	Sub Post Office Taynult

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Proposed development at River Lochy Hydro Inverlochly Dalmlally Argyll and Bute  
Planning reference number 13/01953/PP

Notice is hereby given that an application is being made to Argyll and Bute Council by Mr Carl Crompton- Gilkes Energy Limited for construction of run of river hydro electric scheme

Any owner (being any person who, in respect of any part of the land, is the proprietor of the dominium utile or is the lessee under a lease thereof of which not less than 7 years remain unexpired) of the land to which the application relates, who wishes to make representations to the above-mentioned Council about the application should make them in writing not later than the 14th November 2013 to the Council at Planning and Regulatory Services, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishgaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED) BY THE PLANNING ETC. (SCOTLAND) ACT 2006 REQUISITE NOTICE UNDER SECTION 35

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### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/02297/PP	Demolition of existing outbuildings and erection of new distillery building.	Gartbreck Gartbreck Farm Bowmore Area Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA43 7J5	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay

Argyll and Bute Council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

### DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

#### THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (GALLANACH ROAD, OBAN)

#### (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2013

On Monday 21st October 2013, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, which will make it unlawful for any person to cause or permit a vehicle to wait on the length of road on the dates and at the times as detailed in the schedule hereto.

The restrictions imposed by this Order which are required in order to permit the unhindered passage of HGV's delivering to the Northern Lighthouse Board, will be in operation when indicated by traffic cones.

#### SCHEDULE - PROHIBITION OF WAITING

a. 1600 hours on Friday 25th October to 1200 hours on Monday 28th October 2013  
b. 1600 hours on Wednesday 6th November to 1200 hours on Thursday 7th November 2013

Name of Road in Oban	Extent of restriction	Side of road to which restriction applies
Gallanach Road (C34)	From the centre of the access to Port Beag Slipway, extending in a westerly direction for a distance of 85 metres or thereby.	South

Sandy MacTaggart, Executive Director, 1A Manse Brae, LOCHGILPHEAD PA31 8RD

### COUNCILLORS SURGERIES

**Councillor Roddy McCuish (E.W.4 Oban South and the Isles)**  
Councillor Roddy McCuish will be holding a surgery on Friday 1st November in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 3.00pm to 5.00pm.  
He can also be contacted by e-mail – [roderick.mcuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:roderick.mcuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk) or by telephone 01631 567854

**Councillor Louise Glen-Lee (E.W.5 Oban North and Lorn)**  
Councillor Glen-Lee will be holding a surgery in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban on Monday 4th November from 4.00pm to 5.00pm. If you wish to make an appointment, please contact Karen Rodger on 01546 604209.  
Councillor Glen-Lee can also be contacted by phone – Tel: 01631 567 955 or by email – [louise.glen-lee@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:louise.glen-lee@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

## BREEDON

# AGGREGATES

BLAST AT BANAVIE QUARRY,  
FORT WILLIAM,  
ON MONDAY 28th OCTOBER  
BETWEEN 10AM-2PM

**OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA**

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, November 13  
7pm  
Studio, Oban Phoenix Cinema  
All Welcome  
Refreshments Served

**Oban Times**  
PUBLIC NOTICES

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
13/03672/FUL	Jetty Shop, Salen, Acharacle	Part change of use from class 1 (retail), to class 3 (cafe)
13/03775/S42	4 Marine Place, Mallaig	Section 42 application for removal of condition 6 of planning permission 12/03509/FUL to allow retention of wooden sheds.
13/03787/FUL	Alli-Na-Reigh, Glencoe Ballachulish	Install borehole with pump and ancillary works for water supply

Time period for comments is 14 days.  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

### Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999

#### Carrick Farm woodland creation

The preparation of an Environmental Statement in connection with an application for consent under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999, to carry out tree planting at Carrick Farm, was advertised in this newspaper on 21.2.13 in accordance with Paragraph 13 of these Regulations.

The Forestry Commission have now considered the application and the information provided in the Environmental Statement and have decided to accept the proposals to afforest the area subject to the conditions held therein.

If you would like to appeal against the granting of this consent, you must make an application to the Court of Session (Scotland) with a copy to Conservator by the 6.11.2013.

Forestry Commission Scotland  
Perth and Argyll Conservancy  
Algo Business Centre  
Glencarn Road  
Perth  
PH2 0NJ

Proposed Assignment of a Croft  
Martha McSherry is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the croft at 2B Acaarsaid Mhor to Dominique McSherry of 3 Dumbreck Square, Glasgow G41 5SY.  
If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 5NW (e-mail [info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.  
Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

**Oban Times**  
PUBLIC NOTICES

# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## MOTORS AND DRIVE TIMES

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**Great Wall**

**SUBARU S & S Services**  
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr  
Tel: 01292 880080/880440

**W.D. SEMPLE**  
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Tel: 01499 302150  
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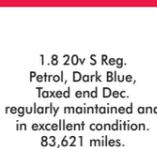


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DEATHS

BLACK - Peacefully, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on October 21, 2013, Donald Malcolm Black, beloved husband and best friend of Roma, father and father-in-law of Morag and Klaus, Gillesbug and Norma and Rachel, seanaid of Eoghan, Sara, Colin, Alexander and Charlotte, he is and always will be much missed by all his family and friends. Funeral on Lismore on Friday, October 25, at 1.00 p.m. Family flowers only, retiring collection for ABCD.

BODENHAM - Trevor died peacefully at home in Kinlochleven on Friday October 18, 2013. Service will be held at St Paul's Church, Kinlochleven at 1pm on Saturday October 26, 2013. After the service all friends are invited to the Tailrace Inn, Kinlochleven.

CAMPBELL - Yvonne Elizabeth Campbell died suddenly in Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on Friday October 18, 2013, aged 85 years. Dearly loved mother to Elizabeth, David and Rowena, much loved nana to Stuart, Stephen, Joanne, Graham, Fraser, Ross and Emma and much loved great-nana to Chay, Dean, Taryn and Cael. The cremation will take place at Cardross Crematorium on Friday, October 25 at 12.15. Family flowers only.

DUNCAN - On October 18, 2013, peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, Dr Neil Duncan BSc, PhD, of Baravalla, Stonefield Farm, Tarbert, in his 67th year, beloved husband of Ilene and much loved father of Iain and Cara, dear brother of Rosemary. Funeral service at Tarbert Loch Fyne Free Church, (today) Thursday, October 24 at 11.00am, thereafter to Cardross Crematorium, arriving 3.15pm, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, collection if desired, for Macmillan Cancer Support and Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution.

MACGREGOR - Suddenly but peacefully on Thursday, October 17, at Perth Royal Infirmary, Helen MacGregor (née MacLean) of Ballechroisk, Killin. Beloved wife of the late James Gordon MacGregor, dear mother to Duncan, Rhona and Sheena and loving gran and gg mac to the great-grandchildren, sadly missed. Funeral Service at Killin Parish Church on Friday October 25, 2013 at 11 am thereafter to Killin Cemetery to which all family are respectfully invited. Family flowers only donation if desired to Strathcarron Hospice.

MACINNES - Peacefully after a short illness, at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary on Monday, October 21, 2013, in her 82nd year, Dorothy (née MacLean), late of Fraserburgh and formerly of Oban, beloved wife to the late Peter MacInnes, dear mother to Peter Alexander, sister of Chrissie Buchan and much loved aunt of Christine and David. Memorial service will take place at Bethesda Evangelical Church, Manse Street, Fraserburgh, on Friday, October 25, at 11am. Interment at Pennyfuir Cemetery, Oban on Saturday, October 26, at 11 am. All relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

MALCOLM - Peacefully at home on October 17, 2013, surrounded by his family, Allan, beloved husband of Jane, much loved dad of Roy and Steven, grandad to Charlotte, Alice, Layla and Shaye, brother, uncle and friend to many. A service of thanksgiving was held in the Salen and Ulva Parish Church on Tuesday, October 22 at 12noon. Interment took place at Pennygowan Cemetery. - Jane, Steven and Roy.

MUNRO - Peacefully, on Monday October 21, 2013, at Eadar Glinn, Oban, with her family at her bedside, Elizabeth, (Lizzie), nee Buchanan, aged 93 years, formerly of Dalachruineach, Benderloch, beloved wife of the late Alasdair, loving mum of Alasdair and Jean and a much loved mother-in-law and granny. Funeral will take place at St. Modan's Church, Benderloch, on Monday October 28, 2013 at 1.30 p.m. thereafter to Achnaba.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACDONALD - Dolly and Peter's family, would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy and support given in their recent sad loss. The loving community spirit was there to see, with provision of gifts of food and flowers. Many thanks to Dr. Neil Bennett and the unfailing attention given by the district nurses, was truly professional and of great comfort to the family. To Hilary and the Macmillan Nurses and to Margaret Anne of Marie Curie Cancer Care. Thanks also, to Bill Harvey at St. Oran's Church, Connel, for his comforting service, to Neil Sinclair for his musical presentation and to Avril for her recital. The excellent turnout of so many neighbours and friends was overwhelming. Special thanks to Ian Snr and staff of D & A Munn for the professional handling of all funeral arrangements. The retail collection taken for Macmillan Cancer Support and Marie Curie Cancer Care amounted to £504.42. Finally, to Rev. George Rollo for the

beautifully delivered service at Elgin and funeral arrangements there, caringy handled by W. G. Catto staff, to Carrie MacDonald from Achaleven, Connel, who arranged for the after funeral buffet at the Eight Acres Hotel, Elgin. Lastly, many thanks to all friends and neighbours who travelled to Elgin for service and interment.

ROBERTSON - Jan, Derek, Sarah, Callie and family would like to thank friends and neighbours for their support and expressions of sympathy following their terrible sense of loss at Malcolm's death. Special thanks to Mary, Don and Trudy for their excellent care and Dr Erik Jespersen for his sensitive and understanding treatment of Malcolm. Thanks to Belinda Braithwaite from the Humanist Society for the touching and appropriate celebration of Malcolm's life, Ken Harrower for playing so beautifully in the Corran Halls Theatre and Catriona from Hamish Hoyer's for her efficient and sensitive handling of the arrangements. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the collection for Riding for the disabled and Wolf Hirschhorn Society which amounted to £550.

MEMORIALS

CRAIK - Treasured memories of our dearest parents, brothers, Robert and Sandy and sister Nancy. Always remembered. - Chrissie and Charlotte.

FILES - In loving memory of Thomas Files, who passed away October 25, 2012. Beloved dad, grand-dad and great-granddad. Sorely missed. - From all the family.

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

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 Lochaline.

MACASKILL - In loving memory of Margaret Ann (Annie), who died October 16, 2000. You left a place no one can fill I miss you now and always will. - Your loving twin sister Morag.

MACKILLOP - Remembering with love our dear mother and nana Mary, who died on October 26, 2004. The rolling stream of life goes on But still the empty chair Reminds us of the face, the smile Of one who once sat there Mum, you are not forgotten Though on earth you are no more Still in memory you are with us As you always were before. - Helen and Joe.

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

MACKILLOP - Remembering with love a dearly loved and respected brother and uncle Willie, who passed away October 14, 2007. You always had a smile to share Time to give and time to care A loving nature kind and true Is the way that we'll remember you Rest in peace. - Helen and Joe.

There's a face we shall always remember A voice we shall always recall A memory to cherish forever Of an uncle who was dear to us all Loved and remembered always. - Iain, Deirdre and Mhairi.

MACKINNON - Dugald, 10th Anniversary. In loving memory of a dear father, father-in-law and grandpa, who died October 28, 2003 at Bayview, Isle of Eigg. Never forgotten Always remembered. - Charlie, Catherine and family, Fort William.

MACLACHLAN - Cherished memories of a dear dad and granddad Ian who died October 29, 1990. Remembered everyday with love. - Christine and family Blairgowrie, Steven and family Muir of Ord.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of a dear brother, uncle and grand-uncle Eoin, died October 21, 2009. We often sit and think of you And think of how you died We never got to say good-bye Before you closed your eyes. Our Lady Star of the Sea pray for him. - Annag and family, Oban and Glasgow.

MACPHAIL - In loving memory of my father Neil MacPhail MBE, (late of Kirkcubbin, Tires) who passed away October 28, 1992. Loved and remembered always. - Mairi and George.

MORRISON - Treasured memories of Ian (Heiker), who died October 29, 2009, a dearly

loved husband, dad and granpa. Sadly missed. - Love always Petra, Duncan and family xxx

ROBERTSON - In loving memory of William, who passed away October 23, 2008. Fondly remembered. - From Betty and family.

SIMPSON - In loving memory of a loving wife and mother Catherine (Cathie), who passed away on October 28, 2009, aged 74 years. A bouquet of beautiful memories Wishing God could have spared you For just a few more years. Love and miss you always. - Joey and William xx

SMITH - In loving memory of our dad Dugie, taken from us October 24, 1995. A father's kiss A daddy's touch Four loving daughters Who miss you so much All our love. - Elinore, Norelle, Vanessa and Victoria.

WALKER - In loving memory of our wife and mother Marion who passed away October 26, 2001. Always in our thoughts. - Allan and family, Islay, Gartmore and Blanehead.

WALKER - In loving memory of my dear mother Marybell, who died October 4, 1990. Sadly missed - Inserted by her loving son Archie.

CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION Sunday 27 October 2013 Trinity 22 St John's Cathedral, Oban

Holy Communion.....08.00 Sung Eucharist.....10.15 Sunday School and Creche Loop System Large Print Hymn Books All Welcome Nicki McNelly, Provost. (01631) 562323

St Columba, Gruline, Mull Holy Eucharist.....11.00 St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Holy Eucharist.....08.00 Evensong.....20.15 Holy Eucharist..... Wed 30 October 14.30

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

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Oban Hospice CARING FOR THE FUTURE Donations always gratefully accepted Please contact Jack Tolland Birch Hill Achnacreebeag North Connel, PA37 1RE

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GRADUATION

Miss Rhiannon MacDougall graduated from Portsmouth University with a BSc in Criminology and Psychology. Rhiannon is the daughter of Clive and Annie MacDougall, Hereford and granddaughter of Flora Stanaway, 5 Lorn Avenue, Dunollie, Oban and Mrs Morgan Littleton, Hampshire.

WEDDINGS



WRIGHT - KAY Charles and Michelle were married in the Immaculate Heart of Mary RC Church, Glasgow on July 20, 2013. Charles is the son of Charles and the late Mrs Linda Wright and Michelle is the eldest daughter of Rosaleen and the late Michael Kay. A wonderful day was enjoyed with family and friends at the Grand Central Hotel, Glasgow.

Pupils come together to create the children's year of faith

AS PART of the Year of Faith in the Catholic Church, four denominational schools in Argyll and Bute collaborated on a project to create the children's year of faith prayer.

Pupils at St Columba's in Oban, St Andrew's in Rothesay, St Mun's in Dunoon and St Joseph's in Helensburgh created the prayer for and with each other.

Each school filmed a primary four child in their school reciting their section of the prayer and a culmination of the work was put together in video form by one of the parents of St. Joseph's School.

To complete the celebrations, His Grace, The Most Reverend Philip Tartaglia, Archbishop of Glasgow will say Mass at St Joseph's school on Friday November 1 which head teachers of four schools will attend along with two children from each school.

Clear pathway At this special Mass the prayer will be recited by all the children from all four schools together. The project has resulted in a strengthening of the bonds between the denominational schools, setting a pathway clear for future faith development work together.

Thought for the week

THE ARGYLL Convention took place on October 4 and 5 in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls and was concluded by a Songs of Praise in Corran Esplanade Church on Saturday night.

The speakers were - Tim Chester Pastor of the Crowded House Sheffield and director of Porterbrook Training who spoke on 1 Samuel 'The Coming of God's King', 'The Authority of God's word', and 'The weight of God's Glory'.

Lamboi Hoakip who was founder of Bethesda-Khankho foundation, told us of the work with disadvantaged tribal communities in north east India.

William MacKenzie, who is actively involved in spreading the word of God through Christian Focus Publications, told us of the impact of Christian literature in various parts of the world challenging us to read a

book for 20 minutes each day. It was a successful conference as people responded - 'Very encouraging and so good to see a cross section of Christians from Argyll and beyond coming together'. I enjoyed the teaching the worship and the fellowship. 'I will go back to my Church and community and encourage people to come the next time'. Thanks to all who came and made the event a success. Planning has already started for the 2014 conference from August 5-7. The main speaker will be Richard Bewes a well known author and was John Stott's successor at All Souls Church London.

Put the date in your diaries and encourage your friends to come. Please pray for those planning the 2014 event. Bill Harvey Secretary Argyll Convention.

New Barra hospital given initial green light

INITIAL agreement has been formally reached to replace St Brendan's Hospital on Barra as part of a raft of approvals by the Scottish Government.

Health secretary Alex Neil made the announcement this week, alongside six other developments to be developed across the country.

The news has been welcomed on the island. Local MSP Alasdair Allan said: 'My hope now is that Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and NHS Western Isles will work together to ensure that as many health and care services as possible can be provided on one site, and to ensure that the staff and wider community of Barra are involved in the design of their new hospital right from the start.'

Oban firefighters welcome visit from deputy chief officer

FIREFIGHTERS in Oban received a visit from the new Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's deputy chief officer Alex Clark last week.

Chief Officer Clark, who previously served as chief officer of Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service, took

a tour of the Oban Community Fire Station before discussing with officers the progress that has been made since the transition to the new single service.

Station Commander Martin Hill said: 'Discussion also centred around the local emphasis on working in tandem

with police and ambulance colleagues, local authorities and community planning partnerships amongst others.

'This will ensure the continuation of a focused approach to delivering the best outcomes for the people of Oban and the wider community.'



Pictured during the visit are, from left, local Sector Officer Paul Connelly, firefighters John Lee and Donald Cameron, Watch Commander Ian MacInnes, Deputy Chief Officer Alex Clark, firefighter William Gemmell, Crew Commanders Robert McColl and Colin Campbell and Station Commander Martin Hill. 143fire1no.jpg

Taynuilt whist drive raises cash for charity

A WHIST Drive in Taynuilt last Friday night has raised £200 for Children in Need.

The results are: Ladies: 1 Hilary Clayton; 2 Christine Allan; 3 Cathie Reid; 4 Marina MacInnes, Connel; Consolation Isabel Grout; Travelling Prize Helen Pearson, Oban.

Gents: 1 Ewen MacLeod; 2 Stella Huntingford; 3 Dougie McDougall; 4 Duncan Martin; Consolation Paul Black; Travelling Prize Rebecca Pearson.

The next Whist Drive will be held at the Village Hall on Friday, November 15 in aid of Taynuilt Brownies.

Serious warning for dog owners

DOG owners are being warned to pick up their mess or face getting a criminal record and a £500 fine - following Oban Community Council's criticism of the town's dog warden.

Argyll and Bute Council's warning to dog owners comes after community councillor Neil MacIntyre revealed not a single fine had been handed out in the town for dog fouling in the past year.

However, the council's leader, Dick Walsh, has urged people to report someone who

leaves their pet's mess behind. He said: 'Dog fouling is a nuisance to everyone and doesn't portray a good image of our local area. It is also illegal not to immediately remove fouling from any public place. Failure to do so is an offence and can lead to conviction and a fine of up to £500.'

To report someone who has left their dog's dirt behind, take a note of the type of dog, the location, and the rough time the dog is usually walked and call Argyll and Bute Council on 01546 605514.

The Oban Times & West Highland Times THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL

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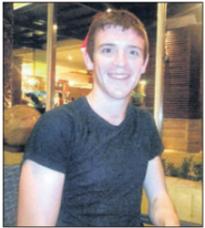
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**Ben voted young coach of the year**

COACHING

A BROADFORD man has been named young coach of the year at sportsScotland's Highland Coaching Awards 2013. Football coach Ben Yoxon won the award after being nominated by friends, family and local athletes. Ben has now been entered into the Highland and Island Coaching Awards and sportsScotland's Coaching, Officiating and Volunteering Awards.



Young coach of the year - Ben Yoxon.

**SAFL cup results and fixtures**

FOOTBALL

SATURDAY'S results: Scottish Amateur Cup, 2nd round - Oban Saints 3, Independent 3; Bearsden v Dumoon Athletic, postponed; Dumbarton Wanderers 0, Dunoon 3; Uddingston Anvil 0, Campbeltown Pupils 0; Tarbert v Yoker postponed; Premier Division Two - Lochgilphead Red Star 1, Clydebank 1.

This Saturday's fixtures - Scottish Amateur Cup, 1st round - Tarbert v Yoker; 2nd round - Bearsden v Dumoon Athletic; 2nd round replays - Independent v Oban Saints; Campbeltown Pupils v Uddingston Anvil; West of Scotland Cup, 2nd round - Lochgilphead Red Star v Carradale.

**Fixtures for Oban Saints youth teams**

YOUTH FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints youth teams get back into action this weekend after the holiday break. Fixtures: Scottish Cup, 3rd round - Under 13s v Kilsyth Athletic; Under 14s v Spartans; Lochgilphead Red Star v Under 15s; Under 17s no game.

# Lorne lose out in top of the table clash

## Green Machine made to pay by giving away too many penalties against the league leaders

RBS West Division Two  
Oban Lorne 15  
Garnock 15

OBAN Lorne narrowly lost the battle of first versus second place in West Division 2 last Saturday going down 15-10 against North Ayrshire side Garnock. The Green Machine boasted their strongest squad of the season apart from the absence of captain Robin MacQueen. A large crowd was present knowing a win would see Oban Lorne rise to the top of the league.

The game didn't start well for Oban as they immediately conceded a penalty straight from the kick off. The Garnock stand-off made Oban pay by kicking the ball straight over the posts take a very early 3-0 lead.

Oban looked to respond almost straight away but Craig Wright's effort sailed narrowly wide. Garnock were looking very sharp in the opening stages of play and were putting pressure on the Oban defence. The visitors extended their lead after 20 minutes with another penalty that was impressively blasted over from a long distance.

Going down 6-0 seemed to waken the Oban Lorne attack. Some great passages of play from the forwards, in particular man of the match Crawford Brown, Corrie Louw, Dan Hull and Tommy Sutherland resulted in another chance at goal for Craig Wright. The Oban centre narrowly missed again and Oban remained 6-0 down.

Crawford Brown charged down the resulting 22 drop out



Craig Wright couldn't emulate the Garnock stand-off who kicked all his team's points.

RUGBY

off. This extended their lead to 15-6.

The game was now potentially slipping away from Oban Lorne and the team knew they would have to improve drastically in the latter stages to take anything away from this tie.

With 15 minutes to go Oban Prop Andrew Johnston was yellow carded for a repeated offence at the ruck. Instead of weakening the Oban team this seemed to waken the players as they started to produce their best rugby of the afternoon.

Tommy Sutherland was held up over the line, as winger Calum MacLachlan. In between these two good chances the visitors were also reduced to 14 men after giving away a succession of penalties on the tryline.

Oban were on top and dominating the game. The men in green were eventually rewarded with Calum MacLachlan managing to touch down in the corner. This reduced the score to 15-10 with Wright narrowly missing the conversion that bounced back off the left hand post.

The full time whistle sounded shortly after to the delight of the visitors who remained unbeaten this season and stretched their lead at the top of the table.

Saturday's result means that Oban slip down to third place in the table.

This weekend Oban Lorne look to get back to winning ways with an away trip to Cambuslang.



Oban Lorne's Sam Coates attempts to break a tackle. Photo: Stephen Lawson.

## Argyll boys play in youth tournament organised by Glasgow Warriors

YOUTH RUGBY

TEN young rugby players from Argyll had the chance to follow in the footsteps of their Glasgow Warriors heroes when they played at Scotstoun Stadium.

Six players from Taynuilt's Etive Vikings, three from Oban Lorne and one from Mid Argyll made up an Argyll team invited to play in a youth tournament organised by the professional rugby club at its training pitch.

After competing against teams from all over

Scotland in the primary school-aged tournament, the Argyll lads formed part of a guard of honour welcoming the Glasgow Warriors onto the Scotstoun pitch for their Heineken Cup match against Exeter Chiefs last Saturday.

The youngsters then took their place in the stand to watch the game and even had the chance to play on the pitch at half time.

## Rio is crowned indoor snowboard champion

SKIING

A LOCHABER skier has been crowned women's open snowboard champion at the British Indoor Slopestyle Championships in Manchester on Saturday.

Rio Peterson, 24, of Achnacarry won the gold medal ahead of competitors from across the UK, and is now heading to Vancouver and California for the winter to coach and improve her skills.

## Late call off for Oban Athletic

FOOTBALL

LAST Saturday's West of Scotland AFL League Cup 1st round match between Antonine and Oban Athletic was called off due to the pitch being unplayable.

The Oban boys had already left the town and reached Taynuilt before they got the message that the game was off.

The same fixture has been allocated for this Saturday.

## Charity golf at Glencruitten

GOLF

A CHARITY golf tournament will be held at Oban's Glencruitten club on Saturday to raise money for the Parkinson's Group at the North Argyll Carers Centre.

The tournament is being organised by the family of Oban man Robin Douglas, who was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease more than 20 years ago and has received great support from the group. The tournament begins at 8am.

There will also be a race night held at the club on Friday, November 1.



Athlete Emma Thompson is the number one ranked triple jumper in Scotland for her age group.

## Jumping to the top of the rankings

ATHLETICS

SISTERS Emma and Grace Thompson are athletes to look out for in the future if their form this season is anything to go by.

The Oban girls have been competing in many outdoor athletic competitions over the summer and at the end of the outdoor season Emma Thompson is ranked number one in Scotland in the under-15 girls' triple jump, having jumped 10.06 metres.

Emma has increased her high jump by 10cm and now clears 1.40metres and has increased her long jump by 43cm to jump 4.56metres.

Her sister, Grace is now ranked third in Scotland

for the under-13 girls' discus with a throw of 18.72 metres.

Grace has increased her long jump by 10cm to jump 3.42metres and her shot putt distance by 31cm to 6.32metres.

Emma and Grace are members of Victoria Park City of Glasgow Athletics Club and attend training sessions with the club at Scotstoun Athletics Stadium, Glasgow.

## Oban Pool League has joint leaders

POOL

WITH the reigning title holders the Cellar having their game postponed earlier in the week, the opportunity was presented to both Markie Dan's A and the Lancaster A to open up a two point gap over their fierce rivals at the top of the table.

The Outreach played host to Markie Dan's A and rather charitably allowed the visitors to leave with both points without conceding a match, which could prove invaluable come the end of the campaign.

However their early celebrations were curtailed when the Lancaster A returned from Connel having joined them at the top following a comprehensive defeat of the Gluepot.

After suffering a narrow defeat in their opening game the Lancaster B responded by running riot against league sponsors Creagan Inn.

The Creagan team were left in no doubt they might have a few long hard nights ahead of them before the league's conclusion.

The Lochavullin seemed to have a bit of fire in their belly after conceding their first match and an experienced side control-

led proceedings against the Kelvin for a thoroughly deserved victory.

The remaining tie of week two between Markie Dan's B and Lochnell ended with honours even, but for Lochnell this one will definitely have felt like a defeat. With the finishing post in sight and a five game lead they huffed and they puffed but the home side dug in and against all odds managed to retrieve a point by securing the remaining five matches.

Credit must go to the junior Markie Dan's outfit for pulling off the most impressive comeback in recent seasons and proving once again the change in format last season has worked wonders for entertainment value.

Week two results from October 17: The Outreach 0-10 Markie Dans A; Lancaster B 9-1 The Creagan Inn; The Claredon P-P The Cellar; The Lochavullin 7-3 The Kelvin; The Gluepot 3-7 Lancaster A; Markie Dans B 5-5 The Lochnell.



John McPhee in action. Photo Bonnie Lane, Impact Images.

## John performs well in Australia

MOTORCYCLING

CONNEL'S John McPhee finished last weekend's Australian Grand Prix at Phillip Island in 17th place.

The majority of riders in the Moto3 field found themselves in tight groups for the duration of the 23-lap race, affected by light rain on certain parts of the newly resurfaced circuit.

John ran as high as 7th in the opening laps, but in the thick of an eight to nine-rider battle for 10th, he was shuffled back to 16th on lap 9 - thereafter battling for one of the final points-paying finishes. Ninth to 17th positions were covered by a mere 1.8s.

Clearly John was much happier with the bike even on a tricky day and now RTG accepts he prefers to ride with a softer front end.

Alex Rins eventually won the race, coming out on top of a multiple-rider battle to beat Maverick Viñales by just three thousandths of a second. Both riders decreased the championship-leading advantage of pole-sitter Luis Salom, who completed the podium at Phillip Island.

John said: 'I was hoping for a better finish in the race today after a fairly strong weekend overall, but despite the 17th position I ended only 1 second behind 9th position and 16 seconds off the winner! I'm getting closer every race and I'll be aiming to improve again for the AirAsia Grand Prix of Japan in Motegi this weekend.'

# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

## COMpetition

### WIN £650

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**Easy to enter**

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition rules**

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

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Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

**This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:**

**D Cameron, Wades Road, Fort William**

**D Campbell, Vorlich Road, Lochearnhead**

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# Saints throw away three goal lead in Scottish Cup

'We should never have allowed them back into the game'

Fosters Scottish Amateur Cup 2nd Round  
**Oban Saints 3 Independent 3**

SAINTS supporters must be wondering why their team are not in the hat for the 3rd round draw of the Fosters Scottish Amateur Cup following their game against Stirling and District League side Independent at Glenclutten last Saturday.

With only thirteen minutes left to play and leading 3-0 they decided to push the self-destruct button and in the end had to settle for a 3-3 draw which means they have to travel to Coatbridge this Saturday for a replay that should never have been.

The home side started strongly, passing the ball about well and the first chance came their way when Donnie Campbell played Craig MacEwan in with a great pass, but Craig's shot was well saved by Independent net-minder Kevin McAllister.

Saints opened the scoring in the 17th minute when Willie Gemmell squared a free kick to

Donnie Campbell who rifled a low shot into the bottom corner of the net.

As the half wore on the visitors came back into the game, but the Saints rearguard looked pretty solid.

The Oban side were unlucky not to have increased their lead when a Mattie Rippon piledriver crashed off the Independent upright with the keeper beaten all hands down.

The homesters took a two goal lead in the 29th minute when Donnie Campbell played a great pass inside full back Lewis Bradley for Craig MacEwan who raced into the box before cutting the ball back for Allan MacKay to net from close range.

Saints came close on two more occasions in the space of a couple minutes, the first when a Paul Kerr header forced Kevin McAllister into a good save then an Allan MacKay curler flew inches past the upright.

The home side should have scored again in the 39th minute when Donnie Campbell and

Willie Gemmell combined for the latter to cleverly dink the ball over the goalkeeper which looked a goal all the way until an Independent defender hooked the ball clear before it had crossed the line.

The visitors created their first real chance of the match right on the half time whistle, but Daniel Cassells made a fine save knocking the ball behind for a corner.

The second half was more evenly balanced with the Coatbridge side playing some good football, but when Craig MacEwan got on the end of a Willie Gemmell corner to head the ball home in the 66th minute that should have been the game over.

However, there was to be a cruel twist as the match entered the latter stages with the local side shooting themselves in the foot, not once, not twice, but three times.

With 13 minutes left, Saints

should have had the experience and savvy to play out time, but no, they contrived to lose three poor goals.

The first came out of the blue when the Cassells brothers Daniel and Dene got in each others way as the ball came across the six yard box. The ball spun loose to Anthony Donnachie who forced it home from close range.

The home side seemed to recover from this setback and Willie Gemmell came close at the other end, but two minutes later Independent pulled another goal back and this is one keeper



Oban Saints' Paul Kerr is sent flying by this tackle during last Saturday's Fosters Scottish Amateur Cup tie against Independent at Glenclutten. 07\_143saints01

**FOOTBALL**

## Shinty Heroes Show joins Celtic Connections 2014

THE BLAS Festival's 'Shinty Heroes - Curaidhean na Camanachd' has been added to the 2014 Celtic Connections programme and will take place at The Mitchell Library Theatre in Glasgow on Sunday 2 February 2014.

The show, which was originally performed on the evening before this year's Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final, paid tribute, through music and pictures, to those shinty heroes who were involved in the Great War, many of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Artists involved included Gary Innes, Fergie MacDonald and Duncan Chisholm and the event was hosted by shinty historian and journalist, Hugh Dan MacLennan.

For more information, visit [www.celticconnections.com](http://www.celticconnections.com).

## Women's Camanachd Association AGM

THE Women's Camanachd Association (WCA) Annual General Meeting will be held at the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William.

Any women's club wishing to make any proposals to change any rules/byelaws should make them in writing to the WCA by the Friday, November 1 at the latest.

The WCA also require all teams to make a vote on the league reconstruction so please make sure you read the SWOT Analysis taken from the forum meeting held in September and have a think about which choice will suit your team best.

As always the WCA will be looking for more committee members so please let them know if you are interested.

If you need any more information please email the WCA at [womens.shinty@gmail.com](mailto:womens.shinty@gmail.com) or call 07827 732216.

**WOMEN'S SHINTY**

# Scots boss confident of beating Ireland

SCOTLAND boss Drew McNeill says his side are confident of beating Ireland in the first match of the shinty/hurling championships at Croke Park in Dublin this Saturday.

The Irish have dominated the fixture in recent years, with the Scots failing to pick up a series win since the double game format was introduced in 2009.

However, McNeill told The Oban Times the good surface at the 82,000-seater Croke Park would suit the superior stick skills of his group.

He said: 'We always seem to play well at Croke Park, you get a good surface and that suits us. I think we've got more chance of winning over there than we do in Inverness because of the surface.'

**SHINTY/HURLING**

'It's a great occasion. For some of these guys this is the highlight of their season, not everyone plays for the likes of Newtonmore or Kyles.'

The boys in blue will be led out by Newtonmore full back Norman Campbell, with league champions 'More also supplying Steven MacDonald, Glen MacIntosh and premierships top scorer Fraser MacIntosh.

**Complemented**

The experience of the likes of Kingussie's Lee Bain and Shaun Nicolson of Lochaber will be complemented by a number of youngsters making the step up from the under 21s, including Kilmallie's Liam MacDonald and Kinlochshiel's John MacRae.

McNeill, meanwhile, declared

**SHINTY**

himself happy with the new points system, which reverts back to three points for a goal following last year's trial of awarding five points per goal.

The manager has no injury worries ahead of the clash, but said the fact the shinty season effectively ended several weeks ago would be a problem for his side.

He said: 'It's a huge disadvantage. We have some guys who haven't played for six weeks. You hear about match fitness and it's a real thing, there's no way to simulate match practice. Unfortunately the Irish lads are right in the middle of their season.'



## Fair play as Oban youngsters do the business at Fantastic Fives Festival

Oban Sunday League team Spartak travelled to the Dumbarton Riverside 'Fantastic Fives Festival' held on the 3G pitch at Vale of Leven Academy last Sunday. Not only did the boys win all seven games they played, they also won the Fair Play Trophy. Coaches Neil Beaton and Bertie Gemmell were very proud of the boys. Neil said: 'The football the boys played during the competition was first class and to win the Fair Play Trophy as well crowned a fantastic day for everybody involved.'

# Dream comes true for Mid Argyll mascots

THE DREAMS of three Mid Argyll youngsters came true recently as they walked out on to the pitch at Hampden with the Scotland squad.

Harry MacLean, 9, Murray MacDonald, 7, both from Lochgilphead and Milo Ingram, 8, from Tarbert were lead out onto Hampden Park in front of 50,000 fans ahead of Scotland's world cup qualifier against Croatia.

The boys were offered the opportunity to be player mascots after they won a competition run by McDonalds and they were lucky enough to watch Scotland perform at their best, beating Croatia 2-0.



Murray MacDonald with fellow mascot Maddox-James Dabreo. Milo Ingram.

**FOOTBALL**

# Camanachd Association names Under-21 squad

THE Camanachd Association has announced this year's Under-21s shinty squad which will compete in this year's Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling International against their Irish counterparts at Bught Park, Inverness.

In speaking of the squad, head coach Ronald Ross said: 'I am very pleased with the squad we have selected for this year's International.'

**Confident**

'Despite losing a number of key individuals through injury, we have a fast and mobile group of young players who have worked well throughout the intensive preparation sessions and I am confident will provide a highly competitive match on home soil against the Irish.'

The full squad is as follows:

**SHINTY/HURLING**

Jack MacDonald - Beaulieu; Leighton Reid - Bute; Fraser Heath - Glenurquhart; Finlay MacMillan - Glasgow Mid Argyll; Duncan 'Ach' Macrae - Kinlochshiel; Oliver Macrae - Kinlochshiel; Ben Delaney - Lochaber; Michael Mackenzie - Lovat; Graeme MacMillan - Lovat; Greg Matheson - Lovat; captain; Lewis Tawes - Lovat; Andrew MacDonald - Newtonmore; Michael Russell - Newtonmore; Callum Stewart - Newtonmore; Robert Dunning - Oban Camanachd; Gary Lord - Oban Camanachd; James MacMillan - Oban Camanachd; Daniel Madej - Oban Celtic; Gary McKerracher - Oban Celtic.

The Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling Internationals take place at Bught Park, Inverness

**Fixtures**

**Saturday 26 October**  
Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling International  
Ireland v Scotland  
Croke Park Dublin - 4.15pm

**Orion Group Premierships**  
Kyles Athletic v Kingussie  
Billy Wotherspoon - 2.30

**Marine Harvest Under 17 League**  
**London Shield - Final**  
Fort William v Newtonmore  
Evan MacRae - 1.30pm  
(at The Dell, Kingussie)

**Results**

**Saturday 19 October**  
**Orion Group Premierships**  
Newtonmore 4 - 1 Kyles Ath

**Marine Harvest Under 17 League - London Shield - Semi Final**  
Newtonmore 5 - 2 Kinlochshiel

**Women's result**  
**Marine Harvest North Division 2 - Play Off**  
Skye 4 - 2 Lochaber

**Shinty League Tables**

**The Orion Group Premierships**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	18	16	1	1	71	19	33
Lovat	18	9	8	1	38	17	26
Inveraray	18	7	5	6	32	31	19
Lochaber	18	6	5	7	28	34	17
Kyles Athletic	17	6	4	6	30	29	16
Kingussie	17	8	0	9	31	34	16
Glenurquhart	18	6	4	8	25	29	16
Kinlochshiel	18	5	5	10	33	46	15
Fort William	18	3	6	9	18	38	12
Oban Camanachd	18	3	2	13	19	48	8

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kilmallie	15	14	0	1	72	13	28
Beaulieu	15	12	1	2	43	15	2
Caberfeidh	15	7	1	7	36	32	15
Skye	15	6	2	7	28	26	14
Strathglass	15	1	3	11	17	49	5
Inverness	15	1	1	13	14	75	3

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glasgow MA	16	13	2	1	71	7	28
Bute	16	11	2	3	68	22	24
Glenorchy	16	9	3	4	39	20	21
Lochside Rovers	16	10	1	5	38	28	21
Aberdour	16	6	1	9	33	49	13
Taynuilt	16	5	2	9	31	48	12
Oban Celtic	16	5	1	10	26	53	11
Kilmory	16	2	3	11	21	53	7
Strachur	16	2	3	11	21	68	7

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	18	15	1	2	70	20	31
Lovat	18	10	7	1	47	29	27
Skye	18	11	3	4	39	34	23
Beaulieu	18	8	4	6	42	30	20
Glenurquhart	18	8	3	7	29	28	19
Kingussie	18	5	5	8	42	40	15
Glenarry	18	5	1	12	29	42	11
Fort William	18	5	1	12	31	60	11
Aberdeen Uni	18	3	4	11	25	44	8
Kinlochshiel	18	3	5	10	25	52	7

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**

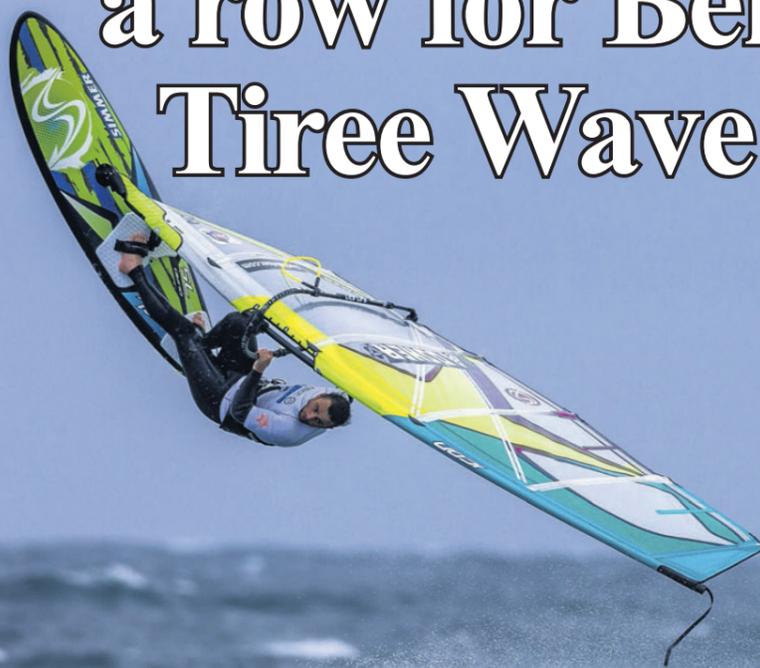
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kyles Athletic	15	13	1	1	61	8	27
Ballachulish	15	12	1	2	75	17	25
Col Glen	14	8	1	5	47	32	17
Inveraray	14	7	2	5	37	30	15
Bute	14	4	1	9	23	44	8
Tayforth	14	4	1	9	16	52	5
Glasgow MA	14	3	0	11	22	67	5
Aberdour	14	2	1	11	16	48	4

**Marine Harvest North Division 3**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochaber	18	15	0	3	92	28	30
Lochcarron	18	14	1	3	81	26	29
Boleskine	18	13	1	4	67	30	27
Kilmallie	18	10	3	5	56	49	22
Caberfeidh	18	6	2	10	34	48	14
Lochbroom	18	6	0	12	38	67	11
Strathspey	18	5	1	12	39	70	11
Strathglass	18	6	2	10	34	66	11
Lewis	18	3	4	11	37	62	10
Inverness	18	4	2	12	30	62	10

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## Four in a row for Ben as he wins Tiree Wave Classic



Amateur and professional riders alike thrived on the conditions, described by organiser Jim Brooks-Dowsett as 'fantastic'.



Big waves and wind on day five resulted in a terrific day of competition, with wave-riders taking full advantage of the conditions.

Ben Proffitt put on a spectacular display to clinch his fourth Tiree Wave Classic title in a row - a new record.

### 'This was one of the best Tiree Wave Classics ever'

PROFESSIONAL windsurfer Ben Proffitt has written himself into the sport's history books after winning the Tiree Wave Classic for an unprecedented fourth year in a row.

On a thrilling final day of action, the Shropshire sailor beat off a spirited challenge from Welshman Phil Horrocks to reclaim the title and, with it, an engraved broadsword.

The 35-year-old held the lead going into the final day of action as the heats began again in windy conditions and head-high waves at Balephuil.

But it soon became apparent that Proffitt was going to have a severe test to reclaim his title, as Horrocks produced a series of sensational jumps to climb from fourth place to take on the Englishman in the final.

As a thrilled crowd watched on from the beach, Horrocks' wave jumping was of the highest calibre, but Proffitt's sensational wave-riding clinched him the title once again.

The competition is in its 27th year and is the third of four events on the British Wavesailing Association (BWA)'s UK Wave Tour, with Cornwall hosting the final leg later this month.

Jan Ross, Head Judge, said: 'Tiree has delivered yet again, coupled with the effort from the riders, this is exactly why this competition is called the Tiree Wave Classic.'

'We witnessed the most consistent full day of windsurfing action from 8am through til 5pm, that I've ever seen in the UK. The conditions really were spectacular and the competitors took full advantage.'

BWA UK Wave Tour leader Ross Williams, from the Isle of Wight, finished in third place in the pro's division.

One of those watching on was Mark Bees, from Tiree, who said: 'I've never seen so much world class windsurfing in one day in Tiree before.'

'The atmosphere on the beach was really special and the competitors and the crew were having a real blast.'

Polish sailor Justyna Sniady took the ladies title while Scottish pair Scot McDowell, from Troon, won the amateur title and Tiree local Stewart Cowling took the youth award.

Event organiser, Jim Brooks-Dowsett, said: 'This was one of the best Tiree Wave Classics ever, with some really exciting results all changing hands on the last day, in fantastic conditions.'

'It wasn't just the competition. There was an amazing mass expression session - a first for Tiree - and just brilliant to watch.'

The Tiree Wave Classic is hosted by Puravida Boardriders at the Tiree Lodge Hotel and funded by EventScotland with Argyll and Bute Council.



Phil Horrocks was unlucky to miss out on the championship, despite making this stunning jump in what was described as a 'spectacular' display.

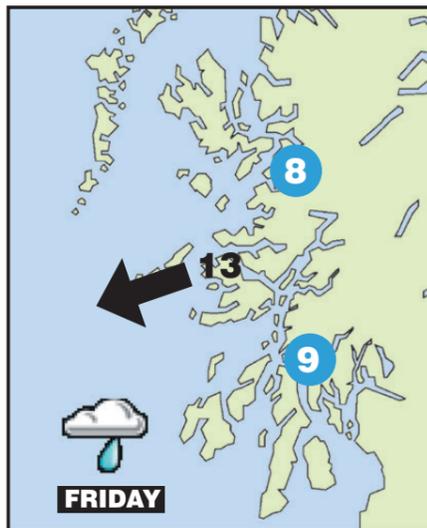
### Weather

**Thursday** Sunny Intervals  
Winds moderate westerly  
Temperatures 6°C to 10°C

**Friday** Light rain  
Winds moderate east north easterly  
Temperatures 7°C to 9°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Cloudy  
Winds moderate west south westerly  
Temperatures 8°C to 10°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 24, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	02.35 1.3 08.10 3.7 15.01 1.7 20.35 3.4	
Fri	03.18 1.5 08.49 3.5 15.48 2.0 21.18 3.1	
Sat	04.09 1.8 09.37 3.2 16.48 2.2 22.17 2.9	
Sun	05.08 1.9 10.46 3.1 18.04 2.2 *** **	
Mon	00.48 2.8 06.12 1.9 12.57 3.0 19.43 2.1	
Tues	02.12 3.0 07.21 1.9 14.19 3.2 20.54 1.9	
Wed	02.56 3.2 08.25 1.7 15.01 3.4 21.33 1.7	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

**FORT WILLIAM & LOCHABER EDITION**

Established 1861 No 8170

Thursday 24 October, 2013

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80 pence

**Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail Pàislig 2013**  
**The Royal National Mòd Paisley 2013**  
**Results, photos and round-up inside!**

See pages 8,9,10, 11+12

### Walkers found after night on hills

TWO WALKERS who got lost in the hills near Glen Spean have been found safe and well after spending the night outdoors.

The pair, a man and a woman, called police to ask for help just after 6pm on Monday evening while in the Beinn a'Chaoirinn and Beinn Teallach area.

RAF Rescue Helicopter 137 and the Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team looked for them but the search was called off due to poor conditions and low visibility.

The search started again early on Tuesday morning and the two walkers were found at 1.30pm.

### Request to defer vote on Fort BID

FORT William Community Council has asked Highland Council to defer its decision on the proposed Lochaber Business Improvement District (BID) over concerns about the consultation process.

Councillors are due to discuss the plans at a meeting in Inverness today (Thursday), with officials recommending they put forward a 'yes' vote.

But FWCC chairman Neil Clark has written to council chief executive Steve Barron to question whether the consultation process was 'satisfactorily undertaken'.

He said: 'FWCC would not wish Highland Council to veto the BID proposal, but would ask for a deferral on support for proceeding until there is clarification on the ballot process and the information provision to affected businesses.'

### Ferry study details revealed

HIGHLAND Council has announced details of the socio-economic impact study which will be carried out in the controversial Corran Ferry fare increase.

The study will be carried out by consulting engineers Aecom during November and December and will look at the impact the increase will have on the local community.

The results of the study are expected to be reported to the Lochaber Area Committee in January as well as being shared with local community groups.

The report will be considered by the TECS committee in March.



Fort William's Robert Robertson celebrates his gold medal win. 15\_t43mod08

### Gold medal winner the pride of Fort William

STUDENT Robert Robertson became the pride of Fort William last week by winning the prestigious An Comunn Gàidhealach Gold Medal at the Royal National Mòd in Paisley.

But in the wake of his comprehensive 13-point victory the 19 year old - the youngest singer in the competition - was quick to praise the work of fellow Lochaber musician Rachel Walker who has tutored him from the age of 10.

Robert, who is a student at Glasgow University, had sought advice in the past year from former gold medal winners but insisted Achnacarry musician Rachel had been a driving force in his fledgling career.

Speaking after his win last Thursday, he said: 'If it hadn't been for Rachel teaching me as a wee boy I might not be singing Gaelic at all. I have always loved traditional music but when I was 10 Rachel really encouraged my singing.'

Rachel was not able to see Robert's win in Paisley but congratulated him on facebook, saying: 'Over the years he has worked hard, grown up, acquired a passion for Gaelic song and developed a lovely style of his own.'

'I know he's had lots of help from many great tutors over the years, but it's his own dedication and commitment that has seen him achieve so much.'

For more on this year's Mòd see pages 8 to 12.

### Royal National Mòd returns to Lochaber in 2017

THE ROYAL National Mòd will be heading back to Lochaber in 2017, An Comunn Gàidhealach has announced.

Fort William last hosted the

Mòd in 2007, and Lochaber Area Committee leader Thomas MacLennan said it was great news the event was returning.

He said: 'This is great news

for Lochaber, a stronghold of the Gaelic language and culture. 'Those attending the Mòd can be assured of a warm and friendly welcome in 2017 and I am sure it will be a great success.'

The Mòd is set to be held in Inverness next year, Oban in 2015 and the Western Isles in 2016.

# Highland games back after four years

## Councillors pledge support for Fort William showpiece event

FORT William's showpiece Highland games are set to return in 2014 following a gap of four years after local councillors pledged their support.

By RICHARD HADDOCK  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

any impediments to a successful Highland Games are removed as soon as possible.

The Lochaber Area Committee will make funding available to help set up next summer's Lochaber Highland Games and Highland Council staff from TEC Services will prepare the grounds at An Aird.

- leading to fears it could fall by the wayside.

Lochaber councillors met with games committee member Allan Lindsay on Monday to discuss what needed to be done to ensure a successful re-launch.

'The team is not as numerous as it once was and what is needed is for some people to step forward and get involved with the event and help share the load.'

The Games, which regularly drew crowds of more than 3,000, were last staged at Fort William Shinty Club's home park in 2010. But with the park unavailable for the following two years due to upgrades to the pitch the day was cancelled.

Area leader Thomas MacLennan told The Oban Times more volunteers were needed to guarantee the future of the event.

'The hiatus has also allowed for a period of reflection and now people need to get together to make decisions and prepare for a successful re-launch of the Lochaber Highland Games.'

The colourful spectacle, usually held on the last Saturday in July, ran for more than 40 years.

The popular event had been expected to return to the town this summer but a lack of volunteers meant it was postponed again

He said: 'We all owe Allan and the team a lot of thanks for the stalwart effort they have put in over the years organising this event.'

Traditionally beginning with a march from Fort William High Street to An Aird, the games featured Highland heavy events, athletics and a host of other attractions.

# Four screen town cinema viable, says backer

THE MAN behind the proposal to bring a four screen 450-seater cinema to Fort William says the town is big enough for the business to be viable.

collaborating on the plan to create a 'digital cinema and cultural hub' in the town.

William is probably furthest away from a cinema of any town in the mainland. The Thurso Cinema has convinced me there is scope for further development of cinema across the Highland region, and Fort William seems like the natural next step.'

dependant on the BID being successful. He said: 'Rob has said he wants to open a cinema in Fort William and BID is a vehicle to help realise that.'

'If the BID doesn't happen private investment will still need to be found. That may or may not be more difficult. The BID is one avenue that is being explored, but it is certainly not resting on the BID.'

And Rob Arthur - who helped set up and run the cinema in Thurso - says the new facility could be up and running as early as next summer if things go to plan. Up to 20 jobs could be created.

The Thurso Cinema and Outdoor Capital of the UK (OCUK) are

Mr Arthur said: 'I have a keen interest in developing a modern cinema in Fort William.'

'It is fairly similar in terms of profile, population as Thurso, and in the UK Fort

OCUK's Frazer Coupland, who is also chairman of the group behind the BID project Living Lochaber, told *The Oban Times* the cinema plan was not

'That would be the BID's relationship with the cinema, to help leverage in public funding.'

Three locations are currently being looked at in the town to house the cinema, but Mr Arthur said the former cinema building in the town would not be used as it was 'not fit for purpose'.

**NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING**

Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2004

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### Youngsters hit the bullseye at target archery

Fort William youngsters Megan Gibb and Kyle Hutchison, and Caitlin Irbhinn of Kinlochleven, all hit the bull's-eye as they won gold medals at the STAFFA Scottish Outdoor Target archery championships at the BA Club on Saturday. Lochaber archers dominated the Scottish Sea Farms sponsored event, with winners coming from all three clubs in the area - South Lochaber Bowmen, Loch Sunart Bowmen and the host club Garrison Bowmen. South Lochaber Bowmen's Duhn Irbhinn said: 'I want to thank everyone who made the effort to come along and participate.'



### Clocks go back one hour this weekend

REMEMBER folks, your clocks will fall back by one hour this Sunday, October 27, at 2am.

British Summer Time (BST) is officially coming to an end and we'll be back on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) - but at least you get an extra hour in bed.



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**Police files**

A VEHICLE parked outside an address at Eastbay, Mallaig, was scratched down the full length of one side sometime between 9.30pm on Friday, October 18 and 10am the following morning.

FUEL was stolen from a vehicle in Dornie Quarry in Torlundy sometime between Saturday October 19 and Monday October 21.

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

**Stornoway woman wins national writing competition**

A STORNOWAY woman beat more than 300 other entrants to win a national writing competition.

Alayne Barton's short story about her granny 'Granny Special' will now be included in a new collection called 'Treasures' after the Scottish Book Trust contest. Alayne said: 'When I opened the email I thought, 'Oh dear, I'd better tell them they've sent this to the wrong person'. I'm still thinking it now. I really hope they haven't though because I'm so thrilled and excited about it I can hardly speak.'

More than 150,000 free copies of 'Treasures' will be distributed in book shops, libraries, train stations and elsewhere throughout the country to celebrate Book Week Scotland at the end of November.

**New Fergie song marks independence referendum**

CEILDH musician Fergie MacDonald has released a new song to mark next year's Scottish independence referendum.

Hot on the heels of Fergie's success with 'The Shinty Referee', his new tune 'Yes is the vote for Bonnie Scotland' hit the shops on Monday.

**Fire service charity fundraiser**

A NIGHT to raise money for two charities is being held at the Ben Nevis Hotel in Fort William on Saturday, November 9.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service event - which is raising money for the Scottish Burned Children Club and Help for Heroes - will see local favourites *The Shine* performing before a disco with free buffet to take the party into the early hours. For tickets and more information contact Pauline Ferguson at Fort William Fire Station on 01397 707670.

**Lochaber Pipe Band raises funds at annual ceilidh and dance**

LOCHABER Pipe Band held its annual fundraising ceilidh and dance at the West End Hotel in Fort William on Saturday night.

Father Roddy MacAulay was Fear an Taighe for the night as the band and guests Hannah MacRae on fiddle, Alex MacLean on accordion and duo Eriskay lilt played for the dance.

All funds raised on the night will go towards the bands operating costs including their tuition programme which provides free tuition on chanter, pipes and drums.



**Psalm singing night raises £200 for Macmillan**

Nearly £200 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Support at a traditional psalm singing night at Kilmallie Free Church in Caol on Friday night. The night was held to mark the 70th birthdays of Marion Smith and Isabel Campbell, and included representatives from Acharacle Free Church, Kilmallie Parish Church, Duncansburgh MacKintosh Church, Fort William Free Church, Kilmallie Free Church, St. John's Church and the Salvation Army. Isabel said: 'We had a super evening. Everyone enjoyed it so much that they want another one.'

**Acharacle gets fuel duty discount despite not having petrol station**

EYEBROWS were raised in Acharacle last week when Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander included the remote village in the UK Government's extended fuel duty discount scheme.

The remote west Lochaber community was announced as one of one seven in the Highlands recommended for a 5p per litre price cut at the pumps - despite not having had a petrol station for two decades.

The bemused chairman of Acharacle Community Council, Hugh MacPherson, told *The Oban Times*: 'The whole thing is wrong. We have not even got a petrol station - the one at the Loch Shiel Hotel shut 20 years ago.'

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

'It's good we are getting a reduction - if we could buy petrol in Acharacle, that is. I presume it should be Strontian, or Kilchoan, where there's still a wee station. They should have generalised and included the whole area.'

The move, if rubber-stamped by the European Commission, would extend the scheme to the mainland for the first time. It is already operating in the Hebrides, the Northern Isles, the Firth of Clyde islands and the Scilly Isles.

Appin, Dalwhinnie, Achnasheen, Carrbridge, Gairloch and Strathpeffer are also in line to receive the 5p fuel duty

reduction, along with remote communities in England.

All have high fuel prices, are more than 100 miles from the nearest refinery and have a population density of less than 135 people per km<sup>2</sup>.

The policy is designed to offset the costs of higher fuel prices in remote rural areas compared with urban centres.

But with no filling station in Acharacle, it is unclear whether Kilchoan and or Strontian will receive the 5p duty reduction should Europe approve the UK Government bid.

Either way, Mr MacPherson is sceptical a small cut in fuel duty will make much difference to Acharacle.

He said: 'Going to Strontian

involves a round trip of 25 miles so a lot of people will still fill up in Fort William.'

'We try to use Strontian two or three times a year because we are better using it than losing it. But with Corran ferry fares going up we tend to go the other way via Lochailort.'

Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy said: 'If this bid is successful and the fuel subsidy extended, it will be another important step towards realising my goal of a fuel subsidy across the Highlands. 'We are not there yet though - and we must still navigate the corridors of the European Commission.'

The EC is expected to make a decision early in 2014.

**Green light for Kishorn renewables base plan**

PLANS to transform a former oilrig platform fabrication yard in the West Highlands into a major base for the offshore renewable energy sector have been given the go-ahead by Highland Council.

Kishorn Port Ltd's ambitious multi-million pound scheme includes fabrication sheds and warehouses, reclaiming the foreshore, upgrading the pier and refurbishing the dry dock - one of Europe's largest.

Re-establishing the deepwater port as a full manufacturing

centre could create up to 2,500 jobs, the company estimates.

Council planners had backed the proposal and the north planning applications committee agreed to grant permission after a short debate in Inverness on Tuesday afternoon. A separate application to create an accommodation camp for up to 1,500 workers was also granted.

The plans for the port have attracted several complaints from local residents and businesses with almost 70 letters of representation received

- 27 in favour and 32 against. However, Lochcarron, Sheldaidg and Torridon and Kinlochewe community councils were all in favour, as was the Applecross Trust.

Planner Emma Forbes told the committee several conditions had been attached to the plans on controversial issues such as traffic, lighting and noise. Those factors, she added, had to be balanced by the fact the port was already currently a functioning industrial site.

She said: 'Although there may

well be some impact, on balance we conclude the application should be approved.'

Local councillor Biz Campbell backed the plans, saying: 'This will boost the Highland economy and provide year-round employment.'

Councillor Audrey Sinclair said the scheme would provide large scale job opportunities unavailable elsewhere on the west coast. She said: 'A good number of conditions have been applied and hopefully they will cover any issues.'

**New Co-op store opening delayed until new year**

THE CO-OP has confirmed its new store in Ballachulish will miss out on the Christmas rush after its opening date was pushed back until the New Year.

The new shop being constructed next to the village's tourist information centre in Old Station Yard had originally been set for a December opening.

But the Co-op said that date had been pushed back a month to help with a 'smooth relocation' from the existing store at Loanfern.

A Co-op spokesperson said: 'We have moved the planned opening date for our new store in Ballachulish back to January next year. This is to allow for the smooth relocation from our existing store in the village,

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

while ensuring we can continue to provide a good service to shoppers during the busy Christmas and New Year period. The new store will be larger than our existing outlet. Once it opens it will allow us to provide an even better service, and we are sure customers will enjoy shopping there.'

Locals will now have to get their festive supplies from the Loanfern store, which they had complained was too small for the village, or elsewhere.

Ballachulish Community Council chairman Mel

MacAskill told *The Oban Times*: 'It's the Co-op that's going to miss out, we'll just have to find somewhere else to do our shopping.'

The new slate-roofed 230m<sup>2</sup> shop will have a cash machine, and parking is also being created on site with access coming through the existing tourist information centre car park.

Small changes are being made to the road layout around the new shop to allow delivery vehicles in and out, and new street lighting put in place.

Work was originally planned to start on the store in 2009, but the company contracted to carry out the project went into liquidation on the day they were due to start work.



Work is ongoing on the new Co-op in Ballachulish: but the store will not be open before Christmas.

**Fort 'lap dancing' rumours quashed**

A FORT William hotel owner has denied she's bringing lap dancing to the town after applying to Highland Council to allow 'adult entertainment' to take place in its function room.

Ossian's Hotel on the town's High Street has asked the council's licensing board for permission to increase its

weekend opening hours. And included in the application was a request to allow 'adult entertainment as an activity taking place during core hours within the premises' - raising questions of what constituted 'adult entertainment'.

But owner Janice Wallace said the move was 'just to cover any

loopholes'. The hotel regularly caters for hen and stag parties, she said, and the new permission would cover their activities and make sure the hotel was fully compliant with licensing conditions. The licensing board will decide on the application at its next meeting on Tuesday November 5.



Lochaber Pipe Band before the start of the fundraising ceilidh night.

**Energy minister visits underwater centre**

FORT William's Underwater Centre was visited by the Scottish Government's Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism Fergus Ewing on Monday.

Mr Ewing was discussing development plans for the subsea training facility and seeing its two new vessels which it has recently purchased.

Centre general manager Steve Ham said: 'We are pleased to have hosted a visit by Mr Ewing and have the opportunity to show him the investment which is being made by the centre and its partners in industry.'

'The new barges will also allow us to run more courses, which is great news for the local area as it means there will be a significant jobs boost as we seek to fill several posts to help run these courses.'

**Fort FC monthly draw**

FORT William FC's monthly 300 Club draw took place on Saturday, with K and L Gillespie winning the top prize of £200. A MacLellan won £50, while E Luetzow and C MacQueen both picked up £25 each.

**Group drives forward with High Street Ford car statue plan**

FORT William High Street could be set to become home to a life-size bronze statue of the Model T Ford which drove to the top of Ben Nevis in 1911.

Partly inspired by the success of the 'Sair Feet' statue at the end of the West Highland Way at the end of the High Street, a group has been set up which hopes to place the sculpture in Cameron Square.

The project is estimated to cost around £85,000, which will be gathered through fundraising and donations.

West Highland Museum committee chairman Chris Robinson is one of those behind the drive, and he said they were hopeful Ford would also donate some money to the cause.

Mr Robinson said he was looking for local volunteers to get involved with the group.

He said: 'It would be a great asset to the High Street. This isn't just about celebrating the Model T, this is about a new focal point in the town. It would add to the quality of the street.'

'The plan is that the Model T will sit in the square at an angle of about 45 degrees up against the wall of the PDSA building as if it's about to head off down the High Street and up the Ben.'

Model T specialist Neil Tuckett, who was involved with the group who carried the classic car in parts to the top of the Ben in 2011, has already pledged £10,000 towards the cost.

The statue is not part of the council's ongoing project to revamp Cameron Square, but a space for the statue will be included in the plans.

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# Oban marina plan takes a step forward

PLANS for a short stay transit marina in Oban took a step forward this week as councillors agreed a design team should be appointed.

The 30-berth facility would be sited on the south side of the North Pier and tie in with other developments revealed at Tuesday's CHORD meeting.

Councillor Louise Glen-Lee, chairwoman, said: 'We have progress. We have come out with shared vision and we hope what we have agreed today will give a clear message to our community.'

Councillor Glen-Lee told the meeting five things had been agreed.

These include progressing a single harbour authority for Oban, developing 'complementary projects' with the Lorn Arc TIF, and taking forward the most 'cost effective' option for regeneration of the White Building - possibly demolition and redevelopment.

Stafford Street will also be 'detrunked' by Christmas at the latest to allow public realm works to progress.

Councillor Glen-Lee added: 'On the South Pier we are developing a design to be progressed to a shovel-ready stage, allowing the submission of a European Fisheries Fund bid by November 2014.'

A business case will now be started for the marina. Sandy Mactaggart, Argyll and Bute Council's head of development and infrastructure, told the meeting further expansion of the North Pier was possible.

Following the meeting *The Oban Times* attempted to speak to Linda Houston, Oban CHORD project manager, to gather more details on the proposals but council policy forbids Ms Houston from having conversations with the media without express permission.

# Man, 44, dies in road crash near Dalmally

A 44-YEAR-old man who died in a road crash near Dalmally on Sunday had not been named by police as *The Oban Times* went to press.

The man was a front seat passenger in a Daewoo car on the A85, near to its junction with the A819, when the vehicle was involved in a collision with a Mercedes A-class at around 5.35pm.

The two occupants of the Mercedes and the female driver of the Daewoo were all taken by ambulance to Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban, where they were kept in overnight.

The road was closed for approximately 11 hours while police carried out their investigations.

Any witnesses, or anyone with information that may assist police enquiries is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101.

# No plan to upgrade path

OBAN'S Tesco supermarket has confirmed it has no plans to upgrade the footpath from its car park to Glenshellach Terrace - despite getting the go ahead a year ago.

The store received planning permission on October 17 last year to construct steps and a timber fence on the well-used thoroughfare, but the path remains muddy - with stones used as footholds the only support for the steeper descents.

John Boden, who commented on Tesco's planning application, said: 'The existing, ad-hoc, steep slippery track is a hazard to all users.'

'Its continued existence is amazing and is no credit to either the council or Tesco and is entirely due to the popular demand for access from the road above the car park.'

Tesco has shelved the £60,000 upgrade despite organisations, including Oban Community Council, campaigning for work to be done on the busy walkway.

The path is owned jointly by three separate parties, Tesco, West Highland Housing Association (WHHA) and a third party, understood to be a private developer.

A spokeswoman for Tesco said: 'There are currently no plans for work to be done on the informal footpath at Glenshellach Road.'



Donald Feist holds aloft the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield after Govan Gaelic Choir's victory.

# Young Islay conductor leads Govan choir to Mòd glory

A YOUNG conductor from Islay who led Govan Gaelic Choir to the Royal National Mòd's premier choral prize says his island upbringing was key to his success.

Donald Feist's Govan choir was an outside bet for the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield last Friday, but pulled off a surprise victory, thanks in part to an own choice song, Horo Illean, that Donald arranged.

The 23-year-old said that growing up in Port Charlotte gave him a love for traditional music. He added: 'My first instrument was the pipes and I have always loved Gaelic music.'

'On Islay you grow up with it. It's just in-built and whenever I hear it I enjoy it; it's music that comes from the heart.'

The Glasgow-based primary school teacher has this week told *The Oban Times* his prize-winning Mòd experience has inspired him to enter next year's competition as a soloist.

Donald, a teacher at Elmvale Primary School in Glasgow, also conducts the school choir, the East Dunbartonshire Boys Area Choir and the Renfrewshire Junior Gaelic Choral Association, affectionately known as the RJs.

Since Donald took on the conductor's role with Govan four years ago, at the age of 19, the choir has never finished outside of the top four in either area choir competition at the national Mòd.

For more on this year's Mòd see pages 8 to 12.

# Residents face mammoth trek to collect festive parcels

## Strike could see customers having to travel to cities to collect post

RESIDENTS across Argyll and the Western Isles could face travelling to Glasgow to collect their packages in the run up to Christmas as posties prepare for further strike action.

The Communications Workers Union (CWU) announced last week it was to go on a 24-hour national strike on November 4 as it demands protection for its current terms and conditions in the newly privatised Royal Mail, including protection for rural services.

However, members are already being balloted on further strike action should no agreement be reached in time.

That could mean those in the PA and HS postcode area - including those from as far afield as Tiree, Coll, Barra and Lewis - having to embark on a mammoth journey to Glasgow to collect packages sent by third party couriers while those in the Highland area could face travelling to Inverness.

Jim McKechnie, CWU secretary for the PA and HS postcode areas, said: 'We just want a fair deal and we now have some weeks to try and achieve that. We've started balloting members on boycotting mail sent by private couriers such as DHL or TNT.'

'They don't want to do the last mile and a lot of people don't realise we do that for these couriers. It could mean people from Oban and the isles having to travel to Glasgow to collect parcels, as these companies aren't interested in the last mile or rural areas.'

He said the proposals facing the Royal Mail could further mean customers across the west Highlands paying more for postage.

He added: 'We don't want to go on strike and we don't want to fight our customers. We don't want them to suffer though - we want to protect the service.'

Fears are growing too that a system echoing that in the Netherlands that allows anyone with a lockable garage to become a 'postie' could be introduced.

'We want a deal to secure our terms and conditions for the next seven to 10 years, to give our guys long-term assurances, and to protect the service we have,' Mr McKechnie added.

Oban councillor and former postie Roddy McCuish has firmly backed the action, saying he will join the picket line on November 4 together with an army of local former posties.

He said: 'What is happening to the Royal Mail is crazy; privatisation might work in the cities but it won't work in rural areas. These are the most damaging changes to Royal Mail since it was established and I 100 per cent support this action. I really do worry about the future of Royal Mail.'

A spokesperson for Royal Mail said its offer of an 8.6 per cent increase in pay over three years with a £300 lump sum in the first year is fair, adding: 'Any industrial action, or the possibility of disruption, is damaging to our business, especially in the run up to Christmas, our busiest time. We will do all that we can to protect our business and minimise the impact of any industrial action on our customers' mail.'

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Nevis Bakery retail unit in Stevenson Street will be closing on the 31st October 2013. Our savoury products will still be available from Hannah's newsagents & the Co Operative store.

We would like to thank are customers in Oban for their support over the last 20 years, but due to a change in business direction, we are cutting back on our retail operations.

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**Teenagers charged with letting off fireworks in street**

TWO TEENAGERS who let off fireworks in an Oban street have been charged with three offences.

The 17-year-olds were allegedly shooting rockets near to the Kelvin Hotel on Shore Street at around 1am last Friday.

They have since been charged under the Explosives Act 1875, The Fireworks Regulations 2004 and for culpable and reckless conduct.

**Driver reported**

A MAN has been reported to the procurator fiscal after allegedly carrying out an overtaking manoeuvre that caused a cyclist to veer off the road and crash into a fence.

The incident happened Monday, October 14, around 1.30pm on the A816 near Kilniver, three miles south of the primary school. The driver of the overtaken vehicle stopped to give the cyclist assistance.

The 37-year-old accused driver was later traced by police.

**Man, 76, charged with drink driving**

AN ELDERLY driver has been charged with drink driving after police noticed he was driving through Oban at night without any headlights.

The 76 year old was spotted by officers at around 9pm driving through the town centre.

Upon stopping the man, police smelt alcohol from him and carried out a roadside breath test, which produced a positive reading.

**Town hall's £1m lottery boost**

A MASSIVE refurbishment and modernisation of Campbelltown Town Hall is to go ahead thanks to a £1 million windfall from the Big Lottery Fund.

The money was granted this week to South Kintyre Development Trust which will take over the running of the B-listed hall for the community.

A £1.7 million project to renovate and redevelop the hall from the ground floor to its roof is expected to begin next spring and take just over a year to complete.

'This is fantastic news for the town,' said Kintyre councillor John Semple. 'It shows what people can do when they all work together.'

The new hall will create a community hub providing offices to rent, conference and meeting facilities and a one-stop shop for accessing community activities and services from more than 50 local organisations.

**Generator stolen**

A FILM crew from Ireland, who left a £2,500 generator in a car park overnight returned to find it stolen.

The Honda generator was left in a lay-by near Bridge of Orchy between October 15 - 16.



Shauna MacKenzie with Janette Sermanni, who the youngsters presented a cheque to. 16\_143steps01

**Youngsters give it welly and raise £1,000**

YOUNGSTERS at 1st Steps Day nursery in Oban have raised more than £1,000 by completing a Welly Waddle.

The children, who walked from the Corran Halls through Dunollie Woods at the end of September, presented a cheque for £1,189.30 to Scottish Cot Death Trust last week.

Janette Sermanni, volunteer for SCDT, said a 'big thank you' to the boys and girls at the nursery as she collected the cheque.

She added: 'It is absolutely fantastic. We

are such a small charity that it is quite hard to get funds for research. People don't see the illness like they do for other charities. It is after the event for us so it is harder to get support.

'We are the only charity in Scotland for cot death, we have one nurse that does everything.

'We appreciate this so much it is a fantastic amount of money.'

Nursery manager Fiona Moloney said:

'We decided as a nursery to try and raise awareness on this subject and support this charity in carrying out further research into cot death.

'We were overwhelmed by the support of the parents and delighted to raise £1,189.30. Staff, children and parents all had great fun on our Welly Waddle.'

Shauna MacKenzie, who organised the waddle, added: 'We didn't expect to get anywhere near the much.'

**Fatal road crash witness appeal**

POLICE are anxious to establish the cause of an accident that killed one Campbelltown man and left ten others injured, some seriously.

Sixty-two year-old Andy Rennie died at the scene after the minibus he was driving was involved in a collision with a Mitsubishi 4x4 vehicle on the A83 at Kennacraig, about five miles south of Tarbert around 7.10am last Thursday morning.

The 21-year-old driver of the Mitsubishi was taken to Campbelltown Hospital and released after treatment for minor injuries.

There were 10 male passengers on the MacLeod Construction minibus. Six were taken by ambulance to Mid Argyll Hospital in Lochgilphead. One of them was then transferred to the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow and another transferred to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley.

Four passengers were taken to Campbelltown Hospital for treatment.

The A83 was closed for more than nine hours until specialist crash investigators had carried out their enquiries.

This week Sergeant James Crawford, of the Road Policing Unit, said: 'We are urging any



Police and specialist crash investigators at the scene of the accident last Thursday. Inset: Andy Rennie, who died in last Thursday's car crash.

witnesses to the crash, or with any information that may assist us, to contact Police Scotland on 101.

Mr Rennie, a father-of-three, drove the MacLeod minibus every working day, taking Campbelltown-based colleagues to jobs before going on to work at the company's quarry near Lochgilphead.

Described as 'a jovial man', he was well known in Campbelltown.

Jane MacLeod, a director of MacLeod Construction, said this week: 'Andy Rennie was employed by us for more than 15 years and was a highly respected member of our company.'

'We have been receiving messages of sympathy and support

from throughout Argyll and Bute and beyond, and on behalf of the company I would like to thank everyone for their support and offers of help for Andy Rennie's family and also for the injured men and their families.'

Mr Rennie's funeral will be tomorrow (Friday) at 1pm at Lorne and Lowland Church, Campbelltown.

**Doors close on one of Oban's oldest businesses**

Owner appeals to residents to support local shops

OBAN residents have been urged to support local shops after one of the town's oldest businesses, McDougall's Home Hardware on Soroba Road, was forced to close its doors.

John McDougall shut the shop last week after struggling to cope with competition from the internet - ending nearly 150 years of trading from the site.

While dwindling customer numbers is the main cause for the closure, which resulted in four people losing their jobs, John cited high business rates - £12,000 per year - and the extra contribution for the BID4Oban levy as contributing factors to the decision.

The closure doesn't affect the family's other business in the town, McDougall's in George Street, which continues to trade as normal.

John says he's devastated to have had to close Home Hardware, which has been

trading as a hardware store from the site since the 1950s and has been home to the business historically since 1865.

'It is just very sad,' he said. 'My father, Alan, started the shop and now I'm having to close the doors. It wasn't an easy decision, but in the current economic climate we didn't have a choice.'

'It's very sad for the staff who have been with me. One lady in the office has been with me for 38 years.'

'Everybody is shopping online now - and they aren't supporting Oban retailers.'

'If local stores aren't supported the town is going to end up with no quality stores.'

'This has a knock on effect. Tourists like to browse local shops. If they're not there the tourists will just pass through.'

He added his disappointment at the lack of support for the business from local bodies.

John said: 'The local authority hasn't helped with rates - they're a killer for business and take no account of changes in turnover.'

'BID4Oban hasn't been of any great help to us either. It's just another overhead and you're not getting very much for it.'

'Because I felt it was good for the town we voted yes for the BID, but with the economic downturn the extra rates have been detrimental to us.'

John added: 'I'd like to extend my family's thanks and gratitude for the support of our many loyal customers throughout the years.'

'We do understand the difficulties of spending in this economic climate and are saddened that so many independent shops have closed.'

Nic Jones, BID4Oban's manager, said: 'I'm really sad a well established company like that has had to fold, but BID is working hard in the background to get things going.'

**CMAL chief executive sails off after six years at helm**

GUY Platten, the chief executive of Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) is leaving after six years at the helm.

Mr Platten, who was appointed to CMAL in August 2007 at its inception, is leaving early next year to take up a role with the UK Chamber of Shipping as chief executive.

CMAL owns the ferries, ports and harbours and infrastructure for vital ferry services serving the west coast of Scotland.

During his tenure, Mr Platten oversaw the launch on the Clyde of the world's first sea-going roll-off roll-off diesel electric

passenger and vehicle hybrid ferry in December 2012, followed by the second vessel of its class in May this year. He has also commissioned a replacement £42million ferry to serve the Stornoway to Ullapool route, alongside significant investments in harbour infrastructure at a number of ports, including Largs and Port Ellen.

Mr Platten said: 'It has been a privilege to lead the team at CMAL and help establish the organisation as a key player in the delivery of vital, lifeline ferry and port infrastructure in Scotland.'

**Have a brew with Mull lifeboat crew**

MEMBERS of the public considering volunteering with the RNLI are invited to have a 'brew with the crew' this weekend on the Isle of Mull.

Tobermory Lifeboat Station is open from 11am until 2pm on Saturday October 26 for any potential volunteers who can spare their time and skills to help the RNLI to drop in for a chat and a cuppa. There are a variety of roles available, including fundraisers and shore helpers.

**Pub landlord searches for new Argyll home**

A PUB landlord is looking for a new home in Argyll after the premises she leased in Crieff was sold from under her.

Mandy Silver ran the Curly Coo whisky bar in the town for four years, earning a listing in the Lonely Planet Travel Guide 2013 and receiving an American magazine's acclaim, being the 'Best Whiskey Bar in the World'. It also earned five star awards from Trip Advisor for both 2012 and 2013 - but Mandy was forced to look for alternative premises when the owner of the building sold up in June.

Now, with a gantry of 120 malt whiskies, she wants to move into Argyll. She said: 'I was really keen on the Tigh Line, Lochawe, but I've not had success so far. I don't have a lot of cash, but I'm sure there's someone on the west coast who will be prepared to offer the Coo a new home?'

Mandy can be contacted at curlycoo@ymail.com.

**Lorn Lines**

MEMBERS of the Lorn and Mid-Argyll Scottish Wildlife Trust centre enjoyed a talk by Kerry MacKay who told of her university student expedition to the Antarctic peninsula.

Kerry 'enthralled' the group with some impressive images of landscapes and wildlife from this remote and stunning region.

The expedition was organised by Students on Ice, an international organisation which fosters awareness of both polar regions.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday November 21 in the Scottish Marine Institute at Dunstaffnage, when Pat Batty will speak on Dragonflies of Argyll.



Oban's Family Mediation Centre has welcomed two new members of staff after they became accredited mediators with Relationships Scotland. Susan Mair and Catriona Johnstone have taken up the role of helping young or old families - with or without children - through difficult times. Susan, pictured left, and Catriona, right, were welcomed to the team by mediation supervisor Carol Hope, mediator Tanya MacDougall and Stuart Valentine, chief executive of Relationships Scotland. The organisation's AGM will be held on the November 16 at 2pm in its office in Alexandra Place. All welcome with an open session of the centre from 3.30pm to 5pm. If you wish to attend the AGM contact 01631 570101.

FORMER members of the 1st Oban Boys' Brigade are invited to a reunion at Glenclutten Golf Club this Saturday. The celebration will be on from 2pm

until late and will show photos of previous companies, followed by a slideshow by Bob McCulloch at 4pm and music from early evening.

LORN Garden Club members were treated to an armchair tour of the wilds of the Falklands on Tuesday.

Dr James Fenton visited the group to give a talk on the island's flora and fauna, a place where seals hide among the 'tussock' grass and where Scottish heather, Caluna Vulgaris, is a pest species. Dr Fenton imparted his knowledge on

the geology, landscape, wildlife and flora of the 500 islands which make up the Falklands. Club members and visitors were fascinated to see shots of sheep grazing amongst the penguins. They heard that although the landscape looks similar to parts of Argyll, it is much drier. Their next meeting is on Tuesday, November 19 on growing and using herbs.

**Suppliers urged to tap into potential oil and gas boom**

A POTENTIAL oil and gas boom could be heading towards Argyll and Bute - with local suppliers urged to pick up where the north east is struggling to cope.

Contractors, fabricators and suppliers across the west Highlands and islands were invited to attend the Energy North Oil and Gas Taskforce meeting at the Cairnbaan Hotel, near Lochgilphead on Wednesday, with the new group saying several opportunities are there to be taken as the industry in Aberdeen admits it is struggling to keep up.

Speaking ahead of the meeting, Ian Couper, chief executive of Energy North, said: 'From our conversations with the industry in Aberdeen, it is clear it is in desperate need of new supply-chain partners as it is currently struggling to keep up with demand by sourcing its requirements from the north east alone.'

'Argyll is already experienced in sectors such as fabrication, engineering, environmental research and marine services. All of these represent sought-after services in the oil and gas industry.'

'We are very keen to work with Argyll businesses and support them to diversify so they can capitalise on opportunities in oil and gas. I will

be providing more advice about this at the meeting and, as part of the taskforce, we will be organising a range of learning journeys, trade visits, share fairs and meet the buyer events.'

'Moreover, Energy North will be developing a supply-chain directory, which will document all of the services, skills, facilities and capabilities that are available across the Highlands and Islands. This will be shared widely across the industry.'

As well as supply chain and support, the task force will look at developing the skills of school pupils to provide opportunities in the oil and gas sector.

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## Fort William face daunting trip away to free scoring Wick Academy

'We were unlucky not to get a share of the spoils up there last year'

**REPORT BY RICHARD HADDOCK**  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

Fort William face the daunting prospect of a long journey north to take on free-scoring Wick Academy at Harmsworth Park this Saturday.

The Lochaber men are still looking for their first win of the 2013/14 season, but know they face a tough task to get anything against a team that finished in third place in the highland League last year.

**Third spot**

Barry Wilson's men have found the back of the net 35 times in 10 games this season and sit in third spot in the league.

Fort manager Danny Conlon told The Oban Times he would

try and exploit any weaknesses Wick have in defence.

He said: 'Their philosophy is if they score two we'll score three. They are a very good attacking side so we've got to try and stop them.'

'They are the highest scoring side in the league so far which just shows when they are in full flow they are very difficult to stop.'

'But we'll try and take the game to them as much as possible. If you look at them over the last two or three weeks they haven't been firing on all cylinders so maybe we'll be catching them at the right time.'

He continued: 'We were unlucky not to get a share of the spoils up there last year, but the year before that we got a bit of a drubbing up there.'

**FOOTBALL**

Sean Grant and Duncan Campbell will miss the game, while Darren Quigg is doubtful due to work commitments and Jack Robson is injured.

Fort's game against Forres Mechanics last weekend was called off due to heavy rain, meaning the planned open day at the club was also postponed to a future date.

Conlon said: 'It was disappointing. There was heavy rain overnight and a lot of water on the pitch in the morning. The forecast wasn't good and you've got to make a call on these things early on.'

'It's a shame, a lot of work went into getting a team for the day and for the open day.'



Lochaber's Davie Harvey (left) and Paul Mitchell chase Highland's Craig Findlater for the ball during Saturday's match.

## Highland prove too strong for Lochaber

**Lochaber RFC 0 Highland RFC 48**

LOCHABER tasted defeat at home for the first time this season against a physical, well-drilled Highland side at a damp Black Parks on Saturday.

A second heavy loss in two weeks means Lochaber stay in fourth in the RBS Caledonia League Division Two North table, but have lost ground on the three teams above them - Highland, Garioch and Aberdeenshire 2nd XV.

Highland have started the season strongly, winning all of their games with bonus points, so it was always going to be an uphill task for the home side.

The first quarter of the match was played

at a fast pace, with both teams giving their opposite numbers very little time and space with the ball.

This resulted in an error-strewn start to the game, with both teams unable to get into any sort of rhythm.

The Invernessians finally opened the scoring after 25 minutes. Lochaber began to provide more space for the opposing backs to run into, and the visitors managed to run in three more tries before the half-time interval.

After the break, the home team took the game back to Highland, and were unlucky not to cross the whitewash after good work by the chasing pack.

Despite conceding a further three tries,

**RUGBY**

Lochaber kept battling until the final whistle but were unable to get on the scoresheet.

Team captain Mike McLeish said: 'We never gave up and played physically all through the match. Jamie Milne put in a solid shift at tight-head prop, whilst his brother Andy dealt well with scrappy ball throughout the game.'

Lochaber do not play this weekend and instead can look forward to the away match against Garioch on November 2.

Training continues on Tuesdays and Thursdays and any new players are encouraged to come along.

## Alleycats are now the top dogs

**TEN PIN BOWLING**

ALLEYCATS have taken the lead in the scratch division after three weeks of the Lochaber Building Supplies ten pin bowling competition.

Alleycats have 13 points, the same as second placed Rock and Bowl and third placed Bandits.

In the handicap division, Rock and Bowl lead with 13 points, followed by Bandits on 11 points with Alleycats third on 10 points.

The top individual game came from Gail Anderson of Fairway Fillies with 174 scratch, 249 handicap - the latter being the season's high so far.

The top two game scratch series came from Tony Whitelocke of Alleycats with 315. The top two game handicap series was a 451 from Gail Anderson.

Rock and Bowl had the highest scratch team game with 518 whilst Alleycats had the highest two game scratch team series with 1,020.

Fairway Fillies had the top handicap team game of 798 and the top two game handicap team series with 1,503.

The highest scratch average is currently held by Alleycats' Tony Whitelocke with 161, followed by team mate Pam Weller on 151 and Sean MacPherson of Rock and Bowl on 140.

## Leisure are new league leaders

**INDOOR FOOTBALL**

LOCHABER Leisure have moved to the top of the Ali Young indoor football league on goal difference after defeating Ali Young 3-0 at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

Portowcy are the only other team with a 100 per cent record after three games following their 8-6 win over previously unbeaten Goon Squad.

Caol United stay fourth after a hard fought 5-4 win over With Ourselves, while Ballachulish moved up to fifth with a 4-1 win over HWE Energy.

Bottom side Kentallen are the third highest scoring side in the league but have conceded 27 times so far and are yet to pick up a point. A 6-5 loss against The Janis B Team continued their run.

The night's other game saw AFC Distillery lose 3-2 to Caol Cosmos, who stay sixth.

## Duncan's not rusty

**GOLF**

RUSTY Duncan has taken the lead at the top of Fort William Golf Club's winter league with a total score of 111 points.

Last week's leader Eric Wallace is now second on 108, with Iain Robertson staying third on 98.

Saturday's front nine saw Sinclair Gunn score 22 points to take first place, with Toby Richardson one point behind in second. Neil Feggins took third with 20 points.

Rusty Duncan's score of 23 points gave him first place in the back nine on Sunday. Henry MacDonald's better last three holes gave him second place ahead of Iain Robertson after both scored 22 points.

## Schoolboy boxers are a big hit

**BOXING**

THE schoolboy section of Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club continues to make waves as three young boxers have qualified for the finals of the Scottish Novice Championships in Ravenscraig Sports Centre this Saturday.

Cameron Whyte, Robert Stewart MacDonald and Keir Johnstone will all take part after winning their preliminary bouts last weekend.

Current open Scottish champion Cameron Whyte, 11, faced George Stewart of Inverness ABC in the quarter final and won every round to take a clear victory.

In the semi final, Whyte took on James MacDonald of Denbeath ABC. This pitted two of the widely regarded best boxers in their division and was a top drawer contest.

MacDonald came out like a raging bull and took the play away from Whyte, but Cameron regrouped and began to find a home for his jab.

The second saw Whyte show why he is so highly regarded as he stamped his authority by changing angles and punishing every mistake MacDonald made.

The decision was a formality and Cameron now faces Declan Reese of Midlothian in the final.

Robert Stewart MacDonald, 12, took on southpaw John Craig from Argo, who came out with a sharp jab but it didn't take long for MacDonald to discover that he could land his own jab enabling him to crash in his right cross.

When he started to throw in combination Craig could not cope and an eight count was administered on the Glasgow boxer, and after a few more accurate combinations the referee stepped in to save the stricken Craig from further punishment.

Keir Johnstone will also be in a final next week after storming through three opponents in the last five weeks and he faces the highly regarded Jet Dickie of Hillpark.

Dan Nixon, 12, faced Liam Laird of Inverness who had defeated Dan in the Lochaber boxer's last two contests.

Nixon has worked like a Trojan in the gym to improve his technique and it showed during ferocious exchanges in the opener.

Nixon thought a late onslaught had won the contest but the

judges gave a close decision to Laird.

Club official Steve Docherty said: 'This is the most successful group of youngsters we have ever had at this stage in their development.'

'While we have had some Open Schoolboy champions in the past we have never had a novice champion and only ever had one boxer in a final so to get three finalists in one year is fantastic. Added to that all three have a great chance of success.'



Robert Stewart MacDonald will be fighting in the Scottish Novice Championships this weekend 10\_143boxing01



Division two champs: Skye Camanachd Ladies.

## Skye Ladies crowned Marine Harvest north division two champions

SKYE Camanachd Ladies have been crowned Marine Harvest north division two champions after defeating Lochaber in a playoff at Balmacara on Saturday.

Lochaber went into the game as favourites having won the

sides' previous meeting 6-2, and they drew first blood with Zoe Smith smacking the ball into Sarah Corrigan's bottom corner.

Skye kept up the pressure and soon levelled through Lorna MacRae, and five minutes before the break Jenna Beaton put them

2-1 in front. Minutes after the restart a precision effort from Beaton put Skye two goals up, and shortly after MacRae got her second of the match to put Skye in pole position.

Lochaber battled hard and were rewarded with Smith's pulling a

**WOMEN'S SHINTY**

goal back. But after Lochaber's Kirsty Delaney missed a penalty Skye were able to hold on for the win to the delight of their supporters.

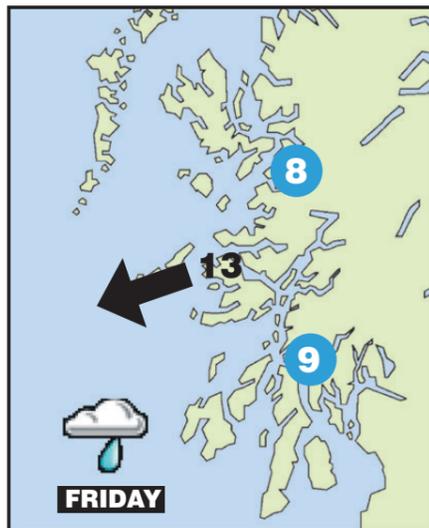
## Weather

**Thursday** Sunny Intervals  
Winds moderate westerly  
Temperatures 6°C to 10°C

**Friday** Light rain  
Winds moderate east north easterly  
Temperatures 7°C to 9°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Cloudy  
Winds moderate west south westerly  
Temperatures 8°C to 10°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 24, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	02.35 1.3 08.10 3.7 15.01 1.7 20.35 3.4	
Fri	03.18 1.5 08.49 3.5 15.48 2.0 21.18 3.1	
Sat	04.09 1.8 09.37 3.2 16.48 2.2 22.17 2.9	
Sun	05.08 1.9 10.46 3.1 18.04 2.2 *** **	
Mon	00.48 2.8 06.12 1.9 12.57 3.0 19.43 2.1	
Tues	02.12 3.0 07.21 1.9 14.19 3.2 20.54 1.9	
Wed	02.56 3.2 08.25 1.7 15.01 3.4 21.33 1.7	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-0.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-0.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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