

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8171

Thursday 31 October, 2013

www.obantimes.co.uk

80 pence

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Teenage girl dies in crash

A TEENAGE girl died in a car crash near Inveraray on Saturday, on the day of her 16th birthday.

Caitlin Thaxter from West Yorkshire was a passenger in a silver Toyota Rav4, which left the road at around 11.15am and struck a tree on the A83, close to Dunderave Castle, 3.5 miles east of Inveraray.

The 45-year-old driver and another passenger, both females and from the same family, sustained minor injuries and were treated at Mid Argyll Hospital. The road was closed for around eight hours while police investigations took place. No other vehicle was involved.

Any witnesses who saw the crash, or observed the Toyota Rav4 travelling on the A83 around the time of the crash, should contact PC Colin May at Oban Police Office on 01631 510500.

Cabling replaced

POWER problems affecting Atlantis Leisure and 11 other surrounding Oban properties should be over after faulty cabling was replaced.

Reports of interruptions to electricity supplies in the area around the social enterprise have emerged in recent weeks. But Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) believes it has found the source of the problem that knocked out power for several hours on Sunday.

A company spokesperson said: 'At 10am on Sunday the cabling failed and it was traced to be a fault with the underground network.'

'It was a little more complicated to fix than most problems so a generator fed the customers until final repairs were carried out on Monday.'

Former Oban man is new moderator

THE CHURCH of Scotland has selected a former Oban man as its next moderator of the General Assembly.

Glencoe-born Rev Dr Angus Morrison grew up in Oban's High Street and attended Oban High School. His father, Captain Norman Morrison, worked on tenders for the Northern Light-house Board.

Rev Dr Morrison is married to Marion, nee Matheson, who he met while in Oban.

He currently serves in the Presbytery of Perth, and will take up his new role in May 2014.

Spooky goings on earn guest house top title



Ronnie and Liz Alexander have recorded many spooky goings on at the guest house, which has built quite a reputation for its hauntings over the years. 16_144barhotel1

CREEPY tales of spooky goings on at a north Lorn guest house have seen it named the UK's best haunted holiday spot.

Barcaldine Castle, also known as the Black Castle, has been linked with ghosts and ghouls for decades, with tales of dead Campbells - the family who erected the building in the early 1600s - said to still linger.

While the award-winning guest house has long been a hit with the living, it appears its undead guests are drawing interest all of their own - with travel reviews website TripAdvisor naming it as the UK's best for a Hallowe'en treat.

Manager Ronnie Alexander remains sceptical about many of the stories, but there is one recurring tale in particular causing the hairs on the back of his and wife Liz's necks to stand on end.

He explained: 'We have a room at the top of the hotel called the Caithness Room. People who have slept there say they've been wakened during the night with either the feeling of someone pushing their back or pushing down on their legs. When they've opened their eyes they see lights dancing around the room.'

'The strange thing is, everyone who has experienced this - and there's been about 20 - has slept on the same side of the bed.'

Tales from the castle's crypt continue to keep the guests entertained, with ghost hunters long trying to discover its secrets.

As Ronnie explains, that is a draw all of its own. 'We're constantly getting these paranormal investigators contacting us wanting to come and set up their equipment but we won't let them do that when there's children here,' he said.

'But we do get guests specifically asking if there's ghosts when they're booking and some are really disappointed if nothing happens!'

Superfast broadband questions remain

THE LARGEST sub-sea cabling project ever undertaken by BT will see superfast broadband delivered to the Hebrides - although question marks still remain about when some exchanges will be upgraded.

More than 400km of cabling will be laid over 20 crossings to bring the islands into the modern digital age next summer as part of a £146million upgrade of the Highlands' digital infrastructure.

A map of the work to be carried out across the Highlands and Islands by BT in partnership with Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) was launched on Tuesday, showing that most of Argyll and Lochaber's mainland areas will be moved over by the end of next year.

However, no confirmation has yet been given of which island exchanges will be upgraded or when, causing concern among islanders that they might miss out.

Tiree, Coll, Barra, Islay, Gigha, Colonsay, Mull and Skye are among those listed as 'under evaluation'.

Doubts over hard and fast dates prompted the Tiree branch of the Scottish Crofting Federation to call for more information.

Secretary Alex MacArthur told *The Oban Times*: 'What is of concern to crofters is that there is no mention made in the statement of the delivery of fast broadband to the Argyll islands.'

'With government departments now requesting it is desirable to submit completed forms online, crofters feel it is important that a fast and reliable service to the islands is put in place.'

A spokesperson for BT said: 'As with every next generation broadband project across the UK, survey and planning work has to take place before detailed timescales can be confirmed.'

'For our island communities the timetable takes into account the delivery of the largest sub-sea cabling project ever undertaken through BT.'

'This work is set to be carried out between May and October 2014, enabling a phased fibre rollout thereafter. Engineers have already visited the landing points and we expect to announce further details in due course.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said he was pushing for as much information to be made public as soon as possible, but added he understood the scale of the work BT was undertaking could make fixing dates difficult.

He said: 'The information released this week is a big step forward but people need to know and need to know soon.'

'Most of the islands will get it, that is worth mentioning. There has been speculation on Coll and Tiree that only one of the islands there will get it.'

'There are some pretty big broadband users there so I'll be pushing for both to get connected.'

He said he would encourage any community that does miss out to get involved with Community Broadband Scotland, which aids areas with no or limited connectivity.

BT's Where and When map can be found at www.digitalscotland.org/superfast-broadband/check-availability/when-and-where.

Ballet teacher acquitted of making racial remark

ONE OF Scotland's top ballet teachers has been acquitted of making a racial remark to his class at Ballet West in Taynuilt.

Jonathan Barton, 51, of Ichrachan House, Main Street, Taynuilt, stood trial on Monday and Tuesday at Oban Sheriff Court accused of causing alarm and distress to Genevieve Huss, a former pupil, by uttering a racial comment - but was found to have no case to answer.

Giving evidence, Miss Huss said Barton made the 'anti-Semitic'

remark 'you look like a bunch of Jews lining up waiting to be shot in the rain'.

She said Barton then asked if anyone in the class was Jewish and, when she indicated she was, he immediately apologised.

Miss Huss, aged 20, who is now a ballet teacher in London, said: 'I was shocked in a very bad way that a comment would even be made like that in this day and age. I just think it shouldn't be made. It was unnecessary - there was no reason for it.'

But during cross examination by defence agent Gary McAteer, Miss Huss admitted the remark could have been made 'innocently' and she believed Barton 'liked her'.

She said she had never had a problem with him except for that one instance and conceded Barton would not have known she was Jewish.

Inviting Sheriff Douglas Small to rule there was 'no case to answer', Mr McAteer said: 'There is no evidence in this case from

which it could be inferred that the accused evinced the necessary malice and ill will in respect of any racial group or its members.'

But procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty countered: 'The words themselves are the evidence of the ill will, the malice. There is nothing to suggest Jonathan Barton said these under duress. He clearly chose these words and used them. There is no challenge to the words. It is accepted what was said, was said.'

Upholding Mr McAteer's submission, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'It is my opinion that while the remarks made by the accused were made, and were deplorable and ill considered, they do not, in all the circumstances, amount to a sufficiency in law for the case to proceed.'

Sheriff Small said he was not satisfied the crown had led sufficient evidence of 'malice or ill will' directed toward Miss Huss, adding that was an 'essential ingredient' of the crime.

NHS Highland's film bid to attract medical staff to west coast

A FILM to attract medical staff to work in the west coast of Scotland has been produced by NHS Highland as the health board struggles to retain GPs in the area.

It follows failures to recruit doctors to the planned West Lochaber Medical Practice, where two attempts have been made to attract the seven

required GPs. There has also been the resignation of two GPs on the Isle of Mull and difficulty in recruiting a dentist on the same island. Residents on Jura ended up taking matters into their own hands to attract GP cover by launching their own successful advertising campaign earlier this year - after being without a resident doctor for two

years. In a response to a Freedom of Information (FOI) request by *The Oban Times*, NHS Highland confirmed there was one single-handed GP practice in Argyll and Bute that has been vacant since June 30 last year and 42 locum GPs hosted by Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership. Kenny Oliver, the board secretary who

replied to the FOI, said: 'It is difficult to recruit to remote and rural practice, where GPs are generally covering on call. It is also difficult to recruit to areas that do not have high patient numbers, as GPs are concerned about deskilling.'

NHS Highland chief executive Elaine Mead said: 'We have faced some challenges in recruiting to

some posts and are committed to overcome this. The setting of the Highlands sells itself, but we were keen to promote many aspects of life in the area that perhaps people were unaware of - fantastic community spirit, first-class schools and affordable housing and of course excellent integrated health and social services.'

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Costly slip sinks Mull machinery

FERRIES from Tobermory were disrupted on Wednesday morning - after a lorry and 20-ton digger plunged into the water off Tobermory slipway.

The incident, which took place on Tuesday evening, was observed by the town's volunteer RNLI crew, who stood by with a boarding boat.

Donegal-based contractor Norfolk Marine were on site to carry out repairs to the slipway and sea-wall for Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) - a job worth £218,275 - when the accident happened. Norfolk confirmed the equipment belonged to a sub-contractor.

Lorna Spencer, CMAL's director of harbours, said yesterday: 'They were unloading a JCB from the back of a truck when the digger and other equipment slipped into the water.'

'We're trying to recover it this morning. My head of engineering is on his way there to find out what happened.'



The lorry and digger in the water off Tobermory. Photo: RNLI/Sam Jones

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Served with Salad

Bread And Butter Pudding

or

Sticky Toffee Pudding

or

Dairy Ice Cream

Main Course £12.95

2 courses £15.95

For reservations please call 01631 565666

Bakery shuts up shop in Oban

AFTER more than 20 years of trading in Oban, Nevis Bakery will today close its Stevenson Street shop to concentrate on wholesale and exporting to China.

Archie Paterson, who started the Fort William-based business in 1981, said the Fort William shop would remain open but the company now would focus efforts on building its UK-wide and international brand.

He said: 'It is disappointing but we're changing direction away from the retail side of things.'

'We're moving into wholesale now, covering the whole of the UK, and on November 8 we send our first consignment of shortbread out to China.'

Three members of staff will lose their jobs as a result of the move, which has also been put down to poor trade in recent years due to the shop being off the town's main thoroughfare.

Archie said: 'Recent times haven't been so good. The shop is off the front and that's where we'd rather be. We don't get the volume of tourists because of that. We might look at Oban again later, we're not sure yet.'

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Opportunity knocks for town acts

SOME of Oban's brightest stars will this weekend compete for a chance to be on stage in Station Square for this year's Hogmanay celebrations.

An Opportunity Knocks competition to be held in the Argyllshire Gathering this Saturday will determine the two acts, one under-16 and one over-16, that will perform at the free Hogmanay event alongside traditional band *Face the West*.

There will be 14 acts on the day and members of the public are encouraged to come along to lend their support to the hopefuls. A panel of judges will be revealed on the day.

Opportunity Knocks opens to the audience at 2pm and will start about 2.30pm.

Scenic Lochalsh hotel up for sale

A SCENIC 19th century Lochalsh hotel has gone on the market for the first time in its history with an asking price of over £375,000.

The 19-room Loch Duich Hotel, near Eilean Donan Castle, sits on the side of the A87 in grounds of around 6.5 acres.

The companies jointly marketing the sale, Strutt and Parker and Christie and Co, say the inside of the building requires modernisation and refurbishment.

Rainstorm floods south Lochaber

PARTS of south Lochaber were deluged by a rainstorm on Sunday afternoon which saw fields and roads flooded as an estimated inch of rain fell in under an hour.

Driving conditions on the A82 through Onich were reported as being 'horrendous' during the severe squall, with spray and surface water reducing visibility to near zero.

Further north in Fort William conditions were not nearly so bad with residents in flood-prone homes at Lochaber Leisure Centre reporting no problems.

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Promising start for new company

A COMPANY partly-founded by an Arisaig woman has been named as Scotland's most promising start-up business.

Anne Widdop set up Fuze Ceremonies with Victoria Bisland and Morag Adams to provide humanist wedding ceremonies across the country.

The firm also provides naming days, non-legal humanist marriages, same-sex affirmations and re-affirmations of vows.

Fuze was the overall winner of the LESL Enterprise Challenge, which set out to find the country's most promising new company.

The win means they will now benefit from a comprehensive package of free business development services, including six months' rent-free office space at the Atrium Business Centre in Glasgow, plus access to expertise covering legal and financial matters, investment and fundraising, PR and marketing, recruitment, staff development, IT and online trading.

Fuze managing director Morag Adams said: 'It's been a tough first year, but we've made a great start to a business that is continuing to grow and innovate. Winning is not only about the prize but the recognition by others and the belief that they have in our business has given us all a real boost.'

'Our new premises at the Atrium, together with the mentoring and expertise we'll receive from LESL's advisors, will undoubtedly help underpin our plans for rapid expansion, initially in Scotland, then throughout the UK.'



Anne Widdop, left, with Fuze Ceremonies co-founders Morag Adams and Victoria Bisland.

Alien flatworm threatens soil fertility in Uists

SOIL fertility is under threat in the Uists after New Zealand flatworms were found in parts of the islands.

The alien predators, which feed on native earthworms, were detected following an awareness campaign on non-native invasive species run by Outer Hebrides Biological Recording.

The group, with funding from Scottish Natural Heritage, is mapping the distribution of harmful plants and animals, including flatworms.

According to OHBR spokesperson Christine Johnson, 'very large numbers' of the pests were recorded at Carinish in North Uist.



Alien invader: New Zealand flatworm has spread to the Uists.

The unwelcome news followed the discovery of a single flatworm at Lochmaddy in May last year.

Ms Johnson told The Oban Times: 'One of our target species is the New Zealand flatworm. We know, although there are very few records, that it is widespread in Harris and Lewis and that it was probably only a matter of time before it arrived in the Uists.'

'With the arrival of the flatworm in the Outer Hebrides there is also concern that it may be introduced to St Kilda.' Flatworms eat native earthworms, leading to fears that

any large-scale depletion of the earthworm population will affect soil fertility and ecology - with potentially deleterious impacts on arable crops and grassland production.

Described as 'nature's ploughs' by Charles Darwin, earthworms help maintain soil structure by aiding drainage and allowing oxygen into the soil layers.

They also release nutrients by eating organic matter, dispersing it through the soil and allowing it to become available to bacteria, fungi and plants. The best way to kill flatworms is to put them in a jam jar with salt.

Museum roof work gets underway

WORK to re-thatch the Glencoe and North Lorn Folk Museum in Glencoe village will get underway this weekend after the thatcher sourced suitable heather for the project.

Curator Karen Maillie-Watt said scaffolding will be erected tomorrow (Friday) with work scheduled to begin on Monday November 4 - weather permitting.

The museum has secured funding from Museum Galleries Scotland, The Pilgrim Trust and The Heritage Lottery Fund for the work.

More than 700 bundles of heather will be bound into the roof, which is housed in two early-18th century cottages on Main Street.

Islands group powers up campaign with roadshows

THE CAMPAIGN to lever more powers to Scotland's three island councils from Edinburgh and London - whatever the outcome of the independence referendum next year - will enter a new phase next month when Comhairle nan Eilean Siar will take a roadshow to communities throughout the Western Isles.

Our Islands - Our Future has already gained traction with both Scottish and UK governments as Orkney, Shetland and Western Isles council leaders seek to win maximum concessions ahead of the big vote.

Now the comhairle wants the public to have its say and is

arranging a series of consultation meetings in November.

Feedback from islanders ahead of the events will help to set the agenda, with specific dates publicised nearer the time.

Comhairle leader Angus Campbell said: 'After a number of highly successful consultations in the past, we hope to receive feedback from local communities and would welcome any questions, suggestions and comments on the Our Islands - Our Future initiative.'

'We value people's opinions and we want our communities to be informed and involved. I

look forward to the meetings throughout the islands in November.'

Further information on the Our Islands - Our Future initiative is available on www.cne-siar.gov.uk/oiof/our-islands-our-future.asp.

Comments or suggestions can be submitted by email to oiof@cne-siar.gov.uk or via post to OIOF Consultation, Council Offices, Sandwick Road, Stornoway, HS1 2BW. Submissions can also be made on the e-sgire website www.e-sgire.org/ or the leader's blog blogserver.cne-siar.gov.uk/wp-content/leader/.

Late delivery scuppers PO bid

A BID by a Lochaber community to run its own post office is over after its backers ran out of time.

Arisaig Community Trust had hoped to pursue the possibility of operating the post office from the Land, Sea and Islands Centre in the village.

But the time involved in lodging a planning application for a change of use and extension to the tiny building, as well as

sourcing funding, meant ACT could not meet Post Office Ltd's deadline for the bid.

In a statement, a spokesperson for ACT said: 'I am greatly disappointed to say that after a huge amount of work and effort, ACT took the reluctant decision to withdraw its Post Office application. A full application was submitted, but as the date for interviews drew near and we

had still not managed to secure confirmation of funding, it was felt that the only option available was to withdraw.'

Post Office Ltd confirmed Arisaig was 'no longer viable' for a stand alone office back in May.

They are looking for local businesses to take a sub post office into their premises, with the Spar shop a likely candidate.

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Crofter reveals study results in free lecture

A SKYE crofter will be delivering a lecture detailing the results of his comparative study of crofters in Trotternish and farmers in the west of Norway.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig lecturer Gavin Parsons chose to compare the two areas due to their similar topography, climate and populations. He said: 'I'm a crofter myself, so it was a pleasure to go round speaking to Skye crofters and small farmers in the west of Norway about their views on agriculture and its future.'

Mr Parsons' free lecture 'Crodh san fhui (Cattle in the blood) - What keeps crofters crofting?' will be held in the Aros centre in Portree at 7.30pm tomorrow (Friday).

Motorists warned of increased deer danger

MOTORISTS are being warned of the increased danger of deer on the road as the clocks go back.

Scottish Natural Heritage said there risk of accidents was increased at this time of year as peak commuting hours coincide with deer coming out to feed on grass verges.

Sinclair Coghill, deer management officer for SNH, said the highest risk times were sunset to midnight and shortly before

Love-sick fish give Dunbeg scientist a 'reel' headache

Marine man in eye of news whirlwind

A FISHY tale of underwater naughtiness has seen a Dunbeg scientist at the eye of a news whirlwind this week.

Dr Ben Wilson was swamped with phone calls from media outlets across the UK after a Southampton newspaper suggested a strange humming noise heard near the city's shoreline was made by love-sick male midshipman fish.

The racket, apparently so bad it was keeping residents awake at night, led the paper to ask Dr Wilson whether fish emitting the noise during the mating season was to blame.

The marine investigator at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) was sceptical but added it 'wasn't beyond the realms of possibility'.

That was enough to hook the interest of a host of news outlets, who were soon asking

By STEVEN FLANAGAN
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

quirky and funny. It ticks all the boxes.'

Last year, residents of Seattle, USA, complained of a similar noise, with midshipman fish deemed responsible for the West Seattle Hum - and that's from where Dr Wilson thinks the story originated.

He said: 'We don't have midshipman fish in the west Atlantic. Lots of British fish are sonic though. I used to work with herring and they make all sorts of noises. Cod make a grunting noise, as do haddock.'

'But until someone puts a microphone in the water and sends me something I can't say for sure. It's possibly not true at all. As someone said to me, usually they mate in the spring and not at this time of year. But there is something at the back of my mind that says it could be true.'

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Love-sick midshipman fish, pictured, have given Dunbeg scientist Dr Ben Wilson a 'reel' headache.

More overnight road closures

TRANSPORT Scotland have confirmed the A82 will be closed for a further five nights at Pulpit Rock during next month's work.

The trunk road will now be closed overnight from Monday November 4 to Saturday November 16.

Project manager Dominic Murphy said the extra days were due to 'recent difficulties' with ground conditions.

He said: 'It is unfortunate that we have had to extend this set of overnight closures, but in doing so this will enable the contractor to undertake some of the most critical work prior to constructing the main road deck section of the new viaduct in 2014.'

'We will continue to work with the contractor to minimise disruption as far as possible in delivering these improvements.'

Mull Lines

RESIDENTS in Tobermory will be able to enjoy a late-night shopping bonanza once again this year - with the Christmas lights switched on the same evening.

The annual event, which is taking place on Friday November 29 from 6pm until late, will see shops offering

free festive drinks, nibbles and cheer.

The town's Christmas lights will be switched on at 7pm at the clock.

Natural Voices will be carol singing from shop to shop and there will be entertainment in Macgochans and The Mishnish.



An example of Sam's work: Force 8, Northerly, Loch na Keal. Photo by Sam Jones.

A MULL woman who has been running a photography business on the island for the past five years is taking part in an exhibition in London next year.

Sam Jones, who runs Islandscape Photography, will travel down to London in March to take part in the event.

Sam, who will be busy selecting images over the next month, said: 'I'm hoping to see some Islandscape friends south of the border at the week long exhibition.'

Islandscape Photography offers photography tours and workshops on the Isle of Mull and beyond and, as part of the company's fifth birthday celebrations, Sam is offering customers 10 per cent off workshops or tours booked before the bells on Hogmanay. Quote 'happy birthday' with your booking.

National Mòd in Paisley than ever before.

Riona said: 'It does not seem like 10 years since members of CGM first competed at local and national level. It has been a pleasure to see the children develop over the years and welcome new members joining annually.'

'I am very proud of CGM, and delighted that the BBC PAF has given us this opportunity to showcase the hard work and commitment of these young people to their language, culture and music.'

Miriam O'Keefe, director of the PAF, added: 'The BBC PAF is delighted to support Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile on their exciting project.'

'We are funded by the phone voting on shows like The Voice and it's really great to see the money going back into community singing. We can't wait to hear the final product.'

Sales of the CD will help to fund the club into the next 10 years and everyone is invited to the free launch event tomorrow.

A CD to celebrate ten years of Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile (CGM), The Isle of Mull Mòd Club, will be launched tomorrow (Friday).

The launch ceilidh, taking place in Tobermory's Aros Hall at 8pm, will see guests Trail West take to the stage alongside members of the club performing a few tunes.

Thirty past and present members of CGM recorded the album. Pinc is Purpaidh, at Watercolour Studios in Ardgour to mark the 10th anniversary of the club.

The CD was named after the distinctive pink hooded sweatshirts worn by the senior members and the purple ones worn by the junior members.

The album was made possible by a grant from the BBC Performing Arts Fund (PAF). CGM is led by Riona Whyte, a former Mòd gold medal winner and Gaelic Singer of the Year at the Scots Traditional Music Awards in 2012. The club continues to grow and more members competed at this year's Royal

Kintyre volunteer honoured with top award

A KINTYRE man has been named as one of only seven people out of 10,500 volunteers awarded with Abbeyfield's Royal Patron award.

Stuart Irvine is the volunteer treasurer of the Carradale branch of the Abbeyfield Society charity, which provides housing, support and care for people in later life.

Having joined in 1979, he is one of the charity's stalwarts and received

his award from BBC world affairs editor John Simpson last week.

His honour, personally endorsed by Prince Charles, was in recognition of his tireless work and enthusiasm in supporting the elderly in Kintyre.

He was also praised for the pivotal part he played in carving out a separate identity for Abbeyfield Societies in Scotland.

Mr Irvine said: 'I feel very

privileged to receive the Royal Patron's award. Having carried out a number of different roles as treasurer, secretary, regional chairman and most recently as Scottish chairman, I can say without doubt that Abbeyfield is one of the best in Scotland when it comes to supporting older people and the dedication of volunteers and staff really make it stand out.'

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Date announced for opening of Oban Wetherspoon pub

Wetherspoon pub

OBAN'S Railway Pier will officially be home to JD Wetherspoon's new pub on January 21.

Shopfitters moved into the former home of Caithness Glass last week to begin the process of transforming the shop into a 458-capacity pub, with several viewing windows out towards the bay.

Meanwhile, the company has applied for planning permission to reposition the kitchen extract to the north elevation, creating a smaller sign area and larger windows above the south-facing wall and main entrance doors on the east elevation.

Traffic cameras raise suspicion

CAMERAS set up in Oban's town centre on Tuesday had residents on edge.

The CCTV-type cameras were erected on existing posts and traffic lights and had suspicious Obanites wondering whether Big Brother had extended its influence further. However, Transport Scotland, which was responsible for the temporary cameras, quickly moved to reassure the public that the cameras were merely carrying out traffic surveys.

A spokeswoman for the roads authority said the cameras were being used to survey traffic and pedestrian movements within the town as part of an on-going assessment of traffic flows.

The cameras were only in place for Tuesday and were removed at 7pm.

Teenager awaits sentence

A TEENAGER is awaiting sentence after admitting sending a picture of his genitals to a girl under the age of 16.

John Meney, 18, of Sandbank, Dunoon, also pled guilty to sending offensive messages to a further five people including a 15-year-old boy when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday. Included in the messages were threatening remarks, swear words and threats of violence. Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence until December 10 for the preparation of reports.

Echoes of the Mòd concert

THOSE who were unable to get to Paisley for the recent Royal National Mòd have a chance to hear the best competitors from the Oban and Lorn area at the Echoes of the Mòd concert.

The concert, organised by Comunn Gàidhealach an Obain, will be held in the Skipinnish Ceilidh House on Saturday, November 9.

Festival late night shopping

SHOPS in Oban's town centre will open late on Thursday November 28 as businesses look to take advantage of the extra footfall during the town's Winter Festival.

Residents will be encouraged to support local retailers by taking advantage of special deals and giveaways up until 9pm. Meanwhile, festival organisers are encouraging families to enter their competition to design a winter or nativity scene using a shoebox. Entries should be handed in to the Corran Halls by November 16.



Members of SIMBA and charity volunteers donned distinctive yellow t-shirts for a coffee morning in Glencruitten Church Centre.

Brave parents show support for baby charity

PARENTS in the Oban area whose children died at birth bravely demonstrated their support for a charity that has helped them through their grief.

SIMBA supports those affected by the loss of a baby and held a public fundraising event in Oban for the first time, a coffee morning at Glencruitten Church Hall last Saturday.

The event allowed the charity to raise funds but, more importantly, publicise the support it gives to families through peer support.

The charity also offers memory boxes, which include items to help parents remember their child, such as teddies, blankets, and candles and acknowledgement cards.

SIMBA is also looking to establish a Tree of Tranquility in the Oban area, similar to its sculpted tree in Inverness, the leaves of which bear the names of babies who have died.

The charity's Highland co-ordinator, Susan Simpson, is from Dunbeg but now lives in Benderloch and got involved with the charity after losing her daughter, Eilidh Beth, at birth.

She said: 'I left the hospital with Eilidh Beth's hand print and foot print and a photo. I thought, there had to be more than that to remember her by.'

Although the midwives at Raigmore Hospital were amazing, there was no peer support.

'That's when I found SIMBA. To be able to speak about my baby and say her name makes all the difference and keeps her memory alive.'

The event at the weekend was organised by Tim Devaney, from Oban, and his partner. The couple lost twins earlier this year but have found their involvement with the charity has helped with their grief.

Tim said: 'We wanted to raise awareness of SIMBA and we are pleased to see helpers here today who have lost children. It is an awesome charity.'

Wake-up call for council as watchdog demands action

URGENT action has been called for to resolve political instability and inadequate leadership at Argyll and Bute Council by the local authorities watchdog.

The Accounts Commission says it is 'seriously concerned about substantial risks to Argyll and Bute Council caused by instability in its political leadership since last year's elections' - and has demanded a progress report in six months to fix the issues.

Criticism from the body comes after it considered Audit Scotland's statutory report into the operation of the council, which concluded a 'culture of mistrust' at Kilmory was hampering progress.

Echoing the report's findings, the Accounts Commission stated the role the full council plays is unsustainable and progress in securing effective scrutiny has also been inadequate.

In a hard-hitting assessment published on Tuesday, the

commission said: 'The council's ability to set and maintain a clear strategic direction is at risk of being compromised and the commission is concerned that this will, in time, negatively affect the services that the council provides for the people of Argyll and Bute.'

However, the commission said it was encouraged the council had recognised the need for change and was taking steps to make this happen.

These included bringing in external experts from the Improvement Service and COSLA for help and advice.

Chairman of the Accounts Commission, John Baillie, said: 'Argyll and Bute Council now stands at a crossroads. There has been instability and lack of consistent political leadership for a long period.'

'There is now some evidence that lessons have been learned and measures are being taken to develop new political

management arrangements, training and development support for councillors and bringing in external support.

'All of this is encouraging. However, we urge the elected members and the corporate management team to work together to provide stronger and more effective leadership for the council to ensure urgent progress is made. We have asked for a further report on progress made over the next six months.'

Dick Walsh, the new leader of the council, said: 'The recent Audit Scotland report and the Accounts Commission's findings have been a wake-up call for all of us. It is absolutely essential that we have sound, stable political leadership.'

'We take very seriously the comments made by the commission and we are very aware of what needs to be done. The people of Argyll and Bute can be assured that we are getting on with the job.'

Tobermory lifeboat volunteers praised

THE VOLUNTEER crew of Tobermory's RNLI have been praised for their efforts during a 31-hour rescue mission of a grounded cargo ship during summer.

In a letter from George Rawlinson, the RNLI's operations director, the station's full time coxswain and mechanic were singled out for particular praise.

Tobermory's coxswain Andrew McHaffie is commended for his 'leadership and co-ordination of resources' during the rescue operation.

Station mechanic Jock Anderson, who was on board throughout the 31-hour shift, is praised for his 'guidance on board the casualty vessel in protecting the crew of both vessels from the dangers of CO2 poisoning'.

In his letter of commendation, Mr Rawlinson said: 'The crew demonstrated excellent teamwork and perseverance during a long service with several crew changes and I commend the commitment, perseverance and professionalism of all involved.'

The rescue operation - the longest in the station's history - began early in the morning of June 14 when Tobermory's

Sewern class lifeboat, Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey, was launched to go to the aid of 90-metre cargo vessel Fri Ocean, which was hard aground two and a half miles south of Tobermory.

The volunteer crew assisted the crew of the vessel with pumping operations for much of the day and then stood by awaiting an opportunity to refloat the vessel.

That evening the ship was successfully refloat and was escorted to the shelter of Salen Bay until first light with Tobermory lifeboat standing by.

The following morning, Tobermory lifeboat escorted the cargo ship to Oban and working with Oban RNLI's lifeboat, the vessel was safely anchored in Oban Bay for further investigations and a damage assessment to take place.

Ian Stevens, Tobermory's lifeboat operations manager, said: 'This rescue operation was not only the result of first rate teamwork but also demonstrates the commitment of our volunteers who give up so much of their time to save lives at sea.'

'I'm also pleased that Andrew and Jock's outstanding commitment has been recognised by the RNLI.'



Tobermory's Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey accompanying Fri Ocean into Oban. Picture by RNLI/Stephen Lawson.



John Ogden, fourth from right, with his staff at The Original Green Shack.

Gordon told don't be 'shellfish' as court orders colour change

A DISPUTE over two seafood stalls on Oban's Railway Pier has ended - after a court ruled only one could be green.

John Ogden and Marion Ritchie, partners at The Original Green Shack on the Railway Pier, started a court action against Gordon MacGillivray of MacGillivray's Seafood when he had a new green catering unit delivered at the start of September.

Lord Pentland, who presided over the case at the Court of Session in Edinburgh, last week granted an interim interdict preventing Mr MacGillivray from running his nearby seafood business from 'wholly or predominantly green' premises.

The court heard Mr MacGillivray had traded from the area for a number of years - but from a white mobile unit. Mr Ogden said: 'There was

genuine confusion with a lot of our customers. More than 50 per cent of our customers are foreign and they don't have a grasp of the English language as such.'

'But they hear about us and they are looking for a green shack on the pier. I don't think it was an accident a green hut suddenly appeared on the pier on September 6 to intercept all our customers.'

'It has been an unbelievable amount of work but we got what we asked for. We got an interim interdict - that's the decision we wanted.'

Under the terms of the order Mr MacGillivray is prevented from passing off any bar or restaurant on or within 250 metres of the Railway Pier as being The Original Green Shack.

Mr MacGillivray could not be contacted for comment as The Oban Times went to press.



Gordon MacGillivray of MacGillivray's Seafoods.

Mishnish in running for top pub award

AN ISLE of Mull watering hole is in the running to be named Scotland's best community pub of the year.

The Mishnish Hotel, recognisable as the famous yellow building on Tobermory's colourful Main Street, is included in a shortlist of three pubs up for the national award in the Scottish Licensed Trade News Awards 2013.

The hotel was built in the 1850s and was acquired by the MacLeod family in 1869. Today the fifth generation of MacLeods are now operating and will find out if they have won the award at a ceremony in Glasgow on November 7.

RN MacLeod said: 'We were absolutely delighted to be short-listed in the award. We are now operating as the next generation of MacLeods and have strived hard to ensure the Mishnish is one of the cornerstones of our community.'

The award is judged on efforts to build a community spirit within the pub by things such as charity fundraising events, participation in sporting events and services to local organisations.

AJ MacLeod added: 'We have always felt that our tradition of regular live music and quality service of quality food and drink was vital in making the Mishnish an important part of the community.'

'Outside of this we have been prominent in sponsoring local events, providing support to local associations and active in charity fundraising.'

'Some examples of this include providing practice space for the local drama club, creating a lifeboat corner in the pub, sponsoring the local Gaelic choir and 2012 Mull Rally winner Calum Duffy, as well as receiving a commendation from Help for Heroes for our fundraising efforts.'

Numerous oil spills on Argyll's road network

NUMEROUS reports of oil and diesel on Argyll's roads were received by Police Scotland last Friday - but none of the vehicles responsible have been traced.

Police received a call at 9.52am from a driver reporting a substance on the A85 between Oban and Dunbeg. BEAR Scotland was told about the incident.

Further reports were taken throughout the day about slippery road surfaces on the A86 between Oban and Lochgilphead and the A83 between Lochgilphead and Campbeltown.

A highway maintenance vehicle was placed on the A83 at Kennacraig to warn drivers about the road surface and the fire service was also mobilised.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service subsequently found a serious 14-mile oil spill between Tarbert and Lochgilphead and a gritter was deployed to treat the worst sections of road.

Police Scotland, which said it had been unable to trace the offending vehicles, told The Oban Times it took calls relating to oil spillages up until 7pm that day.

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Bonawe blackout misery

A COMBINATION of a lightning strike and a systems failure left the village of Bonawe cut off from the outside world on Sunday.

Engineers from Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) were called to the village just after 11am when a bolt of lightning struck a telegraph pole in the morning, carving a hole that nearly brought the pole down in one fell swoop.

The mast carried cables over the road between Bonawe and the Glen Salach road, meaning residents couldn't escape the confines of the village - or get back to it - for most of the day.

Making matters worse was a Vodafone outage, affecting households across the PA37 postcode area - leaving residents as bored as they were stranded.

One frustrated villager told *The Oban Times*: 'This could

By STEVEN FLANAGAN
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

only happen in Bonawe. We couldn't get out, we couldn't see, we couldn't watch TV, we couldn't phone anyone and the rain was coming straight down. It was a bit of a write-off.'

Relief arrived just after 6pm when engineers from SSE managed to replace the telegraph pole.

A spokesman for the company said: 'The fire brigade attended and ensured the area was made safe. Because of the nature of the damage the pole had to be replaced, which is no small job. Our guys are very determined though to get people's power back as quickly as possible.'

'This kind of thing does happen from time to time - it's one of nature's little gifts. We got power back just after 6pm.'

Local councillor Iain MacDonald was quick to praise the engineers after watching them battle through horrendous weather conditions to get the power back on, describing the SSE team as 'heroes' for their efforts.

Meanwhile, Vodafone have apologised for the failure that caused problems across north Lorn on Sunday.

A spokeswoman said: 'We're sorry that some of our customers in the PA37 post code will have experienced signal problems on Sunday. This was due to a failure of our transmission link which connects the local mast to the rest of the network.'



This photograph from Bonawe-based councillor Iain MacDonald shows the extent of the damage caused by the lightning bolt that struck just after 11am on Sunday morning.



Staff wear it pink for cancer fundraiser

Pink scarves, clothes and hats were the order of the day in Oban's McCaig's Warehouse as staff dressed up for 'Wear it Pink'. The Breast Cancer Campaign event, held last Friday, saw hundreds of pounds raised in the shop to help with research into the disease. Shop manager Catherine Wood said: 'We want to raise money for cancer research, it affects everyone so we thought it was the least we could do.' From left: Elaine Buchanan, Kelley Johnston, Shona Wood, Morvern Stobbart, Catherine Wood and Michelle Marlow with helpers Mia Colquhoun, right, and Abbie Wood, front. Not pictured is Mary Holland. 16_t44pink01

Mull mourns death crash victim

MULL man Julian Kneeshaw has been named as the victim of a fatal accident which took place near Dalmailly on Sunday October 20.

The 44-year-old, originally from Taunton in Somerset, moved to Mull four years ago to help with the building of a house. Mr Kneeshaw had been contracted to erect the timber frame - a job expected to take

between 10 and 14 days - but he loved the island so much he never left, taking up residence at Dalmailly.

Friends described the loss of Mr Kneeshaw as 'absolutely devastating'. One Mull woman, who did not wish to be named, said: 'We were incredibly lucky that we had the opportunity to get to know him so well. We're all picking up the pieces. He was

a very talented joiner, he loved fishing and he loved the west coast.'

Mr Kneeshaw died at the scene of the accident, in which he was a front seat passenger in a Daewoo, on the A85.

A full report on the incident, which also involved a Mercedes A-Class and closed the road for 11 hours, will be sent to the Procurator Fiscal.



Julian Kneeshaw.

Work starts on major new Glencoe walking track

WORK on a major section of a new walking track in Glencoe got underway recently.

And the construction of the Glencoe Orbital Recreational Track is expected to last around three months.

Glencoe and Glen Etive Community Company (GGECC) has received full funding from

Highlands and island Enterprise for the project, as well as support from local landowners.

The section under construction will follow the line of Glencoe Old Road and will connect both the village and Forestry Commission Lochan tracks to the National Trust for Scotland's network of trails in and around

An Torr and Signal Rock. GGECC chairman Dave Smith said: 'After many years of hard work the community company is extremely pleased this project will finally be brought to fruition. We would like to thank all the local community groups for their support.'

'The new low level walking routes will bring lots of pleasure over the years to come to young and old alike and hopefully to all ability users.'

Once the work is complete, just one more section will need to be created to finish the orbital route - a National Trust path from the An Torr car park to the Glencoe Visitor Centre.

Fort William Sheriff Court

Teenager punched police officer

A FORT William teenager has been fined £235 after injuring a police officer by punching him on the face while she was holding a can of lager.

Gemma Kane, of 14 Shaw Place, admitted assaulting the officer outside her home in the early hours of August 1.

The 18-year-old catering assistant also pled guilty to kicking the constable in the stomach at Belford Hospital later the same night.

Kane's not guilty plea to a third charge of behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by shouting, swearing and verbally abusing police at Mamore Crescent, Fassfern Road, and the hospital was accepted by Procurator Fiscal Laura Ryan.

Drunk admits attacking girlfriend

A FORT William man drunkenly attacked his girlfriend after coming home late from watching football in a pub.

Robert Trowler, of 13 Mamore Crescent, got into an argument with the woman and struck her a number of times on the face as she blocked him from trying to get into the house.

Trowler was taken into custody following the September 24 incident after a friend who was in the house at the time called police, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Defence solicitor Hamish Melrose said the night in the cells has cost the 24-year-old his job.

Trowler, who pled guilty to assaulting the woman, was placed under supervision for one year and ordered to attend a course for domestic abusers.

Woman denies falsely claiming benefits

A CAOL woman has denied falsely claiming nearly £24,000 in disability benefits.

Margaret McFall, of 24 Torlundy Road, pled not guilty to failing to tell the Department of Work and Pensions there had been a reduction in her care and mobility needs, and claiming £23,869 of disability living allowance to which she was not entitled between April 8 2009 and December 18 2012.

Disqualified driver drove friend's car

A CORPACH man who drove his friend's car has been ordered to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work in the community.

David Barnes was also disqualified for a further two years after pleading guilty to driving on various roads in Corpach while disqualified and uninsured on May 30.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard the friend was considering buying the car and had asked Barnes to look it over.

The 52-year-old, of 21 Annat View, was returning the car when the incident came to light, defence solicitor Stephen Kennedy said.

Barnes was appearing for sentencing after pleading guilty at a previous hearing.

Brothers' brawl ends in court

A LATE night argument between two Fort William brothers left one with a gashed leg when the other threw a broken bottle at him.

Latvians Sergejs and Igors Voronovs were in their house at 81 Kennedy Road when a row broke out between the pair. Sergejs picked up a bottle and smashed it before his brother Igors ran out of the room. The 23-year-old followed his elder brother and threw the bottle at him, leaving a one inch cut in his leg.

Voronovs pled guilty to assaulting his brother on September 28 and was ordered to carry out 80 hours of unpaid work in the community.

Fort man damaged ex-girlfriend's car

A FORT William man caused more than £3,000 of damage to his ex-girlfriend's car by drunkenly attacking it with a log.

Ryan Hunter repeatedly threw the log at the car on Carn Dearg Road in Claggan at around 5.30am on July 28, smashing the rear windscreen and badly damaging the bodywork.

The 21-year-old painter-decorator also left long scratch marks down one side of the car.

Fiscal Laura Ryan said the repairs had cost £3,297.

Hunter, of Moorfield House, Camaghael, pled guilty to wilfully or recklessly damaging the car. He was ordered to pay the woman £500 compensation to cover her insurance excess, and was fined a further £100.

Court date for Ardgour woman

AN ARDGOUR woman has denied falsely claiming nearly £10,000 in benefits.

Lorraine McKenna, 5 James Carmichael Way, North Corran, pled not guilty to failing to tell Highland Council and the Department of Work and Pensions on April 29 2011 that

her partner was living with her. It is claimed the 42-year-old received £9,748 in housing benefit, council tax reductions and income support to which she was not entitled.

McKenna is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on January 6.

Man denies threatening to kill villager

A MALLAIG man has denied threatening to kill a man in the village on two separate occasions.

William Grant, of 22 Lovat Terrace, is accused of threatening or abusive behaviour by making the threats on Station Road on August 6 and Annie's Brae on August 20.

The 61-year-old also denies driving his car onto the pavement at Annie's Brae where the man was walking and blocking his way, following him along the street in his car and shouting at him.

Grant is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on December 2.

Sheriff sentences man to 80 hours unpaid work

A CAOL man sent a text to his ex-partner threatening to kill her 21-year-old son.

Neil MacDonald made the threat to stab the man 'through the heart' two nights after he had been shouting and swearing outside MacDonald's home at 10 Olwyn Courtyard and kicking the front door, Fort William Sheriff Court was told.

The text was reported to police who found MacDonald, 47, in his living room with a knife on the table next to him. Defence lawyer Hamish Melrose

said the man had previously made similar threats to MacDonald and his client had been 'scared' when he sent the text. Appearing from custody, MacDonald admitted sending a grossly offensive text threatening to stab the man on October 22.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin ordered MacDonald to carry out 80 hours of unpaid work.

Birthday celebration ends in court

A CAOL teenager's 18th birthday party ended with her being restrained by police after she drunkenly threatened to 'kick the heads in' of nurses at Belford Hospital.

Catherine Groundwater had been out drinking in Fort William celebrating her birthday on August 18, but was taken to hospital just after 10pm due to her drunken state.

Procurator Fiscal Laura Ryan said police were soon called due to Groundwater's behaviour.

Miss Ryan said: 'She began to shout and swear and became aggressive towards people in her vicinity.'

Groundwater, of 2 Glenkingie Terrace, pled guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner and said she had no recollection of the incident.

Fining her £200, Sheriff Noel McPartlin said: 'This kind of behaviour at a hospital is just not acceptable.'

Trial date set

A KINLOCHLEVEN man is due to stand trial on November 18 accused of shouting, swearing and making threats at his house.

Bretton Gunn, 66, of 9 Garbhein Crescent, denies behaving in a threatening or abusive manner on July 16.

Morvern Lines

OVER the years Morvern has produced many characters and outstanding figures in all walks of life, and none more so than those from among the deer stalking and game-keeping fraternity.

There was a period between the First and Second World Wars when every estate employed full time game-keepers, stalkers, fishing-ghillies, pheasant-rearers and pony men.

Notable among these, at least within living memory, was Johnny Anderson (Glencripesdale, Ardtornish and Laudale); Peter Fraser (Glenmorvern); Hugh Ferguson (Killundine); Donald McNiven (Beach); Christopher McRae and Donald McColl (Kingairloch and Glensanda); Donald Sinclair, George Dalgleish, Allan Macpherson and John Munro (Ardtornish).

A book could be written about their exploits on the hill, loch and river; their songs and witticisms and their contribution to the community. There is simply not enough space here to do them all justice so a few brief examples will have to suffice meantime.

JOHNNY Anderson told me he was waiting with his gun and terriers one night for a vixen to return to her den in Glencripesdale.

As dawn broke he caught a glimpse of her approaching through the heather below him carrying something strange in her mouth. As she crept closer he was amazed to see that it was his tweed cap which he had lost a few miles away during the previous stalking season. That wasn't all.

As the vixen came nearer he saw that it contained a clutch of grouse eggs which she was obviously carrying home to her cubs!

PETER Fraser, when he was living at Barr on the south shores of Loch Teacuis, went to the rescue of the Rev Norman MacSween, minister in Morvern (from 1929 to 1971) who was on his way to Kinlochteacuis to walk across the hill to Glencripesdale to officiate at the wedding of a local shepherd.

There had been so much rain that week that a section of road by Loch Doire nam Mairt was underwater.

Peter offered Mr MacSween a piggy-back and arriving at the other side put him down saying, 'There you are your Reverence, I hope when the time comes you will get over the Jordan as easy'. For this and for putting his car over the embankment and into the loch on his return from another wedding, the place has ever since been called 'The Minister's Corner'.

DONALD McColl (1901-1977) of Acharacle and grand-uncle of the Rev Dr Allan W MacColl, Swainbost, Isle of Lewis, spent most of his working life as a stalker and gamekeeper, initially at Kingairloch with the Strutts then variously in Jura, Poltalloch, the Hope Estate in Sutherland and in Applecross before returning to the family croft at Goirtan near the head of Kentra Bay.

Donald was descended from a long line of Gaelic bards and was no mean composer himself. In many of his songs he writes about the pleasures of being on the hill in his youth.

There are echoes of Duncan Ban MacIntyre in his descriptions of the movement of the deer and the stags roaring at one another. One of his best is 'Fagai Ceann a' Ghearrloch' (Leaving Kingairloch) in which he writes of Corrie Ban, Coire Reidh and Glengalmadale - favoured haunts of the deer.



Alexander Munro (1860-1923) who saved the life of Sir Robert Menzies.

JOHN Munro was head stalker and keeper on Ardtornish Estate working for Mr and Mrs Owen Hugh Smith from 1931 until his death at Torr Mollach in 1946 aged 62.

One of 11 of a family, John came from a long line of Sutherland and Ross-shire shepherds, foresters and gamekeepers.

His father was Alexander Munro who lived with his wife and family at Corrievarkie, a lonely, road less spot on the south shores of Loch Erich.

One winter's day in the early 1900s Alexander was out hind shooting on the moors when he came across a man lying unconscious in the snow.

Alexander managed to carry him home on his back where he was put to bed and given gruel and whisky.

He came to his senses a few days later and enquired where he was and how he had got there. Alexander's wife told him and asked him his name. 'Robert Menzies' was the reply. He was in fact Sir Robert Menzies, the owner of Castle Menzie Estate near Aberfeldy.

Sir Robert made a full recovery and in return for saving his life he presented Alexander with a large house in Kingussie called Leask and provided the children, including John the Ardtornish keeper, with a first class education.

John, who had been head stalker for Colonel Grant of Rothiemurchus, arrived at Ardtornish on the 28th of May 1931 with his wife and family; his belongings included a tame hoodie-crow as a vermin decoy. His wage was to be £3 a week.

His daughter, Mrs Elizabeth Wotherspoon, who provided this information, still lives in Lochaline and presides over one of the most hospitable bed and breakfast establishments in the area.

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Oban Speakers Club enjoys meeting

MEMBERS of Oban Speakers Club enjoyed an evening of hearing about the Battle of Stirling Bridge, The Briggers and Puppy Love last week. Chairman Willie Melville introduced speakers Eamonn Arthur, Frank Walton and Martin Wilson, who spoke on the above topics respectively. John Maclean led a lighthearted and humorous topics session when his speakers were Roy Wood, Alex Clark, Eamonn Arthur, Willie Melville, Peter Mills and Nick Maclean. Timekeeper for the evening was Bill Leech and a kind but fair general evaluation was given by Jim Fraser. The next meeting will be held in the Ambo Room, Church Centre, Glenruttin Road on November 7 at 8pm.

Leader in 'bedroom tax' appeal

HIGHLAND Council leader Drew Hendry has urged the UK Government to make small villages exempt from the controversial 'bedroom tax'. Councillor Hendry has written asking the Government to exempt any settlement with less than 3,000 people - as recommended by the Environment Food and Rural Affairs Committee. Currently there are over 66 Highland communities with no one bedroom council houses and 16 without two bedroom units. Councillor Hendry said: 'We would of course like the bedroom tax policy to be scrapped altogether as it is unfair to many people living in the Highlands, where we just do not have enough smaller homes to allow people to downsize.'

Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club

THE MONTHLY Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club nights continue next Thursday, November 7, with Duncan Black and Marie Fielding the guest artistes. The club meets in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

Police concern over doorstep salesman

POLICE Scotland are appealing for information regarding a travelling Sikh salesman going door to door in Invergarry on Monday night. It is believed the man was 'pressurising' residents into purchasing goods they may not have wanted. A spokesperson said people were under no obligation to buy items and if they feel pressurised or uncomfortable about selling practices they should phone the police.

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Taynuilt's Lauren Nicholson shows off the painting that saw her named the winner of the Primary Schools Firework Display poster competition. Pictured with Lauren and getting the community safety message across for bonfire night are, from left, Oban Fire Station Commander Martin Hill, councillor Fred Hall and Inspector Julie McLeish of Oban Police. 15_144fireworks1

Fireworks display back with a bang

AFTER A year's absence, Oban's community fireworks display will once again be held at Mossfield Park on November 5. And organisers are promising a sparkling night after a replacement bonfire event last year proved a damp squib when fewer than 40 people turned up. Significant effort has been put into reviving the event, with a fire-eater set to entertain the crowds at 7pm. Pyrol will then light the blue touch-paper at 7.30pm on their 'O-bang' show, inspired by the company's famous spectacular mistake at Mossfield two years ago when all the fireworks launched at once. Community fireworks display treasurer Councillor Fred Hall said: 'The fireworks are back. There won't be a bonfire. It's worth mentioning that not a penny of taxpayers' money is going towards this, with the funding coming from the MacQueen Brothers Charitable Trust, BID4Oban and Oban Common Good Fund.' Meanwhile, Oban and Lorn residents have been urged to be safe during Guy Fawkes celebrations this year and only go to official displays. Oban fire station commander Martin Hill said: 'The statistics show we're four times busier than usual on bonfire night wasting time and resources on unsafe bonfires. The advice therefore is to attend the organised display at Mossfield Park. Contrary to a belief in some quarters, we do want people to enjoy themselves on bonfire night and we are extremely keen to promote the message that people should do so safely.'

Taynuilt Primary School pupil Lauren Nicholson designed the artwork for the poster advertising the much-anticipated display. Her colourful design wowed committee judges Mr Hill, Oban and Lorn police Chief Inspector Alastair Davidson and Councillor Roddy McCuish. Asked why she thought her picture won the Oban and Lorn-wide competition, the P3 pupil said: 'I think because it is creative and I am very creative.' Runners up were Zoe MacDonald, Rockfield Primary, Laura Bialooka, Park Primary and Erik Turnewitsch, Lochmell. Lauren won colouring pencils, a Brooms and Oor Wullie colouring book from Scottish Fire and Rescue, and a voucher for £25 donated by Councillor Hall. For more information on how to stay safe this bonfire night, see www.firescotland.gov.uk.

Inspirational women praise dementia support in Oban

By EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

TWO INSPIRATIONAL women who have shown how to live a full and active life while coping with dementia have praised the level of support available in the Oban area. Agnes Houston and Nancy McAdam were in the town as a film made about their day-to-day experiences was shown to a large audience in Oban Phoenix Cinema as part of the month-long Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival. Their visit was organised by the cinema and Andy Crabb, Alzheimer Scotland dementia advisor for Oban, who is based at the Oban Dementia Resource Centre in High Street. Nancy said: 'Our film, Agnes and Nancy, goes through things we do to keep the dementia at bay, like yoga, walking and even chopping wood. I think the film helps to get people away from the idea that people with dementia are all old and that their life is over.' Agnes was this year given the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Scotland Dementia Awards. Speaking about the services in Oban, she said: 'We have been to Oban before and I love the Oban directory - the Memory Club Calendar - which tells people what kind of events they might want to attend in the area. There is a lot going on here for people with dementia, such as soup groups and monthly lunch clubs. Around 80 people attended the screening of Agnes and Nancy, which was followed by a question and answer session with the women of the hour and a showing of the film Quartet, starring Maggie Smith and Billy Connolly. Mr Crabb said: 'The whole evening went brilliantly and there were some excellent questions for Agnes and Nancy. They were really inspiring as they talked about their lives and their experiences of living with dementia. We are so lucky to have the Oban Phoenix Cinema working at the heart of our community, putting on special events like this. And on behalf of Alzheimer Scotland I'd like to say a huge thank you to all the staff and volunteers at the cinema who work so hard to make this possible. Thanks to funding from NHS Highland, 50 per cent of the tickets sales from the film evenings will go to supporting people with dementia in the Oban area. Earlier in October there was another film night and a play in the Corran Halls to raise awareness of dementia. If anyone has any concerns about dementia the centre in High Street holds a drop-in session on Mondays and Tuesdays from 10am - 4pm.'



Pictured outside Oban Phoenix Cinema before the showing of Agnes and Nancy are, from left, cinema representatives Carol Devine and Eleanor MacKinnon, Agnes Houston, Nancy McAdam and dementia advisor for Oban Andy Crabb. 15_144alz01

Chip shop seat plan blocked by councillors at eleventh hour

PLANS to create an outside dining area at a popular Oban fish and chip shop have been blocked by councillors after planning officers' recommendations were reversed at the last minute. George Street Fish and Chip Shop hoped to place four sets of picnic tables with benches, windbreakers, refuse bins and planters on the pavement of Queen's Park Place and George Street, just metres from its shop. Oban CHORD's project manager Linda Houston was among those to support the application, causing the planning team at Argyll and Bute Council to change its recommendation from refuse to approve. However, a misunderstanding of the roads authority's position on the application saw the recommendation changed for a second time on the day the application was to be considered. The last minute change of heart led councillors to refuse the bid on safety grounds. The planning committee had originally thought the roads authority's objection was purely on the grounds of safety. But ahead of last week's meeting, the body wrote to the planning committee again to emphasise the objection was also on technical grounds, advising the elected members that the proposal was contrary to the local area plan. Dave MacLeod, master classes at the Ice Factor.



Dave MacLeod: master classes at the Ice Factor.



Lorna Unkles, 15, and her father Hans climbed to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro with their copy of The Oban Times.

Dad and daughter's delight at mountain charity climb

A TAYVALICH teenager has followed in the footsteps of Cheryl Cole and Gary Barlow by climbing to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro to raise money for charity. Lorna Unkles, who was joined on the trek by her dad Hans, climbed the 5,896 metres to the summit in eight days to raise cash for Breast Cancer Awareness. The 15-year-old was inspired to take on the challenge after a close family member was diagnosed with breast cancer and so far she has raised £3,695. 'We are absolutely delighted to have finished and to have raised so much money for the charity,' said Lorna. 'The local community has been a huge support and thank you to everyone who has made a donation.' The Lochgilphead High School pupil, who took a copy of The Oban Times with her on the trek, said the hardest part of the challenge was not the actual climb. 'What was difficult was camping and a lack of sleep. I was lucky and didn't get altitude sickness, but my dad did,' she said. 'We each lost one and half stone and at night the temperature dropped to minus 15, but I think the Argyll weather prepared us for that.' Lorna and Hans were part of a group of 100 led to the summit by experienced guides, who helped Cheryl Cole and her celebrity friends to the top. Lorna added: 'We left enough money with the head porter so that he can send his child to school for a year and we donated our clothes and equipment to the porters.' Speaking about his daughter's achievement Hans said: 'It is a brilliant thing to have done.' To donate money go to www.justgiving.com/LornaUnkles.

Man placed under supervision after exposing himself to women

A MAN has been placed under supervision for two years after admitting exposing himself to a woman in Inverloch. Barry Martin was also ordered to attend a sexual offender treatment programme after pleading guilty to exposing himself in a sexual manner to the woman on Black Park Road near Soldier's Bridge on August 27. The 65-year-old sat in his car naked from the waist down and placed his wallet on the ground outside his car. Martin then asked the woman to pass his wallet to him, and when she did so he exposed himself. Martin, of 94 Portree Drive, Holmes Chapel, Crewe, also admitted exposing himself to another woman at Inverness Retail Park on April 27 using the same method. Defending Martin, Hamish Melrose said his client was 'ashamed' of himself. He said: 'He doesn't understand why he did this and he realises how foolish he has been. He gives full apologies to the individuals involved.' Sentencing, Sheriff Noel McPartlin said: 'These are worrying offences. There were two victims here and I've got no doubt they found the experience distressing.'

Police issue residents with computer scam warning

POLICE have warned Lochaber residents to be wary of fraudsters offering to fix computer viruses after a number of locals were targeted. Police Scotland are concerned swindlers are putting viruses onto PCs then contacting victims by email offering to remove them in order to gain access to the computer. A spokesperson said: 'Do not under any circumstances engage with anyone contacting you via the internet stating they can fix it. They are most likely the people who put it on to the computer in the first place.'

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TARBERT

TWO TARBERT fishermen who rescued a colleague after he plunged 50 feet into the sea will appear on primetime television.

Mark Sheldrick and Darroch Fulton have been named as finalists in the Scotland's Real Heroes awards and will appear on STV as part of a series called Finding Scotland's Real Heroes, which focuses on the stories of the finalists.

Mark and Darroch, who were nominated in the courage category by fisherman Sean Taylor after they pulled him from the sea, will be screened on Friday November 1 at 8pm.

KINLOCHLEVEN

KINLOCHLEVEN is hoping to become one of the first villages in the Highlands to be awarded 'Walkers are Welcome' status.

The local community trust and community council have put together a joint application to the scheme, which recognises towns and villages that offer first class facilities and excellent opportunities for hillwalkers.

KILMELFORD

A COFFEE morning to raise funds for Kilmelford Village Hall will take place tomorrow (Friday).

The event, which takes place in the hall from 10.30am until 12.30pm, is the latest opportunity for the community to come together once a month.

Some of the money raised will also be donated to the church.

ISLE OF LEWIS

AN ISLE of Lewis community has celebrated the opening of their own petrol pump.

The fuel facility at Ravenspoint, Paicr was set up by community group Co-Chomunn na Paicr, and gets rid of the current need for a 50-mile round trip for locals to fill up.

The pump offers unleaded petrol and diesel 24 hours a day, seven days a week thanks to an automatic card payment system.

Local MSP Alasdair Allan officially opened the new facility.

He said: 'This is the kind of initiative which makes the difference between fragile rural communities being viable, or not.'

'It is very welcome to see such work being put in by the local community to achieve this, which included raising a significant amount of funding.'

APPIN

PRESIDENT Linda MacLeod welcomed members to the October meeting of the SWRI in Port Appin Hall.

A very enjoyable evening was spent in the company of Barbara Alston from Benderloch, a member of the Quilters' Guild.

Barbara has spent time in various parts of the world and made many friends through her interest in quilting.

She brought with her a dazzling display of bedspreads



Lismore hosts North Lorn schools' charity fun run

Lismore Primary School children recently hosted a charity fun run for the North Lorn Co-op Schools. They were joined on the island by Strath of Appin, Ardchattan and Barcaldine primary schools for the two kilometre run and every child received a medal, a t-shirt and a goody bag as they crossed the finish line. The children, who were supported by Oban High School sports leaders, raised more than £500 for Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease.

and hangings, some hand quilted and some machine made, with an interesting story to go with each one.

To finish, everyone was given a little piece of fabric to fold into a kimono which could later be attached to a piece of quilting.

Brenda MacLeod gave Barbara a hearty vote of thanks for a lovely evening.

Competition results: Tote Bag: Silver - Brenda MacLeod; Coconut Ice: Gold - Jessie MacKenzie, Silver - Ella Gunn and Alison MacCorquodale, Red - Ellen MacCorquodale, Blue - Moira Thomson, Green - Barbara Carmichael.

UIST

UIST-born author Emma Fraser will be delivering a series of talks at libraries across the Western Isles as part of Book Week Scotland.

Emma is gearing up to release her first historical novel, Dawn Breaks, after a successful run of 19 romance novels.

Book Week runs from November 25 to December 1.

SLEAT

A GAELIC novel written by a Sabhal Mòr Ostaig researcher has been shortlisted for a major literary award.

Air Cuan Dubh Drilseach (On a Glittering Black Sea) by Tim Armstrong - billed as the first science fiction novel for adults in Gaelic - is shortlisted in the Scottish first book of the year category at the Saltire Society Literary Awards.

Mr Armstrong, who hails from Seattle, USA, said his nomination showed the Gaelic college in Sleat was helping adults and youngsters become proficient in the language.

He said: 'It is a testament to the great work that Sabhal Mòr Ostaig does for Gaelic that there are many authors - some who grew up with the language and others like me who learned the language as an adult - who came to the College and who are now successfully writing and publishing in Gaelic.'

The winners will be announced at a ceremony in Glasgow's Mitchell Library on November 14.

LOCHAWE

NINE members of Lochawe Institute recently enjoyed an excellent dinner at The Brander Lodge.

The first meeting of the 2013/2014 session was held on Wednesday October 2.

Speakers for the evening were Kirsty Pace and Catriona MacDonald from Stramash, Oban. Stramash is an adventure company providing activities such as sea kayaking, canoeing, coastering, gorge scrambling, bushcraft, archery and canyoning among others. Half day and full day courses are provided for all age groups. They also run nursery classes which are mostly held outside where the children are taught about the environment and wildlife.

Slides were shown of all the activities and all participants were obviously enjoying themselves according to the very smiley faces. Thank you Kirsty and Catriona for a very enjoyable talk.

Competition: Gingerbread, judged by Kirsty and Catriona, V Williams, Gold; J Odgen, silver; P Mcleod, Red; A Hay, Blue.

The next meeting of Lochawe Institute will take place on Wednesday November 6 in Lochawe Village Hall at 7.30pm. All visitors welcome.



Dunbeg school spotlight on ancient Egypt

Primary four and five pupils at Dunbeg Primary School had a great 'tomb' learning all about mummies and pyramids during a project on ancient Egypt. Lessons were 'sands' on and included making a sarcophagus with teacher Glenda Marwick. 16_142egyp101

A SEIL man has put pen to paper to tell the story of building his own boat before heading on the journey of a lifetime - 'A Quiet Dawdle Around the Atlantic'.

James Mellor, from Clachan Seil, explains to readers how he constructed his vessel Ospray from steel with the help of his

SEIL

son Robert, a welder. The book includes plenty of practical tips for would-be boat builders.

James eventually successfully completed the 16-ton boat and it was launched in 1983. Ospray carried James and his wife

safely on their 10,000 mile Atlantic voyage, a replica of Joshua Slocum's journey, which took three years from 1895.

The boat was later sold but James would be keen to find out where she is now. A Quiet Dawdle Around the Atlantic is available from Amazon or local bookshops priced £14.99.

COLL

A TREMENDOUS turnout and an evening of great music and dancing has helped Coll Sailing Club's inaugural prizegiving dance raise more than £1,000.

The event welcomed a large gathering of islanders to An Cridhe, with the venue booking fee donated by islanders Lesley and Craig Douglas.

Music for the night was provided by Coll brothers Ewan and Sam Rutherford and Tirez's Sophie Isaacson, with their collective talents leading to a terrific night of celebration.

Money raised from the night is split between the sailing club, to help meet insurance demands, and Ewan Rutherford, who is heading to Malaysia next year with local gap-year charity, Project Trust.

John McCann, commodore of the club, said: 'It was a great success with great music and, because of the generosity of the people donating great raffle prizes, we have made just over £1,000.'

John also paid special tribute to Lesley and Craig Douglas for their kind donation of the hall fee. It is hoped the success of the event will now make it an annual fixture.



Dancing the night away: Coll Sailing Club's inaugural prizegiving dance was a jovial affair.

SKYE

A SKYE-based online radio station is to launch its first podcast next month.

Radio Free Hebrides, created by musician Hector MacInnes last year, will make several programs available to download for free on its website.

The shows feature live music from local musicians and coverage of local events, including the Knyodart Festival.

PORTREE

PORTREE RNLI took staff and users from local adult day care centre Tigh na Drochaid Resource Centre out for a look around their Trent Class lifeboat recently.

Five visitors and four staff members from the centre were shown round the all weather lifeboat and got to meet some of the crew.

ARISAIG

ARISAIG SWRI held its first meeting of the session with two speakers giving interesting presentations.

The meeting, held on October 17, opened with Carol Duncan speaking for the Carers Advocacy, followed by Kyle Smith of Lochaber Environmental Group.

Mr Smith, the main speaker, covered topics about energy sources and energy saving gadgets.

Competition winners: Uses for poly bags: 1 Helen Lamb, 2 Anne Cameron, 3 June Cairns. Favourite teapot: 1 Margaret MacEachen, 2 Helen Lamb, 3 Vera MacDonald.

The raffle was won by June Cairns.

Down Your Way

CONSTRUCTION of the community sports hub in Taynuilt is on schedule to be completed by the end of the year.

Taynuilt Sports Council chairman Fraser Inglis met with builders MacLeod Construction Ltd last Thursday and said he was pleased to hear of the progress made.

Following the meeting Mr Inglis told The Oban Times: 'The completion date will be December 27, with an official opening in the New Year. 'It has been fantastic to see how quickly things have progressed from appointing a contractor to now, MacLeods have had a tight schedule to stick to but they are on it. 'We have only had positive feedback about the development and how it looks.' The new pavilion will have main area, a large kitchen and two changing rooms and the sports council hopes to use the venue for a number of activities and functions.

Mr Inglis said the sports council had also contacted the Camanachd Association regarding the prospect of hosting national shinty finals.

But he insisted the venue would not only be for shinty, suggesting other sports, such as orienteering and triathlon events could be based from the sports hub.

Mr Inglis added: 'We will have an up-to-date, modern building and hopefully attract a diverse range of activities and functions. 'Taynuilt Sports Council is now a charity and our purpose is to make sure as many people as possible can take part in sport and recreational activities. 'It is our job to provide these facilities and in the years to come fulfil our purposes as a charity. 'With the building almost complete, the sports council is now seeking funding for internal furnishing for the pavilion. The new sports hub has been sited where the previous 'temporary' green pavilion stood for the past 30 years. The old pavilion was used by rugby, shinty, cricket and tennis clubs, as well as the Gaelic choir and Ulpan Gaelic classes.



MacLeod's Construction Ltd staff, from left, apprentice joiner Darren MacPhee, site manager John Jones, joiner James Dunlop and quantity surveyor Derek Black. 15_144pavilion01

MORE than a year after the group disbanded, Taynuilt Rainbows and Brownies is starting up again in Taynuilt.

The group ceased to exist last year when it couldn't attract enough leaders to keep it running.

The group will meet weekly on Tuesday nights. For details contact Angela McDougall on 01866 822 416.

TAYNUILT SWRI president Jessie Servant welcomed 19 members and six visitors to the new session held on Wednesday, October 9 in Taynuilt village hall.

The evening was all about felt making and Ms Liz Gaffney demonstrated how to make felt from scratch.

A lovely tea was provided

by Alice Campbell and Ann MacCallum. The vote of thanks was given by Marlene Stanners.

Competitions: Christmas Card - 1 Alice Campbell, 2 Doreen Penwick, 3 Jean White and Celia Keenan. Apple Jelly - 1 Cathy Potter, 2 Alice Campbell, 3 Jessie MacFarlane.



Retiring green keeper Joe Reffin, right, welcomes his successor Craig Stanners to the role. 15_144joe01

HE HAS spent the last quarter of a century looking after the fairways and greens of Taynuilt golf course but Joe Reffin says he will use his retirement to look after his own neglected garden.

The Taynuilt Golf Club groundsman retires on November 18 and will hand over his tractor and tools to another man born and bred in Taynuilt, Craig Stanners.

Joe has been the full time greenkeeper at Taynuilt for 16 years and for 10 years before that worked on a part-time basis. The job also involved looking after the village sports field.

Joe said: 'I've got plenty to be getting on with when I retire. My own garden hasn't been looked at for 26 years! Like most greenkeepers my own garden is in a terrible state.'

The 65 year-old previously worked in insurance and as a builders' merchant.

He is a former captain and committee member at Taynuilt Golf Club.

Craig has already started in the role, having moved from Glencruitan Golf Club.

Next week Down Your Way visits Tirez with reporter Steven Flanagan. You can contact Steven on 01631 568000 or email sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

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COMPETITION

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Released on October 28 this year, the Lions Raw DVD (PG) is an open, honest and impassioned behind-the-scenes documentary about the British and Irish Lions tour to Australia, 2013. See what really happened behind the scenes under incredible circumstances; the personalities, the drama, the lows, the disappointments and the incredible highs. Off the field they showed their boisterous youth and excitement of the occasion. On the field they showed their professional, dedicated commitment.

The Oban Times has 10 copies of the DVD, worth £29.99 each, to give away. To enter, simply answer the following question, fill in your details using the form provided here and post to: **Lions Raw Competition, Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.**

Entries must be submitted by Monday, November 11, 2013.

QUESTION: Name the missing nation: The British and Irish Lions nationalities include England, Wales, Northern Ireland and.....?

Answer..... **The Oban Times**

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New bus link will connect with ferry

A NEW bus link is being launched to connect with the recently confirmed winter ferry between Lochboisdale and Mallaig.

Uist residents had celebrated the new ferry when it was announced, but said it was essential passengers on the new service could link up with other forms of public transport when they reached the mainland.

And now the trial service, which will run twice a week throughout the next three winters starting in November, will be met by a Shiel Bus to take them to Fort William.

A bus will also return to the port from Fort William before the 5.30pm return ferry to South Uist. Councillor Allan Henderson told *The Oban Times* he and his Lochaber colleagues felt linking up the two services was important to make best use of the new ferry. He said: 'The trains weren't fitting in and there was nothing we could do about them. So the Lochaber councillors have managed to get some money together for the new bus service. Shiel Buses will be running the buses for very, very little, which just shows how keen people are to have the service. It will mean people getting into Mallaig can get a bus straight to Fort William then on to Glasgow, Edinburgh or Inverness, or just spend the day in Fort William.'

'And as an bonus, people living on the A830 will now also have an extra bus service during the winter.'

Community council meets

SPEAN Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council will discuss co-opting a secretary and two additional members at its meeting in the primary school on Tuesday night.

Other items on the agenda include Killiechonan woodland paths and the Remembrance Day service at the Commando Memorial.

Big field for half marathon

A BIG field of up to 200 competitors is expected to take part in the 29th annual Eddie's half marathon race in Fort William on Sunday.

Runners of all ages will set off from An Aird at 12pm, with various prizes handed out after the race is finished.



Happy dancers: trophy winners, left to right, Beth Campbell, Skye, Emma Montgomery, Skye, Laura Robertson, Inverlochy, Anna Taylor, Portree, Ceitidh Smith, Portree, and Connie MacLennan, Fort William. 20_144dancing01

Prizewinning Highland dancers step out in style

JUNIOR trophy winners from Skye and Lochaber lined up for *The Oban Times* following the Nevis School of Highland Dancing competition at Inverlochy Primary School in Fort William on Saturday.

Competitors of all ages from across Scotland took the stage to impress adjudicator for the day Lesley Anderson from Dundee, with Skye, Kyle, Lochaber and Oban well represented. Fort William's Jamie Lee

Laverty, was named best Nevis dancer in the 11 years group. In the premier category, Beth Ballantyne from Kyle took the overall title in the 16 years and over competition. See full story and results, page 14.

Youth sport support fund facing closure if no volunteers found

LOCHABER Sports Association's (LSA) youth support fund is facing closure unless more volunteers come forward, chairperson Jane Blanchard has warned.

In a hard-hitting circular to member clubs, Ms Blanchard said the fund is effectively 'broke' because it had supported so many sporting youngsters over the years.

She told *The Oban Times*

yesterday: 'It would be desperately sad if the fund closed. It disburses between £500 and £800 every year to help with kit, training and travel costs to give kids and parents a helping hand.'

'For example, a lot of parents are having to drive their children to Inverness for training because we have no facilities here for a girls football team.'

Ms Blanchard is making an

eleventh hour bid for volunteers to help with a raffle ticket sale in Morrisons' Fort William store today (Thursday) from 10am.

Display boards on the youth support fund and LSA's proposed indoor training facility will also be on show.

She told members via email: 'We just can't keep going without your help.'

'Please don't assume that someone else will do it - we

had to cancel the bag pack in Morrisons a couple of months ago because we didn't have one volunteer come forward. This is pretty shameful out of an emailing list of over 500.'

She added: 'This is our last effort and if we don't get people coming forward, the fund will be closed, which would be a tragedy for the kids.'

See LSA awards evening, page 3.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig hits the road with new car sharing scheme

A NEW car-sharing scheme for Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO), the Gaelic college on Sleat, will be launched tomorrow at the Skye Swing Jazz Festival.

'Lioft', will encourage people

to travel together in the same car when attending arts events at the college. The green project aims to cut carbon emissions created by an estimated 8,000 people travelling to and from events

at SMO annually. Dòmhnall Angaidh MacLennan, head of estates and services at SMO, said: 'This initiative will be at the heart of the college's effort to encourage greater car sharing as

part of the activity set out in the carbon management plan.'

'Lioft' will be launched as the Stu Brown Sextet takes the stage at Sabhal Mòr tomorrow at 7.30pm.

Mallaig hits out at BID's Fort focus

THE MALLAIG business community accused the proposed Lochaber-wide Business Improvement District of being focussed on Fort William at a packed public meeting on Tuesday night.

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

It was standing room only in Mallaig and Morar Community Centre as representatives from Living Lochaber, the group behind the BID, fielded questions from around 60 local business owners on the controversial plan.

Several said West Lochaber is already almost at full capacity for most of the summer - and questioned why they should pay an extra levy to try and bring in more tourists for whom they do not have space.

One, Sine Davies of the West Highland Hotel asked what benefit Mallaig and the surrounding area would get from the BID.

She said: 'If we're paying into this, we want to see our community benefit. We need to see something very tangible that will be part of our community.'

'If you're asking us to pay

into something that seems to be very central to Fort William - including the High Street and the cinema - then we're going to feel disenfranchised.'

'One of the business plan's aims was to bring communities and businesses together, and I'm afraid it's not doing that at the moment, it's actually splitting people apart.'

Despite voting papers being sent out today (Thursday), many business representatives present said they had received very little information about the BID so far, and criticised the consultation process.

Sonia Cameron of West Coast Railways said: 'We market ourselves very, very well through the Road to the Isles Marketing Group. I can't see that the BID is offering anything that we'd be prepared to put our money towards.'

Marketing group chairman

Andrew Simpson asked why the BID covered the whole of Lochaber rather than just Fort William.

Frazer Coupland, chairman of Living Lochaber, hoped the BID would 'join-up' the area better.

He said: 'What we found was people don't know what's going on in Fort William, what's going on in Kinlochleven and what's going on in Acharacle. It's about trying to bring that together, and getting visitors to stay here longer.'

Living Lochaber steering group member Laurence Young if the BID is successful, a board would be chosen by the business community to run the new company.

He said: 'To those who say this will be Fort William-centric, I say no it won't, because we must make sure it isn't.'

'People from the outlying areas around Lochaber must come forward, must get voted in, must be on that board and must make sure that the money is spent for the good of communities around Lochaber.'

See leader page 10

Group's pledge plan is not a threat

LIVING Lochaber chairman Frazer Coupland has insisted the BID would not step on the toes of other local organisations if the business community delivers a 'yes' vote.

Mr Coupland said he was 'very aware' many parts of Lochaber already have local marketing groups promote the area.

He said: 'We would like to assure them that the BID is not a threat, but rather an opportunity to access more support, especially funding to help them move ahead with projects they have created.'

'Many of the initial ideas outlined in the business plan,

such as the Ardnamurchan 'Dark Skies' project have been greeted with great enthusiasm and praised for their far-sightedness and potential for increasing the number of visitors to that area.'

'It is innovative projects such as these, which individuals, groups, even communities will be able to bring to the BID board when it is formed to seek support and funding.'

'A great boost for local entrepreneurs.' Voting papers for the BID are being posted to all businesses with a rateable value of over £2,000 today (Thursday), with the companies having six weeks to cast their vote.

Mr Coupland added: 'Naturally I would urge them to vote yes, but whatever they plan I would urge them to make sure they vote to ensure their voice is heard.'

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SSE Engagement Event

Argyll and Bute Communities and Business

10:00 to 16:00, Tarbert Village Hall, Wednesday 6 November



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

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

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



Pilot Rory is a high flyer

A SOLDIER who travelled to France to pass his pilot's licence during his leave says he plans to become an instructor.

High flyer Rory Fleming, who works in flight operations with Army Air Corp, is now licensed to fly microlights after he trained for less than a year and aced his general skills test in the south of France.

To celebrate, friends and family of the 25 year old held a party at Connel Flying Club on Saturday.

Rory, whose father, Alex, is also a microlight pilot, said: 'I have been around planes since I was a toddler but it wasn't until January this year that I started taking my licence seriously.'

'I heard then that my dad had got back into the flying and it spurred me on to get my own licence. I would say I was the type of person that gets things done as quickly as possible but people tell me it is unusual to pass all the exams in a year.'

'Kevin MacCuish, who is based in Oban, helped me with my exams and gave me crucial flying hours before I went to train with Pegasus France, so I owe a big thank you to him.'



Rory is congratulated by friends and family at Connel Flying Club. 15_144rory01

Church says 'thank you' to stalwart as doors close

A PRESENTATION has been made to an Oban church stalwart, as the town's Church of Scotland congregation held its first combined service in Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten.

Neil Clark, who was beadle in the Corran Esplanade Church (Christchurch), gave 42 years of service to the church.

His duties included assisting with preparing the building for worship, funerals, weddings and other occa-

sions. On Sunday the congregation held its first combined service in the Oban Parish Church, following the closure of Corran Esplanade Church last week.

The church does not own the building, which is under the stewardship of the Ann McCaig Trust, but decided to leave the premises after discovering major refurbishment was required.

The building's future remains uncertain. The services will now be held at Oban Parish Church at the new time of 10.30am.

The congregation said it planned to spend 'considerable' sums of money on the parish church.



Pictured, from left: Rev Dugald Cameron, Helen Clark, Neil Clark, June Campbell and Kenneth MacColl following Mr Clark's presentation.



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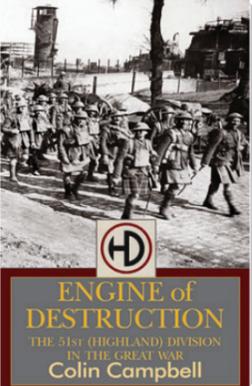


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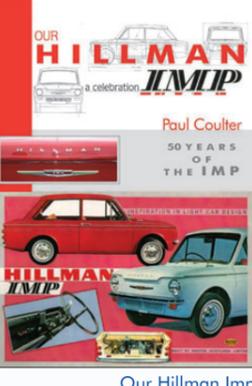
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Donald Rankin

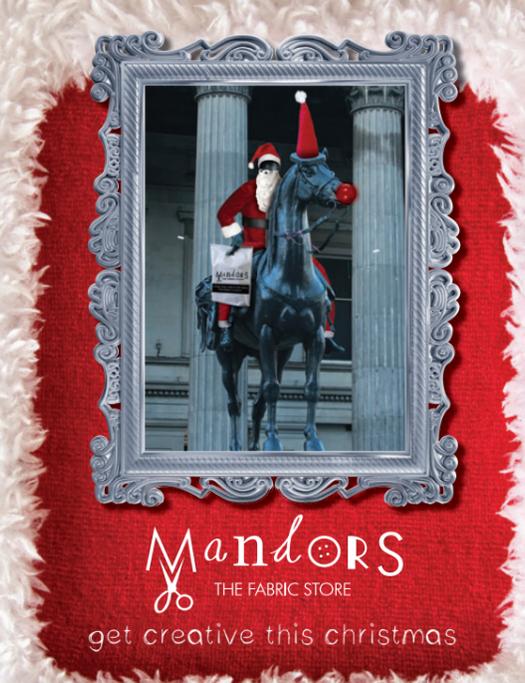
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Rugby legend guest of honour at sports awards

FORMER Scotland rugby captain Rob Wainwright will be guest of honour at the Lochaber Sports Association awards evening next month.

And the event at Lochaber Rugby Club clubhouse in Banavie on Friday November 22 promises to be another glittering affair as local sporting heroes are recognised for their achievements over the past year.

Mr Wainwright will make the trip from his home on Coll to make the presentations.

LSA chairperson Jane Blanchard urged local clubs, schools and individuals to nominate candidates for the six category awards.

She said: 'Every club will have a star performer, an inspirational coach, a willing bus driver, a great team spirit, a kid who's really trying or a girlfriend who always tips up to make the teas.'

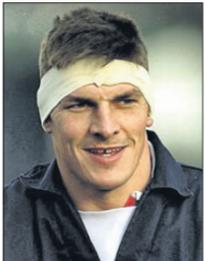
'Or you might feel your club, school or community centre has gone out of its way to get others involved.'

Categories include: Individual of the Year for Performance Youth Endeavour Award Team of the year for Performance

Coach of the Year Club that has been most active in the promotion of sport in the Community

School or community centre that has been most active in promoting sport in the Under 14s who have shown the greatest improvement over the past year

The awards evening starts at 7pm.



Rob Wainwright: star guest at the LSA awards night.

Police files

THE Clachaig Inn in Glencoe was broken into with cash stolen between 1am and 8am on Sunday October 27.

A BICYCLE was stolen from Camaghael Road in Fort William between 6.30am on Thursday October 24 and 8am the next day.

A PIECE of boating equipment was stolen after two sheds in Arisaig were broken into between 1.30pm on Thursday September 19 and 3pm on Thursday October 24.

FUEL was stolen from a vehicle in Torlundy between 7pm on Saturday October 19 and 6am on Monday October 21.

ITEMS were taken off a car in the Drummarbin area of Fort William between Tuesday October 1 and Wednesday October 23.

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

Student in race against time

A SIXTH year Kinlochleven High School student is facing a race against time to raise £5,600 after winning a coveted 12-month posting to South Africa with a Hebrides-based charity.

Shannon Hartley went through a rigorous week-long selection process at the Project Trust on the Isle of Coll - and learned on Friday she had been successful.

The 17 year-old was one of only seven young people selected from 32 final applicants hoping to earn themselves the

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

experience of a lifetime. Her character-building tasks in and around the trust's Hebridean Centre included giving presentations, climbing, team building and communications.

Now Shannon must find the money she needs to fund her trip to the land of the springbok, where she will undertake social care projects and teach children.

head teacher John Mr McGilp welcomed his pupil's success as a testament to the school's extra-curricular activities programme, which includes the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, the Ocean Youth Trust and Aspire North.

He told the Oban Times: 'It is obviously a fantastic opportunity for Shannon and it is just phenomenal for the school.'

'We are all really proud of her - but to be honest I'm a bit jealous she is getting the opportunity to

go to South Africa for so long. I went myself to South Africa for 26 days when I was at Lochaber High School in 2002-3 and they are really lovely people. I just hope the benefit I got is multiplied 10 times over for Shannon when she goes.'

Shannon's mum Moira, who is development officer for Kinlochleven Community Trust, said: 'I am really pleased for her and she did remarkably well to get to the final stage.'

'She was always quite keen from a young age to travel and it will be a life-changing experience for her - but of course I will miss her.'

I would like to place on record my thanks to Mr McGilp, who gave Shannon a huge amount of support.

'Now It's all systems go - but £5,600 is an awful lot of money to raise in 12 months.'

Anyone wishing to help Shannon fund her trip can do so at www.virginmoneygiving.com/ ShannonHartleyProjectTrust.



Africa bound: Shannon Hartley.

Tributes to death crash victim

TRIBUTES have been paid to an air cadet instructor from Banavie who died when his car crashed off the A82 near Spean Bridge into trees on Sunday evening.

Peter Campbell, 36, was the only person in his Lexus car when it went down an embankment around a mile west of the village.

Police were called to the scene at 9pm but say the accident could have occurred several hours early.

They are appealing for any witnesses who saw a silver-coloured vehicle leave the road or down an embankment from 5.30pm onwards.

Mr Campbell's wife Leanne said: 'We're all devastated to have lost such a really wonderful person.'

'He was so well liked by everyone who knew him, and we'd like to say thank you to everyone who has sent messages of support and who have helped us through this terrible time.'

Local councillor Eddie Hunter said the Banavie community had been 'shocked and stunned' by Mr Campbell's death.

He told The Oban Times: 'It's a tragedy. Our thoughts and feeling are all with Peter's family and friends.'

Several friends left messages of condolence on Mr Campbell's Facebook page after hearing the news.

Another friend said: 'You are one of the nicest guys I know and have a heart of gold. So many good and funny memories of you, from being a cadet to serving with you as an instructor in the cadets.'

'You are going to be missed by everyone, cadets ain't going to be the same without you.'

The road was closed for around seven hours with diversions put in place while accident investigators carried out enquiries.



Peter Campbell: died in A82 crash.

Praise for Lady Lovat Primary School

LADY Lovat Primary School in Morar has earned high praise in a report following a visit by education inspectors.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education found that under head teacher Fiona MacKellaig the children learn and achieve well, are happy, enjoy learning and are very proud of their school.

Key strengths included: Commendably positive attitudes and behaviour of all children in the school.

The caring, nurturing and inclusive environment for all children to learn and achieve.

Positive experiences offered for children led by the leadership of the headteacher, teamwork and commitment of highly reflective staff.

Strong partnerships with parents and the local community, particularly through enhancing opportunities for developing and achieving success through music and sporting activities.

Inspectors made only two recommendations:

Strengthen approaches to self-evaluation across the school to ensure children's experiences and achievements continue to improve

Continue to develop and improve the curriculum.

HMI were satisfied with the overall quality of provision and will make no further visits in connection with the inspection.

Quality A 'delighted' Mrs MacKellaig said the inspection report reflected the very positive ethos, quality of teaching and excellent teamwork which is the 'cornerstone' of Lady Lovat Primary School.

She added: 'It highlights the hard work, mutual respect, commitment and dedication of pupils, staff, parents and the wider school community.'

'The report acknowledges our vision to continue to take forward all current initiatives of the Curriculum for Excellence to ensure the greatest impact is made on the future learning of all pupils of Lady Lovat Primary School.'

Happy Newly-appointed parent council chairperson, Lynne Barrie was 'very happy' with the findings and praised the 'hard work, commitment and enthusiasm' of the whole staff team.

She said: 'I have no doubt that the school will continue to improve and develop the curriculum and to continue to build on the many strengths highlighted within the report.'



Jumping for joy: West Highlands College UHI honours students before the graduation ceremony.

Celebration of achievement and graduation ceremony

STAFF and students from West Highland College UHI gathered at Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church in Fort William for the annual celebration of achievement and graduation ceremony on Friday.

A range of vocational, further and higher education awards were handed out before adventurer Myrtle Simpson delivered the keynote address.

Before the ceremony, a colourful procession of staff and guests were piped along the Parade and into the church.

Mace bearer Sophie Monaghan, a college admin

assistant from Auchtertyre, led the procession after being selected for the role by UHI Principal James Fraser.

During the ceremony three BA applied music students, Jenna MacLean, Craig MacDonald and Liam MacLean, performed a piece specially composed for the day called 'Chasing a Dream'.

Fort William student Will Rowland was named overall student of the year, and a number of awards were given to the top students in each course.

College Principal and Chief Executive Lydia Rohmer

said: 'It is the success of all of our students which defines West Highland College UHI and we congratulate them all today - whether their achievement be a part time or full time course and at whatever level they have succeeded. However it is our staff who work tirelessly to help our students to realise their potential and I would like to pay tribute to their exceptional motivation and drive to create ever expanding opportunities for the learners, communities and businesses we serve.'

After the ceremony, a drinks reception followed by a dinner and dance was at the Ben Nevis Hotel.

STAR for Harris steps up funding campaign against child cancer

A CHARITY created by the parents of a little Lochaber boy who succumbed to brain cancer has made new donations to the hospital where he bravely fought for life.

STAR for Harris has regularly provided financial and gift aid to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh.

And Corpach couple Allan and Tanya Ross, who established the charity following the death of their son Harris in 2010 aged just 17 months, were delighted to be of assistance once again.

Tanya, a teacher at Inverloch Primary School, and Allan, a plumber in the Belford Hospital in Fort William, visited the oncology and neurological wards where Harris was a patient to deliver play resources and vouchers for arts and crafts.

Tanya told The Oban Times: 'It is always emotional but also very special for us to get back to the Sick Kids Hospital as it was Harris's home for the majority



Tanya and Allan present HeadSmart community fundraiser (Scotland) Viv McBeth, centre, with a cheque for £10,000.

of his life so it holds so many memories for us.

'We also get to see some of our amazing ward family each time we are down and the nurses are always reminding us.'

She added: 'It is so important for all age groups of patient to have engaging and interesting

activities to help make treatment time even a little better.'

Cheque The couple then travelled through to Glasgow to meet the HeadSmart charity to present a cheque for £10,000.

The money will fund awareness cards and education packs for

medical professionals to help raise awareness of brain tumour symptoms.

Tanya said: 'STAR for Harris' is passionate about raising awareness of cancer symptoms as Harris was so late in getting diagnosed.

'Early diagnosis saves lives and can also lead to patients living with less life-long side effects from their illness and treatment. Everyone needs to be aware.'

Allan and Tanya also visited Yorkhill Hospital's paediatric oncology ward, where they met patients who had received isolation gifts from 'STAR for Harris' following their bone marrow transplants.

Tanya said after the tour: 'Thank you again to everyone for their support as we really couldn't do as much as we do without everyone's help. Harris's legacy continues to grow.'

The charity is awaiting news on a bid for £3,000 award from Lloyds/Bank of Scotland.

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Hotel owner placed on sex offenders' register

THE OWNER of a Lochaber hotel has been placed on the sex offenders' register for seven years after sexually assaulting two female members of staff.

Shamsul Arefin was found guilty of making sexual advances and inappropriately touching the woman at The Stewart Hotel in Duror at a trial in September.

Appearing for punishment, the married 46 year-old was sentenced to six months in prison.

But he walked free from Fort William Sheriff Court after Sheriff Noel McPartlin heard Arefin had already spent seven months behind bars while awaiting trial.

Arefin, of 39 Arlington Drive, Carshalton, London, repeatedly propositioned a Portuguese woman during her six days on the job and on one occasion told her he was in love with her.

She said Arefin kissed her on the neck and put his hand underneath her bra.

A second woman, a 23 year-old Lithuanian, said Arefin drank vodka with her on her first night at the hotel before talking explicitly about his sexual past and pressing himself against her.

Arefin, who bought The Stewart Hotel with his wife in March 2007, sexually assaulted the two women by touching them and directing sexual comments at them between April 18 and May 8, 2012.

NS the voice of local media. We could give you the facts and figures explaining why local media is effective. But really it's just common sense.

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NOVEMBER ISSUE OUT NOW. SPIRIT OF SPEYSIDE Charles MacLean on his home from home. RENAISSANCE MAN - JOHN BYRNE. The weird world of Craig Hill. 10 OF SCOTLAND'S MOST WICKED WITCHES. Ayshire's animal rescue sanctuary. BEST RESTAURANT ON THE ISLE OF SKYE?

A82 overnight closures. Overnight closures of the A82 at Pulpit Rock, south of Ardlui will begin on Monday 4 November, continuing until Saturday 16 November 2013. The road will close at 2200hrs and re-open each day at 0600hrs. The A82 will remain open either side of the closure.

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D-day looms for Lochaber BID project

SCOTLAND will decide in September next year whether to go for independence - but the Lochaber business community faces a yes/no choice right now.

From today, voting papers on controversial plans to create a Business Improvement District (BID) covering the whole region will be posted out to all eligible businesses - those with a rateable value over £2,000.

Living Lochaber, the group behind the move, is convinced the scheme will make a huge difference by creating a new pot of money for projects and tourism promotion.

The sums involved are not inconsiderable should the scheme receive a 'yes' vote.

Living Lochaber estimates £360,000 would be generated each year - £1.8million over the five-year BID period.

But if last night's meeting in Mallaga is anything to go by, considerable doubts about whether the BID will truly serve all Lochaber - as opposed to just Fort William - refuse to be assuaged.

Elsewhere, from its base in south Lochaber, opposition group BID Farewell has been a vocal critic from the start and has mounted a strong - some would say vitriolic - campaign against the concept. Fort William, meanwhile, appears more favourably disposed.

We will not know until Friday, December 13 what the result of the ballot will be. For which side will the ill omens associated with that date prove accurate? Time alone will tell.

GLASGOW LETTER

Celtic Connections 2014

NO MATTER your choice in music, there will be something for you in Celtic Connections 2014 as more than 2000 musicians take part in concerts featuring traditional and roots, world, indie, jazz, folk, soul and Americana music.

The festival, the 21st, will take place at various venues in the city from January 16 2014 until February 2 and in recent years there will be themes running through the programme.

Glasgow is, of course, the venue of the Commonwealth Games and the influence of Scottish music on the music of Commonwealth countries will feature as will the role of Gaels in Glasgow on the River Clyde, a gateway to the Commonwealth.

The start of World War 1, 100 years ago, will also feature, with a cast of more than 20 singers, and the new venue, the SSE Hydro, will be used for two concerts, the first featuring Del Amitri in their first live show for a decade and the other an international Burns Night.

Transatlantic Sessions, the jewel in the crown of the festival, will be there with their all-star house band made up of the usual suspects and, of course, folk and traditional music will be at the core of the festival.

Capercaille, celebrating their 30th anniversary, will perform and there will be much collaboration starting at the opening concert which will feature Nicola Benedetti and friends from the classical music world working with traditional musicians.

Over the coming weeks I shall attempt to provide more details of venues and dates.

E-learning

LESSONS from the National Piping Centre are as follows: Thursday October 31: 5pm, Level 2 Piobaireachd - The MacKay's Short Tune, Chris Armstrong, 7pm, Level 4, Chapters 20-30 Highland Bagpipe Tutor, Stahspery and Reel techniques, John Mulhearn.

Tiree Association

THE ANNUAL Gathering Concert of the Tiree Association will take place in Partick Burgh Hall on Thursday November 14 at 7.30pm.

Entertainment will be provided by singers Joy Dunlop, Norman MacKinnon and Robert Robertson together with accordionist Eilidh McFadyen, the Dunmore Ceilidh Band and pipers Donald and John Campbell.

The following evening the dance will take place in Glasgow University Union at 9pm to the music of Skipinnish. For tickets telephone Morag-Anne Scott on 07763 126309.

Reminder

THE GLASGOW Lewis and Harris Association Annual Concert and Dance takes place tomorrow evening when the artists will be singers James Graham, Sineag MacIntyre, Iseabail Ann Martin and Iain MacKay with instrumentalist Alasdair Paterson. Further details in Diary Dates.

Stirling ceilidh

FORMER Mod Gold medallists Kirsteen MacDonald and James Graham will be joined by this year's ladies' medallist Eilidh Munro, the Cluaran Dancers and piper Blyth Walker.

Further details in the Diary Dates.

Diary dates

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

Friday November 1: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Annual Gathering Concert and Dance, Glasgow University Union. Concert at 7.30pm and dance 10.30pm to 2am.

Saturday November 2: An Comunn, Stirling, Lesser Albert Hall, 7.30pm - see above. Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm, Eliz Carthy/Tim Eriksen.

Tuesday November 5: Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72, Waterloo Street, 8pm, Mairead Green and Anna Massie.

Friday November 8: Clydebank and District Highlander's Association Ceilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm. Tolbooth, Stirling, Roddy Hart and Lonesome Fire.

Saturday November 9: Glasgow Skye Association Children's Post Mod Ceilidh, Crawford Hall, Beith Street, 7.30pm. Tolbooth, Stirling, Mr McFall's Chamber.

Sunday November 10: Aly Bain, Moller and Bruce Molsky, Oran Mor.

Pub scene

THIS year's Mod Gold medallist Robert Robertson will be playing in the Park Bar on both Friday and Saturday while Scott Harvey will be there on Sunday.

In the Islay Inn it will be Gunna Sound on Friday and Ragae Is on Saturday. Neil Murray. Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.



Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders football cup winners - 1923/24

Duncan Johnston of Oban submitted this week's flashback photograph which features the victorious C Company 1st Battalion Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders football team with the Consolation Football Cup they won in season 1923/24. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Business owners need more than faith to go on

Sir,
I was interested to read Mr Don Hind's letter in last week's paper regarding the Lochaber tourism BID.

Firstly I wonder why Mr Hind failed to mention that he is one of the members of the Living Lochaber steering group that has initiated this scheme?

On reading his letter, I then wondered why any business owner in Lochaber would back this BID when a member of the steering group has clearly stated that he doesn't know if it will work or not.

Mr Hind says that he does not have the answers, but he does have faith and when he makes a contribution he does not ask for a business plan or budget.

Mr Hind has done well in building his successful boatyard if this is how he conducts business.

However, there are business owners across Lochaber who need a little more than faith to go on before voting for this BID. Alison Grieve, Lochleven Seafood Centre.

'Yes' voters have got too much spare cash

Sir,
What Don Hind did not say in last week's letter to the editor was that he was one of the group who made up the proposal for a Lochaber Business Improvement District.

So it is even more incredible he suggests we should all be positive and take a leap in faith in the Lochaber group's BID, business plan and budget proposal.

At the same time he admits he cannot see any direct benefit to the bottom line of his business, he does not see the connection between tourism or visitor numbers, the BID thing is a leap in the dark and he is quite happy

to throw £360 a year at it.

It's a pity last month, when his Lochaber BID group ran out of money to take the Lochaber BID forward and had to be bailed out by Highland Council and others with more taxpayers' money, that these highly successful business characters in the Lochaber Steering Group did not dig their hands in their own pockets to meet the shortfall in cash. Now we know why they did not!

The other matter he did not mention was that he is chairman of the Fort William Chamber of Commerce which, if this BID ballot is successful, will gain 789 new members, courtesy of this new tax to be applied on our business.

Yes, Donald you are right, you are 'talking rubbish' and we are tired of being conned along by this motley group in Fort William.

In my opinion any business in Lochaber that votes Yes for the Lochaber BID has got too much surplus cash. Graham Mann, Lagnaha Farm Duror.

Lack of basics for tourists visiting Mull

Sir,
I am following with interest the debate about the desperate need for parking areas, together with on-the-ground interpretation of the island.

Mull is in danger of losing its huge appeal because the community trust continues to misunderstand the real issues facing Mull's biggest economic contributor, tourism.

The community trust is trying to explain the unacceptable delays, when the current project has been on the table for two years now. Holiday Mull proposed an almost identical parking/interpretive project years ago only for the trust to shelve this, stating it did not want signs all over the place.

This was never the plan; discreet panels of information about each area set into rock/geology of each region is hardly over-bearing.

The problem for Mull in trying to go forward is that the Hebridean islands are like a fleet of beautiful ships bobbing serenely in the Hebridean Sea with willing crews on board but with no captains and certainly no admiral of the fleet.

We need bigger ideas and the right 'protection and promotion' that fits these more demanding and environmentally-aware times.

National park status has been previously supported; an environmentally-aware park board would have more clout than our community trust and community council, which are not prepared to be proactive.

Everyone on the Hebridean islands and west coast of Scotland would benefit from this designation.

With the demise of the island's tourism marketing group, we cannot keep our fingers crossed that the BBC will keep producing programmes about the area.

It is obvious to me that not having the parking/interpretive project in place years ago has cost the economy of the island heavily in lost tourism revenue.

If visitors cannot park and enjoy the island, they are not going to stay and spend their money. The delays on this latest project have perpetuated this situation.

David Woodhouse, Isle of Mull Wildlife Expeditions, Ulva Ferry, Isle of Mull.

Local economy needs Loch Etive fish farm

Sir,
Opponents to the proposed new fish farm development on Loch Etive have failed to recognise the hugely important role companies like Dawnfresh play in our

community supporting jobs and a delicate local economy.

The success of The Brander Lodge Hotel and the livelihood of our employees is based entirely on the success of companies such as Dawnfresh in this area.

Without them we simply would not be able to operate a viable business - the tourism industry alone falls far short of supporting hotel businesses in Argyll.

The impact of fish farms is remarkably low compared to the economic benefits and I wholeheartedly support the growing success of Dawnfresh and their unwavering commitment to this area.

I sincerely hope the Etive 6 development is granted permission by Argyll and Bute Council as the local economy needs this industry.

Dave Keat, owner, The Brander Lodge Hotel.

Skye family photo memories

Sir,
I visited Shonag Anderson and her family of Torrinn, Isle of Skye during the week ending October 6 2013 and was presented with that week's edition of *The Oban Times* opened at page 10 and asked if I had any comment.

I can only say I was astounded when I looked at 'Skye family photograph mystery' and saw a picture that must date back to c1970.

From the left I saw Mary Coard - my sister, now called Mary Elsom; Alex Fisher, of Ashbank fame; Isabel Fisher, also of Ashbank; Andrew Cowie, my cousin; Seonaid Stoddart, also Ashbank; Mick Elsom, now my brother in law, and James Cowie, also my cousin.

The picture was taken from behind Ashbank, a couple of miles from Torrinn.

I have to say that it took this old man (me) back to his younger days.

Thank you for that memory jerker.

Richard Coard, by email.

ISLAY LETTER

Post Mod concert

YOUNG performers from Islay largely dominated the learners' section at the Royal National Mod in Paisley two weeks ago.

Top honours also went to the island's Gaelic choir, the primary schools' choirs and the local junior Gaelic choir.

And those who tasted success were happy to reprise their winning ways before a large and appreciative audience at a post Mod concert in Bowmore Hall on Saturday.

All the winning choirs did their stuff under the batons of Ariene McKerrrell, Helen Gillies and Maureen MacDonald.

The youngsters who took first place in solo and duet singing and verse speaking were applauded to the echo and the runners-up and third place holders were equally well received.

Conductor Iseabail Mactaggart led the senior choir to National Mod victory but as she is now resident in the Glasgow area she has passed her baton on to Ariene McKerrrell who takes over at the choral helm early in the new year.

The concert also marked the final appearance of Helen Gillies as the devoted conductor of the Bowmore primary Gaelic choir.

Owing to pressure of work, Helen is unable to continue in this role and her tireless efforts and dedication were warmly praised in a fitting tribute from

Florence MacDougall, head teacher at Bowmore primary school. A further token of appreciation was handed over by Anna Mitchell, a pupil at the Gaelic unit attached to the Bowmore school.

The impressive and sparkling array of silverware on display attested to the competitors' success and the massed choral voices with 'Soraidh leibh' brought the curtain down on a concert programme that was as varied as it was enjoyable.

Soccer Academy head

A YOUNG man from Port Ellen has been appointed as head of the Children's Academy at Clyde Football Club.

Stuart Hastie, younger son of Margaret and Harold Hastie of 'The Grange', is now responsible for overseeing the player development of 10-to-12-year-old budding soccer stars.

His remit also includes scouting for new players and recruiting coaches.

The Academy's aim is to produce and nurture young soccer talent in the hope that this will lead to progression to senior teams.

Over the past two seasons, Stuart has worked with Queen's Park FC where he has coached the under-15s team. To achieve his new position, he has undertaken and passed a demanding series of training opportunities, including the Advanced Children's course with the Scottish Football Association. This course leads to the highest certificate available

on the Children's Player Pathway. Earlier in the year he began the UEFA B licence course which is both challenging and demanding and involves intensive football coaching.

Well done Stuart. Have yourself a ball!

Winning conductor

CONGRATULATIONS to conductor Donald Feist who jubilantly led Govan Gaelic Choir to Lovat and Tulliebardine success for the first time in 40 years at the Royal National Mod at Paisley.

Although born in Edinburgh, Donald spent most of his boyhood at Port Charlotte and regards Islay as his home.

The primary school teacher and author also conducts the East Dunbartonshire Boys' Area Choir and the Renfrew Junior Gaelic Choral Association.

Locum minister

THE REV Lesley Risby, now resident in Lochgilphead, has been appointed as locum minister for the now vacant parishes of Kilarrow, Kildalton and Oa and Jura.

The former minister at Saline and Blairingone parishes, she will be in harness at the Round Church in Bowmore on Sunday November 3 at 10am, and will also lead the worship at St John's Church, Port Ellen, at 11.30am.

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



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

CHA BU chòir prìomh sheirbheis ann an Alba a bhith fo smachd aon duine, agus gu sònraichte cuideigin à dùthaich eile! Saoilidh mi gur e glè bheag de mhòr-shluagh na dùthaich air nach biodh tomhas de dhraigh thar nan làithean a chaidh is iad a' faicinn fear de phrìomh ionadan tionnsgalach Alba an cun-nart dùnadh gu tur. Chan e a-mhàin an t-uabhas gun cailleadh 's dòcha faisg air dà mhìle neach an beò-shlaint air an làrach, ach gum bheil mìltean de chosnaidhean eile cuideachd an urra ri obair-giollachd an ionaid seo.

B' fheudair dhan aonadh Unite gèilleadh gu nàrach ris na dh'iarra a' bhuidheann eadar-nàiseanta Ineos mar bhunait airson cùisean a stiùireadh air ais gu buannachd agus an làrach a leasachadh às ùr. 'S dòcha gun robh e nàdarra gum biodh an t-aonadh a' foillseachadh na tairgse air Ineos mar bhurraidheachd na companaidh mhòir an aghaidh an luchd-obrach, agus theagamh cuideachd nach robh e na annas gun do ghabh mòr-chuid den luchd-obrach ri moladh cheannardan an aonaidh a dhol air stailc. Ach air an làmh eile, tha e follaiseach nach seasadh fù 's buidheann ann an seilbh na stàite ris an seòrsa call a tha ionad giollachd ola Inbhir Ghràinne air a bhith a' fulang a rèir coltais. 'S ann air an adhbhar sin a tha mòran den beachd nach robh an t-aonadh idir ealanta anns an dòigh san do làimhsich iad cùisean. Cha toir thu fuil à cloich agus tha fhios gun robh còir aig oifigich an aonaidh tuigsinn gum feumais e cur às don chall aig Inbhir Ghràinne ma bha luchd-obrach dol a ghlèidheadh an cuid cosnaidhean. Tha e air a bhith imtinneach cuideachd fhacinn, mar a tha còmhraidhean a' dol air adhart, cho fìor mhath is a tha tuarastalan agus còraichean peinnean air a bhith aig Inbhir Ghràinne agus ged a thuingear carson a bhiodh daoine leig lùghdachadh sam bith fhacinn air sin, feumaidh sinn uile bhith beò san aon saoghal eaconamach. Air sgàth na bheil de theaghlach an eiseimil chosnaidhean san ionad seo, tha dòchas gun lean aonta a dh' ionnsaigh leasachadh. Tha ionad giollachd ola Inbhir Ghràinne cuideachd deatamach dha beatha làitheil Alba san fharsaingeachd agus nach b' olc gun cailte an taic sin aig àm sam bheil eaconamach na dùthaich dìreach a' tòiseachadh ri èirigh à èiginn eaconamach cho dona 's a chunnacas riamh.

KEY SERVICES should always remain under government control. That view was frequently voiced as the dispute between Ineos, its Grangemouth staff and the Union Unite rumbled on.

Neither a private sector nor a nationalised company could sustain the losses that Ineos was reporting on this site and it is understandable why Unite stands accused of failing its members by not working with employers to achieve savings before this crisis developed. While welcoming the re-opening of the plant, this must be recognised as the inevitable outcome of company bullying which left workers, union and two governments no option but capitulation.

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

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

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Duchess determined to highlight Argyll

Key figure in marketing area as prime tourist destination

AFTER attracting more than 5,000 people to Inveraray at this year's Best of the West festival, the Duchess of Argyll has underlined her determination to draw even more people into the county.

For while she may not be a native to Inveraray or Argyll as a whole, the Duchess, Eleanor Campbell, has become one of the key figures in marketing the area as a prime tourist destination.

Not only does she work throughout the year to organise Best of the West - a celebration of local culture, music, food, drink and wildlife held in the grounds of Inveraray Castle - but she plays a significant role with Argyll and the Isles Tourism, an organisation whose sole objective is to bring more visitors to Argyll.

She combines those tasks with helping husband Torquhil, the Duke of Argyll, to run the café and visitor centre at Inveraray Castle - as well as raising Archie, 9, Rory, 7, and Charlotte, 5.

The castle was also recently used as the setting for a Downton Abbey Christmas special - something she says has dramatically boosted tourism to Inveraray and wider Argyll, even if it has altered people's perceptions of modern life there.

Producers for the show picked the spectacular residence of the Duke and Duchess of Argyll for the programme's Christmas special, leading to a drastic increase in interest not just in the castle, but in its residents.

As the Duchess explains, it has also led to a few amusing

misconceptions about the role she and her husband play in running the estate.

'Downton Abbey is why we had such a good season this year,' she said. 'I think that's helped us greatly and a lot of people have come to see the setting.'

'We're lucky with the castle because it is the main driver for Inveraray. In the past it was the staff's job to look after the estate but times have changed.'

Astronomical
'The castle eats money - the bills are astronomical. There used to be a big pot of money but it's not like that anymore. We made the castle open to the public for a reason - it has to work.'

'People are always astonished that they will find myself or my husband working in the shop or

when they find me clearing the tables in the tea room. They ask, 'are you really the Duchess?'

'An American TV crew came here recently and the main questions they had for me were, can you make a cup of tea or make a bed.'

'They literally filmed me emptying the washing machine and I was terrified thinking, what's in here? We'd just come back from Tiree and had to do 15 loads of washing. I was dreading something muddy falling out.'

During Downton's filming, plans were being drawn up for this year's BOWFest, as it has become known. The event grew out of a love for Argyll and a determination to attract more people to the area.

The Duchess explains: 'In London you have the best

theatres etcetera right on your doorstep, but you don't use it. You become complacent.'

'Argyll has some terrific assets and the same can be true here for what we have. We have to work hard to highlight them.'

'I came here as an outsider. I grew up in London and my mother is from South Africa. We didn't really come to Scotland either.'

'I first came to stay here with Torquhil's sister, Louise. My now mother-in-law picked us up from Glasgow train station and as we were crossing the Inveraray bridge I saw the castle and said 'that house is amazing!'

Louise said, 'Err, yes. That's where we're going.' I could hear my mother's voice in my head at that point...'

'It's an incredible location. We're sitting with some great heritage, food, drink and all these different strands. The tourists are coming here because we've got great food and gorgeous scenery.'

'For music alone there's so much to celebrate. We have the likes of Joy Dunlop from the Gaelic community and for Tiree to produce so many really fantastic bands really is incredible.'

'We're all sitting on this amazing stuff and I wanted to put it all in the spotlight.'

Confident
Yet not everybody was as confident as she that the showcase would be as success.

She said: 'People said it'll never work - you can't have a festival like that here. You can't get people to come here.'

'We had more than 5,000 people this year and we actually saw a better spend per head than previous years.'

'It has definitely brought people to the area. Not just individuals but families too. This year, you couldn't get a room in any of the local hotels or bed and breakfasts.'

A recent drive nationally to dedicate more resources towards



Eleanor Campbell, the Duchess of Argyll, who says Argyll's 'amazing assets' are the driving force to boost tourism to the county. 16_144doarg1

tourism has seen increased competition for visitors from across the country. The clamour has placed even more emphasis on the need to provide a first class visitor experience to ensure people keep returning - as well as a top class marketing campaign.

BOWFest has become a key element in that and, while the majority of the attendees are local, a growing contingent are from England, Europe and further afield.

Keeping the momentum going is important, added the Duchess, who has urged Argyll businesses

to ensure they compete just as much as other areas to meet tourist demand.

She said: 'I was driving through a well-known tourist village in Argyll recently and it is on one of the main routes. There was a café there but at 1pm it was closed. It doesn't make sense. Tourists don't go away between 1-2pm, they look for lunch, so why is the café closed?'

'Tourists coming here have got money to spend and they're not going to wait around for you to open up.'

'There needs to be some good tourist sense applied.'

'The quality has got to be right too. We're sitting on really good local produce, such as our shellfish, beef, cheeses and fish. Sometimes you go and get really bad food and you look at where we are and ask, why?'

'For example, I recently visited an Argyll deli and they were serving frozen prawns from India. Nobody comes to Argyll to try and Indian prawns.'

Despite 2013's BOWFest having just finished last month, preparations are already underway for next year's event, which will be held over September 13-14.



New efforts to promote Inveraray Castle included hosting this rally of Ferraris as they made their way across the county this summer. 15_144ferrari2



Spare a penny for the guy?

It is that time of year again. These youngsters from Soroba are pictured touring around with their 'Guy'. The children were collecting for a bonfire, organised by the Soroba Glen Residents Association. 144twenty01



End of an era for Oban train driver

An Oban-based Scotrail driver reached the end of the line on Friday after 48 years in the cab. The retirement of Peter MacNaughton marks the end of an era for both him and the service. Peter joined the Oban staff in 1946 when the network was operated by the old London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company. Peter is pictured, leaning from his cab, ready to leave Oban Station at the controls of his last train, sharing a few reminiscences with railway colleagues. 144twenty03



Brother and sister line up in Mod Gold Medal final

A brother and sister team both reached the finals of the Gold Medal at this year's Royal National Mod. Deirdre Mactaggart, 21, and her brother, Seuma, 25, of Port Ellen, Islay, finished in fourth position in the women's and men's finals. 144twenty02



Dancer's step in right direction

A 21-year-old from Banavie is striving to keep Highland Dancing alive in Lochaber. Jill Yule, of Badabrie, has received her United Kingdom Alliance diploma, which allows her to teach. 144twenty04



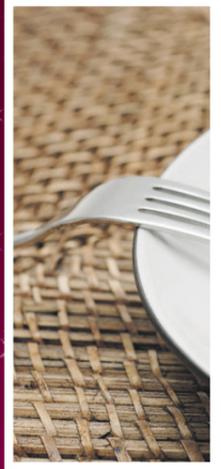
Students celebrate course success

Forty youngsters from Lochaber, Kinlochleven and Mallaig High Schools with their certificates after completing a three-day understanding industry course at Loch Eil Outward Bound Centre. 144twenty05



Left: Determined play from youngsters during a shinty match between Lochaber and Cowal and Bute. 144twenty06

FESTIVE Food & Drink



Festive food & Drink

Get prepared early

IT IS never too early to start your Christmas preparations – even if the big day seems like a while away – and with food and drink such a big part of the celebrations, what better way to kick off your plans.

Make a Christmas pudding

If you're going down the traditional route and making your own Christmas pudding now is the time to get baking. Giving the cake around two months to mature will allow the flavours to deepen and intensify.

Just more than a week after you've baked the Christmas dessert be sure to soak it in brandy, repeating this process about three weeks later.

With the shops selling out quickly, it is also a good idea to grab advent calendars when you see them to avoid the wee ones (and the big kids) being disappointed.

Start shopping in advance

When in the shops you could start stocking up on non-perishable essentials for the festive period like crackers, napkins and chutneys – but remember to also check local markets in the run up to Christmas, you'll find many culinary delights as well as novel gift ideas.

Plan ahead

About half way through December write your Christmas day cooking plan. See our guide on how to cook the perfect turkey – but don't forget all the trimmings. You can even plan in what the rest of the family can do to help, just don't let them accuse you of being a dictator in the kitchen.

Don't forget your pet this Christmas, be sure and pick up a treat or present to involve them in the celebrations.

Make a shopping list

About a week beforehand make up a shopping list – you'll need ham, cheese, potatoes, carrots, parsnips, stuffing, sausages, bacon, cream and sauces to name but a few items. Leave the purchasing of the fresh vegetables until a couple of days beforehand though.

Be sure to also pick up the ingredients for mulled wine and mince pies to get into the swing of the Christmas spirit.

Chill your bottles

Don't forget to chill your bottles on December 23 and 30 – and stock up on party food for Hogmanay and visitors in the New Year.

Socialise!

Of course if entertaining all sounds like a bit too much hard work for what is supposed to be the best time of the year why not head out and meet family and friends.

With Argyll and Lochaber packed full of fantastic venues there is no excuse for hibernating like a hedgehog this party season.

Have a great time

But whether you choose to stay in or go out, be sure to relax, socialise and have a great time – just not so great that you end up trying to dance with an inflatable Santa.

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A WARM WELCOME AWAITS



Christmas pudding with citrus & spice

Ingredients

- 175g each raisins, currants and sultanas
- 140g whole glacé cherries
- 50g mixed peel
- 50g whole blanched almonds
- zest 1 orange and 1 lemon
- 1 medium carrot, peeled and finely grated
- 150ml brandy
- 50ml/2fl oz orange liqueur, such as Grand Marnier
- 175g light muscovado sugar
- 175g fresh white breadcrumbs
- 125g self-raising flour
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- ¼ tsp grated nutmeg
- 175g butter, frozen
- 2 eggs, beaten
- butter, for greasing
- holly sprig, to decorate



Method

1. Mix the fruit, almonds, citrus zests and the carrot with the brandy and orange liqueur in a large mixing bowl. Cover and leave to soak overnight.
2. Mix all the dry ingredients together, then add to the soaked fruit mixture. Grate in the butter, then add the eggs and stir. Don't forget to make a wish!
3. Grease a 1.5-litre pudding basin with butter and line the base with greaseproof paper. Spoon in the mixture, press down well and make a hollow with the back of the spoon in the centre. Cover the surface with a round of greaseproof paper, then cover the bowl with double-thickness greaseproof paper and foil and tie at the rim with string.

Lower the pudding into a pan with an upturned saucer in the base, then fill with water until it comes halfway up the sides of the bowl. Steam for 6 hrs, topping up with water as necessary.

4. Alternatively, steam in the oven. Stand the pudding basin in a roasting tin filled with water, then cover with a tent of foil and cook for the same length of time at 160C/fan 140C/gas 3. Check roasting tin occasionally as the water may need to be topped up.

5. To store, allow to cool, then store in a cool, dry cupboard. The pudding will keep for up to a year.

6. On the day, steam for 1 hr before turning out, decorating with holly and serving with extra-thick double cream or vanilla ice cream.

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How to cook the perfect turkey

Buy

There is nothing worse than a mean Christmas spread so allow 500g (1lb 2oz) of raw meat per person. Preferably buy your turkey from a local butcher, this may be more expensive than frozen birds you'll find in a supermarket but you'll taste the difference.

Defrost

If you do opt for a frozen turkey be sure and allow plenty of defrosting time – this is a classic mistake and one that has caused a delay in many a Christmas dinner. Your turkey has to be fully defrosted before you start cooking it and the time it takes to do so will depend on its size.

Prepare

Before cooking leave the bird to rest until it reaches room temperature. Smear softened butter under the skin and over the legs and season well. Alternatively, you could try stuffing some pancetta rashers under the skin or if you're pushed for time, try to lay some strips of pancetta or streaky bacon over the top of the bird.

Stuff

Remove the giblets and stuff the turkey. You don't have to use stuffing for this - a whole orange will keep your meat moist. But if you do want to use stuffing try making your own – it will be much better.

Preheat

Once you've got all fillings in preheat your oven to 190°C,

375°F or gas mark five and weigh your turkey. For small birds of 4kg or less give your turkey 20 minutes per kilo plus 70 minutes. For larger birds over 4kg allow 20 minutes per kilo plus 90 minutes.

Roast

Place your turkey in a large roasting tin and cover with foil. Roast for the calculated time but remove the foil 30 minutes before the end to allow the skin to crisp and brown.

Test

To check your turkey is cooked properly, pierce the thigh with a skewer and make sure the juices run clear - you don't want to see any pink. If you do see pink in the juices return the bird to the oven for another 15 minutes and retest.

Rest

Allow the turkey to rest after removing it from the oven. Cover it tightly with foil and leave it for 30 minutes. This will help the meat be moist and juicy.

Carve

To carve use a really sharp carving knife, and make sure the turkey doesn't slide about by holding it in place with a meat fork.

Enjoy!

Serve with all the trimmings.



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Prawn Cocktail

Roast Turkey, Traditional Trimmings and Rich Gravy
Roast Beef Chasseur, Traditional Trimmings and a Yorkshire Pudding
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Christmas Vegetable Wellington
Chicken stuffed with Haggis smothered in a Whisky sauce

Christmas pudding and Brandy Sauce
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what's on

THE OBAN TIMES
FREE EVENT LISTING

THURSDAY - October 31

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

FRIDAY - November 1

10.30am, Coffee morning, Kilmelford Village Hall.
7pm, Giants in the Forest, Calgary Art in Nature, Mull.
7.30pm, Drama for All, Appin Village Hall.
8pm, Mod Club CD launch, Aros Hall, Tobermory, Mull.
8pm, Oban Mic, O'Donnell's, Oban.
9pm, Karaoke, McCaig's Return, Oban.
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

SATURDAY - November 2

8.50am, Ramblers Scotland Kerraera walk, meet Fort William Woollen Mill, Ballachulish tourist info at 9.15am or ferry slipway for 10.35 sailing.
10.30am, Halloween Family fun Day, Ocean Explorer Centre, Dunstaffnage.
11am, Coffee morning, Pennyghael Community Centre, Mull.
11am, Simply Handmade craft fair, Corran Halls, Oban.
1pm, Oban Darts Open, Glencruitten Golf Club, Oban.
2pm, Charities fair, Salen School, Mull.
2pm, Holly tea, Glencruitten Church Centre, Oban.
2pm, Western Isles Yacht Club AGM, Aros Hall, Tobermory, Mull.
Opportunity Knocks auditions, Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban.
7pm, Giants in the Forest, Calgary Art in Nature, Mull.
8pm, Easdale Rocks, Seil Island Hall.
8pm, Monsters Ball Halloween party, Papparazzi, Oban.
9pm, Halloween party, Taynuilt Hotel.
9pm, Mel and Friends, O'Donnell's, Oban.
9.30pm, Paul P, McCaig's Return, Oban.
10pm, Live band, The Lorne Bar, Oban.
11pm, Nightmare on George Street, Skipinnish, Oban.

SUNDAY - November 3

3pm, Tim Kilphuis Trio, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
6pm, Curry and quiz night, George Hotel, Inveraray.
7pm, Disco, McCaig's Return, Oban.
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

MONDAY - November 4

2pm, Community café, Lochdonhead Primary School, Mull.

TUESDAY - November 5

9am, Tender portals made easy workshop, Argyll Hotel, Inveraray.
10.30am, Oban USA, Regent Hotel, Oban.
7.30pm, Whist drive, Glencruitten Golf Club, Oban.
8pm, Fort William Accordion & Fiddle Club, Railway Club, Inverloch.

WEDNESDAY - November 6

11am, Introduction to Archives, Lochaber Archive Centre, West Highland College, Fort William.
7.30pm, Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club, Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban.
8pm, David Hughes Dance, Mull Theatre, Tobermory, Mull.
9pm, Pub quiz, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

THURSDAY - November 7

8.20am, Ramblers Scotland Glen Orchy walk, meet Fort William Woollen Mill, Ballachulish tourist info at 8.45am or Oban's Longdale car park at 9.15am.
10am, LORN market, Kintaline Farm, Benderloch.

Send your events to whatson@obantimes.co.uk.

Friends brave torrential rain to complete 18-mile charity challenge



Pretty in Pink: Eilidh Hunter and her friends walked two laps of the Crinan Canal to raise funds during Breast Cancer Awareness month. 06_a44pink06

A TEENAGER who was devastated to find out her sister had been diagnosed with breast cancer this week donned her finest pink t-shirt to raise cash for Breast Cancer Care.

Eilidh Hunter, from Oban, found out earlier this year that her sister was one of the 54,600 women in the UK that get diagnosed with breast cancer

every year.

With Breast Cancer Care's Wear it Pink Day last Friday, Eilidh turned her thoughts to fundraising and decided to walk two laps of the Crinan Canal.

Not put off by torrential rain, Eilidh and eight friends set off from Ardrishaig at 10am and finished their 18-mile challenge seven hours later.

She said: 'My sister was diagnosed with breast cancer recently and I wanted to do it in recognition of her. I know she has received a lot of support from people and cancer support agencies.'

'We have been fundraising in the Co-op in Oban. They let us put a table up to help us get

sponsorship. We were in there for four hours and raised £200 so obviously that has helped us a lot.'

Receiving support from friends, family and well-wishers, Eilidh and her friends raised £900.

The group also thanked the Crinan Hotel for allowing them to shelter from the downpour at the halfway stage of their walk.

Storytellers provide insight into native Canadian culture

TWO STORYTELLERS from native Canadian backgrounds gave a unique insight into their culture during a performance in Oban Library.

And Jason Chamakese and Robert Gladue said they saw a lot of comparisons between their own people's history and the west Highlands of Scotland.

Both men hail from Indian reserves, referred to as First

Nations, in Saskatchewan and shared traditional stories and songs from their homeland.

They also performed in Du-noon and Rothesay as part of a Scottish tour.

Pelican flute player Jason said: 'We have learnt a lot about Scottish culture and history and have been told stories about some of the struggles people faced. They are similar to the struggles we faced. You were banned from wearing tartan and speaking your native language and we are able to relate to that.'

Robert, who sings and plays the drum, added: 'I think people here appreciate there are other places where the culture is alive and well, despite efforts to eradicate it.'



Robert Gladue, left, and Jason Chamakese performed at Oban Library. 15_t44speakers01

Book based on Glencoe massacre receives approval from Scottish First Minister

A BOOK based on the Glencoe Massacre has received a glowing reference from First Minister Alex Salmond.

A first time author at the age of 82, Ken Bisset's *Lost Souls* has secured critical acclaim, including a message of support from the First Minister.

The Glasgow writer's book is described as an historical romance, mystery, action and adventure novel, centered around the sole, unnoticed

survivor of the massacre.

A Scottish secret double agent accidentally finds the sole survivor and they form a relationship. The double agent works for both William III and James VII, always with Scottish interests at heart.

The agent and the sole survivor set off, through the Royal Houses of Europe, to find the root cause of the massacre of Clan Donald. Once they uncover it they set

out to exact revenge on the perpetrators on behalf of the victims.

Speaking of the book, Mr Salmond said: 'The massacre of Glencoe is probably one of the most famous and most tragic episodes in Scottish history and your unique perspective will bring a fresh view on this subject.'

The book, number one of a trilogy, is available on Amazon Kindle's ebook site.

Locals succeed in Nevis School of Highland Dancing's annual competition

HIGHLAND dancers from across Scotland came to Fort William on Saturday to take part in Nevis School of Highland Dancing's annual competition.

Inverloch Primary School's hall was packed out as dancers of all ages and abilities took their turns trying to impress judge for the day Lesley Anderson of Dundee.

There was plenty of local talent taking part, including a large contingent of dancers from Skye and Kyle, as well as Lochaber and Oban.

Inverloch youngster Laura Robertson won the best Nevis School of Highland dancing beginner under eight trophy, while Connie MacLennan won the same award for under 14. Hannah Graham of Kilmore was the overall winner for the category.

Anna Taylor of Portree was named best novice aged 10, with Ceitidh Smith, also Portree, winning the Highland trophy.

The overall winner for intermediate aged 11 was Alicia Mackenzie of Stornoway, while Sophie MacPherson of Oban was the overall winner in the novice aged eight category.

Locals also did well in the premier events in the afternoon, with Fort William's Jamie Lee Laverty named best Nevis dancer in the 11 years group, and Katie MacPherson of Oban overall winner for 13 years old.

Catherine Watchman of Fort William was best Nevis dancer in the 15 years category, and Beth Ballantyne of Kyle was overall winner for 16 years and over.

Trophy winners:

Beginner: Eight years - Overall - Annag MacDonald, Thurso; Highland - Annag MacDonald, Thurso; Best Nevis HDA - Laura Robertson, Inverloch, 14 years - Overall - Hannah Graham, Kilmore; Runner-Up - Emma Montgomery, Skye; Highland - Hannah Graham, Kilmore; Best Nevis HDA - Connie MacLennan, Fort William.

Novice: Eight years - Overall - Sophie MacPherson, Oban; Runner-Up - Beth Campbell, Skye; Highland - Sophie MacPherson, Oban, 10 years - Overall - Anna Taylor, Portree; Runner-Up - Isla Dunlop, Appin; Highland - Ceitidh Smith, Portree.

Intermediate: 10 years - Overall - Anna Morrison, Inverness; Runner-Up - Holly Tait, Portree; Highland - Anna Morrison, Inverness, 11 years - Overall - Alicia Mackenzie, Stornoway; Runner-Up - Ashleigh Taylor, Oban; Highland - Alicia Mackenzie, Stornoway.

Premier: 10 years - Overall - Lainie Wallace, Falkirk; Highland - Lainie Wallace, Falkirk, 11 years - Overall - Sarah Henderson, Dundee; Runner-Up - Leia Taylor, Inverness; Highland - Sarah Henderson, Dundee; Best Nevis HDA - Jamie Lee Laverty, Fort William, 13 years - Overall - Katie MacPherson, Oban; Runner-Up - Katie Munro, Inverness; Highland - Katie Munro, Inverness, 15 years - Overall - Lauren Wallace, Falkirk; Runner-Up - Catherine Watchman, Fort William; Highland - Lauren Wallace - Falkirk; Best Nevis HDA - Catherine Watchman, Fort William, 16 years and over years - Overall - Beth Ballantyne, Kyle; Runner-Up - Nicola Stevenson, Portree; Highland - Nicola Stevenson, Portree.

Scottish pupils prepare for Gaelic debate competition

EXCITEMENT is growing as pupils from across Scotland make their final preparations ahead of next week's 2013 Deasbad, the BT Alba Gaelic debate competition.

In total, 22 two teams from 19 schools will be taking part - with Ullapool High School competing for the first time ever.

Now in its 15th year, the competition has gone from strength to strength and it is now seen as a highlight in the academic calendar of Scotland's secondary schools.

The first and second rounds will be held at An Lannair in

Stornoway on November 5 and November 6, respectively.

After the second round, the four teams with the highest marks will progress to the final stages in Edinburgh at the end of November.

Many past competitors have gone on to forge successful careers in the Gaelic world and can be seen and heard regularly across television and radio.

Chairperson of the BT Scotland National Gaelic Schools' Debate management committee, Calum Iain MacLeod, said: 'I would actively encourage members of the public to go along and support the 2013

Deasbad BT Alba.

'Through the course of the first two rounds in Stornoway we see some excellent debates - a showcase of the strength of the debating and communication skills of our Gaelic speaking youngsters.'

'I wish all the teams taking part in this year's competition the very best and would particularly like to welcome Ullapool High School to the Deasbad for the first time.'

Among the teams taking part are Mallaig, Lochaber, Ardnarnach, Oban, Portree, The Nicolson Institute, Sir E Scott and Lionaieit.



Teams from Nicolson Institute and Tain Royal Academy reached the final of the 2012 Deasbad. f44deasbad1no

Malt of the Month
SPONSORED BY
Ben Nevis Distillery
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ISLAY'S last independent distillery, Kilchoman, has quickly established itself as one of the most exciting brands - quite a feat considering it has not yet reached its 10th birthday.



While it continues to produce whiskies as fine as its Machir Bay, surely that trend will continue. Not only was this particular dram the winner of the Whisky of the Year 2013 at the International Whisky competition (IWC), but it helped master distiller Anthony Wills to the Master Distiller of the Year title.

So popular has the drink been since its awards in April that Machir Bay 2012 bottling has actually sold out at many retailers, with the distillery itself one of the last places you'll find the drink.

The obvious question arises - what makes this blend so attractive?

Machir Bay is a vatting of four casks and five year old ex-bourbon casks, with the four year old casks are finished in Oloroso sherry butts for four weeks prior to bottling. Each bottling of the drink contains more mature casks, meaning the blend will develop over the years.

Here then, we're starting at the birth of a tippale that will surely improve with age.

Pull the cork and you begin to get an idea of what makes Machir Bay so attractive. A tornado of barbecue aromas will tease your tastebuds from the off, lavishing your senses with hints of smoked ham and oysters on a malty, citrus bed. You could lose yourself in its scents. Take a sip and the flavour profile continues to develop. Being an Islay whisky, a spicy peaty flavour is expected, but this is followed by laces of vanilla, star anise, oak and black pepper - all delivered with the soothing sweetness of toffee apples, caramel and dark chocolate.

The long and salty finish is complemented by more waves of citrus and peat, leaving that peppery, spiced peat flavour to linger as long on the tongue as it does on the nose.

Machir Bay manages to achieve a difficult feat, to be both intricate and instantly enjoyable - and all in its first year of bottling.

It certainly sets itself out as a malt to look out for in the coming years.

Kilchoman Machir Bay
ABV 46%
Price range Approx £38

Alexander MacPhail

Biography launched to celebrate life of Ballachulish doctor

A HIGHLAND doctor who formed the blueprint for what was to become the NHS is the subject of a new biography to be launched in Ballachulish this weekend.

Dr Lachlan Grant was the doctor in Ballachulish and Kinlochleven from 1900 to 1945 and the biography, entitled *Talent and Tenacity*, gives a detailed account of the life of a country doctor, who distinguished himself in medicine, and established himself as a tireless campaigner for social, medical, political and land reform.

The book is by Dr Roddy Macleod, who held appointment as GP in Ballachulish from 1977 to 2003, and the author will launch the book at the Isles of Glencoe Hotel this Saturday from 2pm.

Dr Macleod has spent 30 years reading and researching Grant's life; the past five years specifically honed towards publication of the works that have now materialised.

Due coverage is given to Grant's early life, born in Johnstone and brought up in Ballachulish from the age of nine.

Though his local schooling was over at the age of 14 year, his intelligence was fully recognised, and his headmaster and the local UF minister, who were both notable classicists, coached and tutored him for a time, then passed him on to a private tutor in Glasgow, whereby he gained his university entry.

At Edinburgh University medical school he was a

star pupil, graduating with distinction in 1894 at the age of 23.

Through ongoing study Grant accumulated a galaxy of higher medical degrees and awards. As a result he was talent-spotted by two eminent Edinburgh consultants who set out to groom him, with a view to creating academic succession. It was at this point that the young star made clear his own career plan, and his wish to honour an earlier promise made to himself; to return to the Highlands to 'practice medicine among his own people'.

Thus, shaking off the star dust, Dr Grant made his escape from the ivory towers of Edinburgh, heading first for Oban, but in the same year (1895) he was appointed to be the medical officer at Gesto Hospital in Skye.

The five years he spent on Skye were to greatly influence Grant, and recalibrate his political thinking. The island at the time was stirring, with land reform top of the agenda, while riots arose and martyrs were created.

A return home to Ballachulish on appointment as medical officer to the Ballachulish Slate Quarries in 1900 was looked upon as the ideal scenario until, within two years, Grant was dismissed from his post by the quarry com-

pany. This led to now infamous episode in Highland history, the 'Ballachulish Lock Out', a dispute that lasted 18 months with recourse to the law courts and an appeal to the House of Lords.

Dr Grant emerged unscathed, and went on to champion the causes dear to his heart - the Crofters and Cottars, local transport improvement, fostering new local industry such as the building of the Blackwater Dam, the pipe line, the Power House, the factory and the new village of Kinlochleven.



The state of medical healthcare throughout the Highlands and Islands greatly concerned him, so it was with huge relief on his part he saw the government set up the Dewar Committee, to examine the deficiencies that racked the service.

When it came to Dr Grant's turn to present his evidence before the committee in Oban on October 28, 1912, he was well prepared.

Through the Dewar Committee, the government accepted his recommendations in full and set up the Highlands and Islands Medical Service in 1913, to put the measures into effect. What the biography, however, reveals is that Dr Lachlan Grant had all along been advocating the creation of a national medical service; effectively an NHS, which eventually

State for Scotland at the time.

Among the many revelations in the book, the exquisite friendship between Dr Grant and Ramsay MacDonald, the prime minister, is the one that takes readers by surprise. Dr Grant's 50 years in medicine was a remarkable record in itself. He enjoyed music, played the piano (by ear) provided accompaniment (in public) for his wife's Gaelic singing, played golf, enjoyed photography, wrote and published countless pamphlets, read extensively, and staunchly supported

the game of shinty, being president of Ballachulish Shinty Club for more than 40 years.

Dr Grant retired and died in the same year, 1945, at home in Craigeleven on Thursday, May 31. Lachlan Grant lies at rest in the family grave in the Duroor of Appin cemetery.

The biography's publishers are the Colonsay-based House of Lochar, and the editor on the project was Lady Kingarth. Prof Jim Hunter CBE, who has local connections to Duroor has written the foreword to the book.



Above: Ballachulish's Dr Lachlan Grant is the subject of a new biography launched this weekend. Inset: Dr Lachlan Grant pictured with former Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald, far right.

Oban Phoenix Cinema		
The Conjuring	Thursday 31st	19.00
Insidious: Chapter 2	Thursday 31st	21.30
Hotel Transylvania Casper	Thursday 31st	18.00
	Saturday 2nd	13.00
Frankenweenie	Sunday 3rd	14.00
Thor 2: The Dark World	Friday 1st	18.00 (3D), 21.00
	Saturday 2nd	12.00, 15.00 (3D), 18.00, 21.00 (3D)
	Sunday 3rd	13.00 (3D), 16.00, 19.00 (3D)
	Monday 4th	18.00 (3D), 21.00
	Tuesday 5th	18.00, 21.00 (3D)
	Wednesday 6th	18.00 (3D), 21.00
Blue Jasmine	Friday 1st	19.00
	Saturday 2nd	16.00, 19.00
	Sunday 3rd	17.00
	Monday 4th	19.00
	Tuesday 5th	19.00
	Wednesday 6th	19.00
	Thursday 7th	19.00

The Conjuring (15)

In 1971, Carolyn and Roger Perron move their family into a dilapidated Rhode Island farm house and soon strange things start happening around it with escalating nightmarish terror. In desperation, Carolyn contacts the noted paranormal investigators, Ed and Lorraine Warren, to examine the house. What the Warrens discover is a whole area steeped in a satanic haunting that is now targeting the Perron family wherever they go. To stop this evil, the Warrens will have to call upon all their skills and spiritual strength to defeat this spectral menace at its source that threatens to destroy everyone involved.

Insidious: Chapter 2 (15)

The famed horror team of director James Wan (Saw and The Conjuring) and writer Leigh Whannell (Saw), creators of the original Insidious are back with Insidious Chapter 2, a terrifying sequel to the acclaimed horror film. With Josh (Patrick Wilson) and Renai (Rose Byrne) coming to terms with the death of parapsychologist Elise (Lin Shaye), the Lambert family move into grandmother Lorraine's home (Barbara Hershey) while the police investigate the bizarre incident. However, with Josh's increasingly odd behaviour following his return from The Further, Renai and Lorraine are forced to seek help from Elise's paranormal investigators to protect their family and uncover the truth to why this dangerous spirit world still haunts them, they soon learn the shocking reality... Josh didn't come back alone.

Hotel Transylvania (U)

A paranormal expert and his daughter bunk in an abandoned house populated by 3 mischievous ghosts and one friendly one. Come and enjoy this classic comedy with Bill Pullman and Christina Ricci!

Frankenweenie (PG)

From creative genius Tim Burton (Alice in Wonderland, The Nightmare Before Christmas) comes Frankweenie, a heartwarming tale about a boy and his dog. After unexpectedly losing his beloved dog Sparky, young Victor harnesses the power of science to bring his best friend back to life - with just a few minor adjustments. He tries to hide his home-sewn creation, but when Sparky gets out, Victor's fellow students, teachers and the entire town all learn that getting a new leash on life can be monstrous.

Thor 2: The Dark World (12A)

Marvel's 'Thor: The Dark World' continues the big screen adventures of Thor, as he battles to save Earth and all of the Nine Realms from a shadowy enemy that predates the universe itself. Set in the aftermath of Marvel's 'Avengers' Thor fights to restore order across the cosmos... but an ancient race led by the vengeful Malekith returns to plunge the universe back into darkness. Faced with an enemy that even Odin and Asgard cannot withstand, Thor must embark on his most perilous and personal journey yet, one that will reunite him with Jane Foster and force him to sacrifice everything to save us all. This is another must see for any Marvel Comic fan.

Cinema 21 Cinema 2 will be open for showing 3 Halloween films for kids. Come and try out our new bean-bags! Cinema 2 has a capacity of 20. So get your tickets before they're all gone!

Hotel Transylvania (U)
Sony Pictures 87mins
Dracula, who operates a high-end resort away from the human world, goes into overprotective mode when a boy discovers the resort and falls for the count's teen-aged daughter. An excellent choice for the kids this Halloween! Showing in our newly refurbished Screen 2!

Casper (PG)

A paranormal expert and his daughter bunk in an abandoned house populated by 3 mischievous ghosts and one friendly one. Come and enjoy this classic comedy with Bill Pullman and Christina Ricci!

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Thor 2: The Dark World (12A)

Jasmine French used to be on the top of the heap as a New York socialite, but now is returning to her estranged sister in San Francisco utterly ruined. As Jasmine struggles with her haunting memories of a privileged past bearing dark realities she ignored, she tries to recover in her present. Unfortunately, it all proves a losing battle as Jasmine's narcissistic hangups and her consequences begin to overwhelm her. In doing so, her old pretensions and new deceptions begin to foul up everyone's lives, especially her own.

Audience enthralled at talk by Doug Scott - first Briton to conquer Everest

A TALK by one of Britain's most famous climbers, Doug Scott, at the Dunstaffnage-based Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), has helped to raise more than £1,000 for a youth charity.

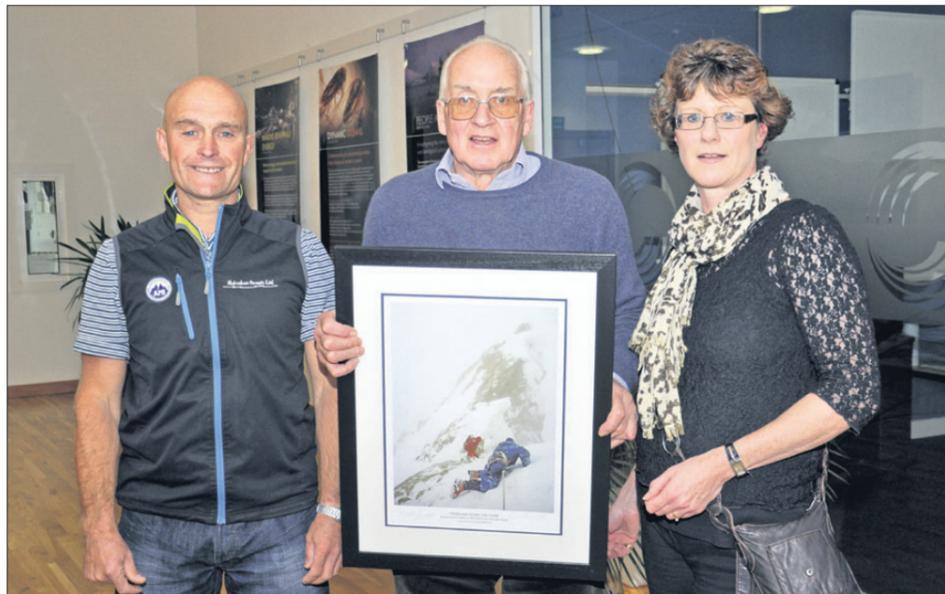
Hebridean Pursuits is the local arm of the Roses Charitable Trust, of which Mr Scott is a patron.

A large audience was enthralled with the talk, entitled Significant and Joyous Moments of Being in the Mountains, during which Mr Scott - the first Briton to conquer Everest - spoke of his exciting climbing career.

A further £1,000 was also raised for Mr Scott's own charity, Community Action Nepal.

Andy Spink, managing director of Hebridean Pursuits, said: 'It is fantastic to get Doug Scott here, as he has added this date to his lecture tour.'

Money was raised through a raffle and an auction, to which Mr Scott contributed a signed and mounted photograph.



Doug Scott, centre, with Andy Spink, managing director of Hebridean Pursuits and Jane Sayer of the Roses Charitable Trust. 15. t44doug01

St Kilda to feature in "Tony's travels" on BBC Alba

ACTOR and presenter Tony Kearney, formerly from the BBC's 'River City', swaps the comfort of a television studio for another set of four varied and challenging professions in Turas Tony/Tony's Travels on BBC Alba on Monday night.

The episode will see Tony travel to the remote Hebridean island of St. Kilda, where he will take on tasks such as welcoming visitors to the island and surveying wildlife.

Turas Tony will be shown from 10pm-10.30pm.

Drama festival date correction

NEXT year's North Lorn Drama Festival will be held during the week commencing March 17.

The festival, which is marking its 60th anniversary in 2014 was wrongly advertised as taking place the week beginning March 24, 2014.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Four out of five adults use their local paper to find out what's on

★★★★ "Your local paper - a must-see"

Source: Compliment Choice V, The Newspaper Society

Regional Press
closer to home

OBAN U3A
Tuesday 5 November 2013 at 10.30am
Regent Hotel, Corran Esplanade, Oban
A warm welcome to members new and old for our monthly coffee and chat meeting.

FORT WILLIAM ACCORDION & FIDDLE CLUB
Musical Evening on Tuesday, 5 November at 8pm
GUEST ARTISTS: Ian Cruickshanks Trio Railway Club Inverlochly All Welcome
Admission £4.00... Tea & Raffle Extra
In the event of a last minute cancellation by any guest artist the committee will find an alternative artist

SEIL ISLAND HALL
Saturday, November 2, 8pm till late
Admission £8
Accompanied under 16 free B.Y.O.B.
Easdale Rocks presents:
The Antics, The Lush Puppies and Mudslope
In memory of Scott MacLister - proceeds to Fishermen's Mission.

CEILIDH DANCE
Mingarry Hall
Saturday, November 16 @ 7.30pm
Singers: Norman MacKinnon, Margaret MacLellan, Morag Smith, Jimmy Cameron and Local Folk Group.
Music by Ross MacPherson
Admission £10
In Aid of Macmillan Nurses

To advertise in the **WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD**
Telephone: **01631 568000**

An Comunn Gàidhealach an Òbain
ECHOES OF THE MOD
Skipinnish Ceilidh House
Saturday 9 November at 7.30pm
Admission £5
Artists to include: Eilidh Munro (Mod Gold Medallist 2013), Joan Morrison (Traditional Medallist 2013), Calum Angus MacDonald (Traditional Medallist 2013)
SUPPER INCLUDED

Oban Accordion & Fiddle Club
Monthly club night
Thursday 7th November 7.30pm
Argyllshire Gathering Hall
Guest Artist: Duncan Black & Marie Fielding
Admission £4

'SIMPLY HANDMADE' CRAFT FAIR
Saturday November 2nd 11am-4pm
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Islay Beef Herd Competition

THE ISLAY Beef Herd Competition was held on September 28, with 23 herds entered to give judge, Mr John Semple, Ellary, a hard task.

The results are as follows:
Individual Cow: 1 I Torrance Starchmill; 2 R Cunningham Neriby; 3 R Fletcher Keills.
Team of cows: 1 I Torrance Starchmill; 2 RSPB Aoradh; 3 R Cunningham Neriby.
Team of Autumn Calves: 1 I Torrance Starchmill; 2 C MacTaggart Uiskentuie.
Team of spring calves: 1 R Epps Ardnave; 2 R Cunningham Neriby; 3 I Torrance Starchmill.
Team of native calves: 1 W Angus Ballymeanach; 2 J MacHarrie Ballinaby. Best overall team of calves: 1 I Torrance Starchmill.
Highland Herd: 1 H Porter Carrabus; 2 H Porter Carrabus; 3 A Wiggins Portnahaven.
Native Team Of Cows: 1 H Porter Carrabus; 2 J MacHarrie Ballinaby. Small herd, 15 or less: 1 N MacDoanid Gartbreck; 2 N MacLellan Torrardarroch; 3 W Angus Ballymeanach.
Individual Autumn Calf: 1 I Torrance Starchmill; 2 C MacTaggart Uiskentuie.
Individual Spring Calf: 1 R Epps Ardnave; 2 R Cunningham Neriby; 3 E Brown Cruach. Best Overall Calf: 1 I Torrance Starchmill.
Best Overall Herd: 1 I Torrance Starchmill; 2 R Cunningham Neriby; 3 RSPB Aoradh.



Agricultural minister Richard Lochhead is urging farmers to get their applications in for funding for drainage projects.

Prices up at Dalmally sale

UNITED Auctions held a special sale of 2,787 lambs and sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart last Friday, where all classes sold at enhanced values.
Lambs, mainly smaller and longer keeping types, recorded a rise of £11.97 on the last year and sold to £65 per head for Texel Crosses from Glenshellach and to 198pence per kilo for Suffolk Crosses from Couston Farming Co.
Lambs:
SUFFX: £64.00 - Glenshellach: £59.50 - Knock-Dhu. TEXX: £65.00 - Glenshellach & Barguilean Farm: £58.50 - Barguilean Farm. CHEV: £46.00 - Maam Farm. CROSS: £61.00 - Dunach Estate: £57.50 - Knock-Dhu: £57.00, £56.00 & £53.50 - Barguilean Farm: £50.00 - Lochdochart. BF: £54.50 - Duncroisk: £53.50 - Rearsa: £51.50 - Duncroisk: £49.00 - Glenshellach: £48.50 - Brenchoille: £47.00 - Castles Estate: £46.00 - Auchreoch, Dunams & Brackley: £45.00 - Craigmore.
Ewes:
CROSS: £47.00 - Glenshellach. BF: £54.00 - Tillochan: £51.00 - Fearnoch & Brackley: £44.00 - 11 Eoligarry/Barr: £43.00 - Auchreoch: £40.00 - Ballymeanach & Duncroisk. CHEV: £50.00 - Lochdochart WEDDERS: £34.00 - Castles Estate. RAMS: £100.2 - Tillochan.
Lambs per kilo:
SUFFX: 198p - Couston Farm Co. TEXX: 195p - Barguilean: 192p - Couston Farm Co. CHEV: 174p - Dunach Estate & Strontuiler: 170p - Maam Farm. CROSS: 195p - Balantyre Farm Partnership. BF: 178p - Rearsa: 167p - Bohenie: 164p - Achnacarron, Auchreoch & Brackley.
- Carnoch Farm, £1040, 219p; 501-550kg - Torri, Corpach, £1060, 207.8p.
Other leading prices per head:
OTM cows: 6 Scotstown, (AAX), £830; Burnbank, (SimX), £830; Keppoch Farm, Roy Bridge, (SimX), £700.
OTM bulls: 1 Peinaha, Glenhinnisdale, (Lim), £730.
Other leading prices per kg
OTM cows: Dalreoch, (LimX), 152.5p; 6 Scotstown, (AAX), 143.1p; Achnacarron, Invermoriston, (SalX), 112.6p.
OTM bulls: 1 Peinaha, Glenhinnisdale, (Lim), 171.8p.
Other leading prices per head
Cow with heifer calf: 4 Glebehill, (HghX), £940.
In-calf cow: 6 Scotstown, (AAX), £800.
In-calf heifer: Dalreoch, (LimX), £780.

Deadline looming for drainage project funding

CROFTERS seeking Scottish Government funding for drainage projects are being urged to submit their applications by November 15, 2013.
It follows last month's announcement that the Scottish Government would continue rural support schemes - including the £2 million Crofting Counties Agricultural Grants (Scotland) Scheme (CCAGS) - in the 2014 gap year for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).
However, current European transition regulations do not permit funding for capital projects such as the CCAGS drainage option.

Rural Affairs Secretary Richard Lochhead said: "The CCAGS scheme provides important support to Scotland's crofting communities. That is why we have protected its funding in the face of an 11 per cent real terms cut to the Scottish Government's budget imposed by Westminster.
"Although CCAGS will continue in 2014, rural development funding for drainage projects is not allowed under the current transition regulations.
"The Scottish Government and other governments across Europe are continuing to press hard for a full roll over of the Rural Development programme

in 2014, but it is still not clear whether we will be able to continue to fund CCAGS drainage projects next year.
"Therefore we strongly encourage anyone wishing to undertake this kind of drainage work to submit their application before November 15, 2013 to allow any appropriate approvals to be issued before the current CAP period finishes at the end of this year."
He added: "Our intention would be - subject to the results of our forthcoming consultations on CAP implementation - to reinstate this option in 2015 when the new rural development programme starts."

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Case 4240 XL, 1996 P reg, 4WD, 2 spools, PUH/Drawbar, aircon, 1 owner £12,995
John Deere S400 1994 M reg, 2 spools, top link, PUH and drawbar, trailer brake, economy PTO £12,495
Case 4230 4wd, 1994 M reg, c/w Quicke 750 loader/3rd service/joystick, 2 spools, PUH, 540/1000 PTO £12,495
Fiat Agri 82-94 DT, 1994 L reg, c/w Quicke 3260 loader/4ft bucket, 2 spools, PUH £11,795
Lundini Blizzard 85, 2000 V reg, c/w FX loader and Lundini 9880 Evolution 4wd, 2001 Y reg, priced from £10,995
Massey Ferguson 390 1993 K reg, 1 owner from new, 12/12 shuttle £11,495
Massey Ferguson 6170 4wd 1996 P reg, 3rd dynamis, 2 spools, joystick, PUH £10,995
Zator 5340 4wd 1996 N reg, c/w Trimo 1152 loader/3rd service/joystick, 70hp, only 3500 hours, choice of 2 £10,995
Massey Ferguson 390 & 398 c/w loaders £10,495.00
Manitou 626 telehandler, 1996, pallet forks, PUH £10,495.00
John Deere 2650, 1990 J reg, 4wd, gears at side, 2 spools, PUH/Drawbar £8,495
Case 895 Super XL, and Case 885XL 1992 H reg, 4wd, 2 spools, each at £8,495
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Case 4210, 2wd, 1994 M reg, and Case 885 2wd c/w loader, 2wd, PUH, drawbar, 2 spools from £7,495
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Oban

CALEDONIAN Marts sold 888 suckled calves breeding and OTM cattle at its Oban sale last Tuesday, where bulling heifers and heifer calves sold to a large ringside of buyers selling well on the year.
Selling to a top of £1,850 for a Simmental x heifer in-calf to a Simmental from D M Colthart, Achnacone who averaged £1,650.
Mid Lismore sold 9 Simmental heifers due March-April to Limousin topping at £1,800 to average £1,599.78.
Stroneskar Ford sold 12 Blue Grey and Limousin heifers due December-March to a Limousin selling to £1,700 to average £1,312.50.
Invermahyle, Appin sold 10 Simmental heifers due to Simmental selling to £1,550 to average £1,170.
Shields, Milton of Campsie sold 13 stock Shorthorn cows in-calf to a Charolais to a top of £1,300 (twice) to average £1,087.69.
Scammadale and Arden-camp sold 34 spring born

Market reports

calves, Sim-Luings which sold to £820 for four 220kg to average £653.82.
Cromix sold 27 Simmental spring born heifers selling to £820 for two 265kgs, to average £608.15.
Clachan Farms sold 11 Luings spring born heifers to £620 for a 255kg averaging £529.09.
Cadzow Bros, Isle of Luing sold 24 Luings spring born heifers to a top of £600 for four 225kg, to average 513.75.
Saulmore sold 20 Simmental and Shorthorn spring born heifers to £750 for two 235kg and two 250kg to average £638.
Carloonan sold 20 Aberdeen Angus spring born heifer calves to £650 for eight 265kg to average £613.50.
Castles Estate, Dalmally sold 17 Beef Shorthorn x Highland spring born heifers to £600 for two 240kg to average £470.59.
Other Leading Prices:

Shorthorn bulling heifers: £800 Shields, £800 Laggan Blue Grey & Simmental bulling heifers: £780 Kilmundie and Cromlix, £720 East Hynish.
Heifer Calves: £720 East Hynish, £660 Brough, £620 Drimmin, £600 Cailach.
In the suckled section
Bullcows sold to a top of 276p per kg for five 250kg Simmental from lochdar, Bunnass, Isle of Mill and to £740 for a 340kg Simmental from Achenreir, Barcaldine.
Heifer calves sold to 373p per kg and £820 for four 220kg Sim-Luing from Scammadale and Arden-camp.
Fort William
DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 496 weaned calves and store cattle, 24 OTM cattle and 17 adult head of breeding cattle at its recent Fort William sale, where a mixed show met

a similar trade to the first sale, quality kinds selling exceptionally well.
Bullcows averaged 262p (+ 64.9p on the year) and sold to 381.1p per kg and £1010 gross for a 265kg British Blue cross from Balmagaster, Spear Bridge.
Heifers averaged 229.9p (+ 50p on the year) and sold to 300p per kg for a 250kg Simmental cross from 8 Torrinn, Broadford, and £1160 gross for a pair of 425kg Simmental crosses from Isle of Muck.
Young bulls sold to 252.6p per kg for a 190kg Simmental cross from 8 Torrinn, and £630 gross for a 315kg Aberdeen Angus cross from Ardtornish Farms, Oban.
Breeding cattle sold to £1240 gross for an in-calf Simmental cross heifer from 5 Back of Keppoch, Arisaig.
OTM cattle sold to 195.3p per kg for a 425kg Simmental cross cow from Burnbank, Achacrae, and £930 gross

for a 610kg Limousin cross cow from Dalreoch, Roy Bridge.
Other leading prices per head and per kg:
Bullcows up to 200kg - Branault, Achateny, £630, Ardtornish Farms, 341.2p; 201-250kg - Balmagaster, £740, Ardtornish Farms, 338.1p; 251-300kg - Ardtornish Farms, £930, 315.3p; 301-350kg - Ardtornish Farms, £890, 291.8p; 351-400kg - Drimsallie, Kinlochell, £860, 223.4p; 401-450kg - Isle of Muck, £950, 226.2p. Heifers up to 200kg - Dalreoch, £520, 11 Drinnan, Elgol, and 25 Elgol, Broadford, 294.1p; 201-250kg - 8 Torrinn, £750, 19 Portnalong, Carboist, 291.7p; 251-300kg - Traigh Farm, Arisaig, £680, 16 Upper Scotstown, 249.4p; 301-350kg - 5 Back of Keppoch, £720, 218.2p; 351-400kg - Carnoch Farm, Ardgour, £1000, 277.8p; 401-450kg - Isle of Muck, £1120, 272.9p; 451-500kg

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08 ISUZU NPR, 3 LITRE, SWB, FLAT BED, Twin Wheels, 2500kg, 4.8M long, Epac, White, 50k miles	£9,950
09 VW TRANSPORTER 1 MOTION, Combi Van 2.5 TDI, 4WD, 5 seater, Twin SLD, White	£9,950
08 VW CRAWLER CRIS TDI, Single Cab Drop Side Pickup, Epac, 6 speed, Towbar, Green, 25k miles	£9,950
08 VW CRAWLER CRIS TDI Crew Cab Tipper, 6 speed, Epac, Towbar, Green, 49k miles	£7,950
09 VW TRANSPORTER Combi Van 1.9 TDI, 5 seater, Twin SLD, White	£7,950
05 HINO 7617 EURO CARGO 7.5 tonnes hook loader truck 4x2 1100kg side body direct council, 60k miles	£9,950
09 VALHALLA MOWING 3000, MWB, Semi High Top Van, 6 speed, Manual, SLD, Blue	£5,750
10 KAWASAKI 600 MULE Drop Side Tipper Body, Massey cab, Towbar, Ret, 1200 HRS, Choice	£4,250
05 FORD RANGER 2.0 1300, SWB, Van, Manual, SLD, Set New, CD, White, NO VAT	£5,250
54 JCB 226-70 Telehandler, Q, FH Heli, One Council Owner 4,000 hours	£14,950

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Telephone: 01250 884306 or mobile 07885 203020

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2005, 88k miles, diesel, 3 door, powder blue, air con. good overall condition with many wear and tear parts replaced within the last year ie clutch, brakes etc. Service history. 50 plus mpg. MOT'd.

For more details phone 07909886385 Isle of Arran.

£2400 o.n.o.

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(2011) 3 door hatchback. Low mileage. Road tax till 5/2014. Excellent condition.

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£4,900

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2003, 86,500 miles, 2.0 ltr turbo, 210 BHP FSH, Full leather int, Great Stereo. Just serviced & MOT

Tel. 07767362315

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MAZDA 3S



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2005 Fiat Panda, 1.2, 5dr, 40,000 miles, blue	£2,675
2003 Renault Scenic, 1.6, petrol, 5dr, 38,000 miles, green	£1,750
2002 Chrysler pt cruiser, 2 tr, 84,000 miles, red, t&t customers property	£1,250 ono

VAN SALES

2008 Vauxhall Combo Van, 1.7 cdti, diesel, 5dr, silver, 57,000 miles	£3,850 + VAT
2008 Vauxhall Combo Van, 1.3 cdti, diesel, 78,000 miles, white	£3,475 no VAT
2001 VX Astra 1.7 td, 122,000 miles, white, Taxed & tested customers property	£1,100 ono

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Unit 6, Lochavullin Ind. Est., Oban
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Business

Business reporter:

Steven Flanagan
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk
01631 568021

Island firms clinch host of prestigious food and drink awards

FOOD from the islands has once again triumphed on the national stage after clinching a host of gongs at the Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards.

Mull's Island Bakery Organics clinched the environment award in recognition of their innovative new factory premises which is powered entirely by renewable energy, utilising the island's sustainable wood.

Fellow Mull business, the Ninth Wave Restaurant, was named restaurant of the year, while Gigha Seafood's smoked halibut saw it named the winner of the new product of the year award.

Hebridean Sea Salt completed the islands' awards swoop by claiming being highly commended in the new product award category, with the Lewis-based business winning the new business award.

Independent food and drink retailer of the year award winner was 40 North on Lewis.

The triumphs have seen a wave of celebration sweep over the islands.

Island Bakery Organics' Joe Reade, 41 said: 'It makes the extra effort we went to in powering our factory only from renewable sources worthwhile.

'The easy thing to do would have been to just plug into the grid and run an oil boiler.

'We have had quite a few teething troubles in the past year, so all our staff have to take credit for persevering with us.'

Carla Lamont, of Ninth Wave, was equally jubilant, after her restaurant beat a Michelin-star restaurant to the top award, saying: 'What an honour and a surprise. We are proud to be different. Avoiding trends, we concentrate on the tastiest food from land and sea around Mull.'

Natalie Crayton, who founded Hebridean Sea Salt in 2011 on the banks of Loch Erisort on Lewis, was delighted with her honours, saying: 'I was inspired after trying and failing to source a Scottish Sea Salt to use in my cooking.

'With our abundance of coastline I couldn't believe none was commercially producing sea salt in Scotland - so I set out to be the first.'



Carla and John Lamont, who run the Ninth Wave restaurant at Fionnphort, Mull. The eatery was named restaurant of the year in the Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards.



Left to right: Duncan MacPhee with Katie Lamont, David Lane, Claire MacAlpin and Sally Orr.

MacPhee and Partners strengthens expertise with local appointments and promotions

A FORT William and Oban-based estate agent and solicitor firm has appointed two new trainee solicitors from the west Highlands.

MacPhee and Partners have appointed Claire MacAlpin of Onich and David Lane from Oban, while Katie Lamont and Sally Orr have both been promoted internally.

Claire recently finished the Law Society of Scotland's Professional Exams at the University of Glasgow.

She studied part time while working at MacPhee's and won the Thomas Shanks Prize for the top student in business. Meanwhile, since graduating in 2012 David has been working in the commercial law department of the firm alongside partner Johnny Bell.

Katie, who has been with the company since 2007, has been promoted to property director and will oversee business across Argyll and Lochaber.

And Sally has been appointed an Associate Solicitor, after joining MacPhee and Partners in 2010 as a trainee Solicitor.

Managing partner Duncan MacPhee said: 'We believe that the expertise available locally for our clients is as good as and in some cases better, than that available in the cities.

'In the long term, this is only sustainable if the services are provided by local people, who have their futures firmly rooted in the communities they work in.

'It is very satisfying to announce these four local promotions, all important to the future of our firm and all totally well deserved in terms of excellent skill levels and dedication to their profession.'

Beer blogger sings Arran ale's praises

ARRAN Dark received great praise from one of Canada's foremost respected beer bloggers at Toronto's Beer Festival.

The Thirsty Wench reviewed the festival and first place in her highlights of the festival was Arran Dark, from the Isle of Arran Brewery.

She said: 'This really took me to a happy place. Whenever I try a brown ale I expect a certain flavour; rich, mild, warming, slight fruit with a dry finish at the end. This beer had it all and was a wonderful experience. I could honestly have had that all day and be perfectly content.'

Marketing manager Veronica Michalak said: 'Our beers have been very well received in Canada.'

Arran Brewery hopes to start exporting its beers to Canada in 2014.

More good news on property market recovery

HOPES that the Scottish property market would continue to show signs of recovery were fulfilled this week.

Figures released by the Registers of Scotland show that the number of residential properties sold in the country over the past three months increased by nearly a quarter, up 22.5 per cent, on the same period in 2012. Total sales volumes for July to September were 24,274, the highest recorded quarterly figure since 2008. The latest official statistics were published today by Registers of Scotland, covering all residential sales including those that did not involve a mortgage. Average prices across Scotland rose by 1.5 per cent too, making the average cost of a home £161,748.

Registers of Scotland's commercial services director, Kenny Crawford, said: 'This quarter's figures are one of the strongest indicators yet of a revitalised Scottish property market.'

PUBLIC NOTICES

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www.highland.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
T3/03742/FUL	Former Arjo Wiggins Woodyard, Annat Point Corpach, Fort William	Erection of warehouse (renewal of permission 10/03472/FUL)
T3/03944/FUL	Kinlochell Outward Bound Centre, Achdaleu Fort William	Formation of a hydro scheme (500kW), Construction of primary intake, three secondary intakes, buried penstock pipe and turbine house.

Time period for comments is 14 days.
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD

FIRST REGISTRATION OF COMMON GRAZINGS

The Crofting Commission have registered the following Common Grazings on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland, Acharracle East Common Grazings, Ardnarmurchan & Sunart

Registration Number: CG33

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may appeal to the Scottish Land Court. The appeal must be brought within 9 months from the date of this advert and should be made directly to the Land Court.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

Name, Croft, Extent/Reason, Conditions, Case number

Mr D F Berry
4 & 10 Ruaig, Tiree
0.130 ha - Site for a dwelling house
4.86.45242
Conditions: 2, 3(a) & 4
Mr G D Macdonald
Cnocoran, Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon
0.159 ha - Site for a dwelling house
4.86.45102
Conditions: 2, 3(a) & 4
Mrs M M McKinnon
Upper Kilchattan, Colonsay
0.0743 ha - Site for a dwelling house
4.86.42701
Conditions: 2, 3(a) & 4
Mr A Maclean
9 10 & 11 Upper Inveroy, Kilmorivag
0.101 ha - Site for a dwelling house
4.86.45327
Conditions: 1, 2, 3(a) & 4
Conditions
(1) Purchase area within 5 years of the date of direction.
(2) To provide a site for a dwelling house
(3) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of: (a) the proposed development completion (4) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/01955/PP	Construction of run of river hydro electric scheme	Eas A Ghaill Inverloch by Dalmally	Sub Post Office Dalmally

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/02101/LIB	Installation of replacement windows, formation of french doors and installation of lantern rooflight	Glenfeochan House, Kilmore Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4QR	Oban Area Office
13/02311/PP	Installation of 16 solar panels	Cnoc A Chalmrain Isle of Iona Argyll and Bute PA76 5SP	Sub Post Office Isle of Iona

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 during their normal opening times 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.

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/02007/PPP	Site for the erection of 5 dwellings, installation of septic tank and formation of new access.	Land East of Islay Airport Glenegedale Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Port Ellen

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

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Pre-school Nursery Practitioner - Applicants must have previous experience working with children and have a minimum of SVQ Level 3 Child Care or a teaching qualification.

Childcare Modern Apprenticeship - This one year Modern Apprenticeship will see you assist in the day to day operations of the nursery, while working towards a SVQ Level 3 qualification.

To receive an application pack, please email recruitment@stramash.org.uk
Stramash is a registered Scottish Charity SC040538

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THE KILMARTIN HOTEL

Source Supplies Inc currently has a vacant space for the post of a **online bookkeeper** and a **storekeeper**. Applicant can work from anywhere to earn extra money.

For more info, contact sales@sourcesupply.biz

Proposed Division of a Croft Tenancy

Mr Duncan Clark is applying to divide the tenancy of the croft at Culluaine, Black Lochs, Connel within Ardchattan and Muckairn into two new crofts.

If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

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.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
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O.A.S.I.S
Oban Addiction Support and Information Service

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday 14th November 2013
At 6.00 p.m.
OASIS OFFICE, 11 STAFFORD STREET, OBAN
Registered Charity in Scotland No. SC031814

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ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL COMMUNITY COUNCILS
NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

BY-ELECTION DAY - 19 DECEMBER 2013

1. By-Elections are to be held for the return of Community Councillors to fill the vacancies for the undernoted Community Councils within the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area of Argyll and Bute.

Appin AA70
Avich and Kilchrenan AA59, AA60
Kilniver and Kilmelford AA63, AA68
Dunbeg AA67

2. Persons wishing to represent their Community Council must reside in the community council area and be named on the electoral register for the community council area in which they are standing. A candidate's proposer and seconder must also be named on the electoral register and reside in the same community council area.

3. Nomination papers must be lodged with the Deputy Returning Officer, Municipal Building, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AR or at Kilmory Headquarters, Lochgilphead PA31 8RT on any day except a Saturday or Sunday after the date of this notice, but not later than 4.00pm on Monday 18 November 2013 and withdrawals of persons nominated must be intimated at the same address not later than 4.00pm on Monday 18 November 2013.

4. Nomination forms may be obtained from the Deputy Returning Officer at the addresses below or can be downloaded from the Councils website, www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/elections or e-mail elections@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Kilmory Headquarters Lochgilphead PA31 8RT	Municipal Building Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR
--	--

Sally Loudon, Returning Officer, Kilmory, Lochgilphead PA31 8RT
31 October 2013

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VEHICLE SPOTLIGHTS ring roadrunner driving lights with bulbs and fixing brackets, 155mm wide BNB £16 Telephone 01631 566574.

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RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT Restaurant closure end October. All equipment for sale bar/restaurant/kitchen. Most of it only 2 years old Please telephone 01852 200345 for further information except Tuesdays

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cools and warms, mains or 12 volt, clean, good working order, 7 litre capacity £10 Telephone 01631 770698.

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WANTED

SCRAP METAL all types of scrap metal, we uplift scrap cars, call Mr Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals. Telephone 01499 500638 or 07787 991636

OBAN TIMES PERSONALS

PERSONALS

SHEILA ANDERSON 30/10 /1963

LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

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BIRTHS

CLARK - John and Helen (née MacKinnon), are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Andrew, on October 5, 2013. A brother for James. Special thanks to all midwives at R.A.H. Paisley.

ENGAGEMENTS

MCGILL - WALKER - The families of Greg McGill (Oban) and Eilish Walker (Brisbane) are delighted to announce their engagement. Wishing you both all our love and happiness.

DEATHS

CAMPBELL - Peter John Campbell, Bentalla Banavie born 25.02.77. Service on Friday November 1, 2013 at 1pm at Kilmallie Free Church, Glenpane St Caol. The interment will be in Glen Nevis and we'll have soup and sandwiches at the community centre in Caol. Family flowers only please. Donations can be made to National Association for Bikers with a Disability (NABD).

HILL - At The Lynn of Lorne Care Home, Benderloch on October 29, 2013, in his 83rd year, John, beloved husband of Babs, much loved dad to Jenny, Rhoda, Duncan and son-in-law Ian and loving Seonar to Michael, Barbara, John, David, Sarah, Jack and Catriona.

MACDONALD - Barbara, retired former matron of Tigh an Rudha, Eventide Home, Isle of Tiree, passed away peacefully on October 25, 2013, after a short illness bravely and courageously borne.

SIMS - Peacefully at the Lynn of Lorne Care Home, Benderloch, on October 27, 2013, in her 87th year, Jessie, formerly of Dunmar Court, Oban, beloved wife of the late Len Sims, much loved mum to the late Jimmy and gran to Callum and Sally, a dear aunt and friend to many. Rest in Peace.

Oban Times
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

Oban Times
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

SNEDDON - Peacefully, at St. Andrew's Hospice, Airdrie, on October 26, 2013, Lynn (Barr), aged 34 years, formerly of Lorn Road, Dunbeg, beloved wife of John, loving mummy to Destiny, Dakota and Finlay, big sister to Tommy and David and precious daughter and step daughter of Senga and Graham. Funeral service will take place at the Congregational Church, Oban, on Monday, November 4, 2013 at 1.30 p.m. thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only, retiral collection/donations will be taken for St. Andrew's Hospice, Airdrie.

WILSON - Margaret, beloved mother of Donald, Joe and Eileen, loving granny and wife to the late Davy Wilson, died peacefully on Monday, October 28. Loved and remembered always. Funeral to be held at 1pm on Saturday, November 2, at St Mun's RC Church, Ballachulish.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MALCOLM - Jane, Steven, Roy and families would like to thank everyone for kind expressions of sympathy given on their loss of Allan. The loving community spirit was there with gifts of food and flowers, home cooking and baking. Many thanks to all the doctors and nurses especially Dr Shirley and Dr Frank who both went beyond the call of duty and the fantastic nurses and surgery staff who all went that extra mile. Thanks also to Macmillan nurses and Marie Curie for their great support, it was excellent. Also to Rev Johnny Paton for a beautiful service and Ruth Moissay for wonderful music. Thanks also goes to Billy McClymont for the professional way he handled the arrangements. Last of all thanking everyone from near and far for coming to say goodbye to Allan. The sum raised at the retiral collection was £660 which goes to Friends of the Beatson Cancer Centre, Glasgow.

Thank you - Jane x
MUNRO - Alasdair, Jean and family would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy and support given in the recent loss of their mum. Special thanks to Mary Gardiner and all the staff at Eadar Glinn for

the exceptional care and love shown to mum over the last two years, which was a great comfort to her family. Thanks to all the Doctors and District Nurses from Connel surgery for care and attention to mum. Thank you to Rev. George Cringles for his comforting and fitting service at St. Modan's Church and at the graveside. To Norman Nicolson for his uplifting music and to Ian and staff at D & A Munn for their personal and efficient service, to Moreen Gracie for her beautiful flowers and to the Falls of Lora for the lovely buffet. Finally, to all who paid their last respects at the Church and graveside and all who contributed to the collection for Eadar Glinn Residents Fund, which amounted to £447.44. Many thanks to all.

MEMORIAMS

BROWN - Treasured memories of my beloved husband Jimmy who passed away on November 1, 2006.

Always in my thoughts
Forever in my heart.
Mary, Invercoe, Glencoe.

BROWN - In loving memory of our dad, father-in-law and grandfather, Jimmy who passed away on November 1, 2006. Gone but never forgotten.

- From all the family at Invercoe.

CALDERWOOD - In loving memory of John a dear husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather, who passed away October 29, 2003. Always in our thoughts.

- Katie and family.

CAMERON - Remembering our dad Ewen, died November 3, 2000.
Loved and missed every day.
- Emma and Eilidh, Druimarbin.

CAMERON - In loving memory of Margaret (nana) who passed away on October 30, 2008. Always in our hearts.
- Lots of love all the family xxxx

HARLEY - In loving memory of Jennifer Anne Harley, dearly loved daughter, sister, mother and grandmother who died October 31, 2008 aged 38 years.
- Loved and remembered every day.

HARLEY - In loving memory of our sister Jennifer who died October 31, 2008.
- Susan and Diane.
Also loving aunt to Justine, Kyle, Robyn and Lauren xx

MORRISON - Donald, who died October 31, 2004 a loving husband, father and grandfather.
We who loved you
Sorely miss you
But trust in God
To meet again.
- Chrissie and family, Inverloch.

MORRISON - In loving memory of Neil a dear father, father-in-law and papa, who died October 30, 2012. Loved and remembered every day
Never more than a thought away.

- Love Neil, Lorraine, Amanda and Ruairidh.

PROSSER - In loving memory of James our dear brother, uncle and great-uncle who died November 1, 2007. Remembered always with love
Never more than a thought away
- Betty and all the family xx

SMITH - With loving thoughts of my husband David who died November 1, 2005.
"A memory is a keepsake of time that lives forever in the heart."
- Floey

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Sunday 3 November 2013
Trinity 23
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion.....08.00
Combined Mattins and Eucharist.....10.15
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Kilbrandon Kirk
Holy Eucharist.....15.15
Holy Cross, Portnacraigh, Appin
Evensong.....18.00
A cordial welcome to people from any church or none
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist.....11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....09.30

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Coping with Bereavement

Understanding your grief
CRUSE Bereavement Care Scotland is a charity which exists to support bereaved people who are struggling to cope with their loss. The death of someone we love, someone who matters to us, is a shattering experience and it feels like an emotional rollercoaster. It is one of the most difficult things in life that we have to face. Each individual manages as best they can, but that does not mean having to cope alone or without help. Cruse offers free support to adults and children struggling to come to terms with the loss of a loved one, regardless of age, sex, religion or beliefs. The way we react is unique to each and every grieving person. Even among close family who have shared the same loss, each person may well respond differently, but there may be some common experiences and to know others have shared these can be helpful. Many people talk of feelings of numbness, shock and being overwhelmed, making the most ordinary daily tasks a challenge. While some people may immerse themselves more deeply in work or some other aspect of their lives, others may find it difficult to maintain any kind of routine. There is no one right way of grieving. We may have feelings such as longing, helplessness, sadness, anger and guilt. We need to know that it is alright to experience - and to express - these thoughts whatever other people may say. Others may feel as though there is a weight dragging them down, which is a way of saying how low, sad, or depressed they are feeling; still others talk about the knot in the pit of their stomach. In addition to all of this, illness and physical symptoms are common after the death of someone close. Often people find difficulties in sleeping, their appetite may change and they may experience difficulty in concentrating and feel a lack of energy. Again, while these feelings are normal, if you are concerned about any continuing illness, physical pain or change in behaviour, it is best to have this checked out by your doctor. An essential part of working through grief is being able to share that important relationship with others - and sometimes we will need to do that over and again. Some friends avoid us because they feel they don't know the right thing to say or that they want to make it better for us and don't know how. It can help to let them know that there is nothing they can say - just being there is enough. There is no magic to make it better. With time and the support of friends, families and other groups, the pain will normally become less intense, but there may be times which connect us more closely to the person who has died which seem to increase or reawaken feelings that we thought we had already been through. When we feel this way it may seem as if we have become stuck or are grieving in the wrong way, but this is simply part of our own safety system. We can only allow ourselves to deal with so much emotion at a time and then we have to stop. That does not mean that we have necessarily completed our grief. It is normal both to grieve and live. For further information, contact Cruse Highland and Moray region on 07592 040498, email lucy.fenton@crusescotland.org.uk or www.facebook.com/CruseHighlandandMoray. For an appointment to receive support please call Cruse Bereavement Care Scotland's National Helpline on 0845 600 2227.

November is Will Aid month
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Saints run riot as they romp cup replay

'We were excellent - this was the best I've seen us play for a long time'

Fosters Scottish Amateur Cup 2nd round replay
Independent 2
Oban Saints 8

SAINTS travelled to the superb facilities at St Ambrose High School in Coatbridge to take on Independent in the Scottish Cup 2nd round replay. The Oban side had thrown away a three goal lead in Oban the previous Saturday, so the players wanted to redeem themselves and they certainly did that with a superb performance against a good Independent side.

The visitors were without Dene Cassells, Ross Maitland, PJ Sinclair and Willie Gemmell for this game, so Jamie Graham and David McArthur came into the squad with Colin Carswell taking over at full back and Myles McAuley taking his place in midfield alongside Donnie Campbell and Paul Kerr.

After an in-depth team talk before the game from manager Iain Jackson it was a determined looking Oban side that took the field and they almost scored in the first minute but Lewis Cameron was thwarted by a last

ditch save with his legs from the goalkeeper.

However, the visitors did take the lead in the fifth minute when Mattie Rippon fired over a great free kick from the right which was met by Craig MacEwan, who headed past keeper Kevin McAllister and into the net. This was just the start the Oban side were looking for.

Saints increased their lead in the 14th minute when Allan MacKay fed Lewis Cameron in on the right. Lewis raced to the byeline before cutting the ball back for Myles McAuley who scored from 12 yards.

Dangerous

The home side were stung by these two goals, but always looked dangerous and the Saints defence, well marshalled by Marc MacCallum, had to be on their toes.

The visitors went further ahead in the 18th minute when Craig MacEwan got on the end of a Lewis Cameron corner to head home a well taken goal.

Independent pulled a goal back in the 24th minute. Colin Carswell fouled Kevin Hamill in the

FOOTBALL

box - penalty. Stephen Larkin stepped up and drilled the ball home to make the score 3-1.

Saints restored their three goal advantage in the 41st minute when Mattie Rippon sent over a great cross but Andy Flannigan, in attempting to clear his lines, only succeeded in heading the ball past his own goalkeeper.

Two minutes before the interval the visitors increased their lead. Mattie Rippon and Lewis Cameron combined on the right before the ball was crossed into the middle to the unmarked Allan MacKay who drilled the ball high into the net to make the half time score 5-1.

The home side pulled a goal back two minutes after the restart when they were awarded a corner on the left. The ball was swung into the box which wasn't cleared properly and Davie McGuire was on hand to force the ball over the line.

Despite this setback Saints always looked in control, playing some excellent football in mid-



Saints defeated Coatbridge side Independent 8-2 in their Fosters Scottish Amateur Cup replay last Saturday. Our photo shows Donnie Campbell taking on Independent central defender Andy Flannigan. 07_144saints01

field where Donnie Campbell, Paul Kerr and Myles McAuley were running the show and it was no surprise when Allan MacKay and Donnie Campbell combined to set up Lewis Cameron who fired the ball home to make the score 6-2.

Five minutes later Myles McAuley made a tremendous run from midfield leaving three Independent players in his wake before squaring the ball to Lewis Cameron who netted his second goal of the game.

Independent knew they were a

well beaten side now, but credit to them they kept plugging away without much success it must be said, although Daniel Cassells had to come and punch away a couple of dangerous crosses.

Saints increased their lead even further after Allan MacKay played a great ball through the middle for Donnie Campbell to run through unchallenged to shoot past a helpless goalkeeper.

With the game in the bag Saints gave all three substitutes - Jamie Graham, Colin Tindall and David McArthur a good run out.

Jamie Graham fired home a great strike, but to his disappointment the 'goal' was ruled out for a foul in the box.

Colin Tindall had a good chance but his effort sailed over the bar. David McArthur impressed with his contribution and stung the keeper's fingers with a rasping shot from 25 yards.

Saints were carving the home defence open time after time and Lewis Cameron could easily have scored another two or three goals, but when referee James Moore blew for full time it was a

very happy Saints squad that left the park after a good away win.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted. He said: 'We were excellent - this was the best I've seen us play for a long time. We worked hard when we didn't have the ball and when we did have it the passing was crisp and accurate. Independent are not a bad side, but we destroyed them today.'

Saints return to league duty this Saturday when they travel to take on Castlemilk in a premier division match.



Dalmally

MATCH Play Champions at Dalmally Golf Club are celebrating their successes following keenly contested finals.

In an exciting singles final, Tommy Gibson's superb short game saw him eventually shrug off a tenacious challenge from Jim Livingstone with just one hole to spare. This capped a great year for Tommy, who earlier in the season secured the Club's Senior Strokeplay Championship.

In the doubles final, William Dougal proved that this season's handicap cuts have proved no obstacle, teaming up with the in-form Martin O'Keefe to record a commanding 6 and 5 victory over Bobby Johnston and Graham Morrice. Martin then added the end of season Ben Lui Trophy to his cabinet, posting an impressive 42 stableford points in the process.

With the season now at an end, gents player of the year at the Orchy Club can rightfully be claimed by Des McNulty. His victory in the last event of the season, the Strathorchy Trophy together with his scratch double of Club Championship and Gold Medal secured his place at the top of the season long Order of Merit.

Home cup draws

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints have been drawn at home in the next round of the Scottish Cup. They play Rosyth on Saturday 9 November and the following Saturday, 16 November they are at home to Glasgow Harp in the 3rd round of the West of Scotland Cup.



Pictured at this year's Tainuill Golf Club prizegiving are the winners from the past season. Members gathered at the clubhouse last Friday to mark the end of the 2013 competitions. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

Seventh-place finish for John in Japanese Grand Prix

CONNEL'S John McPhee delivered his best Grand Prix ride to date battling through from 22nd on the grid to finish seventh in the Japanese Grand Prix Moto3 race at Motegi.

It was the teenager's highest-placed finish since stepping up to the World Championship as a wildcard entry in the predecessor 125cc class at Valencia in 2010.

The Racing Steps Foundation-backed rider made a strong start to break into the top 10 by lap five from where he worked his way up to eighth at the mid-way point to join what was to become an ultra-tight battle for fifth place as the race drew to a close.

RTG team-mate Jack Miller led the four-way fight initially leaving McPhee and San Carlo's Romano Fenati to battle it out with Ongetta Rivacold's Alexis Masbou behind.

Meanwhile Team Calvo's Maverick Vinales was leading the race ahead of Estrella Galicia duo Alex Marquez and Alex Rins.

Red Bull Ajo's points leader Luis Salom was long out of the running by that stage having been taken out at the first corner by Ongetta-Centro's Isaac Vinales before high-siding out of contention eight laps later while making his way back through the field.

Sandwiched in between the lead group and the Miller-led pack behind was the strung-out pair of Jonas Folger (Mapfre Aspar) and Miguel Oliveira (Mahindra) who trailed third-placed Rins by over three and 10 seconds respectively.

That left the following pack

squabbling over sixth with Masbou in charge as McPhee and Miller traded places ahead of Fenati.

But with four laps to go the squabble for sixth became a fight for fifth as Masbou - who looked set to take over at the top of the standings - made a rare error and dropped to the back of the field and out of the points.

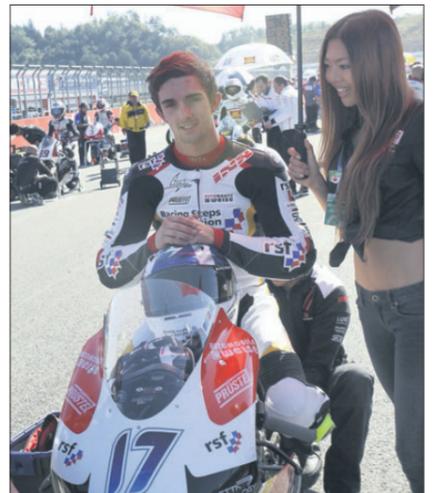
In the end Fenati settled the dispute for the place jumping Miller and McPhee after Masbou crashed on the final lap. The trio finished just over a tenth of a second apart 18 seconds in

MOTORCYCLING

arrars of race-winner Marquez.

The Spaniard took the flag by just two-hundredths of a second from Maverick Vinales to claim his maiden Grand Prix Moto3 win. Folger followed on a further seven seconds behind to secure the final podium place eight seconds clear of Folger in fourth.

The dramatic events at Motegi take what is now a three-way title race down to the wire at the season finale at Valencia in a week.



John McPhee pictured on the grid before the Japanese Grand Prix in Montegi. Photo: Bonnie Lane/CanBe Images.

Death of Skye shinty stalwart

SHINTY

EVERYONE at Skye Camanachd, and the wider shinty community will be saddened to hear of the passing of John Nicolson, who died after a short illness in Portree on Thursday, October 24.

John, who was 90, and universally known as John 'The Caley' had a long association with Skye Camanachd. He hardly ever missed a game and served the club as chairman, chiefstain and committee member - repairing sticks for all the club's junior and senior teams right up until the onset of his illness.

Big guns firing on all cylinders in Oban Pool League

JUST three weeks into the season and already the established big guns look to have a stranglehold on the championship race.

With the Cellar's match postponed the previous week the reigning title holders had fallen two points behind their two main rivals, Markie Dan's 'A' and Lancaster 'A', albeit with a game in hand.

The Cellar this week played host to the Lochavullin and ran out convincing winners. This was closely followed by the Lancaster 'A' who welcomed and disposed of last year's Shoot-Out Shield winners, Lochnell.

Markie Dan's 'A' looked on paper to have the trickiest tie of the three despite home advantage. With last year's surprise pack-

age Lancaster 'B' visiting, the latter hoping to build up some momentum following on from a big win.

The home side came out of the blocks quickly taking the opening five matches which proved to be too big a deficit for the away side to overturn.

With all the big three coming through unscathed it looks rather ominous for the chasing pack with a gap already developing.

Heading up the chasing pack the Claredon travelled out to Appin to take on league sponsors Creagan Inn and in doing so created a wee bit of history. This is the first time a league fixture has taken place out at Loch Creran as the Appin side only joined this season.

POOL

The Claredon were favourites going into this one and looked good value for money, but whether it was fate or just the plain refusal of the home side to admit defeat, both teams had to settle for a point.

The Gluepot travelled into Oban to take on the Kelvin in what has almost become a derby fixture after two fiercely contested battles last year.

The Kelvin did just about enough last year to leave the Gluepot rooted to the foot of the table but a strong performance this time from the visitors saw them gain a bit of revenge and register their first points of the season.

In the last of the scheduled fixtures Outreach faced off

against Markie Dan's 'B', who were buoyed from salvaging an unlikely point the week before. Outreach fell just short on this occasion and remain in bottom spot with no points.

Week three results - October 24: Markie Dans 'A' 7, Lancaster 'B' 3; Creagan Inn 5, Claredon 5; Cellar 8, Lochavullin 2; Kelvin 3, Gluepot 7; Lancaster 'A' 8, Lochnell 2; Outreach 2, Markie Dans 'B' 8.

Week four fixtures, October 31 - Claredon v Markie Dans 'A'; Lochavullin v Creagan Inn; Gluepot v Cellar; Lochnell v Kelvin; Markie Dans 'B' v Lancaster 'A'; Outreach v Lancaster 'B'.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

COMpetition

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

M Gillies, Glenlonan Road, Tainuill

M Mitchell, Nelson Street, Dunoon

WIN £700

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Name

Address

..... Tel No.

Please tape your £1 coin here



Fixtures

Saturday 2 November
Marine Harvest Shinty Camogie Challenge
 Scotland v Dublin County
 Evan MacRae 10.30am
 (at Bught Park, Inverness)

Marine Harvest Under 21 Shinty Hurling International
 Scotland v Ireland
 Eamonn Hassan - 12pm
 (at Bught Park, Inverness)

Marine Harvest Shinty Hurling International
 Scotland v Ireland
 Deek Cameron - 2pm
 (at Bught Park, Inverness)

Results
Results 26th October
Shinty Hurling International
 Ireland 4 - 12 (24)
 Scotland 2 - 12 (18)

Orion Group Premiership
 Kyles Athletic P - P Kingussie
 Unplayable Field, No suitable alternative available

Youth Result
Marine Harvest Under 17 League - London Shield - Final
 Fort William 2 - 1 Newtonmore

See next week's Oban Times for report and pictures from Saturday's international matches

Scots full of hope despite Croke Park defeat

With a big crowd at Bught Park, it certainly won't be Mission Impossible

INTERNATIONAL stand-out Liam MacDonald reckons Scotland can haul back Ireland's advantage in Inverness this Saturday despite the hurlers nurturing a six-point lead from leg one.

The Kilmallie forward was excellent at Croke Park in the first match of the Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling Series on Saturday and savoured the special atmosphere at Dublin's home of hurling.

Now, after netting a three-point goal and a strike over the uprights in the 24-18 defeat, he feels the Scots can force themselves back into the tie at Bught Park on Saturday and set up a frenetic finale.

Speaking after the final whistle, he said: 'I was very nervous at the start but I got a goal and another point and that helped settle me. I really enjoyed the occasion and, to get the opportunity to play at a stadium like Croke Park was amazing.'

'I felt it was a good result. The goals we lost were mistakes by us and I think that, if we can tighten up in Inverness, we still have a real chance because six points is not a lot in shinty/hurling.'

'I think all the boys feel we can still do something in the series.' After losing heavily in Ennis last year, observers were wondering how the Scots would cope against John Meyler's Irish at such an august venue.

They need not have doubted as the Scots performed manfully, hitting both the post and crossbar as they attempted to narrow

the home side's advantage in the second half.

'I think we showed what we can do and there were spells where we dominated,' said national coach Drew McNeil, who still left Dublin frustrated at what might have been.

'Some of the goals were soft and we also missed some decent chances in open play. However, it is as good as we've performed in recent years.'

The opening minutes were a wake-up call for the Scots, with the Irish romping into a 7-0 lead before the dark blues managed to match the sheer pace of the Irish play.

Cahir Healy of Laios netted a three point goal which was followed up by a similar ground striker for three points by Graeme Mulcahy.

Distance hit
 Neil MacManus, who was a real thorn for the Scots all afternoon, also struck a distance hit over the uprights.

Things were looking bleak for Scotland at this point but they slowly worked their way into the contest and soon had the Irish defence chasing as they moved the ball intricately along the frontline.

MacDonald netted after Irish keeper Brendan Rochford left his goal unattended, Kevin Bartlett struck two points from the ground and Finlay MacRae took to the grass to squeeze the ball into the net for a goal.

That eight-point flurry saw the Scots go into the lead until Ireland found a fifth gear.

SHINTY/HURLING

A point and a goal from MacManus plus a three pointer from Jack Kavanagh of Carlow had the visitors rattled.

Eoin Price and Brendan Maher rubbed further salt into the wounds before MacDonald kept the Scots in the tie, 17-9 at the break.

Period two was much better for Drew McNeil's men and the Irish were confined to distance efforts over the posts; not that this was too much of a hardship for them.

They racked up single point scores from Patrick Maher, Eoin Price, Dara O'Connell, the outstanding MacManus, Gareth 'Magic' Johnson, Mulcahy and Danny Cullen.

Scotland were more eye-catching, though, and Kevin Bartlett, Sean Nicolson and Finlay MacRae all managed to chip two-point hits over the posts from dead ball situations.

Those six points were added to by debutants John MacRae and Glen MacKintosh and Steven MacDonald hit another point with the final stroke of the game.

Scotland live to fight another day. With a big crowd at Bught Park, it certainly won't be Mission Impossible.

In composite rules scores, Saturday's final result was Ireland 4(12) Scotland 2 (12).

In terms of the series, it is 3-1 to Ireland. Victories are worth 2 points while 2 goals or more gain one point.



Oban Camanachd and Scotland's Daniel Cameron and Ireland's Neil McManus in action during the international shinty/hurling match played at Croke Park, Dublin, last Saturday.



Action from the final between Lochaber and Beaulieu. Photo Kevin McGlynn



A jubilant Lochaber along with coach Ally Ferguson celebrate winning the National Six-a-side championship at Mossfield last Sunday. 15_1446ixes02



Lochaber lift the silverware

YOUTH SHINTY

THE LOCHABER area once again demonstrated its strength in the shinty junior age groups as it boasted three of the four semi-finalists in Sunday's National Under-17 Sixes.

A total of 14 teams met at Mossfield Stadium in Oban for the annual competition, organised by the Camanachd Association and sponsored by the Artemis-backed Macaulay Association.

After a round-robin format of games in the two sections it was Fort William, Beaulieu, Lochaber and Kilmallie that progressed to the semi-finals.

Lochaber narrowly defeated Beaulieu in the final to win the competition but the beaten finalists took some consolation when player Calum Morrison was named player of the tournament.

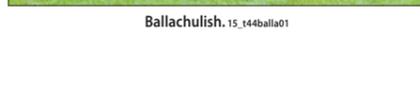
Both Oban clubs fielded teams, while others came from as far as Aberdour and Caberfeidh.



Kyles Athletic. 15_1444kyles01



Oban Celtic. 15_1444celtic01



Ballachulish. 15_1444balla01



Calum Morrison from Beaulieu was voted Player of the Tournament. 15_1444ixes01



Fort William. 15_1444fort01



Oban Camanachd. 15_1444camanachd01



Kilmallie. 15_1444kilmallie01

Scotland looking to repeat last year's success

SHINTY/CAMOGIE

SCOTLAND will be looking to repeat last year's shinty/camogie success when they take on Dublin County Board in Inverness this Saturday.

The visitors are sure to provide very strong competition, coming fresh from securing the All Ireland junior championship recently.

Scotland head coach Stuart Reid has selected a large contingent from the national division champions Glasgow Mid Argyll for the squad, including defender Laura McCafferty - picking up her ninth cap - who will captain the side on Saturday.

McCafferty said the squad had been training together for several weeks to prepare for the clash. She said: 'Our coaches have been really great in planning our sessions and we are all very grateful for the efforts they've made for us.'

Women's Camanachd Association secretary Marion Gilles said: 'There is no doubt that this match will be a hard fought and epic battle of strength, speed and skill.'

Throw up for the match at Bught Park is at 10.30am.



Oban boys represent Scotland

While Oban has only one representative, Daniel Cameron, in the Scottish senior shinty squad, the town has far better representation at under-21 level with five lads looking to run out for their country this Saturday in Inverness. Robert Dunning, James MacMillan and Garry Lord from Oban Camanachd and Garry McKerracher and Daniel Madej from Oban Celtic will all be aiming for a starting berth against Ireland. Pictured ahead of a training session at Mossfield Stadium on Saturday are three of Oban's youth internationals, from left: Daniel Madej, Gary McKerracher and Garry Lord who all played for Park Primary School. 15_1446shinty01

New hybrid game called iomain



From left to right, a hurley stick, an iomain stick and a shinty stick

SPORTING history was made on Saturday as Scotland and Ireland piloted the first ever game of iomain, a new blend of shinty and hurling played with a universal stick.

In front of 29,000 fans at Croke Park in Dublin a Scottish and Irish select team played a 10-minute demonstration game to herald the beginning of the new sport.

Non-competitive

Scotland won the non-competitive trial 5-0 with goals from Glen MacKintosh, Kenny Ross, Kevin Bartlett, Lee Bain and John MacRae.

It is hoped the iomain proto-

type will travel round the world as a sport played wherever Irish and Scots have settled.

A further departure from the current shinty/hurling composite rules game, played regularly by the two sides, is that only goals can be scored rather than hits over the uprights.

Donald Stewart of the Camanachd Association said: 'The trial was a very worthwhile exercise. Both hurling and shinty would like to grow beyond their current geographic boundaries and having a universal stick will certainly enable this.'

'We will now look at how the game may evolve and develop.'

For 120 years, Scotland and Ireland have competed in challenge matches involving a mix of shinty and hurling - the only cross-codes competition of its kind in the world.

Origins

Iomain returns to the origins of both sports and re-establishes the early concept of ground play. The stick used in Saturday's trial was developed by Highland caman producer, Alan MacPherson, in conjunction with Irish hurley maker, Michael Barron.

The bottom third of the stick is the same dimension and design for both teams with the handle length being optional.

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Oban Lorne overturn 21-0 deficit to gain vital away win

Captain goes from villain to hero

RBS West Division 2
Cambuslang 26
Oban Lorne 29

OBAN Lorne captain Robin MacQueen went from villain to hero as his side overturned a 21-0 deficit to record a famous away win at promotion rivals Cambuslang.

The Green Machine, frustrated by defeat to Garnock last week, welcomed captain MacQueen back to the side, while Oban Lorne veteran Allan Melville made a return after several years.

But MacQueen's return was not initially the boost Oban Lorne had required, the big hooker seeing a yellow card after 10 minutes for an alleged stamp on an opponent.

This coincided with a stunning start by the home side that saw Cambuslang hit Oban for three tries in the first half hour.

With a 21-0 lead after 30 minutes Cambuslang were looking well on top and Oban Lorne knew they had to hold out before half time if they were to salvage

anything from the game.

Two minutes from half time, player-coach Corrie Louw gave his side a lifeline after he picked up from a five-metre scrum to touch the ball down over the line.

The score stood at 21-5 at the break but Lorne showed their tremendous team spirit and, with their captain leading by example, set about reducing the deficit.

The comeback was also largely aided by the arrival at half time of talismanic twins Struan and Cammy Smith.

Oban looked more confident in the second half as two tries, from MacQueen and Struan Smith, put them back in contention.

But with the score at 21-15, and just 30 minutes remaining, Oban were dealt a blow when the home side scored in the corner, a result of a blindside move from a scrum in the Oban 22.

Oban kept their heads high and returned with possession to the Cambuslang half. The Oban pack were now dominating their

RUGBY

opponents and another try from MacQueen brought Oban into touching distance, aided by an impressive conversion from Craig Wright.

Oban Lorne second row Crawford Brown completed the comeback with 10 minutes to go after scoring his second try of the season. Another successful conversion from Wright gave a 29-26 lead to the men in green and left the home side stunned after being so far ahead in the game.

Cambuslang pressed for a try in the closing stages of the game but could not break down an impressive Oban defence.

The win means that Oban Lorne move back into third place in the league.

Oban are at home this Saturday as they face lowly Cumbernauld at Glencruitten, Kick off 2pm.

Oban Mini Rugby will be re-starting this Saturday from 11am - noon at the club. All players from primary 4-7 welcome.



Crawford Brown, who scored the winning try, barges his way through this tackle during Oban Lorne's dramatic fight-back against Cambuslang last Saturday. Photo: Stephen Lawson

Scottish Amateur Football League results and fixtures

FOOTBALL

SATURDAY'S results: Scottish Amateur Cup, 1st round - Tarbert v Yoker, postponed

2nd round - Bearsden 5, Dunoon Athletic 2; 2nd round replays - Independent 2, Oban Saints 8; Campbeltown Pupils 4, Uddingston Anvil 3; West of Scotland Cup, 2nd round - Lochgilphead Red Star 2, Carradale 2. Red Star won the penalty shoot-out 4-3.

This Saturday's fixtures: - Scottish Amateur Cup 1st round - Tarbert v Yoker; West of Scotland Cup, 2nd round - Colville Park v Dunoon Athletic; Dunoon v Maryhill Black Sar; Premier Division - Castlemilk v Oban Saints; Premier Division One - Campbeltown Pupils v Paisley; Premier Division Two - Lochgilphead Red Star v Glencastle Sparta

Scott wants to take on the professionals

WIND SURFING

THIS year's winner of the amateur division of the Three Wave Classic wants to prove himself against some of the best in the world - by taking on the pros next year.

Scott McDowell, from Troon, secured victory at the weekend in the famous windsurfing contest on the Inner Hebridean isle, and says 'it's about time' he had a go at the highest level.

'I'd like to see how I'd do against them,' says Scott, who runs his own building company.

'Realistically I'd like to finish half way up the pros section. I'm never going to win it, but it would be interesting to see.'

Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

SATURDAY'S results: Scottish Cup, 3rd round - Under 13s 1, Kilsyth Athletic 10. Saints' scorer was Keir MacLean.

Under 14s 0, Spartans 6; Lochgilphead Red Star v Under 15s, postponed. Under 17s no game.

This weekend's fixtures - Blair Thistle v Under 13s; Under 14s no game; Under 15s v Wishaw Central; Alander v Under 17s.



No way through for Argyll's Ewen McGlynn as he is tackled by two GHA players. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

GHA prove too strong for Argyll youngsters

West Under-18 Division 1
Argyll 7
GHA 74

A YOUNG Argyll team were on the wrong end of a 74-7 scoreline at Glencruitten on Saturday against older opponents.

Top-of-the-table GHA came with a big reputation and a big team that outclassed the Argyll

YOUTH RUGBY

side, which is predominantly an under-17 team.

Oban's Jamie Bate got Argyll's consolation score as the home side played the game in good spirit and never gave up against more experienced opponents.

Commonwealth baton bearers

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

REMARKABLE people in Argyll are being sought to carry the Commonwealth Games baton when it arrives in the area on July 14 next year. Organisers of the games are urging Argyll residents to nominate people for the honour of carrying the Queen's baton, which left Buckingham Palace to tour the Commonwealth.

Anyone can nominate their community champion to be a baton bearer if they meet the following criteria:

- Be 12 years old or older at the date of nomination;
- Have made a positive contribution to the lives of others through community sport;
- Undertaken voluntary work or contributed to schools or youth organisations;
- Contributed towards greater inclusion for disadvantaged or marginalised sectors of the community;
- Been a role model or mentor to youth through sport;
- Displayed a level of individual achievement against the odds;
- Made a significant contribution to their local community.

To nominate a baton bearer log on to glasgow2014.com.

Campaign for a 3G pitch in Lochgilphead steps up a gear



Lochgilphead's Peter Laing has launched a petition for a new all-weather pitch at Lochgilphead Joint Campus. 06_142pitch01

3G PITCH CAMPAIGN

PLANS to upgrade the astro pitch at Lochgilphead Joint Campus will be considered if the project can gain the necessary funding, Argyll and Bute Council has said.

The local authority has confirmed it will upgrade the pitch to a 3G all-weather surface if it can gain financial support from SportsScotland and if it is what the community wants.

The news comes after a petition was launched by a Lochgilphead resident to get an all-weather pitch in the town. It will be used to encourage the council to make an application to SportsScotland for funding.

Peter Laing, who organised the petition, said: 'The plan is to run a campaign similar to that which saw a new all-weather pitch in Campbeltown last year.'

'The 3G pitch would benefit not just one sport, but rugby, shinty and football that are all popular in Mid Argyll. Amateur and youth football teams could play league or cup ties on the surface.'

The football referee added: 'This would be a great way to improve the standard of sport in the area and I hope the community will support me in this venture.'

People can sign the petition by logging on to Petition 24.com and searching for 'new all-weather pitch for Lochgilphead'. There are also forms at shops throughout the town.

Athletic game called off again

FOOTBALL

LAST Saturday's West of Scotland AFL League Cup 1st round match between Antonine and Oban Athletic was called off for the second week running due to the pitch at Duntocher being unplayable.

This Saturday Athletic are at home to Nia-Roo in a league game. Kick-off 2pm at Glencruitten.



Action from the Oban Saints Under 14s match against top Edinburgh side Spartans in the third round of the Scottish Cup held at Glencruitten last Saturday. Unfortunately the Oban lads shot themselves on the foot with mistakes costing them dear in a match they lost 6-0. The visitors deserved to win the game but the scoreline flattered them a bit.

Weather

Thursday Light rain
Winds strong south westerly
Temperatures 8°C to 10°C

Friday Cloudy with light rain showers
Winds strong west south westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 10°C.

Weekend Sunshine and showers
Outlook Winds moderate south easterly
Temperatures 6°C to 9°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, October 31, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	03.34 3.4 09.10 1.5 15.38 3.7 22.07 1.4	
Fri	04.08 3.5 09.58 1.2 16.14 3.9 22.40 1.1	
Sat	04.42 3.8 10.38 1.0 16.49 4.0 23.12 0.9	
Sun	05.14 4.0 11.17 0.8 17.23 4.1 23.47 0.8	
Mon	05.46 4.1 11.58 0.7 17.58 4.2 *** **	
Tues	00.24 0.7 06.20 4.1 12.42 0.6 18.35 4.1	
Wed	01.05 0.7 07.00 4.1 13.28 0.7 19.16 3.9	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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New bus link will connect with ferry

A NEW bus link is being launched to connect with the recently confirmed winter ferry between Lochboisdale and Mallaig.

Uist residents had celebrated the new ferry when it was announced, but said it was essential passengers on the new service could link up with other forms of public transport when they reached the mainland.

And now the trial service, which will run twice a week throughout the next three winters starting in November, will be met by a Shiel Bus to take them to Fort William.

A bus will also return to the port from Fort William before the 5.30pm return ferry to South Uist. Councillor Allan Henderson told *The Oban Times* he and his Lochaber colleagues felt linking up the two services was important to make best use of the new ferry. He said: 'The trains weren't fitting in and there was nothing we could do about them. So the Lochaber councillors have managed to get some money together for the new bus service. Shiel Buses will be running the buses for very, very little, which just shows how keen people are to have the service. It will mean people getting into Mallaig can get a bus straight to Fort William then on to Glasgow, Edinburgh or Inverness, or just spend the day in Fort William.'

'And as an bonus, people living on the A830 will now also have an extra bus service during the winter.'

Community council meets

SPEAN Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council will discuss co-opting a secretary and two additional members at its meeting in the primary school on Tuesday night.

Other items on the agenda include Killiechonan woodland paths and the Remembrance Day service at the Command Memorial.

Big field for half marathon

A BIG field of up to 200 competitors is expected to take part in the 29th annual Eddie's half marathon race in Fort William on Sunday.

Runners of all ages will set off from An Aird at 12pm, with various prizes handed out after the race is finished.



Happy dancers: trophy winners, left to right, Beth Campbell, Skye, Emma Montgomery, Skye, Laura Robertson, Inverloch, Anna Taylor, Portree, Ceitidh Smith, Portree, and Connie MacLennan, Fort William. 20_144dancing01

Prizewinning Highland dancers step out in style

JUNIOR trophy winners from Skye and Lochaber lined up for *The Oban Times* following the Nevis School of Highland Dancing competition at Inverloch Primary School in Fort William on Saturday.

Competitors of all ages from across Scotland took the stage to impress adjudicator for the day Lesley Anderson from Dundee, with Skye, Kyle, Lochaber and Oban well represented. Fort William's Jamie Lee

Laverty, was named best Nevis dancer in the 11 years group. In the premier category, Beth Ballantyne from Kyle took the overall title in the 16 years and over competition. See full story and results, page 14.

Youth sport support fund facing closure if no volunteers found

LOCHABER Sports Association's (LSA) youth support fund is facing closure unless more volunteers come forward, chairperson Jane Blanchard has warned.

In a hard-hitting circular to member clubs, Ms Blanchard said the fund is effectively 'broke' because it had supported so many sporting youngsters over the years.

She told *The Oban Times* yesterday: 'It would be desperately sad if the fund closed. It disburses between £500 and £800 every year to help with kit, training and travel costs to give kids and parents a helping hand.

'For example, a lot of parents are having to drive their children to Inverness for training because we have no facilities here for a girls football team.'

Ms Blanchard is making an eleventh hour bid for volunteers to help with a raffle ticket sale in Morrisons' Fort William store today (Thursday) from 10am.

Display boards on the youth support fund and LSA's proposed indoor training facility will also be on show.

She told members via email: 'We just can't keep going without your help. Please don't assume that someone else will do it - we had to cancel the bag pack in Morrisons a couple of months ago because we didn't have one volunteer come forward. This is pretty shameful out of an emailing list of over 500.'

She added: 'This is our last effort and if we don't get people coming forward, the fund will be closed, which would be a tragedy for the kids.'

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig hits the road with new car sharing scheme

A NEW car-sharing scheme for Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO), the Gaelic college on Sleat, will be launched tomorrow at the Skye Swing Jazz Festival.

'Lioft', will encourage people to travel together in the same car when attending arts events at the college. The green project aims to cut carbon emissions created by an estimated 8,000 people travelling to and from events

at SMO annually. Dòmhnall Angaidh MacLennan, head of estates and services at SMO, said: 'This initiative will be at the heart of the college's effort to encourage greater car sharing as

part of the activity set out in the carbon management plan.'

'Lioft' will be launched as the Stu Brown Sextet takes the stage at Sabhal Mòr tomorrow at 7.30pm.

Mallaig hits out at BID's Fort focus

THE MALLAIG business community accused the proposed Lochaber-wide Business Improvement District of being focussed on Fort William at a packed public meeting on Tuesday night.

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

Andrew Simpson asked why the BID covered the whole of Lochaber rather than just Fort William.

Frazer Coupland, chairman of Living Lochaber, hoped the BID would 'join-up' the area better.

He said: 'What we found was people don't know what's going on in Fort William, what's going on in Kinlochleven and what's going on in Acharacle. It's about trying to bring that together, and getting visitors to stay here longer.'

Living Lochaber steering group member Laurence Young if the BID is successful, a board would be chosen by the business community to run the new company.

It was standing room only in Mallaig and Morar Community Centre as representatives from Living Lochaber, the group behind the BID, fielded questions from around 60 local business owners on the controversial plan.

'One of the business plan's aims was to bring communities and businesses together, and I'm afraid it's not doing that at the moment, it's actually splitting people apart.'

He said: 'To those who say this will be Fort William-centric, I say no it won't, because we must make sure it isn't.'

Several said west Lochaber is already almost at full capacity for most of the summer - and questioned why they should pay an extra levy to try and bring in more tourists for whom they do not have space.

Despite voting papers being sent out today (Thursday), many business representatives present said they had received very little information about the BID so far, and criticised the consultation process.

'People from the outlying areas around Lochaber must come forward, must get voted in, must be on that board and must make sure that the money is spent for the good of communities around Lochaber.'

One, Sine Davies of the West Highland Hotel asked what benefit Mallaig and the surrounding area would get from the BID.

Sonia Cameron of West Coast Railways said: 'We market ourselves very, very well through the Road to the Isles Marketing Group. I can't see that the BID is offering anything that we'd be prepared to put our money towards.'

Marketing group chairman

She said: 'If we're paying into this, we want to see our community benefit. We need to see something very tangible that will be part of our community.'

'If you're asking us to pay

See leader page 10

Mr Coupland said he was 'very aware' many parts of Lochaber already have local marketing groups promote the area.

He said: 'We would like to assure them that the BID is not a threat, but rather an opportunity to access more support, especially funding to help them move ahead with projects they have created.'

'Many of the initial ideas outlined in the business plan,

such as the Ardnamurchan 'Dark Skies' project have been greeted with great enthusiasm and praised for their far-sightedness and potential for increasing the number of visitors to that area.

'It is innovative projects such as these, which individuals, groups, even communities will be able to bring to the BID board when it is formed to seek support and funding.'

'A great boost for local entrepreneurs. Voting papers for the BID are being posted to all businesses with a rateable value of over £2,000 today (Thursday), with the companies having six weeks to cast their vote.'

Mr Coupland added: 'Naturally I would urge them to vote yes, but whatever they plan I would urge them to make sure they vote to ensure their voice is heard.'

Group's pledge plan is not a threat

LIVING Lochaber chairman Frazer Coupland has insisted the BID would not step on the toes of other local organisations if the business community delivers a 'yes' vote.

Mr Coupland said he was 'very aware' many parts of Lochaber already have local marketing groups promote the area.

He said: 'We would like to assure them that the BID is not a threat, but rather an opportunity to access more support, especially funding to help them move ahead with projects they have created.'

'Many of the initial ideas outlined in the business plan,

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Torricon crofter decision disappoints SCF

THE SCOTTISH Government's planning system is undermining crofting law, the Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) claimed this week.

In his reply, Mr Mackay acknowledged the SCF's disappointment with the reporters' ruling, but said planning law states the decision is final and therefore neither the reporter nor Scottish Ministers have any power to change it.

their croft. Where is regard taken of that in these decisions?

The SCF aired its concerns after the government said it would not intervene in the case of a Wester Ross woman who is trying to build a house on her croft.

Individuals or organisations, he said, can challenge a decision within six weeks through the Court of Session in Edinburgh. But since Ms Holmes' case was determined on July 17, the time period has now lapsed. He added: 'On balance, I do not consider that there is any conflict between the reporter's decision and national policy on rural development.'

'We are compiling a list of planning appeal decisions which do not properly consider the crofting interest and we would like to hear from anyone with further examples.'

In August, government planners rejected an appeal by Torricon crofter Elaine Holmes against Highland Council's decision to refuse her permission to build a small single-storey house at Fasag, where no dwelling currently stands.

But SCF director Fiona Mandeville said the case raised concerns about broader attitudes towards crofting among planners. She said: 'By this decision, the government has demonstrated, unequivocally, that Scotland's planning system regards the dramatic appearance of the west coast as more important than its people.'

Meanwhile, the SCF appeared before the Scottish Parliamentary Petitions Committee on Tuesday to call for the government to do more about the escalating numbers of geese devastating crofters' crops.

Mother-of-three Ms Holmes, who lives nearly 10 miles away from her croft at the head of Loch Torricon, wants a permanent home there.

They also made a plea for the decision to stop funding existing goose management programmes to be reassessed and that additional resources be assigned to crop protection and management programmes 'to ensure this threat to the future of crofting is averted.'

In their petition to MSPs, director Roddy MacDonald and chief executive Patrick Krause demanded action to tackle problems created by increasing populations of wild geese in crofting areas 'as a matter of priority.'

When her appeal was rejected the SCF wrote to planning minister Derek Mackay to ask him to reconsider the decision.

'Crofting law provides a presumption that every crofter has the right to a single dwelling-house on

In August, government planners rejected an appeal by Torricon crofter Elaine Holmes against Highland Council's decision to refuse her permission to build a small single-storey house at Fasag, where no dwelling currently stands.

The body argued the planners' justification for refusing the house on 'landscape' grounds went against the advice of the statutory landscape authority, Scottish Natural Heritage.

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Rugby legend guest of honour at sports awards

FORMER Scotland rugby captain Rob Wainwright will be guest of honour at the Lochaber Sports Association awards evening next month.

And the event at Lochaber Rugby Club clubhouse in Banavie on Friday November 22 promises to be another glittering affair as local sporting heroes are recognised for their achievements over the past year.

Mr Wainwright will make the trip from his home on Coll to make the presentations.

LSA chairperson Jane Blanchard urged local clubs, schools and individuals to nominate candidates for the six category awards.

She said: 'Every club will have a star performer, an inspirational coach, a willing bus driver, a great team spirit, a kid who's really trying or a girlfriend who always tips up to make the teas.'

'Or you might feel your club, school or community centre has gone out of its way to get others involved.'

- Categories include:
Individual of the Year for Performance
Youth Endeavour Award
Team of the year for Performance
Coach of the Year
Club that has been most active in the promotion of sport in the Community
School or community centre that has been most active in promoting sport in the
Under 14s who have shown the greatest improvement over the past year

The awards evening starts at 7pm.

Police files

THE Clachaig Inn in Glencoe was broken into with cash stolen between 1am and 8am on Sunday October 27.

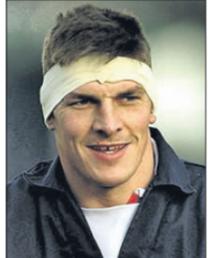
A BICYCLE was stolen from Camaghael Road in Fort William between 6.30am on Thursday October 24 and 8am the next day.

A PIECE of boating equipment was stolen after two sheds in Arisaig were broken into between 1.30pm on Thursday September 19 and 3pm on Thursday October 24.

FUEL was stolen from a vehicle in Torlundy between 7pm on Saturday October 19 and 6am on Monday October 21.

ITEMS were taken off a car in the Drummarbin area of Fort William between Tuesday October 1 and Wednesday October 23.

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



Rob Wainwright: star guest at the LSA awards night.

Student in race against time

A SIXTH year Kinlochleven High School student is facing a race against time to raise £5,600 after winning a coveted 12-month posting to South Africa with a Hebrides-based charity.

Shannon Hartley went through a rigorous week-long selection process at the Project Trust on the Isle of Coll - and learned on Friday she had been successful.

The 17 year-old was one of only seven young people selected from 32 final applicants hoping to earn themselves the

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

experience of a lifetime. Her character-building tasks in and around the trust's Hebridean Centre included giving presentations, climbing, team building and communications.

Now Shannon must find the money she needs to fund her trip to the land of the springbok, where she will undertake social care projects and teach children. Kinlochleven High School

head teacher John Mr McGilp welcomed his pupil's success as a testament to the school's extra-curricular activities programme, which includes the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, the Ocean Youth Trust and Aspire North.

He told the Oban Times: 'It is obviously a fantastic opportunity for Shannon and it is just phenomenal for the school.'

'We are all really proud of her - but to be honest I'm a bit jealous she is getting the opportunity to

go to South Africa for so long. I went myself to South Africa for 26 days when I was at Lochaber High School in 2002-3 and they are really lovely people. I just hope the benefit I got is multiplied 10 times over for Shannon when she goes.'

Shannon's mum Moira, who is development officer for Kinlochleven Community Trust, said: 'I am really pleased for her and she did remarkably well to get to the final stage.'

from a young age to travel and it will be a life-changing experience for her - but of course I will miss her.'

'I would like to place on record my thanks to Mr McGilp, who gave Shannon a huge amount of support.'

'Now It's all systems go - but £5,600 is an awful lot of money to raise in 12 months.'



Africa bound: Shannon Hartley.

Tributes to death crash victim

TRIBUTES have been paid to an air cadet instructor from Banavie who died when his car crashed off the A82 near Spear Bridge into trees on Sunday evening.

Peter Campbell, 36, was the only person in his Lexus car when it went down an embankment around a mile west of the village.

Police were called to the scene at 9pm but say the accident could have occurred several hours early.

'They are appealing for any witnesses who saw a silver-coloured vehicle leave the road or down an embankment from 5.30pm onwards.'

Mr Campbell's wife Leanne said: 'We're all devastated to have lost such a really wonderful person.'

'He was so well liked by everyone who knew him, and we'd like to say thank you to everyone who has sent messages of support and who have helped us through this terrible time.'

Local councillor Eddie Hunter said the Banavie community had been 'shocked and stunned' by Mr Campbell's death.

He told The Oban Times: 'It's a tragedy. Our thoughts and feeling are all with Peter's family and friends.'

Several friends left messages of condolence on Mr Campbell's Facebook page after hearing the news.

Another friend said: 'You are one of the nicest guys I know and have a heart of gold. So many good and funny memories of you, from being a cadet to serving with you as an instructor in the cadets.'

'You are going to be missed by everyone, cadets ain't going to be the same without you.'

The road was closed for around seven hours with diversions put in place while accident investigators carried out enquiries.



Peter Campbell: died in A82 crash.

Praise for Lady Lovat Primary School

LADY Lovat Primary School in Morar has earned high praise in a report following a visit by education inspectors.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education found that under head teacher Fiona MacKellaig the children learn and achieve well, are happy, enjoy learning and are very proud of their school.

Key strengths included:
Commendably positive attitudes and behaviour of all children in the school.

The caring, nurturing and inclusive environment for all children to learn and achieve.

Positive experiences offered for children led by the leadership of the headteacher, teamwork and commitment of highly reflective staff.

Strong partnerships with parents and the local community, particularly through enhancing opportunities for developing and achieving success through music and sporting activities.

Inspectors made only two recommendations:

Strengthen approaches to self-evaluation across the school to ensure children's experiences and achievements continue to improve
Continue to develop and improve the curriculum.

HMI were satisfied with the overall quality of provision and will make no further visits in connection with the inspection.

Quality
A 'delighted' Mrs MacKellaig said the inspection report reflected the very positive ethos, quality of teaching and excellent teamwork which is the 'cornerstone' of Lady Lovat Primary School.

She added: 'It highlights the hard work, mutual respect, commitment and dedication of pupils, staff, parents and the wider school community.'

'The report acknowledges our vision to continue to take forward all current initiatives of the Curriculum for Excellence to ensure the greatest impact is made on the future learning of all pupils of Lady Lovat Primary School.'

Happy
Newly-appointed parent council chairperson, Lynne Barrie was 'very happy' with the findings and praised the 'hard work, commitment and enthusiasm' of the whole staff team.

She said: 'I have no doubt that the school will continue to improve and develop the curriculum and to continue to build on the many strengths highlighted within the report.'



Jumping for joy: West Highlands College UHI honours students before the graduation ceremony.

Celebration of achievement and graduation ceremony

STAFF and students from West Highland College UHI gathered at Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church in Fort William for the annual celebration of achievement and graduation ceremony on Friday.

A range of vocational, further and higher education awards were handed out before adventurer Myrtle Simpson delivered the keynote address.

Before the ceremony, a colourful procession of staff and guests were piped along the Parade and into the church.

Mace bearer Sophie Monaghan, a college admin

assistant from Auchtertyre, led the procession after being selected for the role by UHI Principal James Fraser.

During the ceremony three BA applied music students, Jenna MacLean, Craig MacDonald and Liam MacLean, performed a piece specially composed for the day called 'Chasing a Dream'.

Fort William student Will Rowland was named overall student of the year, and a number of awards were given to the top students in each course.

College Principal and Chief Executive Lydia Rohmer

said: 'It is the success of all of our students which defines West Highland College UHI and we congratulate them all today - whether their achievement be a part time or full time course and at whatever level they have succeeded. However it is our staff who work tirelessly to help our students to realise their potential and I would like to pay tribute to their exceptional motivation and drive to create ever expanding opportunities for the learners, communities and businesses we serve.'

After the ceremony, a drinks reception followed by a dinner and dance was at the Ben Nevis Hotel.

STAR for Harris steps up funding campaign against child cancer

A CHARITY created by the parents of a little Lochaber boy who succumbed to brain cancer has made new donations to the hospital where he bravely fought for life.

STAR for Harris has regularly provided financial and gift aid to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh.

And Corpach couple Allan and Tanya Ross, who established the charity following the death of their son Harris in 2010 aged just 17 months, were delighted to be of assistance once again.

Tanya, a teacher at Inverloch Primary School, and Allan, a plumber in the Belford Hospital in Fort William, visited the oncology and neurological wards where Harris was a patient to deliver play resources and vouchers for arts and crafts.

Tanya told The Oban Times: 'It is always emotional but also very special for us to get back to the Sick Kids Hospital as it was Harris's home for the majority



Tanya and Allan present HeadSmart community fundraiser (Scotland) Viv McBeth, centre, with a cheque for £10,000.

of his life so it holds so many memories for us.

'We also get to see some of our amazing ward family each time we are down and the nurses are always reminding us.'

She added: 'It is so important for all age groups of patient to have engaging and interesting

activities to help make treatment time even a little better.'

Cheque
The couple then travelled through to Glasgow to meet the HeadSmart charity to present a cheque for £10,000.

The money will fund awareness cards and education packs for

medical professionals to help raise awareness of brain tumour symptoms.

Tanya said: 'STAR for Harris' is passionate about raising awareness of cancer symptoms as Harris was so late in getting diagnosed.

'Early diagnosis saves lives and can also lead to patients living with less life-long side effects from their illness and treatment. Everyone needs to be aware.'

Allan and Tanya also visited Yorkhill Hospital's paediatric oncology ward, where they met patients who had received isolation gifts from 'STAR for Harris' following their bone marrow transplants.

Tanya said after the tour: 'Thank you again to everyone for their support as we really couldn't do as much as we do without everyone's help. Harris's legacy continues to grow.'

The charity is awaiting news on a bid for £3,000 award from Lloyds/Bank of Scotland.

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Hotel owner placed on sex offenders' register

THE OWNER of a Lochaber hotel has been placed on the sex offenders' register for seven years after sexually assaulting two female members of staff.

Shamsul Arefin was found guilty of making sexual advances and inappropriately touching the woman at The Stewart Hotel in Duror at a trial in September.

Appearing for punishment, the married 46 year-old was sentenced to six months in prison.

But he walked free from Fort William Sheriff Court after Sheriff Noel McPartlin heard Arefin had already spent seven months behind bars while awaiting trial.

Arefin, of 39 Arlington Drive,

Carshalton, London, repeatedly propositioned a Portuguese woman during her six days on the job and on one occasion told her he was in love with her.

She said Arefin kissed her on the neck and put his hand underneath her bra.

A second woman, a 23 year-old Lithuanian, said Arefin drank vodka with her on her first night at the hotel before talking explicitly about his sexual past and pressing himself against her.

Arefin, who bought The Stewart Hotel with his wife in March 2007, sexually assaulted the two women by touching them and directing sexual comments at them between April 18 and May 8, 2012.

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Teenage girl dies in crash

A TEENAGE girl died in a car crash near Inveraray on Saturday, on the day of her 16th birthday.

Caitlin Thaxter from West Yorkshire was a passenger in a silver Toyota Rav4, which left the road at around 11.15am and struck a tree on the A83, close to Dunderave Castle, 3.5 miles east of Inveraray.

The 45-year-old driver and another passenger, both females and from the same family, sustained minor injuries and were treated at Mid Argyll Hospital. The road was closed for around eight hours while police investigations took place. No other vehicle was involved.

Any witnesses who saw the crash, or observed the Toyota Rav4 travelling on the A83 around the time of the crash, should contact PC Colin May at Oban Police Office on 01631 510500.

Cabling replaced

POWER problems affecting Atlantis Leisure and 11 other surrounding Oban properties should be over after faulty cabling was replaced.

Reports of interruptions to electricity supplies in the area around the social enterprise have emerged in recent weeks.

But Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) believes it has found the source of the problem that knocked out power for several hours on Sunday.

A company spokesperson said: 'At 10am on Sunday the cabling failed and it was traced to be a fault with the underground network.'

'It was a little more complicated to fix than most problems so a generator fed the customers until final repairs were carried out on Monday.'

Former Oban man is new moderator

THE CHURCH of Scotland has selected a former Oban man as its next moderator of the General Assembly.

Glencoe-born Rev Dr Angus Morrison grew up in Oban's High Street and attended Oban High School. His father, Captain Norman Morrison, worked on tenders for the Northern Light-house Board.

Rev Dr Morrison is married to Marion, nee Matheson, who he met while in Oban.

He currently serves in the Presbytery of Perth, and will take up his new role in May 2014.

Spooky goings on earn guest house top title



Ronnie and Liz Alexander have recorded many spooky goings on at the guest house, which has built quite a reputation for its hauntings over the years.

CREEPY tales of spooky goings on at a north Lorn guest house have seen it named the UK's best haunted holiday spot.

Barcaldine Castle, also known as the Black Castle, has been linked with ghosts and ghouls for decades, with tales of dead Campbells - the family who erected the building in the early 1600s - said to still linger.

While the award-winning guest house has long been a hit with the living, it appears its undead guests are drawing interest all of their own - with travel reviews website Tripadvisor naming it as the UK's best for a Hallowe'en treat.

Manager Ronnie Alexander remains sceptical about many of the stories, but there is one recurring tale in particular causing the hairs on the back of his and wife Liz's necks to stand on end.

He explained: 'We have a room at the top of the hotel called the Caithness Room. People who have slept there say they've been wakened during the night with either the feeling of someone pushing their back or pushing down on their legs. When they've opened their eyes they see lights dancing around the room.'

'The strange thing is, everyone who has experienced this - and there's been about 20 - has slept on the same side of the bed.'

Tales from the castle's crypt continue to keep the guests entertained, with ghost hunters long trying to discover its secrets.

As Ronnie explains, that is a draw all of its own. 'We're constantly getting these paranormal investigators contacting us wanting to come and set up their equipment but we won't let them do that when there's children here,' he said.

'But we do get guests specifically asking if there's ghosts when they're booking and some are really disappointed if nothing happens!'

Superfast broadband questions remain

THE LARGEST sub-sea cabling project ever undertaken by BT will see superfast broadband delivered to the Hebrides - although question marks still remain about when some exchanges will be upgraded.

More than 400km of cabling will be laid over 20 crossings to bring the islands into the modern digital age next summer as part of a £146million upgrade of the Highlands' digital infrastructure.

A map of the work to be carried out across the Highlands and Islands by BT in partnership with Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) was launched on Tuesday, showing that most of Argyll and Lochaber's mainland areas will be moved over by the end of next year.

However, no confirmation has yet been given of which island exchanges will be upgraded or when, causing concern among islanders that they might miss out.

Tiree, Coll, Barra,Islay, Gigha, Colonsay, Mull and Skye are among those listed as 'under evaluation'.

Doubts over hard and fast dates prompted the Tiree branch of the Scottish Crofting Federation to call for more information.

Secretary Alex MacArthur told *The Oban Times*: 'What is of concern to crofters is that there is no mention made in the statement of the delivery of fast broadband to the Argyll islands.'

'With government departments now requesting it is desirable to submit completed forms online, crofters feel it is important that a fast and reliable service to the islands is put in place.'

A spokesperson for BT said: 'As with every next generation broadband project across the UK, survey and planning work has to take place before detailed timescales can be confirmed.'

'For our island communities the timetable takes into account the delivery of the largest sub-sea cabling project ever undertaken through BT.'

'This work is set to be carried out between May and October 2014, enabling a phased fibre rollout thereafter. Engineers have already visited the landing points and we expect to announce further details in due course.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said he was pushing for as much information to be made public as soon as possible, but added he understood the scale of the work BT was undertaking could make fixing dates difficult.

He said: 'The information released this week is a big step forward but people need to know and need to know soon.'

'Most of the islands will get it, that is worth mentioning.'

'There has been speculation on Coll and Tiree that only one of the islands there will get it. 'There are some pretty big broadband users there so I'll be pushing for both to get connected.'

He said he would encourage any community that does miss out to get involved with Community Broadband Scotland, which aids areas with no or limited connectivity.

BT's Where and When map can be found at www.digitalscotland.org/superfast-broadband/check-availability/when-and-where.

Ballet teacher acquitted of making racial remark

ONE OF Scotland's top ballet teachers has been acquitted of making a racial remark to his class at Ballet West in Taynuilt.

Jonathan Barton, 31, of Ichrahan House, Main Street, Taynuilt, stood trial on Monday and Tuesday at Oban Sheriff Court accused of causing alarm and distress to Genevieve Huss, a former pupil, by uttering a racial comment - but was found to have no case to answer.

Giving evidence, Miss Huss said Barton made the 'anti-Semitic' remark 'you look like a bunch of Jews lining up waiting to be shot in the rain'.

She said Barton then asked if anyone in the class was Jewish and, when she indicated she was, he immediately apologised.

Miss Huss, aged 20, who is now a ballet teacher in London, said: 'I was shocked in a very bad way that a comment would even be made like that in this day in age. I just think it shouldn't be made. It was unnecessary - there was no reason for it.'

But during cross examination by defence agent Gary McAteer, Miss Huss admitted the remark could have been made 'innocently' and she believed Barton 'liked her'.

She said she had never had a problem with him except for that one instance and conceded Barton would not have known she was Jewish.

Inviting Sheriff Douglas Small to rule there was 'no case to answer', Mr McAteer said: 'There is no evidence in this case from

which it could be inferred that the accused evinced the necessary malice and ill will in respect of any racial group or its members.'

But procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty countered: 'The words themselves are the evidence of the ill will, the malice. There is nothing to suggest Jonathan Barton said these under duress. He clearly chose these words and used them. There is no challenge to the words. It is accepted what was said, was said.'

Upholding Mr McAteer's submission, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'It is my opinion that while the remarks made by the accused were made, and were deplorable and ill considered, they do not, in all the circumstances, amount to a sufficiency in law for the case to proceed.'

Sheriff Small said he was not satisfied the crown had led sufficient evidence of 'malice or ill will' directed toward Miss Huss, adding that was an 'essential ingredient' of the crime.

NHS Highland's film bid to attract medical staff to west coast

A FILM to attract medical staff to work in the west coast of Scotland has been produced by NHS Highland as the health board struggles to retain GPs in the area.

It follows failures to recruit doctors to the planned West Lochaber Medical Practice, where two attempts have been made to attract the seven

required GPs. There has also been the resignation of two GPs on the Isle of Mull and difficulty in recruiting a dentist on the same island. Residents on Jura ended up taking matters into their own hands to attract GP cover by launching their own successful advertising campaign earlier this year - after being without a resident doctor for two

years. In a response to a Freedom of Information (FOI) request by *The Oban Times*, NHS Highland confirmed there was one single-handed GP practice in Argyll and Bute that has been vacant since June 30 last year and 42 locum GPs hosted by Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership. Kenny Oliver, the board secretary who

replied to the FOI, said: 'It is difficult to recruit to remote and rural practice, where GPs are generally covering on call. It is also difficult to recruit to areas that do not have high patient numbers, as GPs are concerned about deskilling.'

NHS Highland chief executive Elaine Mead said: 'We have faced some challenges in recruiting to

some posts and are committed to overcome this. The setting of the Highlands sells itself, but we were keen to promote many aspects of life in the area that perhaps people were unaware of - fantastic community spirit, first-class schools and affordable housing and of course excellent integrated health and social services.'

NEWSDESK
01397 703003

SSE Engagement Event

Argyll and Bute Communities and Business

10:00 to 16:00, Tarbert Village Hall, Wednesday 6 November



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

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

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

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

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



Pilot Rory is a high flyer

A SOLDIER who travelled to France to pass his pilot's licence during his leave says he plans to become an instructor.

High flyer Rory Fleming, who works in flight operations with Army Air Corp, is now licensed to fly microlights after he trained for less than a year and aced his general skills test in the south of France.

To celebrate, friends and family of the 25 year old held a party at Connel Flying Club on Saturday.

Rory, whose father, Alex, is also a microlight pilot, said: 'I have been around planes since I was a toddler but it wasn't until January this year that I started taking my licence seriously.'

'I heard then that my dad had got back into the flying and it spurred me on to get my own licence. I would say I was the type of person that gets things done as quickly as possible but people tell me it is unusual to pass all the exams in a year.'

'Kevin MacCuish, who is based in Oban, helped me with my exams and gave me crucial flying hours before I went to train with Pegasus France, so I owe a big thank you to him.'



Rory is congratulated by friends and family at Connel Flying Club.

Church says 'thank you' to stalwart as doors close

A PRESENTATION has been made to an Oban church stalwart, as the town's Church of Scotland congregation held its first combined service in Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten.

Neil Clark, who was beadle in the Corran Esplanade Church (Christchurch), gave 42 years of service to the church.

His duties included assisting with preparing the building for worship, funerals, weddings and other occa-

sions. On Sunday the congregation held its first combined service in the Oban Parish Church, following the closure of Corran Esplanade Church last week.

The church does not own the building, which is under the stewardship of the Ann McCaig Trust, but decided to leave the premises after discovering major refurbishment was required.

The building's future remains uncertain. The services will now be held at Oban Parish Church at the new time of 10.30am.

The congregation said it planned to spend 'considerable' sums of money on the parish church.



Pictured, from left: Rev Dugald Cameron, Helen Clark, Neil Clark, June Campbell and Kenneth MacColl following Mr Clark's presentation.



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Date announced for opening of Oban Wetherspoon pub

OBAN'S Railway Pier will officially be home to JD Wetherspoon's new pub on January 21.

Shopfitters moved into the former home of Caithness Glass last week to begin the process of transforming the shop into a 458-capacity pub...

Meanwhile, the company has applied for planning permission to reposition the kitchen extract to the north elevation...

Traffic cameras raise suspicion

CAMERAS set up in Oban's town centre on Tuesday had residents on edge.

The CCTV-type cameras were erected on existing posts and traffic lights and had suspicious Obanites wondering whether Big Brother had extended its influence further...

A spokeswoman for the roads authority said the cameras were being used to survey traffic and pedestrian movements within the town as part of an on-going assessment of traffic flows.

The cameras were only in place for Tuesday and were removed at 7pm.

Teenager awaits sentence

A TEENAGER is awaiting sentence after admitting sending a picture of his genitals to a girl under the age of 16.

John Meney, 18, of Sandbank, Dunoon, also pled guilty to sending offensive messages to a further five people including a 15-year-old boy when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday...

Echoes of the Mòd concert

THOSE who were unable to get to Paisley for the recent Royal National Mòd have a chance to hear the best competitors from the Oban and Lorn area at the Echoes of the Mòd concert.

The concert, organised by Comunn Gàidhealach an Obain, will be held in the Skipinnish Ceilidh House on Saturday, November 9.

Festival late night shopping

SHOPS in Oban's town centre will open late on Thursday November 28 as businesses look to take advantage of the extra footfall during the town's Winter Festival.

Residents will be encouraged to support local retailers by taking advantage of special deals and giveaways up until 9pm. Meanwhile, festival organisers are encouraging families to enter their competition to design a winter or nativity scene using a shoebox.



Members of SIMBA and charity volunteers donned distinctive yellow t-shirts for a coffee morning in Glencruitten Church Centre.

Brave parents show support for baby charity

PARENTS in the Oban area whose children died at birth bravely demonstrated their support for a charity that has helped them through their grief.

SIMBA supports those affected by the loss of a baby and held a public fundraising event in Oban for the first time, a coffee morning at Glencruitten Church Hall last Saturday.

The event allowed the charity to raise funds but, more importantly, publicise the support it gives to families through peer support.

The charity also offers memory boxes, which include items to help parents remember their child, such as teddies, blankets, and candles and acknowledgement cards.

SIMBA is also looking to establish a Tree of Tranquility in the Oban area, similar to its sculpted tree in Inverness, the leaves of which bear the names of babies who have died.

The charity's Highland co-ordinator, Susan Simpson, is from Dunbeg but now lives in Benderloch and got involved with the charity after losing her daughter, Eilidh Beth, at birth.

She said: 'I left the hospital with Eilidh Beth's hand print and foot print and a photo. I thought, there had to be more than that to remember her by.'

'Although the midwives at Raigmore Hospital were amazing, there was no peer support.

'That's when I found SIMBA. To be able to speak about my baby and say her name makes all the difference and keeps her memory alive.'

The event at the weekend was organised by Tim Devaney, from Oban, and his partner. The couple lost twins earlier this year but have found their involvement with the charity has helped with their grief.

Tim said: 'We wanted to raise awareness of SIMBA and we are pleased to see helpers here today who have lost children. It is an awesome charity.'

Tobermory lifeboat volunteers praised

THE VOLUNTEER crew of Tobermory's RNLI have been praised for their efforts during a 31-hour rescue mission of a grounded cargo ship during summer.

In a letter from George Rawlinson, the RNLI's operations director, the station's full time coxswain and mechanic were singled out for particular praise.

Tobermory's coxswain Andrew McHaffie is commended for his 'leadership and co-ordination of resources' during the rescue operation.

Station mechanic Jock Anderson, who was on board throughout the 31-hour shift, is praised for his 'guidance on board the casualty vessel in protecting the crew of both vessels from the dangers of CO2 poisoning'.

In his letter of commendation, Mr Rawlinson said: 'The crew demonstrated excellent teamwork and perseverance during a long service with several crew changes and I commend the commitment, perseverance and professionalism of all involved.'

The rescue operation - the longest in the station's history - began early in the morning of June 14 when Tobermory's

Severn class lifeboat, Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey, was launched to go to the aid of 90-metre cargo vessel Fri Ocean, which was hard aground two and a half miles south of Tobermory.

The volunteer crew assisted the crew of the vessel with pumping operations for much of the day and then stood by awaiting an opportunity to refloat the vessel.

That evening the ship was successfully refloated and was escorted to the shelter of Salen Bay until first light with Tobermory lifeboat standing by.

The following morning, Tobermory lifeboat escorted the cargo ship to Oban and working with Oban RNLI's lifeboat, the vessel was safely anchored in Oban Bay for further investigations and a damage assessment to take place.

lan Stevens, Tobermory's lifeboat operations manager, said: 'This rescue operation was not only the result of first rate teamwork but also demonstrates the commitment of our volunteers who give up so much of their time to save lives at sea.'

'I'm also pleased that Andrew and Jock's outstanding commitment has been recognised by the RNLI.'



Tobermory's Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey accompanying Fri Ocean into Oban. Picture by RNLI/Stephen Lawson.



John Ogden, fourth from right, with his staff at The Original Green Shack.

Gordon told don't be 'shellfish' as court orders colour change

A DISPUTE over two seafood stalls on Oban's Railway Pier has ended - after a court ruled only one could be green.

John Ogden and Marion Ritchie, partners at The Original Green Shack on the Railway Pier, started a court action against Gordon MacGillivray of MacGillivray's Seafood when he had a new green catering unit delivered at the start of September.

Lord Pentland, who presided over the case at the Court of Session in Edinburgh, last week granted an interim interdict preventing Mr MacGillivray from running his nearby seafood business from 'wholly or predominantly green' premises.

The court heard Mr MacGillivray had traded from the area for a number of years - but from a white mobile unit. Mr Ogden said: 'There was

genuine confusion with a lot of our customers. More than 50 per cent of our customers are foreign and they don't have a grasp of the English language as such.'

'But they hear about us and they are looking for a green shack on the pier. I don't think it was an accident a green hut suddenly appeared on the pier on September 6 to intercept all our customers.'

'It has been an unbelievable amount of work but we got what we asked for. We got an interim interdict - that's the decision we wanted.'

Under the terms of the order Mr MacGillivray is prevented from passing off any bar or restaurant on or within 250 metres of the Railway Pier as being The Original Green Shack.

Mr MacGillivray could not be contacted for comment as The Oban Times went to press.



Gordon MacGillivray of MacGillivray's Seafoods.

Wake-up call for council as watchdog demands action

URGENT action has been called for to resolve political instability and inadequate leadership at Argyll and Bute Council by the local authorities watchdog.

The Accounts Commission says it is 'seriously concerned about substantial risks to Argyll and Bute Council caused by instability in its political leadership since last year's elections' - and has demanded a progress report in six months to fix the issues.

Criticism from the body comes after it considered Audit Scotland's statutory report into the operation of the council, which concluded a 'culture of mistrust' at Kilmory was hampering progress.

Echoing the report's findings, the Accounts Commission stated the role the full council plays is unsustainable and progress in securing effective scrutiny has also been inadequate.

In a hard-hitting assessment published on Tuesday, the

commission said: 'The council's ability to set and maintain a clear strategic direction is at risk of being compromised and the commission is concerned that this will, in time, negatively affect the services that the council provides for the people of Argyll and Bute.'

However, the commission said it was encouraged the council had recognised the need for change and was taking steps to make this happen.

These included bringing in external experts from the Improvement Service and COSLA for help and advice.

Chairman of the Accounts Commission, John Baillie, said: 'Argyll and Bute Council now stands at a crossroads. There has been instability and lack of consistent political leadership for a long period.'

'There is now some evidence that lessons have been learned and measures are being taken to develop new political

management arrangements, training and development support for councillors and bringing in external support.'

'All of this is encouraging. However, we urge the elected members and the corporate management team to work together to provide stronger and more effective leadership for the council to ensure urgent progress is made. We have asked for a further report on progress made over the next six months.'

Dick Walsh, the new leader of the council, said: 'The recent Audit Scotland report and the Accounts Commission's findings have been a wake-up call for all of us. It is absolutely essential that we have sound, stable political leadership.'

'We take very seriously the comments made by the commission and we are very aware of what needs to be done. The people of Argyll and Bute can be assured that we are getting on with the job.'

Mishnish in running for top pub award

AN ISLE of Mull watering hole is in the running to be named Scotland's best community pub of the year.

The Mishnish Hotel, recognisable as the famous yellow building on Tobermory's colourful Main Street, is included in a shortlist of three pubs up for the national award in the Scottish Licensed Trade News Awards 2013.

The hotel was built in the 1850s and was acquired by the MacLeod family in 1869. Today the fifth generation of MacLeods are now operating and will find out if they have won the award at a ceremony in Glasgow on November 7.

RN MacLeod said: 'We were absolutely delighted to be short-listed in the award. We are now operating as the next generation of MacLeods and have strived hard to ensure the Mishnish is one of the cornerstones of our community.'

The award is judged on efforts to build a community spirit within the pub by things such as charity fundraising events, participation in sporting events and services to local organisations.

AJ MacLeod added: 'We have always felt that our tradition of regular live music and quality service of quality food and drink was vital in making the Mishnish an important part of the community.'

'Outside of this we have been prominent in sponsoring local events, providing support to local associations and active in charity fundraising.'

'Some examples of this include providing practice space for the local drama club, creating a lifeboat corner in the pub, sponsoring the local Gaelic choir and 2012 Mull Rally winner Calum Duffy, as well as receiving a commendation from Help for Heroes for our fundraising efforts.'

Numerous oil spills on Argyll's road network

NUMEROUS reports of oil and diesel on Argyll's roads were received by Police Scotland last Friday - but none of the vehicles responsible have been traced.

Police received a call at 9.52am from a driver reporting a substance on the A85 between Oban and Dunbeg. BEAR Scotland was told about the incident.

Further reports were taken throughout the day about slippery road surfaces on the A816 between Oban and Lochgilphead and the A83 between Lochgilphead and Campbeltown.

A highway maintenance vehicle was placed on the A83 at KennaCraig to warn drivers about the road surface and the fire service was also mobilised.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service subsequently found a serious 14-mile oil spill between Tarbert and Lochgilphead and a gritter was deployed to treat the worst sections of road.

Police Scotland, which said it had been unable to trace the offending vehicles, told The Oban Times it took calls relating to oil spillages up until 7pm that day.

Advertisement for NS (National Society) with a bar chart showing 'More facts at www.nsfacts.co.uk'.

Advertisement for Oban Stove Centre featuring a wood-burning stove and contact information: Old Crofters Yard, Soroba Rd, Oban, Argyll, PA344HU.

Advertisement for the November issue of 'Spirit of Speyside' magazine, featuring Charles MacLean and a whisky special.

Advertisement for A82 overnight closures, detailing the road closure dates and diversion routes.

Advertisement for 'The ideal gift 2014 Calendars' for Oban Times and Scottish Field, with ordering information.

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Phoenix boxers fight their way to glory in Scottish Novice Championships

Lochaber has two new champions after success in Motherwell

LOCHABER has two new national junior boxing champions after Cameron Whyte and Keir Johnstone fought their way to glory in Motherwell on Saturday night.

The Lochaber Phoenix pair were taking part in the Scottish Novice Championships along with club mate Robert MacDonald, who came home with a silver medal.

Whyte, 11, faced Declan Roose of Midlothian ABC in what developed into a cracking contest.

Roose was the first southpaw Whyte had faced, and in the opener both boxers looked to land the jab and get their lead foot on the outside of their opponent. It was a very tight affair with both boxers' defences a tad too loose.

The second saw a change in Whyte's tactics as he began to change angles and move his head more leaving Roose unable to set himself to fire his punches.

In the final round Roose succumbed to Whyte's powerful body shots and sunk to one knee

BOXING

for an eight count.

Whyte switched his attack to the head and with the Midlothian boxer pinned on the ropes the referee issued another count.

The final bell sounded upon resumption but the result was a forgone conclusion.

Johnstone, 12, faced Jet Dickey of Hillpark in what became a real war of attrition.

Both boxers were fired up and started throwing combinations with gusto. The second round



Champs: Cameron Whyte, Robert MacDonald and Keir Johnstone all returned from the Scottish Novice Championships with medals

continued in the same vein with tenacious exchanges, in particular a couple of right cross bombs that landed flush from the Lochaber youngster.

Johnstone had a slight edge going into the last but nothing could be taken for granted.

The last round continued

where the second ended with combinations from both boxers but Johnstone continued to try and land the last punch in every exchange and it was now it appeared that the stamina advantage lay with him as he forced Dickey backwards.

In fact the Lochaber boxer be-

gan to show a strong jab in this round and a very tight decision went his way.

MacDonald, 12, faced the tall George McPhee of Byron and initially stood too far out of range to do any scoring himself while McPhee was content to pick up points behind his jab and

right cross.

MacDonald came out in the second round behind double jabs to get into range and firing a strong right cross at every opportunity and threw ferocious combinations in the final round, but it was not enough and MacDonald had to settle for silver.

Two on netball umpiring course

NETBALL

NETBALL in Fort William continues to go from strength to strength with two coaches attending an umpiring course in Dingwall.

Carol Stenhouse and Claire Lumley-Holmes of Fort William Netball Club took part in the level 'C' course with help from funding from Lochaber Sports Association.

Ms Lumley-Holmes said: 'Confident and competent umpires are an integral part of the game, we simply couldn't play without them.'

'Fortunately LSA recognise the importance of qualified umpires and has helped the club fund the course.'

The pair, who run weekly junior training, will be awarded a qualification if they pass a future assessment.

Tough task for rugby boys

RUGBY

LOCHABER travel to Aberdeenshire to take on Garioch this Saturday knowing they face a tough task to get anything from the second best side in the league.

Garioch are just one point behind RBS Caledonia league division two north leaders Aberdeenshire 2nd XV, and 13 ahead of fourth placed Lochaber.

After a strong start to the season which saw them win four of their first five games, Lochaber have lost their last two matches heavily.

Lochaber will hope to bounce back from those losses and claw back the gap to the top three sides before they welcome Aberdeenshire to Black Parks on Saturday November 16.

Rusty still leads winter league

GOLF

RUSTY Duncan still leads Fort William Golf Club's winter league after extending his lead over second placed Eric Wallace to six points.

Iain Robertson is third on 118, some 25 points behind Duncan.

Saturday's back nine saw Neil Feggins win with 21 points, one ahead of Sinclair Gunn. Robertson was third.

Allan Overend won the front nine on Sunday with 24 points. Toby Richardson's better last three holes gave him second place ahead of David MacPherson after both scored 19.

The wooden spoon for the weekend went to Eric Wallace with his score of 22.

Meanwhile, four Fort William teams took part in a senior four ball competition at Royal Dornoch last Wednesday.

Jimmy Ross and Rusty Duncan took second place overall, while Kenny Gillespie and John Herman finished fourth.

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Wick striker Weir bags an eightsome and leaves Fort William reeling at the bottom of the table

FOOTBALL

FORT William will hope to bounce back from last weekend's heavy loss against Wick when they travel north to play Keith on Saturday.

Fort were knocked for eight in Caithness, with Wick forward Gary Weir remarkably bagging all of his side's goals.

Despite the scoreline the Lochaber side performed well in the opening 45, with Keith Millar's strike meaning they went into half time only 2-1 down.

But Weir's record-breaking second half performance saw him hit the back of the net a further six times against an overwhelmed Fort team who are now three points adrift at the bottom of the league.

Fort manager Danny Conlon said the scoreline did not reflect how well his side had played for periods in the match.

He told the Oban Times: 'In the first half we looked like a good Highland League side; in the second half we played like a pub team. We've done that a few times this year and I can't put my finger on why.'

'I was in a bit of shock, especially considering how well we had played in the first half. We went in 2-1 down but we were as good as them for the first 45 minutes.'

Fort's clash with Keith represents the start of what on paper appears to be a good run of games for the Claggan men,

with seven of their next nine matches against teams who finished in the bottom half of the league last season.

Conlon's side will be looking to repeat the 1-1 draw they managed away to Keith last season.

The manager said: 'They're on a reasonably good run of form and games up there are always difficult. We should have a slightly stronger squad going up.'

Duncan Campbell and Darren Quigg are both expected to return to the squad, but top scorer Gordy MacCarroll is a doubt.

Gordy MacCarroll: may miss Keith trip. 20_f44fort01



Leisure lead the way

INDOOR FOOTBALL

LOCHABER Leisure have pulled three points clear at the top of the Ali Young indoor football league after a narrow 5-4 win in the top of the table clash with Portoway at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

Goon Squad have jumped up to second place following their 10-0 thrashing of With Ourselves, while the Caol derby was won by United, who comfortably defeated neighbours Cosmos 7-2 to move up to third spot.

First points

Ballachulish slipped two places following their 3-1 loss to AFC Distillery, and Kentallen moved off the bottom of the league with a 5-2 win against HWE Energy - their first points of the season.

They were replaced at the bottom by Ali Young, who are still pointless and looking for their first goal following another defeat, this time going down 3-0 against The Janis B Team.

Rock and Bowl top handicap division

TEN PIN BOWLING

AFTER four weeks of the Lochaber Building Supplies ten pin bowling competition at the Nevis Centre Alleycats remain the leaders in the scratch division with 18 points.

Rock and Bowl are in second also on 18 points with Bandits two points back in third.

In the handicap division, Rock and Bowl still narrowly lead with 16 points, followed by Bandits on 15.5 points with Alleycats in third place on 15.

The top individual performance this week came from Stewart Duncan of Rock and Bowl with a super scratch game of 225 - the season's highest so far - which included six strikes in a row.

This high game helped Stewart towards the top handicap game of 277, the top two game scratch series of 372 and the top two game handicap series

of 476 - all season's highs. Other games of note this week came from Pam Weller, Alleycats, with 183 and Sean MacPherson, Rock and Bowl, with 172.

As a result of Stewart's performance, Rock and Bowl had the highest scratch team game of 674, the highest handicap team game of 895, the highest two game scratch team series of 1,251 and the top two game handicap team series with 1,693 - all season's highs.

The highest scratch average is currently held by Tony Whitelocke, Alleycats, with 161, followed by Pam Weller on 158 and Stewart Duncan on 148.

Team	Pts
Lochaber Leisure	12
Goon Squad	9
Caol United	9
Portoway	9
The Janis B Team	9
Ballachulish	6
AFC Distillery	6
Caol Cosmos	6
Kentallen	3
With Ourselves	3
HWE Energy	0
Ali Young	0



Motorcycle racer and TV presenter Guy Martin finished fourth overall.

Relentless cycling at Leanachan Forest

CYCLING

A FIELD of 125 riders raced around a 15km loop through Leanachan Forest for 24 hours in the Relentless 24 mountain bike race.

Local side Nevis Cycles finished a combined total of 29 laps to take first place in the quads in the No Fuss Events race, as well as recording the fastest lap of the race in 43 minutes and

34 seconds. The only female competitor, Marie Meldrum of Nevis Cycles, managed 13 laps of the course.

In the solo events, two-time winner Jason Miles took top spot again after completing 23 laps - 345km - within the 24 hour limit.

Weather

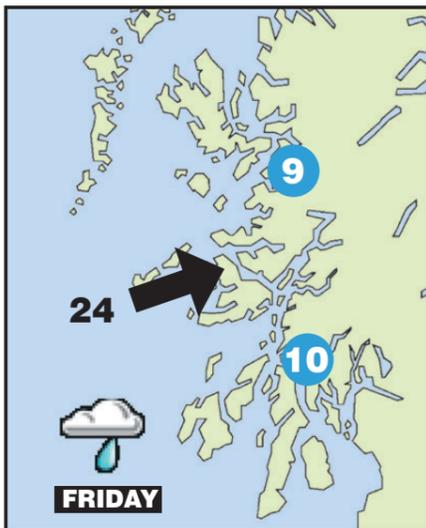
Thursday Light rain
Winds strong south westerly
Temperatures 8°C to 10°C

Friday Cloudy with light rain showers
Winds strong west south westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 10°C.

Weekend Sunshine and showers
Outlook Winds moderate south easterly
Temperatures 6°C to 9°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, October 31, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	03.34 3.4 09.10 1.5 15.38 3.7 22.07 1.4	
Fri	04.08 3.5 09.58 1.2 16.14 3.9 22.40 1.1	
Sat	04.42 3.8 10.38 1.0 16.49 4.0 23.12 0.9	
Sun	05.14 4.0 11.17 0.8 17.23 4.1 23.47 0.8	
Mon	05.46 4.1 11.58 0.7 17.58 4.2 *** **	
Tues	00.24 0.7 06.20 4.1 12.42 0.6 18.35 4.1	
Wed	01.05 0.7 07.00 4.1 13.28 0.7 19.16 3.9	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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