

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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WINTER breaks

WIN A night at Malmaison Glasgow

Coping with Bereavement

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Shoplifter took 17 bottles of booze

A MAN suspected of shoplifting from the Co-op in Oban is being sought by police. A total of 17 bottles of alcohol, worth £335, were taken and recovered in the incident on Wednesday October 26 at around 10.30am. Police are trying to trace a man described as in his 50s, six feet tall with grey hair and wearing a black jacket, green shirt and dark trousers. He was pulling a luggage trolley and carrying a holdall. Anyone with any information should contact Constable Moore at Oban Police Office on 01631 510500.

Speeding drivers pay the penalty

SPEED checks in Connel on Sunday evening, October 30, resulted in five drivers being issued with fixed penalty notices. A 44-year-old male driver was also charged with driving at 56 miles per hour in the village's 30mph zone. A further five drivers were warned about their driving.

Dinghy stolen from grounds of house

POLICE are appealing for information after an eight foot Waveline dinghy was taken from grounds near Polfearn House, Taynuilt. A Yamaha outboard motor was also stolen. The items were taken between October 24 and 28. Anyone with any information should contact Taynuilt community officer Constable Simpson.

Teenager arrested

A TEENAGER was arrested in Stevenson Street, Oban, after allegedly trying to steal a motor vehicle on Sunday October 30. The 18-year-old male was charged for attempted theft and a report was made to the Procurator Fiscal.

Forum AGM

THE ANNUAL meeting of Oban High School Parent Forum will be held in the school's assembly hall at 7pm next Thursday. For details call Jane Brunton on 07768 835333.



Thriller of a Monsters' Ball



Vampires, werewolves, ghosts and ghoules were joined by Angry Birds and Fred Flinstone at this year's Monsters' Ball in the Corran Halls, Oban. An international - and scary - edge to proceedings was brought by this group of Oban residents. They are, from left, Dominique Weilermann from Germany, Madeline Leech from Canada and Lauren Ault from England with compatriot Daniel Booker. 15, 644monsters1

Charity launches consultation into future of care for the elderly in Oban

OFFICIALS at a charity-run old folks home are launching a consultation into the future of care in Oban. North Argyll Eventide Association has been warned demand - and funding - will fall for the residential care they provide for older people, as more are supported to stay in their own homes. Meanwhile, there is no home in the town offering more intensive nursing care. The association has launched a consultation to hear the views of the community, carers, residents and health and social services, to establish whether there is a need for a new nursing home in Oban.

Hamish Isaacs, chairman of the charity, said the process, which is at a very early stage, was designed to look at a sustainable future for their much-loved home at the top of the Bealach an Righ. He said: 'We do want to preserve this very special place that is held in great affection. We would love in the long term to keep a section that is residential and we may have to supplement that with nursing care.' Residential care is an expensive option, but some older residents prefer being in a social environment where meals, cleaning and heating bills are taken care of. Mr Isaacs said that nursing

care would be an even more expensive option, with highly skilled staff. Mr Isaacs said at present, the North Argyll home is not equipped or staffed to deal with more complex needs. 'There comes a point where they need more care than we can give them. It would be quite nice to have a one-stop shop - where you go as a resident and as age progresses, can still stay there and get the nursing care you need.' Questionnaires are being sent to groups and distributed throughout the town and are also available by email from ecce@clinicalservices.fsnet.co.uk.

Modest heroes in Loch Etive rescue

Pals paddle to aid of stricken kayaker

TWO KAYAKERS who braved the perilous Falls of Lora to drag a man to safety are in line for a bravery award. But modest Colin Aitken and Paul Maydew, both 33, believe they did what anyone else would do when they plunged back into the water and battled strong currents to rescue the man. 'There was a moment we lost sight of him for a bit and just saw his legs kicking. I thought he was going under,' recalled Paul, who said he and Colin 'were just in the right place at the right time.' 'Normally we wouldn't have even still been there - it was all a little bit lucky.' The experienced kayakers, who often come to 'play' on the turbulent water at the mouth of Loch Etive, were on shore when they saw two men and a 12-year-old boy get into difficulty. One canoeist capsized while

the others made it to the shore. Colin said: 'I thought it was the week and I thought he wouldn't last very long in the water. In fact it was the older man. When we saw him get washed away we thought we were going to have to go and sort this out. We ran to where our kayaks were, put on some of our gear and just ran down to the bank. All we could do was get into our boats and start chasing.' After 15 minutes of paddling hard against the pounding currents and eddies, and with emergency services arriving on shore, the pair closed in on the stricken victim. Colin, who lives in Perth, said: 'There was so little of him above the water, but we could see him kicking his legs, which meant he was still alive.' 'He was holding on to his kayak which had submerged - as we reached him he just said 'I need help'. 'Paul stayed with his equipment and I got him on the back of my

kayak and paddled a few minutes more to shore. 'They asked us to go for a beer, but we just had something to eat and went to bed. 'We were done in and going back out the next day - you can never get too much of the Falls.' Oban Police Chief Inspector Brian Auld is certain the men are lifesavers. He told them: 'I can't understate what you did - without your prompt actions there were going to be tragic consequences.' He has put the pair forward for a Chief Constable's commendation, but they do not see themselves as heroes. Paul, from Edinburgh, said: 'I'm flattered, but I'm not sure it really warrants it. 'It was good that he didn't get any further injuries other than getting a bit cold. It was nice to be able to do it.'

REPORT by CHRISTINE McCARTNEY cmccartney@obantimes.co.uk

"There was so little of him above water. We could see him kicking his legs which meant he was still alive."

Colin Aitken.

Ministers' backing for £20million Lorn Arc

A BID to bring £20 million to Oban and create hundreds of new jobs has cleared a vital hurdle. On Tuesday, Scottish ministers backed Argyll and Bute Council's bid to borrow the cash to extend the North Pier and build a development road, unlocking land around Dunbeg and Dunstaffnage for economic growth. The Oban bid, one of three pilot projects picked from 15 applications, will now be developed into a full business case alongside the Scottish Futures Trust. If finally approved, the council will be allowed to borrow the funds against future growth in business rates that the investment

is intended to bring about, under the Tax Incremental Funding (TIF) mechanism. Council leader Dick Walsh said the announcement was 'fantastic news' for Oban and the surrounding area. He said: 'We were confident that our bid was a very strong one, as Oban had already been identified as an area which met the government's objectives for this scheme. 'However, we knew we were up against some extremely tough opposition, and we're delighted to have been chosen to go forward to the next stage.' Speaking for the Harbour Board Development Group, Councillor Donald 'Skye' McIntosh said the developments in Oban Bay

would provide much more berthing space for fishing boats, yachts and vessels serving the wind farm industry. Graham MacQueen, Oban businessman and chairman of the ObanBIDS steering group, said the news would increase business confidence and lead to increased prosperity. He added: 'This is a huge development for Argyll and Bute Council. 'Duncan MacIntyre and the council officers who worked on this bid have to be commended for taking this forward.' Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'This is a big investment and a great vote of confidence in Oban and the surrounding area and should

lead to new employment and new opportunities. 'I was enthusiastic about this from the beginning. Now we have the green light there is much hard work to be done to make it a reality.' Anticipated progress on a development road was also welcomed in the burgeoning village of Dunbeg, where villagers have been campaigning for better infrastructure for years. Gwyneth Neal, chairwoman of Dunbeg Community Council, said she was 'absolutely delighted' to hear funding had been identified. 'It will ease snarled roads in the village as well as paving the way for further development,' she added.

Disabled residents let down by 'no-go' areas

DISABLED residents in Oban say they feel let down by a number of businesses and venues that have not complied with access rules under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). Under DDA, all public places had to have wheelchair access by

six years on, but some of Oban's most popular venues and shops are still no-go areas for some. Meeting Oban Community Councillor Sean MacIntyre raised the issue at the council's meeting on Monday.

He said: 'I was reading about the Royal National Mod coming back to Oban and a lot of people will be very happy about that but there are some who miss out on big events like that because they cannot gain access to some venues.'

Fellow community councillor Kate Winton, who is a wheelchair user, said: 'All public premises have to be wheelchair friendly under the DDA but in George Street, for example, it seems that only every second shop has access.'

Two bids lodged for old Rockfield Primary School

OBAN'S town centre could be in line for a boost with two bids submitted by potential developers to buy the old Rockfield Primary School. The Oban Times has learned that councillors will consider the bids for the Grade B-listed Stevenson Street building next month, which has remained dormant since pupils transferred to Soroba's joint campus in 2007. It is understood that one of the bidders is a hotel developer, while proceeds from the sale will go straight into the council's education

budget. News that the old school, listed on the Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland, could be sold has been welcomed by the chairman of Oban Community Council, Mairi Molloy. She said: 'I'm delighted there are two bidders. I would like it to be more useful for the community. 'Initially, I'd like to see it being used for the elderly because it's in the middle of town, but failing that I hope it would be something for the children to enjoy. 'I know that's what the proposed

centre in Soroba is supposed to do but we've waited 19 years for that - it could be another 19 years before that comes along.' Oban councillor and spokesperson for enterprise, energy, culture and tourism Neil MacKay said: 'I think it is tremendous that there is interest in the building. 'It's not just the building that's being bid on of course, it's quite a large site. 'We have had offers for the building before but they were not deemed appropriate.'

'I'm looking forward to hearing in more detail what these offers and proposals for development are, bearing in mind the planning restrictions that are in place.' That view was echoed by Councillor Elaine Robertson. She said: 'I would very much like to see the building used. It is in a prominent position within Oban and obviously I'd like to see it put to good use. 'It's safe to say that everyone in Oban would like to see this building being used.'

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Concern over use of air weapons at Loch Earn

POLICE are investigating claims that fishermen are using air weapons to shoot watersports enthusiasts on Loch Earn. Birds are also at risk from the illegal use of air rifles, with unconfirmed reports suggesting birds are being shot by visitors keen to try out their weapons in discreet surroundings. Local officer for the Lochearnhead area Constable Andrew Ward raised the concern after an increase in reports of illegal air weapons being used

throughout the region. He is calling for locals and visitors to the area to be on the lookout for air weapons and to report anyone they see acting irresponsibly. PC Ward, who is also the environmental crime officer for the area, said: 'There has been an increase in reports of air weapons being used and it could be one of those situations where, because you've highlighted it, people are more aware of the issue. 'But there are problems with

people using air rifles in the area. 'It starts off with people shooting tin cans etcetera, but that becomes boring very quickly. Shooting 'By the very nature of where we are, there's lots of birds in the area and these people start shooting them. 'Something else we've been hearing a lot about recently, is fisherman on the side of the

loch having a wee pot-shot at someone on a jet ski. 'The most common report is at the St Fillan's end of the loch but no-one has actually made an official complaint yet. However, such is the concern that he is already looking towards targeting air rifle use around the loch. Meanwhile, the introduction of new bylaws at Loch Lomond seem to have been effective at deterring wild campers there, but poor weather this year has made

the possibility of displacement to surrounding lochs difficult to judge. Constable Ward said: 'I would definitely say that the bylaws have improved the quality of enjoyment visitors get at Loch Lomondside. 'Anti-social behaviour reports have really dropped. There could be a number of reasons as to why and it could be the weather played a part. 'However, for us it's a case of so far, so good.'

'Fraser is our little miracle'

Family pays tribute to RAF lifesavers

PROUD Kilmore parents Gordon and Katy Pollock have paid tribute to hospital and helicopter staff who beat appalling weather to ensure their son received vital specialist care. Young Fraser, Gordon's first and Katy's third child, had an eventful entry into the world, having been flown down to Paisley's Royal Alexandra Hospital by Sea King helicopter for specialist care just hours after he was born at Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital on Friday October 21. Thankfully, he is now recuperating at home with his parents, sister Rhona 13, and brother Craig, 11 – thanks in no small part to the team of heroes who battled through perilous weather conditions to ensure Fraser got the care he needed. Gordon, 36, an engineer with the Northern Lighthouse Board, said: 'He was born at five past midnight and the midwives had some concerns about him. They contacted Paisley straight away and they decided to call in the helicopter, asking them to bring two specialists up.'



Young Fraser Pollock takes a nap with parents Katy and Gordon following his dramatic trip to Paisley just hours after his birth. 15_144pollock1

Court threat over village water row

THE DISPUTE over who is responsible for the private Bridge of Orchy water supply would have to be settled by the courts, an Argyll and Bute Council officer has told the community. Residents met representatives of the council last Thursday, to discuss progress on a plan to fix the out-dated storage tanks and infrastructure. But council officials, residents and local businessmen came to a stalemate over the issue of who was responsible for upgrading the supply. Council representatives at the meeting, in the Bridge of Orchy Hotel, included Sandy MacTaggart, executive director for development and infrastructure, and Douglas Hendry, executive director of customer services. From the outset, Mr Hendry told the meeting: 'We are keen to work with yourselves on a way forward but everyone knows what the economic climate is like and if I can be bitterly frank, spending a lot of money, like upgrading the water supply, would be beyond the council.'

He said that if the council was able to sell the schoolhouse, it would 'dispose of its interests' in the water supply. Mr MacTaggart added, however, that the council could not wash its hand of the issue, especially if a there was a concern over public safety. After Andrew McKnight, of Bridge of Orchy Hotel, asked Mr Hendry if he thought the council had a duty of care because of the health and safety risk to the public, Mr Hendry responded saying: 'I'm not going to say yes or no, because it's a question designed to take me down a particular line. 'If we come to an argument over duty of care, we will end up in court.'

The council currently holds the Deed of Servitude rights to the supply and owns the old primary school building – its only remaining property in the settlement. However, the issue of maintaining the supply only came to a head last winter when it was badly damaged during a spell of severe cold weather. The council's environmental health department subsequently deemed the water unsafe to drink, instructing residents to boil their water or fit UV filters to their home. The council subsequently carried out a basic repair to the supply, which still needs a major overhaul to prevent a similar problem happening this winter. The community has made it clear it would take on responsibility of the water supply if the council brings it up to standard. Discussions into how the upgrade would be funded revealed the community could obtain a grant of around £15,000 from the Scottish Government. In the meantime Mr MacTaggart said the council would look at finding an affordable, fit for purpose and durable technical solution that would cost tens of thousands, rather than hundreds of thousands of pounds. Resident Ian Andrew told the council officials: 'We're not looking for bells and whistles, just clean water. 'We are happy to take responsibility for it, but not until it is brought up to a reasonable standard.'

Meeting will discuss MPs' boundary changes

A PUBLIC hearing will be held on proposed changes to parliamentary boundaries that could change the political landscape of the west coast. Moves to reduce the number of Scottish MPs and see them represent larger areas could lead to a tussle among sitting Liberal Democrat members, even before they go up against other parties for votes. Argyll and Bute, currently represented by Liberal Democrat Alan Reid MP, will be extended north to Fort William and west to include Ardnamurchan. The new constituency would include almost 76,000 electors and more than 110 miles from south to north – making it the

second largest in Scotland by area. Under the plans, Charles Kennedy's Ross, Skye and Lochaber constituency would be carved up into a new Inverness and Skye seat and another to be called Caitness, Sutherland, Ross and Cromarty. Na h-Eileanan Siar remains fixed with the legislation. The initial proposals published by the Boundary Commission for Scotland will be discussed at a public meeting in Glasgow on November 22 and are open for consultation until January 4. New boundaries will not be finalised until October 2013, in preparation for the next Westminster election, due in May 2014.

Safety first as livestock were refused passage

FERRIES operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) has defended its right to refuse passage of livestock during brisk weather conditions after a complaint from a Tiree farmer. Alastair MacInnes, Ruairig, was furious last week when the captain of the *Clansman* refused to allow his two trailers of cattle onto a sailing to Oban because of choppy weather. While Mr MacInnes said that 'it took a while for them to tie the boat up', he believes conditions were safe enough for his livestock. His being denied access to the ferry caused him to miss out on the last sale of the season for the 12 cattle in Stirling. But a CalMac spokesperson

Builder admits breach of the peace

A BUILDING contractor who had been working on Jura ended up in the dock at Campbeltown Sheriff Court on Wednesday. Wayne McKay, aged 33, who lived at Feolin Cottage, Craighouse, and now lives in Hampshire, admitted causing a breach of the peace at the home of a former girlfriend in Bowmore, Islay, on July 10.

Procurator Fiscal David Glancy said that the pair's relationship had ended but on July 10 they were both at the same social event in Bowmore; McKay's former partner was with another man. They and another couple went back to her home and later that night McKay arrived uninvited, kicked open the kitchen door, entered and began shouting.

'She [the former girlfriend] became distressed by his presence and his conduct,' said the Fiscal. McKay left and the police were called. The following day McKay, who had been 'pretty intoxicated' the night before, went of his own accord to the police station. Sheriff Ruth Anderson fined him £250.

Mull Lines



Ornithology enthusiasts Andrew and Charlotte Barton on their wedding day. Picture by Neil Redfean

A WHITE wedding is nothing unusual but one newlywed couple had a different take on their big day, opting for a 'white-tailed eagle' theme after being inspired by a visit to Mull. Andrew and Charlotte Barton, from Lancashire, who got married last week, dedicated their wedding day to the winged wonders they saw on the island last year. The couple were so shocked by the story of the birds' massive decline in the past, that they asked wedding guests to make a donation to the RSPB, to help restore white-tailed eagles back to their former numbers in Scotland instead of buying them more traditional wedding gifts. And the new Mr and Mrs Barton will deliver the donations to the RSPB on Mull when they return to the island for their honeymoon. Wedding favours were RSPB white-tailed eagle pin badges – the proceeds from which will also go towards the wildlife charity's work to help the birds of prey. Guests were also given RSPB booklets on the birds so they knew the story and why they were being asked to help.

A COUPLE who lost their camera in Craignure, Isle of Mull, last month have offered a reward for its safe return.

Laura Varney and her boyfriend Dean had a romantic break to celebrate her birthday, but she believes they dropped the camera while waiting to board the ferry back to Oban on Sunday October 9.

Laura said they are desperate to get it back as much for the irreplaceable pictures on it of trips to Israel and Russia. She added: 'We think it fell out my pocket between getting out of the car, going across the road into the shops and getting back in the car.'

Despite a thorough search, the Canon camera in a grey Samsung case was not found. Anyone with any information can contact Laura on 0131 554 5022.

SALEN Primary School was named as a finalist in the Best Green School Award at the prestigious Scottish Green Awards 2011.

The eventual joint winners were Craighead and Clachen primary schools but the judges commented on Salen Primary School's impressive list of green energy and ecological achievements and encouraged them to enter again in 2012.

A finalists certificate was presented to Salen Primary School at a glittering dinner and awards ceremony hosted by BBC Reporting Scotland's Jackie Bird at the Glasgow Science Centre.

The annual awards are sponsored by Scottish Power, the Daily Record, SEPA, IEMA, the University of Strathclyde and Insider Magazine.

A YOUNG actress from Tobermory High School has won a place in the national final of Off By Heart Shakespeare, a recital competition on the works of the playwright.

Third year pupil Isobel Downing was one of two Scottish contestants to win a place in the national final. She will hear how well she has done compared to youngsters from across the UK in December.

Isobel was one of three pupils from Tobermory who took part in the national competition for 13 to 15-year-olds, part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival.

Isobel was joined at the regional heat in Glasgow by second year pupils Ruth Darling and Maria Green.

All three girls learned and practised their chosen speech and performed it at the Scottish regional heat on October 24.

All three youngsters take part in Mull Youth Theatre activities.



The three Tobermory pupils in Glasgow at the Off By Heart Shakespeare competition.

Poll cards undelivered as Oban prepares to vote

VOTERS hoping to cast their ballot during today's by-election have been told they don't need their polling cards to have their say.

A number of households in the Oban and North Lorn ward have either only received partial or not received any polling cards, but as long as registered voters have identification, they need not present them.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'There have only been a handful of calls to the election office in respect of undelivered poll cards. 'If anyone has not received a poll card but is on the register of voters, then they do not need the card to vote. 'If any individual is unsure about whether or not they are included on the register, then they can contact the election office to check.'

The Oban Times would like to say a massive thank you to all the readers who took the time to complete our 2011 READERSHIP SURVEY.

We have had an overwhelming response and value every opinion given. The information gathered from this survey will enable us to ensure that The Oban Times meets your demands now and in the future.

Congratulations
To Hazel MacDonald, Spean Bridge
who won the prize draw
of £100 cash

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Concern over betting shop plan

OBAN Community Council has expressed concern at the prospect of another betting shop opening in Oban.

An application has been made to Argyll and Bute Council's planning department for a change of use of the former Millets shop in George Street, currently a Class 1 retail property, to a betting office (Class 2).

This would include alterations to the shop front and installation of a satellite dish and air conditioning units.

However, speaking at Oban Community Council's meeting on Monday, chairwoman Mairi Malloy said: 'I'm concerned about this because we have enough betting shops in Oban. This would be the fourth one in the town.'

The community council agreed to write to the council to seek more information before making representations.

Book illustrations on show at library

OBAN Library is currently hosting a major exhibition of contemporary children's book illustration entitled 'The Illustrators'.

The pieces in the exhibition have been chosen by Children's Laureate Julia Donaldson and represent the work of the many illustrators she has worked with over the years including, of course, Axel Scheffler, who created the art work for The Gruffalo. The exhibition contains 49 pieces and will be divided in two to allow the maximum possible exposure.

The current selection will be available in the library until next Monday, with the second half being available for viewing from next Wednesday to Saturday November 20.

Owner sought for engagement ring

POLICE are trying to return an engagement ring, found in an Oban car park, to its rightful owner. The ring was discovered in Tesco car park in September, but no one came forward to the supermarket claim it.

It is now being held in Oban Police Office, telephone 01631 510500.

Drink-drive charge

A 47-YEAR-OLD man was charged with drink driving after police stopped him near the police station in Taynuilt on Sunday October 23.

Diazepam found

A QUANTITY of diazepam was found when police searched a 29-year-old man in the early hours of Tuesday October 25, in the town's Stafford Street.

He was subsequently released for report to the Procurator Fiscal.

Youth charged

A 14-YEAR-old boy was charged with shoplifting from an Oban supermarket on October 28 around 9.20pm.

He is alleged to have taken goods worth £21. A report has been made to the Children's Panel Reporter.

Vehicle seized

A 53-YEAR-old man had his car seized after police charged him for driving without insurance on Gallanach Road on October 29.

The man was also charged for carrying a child without the appropriate seatbelts or car seat.

Teenager reported

A 14-YEAR-old girl was arrested for disorderly conduct in an Oban street on October 29. A report has been made to the Children's Panel Reporter.

Accused arrested

POLICE arrested and charged a 44-year-old man with possession of cannabis resin and urinating in George Street. The alleged incident occurred around 1.35am on Sunday October 30.



Graham Fraser of Alba and St Columba's pupil Eve Beaton, with Eve's winning programme design.

Stage set for Oban's Winter Festival

AS THE cold and wet weather that marks an Argyll winter comes into its own, a festival designed to bring some festive cheer is almost upon us.

The Winter Festival, to be held from November 18 to 27, will see an ice-skating rink at Atlantis Leisure, a Victorian Market, reindeer parade, dances and a host of other activities throughout the town.

Marking the countdown to the start of the festival, which will be officially opened at Dunollie

House on November 18, organisers have this week produced a programme of events. St Columba's Primary School pupil Eve Beaton, aged 11, won a competition to design the front cover of the programme and she helped competition judge Graham Fraser, of art shop Alba, to launch the new programme.

Eve's design shows a Christmas scene of Oban's waterfront, with McCaig's Tower, a Christmas tree and a snowman helping to form a 'striking' design.

Mr Fraser said: 'I chose Eve's design because it has striking colours and lots of good references to Christmas time. She has also used prominent local landmarks.'

Festival organisers are encouraging all shops in Oban to get involved in the festival by dressing windows and staff members in a Victorian theme.

The programme of events is available from shops throughout the town and online at www.obanwinterfestival.com

How's about that then... West Coast pays tribute to Sir Jimmy Savile

THE WEST Coast has paid tribute to much-loved DJ and television star Sir Jimmy Savile, who passed away at the weekend.

The maverick and personable Sir Jimmy had a remote home in Glencoe and he was a regular fixture at community and charity events in the area.

Allan Henderson, Provost of Lochaber, said it was 'his adopted homeland' and he used his fame to support a number of local causes: 'I was well aware of the good work that he was doing for local organisations,

such as the Belford Hospital and the Fisherman's Mission, in Mallaig, as well as Lochaber Highland Games.'

Mr Henderson remembered fondly sharing a stage with Sir Jimmy at Lochaber Games: 'I found him very generous with his time as well as being great company on a one-to-one basis - always full of stories and tales.'

Sir Jimmy was also made an honorary member of Oban Lifeboat Crew thanks to his support

for the RNLI station, and this week, they remembered him as a 'staunch supporter'.

Willie Melville said: 'Jimmy was always delighted to open several of the station's open days and remained there for most of the day chatting to visitors and generally attracting lots of people to the event.'

'As a result he was made an Honorary Member of Oban Lifeboat Crew and he will be missed at many events here in the West Highlands where he had a home.'

Have your say on budget proposals

LOCALS are being urged to have their say on what Argyll and Bute should prioritise in next year's budget.

The council's budget will be set in February 2012, against a backdrop of increasing pressure for financial resources across the public sector.

This year the council is consulting on the options coming from the third phase of service reviews. The savings proposals amount to £2.248million. Most of the savings options proposed this year are a result of reviewing individual services and focus on making the council more efficient.

These include reorganising teams and locations to make the best use of skills and resources, streamlining processes to make it easier to get things done and making better use of technology.

Argyll and Bute Council leader Dick Walsh said: 'The savings proposed for this year focus on changing the way the council is organised - making us more efficient. This means

we don't have to take so much budget away from our front line services. At the same time our performance is holding steady or improving.'

'I would encourage as many people as possible to get involved. It's only by telling us what services are important to you that we can realise our potential together and take the decisions that will have the least impact on people's lives.'

Information on how to respond can be found on the council's website at argyll-bute.gov.uk.

Motorists told to prepare for winter

GET READY now for winter as the message being given to drivers during police spot checks in Taynuilt, Connel and Oban at the weekend.

Chief Inspector Brian Auld said drivers should make sure tyres were in top condition,

windscreen washers are topped up and lights working before poor weather hits. He also said motorists should ensure their car is stocked with warm clothing, blankets, de-icing equipment and a hazard triangle, and check mobile phones are charged, fuel

levels and weather conditions before setting off.

During the checks, two drivers were given conditional offers for not wearing seatbelts, two were given vehicle defect notices and another 15 were given advice about their vehicles.

CMAL U-turn on ferry gangway

Mull passengers must use vehicle ramp

ISLANDERS on Mull claim they have been 'led up the garden path' after Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) seemingly reneged on a commitment to renew the Craignure ferry passenger gangway.

The gangway has not been used properly since February this year because it cannot move up and down to fit the various ferries that come into the port.

Meanwhile, passengers have been embarking and disembarking via the car ramp. But despite telling islanders the situation would be addressed by the beginning of November, CMAL chief executive Guy Platten told the Mull Ferry Users Group last week that no money was available.

Instead, CMAL has called on Argyll and Bute Council to foot

the passenger gangway as CMAL's responsibility, adding that CalMac staff had always been very helpful.

Argyll and Bute Council responded to CMAL's request for funding by saying it would discuss the issue but stressing it had no surplus funds.

A council spokeswoman said: 'The historical position has always been that the council owned the pier and CMAL owned the passenger gangway.'

'Until relatively recently, CMAL appeared to accept that both the temporary gangway and a permanent replacement was its own responsibility, and not one shared with Argyll and Bute Council.'

'However, given the current situation and the necessity to

identify a solution, we will of course engage with CMAL to seek a sensible way forward.'

A CMAL spokesperson said: 'The cost of a permanent solution has been estimated at £850,000. 'CMAL does not receive any income or harbour dues from Craignure and has a number of other improvement commitments at harbours that we are directly responsible for.'

'As port owner and recipient of the harbour dues we believe that the obligation is now with Argyll and Bute Council to assist CMAL in developing and investing in a more permanent solution, using the income they receive from the ferry operator.'

'CMAL is aware of the public frustration and apologise for any inconvenience caused.'

Sheriff rules quad bike death was tragic accident

A QUAD bike accident which resulted in the death of an Islay man was an unforeseeable tragedy, a sheriff has ruled.

A Fatal Accident Inquiry into the death of Robert Park, known locally as Rab, of Kintra Farm, Islay, at Campbeltown Sheriff Court heard the accident happened on August 14 2010, on Ardtalla Estate, Islay, which is owned by the Mactaggart family.

The inquiry was told that after lunch with his partner, Mr Park went out on his quad bike to spray bracken and was due home for dinner.

When he didn't arrive back his partner, Diane Sangster, went

looking for him with Callum Sharp, head game keeper on the estate, and a holiday maker. They found him several hours later.

In her evidence, Dr Jean Knowles, who was Mr Park's GP and the on-call doctor, said he had been dead for a number of hours when his body was discovered.

He was pinned to the ground by the bike from the chest down with his spectacles still in place; even if he'd had a crash helmet on, this would not have saved his life.

'When I saw Mr Park, there was no sign of life and his face and lips were blue,' she said.

'He literally had the breath knocked out of him and couldn't draw in further breath.' There were no signs of him struggling and no signs of distress on his face.

All staff were put through quad bike training in 2005 and were due a refresher course, which is required every five years.

Mr Park, the designated health and safety manager, and Mr Sharp, who was also a good friend, took the joint decision not to do the refresher as they thought it was costly and wouldn't have improved safety.

The inquiry was told Mr Park was an experienced quad bike driver and had been using them for a number of years.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC concluded that Mr Park died at approximately 4.30pm as a result of mechanical asphyxia due to the quad bike falling on him and said there were no precautions that could have been taken to avoid death.

She said there were no defects in the quad bike and described Mr Park's death as a tragic accident.

Mr Park was described by Vickie Watt, who appeared for Ardtalla Estate, as an integral part of the estate; a man who loved his life on Islay and the work he did.

Sell-out success for Oban's Theatre in the Library

Amateur dramatics group The Three Wee Crows put on a plethora of performances on Friday as part of a Theatre in the Library event in Oban's library. Organised as part of international storytelling day, the group performed nine plays in just one evening in front of a sell-out crowd.

Produced by David Price and directed by Ian Craig, were Vivienne de Caris, right, Kathleen Hannigan and Carol Thomson, left. Fiddler, Ann Barlow, provided the music.



Owners left distraught at 'disposal' of pet cat

THE OWNERS of a cat run down on an Oban road say they are upset it was taken away and disposed of by Argyll and Bute Council officials without their knowledge.

Flatmates Helen Ranson and Rachel Bantock discovered their missing cat was struck by a car three days later, after searching

the neighbourhood. But when they contacted the council, they were told the remains had already been disposed of. Helen said: 'Obviously no effort was made to find me, as I live across from where she was hit and she was micro-chipped.'

She was also well known to the neighbours.

'Surely dumping someone's beloved pet within two days of collecting her isn't right?'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council confirmed that staff were not able to identify the pet or trace its owners.

She added: 'Efforts are always made to trace owners of domestic animals, depending on the condition of the animal and the possible damage to the animal due to the road accident.'

'As a cat is not a reportable road accident in the Road Traffic Act, the driver of such an accident is not duty bound to report hitting a cat to the police, unlike a dog and various other animals.'

Authority to rule on future of island toilets and Castle Toward

THE FUTURE of Tobermory's public toilets and Castle Toward outdoor education centre will be decided today (Thursday) behind closed doors.

Opponents to the council's plan to sell off and demolish the toilets in Tobermory's main street mounted a last-ditch campaign to save the public amenity.

As a result, resident Nic Davies travelled to Oban on Tuesday to hand in a petition with 488 signatures supporting an alternative plan to re-open the toilets and create a visitor information and booking centre on the site.

The residents behind the alternative plan have also been backed by at least 25 businesses, most of which are based in Main Street, Tobermory.

Argyll and Bute Council's Executive will pick a preferred bidder for the Castle Toward site in Cowal. Four offers have been made for the 150 acre site, which includes a number of listed buildings, historic features and woodland.

The council has said each option will be considered on grounds of economic development, planning, legal issues and price offered. The site was put on the market with a price tag of £2.25 million.

One bid is from Actual Reality, a social enterprise currently operating outdoor education from the centre.

Their spokesman said they awaited the council's decision with interest. He said: 'Our cash offer is for a sum that is affordable in our business plan but it is greatly in excess of the value we were given by our professional advisers; the higher figure is justified by our special interest in the property.'

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The hens that lay the GOLDEN EGGS

Kintyre Eggs from High Bellochantuy are renowned for their sweet flavour and golden yolks. Customers across Argyll, including those at the newly opened Pantry in Oban, may have been surprised recently, when cracking open their favourite eggs, to discover an unusually pale yolk. This uncharacteristic colouring was due to a delivery of the wrong feed and compounded by a wet autumn.

Farmers, Hannah and Will Jones, explain 'We always feed the hens a premium range mix that the hens really enjoy. This is reflected in the quality of our eggs. However there was a mix up at the mill and we were delivered a different feed. This coincided with some very wet weather, meaning many of the hens are choosing not to forage outside as much and are not pecking at as much greenery.'

The feed has now been replaced and the hens are also enjoying any of the surplus fresh vegetables grown on the farm for the Bellochantuy Farm Stall.

The golden yolks are back, the hens are happy and so are the customers.

Tel: 01583 421138 Email: hannahjones@talktalk.net

Got a story? Call the newsdesk on 01631 568000

Marine science research complex is putting Oban firmly on the map

First SAMS graduates since UHI status toast their success

STUDENTS from SAMS celebrated their graduation in true Oban style on Friday, ignoring the weather to toast their success outdoors.

The first graduation at the Dunbeg facility since the official formation of the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI), the students were joined by two graduates from other UHI partners, Sheona MacLennan, who graduated with a BSc in Environment and Heritage from Argyll College, and Karen MacLean who received a BA in Business and Management from Lewis Castle College.



Students are joined by keynote speaker at the ceremony, Professor Lloyd Peck, left, SAMS director Laurence Mee, extreme right, and UHI principal James Fraser, wearing the cap. 15_144samsgrad1

UHI Principal James Fraser paid tribute to those graduating, saying they had huge potential to make real, positive changes to our way of life.

He said: 'I'm delighted to see so many people here today who will now go on to make a huge difference to our environment and the prospects not just for the Highlands and Islands and Scotland but across the whole world.'

That view was backed by the director of SAMS, Laurence Mee, who said: 'We are setting

a very high standard and that standard keeps growing. 'It's fantastic and these

students are helping put Oban on the map for all the right reasons.' The students

are pictured celebrating their graduation at a special ceremony at SAMS on Friday,

before heading to the Oban Bay Hotel that night for a ceilidh.

Top accolade for Dunbeg professor

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

DUNBEG professor Laurence Mee has been given one of the highest professional accolades he can receive from the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI).

The director of the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) has been given the personal chair, or professorship, of the UHI in recognition of his work and widespread renown in marine science.

James Fraser, principal and vice chancellor of the UHI, said: 'Although Laurence already carried the title of professor before he came to the university, the personal chair is a much deserved recognition of his reputation and distinction as a scientist and academic.'

Professor Mee combines a high level of achievement in research, teaching and academic leadership with a national and international reputation for knowledge, policy and service in marine science and the marine environment.'

Career
Professor Mee joined SAMS - Scotland's largest independent marine research centre and an academic partner of the UHI - in 2008 after an international career at the forefront of marine science and oceanography.

He was previously the director of the University of Plymouth's Marine Institute, where he was also the UK's first professor of marine and coastal policy.

Prior to this he spent 11 years working at the United Nations (UN), including six years heading the Marine Environmental



Professor Laurence Mee, who has been given the personal chair by the University of the Highlands and Islands. 15_144laurenceme2

Studies Laboratory in Monaco. Professor Mee facilitated negotiations for the first post-Soviet inter-ministerial declaration on the Black Sea in 1992 and subsequently led the \$110m Black Sea Environmental Programme which was designed to help the system recover from severe eutrophication.

Currently Professor Mee conducts multi-disciplinary research on coupled marine social-ecological systems. He also leads a 15-country, 31-

institution European research project called KnowSeas, which is providing the scientific basis for implementing the 'Ecosystem Approach' to Europe's seas.

Laurence's other interests include management of the sea in the UK and Europe; sustainable use of the sea; marine conservation; assessing marine environmental problems and risks such as waste disposal and pollution and international development of the sea.

Jill's off to Japan to continue studies



Jill McColl, who graduated from the SAMS UHI a BSc Hons first class in Marine Science with Arctic Studies last week. 15_144jillmccoll1

AN OBAN student is to spend much of the coming year in Japan after graduating from SAMS UHI with a BSc Hons first class in Marine Science with Arctic Studies.

Jill McColl, a former student of Oban High School, is now studying towards a PhD in

Geochemistry at the University of Glasgow, after earning herself the SAMS award for overall achievement.

Working towards her doctorate will mean another spell in Japan, having already visited the country during her studies at SAMS.

The well-travelled student recently returned from a trip to University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS), the most northerly part of Norway and part of the Arctic. While there, she produced a film on life in Arctic conditions, which is now available on YouTube.

Fuzzy fundraisers put razors aside

A GROUP of students at SAMS will this month let their upper lips run wild - as they commit to growing a moustache for November.

Led by Neil Clark, the group is hoping to raise as much money as possible for prostate cancer charities by taking a more continental approach to male grooming.

The fuzzy fundraisers proved popular at the marine science centre when it was held last year.

Donations
Neil said: 'We are once again taking part in November, whereby we are forbidden to shave our upper lips for the entirety of November to raise donations in aid of prostate cancer.'

'I feel especially strongly about this cause since it has affected three of my close family members.'

So far nine students at SAMS have joined the Filter Feeders group, with a host of fundraising activities lined up for the month. To donate, log on to uk.moveember.com/mospace/764132

Unfair to criticise council tender process, insists businessman

A LOCAL business says criticism of the tendering process that sees only 26 per cent of Argyll and Bute Council's spend go to local companies is unfair.

Eric Walton, owner of chilled distributor Waltons of Oban, says that, while the businesses who take on the contracts may be based elsewhere, the area

still - generally speaking - picks up work via subcontracting.

He said: 'Brakes Brothers may be based elsewhere, but they employ four people here.'

'Also, there are a lot of subcontractors employed here so it's not entirely true to say they money completely leaves the economy.'

Meanwhile, the Scottish Government is conducting a study into how best to keep the money of the country and its counties within their respective areas.

The *Oban Times* understands that an English consultancy, Adas, has been conducting research for the Government, with the results expected next year.

Soroba residents hit with 'unrealistic' repair bills

A SOROBA resident says roughcasting in the scheme is needed - but the cost of up to £18,000 per household is too high for residents to pay.

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) wants to spend £1.1million removing and repairing botched roughcasting on ten blocks in Soroba, asking the private landlords affected to pay their share of the sum.

While it was suggested at last month's meeting of the Soroba Residents' Association that this fee would only be a few hundred pounds, Helen Reid, of Shuna Terrace, says she received a bill for £16,620 for her share as the owner of one flat.

And while she has been offered assistance with grant funding

by ACHA, she has been told that she would have to stump up the first £5,000 before an application was made. Even then, there is no guarantee that the application would be successful, potentially leaving her responsible for the whole sum.

Helen (pictured right), who works at a day care centre and turns 63 this month, says it is simply not realistic for ACHA to consider asking people for that sum of money in what are strained financial times.

She said: 'I have no way of paying it. Even if I got a loan I'd have no way of paying it back. When I reach 65 I'm hoping to carry on working as I cannot manage on the pension I'll be given - so where would I get the money to pay for this?'



'There's not many - if any - individual owners who can afford this, especially now.'

However, she does agree that those companies and landlords who let properties should shell out for their share of the vital repairs.

ACHA says that, of the 88 households affected by the first tranche of intended repairs, 21 are private households and 67 ACHA

properties. Each private property would be asked to pay an average share of £18,200 - £18,800, it said.

A spokesperson for ACHA said: 'One of the association's fundamental aims is to substantially improve the standard of its housing stock and to deliver the obligations placed on us as landlords to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard.'

'To achieve this we often have to work with other stakeholders.'

The association says it will continue to hold discussions with owners and owner/occupiers as it aims to carry out its preferred option of replacing all the roughcasting.

A block-by-block report on the condition of the roughcasting is to be presented to private tenants for consideration.

Parking problems driving motorists and pedestrians to distraction

PARKING problems in Oban have again been highlighted by pedestrians and motorists.

At the Oban Community Council meeting on Monday a wheelchair user spoke of problems with vehicles parking on pavements, particularly at Millpark.

Fellow community councillors echoed her concerns, adding that the situation was getting worse.

The community council also raised issues of parking in George Street. Oban Police Chief Inspector Brian Auld, who was present at the meeting, said his officers would be clamping down on drivers who parked on the double yellow lines in George Street for long periods of time.

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Four-year ban for Islay woman caught drink-driving after funeral

AN ISLAY woman admitted driving three times above the legal alcohol limit at Campbeltown Sheriff Court as a result of police acting on information from a member of the public.

Susan Shaw, of 7 Gartness Cottages, Ballygrant, pled guilty to driving on the A846 Bridgend to Ballygrant road with 111 milligrammes in 100 millilitres of breath; the legal limit is 35.

Procurator Fiscal David Glancy told the court that police received information that the 55-year-old may be driving whilst drunk and went to her home address; an officer waited by the side of the road and saw the car being

driven by the accused. The officer caught up with the accused and when questioned, Shaw said she had been at a funeral and had drunk two glasses of wine.

Defence agent Christian Kane said: 'It is a high reading and two glasses of wine doesn't cover it. The situation was she had had two glasses of wine at the funeral but had consumed alcohol during the night. She accepts this was no excuse.'

He said she accepts she has a problem with alcohol that needs addressing. Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC disqualified first offender Shaw from driving for four years and fined her £300.

Bronze Age finds uncovered at Glenshellach building site

AN EXCAVATION at an Oban building site has unearthed evidence of settlements from as far back as the Bronze Age.

Argyll Archaeology has found an 18th century farmstead complex, three prehistoric roundhouses, decorated Bronze Age pottery, numerous stone tools and a Neolithic axe head at the Glenshellach site.

Lochgilhead-based developer M & K MacLeod are working with Argyll Archaeology to record important archaeological finds, ahead of beginning the latest phase of its Glenshellach housing development.

Archaeologist Dr Clare Ellis has hosted school visits to the site and will run a public open day this Saturday, with several guided

tours of the site and its exciting finds. She said: 'It's excellent to have the chance to study and record these interesting artefacts in situ and to be able to share the excitement of our finds with local people in the area.'

Director of M & K MacLeod Kenny MacLeod said: 'As a long-established local firm we take our community responsibilities very seriously. We recognise the cultural value of these archaeological finds and are delighted to be playing such an important part in preserving our local heritage.'

The open day at Glenshellach will offer guided tours at 10am, noon and 2 pm. The site is along Glenshellach Road, towards Glenshellach Caravan Park. Car parking is available within the site compound.

Green light for new Gaelic primary school

A NEW Gaelic primary school for Edinburgh has been given the green light after the city's council voted to go ahead with the development at Bonnington. The school will move existing provision for Gaelic Medium education from Tollcross Primary School to the currently closed Bonnington Primary School, which will now undergo substantial renovation. Gaelic Medium education is currently delivered at Tollcross Primary School for 156 pupils in primary and a further 65 in nursery. The demand for places is such that Tollcross has now reached capacity. The council estimates that if demand continues there could be 300 pupils in the new primary school by 2017-18.

Mouth cancer screening

NHS HIGHLAND'S oral health improvement team in Oban is holding two events in November for Mouth Cancer Month. The first event is an exhibition at Argyll College in Oban on November 23, followed by free mouth cancer screening at Lorn and Islands Hospital on November 29.

Patients evacuated

THREE patients had to be evacuated from the west coast in separate incidents on Friday, October 28. Coastguard rescue teams in Campbeltown, the Isle of Arran and Colonsay were called on to prepare and man helicopter landing sites to help with the evacuations to Glasgow. Helicopter 177 from Prestwick airlifted a patient from Arran to the Golden Jubilee Hospital, Clydebank, while Helimed 5 attended the Campbeltown and Colonsay incidents.

Red flare sparked Coastguard search

A RED flare spotted off the south coast of the Isle of Gigha sparked a search by the island's coastguard rescue team on Sunday October 30. The team was stood down after a search of the area found nothing.



It would bring a tear to your eye - Hugh MacLeod has grown what is believed to be Scotland's largest onion. 15_143onion03

Hugh's a man who knows his onions

HUGH MacLeod certainly knows his onions. After years of growing vegetables near his home in Benderloch, he has produced what is believed to be the largest onion in Scotland. Weighing in at seven pounds when it was first picked, it is only slightly lighter than Hugh's newest grandson, born last week. The giant bulb won the trophy for the heaviest onion at the Strathclyde Leek and Onion Society Annual Show in Gourrock. And it's not just onions that have won Hugh acclaim in the vegetable world - his enormous leeks, cauliflowers, carrots and celery have also picked up trophies, rosettes and medals in his best season yet. 'It's in the blood, this gardening,' he told *The Oban Times*. 'I just love doing it.' A fisherman by trade, Hugh grows his winning celery in fish boxes and his lengthy leeks, more than 17 inches to their leafy tops, in wheelie bins. He said the secret of his success is old-fashioned hard work: 'In this wet weather, you get all the diseases under the sun and you have to keep on top of it.' 'It's just non-stop in the summer months, but we will be starting off again in November for next year.' While the west coast's climate



Hugh's collection of three vegetables beat stiff competition from the national champion to win another prize at Gourrock.

and soil have been seen as a challenge to local market gardeners. Hugh's inspiration comes from fellow prizewinning gardener Hector MacKenzie of nearby Dunbeg. He also has Benderloch woman Mrs Billimore to thank for his success, as she has given him the land and polytunnel to produce his bumper crop. Rather than making Scotland's largest onion rings or biggest bhaji, Hugh plans to pot his champion to take seeds, in a bid to beat his record next year.

Police ordered to say 'sorry' for intrusion

Officers wrong to enter house without warrant

AN OBAN man is to consider legal action against Strathclyde Police after a complaint against the force was upheld by the independent complaints commissioner. John Baker, 60, of Ulva Road, Soroba, lodged his complaint after officers pushed him aside and entered his home against his wishes, without a warrant, at 1am on June 16 last year. The two officers said they

REPORT
by STEVEN FLANAGAN
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk
were searching for two missing children and, claiming that one of them had been found in the house previously, said they had reason to believe they could be hiding there. They were not though and John McNeill, police complaints commissioner for Scotland, has

ordered the Oban office to make a written apology to Mr Baker for the unwelcome intrusion. He also described the initial handling of the complaint as 'not reasonable'. Making his recommendation, Mr McNeill said: 'There is no ambiguity surrounding the events which gave rise to this complaint. Strathclyde Police does not contest the applicant's version of events and accordingly

the handling of the complaint focussed upon the legality of the officers' actions. 'As noted above, the complaint was found to be substantiated on the basis that there is no legal provision allowing police officers in such circumstances to enter and search premises without permission. 'In the commissioner's view, the manner in which this complaint was dealt with by Strathclyde Police was not reasonable. 'The commissioner recommends that Strathclyde Police writes to the applicant apologising for the action taken and also for the poor quality of the response to his complaint.' Mr Baker said he is satisfied with the result of the complaint, but says he is yet to receive his written apology, despite Strathclyde Police being

aware of the recommendation since August. He added: 'The commissioner's report confirms that I was pushed aside by a police officer and that my house was searched unlawfully. 'It also confirms that I had three meetings with the then inspector, Julie McLeish, yet no proper record of these meetings was kept or presented to the commissioner. 'I've yet to receive a letter but I will give them a bit longer. 'There's a possibility of legal action.' A spokesperson for Strathclyde Police said: 'Strathclyde Police is committed to ensuring the public remain confident in its handling of complaints. 'We welcome any opportunity to improve and will review and implement the recommendation contained in the commissioner's report.'

Flying south for volunteer post

WHILE most folk are tucking into turkey this Christmas, one Oban woman will be spending the festive season thousands of miles away helping care for street children in Argentina. Catherine Garrow-Fisher will head off to Posadas, in the north east of Argentina, at the end of November on a two-month placement arranged through the organisation Original Volunteers, which oversees 100 projects in 18 countries. The 58-year-old will be putting her 35 years of nursing experience to good use during her time in south America - although she admits she'll have to brush up on her Spanish. 'I have always wanted to go to south America and this is one

way to get there,' she said. 'I did my nurse training in Edinburgh in 1972, worked as a nurse for 35 years and I have worked with children before in nurseries and paediatrics. 'It will be a good experience.' Catherine will fly to Buenos Aires before meeting up with other volunteers who will take part in the project. 'Volunteering 'I have never done any volunteering like this before,' added the mother of three sons. 'Why now? Why not. If I don't do it now, I will never do it. 'I am not working at the moment - I did care work for a while and I was cleaning yachts at Dunstaffnage Marina in the summer, but that has come to an end.'



Ready for the off: Catherine Garrow-Fisher, who is heading to Argentina. 15_143argentina2

All steamed up over Waverley

A CAMPAIGN to save the Waverley paddle steamer has been formally supported by Argyll and Bute's MP. Alan Reid lodged an early day motion at Westminster last week calling for the UK parliament to support the group calling for the world's last sea-going paddle steamer to receive further support. The campaign has cross party support, and has been welcomed by the chairman of the Waverley's development board Charlie Gordon. He said: 'We are supported by many volunteers and to see politicians getting involved across the country is wonderful.'

Lorn Lines

THE ANNUAL general meeting of Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club took place on Thursday October 27 in the Lochnell Arms Hotel, North Connel. The meeting was well attended and after a review of the last year's events attended by the club the following members were elected into their posts: chairman, Kevin Devine; vice chairman, Ken Munro; secretary, Neil Owens and treasurer, John Salway. Monthly meetings are held in the Lochnell Arms and anyone with an interest in classic vehicles is invited to attend. Further details of monthly meetings can be obtained by contacting Kevin on 07747 156660.

PUPILS from Oban Primary Learning Centre, the specialist base within Rockfield Primary School, recently enjoyed a series of 'out of this world' creative sessions through the Cove Park Artists in Schools initiative. This annual project, established in 2005 to bring Argyll and Bute school children into contact with international professional artists, offers pupils the opportunity to work within their school setting to explore a variety of art mediums. Using the pupils' 'Space' topic as a theme, artists Kate Burton and Zeynep Arman worked with the children over four weeks to create big art collages, 3D models of planets and fantasy aliens, books and film animations using the pupils' ICT skills. The project culminated in an art exhibition, where the children could celebrate achievements by showing parents and invited guests their cosmic creations. Learning centre teacher Joyce Munro said: 'The Big Art' sessions have been a great success, with pupils exploring and developing their creative skills and talents. 'Our pupils benefit from a hands on, multi-sensory approach and have thoroughly enjoyed the experiences offered by Kate and Zeynep. The children were over the moon to show everyone their completed works of art with the film animations, in particular, a great success.'

AS NEGOTIATIONS continue into the future of the old Argyll Hotel, the derelict building in the centre of Oban is becoming a magnet to youngsters. And this is seriously worrying Alan MacLeod, owner of the site, who is planning to re-develop it. 'I had the police get in touch with me; youths had got into the hotel and were drinking. 'They didn't get in on the ground floor. They must have climbed up and got in through a first-floor window.' Mr MacLeod said that the condition of the interior of the building is now very poor; floors in the side nearest to the Oban Inn building are treacherous. 'The building is going to deteriorate further this winter.' Police in Oban confirmed an instance when they were called to the hotel; a group of youths were found there. The hotel is covered by the town's closed-circuit television system and the webcam on the North Pier, Chief Inspector Brian Auld said.



Magnet for trouble: The Argyll Hotel building. 15_143argyllhotel1

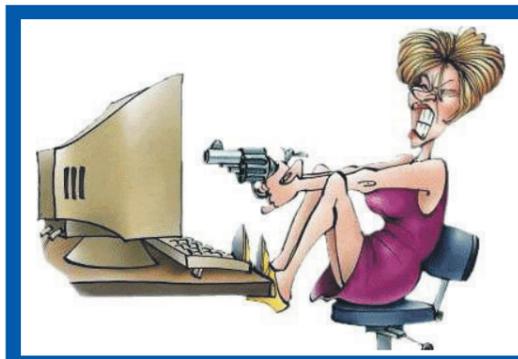
STUDENTS at Oban's Senses Do KICKBOXING Club did their bit to help with the upkeep of their hall. Last Wednesday the club held its annual fancy dress training session for the juniors to raise money for the hall fund. Shihan Willie Rodger said: 'It was a great fun night for the kids who all worked hard on their costumes and raised £300 on the night. I would like to say a big thank you to all the kids and parents for the massive effort they put in and a special thanks to Sempai Sharon Dickison and Ronnie Allan for organising everything and dressing up the Dojo.'

Council services 'non-existent'

A DISABLED Oban man says he is being charged half of his disposable income by Argyll and Bute Council for services he claims don't exist. Lawrence Nugent, of Glencairn Court, has lodged an official complaint with the local authority after it ordered him to go from making no payment for disabled services over the past 10 years to £220 per month. That, Mr Nugent says, is unfair, with the 70-year-old saying he receives almost nothing in return for the fee. Mr Nugent, who is both physically disabled and has mental health issues, said: 'Frankly, the services I'm paying for are not there. 'There's nothing to take me to a support group or social outings. Other places have that, such as Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee. These are important services for people like myself. From the £180 he receives from the government a week, £20 is to go towards food and £40 for transport. That leaves £120 'disposable income' from which the service fee is calculated. A spokeswoman for the council said they are dealing with a formal complaint from Mr Nugent and will respond to him directly. She said: 'In terms of the general situation, the charging policy is based on an assessment of each service user's ability to pay. Each individual receives a detailed care and financial assessment which firstly identifies the type and level of care they require. 'It then identifies the charge for the services required and the amount which the council - under its charging policy - considers they can afford to pay towards that. 'The outcome of this assessment process is discussed with the service user,' added the spokeswoman.

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A CAMPAIGN to save the Waverley paddle steamer has been formally supported by Argyll and Bute's MP. Alan Reid lodged an early day motion at Westminster last week calling for the UK parliament to support the group calling for the world's last sea-going paddle steamer to receive further support. The campaign has cross party support, and has been welcomed by the chairman of the Waverley's development board Charlie Gordon. He said: 'We are supported by many volunteers and to see politicians getting involved across the country is wonderful.'
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OT

High school pitch repairs start

MAJOR repairs began this week to tackle Kinlochleven High School's flood-prone synthetic pitch.

Work will take around seven weeks, weather permitting. During that time south Lochaber will be without an outdoor sports surface. Island Park in Kinlochleven has no lights and Jubilee Park in Ballachulish is under repair.

The new pitch opened for use in March 2009 but by November of that year began waterlogging regularly even as drainage channels underneath remained bone dry. Sub-standard demolition material from the old Kinlochleven school had been used as hardcore and became compacted.

Alpha Schools Highland Ltd, which is responsible for maintaining the school, has hired Morrison Construction Ltd to undertake repairs.

Kinlochleven High School head teacher John McGilp said: 'It is fantastic that pupils, and the communities of south Lochaber will finally be able to use a synthetic facility which is up to standard.'

Mountain bikes stolen

SEVEN top of the range mountain bikes stolen from Nevis Range could already have been dismantled for illegal sale on the lucrative European spare parts market, say the owners.

Alpine Bikes in Fort William lost £25,000 of kit when the for-hire machines were removed from a storage building sometime on Sunday evening.

Store manager Toby Mackenzie-Green told *The Oban Times* one bike was valued at £5,500, others at £3,500.

'It's a pretty horrific loss,' he said. 'They knew what they were after and left behind bikes of lesser value. They clearly picked the machines they wanted.'

'We are not expecting to see the bikes again - there is very little chance of selling the bikes complete in Scotland, given their value. I very much doubt they are in one piece. They are probably in bits and already in Europe.' Mr Mackenzie asked anyone being offered expensive parts to contact the shop or police.



Dreaming of glory: Rosemary is hoping she did enough to impress the judges. 10_f44singer01

Homeless singer goes for TV glory

Fort's Rosemary hits high notes at Britain's Got Talent audition

EXCLUSIVE REPORT

by RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

A HOMELESS Fort William woman is hoping to go from rags to riches after wowing the audience at an audition for the ITV talent show 'Britain's Got Talent'.

Operatic singer and mother-of-four Rosemary Leckie has long dreamt of embarking on a singing career, and she's now aiming to become Lochaber's very own Susan Boyle, who found worldwide fame after performing on the show in 2009.

Rosemary sang 'Don't Cry For Me Argentina' in front of a production team, cameras and thousands of spectators at a packed audition in Edinburgh last weekend.

The 38-year-old told *The Oban Times* she had enjoyed herself, despite the pressure of performing in front of such a large crowd.

She said: 'It was nerve-wracking, but I loved it. And what an applause I got! I think I've got a good chance of going

through going by the very positive comments I've had from everybody.'

Rosemary has been living in homeless accommodation in Fort William with her fiancé Jason Hillier since April, and the couple are hoping to be housed by the council before they get married next year.

She now has an anxious wait to find out if she's through to the televised round - the producers said they will notify her by email in February.

She said: 'I'm hoping I can make it big; it would be amazing. Even if I just got a house out of it, that would be great.'

Rosemary was born and bred in Mallaig, and took part in many singing competitions with her mother Susan MacLean, who is also a well-known local

singer. The pair have performed numerous times in pubs and clubs in Mallaig and Fort William, and they have both competed in the Royal National Mod. Music obviously runs in the family as Rosemary's four children - Danielle, 19, Stefan, 17, Charis, 12 and Adam, 11 - all sing as well.

Rosemary left Lochaber when she was 21 to move to Holytown near Motherwell with her husband and studied cookery. At the age of 31 she decided to go to college to study music and drama, and at the start of last year moved back to Lochaber after her marriage broke up.

She said she has always wanted to be a professional singer. 'It's been my dream since I was about three,' she said. 'I always knew I wanted to sing. Everyone has been very encouraging. I busk in Fort William quite a lot and people have stopped and told me I have an amazing voice and they've said I should go on 'Britain's Got Talent'.'

Art group's invite to outdoor workshops



Art outdoors: Lasair Ealain wants local people to take part in new project.

AWARD-winning art group Lasair Ealain, based at Bun-sgoil Shlèite (Sleat Primary School), is inviting local people to join community art workshops in the great outdoors.

'Ealain A-muigh' (art outdoors) will see groups visit scenic locations and explore the landscape through drawing and sketches.

People of all ages and abilities are encouraged to take part and develop their work onto a larger scale using charcoal or watercolour. Lead artist Julie Brook said: 'The more you draw the more you see.'

Under the initiative, a group

of pupils at Portree High pupils will shortly embark on a two-day project about Portree pier and harbour.

Meanwhile, at Bun-sgoil Shlèite, class 1-2G are also commencing a new project centred around the pier and boats at Armadale. Their studies will be used to develop and explore work with Arthur Donald, drama artist in residence at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

Lasair Ealain events are taught through Gaelic, but organisers stress everyone is welcome regardless of language skills. More information at www.lasairealain.com

Businesswoman's turbine scheme rejected again

AN ARISAIG businesswoman has again failed in her bid to erect three 20-metre wind turbines near her seaside home.

Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee turned down an application from Julie

Ann Bryce, of 2 Bunacaimbe following a site visit on Tuesday.

Planners recommended approval, but councillors heeded local concerns over the visual impact on the scenic area and

voted by six votes to two against the plan.

In all, some 16 written objections were submitted to Highland Council ahead of the meeting.

A similar application on the

same site was rejected earlier this year on noise grounds.

The new bid was based on quieter turbines, and planners ruled it would be 'not significantly detrimental' to local amenity.

Boundary shake-up plans come under fire

BOUNDARY Commission for Scotland proposals, which would see Lochaber carved up for UK elections, have come under fire.

Initial proposals would see the historic area split between two huge new Highland seats - Inverness and Skye, and Argyll, Bute and Lochaber - with the River Lochy and the A830 the dividing line.

The number of Scottish seats would be cut from 59 to 52 under the plans.

Fort William and Ardnarmurchan councillor Donald Cameron said: 'As a desktop exercise to reduce the number of MPs the proposals in this

review may make sense to civil servants but to split Lochaber with its historic community of interests is plain daft.'

'In what is simply a numbers game it appears that both parts of Lochaber are being treated as makeweights and that no consideration is being given to the geography and political history of our community.'

'All of Lochaber's councillors will be united in fighting to retain Lochaber within a single constituency.' The consultation finishes on January 4, 2012.

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Highland BlindCraft opens brand new showroom

Highland BlindCraft has been established for over 140 years at its factory in Inverness. This week it opens its brand new showroom in 39 Ardconnel Street, bringing its showroom and factory back together under one roof.

On Friday 28th October at noon, Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP will cut the ribbon to officially open the showroom and everyone is invited to join the celebration. Light refreshments will be served generously provided by Cobbs and the Redcliffe Hotel.

The first customers arriving in the new showroom will receive a free 'Wake up to a Highland BlindCraft bed' alarm clock with their purchase, and all those visiting during the first week of opening will have the opportunity of entering in a great competition to win a free bed! All you have to do is guess how long it takes to make a Highland BlindCraft bed.

The bright new showroom with sales area is larger than the old showroom across the road, enabling Highland BlindCraft to display more of its products which are made on site with 'a touch more care'.

In fact, if you listen hard enough, you can hear the sounds of the mattresses being made upstairs while you're choosing your perfect bed.

Manager Denise Clark said: 'This is not just a new showroom. Many people don't realise we make our mattresses here in Inverness. We're the only bed manufacturer in the Highlands and we've been making beds and mattresses at these premises for many years!'

Alongside the beds and mattresses made in the factory upstairs, the new showroom will feature a selection of new products.

Denise said: 'We've created a dedicated area to showcase our extended children's range. There are bunk beds, beds for girls and boys, beds for teenagers, and our team has designed and made our own cute starter bed for toddlers - perfect as their very first bed.'

Other ranges have also increased with a great selection of new bed frames joining the existing stock of

padding headboards made upstairs. Metal frames give a modern take on the traditional brass bed, the heirloom bed with grand chunky wooden headboard would not look out of place in a castle, and a new leather-look bed features storage area underneath.

The beds look all the more inviting as Mairi Fraser from The Drawing Room in Kingsmill Road has created stunning displays using cushions, throws and other accessories from her home range.

It's not just beds Highland BlindCraft sell, they have a range of lounge chairs in every style from tub chairs to high backed wing chairs. And responding to customer demand, the showroom is now selling a new range of electric, easy-riser chairs to help those with limited mobility.

The showroom also features a larger selection of pine beds, wardrobes, dressers, occasional furniture, and more from several furniture suppliers including Erskine. Erskine has built on a tradition of nearly 100 years of craftsmanship, and provides employment for disabled workers and service veterans.

Highland BlindCraft offers a rapid order to delivery service on all products, with most stock supplied within the week.

Prices are highly competitive and the range is impressive. And because beds and mattresses are made on site, they can be made to order to specific sizes and shapes - custom made with the individual customer in mind.

Visit the showroom and try the beds out for size and comfort until you find one that's just right for you!

Alternatively call 01463 233662 for a brochure, or visit www.highlandblindcraft.co.uk to buy online.

Highland BlindCraft would like to thank Compass Building and Construction Services and Colin Armstrong Associates for all their hard work in creating our new showroom. Thom MacLeod, Construction Director of Compass said 'he was really proud to have been associated with the project and has enjoyed working alongside the whole team in Ardconnel Street'.

The opening of the new showroom will mark a new chapter in the long history of Highland BlindCraft.

The charity was first established by the Northern Counties Institute for the Blind in 1868 to teach work and craft skills to the blind and visually impaired.

Formerly known as BlindCraft Inverness, the factory was set up to provide employment for students leaving the adjoining blind school.

During the early 1900s, Blind-Craft had a shop built in Castle Street which sold beds to the public and housed a new sewing room on the upper floor. BlindCraft beds became increasingly popular and in 1959 a large extension was added to its factory in Ardconnel Street bringing manufacturing and sales under one roof. New machinery was installed to take the factory up to a standard of any similar business and the production capacity increased dramatically.

In 1989 a new showroom was opened within the blind society building across the road and was expanded in 2000. This week the showroom has come back home.

The supported employment business is still run according to the same concept, providing employment for skilled people with a variety of disabilities from across the Highlands and Islands.

Although BlindCraft receives funding from the government, this only part funds the wages of staff, and the balance of wages and all overheads, sales and admin costs are met from the company's own trading abilities.

When you settle down into your new Highland BlindCraft bed, you are supporting a local business with a long history of supporting local people. That's a bedtime story with a very happy ending...



www.highlandblindcraft.co.uk

Man fails to attend court for sentencing

A FORMER Glenfinnan man who angrily threatened members of staff in the Fort William Job Centre after being told he was no longer eligible for benefits failed to show up at the town's Sheriff Court for sentencing.

James Reade, now of 29 Scarrel Terrace, Castlemilk, Glasgow, pled guilty to conducting himself in a disorderly manner by shouting, swearing and threatening staff and committing a breach of the peace on July 14 2010.

The 29-year-old also admitted breaching the peace outside O'sian's on High Street on August 8 last year when he shouted, swore, attempted to fight with and struggled with two men. Sheriff John Halley deferred sentencing until November 23.

Visitor smashed two windows with beer bottles

A MAN became abusive and smashed two windows while visiting his family in Corpach.

Kenneth Livingston, of 5 Fort William Parade, Antrim Road, Belfast, pled guilty to wilfully or recklessly breaking two windows at 26 Clerk Drive on July 22. The 27-year-old also admitted behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by shouting, swearing and threatening violence.

Livingston got into an argument with his mother after a night out drinking. Fort William Sheriff Court heard. Fiscal Claire Wilkinson said: 'He was verbally abusing her and saying she was going to die.'

Livingston then threw empty beer bottles at the house, smashing two living room windows.

Sheriff John Halley deferred sentencing until January 18 to allow Livingstone time to pay for the damage.

Men only baking night a success

SIX MEN and two teenagers took part in the first baking night for men run by Lochaber Rural Education Trust in An Clachan, near Fort William. The men quick learned the art of breadmaking from Ian MacDougall and also made rock buns.

Clootie dumplings and brewing beer are on the agenda at the next meeting on Tuesday December 13.

Corpach sawmill leads the way with expansion

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

BOUNTEOUS supplies of homegrown Scottish timber and falling house prices have emerged as the main drivers behind BSW Timber's massive expansion at its Corpach sawmill.

Last week the company announced a multi-million pound investment in new plant to bring all operations onto a bigger site and create a mill capable of competing with the best in the world.

On a guided tour of the new site last Friday, mill manager Andy Rogers told *The Oban Times* how detailed surveys showed sustainable production from Highland forests will continue to rise over the next 35 years - guaranteeing the company the timber it needs.

Mr Rogers also said the collapse of the housing market had actually boosted business at BSW - wood used in building new homes tends to be imported, but as cash-strapped homeowners opt instead for loft or garage conversions, demand has increasingly switched to Scottish timber products.

BSW sources all its timber from the northwest Highlands, cutting transport costs and environmental impacts. Logs are brought in by road or sea from no further away than Skye and Mull.

A confident Mr Rogers told *The Oban Times* sound economic reasons had underpinned the company's decision to invest around £20million in making Corpach one of the most modern and efficient mills in Europe.

He said: 'When we started in 2007 we employed 85 people here - we are now at 150 or so. Looking forward to 2046, Scotland's timber production curve is upwards. We have worked very closely with



Building for the future: Andy Rogers surveys the huge new grading and planing shed, which is almost completed, at BSW Timber's sawmill in Corpach. 20_144b5w01

Forestry Commission Scotland and the private sector over the past few years and studied the forward projections. We would not have invested this cash without this knowledge.

'This new mill will have almost twice the output of our current operation and for every job here there are three or four others - foresters, harvesters, planters, transport, distribution, engineering, services and so on. You are probably talking around 500 high quality jobs in Lochaber by the time we are finished.'

'I think Lochaber does need to have a range of businesses - it needs tourism,

it needs retail, but it also needs technologically advanced jobs in the manufacturing sector.'

Mr Rogers added: 'We are only making the most of the natural resources we have. Trees grow well here and when sympathetically planted - and from a carbon cycle point of view - they are really beneficial.'

'When people see these trees out there, they should remember that there are jobs behind them - a lot of jobs.'

The new investment includes the almost completed planing and grading plant - a huge 85m by 45m building - a new log yard and sorter and a new state-of-the-art sawline, including

an automated horizontal saw. Computerscanningandcomputer optimization equipment will also reduce waste from each log and tailor products precisely to customer needs.

The company is currently undertaking a 12-week pre-planning consultation on the expansion.

Subject to planning permission, work is expected to start early next year and be completed by early 2013. Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy said: 'BSW Timber's results shows that businesses in the Highlands have the potential for strong growth even in the tough economic climate, and that

investment here can be rewarded with big returns.'

Local MSP Dave Thompson added: 'BSW has already done a lot to provide jobs in Lochaber but this new investment should mean that even more is possible from the company itself and then there are the spin-off benefits for the wider forestry sector of the West Highlands.'

BSW supplies sawn timber for use in construction, DIY, pallets and packaging, fencing and garden products.

Scotland is emerging as a major European timber producer, with production expected to rise from six million tonnes currently to 10million tonnes by 2020.

Man jailed for selling drugs to 14-year-old

A FORT William man has been sentenced to four months in prison for selling drugs to a 14-year-old boy.

Appearing from custody for a separate offence, Gavin Maxtone, of 7 Pinegrove Court, pled guilty to selling the class C drug diazepam to the boy from his home between February 8 and 10. The 14-year-old and two friends went to Maxtone's house wearing balaclavas and this threatened to rob him, Fort William Sheriff Court heard. The youngster made a deal

with the 29-year-old to swap one gram of mephedrone, known as mecat or meow meow, for 11 diazepam pills. He returned two days later and bought eight more pills from Maxtone for £8, but was caught with them at school and admitted where he bought them.

Sentencing Maxtone, Sheriff John Halley said: 'I'm concerned you have pled guilty to supplying class C drugs to children. This is a very serious charge. A custodial sentence is the only option.'

Drink driver fined and banned for a year

A KINLOCHLEVEN man has been banned from driving for a year and fined £300 after being caught drunk behind the wheel in the village.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard David Evans left the Tailrace Inn car park and reversed out - straight into the path of an oncoming police car.

The officer followed Evans along Lochaber Road, Riverside Road, Foyers Road, Garbhein Crescent and Garbhein Road before pulling the 22-year-old over.

Fiscal Claire Wilkinson said Evans was found him to be nearly twice the legal limit.

'He was driving in an erratic manner, close to the kerb and close to parked cars,' she said. Hotel worker Evans, of Flat 4 Lynnwood House, pled guilty to drink driving on October 3.

TV spotlight on shinty league newcomers

SHINTY league newcomers Lewis Camanachd are to have their exploits broadcast to the world in a new BBC ALBA documentary.

'Trusadh: Camanachd Leòdhais - Dubh agus Gorm (Lewis Camanachd - Black and Blue) will follow manager Paul Duke and his team through the highs and lows of the season.

The programme hears from player Donald Lamont as he anticipates the historic first game on March 5, and captures the dressing room pre-match as the team prepares to play in the league for the first time. Astie Cameron of the

Camanachd Association talks on the logistics of Lewis' entry to North Division 3, which meant an 18 to 20 hour-day for most clubs and referees making the trip to the Western Isles.

Shinty pundit Hugh Dan MacLennan said: 'It's all very well playing in cups and friendlies, but there is nothing like playing in a league to improve your game.'

The programme will be broadcast next Monday at 9pm. A final decision on whether the team will be retained in the league will be made at the end of this month.

Medication lost on bus

A QUANTITY of Diazepam and Bistral tablets, prescribed for a heart condition, were lost on a Citylink bus between Spean Bridge and Fort William on Saturday.

The medication was last seen about 4.20pm and may have been mislaid whilst the owner was travelling.

The drugs are likely to be dangerous if taken other than prescribed and anyone finding them is asked to hand them into their nearest chemist or police station.

Lochaber teenager pursues dream career as undertaker

A YOUNG Lochaber man is defying his tender years to pursue his dream career - as a qualified undertaker.

Jamie Manson, aged just 19, is already a trainee funeral director with Inverloch-based firm Mike McFall.

Now Jamie, from Lochview estate in Fort William, has secured a place on a two-year vocational training course for the funeral profession in Glasgow.

He starts his Independent Funeral Directors (IFD) College diploma course with James Cockburn in Govan next month. After he qualifies, the quietly spoken youngster will become one of Scotland's youngest qualified undertakers - at the age of 21.

Jamie has wanted to become a funeral director since he was a boy, after becoming fascinated with hearses and the solemnity associated with funeral ceremonies.

His unusual choice of career

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

has provoked some good-natured ribbing, earning him the moniker of 'Dr Death' from his pals.

But Jamie shrugs off all the jokes - he's got used to being asked if he always carries a tape measure in his top pocket - as part of the job.

'I just take that as it comes, you have to have a sense of humour about it,' he told *The Oban Times*.

'I don't think you could work for any time at this job without having a sense of humour.'

'My mates do think it's odd for a boy the same age to be doing what I'm doing. But it does not affect me - I think I was born to do this and I love the job.'

'What gives me real satisfaction is helping families through their

bereavement and giving them peace of mind. It's all about taking a lot of the worry off their shoulders.'

'I like helping people in their grief, because people are vulnerable at that particular time. It really falls on me to take control of the service and ensure everything happens as it should without them having to worry about anything.'

With the college qualification in his pocket, caring Jamie is determined to carve out a successful career in the undertaking business.

He said: 'Mike was good enough to take me on in April and give me experience to see whether I was up to the job, and offered me a full time position in August.'

'The whole thing is about building a reputation for myself until such time as I can take over from Mike when he retires, or start up on my own.'



Caring: Jamie Manson loves his job as a trainee undertaker. 20_144funeral01



Hughie MacLachlan with his 10 piglets, which next year will be put to work tackling encroaching bracken.

Piglets set to clear land of bracken

ARDNAMURCHAN crofters battling to clear good land of encroaching bracken have received a boost - thank to the recent arrival of dozens of piglets.

Kilchoan men Hughie MacLachlan and Dave Cash will put the new arrivals to work next summer, when the porkers will

be assigned fields in Ormsaibeg to grub up the weed. Mr MacLachlan has already made national news with his use of home-reared pigs to restore grasslands previously choked by bracken.

Mr MacLachlan's sow gave birth to 10 piglets on October 19, while Mr Cash's two females produced another 22.

Mr MacLachlan told *The Oban Times*: 'We will keep them until August when they will have cleared a fair bit of ground.'

'We will fence off a bit, clear one section at a time, then move on. This time we will keep them longer so they really take the bracken down. It is unbelievable the job they can do.'

Police name man killed in Harris house fire

POLICE have named the man found dead at his Harris home following a house fire on Sunday afternoon.

Kenneth MacKenzie, aged 83, of Strond Road, Leveburgh, was brought out of the property by fire

crews after the alarm was raised around 2.20pm, but could not be saved. Police said there do not appear to be any suspicious circumstances and a report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Community council plans new Glencoe path

GLENCOE and Glen Etive Community Council, through Mr David Doogan, are applying to Highland Council for permission to

build a recreational path alongside Clachaig Road, Glencoe. Donaldson Environmental Consultancy Ltd of Tainloan are acting as agents.

Teenager left best friend disfigured

A CAOL teenager left her former best friend permanently disfigured after a drunken fight in Fort William's underpass.

Rebecca Denny, aged 16, fell out with her pal and kicked her on the face following a drinking bout with friends at the Old Fort, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

The victim was taken to Belford Hospital and required eight stitches on a cut to her lower lip.

Denny, of 9 Glendessary Terrace, earlier

pled guilty to assaulting the woman by seizing hold of her, pushing her to the ground and kicking her on the face to her injury and permanent disfigurement.

Sheriff John Halley ordered the teenager to carry out 100 hours unpaid work, pay her victim £150 compensation and attend six months of anger management and alcohol counselling.

He said: 'You obviously accept the offence you committed was a serious one.'

Mòd winners honoured at ceilidh

LOCHABER prizewinners from the recent Royal National Mòd in Stornoway were guests of honour at a ceilidh in the West End Hotel in Fort William on Saturday.

Kevin Cameron, Fergus Munro, Donna MacLeod, Hannah Calder and guest artiste, past Mòd gold medallist Gillebride MacMillan from South Uist, entertained with some outstanding singing.

Kevin and Fergus also gave a beautiful rendition of their winning song in the duet competition at the Mòd.

Local stalwarts Charlie MacColl - organiser and chairman for the evening - sang, as did Jimmy 'the removal man' Cameron from Caol. Music for the dancing was provided by George Smith and Annabell.

Mr MacColl said: 'In spite of the small attendance and the poor weather, which meant some prizewinners were absent, the brilliant music was much appreciated.'

Mr MacColl thanked involved and hoped to see more in attendance at the next ceilidh at the end of this month.

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PLOCKTON

PLOCKTON and District Community Council met in Plockton Hall on September 13. Among the items discussed were:

- Roads - the community council decided to leave the improvements of the Duirinish road in the hands of the Duirinish crofters who would apply for planning for a small car park.
- Burnside housing - the one remaining shared equity house had not found a client so it will go to someone on the housing list. The roads department had made no improvements to the road access so the community council will take it up with traffic police and seek funding through the 'safer roads to school' fund.
- Streetlighting on Harbour Street - new streetlights were promised several years ago but they are still awaited.
- Car park toilets - the community council was annoyed that the transfer of the toilets to Plockton Harbour Association was taking a long time as a result of red tape.
- Campervans - a sign has been displayed to stop campervans going through the village and parking on Harbour Street.
- Hearing resource centre - the community council has tried unsuccessfully to get this facility in Kyle, saving people the long drive to Portree.
- Dunraig Castle - two planning applications have been lodged by the castle, one for a house and the other to alter the access road to the castle so that it will not pass the front door. The castle is to close for two years to make major improvements.
- Donations to community council - Annan and Jill Dryburgh were thanked for their donation of £250 in appreciation for all the help they had received on the occasion of their daughter's wedding. The harbour association was also thanked for its £1,000 donation.
- Village maintenance - compliments had been received at the grass cutting work carried out by Lynne Metcalfe.
- New community council regulations - the community council is to write to Highland Council under the Freedom of Information Act asking how much the re-organisation and rules for community councils cost.
- The present community council will cease functioning officially on November 14 so the final meeting will be on November 8.



Caol in Bloom celebrates another successful year

Caol in Bloom celebrated another successful year at the gardening group's awards evening in Caol Community Centre. Thirty four gardens were awarded highly commended certificates, while 22 received commended certificates.

KINLOCHLEVEN

KINLOCHLEVEN Community Trust's (KCT) 2012 calendars have arrived and are available from the Post Office and the KCT office.

Cost to members is £2.69, non-members £2.99, postage extra. Envelopes are also available at 25p each. The trust office is open from Tuesday to Friday, from 9am until 4pm.

ISLAY

A FACT-finding visit to Islay by representatives from Dungannon and Cookstown councils and partner Irish language organisations in Northern Ireland took place between October 24 - 28.

The visit, the Gael Trail, was made to learn how Islay supports Gaelic learning and use in the community, as their districts of Northern Ireland are investigating ways to develop and support their Irish/Gaelic learning.

At a reception in ICCI on the Monday evening, Councillor Robin Currie, Neil Woodrow, Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile Gaelic centre's manager, and Cathie Johnston, chair of ICCI Board, welcomed Sean Clarke, Chair of Cookstown council and the other Cookstown councillors and officers of Cookstown and Dungannon councils.

Christine MacIntyre of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, who organises youth Ceilidh Trails, was part of this visit's organising team, as was Donald MacLeod, Argyll and Bute Council's Gaelic Education officer.

The officials were joined at the reception by several local fluent Gaelic speakers.

Islay's Còisir Og Ghàidhlig Ìle, conducted by Arlene MacKerrell and fresh from their National Mòd successes, entertained the visitors with Gaelic songs, as did duettists Natalie Dunn and Zoe Wells. Alasdair Currie played a march, strathspey and reel medley on the pipes, Mairi MacGillivray played traditional tunes on the fiddle. An instrumental trio, Clare Jordan (box and piano), Ciara Mactaggart (whistle) and Ellie MacGregor (fiddle), played dance tunes and a Gaelic air, before a buffet supper which was prepared by St John's Church's catering team.

On Tuesday the delegation were shown the work of the Gaelic Medium Unit/nursery at Bowmore Primary School by Donald MacLeod. In the



The Irish and Islay groups meet.

afternoon the group took part in a Gaelic learning Ulpan session, run by David Grant at ICCI.

Last Wednesday a discussion session was held on taking Irish Gaelic forward in the light of the Northern Irish visitors' experiences in Islay, then the group toured Finlaggan historic site and Bruichladdich distillery, and later were entertained at an evening Islay-style ceilidh at Port Charlotte Hotel.

The delegation were full of praise for the Islay hospitality they enjoyed throughout their visit.

Islay Pipe Band is looking for new sponsorship.

The band has competed and played throughout the 2011 season with no official sponsor, and are looking for a new one for the 2012 season and beyond.

The Mactaggart Third Fund and the Schroder Foundation continue to support the band, and the band are eternally grateful to them for the extra financial support following the loss of previous sponsorship.

However, although their support originally compensated for the blow, this was never a lasting solution.

If anyone, individuals or businesses, would like to advertise with the band, please phone Andrew 01496 850 271 or email am245@btinternet.com. SC

HEAVY rains, which hit Islay on Sunday, October 23, caused flooding in parts of the island.

Police were called to Bridgend and Port Ellen.

It was about midnight that the A846 between Bridgend and Port Askaig was hit, with about 40 metres of road under deep water. The roads department was called out along with the police and the road was passable

KILCHRENAN



Thom Strachan enjoys a bowl of porridge made by World Porridge Champion 2007, Mrs Soep, of Roineabhal Guest House, Kilchrenan, as part of the school's World Porridge Day. Ten pupils of Kilchrenan Primary School raised enough money to feed 10 children in Malawi for a year. Many thanks to all who bought quizzes or made donations to the fundraiser for Mary's Meals.

IAIN Alexander, of Kilchrenan, and his daughter, Karen, raised £1,612 for Macmillan Nurses. Iain thanks everyone who sponsored them on their treacherous walk along the East Highland Way.

Special thanks to Kilchrenan Inn pub quiz for the donation, also those who gave them freebies on the walk and of course, the big winner, Macmillan, whose tireless

work often goes unnoticed by many. Iain said that he and his daughter will be back next year, provided Karen's feet have recovered.

SOME residents are becoming concerned about the number of heavy vehicles, sometimes with police escorts, using the B845 Glen Nant road and the C29 to Dalavich.

It is assumed that these vehicles are part of the new timber haul route and also for the delivery of equipment and machinery needed to install the Carraig Gheal wind farm.

There has been no consultation or meetings with residents by Green Power, the Forestry Commission or indeed Argyll and Bute Council to explain the situation.

Residents need to be kept if they are going to be delayed for hospital appointments, doctors appointments, business appointments, etc.

There are no shortages of traffic warnings when it comes to trunk roads. Surely residents and tourists alike in the Kilchrenan area have the right to know what is going on.

BALLACHULISH

CULT punk legend from the late 1970s Patrik Fitzgerald is appearing at the Quarry Café at the tourist information centre, Ballachulish, next Wednesday.

Fitzgerald recorded three sessions for the late John Peel for Radio 1 and a series of singles and albums, from 1978 to the present day.

EIGG

THE ISLE of Eigg supplied 90 per cent of energy needs from its own renewable sources in the 12 months to October 31, according to the latest figures.

Eigg generated only 75 per cent of its electricity requirements from its own hydro, solar and wind energy installations the previous year - mainly due to prolonged dry, calm weather.

Eigg Electric director John Booth told *The Oban Times* it had been a different story in 2011. 'Because it has been so wet recently, since the beginning of September our hydro has supplied us with everything,' he said.

SLEAT

SLEAT Community Trust, the new owners of the 1,000 acre Tormore Forest near Ardvassar, is drawing up a new plan over the winter to maximise economic and social benefits from the forest.

Community forester Chris Marsh intends holding a number of local presentations and discussion/feedback sessions to explain the broad management objectives and canvass new ideas for access and other uses of the forest.

Present outline plans include:

- Sustainable development through restructuring the conifer crop towards a greater species and age diversity of trees - including native species - protecting burnisides and enhancing existing biodiversity to improve the woodland's visual quality, nature conservation and recreational value.
- Improved access for walking, cycling and potentially pony trekking on well-marked,

CONNEL

THE RNLI has been continuing to bring teams of volunteers to the Falls of Lora for flood rescue training.

As well as providing the perfect environment to simulate flood conditions and practice manoeuvring the lifeboat, rescue planning, rope work and first aid, the teams have been bringing a little extra business to the village of Connel.

AFTER the ghosts and ghouls came out for Connel's annual Halloween party for the village's children on Monday, October 31, planning for the Christmas Party is well under way.

A group of committed villagers fundraise all year round to throw a knees-up for youngsters from birth through to primary school. There will be party games, dancing and decorations and the committee has also arranged for a special visitor to take time out of his incredibly busy schedule to come along with treats for every child.

STORNOWAY

A NEW training course designed to encourage new weavers into the Harris Tweed industry recently got underway in specially adapted premises in Stornoway.

The 12-week training programme, jointly funded by Skills Development Scotland, the Harris Tweed Industry, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar will accommodate 12 trainees.

The course is accredited by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) at Scottish Vocational Qualification Level 1 (Manufacturing Textile Products). The course will be locally managed by staff within the Comhairle's accredited training and skills section and accredited through their approved SQA Centre.

Down Your Way

This week - Arran

A GROUP of Arran parents are fighting to save the jobs of two of Arran's most central figures - Nina Hamilton and Sheila Gilmore.

Earlier this month North Ayrshire Council agreed to the re-design of Children's Outreach and Library Services across the whole of North Ayrshire. This re-design means there will no longer be a Children's Outreach officer based on Arran, forcing the two women to now work on the mainland.

The outreach service has proved invaluable over the past 20 years to families living on Arran.

Jo Totty and her four-year-old daughter have been using the services since Jemma was just six months old.

She said that when you live in some of Arran's more rural spots, the services are absolutely essential.

She said: 'It's difficult to quantify all the different reasons why this service is so important. They have helped me in so many ways, not just in bonding with Jemma but also in helping me socially to meet other parents from across the island in a safe and friendly environment.'

She added: 'All the parents and children know Nina and Sheila so well and it will be devastating to lose them.'

Councillor Margie Currie has joined the fight to keep the service on the island.

'I haven't been able to overturn any decisions yet but we are not giving up,' she said. 'I am fighting to keep the jobs on the island, not just because of job creation but because we vitally need that local input to this service.'

A spokesperson for North Ayrshire Council said: 'The people of Arran will benefit from the re-design, which will be based around play and capacity building and children's literacy.'

He added: 'The re-design will not mean the loss of children's activities, and we aim to maintain Bookbug, infant massage and other activity sessions as a core part of our service. Indeed, the Isle of Arran is the only North Ayrshire community that receives the infant massage service through Children's Services.'

THE FIRST project to receive funding from Arran Trust has finished work.

The grant from Arran Trust Donations was awarded to Arran Access Trust for necessary upgrading works to the Glen Sannox path, which has fallen into disrepair.

It starts from the roadside in Sannox village and runs all the way through Glen Sannox over the pass known as the Saddle at 430 metres and into Glen Rosa and then into Brodick.

As such it is a popular route with hill walkers walking all the way through. In addition those wanting to get a taste of spectacular mountain scenery whilst keeping to level ground can walk in the glen.

Prior to 2005 the path, which follows the riverside, was in a very poor state being boggy and peaty leading to an ever-widening trodden path.

Not only was the path very unpleasant to follow but real damage was being done to the fragile vegetation of the glen which sits within a National Scenic Area and a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Much of the glen floor path was the subject of path restoration and improvement works in 2005 having been identified as a priority for attention in a successful Arran Access Trust bid for funding by a number of partners.

However funds did not stretch to complete all of the damaged sections and there remained a missing link which when repaired now completes the route.

Malcolm Whitmore of The Access Trust said: 'We are hugely grateful to the visitor payback scheme for the injection of funds and matched the £3,000 with a similar amount in order to undertake work on this remaining section.'

'The project illustrates how the scheme can benefit the island with the money gifted being used to improve access for visitors and locals alike. Thanks also go to Stewart who carried out the work so capably.'

'Sensitive work was undertaken using gravel and stone won from the site to create an all weather path with side drains and cross drains thereby preventing further damage and erosion.'

BRODICK Castle has just been recognised as one of the top museums in the country.

The National Trust for Scotland property has been officially 'Accredited' by Museums Galleries Scotland and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA).

Property Manager Ken Thorburn said: 'This is a fantastic achievement for Brodick Castle which holds one of Scotland's most precious collections.'

'While we may not be what springs to mind when people think of a museum because our items are displayed in the context of our fine interiors, we are proud to be meeting industry standards in this area.'

Brodick Castle is now officially recognised as meeting industry-wide guidelines on how it is run, how it looks after its collections and the services it provides for its visitors.

The castle, which was the ancient seat of the Dukes of Hamilton, has more than 700 years of history.

The Lady Jean Ffiorde wrote the original guidebook in 1958 showing that the building was first commenced in the 13th century, probably by the Crown to defend against the Vikings.

It has a rich collection, boasting fine furniture, artwork and precious objects of the highest quality.

Next week DOWN YOUR WAY visits the Isle of Rum with Northern Editor Stephen Norris.

You can contact him on 01397 703003 or email snorris@obantimes.co.uk.



Easdale Primary School has four new primary one pupils this term. The youngsters are settling in well to school life. 16_144easdale1

DORNIE

DORNIE and District Community Council will reform following the community council elections on November 15 after seven people submitted nomination papers to Highland Council.

The encouraging response leaves the council needing to co-opt only one member to bring it up to its full complement of eight.

Chairperson Shona MacLennan told *The Oban Times*: 'I think it's great - there are quite a few areas that did not manage to form a community council.'

'It is worth having a community council partly because you get a bit of money and partly because you are able to make representations on issues that matter.'

Dornie and District Community Council will meet on November 28.

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KILLIN

PLANS to turn a disused Killin butchers shop into offices have been approved by planners.

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Board last week approved via delegated powers Alan Skelton's proposals for Silver Cottage, Main Street, as the shop has been vacant for some considerable time. No objections were submitted about the proposal.

Recommending the plan for approval, planning assistant Martin Brown said: 'The existing retail unit has been vacant for a considerable time without any apparent interest and, as such, does not serve an 'essential convenience' function. It is considered that achieving an alternative use for a currently vacant unit therefore outweighs any potential disbenefit associated with the loss of an established retail use. On this basis, this proposal is considered to comply with the relevant local plan policies.'

LISMORE

THE MUSEUM at Heritage Centre became a catwalk when Anne Livingstone and Beth Campbell organised a very successful fashion show both to raise funds for the Fairtrade organisation and to advance the cause of Lismore becoming a Fairtrade island, only the second in Argyll after Iona.

Pauline Cameron, the fashion consultant founder of Tonic Styling and chairwoman of Oban and Lorn Fairtrade Steering Group, arrived with an array of clothes for the eight local volunteer models, who were all given a great reception as they sashayed in and out.

Anne Livingstone introduced the evening to a capacity audience and Pauline talked about how Fairtrade was all about sustaining rural communities which were producing hand woven, knitted and organic cotton garments all over Asia.

It was also, she said, about gender equality, against child labour and establishing trade relations in the long term - a far cry from the cheap garments on offer made in very different conditions throughout Asia.

After the catwalk show there was tea, cakes and scones in the café while local crafts people set up stalls selling their own high quality, fairly traded original Lismore produce.

The school children's hand made cards were quickly sold out and Sarah Campbell was busy with her 'Made in Lismore' up market textiles under the Mogwai label.

Freda Drysdale offered a great selection of delicious home made cakes and sweets. Teena Walker sold her original textiles and Ina MacColl items from the museum shop.

The atmosphere was buzzing and a real antidote to the relentless rain. During the show Mairi Campbell played her fiddle and afterwards members of her Lismore Fiddle Workshop entertained the shoppers.

The event was generously supported by Oban Co-operative, Fortieths, Bookers, Appin Co-operative and local crafts people who all donated prizes for the raffle. The evening donated £271 to the Fairtrade Oban.

THE CAFÉ at the Lismore

Heritage Centre will close on October 31 and reopen on March 2. However, Beth Campbell will be offering special evenings, including Fireworks and Food on November 5, St Andrew's Dinner night on November 26 and three Christmas Dinner nights in December. Booking necessary.

THE LIBRARY at the Heritage Centre was filled to capacity when Alex Du Toit, archivist for the MacColl collection at the Lochaber Archives in Fort William, gave a talk on the MacColls of Argyll, Duror and Appin.

He told the story of the missing MacColl papers which were found in 2009 in a damp field where they had been sitting for 60 years.

They are now safely stored in a temperature controlled storeroom and available to all those interested. Much of the talk was about the work of Hugh Geoffrey MacColl (1902-1947), originally from Mull, who began collecting MacColl stories locally while he was working as an engineer in Kinlochleven.

In his holidays he went about on his bicycle talking to people and later extended his research with a worldwide questionnaire. Among his many replies was one from John David MacColl of Balnagowan Lismore, well known to many present, including his son Archie MacColl, still farming on Lismore and of Balnagowan.

ARDCHATTAN

THE FRIENDS of Ardchattan are planning for annual bonfire night fun in the top park.

As usual there will be a community bonfire, fireworks and warming soup and drinks on Saturday, November 5.

ARDCHATTAN Primary School held a garden party to celebrate the completion of their eco-garden.

Parents, pupils, teachers and members of the local community turned out on a Saturday to mark all the work done by the school's eco-group and Friends of Ardchattan.

There were games, a treasure hunt, tea, cakes and the chance to check out the garden's play tower, polytunnel, pond and



Duror Primary School pupils enjoy their 'porridge day'.

Duror porridge day boost charity funds

DUROR Primary School pupils staged a 'porridge day' for Mary's Meals last Friday before they broke up for the October holidays.

P4-7 children weighed out the porridge oats and measured the milk then cooked it all in a microwave oven. They decided on a variety of toppings - golden syrup, honey, jam, brown sugar, bananas and strawberries.

Head teacher Marylin MacDonald said: 'The porridge was a great success with some children coming back for second helpings even third helpings!'

The pupil council also supported the charity by holding a 'dress down/non-uniform day' and a bric-a-brac sale. In total, the 17 children helped raise £47.



Karen conducts Coisir Sgìre Port Rìgh at the Mod. 20_144portree01

Karen helps out and keeps on conducting

BUSINESS consultant Karen MacRae thought her days of leading choirs were over after stepping down as conductor of Coisir Sgìre Port Rìgh (Portree Gaelic Chior) and Coisir Ghàidhlig an t-Sràtha (Strath Gaelic Chior) in 2002.

Karen, originally from Glasgow and resident on Skye for 35 years, told *The Oban Times* after their performance: 'Portree were looking for a conductor and I said I would do it for a few weeks - and here we are!'

willow tunnel. Special thanks went to Susan Bland, parent council chair, and Jan Kersel, the teacher who took the project forward.

The school is planning what to plant in the garden in warmer weather next Spring.

economic impacts of their proposals.

Applications to the scheme must be submitted by March 31 next year, however that deadline may be extended to August 31 depending on availability of funding.

Normally, each approved proposal will receive support of 40 per cent.

The council says the objective of the scheme is to support economic and business development in the Outer Hebrides by stimulating and increasing business throughout the comhairle's three main islands groupings.

For more information, contact Business Gateway on 01870 604 989 or email Lynne MacMillan, business support officer, on lmacmillan@cne-siar.gov.uk.

The awards recognise small companies for doing all they can to reduce impacts on the environment.

Winners will be announced at a special ceremony on at The Hub in Castlehill, Edinburgh, on November 29.

LEWIS

THE FIRST legal single malt from the Outer Hebrides was officially launched by Isle of Lewis distillery Abhainn Dearg on Friday.

The first production run of the new special edition three year-old whisky coincided with the opening of the Royal National Mòd in Stornoway, is limited to 2011 bottles.

Distillery owner Mark 'Marko' Tayburn said: 'We are delighted to launch this special whisky and finally reclaim the heritage of whisky making in the Isle of Lewis which stretches back hundreds of years.'

LOHCARRON

A LOHCARRON-based company has released a new online learning resource for local communities in the Highlands.

The self-tutoring guide, compiled by Hans Zell Publishing, is designed to assist local people acquire web search and evaluation skills.

GLENUIG

THE GLENUIG Inn has been shortlisted for the Vision in Business for the Environment of Scotland (VIBES) Awards 2011.

GLENCOE

WRITER and broadcaster Muriel Gray has climbed one of the Glencoe Munros cared for by the National Trust for Scotland to highlight the conservation charity's work nationwide.

Mrs Gray scaled Buachaille Eive Mor with David McKinnon from the Trust's Edinburgh office and Callum Gilhooly, a volunteer ranger at Glencoe Visitor Centre.

BARRA

BUSINESSES on Barra and Harris can now apply for assistance of the local authority's Inter-Island Business Development Scheme.

The scheme has been extended to receive a sixth phase of applications, and is open to any business that trades, or is considering trading, across the sounds of Harris or Barra.

Only private-sector businesses are eligible to apply for the scheme, with each company required to be registered and monitored to evaluate full



Lismore Primary School celebrates being awarded its Green Flag.

School's Green Flag joy

FOLLOWING an inspection on October 5, Lismore Primary School children were awarded their Eco Schools Green Flag.

The pupils' keenness and hard work really impressed the assessor, Paula Love, as she toured the school and saw a display about their beach clean day at Port Mòluag, and heard how they got a Wee Green Grant to help them clear up the school grounds.

Despite the terrible weather the children were eager for her to see their raised beds and the polytunnel, where they produced vegetables for the school kitchen, and their wormery busy composting the waste.

She heard, too, how the wider community were involved offering advice on gardening and energy saving. When the actual Eco Flag arrived John MacCormick of the Lismore Energy Project, pictured, presented it to them so it could be proudly displayed in the school next to their eco display.



Villagers take to streets to clean up Glenfinnan

ABOUT 30 locals took to the streets of Glenfinnan last Sunday afternoon to gather up the litter collected over the summer tourist season. Among the bags of rubbish picked up were traffic cones and car wheel hubcaps. The group said a number of salt bins were packed with litter and said they found a large amount of MacDonalds wrappers in the village. Glenfinnan community council chair Duncan Gibson said he was 'very impressed' with the amount of villagers who turned out to help despite the rain. 10_144idjy01

Email your district news to editor@obantimes.co.uk

AROUND THE RURALS

Dervaig

DERVAIG SWRI turned their meeting on October 12 into an open meeting for anyone in the community to attend.

The reason for this was that Bill Patterson and Kevin Luscombe had agreed to pay a return visit to update what has been going on at the archaeological sites around Croig, Aird and Langamull, the most notable of which is the Kildavie site.

As was the case with their last meeting for the SWRI, also held as an open meeting, there was a good turnout of interested local folk.

Bill started with pictures of progress to date at Kildavie; great strides have been made in dealing with the bracken and examining and mapping various areas of the settlement in detail. New discoveries have also been made, notably a mill on the other side of the river, and pottery shards found that are much older than the date of the last documented habitation (1785AD). Bill also explained that he has set up an internet group for interested people to keep in touch, this has now grown to 200 members some of whom join the volunteer work parties. Professional archaeologists are involved, as are Scotland's Rural Past and the Adopt-A-Monument scheme. The group is seeking funding from various sources open to them now there is proof of the unique archaeological discoveries in the area. There have been visits from the local schoolchildren who displayed a keen interest and asked lots of questions!

Kevin then took the meeting on a virtual walk, computer-aided, through Langamull, past Penmore and down to Croig. There is no space here to describe the numerous sites of interest he described - there are remains of burial mounds, duns, kiln circles, a corn kiln, and stone rows that line up with the midsummer sunset. Archaeologists from Reading University have used carbon dating in the Aird/Croig area to determine that it may be the oldest site ever to be excavated in Western Scotland and a very important burial site.

That is just a taster of a very interesting meeting - suffice to say everyone was all surprised by how much can really be discovered when one knows where and what to look for and ceases to see things as 'just a pile of stones or a dip in the ground. Bill and Kevin love to share their knowledge and enthusiasm and we were very grateful to them for doing so.

Salen

EILEEN Slorach, president, welcomed Sheelagh Still to the October Meeting and she entertained with a talk about her five-day cruise from Harris to St Kilda.

Sheelagh showed some beautiful photographs of the dramatic scenery of St Kilda

ABERFELDY

ABERFELDY Community Council effectively starts a new term this week, with today being the scheduled 'election day.'

Only those community councils in the Perth and Kinross Council area that had more candidates than seats required an election.

This situation has not occurred in Aberfeldy, however, with the membership for the

and surrounding islands and her talk was accompanied with maps and books and some photos on a computer. Sheelagh spoke of the village and life as it is today comparing it to days gone by. It was a lovely talk about a dramatic and beautiful place.

This was followed by a business meeting.

In the competitions, Betsy Ingram was first with her Lemon Curd, with Margaret Black second and Eileen Slorach third. Alison Willis was first with her wall hanging.

Tobermory

TOBERMORY Institute welcomed Dr Sam Jones and David McHaffie from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) who gave a very interesting talk about the lifeboat and the rescues they are called out to.

They showed a film which gave the audience an insight into the terrible conditions they work in. The expense of their clothes, lifejackets and equipment is tremendous and the RNLI is reliant on donations as it does not receive any money from the government.

Lifeboats costs between £2m and £2.5 million each so it is vital to raise funds. so Members were urged to buy their Christmas cards and gifts from the lifeboat station.

Sam and David were thanked for coming to the meeting

Torosay

FOR THE October meeting, members had a visit from 'The Aultgowrie Bogder', aka Ted Dowling, which everyone found fascinating.

'Bogder' is the ancient art of working with unseasoned or green wood such as sycamore, hazel or willow to make useful or decorative objects.

Ted had made a selection of spoons, spirtles, dibbers, flowers and even tiny cockerels and chickens to show members.

He then demonstrated the art of making flowers from hazel twigs and invited everyone to have a go.

A couple of brave souls attempted to make flowers - at least everyone went home with all their fingers intact!

Glenorchy

MEMBERS of the Glenorchy branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute met on Wednesday September 28 in Dalnally Community Centre.

President Liz Gibson welcomed members, new members and visitors and introduced the speaker for the evening, Anne Watson from Killin, who gave a talk and demonstration on Japanese patchwork. Anne showed lovely examples of her handcrafts.

Tea was served and members had the chance to buy from the sales table provided by the evening's speaker.

Competitions: Jar of jam - 1 Helen Gibson; 2 Judith Witts. Door stop - 1 June Taylor; 2 equal Liz Gibson and Helen

Gibson; 3 Annette Gray. Liz Gibson closed the meeting with thanks to Mrs Watson and the tea hostesses.

THE OCTOBER meeting of Glenorchy institute was held at the community centre.

President Liz Gibson welcomed everyone and introduced Marie Harrower from Connell who came with her dog Cisco to give a talk on guide dogs.

This very worthy association was founded 80 years ago, partly when the aftermath of the Great War left so many servicemen blinded and in need of help.

Marie also talked of the training of these wonderful dogs and answered many questions from the audience.

Liz Gibson thanked Marie for her enlightening talk. Tea was served by the hostesses.

Competitions: Arrangement of autumn leaves - 1 Annette Grey; 2 Helen Gibson; 3 June Sutherland. Jar of chutney - 1 Jane Goodwin; 2 June Sutherland; 3 Pam Gibson.

Liz Gibson thanked everyone for coming and the hostesses for the evening.

Lochawe

THE FIRST meeting of the 2011/12 session was held on October 5 in the village hall.

Margaret Whitton, Oban, gave an enjoyable demonstration on making paper flowers.

Joining Lochawe members were ladies from Taynuilt, Dalnally and Portsoanachan - about 27 in all - who were enthusiastic in producing various coloured crochets with skill, patience and lots of laughter.

President Ealasaid MacKay thanked Mrs Whitton on behalf of an appreciative gathering of rural ladies for her interesting demonstration.

The competition, for the best autumn foliage arrangement, was judged by Mrs Whitton. Gold winners were A Hay and J Ogden, silver winner was P McLeod.

An excellent tea was provided by hostesses for the evening, E MacKay, S McAleer, C MacDougall and J Rankin.

Kilmore

KILMORE and district branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute met recently.

President Isabel Smith welcomed members and, after business, introduced the evening's speakers, Jim Kirkpatrick and Ronnie McKillop.

Their excellent talk, with slides, offered hints on how to take good photographs.

Tea was served by Fiona Dickie and Hannah McGregor. Competitions: Welsh cakes - 1 Jennifer Shaw; 2 Fiona Dickie. Cobweb photography - 1 Margaret Whitton; 2 Sona Campbell.

The vote of thanks was given by Margaret Whitton.

The album, My Kind of Paradise, was produced by Alan Scobie and members of Tیره band, Skerryvore, played on the album.

GLENGARRY

FLUTES in the Fort and the Glengarry Singers will top the bill at a concert in Glengarry Community Hall on Friday, November 11. The musical evening, 'Flutes and Voices', begins at 7pm.

CANNA

THE NATIONAL Trust for Scotland has discovered bats have been living in Canna House for at least the past 60 years.

Expert DNA analysis has confirmed that the roost - thought to be the oldest known bat roost in the care of the charity - is inhabited by bandit pipistrelles. The discovery came after a routine collections inspection at the property earlier in the year showed signs of bat activity.

Trust preventive conservator Mel Houston found that previous Canna owner, the late John Lorne Campbell, who gifted the island to the trust, had first reported bats of uncertain species around Canna House in 1945.

Ms Houston said: 'Now we know where they are and what they are, we can make sure that they are not disturbed and that the items stored in the attic at Canna House can be properly protected.'

DUNBEG

WEST Highland Housing Association has been given the green light to demolish and replace four houses on Kirk Road.

The association applied for permission in August.

LOCHEARNHEAD

BALQUHIDDER, Lochearnhead and Strathre Community Council has asked Scotland Transerv and Central Scotland Police to investigate why there has been so many accidents on the A84 this summer.

Of particular concern to the members is the frequency of incidents on a bend at the southern end of Loch Lubnaig, with speculation suggesting the road surface itself is to blame.

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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Confidence in SAMS' future is well placed

IN WHAT have been gloomy times of late, it is undoubtedly a pleasure for all to read of the terrific achievements at the Scottish Association for Marine Science on the shores of Dunstaffnage.

Known as SAMS, the educational arm of this world-leading scientific hub reached a milestone last week when it celebrated the first batch of graduations since it became part of the newly formalised University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI).

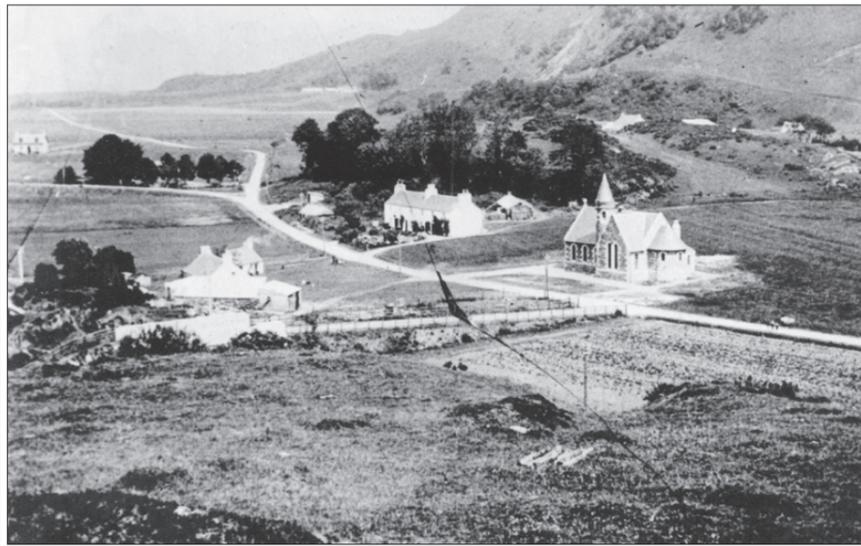
Celebrating too was the director of SAMS, Professor Laurence Mee, whose global pedigree and undoubted achievements throughout his scientific career saw him given the personal chair of the UHI; one of the most prestigious professional accolades he can receive.

These are just the latest in a long line of exciting developments at the Dunbeg facility, which continues to invest not only in its own future, but in that of Oban, Argyll and Scotland as a whole.

This confidence has been matched by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, with the organisation spending millions of pounds to build a science centre at the site, the clearest indication yet that Oban is not just a place to innovate, but to do business in one of the world's most competitive industries.

Next year, the association will hold its second Festival of the Sea across Oban and the isles, in what is a most public demonstration of support for the area it calls home.

It is important that the community and local government reciprocate and show this world-class facility that it truly is appreciated.



View of Benderloch from Beregonium, 1905

Mrs C Bullock of Coventry submitted this week's flashback photograph which shows Selma and St Modan's from Beregonium, Benderloch, circa 1905. We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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GLASGOW LETTER

Celtic Connections 2012

THE LINE-UP for Celtic Connections 2012, the 19th festival, was recently announced.

It promises to be better than ever with 2,100 artists from around the world taking part in 300 events in 20 venues across Glasgow over 18 days starting on January 19 and running until February 5.

There is something for everyone in the programme with folk, roots, world, traditional, indie, blues and jazz music all represented. The folk and traditional music scene will feature some of the UK's and Ireland's finest musicians.

Celtic Connections has surpassed all expectations since it was set up as a 'fill-in' for a quiet January and is a festival to be looked forward to after the end of year festivities.

Indeed, what could be better if Christmas shopping is proving troublesome than buying tickets for your friends and relations.

As in previous years there is a reduction for early purchase so get in early as many of the events are expected to be sold out.

The new venues for this festival will be the Mitchell Theatre, Brel, St Mary's Cathedral, Platform and Apollo 23, the new home of the Festival Club. It is expected that the full hard copy of the programme will be published in the middle of November but details are currently available on the website www.celticconnections.com.

Paisley Choral Festival

IF, LIKE me, you headed for Paisley on Friday, October 27, to take in the informal competition between the local Gaelic choirs, you would have been extremely annoyed to discover the event had been cancelled.

I advertised this function for two weeks and have been unable to find any reference to its cancellation despite contacting the organisers by email during the week.

It was extremely disappointing to see that both Gaels and non Gaels had turned up in the hope of enjoying what has, in the past few years, become a fun evening of Gaelic musical entertainment.

Oban High School FPs

THE COMMITTEE of Oban High School FPs is delighted to announce that its annual dinner dance will take place in the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Saturday March 10 2012.

Put the date in your diaries and I will provide further details at a later date.

Diary dates

Thursday November 3: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Annual Dinner, Pond Hotel, 7.15pm for 7.30pm. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Jim McKenna Tribune Concert.

Friday November 4: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Concert, Woodside Halls, 7.30pm. Dance in Glasgow University Union at 10pm, Trail West Band.

Thursday November 10: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Bruce Molsky.

Friday November 11: Clydebank and District Highlander's Association Ceilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm. Calulm's Road, Eastwood Theatre, 7.30pm.

Pub scene

DEOCH 'n Dorus will be playing in the Park Bar on Friday, Monach Isles on Saturday and Gunna Sound on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Crooked Reel on Friday and Norrie MacIver on Saturday.

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

Concern over goat killing claims

Sir, If the reports coming out of Rum that Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) are killing wild goats and throwing their carcasses over the cliffs are true, Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Scottish Rural Affairs, should be concerned.

The careful removal of selected individuals from a herd of animals to achieve a proper balance of sexes and ages is acceptable and frequently done. Senseless killing to waste and cause likely welfare issues in the process, is not.

No goat can be described as truly 'wild' but there is evidence to suggest that the herd on Rum is older than most others in the UK and therefore invaluable for scientific research.

In this context it is worth mentioning that the parchment of the earliest book written in Scotland over 1,300 years ago, Adomnan's 'Life of St Columba', is goatskin.

Rum's goats, golden eagles, Atlantic wet heaths, grasslands and blanket bogs all survived and flourished in harmony long before SNH acquired the island as a National Nature Reserve.

If the Scottish Government find difficulty in looking after our wild places on behalf of the people of Scotland through its own advisory body, what hope is there for other land managers?

Nothing less than a full, independent enquiry will do. Iain Thornber, Knock House, Morvern.

Cycle path funding

Sir, You mention three bodies involved in the relay of funding for the cycle path from Fort William to Kintyre: Sustrans, Transport Scotland and the Scottish Government.

But you seem to ignore the runner in the anchor lane, the British taxpayer.

As someone who, as part of the effort to rescue us from the dire state of our economy, is losing the better part of £300 per month in additional direct taxation,

I must say that, of the top one hundred ends to which that sum could in my view be applied, the cycle path would have to peddle very hard to come in 101st. Dr Brian C Campbell, Traquair, Ganavan, Oban.

Duror café would not survive

Sir, As a resident of Duror, originally from Poland, I noticed comments in last week's paper regarding the small shop in the village.

It would be impossible to use this shop as a café as there is absolutely no room for parking and very little room inside the premises.

I see the proprietor blames the council but I would have to agree with them.

The majority of times one goes to the shop, it is invariably shut and if it happens to be open it has no stock. Potential customers very soon get tired of this behaviour by the shopkeeper and do not bother to make the effort of trying.

How can anyone think a café would flourish and survive when in the winter months there is practically no one about?

As one is never sure if the shop is going to be open, the best solution would be to empty the little stock remaining, lock the door and throw away the key to prevent paying further council tax.

I never miss your excellent paper every week. That is how I got a job. Thank you. Boris Porski, Cuill Bay, Duror.

Wind farm propoganda

Sir, It is very disappointing that *The Oban Times*, October 27, has allowed itself to be used by the propaganda machine that represents the wind industry.

It doesn't take a genius to work out that the item 'Great Glen communities look to wind farm for cash boost' has been lifted straight from an industry press release. Just as they do all over the country, these people attempt to cloak their greedy

commercial aspirations in a veil of 'community benefit'.

They are rightly concerned that public outcry will stand in the way of their plans to vandalise another huge swathe of precious highland landscape so they attempt to corrupt the natives with their 'filthy lucre'.

The odious deception is compounded by the quote from the spokesman: 'The purpose of the co-operative is to ensure that the local community secures the benefits that an operational wind farm at Beinneun would bring'.

The dishonesty of that statement is breathtaking. The 'purpose' is to seduce potential objectors and thereby clear the way for the huge profits which they expect to earn, courtesy of the subsidies which are paid for by all electricity consumers.

If this development of 25 turbines, each over 400 feet high, is permitted, alongside the existing eyesore that is Millennium Wind Farm, then the 'cash boost' for local communities will pale into insignificance alongside the devastation of that most precious of community assets; the landscape.

It is increasingly acknowledged that without the subsidies, these wind farms would never be built, and due to their unreliability, their contribution towards our future energy needs and reduction of CO2 emissions is negligible. The only thing they generate of use is huge profits for those involved. Alan Thomson, Strontian.

Call to stand together

Sir, It is understood that there will soon be an application to install a wind farm on the mainland overlooking Clachan Seil on the Isle of Seil.

This will be a short distance from and in plain sight of the world famous 'Bridge Over The Atlantic', built in 1792 and the subject of much pride by locals and admiration by visitors from all over the world. Few visitors go by without taking photographs. It is a prized landmark and it is unthinkable that the proposed

Alan Cochrane



THE DAILY TELEGRAPH'S SCOTTISH EDITOR

WILL new year in Edinburgh be hellish compared to the joys of a traditional Angus glens Hogmanay? Does Scotland still celebrate New Year in traditional fashion? Or should that be done all of Scotland still mark what is, to my mind, our greatest festival as it used to?

I ask because this New Year will be the first since I returned to Scotland in 1994, after 20 years in England, that I will not be spending it in the countryside and I am more than a bit worried about how it'll go. And it's not just me; my English-reared wife and my two Scots-born daughters are slightly concerned, too, as they've known no other way of celebrating the festival other than the smashing way we all did things in the Angus Glens.

How will Edinburgh compare? Do the denizens of Scotland's capital know what to do? And, even more importantly, do our neighbours?

Now, I hear that the Hogmanay celebrations on Princes Street are pretty spectacular. I don't wish to appear snuffy, but they're not at all my scene; more for the tourists, surely. What I much prefer are self-made, largely domestic, celebrations based on family and friends whilst at the same time rounding up as many others who are happy to enter into the spirit of things.

In Angus we'd have a dinner party on Hogmanay for up to a dozen and then, after the bells, we'd head off to a nearby laird's house for a spot of reeling with neighbours and guests from the holiday cottages on the estate. En route, we'd first foot the local gamekeeper, his lady and bairn because without his help and advice we'd never have lasted so long in the glens.

Home for a few hours sleep, followed by a hearty breakfast, and then it was off again – more often than not through snow drifts, this time to a tiny house at the top of a glen where the hostess laid on a sumptuous lunch for scores of people who'd flocked there from far and wide.

On one occasion she managed to feed about 40 with the aid of a tiny, single-burner, Camping Gaz stove when gales brought down all of the power lines. A few hours there and we were off again, this time to a warm farmhouse with yet another table groaning with food.

A completely different set of guests would be ensconced here, including the local 'Pisky' minister, an extremely genial cove who in no way curbed the enthusiasm of the celebrations. Last but not least, on the First of the Year our last port of call is to another extremely hospitable couple whose drive in winter so resembles the Cresta Run that their lovely home could only be reached by Four by Fours across the fields.

If you thought that by now, we'd all be wilting slightly you'd be right and so at about eight o'clock we'd wend our way home for a traditional New Year feast: a massive steak pie from Cliff Bertram's excellent butcher's shop in Kirriemuir. Phew, what a day! However, the festivities weren't over – not by a long shot. January 2 saw our party when it seemed like all of the guests from all the other parties turned up at our cottage, usually walking the last half mile because of the ice and snow. My Cape Town-born wife's speciality was bobotie, South Africa's national dish.

That party lasted long into the night and attracted as wide a variety of guests as you might imagine – barristers, lairds, gamekeepers, clergyman, farm workers, authors, former ambassadors, the normal smattering of thirsty journalists and, on one occasion, Scotland's former senior law officer who, with his beautiful wife and daughter, was transported to our door courtesy of the shepherd's quad bike!

And that was that. A day of rest on the third and then back, sadly to Edinburgh, on the fourth. It's probably asking a lot to expect that sort of jollification in staid Auld Reekie, especially as I hear, to my horror, that First Footing is becoming a thing of the past. In spite of such scare stories, we're determined to try, even if it means dropping a few hints to our Edinburgh neighbours – or even suggesting that they start practising now!

YOUR LETTERS

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

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

Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

PRESS POLICY

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

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

The Oban Times adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct. The views expressed in The Oban Times are not necessarily those of this newspaper.

Correction

WE WOULD like to point out that details of the charges against Graham MacGillivray, Penny Croft Moss, Acharacle, 36, as printed last week were incorrect.

He pleaded guilty to an amended charge of reset of ferry tickets and a jumper from Benvoullin Gardens, Oban, between July 5 and 10. We apologise for the error.

20 Years Ago

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday, November 7, 1991

Jim to 'fix' Ben benches

PLANS by Sir Jimmy Saville to build benches on the pathway up Ben Nevis have been condemned by Scotland's leading mountaineering bodies.

Sir Jimmy, honorary chieftain of Lochaber Games, hopes to build benches along the path incorporating a plaque telling walkers where they are, how long it will take to reach the summit and get back down again.

However, both the Mountaineering Council of Scotland and the Scottish Mountain Rescue Committee have attacked the move. Bob Reid, president of the Mountaineering Council of Scotland, claimed the idea would 'lull people into a false sense of security'.

While recognising that Ben Nevis was, in many respects, a special mountain, Mr Reid said the idea would only encourage people to be rash and was of detriment to the environment.

Secretary of the Scottish Mountain Rescue Committee John Carruthers described the move as 'atrocious and dangerous' and demanded that Ben Nevis be preserved in its natural state.

Donald Watt, Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team leader is in full support of the plan. One of the problems with Ben Nevis, said Mr Watt, is its extensive use by tourists and anything which gives an indication of distance is 'more beneficial than not'.

Dalmally danger road

DALMALLY villagers say they are risking their lives every time they cross the main road.

They want speed restrictions of 40 miles an hour to stop cars tearing through at 60 mph, but a Scottish Office spokesman said they will only be enforced if there are more accidents.

Alastair MacIntyre, 79, of Glenview, said restrictions were 'long overdue' and that 'an accident is just waiting to happen' between the old school house and the Glen Orchy Lodge. 'There have been a lot of near misses', he said.

Mother-of-two Eileen MacKay of Scott Terrace said she would allow her two children near the road.

'It's pretty dangerous. Lorries and cars just zoom past you and the pavement isn't big enough to push a pram. You could get clipped by cars,' said Mrs MacKay.

Community councillor Ian MacIntyre said pavement widening, street lighting and speed restrictions were all needed along this stretch.

'The Region say we can't have one without the other and that they have no funding. We seem to be hitting this brick wall all the time,' said Mr MacIntyre.

He said children have to cross the road every morning to get to school bus. 'The problem is the long stretches of straight road before and after the bend,' said Mr MacIntyre.

Queen Mother joins debate

THE COUPLE behind plans to build a restaurant near the world famous Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge will state their case in writing to the Queen Mother.

Mr Niall and Sukie Scott, of 'Old Pines' Spean Bridge, had their planning application refused by Highland Regional Council on Wednesday, October 30, after councillors heard that the Royal Grandmother had joined a list of more than 300 objectors.

A letter, signed on behalf of the Queen Mother by her private secretary, stated: 'Her Majesty is strongly opposed to the proposed plans.'

'The Queen Mother feels that the development, if it were allowed to proceed, would desecrate the fine memorial to those in the Commandos who gave their lives for our country in the Second World War.'

But the Scotts, who hope to build a 40 seat restaurant, toilet facilities and a museum to the commandos in a peat field almost 200 metres from the memorial, claim the Queen Mother has been ill informed. The couple, who have challenged the objections lodged over sanctity of site, noise and litter, plan to write to the Queen Mother, fully explaining the proposals.

Speaking after last Wednesday's decision, Mrs Sukie Scott said that the result had been what she and her husband had come to expect.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

7 Threatening (6)

8 Insufficient (6)

9 One way to get forward (4)

10 You gain points when they fall (8)

11 Jazz piano music (7)

13 Plait (5)

15 Corpulent (5)

17 Put away inside (7)

20 Varied (8)

21 Large tooth (4)

23 Hedging (6)

24 Being (6)

Down

1 Bank deposit (4)

2 Limb depression? (6)

3 Fido dear? (3,4)

4 Correct, or wasn't! (5)

5 Wetter fire plate (6)

6 Threatening wave of sword (8)

12 Tunny (8)

14 Cornflour use (7)

16 Deviate (6)

18 Keen (6)

19 Affirm (5)

22 Locale (4)

Last week's solution

P	E	B	L	F	M							
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C	T	H	G	C	G							
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Sea baby boom at Barcaldine centre

THERE has been a baby boom at the Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary at Barcaldine. The centre's tropical Lined Seahorses have had another brood, the third in as many months. Dennis Chamberlain, displays supervisor, said those that reach maturity will be swapped with other sea life centres as part of their Seahorse SOS programme. He added the scheme offers the hope that a Brown Seahorse or a Spiny Seahorse, the two species native to west coast waters, could be found for the Oban centre, without having to be taken from the wild.

Inflated gold company shares

LAST week The Oban Times stated the share price of Scotgold had reached a year high of £8.28 before dropping back to £7.38. These figures should of course have been in pence.

Taynuilt school expansion plan

ARGYLL and Bute Council might be looking back at scaling back on some rural primary schools but in other places it needs to add more classrooms. Permission was granted at last week's meeting of the planning protective services and licensing committee to add an extra classroom and store at Taynuilt Primary School. A spokeswoman for the council said: "There is a projected increase in the number of pupils in Taynuilt. The school has been operating at, or near, capacity for a number of years."

Tiree firefighters battle the heat of Gobi desert

FIREFIGHTERS from the Isle of Tiree have vowed to support an orphanage in Mongolia after witnessing harsh conditions first hand during a fundraising walk across the Gobi Desert.

Football fans Big hearted Craig Watson and Andy Phillips, who work at Tiree airport, have just returned to their home island following an arduous football-themed fundraising trek of the desert with football fans from across Scotland under the auspices of Gobi United.

While the group total is yet to be finalised, the near-£8,000 Craig and Andy helped raise will be split between the Davie Cooper Centre - a proposed family facility in Clydebank for children an adults with special needs named after the former Rangers great - and Motor Neuron Disease (MND) Scotland, in honour of Celtic legend Jimmy 'Jinky' Johnstone, who died from the disease.

While the conditions were in themselves a challenge, more difficult was the circumstances orphaned children in Mongolia had to endure.

Craig said: "Our journey was very tough on the feet and legs but very rewarding, meeting and living with local nomads, sampling local food, drink and local cultures."

"We also visited a local orphanage run by the Yamaa Trust, which is a Scottish-based Mongolian charity, to hand over gifts from members of Gobi United."

Fundraising for Mongolian orphanage to continue

"This was the hardest and most heartbreaking part of our trip. For me having four kids of my own, I found it difficult to relate to the change in lifestyle these kids live with. They are well cared for but have nothing."

"It was only when dining with the kids at the orphanage that scale of the problem became apparent."

The speciality for the guests was neat vodka and cooked goat, but it was a long way from what we in Scotland are used to, with all the organs - from the wind pipe to the intestines - to be eaten.

"It has made us determined to commit to our next venture raising funds for this orphanage," Craig said.

The trek itself was tough. The team covered 25-30km a day during their eight-day trek, while four inches of snow after their first day of walking was replaced by blistering heat.

Unfortunately, the recent curse befalling all Scottish teams - causing them to lose to foreign opposition by default - repeated, with the Mongolian team Ulaanbaatar beating Gobi United in the first ever Scotland-Mongolia encounter.

Both Craig and Andy said: "We would like to thank everyone, especially the local people of Tiree, who sent us donations. It was most appreciated."

"We are sure both charities will be delighted with our final total."



Andy Phillips, left, and Craig Watson, try to raise a smile while bagging 3,000ft sand dunes during their trek of the Gobi Desert.

Area committee hear scorecard may simplify local plan

A SCORE card is to be devised to simplify how the success or otherwise of an area plan is measured.

The Oban, Lorn and Isles Area Committee heard that current

measures are too complicated. David Clements, performance manager at the council chief executive's unit, said area committee members would be consulted on what information

is presented on their scorecard. Councillor Roddy McCuish said: "It seems simple to me and would be very helpful for us."

A draft scorecard will be presented in the coming months.



Beachd Ailein
Ailean Caimbeul

THA A H-UILE GNÌOMHACHAS A' FULANG buaidh mhargaidhean thar nam bliadhnaichean ach innsidh croitèar neo tuathanach sam bith nach eil gin nas caochlaidiche na cho mi-chinnteach 's a tha cosnadh à àiteachas agus sprèidh. Tha caochladh bhuidhnean poblach air innleachdan taice eadar-dhealaichte a dhealbhadh is a chur an gnìomh thar iomadh bliadhna ach a-rèir coltais chan eil cùisean dad nas tèarainte air croitean agus tuathanais beaga anns na h-eileanan is air iomall na Gàidhealtachd. Cha mhòtha na sin a tha taicean Eòrpach air adhartas sònraichte sam bith a thoirt dhaibh seo.

Sin is coireach gum bheil Buidheann Àiteachais na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean, air am bheil Comunn Rìoghail Dion nan Eun, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd, Comhairle Earra Ghàidheal is Bhòid is Comhairlean Arcaibh is Sealtainn, cho math ri Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean, Coimisean nan Croitearan, agus Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba, a' moladh inbhe àiteachais ùr dha na h-eileanan agus na sgìrean air an iomall. Chaidh seo a mholadh an toiseach ann an Aithisg Pack air àiteachas ann an Alba deireadh na bliadhna 'n uiridh, ach leis an ìre taice as ùr seo dhan bheachd chan eil teagamh nach faigh e èisteachd ann an Rìaghalas na h-Alba nuair a thèid aithisg thuige bhon Buidheann Àiteachais a dh' aithghearr.

Tha a Buidheann làidir na bheachd gum bheil gnìomhachas àiteachais anns na sgìrean iomallach seo cho so-leònte agus mura tèid taic a bharrachd a thoirt dhà gum faodadh daoine cùil a chur ris gu tur agus gun tèid na sgìrean fhàsachadh. Chan e eagal ùr a tha seo a bharrachd agus fad sia bliadhna fìcheadh bhò 1965 chuir Bòrd Leasachaidh na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean, agus na dhèidh Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean, milleann an sàs ann an caochladh iomairtean agus tèarainteachd cosnadh a thoirt dhan t-sluagh air an iomall. Tha Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean e fhèin air a bhith a' dol fìcheadh bliadhna a-nise agus chan eil freagairt fhathast air an dùbhlán seo.

Ach mar a thog mi uairean roimhe tha fhios gum bheil cumhachd a-nuadhachail na chothrom cosnadh dha coimhearsnachdan an oir mar nach fhacas riann roimhe. Nan robh càball air a leagail fòr mhuir sios an taobh siar dh' fhaodadh a h-uile coimhearsnachd an sin brath a ghabhail air tuathan-gaoithe agus 's dòcha cumhachd na mara gus tèarainteachd eaconomaigeach a ghleidheadh mu dheireadh thall! Sin iomairt air an oir is fhìach a chur air adhart!

THE HIGHLANDS and Islands Agricultural Forum is right to be concerned about the viability of agricultural in island and peripheral areas.

But extra support, while welcome, will be a prop rather than a cure to the economic challenge for communities at the edge. If, however, HIE and others could achieve a sub-sea cable along the west coast of Scotland every community would have the potential to capitalise on renewable energy income and economic viability for the first time ever! This is surely an initiative at the edge worth campaigning for!

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)
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NO MATTER what life throws at you, losing a loved one is one of the most difficult things to deal with. At times like this, it's good to know you're never alone. Like any emotional trauma, grief can manifest itself in a number of different ways and there is no wrong or right method to come to terms with events. Some may feel confusion or disbelief, while others can be angry or even feel guilt at something they could do nothing to prevent. Loneliness, anxiety, fatigue or even a sense of numbness are also common emotions and nothing to be alarmed about. It is not unusual either to experience physical symptoms; with headaches, lethargy, muscle tremors and even dizziness common experiences. The truth is there is no hard and fast rule on how to deal with a loss and what you will feel in doing so. There are, however, a number of different ways in which you can help yourself through these tough times, allowing you to get on with life while preserving those treasured memories

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Tears usually play their part at any funeral ceremony, but laughter and smiles are a vital part of the cycle and celebration of life.

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These days it is not unusual for many people to make their own funeral arrangements whilst still living. The Independent Humanists can arrange a visit to discuss the options available and compose a tribute in advance.

Most importantly they can deliver a truly meaningful and dignified tribute to the life that has passed, and celebrate that life.

Let's face it, few of us care to think about death. If we do, it is not something we want to linger over. Do you think how your death will affect those closest to you? Apart from the grief and distress they will suffer, what will happen to the family home, the bank account, household bills? You can help them cope by making a Will which sets out your personal wishes including funeral instructions, what you intend to leave to your family, to charity etc. You may be worth thousands of pounds if you own a car, a house, savings, life insurance policy or a pension. If there is no Will then, although there are rules which say which family members will benefit, this may not be what you would have wished yourself and may be inappropriate for your circumstances. You have the comfort of knowing that you have made your wishes clear and that your family will be able to take care of matters after you've gone. Another step is simply to leave all the important paperwork where it can be found easily. These can be the deeds to your home, your bank statements, insurance policies and pension papers, in fact, any documents you think the family will need.

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AS THE nights draw in, many of us look forward to Christmas to give us some cheer. And what better way to enjoy the build up - and get the inevitable Christmas shopping done - than with a weekend away.

Whether it's a treat for the kids, a romantic break or the opportunity to hit the shops, now is the time to plan a well-deserved weekend off. It is a chance to forget the winter blues, but thankfully with plenty of special offers, a slice of Christmas magic needn't break the bank.

With special winter festival activities taking place from St Andrew's Day to Burns Night, it is the perfect time to experience the magic of our cities.

Glasgow and Inverness both switch on the Christmas lights on November 20, and from then until December 24, they will be twinkling with festive magic.

As ever, Glasgow's George Square will be turned into a winter wonderland with entertainment and the outdoor ice rink open seven days a week - the perfect way to entertain the kids while you get in a bit of extra shopping in the nearby boutiques and malls.

Edinburgh's Christmas lights go up from November 24, with one of Europe's largest ice rinks, a big wheel and treasure hunts through the city's sparkling streets.

Inverness hosts the annual Santa Run on December 4 and there will be more fun on December 10 and 11 when Rudolph and Friends take a rest from night-flying in the city.

And don't forget that highlight of the festive season for young and old - the panto. There are some magical tales and swashbuckling adventures with performances across Scotland, including Sleeping Beauty (Glasgow's King's Theatre), Peter Pan (Pavillion), a 3D pantomime extravaganza with Robinson Crusoe at the SECC and Jack and the Beanstalk at His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen. Cinderella will be making an appearance at Eden Court in Inverness and the King's Theatre in Edinburgh.

Even if you can't face the Christmas crowds, this is a great time of the year for a quiet weekend away from the festive madness - romantic strolls on windswept beaches, fine food and relaxing in front of an open fire.

Inaugural Islay Sessions to bring 'a good bit of cheer' to the island

A NEW traditional music festival featuring live music, workshops, sessions and a grand concert ceilidh will take place on Islay this month.

Islay Sessions, running from November 11 to 13, will see some of Scotland's finest musicians visiting this island.

Festival organiser Grahame Allison said he felt Islay needed something to entice visitors in a traditionally quiet period for tourism.

"People need a good bit of cheer at this time of year and what could be better than getting some of the best musicians in the country to come over to Islay,"

said Grahame, who runs Port Charlotte Hotel. "Everybody taking part has been to the island before or has a connection to the place."

The line-up of musicians taking part includes some exceptional performers. Argyllshire born fiddler Eilidh Shaw, who has toured with many Scottish bands including the Poozies and Harem Scarem, will be accompanied by her husband and guitar player Ross Martin, a native of Morar. Making a welcome return and featuring Islay's own Fraser Shaw, The Maverick Angels, will be building on the success of their second album, No Halo. The Scottish Borders

are represented by acclaimed songstress and fiddle player Lori Watson. She will be joined by her brother Innes on guitar and John Somerville on accordion.

Glasgow-based Anarkali play a host of instruments with fiery arrangements and a strong Irish influence. Completing the line-up is Mod gold medallist Darren Maclean from Skye and some of Islay's own musicians.

On the Saturday morning, workshops will be held for all ages in a range of instruments at Ionad Chalum Chille Ile, with a concert and ceilidh dance in Bruichladdich Hall on Saturday evening.

Ghoulish goings-on for Hallowe'en



Guisers get younger and younger every year, as these four tots attending the Go Bananas Hallowe'en party proved on Sunday. All from Oban, the oldest of the quartet was just five-and-a-half months old, with their mums already getting them into the 'spirit' of the occasion. They were joined by a host of local children who packed out the decorated soft play area. Pictured, from left: Kat Flynn with four-month old Brendon, doing a good impression of a tiger asleep in his chair, Ann-Marie Cameron, with five-and-a-half-month old Aimee doing her impression of a witch, Tracey Buchanan with five-month-old 'pumpkin' Imogen, and Shona Bullock with Alasdair, also a 'pumpkin' and the youngest of the group at just three months old. 15_144gobananas1



Pupils at Iona Primary School came to school in costume for Hallowe'en. As well as costumes, there was plenty of fun and games.

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Eilidh Munro as Dorothy, with 18-month-old Grace Lloyd as the Lion from the Wizard of Oz. The pair joined the party at Connel Village Hall, with Hallowe'en games, a fancy dress competition and spooky snacks. 16_144hallo1



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Some of the winners of Connel Hallowe'en Party Fancy dress competition. More than 40 children turned out in a variety of traditional and imaginative costumes. Youngsters from the village also enjoyed dooking for apples, games, snacks and a hotly contested pumpkin carving competition. 16_144hallo3

Inveraray club's new season begins

INVERARAY and District Accordion and Fiddle Club opened its new season at the Argyll Hotel on October 12.

Supporting players were: Fyne Folk, with Duncan Crawford, Alex John MacLeod and Jake MacKay on fiddle and Agnes Liddell on keyboard; John Renton, Johnny Fisher and Alan McIntosh on accordion and Alex and Arlene MacKechnie on fiddle. On keyboard was Jimmy MacDonald; on drums, Grant MacDougall and Donald MacLachlan and on 'moothee', Jake MacKay.

All their selections were much enjoyed. Guest artists were the Alastair MacLeod Trio, from Croftamie, with Alastair on accordion, Ian Anderson on keyboard and Gus Millar on drums. They played two entertaining spots which got the club off to a rousing start.

Next week, accordionist Wayne Robertson, from Perth, makes a welcome return, accompanied by another maestro on accordion, Davy Stewart, who is well known to club regulars.

Ex-Easdale man's poetry success

A FORMER Easdale resident has contributed to a poetry anthology commemorating ten years of NATO operations in Afghanistan.

Michael Brett, now an English teacher in Surrey, has written two poems for the book, *Enduring Freedom*, which is raising funds for servicemen's charity Combat Stress.

Michael worked in Yugoslavia during the Balkan Wars, in the press department of the embryonic government of Bosnia Herzegovina. Michael said: 'Many of my poems were written at this time.'

'The whole place was full of spies and gun runners engaged in trying to break the Bosnian arms embargo. Finally Iran and the USA did it together, bringing the war to an end saving thousands of lives. When the war was over I retrained as a teacher.'

Michael has already published some of his war poems on two poetry websites and is a former Scots Iolaire prizewinner.

The book, including Michael's poems *Mosques and Rockets* and *9/11 Poems from London*, was published on Tuesday November 1 by FireStep.

Sarah dances her way into final six

A FORMER student of Taynuilt's Ballet West was the only Brit to reach the finals of this year's Genée International Ballet Competition in Cape Town.

Sarah Mortimer, who this summer graduated from Ballet West UHI with a BA in Classical Ballet and Dance Performance, was one of just six finalists selected to dance in front of a prestigious panel of judges when the competition was held in South Africa last month.

It is the second time the 19-year-old, originally from Maidstone in Kent, has competed in the event but the first time she has reached the finals.

She said: 'This is a great thrill for me to reach the finals. The wonderful training and encouragement I received from Ballet West has enabled me to achieve this important milestone in my career.'



Netherlorn Piping Society honorary member Mary Ferguson presents Duke's Medals to, from left, Kyle Orr, Angus J MacColl and Aaron Hossain. 15_144pipo01

Youth to the fore at piping society

THREE of Oban and Lorn's most promising young pipers received medals as the opening night of this season's Netherlorn Piping Society brought youth to the fore.

Honorary society member Mary Ferguson, from Benderloch, who turns 101 years old tomorrow (Friday), presented medals to Angus J MacColl, Benderloch, as well as Oban's Kyle Orr and Aaron Hossain at the meeting last Wednesday.

The medal is an Argyll-confined under-16 award at the Argyllshire Gathering. Kyle, aged 15 won this year's medal, with 13-year-old Aaron taking the silver medal.

Angus won the medal in 2010

but was only presented with his medal last Wednesday. At a well-attended Argyllshire Gathering Halls, the three medallists and fellow teenager D J MacDougall - all pupils of Angus MacColl - played a selection of tunes.

Opening proceedings, however, were 18 chanter players of primary school age, and while this number gave society members great hope for the future, chairman Alistair Dewar revealed that there could have been as many as 28 children of performance standard on stage.

Mr Dewar told the audience that piping in the North Lorn area was probably in its strongest ever position, adding: 'Angus [MacColl] tells me there could

have been another 10 chanter players up there, if everyone had been available. It bodes well for the future. There is also a lot of talent in the Oban High School bands too and they will do very well this season.'

Mr Dewar also paid tribute to the late Robert Stewart from Inveraray, who died during the early summer, and indicated that his passing would be a huge loss to piping in Argyll.

The next meeting of the society will be on November 16 when a quartet from Inveraray and District Pipe Band will perform, as will Callum Beaumont from Bo'ness, winner of this year's gold medal at the Argyllshire Gathering in Oban.

Thousands will make connection

A VIBRANT folk and traditional music scene will again be at the heart of the famous Celtic Connections festival from January 19 to February 5.

The line-up, unveiled last week by artistic director Donald Shaw, from Taynuilt, also features leading musicians in world, traditional, indie, blues and jazz music.

The Glasgow-based festival will see 2,100 artists from around the world taking part in 300 events in 20 venues over 18 days.

Artists include Blazin' Fiddles, Shooogenifty, Salsa Celtica, Breabach, The Simon Bradley Trio, The Wrigley Sisters, Babelfish, Skipinnish, Paul McKenna, Ailie Robertson's Traditional Spirits, Niteworks, Rua MacMillan and The Bevy Sisters, whilst the 13-piece musical powerhouse Treacherous Orchestra celebrate the launch of their highly anticipated debut album.

The superb Scottish supergroup Session A9 will headline a fiddle triple-bill in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, also featuring Toronto's Sultans of String and the Quebe Sisters from Texas.

Lau join forces with the Northern Sinfonia for the first Scottish performance of their epic orchestral work, *Strange Attractors*, written by the trio and Northern Irish composer Brian Irvine.

Lau's Aidan O'Rourke, originally from Seil, will also perform with his band KAN.

Stalwarts of the Scottish folk scene, including Sheena Wellington,

Elsbeth Cowie, Aileen Carr, Gordeanna McCulloch and Barbara Dymmock, will take to the stage at the festival.

Specially curated for the festival, the Celtic Connections Box and Fiddle Night celebrates more than 60 years of the dance band.

Ian McCalman will create an evening of music built around the album *Far Far From Ypres* - songs, poems and music of World War I - whilst Corrina Hewat's six-harp suite *The Oak and the Ivy* encapsulates the contemporary Scottish harp revival.

Once again the festival spotlight shines on Gaelic talent. Julie Fowlis' *Heiseir* is a documentary film which splices footage exploring the history and heritage of the now-unpopulated Monach Isles with live Gaelic song and music from her band.

Inspired by the unique Gaelic song tradition of the Outer Hebrides, *Cuair nan Eilean* will bring together Jenna Cumming, Harris, Linda MacLeod, North Uist, and Darren MacLean, Skye, for an exploration of the rich song traditions of their native islands.

Other Gaelic artists appearing at the festival include Mánran, whose phenomenal energy and footstompin' Gaelic tunes have taken the music scene by storm this past year, as well as Maggie MacInnes, Anne Martin, The Campbells, Alyth McCormack and Kathleen MacInnes.

Ceolas - a celebration of the Uist festival of Gaelic arts - will feature Rona Lightfoot, Angus MacKenzie and a host of other renowned singers, pipers and dancers.

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Thursday night > Skipinnish Ceilidh House followed by Club Night at 11.30
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Saturday night > Blue Light Disco (under 18's) from 7pm Skipinnish Ceilidh House then Club Night from 11pm
Fri 4th & Sat 5th November > 2 Can Dance Markie Dams 9.30pm
Friday 11 November > Cairdeas Markie Dams 9.30pm
Saturday 12 November > Allan frew 9.30pm

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Brother and sister, must go together. Age and history unknown. Nice cats, both are neutered.

Contact Pat on 01852 300362
aaa.rescueteam@btconnect.com
http://www.smallpaws.co.uk
Reg. charity SCO13211

Local Producers Market
Thursday 3rd November
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch, 1 mile along the Tralee road
10 am to 3 pm
LOTS TO EAT AND DO
Every First / Third Thursday
Interested Producers contact
01631 720223
Local Origins Rural Network
www.lorn.org.uk

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Simon Chadwick with his stunning clarsach, a replica of the ancient Queen Mary harp, before his performance at Dunollie's 1745 House on Thursday. 15_144clarsach1

Exiles and friends meet up for festival

THE FOURTH Ceol Cholasa, Colonsay's Folk Festival, was held over the weekend of October 15 and again proved a great success.

With a local flavour this year Aiden O'Rourke of Lau and Joy Dunlop and Eilidh Shaw of the Poozies represented the Oban area with Caitlin McNeill and band and Donald and Jen MacNeill, as well as many local musicians and singers, representing Colonsay.

Shared between the pub and the village hall, the music was virtually non-stop from Thursday afternoon to Sunday evening.

While Lau were very definitely top of the bill, the Poozies, Stephen Quigg

and Nick Keir, Bodega, Joy Dunlop and Vivien Scotson all contributed to making it a fantastic weekend.

A highlight of the weekend was the Saturday evening ceilidh when Eilidh Shaw joined her parents in the Highfield Ceilidh Band and locals and visitors danced the night away.

The festival has now claimed its own place in Colonsay's calendar with many 'exiles' and friends of Colonsay choosing to meet up and enjoy the fun.

Next year's fifth anniversary event will run over the weekend of September 15.



Performers took to the stage together for the finale of Ceol Cholasa.

Guests are transported back in time at Dunollie

GUESTS at Dunollie's 1745 House were transported back to its heyday on Thursday when Simon Chadwick demonstrated his skills on a replica West Highland clarsach.

Playing a mixture of Gaelic laments in the atmospherically lit Old Kitchen, Simon's instrument was almost as interesting as the house itself.

Commissioned in 2006, it is the most accurate and detailed replica yet made of the Queen Mary harp, a mediaeval West Highland Clarsach now on display at Edinburgh's National Museum of Scotland.

It was the St Andrews based musician's first performance in Oban, but he said it wasn't likely to be his last.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Comunn Gàidhealach an Òbain
Post Mod Ceilidh St. John's Cathedral
Saturday, 12th November
Further details next week

ISLAND BREEZE
8pm, Fri 4th Nov
TEAM XTREME
7.30pm, Sat 5th Nov
For adults & children Corran Halls
FREE ADMISSION
www.impactworldtour.co.uk

Hebrides Ensemble
7.30pm Wednesday 9 November
Steven Osborne (piano)
2.30pm Sunday 11 December
at CREAR, Kilberry
Friends of Crear season ticket: £65
Advance tickets only: £22
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Buffet supper: £15
T: 01880 770 369
E concerts@crear.co.uk
www.crear.co.uk
Scottish charity SCO38726

Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club
Argyll Hotel, Inveraray
Wednesday 9th November at 8.00pm
Guest Artists From Perth
Wayne Robertson Duo
Supporting players most welcome

AJTC presents William Shakespeare's 'The Tempest'
Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern
Tuesday 8th November, 7.30pm
Tickets £8/£5
01852 500746
Online @ www.thebooth.co.uk

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OPEN DAY GLENHELLACH DIG IN OBAN
SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER
GUIDED TOURS START AT 10AM, 12 NOON AND 2PM

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Contact: Dr Clare Ellis, Argyll Archaeology t:01586 550239

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Argyll Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERTISEMENT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
11/01900/PP	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse	North Achinduin Isle of Lismore Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5UH	Sub Post Office Lismore
11/02054/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land North West of Roan Cottage Suidhe Bunnassan Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Bunnassan Isle of Mull
11/02058/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land North of Achamore Bunnassan Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA67 6DU	Sub Post Office Bunnassan Isle of Mull
11/02063/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land North East of Achamore Bunnassan Isle of Mull	Sub Post Office Bunnassan Isle of Mull

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

Argyll and Bute Council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://planning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST.

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

THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (OBAN TOWN CENTRE) (TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2011

Argyll and Bute Council proposes to make an Order introducing new and amending existing restrictions on various roads within Oban. The following roads are affected: Albany Street, Dalriach Road, Ganavan Road, Quarry Road, Shore Street, Sinclair Drive, Soroba Road, and Soroba Lane. Full details of these proposals together with Plans, and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make this Traffic Regulation Order, are available for inspection during normal office hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the offices of: (i) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban; (ii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

Any person wishing to object to the proposals should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT, by 25th November 2011.

THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (SALEN PRIMARY SCHOOL, ISLE OF MULL) (PART-TIME 20MPH SPEED LIMIT) (VARIATION) ORDER 2011

On Monday 31st October 2011, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order in terms of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended.

The Order, which comes into operation on 19th December 2011, introduces an extension to the existing part-time 20mph speed limit adjacent to Salen Primary School on the A848, in Salen, Isle of Mull.

A copy of the Order and plan relating thereto are available for inspection during normal working hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the following offices:- (i) Aros Post Office, Aros, Isle of Mull; (ii) Roads & Amenity Services, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban; (iii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

Any person who wishes to question the validity of the Order or any provision contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or on the grounds that any requirement of that Act or any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order may, within six weeks from 4th November 2011, apply to the Court of Session for this purpose.

Sandy MacTaggart, Executive Director, Development & Infrastructure Services, 1A Marise Brae, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RD

COUNCILLOR'S SURGERIES

Councillor Mary Jean Devon (E.W 4 Oban South and the Isles)
 Constituents can contact Councillor Devon on Tel: 01688 302083 or on her mobile 07912 949 073. She can also be contacted by email on mj-devon@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Councillor Gordon Chalmers (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles) Constituents can contact Councillor Chalmers on Tel 01688 302689 or e-mail - gordon.chalmers@argyll-bute.gov.uk or gordon.chalmers@btinternet.com

Councillor Donald McIntosh (E.W 4 Oban South and the Isles)
 Councillor McIntosh's constituents can contact him on Tel: 07788 882200 or by e-mail - donald.mcintosh@argyll-bute.gov.uk

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011
PROPOSED RUN OF RIVER SCHEME, EIRICHEALLACH GLEN QUOICH LOCHABER HIGHLAND

The Council has received an Environmental Statement (ES) submitted in support of a planning application from Glen Quoich Hydro Limited for the development of a 0.690MW run of river hydro-scheme.

The development proposes construction of 4 intakes on Allt Coire nan Eiricheallach, returning the water to the same watercourse before it flows into Loch Quoich. Buried pipelines will be constructed from the intake weirs to a powerhouse and tail race south of the public road to Kinloch Hour.

The application (Reference 11/03624/FUL), plans and the accompanying Environmental Statement are available on the Council's ePlanning portal (www.highland.gov.uk) or for public inspection at the Highland Council, Planning and Building Standards Offices at County Buildings Dingwall and Glenurquhart Road Inverness.

Copies of the Environmental Statement may be purchased for £300.00 per hard copy or £20 for CD-ROM from **HYDROPLAN, Unit 12, Riverside Park, Station Road Wiburne**. The Environmental Statement Non Technical Summary is available free of charge.

Any person who wishes to make a representation or submit additional comments on the application, plans and Environmental Statement should make them in writing to The Head of Planning and Building Standard, ePlanning@Highland 1, PO Box 5740, Inverness, IV1 9DH by **9 December 2011**.

Comments will only be taken into consideration if they are received on time and relate to planning matters. Please note that we are unable to respond individually to points or questions raised and that your comments will be published on-line. Please quote the application reference number in your correspondence.

Stuart Black
 Director of Planning and Development

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected
11/03599/PIP	Land 100m West of Stewart Hotel Duror Appin	Erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/03646/FUL	Invergarry Power Station Invergarry	Erection of 10m pole with 0.3m dish	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/03659/FUL	Land alongside Clachaig Road Glencoe	Formation of recreational path	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/03686/PIP	Land South of 2 Canon Gillies Place Arisaig	Erection of house	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
11/03687/PIP	Land North of 8 Canon Gillies Place Arisaig	Erection of house	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
11/03792/FUL	Ben Nevis Guest House Nevis Bridge Glen Nevis Fort William	Alterations and erection of conservatory extension	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/03808/PIP	Land to West of Onich Hotel Onich	Erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office Section 60 Affecting Setting of Listed Building (21 Days)
11/03811/FUL	Onich Hotel Onich	Application under Section 42 to vary Condition No 1 of Planning Permission 10/04654/FUL	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS
 ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
 Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Scottish Natural Heritage
 Callert
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Scottish Natural Heritage gives notice that on 3 November 2011 it intends to notify Callert SSSI. The SSSI lies on the north shore of Loch Leven, one mile east of North Ballachulish. A copy of the boundary map, a description of the land and the reasons why SNH considers it no longer to be of special interest can be inspected and obtained free of charge at the address below, together with clarification of any aspects of the notification.

SNH will consider any written representations received by 3 February 2012.

This notification will cease to have effect if SNH withdraws it, or does not confirm it by 3 November 2012.

George Hogg
 South Highland Area Manager
 Scottish Natural Heritage
 The Governor's House
 The Parade
 Fort William
 PH33 7PE

CROFTERS COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NAN CROITEARAN DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

Applicant, Croft, Extent & Purpose, Case number Mr I A Carmichael
 64 Ormsaigbeg, Ardnarmurchan & Sunart
 0.32 ha - sites for 3 houses
 4.86.34298

Prof D Meek
 5 & 6 Caoles
 0.099 ha - site for a dwelling house
 4.86.35410

Comments can be made to the Crofters Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 14 days of the date of this newspaper. Applications marked with an asterisk - Interest can be expressed in obtaining the tenancy of the area subject to the application.

Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW info@crofterscommission.org.uk

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

Name, Croft, Extent, reason, conditions Case Number
 Mr & Mrs I MacDonald
 8 Caoles, Tiree
 0.074 ha site for a dwelling house
 Conditions: List no's 1, 2b & 3
 4.86.34190

Mrs S Cameron
 70 & 71 Camaghall, Kilmalie
 0.188 ha sites for two dwelling houses
 4.86.34533
 Conditions: List no's 2b & 3

Mrs Sharron MacKintosh
 2 Balmaglaister, Kilmornaig
 0.81 ha - site of existing dwelling house
 4.86.33746
 Conditions: List no's 2b & 3

Conditions
 (1) to provide a site for a dwellinghouse
 (2) complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of:
 (b) the proposed development completion
 (3) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land. Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

A.G.M
 Oban Gaelic Choir will be held on Monday 28 November 2011 at 7.30pm in the Pipe Band Hall, Shore Street. All Welcome.

BUDGET CONSULTATION MEETINGS
 You are invited to have your say at our community planning partnership budget consultation meetings:
Council Chamber, Kilmory Lochgilphead, 7 November, 9.30am
 Make your voice heard on next year's budget for the council, NHS and other community planning partners. Find out more about the council's budget and other meetings at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

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The Scottish Government

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (BA BRIDGE, RANNOCH MOOR) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2011

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order temporarily prohibiting traffic on that length of the A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road from a point 4.856 kilometres south of Ba Bridge at the parking layby/viewpoint south of Creagan Criche to a point 6.518 kilometres north of Ba Bridge at the access road to the Glencoe Mountain Resort and Ski Centre, a distance of 11.374 kilometres or thereby.

The Order, which is required to facilitate filming and will be in operation from 00:01 hours on 9th November 2011 until midnight on 15th November 2011 and will only have effect in relation to such length of road as is indicated by the appropriate traffic signs. The Order does not apply to vehicles while being used in connection with the placing of the required signage or vehicles being used in an emergency for fire brigade, coastguard, ambulance or police purposes or to acts done with the permission or upon the direction of a police constable in uniform. A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/policy/legal-requirements/road-and-traffic-orders/TROs>

For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit www.trafficscotland.org.uk

P REID
 A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers,
 Transport Scotland, Buchanan House,
 58 Port Dundas Road Glasgow G4 0HF.

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West Coast property service
www.westcoastpropertyguide.co.uk

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 Swallow Hotel, 517 Paisley Road West, Glasgow, G51 1RW
Argyll & Bute
Lot 421 1A Inkerman Place, Garelochhead, Helensburgh **£40K-£45K**
Traditional Style Tenement Flat
 If you have a property to SELL, please contact the Appraisals Team, Tel: **0870 240 1140**, e-mail appraisals@auctions.cwae.co.uk
 Alternatively, for a catalogue Tel: **0906 666 2468** (calls cost £1.50 per minute).

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Venue Glencraigs Farm
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(Courtesy of Messrs T Young & Sons)

Date Wednesday 9 November 2011

Time 11.00 am

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- Industry experts will discuss suckler herd management on farm
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Quality breeding cattle in demand at Oban sale

Heifers with calves at foot sell to £1,650

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had 692 suckled calves, 211 breeding cattle and 31 Over 30-Month cattle at Oban for a ringside of buyers from all over Scotland plus many from south of the border.

Features of the sale were 46 Sim-Luing spring-born heifer calves from Scammale and Ardencaple Farms which averaged £630.95, and 24 spring born heifer calves from Cadzow Bros, Isle of Luing which averaged £586 per head. With quality breeding cattle selling at premium rates, Simmental cross and Limousin cross heifers with calves at foot from Miss Anne MacLarty, Glenshellach sold to £1,650, £1,600 and £1,500. Quality in-calf heifers from Alastair MacNair, Stroneskar, Ford sold to £1,500.

A show of bulling heifers and in-calf heifers from a BVD screened herd sponsored by NFU Scotland and Novartis Animal Health was judged by Hamish Campbell, Ledcharrie.

Bull calves averaged 203p per kg (+51p per kg on the year) and sold to 246p per kg for two 185kg Simmentals from Ballymeanach, Isle of Mull and to £850 for a 510kg Aberdeen Angus, again from Ballymeanach.

Heifer calves averaged 210p per kg (+30p per kg on the year) and sold to 348p per kg for three 230kg Sim-Luings from Scammale and Ardencaple Farms, Kilniver and to £900 for three 290kg Simmentals from Wester Collichat, Callander.

Bulling heifers averaged £749.74 and sold to £1,000 for the first prize heifer from I Malcolm Cromlix.

In calf cows averaged £721.18 and sold to a top of £750 from Caroline Ronald, Saulmore. Cows with calves at foot averaged £1,020 and sold to £1,100 from Messrs Campbell, Succoth.

OTM cattle averaged £383.06 and sold to a top of 112p per kg and £750 for a 710kg Aberdeen Angus from Max Bonniwell, Dalvaie

Prize list:

Bulling heifers:

1 I Malcolm, Cromlix, Callander £1,000, purchased by Messrs Dayson, Beannie Farm

2 P Reilly, Tullochmhor, Balquhiddier £680 to I Campbell, Craighbert

3 I Malcolm, Cromlix, Callander £950 to J Owen, Easterton.

In Calf heifers:

1 A McNair, Stroneskar, Ford £1,250 to G Brechin, Upper Largie

2 J H Weir, Invermahyle, Appin £1,000 to H Campbell, Ledcharrie

3 J H Weir, Invermahyle, Appin £850 to Messrs McNicol, Pendreich.



Fort William Auction Market met with the dearest trade of the season for sheep last Friday

Fort William meets with rising trade for sheep

DINGWALL and Highland Marts had 2,025 store sheep forward at its Fort William sale last Friday, when all classes met the dearest trade of the season.

Lambs averaged £35.76 per head and sold to £76 for Mules from Glendoe Estate, Fort Augustus.

Ewes averaged £44.46 and sold to £70 for Cheviots from Torlundy Farm, Fort William.

Gimmers were in short supply and averaged £55.04, selling to £82 for Continental crosses from Ardochy, Whitebridge.

Feeding sheep averaged £42.38 and sold to £100 for a Blackface ram also from Ardochy.

Limousin bullocks sell to 283p per kilo at Oban

CALEDONIAN Marts had forward 901 suckled calves, store cattle, 98 breeding and Over 30 Month cattle at its Oban sale on October 4.

Bullocks averaged 201.8p per kilo and sold to 283p per kilo for two 145kilo Limousins from Gully Partnership, Easdale and to £900 for a 455kilo Limousin from Cairnbaan, North Connel.

Heifers averaged 176.8p per kilo and sold to 264p per kilo for a 285kilo Simmental from Ardfeinaig, Isle of Mull and to £980 for a 580kilo Simmental from Cairnbaan, North Connel.

Breeding cattle sold to £1,400 for an in-calf Simmental cow from Ardfeinaig. The 12 in-calf stock cows from Ardfeinaig averaged £928.33 while eight cows with calves at foot from the same home averaged £1123.75.

In-calf Shorthorn cows sold to £820 from Turmault while Limousine cows with calves from Strongorm sold to £820.

Over 30 Months cattle met the dearest trade of the season selling to £1120 for a 800kilo Limousin cow from Barcaldine Home Farm.

OTM bulls sold to £1010 for a 900kilo Simmental from Dunach Estates.

Store cattle trade eases at Stirling as almost 2,000 forward

UNITED Auctions sold 1,949 store cattle, 301 cows and 5,987 store sheep at its Stirling sale last Wednesday.

Bullocks averaged 183.61p (-1.65p) and sold to 221.10p per kilo for a 380kilo Charolais cross from Hill Farm and £1,370 for a 684kilo Limousin cross from Hangingshaw.

Heifers averaged 181.85p (-1.09p) and sold to 203.80p per kilo for a 229kilo Charolais cross from Ceithir Gaoithe and £1,165 for a 596kilo Charolais cross from Hangingshaw.

Forward cattle averaged 159.55p and sold to 198.90 per kilo for a Limousin cross from Wester Borland and £1,395 for a Limousin cross from Randerston.

Cast cows averaged 121.02p and sold to 188.00p for an Aberdeen Angus cross from Gateside and £1,400 for a Charolais cross from Boghall.

Beltex lambs from Balafark fetched £71.50, with Texel crosses from Drumla and Beltex crosses from Ballikinrain selling to £70.

Luss estates sold Suffolk crosses to £65 with Mules from Lossit to £62.

Blackface lambs from Dullatur sold to £54.50 and £54 Dykes, with Connachan, Lettre and Fortissat at £53.

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Board Vacancies including Chair of the Board

Argyll College UHI is one of the major success stories in Argyll and the islands, growing from almost nothing in 1999 to a college that today provides further and higher education to thousands of students in our area each year. The college has done what was once deemed impossible; it has delivered education in the most geographically difficult area in Scotland whilst remaining strong in both financial and academic terms.

There will be several board vacancies from January 2012 and the board wishes to create a small bank of potential board members to fill vacancies as they arise. The board also wishes to identify someone - either an existing board member or a new applicant - to fill the position of chair of the board.

A job description for the role of chair of the board together with further information on the college can be found at www.argyllcollege.com/collegeboard. Board members are unpaid but travel and subsistence expenses may be reimbursed. Board meetings can be attended by video conferencing link.

For an informal discussion on the role of a board member and the chair of the board please call the current chair of the board, Mrs Wilma Campbell OBE, on 01631 559 699.

Applications should be by means of a CV of no more than 3 pages. If you wish to apply for the role of chair of the board please include a 1 page covering letter taking into account the job description on our website.

Applications may be submitted by email to moira.stephen@argyllcollege.ac.uk or by post to Moira Stephen, Company Secretary, Argyll College UHI, High Street, Rothesay, Isle of Bute PA20 9AU. The last date for submission of applications is 25 November 2011. All applications will be considered by 19 December 2011 and all applicants contacted with the outcome of their application by end December.

The college is a Scottish charity and a company limited by guarantee. The board of the college is responsible for the overall governance of the college within the terms of the Companies Act and the Charities and Trustee Investment Act (Scotland).

YOUR LOCAL COLLEGE
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Tiree autumn sale hits £1,000 mark 41 times

UNITED Auctions held their annual autumn sale of 687 cattle of all classes at Tiree Auction Mart.

All classes sold extremely well to a large following of mainland buyers.

Bullocks of all ages averaged £709.29 or 196pence per kilo whilst heifers averaged £565.88. These averages in all sections represented rises on the year comparing favourably to principal mainland centres.

No fewer than 41 animals broke the £1,000 barrier and sold to £1,285 for Limousin cross bullocks from Drumagla Farm. This same home also sold farrow Saler cows to £1,175.

Limousin bullock calves from No6 Balevullin sold to 250pence per kilo whilst Manna House led the heifer prices at 229pence per kilo.

Islay prices up on year

CALEDONIAN Marts had forward 244 cattle and 357 sheep at its Islay sale on Saturday, October 22.

Bullocks averaged £591 (+£161 on the year) and sold to £965 for a Limousin from J MacKellar, Auchnacloch.

Heifers averaged £450 (+£73 on the year), selling to £625 for a Charolais from Ardalla Estates.

Bulls averaged £326 selling to £345 for Longhorns from E Findlay, Daill.

Cows with calves at foot averaged £783 and sold to £1,000 for a Limousin from G and M Porter, Carrabus while feeding cows averaged £645 and sold to £890 for another Limousin also from G and M Porter, Carrabus.

Sheep in demand at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 5,271 sheep at Dingwall last Thursday, when lambs and feeding ewes met the dearest trade so far this season. Lambs averaged £50.73 and sold to £75.50 for Texel crosses from Peallaig, Dingwall.

Gimmers topped at £100 for Cheviots from Glenbrittle, Skye. Ewes averaged £58.03 and sold to £104 for Suffolk crosses from Pollowick, Grantown on Spey. Feeding ewes sold to £94 for Crosses from Fearnach, Spinningdale and rams sold to £380 for a Cheviot from 80 West Saval, Lairg.

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& Garaphail £645 Parkhouse £635(3) Hillcrest. Limousin X: £1000(2) 8 Kirkalenneth £955 4 Kirkalenneth £935 Whitehouse £900 Hillcrest £885 6 Barrapoll £865 Whitehouse £825 Drumagla £805 Braeside £795(2) Drumagla £785 6 Barrapoll £775 Hillcrest £755 Braeside £745(2) Heylpol Farm £705 4 Kirkalenneth £695 6 Balevullin £685 Braeside £675 Middleton Farm £655 Mainroad £645 Manna House £640 Hillcrest £635 Vaul £625(2) Carnan £605(2) Parkhouse. Saller X: £845 Heylpol Farm £815(2), £735(3), £715(6), £665(3) & £655(2) Middleton Farm. Simmental X: £905 Druimasaidh £885 Sandaig £865, £855(2) & £835 Sandaig £805 Druimasaidh £795(2) & Sandaig £795 Sandaig & 8 Balevullin £785 Sandaig £775 & £755 Druimasaidh £755 Sandaig(2) & 8 Balevullin £735 Sandaig £710 Druimasaidh £675 24 Balephetrish £665 Crothhouse £655 Sandaig. Cows with calves: £985 & £915 Parkhouse. Farrow cows: £1175, £1040 & £920 Drumagla £895 4 Heanish £725 Manna House £705 Hillcrest. Bulls: £1085 Croish £1080 Heylpol Farm. Prices per kilo. Bullocks: Aberdeen Angus X: £227 Hillcrest 222p Parkhouse & Scarinish Farm(4) 221p Hillcrest 220p(8) Scarinish Farm 212p(2) Parkhouse 209p Hillcrest 205p(3) Parkhouse 204p(6) Croish 200p(3) Heylpol Farm. Charolais X: £245 Ardmay 239p Salum 233p Ardmay(3) & Garaphail 225p Hillcrest 224p(2), 223p, 221p(2) & 220p(2) Drumagla 218p(3) Scarinish Farm 217p(2) Ardmay 210p

Hillcrest(3) & Salum(2) 215p(3) Hillcrest 213p & 211p Drumagla 210p Braeside 209p(2) Salum 204p Heylpol Farm & Salum. Limousin X: £250 6 Balevullin 249p 1 Kirkalenneth 245p 10 Balevullin 239p 1 Kirkalenneth 235p Manna House £230. Skippinis 229p 1 Kirkalenneth 228p Vaul & Manna House 227p Garaphail 226p 1 Kirkalenneth 223p, 220p(2), 6 Balevullin & 1 Kirkalenneth 219p Manna House 218p Whitehouse(7), Garaphail(3) & 10 Balevullin 217p(3). Whitehouse 216p Parkhouse(2) & Skippinis 215p Vaul & Drumagla 213p Carnan, Garaphail & 1 Kirkalenneth 212p Braeside & Mainroad 210p Heylpol Farm 209p 4 Kirkalenneth & 6 Balevullin 208p & 207p Garaphail 206p Manna House, 6 Balevullin & 6 Barrapoll(3) 205p Heylpol Farm 204p Hillcrest, 3 Balevullin & Drumagla 203p Heylpol Farm(2) & 8 Cornaigbeg 202p Heylpol Farm & 6 Balevullin 201p 3 Kirkapoll & 6 Barrapoll 200p. Saller X: £218p(7) Scarinish Farm 200p(6) Scarinish Farm. Simmental X: £246p 5 Balemartin 245p 10 Balevullin 224p & 223p 17 Balevullin 222p(2) & 221p(2) 208p & 207p Garaphail 206p Manna House, 6 Balevullin & 6 Barrapoll(3) 205p 2 Heylpol(2) & Crothhouse 203p(2) & 202p(2) 6 Crossapoll 201p 8 Balevullin 200p Crothhouse. Heifers: Charolais X: £215p(3) Hillcrest 210p Parkhouse 207p Hillcrest 200(2) Drumagla. Limousin X: £229p Manna House 223p(2) & 213p(2) Mainroad 213p & 210p Manna House 208p(2) Parkhouse 206p Drumagla(2) & 1 Kirkalenneth 205p Braeside 204p 6 Balevullin 203p & 200p Manna House. Simmental X: 209p(3) 6 Crossapoll. Farrow cows: 139p, 132p & 127p Drumagla 125p 4 Heanish & Manna House 111p & 108p Middleton Farm 107p Drumagla 106p Middleton Farm 105p Whitehouse. Dingwall and Highland Marts. Lams: Suffolk X: Blargie, Laggan, £62; Blackface: Drimsallie, £62; Texel X: Ardornish Farms, £59; Cross: Drimsallie, £56; Mule: Moy Farm, Ft William, £56; Cheviot: Ardornish Farms and Knoctie Estate, Whitebridge, £54; Beltex X: - Burnside, Mull, £53. Ewes: Cheviot: Balnaha, Ft William, £63; Lleys: Glenquoich, £60; Cross: Oakie, Acharacle, £60; Blackface: Scotia Lodge, Invergarry & Croft 6, Lochalort, £55; Texel X: 19 Blarmacfoldach, £50; Continental X: Ardochy, £42; Mule X: 1 Kinlochie, Ft William, £40. Gimmers: Cross X: Ardochy, £75; Texel X: Ardochy, £70; Continental X: Ardochy, £65; Blackface - Ardochy, £60; Cheviot X: Scotia Lodge, £60. Freed sheep: Blackface: Glendoe Estate, £82; Cheviot: Burnside, £80. OBAN Caledonian Marts. Bullocks: 0-250kgs - £560 Scammadale and

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LEAPFROG LEARN AND GROOVE Activity centre, entertainment and stimulation for baby from 4 months, excellent condition, from a pet and smoke free home, £35 Telephone 07734 650004.

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BUILDING / DIY

1KV TWIN OUTLET transformer 110v, 25mt cable reel, one halogen lamp. Kintyre, £49.99 Telephone 01583 431122.

CERAMIC TILE CUTTER 150mm blade, tilting bed, water cooled. Kintyre, £35 Telephone 01583 431122.

POWER SAW 240v, 185mm blade, still boxed, as new. Kintyre, £40 Telephone 01583 431122.

CAR ACCESSORIES

ALLOY WHEELS Vauxhall Irsmscher, set of 4 with tyres 205/55R16", 5 stud, 5 spoke, very good condition. Telephone 01546 602673 after 6pm.

THULE RAPID SYSTEM ROOF BARS includes 750 foot pack, 1056 fitting kit (for Citroen Xsara) & 761 Roof Bars. Hardly used, £49.99 Telephone 01852 200542.

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CATERING EQUIPMENT

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FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DRESS with bolero jacket age 8/9 yrs. White with detail on the front of the dress. Only worn once vgc, £49.99 Telephone 07500 703927.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SHOES white satin, size 1, with strap and small heel. Only worn once (max 3hrs) vgc, £15 Telephone 07500 703927.

LADIES BOOTS

knee high with buckle at top and 4" heel from next, size 6 1/2, new and complete with £80 tag, £48 Telephone 01546 603915.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

LAPTOP PARTS Laptops parts, Lochgilphead area, £10 Telephone 01546 606475.

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DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

BREAD MAKER Panasonic SD - 206 hardly used, extras, £25 Telephone 01631 720302.

COOKER PYROLYTIC double oven, black. Good condition, £130 Telephone 01631 566001.

MAGIMIX CUISINE SYSTEME with accessories, rarely used, £40 Telephone 001631 720302.

PHILLIPS HAND BLENDER Viva Collection, 600w, metal bar with beaker, whisk and jug, excellent condition. Hardly used!, £10 Telephone 01631 720305.

PHILLIPS ICE CREAM MAKER new boxed, £25 Telephone 01631 720369.

DOMESTIC PETS

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JACK RUSSELL PUPPIES 2 dogs, lovely nature, ready now. Telephone 01838 200217 or 07895 179214

LOVELY LHASA-APSO PUPPIES four boys, two girls, black and white, ready now, can email pics, £375 Telephone 01586 820546.

FURNITURE

CHILD'S SINGLE BED white painted wooden bed frame with shelved headboard and underbed drawer. Ex-Argos, £49.99 Telephone 01852 200542.

COFFEE TABLE large, pine 47 1/2" x 31 1/2" with shelf underneath, £80 onlo Telephone 01880 820585.

CORNER SUITE fabric/leather from DFS "Embrace", 3 months old, £800 onlo Telephone 01880 820585.

DUCAL PINE DINING TABLE 100cm diameter with pedestal & 4 farmhouse style chairs, £49.99 Telephone 01852 200542.

HOUSE CLEARANCE

Bedroom Furniture, Kitchen Table and Chairs, Beds, Parker Knoll Chairs, Home Furnishings. Telephone 01631 564176 or 07831 877696.

IKEA DINING CHAIRS X 4 four matching chairs for advertised round beech table. Beech high backs with plain padded navy seats - lovely design, £49.99 Telephone 01546 600408.

IKEA DINING TABLE Beech colour round dining table seats 4 along with 2 extending leaves seats 8-10. Excellent condition (min. diameter 118cm), £49.99 Telephone 01546 600408.

IKEA TV DISPLAY UNIT robust display unit in lovely beech colour with turntable for TV and various open shelving/storage areas. Immaculate, £49.99 Telephone 01546 600408.

MEXICAN BOOK SHELF 2 drawers underneath, light wood colour, good condition, cost £480, will accept, £200 Telephone 01631 564275.

PINE STORAGE UNIT solid 6 compartment (2 x 3) solid unit. Castors, 126cm w x 48cm d x 63cm h. Takes 6 x plastic storage boxes. Ex-Argos, £15 Telephone 01852 200542.

ROUND DINING TABLE round dining table made of wood, £7 Telephone 07950 253281.

SIDE TABLES 2 Ikea side tables. Beech finish, 62cms sq x 45cms tall, £10 Telephone 07825 397249.

SINGLE BED MATTRESS suitable for child's bed. Ex-Argos, £10 Telephone 01852 200542.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

VINYL WEIGHTS SET no bars, Make DP, 4X6.5KG, 4X4KG, 2X2KG. Total 46KG 101.2 pounds, very good condition, £15 Telephone 01631 720674.

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KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

BASKET ideal for bread, 42cm long, £2 Telephone 01546 603915.

CHEESE BOARD crockery cheese plate with lid, dark cream ribbed effect, £4 Telephone 01546 603915.

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TOWEL RAIL free standing antique effect, metal, scrolled design at ends, five hanging rails W70 x H77 x D45cm, £10 Telephone 01546 603915.

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PHILIPSTELEVISION TV and stand, silver 30" screen, good working order, £25 Telephone 07868 481242.

TOSHIBA TV silver 22 inch fast text remote control TV, excellent condition, hardly used, not flatscreen. Oban area, £30 Telephone 07818 828212.

HOME FURNISHINGS

ARGOS RUG light green, beige and brown, perfect 120x80. Geometric pattern can be seen in catalogue original price £70. Bargain, £30 Telephone 01631 720369.

BASKETS set of three traditional shaped baskets with handles which stack into each other, lovely and in very good condition, £7 Telephone 01546 603915.

CHURCH CANDLES cream, various sizes £1 each. Telephone 01546 603915.

CLOCK two-tone brown suede clock with silver metal hands, 32 x 32cm to hang on wall, £6 Telephone 01546 603915.

CUSHIONS red, cream and chocolate brown, various designs £4 each. Telephone 01546 603915.

CUSHIONS - FLOOR OR SUITE two luxury finish brown cushions for lounging on floor or on a suite. Very good condition. Hardly used, 570mm x 570mm, £10 Telephone 07825 397249.

FLOWERS various cream coloured £2 each. Telephone 01546 603915.

FRAMES white chunky wooden frames from Ikea. Can be hung or stood up, aperture 12 x 12cm up to 16 available £2.50 each. Telephone 01546 603915.

LAMP cream chunky base with cream pleated shade from Ikea, very good condition, £6 Telephone 01546 603915.

LAMPS cream stoneware chunky based with cream shade from Next x 4, very good condition, when new cost £50 each sell for £11 each, £20 pair or £40 for four. Telephone 01546 603915.

MEMORY FOAM MATTRESS heat sensitive, temperature responsive with coil spring core. New and unused (packed). Can deliver. Cost over £500 must sell, £150 Telephone 07587 968837.

MIRROR Ikea mirror. Beech surround, very good condition, size 880mm x 625mm, £10 Telephone 07825 397249.

OUTDOOR IRONWORK green with ducks, welcome sign and bell £3 each. Telephone 01546 603915.

PICTURE Rodin nude abstract, in white limed natural frame 53 x 63cm, £7 Telephone 01546 603915.

RUG rectangular woolen rug. Golden brown in colour, very good condition, 800mm x 1500mm, £5 Telephone 07825 397249.

RUGS two woolen rugs, shaggy pile finish. Very good condition, size 600mm x 1100mm. Brown colour, £10 Telephone 07825 397249.

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VASES cream stoneware vases and one bowl, various sizes, 10 in total from Next (match lamps also for sale) £4 & £5 each. Telephone 01546 603915.

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BOYS WALKING BOOTS new, navy, waterproof. Berghaus size1, cost £50, £20 Telephone 01631 720302.

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L E X M A R K CARTRIDGES original inkjet, 1 black no 50 and 1 colour no 20 for P3100 series also Z series printer, new and sealed, great quality, £25. Telephone 01546 602087.

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CHEESE BOARD crockery cheese plate with lid, dark cream ribbed effect, £4 Telephone 01546 603915.

IKEA WORK TROLLEY working block top 2 shelves. Castors gives extra space and preparation area, as new, £30 Telephone 01631 720369.

TOWEL RAIL free standing antique effect, metal, scrolled design at ends, five hanging rails W70 x H77 x D45cm, £10 Telephone 01546 603915.

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MARINE UNDER £250

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MISCELLANEOUS

BINOCULARS exchange new 8 x 42 el swarovski, boxed, cased and all in for cost £1,700. Wanted Zeiss 8x60 wartime marine binoculars, could send pics. Telephone 0161 4285188.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS outdoor, large selection, £49.99 Telephone 01499 302640.

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DRUM KIT with symbols and stool. Blue metallic with brushes and sticks, room required, £280 onlo Telephone 01631 710281.

GRAND PIANO Boudier, excellent condition, regularly maintained Telephone 07565 909636, £600 onlo Telephone 0131 661608.

JUNIOR GUITAR

Encore Junior Guitar with bag and stand, vgc, make a great Christmas present, £20 Telephone 07500 703927.

ROBERTSON BAGPIPES

CIRCA 1900, vgc. Good sounds, with case, 2 chanters, £650 Telephone 07867 893283.

TOYS AND GAMES

STEERING WHEEL & PEDALS for PS2, in very good condition, £10 Telephone 01631 564364.

WANTED

COPPER BRASS lead, stainless steel. All types of cable, household and armoured. Top prices paid. Telephone 0800 9596483 or 07770 724851.

SCRAP METAL all types of scrap metal, we uplift scrap cars, call Mr Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals. Telephone 01499 500638 or 07787 991636.

WANTED SEAGULL OUTBOARDS and all old outboards, dead or alive. Also small yacht tender. Small marine engine also wanted. Telephone 01586 820546.

WANTED WOOD BURNING/MULTI FUEL

with flue pipe. Telephone 01866 822341.

PERSONALS

I would like to say a HUGE thank you to all friends and colleagues who organised and attended a most memorable retirement night out for me at Soroba House Hotel on Saturday 29th October. Thank you also for all the cards, gifts, flowers and good wishes. Thank you Soroba House for the excellent food and service. It was the most enjoyable and fun night out ever. I am honoured to have worked with you all. Joyce Cameron

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BIRTHS

CAMPBELL - HUNTER

Laura and Lee are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their daughter Amelia Lilly on October 20, 2011. First grandchild for Ronnie and Jayne Campbell, Bonawe and second for Susan Johnston, Oban. Special thanks to midwives at LIDGH Oban and RAH Paisley.

POLLOCK - Gordon and Katy are pleased to announce the safe arrival of Fraser on October 21, 2011, a wee brother for Rhona and Craig. Many thanks to midwives Kirsteen, Kirsteen and Eilidh and the helicopter crew from HMS Gannet.



JONES - SCUDDER

Pat and Ken (Seil) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Orla Caitlin, daughter of proud parents Gillian and Damian, born October 10, 2011 at Wishaw General. First grandchild for Pat, Ken and Linda.

SMITH - Christopher and Valerie (nee McCall) are delighted to announce the arrival of Emily Florence on October 24, 2011. A third granddaughter for Hugh and Netta Smith of Bowmore, Islay and a first grandchild for Tom and Sandra McCall, Pulpit Drive, Oban.

MARRIAGE

DEWAR - MACINTYRE On Saturday, October 29, 2011 in Corran Esplanade Church, Oban by Rev. Dugald Cameron, Euan, younger son of Alistair and Glynis to Sandra, youngest daughter of Margaret and the late Iain. A perfect day, enjoyed by all.

GOLDEN WEDDING

SCOTT - ATKINSON Martin to Mary on October 28, 1961, in St Mary's Church, West Derby, Liverpool.

DEATHS

BENTHAM - Brian. Suddenly at home on Wednesday October 19, 2011, Brian, a much loved dad of Mandi and Karen, dear granddad (mate/popsy) of Tim, Zac and Callum and Emily. Funeral service at Clydebank Crematorium, North Dalmotter on Wednesday, November 9, arriving 11.30am to which all friends are respectfully invited. No flowers please. Donations if desired to Headway Highland SC0023551.

BIRRELL - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands General Hospital, Oban, in his 74th year, on Monday, October 31, 2011, Lachlan (Lachie) of 29 Torosay Court, Oban. Sadly missed by all the family.

CHAMLEY - James Graham, late of Thom-na-Ghuithas, Fasnacloich and Larch House, Appin. After a long illness bravely borne, died October 30, 2011 at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban. Funeral service to be held in Appin Parish Church on Tuesday November, 8 at 1pm thereafter to Appin Cemetery. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to R.N.L.I. and Appin Parish Church.

CLARK - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on October 26, 2011, after a long illness bravely borne, in his 81st year, Alexander Clark (Tam), beloved husband of Margaret, much loved father of Alec, Peter, Isobell, Robert, Jean and the late Lindsay, devoted granda and great granda and much loved father-in-law.

GILLIES - Lachie. Peacefully, at Glasgow Royal Infirmary on Sunday, October 30, 2011, Lachie, beloved husband of Amy, devoted father of Ian, Lachie and Alistair, proud papa to Laura, Samantha, Tracey and Jonathan and great papa to Scott and Jacob. Funeral service to take place at Hillhead Parish Church on Monday, November 7 at 11am, thereafter to Old Aisle Cemetery, arriving at 11.45am. Family flowers only please. There will be a retail collection at church in favour of Breast Cancer Care.

MACCOLL - Peacefully at Midfarm, Lismore on October 23, 2011, Donald aged 73 years, beloved husband of Iris, dear father, grandpa and great grandpa. Will be sadly missed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACCOLL - Iris and family would like to thank all family and friends for all their kind support, cards, phone calls and wreaths. Special thanks to Appin Surgery and staff at Oban and Lorn Hospital for all the care and attention given over the years. Also to Reverend Roddy Campbell for his comforting words and support. Thanks also to Archie MacGillivray and Barry Gunn and to all who helped arranging the undertaking services. The retail collection at the funeral raised £766.08 for the 'Lismore Granny Bus'.

MACCUISH - The family of the late Donald MacCuish, would like to thank friends and neighbours for their kind messages of sympathy. Thanks to Dr Fiona MacLennan and Hamish Hoey & Son for funeral arrangements and special thanks to all the girls who cared for Donald.

MACDOUGALL - Danny and family wish to thank family, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, letters, cards, Mass cards, phone calls and flowers received following the sad loss of Mary. Thanks to the Ambulance crew and staff of Wards I and B, Lorn and Islands Hospital for their care and support. Special thanks to Msgr James MacNeil for his support and comforting Requiem Mass. Thanks to Hamish Hoey and Sons for funeral arrangements and the Royal Hotel for catering. Special thanks to everyone who travelled from far and near to pay their respects at the church and graveside. A collection of £756.67 was shared between Oban Hospice and Cathedral Renovation Fund.

MACFADYEN - The family of the late Calum MacFadyen would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards, flowers and telephone calls. Special thanks to staff of Ward B at the Lorn and Islands Hospital and to the Lorn Medical Centre for their care and support in recent years. Grateful thanks to the Rev Ian Walker for his comforting service and to Provost MacCallum for strength and kindness. Many thanks to Ian MacInnes and staff at D & A Munn for the caring and efficient funeral arrangements and to the Royal Hotel for their hospitality. The family would also like to thank everyone who paid their respects at the church and graveside and to all who contributed to the collection which raised £455.01 for Ward B.

MACKENZIE - Mary Bell 1922-2011. Mairi, Christine and Catherine would like to thank family, friends and neighbours, for the many flowers, cards, gifts and telephone calls received on the passing of our mother, all were very much appreciated. We would also like to thank the Doctors and district nurses from the Lorn Medical Centre and the girls from Care+ who were all so caring of Mum and helped us keep her at home to the end. Thanks to Donald MacKinnon who listened to us and conducted the service for Mum at the Parish Church. Hamish Hoey and Son, for funeral arrangements, especially Catriona who guided us throughout. Thanks to all who attended the church and graveside on that wet and windy day.

McIVER - Betty's family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind messages of sympathy, cards and flowers following their recent loss. Much appreciation to Rev. Cringles for his comforting service and Roddy McCuish for his amusing Eulogy. Thanks to Drs Davies and Bennett at Connel Surgery. Her carers, John, Adrienne and Cathy. Thanks to Catriona and staff at Hoey & Son, the organist and piper, the Flower House for the floral arrangements and the Royal Hotel for the catering.

MEMORIALS

CAMERON - Loving memories of John, beloved husband and dad who died November 4, 2010. R.I.P. Remembering you is easy. We do it every day. It's just the pain of losing you. That is so hard to bear. - Morag and family, Grangemouth.

CAMERON - With love we remember our dad, Ewen, died November 3, 2000. Sadly missed every day. - Emma and Eilidh, Druimbarin.

CRAIG - Malcolm MacKinnon Craig (Malkie) In loving memory of a wonderful husband and dad. Still in our thoughts. Love Lorraine and Douglas.

CRAIK - Treasured memories of our dearest parents, brother Robert and sister Nancy. Memories are like threads of gold. They never tarnish or grow old. - Chrissie and Chatty.

DUNCAN - Spider (Thomas) 8/11/2009 passed away. Always in our thoughts. Joan, Allan and Michael.

GALBRAITH - November 7, 2006. Time has not healed the loss of a husband and dad. Your presence surrounds us as strongly as ever. Missing you unbearably. Jill and Chris.

HARLEY - Jennifer Ann. Beloved daughter of Joyce and Jim, died October 31, 2008. Loved and remembered every day.

MACDOWALL - 1st Anniversary. In loving memory of a dear wife, mother and grandmother Rena, who passed away on November 9, 2010. In our hearts you are always there. Loved and remembered in every prayer. Aig Fois Ann An Sòlas Fhìlthanais. Her loving husband Andrew and family.

MACLENNAN - Treasured memories of my beloved wife Molly MacLennan nee Smith, who passed away October 31, 2010, mother to Christine and Murdo, granny and great granny. You will always be remembered. - Kenny and family.

PROSSER - In loving memory of James, our dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle, who died on November 1, 2007. Forever missed and loved. Always in our thoughts. Betty, Iain and family.

ROBERTSON - Loved and remembered always my dear dad and dad-in-law Alastair who passed away November 6, 1995. - Mary and Arthur.

SMITH - Remembering with love my husband David, died November 1, 2005. 'Until the day break and the shadows flee away' Floey.

TOOLE - Treasured memories of Ian, husband, father, grandfather and uncle who died November 5, 2010. Remembered always. - Meg and family, Evanton and Inverness.

WILL - Precious memories of Jason died November 7, 1998. Sadly missed. - Love from all the family.

WEDDINGS



CROOKS - BARR

Kirsten Crooks & Donald John (DJ) Barr were married in the beautiful grounds of the Isle of Erika Hotel on 1st October 2011. They enjoyed an intimate meal here with close family & friends. They were joined by a large number of friends at the Skipknish Ceilidh House for their evening wedding dance.

Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



MCKEE-THOMAS

Suzanne McKee & Barry Thomas were married at St Mary & St Finnan Church, Glenfinnan on 17th September 2011.

They celebrated their marriage with a BBQ with close family & friends at the School House, Glenfinnan.

Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



DUFFY-JUWEL

Jenna Duffy & Faisal Jewel were married at The Lochneil Arms Hotel on September 10th 2011. They celebrated their intimate wedding here with family & friends.

Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.

GRADUATION



Kiloran Howard graduated from The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester with a BSc (Hons) in Business Management. Kiloran is the daughter of Jamie Howard and the late Philippa Howard, Isle of Ulva. She is a former pupil of Ulva Ferry Primary School and Gordonstoun.



Isaac Robinson National Certificate in Horticulture and Garden Design with Distinction from Oatridge College, Edinburgh. Former pupil of Oban High School. Son of Mr and Mrs Robinson, North Connel.

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St Columba,
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Retired doctor licensed as lay reader



At a recent service in St Paul's Episcopal Church, Kinlochleven, Bishop Kevin Pearson officiated when Dr Geoffrey Headden was licensed as a lay reader.

OBITUARY

Mary Veronica MacKenzie

THE DEATH of Mary MacKenzie, at her home at Alaval, Benderloch, in the early hours of Monday, October 10, was greeted with shock and heartfelt sadness throughout the local community and across a much wider area.

Seldom has one woman touched and inspired so many people across such a varied sphere. One of the largest funerals ever to be held in Oban proved witness to this.

Mary Veronica Mouat was born in Oban in August 1960, the second child of Duncan and Bernadette. She grew up in the family home at Deirdre Cottages, Connel with her elder brother Lawrence and younger brother Duncan - to all accounts she was a bit of a tomboy. Her early education came at Achaleven Primary School followed by Oban High School before Mary embarked on a career in hairdressing - a career at which she excelled, largely due to her vivaciousness and inherent sense of style.

In May 1977 she met Stewart MacKenzie - the following day Mary told a friend that she had found the man she would marry. Two years later, on November 10, 1979, she was proved right.

Early married life started in an idyllic setting near Achnacloich on the shores of Loch Etive. Their home was shared with a menagerie of pets and farm animals. While Stewart introduced Mary to his world of crofting, rally cars and shinty, Mary brought her new husband an understanding of style and socialising, neither of which he was ever to fully master.

In 1981, they were blessed with a daughter, Veronica, and in 1983, the family was complete with the arrival of a son, John. Mary's mild and gentle character found a new focus and for the rest of her life she would protect both of her children, and latterly her grandchildren, with the aggression and commitment of a lioness. By then, the MacKenzies had moved from their rural setting to the centre of Oban - but town life didn't sit well with their aspirations and they rose to another challenge by building a new family home from an original croft house near Benderloch.

Perhaps in shinty Mary found a sport that matched her character - full of passion, commitment and high tempo activity blended with after-match friendship and banter.



Mary MacKenzie

For someone with no shinty background Mary's direct involvement in the sport at every level from primary to international standard became almost legendary.

She then surprised both friends and family by taking up archery and, while her participation was cut short by injury, she secured considerable success and found many new and lasting friendships. Of less a surprise was her interest in dress-making, her fascination with fabrics and her ability to create the right 'look'. Even dressed in her Wellington boots and waterproofs while tending her Highland cows she appeared naturally stylish.

Mary's life revolved around people. Even on frequent family holidays to her favourite destination, Ireland, new friends were collected like souvenirs. Later, trips to the Canary Isles, Mediterranean and North Africa added an international element to the Christmas and birthday card list.

She actively supported several charities but none more than the Anthony Nolan Trust. When it was suggested that abseiling off the top of Oban's cathedral might raise funds, Mary was one of the first over the parapet.

Last year, Mary's efforts on behalf of the Trust, and those of her lifelong friend Carol Turnbull, were recognised with the presentation of the

annual Rainbow Award at the Trust's gala fundraising event, the Scottish Daisy Ball in Glasgow.

The physical nature of Mary's career and her strong work ethic resulted in serious back problems which were to plague her for many years, although few knew the degree of pain she regularly endured.

In May 2008, she had a major operation on her spine. The surgery was a success, however, within the following weeks of the recovery period Mary was dealt another blow. She was diagnosed with a relatively rare form of duodenal cancer.

The disease was both aggressive and advanced. In early July, Mary was told that she had just three days to live - but she had her son's wedding in six weeks time, she had diligently made several stunning outfits for the event - and she had no intention of missing it.

Immediate, vital and extensive surgery followed with slim hopes of survival but Mary's inner strength baffled her medical team as she made an almost instant recovery to the extent that she agreed to mentor patients facing similar operations within the Glasgow hospital's high dependency unit.

The quick recovery was, however, short-lived and a sudden serious setback meant Mary was unable to attend her son, John, and daughter-in-law, Gayle's big day.

Months in hospital were followed by long-term intensive chemotherapy, and its side effects, which were endured with her customary determination. She played down her problems and refused to be curtailed from leading as normal a life as she could. Her flashing smile and genuine interest and concern for others inspired all who met her.

In September this year came the news that the cancer had rapidly advanced. Few outwith the family were aware of the development as Mary continued to attend as many outings as possible, turning heads and looking as stunning as ever.

She died in her own home with her family around her, as was her wish.

Her funeral was held at Kilmore and Oban Church of Scotland on Thursday, October 13, when an estimated 1,000 mourners paid their last respects to a woman who affected the lives so many people - without realising she was doing it.

Team Xtreme hope to make an impact at Corran Halls event

YOU don't usually see a phone book ripped in half during school assembly - or a man bend a steel bar in his teeth.

An international team of athletes, Team Xtreme, has been bringing a message of hope and self-esteem to Oban schools this week through these unconventional means.

The group, along with another international team of performers, Island Breeze, will be putting on two free shows at the Corran Halls this Friday and Saturday, featuring everything from pounding Pacific drums, a fire knife dance and more feats of great strength.

Part of the Impact World Tour, they have been brought to Oban by a group of local churches, with support and sponsorship from businesses and individuals.

Hilary Adrian, from North Connel, a member of Lorn Christian Fellowship, has been instrumental in organising their visit.

Hilary said: 'One of the highlights has been making new friends, getting to know people from the different churches and working with them on this project. What a great team they are! Although it's been hard work, and difficult at times, I believe the positive effect it will have on the people who



Team Xtreme member Jonathan will be part of a free show at the Corran Halls this weekend. 16_144xtreme01

come will make it so worthwhile.'

As well as spectacular performances by international artists, the shows bring a positive message of hope to Oban. Hilary explained the performers will share their own experiences of facing life's challenges in a way that will inspire the audience, particularly young people.

She added: 'It can be easy these days to feel hopeless and even be lured into a chaotic lifestyle of drug or alcohol

abuse. God has absolutely turned my life around for the better.'

'I've found there is a more fulfilling way to live, as the awe-inspiring shows at the Corran Halls will reveal - and I am so excited!'

Island Breeze kicks off at 8pm on Friday, just after the fireworks display, while Team Xtreme will be performing on Saturday at 7.30pm.

Both shows are for all ages and no ticket is needed.

People's Bible project comes to Killin

A BRAND new project to mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible will come to Killin's McLaren Hall next week.

The People's Bible will invite people of the village to write out two verses of the Bible onto paper with a digital pen. This pen connects people to www.thepeoplesbible.org and within minutes, those actual handwritten verses

will be there. The result is that hundreds of thousands of people across the United Kingdom will have contributed to the world's first ever fully digital handwritten bible, which will then remain online in perpetuity.

Launched in June at Edinburgh Castle, the bible has already received contributions from HRH The Prince

of Wales, while the Prime Minister, David Cameron, will submit his verses later in the year.

The People's Bible will come to the McLaren Hall on Friday, November 11. For more information, log on to the website.

Celebrity verses can be viewed at www.thepeoplesbible.org/view-a-verse/celebrity-verses.

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North win Fraser MacPhee Trophy

SHINTY



Five Lochaber High School shinty players helped the North of Scotland under-14 team defeat the South of Scotland 7-2 to retain the Fraser MacPhee Trophy. Lewis Smith, Michael Lawrie and Dejan Watson (Fort William Shinty Club) Craig MacIsaac (Kilmallie Shinty Club) and Stuart Matheson (Lochaber Camanachd) formed the backbone of the North team. The boys, who were selected through their respective clubs, are pictured above with the trophy. The South of Scotland lads were managed by Kinlochleven High School head teacher John McGilp.

Under 19s to play Falkirk in youth cup

FOOTBALL

FORT WILLIAM FC under-19s have drawn a plum home tie against Falkirk in the third round of the BP Scottish Youth Cup on November 13.

Falkirk's senior team lie second in the Scottish First Division and have reached the semi-finals of the Scottish Communities League Cup, having knocked out Glasgow Rangers and Dundee United along the way.

Fort youth coach John Matheson can't wait to see how his young charges shape up against quality opposition – but knows Falkirk will be a stern test.

'A lot of their current under-19 squad are getting involved with their senior team at present. This will be a very, very hard game,' he told The Oban Times. 'Falkirk narrowly lost out to Hibs at the quarter final stage last year.'

Fort's third round place comes courtesy of a bye in the first round and a thumping 6-0 demolition of Clachnacuddin in the second.

Goon Squad edge a point ahead

INDOOR FOOTBALL

GOON SQUAD edged a point ahead of their rivals in the Ali Young Premier League at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night after overcoming Achintore FC 9-5 in an entertaining game.

Lochaber Leisure leapfrogged Achintore to go second courtesy of an 8-3 win over Stroke City, who slip to 11th.

HWEnergy No Stars improved to fourth spot by thumping AA Young 4-0, while TNF United moved up the table after an 8-2 win over Steaua Sookabreast.

Elsewhere, Ballachulish demolished Bayern Bru 13-2 to go fifth, while Livercaol edged out the Granite House 5-4 to join them on the six-point mark.

Cycling star is Sportsperson of the Year

'Deciding the winners was well nigh impossible'

REPORT BY
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

ROY BRIDGE cycling star Gavin Shirley has been announced Lochaber Sports Association Sportsperson of the Year 2011.

Speed king Gavin was honoured after posting a series of outstanding race results across Scotland on mountain and road bikes and was presented with the BSW Trophy at the association's 2011 awards presentation in the Ben Nevis Inn on Saturday night.

Also honoured were Vince Lopez and Niall Clark of Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club, for their unstinting commitment in guiding local youngsters towards excellence in the sport.

The dynamic duo were announced as joint winners of the Marine Harvest Trophy for Coach of the Year – and the club claimed a second award when 14 year-old boxer Chris Bradley

won the Clydesdale Bank Trophy for youth endeavour. Chris became Scottish champion in 2011 and represented his country at international level.

Team of the year and winner of the Bowmans Trophy was the Glangarry Girls Shinty Club, who won the Women's Camanachd Association National League Cup for a record seventh time and the WCA Camanachd Cup for a record sixth time.

Supporting
Ian Adams of Lochaber Athletic Club was awarded the Scottish Association of Local Sports Councils Trophy for his work in supporting both the club and fellow club members.

Lochaber Sports Association club members, coaches, players and athletes, joined parents, friends and supporters to attend the event.

Three world-class sportsmen – Paralympian Richie Collins, six-time Olympic biathlon athlete Mike Dixon and former Olympic and Commonwealth

SPORTS AWARDS

Games boxer Steve Docherty – added their presence. Mr Dixon delivered a motivational talk entitled 'Olympic Dreams', which took his audience on an epic journey from being a boy at Conaglen to carrying the British flag at the opening ceremonies of three Olympic games.

LSA chair Jane Blanchard said: 'Going through the nominations for the awards was one of the highlights of LSA's year – just to see the obvious respect of coaches for their players, the admiration of players for their coaches, the appreciation of clubs for all the work done behind the scenes and the overwhelming pride in being a member of a team that has worked hard and done well.'

'Actually deciding the category winners was well nigh impossible; every one of the nominees deserved a trophy, and so it was decided that they should each be presented with a certificate of achievement.'



Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club coaches Niall Clark and Vince Lopez are presented with their trophy by Alastair Duff of Marine Harvest.



Garry Girls Paige MacDonald, Ashleigh Fraser and Lauren Doherty receive their award from Lochaber Paralympian Richie Collins.

Top Phoenix senior boxers in Inverness show

THREE of Lochaber Phoenix's top senior boxers were in action last Friday in Inverness in a show featuring a North of Scotland versus North of Wales select.

Heavyweight Ewan Donnelly faced Inverness City's James Dryden – and Donnelly began the bout as he finished it, dominating behind a powerful, fast left jab.

Dryden showed tremendous courage but found built a sizeable lead in the first and rocked Dryden with four straight punches in the second, forcing the ref to step in shortly after to

New mentoring and advice scheme

SNOW SPORTS

SKYE, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson will launch a new mentoring and advice service for the next generation of Scottish snow-sports stars at Aviemore on Saturday.

issue a standing eight count.

Donnelly caught Dryden with a murderous right cross in the last to land Dryden with another standing count and boxed masterfully to the bell for a fine win over a very determined foe.

Top bout between Wales and Scotland featured Fort William middleweight Ryan Watson and Welshman Gareth Penny.

The stockier Penny looked to land big punches whilst Watson relied on speed before the Lochaber man walked onto an bomb

of a right, but made it safely to the bell.

Round two saw Watson's double jabs feature strongly and the jabbing masterclass continued in the last.

Penny never stopped throwing leather, but he simply could not land with the regularity of Ryan and Watson ran out the victor on points.

Light welterweight Aidan Donnelly topped the bill against rated Inverness boxer Andrew MacKay, but Donnelly was no

Lochaber lose to Inverness Tastebuds

INVERNESS Tastebuds were Lochaber B's opponents in the squash league on Sunday – and the visitors proved the stronger over some hard-fought encounters.

Debutant Alasdair MacInnes took on Lochaber's Bruce Maclean and emerged victorious by three games to nil, then teammate Mike Allen defeated Lochaber's Jackie Kersley by the

same scoreline to notch another three points, despite a spirited fight from Jackie in the second game.

Lochaber's Liz Merry was up next against Inverness captain Dave and from 5-5 in the first game it was Dave who edged ahead to take it 9-5. Dave kept the pressure on, taking the second 9-2 and the final game 9-1 to collect the points.



Lochaber Sports Association award winners after the presentation in the Ben Nevis Inn.

She added: 'The LSA board and committee members would like to thank the Ben Nevis Inn for their generous hospitality, local businesses who donated the trophies, the clubs who made the effort to put in nominations and all who attended the evening.'

'It was a great success and a tribute to the hard work put in by club members, whether supporting or participating in their sport. We hope that next year we will see even more local sports people being put forward for an award.'

Award winners: BSW Trophy for Sportsperson of the Year - Gavin Shirley, Nevis Cycles and West Highland Wheelers; runners-up - Chris Bradley and James Aitchison, Lochaber Phoenix BC.

Marine Harvest Trophy for Coach of the Year - Vince Lopez and Niall Clark, Lochaber Phoenix BC; runner-up - Ewen Cameron, Glangarry Girls Shinty Club.

Clydesdale Bank Trophy for Youth Endeavour - Chris Bradley, Lochaber Phoenix BC; runners-up - Ben Miller, West Highland Wheelers, Alasdair

Ross, Fort William Golf Club, James Aitchison, Lochaber Phoenix BC.

Bowmans Trophy for Team of the Year - Glangarry Girls Shinty Club; runner-up - Mallaig Indoor Bowling Club.

Scottish Association of Local Sports Councils Trophy - Ian Adams, Lochaber Athletic Club; runners-up - Rosemary MacPhee, Street League and Fort William Shinty Club; Ewen Cameron, Glangarry Girls Shinty Club; Steven Docherty, Lochaber Phoenix BC; Claire Rungay, Lochaber AC.

BOXING

respecter of reputations. Donnelly found most success in the opener with counter rights whilst MacKay came storming forward with combinations and after the second the judges had the boxers dead level.

The high standard continued in the last and it was MacKay who edged the verdict by a single point – but plaudits to Donnelly for his role in a classic contest which he took at short notice.



Jog Scotland training

Jogging enthusiasts from Fort William and beyond came together last week for the first Jog Scotland Lochaber training session of the winter. The group, which has been running for the past four years, meet in the town every Monday and Wednesday evening with runners split into three sections – beginners, intermediate and advanced. For more information on the group call Lynn on 07786 115639 or Jan on 07876 542387.

SQUASH

Top match saw Tastebuds' Jane Davey win a close first game against Lochaber's Nicola Morgan 9-5.

Jane took the next two games 9-1 for a 3-0 win, but the score belied a spirited fight from the Fort William captain and her disappointment was evident at the end.

Fort see Saturday's game as a good chance to kickstart the season

FOOTBALL

FORT WILLIAM boss Danny Conlon rates Saturday's clash with pointless Strathspey Thistle as his team's best chance so far to kickstart their season.

Both teams have yet to register a point, with The Fort occupying bottom spot courtesy of being a single score worse off than Jags in the goals conceded column.

Conlon's men again showed plenty of fire in last weekend's 2-0 loss at Lossie – and but for poor finishing could have taken at least a point.

With struggling Rothes next on Fort's fixture list, the prospect of reeling in some of the lower placed teams is a real one – but only if Strathspey are put to the sword at Claggan Park.

To the manager team confidence is everything – and he knows a win could spark a big change in fortunes.

Conlon told the Oban Times: 'This is the biggest game of the season so far, without a doubt. This game alone could kickstart our season, especially as the following week we go away to Rothes, who are not going through a great time just now.'

'We really have to get points on the table on Saturday – in our last three games we showed we are going in the right direction. We could easily have been in front against Lossie in the first half.'

'In terms of the amount of goals against in the league table, for October we are lying sixth, which for the bottom club is pretty good. But our problem is that we have not been scoring goals – and we definitely had our chances on Saturday.'

'We were more physical and stronger on the park – and that has given me food for thought on how we will play against Strathspey.'

Crazy competition

GOLF

DRAGON'S Tooth Golf Club at Ballachulish staged a crazy nine-hole competition on Saturday to a basic stableford format.

Each player was restricted to three clubs and a putter, and just to add to the challenge, three holes were under Texas Scramble rules.

Three holes had the clubs chosen for them – shortest iron, middle iron and longest iron or driver – and there were prizes for the longest drive and nearest the pin.

The committee managed to arrange for the day to be very wet, as usual this year, and all 17 players who signed up, turned up.

All made a valiant effort to play good golf and have fun despite the horrendous conditions. Everyone enjoyed the day, which ended with a buffet for players and guests.

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Weather

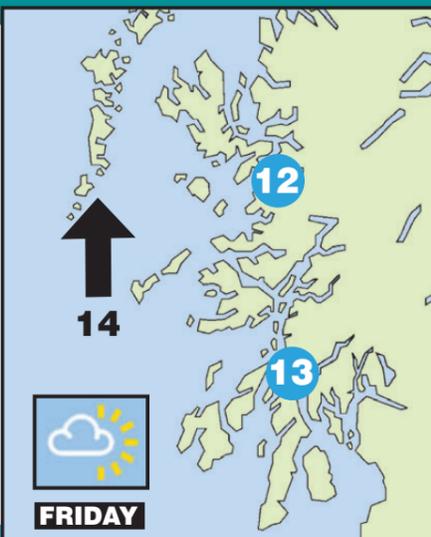
Thursday Light rain shower.
Winds moderate, south easterly
Temperatures 12°C to 14°C

Friday Sunny intervals.
Winds moderate, southerly
Temperatures 7°C to 13°C.

Weekend Sunny intervals.

Outlook Winds moderate, south, south easterly
Temperatures 3°C to 11°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, November 3, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 05.14	1.6	12.02 3.1 16.04 1.9 *** **
Fri 01.06	2.7	06.33 1.7 13.35 3.2 19.30 1.9
Sat 02.29	2.8	07.56 1.7 14.31 3.3 20.40 1.8
Sun 03.02	3.0	08.59 1.5 15.10 3.4 21.25 1.6
Mon 03.26	3.2	09.47 1.4 15.43 3.6 22.00 1.5
Tues 03.56	3.4	10.26 1.3 16.15 3.8 22.32 1.3
Wed 04.28	3.6	11.00 1.3 16.49 3.9 23.05 1.2

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

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High school pitch repairs start

MAJOR repairs began this week to tackle Kinlochleven High School's flood-prone synthetic pitch.

Work will take around seven weeks, weather permitting. During that time south Lochaber will be without an outdoor sports surface. Island Park in Kinlochleven has no lights and Jubilee Park in Ballachulish is under repair.

The new pitch opened for use in March 2009 but by November of that year began waterlogging regularly even as drainage channels underneath remained bone dry. Sub-standard demolition material from the old Kinlochleven school had been used as hardcore and became compacted.

Alpha Schools Highland Ltd, which is responsible for maintaining the school, has hired Morrison Construction Ltd to undertake repairs.

Kinlochleven High School head teacher John McGilp said: 'It is fantastic that pupils, and the communities of south Lochaber will finally be able to use a synthetic facility which is up to standard.'

Mountain bikes stolen

SEVEN top of the range mountain bikes stolen from Nevis Range could already have been dismantled for illegal sale on the lucrative European spare parts market, say the owners.

Alpine Bikes in Fort William lost £25,000 of kit when the for-hire machines were removed from a storage building sometime on Sunday evening.

Store manager Toby Mackenzie-Green told *The Oban Times* one bike was valued at £5,500, others at £3,500.

'It's a pretty horrific loss,' he said. 'They knew what they were after and left behind bikes of lesser value. They clearly picked the machines they wanted.'

'We are not expecting to see the bikes again - there is very little chance of selling the bikes complete in Scotland, given their value. I very much doubt they are in one piece. They are probably in bits and already in Europe.' Mr Mackenzie asked anyone being offered expensive parts to contact the shop or police.



Dreaming of glory: Rosemary is hoping she did enough to impress the judges. 10_f44singer01

Homeless singer goes for TV glory

Fort's Rosemary hits high notes at Britain's Got Talent audition

EXCLUSIVE REPORT

by RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

A HOMELESS Fort William woman is hoping to go from rags to riches after wowing the audience at an audition for the ITV talent show 'Britain's Got Talent'.

Operatic singer and mother-of-four Rosemary Leckie has long dreamt of embarking on a singing career, and she's now aiming to become Lochaber's very own Susan Boyle, who found worldwide fame after performing on the show in 2009.

Rosemary sang 'Don't Cry For Me Argentina' in front of a production team, cameras and thousands of spectators at a packed audition in Edinburgh last weekend.

The 38-year-old told *The Oban Times* she had enjoyed herself, despite the pressure of performing in front of such a large crowd.

She said: 'It was nerve-wracking, but I loved it. And what an applause I got! I think I've got a good chance of going

through going by the very positive comments I've had from everybody.'

Rosemary has been living in homeless accommodation in Fort William with her fiancé Jason Hillier since April, and the couple are hoping to be housed by the council before they get married next year.

She now has an anxious wait to find out if she's through to the televised round - the producers said they will notify her by email in February.

She said: 'I'm hoping I can make it big; it would be amazing. Even if I just got a house out of it, that would be great.'

Rosemary was born and bred in Mallaig, and took part in many singing competitions with her mother Susan MacLean, who is also a well-known local

singer. The pair have performed numerous times in pubs and clubs in Mallaig and Fort William, and they have both competed in the Royal National Mod. Music obviously runs in the family as Rosemary's four children - Danielle, 19, Stefan, 17, Charis, 12 and Adam, 11 - all sing as well.

Rosemary left Lochaber when she was 21 to move to Holytown near Motherwell with her husband and studied cookery. At the age of 31 she decided to go to college to study music and drama, and at the start of last year moved back to Lochaber after her marriage broke up.

She said she has always wanted to be a professional singer. 'It's been my dream since I was about three,' she said. 'I always knew I wanted to sing. Everyone has been very encouraging. I busk in Fort William quite a lot and people have stopped and told me I have an amazing voice and they've said I should go on 'Britain's Got Talent'.'

Art group's invite to outdoor workshops



Art outdoors: Lasair Ealain wants local people to take part in new project.

AWARD-winning art group Lasair Ealain, based at Bun-sgoil Shléite (Sleat Primary School), is inviting local people to join community art workshops in the great outdoors.

'Ealain A-muigh' (art outdoors) will see groups visit scenic locations and explore the landscape through drawing and sketches.

People of all ages and abilities are encouraged to take part and develop their work onto a larger scale using charcoal or watercolour. Lead artist Julie Brook said: 'The more you draw the more you see.'

Under the initiative, a group

of pupils at Portree High pupils will shortly embark on a two-day project about Portree pier and harbour.

Meanwhile, at Bun-sgoil Shléite, class 1-2G are also commencing a new project centred around the pier and boats at Armadale. Their studies will be used to develop and explore work with Arthur Donald, drama artist in residence at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

Lasair Ealain events are taught through Gaelic, but organisers stress everyone is welcome regardless of language skills. More information at www.lasairealain.com

Businesswoman's turbine scheme rejected again

AN ARISAIG businesswoman has again failed in her bid to erect three 20-metre wind turbines near her seaside home.

Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee turned down an application from Julie

Ann Bryce, of 2 Bunacaimbe following a site visit on Tuesday.

Planners recommended approval, but councillors heeded local concerns over the visual impact on the scenic area and

voted by six votes to two against the plan.

In all, some 16 written objections were submitted to Highland Council ahead of the meeting.

A similar application on the

same site was rejected earlier this year on noise grounds.

The new bid was based on quieter turbines, and planners ruled it would be 'not significantly detrimental' to local amenity.

Boundary shake-up plans come under fire

BOUNDARY Commission for Scotland proposals, which would see Lochaber carved up for UK elections, have come under fire.

Initial proposals would see the historic area split between two huge new Highland seats - Inverness and Skye, and Argyll, Bute and Lochaber - with the River Lochy and the A830 the dividing line.

The number of Scottish seats would be cut from 59 to 52 under the plans.

Fort William and Ardnarmurchan councillor Donald Cameron said: 'As a desktop exercise to reduce the number of MPs the proposals in this

review may make sense to civil servants but to split Lochaber with its historic community of interests is plain daft.'

'In what is simply a numbers game it appears that both parts of Lochaber are being treated as makeweights and that no consideration is being given to the geography and political history of our community.'

'All of Lochaber's councillors will be united in fighting to retain Lochaber within a single constituency.' The consultation finishes on January 4, 2012.

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New campaign for Crown Estate reform

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council) is to spearhead a new campaign to involve community groups in reforming the Crown Estate and transferring its revenues into community ownership.

The move follows a meeting between Highlands and Islands local authorities and the Scottish Affairs Select Committee yesterday. The committee is investigating the role of the Crown Estate, which controls much of Scotland's foreshore and seabed.

Comhairle leader Angus Campbell said coastal communities should earn revenues from marine developments and should speak 'with one voice'.

He said: 'The Comhairle and the other Highland and Island authorities will be engaging with our wider communities and local organisations to secure their support on this important reform.'

Jobs to go as Clarks Shoes shuts up shop

FORT William High Street has been hit with another jobs and retail blow after it emerged that Clarks Shoes is to close its doors on December 14.

The store employs four full and part-time staff and has been a fixture on the Aird's Crossing arcade for decades. The news means the Lochaber capital is left with only two dedicated shoe shops - D&E Shoes and Stead&Simpson, also both on High Street.

It is unclear whether any upcoming rent review on the property was a factor in the company's decision to close the store.

High rental values have been implicated in several recent shop closures on High Street, prompting calls from local politicians for premises owners - often English-based property companies - to fix rents at realistic levels when trading conditions are tough.

However, investment companies and trusts are often reluctant to cut rents, because that would reduce the notional value of buildings they own, making it more difficult to borrow money for further acquisitions.

Store staff were too busy to comment apart from confirming the closure date. No-one at Clark's Shoes headquarters in Street, Somerset, was available for comment. Local councillor Donald Cameron said of the closure news: 'I think Fort William High Street is suffering from a double whammy. National companies are downsizing their operations and we have a particular problem on High Street with investment companies charging high rents and being unwilling to reduce them.'

Chelsea-based Retail Plus General Partner Limited are believed to own the property.

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Man fails to attend court for sentencing

A FORMER Glenfinnan man who angrily threatened members of staff in the Fort William Job Centre after being told he was no longer eligible for benefits failed to show up at the town's Sheriff Court for sentencing.

James Reade, now of 29 Scarrel Terrace, Castlemilk, Glasgow, pled guilty to conducting himself in a disorderly manner by shouting, swearing and threatening staff and committing a breach of the peace on July 14 2010.

The 29-year-old also admitted breaching the peace outside O'sian's on High Street on August 8 last year when he shouted, swore, attempted to fight with and struggled with two men. Sheriff John Halley deferred sentencing until November 23.

Visitor smashed two windows with beer bottles

A MAN became abusive and smashed two windows while visiting his family in Corpach. Kenneth Livingston, of 5 Fort William Parade, Antrim Road, Belfast, pled guilty to wilfully or recklessly breaking two windows at 26 Clerk Drive on July 22. The 27-year-old also admitted behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by shouting, swearing and threatening violence.

Livingston got into an argument with his mother after a night out drinking. Fort William Sheriff Court heard. Fiscal Claire Wilkinson said: 'He was verbally abusing her and saying she was going to die.'

Livingston then threw empty beer bottles at the house, smashing two living room windows.

Sheriff John Halley deferred sentencing until January 18 to allow Livingstone time to pay for the damage.

Men only baking night a success

SIX MEN and two teenagers took part in the first baking night for men run by Lochaber Rural Education Trust in An Clachan, near Fort William. The men quick learned the art of breadmaking from Ian MacDougall and also made rock buns.

Clootie dumplings and brewing beer are on the agenda at the next meeting on Tuesday December 13.

Corpach sawmill leads the way with expansion

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

BOUNTEOUS supplies of homegrown Scottish timber and falling house prices have emerged as the main drivers behind BSW Timber's massive expansion at its Corpach sawmill.

Last week the company announced a multi-million pound investment in new plant to bring all operations onto a bigger site and create a mill capable of competing with the best in the world.

On a guided tour of the new site last Friday, mill manager Andy Rogers told *The Oban Times* how detailed surveys showed sustainable production from Highland forests will continue to rise over the next 35 years - guaranteeing the company the timber it needs.

Mr Rogers also said the collapse of the housing market had actually boosted business at BSW - wood used in building new homes tends to be imported, but as cash-strapped homeowners opt instead for loft or garage conversions, demand has increasingly switched to Scottish timber products.

BSW sources all its timber from the northwest Highlands, cutting transport costs and environmental impacts. Logs are brought in by road or sea from no further away than Skye and Mull.

A confident Mr Rogers told *The Oban Times* sound economic reasons had underpinned the company's decision to invest around £20million in making Corpach one of the most modern and efficient mills in Europe.

He said: 'When we started in 2007 we employed 85 people here - we are now at 150 or so. Looking forward to 2046, Scotland's timber production curve is upwards. We have worked very closely with



Building for the future: Andy Rogers surveys the huge new grading and planing shed, which is almost completed, at BSW Timber's sawmill in Corpach. 20_144b5w01

Forestry Commission Scotland and the private sector over the past few years and studied the forward projections. We would not have invested this cash without this knowledge.

'This new mill will have almost twice the output of our current operation and for every job here there are three or four others - foresters, harvesters, planters, transport, distribution, engineering, services and so on. You are probably talking around 500 high quality jobs in Lochaber by the time we are finished.'

'I think Lochaber does need to have a range of businesses - it needs tourism,

it needs retail, but it also needs technologically advanced jobs in the manufacturing sector.'

Mr Rogers added: 'We are only making the most of the natural resources we have. Trees grow well here and when sympathetically planted - and from a carbon cycle point of view - they are really beneficial.'

'When people see these trees out there, they should remember that there are jobs behind them - a lot of jobs.'

The new investment includes the almost completed planing and grading plant - a huge 85m by 45m building - a new log yard and sorter and a new state-of-the-art sawline, including

an automated horizontal saw. Computerscanningandcomputer optimization equipment will also reduce waste from each log and tailor products precisely to customer needs.

The company is currently undertaking a 12-week pre-planning consultation on the expansion.

Subject to planning permission, work is expected to start early next year and be completed by early 2013.

Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy said: 'BSW Timber's results shows that businesses in the Highlands have the potential for strong growth even in the tough economic climate, and that

investment here can be rewarded with big returns.'

Local MSP Dave Thompson added: 'BSW has already done a lot to provide jobs in Lochaber but this new investment should mean that even more is possible from the company itself and then there are the spin-off benefits for the wider forestry sector of the West Highlands.'

BSW supplies sawn timber for use in construction, DIY, pallets and packaging, fencing and garden products.

Scotland is emerging as a major European timber producer, with production expected to rise from six million tonnes currently to 10million tonnes by 2020.

Man jailed for selling drugs to 14-year-old

A FORT William man has been sentenced to four months in prison for selling drugs to a 14-year-old boy.

Appearing from custody for a separate offence, Gavin Maxtone, of 7 Pinegrove Court, pled guilty to selling the class C drug diazepam to the boy from his home between February 8 and 10. The 14-year-old and two friends went to Maxtone's house wearing balaclavas and this threatened to rob him, Fort William Sheriff Court heard. The youngster made a deal

with the 29-year-old to swap one gram of mephedrone, known as mecat or meow meow, for 11 diazepam pills. He returned two days later and bought eight more pills from Maxtone for £8, but was caught with them at school and admitted where he bought them.

Sentencing Maxtone, Sheriff John Halley said: 'I'm concerned you have pled guilty to supplying class C drugs to children. This is a very serious charge. A custodial sentence is the only option.'

Drink driver fined and banned for a year

A KINLOCHLEVEN man has been banned from driving for a year and fined £300 after being caught drunk behind the wheel in the village.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard David Evans left the Tailrace Inn car park and reversed out - straight into the path of an oncoming police car.

The officer followed Evans along Lochaber Road, Riverside Road, Foyers Road, Garbhein Crescent and Garbhein Road before pulling the 22-year-old over.

Fiscal Claire Wilkinson said Evans was found him to be nearly twice the legal limit.

'He was driving in an erratic manner, close to the kerb and close to parked cars,' she said. Hotel worker Evans, of Flat 4 Lynnwood House, pled guilty to drink driving on October 3.

TV spotlight on shinty league newcomers

SHINTY league newcomers Lewis Camanachd are to have their exploits broadcast to the world in a new BBC ALBA documentary.

'Trusadh: Camanachd Leòdhais - Dubh agus Gorm (Lewis Camanachd - Black and Blue) will follow manager Paul Duke and his team through the highs and lows of the season. The programme hears from player Donald Lamont as he anticipates the historic first game on March 5, and captures the dressing room pre-match as the team prepares to play in the league for the first time.

Stastie Cameron of the Camanachd Association talks on the logistics of Lewis' entry to North Division 3, which meant an 18 to 20 hour-day for most clubs and referees making the trip to the Western Isles. Shinty pundit Hugh Dan MacLennan said: 'It's all very well playing in cups and friendlies, but there is nothing like playing in a league to improve your game.'

The programme will be broadcast next Monday at 9pm. A final decision on whether the team will be retained in the league will be made at the end of this month.

Medication lost on bus

A QUANTITY of Diazepam and Bistral tablets, prescribed for a heart condition, were lost on a Citylink bus between Spean Bridge and Fort William on Saturday.

The medication was last seen about 4.20pm and may have been mislaid whilst the owner was travelling.

The drugs are likely to be dangerous if taken other than prescribed and anyone finding them is asked to hand them into their nearest chemist or police station.

Lochaber teenager pursues dream career as undertaker

A YOUNG Lochaber man is defying his tender years to pursue his dream career - as a qualified undertaker.

Jamie Manson, aged just 19, is already a trainee funeral director with Inverlochy-based firm Mike McFall.

Now Jamie, from Lochview estate in Fort William, has secured a place on a two-year vocational training course for the funeral profession in Glasgow.

He starts his Independent Funeral Directors (IFD) College diploma course with James Cockburn in Govan next month.

After he qualifies, the quietly spoken youngster will become one of Scotland's youngest qualified undertakers - at the age of 21.

Jamie has wanted to become a funeral director since he was a boy, after becoming fascinated with hearses and the solemnity associated with funeral ceremonies.

His unusual choice of career

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

bereavement and giving them peace of mind. It's all about taking a lot of the worry off their shoulders.

'I like helping people in their grief, because people are vulnerable at that particular time. It really falls on me to take control of the service and ensure everything happens as it should without them having to worry about anything.'

With the college qualification in his pocket, caring Jamie is determined to carve out a successful career in the undertaking business.

He said: 'Mike was good enough to take me on in April and give me experience to see whether I was up to the job, and offered me a full time position in August.'

'The whole thing is about building a reputation for myself until such time as I can take over from Mike when he retires, or start up on my own.'



Caring: Jamie Manson loves his job as a trainee undertaker. 20_144funeral01



Hughie MacLachlan with his 10 piglets, which next year will be put to work tackling encroaching bracken.

Piglets set to clear land of bracken

ARDNAMURCHAN crofters battling to clear good land of encroaching bracken have received a boost - thank to the recent arrival of dozens of piglets.

Kilchoan men Hughie MacLachlan and Dave Cash will put the new arrivals to work next summer, when the porkers will

be assigned fields in Ormsaibeag to grub up the weed. Mr MacLachlan has already made national news with his use of home-reared pigs to restore grasslands previously choked by bracken.

Mr MacLachlan's sow gave birth to 10 piglets on October 19, while Mr Cash's two females produced another 22.

Mr MacLachlan told *The Oban Times*: 'We will keep them until August when they will have cleared a fair bit of ground.'

'We will fence off a bit, clear one section at a time, then move on. This time we will keep them longer so they really take the bracken down. It is unbelievable the job they can do.'

Police name man killed in Harris house fire

POLICE have named the man found dead at his Harris home following a house fire on Sunday afternoon.

Kenneth MacKenzie, aged 83, of Strond Road, Leveburgh, was brought out of the property by fire

crews after the alarm was raised around 2.20pm, but could not be saved. Police said there do not appear to be any suspicious circumstances and a report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Community council plans new Glencoe path

GLENCOE and Glen Etive Community Council, through Mr David Doogan, are applying to Highland Council for permission to

build a recreational path alongside Clachaig Road, Glencoe. Donaldson Environmental Consultancy Ltd of Tainloan are acting as agents.

Teenager left best friend disfigured

A CAOL teenager left her former best friend permanently disfigured after a drunken fight in Fort William's underpass.

Rebecca Denny, aged 16, fell out with her pal and kicked her on the face following a drinking bout with friends at the Old Fort, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

The victim was taken to Belford Hospital and required eight stitches on a cut to her lower lip.

Denny, of 9 Glendessary Terrace, earlier

pled guilty to assaulting the woman by seizing hold of her, pushing her to the ground and kicking her on the face to her injury and permanent disfigurement.

Sheriff John Halley ordered the teenager to carry out 100 hours unpaid work, pay her victim £150 compensation and attend six months of anger management and alcohol counselling.

He said: 'You obviously accept the offence you committed was a serious one.'

Mòd winners honoured at ceilidh

LOCHABER prizewinners from the recent Royal National Mòd in Stornoway were guests of honour at a ceilidh in the West End Hotel in Fort William on Saturday.

Kevin Cameron, Fergus Munro, Donna MacLeod, Hannah Calder and guest artiste, past Mòd gold medalist Gillibride MacMillan from South Uist, entertained with some outstanding singing.

Kevin and Fergus also gave a beautiful rendition of their winning song in the duet competition at the Mòd.

Local stalwarts Charlie MacColl - organiser and chairman for the evening - sang, as did Jimmy 'the removal man' Cameron from Caol. Music for the dancing was provided by George Smith and Annabell.

Mr MacColl said: 'In spite of the small attendance and the poor weather, which meant some prizewinners were absent, the brilliant music was much appreciated.'

Mr MacColl thanked involved and hoped to see more in attendance at the next ceilidh at the end of this month.

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The hens that lay the GOLDEN EGGS

Kintyre Eggs from High Bellochinty are renowned for their sweet flavour and golden yolks. Customers across Argyll, including those at the newly opened Pantry in Oban, may have been surprised recently, when cracking open their favourite eggs, to discover an unusually pale yolk. This uncharacteristic colouring was due to a delivery of the wrong feed and compounded by a wet autumn.

Farmers, Hannah and Will Jones, explain 'We always feed the hens a premium range mix that the hens really enjoy. This is reflected in the quality of our eggs. However there was a mix up at the mill and we were delivered a different feed. This coincided with some very wet weather, meaning many of the hens are choosing not to forage outside as much and are not pecking at as much greenery.'

The feed has now been replaced and the hens are also enjoying any of the surplus fresh vegetables grown on the farm for the Bellochinty Farm Stall.

The golden yolks are back, the hens are happy and so are the customers.

Tel: 01583 421138 Email: hannahjones@talktalk.net

FW

Assault man fined £366

A MAN who assaulted his then partner at a Lochaber hotel has been fined £366. Christopher Beattie, of Flat 1/3 13 Whitehaugh Drive, Paisley, pled guilty to assaulting the woman by seizing her by the throat, pushing her to the ground and kicking her on the leg, all to her injury at the Glenfinnan House Hotel in the early hours of July 10.

Fining the 28-year-old, Sheriff John Halley called the assault 'completely unacceptable'.

Couple deny taxi rank attack

A CAOL couple are due to stand trial on November 21 at Fort William Sheriff Court accused of attacking a man on Fort William High Street.

Iona and Iain MacKay, aged 27 and 33 respectively, deny assaulting the man at a taxi rank by repeatedly punching him on the head and kicking and stamping on his head to his severe injury on May 8.

The married couple, of 15 Clunes Avenue, also pled not guilty to resisting arrest by violently struggling with police officers at their house later the same night.

A third accused person, 23-year-old Alan Mathers, of 82 Kilmallie Road, had a not guilty plea accepted by the Crown.

Man admonished on youth assault charge

A KINLOCHLEVEN man who assaulted a 15-year-old boy has been admonished.

Michael Crowe, of 12 Loch Eilde, pled guilty to the pushing the boy to the ground, holding him there, seizing him by the shoulder and scratching him on the face and neck, all to his injury.

Defending, Stephen Kennedy told Fort William Sheriff Court the youngster had verbally abused Crowe, aged 44, and spat in his face. He said: 'He put the boy to the floor and held him until he calmed down.'

Racist remarks cost £160

A FORT William man who drunkenly shouted racist abuse at a man on the town's High Street has been fined £160.

John MacGillivray, of 24 Banff Crescent, pled guilty to acting in a racially aggravated manner by shouting and swearing, uttering racial abuse at Aidan Thurmond and threatening him with violence around 11.30pm on June 20.

Thurmond responded by punching MacGillivray on the face, knocking him backwards into some nearby bins, which defence solicitor Gerry Sweeney called 'natural justice'. Thurmond was admonished for the assault last month.

Fining MacGillivray at Fort William Sheriff Court, Sheriff John Halley said: 'This draws a line under the matter.'



Colourful costumes at Inverlochey Hallowe'en parade

Inverlochey Primary School was a riot of colour last Thursday as staff and pupils donned weird and wonderful costumes for the school's Hallowe'en parade. Teachers Tanya Ross, Lia Hunter and Amy Stewart are pictured with some of the children. 20_144inver01

Help clean up Glen Nevis

FRIENDS of Nevis will hold its final volunteer event of 2011 on Sunday November 27 - an autumn/winter litter blitz in and around Glen Nevis.

The event includes free soup, sandwiches and seasonal refreshments and all equipment and necessary support is provided. Participants are advised to wear appropriate warm and weatherproof clothing and footwear.

Groups or individuals wishing to help can register by calling 01397 701088 or emailing info@friendsofnevis.co.uk.



Lochaber sea cadets celebrate their success in the swimming gala.

Sea cadets celebrate success in the pool

FOUR sea cadets from Fort By end of competition at the William's TS St Christopher Rosyth Gala in HMS Caledonia, have brought home medals training base at the naval from a swimming competition dockyard, the team had bagged against hundreds of cadets from 11 medals.

England. Sarah and Cameron Whyton, freestyle event and Christie's Christie Heriot and Beth Mackay team silver medal in the girls were all selected to join cadets open medley. Altogether the from Orkney, Elgin, Inverness Highlands came third overall in and Campbeltown to represent the whole competition - the first time that anyone can recall.



A fundraising second-hand book sale held in the Nevis Centre on Saturday was hailed a success by organisers. Hundreds of book on subjects ranging from ancient and modern history to travel, royalty and biographies were on sale from 11am to 4pm. The money raised on the day will go to the local charity Friends of the Old Fort and the Rotary Club of Lochaber. 10_144book01

Author visits Lochaber High School

WELL-KNOWN Scottish writer Iain Banks, author of The Crow Road and many other novels, will be visiting Lochaber High School tomorrow between 1.45pm and 3.30pm to speak with senior English pupils.

Cocaine charge denied

THE TRIAL of a Caol man who denies being in possession of cocaine is due to take place on November 10.

Andrew Donaldson, aged 49, of 12 Strone Place, pled not guilty to possessing the class A at Fort William Police Station on April 10.

Three witnesses are due to give evidence at Fort William Sheriff Court.



Banavie pupils get into the pantomime spirit

Banavie Primary School pupils got into the pantomime spirit last Friday when Ayr-based M&M Productions staged 'Beauty and the Beast' at the school. Head teacher Maxean Dunham told The Oban Times: 'The pantomime is to give the children an experience of a theatre group. They will reflect on how much they enjoyed it through their writing in class.' 20_144banavie01

Campaigners consider taking fight to health minister

Peninsula 999 talks stall again

ANGRY West Ardnarmurchan campaigners could travel to Edinburgh to ask health minister Nicola Sturgeon to intervene in their dispute with health bosses over out-of-hours 999 cover.

The latest public meeting in Kilchoan last Tuesday with Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) and NHS Highland officials failed to reach agreement on delivering the service on the remote peninsula.

Health chiefs announced last December they would replace two district nurses currently providing cover with a service based around ambulance paramedics and GPs from Strontian and Achacrae - but postponed the move for 12 months after furious protests.

It is now proposed to set up a west Lochaber team of six 'co-responders', backed by nurses, GPs and air ambulance, to attend medical emergencies until an ambulance arrives from Strontian, an hour away by road. A replacement for nurse Jessie Colquhoun, who retires in February, would be 'strongly encouraged' to live in the Kilchoan area.

But WACC maintains asking co-responders to stabilise a patient for so long is not acceptable - and hopes to enlist Ms Sturgeon's help.

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Chairperson Rosie Curtis told The Oban Times: 'They accuse us of being unwilling to participate in a voluntary co-responders scheme, yet will not listen to our reasons for rejecting it. Any other co-responders expect ambulance and paramedic support within 15-20 minutes, while out here we know an ambulance can't reach us within an hour.'

'It is unreasonable - even dangerous - to expect a team of lay people with only a few days' training to shoulder the responsibility of caring for critically ill patients for that length of time.'

Claiming after the meeting that the 10-month consultation was 'nearling collapse', Ms Curtis said: 'We came to within an inch of walking out.'

'This community of less than 250 people has a proud record of involvement in public services - we have a full fire brigade team of 10, a Coastguard team of 11, and, until they grossly mismanaged it, a team of 10 first responders who, sadly, resigned in disgust at the way the SAS treated them.'

'We believe the only person who can sort this out is someone with real clout - like Ms

Sturgeon. We'll happily travel to Edinburgh to meet her and explain our position.'

A Scottish Government spokesperson said: 'The Cabinet Secretary met the chairs and chief executives of both NHS Highland and the Scottish Ambulance Service in September to discuss the concerns of the community of West Ardnarmurchan, and the Scottish Government has been kept closely updated on the situation since then.'

'Both organisations are fully committed to engaging with the local community to explore viable solutions, the meeting last Tuesday was one in a series of local meetings to gather views and discuss proposals.'

'Everyone involved is committed to ensuring that a safe and sustainable solution, to what is a complex situation, be found.'

'Ms Sturgeon has not received any formal request for such a meeting. If such a request is received, it will be considered. However, ultimately, it is for NHS Highland and the Scottish Ambulance Service to reach a local solution that meets the needs of that community.'

'We would urge all those involved to try and reach such a solution as quickly as possible, for the benefit of the local community.'

Got a story for The Oban Times? Call our reporters on 01397 703003

New group 'keeps eye' on painting

ARISAIG residents have set up a working group to 'keep an eye' on the West Highland Museum's (WHM) possible sale of a valuable Victorian painting it owns.

The group convened at Arisaig Community Council (ACC)'s monthly meeting on Monday night for the first time.

WHM said they were considering selling Letters and News at Lochside, valued at up to £60,000, to help fund future developments of the Fort William museum.

Any potential sale has been put on hold after a negative reaction from locals and pending the outcome of a bid for Lottery funding.

ACC secretary and working party member Maureen McColl told The Oban Times: 'The strong group had plans to invite two more local people to join. She said: 'The working party will be keeping an eye on things and making sure the museum sticks to the rules if they do

decide to sell. We'll also try to offer alternatives to selling it. We want the painting to stay where it is.'

The 1868 artwork by Henry Tamworth Wells, of a boat on Loch Eilt-side, depicts men whose descendants still live in the area.

The late Miss Joan Becher bequeathed the painting to any museum interested in taking it. WHM assumed ownership in 1995 on Ms Becher's death.

Because of its size it remains in Miss Becher's former home, Arisaig House, now a guesthouse, where it is open to public view.

Meanwhile, WHM curator Mairi Mooney has resigned after five years in the post. Asked whether the furore over the painting had been a factor, Ms Mooney said: 'No, it's for personal reasons. The job has become a bit more managerial, and I prefer to get my hands dirty with the historical side of things.'

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Keep Viking boat burial finds on Ardnamurchan

FINDS from 1,000-year-old Viking boat burial found on Ardnamurchan should be displayed locally, Lochaber's MSP says.

Dave Thompson told Holyrood significant archaeological discoveries - usually claimed by large museums in Edinburgh and London - should be exhibited where they were uncovered.

Culture secretary Fiona Hyslop said power to allocate major finds declared as Treasure Trove lay with the Crown Office, but noted her hope that local communities could host artefacts.

Archaeologists from Manchester and Leicester universities, Edinburgh-based CFA Archaeology and Archaeology Scotland uncovered remains of a high-ranking Viking buried in a Viking ship, alongside his axe, sword, spear, shield boss and bronze ring-pin on Ardnamurchan Estate this summer.

Other finds unearthed during the Ardnamurchan Transitions Project include a whetstone from Norway, a ring pin from Ireland and Viking pottery.

Mr Thompson said: 'The benefits of such important finds have the potential to make a huge difference to the tourism sector and wider economies of the areas where they are discovered.'

'I hope that, once they have been analysed and researched by experts, the remarkable artefacts uncovered at Ardnamurchan can be returned to the area, where they have the potential to be the focus of a powerful exhibition of the area's history and its place at the heart of a European trading network, dispelling the myth that in the past Ardnamurchan was a remote area, disconnected from mainstream civilisation.'

Fascinating smelter history documented in new leaflet

A PAMPHLET tracing the fascinating history of Fort William's aluminium smelter in WW2 was launched at West Highland Museum on Friday night.

The detailed leaflet, produced by Lochaber Archaeological Society (LAS), summarises the group's work to excavate and record decoy installations built at Torlundy to draw German bombers away from the real factory.

Remains uncovered included three oval-shaped mounds where wooden dummy buildings once stood, and a huge trench where waste oil would have been fired to mimic a smelter in production.

An underground generating station and radio room powering the decoy site was found nearby, while anti-aircraft gun emplacements around the real factory were also logged.

The pamphlet details a report from 617 Squadron (Dambusters) on the Luftwaffe threat to Laggan and Blackwater dams providing hydropower to aluminium smelters at Fort William and Kinlochleven, German attacks on Lochaber smelter during WW2 - and how a mortar bomb members dug up turned out to be a practice round. LAS chairman Robert Cairns presented Rio Tinto Alcan production manager Ewen Smith and the museum's Richard

Sidgwick with framed prints of a Stephen Bone wartime painting depicting camouflaged pipelines to the smelter. Mr Smith told *The Oban Times*: 'As a business we are always focused in looking forward, but this is our heritage and it's great we have a group like this to keep our history alive. We are very happy to encourage their efforts.'

Mr Sidgwick added: 'I think it is extraordinary that a small amateur society could have achieved so much in such a short space of time.'

Research and excavations at the dummy factory site was funded by the Scottish Community Foundation. The leaflet is available from the museum.



Stars for Harris: party girls Laura, Shelley, Emma, Lily, Hayley, Savannah, Jessica and front, Chloe and Kirsty show their proceeds from the 'collection cauldron'. 20_444harris01

Girls star in party night for Harris

NINE senior girls at Lochaber High School staged a 'Halloween Horror Night' for the STAR for Harris charity on Friday night.

The sell-out event, which drew 300 revellers and featured six local bands, was organised in memory of Corpach toddler Harris Ross, who died last year aged just 16 months from an aggressive brain tumour.

Harris' parents Allan and Tanya attended the fun night at the BA Club in Fort William along with Tanya's sister Lily Confield, one of the pupils behind the fundraiser.

Lily and schoolmates Laura Gillanders, Shelley

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

MacGillivray, Emma Haines, Hayley Bell, Savannah Parton, Jessica MacDonald, Chloe McGhee and Kirsty MacKenzie donned Halloween outfits - including 'Little Dead Riding Hood' and 'Polka Dot Clown' - to collect cash at the door in a witches' cauldron.

Free The Cach Mor Ceilidh Band, Russian Ninjas, Robert Robertson and Almost Fatal, Jo Watson & Sean Campbell, Bronco Fiasco and Graeme Platt

all played for free, helping to raise £2,111 on the night. Lily, 17, told *The Oban Times*: 'The bands were absolutely amazing - they were all fantastic and put on a really good night for us all.'

'I have had a lot of messages saying thank you for a brilliant night. I'm really pleased and happy.'

Tanya added: 'I think it was incredibly kind of the bands and DJs to gift their time. The girls did a super job - we were not involved in the planning at all. They took on a big challenge and they pulled it off. We are really proud of them.'

'The money raised will go towards music therapy and resources at the oncology unit at the hospital. I just want to say a big thank you to the BA staff and all who helped out - we are just overwhelmed.'

STAR (Supporting Treatment and Awareness Raising) highlights the vital need for early diagnosis of life-threatening cancers in young children and helps fund treatment.

The charity has already gifted £13,000 towards precision 'sat-nav' instrumentation used in brain surgery at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh.

Trio accused of stealing boat

THE TRIAL of three Fort William youngsters accused of stealing a boat moored at Lochaber Yacht Club and taking it out on Loch Linnhe is due to be heard on November 11.

Ruth Rodger, aged 18, of 28 Alma Road, Liam Mackenzie, aged 19, of 13 Ross Place and 21-year-old Jamie Leighton, of Fassfern, Lochside Apartments, Achintore Road all deny stealing the 16-foot 'Sea Otter' in the early hours of June 2.

Three Crown witnesses will give evidence at Fort William Sheriff Court.

Volunteers needed to repair mountain paths

HIGHLAND Council rangers are holding a volunteer day at Coir ma' Ghrunda/Gars-Bheinn in the Cuillin on Saturday to repair mountain paths.

The event, the second day on these routes, will finish off any work not completed back in April.

Helpers are asked to meet at the car park at the end of the Glenbrittle road at 10am. Booking is essential. Contact John Phillips or Sandy Macphee on 01471 820526/527.

Dance company and band on stage

DANCE company Plan B and Celtic fusion band Shooenliffy take the stage at Arainn Fhinn, Portree High School, tonight (Thursday).

The event - part gig, part ceilidh, part dance performance - gets underway at 7.30pm.

Women's football on BBC Alba

BBC ALBA has secured exclusive UK rights to broadcast Glasgow City's return match with Turbine Potsdam in the women's Champions League next Thursday night.

The game, for a place in the quarter-finals, will be broadcast live from 6pm on Freeview channel 8, Virgin Media's Cable channel 188, Sky channel 168 and Freesat channel 110.

Glasgow City is the first ever Scottish women's football side to reach the last 16 and is the only team left in the competition made up entirely of amateurs.

Staffin trust secures Big Lottery grant

STAFFIN Community Trust Limited on Skye has secured a £6,120 grant from the Big Lottery's Investing in Ideas Fund for a feasibility study into developing harbour facilities at Staffin.



Lochaber Archaeological Society chairman Robert Cairns, right, presented Rio Tinto Alcan production manager Ewen Smith, left, and West Highland Museum board of trustees chairman Richard Sidgwick with framed prints. 20_444arch01

Halloween fun at Elgol Primary School

Elgol Primary School parent council held a Halloween Party for primary and pre-school children on Friday 28 October. Children, teachers and parents got into the spooky spirit of things with ducking for apples, pancakes on strings, a witches cauldron and more gruesome games.



Woman lied to get revenge

A GLENCOE woman lied to police about her partner assaulting her because she suspected him of having an affair.

Elaine Lamb, aged 51, fell out with her man over texts to another woman and stormed out 'extremely upset', Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

She returned to find officers wanting to speak to her about a damaged door - then claimed her partner had headbutted her two days previously, pointing to an injury near her eye.

The man was arrested - but next day Lamb admitted she had lied to get revenge, stating her horse had caused the facial cut.

Lamb, of Upper Carnoch Lodge, pled guilty to falsely claiming she had been a victim of domestic assault on October 11.

Ordering Lamb to be of good behaviour for six months, Sheriff John Halley told her: 'This is a serious charge which put members of the police force to considerable efforts.'

'I'm deferring your sentence to allow you to demonstrate this was a one-off, out of character episode in extreme personal circumstances.'

Man arrested for alleged copper theft as police operation targets metal thieves

A 48-year-old man has been arrested and reported to the procurator fiscal in Fort William in connection with the alleged theft of copper under a Northern Constabulary crackdown on metal thieves on Friday.

Officers found a large quantity of copper cabling after stopping a white van at Mount Alexander, Camaghael, around 3.30pm.

The day of action targeted metal theft and unscrupulous scrap metal dealers in the Highlands and Islands.

Detective Inspector Brian Mackay, said: 'We are pleased with the support we receive from

the public and would urge people to continue to report any suspicious activity to us.

'Anyone who has information about any type of metal related theft is urged to contact Police on 0845 600 5703.'

Elsewhere in Lochaber, a lightweight alloy metal screed levelling tool was taken from a shed at Ben nevis Industrial Estate, Fort William, between 1.30pm and 2.12 pm last Tuesday.

And at Nevis Range, a number of high-value mountain bikes were stolen in a break-in at premises on the resort between 5.30pm and 10.30pm on Sunday.

Police are also warning people to be on their guard after local householders reported receiving cold calls by persons offering PC fixing services on behalf of Microsoft. The scam attempts to obtain bank details, which on no account should be given out. Police advise people to hang up immediately. Anyone with information on these incidents can contact Fort William police on 01397 702361, or the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

Design team gets to work on new community hub

CAMUSCROSS and Duisdale Initiative representatives are meeting with WT Architects today for the first time since the Edinburgh firm was appointed to lead the design team preparing a blueprint for a new sustainable community hub.

The community company sees the proposed centre, likely to incorporate a meeting space, shop and cafe, as central to their regeneration plans for the area.

The architects will hold a community consultation event on November 18 and 19 to allow local people to put forward their ideas for what the hub should include.

CDI director Graeme MacKenzie told *The Oban Times*: 'It will very much be a two-way process.'

The hub will promote renewable energy, with a meter showing power generated by the community's own hydro scheme on Allt Duisdale.

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Shoplifter took 17 bottles of booze

A MAN suspected of shoplifting from the Co-op in Oban is being sought by police. A total of 17 bottles of alcohol, worth £335, were taken and recovered in the incident on Wednesday October 26 at around 10.30am.

Police are trying to trace a man described as in his 50s, six feet tall with grey hair and wearing a black jacket, green shirt and dark trousers. He was pulling a luggage trolley and carrying a holdall.

Anyone with any information should contact Constable Moore at Oban Police Office on 01631 510500.

Speeding drivers pay the penalty

SPEED checks in Connel on Sunday evening, October 30, resulted in five drivers being issued with fixed penalty notices.

A 44-year-old male driver was also charged with driving at 56 miles per hour in the village's 30mph zone. A further five drivers were warned about their driving.

Dinghy stolen from grounds of house

POLICE are appealing for information after an eight foot Waveline dinghy was taken from grounds near Polfearn House, Taynuilt.

A Yamaha outboard motor was also stolen.

The items were taken between October 24 and 28. Anyone with any information should contact Taynuilt community officer Constable Simpson.

Teenager arrested

A TEENAGER was arrested in Stevenson Street, Oban, after allegedly trying to steal a motor vehicle on Sunday October 30.

The 18-year-old male was charged for attempted theft and a report was made to the Procurator Fiscal.

Forum AGM

THE ANNUAL meeting of Oban High School Parent Forum will be held in the school's assembly hall at 7pm next Thursday. For details call Jane Brunton on 07768

NEWSDESK
01397 703003

Thriller of a Monsters' Ball



Vampires, werewolves, ghosts and ghoulies were joined by Angry Birds and Fred Flinstone at this year's Monsters' Ball in the Corran Halls, Oban. An international - and scary - edge to proceedings was brought by this group of Oban residents. They are, from left, Dominique Weilermann from Germany, Madeline Leech from Canada and Lauren Ault from England with compatriot Daniel Booker. 15_144monsters1

Charity launches consultation into future of care for the elderly in Oban

OFFICIALS at a charity-run old folks home are launching a consultation into the future of care in Oban.

North Argyll Eventide Association has been warned demand - and funding - will fall for the residential care they provide for older people, as more are supported to stay in their own homes.

Meanwhile, there is no home in the town offering more intensive nursing care.

The association has launched a consultation to hear the views of the community, carers, residents and health and social services, to establish whether there is a need for a new nursing home in Oban.

Hamish Isaacs, chairman of the charity, said the process, which is at a very early stage, was designed to look at a sustainable future for their much-loved home at the top of the Bealach an Rìgh.

He said: 'We do want to preserve this very special place that is held in great affection. We would love in the long term to keep a section that is residential and we may have to supplement that with nursing care.'

Residential care is an expensive option, but some older residents prefer being in a social environment where meals, cleaning and heating bills are taken care of. Mr Isaacs said that nursing

care would be an even more expensive option, with highly skilled staff.

Mr Isaacs said at present, the North Argyll home is not equipped or staffed to deal with more complex needs.

'There comes a point where they need more care than we can give them. It would be quite nice to have a one-stop shop - where you go as a resident and as age progresses, can still stay there and get the nursing care you need.'

Questionnaires are being sent to groups and distributed throughout the town and are also available by email from ecce@clinicalservices.fsnet.co.uk.

Modest heroes in Loch Etive rescue

Pals paddle to aid of stricken kayaker

TWO KAYAKERS who braved the perilous Falls of Lora to drag a man to safety are in line for a bravery award.

But modest Colin Aitken and Paul Maydew, both 33, believe they did what anyone else would do when they plunged back into the water and battled strong currents to rescue the man.

'There was a moment we lost sight of him for a bit and just saw his legs kicking. I thought he was going under,' recalled Paul, who said he and Colin 'were just in the right place at the right time'.

'Normally we wouldn't have even still been there - it was all a little bit lucky.'

The experienced kayakers, who often came to 'play' on the turbulent water at the mouth of Loch Etive, were on shore when they saw two men and a 12-year-old boy get into difficulty.

One canoeist capsized while

REPORT
by CHRISTINE McCARTNEY

cmccartney@obantimes.co.uk

the others made it to the shore. Colin said: 'I thought it was the week kid and I thought he wouldn't last very long in the water. In

"There was so little of him above water. We could see him kicking his legs which meant he was still alive."

Colin Aitken.

fact it was the older man. When we saw him get washed away we thought we were going to have to go and sort this out. We ran to where our kayaks were, put on some of our gear and just ran down to the bank. All we could do was get into our boats and start chasing.'

After 15 minutes of paddling hard against the pounding currents and eddies, and with emergency services arriving on shore, the pair closed in on the stricken victim.

Colin, who lives in Perth, said: 'There was so little of him above the water, but we could see him kicking his legs, which meant he was still alive.'

'He was holding on to his kayak which had submerged - as we reached him he just said 'I need help'.'

'Paul stayed with his equipment and I got him on the back of my

kayak and paddled a few minutes more to shore.

'They asked us to go for a beer, but we just had something to eat and went to bed.'

'We were done in and going back out the next day - you can never get too much of the Falls.'

Oban Police Chief Inspector Brian Auld is certain the men are lifesavers.

He told them: 'I can't understate what you did - without your prompt actions there were going to be tragic consequences.'

He has put the pair forward for a Chief Constable's commendation, but they do not see themselves as heroes.

Paul, from Edinburgh, said: 'I'm flattered, but I'm not sure it really warrants it.'

'It was good that he didn't get any further injuries other than getting a bit cold. It was nice to be able to do it.'

Ministers' backing for £20million Lorn Arc

A BID to bring £20 million to Oban and create hundreds of new jobs has cleared a vital hurdle.

On Tuesday, Scottish ministers backed Argyll and Bute Council's bid to borrow the cash to extend the North Pier and build a development road, unlocking land around Dunbeg and Dunstaffnage for economic growth.

The Oban bid, one of three pilot projects picked from 15 applications, will now be developed into a full business case alongside the Scottish Futures Trust.

If finally approved, the council will be allowed to borrow the funds against future growth in business rates that the investment

is intended to bring about, under the Tax Incremental Funding (TIF) mechanism.

Council leader Dick Walsh said the announcement was 'fantastic news' for Oban and the surrounding area.

He said: 'We were confident that our bid was a very strong one, as Oban had already been identified as an area which met the government's objectives for this scheme.'

'However, we knew we were up against some extremely tough opposition, and we're delighted to have been chosen to go forward to the next stage.'

Speaking for the Harbour Board Development Group, Councillor Donald 'Skye' McIntosh said the developments in Oban Bay

would provide much more berthing space for fishing boats, yachts and vessels serving the wind farm industry.

Graham MacQueen, Oban businessman and chairman of the ObanBIDS steering group, said the news would increase business confidence and lead to increased prosperity.

He added: 'This is a huge development for Argyll and Bute Council.'

'Duncan MacIntyre and the council officers who worked on this bid have to be commended for taking this forward.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'This is a big investment and a great vote of confidence in Oban and the surrounding area and should

lead to new employment and new opportunities.'

'I was enthusiastic about this from the beginning. Now we have the green light there is much hard work to be done to make it a reality.'

Anticipated progress on a development road was also welcomed in the burgeoning village of Dunbeg, where villagers have been campaigning for better infrastructure for years.

Gwyneth Neal, chairwoman of Dunbeg Community Council, said she was 'absolutely delighted' to hear funding had been identified. 'It will ease snarled roads in the village as well as paving the way for further development,' she added.

Disabled residents let down by 'no-go' areas

DISABLED residents in Oban say they feel let down by a number of businesses and venues that have not complied with access rules under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

Under DDA, all public places had to have wheelchair access by

six years on, but some of Oban's most popular venues and shops are still no-go areas for some.

Meeting

Oban Community Councillor Sean MacIntyre raised the issue at the council's meeting on Monday.

He said: 'I was reading about the Royal National Mod coming back to Oban and a lot of people will be very happy about that but there are some who miss out on big events like that because they cannot gain access to some venues.'

Fellow community councillor Kate Winton, who is a wheelchair user, said: 'All public premises have to be wheelchair friendly under the DDA but in George Street, for example, it seems that only every second shop has access.'



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Highland BlindCraft opens brand new showroom

Highland BlindCraft has been established for over 140 years at its factory in Inverness. This week it opens its brand new showroom in 39 Ardconnel Street, bringing its showroom and factory back together under one roof.

On Friday 28th October at noon, Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP will cut the ribbon to officially open the showroom and everyone is invited to join the celebration. Light refreshments will be served generously by Cobbs and the Redcliffe Hotel.

The first customers arriving in the new showroom will receive a free 'Wake up to a Highland BlindCraft bed' alarm clock with their purchase, and all those visiting during the first week of opening will have the opportunity of entering in a great competition to win a free bed! All you have to do is guess how long it takes to make a Highland BlindCraft bed.

The bright new showroom with sales area is larger than the old showroom across the road, enabling Highland BlindCraft to display more of its products which are made on site with 'a touch more care'.

In fact, if you listen hard enough, you can hear the sounds of the mattresses being made upstairs while you're choosing your perfect bed.

Manager Denise Clark said: 'This is not just a new showroom. Many people don't realise we make our mattresses here in Inverness. We're the only bed manufacturer in the Highlands and we've been making beds and mattresses at these premises for many years!'

Alongside the beds and mattresses made in the factory upstairs, the new showroom will feature a selection of new products.

Denise said: 'We've created a dedicated area to showcase our extended children's range. There are bunk beds, beds for girls and boys, beds for teenagers, and our team has designed and made our own cute starter bed for toddlers - perfect as their very first bed.'

Other ranges have also increased with a great selection of new bed frames joining the existing stock of

padded headboards made upstairs. Metal frames give a modern take on the traditional brass bed, the heirloom bed with grand chunky wooden headboard would not look out of place in a castle, and a new leather-look bed features storage area underneath.

The beds look all the more inviting as Mairi Fraser from The Drawing Room in Kingsmill Road has created stunning displays using cushions, throws and other accessories from her home range.

It's not just beds Highland BlindCraft sell, they have a range of lounge chairs in every style from tub chairs to high backed wing chairs. And responding to customer demand, the showroom is now selling a new range of electric, easy-riser chairs to help those with limited mobility.

The showroom also features a larger selection of pine beds, wardrobes, dressers, occasional furniture, and more from several furniture suppliers including Erskine. Erskine has built on a tradition of nearly 100 years of craftsmanship, and provides employment for disabled workers and service veterans.

Highland BlindCraft offers a rapid order to delivery service on all products, with most stock supplied within the week.

Prices are highly competitive and the range is impressive. And because beds and mattresses are made on site, they can be made to order to specific sizes and shapes - custom made with the individual customer in mind.

Visit the showroom and try the beds out for size and comfort until you find one that's just right for you!

Alternatively call 01463 233662 for a brochure, or visit www.highlandblindcraft.co.uk to buy online.

Highland BlindCraft would like to thank Compass Building and Construction Services and Colin Armstrong Associates for all their hard work in creating our new showroom. Thom MacLeod, Construction Director of Compass said 'he was really proud to have been associated with the project and has enjoyed working alongside the whole team in Ardconnel Street'.

The opening of the new showroom will mark a new chapter in the long history of Highland BlindCraft.

The charity was first established by the Northern Counties Institute for the Blind in 1868 to teach work and craft skills to the blind and visually impaired.

Formerly known as BlindCraft Inverness, the factory was set up to provide employment for students leaving the adjoining blind school.

During the early 1900s, BlindCraft had a shop built in Castle Street which sold beds to the public and housed a new sewing room on the upper floor. BlindCraft beds became increasingly popular and in 1959 a large extension was added to its factory in Ardconnel Street bringing manufacturing and sales under one roof. New machinery was installed to take the factory up to a standard of any similar business and the production capacity increased dramatically.

In 1989 a new showroom was opened within the blind society building across the road and was expanded in 2000. This week the showroom has come back home.

The supported employment business is still run according to the same concept, providing employment for skilled people with a variety of disabilities from across the Highlands and Islands.

Although BlindCraft receives funding from the government, this only part funds the wages of staff, and the balance of wages and all overheads, sales and admin costs are met from the company's own trading abilities.

When you settle down into your new Highland BlindCraft bed, you are supporting a local business with a long history of supporting local people. That's a bedtime story with a very happy ending...



www.highlandblindcraft.co.uk

Concern over betting shop plan

OBAN Community Council has expressed concern at the prospect of another betting shop opening in Oban.

An application has been made to Argyll and Bute Council's planning department for a change of use of the former Millets shop in George Street, currently a Class 1 retail property, to a betting office (Class 2).

This would include alterations to the shop front and installation of a satellite dish and air conditioning units.

However, speaking at Oban Community Council's meeting on Monday, chairwoman Mairi Malloy said: 'I'm concerned about this because we have enough betting shops in Oban. This would be the fourth one in the town.'

The community council agreed to write to the council to seek more information before making representations.

Book illustrations on show at library

OBAN Library is currently hosting a major exhibition of contemporary children's book illustration entitled 'The Illustrators'.

The pieces in the exhibition have been chosen by Children's Laureate Julia Donaldson and represent the work of the many illustrators she has worked with over the years including, of course, Axel Scheffler, who created the art work for The Gruffalo. The exhibition contains 49 pieces but will be divided in two to allow the maximum possible exposure.

The current selection will be available in the library until next Monday, with the second half being available for viewing from next Wednesday to Saturday November 20.

Owner sought for engagement ring

POLICE are trying to return an engagement ring, found in an Oban car park, to its rightful owner. The ring was discovered in Tesco car park in September, but no one came forward to the supermarket claim it.

It is now being held in Oban Police Office, telephone 01631 510500.

Drink-drive charge

A 47-YEAR-OLD man was charged with drink driving after police stopped him near the police station in Taynuilt on Sunday October 23.

Diazepam found

A QUANTITY of diazepam was found when police searched a 29-year-old man in the early hours of Tuesday October 25, in the town's Stafford Street.

He was subsequently released for report to the Procurator Fiscal.

Youth charged

A 14-YEAR-old boy was charged with shoplifting from an Oban supermarket on October 28 around 9.20pm.

He is alleged to have taken goods worth £21. A report has been made to the Children's Panel Reporter.

Vehicle seized

A 53-YEAR-old man had his car seized after police charged him for driving without insurance on Gallanach Road on October 29.

The man was also charged for carrying a child without the appropriate seatbelts or car seat.

Teenager reported

A 14-YEAR-old girl was arrested for disorderly conduct in an Oban street on October 29. A report has been made to the Children's Panel Reporter.

Accused arrested

POLICE arrested and charged a 44-year-old man with possession of cannabis resin and urinating in George Street. The alleged incident occurred around 1.35am on Sunday October 30.



Graham Fraser of Alba and St Columba's pupil Eve Beaton, with Eve's winning programme design.

15_144cand01

Stage set for Oban's Winter Festival

AS THE cold and wet weather that marks an Argyll winter comes into its own, a festival designed to bring some festive cheer is almost upon us.

The Winter Festival, to be held from November 18 to 27, will see an ice-skating rink at Atlantis Leisure, a Victorian Market, reindeer parade, dances and a host of other activities throughout the town.

Marking the countdown to the start of the festival, which will be officially opened at Dunollie

House on November 18, organisers have this week produced a programme of events. St Columba's Primary School pupil Eve Beaton, aged 11, won a competition to design the front cover of the programme and she helped competition judge Graham Fraser, of art shop Alba, to launch the new programme.

Eve's design shows a Christmas scene of Oban's waterfront, with McCaig's Tower, a Christmas tree and a snowman helping to form a 'striking' design.

Mr Fraser said: 'I chose Eve's design because it has striking colours and lots of good references to Christmas time. She has also used prominent local landmarks.'

Festival organisers are encouraging all shops in Oban to get involved in the festival by dressing windows and staff members in a Victorian theme.

The programme of events is available from shops throughout the town and online at www.obanwinterfestival.com

How's about that then... West Coast pays tribute to Sir Jimmy Savile

THE WEST Coast has paid tribute to much-loved DJ and television star Sir Jimmy Savile, who passed away at the weekend.

The maverick and personable Sir Jimmy had a remote home in Glencoe and he was a regular fixture at community and charity events in the area.

Allan Henderson, Provost of Lochaber, said it was 'his adopted homeland' and he used his fame to support a number of local causes: 'I was well aware of the good work that he was doing for local organisations,

such as the Belford Hospital and the Fisherman's Mission, in Mallaig, as well as Lochaber Highland Games.'

Mr Henderson remembered fondly sharing a stage with Sir Jimmy at Lochaber Games: 'I found him very generous with his time as well as being great company on a one-to-one basis - always full of stories and tales.'

Sir Jimmy was also made an honorary member of Oban Lifeboat Crew thanks to his support

for the RNLI station, and this week, they remembered him as a 'staunch supporter'.

Willie Melville said: 'Jimmy was always delighted to open several of the station's open days and remained there for most of the day chatting to visitors and generally attracting lots of people to the event.'

'As a result he was made an Honorary Member of Oban Lifeboat Crew and he will be missed at many events here in the West Highlands where he had a home.'

Have your say on budget proposals

LOCALS are being urged to have their say on what Argyll and Bute should prioritise in next year's budget.

The council's budget will be set in February 2012, against a backdrop of increasing pressure for financial resources across the public sector.

This year the council is consulting on the options coming from the third phase of service reviews. The savings proposals amount to £2.248million. Most of the savings options proposed this year are a result of review-

ing individual services and focus on making the council more efficient.

These include reorganising teams and locations to make the best use of skills and resources, streamlining processes to make it easier to get things done and making better use of technology.

Argyll and Bute Council leader Dick Walsh said: 'The savings proposed for this year focus on changing the way the council is organised - making us more efficient. This means

we don't have to take so much budget away from our front line services. At the same time our performance is holding steady or improving.'

'I would encourage as many people as possible to get involved. It's only by telling us what services are important to you that we can realise our potential together and take the decisions that will have the least impact on people's lives.'

Information on how to respond can be found on the council's website at argyll-bute.gov.uk.

Motorists told to prepare for winter

GET READY now for winter as the message being given to drivers during police spot checks in Taynuilt, Connel and Oban at the weekend.

Chief Inspector Brian Auld said drivers should make sure tyres were in top condition,

windscreen washers are topped up and lights working before poor weather hits. He also said motorists should ensure their car is stocked with warm clothing, blankets, de-icing equipment and a hazard triangle, and check mobile phones are charged, fuel

levels and weather conditions before setting off.

During the checks, two drivers were given conditional offers for not wearing seatbelts, two were given vehicle defect notices and another 15 were given advice about their vehicles.

CMAL U-turn on ferry gangway

Mull passengers must use vehicle ramp

ISLANDERS on Mull claim they have been 'led up the garden path' after Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) seemingly reneged on a commitment to renew the Craignure ferry passenger gangway.

The gangway has not been used properly since February this year because it cannot move up and down to fit the various ferries that come into the port.

Meanwhile, passengers have been embarking and disembarking via the car ramp. But despite telling islanders the situation would be addressed by the beginning of November, CMAL chief executive Guy Platten told the Mull Ferry Users Group last week that no money was available.

Instead, CMAL has called on Argyll and Bute Council to foot

REPORT
by EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

some of the estimated £850,000 bill to replace the structure.

Mull-based Councillor Mary Jean Devon, a wheelchair user, told *The Oban Times*: 'We have been told at the eleventh hour that there is no money to repair the walkway. Why weren't we told this earlier?'

'I know CMAL carried out a £400,000 temporary repair earlier this year but this latest news is very disappointing and there's a feeling we've all been led up the garden path.'

'The situation with people walking on via the car deck is not acceptable. For wheelchair users it is an absolute nightmare.'

Councillor Devon insisted

the passenger gangway was CMAL's responsibility, adding that CalMac staff had always been very helpful.

Argyll and Bute Council responded to CMAL's request for funding by saying it would discuss the issue but stressing it had no surplus funds.

Gangway
A council spokeswoman said: 'The historical position has always been that the council owned the pier and CMAL owned the passenger gangway.'

'Until relatively recently, CMAL appeared to accept that both the temporary gangway and a permanent replacement was its own responsibility, and not one shared with Argyll and Bute Council.'

'However, given the current situation and the necessity to

identify a solution, we will of course engage with CMAL to seek a sensible way forward.'

A CMAL spokesperson said: 'The cost of a permanent solution has been estimated at £850,000. 'CMAL does not receive any income or harbour dues from Craignure and has a number of other improvement commitments at harbours that we are directly responsible for.'

Obligation
'As port owner and recipient of the harbour dues we believe that the obligation is now with Argyll and Bute Council to assist CMAL in developing and investing in a more permanent solution, using the income they receive from the ferry operator.'

'CMAL is aware of the public frustration and apologise for any inconvenience caused.'

Sheriff rules quad bike death was tragic accident

A QUAD bike accident which resulted in the death of an Islay man was an unforeseeable tragedy, a sheriff has ruled.

A Fatal Accident Inquiry into the death of Robert Park, known locally as Rab, of Kintra Farm, Islay, at Campbeltown Sheriff Court heard the accident happened on August 14 2010, on Ardtalla Estate, Islay, which is owned by the Mactaggart family.

The inquiry was told that after lunch with his partner, Mr Park went out on his quad bike to spray bracken and was due home for dinner.

When he didn't arrive back his partner, Diane Sangster, went

looking for him with Callum Sharp, head game keeper on the estate, and a holiday maker. They found him several hours later.

In her evidence, Dr Jean Knowles, who was Mr Park's GP and the on-call doctor, said he had been dead for a number of hours when his body was discovered.

He was pinned to the ground by the bike from the chest down with his spectacles still in place; even if he'd had a crash helmet on, this would not have saved his life.

'When I saw Mr Park, there was no sign of life and his face and lips were blue,' she said.

'He literally had the breath knocked out of him and couldn't draw in further breath.' There were no signs of him struggling and no signs of distress on his face.

All staff were put through quad bike training in 2005 and were due a refresher course, which is required every five years.

Costly
Mr Park, the designated health and safety manager, and Mr Sharp, who was also a good friend, took the joint decision not to do the refresher as they thought it was costly and wouldn't have improved safety.

The inquiry was told Mr Park was an experienced quad bike driver and had been using them for a number of years.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC concluded that Mr Park died at approximately 4.30pm as a result of mechanical asphyxia due to the quad bike falling on him and said there were no precautions that could have been taken to avoid death.

She said there were no defects in the quad bike and described Mr Park's death as a tragic accident.

Mr Park was described by Vickie Watt, who appeared for Ardtalla Estate, as an integral part of the estate; a man who loved his life on Islay and the work he did.

Sell-out success for Oban's Theatre in the Library

Amateur dramatics group The Three Wee Crows put on a plethora of performances on Friday as part of a Theatre in the Library event in Oban's library. Organised as part of international storytelling day, the group performed nine plays in just one evening in front of a sell-out crowd. Produced by David Price and directed by Ian Craig, were Vivienne de Caris, right, Kathleen Hannigan and Carol Thomson, left. Fiddler, Ann Barlow, provided the music.



Owners left distraught at 'disposal' of pet cat

THE OWNERS of a cat run down on an Oban road say they are upset it was taken away and disposed of by Argyll and Bute Council officials without their knowledge.

Flatmates Helen Ranson and Rachel Bantock discovered their missing cat was struck by a car three days later, after searching

the neighbourhood. But when they contacted the council, they were told the remains had already been disposed of. Helen said: 'Obviously no effort was made to find me, as I live across from where she was hit and she was micro-chipped.'

She was also well known to the neighbours.

'Surely dumping someone's beloved pet within two days of collecting her isn't right?'

Identify
A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council confirmed that staff were not able to identify the pet or trace its owners.

She added: 'Efforts are always made to trace owners of domestic animals, depending on the condition of the animal and the possible damage to the animal due to the road accident.'

'As a cat is not a reportable road accident in the Road Traffic Act, the driver of such an accident is not duty bound to report hitting a cat to the police, unlike a dog and various other animals.'

Authority to rule on future of island toilets and Castle Toward

THE FUTURE of Tobermory's public toilets and Castle Toward outdoor education centre will be decided today (Thursday) behind closed doors.

Opponents to the council's plan to sell off and demolish the toilets in Tobermory's main street mounted a last-ditch campaign to save the public amenity.

As a result, resident Nic Davies travelled to Oban on Tuesday to hand in a petition with 488 signatures supporting an alternative plan to re-open the toilets and create a visitor information and booking centre on the site.

The residents behind the alternative plan have also been backed by at least 25 businesses, most of which are based in Main Street, Tobermory.

Argyll and Bute Council's Executive will pick a preferred bidder for the Castle

Toward site in Cowal. Four offers have been made for the 150 acre site, which includes a number of listed buildings, historic features and woodland.

The council has said each option will be considered on grounds of economic development, planning, legal issues and price offered. The site was put on the market with a price tag of £2.25 million.

One bid is from Actual Reality, a social enterprise currently operating outdoor education from the centre.

Their spokesman said they awaited the council's decision with interest. He said: 'Our cash offer is for a sum that is affordable in our business plan but it is greatly in excess of the value we were given by our professional advisers; the higher figure is justified by our special interest in the property.'

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- ✓ Fluid leaks - oil/water
- ✓ Battery condition/drive belts
- ✓ Brakes/Hubs
- ✓ Brake fluid condition/temperature
- ✓ Master cylinder/servo
- ✓ Linings - pads/shoes
- ✓ Discs/drums
- ✓ Hoses/pipes/cable/Wheelbearings
- ✓ Underside
- ✓ Exhaust system/catalyst
- ✓ Steering/suspension
- ✓ Drive shafts/gaeters
- ✓ Oil leaks
- ✓ Wheels/Tyres
- ✓ Nearside front, Offside front, Nearside rear, Offside rear, spare, Tyre pressures (check & adjust accordingly)
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First aid course
WATERSPORTS

WATERSPORTS enthusiasts are being encouraged to take part in a first aid course catered specifically to a water environment.

Argyll Activities, an Ardrishaig-based watersports company, is offering people an opportunity to gain a qualification in first aid so that, if disaster strikes, they can deal with the situation.

The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) certified course will be held in Lochgilphead on November 26.

For more information contact Argyll Activities on 01546 606 930 or email info@argyllactivities.co.uk.

Oban Pool League
POOL

RESULTS from Oban Pool League which started last week: Oban Backpackers 2, Claredon 7; Markie Dans 'B' 3, Lancaster 'B' 6; Lancaster 'A' 5 Markie Dans 'A'; Lochavullin 2 Cellar Bar 7.

Tonight's fixtures: Claredon v Cellar Bar; Markie Dans 'A' v Lochavullin; Lancaster 'B' v Lancaster 'A'; Oban Backpackers v Markie Dans 'B'.

	P	W	L	Pts
Cellar Bar	1	1	0	2
Claredon	1	1	0	2
Lancaster B	1	1	0	2
Lancaster A	1	1	0	2
Markie Dans A	1	0	1	0
Markie Dans B	1	0	1	0
Lochavullin	1	0	1	0
Backpackers	1	0	1	0

Football fixtures
FOOTBALL

SATURDAY's fixtures: Scottish Amateur Cup, 2nd round - Campbeltown Pupils v Bothwell and Uddingston Albion; Caledonian v Oban Saints; Erskine v Lochgilphead Red Star.

Premier Division Two - Celtic CA v Dunoon 'A', Division Two - Dunoon 'B' v Shawlands 'B'.

Leader of the pack
MOTOR RACING

NEWLY WED Susie Wolff (nee Stoddart) finished the DTM racing season with a 15th place at Hockenheim, Germany.

Around 120,000 spectators attended the race weekend, when the Oban woman finished two places ahead of team-mate David Coulthard. Another team-mate, Jamie Green, won the race. Susie recently married businessman, and former racer, Christian 'Toto' Wolff in Capri.

Lorne come out on top in battle of the bottom clubs

Oban welcome the league leaders to Glencruitten this Saturday

RBS West Division 2
Wigtownshire 3
Oban Lorne 13

OBAN Lorne made the long, but successful, trip to Stranraer last Saturday for a bottom of the table clash against Wigtownshire.

The visitors welcomed Connor Kerr, Crawford Brown, Connor Ferris, Neil Rimmer and Robert Wright into the side while player/coach Corrie Louw took the captaincy in place of the absent Struan Smith.

The hosts made a promising start to the game with some early pressure in the Oban 22 but were undone with some poor handling, much to the relief of the Oban defence. Wigtownshire continued to press, but Oban stood firm to deny the home side, even managing to hold up an almost certain try.

Oban took confidence from their good defensive work and, with the aid of some good kicking from the backs, managed to work themselves up the pitch but never managed to produce any clear chances to score.

The men in green took the lead on the half hour mark with Angus MacCallum slotting through a straight-forward penalty to give a 3-0 lead. Both teams

played out an uneventful close to the first half with neither taking the initiative in a scrappy, low quality game.

Oban lost the ball straight form the restart in the second half and the hosts wasted no time in storming towards the Oban tryline. At times the hosts looked like they would score the first try of the afternoon but had to make do with a penalty to draw the scores at 3-3.

Aided by the boots of Angus MacCallum and Callum MacLauchlan, Oban managed to gain territory in the Wigtown half and were rewarded with another penalty, this time from a wide angle. MacCallum kept up his 100 per cent record, with the ball travelling straight through the middle of the posts.

The Oban team were growing in confidence and were pressurising the hosts into several simple handling errors. Oban winger Allan Wright managed to intercept the ball and offload to Callum MacLauchlan on halfway. MacLauchlan hacked the ball forwards and Oban were awarded a scrum on the five-metre line.

Andy MacDougall picked and went open side from the scrum

RUGBY

and managed to score beneath the posts for the only try of the afternoon. MacCallum again kicked the extras to extend the lead to 13-3.

Wigtownshire pressed the Oban tryline after this score but were undone with some superb Oban defending, allowing the team to clear their lines on several occasions. Neil Rimmer, Connor Ferris and man-of-the-match Crawford Brown all impressed, while the backs managed to pin the home side back down the pitch after every turnover.

This similar theme continued for the last 15 minutes of the game to no success for the home side and Oban Lorne now climb to eighth place in the league. Oban welcome league leaders Cambuslang to Glencruitten next weekend, hoping for another positive result. Kick off is at 2pm.

Oban Lorne: C. Kerr, M. Flynn, C. Louw, J. MacMillan, L. MacLauchlan, C. Ferris, C. Brown, A. MacDougall, F. Matheson, A. MacCallum, A. Lyndsey, C. MacDonald, C. MacLauchlan, A. Wright, R. Wright, N. Rimmer



Aiming high: Donna Smith will use her sporting skills to work with and support youths in Oban and Lorn. 08_144donna02

Donna takes up new role at Atlantis

ATLANTIS Leisure has created a new role that combines youth work with sports coaching in a bid to get more teenagers more active.

Oban woman Donna Smith, who will be based at the leisure centre, has taken up one of only six positions in the country, after the Atlantis Leisure board secured £55,000 of funding over three years.

Part-funded
The grant has come from the Rank Foundation and the Robertson Trust, which part-funded Atlantis' successful Playsport programme.

As part of the new job, Donna is undertaking an Informal Education and Community Learning course through George

Williams College in London. The 25 year old will be working primarily with youths aged 14-19, encouraging fitness, health and youth leadership through sport.

Donna said: 'There is a lot of good youth work going on in and around Oban and it will be my job to get in touch with as many of these groups as possible to see how I can help. I would also, like to hear from any youth groups.'

'I have a few ideas for projects, the first of which will be based on the successful Freestyle Friday that already runs at the centre.'

'I want to introduce new and exciting sports but I will have to find out what the young people in the area want to do.'

'I am really excited about this job and I think I will learn a lot from it.'

Atlantis Leisure chairman Neil Matheson said: 'This is a brand new initiative and is recognition that sport does great things for young people.'

Challenging
'The role will be a challenging one, because it's not about sports coaching, it's about understanding young people and helping them to develop.'

'Donna was selected by the board for the role because she has a very good attitude and strong sporting skills and likes working with young people.'

Mr Matheson said the new role would complement a lot of good youth work around the town.

Fifth annual sports coaching event

NORDIC walking and double goal coaching are among the new sports being offered at Argyll and Bute Council's fifth annual sports coaching event.

The event will be held in Oban on the weekend of February 4 and 5 next year and will offer 56 courses from athletics to mountain skills.

These new courses, which also

include watersports, swimming master classes for coaches, gymnastics, archery and gym instructor, are designed to reflect the support for current local sports provision, as well as introducing new opportunities for sport to grow in Argyll and Bute.

The 2012 event also launches the new sports coaching awards

COACHING

in partnership with sportscotland. These awards recognise quality coaching in a number of categories: young coach; participation coach; performance coach; young person's coach; performance development coach and disability coach.



The Oban Saints Under 13 squad pictured in their new playing kit and training wear donated by Oban Joinery Services and D MacLean Heating. Also in the picture are Under 13 coaches Donald MacLean and Joe MacIntyre. 15_144saints1

Under 13s are looking good

OBAN Saints Under 13s have received new team kit and training wear donated by Oban Joinery Services and D MacLean Heating.

The team are currently competing in the Dumbarton Football Development League and after five league matches have performed extremely well. They remain unbeaten in the league so far with four wins and a draw with the most recent match having been played on Sunday in the local derby against Lochgilphead.

Due to poor weather conditions the match was played on the 2G surface at the Lochgilphead Joint Campus with the Oban boys showing great character to

YOUTH FOOTBALL

come away with the three points after a closely fought game.

Lochgilphead can count themselves unlucky not to have taken something from the match after taking an early lead but goals from Zander Kilmurray and Evan MacLellan ensured Saints took the points.

The Oban side can look ahead to this week's Central Region cup tie against Drumsagard Boys Club. The match will be played at the Jock Stein Centre in Hamilton. The squad trains at the Oban community pitch on a Monday evening from 7-8pm and a Friday 6-7pm and is open to all boys born in 1999.

Mossfield to host U14 league decider

SHINTY

OBAN Camanachd have set up a South Under-14 League decider this weekend with Bearsden and Milngavie after a crushing win over Aberdeen.

Craig MacMillan scored a hat-trick as the Oban boys defeated their Fife opponents 10-1.

Also on the scoresheet for Oban were Robert MacIntyre (2), Daniel McVicar (2), Craig Kilpatrick (2) and Ryan Gillies. Camanachd now face Bearsden and Milngavie at Mossfield this Sunday at 1pm, where the league trophy will be presented to the victors.

Weather

Thursday Light rain shower.
Winds moderate, south easterly
Temperatures 12°C to 14°C

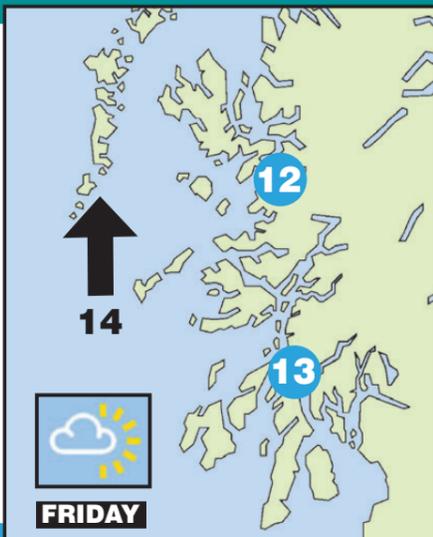
Friday Sunny intervals.
Winds moderate, southerly
Temperatures 7°C to 13°C.

Weekend Sunny intervals.

Outlook Winds moderate, south, south easterly
Temperatures 3°C to 11°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, November 3, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 05.14	1.6 12.02	3.1 16.04
Fri 01.06	2.7 06.33	1.7 13.35
Sat 02.29	2.8 07.56	1.7 14.31
Sun 03.02	3.0 08.59	1.5 15.10
Mon 03.26	3.2 09.47	1.4 15.43
Tues 03.56	3.4 10.26	1.3 16.15
Wed 04.28	3.6 11.00	1.3 16.49

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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