

The Oban Times

1861 Celebrating 150 years 2011



& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8068

Thursday 10 November, 2011

www.obantimes.co.uk

77 pence

Don't miss next week's
8 page Festive Times pull-out

Great competitions, recipes and puzzles and the best local shopping to help make your Christmas special

over £1000 of prizes to be won

See our feature on page 6
FESTIVE CELEBRATIONS & PARTY NIGHTS



Children in Need

Find out what we're doing to raise money on page 11



For all the latest news video and photos log on to www.obantimes.co.uk Find us on Facebook Follow us on Twitter



An eye-catching photograph taken by Tobermory Lifeboat crew member Sam Jones will be touring the UK and Republic of Ireland as part of the Royal Photographic Society's International Projected Image Exhibition. The photograph shows Tobermory lifeboat on exercise with Rescue 177 helicopter and is among 480 pictures chosen from 47 countries. Sam, from Tobermory, said: 'It was taken during an exercise with the Royal Navy last August using a fisheye lens, which is perfect for getting wide angle shots in confined spaces like the aft deck.'

Council sells Cowal castle

'The last thing we want is a 'Heidi Hi' development'

REPORT

by

Christine McCartney
cmccartney@obantimes.co.uk

A LISTED castle and estate gifted to Argyll and Bute Council is to be sold to a major holiday company for an undisclosed sum.

The Council's Executive, meeting behind closed doors last week, chose Seasons Holidays as its preferred bidder for the Castle Toward estate on the Cowal peninsula.

There were three other bidders for the property, which had a £2.25m price tag, two believed to be other developers and a third from social enterprise Actual Reality, the current tenants.

Director Dr Christopher Mason said although it was disappointing that a 60-year tradition of outdoor and music education at the site was coming to an end, Actual Reality would not appeal the decision. He said: 'We now have to find alternative premises and that is our priority. Our commitment has always been to the work not the place.'

Dr Mason added Actual Reality, a major Cowal employer also running the nearby Ardentinny Centre, would not rule out a move away from Argyll.

Bristol-based Seasons Holidays plc plans to create a resort with a hotel, spa, conference facility and lodges.

Council leader Dick Walsh said the firm offered the highest figure for the site, as well as the best potential economic development for the local area. He said: 'Initial estimates are that Seasons Holidays could create more than 200 jobs at the site, and commit some £20m to Castle Toward in the initial development phase.'

Argyll and Bute Council, which acquired Castle Toward from the Strathclyde Regional Council in the 1990s, made initial moves to sell it in 2004.

However, last week's deal, which is subject to a confidentiality clause, has left locals with as many questions as answers.

South Cowal Community Council, meeting last night (Wednesday), hoped to hear more details from the council.

Alan Stewart, chairman of the South Cowal Community Development Company, which had its community buy-out bid rejected by Scottish Ministers in September, said it was time to lift the veil of secrecy.

He told The Oban Times: 'I am disappointed the council has not chosen Actual Reality as the preferred bidder for Castle Toward. We have always felt maintaining the castle as an outdoor centre was the best use for the building.'

'However now the decision has been taken, I hope the council will involve the community in discussions with Seasons Holidays. The need for secrecy has now passed and it is important we get the best for the area out of any negotiations.'

The deal is conditional on planning permission approval, a process in which the community council has a formal say.

Mr Stewart added the kind of holiday complex and jobs created would influence community views: 'The last thing we want is a 'Heidi Hi' development down here.'

Argyll and Bute Council, which acquired Castle Toward from the Strathclyde Regional Council in the 1990s, made initial moves to sell it in 2004.



Dunollie Halls deal close to completion

A FORMER Oban town centre church building that has been on the open market for more than a year is close to being sold.

A deal to purchase Dunollie Halls, situated at the junction of Oban's Dunollie Road, George Street and Breadalbane Street, and which is home to Ferguson Hair and Beauty, Argyll and Bute Volunteer Centre and Argyll Training Ltd, was reached last month and the sale of the building, listed at £385,000, is expected to be concluded this month.

The converted church building had been advertised through local estate agency Bell Ingram.

Care home uncertainty

THE OPERATOR of the Lynn of Lorne Care Home in Benderloch, Doon Valley Healthcare Ltd, has gone into administration.

Around 80 staff and 60 residents were told on Tuesday the home was being handed over to administrators at PKF.

Doon Valley is part of Aberdeen-based parent company, Argus Care Homes, which operated 12 Scottish homes through a number of subsidiaries. Administrators were keen to stress it would be business as normal at the homes.

Bryan Jackson, joint administrator, said: 'We will continue to operate the homes as normal while they are in administration. We will ensure that all

residents, their relatives and staff are kept fully informed of any developments as well as notifying the relevant local and regulatory authorities.

'We appreciate that these are not like any other businesses but are the homes of the residents and ensuring there is continuity of care is priority.'

The Argus group faces debt and cash flow problems, exacerbated by creditor pressures.

Administrators have visited the Lynn of Lorne and brought in care home experts to help run the company. Mr Jackson added: 'Whilst trading we will be seeking buyers for the business trading from the homes and will market them as going concerns.'

Oban's first Winter Festival receives cash boost from Trust

OBAN'S inaugural Winter Festival received a timely boost at Dunollie's 1745 house on Friday, when it received an £800 cheque from MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust.

Graham MacQueen was on hand to present the cash to the organisers at the revamped house as they hosted a trial run of cream teas which will be part of the festival's line up.

The money will go towards general running costs and was gratefully accepted by one of the organisers, Pamela Lockhart. She said: 'It's fantastic to receive this donation, which will help with the running of the

whole winter festival.' Graham said: 'It's such a wonderful event and the whole of the town is set to benefit from it.'

'There's no business in the town that won't benefit so every one of them should help support the event.'

Starting on November 19, the Winter Festival runs to the 27th, with a host of events planned throughout the town.

Among the attractions will be a special ice-skating rink at Atlantis Leisure and the popular reindeer parade and Christmas lights switch on.

The full programme can be

found online at obanwinterfestival.com.

Meanwhile, the cheque to the festival committee comes as part of £3,800 of donations from the MacQueen Charitable Trust this month.

Also benefiting are Oban FM Cash for Kids, which received £1,000, while the Oban Gaelic Choir and Oban Lorne Rugby Club each received £500. Donations of £300 went to the Macaulay Camanachd Association, Seil Island's Hall charity and Family Mediation Argyll and Bute. The North Argyll Diabetic Association received £100.

CalMac MD steps down as part of 're-focus'

THE MANAGING director of CalMac Ferries Ltd, Philip Preston, has resigned suddenly from the company this week.

Internal meetings at the ferry company resulted in Mr Preston, who has been with the ferry company for 18 years and who had been the managing director for the past two years, stepping down from his position as part of a company 're-focus'.

Archie Robertson, chief executive of David MacBrayne Ltd, said: 'Following internal discussions, Philip has agreed to step down from his role as MD and will be departing the company in early course as part of a re-focus.'

'Throughout his employment with the company Philip has maintained excellent relations with colleagues and associates.'

'His contribution to the company's success has been valued.'

'Philip leaves the company with both



Philip Preston stepped down as MD of ferry company CalMac Ferries Ltd this week.

our appreciation of his dedication and professional service and with our very best wishes for the future.'

Argyll and Bute Council's transport spokesman, Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, said: 'This is sad news from a company that has won the Best Scottish Transport Operator awards for the past two years and the Best British Ferry Company this year.'

His Western Isles counterpart, Councillor Donald Manford said: 'I wonder what is driving this need for a refocus.'

'I am seeking an explanation from CalMac over what exactly is this refocus and why it is so necessary for their managing director to have to unceremoniously go in such a fashion.'

The Princess Royal named as UHI's first chancellor

THE University of the Highlands and Islands has named The Princess Royal as its first Chancellor.

She is expected to be installed in 2012 and will then take on a range of ceremonial and ambassadorial duties, including at graduation ceremonies.

James Fraser, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, said they were delighted Her Royal Highness had accepted their invitation: 'The Princess Royal has been a longtime supporter and has already visited many of our campuses,' he added.

'She joins us as we seek to develop a university which will have a transformational effect on the Highlands and Islands and attract national and international interest.'

GET YOUR LOFT ENERGY FIT!

JEWSON

WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR LOFT?

BUY 1 GET 3 FREE On Loft Rolls

100mm - £30/roll
170mm - £30.60/roll
Terms and Conditions apply

www.jewson.whatsinyourloft.com

Opening hours
Mon - Fri: 7:30am to 5pm - Sat: 8am to 12pm
Tel: 01631 562208
Sinclair Drive, OBAN PA34 4DR

CalMac MD steps down as part of 're-focus'

THE MANAGING director of CalMac Ferries Ltd, Philip Preston, has resigned suddenly from the company this week.

Internal meetings at the ferry company resulted in Mr Preston, who has been with the ferry company for 18 years and who had been the managing director for the past two years, stepping down from his position as part of a company 're-focus'.

Archie Robertson, chief executive of David MacBrayne Ltd, said: 'Following internal discussions, Philip has agreed to step down from his role as MD and will be departing the company in early course as part of a re-focus.'

'Throughout his employment with the company Philip has maintained excellent relations with colleagues and associates.'

'His contribution to the company's success has been valued.'

'Philip leaves the company with both our appreciation of his dedication and professional service and with our very best wishes for the future.'

Argyll and Bute Council's transport spokesman, Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, said: 'This is sad news from a company that has won the Best Scottish Transport Operator awards for the past two years and the Best British Ferry Company this year.'

His Western Isles counterpart, Councillor Donald Manford said: 'I wonder what is driving this need for a refocus.'

'I am seeking an explanation from CalMac over what exactly is this refocus and why it is so necessary for their managing director to have to unceremoniously go in such a fashion.'

THE PRINCESS ROYAL NAMED AS UHI'S FIRST CHANCELLOR

THE University of the Highlands and Islands has named The Princess Royal as its first Chancellor.

She is expected to be installed in 2012 and will then take on a range of ceremonial and ambassadorial duties, including at graduation ceremonies.

James Fraser, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, said they were delighted Her Royal Highness had accepted their invitation: 'The Princess Royal has been a longtime supporter and has already visited many of our campuses,' he added.

'She joins us as we seek to develop a university which will have a transformational effect on the Highlands and Islands and attract national and international interest.'

ARGYLL & BUTE Alcohol & Drug Partnership

A night you'll never forget

A night you can't remember

Why let good times go bad?

drinkaware.co.uk
for the facts

OBAN, LORNE AND THE ISLES SUBSTANCE MISUSE FORUM SUPPORTS ALCOHOL AWARENESS WEEK 14TH - 18TH NOVEMBER 2011

TOTAL INSULATION
Rigid Spray Foam Technology

Highly efficient thermal insulation with Polyurethane Rigid Foam.

- Versatile product for insulating all types of buildings and profiles
- Overcomes problems with thermal bridging
- Eliminates interstitial condensation
- Eliminates air leakage/infiltration
- Maximises space
- Resistant to moisture
- Non-fibrous
- Lightweight
- Sustainable service life in excess of 60 years

Roof, loft & ceiling insulation
Walls and floor insulation
Roof & Wall Stabilization
Basements & Cellars
New Build, Old or renovations
Domestic, Commercial, Industrial, Agricultural, Marine & Auto

- Pig breeding and raring units, Broiler houses, Grain Stores, Potato Stores, workshops, Onion stores...

Key features:

- Spray foams are applied quickly with minimum of fuss
- No labour intensive cutting or fitting boards
- Less Waste and less storage of materials on site

We can offer a 25 year insurance backed guarantee and 10 year Company Guarantee, are BBA approved installers and can provide a certificate. We are members of BUFA, The Federation of Small Businesses and The Guilds of Master Craftsmen and ISO 9001

www.totalinsulations.co.uk
enquiries@totalinsulations.co.uk
Edinburgh Tel: 0131 2240041

The Oban Times
& West Highland Times
THE REGIONAL
NEWSPAPER FOR THE
WEST HIGHLANDS,
ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsagents every week

Lochavullin Industrial Estate,
Crannog Lane, Oban,
PA34 4HB
Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

Editorial

Editorial Director
Stewart MacKenzie
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Deputy Editor
Stuart Laundy
slaundy@obantimes.co.uk

Northern Editor
Stephen Norris
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Chief Reporter
Euan Paterson
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

Senior Reporter
Steven Flanagan
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter
Christine McCartney
cmccartney@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter
Richard Haddock
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

Web Co-ordinator
Marian Miller
mmiller@obantimes.co.uk

Newsdesk
01631 568060
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising

Advertising Sales Manager
Fiona MacInnes
fmacines@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Sales Person
Rhona McKillop
advrnts@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Sales Person
Fiona Bennett
fbennett@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Sales Person
Vanda MacDonald
copy@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Sales Person
Margaret Freytag
advrnts@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Sales Person
Claire Firth
cfirth@vwyxmedia.co.uk

Advertising Sales Person
Amy Robertson
arobertson@obantimes.co.uk

Branch Offices

Fort William
Tel 01397 703003
Fax 01397 702495

Lochgilphead
Tel 01546 602345
Fax 01546 602661

Campbeltown
Tel 01586 554646
Fax 01586 553006

Arran
Tel 01770 302142
Fax 01770 302021

www.obantimes.co.uk

No ban on salmon farms say Scottish government

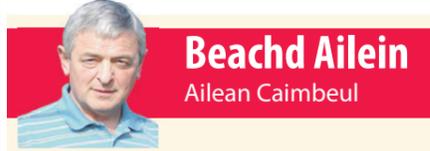
ALLEGATIONS that the Scottish Government are considering imposing legislation that could ban salmon farms in certain areas have been dismissed. While a spokesperson for the Scottish Government admitted it was to be consulting on possible legislative measures to improve the management of

aquaculture and wild freshwater fisheries in Scotland, it has denied it will have any bearing on the placing of salmon farms. The comments come after a documentary by BBC Scotland, Scotland's Fishy Secrets, which claimed new legislation may prevent fish farming in coastal areas identified as important for

the survival of wild fish stocks. It quoted environment minister, Stewart Stevenson, saying: 'Everything is open for discussion. But we have to have the consultation, we have to understand in the environment we have in Scotland what the effects of different options would be.'

Speaking after the documentary, a Scottish Government spokesperson said: 'As the environment minister made clear, there are a range of issues and options to be considered and - as is the case with every consultation - no decisions on legislation will be made until after the consultation has concluded.'

'However, it is not anticipated that this consultation will have any specific focus on the locations of salmon farms. 'Scotland already has a presumption against fish farms in the north and east coasts, to give wild salmon extra protection, as our largest salmon rivers drain into the North Sea.'



Beachd Ailein
Ailean Caimbeul

CHA DÈANAR BUANNACHD GUN CHALL! Sean-fhacal a tha glè iomchaidh ann an saoghal ionmhais na h-Eòrpa agus gluasadan eaconamach an t-saoghail air 's dòcha buille bàis a thoirt air ballrachd chuid de dhùthchannan taobh a-staigh compàirteachais an Iùro. Far an robh amharas roimhe a thaobh pòsadh dhùthchannan bochda agus feadhainn bheairteach fon aon siostam airgid, tha dearbhadh duilich a-nise nach eil cinnt sam bith aig an dùthaich as bochda air a cuid saidhbheis a leasachadh ri linn ballrachd an Aonaidh Eòrpaich. Gu h-iongantach, thathas cuideachd a-nise ag ràdh gur theagamh nach robh am fiosrachadh eaconamach a leig cuid de na dùthchannan gabhail mar bhuill den Aonadh Eòrpaich idir fìor agus gun robh iad ann am fiachan mòra fiù 's a' tighinn a-staigh. 'S dòcha gun robh cuid den luchd-riaghlaidh den beachd nam faigheadh iad ballrachd as an Aonadh gun robh cobhair dearbhte aca ma choinneimh nam fiachan sin.

Gu ìre, tha an t-Aonadh air an seòrsa cobhair agus dilseachd sin a nochdadh dha lethidh Eirinn is dhan Ghrèig ach 's e tha na chùis eagal a-nise gum bheil e sìor fhàs follaiseach nach eil dearbhadh sam bith air dòigh leigheis cinnteach aig ceannardan nan dùthchannan Eòrpaich. Tuigear carson a bhiodh mòr-shluagh na Grèige cho feargach is iad a' cluinntinn gum bi an dùthaich acasan fathast ann an slochd fhìachan ann an ceann fìchead bliadhna a dh'aindeoin gach caomhadh agus cis a dh'iarraidh an riaghaltas agus an Roinn Eòrpa a leagail orra.

Mar a tha sean-fhacal ag ràdh, chan eil fealladh ann nas motha na gealladh gun cho-ghealladh agus tha slugh na Grèige agus theagamh slugh dhùthchannan eile cuideachd a' call creideas nan luchd-riaghlaidh is iad gam faicinn a' tuisleadh bho choinneamh gu coinneamh, bho beachd gu beachd, ach gun fhreagairt air an dùbhlán. 'S e an cunnart as motha le suidheachadh na h-Eòrpa gum bheil barrachd den t-sluagh dol a chall carbsa nan cuid riaghaltasan agus gun gabh iad umhir de dh'eagal is gun tèid iad gu buaireadh poblach. Feumaidh luchd-riaghlaidh grèim a ghabhail air cùisean agus na co-dhùnaidhean iomchaidh a dhèanamh, ge 'b' e dè cho doirbh 's a bhios sin. Gu ruige seo, thathas air a bhith a' feuchainn ris an Iùro a dhion ach tha e sìor fhàs soilleir gur dòcha nach gabh a' bhallrachd a th'ann gleidheadh agus gum feumar cuid a sgaradh air sgàth chàich.

The sean-fhacal ag ràdh nach eil beart an aghaidh na h-èiginn agus fear eile ag innse gun dèan air innleachd!

NECESSITY DEVISES, and if European leaders are to avoid widespread social unrest they must take positive action to stabilise the economic chaos of the EU. This may mean removal of some member states from the Euro zone and in some cases it may require states to withdraw from the Union completely.

Ultimately this is about people and their well-being. It must not be a decision based on the retention of an economic structure which is not working!

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

Famous paddle steamer gains cash boost from Argyll and Bute



Council leader Dick Walsh described the Waverley as 'a unique and much-loved vessel which has served the communities of Argyll and Bute for almost 40 years'

CASH-strapped Argyll and Bute Councilors have agreed a one-off grant of £15,000 to support one of Scotland's best-known vessels.

The decision follows a funding plea from Waverley Excursions Ltd, in September, to all the councils where the famous paddle steamer sails.

No dues

The letter stated that without one-off support from those councils which benefit from the Waverley's visits, the charity would not be able to pay for its winter re-fit this year and the boat would be taken out of commission.

Argyll and Bute Council leader, Councillor Dick Walsh, said the council's view in the past has been that its current practice of not imposing either berthing or passenger dues on the Waverley's trips to Argyll and Bute destinations was equivalent to a substantial financial donation.

'However, it has now become clear that without a one-off cash boost this year, there is a very real danger that we will not see the Waverley in our waters again,' he added.

'This is a unique and much-loved vessel which has served the communities of Argyll and Bute for almost 40 years.'

Economic boost

'The thousands of passengers the Waverley carries bring a significant economic boost to Argyll and Bute communities. The impact of its loss would be felt by many across the region.'

'We have therefore agreed the one-off funding in recognition of the historical significance of the vessel and the value it has to towns across Argyll and Bute.'

Waverley Excursions Ltd, which has preserved, maintained and operated the paddle steamer on a charitable basis since 1975, has also approached trusts, corporate bodies and individuals for funding.

The charity's management is currently reviewing its business model with the aim of making funds available on an ongoing basis to ensure the future viability of the vessel.

New ferries go green

Clyde-based yard wins contract for two diesel-electric vessels

FERRY ports on the west coast could be home to a new wave of green transport after piers and ferries owner CMAL invested £20million in two electric-hybrid ferries.

Hybrid power source
Clyde's Ferguson Shipbuilders last week announced it had won the contract to build the two 150 passenger and 23 car ferries from Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL), funded by a loan from the Scottish Government.

Due to serve routes both on the Clyde and in the Hebrides, the first of the diesel-electric

hybrids will be operational by mid-2013, with the second launched in 2014.

But in order for the ferries to run, a number of infrastructure changes are required at the ports to be used and CMAL are looking at establishing renewable energy sources at those sites to further cut their running costs.

Andrew Flockhart, CMAL's business development manager, said: 'The vessels are being designed to operate successfully on a number of routes but some modifications are required at certain locations including widening slipways and

ensuring the vessel can berth safely overnight, possibly with updated aligning structures.'

'At some places, however, little or no modifications are needed. That said a charging point needs to be installed in order to plug the vessel in overnight and this can mean upgrading substations etcetera.'

'This does then provide an opportunity to seeing if it can facilitate establishment of renewable energy sources.'

Crew will receive additional training in operating the new ships in advance of them coming online.

However, CMAL is still looking at other eco-friendly methods of improving existing ferries.

Andrew said: 'CMAL is constantly looking at innovative ways to ensure we have the energy we need to power ships going forward.'

'Examples include hydrogen fuel cells and the use of liquefied natural gas.'

'We will gain a huge amount of experience from operating these vessels which in turn will influence future ship design and propulsion even on the longer runs.'



Mary's Meals founder Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow with supporter Duncan Bannatyne at the charity's open day. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

Mary's Meals meet growing support at Glasgow open day

SUCH was the public interest in this year's Mary's Meals open day in Glasgow that the charity had to change the venue, from the Old Fruitmarket to the larger Grand Hall at Glasgow's City Halls.

Feeding 581,318 children
The day was attended by almost 900 people, who heard speeches from Dragons' Den star Duncan Bannatyne, Malawian Educationalist Sister Eunice Dambo and Mary's Meals founder and CEO Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow.

And the Dalmanly man earned a round of applause halfway through his speech when he announced the charity was now feeding 581,318 children around the world each day.

porter Duncan Bannatyne, who has visited projects in Haiti, Romania and Malawi, said: 'It's always a great privilege to come and speak to those involved in Mary's Meals.'

'Through education and school feeding, countries can be created where children can achieve things, start businesses and escape poverty. That's why Mary's Meals is so important.'

The day also included entertainment from Mull's Colin Macintyre, piper Donald Cowan and African singing group the Zawadi Women's Choir, as well as Glasgow school choirs.

There was also a stand-out speech from 14-year-old Christina, a Malawian girl who has benefited greatly from Mary's Meals.

Former Argyll hotelier made false claims

Prince's Trust Scotland deny 'board member'

A WOMAN who ran up tens of thousands of pounds of debts to staff and suppliers at a Lorn tourism business falsely claimed to be a board member of the Prince's Trust.

The Oban Times can reveal that Heather Buchanan, who has recently sub-let Barcaldine House Hotel to another, entirely separate party following recent financial difficulty that saw staff walk out over unpaid wages, had listed herself as a member of the Prince's Trust Scotland's Development Board on her curriculum vitae.

But the Prince's Trust had no knowledge of her 'appointment' and has moved to remind the Melrose-based businesswoman that volunteering doesn't make her a board member. A spokesperson for the charity said: 'Heather Buchanan is not a member of the Prince's Trust Scotland's Development Board - and has not been in the past.'

Mrs Buchanan's LinkedIn profile has since been updated to remove references to the Prince's Trust.

Mrs Buchanan said: 'I have done extensive volunteer work with the board using my contacts to raise funds in aid of the Prince's Trust.'

'I firmly support the work of the Trust, which offers young people in Scotland from disadvantaged opportunities for getting into employment.'

In a further development, all of Mrs Buchanan's companies have changed their addresses after moving from their base at Eildon House, Melrose.

The Eildon Housing Association confirmed they had started taking legal action against Mrs Buchanan's companies over unpaid rent.

The association's chief executive, Niall Estephan, said: 'We were the landlord. They left the property following discussions and pending court action against them, although their departure was voluntary.'

However, Mrs Buchanan has denied that was the reason behind the change in address.

She said: 'As the office is now surplus to requirements, a mutual decision was made to hand the building back to the landlords in order to keep our overheads to a minimum.'

Meanwhile, legal action against Mrs Buchanan's companies, of which she is a director of 13, is progressing. Former staff of both Barcaldine House Ltd and Blue Grange Ltd have filed tribunals, while suppliers continue to pursue monies owed.

Inveraray box club short-listed for another award

INVERARAY and District Accordion and Fiddle Club have been short-listed for a prestigious music award and are asking friends and supporters to back it in a public vote.

It was nominated for the Club of the Year accolade in the MG Alba Trad

Music Awards. Margaret Mather, honorary secretary, said: 'Obviously we are delighted that we have been short-listed - as this follows the Club being awarded Club of the Year in the National Association of Accordion and Fiddle Clubs Box and Fiddle

Awards, back in June.

'We would also be delighted if as many people as possible can go online and vote for the club.'

Votes can be cast on the www.handsupportrad.co.uk website until November 18.

Driver fined over racial abuse and gun threats

A DELIVERY driver who shouted racial abuse at an Oban police officer and threatened to shoot another officer with a sawn-off shotgun was fined £400 at Oban Sheriff Court.

Charles McLaughlin, aged 25, of 4 Bankhead Place, Craignuek, Airdrie, appeared from custody at Oban last Friday and pled guilty to the offence, committed in the early hours of that morning. He also admitted resisting

arrest and tearing up a cell mattress.

McLaughlin had been on an eight-hour binge when police officers stopped him in George Street.

Defending himself, father-of-two McLaughlin, who is engaged to be married, told Honorary Sheriff Graeme Pagan: 'I am so sorry for the whole escapade, particularly the racial abuse.'

The Open University
Scotland

Open near you

Open University Openings courses are a great way to open doors to further learning at college or university in Argyll and Bute, or maybe to a whole new career path.

Come along and find out more!

Oban Library, 77 Albany St,
Oban PA34 4AL

Saturday 19th November 2011
10.30am - 1.00pm

Our local Open University study advisers will be on hand to discuss courses, qualifications, learning methods and financial support.

Inspired? Contact our study adviser to find out more:

Anja Lamont
Tel: 01852 314 376
Email: a.lamont@open.ac.uk

Order a prospectus online:

www.openuniversity.co.uk/scotland

Quote: JANAAJ

INSPIRING LEARNING

The Open University is incorporated by Royal Charter (RC 000391), an exempt charity in England and Wales and a charity registered in Scotland (SC 038302).

Domestic violence officer added to Oban force

A NEW police officer dedicated to tackling domestic violence took up post in Oban this week.

Constable Caroline MacArthur is one of three specialist officers appointed, with others in Dunoon and Lochgilphead.

Top priority

Chief Inspector Brian Auld said the issue is a top priority for police in Argyll.

He said: 'I hope it will make it easier for people to come forward. My objective is to reduce repeat victims, repeat offending and send out the strong message that we will robustly police domestic abuse incidents.'

'The force recognises that domestic abuse is a priority for the organisation and we are there to protect victims, to detect offenders and we are taking on the broader aspects of that.'

Caroline will be working with other organisations, including domestic violence charities, health and social services, not only to investigate and prosecute cases, but to provide a range of support to victims.

He said: 'It can be incredibly hard to leave, sometimes the offender is the main income generator. It's putting things in place, working with other agencies to put a care plan in place, so when they are ready to withdraw the support is ready and available to them.'

'Even if we only act as a gateway to leave an abusive relationship and no crime is recorded, I would be happy that we are safeguarding somebody.'

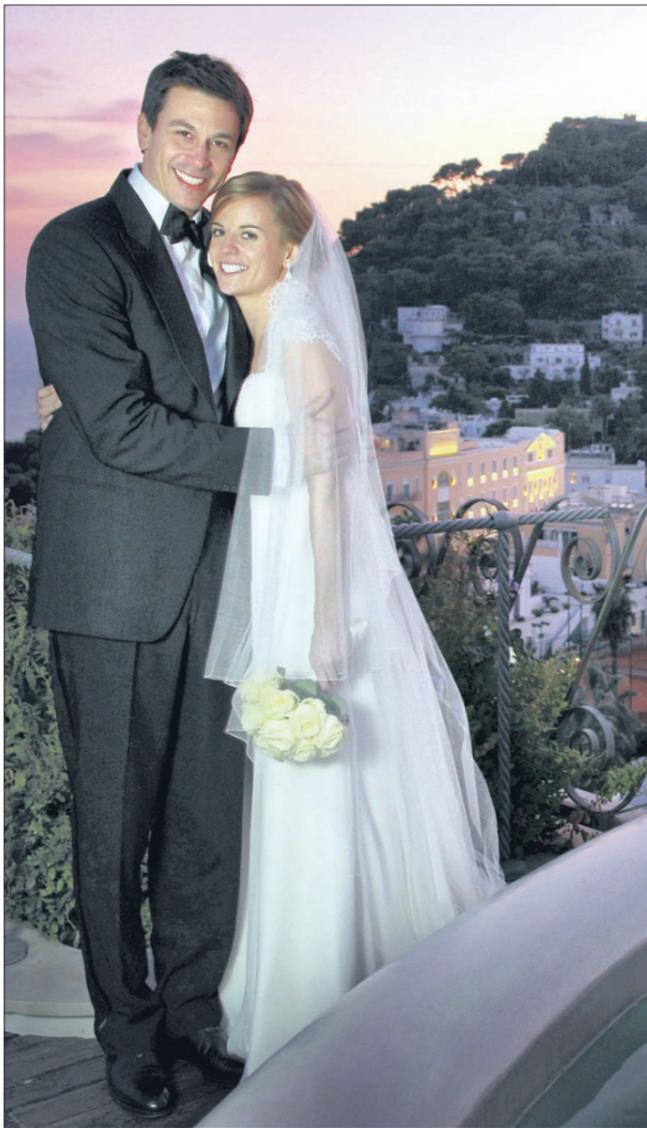
'Protection and prevention are every bit as important as detection.'

Caroline will also be involved in youth justice issues and supporting children caught up in fraught domestic situations, working closely with schools and social workers to make sure they do not suffer further if they have witnessed domestic violence.

The appointment was welcomed by Argyll and Bute Women's Aid.

Janine Calder, violence against women support worker, said: 'I think it is fantastic news. Women that I have worked with said that a dedicated officer for domestic violence would help them come forward.'

'The police in Oban have given me absolutely fantastic support in my role and I'm looking forward to working with Caroline.'



Susie Stoddart and her husband Christian 'Toto' Wolff married in the stunning setting of Capri.

Oban racing driver Susie becomes a Wolff in Capri

RACING driver Susie Stoddart is used to covering her good looks with fire-proof racing overalls and full-face helmet. But the 28-year old looked stunning in a traditional wedding dress when she tied the knot with former racer Christian 'Toto' Wolff, aged 39.

The glamorous ceremony took place in Capri, Italy, and was attended by Susie's family from Oban.

Susie, who races in the Ger-

man Touring Car Championship (Deutsche Tourenwagen Masters) with Mercedes, and Toto, an investor and co-owner of a driver management company, enjoy celebrity status as a couple in both Germany and in Toto's native Austria.

With the media spotlight on their big day, the couple opted for a very private ceremony and only two official photographs were released.

Speaking from her home in

Switzerland, Susie told *The Oban Times*: 'The wedding was in Capri and was most definitely the best and happiest day of my life.'

The wedding was held before the final race of Susie's season at Hockenheim, where she drove as Susie Wolff for the first time, complete with a new name badge on her overalls and her iconic pink car.

The couple live in Steckborn at Lake Constance, Switzerland.

Oban rockets to world-wide video fame

Fireworks fiasco explodes onto international screens

IT WAS meant to be a half hour extravaganza of light and sound, but instead Oban's community fireworks display became the town's most explosive marketing tool.

Thousands of locals had gathered at Mossfield Park on Friday to take in the popular annual event, with numbers boosted by the success of Pyrol's first Oban display last year.

However, nobody could have anticipated it would have taken longer to switch out the lights than it did for all £6,000 of fireworks to shoot into the air at once, thanks to a never-before encountered technical glitch.

There were laughs and boos in equal measure as local councillor Roddy McCuish told the crowd that the display was finished just a minute after it started.

However, since *The Oban Times*' video of the 50-second 'fiasco' went online, it has been picked up by news networks across the world, featuring on the likes of Good Morning



Oban's 50-seconds of fireworks film has been seen worldwide

America, ABC Eyewitness News, NBC's Today programme and Australia's NineNews.

It has been covered extensively in the UK too with daily newspapers and broadcasters picking up the story.

Nearly half a million people watched the clip as *The Oban*

Times went to press and it is anticipated that more than a million people will have seen it by the end of the week.

It is an unexpected boost to Oban's profile, according to the councillor who had to apologise to the crowd after the spectacular error.

Roddy said: 'It's actually worked out really well, we've been able to turn it round and turn it into something positive.'

'I've been giving interviews to news stations across the world - there's no doubt it's put Oban on the map.'

'Pyrol have also confirmed they will put on an extra special display on the last day of the Winter Festival, on November 27, and we're looking at locations to shoot the fireworks over the bay.'

Pyrol remain apologetic for the error but say they have been 'flabbergasted' by the scale of the response, adding it could prompt a trend for shorter, more spectacular displays.

Firefighters face fewer problems

FIREFIGHTERS in Oban had fewer problems than normal during this year's Guy Fawkes Night, but still had to be called to three out-of-control bonfires. All three of the problem bonfires were on Saturday night, one at Dunollie and two in Soroba. Watch commander

Paul Finnegan said: 'There's usually about seven bonfires we are called, so three isn't all that bad.'

Meanwhile, Chinese lanterns were lit across the town at the weekend, some of which drifted over Mossfield during Friday's ill-fated community fireworks

display. Watch commander Finnegan said: 'They are becoming much more common and people need to be aware of the dangers. If they land on dry grass or bushes they can start fires, so people need to be think about where they will drift to when lit.'

Round house gets planners nod for Isle of Seil

PLANNERS have approved an unusual cylindrical design for a new home at Ellenabeich, Isle of Seil, despite objections.

The two-storey house will use traditional stone and slate on land west of Inshaig Park House at the entrance to the village.

Three locals and Seil Community Council raised concerns about the suitability of the house in a conservation village.

However, planners concluded: 'It is considered that the proposed dwellinghouse will enhance the area by introducing an interesting feature.'

Police appeal after Oban pub assault

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a 35-year-old man was the victim of an alleged assault in a public house in Stevenson Street, Oban.

Another man, described as being around 35 years old, wearing a blue jumper, blue jeans and with a Eastern European accent, is being sought.

Witnesses are asked to contact Constable Barber at Oban Police Office on 01631 510500.

New thatched cottage for Coll

PLANNING permission to build a house on the site of a ruined cottage has been renewed.

The site, at Sorrisdale, Isle of Coll, is next to a formerly-listed cottage. The new dwelling is to be traditional built with a thatched roof and single storey.

Motorbike seized

A MOTORCYCLIST has had his bike seized by police after he was arrested for suspected drink driving and driving without insurance near Dunbeg.

Speeding drivers

WEEKEND speed checks resulted in 11 drivers being caught in Taynuilt, Connel and Kilninver. A motorist was reported to the procurator fiscal for speeding and crossing double white lines while overtaking in a 30 mph zone.

Japanese Knotweed causing problems for home owners

AN INVASIVE weed that can grow through concrete, destroy foundations and can take up to three years to remove is causing problems for local homeowners by affecting insurance or mortgage arrangements.

Japanese Knotweed, which is becoming increasingly common throughout the west coast, is an extremely aggressive plant that can grow up to four inches in just one day.

It is also extremely difficult to eradicate, as just one shoot of its roots can regrow an entire plant.

Knotweed can grow two metres down into the soil and treatment by herbicides can take up to three years to be successful.

As the weed continues its relentless march into new areas, there is concern from homeowners and the building trade that mortgage and insurance applications will be affected by its presence.

One resident who lives near Oban and who declined to be identified after finding that the presence of the weed resulted in his insurance application being refused, said: 'I've been unable to get buildings insurance until I get rid of the weed, which has just crept into my garden.'

'That could take years though.'

Former journalist becomes local councillor

OBAN North and Lorn has welcomed Louise Glen-Lee as its new councillor after the SNP candidate won last week's by-election with a landslide margin.

In retaining the seat for the SNP, the former *Oban Times* journalist received 1,081 first-choice votes, double that of her nearest rival, Roy Rutherford of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, who took 505.

Turnout was 32.4 per cent. Mrs Glen-Lee said: 'I am delighted to have been elected to serve the people of Oban North and Lorn.'

'I look forward to working with councillors from all political groups in the area committee and in the full council.'

The Oban North and Lorn seat had been made vacant following the untimely death of Donald MacDonald in August.



New councillor Louise Glen-Lee reflects on her success.

Loch Awe safety group renew efforts to establish safety boat

THE COMMUNITY safety company set up following the deaths of four fishermen on Loch Awe in 2009 is pressing on with aspirational plans to provide a safety boat for the loch.

The Fatal Accident Inquiry into the deaths of Steven Carty, 42, Thomas Douglas, 36, William Carty, 47, and Craig Currie, 30, ruled the fishermen were responsible for their own deaths and pointed to the fact they took to the water in fog without proper lifejackets.

But although firemen from Strathclyde Fire and Rescue were on scene to hear the cries of the victims, they had no means of reaching them safely.

The Loch Awe Safety Company (LASC) was due to meet with members of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Community Safety Forum yesterday (Wednesday) to request a round-the-table meeting with all interested parties.

The company said it acknowledged that, despite the tragic circumstances leading to the inquiry, and the ongoing distress to the

families of the deceased, the inquiry report contained 'valuable findings and recommendations.'

The statement, from LASC chairman David Price, continued: 'We are pleased that the Sheriff, in his report, has acknowledged the ongoing efforts of the Loch Awe Safety Company, and its associated LochWatch Loch Awe scheme.'

LASC has overseen a loch safety awareness campaign and set up a LochWatch scheme, which employs volunteer 'spotters', who live around the loch.

With the help of Gael Force Marine, it is also selling lifejackets at discounted prices to encourage more loch users to wear them.

LASC member Iain MacKinnon added: 'The £8,000 raised by the families of the fishermen who died and the money raised by readers of *The Oban Times* could be put towards a patrol boat or safety boat, which would do a similar job to a rescue boat.'

'After meeting with all interested parties, we should know the way forward by spring next year.'

Approved fitters of **CR SMITH** home sweeter home **VELUX**

gage.joinery **windows**

CR Smith PVC Windows, Fully Guaranteed, Professionally Fitted
 5 Windows 1 Front Door 1 Back Door - from only £2500 Fitted incl VAT
 PVC Front Door - from only £450 Fitted incl VAT
 Velux Trained Installers - Kitchens Supplied and Fitted
 www.gage.uk.net

Call now for a free quote and full colour brochure
07756 514660 01631 570455

Beaver Timber LTD

Barcaldine, by Oban
 Telephone: 01631 720 353 • Mobile: 07861 247 237
 www.beavertimber.co.uk • email: info@beavertimber.co.uk

Established over 30 years

DON'T FORGET YOUR LOG STORE THIS WINTER

- Summer Houses
- Sheds
- Garages
- Fencing
- Stables
- Dog Kennels
- Log Stores
- Boat Houses
- Chalets
- Bespoke Buildings
- Home Offices

FREE FITTING OF SHEDS IN OBAN & SURROUNDING AREA

BEAVER TIMBER WILL DISMANTLE YOUR OLD SHED, DELIVER AND ERECT YOUR NEW SHED

BROCHURE & FREE QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST

All our buildings are made from 19mm boards and come complete with 18mm flooring.
GARAGE BASES PREPARED

SHOWSITES NOW OPEN - Beaver Timber, Barcaldine; Corachie Clematis, Loch Awe and MGM Timber, Oban

Supersexy
 Exclusive Christmas Party

Graeme Platt (Intensity)
 Simon Hegarty

Willie Neilson
 CRÈME DE LA CRÈME OF HOUSE MUSIC

BURLESQUE PERFORMANCES
 COMPLIMENTARY SHOTS

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY

RockNess WKD Ticket Giveaway

G8 promotions

Friday 2 December
 Ticket information 07429 224335

Argyllshire Gathering, Oban • £10 • 01631 569407

Follow us on **facebook**
 www.facebook.com/obantimes

Poppies Christmas Market

Christmas Market Now On
 Open 7 days 10am - 5pm

Saulmore Shore by Oban 01631 565718 poppiesgardencentre.co.uk

Lorn Lines

MEMBERS of Oban Speakers Club heard three excellent main speeches and got some surprises last Thursday night. "Auld Reekie" became a speech on a steam locomotive and "The road less travelled" was not a detail of the book of that name but a talk on various roads now either underused or not used at all. These speeches were given by Roy Wood and Bill Leech respectively.

The third speaker, Iain Fullerton, gave an interesting talk on the life and works of John Buchan. All three speakers were introduced by chairman Alex Clark.

In the second half of the programme the topics chairman gave a series of interesting and amusing topics to Jim Fraser, Frank Walton, Donald Macaskill, Alex Clark, Tom Clegg and Donnie Graham.

Timekeeper for the evening was Eamonn Arthur and the general evaluator was Cameron Fletcher.

While closing the meeting, President John Maclean reminded members that their annual dinner will be held on Thursday, November 24. The next meeting will be held on November 17.



AN EVER popular slideshow of old Oban photographs will be taking place next week to support the North Argyll Diabetic Support Group of Diabetes UK.

Bob MacCulloch and Charles Drummond will be taking the audience on a trip down memory lane to some familiar places and others that have changed beyond recognition.

The show takes place in the Glencruitten Church Hall on Monday, November 14.



PROFESSIONAL photographer Cameron Harris of Highland Photos in Oban was the speaker at Oban Photographic Club's weekly meeting in the Regent Hotel, Oban on October 31.

Mr Harris explained how he puts together pictures for professional use. The most important thing to do is to get the correct angle to take the photo, which also includes making sure that the subject is correctly lit. As usual, Cameron gave members many useful hints and advice and his next visit to the club in December, to judge a competition, is eagerly awaited.

The next meeting of Oban Photographic Club on Monday, November 14 is an 'in-house' competition to be judged by the members themselves. The subject is "General" (anything goes!) and is restricted to prints only.



Children from Happy House Christian Pre-School took part in a sponsored obstacle course at Atlantis Leisure to raise funds for resources and Zumba sessions.



CONGRATULATIONS to Jim Shearer, of Cruchan Crescent, Oban, who was the lucky winner of a winter break at Crieff Hydro in our recent competition.

Jim correctly answered that Crieff Hydro is in Perthshire.



A CLAN Challenge organised by senior pupils at Oban High has raised more than £2,000 for school funds.

Live music, Zumba, sports and plenty of fun and games made last Thursday's event, organised by the school's Senior Pupil Fundraising Committee, a great success.

The Fundraising Committee is now turning its attention towards Children in Need and between November 14 - 17, a series of events will take place each evening in the school to raise money for the charity.

These events are open to the public and include a quiz night, a ceilidh, and a comedy club night.

Oban fails

Lack of compliance to five-year old Disability Discrimination Act leaves disabled people disappointed

WHEELCHAIR users and the infirm in Oban have to negotiate an obstacle course of pavements and potholes and are excluded from many public buildings because of stepped entrances.

Five years since the UK's Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) came into force, disabled people in the town say they are disappointed with the lack of compliance from the town's shops, restaurants and public buildings.

Walking the length of George Street with Oban community councillor Kate Winton, it is clear to see that more than half of all premises have steps leading into the building.

Some of them, such as the Royal Bank of Scotland and Scottish Hydro Electric, have a button on the outside that can be pressed for assistance and a member of staff will set up a ramp.

But Kate, who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2000 and is paralysed from the waist down, explained it is not always that easy.

"Since I lost my support worker through budget cuts at the end of October, it has been a lot more difficult. If there was no access button my support worker would just inform the staff to bring out a ramp or let me in the back door.

"Now I have to flag down a passer-by to go in and ask for me.

"It is infuriating," said Kate. "Some shops even have a 'mind the step' sign. It's not just wheelchair users that have difficulty getting in to these places, it is also the infirm and visually impaired."

"What's the cost of breaking up the step and making it into a slope?"

While Kate is critical of many premises for not having ramps, she is quick to praise those that have clearly taken disability access seriously.

"The new Oban Bay Fish and Chip Restaurant has ground level access and the large windows mean you have a great view, even from the wheelchair. "Boots now has a power-assisted door and WH Smith has recently removed their steps and installed a ramp."

A trip to the shops or to a community council meeting is fraught with hazards for Kate, whose journey requires negotiating wheelie bins on pavements, cars that have parked across dropped kerbs and across holes in the roads and pavements.

EXCLUSIVE REPORT

by Euan Paterson
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

On one occasion the 70-year old has tipped her wheelchair while negotiating a slope in the pavement approaching a dropped kerb and regularly has to reverse off the pavement onto the road, if no dropped kerb is available.

Another wheelchair user, Fiona Morrison of the Oban and District Disability Forum and Access Panel, believes the DDA is too 'woolly'.

Four years ago she published the first Access Guide for Oban and Lorn, highlighting which public buildings catered best, and worst, for disabled people.

Having just updated the guide for 2011, she admits little has changed.

She said: "The DDA is slightly woolly because it states that public buildings must provide 'reasonable access'. "That term allows for loopholes in the Act and gives a defence in court for these premises. It has got to the stage where some are encouraging disabled people to sue, just to get the DDA to be more effective, but I would rather discuss the problems to find a solution."

'There are little things people can do to make a big difference'

"I feel sorry for smaller businesses that can't afford to make adaptations but there are little things people can do to make a big difference and the disability forum would be happy to work with them on that."

"I think there is a general ignorance about access and things like cars parking across dropped kerbs, rather than a widespread disregard. I find people in Oban are generally happy to help if you ask."

Oban South and the Isles Councillor Donald 'Skye' McIntosh, former social services spokesman, said the situation in Oban's streets was "very poor".

He added: "The problem in Oban is a lot of the buildings in Oban are very old and there are complications with those that are listed."

"However, I think it is time the council put some pressure on these premises to comply with the DDA."

"Until you are sitting in a wheelchair, you just don't realise the difficulties that exist."

wheelchair test



Wheelchair-bound Oban community councillor Kate Winton cannot access many public buildings in the town. 15_145access02

Small Oban brewery wins Scotland's battle of the beer mats

SCOTTISH-based members of the Beermat Collectors' Society visited Oban Bay Brewery to present the society's award for the best collection of beer mats.

Brewery manager Harry Forbes accepted the shield and certificate from society members Peter Gillardi, from Lochearnhead, and Bathgate's Dennis Harle last Wednesday.

The unique Oban beer mats, which include the Skinny

Blonde and Ginger Jakey, were created by artist Iain Gowdie and graphic designer Dee Rudiger.

Former winners of the shield include large-scale brewers Scottish and Newcastle and Guinness.

Isle of Skye Brewery is also a former winner.

Mr Harle, who has a collection of more than 25,000 British brewery mats, explained he was

pleased to give the award to a small Scottish company.

He added: "These days it is great to give the award to small breweries because they are on a limited budget, compared with the likes of Guinness, yet still have to come up with something attractive and eye-catching."

Oban Bay Breweries has merged with Isle of Mull Brewing Company to form Argyll Breweries.



New homes on former Taynuilt sawmill site

TAYNUILT could have up to six new homes after planners considered two applications for the former Lorn Sawmills site.

They granted outline planning permission to build the homes, despite three objections on grounds of access and the existing number of houses in the village.

Planners had previously backed plans to build homes on the site in 2008.

Divers 'run over' by boat near Connel

CLYDE Coastguard has urged divers to do more to make vessels aware of their presence after a boat passed over a group in the water, near Connel.

Clyde Coastguard received a 999 call from a diving official to say a vessel was possibly going to collide with two divers.

The vessel was contacted but was unable to stop before passing over the position of the divers.

Oban Lifeboat and Oban Coastguard Rescue Team attended the scene and located the divers, who were uninjured.

A spokesman for the coastguard said this incident highlighted the need for all divers to show the appropriate warnings signals so that vessels know that there are divers in or under the water.

Oban hotel extends bar area

A LISTED Oban hotel is to extend its bar area and create new staff accommodation.

Planners backed the plans for the former Bennetts shop, part of the Columba Hotel on the town's North Pier, saying: "The proposal will bring an existing empty and prominent shop unit into use providing a positive enhancement to the town."

Argyll and Bute budget meeting

ARGYLL and Bute Council's budget consultation meeting on November 15 will now take place at noon in Room 6 of Lochgilphead Community Centre.

New fire engines for Dalmally and Bridge of Orchy

VOLUNTEER firefighters in Dalmally and Bridge of Orchy were due to take delivery of brand new fire appliances yesterday evening (Wednesday).

Representatives from the crews came to Oban Fire Station to receive the keys to the engines and take them back to their respective villages.

The crews' current appliances are around 14 years old.

Malcolm Webster to appeal murder jail sentence

LAWYERS for wife-killer, Malcolm Webster are to appeal his 30-year sentence, describing it as excessive and 'more than the Lockerbie bomber received.'

Webster, from Surrey, was ordered to spend at least three decades behind bars for murdering Claire Morris in 1994.

He was also convicted of attempting to kill Felicity Drumm in New Zealand in 1999 and of intending to bigamously marry Oban's Simone Banarjee to gain access to her estate.

The lawyer for the 52 year old, John MacLeod, said: "Thirty years was an excessive sentence."

New gatehouse planned for Dunollie castle

A NEW gatehouse is to be built close to Oban's Dunollie Castle.

Dunollie Estates applied for planning permission to build the new home to provide accommodation for a member of staff working on the site.

The two-bedroomed gatehouse will be built in a traditional style close to the entrance to Dunollie House on the Oban to Ganavan road.

Scottish timber technology...

 ...designed for the Scottish climate

Durable, affordable and sustainable all-timber homes and lodges made using generations of experience. Full design, approvals, fabrication and build service.
 Telephone 01464 851 208
 enquiries@sylvanstuart.com
 www.sylvanstuart.com
 Sylvan Stuart Ltd. Inch, Aberdeenshire AB52 6RX

Right- Oban Bay Brewery manager Harry Forbes proudly holds the certificate of achievement as he celebrates the beer mats award with Beermat Collectors' Society members Peter Gillardi and Dennis Harle, artist Iain Gowdie and graphic designer Dee Rudiger. 16_145brewery01

Businesses benefit from rates relief scheme

AN increasing number of small businesses in Argyll and Bute are benefiting from a national non-domestic rates relief scheme.

Eligible

It follows a council campaign to alert local businesses which were eligible for the Small Business Bonus Scheme (SBBS) but which had not previously applied.

In 2008/09, 3,152 recipients of this scheme in Argyll and Bute received total relief of £2,161,834. Those figures have now risen to 3,885 and £3,846,725 in the current year - above the Scottish average

Councillor Neil Mackay, Argyll and Bute's spokesperson for enterprise, energy, culture and tourism,

said: "We are acutely aware of the challenges our small local businesses are facing in the current financial climate."

"This scheme provides non-domestic business rates relief or discounts for small businesses across Scotland."

"Such relief can be a major factor in the ability of small businesses

to overcome the challenges and emerge as stronger, more successful enterprises."

"That is why we have made a concerted effort to pro-actively ensure that all eligible businesses in Argyll and Bute are benefiting from this scheme. I am delighted that our campaign has been so successful in this regard."

TWO NEW, AFFORDABLE, ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY WOOD FUELS
 For your existing fire or stove
Highfire Sawdust Briquettes
 A lower cost alternative to coal and wood made from compressed sawdust.
 If you are looking to buy a new heating system or convert your old one...
 Brites - The ideal fuel for wood pellet stoves and boilers.
C. Hodge Fencing
 (Lerags, By Oban) Telephone 01631 563271

Research report highlights threat to slow-moving species

AN INTERNATIONAL research project led by scientists from the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) based at Dunbeg, near Oban, has warned climate change could make some species homeless.

Dr Mike Burrows has been leading the collaborative project from the Dunstaffnage shore, which warns that slow

moving marine species such as coral could become stranded by changing sea temperatures, forcing a change in the environs' eco-system.

The research was published in the journal, *Science*, last week.

Dr Burrows said: "Our study may help conservationists to prepare for change and protect future coral habitats."



WINTER OFFERS

Join us at the hotel this festive season! Situated in the centre of Inverness, within walking distance of the train & bus stations and the shopping district.

1 Nights - £55.00 per room B&B
2 Nights - £99.00 per room B&B

To book call 01463 228850 & quote 'Oban'

Subject to availability, fully pre-paid when booked, non refundable. Valid 01.11.11 - 30.04.12 (exc. New Year)

Ramada Encore Inverness, 63 Academy Street, Inverness, IV1 1LU



Red Cross seeks drivers in Oban area

THE BRITISH Red Cross are seeking volunteer drivers in the Oban area to help with its transport and escort service in the local area.

The humanitarian organisation says the service helps people who have difficulty getting to hospital for appointments through age, mobility problems or because they cannot access the public transport system.

Transport and escort drivers normally use their own cars and are paid mileage to cover their costs. On some occasions, a Red Cross vehicle will be provided for use.

Most journeys are from service users' homes to hospitals locally and/or in the Glasgow area and the trips take place from Monday to Friday.

Full training will be given to all new driver volunteers.

Anyone interested should email recruitmentMSA@redcross.org.uk or telephone 01324 679 060.

High hopes for extension of RET

Calls for scheme to including Argyll islands and Arran

POLITICIANS across the Western Isles are hoping this month's publication of the Ferries Review will recommend the extension of the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET).

Currently, the RET pilot scheme covers routes between Ullapool - Stornoway, Uig - Harris/Lochmaddy on North Uist and Oban - Barra, and South Uist and Oban to Coll and Tiree.

The scheme has been deemed a success by the SNP-led Scottish Government, who introduced RET in 2007, saying it has helped boost business to the islands. The pilot project is due to come to an end in spring next year.

There have been calls throughout the trial to extend the RET to all of Scotland's isles, including the rest of the Hebrides and Arran.

This week, Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan was joined by his Westminster counterpart, Angus MacNeil, in calling for their party to do just that.

Mr Allan said: 'We should honour our promises to roll the scheme out to other island communities in Scotland over the course of this Parliament.'

Mr MacNeil said its impact has been felt.

He said: 'Such is the effect on both tourism and especially commercial vehicles, that we, in the Hebrides, have coped much better with this recession compared to other recessions.'

Meanwhile, the chairman of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's transport committee, Donald Manford, said the ferries review has more to look at than just the future of the RET.

"We should honour our promises to roll the scheme out to other island communities in Scotland over the course of this Parliament."

MSP Alasdair Allan

He said: 'Though eagerly awaited, the great black cloud of financial cuts which has affected all of us, will also have overtaken this process.'

'Despite these problems, hopes if not expectations remain high that our ferry services can be improved.'

'The success of RET, in particular for business and the tourism industry, requires us to rise to the challenge of meeting the demand.'

'In Uist, Eriskay, Barra and Watersay the needs range from additional frequency and onward public transport connections for Lochmaddy and Castlebay and the need for a much shorter sea crossing for Lochboisdale. Expectation is large.'

'Added to this, the review will address preparations for the next round of ferry tendering for the Hebrides. Will all the routes be one tender? Will some routes be tendered individually and if so which routes?'

'Whatever is contained in the review, the opportunity must be available to have genuine consultations.'



Former Ardfern man Stuart Hardie has run the length of Britain for three charities.

Former Lorne captain runs 40 marathons in 40 days

A FORMER Oban Lorne rugby captain has completed an exhausting fundraising effort for a rugby charity, which saw him run 40 marathons in 40 days.

Quantity surveyor Stuart Hardie lived in Ardfern between 1972 and 1988, during which time he captained and coached

the Oban-based rugby team. The 65-year-old has become a well-known face in Guernsey, where he now lives, and after completing 39 marathons in 40 days by running from John O' Groats to Land's End, he ran a final marathon on the island last weekend.

The incredible feat will raise money for children's rugby charity Wooden Spoon, the Andy Priaulx Premature Baby Foundation and cancer charity Hope for Guernsey.

Stuart told *The Oban Times*: 'I said that I would run the length of Britain when I turned 65

and when you tell a few people you're going to do it, you have to see it through.'

'Crossing the finish line every day was like winning the gold medal because you had an ownership of that section and every night was a party. 'Crossing the line at Land's

End was like winning the gold of all golds.'

Stuart was supported on his journey by a back-up team, which included former Bunesan GP Dr Whitford Andrews. Donations can be made via Stuart's fundraising website at justgiving.com/stuart-hardie.

Tiree's all-weather pitch is an accident waiting to happen claims teacher

A SENIOR teacher on Tiree has called for the council to replace the £100,000 all-weather sports pitch it condemned three years ago before someone gets hurt.

Warped and bumpy
Tiree High School's head of PE, Joyce MacInnes, watched in dismay as the Coraighmore pitch finally succumbed to the island's legendary sunshine in 2008, with the heat warping the wooden boards forming its base, causing the astroturf surface to become bumpy.

Argyll and Bute Council inspected the surface but decided not to progress with either a repair or a replacement, opting to effectively condemn the facility, which sits adjacent to the school. With no alternative available, however, the multi-purpose sports pitch continues to be used by locals and there are concerns someone will hurt

themselves as a result.

Joyce said the situation is hard to take, especially given she was among those islanders who fought for a decade to have the pitch installed. She said: 'When we got it we were told it was a community facility, provided and maintained by the council, but the school could use it.'

'The pitch was supposed to last 10 years and while we had seven out of it before it warped there are still no plans for a replacement - that should have been looked at and decided three years ago.'

'But kids are still using it and there's not much we can do to stop them. The surface is uneven and someone could easily trip.'

However, the situation need never have arisen if the council had installed the pitch properly, she said.

She said: 'The council originally looked at a pitch that cost £180,000, that had a concrete base and would last longer, however they went for the cheaper option and that hasn't lasted.'

'It's incredibly frustrating because I don't think this situation would have arisen, say, in Benderloch.'

The council say they are looking at replacing the pitch.

A spokesperson said: 'We are aware of the condition of this pitch, which has been highlighted as a priority for attention through a review of the council's sports pitches.'

'The pitch has been surveyed, but short term repairs were not considered appropriate in view of its overall condition. The results of the survey will of course feed into future capital programme planning.'

NHS risk report highlights 500 incidents in Argyll and Bute in a three month period

A RISK report for the NHS in Argyll and Bute has identified more than 500 incidents between July and September this year.

Patients and staff experienced 140 slips, trips and falls while there were 81 incidents of disruptive, violent and aggressive behaviour. The figures were presented to Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership's last meeting.

A spokesman for NHS Highland said recording even apparently minor incidents was vital to spotting potential problems and keeping people safe.

All staff have violence prevention training and action to prevent falls includes ensuring patients have proper footwear, spectacles and walking aids and tackling spills. A plan has also been put in place to tackle pressure sores and tissue viability - there were 42 incidents during the quarter. A specialist nurse

based in Argyll and Bute has been appointed.

The spokesman added: 'NHS Highland is committed to continually improving its working practices to prevent or reduce the risk of harm.'

'Incident reporting is one of the key methods for alerting an organisation to issues that, if left unattended, may pose a serious risk to either the patients in its care, the staff it employs or to others for which it has a responsibility.'

Half of all incidents and near misses took place in the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay area, which has four of Argyll and Bute's eight hospitals.

There were three minor fires in the grounds of Argyll and Bute Hospital and staff twice put the wrong fuel into NHS pool cars.

A total of 12 complaints were received in the period.

Will Aid in November

'WILLING' solicitors who are raising money for charity this month are urging anyone who needs a will to get in touch.

During 'Will Aid Month', they are waiving their usual fees for making a will and inviting people to make a donation to benefit nine popular charities.

There are a limited number of appointments available and more information is on www.willaid.org.uk or 0300 0300 013.

Historic Scotland visits for free

DUNSTAFFNAGE Castle and Iona Abbey are among 40 of Scotland's top heritage attractions that will be opening their doors for free this month.

Historic Scotland is offering free admission to its winter ticketed attractions including Scotland's number one tourist attraction, Edinburgh Castle, as part of its Visit For Free programme.

Visitors need to register in advance at the website www.ticketgiveaway.co.uk to download their free weekend pass which gives free access for up to two adults and three children to all ticketed Historic Scotland properties on the weekend of November 26 and 27.

Planners consider bid to built flats

LOCHGILPHEAD based builders MacLeods have applied for planning permission to build new flats at McKelvie Road, Glenshellach, Oban.

The plans, for 12 two-bedroomed flats in two blocks, are currently being considered by planners.

Drugs search

A QUANTITY of cannabis was found when police stopped and searched a 25-year-old man on Lochavullin Drive, Oban.

A report was made to the procurator fiscal following the incident, on Friday morning, November 4.

Soon to be re-opened Oban pathway will become Right of Way

A PATH that leads to the old county hospital site in Oban is due to be repaired and re-opened this month.

Signs have been put up indicating the path, between Benvoullin Road and Gardens, is closed while work takes place on a new property nearby. However, those who rely on the path are facing a lengthy alternative via Longdale Road.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Argyll and

Bute Council is working with the developer who is constructing a new path and has closed it to allow the work to be done. We have been told that the path will be open by the end of the month weather permitting.'

'The council is proposing the path as a core path and it will be preserved as a public right of way once it is re-opened.'

The upgraded path is expected to be free of steps with the gradient kept to a minimum.

Tobermory hotel opts to close for winter with six jobs lost

SIX full-time jobs at the Tobermory Hotel on Mull have gone as the owners take drastic steps in order to balance the books.

Husband and wife proprietors, Ian and Andrea Stevens, have run the 16-bedroom hotel all year round since they took over the business 11 years ago but said that business model could not continue in the current business climate.

Mr Stevens said: 'For 11 years we have had policy of opening all year round to provide a service for the community and give full-time employment to local people.'

'But with the downturn in business

generally, and for personal reasons, we have decided to open from March to November.'

The hotel will close on November 30 for the winter, opening for Christmas dinners and a Hogmanay party. Chef and manager Helen Swinbanks will be retained full time.

Mr Stevens added: 'This was an extremely difficult decision. We couldn't have asked for better, more loyal, and competent staff and we are very sad we couldn't provide the same level of employment as we have in the past. The Tobermory Hotel is not going under and not disappearing. It will be reborn next season.'

Isles council leads campaign for change

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar is to lead a campaign to involve community organisations in the reform of the Crown Estate. The decision came after council leader Angus Campbell held a meeting with The Scottish Affairs Select Committee last week. The group will look at transferring Crown Estate's revenues to community ownership.

Oban man receives letter of apology from police chief

AN OBAN foster parent has received a letter of apology from Strathclyde Police after a complaint against the force was upheld by the independent commissioner.

Officers had barged past John Baker, of Ulva Road, Oban, at 1am on June 16 last year, when looking for a minor who had absconded from a local children's home.

The missing child was friendly with Mr Baker's foster son and police had traced her to the address when she had gone missing on a previous occasion.

However, the commissioner ruled that, while acting in good faith, the officers were wrong to enter the house without permission and against Mr Baker's wishes.

He also criticised the Oban office for not clearly communicating that his complaint was upheld in the first place.

Local chief inspector, Brian Auld, has now sent a letter to Mr Baker apologising for the incident. Mr Baker said: 'Basi-

cally he's apologising for the lack of clarity of communications from the previous chief inspector, Glen Bland, and confirming that officers cannot enter a property without a warrant or permission from the occupier. 'Also says the officers were counselled and provided with corrective advice. 'He further apologised for chief inspector Bland's letter, where he stated that 'the police actions were deemed necessary,' as this does not correctly reflect the outcome of the investigation. 'I'm pleased that the letter is critical of the police action and also the way the case has been mishandled. It's important that the force itself acts within the law. 'It is unfortunate, however, that it took 16 months to get to this point. The process really ought to be simplified so that people are not discouraged from making legitimate complaints otherwise the police force becomes unaccountable.'

NICKEL 'N' DIME

HUNDREDS OF HOUSEHOLD ITEMS ACROSS 2 FLOORS
LARGE RANGE OF CHRISTMAS STOCK NOW IN

- ARTIFICIAL TREES & FLOWERS
- CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
- CARDS, WRAPPING PAPER & GIFT BAGS
- SANTA'S
- Fireworks

.....and much more!

HUGE BOXING DAY SALE

11AM - 5PM

6 Combie Street, Oban, PA34 4HN
Open Monday - Saturday 9am - 6.30pm Sunday 11am - 5pm

Do you know an unsung hero who deserves recognition?

Then don't miss next week's Oban Times to find out how you can nominate someone special for The Oban Times **ANGEL OF THE YEAR** award!

Launching in next week's paper and online at www.obantimes.co.uk.

OT

Residents still waiting on 999 cover news

ARDNAMURCHAN residents have claimed they are being 'left in the dark' over proposals for the future of their out-of-hours 999 cover.

After the latest meeting with Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) and NHS Highland representatives, West Ardnamurchan Community Council (WACC) was told new proposals on replacing the district nurses who currently provide emergency cover for the area would be on the table within a week.

But WACC spokesman Jon Haylett told *The Oban Times* they have heard nothing since the meeting more than two weeks ago.

He said: 'We were promised that they would meet with their chief executives as a matter of urgency, and that they would be getting back to us either late last week or early this week. We have heard nothing.'

'Everything has gone incredibly quiet and we really do wonder what is going on. There is nothing worse than deafening silence.'

Meanwhile, at WACC's last monthly meeting before the upcoming elections, chairman Rosie Curtis was given unanimous support for her handling of the district nursing cover situation. Mr Haylett said: 'Rosie has handled an extremely difficult situation very, very well indeed.'

Getting roads ready for winter

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar has released its winter road maintenance policy to inform members of the public about how it will tackle harsh winter weather.

The policy will inform people about gritting priorities for different roads in the area and gritting times. The information is available on the Comhairle website and has been sent to local community councils.

The Comhairle will also provide small quantities of salt at locations across the islands over the next few weeks to enable the public to treat public roads and footways themselves.

NEWSDESK
01631 568000



High Street transformation: An artist's impression of the new development.

Work to start on town site

Beleaguered High Street gets boost

FORT William's beleaguered High Street has been given a major boost with the news the £8million redevelopment of the former Grand Hotel/McTavish's Kitchen site is to start next week.

The project will see health and beauty retailer Superdrug, outdoor clothing shop Cotswold Outdoor and a JD Wetherspoon restaurant/pub move into the property, with a 60-room Travelodge on the upper floors of the development. One area of retail space remains but developers Ashford Property Group says it plans to market it soon.

West Midlands-based Anglo Holt Construction will carry out the 20,000 square foot project next to the refurbished Gordon Square and West Highland Way start/finish point, with building work due to start on Monday.

Local councillor Donald Cameron welcomed the news and told *The Oban Times* he hoped it would invigorate Fort William's retail centre.

He said: 'This is the news we have been patiently waiting for and the developer has to be congratulated for pulling this project together given the present economic climate. The development will breathe new life into the west end of the town and will hopefully encourage other operators to invest in the High Street.'

'With work due to start on the Blar development at the beginning of 2012 it was always imperative that the town development went ahead in tandem to retain a retail balance in the greater Fort William area.'

He continued: 'When you also consider the recent

By RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

announcements of large investments in their operations by BSW Timber and Rio Tinto Alcan and the £40m local schools project we are very fortunate to be bucking the downturn that is having serious consequences in other areas'

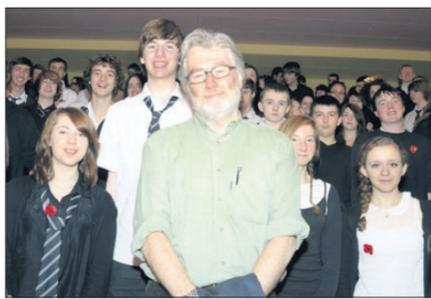
Drew Purdon owns the House of Clan Jamrie, which sits directly across the High Street from the site, and he told *The Oban Times* he was happy the development was finally getting underway.

He said: 'We've been sitting staring at this site for the last five years, so I'm just glad something's being done at last. Cotswold is a great name in outdoor clothing, and the Wetherspoons will bring a few people in as well.'

'The Travelodge with 60 rooms will certainly bring people to this end of town, and hopefully after all these years this can start a rejuvenation. I think it's looking good for the future of the west end.'

Ashford director Andrew Smith said: 'I am delighted to be announcing the start of this project and with such a strong occupier line up. This is a very important development for Fort William and we have worked extremely hard to deliver it.'

'The remaining retail space will offer large and well-configured units not currently available elsewhere on Fort William's High Street. It provides a great opportunity for retailers in the outdoor capital of the UK, especially with the final stretch of the West Highland Way being relocated to a spot immediately adjacent to the development.'



Iain Banks spent the afternoon talking to Lochaber High School pupils.

Leading British author visits Lochaber High School

SENIOR pupils at Lochaber High School were treated to a visit from one of the UK's leading authors last week when Iain Banks spoke to them about his life and work.

Mr Banks spoke to the youngsters about how he got into writing and how he got his first book published.

Head teacher Jim Sutherland said the pupils were 'enthralled' by the novelist. He said: 'He spoke about the different facets of a writer's life and what had

inspired his novels. There was an opportunity for pupils to ask questions and at the end of the afternoon a chance to get books signed.'

Fifer Iain Banks is one of the country's most successful authors of recent years, writing novels such as *The Wasp Factory*, *The Crow Road* and *Walking on Glass*. He also writes science fiction novels under the name Iain M Banks and was chosen by *The Times* as one of the top 50 British writers since 1945.

Centre steering group needs public backing

THE GROUP which will take over the running of Caol Community Centre (CCC) are calling on the local community to get behind the project.

CCC steering group was given permission by Highland Council to set up a community organisation to take control of the centre from April 1 next year.

A public meeting will be held in the centre on Monday November 28.

Steering group press secretary George Kerr told *The Oban Times* they wanted people to know CCC was still taking bookings and said CCC was about

more than just the lunch club. He said: 'We want it to be a community hub and if people want to keep their community centre they are going to have to get involved.'

The steering group plans to hand out surveys around the local area before the meeting to find out what kind of services people want from CCC.

Meanwhile, Lochaber Action on Disability has taken over running the senior citizens lunch club provision until the public takeover of CCC.

The local charity provides transport to and from CCC as well as up to 40 meals a day.

Tweed on show in USA

ISLE of Lewis-based Harris Tweed Hebrides (HTH) has been given major exposure in USA after two top New York clothes shops created window displays of the Shawbost company's new collections.

Saks Fifth Avenue and Topman on Broadway have dedicated windows to the new menswear collection in collaboration with Scottish Development

International, to celebrate their use of Scottish fabrics.

HTH creative director Mark Hogarth said: 'It must be many years since Harris Tweed had this kind of profile in New York. From the grand up-market boutiques on Fifth Avenue to the trendy downtown stores, Harris Tweed has been incorporated into some fantastic apparel. The stores tell us that early sales

figures are very encouraging which is good news as we head into the next buying season.'

HTH chairman Brian Wilson said: 'We have put a lot of work into reviving the American market and the results are visible. These fantastic window displays on Fifth Avenue and Broadway send out very strong messages that the weavers and mill-workers can take great confidence from.'

LOCH LEVEN HOTEL
tel 01855 821236
Old Ferry Road, North Ballachulish
www.lochlevenhotel.co.uk
eMail: reception@lochlevenhotel.co.uk

Have a Merry Christmas Party Night ...
The team at The Loch Leven Hotel invites you to celebrate Christmas with us.
23rd or 24th December 2011 | £19.95pp
3 Course Dinner
Traditional live music from Brocken Spectre, a young local Ceilidh Band from the Spean Bridge area.
... at The Loch Leven Hotel!

Light of India TANDOORI RESTAURANT
Choose Light of India for your 2011 Festive Celebrations!
Thank you to all our customers supporting us for 27 years
Fully Licensed
43 Stevenson St, Oban Tel. 01631 563728

paparazzi 4 COURSE DINNER £19.95 inc. CHAMPAGNE COCKTAIL
FUNKY XMAS PARTIES LIVE BAND OR D.J.
BOOK BEFORE 20TH NOVEMBER AND GET A FREE BOTTLE OF BUBBLY!
BOOK NOW. 01631 565421/ 07770 931 967
Breadalbane Street, Oban, PA34 5NZ

Starters	Main Course	Dessert
Prawn & Smoked Salmon Salad with marie rose sauce & Brown Bread	Traditional Roast Turkey	Traditional Christmas Pudding with rich brandy sauce
Duck Liver Pate our own recipe, served with hot outcakes & port jelly	Peppered Rib of Roast Beef	Raspberry Cheesecake with raspberry coulis and fresh cream
Spicy Pumpkin Soup with toasted pumpkin seeds & crusty bread	Fillet of Scottish Salmon	Hot Chocolate Fudge Cake with vanilla ice cream
Warm Goats Cheese Salad with toasted pine nuts & apricots coulis	Prime Cut of Scottish Sirloin £3.50 surcharge	Coffee and Baby Mince Pies
	Vegetarian Christmas Roast	
	All Main Courses served with seasonal vegetables, roast potatoes & buttered baby potatoes.	

It's the most wonderful time of the year

Get together with friends, family and colleagues over the festive season and celebrate in style with delicious food, good hospitality and a well stocked bar at one of our waterside locations.

Festive Party Nights from £24.50 per person with 1 FREE PLACE FOR EVERY 15
Available at the Oban Caledonian & Isles of Glencoe Hotel on the Sat 10th and Fri 16th Dec. Murder Mystery at Ballachulish Hotel on 17th Dec as alternative to a party night - £32.50 pp

Festive Lunches from 1st - 23rd Dec with 1 FREE PLACE FOR EVERY 15
Ballachulish & Isles of Glencoe from £12.95 pp and Oban Caledonian Hotel from £11.95pp.

Traditional Christmas Day Lunch from £42.00 per person
Available at the 3 hotels from 1pm - 3.00pm on Christmas Day.

For more info or to book please call or visit the website.
Ballachulish Hotel T: 0844 855 9133
Isles of Glencoe Hotel T: 0844 855 9134
Oban Caledonian Hotel T: 0844 855 9135
www.akkeronhotels.com

Christmas Party Nights and festive celebrations

CELEBRATE IN STYLE AT THE COLUMBA HOTEL! HURRY TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER LIMITED AVAILABILITY
"JINGLE BELL ROCK DISCO" FOR ONLY £19.95 PER PERSON
DONT MISS OUT ON OUR PHENOMENAL CHRISTMAS PARTY WHICH INCLUDES A 4 COURSE EVENING MEAL, COMPLIMENTARY BUBBLY, PARTY PACKS AND A NIGHT JAM PACKED WITH ENTERTAINMENT.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 3 COURSE £9.95pp AVAILABLE 1ST - 31ST DECEMBER (excludes Christmas Day)
CHRISTMAS DINNER 3 COURSE £14.95pp

CHRISTMAS DAY CRACKER
ENJOY A SUPERB CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER FOR ONLY £25 PER PERSON!

COLUMBA HOTEL - OBAN NORTH PIER, OBAN PA34 5QD
01631 562 183

the SPINNAKER cafe

Spinnaker FESTIVE Set Menu

Starters
Curried Parsnip & Butternut Squash Soup
Hot Smoked Salmon with Cream Cheese Mousse & Crusty Wholemeal Bread
Timbale of Crushed Spring Onion Potatoes, Stormoway Black Pudding & Haggis

Mains
Traditional Roast Turkey
The Festive Burger
Grilled Sea Bass Fillet
Moroccan Chick Pea & Vegetable Tagine

Desserts
Warm Christmas Pudding
Homemade Caramelised Apple Crumble
Homemade Lime & Gingerbread Cheesecake
Cheese & Oatcakes

Licensed Bar

Main Course - £12.95 2 Courses - £15.95 3 Courses - £18.95
For Bookings ring 01631 569555 - 28A George St, Oban PA34 5SB

SEE THE DIFFERENCE IN 6 WEEKS GUARANTEED!

Get into your little black dress for the Christmas Party Season.
Buy one empower Get One FREE!!!! Only 50 available!
Call us NOW on 01631 565000

RESULTS IN 6 WEEKS
empower
OR YOUR MONEY BACK

energie fitness clubs

Follow us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

Shop owners praised for not selling fireworks to children

HIGHLAND shop owners have been praised for their vigilance in not selling fireworks to underage children.

Highland Council recruited a 15-year-old volunteer to visit 13 retailers across the region during the three weeks leading up to Guy Fawkes Night. The youngster attempted to buy rockets, but was denied the sale at every shop after being asked to provide ID.

It is illegal to sell fireworks to a person under the age of 18, with a sale carrying a maximum fine of £5,000 and a six-month prison sentence.

Council trading standards

manager Gordon Robb said: 'Unlike what we experienced over the last three years, all the retailers we visited this year refused to sell to our young volunteer.'

'Complaints do, however, continue to be made about fireworks getting into the hands of young people and being set off in the street and late at night; so youngsters are apparently still getting hold of them.'

Anyone with information about the supply of age restricted products to children should contact Highland Trading Standards on 08454 04 05 06 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Skye cattle grid stolen

POLICE are appealing for information after a cattle grid was stolen from an Isle of Skye croft.

The galvanised steel grid was removed from Croft 3, Glenmore, near Portree, sometime between Thursday October 20 and Monday October 24.

The cattle grid is of tubular design, and consists of two parts, each measuring nine feet by 4.5ft.

Anyone with information regarding this theft, or having seen anyone acting suspiciously in the area, should contact Portree Police Station on 01478 612 888 or the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 or at crimestoppers-uk.org. No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

Pair reported after theft

TWO 19-year-old men have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal in connection with the alleged theft of gas bottles from the Ocean Frontier

Workshop, Underwater Centre, in Fort William. A Northern Constabulary spokesperson said inquiries into other recent thefts in the area are continuing.

Morar WRI members meet

ELEVEN ladies attended the November meeting of Morar Women's Rural Institute in Lady Lovat Primary School.

President Christine Haynes, who was hostess with Isobell Morton, instructed the group on how to make special Christmas cards, and after much hilarity everyone managed to create their own cards. The flapjack competition was won by Mary Ferguson, while Isobell Morton won the mini Guy Fawkes competition. The raffle was won by June Foxwell.

Spurlock in Lochaber to film life as a Scottish laird



Filmmaker Morgan Spurlock with Lady Alex in Glencoe Wood.

THE STAR of the fast-food documentary 'Super Size Me' Morgan Spurlock was in Lochaber recently filming his new show, which takes a light-hearted look at the life of a laird.

The American filmmaker's new show 'Morgan Spurlock's 51st State' is being created for Sky Atlantic, and saw him spend time filming around Duror, Glencoe and Fort William.

He legally became a laird after buying a square foot of land near Duror from Highland Titles, a group which sells small pieces of land to raise money to help conserve local woodland.

Loch Leven Hotel and Duror Stores owner Hilary Wilson and her partner John MacAskill were asked by the production team if their properties could be used for filming.

Ms Wilson told *The Oban Times*: 'We were approached by the producers of a television documentary team who were

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

making plans to film in the Duror and Glencoe area.

'Morgan Spurlock bought a square foot of Scottish soil and is now able to call himself a laird, and planned to make a tongue-in-cheek documentary on the class system as is represented by the Scottish Laird. They also planned to film a local shop, local museums and a local pub and that is where we came in.'

'I have no idea how the finished film will turn out but they got some beautiful dry sunny weather for November and filmed down in Duror, on the old bridge and in the shop.'

Mr Spurlock's camera crew also visited Cameron of Lochiel's estate and interviewed him, as well as taking trips to Glencoe Museum, Clan Cameron Museum and the West Highland Museum in Fort William.

Lady Alex, chief fundraiser for Highland Titles, was also interviewed for the show.

The last day of filming saw a group of local people invited to the Loch Leven Hotel for food, drink and conversation.

Ms Wilson said: 'It turns out Morgan's style is to interview you while you think you are just having a conversation so it will be something to look out for. The whisky was flowing and so were the tongues!'

'He was all decked out in his silver button jacket and a kilt. One of the ladies, who had had a couple of glasses of wine, said he looked ridiculous - which he did! But he took it in good humour.'

Mr Spurlock's famous documentary 'Super Size Me' saw him eat nothing but McDonald's food for 30 days to see what effect it would have on his body. 'Morgan Spurlock's 51st State' is due to be shown in April next year.



Second year pupils at Ardnamurchan High School have recently finished a class project to gather food to donate to the Highland Food Bank charity. Pupils, staff and members of the local community all donated to the cause. The charity is run by Blythswood Care, and gives food to people across the Highlands who cannot afford to buy food for themselves. Pupil Andrew Jackson said: 'I don't think I've ever seen so much food in one place. Thank you to everyone who donated.' The donations will now be sent to the Blythswood depot in Evanton to be weighed and then distributed to individuals and families in the Highland area.

Follow us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes



The club champions line up with their trophies. 20_445table01

Fort Table Tennis Club gets new season underway

FORT William Table Tennis Club got its new season underway on Monday night, and marked the occasion by handing out trophies to last season's winners.

The awards were handed out by club chairperson Angus MacDonald at the weekly club night at the Nevis Centre. The table tennis club was set up in 1999, with membership growing year-on-year.

Mr MacDonald told *The Oban Times*: 'This season's programme is now underway and the winter leagues are about to be set up with at least three divisions of eight players anticipated. However, it is not too late to come along on Monday evenings whether you want to play in the leagues or other competitions, have some practice or friendly games. Coaching is also available. Everyone is equally welcome whatever standard they wish to play.'

Trophy winners - Division 1: winner - Monte Bleasdale; runner up - John Grant. Division 2: winner - Chris Drain; runner up - Tommy Disher. Division 3: winner - Jim Hinchley; runner up - George Rodger. Open Singles (club champion): winner - Monte Bleasdale; runner up - Angus MacDonald. Handicap Singles: winner - Monte Bleasdale; runner up - Donald Gillies. Best Newcomer - George Rodger. Most Improved Player - Annette Summers.

Group launches new scheme in bid to keep visitors safe

AN OUTER Hebrides scheme to try and increase safety for tourists visiting the islands has won praise from Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs Roseanna Cunningham.

The Visitor Safety Initiative was launched after the Coastguard released figures which showed 86 per cent of their call outs last summer involved visitors to the islands.

The Outer Hebrides Community Safety Partnership produced 5,000 booklets with advice and help numbers in relation to hill, road, sea and shoreline safety. They also distributed route maps to hotels and B&Bs in the islands. These aimed to make it easier for hillwalkers to leave specific details of the journey and anticipated return time.

The Coastguard said the initiative had reduced the number of call outs to their service.

At a meeting of local authority representatives in Edinburgh, Ms Cunningham said: 'It is clear their work is having an impact in improving community safety in the Outer Hebrides for visitors and local people. It is fitting that the partnership's innovative work has been recognised by the World Health Organisation's Safer Communities Programme and I wish them well in the future.'

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's lead community safety officer Frank Creighton said: 'The success of this initiative is indicative of the close working relationship we enjoy in the Outer Hebrides.'

'The priorities we set ourselves are identified through statistical evidence gathered from each partner organisation. This way we are able to make the best use of the collective resources at our disposal.'

Newsdesk 01631 568000



NORTH WEST MARINE
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS
www.northwestmarine.co.uk

Winter mooring inspections and mooring drops now being undertaken.

Please contact our Oban office to discuss your requirements on 01631 565740 or email enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk

For any other diving and marine works enquiries please call our Business Services Manager on 01631 565652 to discuss.

7E Glengallan Road, Oban, Scotland, PA34 4HG

Argyll's 1st uPVC sliding sash window

Traditional Windows without compromise

Our vertical slider is an authentic looking sash window with Ovolo finishing. This combines all the benefits of high performing modern materials and functionality with period character and design.



Our frames are good for the environment
Our windows and doors provide an outstanding barrier against heat and noise loss





Systems designed to achieve a Window Energy Rating of Band A



Systems designed to achieve a Window Energy Rating of Band A



Fully committed to ISO 9001 standards covering all environmental issues



All Spectus products come with a 10 year guarantee

MacLeod Windows - Handcrafted by the men of Argyll for the houses of Argyll

For more information contact Iain Macaskill: 0800 526 781

Artwork on show

ARTWORK by a group of Lochaber youngsters will be on display in Caol next Wednesday.

Aspiring artists from Caol Youth Centre and Fusion Youth Space have been working with Fort William art studio Room 13 and have produced a project of visual and media art.

The work, which has been funded by the anti-bullying service RespectMe, will be on show from 7pm to 9pm at Caol Youth Centre.

ORDER EARLY TO AVOID THE WINTER RUSH

SCOTLAND'S INDEPENDENT OIL SUPPLIER

- Free Top Up Scheme
- Interest Free Payment Plan
- Fuel Collection Points
- Reliable Local Service

For Delivery Throughout Scotland...
Call Free Now On 0800 224 224
www.highlandfuels.co.uk Office open from 8am Mon-Fri





FLOORSHOP

FANTASTIC OFFERS ON FURNITURE FOR ONE WEEK ONLY

Bunk beds £90, Wardrobes from £99.00 and many many more offers

superb selection of carpets, vinyls, laminates and much much more

WE WON'T BE BEATEN ON PRICE !!

Telephone: 01631 563316 • Unit 12, Mill Lane, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HA

BARRA

Barra and Vatersay Mod results

Conversation (Primary Fluent age 5-8): 1 Sine MacLeod, 2 Ben MacIntyre 89, 3 Abi Muir 88; Conversation (Primary Fluent age 9-12) 1 Marsaili Anna NicNeill, 2 Alexander Ferguson, 3 Claire Francis NicNeill; Conversation Secondary Fluent: 1 Bethanie MacNeil, 2 Norma Ferguson, 3 Collette Douglas; Storytelling Primary Fluent: 1 Ruairidh Gray, 2 Claire Francis NicNeill, 3 Annie Sine NicNeill; Recitation Primary Fluent Age 5-8: 1 Annie Sine NicNeill, 2 Sine MacLeod, 3 Ben McIntyre; Recitation Primary Fluent Age 9-12: 1 Claire Francis NicNeill, 2 Katie Morag MacDonald, 3 Alexander Ferguson; Recitation Secondary Fluent: 1 Norma Ferguson, 2 Patricia Ross; Reading at Sight Primary Fluent Age 5-8: 1 Abi Muir, 2 Holly Muir; Reading at Sight Primary Fluent Age 9-12: 1 Katie Morag MacDonald, 2 Claire Francis NicNeill, 3 Marsaili NicNeill; Reading at Sight Secondary Fluent: 1 Anne Marie MacNeil, 2 Norma Ferguson, 3 Collette Douglas; Conversation Secondary Learners: 1 Laura MacInnes, 2 Shian MacNeil; Recitation Secondary Learners: 1 Laura MacInnes, 2 Marion Campbell; Reading at Sight Secondary Learners: 1 Marion Campbell, 2 Shian MacNeil, 3 Laura MacInnes.



Author Vivian French reads to Port Ellen Primary School pupils Mirren Brown, aged 7, Aileas Colthart, 11, Ruairaidh MacDonald, 6, and Orla Campbell, 3.

Sgoil Phaibill, 2 Coisir Og Sgoil Bhaile Mhanaich, 3 Coisir Sgoil Eolaigearraidh; Choral Puirt a Beul Primary: 1 Coisir Og Sgoil Phaibill, 2 Coisir Og Sgoil Dhalabroig, 3 Coisir Og Sgoil Eolaigearraidh; Choral Unison Secondary: 1 Coisir Sgoil Bhagh a' Chaisteil; Action Song Primary: 1 Barr a' Danna, 2 Coisir Sgoil Bhagh a' Chaisteil; Action Song Secondary: 1 Barr a' Danna; Folk Group Primary: 1 Sgoineil, 2 Deagh Charaidean; Folk Group Secondary: 1 Comhlan Feis Tir a Mhurairean; Instrumental Competitions: Fiddle Primary: Beginners: 1 Shona MacLeod, 2 Marsaili Anna NicNeill, 3 Ruadhan Thomas; Fiddle Primary: Open: 1 Claire Francis NicNeill, 2 Katie Morag MacDonald, 3 Abigail MacNeil; Fiddle Secondary: Open: 1 Christine MacLean, 2 Anna Beverstock, 2 Christine MacLean, 3 Claire Frances NicNeill; Strings U19: Open: 1 Anna Beverstock, 2 Christine MacLean; Piano Secondary: Open: 1 Padraig JP Moireasdan; Accordion Primary: Beginners: 1 David Walker, 2 Millie Denehy, 3 Catriona MacKinnon; Accordion Primary: Open: 1 Kenneth John MacKillop, 2 Niall Walker, 3 Millie Denehy; Accordion Secondary:

Beginners: 1 Catherine Sinclair; Accordion Secondary: Open: 1 Padraig JP Moireasdan, 2 Catherine Sinclair; Accordion U19: Open: 1 Padraig JP Moireasdan, 2 Niall Walker; Chanters: Beginners: 1 Kenneth John MacKillop, 2 Finlay MacVicar, 3 Hamish Rodger; Chanters: Novice: 1 Fergus Mac Vicar, 2 Niall Walker, 3 Norma Ferguson; Bagpipes: Beginners: 1 Sarah MacMillan, 2 Chloe Steele, 3 Alasdair Elder; Bagpipes U15: Open: 1 Michael Steele, 2 Katie Morag MacDonald, 3 Paul Morrison; Bagpipes 15-18: Open: 1 Alasdair Steele, 2 Mairi MacInnes, 3 Finlay MacAulay; Bagpipes 15-18: Open: 1 Mairi MacInnes, 2 Alasdair Steele, 3 Finlay MacAulay; Drum Stick and Pad U15: Beginners: 1 Christopher MacDonald, 2 Nathan MacArthur, 3 Kyle MacLeod; Drum U19: Open: 1 Mairi Innes; Instrumental Group Primary: Open: 1 Cairdean Cuil, 2 Feis Bharraigh; Instrumental Group Secondary: Open: 1 Comhlan Feis Tir a Mhurairean, 2 Feis Bharraigh. Short Story: 1 Katie Morag MacDonald, 2 Marsaili Anna NicNeill, 3 Padraig MacInnes; Short Story: 1 Michelle Galbraith, 2 Anne Marie MacNeil, 3 Lorna

Campbell; Poster in Gaelic - Primary: 1 Abi Muir, 2 Claire Francis NicNeill, 3 Marsaili Anna NicNeill; Poster in Gaelic - Primary: 1 Jessica MacNeil, 2 Rosie McGlone, 3 Norma Ferguson; Conversation: Fluent: 1 Annie-Theresa MacDonald; Solo Own Choice Ladies: Fluent: 1 Annie-Theresa MacDonald; Solo Own Choice Ladies: Learners: 1 Sarah MacLean, 2 Margaret Mary Campbell; Solo - Local Song Ladies/Men: Open: 1 Annie-Theresa MacDonald. Junior Trophies: Oral

Fluent primary: Claire Frances NicNeill; Oral Fluent Secondary: Norma Ferguson; Oral Learners Secondary: Laura MacInnes; Vocal Fluent Solo: Ruairidh Gray; Vocal Learners Solo: Charlotte O'Carroll; Open Solo - Local Song: Aileen Elder; Choral primary: Coisir Og Sgoil Phaibill; Choral Secondary: Coisir Sgoil Bhagh a' Chaisteil; Group Action Song: Barr a' Danna; Folk Group & Instrumental Group: Comhlan Feis Tir a Mhurairean; Fiddle Claire Frances NicNeill, Christine MacLean, Anna

beverstock; Accordion: Padraig Moireasdan; Bagpipes under 15's: Katie Morag MacDonald; Bagpipes: Mairi MacInnes; Bagpipes 15-18: Mairi MacInnes; Literature: Michelle Galbraith; Junior Local Highest Total Marks: Claire Francis NicNeill. Senior Trophies: Vocal Learners Solo: Sarah MacLean; Vocal Open Solo: Annie Theresa MacDonald; Walking Group (jnr and snr) Clo nan Nighean; Adult Local Highest Total Marks: Annie Theresa MacDonald.

Children's author inspires Port Ellen primary pupils

PORT Ellen Primary School pupils on Islay got their creative juices flowing this week during an interactive workshop with popular children's author Vivian French. The lucky pupils from primary one to seven secured the visit as their prize for being the winning school in the ScottishPower Story Swap Shop 2011. The excited children gathered for two sessions with Ms French, who has written more than 60 children's books and recently appeared at Edinburgh International Book Festival. Vivian set the younger pupils a writing challenge where she provided them with the first line of a story and asked them to continue by adding their own lines. When talking with the older children, Ms French emphasised

that they were all potential authors with nothing stopping them from writing a brilliant story. This is the third year ScottishPower has held its Story Swap Shop, an initiative held in partnership with the Edinburgh International Book Festival, which encourages children to recycle their old books by paying a small donation and swapping them with their classmates to raise money for a good cause. Port Ellen Primary School pupils raised £100 from their Swap Shop, held earlier in the year. All money raised by schools was donated to Aberlour, which helps more than 6,000 vulnerable children and young people in Scotland every year. Ms French said: 'My visit to Port Ellen Primary School

was thoroughly enjoyable. I love the Scottish islands and to find out that this school won the ScottishPower Swap Shop competition was a lovely surprise. 'The pupils were so responsive and receptive to the topics, it was a very gratifying day.' Kate Brown, primary teacher at Port Ellen Primary School, said: 'The children had a real treat with their visit from Vivian; she has inspired them all with her stories and they are now keen to put pencil to paper and start writing.' Schools across Scotland were invited to hold a book swap before the end of the summer term. More than 2,300 children from schools throughout the country exchanged books with their classmates, in the most successful ScottishPower Swap Shop to date.

THE PIPING SCENE

Grants Glenfiddich Piping Championship

By HUGH MacCALLUM
THE GLENFIDDICH Piping Championship was held in Blair Castle on Saturday October 29. Driving up through the beautiful autumn colours in Perthshire got me thinking just where competitive piping would be without the help of William Grant & Sons. This championship, first held in 1974, is the showcase for pipers who have won at least one of a number of prestigious competitions throughout the season. The contest consists of two sections, one for piobaireachd and the other for March, Strathspey and Reel. Competitors submit six tunes in each discipline and the judges choose one of each for them to play. By the time the lights in the ballroom dimmed just after 10am the seating was almost full to capacity. Bean an tìghe Rona Lightfoot introduced the tunes and the players in turn according to a random draw made earlier. First on was Roddy MacLeod who was given one of his favourite tunes *Lament for Donald Dhuaghal MacKay* to play. He had an outstanding bagpipe sound - full toned and with good balance between drones and chanter. He played a fine tune with very little to find fault with and finished strongly. This was a very good start to the competition. Callum Beaumont, one of this year's new participants by virtue of winning the Gold Medal at The Argyllshire Gathering, was on next. His pipe was noticeably lighter in overall sound to the previous competitor and had a very slightly sharp F. His tune was *In Praise of Morag* - a tune of high technical difficulty. There were some over-long Es in the Urlair and Variation 1 doubling was quite clipped. By the time he reached the Taorluath doubling I felt some of the expression had been lost. Not easy being there for the first time, and a good effort. Niall Stewart was next and his tune was appropriately enough, *The Stewarts White Banner*. There was definitely a hint of a flat high A and this may have accounted for stretching the tuning time. The ground was nicely phrased and the following thumb variation confirmed the flattish high A. The following variation has always presented different views on presentation and I felt on this occasion it lacked flow. The conclusion of the tune was very good. Next up was Chris Armstrong playing *Rory MacLoud's Lament*. This is one of the great classic tunes and Chris made a pretty good job of it. For my taste, I felt his variation 2 was a bit too clipped and in the Cruinluath singling some cadential Es were perhaps too stretched out. Angus MacColl appeared next and was given *The Battle of the Pass of Crieff*. This tune is also known as *The Laird of Coll's Galley* - a much more appropriate title given the flavour of the tune. Apart from some even treatment of some of the early variations, this was a good tune with the drones just slightly drifting in the latter stages. The second of this year's newcomers, Iain K MacDonald from Ontario, Canada, was next to play with *The Lament for the Viscount of Dundee*. This tune has a beautiful melody but unfortunately some phrase ends were clipped giving an unbalanced effect. The middle variations were a bit rushed and in all, a lot of the music in the tune was lost. Another Canadian, this time from British Columbia, Jack Lee, a seasoned competitor at the Glenfiddich, was given the long and testing *Lament for the Earl of Antrim*. This was nicely played but was a bit on the slow side throughout and it seemed to lose flow in the Taorluath variations. The last competitor before the lunch break was Iain Speirs playing another long tune, *Scarce of Fishing*. Iain set off with a very well played Urlair. He kept the tune flowing along well through the variations and had a good finish. The pipe was rock steady from start to finish and for me was the best tune we had heard so far. After a break for lunch and a chance to chat to some Glenfiddich regulars, we resumed with Willie MacCallum playing *Lament for MacSwan of Roaig*. This set off very well with a good ground on a very good bagpipe. There was a slight fluff in the Taorluath and the Cruinluath Breabach was rather stretched out at times. Nevertheless this was a good tune. The final competitor in the piobaireachd was Stuart Liddell with *Beloved Scotland*. Again we heard an excellent bagpipe with good overall balance between drones and chanter. This was a very confident performance although maybe some of phrases in the ground were a little too open at times. This concluded a very good piobaireachd contest. After a short break, the March Strathspey & Reel got underway. Again, this was an excellent competition with some very good playing. The results announced at the end of the day were as follows: Piobaireachd - 1 Iain Speirs; 2 Stuart Liddell; 3 Roddy MacLeod; 4 William MacCallum; 5 Angus MacColl. Piobaireachd judges were Iain Morrison, John McDougall and Colin MacLellan. March, Strathspey & Reel - 1 Roddy MacLeod; 2 Chris Armstrong; 3 William MacCallum; 4 Niall Stewart; 5 Stuart Liddell. Light music judges were John Wilson, Robert Worrall and Gavin Stoddart. The overall champion was Roddy MacLeod, with runner-up Stuart Liddell and third overall William MacCallum. A fitting tribute was paid to the late Jimmie MacGregor by his friend Murray Henderson, on the occasion of Jimmie receiving posthumously the award of the Balvenie Medal for services to piping. Brian Donaldson played a selection of tunes in memory of Glenfiddich stalwarts who had died in the previous 12 months. This concluded a fine day of piping and another successful contest for Liz Maxwell and the team from Glenfiddich Piping and Fiddle.

AROUND THE RURALS

Appin

A COFFEE evening recently held by the Appin SWRI has raised £300 for the SWRI Talking Magazine. The talking magazine provides a taped version of Scottish Home and Country, free of charge to members who are registered visually impaired. The institute's monthly meeting on October 20 took the form of a Corners Night. One group did decoupage with Linda MacLeod, another group made biscuits with Myra MacDougall and Margaret Massey and a third group were quilting with Brenda MacLeod. Tea was served by Margaret Ross and Alison MacCorquodale and everyone enjoyed the homemade biscuits. Competition results: Marshmallows: Gold - Jessie MacKenzie and Marjory Gifford; Silver - Ellen MacCorquodale. Christmas decoration: Gold - Janet Fairbairn; Silver - Doreen Evans; Red - Jessie MacKenzie; Blue - Marjory Gifford; Green - Pat Wyeth-Webb.

Oban

OBAN SWRI welcomed Chief Inspector Brian Auld for an interesting and informative talk about local and national police priorities. Mr Auld explained the four community based priorities: drugs, drunk and disorderly behaviour,

motoring and violent behaviour and how the local police are organised to address these issues and some of their recent successes. Other national priorities include port security and anti-terrorism. Questions were asked throughout the session and Mr Auld explained how there is now an ASBO team for noise and nuisance behaviour prevention and the police are also applying for a no drink zone across the whole of Oban. Mr Auld enjoyed his well earned cuppa and cake and then other rural business was discussed. Ann Malloch gained a silver for her marshmallows in the competition. The 'Christmas Glitz and Glamour' open night on Tuesday, November 29, is shaping up to be an entertaining night, with Christmas themed demonstrations and all are welcome.

Arisaig

ARISAIG branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI) recently held the first meeting of its new session in the Astley Hall. Nine members attended and enjoyed a demonstration of Christmas crackers by Mrs J Corson, Mallaig. Competitions: Photograph of favourite view - 1 Yvonne MacDonald; 2 June Cairns. Best cracker - 1 Bridget Moynihan; 2 June Cairns; 3 Anne Cameron. Tea server, Vera MacDonald. Raffle winner, Ann Lamont.

BARRA

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar is launching its first ever Outer Hebrides Design Awards, with the winners announced early next year. Organised to celebrate high levels of achievement in quality design in the region and aspire to improve the built environment across the county in the longer term, the council says the awards will recognise the benefit of good design in creating places which enhance and inspire a sense of pride in our communities. Nominations are open until January 31, and all properties entered must have been completed two years prior to the closing date. For more information, log on to the council's website at cne-siar.gov.uk.



Barra police officers Blair McMaster, left, and Michael Gaillie, receive their Brave@Heart 2011 awards from First Minister, Alex Salmond, at a ceremony in Edinburgh Castle. The constables were recognised for their part in thwarting an attempted armed robbery at a shop in Castlebay.

this campaign is a fantastic opportunity for Scotland to showcase just one of the superb ingredients from its amazing larder and I am very proud to be playing my part in doing so.

SLEAT

FÀS MÒR, the Gaelic-medium childcare facility at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig college campus in Sleat, has been named as Gaelic Business of the Year in a competition run by Comunn na Gaidhlig (CnAG). Supported by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the competition aims to raise the profile of Gaelic by highlighting companies using Gaelic daily as part of their normal activity.

COLBOST

MICHAEL Smith, head chef at the award-winning Three Chimneys restaurant in Colbost, near Dunvegan, has joined a campaign to boost sales of Scottish lamb. The Quality Meat Scotland autumn initiative aims to promote Scotch lamb as among the best in the world. Mr Smith will share his own favourite lamb recipes and place a special Scotch lamb dish on the menu. He said: 'Being part of

ARDCHATTAN

ARDCHATTAN Community Council's next meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 15. The venue will be the Victory Hall, Benderloch and the meeting will start at 7.30pm. On the agenda will be a range of local issues affecting Barcaldine, Bonawe, Benderloch and North Connel, as well as the opportunity for members of the public to raise concerns. Further information is available from the community council's website at www.community-council.org.uk/ardchattan.

CALLANDAR

LIMITED funds from the Callandar Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme are still available from this year's budget, but only on a first come first served basis. As a result of some applications not proceeding, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park has invited anyone who may have missed the deadline for this year, or anyone who has emergency works that may have arisen, to apply as soon as possible. Only completed applications with three quotes ready for approval for work that can be completed by February 2012 will be considered. Meanwhile, applications for year four of the scheme are now being invited, to be submitted no later than January 6 next year for works starting after March 31. This is the second last year for applications to the scheme. Meanwhile a change to the boundary for the conservation area means more properties are eligible for the scheme. For more information, check the park authority's website at lochlomond-trossachs.org.

DUNBEG

DUNBEG Community Council will be meeting next Monday, November 14, in Dunbeg Church. The meeting will discuss various issues affecting the village.

Newsdesk
01631 568000

KISHORN



DUNBEG

DUNBEG Community Council will be meeting next Monday, November 14, in Dunbeg Church. The meeting will discuss various issues affecting the village.

Harbro
QUALITY LIVESTOCK NUTRITION

Come and join us at the
OPEN DAY
to celebrate the opening of the new
Harbro Country Store
Annat, Corpach, Fort William
Friday, 18th November 2011
from 11.00 am until 4.00 pm

We will have some great offers on the day from the leading brands of clothing, footwear, animal health and pet foods

Come along and enter into our prize draw to win Harbro vouchers - £100.00 plus two prizes of £50.00

Round off your visit with a steak roll and refreshments
We look forward to seeing you there!

Follow us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

Down Your Way

This week - Rum

KINLOCH Castle, including the hostel, closed for the winter last week to allow essential maintenance work to take place. Owners Scottish Natural Heritage will be undertaking extensive repairs to the castle's roof, which will help keep the building weather tight and safe from the elements. The trust looks forward to welcoming visitors again when the building reopens on April 1, 2012.



Any takers? The bare land crofts on Rum need a lot of work to bring them back into agricultural use.

IN A move to boost the island's permanent population of around 37, the Isle of Rum Community Trust is looking for tenants to take on two bare land crofts near Kinloch Castle. Croft 1 was successfully let to Lesley Watt and her partner Neil Boyd in May and common grazing land has been identified. However, Crofts 2 and 3, the most westerly of the group, on semi-improved sloping ground and overgrown with rushes, remain unallocated.

The higher parts are reasonably dry, but lower down by the burn conditions are very wet and both crofts will require a significant amount of work to improve them to anything beyond rough grazing.

Access is down a rough 4WD track that crosses a ford but grant funding may be available from the Crofting Communities Agricultural Grants Scheme to upgrade the track. Funding for a croft houses may also be available.

Croft 2 measures around 13 acres (5.36ha) and Croft 3 nine acres (3.27ha).

For an application pack, contact call the IRCT office on 01687 462 404. Deadline for this round of applications is December 16.



The Byre could be a focal point for social and economic life.

RUM RESIDENTS look set to miss out on an RBS Community Force Award to help fund a feasibility study into redeveloping an old agricultural steading.

The Isle of Rum Community Trust wants to transform The Byre into a social centre with shop, cafe, visitor centre, and accommodation.

The ambitious plan is seen as key to improving facilities for locals and visitors alike following the transfer of ownership of 35 hectares of land and 11 homes in and around Kinloch village from Scottish Natural Heritage to the trust.

A cash boost from RBS would be a boost – but trust development officer Vikki Trefler isn't getting her hopes up.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'I am not overly optimistic because more populated areas are going to get more votes. But we have got 116 votes – which is quite good given our size.'

The trust has already received £2,000 from the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland towards the feasibility study.

RUM's population grew by three per cent last month with the birth of a baby boy to a couple living on the island.

Dave and Sylvia Beaton are proud parents to Andrew, whose arrival brings numbers on Rum up to around 38 – a far cry from its peak of 440 in the late 18th century.

Next week DOWN YOUR WAY visits Ardfern/Craignish with reporter Christine McCartney. You can contact her on 01631 568000 or email cmcartney@obantimes.co.uk.

ISLAY

A BOOK launch of a joint production on Islay and Jura Gaelic place names took place at Ionad Chalum Chille Ìle, Bowmore, on Saturday, October 28.

Everyone involved in local research for the book was invited, as well as all those interested in Gaelic in the landscape, and 50 people attended the event.

Emily Edwards introduced the booklet for SNH and Jacob King and Michelle Cotter, Manaidsear Pròiseict / Project Managers at Ainmean Aite na h-Alba at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and authors of the book, gave short explanations of how the local research and recording were carried out in the islands.

Lynn MacDonald, of Iomairt Ghaidhlig Ìle agus Diura, mentioned the booklet's relevance locally and the extended interest in the project, such as the workshop sessions held with Islay High School pupils during the school's 'Gaelic Days' last May.

Stewart Shaw, of SNH Islay, spoke about the Islay and Jura landscapes and wildlife, which are illustrated throughout the book.

Islay and Jura's Gaelic place-names are alive with descriptions of the local plants and wildlife, people's activities on the land and at sea, and in some cases they immortalise colourful local characters or events. In this book, members of the community have shared their precious and intimate knowledge of the islands which has been passed down, in Gaelic, over generations.

THE PARISH of Kilchoman, St. Kieran's Church, Islay will hold a Service of Remembrance on November 11 at the Military Cemetery at Kilchoman, starting at 11am.

The Rev David Carruthers will conduct the service, and a contingent from HMS Vanguard will be attending.

Transport across the field to the cemetery and memorial will be available for the infirm and elderly. Please meet at the Kilchoman Old Church car parking area at 10.45am. SC

STRACHUR

CHILDREN from Strachur Primary are taking part in the country's biggest ever school trip this week.

Tomorrow, Friday, they will travel to Glasgow Science Centre as part of Green Schools Revolution, a week-long celebration of environmental learning funded by The Co-operative.

Earlier in the year, the school signed up to the Co-op programme and pupils, parents and teachers have been learning about the environmental around them and the difference they can make.

Next week, the school's popular annual curling competition returns and on Friday, November 18, it will be P3/4 Assembly.

KILLIN

RENEWABLES firm, The Wise Group, will hold a free event in Killin this month, giving locals the chance to find out more about green energy.

The social enterprise will be giving impartial advice to

ISLE OF MUCK



Muck residents and instructors at the training day.

Islanders train to use defibrillator

ISLE OF Muck residents have thanked the charity 'Lucky to be Here' and Heartstart Skye for providing the island with an automatic external defibrillator and training on how to use it.

The islanders previously raised more than £1,000 for the charity through donations and fundraising events.

Nineteen of Muck's 38 people aged eight to 70 attended a training day last month, which was made possible by the Portree coastguard and two other heart start volunteers.

The defibrillator is currently being kept in the library at the primary school, but will be stored in the new community hall once it is open.

SPEAN BRIDGE

LOCHABER councillors have agreed to support requests for the installation of memorial benches in Fort William Parade, Blarmafalach and Arisaig.

At their latest business meeting in Fort William, members noted the Commando Veterans Association are erecting a bench for Remembrance Sunday at the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge. The Royal Marines Association also plans to install a seat there. However, councillors agreed to a CVA request that no more 'personal' benches should be installed at the memorial beyond the one sited last year in memory of Jack Quarrie who had a long association with the annual remembrance service and the Commando Association.

MORAR Community Council held its October meeting in Lady Lovat Primary School on October 3.

Abridged minutes: Christmas lights were discussed again. There was an email from Robbie Milne, Highland Council Lighting Department regarding the Christmas tree lights and figures on lampposts and a list of charges. Last year the tree lights acquired worked for the first night only. Eleanor now has them. Alistair Neil will check the tree lights and Councillor Henderson will ask Robbie Milne about the situation regarding the figures. Unsafe road surface on A830 at Arienskill – secretary wrote to Bob

Mitchell of Transport Scotland. There were three more accidents last week.

Correspondence: Membership of Association of Scottish Community Councils – as we paid our membership just days before the notification of the closing down of the association, we asked for it to be reimbursed. This was refused.

Snow Clearing Framework – An email from Highland Council re sourcing tenders for snow clearing. Concerns were expressed regarding unsatisfactory gritting last winter. Secretary will contact TEC Services. Any other business: Cows and sheep are getting on to the railway line. Fencing is very old and dilapidated



Enterprising primary seven pupils organised a Hallowe'en party at Barcaldine school. This year's theme was a character from Horrible History and all sorts were there - from Mary Queen of Scots to Neil Armstrong. The children prepared and made the food themselves and in the afternoon enjoyed party games that they made up themselves, including mummifying one of their group.

BARCALDINE

PUPILS at Barcaldine Primary School have been putting their backs into a fundraising effort for Dalmlally-based charity Mary's Meals.

Charity volunteer Eilidh Campbell visited the school to tell the children about her experiences in Malawi, where she visited the children who have been lucky enough to receive a Back Pack from Mary's Meals.

Barcaldine pupils have been busy collating backpacks to take part in this very worthwhile cause. So keen were they to help, they wrote to all the local businesses appealing for extra help and they were delighted to receive help from Alba, Tesco, The Pound Shop, SemiChem and the Original Factory Shop.

KINLOCHLEVEN

KINLOCHLEVEN-based Nether Lochaber Amateur Boxing Club is asking local online shoppers to help them raise cash for equipment and activities.

Anyone wishing to support the club can visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nether-lochaberamateurboxingclub.

LOCHEARNHEAD

ALCOHOL retailers in the Lochearnhead area will be checked for compliance with new legislation requiring an age verification policy to be in place.

From October 1, all premises that have a liquor licence are required to ask for ID for anyone who appears under the age of 25. Only three forms of identification should be accepted, a passport, photo-card driving licence or a PASS accredited proof of age card.

The checks will be carried out by local police officer, Constable Andrew Ward.

He said: 'During these visits I will be accompanied by our licensing officer who, if necessary, will be able to prepare reports for the licensing board.

I want to ensure licence holders and staff are fully aware of their responsibilities, address any issues or answer any queries they may have and check that all relevant paperwork is correctly displayed.'

A CONCERT arranged by Fiona Martin of Lochearnhead was held in Killin Church to raise funds for the Macmillan Cancer Support.

Among the performers were the Killin Community Choir and talented musicians and singers from Yorkshire who gave an impressive performance. There was an auction later in Killin Hotel of items kindly donated by many people. A total of £2,000 was raised.

GLENDALE

ARRANGEMENTS are in place in Glendale on Skye for Remembrance Sunday, November 13.

A lone piper will lead a procession at 10.30am the short distance from Glendale Village Hall car park to the war memorial, where a short service, conducted by the Rev Daniel Sladek, will be held at 10.45am. A service at Glendale Free Church of Scotland will follow at 11.15am.

The ceremony was revived in 2010 after being in abeyance for several years and attracted a gathering of around 70 people.

DRUMNADROCHIT

Gaelic medium education in the Highlands has taken another step forward after a new classroom opened at Glenurquhart Primary School, Drumnadrochit.

The new unit, and a second classroom at Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig Inbhir Nis (Inverness Gaelic School), were opened by Dr Alasdair Allan, Scottish Minister for Learning and Skills at ceremonies in both communities last Tuesday. Council leader, Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Michael Foxley praised the combined investment of £700,000 as supporting 'the continuing and growing' interest in Gaelic medium education in the Highlands.

Glenurquhart Primary has 120 pupils, with seven in Gaelic medium and three in the Gaelic nursery. Highland Council agreed to provide the extra classroom after parents expressed a demand for Gaelic medium education to be delivered locally.

MORAR

especially between Mallaig and Arisaig. The secretary will write to Network Rail for action to be taken.

Meanwhile, the November 7 meeting was the last meeting of the present council ahead of the community council elections on November 16. As there have been 10 nominations for the eight places on the council there is to be a postal election. All residents of the Morar Community Council who are on the Electors' Register will receive ballot papers.

They will then select up to eight nominees and return the ballot paper in the envelope provided. The present community council will officially cease to be at 11.59pm on November 15.

Mull Lines

THE MUCH talked-about Tobermory toilets in Main Street will be sold to the highest bidder following a meeting of Argyll and Bute Council's executive committee.

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee had previously voted to accept an offer of £1 from a local community group after the closure of the amenity.

However, a Tobermory campaign to save the building from demolition and re-open it as an information and booking centre was launched at the eleventh hour, with 488-signature petition of support. The petition was handed over to councillors the day before the executive meeting last Thursday.

And at the meeting, those who had originally voted in favour of the £1 bid made it clear that they had done so on the basis of all information available at the time, but that the information had since changed. Four bids were received for the property, which was placed on the open market earlier this year inviting offers over £19,950. Officers will now work to conclude the deal with the highest bidder, who will be announced once that has been achieved.

Nic Davies from Tobermory, who handed over the toilet building petition, said: 'Getting the bid to demolish the toilet block rejected is a significant first step. Obviously, having gathered a petition that now has well over 500 signatures on it, it's clear to me that the locals, visitors and businesses who supported this last minute campaign want the eventually successful bid to include public toilet provision. As far as I know, that would be fulfilled only by the current under-bidder, a project to provide toilets alongside visitor information and booking for local businesses.'

Council leader, Councillor Dick Walsh, said it is a statutory requirement for the council to secure the best price reasonably obtainable for its assets and that the council would need to have specific and justifiable reasons not to accept the highest offer.

TEENAGE lifeboat crewman Matt Ratcliffe took part in his first rescue on Friday, less than 72 hours after joining the crew. The 17 year old was part of the crew that went to assist a fishing vessel that had suffered an engine failure just before 6pm last Friday.

The nine-metre fishing vessel was adrift off the treacherous Coll coastline. Matt, the youngest crew member, had only received his pager last Tuesday evening.

The Tobermory lifeboat, took the fishing boat under tow and took her to Arinagour on Coll. The lifeboat returned to Tobermory at 8.44pm.

Second Coxswain James Fairbairns said: 'We train as a crew week in, week out so that we are ready at a moment's notice to respond to calls such as these.'

'Tonight that training paid off and I'm pleased that we not only had a successful outcome but that Matt experienced his first 'shout' too.'

TOBERMORY High School joined other schools around the world to celebrate International School Library Month in October by exchanging bookmarks with schoolchildren around Europe.

This year the pupils were paired up with schools in Hungary and Croatia, and pupils from P5 - S2 created bookmarks to show what life on Mull is like. Partner schools sent letters and Powerpoint presentations telling the Mull pupils about where they live, and the youngsters enjoyed comparing interests and choosing a bookmark from a reader in another country.

westhighlandgas.co.uk

Keep Warm this winter

We can deliver

VERDO Premium Quality products

- Wood pellets and briquettes
- Logs
- Coal
- Peat
- Kindling
- Verdo horse bedding
- De-icing salt

www.argyllresources.co.uk

Tel: 01631 564050 Torran Gorm Industrial Estate, Oban

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

RET for all is the only route

IN August 2007 the Scottish Government announced details of a study into ferry fares in Scotland. Its aim was to establish the most effective and sustainable structure for a Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) pilot scheme for setting ferry fares on the basis of the cost of travelling an equivalent distance by road.

In recognising the vital importance of lifeline ferry services in supporting Scotland's island communities the Scottish Government provided cheaper fares which boosted some island economies, attracting tourists and supporting businesses.

The 2007 promise that this test case would pave the way for cheaper fares for all island communities now needs to be fulfilled. Yes, it will cost money - a lot of money, but the gain to all island economies, and therefore Scotland as a whole, in the long run will vastly outweigh an investment and belief in people.

GLASGOW LETTER

Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association

GLASGOW Lewis and Harris Association made a successful start to the season of gathering concerts at its recent event in Woodside Halls.

Chairman Dr Alasdair Allan MSP ensured the evening passed in a relaxed and fun atmosphere and the artists responded by being in top form. The singers, Ronnie Murray, Margaret I MacLeod, Catriona Watt and Eoghann MacLeod, sang many old favourites while accordionist Charles MacLeod and pianist James Ross played a variety of instrumental selections. A particular feature of the concert was the outstanding selections of bagpipe tunes from Dougie Campbell and Alasdair Henderson, both members of Inveraray and District Pipe Band.

During the evening Cuach Comunn Leodhais agus na Hearadh Glaschu was presented to Morag MacLeod, from Scalpay, who worked at the School of Scottish Studies for nearly 40 years and who has, in retirement, returned to live on her native island.

This year's complimentary dinner for the chairman took place in the Glasgow Pond Hotel where an enjoyable meal was followed by entertaining speeches from Dr Allan and from Angus MacLeod, Political Editor of The Times. Karen Campbell, secretary of the Glasgow Sky Association, spoke on behalf of the kindred associations. Following on from the concert on the Friday evening the annual dance took place in Glasgow University Union to the music of Trail West.

Tiree Association

THE TIREE Association will hold its annual concert in Partick Burgh Halls on Thursday November 17.

Glasgow Jura Association

THE ANNUAL Buffet Ceilidh Dance of the above association will take place in St Vincent's Bowling Club on St Vincent Crescent on Friday November 11, from 8pm to midnight.

Post Mòd Ceilidh

AS IN past years, after the stress of competition at the National Mòd, the Glasgow choirs met for an informal evening of music in Hillhead Sports Club.

On this occasion the hosts were Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association and fear an tigh Alasdair MacMillan ensured that this was a relaxed evening. Those who

had competed at the Mòd performed, as did some others present, and, of course, the highlight was the singing of the prescribed pieces from the Mòd by the massed choirs.

Congratulations

CONGRATULATIONS to Roddy MacLeod MBE, Principal of the National Piping Centre, who was crowned Glenfiddich Champion 2011 at the recent competition held at Blair Castle, Blair Atholl.

Glasgow Islay Junior Gaelic Choir

HAVING had a thoroughly enjoyable time in Stornoway, the choir, the only Gaelic Junior choir in the city outside the educational system, is keen to recruit new members.

Rehearsals take place in the Gaelic School on Tuesday evenings from 6.45 pm until 8.30pm. No knowledge of Gaelic is necessary and the choir would welcome boys and girls from the age of eight years upwards. For further information telephone Elizabeth Campbell 0141 571 5896.

Diary dates

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

Friday November 11: Glasgow Jura Association Annual Dance - see above. Clydebank and District Highlander's Association Ceilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm. Calum's Road, Eastwood Theatre, 7.30pm.

Saturday November 12: Paisley Highlander's Association Ceilidh Dance, Elderslie Village Hall, 7.30pm. Archie Duncan's Band/Cameron MacKichan. The Glasgow Sky Association function has been cancelled.

Thursday November 17: Tires Association Annual Concert - see above. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Clive Gregson.

Friday November 18: Tires Association Annual Dance - see above. Uist and Barra Association Annual Dinner Dance, Glynhill Hotel, 7.30pm to lam.

Saturday November 19: Ceol's Craic, CCA Sauchiehall Street. Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm, Archie MacVicar's Band.

Pub scene

PENNY Dogs will play in the Islay Inn on Friday with Norrie MacIver on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be the Monach Isles on Friday.

Dodgy Ground on Saturday and Stewart Cameron/Simon Moran on Sunday. **Neil Murray, Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.**



Ganavan beach and pavilion - 1960s

This week's flashback photograph is of Oban's Ganavan Pavilion and beach in the 1960s. It was submitted by John Hay of Tainuillt who said: 'Joan McCann's letter of October 13 prompted me to look out this picture my father-in-law took in the 1960s. Joan was right in suggesting that the town lost a real jewel when the pavilion was knocked down.' We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001

Enough is enough

Sir, For the second time in two years, Appin has lost one of its fine young men to the A828 road.

This road runs right through Appin, with numerous points of danger that threaten the community and its visitors.

One of these points is the hill running north from the Creagan Inn. The hill has a hidden dip which conceals an oncoming car from the vision of a driver rounding the Creagan bend.

The common factor between this hill and all the other points of danger in the Appin area - the blind turning to Achnacone, the point where the cycle track crosses close to the primary school, the blind crest at the start of the next 40mph section, the sharp bend by Linnhe Marine and the blind spot by Appin House - is that they all come just before a stretch where overtaking is not possible, either because of the road itself or because there is a change in the speed limit.

There are numerous changes in speed limits through Appin. The school bus is regularly overtaken while picking up and dropping off children. These children then have to cross the road. We have never seen a police speed check; the police station itself is in an unrestricted area.

The only safe way would be to stop all overtaking through Appin, from the Creagan Bridge to Appin House, with double white lines all the way.

We would ask the council/TranServ to implement this as a matter of urgency. **Dr F Gray and Mrs KS Rogers, Achnacloch, Appin.**

Duror shop closure

Sir, Regarding Boris Porski's letter in *The Oban Times* of November 3 on what to do with our shop in Duror, locking the door and throwing away the key is exactly what we are going to do.

Thank you for that advice

Boris. We have had the shop for four-and-a-half years and it has consistently made a loss. At the beginning we did put in all our energies, cleaning, refurbishing, restocking. We were open every day and we got the Post Office back.

Gradually the cracks began to form. You are right, it is never open and there is no stock but that is now. Where were you when we were open and when we did have our fresh local produce writing on our shelves? Let me guess, Tesco?

The hard reality is that little corner shops are a thing of the past, even small private enterprises are gradually vanishing.

As we can all see in our towns, the shops that we all knew and loved are all closing down or distant memories. We have seen the Fort William High Street lose its best shops, Peter McClelland's and Marshall & Pearson. Now we are losing Clarks as well.

The sad fact is people invest in a business to make money. To earn a living that enterprise has to make a profit. Without profit there is no business. Duror Stores will be closing down at the end of this month.

Hilary Wilson, Loch Leven Hotel, North Ballachulish.

Gangway disgrace

Sir, The Craignure gangway debacle is disgraceful and equally avoidable.

There are too many interests involved - Caledonian MacBrayne Ferries (CalMac), CMAL and Argyll and Bute Council.

This is an unnecessary complication, doomed to lead to an endless game of pass-the-parcel, with no one prepared to take responsibility.

A first step would be to remove CMAL from the equation and if neither CalMac, which depend on it for its foot passengers, nor the council, as pier owner, can come up with a solution, then their paymasters, the Scottish Government, should be asked to

deal with it. There appears to be no accountability to ferry users.

Perhaps CalMac might like to explain how it is unable to provide a decent gangway on what is perhaps their most cost-effective route?

James Harmer, Gruline House, Isle of Mull.

Crew a credit to CalMac

Sir, On Saturday November 5, I decided to try out the new ferry from Islay to Oban.

The ferry arrived on time and left on time, but the main difference was the attitude of the crew.

This is no way a criticism of our usual crews who have probably done five or six other sailings before arriving on Colonsay and, naturally, will be tired.

The staff on the *Hebridean Isles* were outstanding. From the moment we stepped on board, the welcome was genuine and the service outstanding, especially from the three young ladies on duty at the restaurant.

Our breakfast was freshly cooked and served at our table with a gleaming smile. All of the crew members were a credit to CalMac and I shall certainly be using this sailing regularly. **Angus MacPhee, Colonsay.**

James Bond in Mid Argyll

Sir, Your article on the re-appearance of 'James Bond' in Mid Argyll refers to his previous appearance.

I recall visiting Crinan in the early 1960s when the islands around there stood in for the Dalmatian Coast where, apparently, the weather was too bad for filming. But there was an accident involving production team members. Behind schedule and over budget, the production crew struggled to complete production in time for the already-announced premiere date that October.

On July 6 1963, while scouting locations in Argyll for that day's filming of the boat chase, Terence Young's helicopter crashed into the water with art director Michael White and a cameraman aboard. The craft sank 40 to 50 feet, but everyone escaped with minor injuries.

Despite the calamity, Young was behind the camera for the full day's work. A few days later, Bianchi's driver fell asleep during the commute to a 6am shoot and crashed the car. The actress sustained facial bruising and Bianchi's scenes had to be delayed two weeks.

The film team stayed at the Crinan Hotel and the stars, apart from Connery and Bianchi, were the Fairey Huntsman high speed launches. Bond saw off the opposition by exploding barrels of fuel in the path of his pursuers. **James Roy, London.**

Lachie Birrell

Sir, Many former shinty players and supporters in Badenoch from the 1960s were saddened to hear of the passing of Lachie Birrell, the former Oban Celtic player.

Lachie was a great player in a great team and we offer the sympathy of both our teams to his family and Oban Celtic Shinty Club as we remember the great games and the friendships struck up after the matches, which exist to this day. **Rob Ritchie, Newtonmore Camanachd Club, Ian Ross, Kingussie Camanachd Club.**

Isla fund thanks

Sir, May I thank everyone who participated, helped, bid and donated to the Isla Fund on Arran and in Oban.

There has been magnificent support for Isla and family who are now in University of North Florida Hospital in Jacksonville awaiting the start of her treatment. They still have a long way to go but they could not have come this far without all of your help. Thank you all. **Elaine Duncan.**

ISLAY LETTER

Bowmore concert

A LARGE and enthusiastic audience attended the post National Mòd concert hosted by Còisir Ghàidhlig Ile in Bowmore Village Hall on October 28.

Choir president and member Fergus Muir was the welcoming fear an taighe and the programme featured performers who had enjoyed great success at the National Mòd in Stornoway last month.

Choral input came from the host choir, conducted by Iseabail Mactaggart, and from Còisir Og Ghàidhlig Ile, winners of the puirt a beul competition under the baton of Arlene MacKerrell.

Also reprising its winning ways was Port Ellen Primary School Choir, led by Maureen MacDonald, and winners of the unison singing, two part harmony and puirt a beul competitions. Winning duettists in the under 18s class were singing sisters Eilidh and Anna MacDonald and Eilidh went on to win the top award in the recitation for 11 to 12 year old girls.

Further duets came from second place prizewinners Zoe Wells and Natalie Dunn and Elizabeth Aitchison and Kayla Woodrow. Gold and silver medal winner Ryan Johnston recited and sang as did Emily Gray who enjoyed similar success.

More poetry came from Zoe Wells, Laura Woodrow and Mairi MacGillivray while Alasdair Currie repeated the performance which saw him among the prizewinners in the solo singing for boys aged between 13 and 15 years.

The ladies and men's sections of the senior choir added their own flavour to the proceedings and the combined choral voices brought all to a close with 'Soraidh leibh'.

Farmers' success

CARRABUS farmers Moyra and Hamish Porter have received the Scottish Beef Cattle Association's achievement and excellence award at a winter beef ceremony held in Fife last month.

This was in recognition of the Porters' success and achievement at the annual Islay Show where they won the premier awards in the Galloway, Highland and Commercial cattle categories. They also scooped the show's overall championship with 'Carrabus Myrtle', a home bred pure Galloway cow.

Presiding at the presentation ceremony at John Cameron's Blabuthie Farm was the

association's current chairman Scott Henderson, and the award was handed over by Scottish Government minister Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs. Well done the Porters.

Gaelic worship

ST JOHN'S Church at Port Ellen hosted a Gaelic service on Sunday evening as part of a regular programme of Gaelic worship held at various churches throughout the island.

The Port Ellen worship was conducted by Church of Scotland Reader Alastair Scouller who has strong links with the Isle of Colonsay and is no stranger to Islay's shores. Assisting in the praise and making their own valuable contribution were members of Còisir Ghàidhlig Ile led by their conductor Iseabail Mactaggart. Further musical backing came from organist Naryan Kundu, currently teaching music at the island's high school.

Book launch

A BOOK featuring many of the place names of Islay and Jura and their derivations was officially launched at a reception attended by local supporters in Ionad Chalum Chille Ile on October 29.

This project was undertaken by Scottish Natural Heritage, Ainmean Aite na h-Alba and Iomairt Ghàidhlig Ile agus Dhùra.

It was overseen by Emily Edwards and also involved local researchers who discovered that many of the area's place names have their roots in the surrounding flora and fauna, ways of life and employment of long gone and local characters whose lives greatly brightened other days.

The 54 page book can be downloaded on www.snh.org. Hard copies are available at ICCL or at SNH offices.

New grand-daughter

CONGRATULATIONS to my son Christopher and his wife Valerie on the birth of their first baby Emily Florence in the Southern General Hospital on October 24.

This is a third granddaughter for Netta and myself and a first grandchild for Sandra and Tom MacCall of Pulpit Hill, Oban.

Mother and Emily are doing very well. So's Dad! **Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX. Telephone: 01496 810658.**

YOUR LETTERS

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

The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith.

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

PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

15 Years Ago

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday, November 14, 1996

Islanders fight to keep school

THE ISLANDERS of Kerrera are going to fight to keep the school on their island open, despite a closure threat by Argyll and Bute Council.

Thirty out of 35 Kerrera residents attended a community council meeting on the island where there was 100 per cent backing to keep the school, which has two pupils who leave next year. Acting chairman of the community council Mark Carter told *The Oban Times* there were two children under school age on the island and another baby due, while four houses on the island were about to change hands.

'The main reasons for keeping it open are the safety of children crossing the water in rough weather and the school is the centre of community life,' said Mr Carter, who runs a canoeing centre, Sea Explore, from the island.

'That part, where the ferry crosses, can be very dodgy and there is no way that I would let my children cross it in bad weather.'

Ferryman Duncan MacEachen, who was born and went to school on the island, said: 'They won't be going in my boat, mainly because of the safety aspects.'

Three families at the meeting had stated they would not have moved to the island if they thought the school was going to close.

Oban war memorial campaign

THE CAMPAIGN launched by *The Oban Times* and the Oban branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland to repair the town's war memorial has got off to a flying start.

After our appeal in last week's paper, the appeal reached nearly £700 in a matter of days. First money into the fund was a cheque for £250 from *The Oban Times*.

The legion members have had a survey of the memorial carried out and this has shown severe damage to the memorial by years of constant pounding by the elements.

It is estimated that £10,000 is needed to carry out the essential repairs, protect the statue from that the weather can throw at it and to create a suitable setting for the memorial with improved paths and surrounds.

The day after *The Oban Times* was published, the first donation arrived. Since then the number has increased steadily.

£10,000 is needed and the total raised in the first five days is £675.

Mr Duncan MacDonald, press officer for the Oban branch said: 'We would wish to express our thanks for *The Oban Times* joining in and publicly introducing the war memorial appeal and for your generous appeal donation.'

Flats feel brunt of gale in Oban

A BLOCK of holiday apartments was left looking distinctly bare last week as high winds ripped off roofing and scattered debris over the town.

Esplanade Court, which felt the full brunt of the bad weather, resembled something from Hollywood's cyclonic blockbuster *Twister* with almost half of its roof gone and workmen struggling against the elements to replace the missing tiling and prevent water damage from incessant rain.

Owner Ian Nicholson, who had been away in Gairloch, said that the first indication he had was when television reports told of the damage.

This was then confirmed when he phoned home to speak to his son Alastair. 'We thought it was going to be much worse. It could have been quite nasty, but luckily it was just the tiling which was blown off and fortunately the apartments were all empty.'

The winds reached a peak at about 4am, when they hit the three-year-old apartments, leaving material strewn over Breadalbane Street.

As the clear-up operation began, Mr Nicholson said the task was now to get the damage assessed for insurance purposes and set about re-felting and re-tiling the roof.

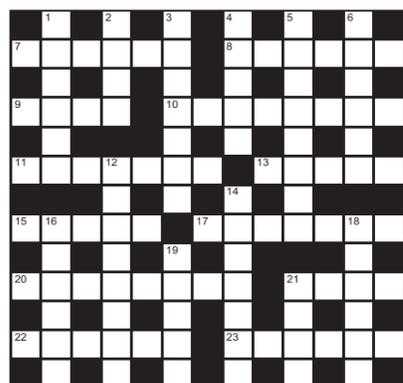
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

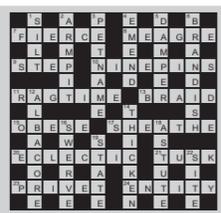
- Fix (6)
- Double layered (3-3)
- Several (4)
- You can see it without looking at it (5)
- Tomb shape (7)
- Book of accounts (5)
- Happy pirate? (5)
- Pressing (7)
- Server (8)
- Burlap fiber (4)
- Even though (6)
- A gem of a sweet (6)

Down

- Something left (6)
- Offspring (4)
- Citadel of Moscow (7)
- Smelled (5)
- In summer it's longest and winter the shortest (8)
- Team member (6)
- Corsusant (8)
- Annoying (7)
- Prophet (6)
- Small chop (6)
- Begin (3-2)
- Green gem (4)



Last week's solution





Show your spots

let's

lots!

raise

SCHOOL children, Argyll businesses and The Oban Times have joined forces this week to support Children in Need. Pupils at Lochnell Primary School picked up their colouring pens to brighten up advertisements for local businesses, whilst The Oban Times is donating 20 per cent of the advertising revenue. BBC Children in Need positively changes the lives and prospects of children and young people living in the UK who have suffered hardships, difficulties or disadvantages of some kind. The Oban Times would like to thank all the businesses who have featured on this page and all the children without whom this page would not be as exciting. Be proud that you have helped raise £248 for the the BBC Children in Need appeal.



The successful artists are, back row first from left, Ben Fitton, Finlay Bennett, Sandy Bavington, Eilidh Barron and Dougie MacDougall. Front; Grace Charlton, Matthew MacDonald, Freya MacKechnie, Awaadh Majid Naushad-Khan and Tom Howe. 15_145c1p1

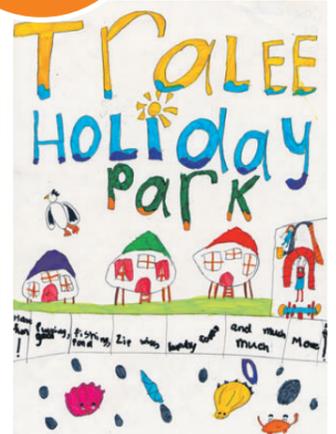


Grace Charlton
Primary 3

TRALEE BAY HOLIDAYS
lodges and caravans - Oban, Scotland
Award Winning 5 Star Park-Caravan, Lodge Holidays and Short Break Holidays

Pleased to support
Children in Need 2011

Telephone 01631 720 255/217
email: tralee@easynet.co.uk www.tralee.com



Awaadh Majid
Naushad-Khan
Primary 6

OBAN EXPRESS
Delivery Solution for
Parcels to Pallets and more...

Delighted to support
Children in Need 2011

01631 563745

Call: 01631 563745

Oban Express... more
Careful than the Rest

S. D. MacDOUGALL
AUTOSERVICES

Pleased to help Pudsey

**MOT's Car Repairs,
Services and Car Sales**

Unit 6, Lochavullin Ind. Est., Oban
Tel: 01631 566502 01631 566470

SD MCDUGALL'S GARAGE

We're Bunking so help

TEL: 01631 566 502

Ben Fitton
Primary 6

The Oban Fish & Chip Shop
and Restaurant

Happy to support Children in Need 2011

116 George Street, Oban
Tel: 01631 567000

Oban Fish and
Chip Shop

Where fish are
Made to be the
best

Freya
MacKechnie
Primary 4

R.A. Clements ACCOUNTANTS

BEFORE WORRY AFTER RELAX

PH. 01631 706011

R A Clement Associates
Chartered Accountants
& Business Advisors

R A Clement Associates are happy to support Children in Need 2011 and hope that it is another good year!

www.raclement.co.uk
5 Argyll Square, Oban, Argyll PA34 4AZ
Tel: 01631 562643
Fax: 01631 566043

Esso

HALFWAY FILLING STATION

Telephone:
01631 562784

Put the Fun
into Fundraising !

Half Way House Filling Station

Tom Howe
Primary 5

LONAN PROPERTIES LIMITED

HAPPY TO SUPPORT CHILDREN IN NEED 2011

New Builds • Extensions
House sales • Renovations • Repairs

Please contact H Matheson
on 01866 822181
Innishail - Tainuill - PA35 1JH

before after

Lonan Properties

Eilidh Barron
Primary 5

Mathew
MacDonald
Primary 4

LIDL Supermarket

a great range of
Food!!
and lots
more.

chocolate pudding
and ice cream go
nicely together

Just what I need

LIDL

Happy to Support
Children
in Need

Lochavullin Drive, Oban
www.lidl.co.uk



Dougie
MacDonald
Primary 5

back front left side right side

Shauna Cameron
Architect

shauna cameron architect

Selma Church
Benderloch
Oban PA37 1qp
t/f 01631 720215
shauna.cameron@argyllarchitects.co.uk

Shauna & Joan
support
Children in Need



Kevin Henderson
Fin Da Laand Ageen
 Meaning To Arrive Back Home, Kevin Henderson's debut album as a solo artist is a prime example of traditional Shetland tunes from across the islands. For Kevin, a founding member of Fiddler's Bid in 1991, it is a continuation of his fine form, creating an effortlessly beautiful sound that is iconic of his work



Fiona Cuthill And Stevie Lawrence
A Cruel Kindness
 Two of Scotland's most respected contemporary folk musicians have combined to create a top quality album mostly of their own compositions. While Fiona is a classically trained violinist, schooled by Bill Baxter of the renowned Hallé Orchestra, Stevie's past is firmly bedded in rock music. The result is an exciting marrying of traditional Scottish music with a modern edge that's sure to find fans.



The Waterboys
An Appointment With Mr Yeates
 A collection of new songs by Mike Scott using the lyrics of Ireland's greatest poet, WB Yeates, this album first existed as a concert performance, debuting at Dublin's Abbey Theatre in 2010. It took a wonder performance at this year's Celtic Connections to force Scott into the studio for the first time since 2007 and his fans will be delighted he took the plunge, with the combination of his musicianship and Yeates' lyrics almost the perfect combination.



sponsored by **musicscotland.com**

Over 4000 Scottish, Irish, Roots, World, Folk and Celtic music CDs, DVDs, books and sheet music titles, with mp3 music samples.
 Worldwide despatch next working day of in-stock titles

www.musicscotland.com
 or
 Tel: 01631 719 001
 Email: info@musicscotland.com
 20 Argyll Square,
 Oban PA34 4AT
 musicscotland.com
 is part of Oban Music

gig guide your essential guide to live music in argyll

Thursday night > Skipinnish Celiadh House	Ceilidh at 9pm followed by Club Night at 11.30
Saturday night > Skipinnish Celiadh House	Club Night at 11pm
Friday 11 November > Markie Duns	Cairdeas 9.30pm
Saturday 12 November > Markie Duns	Allan frew
Friday 18 November > Markie Duns	Tim O Connor 9.30pm
Saturday 19 November > Markie Duns	Allan frew 9.30pm



Members of Oban High School Pipe Band at the band's annual ceilidh. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

High school pipe band celebrate success with annual ceilidh

OBAN High School Pipe Band is £3,800 better off following its annual fundraising ceilidh dance in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on Saturday.

Hugh MacQueen, Peter Sinclair and Rosie Stevenson and the Peat Moss Ceilidh Band provided the entertainment.

During the evening a presentation was made to four stalwarts of the band, who have been members since its inception and over the last few years contributed to the band's considerable success.

Inscribed quaichs were presented to DJ MacDougall, Jenny Livingstone, Gavin MacMillan and Louisa Stage.

DJ MacDougall and Jenny Livingstone will now join the Oban Pipe Band and will also continue to help Angus MacColl teaching the young high school band members.

West well represented in annual Trad Music Awards

WEST Highland musicians have again featured prominently in the list of nominees for this year's MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards.

Another of Fort William's Henderson clan, Ewen's older brother Allan, could also pick up more than one award as part of the Blazin' Fiddles, nominated as Live Act of the Year and Community Project of the Year for its Blazin' in Beauty.

Voting for the 16 categories closes on November 18 and the awards ceremony, fronted by Mary Anne Kennedy and Tony Kearney, is due to take place in Perth Concert Hall on December 3.

Former Blazin' Fiddles player Aidan O'Rourke, originally from Seil, is one of four musicians shortlisted for composer of the year.

Perennial award winners Skerryvore are also shortlisted for Live Act of the Year and will perform live on the night of the prizegiving.

Robert Nairn, from Kentra, Ardnamurchan, is in with a chance of winning the Scottish Dance Band of the Year category and the award-winning Inveraray Box and Fiddle Club is in the running for another prize, shortlisted in the Club of the Year category.

Manran's Ewen Henderson could win another award as part of the Battlefield Band, which could win the Scottish Folk Band of the Year category.

Votes can be made through the awards website.



Above: Mànran's debut album has been short-listed in the 'Album of the Year' category and vocalist Norrie MacIvor in the 'Gaelic Singer of the Year' category for this year's Trad Awards. Band member Gary Innes said: 'Mànran are over the moon to be nominated for 'Album of the Year' and Norrie MacIvor for Gaelic Singer of the year at this year's Trad Awards. We hope that anyone who has bought the album has enjoyed it as much as we enjoyed making it!'



Connel's Joy Dunlop, right, said: 'I'm thrilled, and more than a bit stunned, to have been nominated in the Gaelic Singer of the Year category. As always, the winner will be decided by public vote so if you would like to lend me a bit of support, I would really, REALLY appreciate it.'

Music society hosts Oban concert

OBAN Music Society's second concert of the season will be taking place on November 13 in St John's Cathedral.

Violinist Andrea Galic and pianist Anna Rastapchina will be performing Beethoven's 'Spring' Sonata and Brahms's Sonata N°1 in G major plus other pieces.

Andrea trained from a very early age at the St Mary's Music School in Edinburgh and at the age of 12 she performed the Bruch Scottish Fantasy at St. James' Palace for Yehudi Menuhin's 60th birthday celebration. She studied at the Peabody Institute and Gnessin Russian Academy before post graduate studies at the Royal College of Music under Felix Andrievsky.

She has performed all over the world and recorded with the BBC, and STV, to name but a few. She plays using a violin made by Nicolaus Gagliano in 1776.

Anna was born in St Petersburg, Russia, where she studied at the State Conservatoire. In 1994, Anna was awarded the Broadwood Fellowship in piano accompaniment at the RSAMD, and the following year won the RSAMD scholarship. Since then she has been based in Glasgow, performing as a soloist and ensemble player and teaching piano at the RSAMD, University of Strathclyde and other schools of music.

The duo has been playing together throughout the country over the past seven years.

Inveraray pipers for next Netherlorn recital

TOP PIPERS from Inveraray and District Pipe Band will play at the Netherlorn Piping Society recital next Wednesday in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

The hugely successful grade one band is sending some of its finest, including Callum Beaumont, who won the gold medal at this year's Argyllshire Gathering.

Also playing is the band's winning quartet, which took top honours at the Piping Live competition in Glasgow.

'Crows' play for Glenorchy Kirk

TAYNUILT theatre company, The Three Wee Crows, will visit Glenorchy Kirk this weekend as part of the ongoing celebrations to mark the building's 200th anniversary.

Crows in the Kirk starts at 7.30pm this Saturday, all proceeds go towards the kirk's funds.

Aberfeldy 'Birks' appeal gathers momentum

A POSTCARD of a happy, film-going pig, drawn by Hollywood actress Emma Thompson, has helped raise £4,000 for the group hoping to reopen Aberfeldy's Birks Cinema.

The star of Nanny McPhee was among hundreds to contribute to the blind auction at the cinema, with names of the artists obscured until the winning bids were announced.

In total, some £60,000 has been raised from donations, pledges and seat sponsorship in recent months, however several hundred thousand pounds are still required to ensure work goes ahead in January.

The Friends of the Birks Cinema's Julia Watson said: 'We are planning a widespread appeal across Highland Perthshire and we are also awaiting the results of several grant applications, which will be reporting from the middle of November onwards.'

'In the meantime, we are assessing tenders from building companies in order to get a fully costed final plan together.'

Local Producers Market
 Thursday 17th November
 Kintaline Farm, Benderloch,
 1 mile along the Tralee road
 10 am to 3 pm
LOTS TO EAT AND DO
 Every First / Third Thursday
 Interested Producers contact
 01631 720223
 Local Origins Rural Network
 www.lorn.org.uk



The Eilidh MacInnes School of Dance will represent Argyll at an international gathering of Highland dancers at EuroDisney, Paris this weekend. Eilidh and her team of seven young dancers have been perfecting their routine all summer, while fundraising for the 'trip of a lifetime' since March. The girls will perform a dance, choreographed by Eilidh, called Oban 200, to a Techno/Highland musical score. The Oban Times met up with the girls at their final dress rehearsal at Atlantis Leisure. Putting their best foot forward are, from left, Karina Black, Kirsty MacInnes, Abbie MacKenzie, Eilidh MacInnes, Jenna MacInnes, Bronwen Davies and Katie MacPherson. 16_t45eilidh01

WIN tickets to see Cinderella in Oban!

The Oban Times has teamed up with Spotlight Musical Theatre Group to give away four pairs of tickets to see this year's pantomime Cinderella at Corran Halls in Oban. The show takes place at 7.30pm from Thursday December 1 to Saturday December 3, 2011, with a matinee as well on the Saturday at 2pm.



The winners will enjoy great songs and all the usual pantomime humour performed by a stream of familiar characters including Cinderella, Buttons, Princey and The Ugly Sisters.

To enter the competition, simply answer the question below.



Question:
 The story of Cinderella features a famous slipper which is left behind at the ball, from what is the slipper made?
 a) Glass b) Plastic c) Wood

Fill in your details along with your answer below and post to Competitions, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.

Entries must be submitted by Monday November 21, 2011

Answer

Name

Address

Telephone

Email

Terms and conditions: The Oban Times has two tickets per evening show and two tickets for the matinee to give away. Winners per pair of show tickets will be chosen at random. Winners cannot select preferred show dates. The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families.

Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club

The real
Inspector Hound
 By Tom Stoppard

Corran Halls, Oban
 November 11th and 12th, 8pm
 Tickets £5 • Box Office 01631 567333
 Photo by Rebecca Cox

Archaeological and historical society hear about Scotland's kelp industry

Next meeting will look at exploring the Scottish landscape

LORN Archaeological and Historical Society's winter programme got off to great start with a nearly full house last month with a talk on a little known subject, the Kelp Industry.

Sue Hothersal talked knowledgeably on the subject explaining how quickly Highland landowners realised the sizeable profits that could be made from this industry. Some made up to 10 times more income than their land rentals made.

The speaker emphasised the general lack of physical evidence remaining of the 18th and 19th century industry as well as the hard conditions for those involved.

Recently at the Society's AGM Honor-

ary members Bob McCulloch and Charlie Drummond put on an extremely varied transport-themed slide show that was very well received by the members.

Office bearers were re-elected but the Society are still actively looking for a new 'Historic Argyll' magazine editor.

The next lecture will be on Friday, November 18 when Julian Hill will talk on 'Exploring the Scottish Landscape. The Early Pioneers 1600-1800'.

Julian has spoken in the past to the Society usually in a geological context and this meeting begins at 7.30pm in the Undercroft, Glenclutten Hall, to which visitors are also welcome.

Relax and enjoy Your local news from wherever you are.

www.obantimes.co.uk/digital

Lorn Drama Festival 2012

THE 15th Lorn Drama Festival will be held from March 26 to 30 next year. The festival committee set the date at its recent AGM. As always, it will be held in the Corran Halls and the committee is now looking for local clubs and drama groups who intend to participate. Please get in touch with martyngibson@phonecoop.coop or visit www.facebook.com/LornDramaFestival.



Island Breeze entertain

The colourful and entertaining Island Breeze, including the Samoan dancer, above, attracted 584 people to the Corran Halls on Friday, some of whom will have seen the concert as an alternative to the early-finishing fireworks display. The following day, around 700 people are estimated to have watched the muscle-toned giants of Team Xtreme. Photos by Kevin McGlynn.

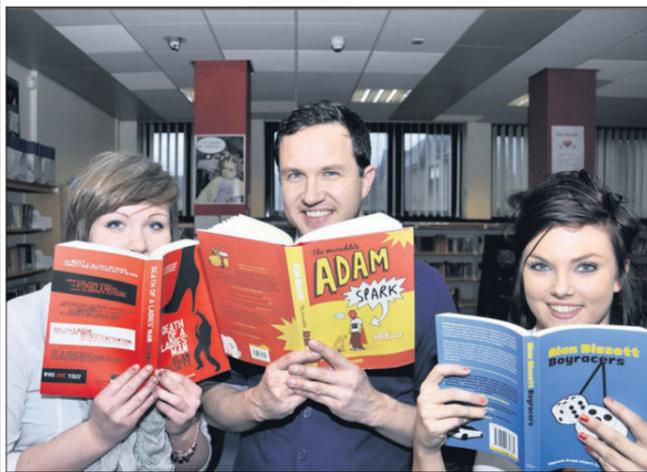


Tony Samoan doing the fire dance in the Corran Halls.



Spotlight gets in festive mood with Cinderella panto

Spotlight Musical Theatre Group will tell the story of Cinderella next month for its annual Christmas pantomime. Beginning on December 1, the panto features cast members, from left, back row - Ugly Sisters Roddy MacEachan and Michael Wall. Front row - Stephen Day as Buttons, Iona Robertson as Cinderella and John Robinson as the Prince.



Popular author visits Oban High School

POPULAR teen-fiction author Alan Bissett visited Oban High School last week to give a reading of his book, *Boy Racers*, before taking questions from keen pupils. The Falkirk born writer's humorous writing style enthralled S4 and Advanced Higher pupils, many of whom rushed to buy signed copies of his books - including those who don't list reading books among their hobbies. Partly funded by the Scottish Book Trust, Alan also held a creative writing workshop with the Advanced Higher pupils.

Left: Pictured with Alan Bissett after his reading at Oban High School on Friday are S4 pupils Jess Fraser, left, and Rebecca Forgievie. 15_145abissett1



Family group Hallowe'en party fun

Soroba Young Family Group held a Hallowe'en party in the community room, attended by 36 children, aged between three and four. Most of the children were in fancy dress and enjoyed dancing and games and lots of healthy party snacks.

Fourth green flag for Lochnell



Lochnell Primary School's Eco Committee celebrate receiving their fourth green flag in succession at one of the flower patches it has helped create. 15_145lochnellflag45

PUPILS at Benderloch's Lochnell Primary School are celebrating after winning their fourth Green Flag for environmental projects in succession. Awarded only every two years, it rewards the school for its commitment to environmentally friendly projects and raising awareness of green issues. Lochnell's Eco-Schools co-ordinator Karen Ross said: 'We're delighted. The pupils, from nursery to P7, have been working very hard for this.'

Ardchattan celebrates 125 years



Ardchattan Primary School celebrated its 125th birthday on Friday November 4 with a birthday lunch for pupils, staff and parents. The school opened on November 8 1886 with a roll of 14 pupils and a headteacher, Mr Campbell. In the early 20th century, the roll reached more than 100 pupils and led to the addition of two extra classrooms and a cookery room. To celebrate this impressive history, the current pupils chose a favourite lunch of curry followed by chocolate fudge cake, which all the guests thoroughly enjoyed.

Defibrillator installed in Glendaruel phone box

PHONE boxes were once a lifeline for rural communities but the village of Glendaruel has taken the term literally by installing a defibrillator in an unused red kiosk. The life-saving equipment to treat cardiac arrest victims has been fitted to the phone box, alongside step-by-step instructions on how to use it. It is the first phone box of its kind in Scotland and one of only five in the UK. Girl Guide Heather Munro, aged 16, came up with the idea during a competition held by 1st Glendaruel Guides to find the best use for the phone box. The group had just gained first aid certificates with the British Red Cross. Heather's mother, Suzy Munro, a guide leader and member of Colintrave and Glendaruel Community Council, said: 'We have a lot of visitors to the village, who come for the walking and our annual Cowalfest, and a number of the local businesses are in the tourist trade. 'We have seen people suffering from chest pain and heart-related symptoms and, sadly, there was a fatality just a few weeks ago. 'A defibrillator in the centre of the village will be a real asset and could help save lives in future.' The phone box was one of four bought by the community council for £1 each under Adopt A Kiosk because they were no longer needed as working payphones. Machine The machine analyses the victim to determine if they are having a cardiac arrest. If required, it delivers a powerful but controlled electric shock to restore normal heartbeat. The equipment was paid for by BT under its Adopt A Kiosk scheme. Last year no calls were made from 451 of the 5,373 payphones in Scotland, which each cost an average of £800 a year to maintain. Argyll and Bute had the highest number of unused phone boxes in 2010.

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL
19th - 27th November 2011
www.obanwinterfestival.com

SKATING
SHOPPING
ENTERTAINMENT
PARADES & LIGHTS
FOOD & DRINK
A GREAT ATMOSPHERE

Photograph courtesy of Deanna Hurdley www.deannahurdley.com

Argyll & Bute Council
MacQueen Bros. Charitable Trust
NHS Highland
Argyll & Bute Council

"No Budget Films" present
A NIGHT OF FILM SHORTS
The Studio Theatre (Corran Halls)
Thursday 17 November 2011, 7.30pm
Admission FREE, donations welcome
Bar Open
Presented by The Lorne Resource Centre and James Watt College Film Group

Oban Music Society
Concert
Sunday 13th November 3.00p.m.
St John's Cathedral
Andrea Gajic (Violin) & Anna Rastopchina (Piano) playing Beethoven, Chopin, Schumann, Brahms & Piazzolla.
Non members welcome, tickets at the door £10 (£8), students free.

Follow us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Oban Art Society Demonstration By Calum MacFarlane-Barrow Knife Painting in Oils Friday Nov. 11th, 2011 Lorn Resource Centre, Soroba Road, Oban 7.30 pm - 9.30pm Visitors welcome	St John's Cathedral, Oban CHARITIES SALE Saturday 12th November 2.00pm St John's Cathedral Hall In aid of Alzheimer Scotland & Marie Curie Usual stalls, teas, raffle Door collection	North Argyll Diabetic Support Group OLD OBAN SLIDESHOW (Courtesy Bob MacCulloch & Charlie Drummond) Parish Church Hall Monday 14th Nov. 7.30pm Entry £3 Including Tea/Coffee Raising funds to support recently diagnosed children
Netherlorn Piping Society Presents Callum Beaumont Gold Medalist at Oban 2011 And the prize winning quartet from Inveraray & District Grade 1 Pipe Band On Wed. 16th Nov. 2011 Argyllshire Halls, Oban At 7.30pm Adults £3 Children Free	LOCHABER RURAL EDUCATION TRUST Auction Sale In the Rural Education Centre, Aonach Mor Road, Fort William On Saturday 12th November at 11am Furniture, Bric a brac, ceramics, pool table, tools etc etc Further entries accepted Friday 11th 9am-4pm Further information from 01397 703819	Meur Lochabair Ceilidh Dance West End Hotel On 26th November 2011 At 7.30pm Guest singers Norman MacKinnon Don R MacIver Ness Melodians Admission £8
Cancer Research UK CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT 11 - 11 - 11 Friday 11th November Prizes, Raffles Royal Hotel, Oban 7.30pm start Everyone Welcome Max. 6 members per team.	Lorn Garden Club By popular demand, George McNab is back to show us some of his wonderful 'Cacti' in St John's Cathedral Hall, Oban (entrance from lane at rear) On Tuesday 15th November At 7.15 for 7.30pm Refreshments to follow including home baking	An evening with the Three Wee Crows Theatre Company Glenorchy Kirk, Dalmally, Saturday 12 November 2011 7.30pm. Admission £5.00. All proceeds to Glenorchy Kirk.

To advertise in the **WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD**
Telephone: **01631 568000**

Argyll Animal Aid CHRISTMAS FAYRE
Corran Halls, Oban
11am - 3pm
Saturday 19th November, 2011
Craft Stalls, Unique Gifts, Cards, Charity Stalls
Teas and Home Baking

FREE INVERAWE TREAT
WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE TO THE OBAN TIMES*
Worth £19.95

The Inverawe Treat, courtesy of Inverawe Smokehouses, combines its delectable smoked salmon with its award-winning roast smoked salmon pate and some of Macleans cocktail oatcakes, the perfect accompaniment. Visit www.smokedsalmon.co.uk.

CALL SUBSCRIPTIONS ON 01631 568 000 OR VISIT WWW.OBANTIMES.CO.UK

*Cancellation charges apply and no refunds can be given. By signing up to this offer you agree for the Oban Times to share your details with Inverawe Smokehouses and for them to contact you. Applies to 12 months subscription minimum. For full terms and conditions visit www.obantimes.co.uk.

Isle of Barra radiographer up for award

UIST and Barra Hospital's only radiographer, Ishbel Walker has been nominated for the Unsung Hero Award at this year's Scottish Health Awards.

Ishbel has been described as 'a worthy finalist' by the health board, for her unquestionable commitment to her job, despite the challenging conditions she has to deal with.

For the last 11 years, she has worked single handed across the islands, providing routine and emergency services to around 6,000 patients.

She will find out if she has won at an awards ceremony in Edinburgh this week.

Council web-chat

ARGYLL and Bute Council's leader, Dick Walsh, will take part in a live, online web-chat about the authority's approaching budget. Mr Walsh will take to the internet next Wednesday from 7pm, allowing anyone with web-access to contact him directly. To take part, visit www.argyll-bute.co.uk/budget-chat on Wednesday from 7pm.

Barra children's centre gains £5,000 major funding boost

Local businesses come to aid of Castlebay playroom

BARRA Children's Centre has received a £5,000 grant to refurbish the centre's well used playroom and create a child-friendly area in the café.

Shopping list

The grant for the Castlebay facility from the P and G Champion Mum's Foundation, sponsored by Marie Claire magazine, came after Abigail Treffy, a member of the centre's management committee, entered the competition in September.

She was asked to submit a shopping list as part of the

selection process and, as well as requesting plenty of new play equipment and toys, she included details of a refurb, including creating a door between the café and the playroom to make a family friendly playspace for the community.

Support

Since the win, flooring company Altro has offered to donate flooring for the playroom, café and hallway to put the finishing touches to the job, while the Macgillivray's of Benbecula have offered to fit the flooring. The island's biggest employer,

Barratlantic, has also offered to help transport all goods coming from Glasgow.

Meanwhile, full funding for the comprehensive refurbishment was completed after local councillors Peter Carlin and Donald Manford donated towards the project.

Abigail said: 'It's fantastic for the centre and what's great about it is the centre enjoys lots of community support and from all areas.'

'This will allow us to create an even more family friendly space for everyone to enjoy.'

'It's a wonderful pat on the back for us all and something we would never have achieved on our own.'

In addition to providing space for the council-run nursery provision, the centre provides a parent and toddlers facility, including playleader led activities in Gaelic and English for babies, toddlers and their families.

The centre was opened in 2002 after locals raised £26,000 to supplement funding from the local community council, the National Lottery and local authority.



Oban firefighters got the chance to try out their telescopic ladder last week, when a pane of glass from a Velux window came out of its frame. Crowds of people gathered to watch as the specialist unit was reversed into Craigmair Road on Friday afternoon.

Kintyre road to close in 20 minute spells

THE MAIN arterial route through Kintyre will be closed for 20 minutes on a number of occasions this week as road works continue on the A83 north of Kennacraig.

Traffic on the A83 has been reduced to one lane, north of the Kennacraig ferry terminal, since November 7, but will be closed for 20-minute intervals this week as resurfacing work takes place on parts of the road that are less than six metres wide.

Scotland TranServ, which is carrying out the maintenance works, said the temporary closures will be timed to avoid peak times and avoid clashes with the Islay - Kennacraig ferry and Campbelltown and Kintyre bus timetables.

The roadworks, which are due to be complete on November 18, will take place Monday to Friday, between 7am and 6pm.

MOTORS

<p>NISSAN PATROL 2005</p>  <p>One owner, Automatic, Leather seats, Sat nav, MOT till March, 91,000 miles, Good condition</p> <p>Tel: 01546 510 245 / 07748 513297</p> <p>£9,000 ono</p>	<p>VAUXHALL CORSA SXI 1.2 51 REG</p>  <p>M.O.T till 09/02/12, TAX till 31/01/12 starts and drives fine. 1 or 2 scratches and dents apart from that ok, not the best example of this car, not in good condition but in ok condition.</p> <p>Telephone: 01631 564809 07796752974</p> <p>£500 O.N.O</p>	<p>RANGE ROVER</p>  <p>2498cc Diesel 2000 Reg. 168k miles. 11 months MOT. Tax end Jan 2012.</p> <p>Telephone: A MacKay 07500 929 240 or 07407 644 053</p> <p>£3950 o.n.o. Mull</p>	<p>WANTED</p> <p>Landrover Defenders from 1990 - 2011 All Japanese pickups 2 or 4 WD Mot'd or not All models required</p> <p>Contact James on 07966293996 or 07866590583</p>	<p>WANTED ALL TYPES OF 4 X 4 VEHICLES</p> <p>Petrol or diesel Any mileage From old to new Instant decision Cash paid.</p> <p>Telephone 07889 224043</p>	<p>VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9CDTI (150)</p>  <p>2007 (57 plate), 68,000 miles, 1 years tax and MOT, excellent condition, parts warranty until October 2012.</p> <p>Telephone: 01583 431744 or 07794 854926</p> <p>£5,995 ono</p>	<p>VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 CLUB</p>  <p>56 reg, 38,000 miles, 11 months MOT, 3 months tax, FSH, alloy wheels, roof spoiler, 7 seater.</p> <p>Telephone: 07789515826</p> <p>New price £4295 o.n.o.</p>	<p>28FT. YACHT.</p> <p>Hull sound, but requires work.</p> <p>Telephone: 01631 740317 (after 6pm)</p> <p>Offers</p>
<p>VAUXHALL ASTRA 16V ELEGANCE</p>  <p>MOT - August 2012, Roof Rack, Stereo System and Alloy Wheels included, Elegance range include - Electric front and rear windows and mirrors, 1 owner (lady driver), Well looked after and in excellent condition, Will tax to 31st July 2012 if full asking price is paid</p> <p>Contact 01586-551162 (Campbelltown) 2 Mobile Number 07833476682</p> <p>£1250 o.n.o. for quick sale</p>	<p>WANTED ALL TYPES OF 4 X 4 VEHICLES</p> <p>Landrover, Toyota, anything considered. We also buy non runners, accident damaged and MOT failures, instant cash.</p> <p>Telephone 01250 884306 or mobile 07885 203020</p>	<p>2006 FORD KA 1.3</p>  <p>51,000 miles FSH Taxed and MOT'd One owner since new.</p> <p>Telephone: 01770 (Arran) 302334</p> <p>£1850</p>	<p>VAUXHALL ASTRA CLUB II - 2004(54)</p>  <p>1.6 petrol, 5door, Automatic (Tiptronic) 56,500 Miles. MOT September 2012, Taxed February 2012.</p> <p>Tel: 07769 258683 / 01546 510207</p> <p>£2500 o.n.o.</p>	<p>FIAT PUNTO GRANDE ACTIVE 1.2</p>  <p>2008 3-DOOR HATCHBACK (Navy Blue), Approximately 30,000 miles with 1 owner. Taxed until Jan 2012 and MOT'd until July 2012. Service History. Recently had 4 new tyres fitted. Reliable and tidy.</p> <p>Telephone: 01631 562729</p> <p>£3500</p>	<p>VAUXHALL VECTRA SRI 130</p>  <p>1.8ltr, 2001, Taxed till January 2012, MOT till June 2012, Radio / CD, 106k miles, Very good condition for year.</p> <p>Telephone: 01546 602387</p> <p>£1000</p>	<p>2004 IFOR WILLIAMS HB510 HORSE TRAILER</p>  <p>RARELY USED EXCELLENT CONDITION INSIDE & OUT</p> <p>Telephone: 07876 598 581</p> <p>£2500 ONO</p>	<p>2004 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN</p>  <p>Di-D 4WORK 3.2 SWB COMMERCIAL, Silver, Only 61000 miles, service history, MOT Dec 11, Tax end Jan 12. Tow bar. Excellent condition.</p> <p>Telephone: 07876 598 581</p> <p>£7500</p>
<p>YAMAHA SR125</p>  <p>1991, MOT till June 2012, Lots of new extras, Excellent condition</p> <p>Telephone or text: 07870 877005 (after 4.30pm)</p> <p>£650 ono</p>	<p>VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT 2.0 S</p>  <p>Petrol, 2003, excellent condition, 66,500 miles, 5 months tax, 7 months MOT.</p> <p>Tel: 07887 721992 or 01586 554769</p> <p>£1,800 o.n.o.</p>	<p>SUZUKI VITARA 4X4</p>  <p>Commercial, Turbo diesel, 2001 (Y), 62,000 miles, Good condition, Good MPG</p> <p>Tel: 07900 677962 / 01546 850339</p> <p>£1,550 ono</p>	<p>FORD FOCUS 1.8</p>  <p>Metallic Green, W reg, 70,000 miles, CD Player, Alloy Wheels, 11 months MOT, 5 months tax, very good condition</p> <p>Telephone: 01631 563518</p> <p>£1,000 O.N.O.</p>	<div data-bbox="1352 1644 1919 1881">  <p>Specialist Car Insurance</p> <p>Adrian Flux Insurance Services has launched a new range of policies which reflect the low risk nature of island life. If you take out a car insurance policy with us, you can save up to 50% compared with similar policies on the mainland. Call us today for a free, no obligation, quote.</p> <p>FREEPHONE 0800 081 8989 Quoteline hours: Mon to Fri 9am-7pm Sat 9am-4pm</p> <p>adrianflux.co.uk Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.</p> <p>ADRIAN FLUX</p> </div>			
<p>BMW 330 CIM SPORT</p>  <p>Taxed and MOT till April 2012. Contact for full spec</p> <p>Telephone: 0781 7974778</p> <p>£6,300 ono</p>	<p>AUDI A6 2.7 TDI 2005</p>  <p>FSH, Cruise Control, 147k miles, Good condition, Located Torbert</p> <p>Telephone: 07973 239 892</p> <p>£3800</p>	<p>SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 4X4</p>  <p>1.6v, manual, petrol 2005, 3door with one previous owner 34,000 miles Black and silver, Central locking and immobiliser electric windows, rear wash wipe, electric door mirrors</p> <p>Contact Mike 01852 316203 mob 07879 631814</p> <p>£4295 o.n.o.</p>	<p>2004 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTI SPORT</p>  <p>Mot until April, 99000 miles Excellent running clean car</p> <p>Tel: 07853875060/01397 705212</p> <p>£1700 o.n.o</p>				

SELLING YOUR OLD VEHICLE?

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Be seen by over 40,000 readers

Tel: 01631 568000

new car index

ISUZU S & S Services
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr
Tel. 01292 880080 / 880440

RENAULT W.D Semple
Inveraray & Lochgilphead
Tel. 01499 302150

SUBARU S & S Services
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr
Tel. 01292 880080/880440

TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000

53% of decision-makers source their vehicles locally

Regional press is the relevant choice for motors advertising.

Regional Press

Motoring Times **The Quarry Road MOT CENTRE**

For the latest local deals on new and used cars In association with Quarry Road MOT Centre

Need an MOT? From Cars to Light Commercials

Contact Donald or Neil
Quarry Road MOT Centre
Quarry Road, Oban
Tel: 01631 564614

FLIT

WE LOVE YOUR HOME SO MUCH, WE MOVED THE WORK THERE!

Imagine owning your own business where you can pick and choose your own hours and you choose your clients from our portfolio? That's the beauty of becoming an Arise Certified Professional - with over 25,000 agents and over 40 clients worldwide, the world's leading provider of virtual business services is growing rapidly in the UK, and you can be part of this success.

Set yourself up as a limited company enabling you to become a call centre in your very own home. Once you are up and running and have completed our training, you will only take incoming calls, and we'll pay you for every second you spend on the phone, as well as offering you incentives to become one of our top performers.

Discover the perfect stage for your talents plus the flexibility to work around your other commitments at: www.arise.com/uk or join us at one of our open days.

Thur 17th Nov 2011 - JobCentrePlus, Campbeltown 10.30-12.00
- Corran Halls, 55 The Esplanade, Oban 15.30-17.00

Fri 18th Nov 2011 - Ingeus, 44 Bank St, Irvine 09.30-11.00
- Ingeus, JobCentrePlus, Dalrymple St, Greenock 13.00-14.30
- Ingeus, Sir James Clark Building, Abbey Mills Bus Centre, Paisley 15.30-17.00

Supported by HIE



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 'n nan Eilean

www.arise.com/uk



Manager for Hebridean Pursuits Ltd to drive the business and the charity forward

This is a small, highly regarded organization which runs challenging personal development using outdoor activities for, in the main, disadvantaged young people. Technical adventure activity courses are also run for adults and young people throughout the year.

Fund raising experience is desirable as this is part of the job. Managing the office which provides course and instructor support. Financial management and book keeping experience. Providing office support for the Director of Training and Sales. Administration of an outdoor centre on the Isle of Mull. Administration of The Roses Charitable Trust as Secretary. Computer literate. Work from home.

We are looking for a person who has

- an understanding of the issues which disadvantaged young people face.
- experience, enthusiasm and imagination
- experience of working with a small team and is a good communicator.
- an interest in outdoor activities.

For more information, please call Stephen Thomas on 0789 9901775. To apply please send a CV and covering letter explaining why you think that you would be suitable to: stephentomas01@aol.com
Closing date: Friday 18 November 2011 at noon
www.hebrideanpursuits.com

Argyll & Bute Community Health Partnership

Mid Argyll Locality
Bank Administrative and Clerical Staff
Mental Health Administration
Argyll & Bute Hospital

Hours as and when required
£14,258 - £17,003 pro rata

Ref: 11ab/160

An opportunity has arisen to join Mental Health Administration and Clerical Services as Bank member of staff. This would give applicants the opportunity to work in various departments within Mental Health, i.e. Psychology, giving variety to any working day.

Informal enquiries are welcomed by Fiona Broderick, Administration Services Manager, Mental Health, Tel 01546 604908 or email fiona.broderick@nhs.net

Application packs are available from HR Department, NHS Highland, Argyll & Bute GHP, Aros, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8LB - Tel 01546 606788 (24 hour answering service) or e-mail - recruitment.ab@nhs.net

Please quote job reference number
Closing date: 25 November 2011

www.nshighland.scot.nhs.uk



J & A MITCHELL & CO. LTD

Experienced Office Administrator required

A vacancy has arisen in our production office at Springbank Distillery for an office administrator. Previous experience in all aspects of office administration is essential for this vacancy with applications to be made, by hand written letter in the first instance to

Mrs Linda McAulay, Office Manager,
J & A Mitchell & Co. Ltd, Springbank Distillery,
Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6ET.

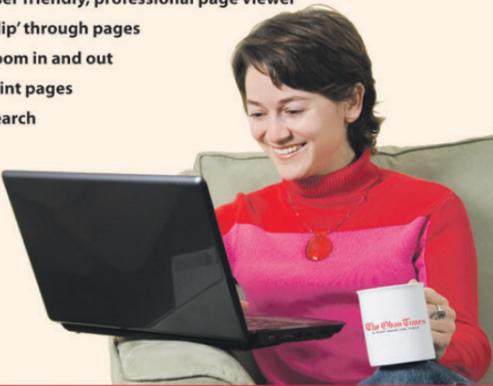
Closing date for applications:
30th November 2011

Relax and enjoy Your local news from wherever you are.

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

Receive it even when you're away from home - anywhere where you have internet access.

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



www.obantimes.co.uk/digital



Regional & local press advertising gets the job done.

Source: Recruitment Choice, The Newspaper Society 2005

Regional Press
closer to home

HOUSEKEEPER REQUIRED

for Holiday Cottage near Southend 6 hrs on Saturdays

April - September 2012

Generous Rate of Pay
Would consider Job Share

Contact Martin on
01586 830240 or 01953 718197

MACLEOD
MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LTD

REQUIRE
360° EXCAVATOR OPERATOR
CPCS CERTIFICATE
HOLDER AND
CLEAN DRIVING
LICENCE ESSENTIAL
APPLICATIONS TO
HARRY ROSS
07919 214995
or
e-mail jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk

EXPERIENCED HARVESTER AND FORWARDER OPERATORS REQUIRED

Long term contracts
In Argyll and Sutherland areas

Contact
07767 464514

PUBLIC NOTICES

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk



PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
11/01210/PP	Installation of air source heat pump	Land South East Of Tradewinds Lochawe Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmailly
11/01897/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse.	Plot 8 Aldersyde Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1AG	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
11/01970/PP	Alterations and extensions to bath to form dwellinghouse.	Druimard House Dervaig Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6DW	Sub Post Office Dervaig
11/02072/PP	Erection of 12 flats	Development Site McKelvie Road Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
11/02079/PP	Erection of extension to provide office and welfare facilities.	Inverawe Smokeries Inverawe Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1HU	Sub Post Office Taynuilt

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
11/01094/PP	Erection of lean to extension to enclose external plant	Brnichladdich Distillery Brnichladdich Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA49 7UN	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
11/01875/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse.	Land To North West Of Lagabonan Bridgend Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA44 7PX	Sub Post Office Bridgend
11/02025/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and shed, formation of vehicular access and installation of sewage treatment plant.	Land East Of Ballinay Farm Gruinart Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA44 7PU	Sub Post Office Bridgend

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
11/01096/LIB	Erection of lean to extension to enclose external plant	Brnichladdich Distillery Brnichladdich Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA49 7UN	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
11/02023/PP	Erection of rockface protection to the rear of proposed new RNL facility	Port Askaig Pier Port Askaig Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA46 7RB	Sub Post Office Port Askaig

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, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8SL.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

(QUEENS PARK PLACE AND STATION ROAD, OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)(NO.2) ORDER 2011

On Monday 7th November 2011, Argyll and Bute Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Section 16(A) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, with the consent of the Scottish Ministers under Section 16B (6) of the said Act, made the above named Order, the effect of which will be that for a temporary period it will be unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle, with the exception of emergency services vehicles, through the entire lengths of Queens Park Place and Station Road, Oban in order to permit the switching on of the Christmas lights on or near those roads.

The Order, which is necessary to facilitate the holding of the event, shall have effect when indicated by signs between 1400 hours and 2200 hours on Saturday 19th November 2011.

Alternative Route: There is no alternative route.

Sandy MacTaggart, Executive Director, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected
11/03561/FUL	Land North of Old Railway Goods Yard Ballachulish	Erection of six houses (semi-detached)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/03668/FUL	Bunree Caravan Site Bunree Onich Fort William PH33 6SE	Installation of 2 additional all weather caravan pitches	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/03819/FUL	Lower Flat Kyle Rona Lochaline Movem Oban PA80 5XT	Erection of conservatory (retrospective)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/03877/FUL	Lochaber Forest District Office Forestry Commission Scotland Torlundy Fort William PH33 6SW	The installation of a Biomass Boiler & Container to house boiler & fuel store	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/03896/PIP	Garden Ground to North West of Marine House Onich	Renewal of 08/00297/OUTLO - Erection of holiday letting unit	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/03938/FUL	Site 120m South East of Innimore Ardornish Movem	Erection of house incorporating artists studio	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/03942/FUL	Rodone Bodobrie Corpach Fort William PH33 7LX	Extension to existing garage	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Goods Vehicle Operators License

Niall McLean trading as Geo-rope Ltd of Druimindaraich, West Laroach, Ballachulish, Argyll, PH49 4JQ is applying for licence to use West Quay, Ballachulish, Argyll PH49 4JQ as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 2 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioners office.

CROFTERS COMMISSION APPLICATIONS TO CREATE A NEW CROFT

North West Mull Community Woodland Company Limited, owners of Cnoc Odhar Langamull Woodland is applying to create 9 new crofts.

If you have any objection to the proposal, you may submit representations in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW by 2 December 2011 quoting 5.01.35613. Please specify your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

CORPACH, BANAVIE, CAMAGHAEL AND LOCHSIDE COMMON GRAZINGS

Formal intimation under the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993

NOTICE is hereby given that Donald Andrew John Cameron, Younger of Lochiel has applied to the Scottish Land Court for an Order (One) authorising resumption of approximately 42.2 hectares of the Common Grazings of the Townships of Corpach, Banavie, Camaghael and Lochside for the purpose of a development consisting of a retail supermarket, petrol filling station, non-food retail, restaurant and community uses including a police station, rural general hospital, school and a 3G sports pitch, together with the improvement of local infrastructure; and (Two) approving the agreements lodged in terms of Section 5(3) of the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993.

On 3 November 2011 the Court appointed this intimation by newspaper advertisement and ordered the Applicant to send to the Clerk to the Grazings Committee copies of the Application as amended, associated productions and the Court's Practice Note No. 4 (which emphasises the need for crofters to protect their own rights). The Court ordered any shareholder or other person having a legal interest who opposes the Application or who wishes to claim compensation or a share in the value of the land to be resumed, to lodge Answers, including details of any such claim, with the Principal Clerk, George House, 126 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4HH within fifteen days from the date of the final advertisement. Copies of the Application as amended, productions and Practice Note have been sent to Mrs M E Dennison, Torri, Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7JR and these documents may be inspected either there, or at the Courts' offices in Edinburgh, or at the offices of the Agents. Copies of the Practice Note may also be obtained from the Principal Clerk (telephone number 0131-271-4360). It should be noted that any further Orders of the Court, including the Final Order, will be intimated to those persons who have lodged answers to this advertisement and to the Clerk of the Common Grazings Committee. Copies of any further Orders may be obtained from the Principal Clerk upon request.

Agents for Applicant, Lindsays, Caledonian Exchange, 19A Canning Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8HE
Tel: 0131 229 1212 (Ref: KYM/MJY/CA/492/302) Agents for the Applicant

EVENT TO PUBLICISE?

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Be seen by over 40,000 readers

Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

BUDGET CONSULTATION MEETINGS

You are invited to have your say at our community planning partnership budget consultation meetings:

Council Chamber, Kilmory Lochgilphead, 7 November, 9.30am

Make your voice heard on next year's budget for the council, NHS and other community planning partners. Find out more about the council's budget and other meetings at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk




BritishRedCross

Are you or your staff interested in learning First Aid???

We are holding a **BASIC FIRST AID COURSE** on 16th November 2011 at Parish Church Hall, Glencruitten Rd, Oban. 9.00 - 16.30

For details please contact 01546 602386.

Or mclark@redcross.org.uk

Each student will receive a certificate valid for 3 years and a first aid manual.

The cost is £40.00 inc VAT

www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

NOW ONLINE

Advertise your unwanted items in either The Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser and your ad will also appear online at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk. Simply use the coupons on this page or visit the website and input your details there

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

HANGING RETRO LIGHT brown enamel base with glass fluted shade 2 rods and chains leading up to fittings. Never used, approx 27" l x 12" w, £49.99 Telephone 01631 720369.

TY BEANIE BABIES all kinds, tagged, good condition (some mint), £10 for 5 or £49.99 for 30. Telephone 01631 564153.

BABY EQUIPMENT

BRITAX CAR SEAT black with grey checks, suitable from birth to 5 years+, 5.5kg to 18kg, excellent condition, £14.99 Telephone 01631 570190.

MAMAS & PAPAS ULTIMA PRAM / Pushchair, xcel chassis with suspension, carrycot & stand, forward or parent facing pushchair. Exc cond, from smoke & pet free home, £80 Telephone 07880 976693.

VTECH BABY WALKER PINK detachable leaning centre with rattle phone & sing along song. Argos page 1546, excellent cond, can be collected in Oban, £10 Telephone 01838 200529.

BICYCLES

14INCH GIRLS RALEIGH BIKE pink, 4 years & up, needs pedals but otherwise excellent condition, rpr £105, £30 Telephone 01631 720073.

APOLLO Boys mountain bike good condition, suit age 8-12 years, £40 Telephone 01631 710541.

BIKE RACK Halfords Rear high mount 3 bike carrier rack. Six point car mounting cables. Used on Renault Laguna. Quick adjust system, £30 Telephone 07977 574033.

BOYS 26" MOUNTAIN BIKE+HELMET 18 gears red/white/black, immaculate condition, great buy, £49.99 Telephone 01631 570190.

DAHON FOLDING BIKE 26" wheels, 16 speed tiagra gear, black finish, brooks leather saddle, vgc, £195 Telephone 01586 820092.

BUILDING / DIY

CERAMIC TILE CUTTER 150mm blade, tilting bed, water cooled. Kintyre, £35 Telephone 01583 431122.

FANTRONIX TT100 4INCH in line extractor fan 240volt two speed min 15 watt 145 m3/hr. max 25 watt 187 m3/hr. As new condition, £29 Telephone 01631 770698.

CD'S, DVD'S AND VIDEOS

24 BOXSET 24 (as seen on sky1) complete DVD boxset, seasons 1-8, and 24 Redemption, mint condition. (Campbeltown), £40 Telephone 07826 302007.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

BIG BUNDLE OF CHILDREN'S Clothing to suit 4 - 6 year old girl (coat, skirts, trousers, waterproofs) mostly French, £30 the lot Telephone 01631 720073.

BOOTS black leather knee high boots with 4" heel size 6 1/2 from Next, £48 Telephone 01546 603915.

CHILDS 3-PIECE SUIT a beautiful black 3-piece suit for boy aged 12. Ideal for wedding, worn once. With waistcoat and tie. N Connel, £25 Telephone 07725 877480.

HARRIS WOOL HAND KNITTED SOCKS £4 per pair, nice colours. POST FREE: Mrs C.A MacKay, 17 Achmore, Isle of Lewis, HS2 9DU

NIKE AIR TRAINERS Nike Air Trainers size 7. White with dark blue trim. As new, worn only once. N Connel, £25 Telephone 07725 877480.

TRESPASS ALL IN ONE SNOWSUIT 2/3 years old, blue and grey with matching hat. Good condition, £12 Telephone 01631 720073.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

BOCH FRIDGE, £25 Telephone 07831 877696.

CHEST FREEZER, £25 Telephone 07831 877696.

COOKER PYROLYTIC double oven, black. Good condition, £130 Telephone 01631 566001?

DOMENASP4000STEAM PRESS IRON excellent condition, bargain, £19.99 Telephone 01631 570190.

ELECTRIC FIRE Burley, fuel effect with oak surround. Bought new from John Lewis a year ago cost £365, in perfect working order will accept £100. Telephone 01546 602027.

FRIDGE FREEZER ICE KING 3/4 size (116cm x 48cm x 51cm). A rating, interior light (Fridge), 2 glass shelves, 1 salad crisper, adjustable feet, RRP 170, £49.99 Telephone 07977 574033.

FRIDGE/FREEZER Servis 50/50. 178mm high x 60mm wide x 60mm deep, £25 Telephone 01866 822747.

HOOVER WASHING MACHINE good working order, surplus to requirement, £49.99 Telephone 01631 720073.

MORPHY RICHARDS Family and Pet Vacuum Model number 73333, bagless cyclonic vacuum, HEPA filter, 2000w, Eco Switch, new drive belt, safety tested, N Connel, £40 Telephone 07725 877480.

SPIN DRYER £10 Telephone 07831 877696.

DOMESTIC PETS COLLIE PUPS border, born 13 October, 8 weeks on 8th December, good natured, good house dog or farm dog, Telephone 01852 500693.

LOVELY LHASA-APSO PUPPIES three boys, one girl, black and white, ready now, can email pics, £375 Telephone 01586 820546.

FURNITURE BUREAU dark wooden three drawer bureau, old fashioned style. In good condition, £29.99 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

CANE DESK AND CHAIR desk has glass top, good order would look good in a conservatory, £9.99 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

COFFEE TABLE large black metal framed coffee table with glass top, £14 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

CORNER CABINET space saving pine corner cabinet, perfectly serviceable condition, £14 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

DINING CHAIRS two lovely floral print upholstered dining room chairs and one matching chair, dark wood, £25 Telephone 07725 877480.

DOUBLE BED Sleepzee Emperor deluxe double bed in fantastic condition, £39.99 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

DOUBLE BED old fashion double bed, good working order, £9 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

IKEA 3 PIECE SUITE brown fabric Ikea 3 piece suite with removable covers. Easy to clean, new covers still available from Ikea, £29.99 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

IKEA TV DISPLAY UNIT (BONDE) tall unit lovely beech colour with turntable for TV and various open shelving/storage areas for sky box, DVDs etc. Immaculate, £49.99 Telephone 01546 600408.

MAHOGANY DINING TABLE beautiful circular mahogany veneered dining table, 48" diameter, extending to form a 48" by 63" oval table. N Connel, £49.99 Telephone 07725 877480.

SINGLE BED in good condition BARGAIN!!!, £19 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

SINGLE WARDROBE (Argos) pine effect with two doors and one bottom drawer, as new, 190mm high x 78mm wide x 48mm deep, £20 Telephone 01866 822747.

LAMPS two cream stoneware lamps from next. Cream shades £12 each. Telephone 01546 603915.

LARGE PINE-FRAMED MIRROR large mirror, 29" by 41" in excellent condition. N Connel, £20 Telephone 07725 877480.

RUG rectangular woollen, golden brown in colour, very good condition, shaggy pile finish, size 800mm x 1500mm, £10 Telephone 07825 397249.

RUG Modern Wool, lt green, lt brown and cream 120x80 as new geometric design. Can be seen in Argos Catalogue, £29.99 Telephone 01631 720369.

RUG gold based floral runner 60cm x 140cm, £12 Telephone 01546 603915.

TWIN BEDS Ikea, ebony wood surround. Capanna, Inverneil, £150 Telephone 01546 602345.

GARDEN FLYMO LAWNMOWER GLIDEMASTER 38 good condition lawn mower, powerful 1750W motor with 4 cuts heights, 38cm blade and 351 grass box. Inc spare blade. RRP£150, £49.99 Telephone 07977 574033.

PLATFORM LADDER Hedgemaster platform ladder, platform height 6' 6" to 9' 6", ideal for cutting trees and hedges, must collect, £75 ono. Telephone 01583 431344 after 6pm.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

EXERCISE BIKE black exercise bike, good condition, barely used perfect for the home gym!!!, £19 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

EXERCISE BIKE £186 Telephone 01866 822412.

PHILISHAVE SUPER REFLEX Rechargeable model 6879 Easyshave Contour following system. Brand new in box with accessories. N Connel, £20 Telephone 07725 877480.

RUNNING MACHINE black non electrical, quite small so perfect for the spare room!, £9.99 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

HEATING, FIRES AND FIREPLACES DIMPLEX FLAME-EFFECT FIRE, LIN20BL 2kw electric fire in excellent condition, safety tested, 2 power settings and built-in thermostat. N Connel, £49.99 Telephone 07725 877480.

PANEL HEATERS good condition, £10 each Telephone 01631 710541.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

BUSH DVD PLAYER Bush DVD/CD player in excellent condition with remote. N Connel, £10 Telephone 07725 877480.

DISNEY PRINCESS TV+DVDPLAYER comes with 2 x original remote controls, immaculate condition, great value, £49.99 Telephone 01631 570190.

LITEON DVD RECORDER Model LVW5002, in excellent condition, with remote. Works with DVD-RW's too. N Connel, £25 Telephone 07725 877480.

HOME FURNISHINGS

BASKETS set of three sturdy baskets with handles, fit into each other, £7 Telephone 01546 603915.

MEMORY foam double mattress, 10 inches thick, new, still in wrapper, cost over £600, will accept £195. Will deliver COD. Telephone 0779921022.

BOWL cream bowl with pink hearts and dots from Dabor, £7 Telephone 01546 603915.

CLOCK wall hanging two tone, brown suede with silver hands, £5 Telephone 01546 603915.

CLOCK green 18cm x 18cm, cream face and decorative hands, £3 Telephone 01546 603915.

CUSHION hand felted floral cushion 42cm x 47cm, £7 Telephone 01546 603915.

CUSHIONS cream coloured, one suede effect, one trail stitching and other chenille £4 each. Telephone 01546 603915.

CUSHIONS from Next, pale green waffle cushions 2 x 50cm x 50cm, 2 x 45cm x 45cm, two pale green stitched floral 45cm x 45cm £5 each. Telephone 01546 603915.

FLOWERS cream £2 per bunch. Telephone 01546 603915.

LAMP cream with pleated shade, £6 Telephone 01546 603915.

LAMPS two cream stoneware lamps from next. Cream shades £12 each. Telephone 01546 603915.

LARGE PINE-FRAMED MIRROR large mirror, 29" by 41" in excellent condition. N Connel, £20 Telephone 07725 877480.

RUG rectangular woollen, golden brown in colour, very good condition, shaggy pile finish, size 800mm x 1500mm, £10 Telephone 07825 397249.

RUG Modern Wool, lt green, lt brown and cream 120x80 as new geometric design. Can be seen in Argos Catalogue, £29.99 Telephone 01631 720369.

RUG gold based floral runner 60cm x 140cm, £12 Telephone 01546 603915.

OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT

ROLLERBLADES BAUER SHIFTY aggressive inline blades. Bought for £200. Been used very little. Great condition. Size UK 7. Elbow & knee pads inc, £25 Telephone 07977 574033.

SALOMON SNOWBLADES SB90 in good condition, 90 cm long. Universal binding will fit most size boots. inc safety leashes. Have some fun this winter, £30 Telephone 01631 563466.

SEAGRASS CHEST new large storage chest bought in Argos for £50, £29.99 Telephone 01631 720369.

VASES various shapes and sizes, cream stoneware from next £4 & £5. Telephone 01546 603915.

HOME OFFICE

CLERICAL DESK beech finish; size W152 x D70 x H71 cms; similar to Viking Cat No. Q2N-5530536; can be flat packed for easy transport, vgc, £20 Telephone 01546 886300.

COMPUTER TABLE metal framed glass top with built in shelves, very modern, £19.99 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

BATHROOM CABINET new birch mirrored front all fittings glass shelves, £29.99 Telephone 01631 720369.

BUTCHER TROLLEY Ikea pine, 2 slatted under shelves, 1" chopping top approx 32" h x 19 1/2" wide castors. Ideal for extra storage or preparation, £29.99 Telephone 01631 720369.

ELECTRIC TWIN HOTPLATE Cordon Bleu Twin electric hotplate. Good working order. North Connel, £15 Telephone 07725 877480.

FREEZER Fridgairde Deluxe FV141 white under-counter freezer, 4 shelves, 33" high by 20" wide. Good working order. N Connel, £40 Telephone 07725 877480.

LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

FISHING TACKLE brand new Mitchell Challenge pro spin rod 15-40g, c/w CS400 reel, 3 spare spools with line, rod bag, £25 Telephone 07899 676050.

FISHING TACKLE brand new hardwear spinmaster 10' 20-60g fishing rod, £20 Telephone 07899 676050.

LIVESTOCK

WEANERS FOR SALE OSB and OSB Cross Weaners for sale, £50. Sows also available. Telephone 01631 570938?

MAIL ORDER

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

MISCELLANEOUS

BRASS ITEMS dogs, ashtray ships wheel shap figures etc, £20 Telephone 01631 720369.

MOBILE AND HOME TELEPHONES

SONY ERICSSON W705 on Vodafone, silver, 3.2mp camera, with box, manual, case, charger and cable, vgc, £49.99 Telephone 07920 487939.

MOTORCYCLE EQUIPMENT

MOTORBIKE HELMET box helmet, size XL, model ECER22-05. Black with clear visor. Adjustable air vents. N Connel, £45 Telephone 07725 877480.

PRINTING AND STATIONERY

COLOUR COPYING A4/A3, single/doublesided, reduce/enlarge, from originals, files on disk or by email. A4 copies from 25p. Call Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

MOVED HOME? Sticky address labels to attach on all your correspondence. 500 labels from £20. Call Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

TOYS AND GAMES

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE KITCHEN with lots of accessories, great condition, £30 Telephone 01631 720073.

TRIVIAL PURSUIT FOR KIDS ideal Christmas present, for 8 to 12 years, used once, as new. N Connel, £5 Telephone 07725 877480.

PERSONALS

Mr Angus MacIntosh, 7 Croft Avenue, Oban would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr Craig, Consultant Cardiologist, Golden Jubilee Hospital, Clydebank, all nursing staff in attendance, for the many family visits and telephone attendances. Visits by Mr Robert McLeod, Dr Fattah, Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban and nursing staff of Ward B, Rt Rev. Mgr. McNeil for spiritual attendance. The holy sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for all your attentions.

THANK YOU Jean MacFarlane, Kilmore, wishes to thank the family and all who attended her surprise 90th Party at Kings Knoll Hotel. Thanks for the presents, cards, flowers and good wishes, Donnie and Nicola, for the entertainment. Also Tommy and staff for the catering. Great night had by all.

Thank you to all who gave donations for the upkeep of St John's Graveyard, Ballachulish. Your help is very much appreciated. Iain MacKenzie

ATTENTION ALL BUSINESSES Did you know The Oban Times can design, print and distribute your leaflets through the local media? Distributed through the Oban Times, Argyllshire Advertiser and Campbeltown Courier we can offer our customers highly competitive print prices and unique discounts on distribution. Coupled with the facility to target specific areas, we can ensure you reach your maximum potential.

For more information call Fiona on 01631 568018 Email: fmacinnes@obantimes.co.uk

www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk TURN YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS INTO CASH! UNDER £50 FREE! Visit the website at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk to input your details and not only will your ad appear online but will also appear in the Oban Times, The Campbeltown Courier, and The Argyllshire Advertiser ITEMS UNDER £50 ARE FREE alternatively you can fill in the form below and hand it in to any of our offices (details below) PLEASE NOTE: DEADLINE MONDAY 4.00pm NO MORE THAN 25 WORDS PLEASE ITEM DESCRIPTION PRICE TELEPHONE ONLY ONE ITEM PER COUPON FOR MULTIPLE ITEMS INPUT YOUR DETAILS ONLINE AT www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk YOUR LOCAL WEST HIGHLAND OFFICES: OBAN - The Oban Times, Lochavilla Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB FORT WILLIAM - The Oban Times, Manora House, The Parade, Fort William PA33 8BA CAMPBELTOWN - The Campbeltown Courier, Courier Centre, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown, Argyll PA33 6AE CLOCHILLAG - Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyle Street, Lochalsh, Argyll PA31 8UG

LOCAL services

D&A MUNN LTD. FUNERAL DIRECTORS | EST. 1880 JOINERS AND BUILDERS BREADALBANE STREET, OBAN 24 hour Family run business Owned and run by Ian MacInnes and son. TELEPHONE: 01631 562562 WWW.MUNNS-OBAN.CO.UK

www.argyllholidays.com Caravans for Sale ON SITE CARAVANS from £8,950 OFF SITE CARAVANS from £1,095 Loch Awe Holiday Park - 14 miles from Oban 01866 822 666

MACQUEEN BROS LTD Removals/Storage & Self Storage Full range of packing materials Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG Tel: (01631) 564848 www.macqueenbros.com

Chris Craft window blinds OBAN 01852 300174 FORT WILLIAM 01855 831480 FREE MEASURING / FREE ESTIMATES FREE FITTING / MADE IN SCOTLAND ALL BLINDS MADE TO MEASURE FREEPHONE 0800 371250

SERVICE TO PROMOTE? The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES Be seen by over 40,000 readers Tel: 01631 568000 www.obantimes.co.uk

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications. 1. Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes. 2. The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement. 3. The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice. 4. An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertiser's order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person. 5. Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the Publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement. 6. The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose. 7. The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement. 8. Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose. 9. The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order. 10. Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance. 11. Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice. 12. A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions. Published by Wyvex Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, (01631) 568000 Fax (01631) 568001 - www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office

HAMISH HOEY & SON Joiners & Funeral Directors 37-39 Stevenson Street, Oban Telephone: 01631 562269 24-HOUR SERVICE

cleaning 1ST CHOICE CLEANING SPECIALISTS Carpets and upholstery cleaning at its best! All work guaranteed Telephone: 07815 036684 or 01631 720322 01631 720297 Evenings

plumbing & heating We install and maintain plumbing systems We install and maintain all types of central heating We maintain all types of boilers We install underfloor heating systems JG J M Gillies Ltd Plumbing & Heating Contractors Unit 8 Tweedmill Soroba Road Oban Argyll safe Tel: 01631 565636 Fax 01631 564724 Email information @jmgillies.co.uk

Service to promote? The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES Be seen by over 40,000 readers Tel: 01631 568000 www.obantimes.co.uk

The Oban Times PREPARED ADVERTISING RATES Private Classifieds Lineage Rates Minimum charge £13.85 + VAT (up to 25 words) thereafter £2.70 per line Box Number Fee £5.50 (+VAT) Births, Engagements, Marriages, Deaths and Acknowledgments Minimum charge £12.80 (+VAT) thereafter £2.50 per line (+VAT) In Memoriam: Minimum charge £9.45 (+VAT) thereafter £2.00 per line (+VAT) Trade Classifieds: See Trade Classifieds Page for Rates Trade Display: £9.63 per single column centimetre Recruitment: £16.55 per single column centimetre Public Notices: £10.90 per single column centimetre Properties: £10.50 per single column centimetre Private Accommodation to Let/Wanted: £10.50 per single column centimetre (all rates exclusive of VAT) Personals: £7.42 per single column centimetre Payment: Pre-payment required for advertisements of less than £50 (excluding death notices) Please make cheques and postal orders payable to The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB www.obantimes.co.uk

A TOUCH OF SCOTLAND EVERY WEEK! The Oban Times SUBSCRIPTION RATES (one year) U.K. £58.00 Rest of World £100.00 The Oban Times Ltd P.O. Box 1 Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB Scotland, UK www.obantimes.co.uk

BIRTH

FERGUSON - Graham and Lynne are pleased to announce the safe arrival of Stuart Graham, on October 20, 2011, a wee brother for Ross.

MACLEAN - To delighted Alison and Sheumais twin sons, Cameron Angus John and Kelvin Eoghaimh Niall - born prematurely on April 23, 2011 weighing one and half pounds each. Now home at last and doing well. Thanks to the greatest care by the staff of Glasgow Princess Royal Maternity Hospital and the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Yorkhill. Fifth grandchildren for Alison Irvine and the late John Irvine, Glasgow and sixth for Anne and Eoghaimh MacLean, Bearsden. Everyone very happy.

STRUTHERS - GAGE - To Findlay and Victoria a boy Rory John, November 1, 2011, a brother for Rosie. Thank you to all involved

DEATH

ADAM - Catriona (Cathy) Formerly of Ardoch Crescent, Dunblane and latterly of Bunnass, Isle of Mull, died October 30, 2011 at Paisley RAH, aged 95 years, after a short illness. Beloved wife of the late Bill, mother of Catriona, granny to Iain and Neil, and devoted aunt to all the family. Funeral service has taken place in Edinburgh.

HALL - Ben passed away at his home in Inverness on Thursday October 27, aged 34 years. Dearly loved and loving son of Mike and Sheana (nee Vance) Glencoe, and much loved brother of Louise, Darvel. Cremation took place in Inverness on Thursday November 3.

HENDERSON - Peacefully on November 3, 2011 at home, Brochroy Farm, Taynuilt, in his 85th year, Dunbar Copeland Henderson. Interred in Pen-y-fuir Cemetery.

MCPHEE - Peacefully, after a short illness, on November 3, 2011, Neil McPhee, aged 79 years, of 1 Cairnbaan Cottages, Cairnbaan, by Lochgilphead. Beloved husband of Bessie (Muirden) and much loved father of Douglas and May. Loving Pappy of Neil, Stuart, Iona and Callum. Dear father in law of Jean and Ian. A dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle to all the family. A good neighbour, dear friend and work colleague to many. Loyal to his fellow brethren. Funeral service will be held in Lochgilphead Parish Church on Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 1.00pm, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Chest, Heart and Stroke Foundation.

TATTERSALL - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on Monday, October 31, 2011, in his 92nd year, Jabez William Tattersall, known as John, of Eadar Glinn, Drummore Road, Oban. Funeral took place on Monday, November 7, at St. Columba's Cathedral, Oban.

TAYLOR - Peacefully in his sleep, after a short illness, at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on November 4, 2011, aged 86 years, William (Bill) Taylor, beloved husband, father and grampa. Funeral will take place at Church of Scotland, Corran Esplanade, Oban on Thursday November 10 at 1am. Thereafter to Cardross Crematorium for a service at 3.15pm. Family flowers only please. Retiring Collection / donations if desire for Oban Lifeboat.

YUILL - Suddenly after a short illness, on November 7, 2011, at Southern General Hospital, Glasgow, Ian Yuill, aged 68 years, of Poltalloch Home Farm, Kilmartin, Argyll. Much loved husband of Mavis, loving father of Douglas and Kirsteen, and proud grandpa of Megan, Eion, Myrtle and Violet. Dear brother of Audrey and uncle to Alan and the late Ronald. A dear friend, good neighbour and much admired work colleague to many. Funeral service will be held in Kilmartin Parish Church on Monday, November 14, 2011, at 1.30pm, followed by cremation, on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at Woodside Crematorium, at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Kilmartin Church and Chest, Heart and Stroke.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
CLARK - The family of the late Alexander (Tam) Clark would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards, flowers and telephone calls. Thanks to staff at the Lorn and Islands Hospital and to the Lorn Medical Centre for their care and support in recent years. Special thanks to all the girls who cared for Tam allowing him to spend his latter years in the comfort of his own home. Grateful thanks to Reverend Dugald Cameron for his comforting service. Many thanks to Hamish Hoeg and sons for funeral arrangements and the Royal Hotel for catering. The family would also like to thank everyone

who paid their respects at the church and graveside. The retrieval collection at the funeral raised £349.91 for the Ryan MacPhail memorial fund.

HALL - Ben 30/10/76-27/10/11 To our family and dear friends, your thoughtful and gentle love and support is sustaining us at this difficult and saddest of times. To Ben's friends, to our neighbours and to all who have supported and uplifted us by way of visits, phone-calls, cards and flowers, our heartfelt appreciation. A special thank you to all those in Inverness who have provided care and support for Ben over the last few years. Mike, Sheana and Louise

RITCHIE THOMSON - Suddenly and devastatingly on October 21, 2011 Calum Andrew of Appin, aged 23, Beloved Son of Fiona and Dougald, adored brother to Eilish, nephew to Andy, treasured grandson to Gaggy and Granny and friend to all. Funeral service will be held at Appin Parish Church on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 by Rev Roderick Campbell. We would like to thank everyone for their support through this terrible time. A collection was taken in aid of Headway.

IN MEMORIAM
BIRSE - In loving memory of Margaret, wife, mother and gramma, who died October 30, 2002. Another year, sorely missed it does not need a special day to bring you to our minds For a day without you is very hard to find. Husband, daughters and grand children. Near and far.

CAIRNS - Treasured memories of our father James who passed away on November 13, 1991, beloved father, father-in-law and grandfather. So dearly missed. Always in our thoughts each and every day. - Robert, Derek, Douglas and families, Claggan, Beuly and Caol

CAMERON - In loving memory of a beloved wife and mother, Louie, who passed away on November 10, 2000 at Kilmalieu. Like falling leaves the years slip by But loving memories never die. - Your loving family Allan, Catherine and Frank, Jamie and Claire, Amber, Iona, Katie, Cara and Isla.

CAMERON - In loving memory of Louie, a dear sister, sister-in-law, aunt and great-aunt who passed away at Kilmalieu on November 10, 2000. Sadly missed along life's way Quietly remembered every day. - MacKechnie family at Fort William, Oban, Killin and Balfour.

CRAIG - Treasured memories of Malcom (Malkie), who died November 4, 2007. Sadly missed Douglas, Johnnie, Isobel and family.

DONN - Richard. Treasured memories of my beloved son Richard, who passed away on November 14, 2010. A loving dad, brother and uncle. Always in our thoughts Forever loved Mum and all the family.

DONN - In loving memory of our dad Richard, who died last year on November 14. Every day we miss you but we hold you in our hearts forever. With love as always, Aaron, Lewis and Elise.

DUNCAN - In ever loving memory of my beloved husband Howard, who was called to rest on November 12, 2001. I have lost my soul's companion A life linked to my own And day by day I miss you more As I walk through life alone. Love always Chrissie x

DUNLOP - In loving memory of Madge who passed away November 13, 2006 Your life was one of kindly deeds and helping hands for others' needs Love and remembered - Mum x We miss you in so many ways we miss the things you used to say and when old times we do recall it's when we miss you most of all Love always David & Vivienne xx Gentle Jesus up above please give granny all our love we miss you Granny Madge Isla, Iona & Fallon xxx

FORBES - In memory of Harry Forbes, died November 15, 2007 Memory lane is a beautiful place Where thoughts and love are true Again and again I'll travel that lane For a beautiful glimpse of you The photographs I treasure Are all I have to touch Of a husband I loved with all my heart And miss so very much In sorrow Joan.

FRASER - In loving memory of Mary, our beloved mum, sister and granny, who passed

away November 10, 2007. From all the family. Always in our thoughts.

GILLIES - Cherished memories of my beloved father Duncan, died November 14, 1987. Also remembering with love my dear mother Morag died April 24, 2002. Time so swiftly passes by But treasured memories never die. - Maureen

MACDONALD - In loving memory of my dearly loved husband, a loving dad and grand-dad, Dornhall Dornhallach, who died on November 13, 1988. RIP When thoughts go back as they often do We treasure the memories we have of you. Gad caoidh 'sgad ionndrainn. - Ined by Christine and family, Fort William.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of George MacDonald, 22 Camus Road, Dunbeg, who died November 9, 1985.

MACLEAN - Treasured memories of Billy, loving dad, grandpa and great-grandpa died November 14, 2010. Loved and remembered always. - Mary and family.

MACKAY - In loving memory of Bertie, who died November 11, 1989, a much loved father and granda. Also remembering his brother Jack, who died November 17, 1993. Inserted by families in Oban and Lochgilphead.

PARKINSON - Treasured memories of a dear dad and pop, Arthur (Scouse), who passed away November 12, 1990. There will always be heart-ache And often a silent tear But always precious memories Of the days when you were here. Peggy, Alistair and family.

PEARSON - Proud and precious memories of our son Gary, taken so tragically on November 13, 1999, aged 22 years. We miss you now, our hearts are sore As time goes by, we miss you more We miss you in so many ways We miss the things you used to say And when the old times we do recall It's then we miss you most of all In our hearts forever Mum and Dad.

PEARSON - For my dad Gary, who died November 13, 1999 Love you and think of you always Becky.

CHARITY DONATIONS
WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT
Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer
West of Scotland Fundraising Office
1st Floor, Erskine House
North Avenue, Clydebank
Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR
Tel 0808 100 6000
In memory of Dawn Joyce

FOR THE BLIND CHILDREN OF SCOTLAND'S ACADEMIC TUITION AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL IN EDINBURGH
Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy
Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 13 November 2011
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh (01631) 567076 All welcome

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 13 November 2011
Remembrance Sunday
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion.....08.00
Sung Eucharist.....10.15
The Bishop
Sunday School and Creche
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Norman MacCallum,
Provost,
(01631) 562323
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Communion..... 11.00
St Columba,
Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist..... 10.00

Oban Hospice
CARING FOR THE FUTURE
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact David Mudie (Treasurer) Oban Hospice Ltd The Croft Kilmore

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE
Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact Mrs Lillian Kermode Tynwald, Glenburn, Soroba Road, Oban 01631 571009

CANCER RESEARCH UK
Fighting Cancer on all fronts...
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation
Commitment of over £15 million each year
Cancer Research UK Scotland Suite 1/1, Unit 4 Blair Court Clydebank Business Park Clydebank, G81 2LA

Thought for the Week

We will remember them.
Remembrance is a very special time for our family - my dad was killed in action on November 1, 1944, liberating Flushing in the Netherlands. As many of us can be standing this coming Armistice Sunday, at Spear Bridge, at the Commando Memorial, remembering those who fell for our freedom not only in WW2 but those who have died since. Names of those who died or were killed in action in the last year will be read out and ashes scattered in the memorial area. It reminds us also of God's great love for us

as he allowed his only son Jesus sacrificed on the cross to take all our sins away. As we sing the hymns, hear God's word read and expounded, hear the piper and buglers play the sacrifice not only of Jesus but of those who died so we can worship in freedom tugs at our hearts. 'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them.'
Bill Harvey
Commando Veteran Association



Luing islanders gathered in a poignant ceremony to remember 16 Latvian crew who perished off their shore 75 years ago.

Rededication of Tobermory monument

THIS year's Remembrance Service at Tobermory War Memorial will have extra significance, when a rededication of the monument will be made, 90 years after it was erected. The memorial, which has undergone a recent refurbishment, will be rededicated by Miss Rachel Teggart, the grand-daughter of Mrs Teggart, who unveiled the original memorial 90 years ago. The rededication service tomorrow (Friday) will also mark the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Royal British Legion and the Earl Haig Poppy Appeal. With that in mind, members of the newly-reformed Oban branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland will be in attendance, along with ex-servicemen, families of the fallen in both world wars and members of the public. The service will begin at 10.45am at the memorial.

School coffee morning boosts Lochnell parent council funds

THE COMMUNITIES of Benderloch and North Connell turned out in force to support a fundraising coffee morning for the Lochnell Primary School Parent Council. Held in the school hall, the event attracted members of the community of all ages and raised £771.

Parent council member Gemma Macdonald, who helped to organise the event, said: 'We decided to hold the coffee morning because we hadn't run a fundraiser for a while. The turnout has been great and I would also like to thank everyone who came to support us and those who provided baking.'

In fact, so much baking was provided that there were trays of leftover cakes. The parent council decided to donate the leftover treats to Benderloch's Lynn of Lorne Nursing Home and Ford Spence Court, as well as Oban's HOPE Soup Kitchen.



Enjoying the tea and cakes at the Lochnell school coffee morning are, from left: Rhuaireh Newiss, Eve Milarvie, George Pagan, Rachel Gordon and Aimee Newiss.

Community council hears of housing problems

THE housing crisis in Tarbert has become so great that parents have to give up their bedrooms for their children. The lack of affordable and social three-bedroom homes and larger is hitting family life and stifling the growth of the village. Members of Tarbert and Skipsness Community Council once again debated the problem a recent meeting. Chairman of the council, Brian Mearns said that more three-bedroom or larger houses would then free up two-bedroom ones and create movement in the house stock. 'There are families where the parents have to give the bedrooms to their children and sleep on the sofa,' said Jenny Carlile.



Holly Tea venue, the Glencruitten Church Centre, was a busy place last Saturday.

ECCLIASTICAL NOTICES

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 13 November 2011
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh (01631) 567076 All welcome

Holly tea raises funds for MS centre

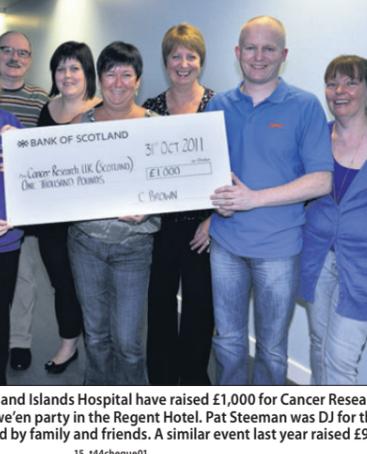
THE ANNUAL Holly Tea run by the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Therapy Centre in Oban is becoming busier by the year and the 2011 event was no exception. Glencruitten Church Centre was bustling with activity on Saturday as visitors came for tea and cakes and to buy home baking-a-brac and books. The Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre was selling its own Christmas cards, which featured pictures donated by Oban Photographic Club member Stephen Lawson. Organiser Sandra Owens thanked everyone who helped on the day and those who came to contribute to the fantastic total of £1,076.

The men of the nearby island of Luing went down to the seashore to look for wood or cargo that may have been washed ashore, something as they always did after a gale. But their find was a grim one that morning, as the bodies of the drowned sailors from the Helena Faulbaums were given up by the sea. Local fishermen took boats out to the small islands around Luing making sure that every last sailor was accounted for and carried with respect to the village hall. Although the captain's body was returned to Latvia for burial, all the other sailors were buried in the small graveyard at Kilchattan, on the Isle of Luing. But this story does not end with the burial of the Helena Faulbaums crew; it is the start of a long and strong connection between Latvia and Luing. It is this bond that has remained over the past 75 years, from the dedication of the memorial head stones in Kilchattan Cemetery, to the presentation of gold medals to the brave rescuers, and oak lectern, collection bowls in Kilchattan Church and various visits from Latvian representatives over the

The service was brought to a poignant close with Innes MacQueen playing the lament 'Caol Muile' on the pipes. A collection was also taken for the work of the RNLI. In the evening, Toberonochy Hall was the venue for a gathering of friends and food. The History Group prepared both Latvian and Scottish dishes for the people lucky enough to secure a ticket. Ann MacQueen gave an illustrated talk of the story from that fateful night, 75 years ago, and of the links over the years between Latvia and Luing. Local singers, Fiona Cruickshanks and Hugh MacQueen sang old and new songs of the island of Belnahua, with Innes MacQueen rounding off the evening with some tunes on the pipes. The warmth and love that was shown by islanders to the Latvians 75 years ago is still being demonstrated today by the folks of the island of Luing, and the stories, songs and pictures are passed on with care to the younger generations who's task it will be to continue the link and in time, commemorate the 100th anniversary.

Hospital staff help Cancer Research

Staff from Ward A at Lorn and Islands Hospital have raised £1,000 for Cancer Research after organising a Halloween party in the Regent Hotel. Pat Steeman was DJ for the event, which was attended by family and friends. A similar event last year raised £910.



Staff from Ward A at Lorn and Islands Hospital have raised £1,000 for Cancer Research after organising a Halloween party in the Regent Hotel. Pat Steeman was DJ for the event, which was attended by family and friends. A similar event last year raised £910.

Luing remembers Latvian sailors

by Fiona Cruickshanks

ON OCTOBER 26th 1936, a terrible disaster occurred in the Firth of Lorne, on the rocks of the Island of Belnahua. A hurricane was lashing against the Islands of Argyll, causing power and telephone failure. Through this storm came the cargo ship Helena Faulbaums a Latvian ship on passage from Liverpool round the north of Scotland to load with coal in the north of England before returning to her home port of Riga in Latvia. But with no cargo onboard, she was light in the water and lost steering against the storm. An SOS was sent out, and Port Patrick with Malin Head radio made desperate attempts to contact the Port Askaig lifeboat on Islay to come to the assistance of the stricken ship, but the telephone lines were down. Eventually the lifeboat on Islay was summoned through the BBC, and the coxswain of the lifeboat dragged himself out of his sick bed to brave the storm in an attempt to save lives. Sadly though, their help was too late for 16 of the crew, but four of the seamen who had managed to get onto the island of Belnahua, where they survived the night, were rescued, and taken to Crinan from where they were taken to the Royal Infirmary in Glasgow, where fate found them cared for by a Luing nurse, Jessie Galbraith (Cleary). The men of the nearby island of Luing went down to the seashore to look for wood or cargo that may have been washed ashore, something as they always did after a gale. But their find was a grim one that morning, as the bodies of the drowned sailors from the Helena Faulbaums were given up by the sea. Local fishermen took boats out to the small islands around Luing making sure that every last sailor was accounted for and carried with respect to the village hall. Although the captain's body was returned to Latvia for burial, all the other sailors were buried in the small graveyard at Kilchattan, on the Isle of Luing. But this story does not end with the burial of the Helena Faulbaums crew; it is the start of a long and strong connection between Latvia and Luing. It is this bond that has remained over the past 75 years, from the dedication of the memorial head stones in Kilchattan Cemetery, to the presentation of gold medals to the brave rescuers, and oak lectern, collection bowls in Kilchattan Church and various visits from Latvian representatives over the

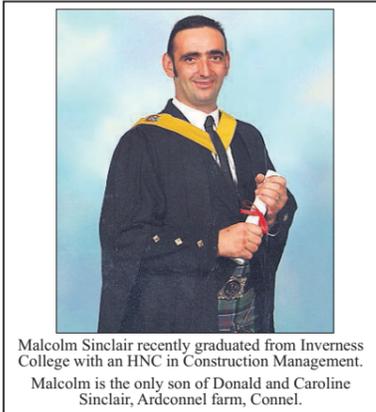
years. It was the dedication of the late Hilary King who secured a return visit for Alfred Semtins the only living survivor in 1991. This link will continue with recent contact made with Mr McGregor the Latvian consul in Edinburgh, and his invitation to the Luing History Group Committee to join them for Latvian Day Celebrations on 18th November. It is this strong link and history that led the Luing History Group to observe the 75th anniversary of the disaster. The commemoration began with a service in Kilchattan cemetery. Led by local minister Rev Dr Ken Ross, the older children from Isle of Luing Primary School carried three Scotland flags and one Latvian flag was held by John Alexander. Captain Len McGeoch read the scripture reading with Phil Robertson and Jamie Leggett laying flowers on the graves of the Latvian sailors as the flags were lowered in respect for a minute's silence. People of Luing stood side by side as the names of the seamen who had perished were read out by Norrie Bissell, who also shared his poem 'There are no roses' written for the crewmen. The service was brought to a poignant close with Innes MacQueen playing the lament 'Caol Muile' on the pipes. A collection was also taken for the work of the RNLI. In the evening, Toberonochy Hall was the venue for a gathering of friends and food. The History Group prepared both Latvian and Scottish dishes for the people lucky enough to secure a ticket. Ann MacQueen gave an illustrated talk of the story from that fateful night, 75 years ago, and of the links over the years between Latvia and Luing. Local singers, Fiona Cruickshanks and Hugh MacQueen sang old and new songs of the island of Belnahua, with Innes MacQueen rounding off the evening with some tunes on the pipes. The warmth and love that was shown by islanders to the Latvians 75 years ago is still being demonstrated today by the folks of the island of Luing, and the stories, songs and pictures are passed on with care to the younger generations who's task it will be to continue the link and in time, commemorate the 100th anniversary.

Follow us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

GRADUATIONS



Ryan Jamieson graduated from the University of Glasgow with first class honours in Comparative Literature and Italian. Ryan is the son of Theresa and Alec Jamieson, Glasgow and the grandson of Rene and Alex Jamieson, Camaghael and May and Tommy MacKenna, Victoria Court.



Malcolm Sinclair recently graduated from Inverness College with an HNC in Construction Management. Malcolm is the only son of Donald and Caroline Sinclair, Ardconnel farm, Connel.

MEMORIALS

Stokes Memorials
Serving Argyll and the Highlands & Islands for over 35 years
Established 1973 - Fraser, Downie, Master Sculptor
• New and traditional memorials. • Work carried out in any cemetery.
• Additional lettering. • Free estimates and advice.
• Cleaning and renovations. • House signs.
• Pet memorials.
317/214 Argyll Street, Dunoon • Tel/Fax 01369 707162 • Email: info@stokesmemorials.co.uk

Advantage Newtonmore as Kyles slip

Inveraray peg back long time leaders in high scoring draw

NEWTONMORE are in pole position in the premier division after knocking long-time leaders Kyles Athletic into second place.

The 'More's 6-0 win against Kilmallie last weekend coupled with Kyles' draw against Inveraray means the Camanachd Cup winners are a point clear, although they have played one more game and both teams have a goal difference of 40+.

Glen MacIntosh opened the scoring against Kilmallie in the sixth minute and doubled the lead 14 minutes later, but Newtonmore didn't have it all their own way.

However, as Kilmallie tired towards the end, Norman MacArthur's men upped the tempo and did their best to increase their goal difference.

Steven MacDonald netted in the 70th minute, before MacIntosh completed his hat-trick three minutes later. David Cheyne made it 5-0 in the 77th minute and Danny MacRae put the icing on the cake with the sixth goal of the game in the final minute.

LOVAT manager John MacRitchie says nothing less than a win will do this weekend against Kilmallie.

The Kiltarity side sit eighth in the league, just a point ahead of Oban in the race to avoid relegation, with both sides having one game left to play.

MacRitchie told *The Oban Times*: 'It's the most important game for the club in quite a while. Knowing we have to win probably makes things a bit more straightforward for us.'

'It's been a bit of a struggle for us recently. We've only played three times since August 13. It's been difficult to keep the boys interested in training. But hopefully match fitness won't be too much of an issue on Saturday.'

MacRitchie expects to have a full strength squad for the do-or-die clash, and said he is hoping Kilmallie might have their minds on the winter break after securing their safety.

He said: 'They might take their foot off the gas a little bit, but they also might relax and play a bit better.'

However, KILMALLIE coach Johnnie Morrison insists his team will be up for the fight as they prepare to take on relegation battlers Lovat on Saturday.

The Caol club has secured their own safety, but the results of their final two games will decide who joins Glenorchy in leaving the premier division. After the game with Lovat, they will take a trip to play the other relegation threatened side, Oban Camanachd.

Morrison told *The Oban Times*: 'We fully intend to put out a strong side for these last two games, but we might give one or two of our youngsters a chance. We had a good starting 12 on Saturday and three young boys came in and got 20 minutes.'

'It was good for them to get a taste against probably the best side in shinty right now.'

The game against Newtonmore last weekend was moved to Kingussie. 'More ran out 6-0 winners, although the game was closer than the scoreline suggested, with four of the goals coming in the last 20 minutes.'



Kilmallie's Iain Robertson takes evasive action as Newtonmore's David Cheyne hits out.

Picture: David Fallows

Morrison said: 'We competed well for 70 minutes, but then we just ran out of steam.'

'They were fresher than us; we hadn't played for two months. Newtonmore were the better team but it was a fairly even contest.'

INVERARAY manager John Smylie all but ensured his team's survival in the Scottish Hydro Premier Division after securing a point last weekend but his own future at the helm is not as certain.

The manager told *The Oban Times* he would make a decision on whether to continue as

manager before the club's AGM on December 2.

Whatever Smylie said to his team before the crunch encounter with Kyles Athletic on Saturday seemed to work, as the men from the Royal Burgh made a lightning-quick start on a soft pitch in Yoker - chosen as a venue after most pitches in the south were declared unplayable.

Garry MacPherson opened the scoring on 14 minutes and Russell McKinlay doubled Inveraray's lead against tile-chasing Kyles six minutes later.

Roddy MacDonald pulled a goal back before half time and

Robbie MacLeod levelled the tie after an hour.

Inveraray stemmed the tide, however, when MacPherson netted from the penalty spot a few minutes later but player of the year Roddy MacDonald kept Kyles' title dream alive with an equaliser.

Inveraray will avoid relegation if Lovat fail to beat Kilmallie this weekend. If Lovat do win, then Oban Camanachd must beat Kilmallie by seven clear goals the following weekend to be safe, and send Inveraray down. 'We are not mathematically safe but I think we've probably done enough to stay up,' Smylie said. 'If Lovat win, then it's going to take a freak result between Oban and Kilmallie but saying that, Oban Camanachd have the players capable of pulling it off.'

Smylie told *The Oban Times* Inveraray needed to attract more players in order to become competitive again, before revealing that he may not be the man to rebuild the side next season. Speaking briefly about the Kyles game, he added: 'Even at 2-0 up I knew we weren't clear. Although we were better in the first half, Kyles had the better of the second half, as we began to tire. Kyles always play right to the end, so I'm happy with the draw.'

The draw with Inveraray has left KYLES ATHLETIC with a simple objective to win the Scottish Hydro Premier League for the first time - beat Newtonmore on November 19.

That date will decide who wins with league and pits the best attack in the league, Kyles, against the best defence, Newtonmore. Should Kyles win the match, their game in hand against Kingussie would be rendered irrelevant but would become a league decider if the Newtonmore game ends in stalemate. Having begun the league campaign at a canter, Kyles' small but talented squad has been feeling the strain of a fixture backlog that should finish on November 26 against Kingussie.

Unbeatable Scorpions are team of the day

SUNDAY saw the Oban Express Primary Football back on track after its October break.

PRIMARY FOOTBALL

The juniors continued their development inside the warmer climes of Atlantis Leisure while the seniors enjoyed fine weather at the 3G Community Pitch.

The senior league had bought new collapsible goal frames at considerable expense to allow three seven-a-side pitches to give the youngsters more playing time.

The Scorpions, from Lochgilphead, proved to be the team of the day with an early win over Pumas thanks to goals from Tyler Robertson, Jamie Munroe and Craig Millar. They were then involved in a thriller with Saints 02 coming out the winners with the odd goal in three.

A last game victory against Galaxy saw Cammy Williamson score in a 2-0 win. Their elder companions, Lochgilphead Red Star, ran the Scorpions close with three wins of their own, the first a comfortable match against an under-strength Jags, when Joseph Harper and Jake Young scored hat-tricks.

They then narrowly edged out Thistle with Kian Francis netting either side of a Thistle equaliser.

Another narrow win was recorded against Lochnell in which Fin Scott scored the winner.

Saints Boys were the only Oban side to match the feat of three wins, starting with a rout of Saints 02 which saw Ruairidh Horne open the scoring and Daniel MacCuish net a hat-trick.

They were then involved in the game of the day against Lochnell, who opened the scoring through Finlay Bennett but Saints fought back when Cammy Scott scored following a solo run from his own half.

Bennett then gave Lochnell

the lead again with a thunderous drive into the top corner but the Boys' prolific poacher-in-chief Lewis Buchanan pounced either side of half time to steal the match.

A comfortable win over Thistle ended the day for the Saints Boys.

After those two very narrow defeats, Lochnell recorded a win over the All Stars with Bennett again scoring what proved to be the only goal of the game.

The All Stars re-grouped and went on to win against Saints 02 then scored three first half goals against Jags through Andy Ritchie and Beppe Lopez with the pick of the bunch from Cameron Kerr when he controlled a cross before slamming home his first goal for the club in off the post.

The Jags came out a better side in the second half and scored twice with a double from Jamie Anderson but the equaliser eluded them after some good saves from All Stars' keeper Ross MacAskill.

Tralee then went on a scoring spree against Galaxy and had Stuart Black, Dougie MacDonald and John MacLeod all on target with Galaxy's Ellis Hunter grabbing consolation.

The scoring continued for Tralee in their next match against the Wasps with Ryan Henrickson netting twice in the win.

The Galaxy picked up a win in their match over Wasps with both Szymon and Struan MacDonald grabbing doubles.

The plucky Pumas also recorded a win over the Wasps and had Ryan Barclay and Connor Moore on target without reply to end a fine and frantic morning of football, all to be repeated next week at the same venues for both formats.

Oban under-14s bag South of Scotland title

OBAN Camanachd under-14s capped an eventful season by winning the South of Scotland league title, following an 8-1 victory over closest rivals Milngavie and Bearsden at Mossfield on Sunday.

The fine win meant the Oban team completed their league campaign as worthy winners scoring 37 goals and only conceding three.

The league win capped a season during which coach Ian Hay has seen his young squad finish second in their Lochaber based league, reach the MacMaster

Cup semi-final, come runners-up in the South Indoor competition and win the South of Scotland 6-a-sides in September. With only a handful of players moving up to the under-17s next season the future looks bright for the young Oban Camanachd team.



The victorious Oban Camanachd under-14s with coach Ian Hay. 16_145cam01



And they're off! The runners start the half marathon at An Aird.

Sampson leads the way home in half marathon

ONE HUNDRED runners flocked to Fort William to take part in a gruelling annual half marathon on Sunday.

Eddie's Half Marathon, held by Lochaber Athletic Club every year since 1984, attracted competitors from across the country.

First local runner home was Alan Ross in 1 hour 19 minutes 39 seconds, followed by Paul Maclean in 1.19.53. Third was Ali Kennedy in 1.26.37.

The race was won by David

Sampson, of Corstorphine, who led from start to finish and was more than six minutes clear of the field, coming home in 1.11.59.

Sandra MacDonald and Karina Matheson, of Jogscotland, both completed their first half marathons.

Race convener Niall MaBeath, said: 'Lochaber AC would like to thank all the marshalls, volunteers and helpers, Red Cross and the police for all their assistance.'

Results

Saturday 5 November
Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Kilmallie 0, Newtonmore 6
Kyles Athletic 3, Inveraray 3

League tables

Scottish Hydro Premier Division	P	W	D	L	Pts
Newtonmore	17	13	3	1	29
Kyles Athletic	16	12	4	0	28
Fort William	18	10	2	6	22
Glenurquhart	18	9	2	7	20
Kingussie	17	7	5	5	19
Kilmallie	16	7	1	8	15
Inveraray	18	6	2	10	14
Lovat	17	6	1	10	13
Oban Camanachd	17	5	2	10	12
Glenorchy	18	0	0	18	0

Marine Harvest North Division One	P	W	D	L	Pts
Kinlochshiel	14	14	0	0	28
Lochaber	14	9	1	4	19
Beaulie	14	6	5	3	17
Caberfeidh	14	6	3	5	15
Lochcarron	14	4	5	5	13
Skye	14	4	2	8	10
Inverness	14	1	4	9	6
Strathglass	14	1	2	11	4

Marine Harvest South Division One	P	W	D	L	Pts
Bute	16	16	0	0	32
Glasgow MA	16	10	3	3	23
Lochside Rvrs	16	8	3	5	19
Taymilt	16	7	2	7	16
Ballachulish	16	7	2	7	16
Kyles Athletic	16	7	1	9	13
Oban Celtic	16	4	4	8	12
Kilmory	16	3	2	11	8
Aberdour	16	2	1	13	5

Fixture

Saturday 12 November
Kilmallie v Lovat - 2.30pm
Referee - Ted McDonald

Follow us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

Marine Harvest North Division Two

Newtonmore	18	16	1	1	33
Fort William	18	11	3	4	25
Glengarry	18	12	0	6	24
Kingussie	18	7	2	9	16
Skye	18	7	1	10	15
Lochaber	18	7	0	11	14
Kinlochshiel	18	6	2	11	14
Lovat	18	7	1	10	13
Glenurquhart	18	6	1	11	13
Kilmallie	18	3	5	10	11

Marine Harvest South Division Two

Strachur	14	12	1	1	25
Tayforth	14	11	1	2	23
Bute	14	7	3	4	17
Colglen	14	7	0	7	14
Ballachulish	14	5	1	8	11
Inveraray	14	5	0	7	10
Glasgow MA	14	4	8	7	10
Aberdour	14	1	0	13	2

Marine Harvest North Division Three

Aberdeen U	18	18	0	0	36
Beaulie	18	13	2	3	28
Boleskine	18	14	1	4	27
Caberfeidh	18	12	2	4	26
Lochcarron	18	7	2	9	16
Lochbroom	18	6	4	8	16
Inverness	18	5	1	12	11
Strathglass	18	4	1	13	9
Ardnamurchan	18	4	0	14	8
Lewis	18	1	1	15	3



WIN £1050

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE..



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
J McKay
McKelvie Road, Oban
I MacDougall
Soroba Road, Oban

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition



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

Got a Story? SEND US THE DETAILS BY VISITING www.obantimes.co.uk 24 hours a day 365 days a year

Corporate stationery
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

Personal stationery
Matching paper & envelopes,
postcards, address labels

krisp print

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery,
Burnbank, Burnside Street,
Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JD
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

Table toppers humbled by green machine

RBS West League Division
Oban Lorne 12
Cambuslang 11

FREE-scoring table toppers Cambuslang brought a fearsome reputation to play their struggling hosts but left with their tail between their legs after being outplayed and outmuscled by a battling Oban Lorne.

Having amassed an average of 36 points from their first six matches, Cambuslang would have been looking for a big score against lowly Lorne.

But Oban, who were missing no fewer than 10 first team regulars, gained confidence from a scoreless first half, in which they almost took the lead.

One glorious series of forward pick and go moves deserved better when Louw, Burns and then MacDougall all made ground with the latter player being penalised for not releasing when stopped one metre short of the try line.

The return of twins Struan and Cammy Smith to the side coincided with an improvement in Oban's defensive line and rucking.

RUGBY

This gave the heavyweights of Andy MacDougall and Corrie Louw plenty of opportunities to 'smash' a nervous Cambuslang back line. Although struggling to contain Oban's attacks, Cambuslang's backs were fleet-footed in attack and only last ditch efforts from Oban prevented a conversion. However, the visitors were the first to score on 45 minutes with a 30-metre penalty conversion by their stand off.

Oban continued to have the better of the territory and possession and on 55 minutes flanker MacDougall powered over from a short-range tap penalty, taking several defenders with him for an unconverted try.

Following a mazy run by the Cambuslang full-back, the visitors were awarded a penalty and they restored their lead at 5-6. Oban stormed back into the match and in a repeat of their first half effort, several players were involved in some textbook pick and drives, which breached the visitors' defence and Mac-

Dougall finished off beneath the posts for his brace. A conversion from Angus MacCallum gave the Green Machine a deserved 12-6 advantage, with only 10 minutes remaining.

Cambuslang threw everything into attack and managed to work an overlap to score in the left hand corner with the last move of the match. The visiting stand off failed with a difficult conversion, leaving a jubilant Oban team to celebrate a momentous home win.

Oban Lorne chief executive Dave Sturrock said: 'If we can maintain this same type of determined approach, there will be few visiting teams relishing a visit to Glencruitten.'

'We made few handling errors and were composed in defence. This was a really superb rugby match with both teams contributing hugely to playing expansive rugby to keep the crowd entertained.'

This week's league match is away to Helensburgh in another very tough match in the team's schedule which continues unabated until December 17.



Andy MacDougall bulldozes his way through for Oban Lorne's opening try. 16. 145rugby01

Saints' youths - results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Drumsagard 7, Under 13s 1. Scoring for Oban was Jay Cooper. Callander Thistle 0, Under 14s 4. Scoring for Saints were Jamie MacPherson (2), Ally MacLean, Stuart MacLean and Daniel MacVicar. Milngavie BC 0, Under 15s 3. Netting for the Oban club were Jamie Easton, Fraser MacFarlane and DJ Orr. Baljaffray Thistle 4, Under 16s 0.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s no game; Under 14s v Castle Rock; Kilpatrick v Under 15s; Under 16s no game.

Anyone for hockey?

HOCKEY

PLANS are in full swing to form a hockey club in Oban.

A small core of players are encouraging others to come along to the first training session at the Oban Community Pitch, next to Oban High School today (Thursday) from 6-7pm.

Derek Prestwell, a former county level coach and an instructor at Kilbowie Outdoor Education Centre has taken on the position of coach.

For more information contact Tara Pollock at Oban High School's PE Department on 01631 564 231 (ext. 130).

November Medal

GOLF

RESULTS from the Islay Golf Club November Medal: 1 Charles Holyoake 74 less 5 net 69; 2 Graeme Hamilton 84 less 13 net 71; 3 Keith MacDonald 79 less 7 net 72. Ccs71

Clubhouse opening

RUGBY

A DINNER dance on November 19 will officially open Mull Rugby Club's refurbished clubhouse but a trial run of the new facilities was held last Saturday with a full day of rugby, starting with a tag tournament for children and culminating in a 53-0 win for the senior team versus Cumnock. The day ended with a fireworks display.

For tickets to the dinner dance, contact Pam on 01688 302321.

Tyndrum shop owner roars to Scottish rally title glory

A VILLAGE shop owner has become a national champion for the first time after gaining the Scottish Tarmac Rally title in Craig, Fife.

Racing his old Ford Escort Mk II 1600 to the title, Allan Brodie from Tyndrum and his co-driver Cameron Fairbairn finished a solid seventh overall to secure the championship win and a class victory.

Allan, who has been racing the same car for about 20 years,

RALLYING

told *The Oban Times*: 'For once we didn't suffer from reliability issues and were able to post good finishes towards the final points total. I knew we had a chance of winning it going into the final race but I also knew that if we didn't finish, then that was it. I couldn't make any daft mistakes.'

'I have supported this champi-

onship for a long time, so it was great to finally win it.'

Allan's Escort is one of the oldest in the field but although it has been through thick and thin with him, he claims he doesn't have a name for his beloved motor.

'Some of the drivers name their cars but I guess I'm not that sentimental,' he said.

'There are other cars out there that are quicker but it is a car I like driving, so I'm sticking with it for next season.'

Teenage sensation McPhee races to top 15 finish

WILDCARD entrant John McPhee delivered another top class ride to finish 14th in the final round of the 2011 World 125cc Championship at Valencia at the weekend.

The impressive performance from the back of the 36-strong field earned the Racing Steps Foundation backed KRP rider fulsome praise from team boss Mark Keen and two championship points.

Recovery

The 17-year-old from Connel, riding in only his fourth Grand Prix, made a slow start from 25th on the grid to come round for the first time in 31st place before mounting a strong recovery

MOTORCYCLING

to carve his way back through the pack.

This was the last ever race for the two-stroke 125cc category which is being replaced by the new four-stroke 250cc Moto3 Championship in 2012.

McPhee, who finished 15th in his last Grand Prix appearance at Silverstone in June, moves up to equal 30th in the 125cc world standings after his three wildcard entries this year.

McPhee returns to the Valencia circuit next weekend for the penultimate round of the Spanish CEV 125GP Championship.



John MacPhee in action at Valencia. Picture by Bonnie Lane, CanBe Images.

Damp squib turns into a sparkling performance

Scottish Amateur Cup
Second Round
Caledonian 0
Oban Saints 7

JUST like the fireworks display at Mossfield the first half of this Scottish Amateur Cup second round tie against Prestwick side Caledonian proved to be a damp squib as far as Saints were concerned as they huffed and puffed their way through the first 45 minutes, but after a rocket from manager Iain Jackson at half time the boys turned in a sparkling performance in the second half.

Although failing to find the net in the first half the Oban side created several good chances, but the ball just would not cross the Caley goal line. Donald Campbell had a great chance when he was one-on-one with the keeper in the 21st minute, but his shot was easily saved. On the half hour mark Myles McAuley was unlucky to see a header come back off the cross bar, then

Donald had another chance, but this effort whistled over the bar, then just before the half time break PJ Sinclair had a good try, but the ball just wouldn't go in.

Credit should be given to Caley though, they were defending well and looked quite dangerous on the break, although they never really troubled Saints keeper Graham Douglas.

It was a frustrated Saints squad that trudged off the park at half time wondering why the score remained at 0-0.

However, after the break they came out in a more determined mood and Ryan Campbell fired a shot inches over the bar in the first minute.

The Oban side had a good claim for a penalty turned down as there looked to be a clear handball in the box from a Caley defender.

However, the opening goal eventually came in the 49th minute after good work from Ross Maitland and Craig

MacEwan on the right resulted in the ball being played to Ryan Campbell who buried a low daisy-cutter past Craig Doig.



Ryan Campbell - opened the scoring.

This goal took a lot of pressure off the Oban lads as they went on to dominate the remainder of the half.

The lead was doubled in the 54th minute when Donald Campbell rifled a great right foot shot into the net. Two minutes later the game was all over as a contest as Donald scored again after some good play from Ross Maitland, Craig MacEwan and PJ Sinclair.

With the game already won the Oban side turned on the style and Craig MacEwan netted the first of his three goals after some fine interplay between Myles McAuley and Donald Campbell. Manager Iain Jackson took the opportunity to give all his squad a good run out as he replaced skipper Keith Miller, Donald Campbell and Myles McAuley with Paul Kerr, Lewis Cameron and Alan Miller.

The changes made little difference to a now rampant Saints outfit and Craig MacEwan scored his second of the afternoon when he got on the end of a Alan Miller cross to net from close range.

FOOTBALL

Two minutes later Paul Kerr set up Lewis Cameron on the left. The winger raced into the box and unselfishly laid the ball into Craig MacEwan's path for him to score his third goal of the afternoon. The final goal of the game came in the 78th minute when Ross Maitland crossed to the far post for PJ to knock home his first goal for the club in a comfortable 7-0 victory.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted with the performance. He said: 'We never got going in the first half, but once we relaxed and started passing the ball about we played some great stuff in the second 45 minutes and after we scored there was only going to be one winner.'

This Saturday Saints are still on Scottish Cup duty when they take on Edinburgh side LGB Strollers in the third round. The match will take place at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off.

Taynuilt streak continues as cynical Yoker lose the plot

Central Scottish Welfare League

Yoker 0, Taynuilt 6

TAYNUILT showed skill and flair, despite a mudbath of a pitch and some cynical play from the opposition, to continue their winning streak.

The game was played at Blairdardie playing fields, a tight park that was not conducive to Taynuilt's ever-improving passing game.

The first 20 minutes were a midfield mudbath with Yoker throwing in some heavy challenges.

Then, on 31 minutes, a great ball from Stephen Kelly sent Kris Gillies through and he poked the ball underneath the goalkeeper into the net.

Gillies then took advantage of some terrible Yoker defending to double the lead just before half

FOOTBALL

time. Chris McCaig came on at half time to replace Mark Ferguson who was getting 'special' treatment from the frustrated Yoker players.

It only took five minutes to effectively finish the game when Kris Gillies completed his hat-trick, following a good pass from the industrious Josh Rippon.

By this point Yoker had lost the plot, kicking anything that moved. It was no surprise they went down to 10 men after 60 minutes.

John Carmichael replaced Josh Rippon and Stefan Campbell came on for Kris Gillies as debutant Campbell slotted home a through ball from Scott Maitland.

Another substitute, Carmichael, was soon on the score

sheet also with a great mazy run and a sublime finish into the corner.

Joe Rokitta came on to replace Maitland, adding a physical presence to Taynuilt's midfield, and he also got on the score sheet, converting a penalty after John Carmichael was up-ended in the box.

Next Saturday, Taynuilt take on Westcliff FC at Oban High School, a dress rehearsal for the semi-final of the league cup.

Taynuilt: Conner McIntyre, Martin Collins, David McPhee, Craig Campbell, Paul Carmichael, Scott Maitland, Stephen Kelly, Iain McInnes, Mark Ferguson, Kris Gillies, Josh Rippon.

Subs used: John Carmichael, Stefan Campbell, Chris McCaig, Joe Rokitta
Unused: Kenny McKechnie

Weather

Thursday White cloud.
Winds moderate, south easterly
Temperatures 10°C to 12°C

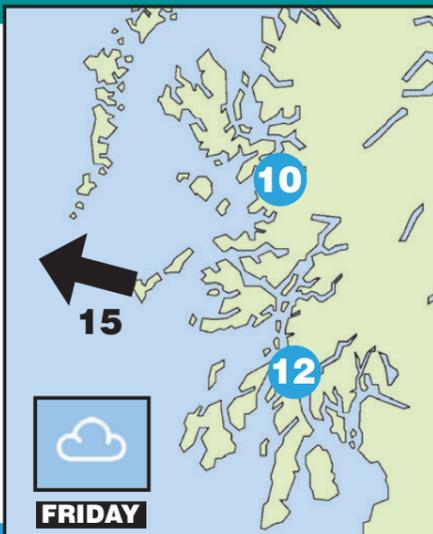
Friday White cloud.
Winds moderate, easterly
Temperatures 10°C to 12°C.

Weekend Sunny intervals.

Outlook Winds strong, south easterly
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from
Thursday, November 10, 2011
are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.
All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 05.01	3.8 11.31	1.2 17.23 4.0 23.38 1.1
Fri 05.34	3.9 12.03	1.3 17.57 4.0 *** **
Sat 00.12	1.1 06.05	3.9 12.36 1.3 18.29 3.9
Sun 00.46	1.1 06.37	3.9 13.08 1.4 19.01 3.8
Mon 01.19	1.2 07.09	3.8 13.40 1.5 19.33 3.7
Tues 01.52	1.3 07.42	3.7 14.12 1.7 20.08 3.5
Wed 02.30	1.4 08.21	3.6 14.53 1.8 20.50 3.3

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

NANCY BLACK

Ships' Chandler



Sponsors the
Oban Times
weather

come rain
or shine

NANCY BLACK Ships' Chandler
Telephone: 01631 562550

The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8068

Thursday 10 November, 2011

www.obantimes.co.uk

77 pence

Don't miss next week's
8 page Festive Times pull-out

Great competitions, recipes and puzzles and the best local shopping to help make your Christmas special

See our feature on page 6
FESTIVE CELEBRATIONS & PARTY NIGHTS

Children in Need
Find out what we're doing to raise money on page 11



For all the latest news video and photos log on to www.obantimes.co.uk Find us on Facebook Follow us on Twitter

Residents still waiting on 999 cover news

ARDNAMURCHAN residents have claimed they are being 'left in the dark' over proposals for the future of their out-of-hours 999 cover.

After the latest meeting with Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) and NHS Highland representatives, West Ardnamurchan Community Council (WACC) was told new proposals on replacing the district nurses who currently provide emergency cover for the area would be on the table within a week.

But WACC spokesman Jon Haylett told *The Oban Times* they have heard nothing since the meeting more than two weeks ago.

He said: 'We were promised that they would meet with their chief executives as a matter of urgency, and that they would be getting back to us either late last week or early this week. We have heard nothing.'

'Everything has gone incredibly quiet and we really do wonder what is going on. There is nothing worse than deafening silence.'

Meanwhile, at WACC's last monthly meeting before the upcoming elections, chairman Rosie Curtis was given unanimous support for her handling of the district nursing cover situation. Mr Haylett said: 'Rosie has handled an extremely difficult situation very, very well indeed.'

Getting roads ready for winter

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar has released its winter road maintenance policy to inform members of the public about how it will tackle harsh winter weather.

The policy will inform people about gritting priorities for different roads in the area and gritting times. The information is available on the Comhairle website and has been sent to local community councils.

The Comhairle will also provide small quantities of salt at locations across the islands over the next few weeks to enable the public to treat public roads and footways themselves.



9 771468 629072



High Street transformation: An artist's impression of the new development.

Work to start on town site

Beleaguered High Street gets boost

FORT William's beleaguered High Street has been given a major boost with the news the £8million redevelopment of the former Grand Hotel/McTavish's Kitchen site is to start next week.

The project will see health and beauty retailer Superdrug, outdoor clothing shop Cotswold Outdoor and a JD Wetherspoon restaurant/pub move into the property, with a 60-room Travelodge on the upper floors of the development. One area of retail space remains but developers Ashford Property Group says it plans to market it soon.

West Midlands-based Anglo Holt Construction will carry out the 20,000 square foot project next to the refurbished Gordon Square and West Highland Way start/finish point, with building work due to start on Monday.

Local councillor Donald Cameron welcomed the news and told *The Oban Times* he hoped it would invigorate Fort William's retail centre.

He said: 'This is the news we have been patiently waiting for and the developer has to be congratulated for pulling this project together given the present economic climate. The development will breathe new life into the west end of the town and will hopefully encourage other operators to invest in the High Street.'

'With work due to start on the Blar development at the beginning of 2012 it was always imperative that the town development went ahead in tandem to retain a retail balance in the greater Fort William area.'

He continued: 'When you also consider the recent

By RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

announcements of large investments in their operations by BSW Timber and Rio Tinto Alcan and the £40m local schools project we are very fortunate to be bucking the downturn that is having serious consequences in other areas'

Drew Purdon owns the House of Clan Jamrie, which sits directly across the High Street from the site, and he told *The Oban Times* he was happy the development was finally getting underway.

He said: 'We've been sitting staring at this site for the last five years, so I'm just glad something's being done at last. Cotswold is a great name in outdoor clothing, and the Wetherspoons will bring a few people in as well.'

'The Travelodge with 60 rooms will certainly bring people to this end of town, and hopefully after all these years this can start a rejuvenation. I think it's looking good for the future of the west end.'

Ashford director Andrew Smith said: 'I am delighted to be announcing the start of this project and with such a strong occupier line up. This is a very important development for Fort William and we have worked extremely hard to deliver it.'

'The remaining retail space will offer large and well-configured units not currently available elsewhere on Fort William's High Street. It provides a great opportunity for retailers in the outdoor capital of the UK, especially with the final stretch of the West Highland Way being relocated to a spot immediately adjacent to the development.'



Iain Banks spent the afternoon talking to Lochaber High School pupils.

Leading British author visits Lochaber High School

SENIOR pupils at Lochaber High School were treated to a visit from one of the UK's leading authors last week when Iain Banks spoke to them about his life and work.

Mr Banks spoke to the youngsters about how he got into writing and how he got his first book published.

Head teacher Jim Sutherland said the pupils were 'enthralled' by the novelist. He said: 'He spoke about the different facets of a writer's life and what had

inspired his novels. There was an opportunity for pupils to ask questions and at the end of the afternoon a chance to get books signed.'

Fifer Iain Banks is one of the country's most successful authors of recent years, writing novels such as *The Wasp Factory*, *The Crow Road* and *Walking on Glass*. He also writes science fiction novels under the name Iain M Banks and was chosen by *The Times* as one of the top 50 British writers since 1945.

Centre steering group needs public backing

THE GROUP which will take over the running of Caol Community Centre (CCC) are calling on the local community to get behind the project.

CCC steering group was given permission by Highland Council to set up a community organisation to take control of the centre from April 1 next year.

A public meeting will be held in the centre on Monday November 28.

Steering group press secretary George Kerr told *The Oban Times* they wanted people to know CCC was still taking bookings and said CCC was about

more than just the lunch club. He said: 'We want it to be a community hub and if people want to keep their community centre they are going to have to get involved.'

The steering group plans to hand out surveys around the local area before the meeting to find out what kind of services people want from CCC.

Meanwhile, Lochaber Action on Disability has taken over running the senior citizens lunch club provision until the public takeover of CCC.

The local charity provides transport to and from CCC as well as up to 40 meals a day.

Tweed on show in USA

ISLE of Lewis-based Harris Tweed Hebrides (HTH) has been given major exposure in USA after two top New York clothes shops created window displays of the Shawbost company's new collections.

Saks Fifth Avenue and Topman on Broadway have dedicated windows to the new menswear collection in collaboration with Scottish Development

International, to celebrate their use of Scottish fabrics.

HTH creative director Mark Hogarth said: 'It must be many years since Harris Tweed had this kind of profile in New York. From the grand up-market boutiques on Fifth Avenue to the trendy downtown stores, Harris Tweed has been incorporated into some fantastic apparel. The stores tell us that early sales

figures are very encouraging which is good news as we head into the next buying season.'

HTH chairman Brian Wilson said: 'We have put a lot of work into reviving the American market and the results are visible. These fantastic window displays on Fifth Avenue and Broadway send out very strong messages that the weavers and mill-workers can take great confidence from.'

Hollywood stars flock to Lochaber locations

LOCHABER is fast becoming a home from home for Hollywood stars, with filming of a new blockbuster getting underway this week just as another movie crew finishes up.

Achnacarry Estate provided the backdrop for the recording of 'Effie', which stars Emma Thompson, Dakota Fanning and Julie Walters, while the new Scarlett Johansson flick 'Under The

Skin' is due to spend two days filming in Glencoe this week. 'Effie', written by Ms Thompson, is set in 1850s London and tells the story of Victorian art critic John Ruskin, played by Greg Wise, and his marriage to Scots woman Euphemia 'Effie' Gray. The shores of Loch Arkaig provide a key location for the film, and the crew also shot on location in London and Venice. 'Effie' is due to

be released in September next year. Meanwhile, the A82 through Glencoe is set to be closed for 10 minute periods this week to allow scenes to be filmed for 'Under the Skin' - based on the novel by Inverness-based author Michel Faber.

The movie will tell the story of an alien, played by Ms Johansson, who picks up hitchhikers on the A9.

Town on target with new archery club

ARCHERY'S popularity in Lochaber continues to grow with a new club set to open in Fort William.

Following the success of the recently formed South Lochaber Bowmen (SLB) in Kinlochleven, a new field archery club - Garrison Bowmen - will be created in Fort William, with 30 members already signed up.

A six-strong committee was chosen at a recent

meeting, with Caol man George Kerr nominated as chairman. The move follows well-attended archery lessons held by SLB at Lochaber High School. SLB and the Scottish Field Archery Association (SFAA) have arranged for a certificate of competence course that will give the club 13 coaches. SLB president Dubh Irbhinn said: 'In our experience the more club coaches we have gives a massive advantage to ensuring the future

of the club, and has allowed us to introduce field archery further afield, which we still intend to do with other communities in the Highlands.'

Meanwhile, SLB's new course on land at Brecklett, Ballachulish, has passed inspection from the SFAA and will open in the near future. SLB was only set up last year, but already boasts about 60 club, junior and adult members in Kinlochleven.

KMF CAR SALES AND MECHANICAL SERVICES

STOCK LIST

- 11 11 Vauxhall Vivaro CDTI Sportive ... Was £11495 Now £10995
115 BHP 6000 miles, Silver, Manufacturers Warranty, Mint Condition.
- 10 60 Volkswagen Polo S 60..... £8,995
1.2cc, 5 Door, Hatchback, Petrol, Grey, 14,000 miles,
Folding rear seats, Multi-speaker CD/Radio,
3x3 point rear seat belts, Electronic Skid Protection System,
Fully Serviced, Manufacturers Warranty.
- 09 59 Volkswagen Jetta SE TDI 105..... £10,995
1.9cc, 5 Door Saloon, Diesel, Grey, 31,000 miles, Full Service
History, Multi-speaker CD/Radio, Folding Rear Seats,
Remote Central Locking.
- 09 09 Citroen Berlingo..... £7,995
1560cc Diesel, Cruise control, Split folding rear seats,
Rear floor storage, MP3/CD Player, Front arm rests,
Sliding rear doors, Fully serviced.
- 09 09 Kia Cee'd S..... £7,695
1.4cc, 5 Door, Hatchback, Petrol, Silver, 22,000 miles,
Central Locking, CD Player, Electric Windows, Air Con
1 Owner, Fully Serviced, Manufacturers warranty.
- 08 08 Vauxhall Vectra SRI CDTI 120..... £6,995
1.9cc, 5 Door, Hatchback, Diesel, Silver, 44,400 miles,
CD Player, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows
Air Con, Alloy Wheels, Music Steering Controls, Fully Serviced, MOT
- 08 57 Volkswagen Polo Match 80..... £6,795
1.4cc, 3 Door, Hatchback, Petrol, Blue, 33,000 miles, CD Player,
Central Locking, Electric Windows, Fully Serviced, 1 Years MOT
- 04 54 Mini Cooper S..... £7495
Chille pack, Blue, 1 years MOT, Mint Condition, CD/Radio
Player, Central Locking, Electric Windows, Alloy Wheels.
- 04 04 Peugeot 206 Quicksilver..... £3295
3 door, Hatchback, Silver, 17000 miles, Folding Rear Seats, 1 Years MOT.

NEW CARS ARRIVING SOON AND FINANCE AVAILABLE ON ALL CARS
Unit 1 Caol Industrial Estate, Fort William
Tel/Fax: 01397 704624 Mobile: 07866552902
www.kmfcars.com

Good deals on car and van rentals + valeting

Lochaber Farm Shop
Crafts & Cafe

We are now taking orders for free range turkeys
Come and visit us for all your Christmas fayre
Also a wide range of gifts
Our winter hours are Tues - Sat 10am - 5pm

Website: www.lochaberfarmshop.com Tel: 01397 708686
Aonach Mor Road, Torlundy, Fort William PH33 6SQ

Get ready for winter with H.I.S

Snow Shovels

Bunkers

Bird Food

Peat and Coal

Come in and see us today!

H.I.S

Highland Industrial Supplies Ltd
Unit 2, Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Claggan
Fort William, PH33 6PR
Tel 01397 705159 Fax 01397 700722

Shop owners praised for not selling fireworks to children

HIGHLAND shop owners have been praised for their vigilance in not selling fireworks to under-age children.

Highland Council recruited a 15-year-old volunteer to visit 13 retailers across the region during the three weeks leading up to Guy Fawkes Night. The youngster attempted to buy rockets, but was denied the sale at every shop after being asked to provide ID.

It is illegal to sell fireworks to a person under the age of 18, with a sale carrying a maximum fine of £5,000 and a six-month prison sentence.

Council trading standards

manager Gordon Robb said: 'Unlike what we experienced over the last three years, all the retailers we visited this year refused to sell to our young volunteer.'

'Complaints do, however, continue to be made about fireworks getting into the hands of young people and being set off in the street and late at night; so youngsters are apparently still getting hold of them.'

Anyone with information about the supply of age restricted products to children should contact Highland Trading Standards on 08454 04 05 06 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Skye cattle grid stolen

POLICE are appealing for information after a cattle grid was stolen from an Isle of Skye croft.

The galvanised steel grid was removed from Croft 3, Glenmore, near Portree, sometime between Thursday October 20 and Monday October 24.

The cattle grid is of tubular design, and consists of two parts, each measuring nine feet by 4.5ft.

Anyone with information regarding this theft, or having seen anyone acting suspiciously in the area, should contact Portree Police Station on 01478 612 888 or the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 or at crimestoppers-uk.org. No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

Pair reported after theft

TWO 19-year-old men have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal in connection with the alleged theft of gas bottles from the Ocean Frontier

Workshop, Underwater Centre, in Fort William. A Northern Constabulary spokesperson said inquiries into other recent thefts in the area are continuing.

Morar WRI members meet

ELEVEN ladies attended the November meeting of Morar Women's Rural Institute in Lady Lovat Primary School.

President Christine Haynes, who was hostess with Isobell Morton, instructed the group on how to make special Christmas cards, and after much hilarity everyone managed to create their own cards. The flapjack competition was won by Mary Ferguson, while Isobell Morton won the mini Guy Fawkes competition. The raffle was won by June Foxwell.

Spurlock in Lochaber to film life as a Scottish laird



Filmmaker Morgan Spurlock with Lady Alex in Glencoe Wood.

THE STAR of the fast-food documentary 'Super Size Me' Morgan Spurlock was in Lochaber recently filming his new show, which takes a light-hearted look at the life of a laird.

The American filmmaker's new show 'Morgan Spurlock's 51st State' is being created for Sky Atlantic, and saw him spend time filming around Duror, Glencoe and Fort William.

He legally became a laird after buying a square foot of land near Duror from Highland Titles, a group which sells small pieces of land to raise money to help conserve local woodland.

Loch Leven Hotel and Duror Stores owner Hilary Wilson and her partner John MacAskill were asked by the production team if their properties could be used for filming.

Ms Wilson told *The Oban Times*: 'We were approached by the producers of a television documentary team who were

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

making plans to film in the Duror and Glencoe area.

'Morgan Spurlock bought a square foot of Scottish soil and is now able to call himself a laird, and planned to make a tongue-in-cheek documentary on the class system as is represented by the Scottish Laird. They also planned to film a local pub and that is where we came in.'

'I have no idea how the finished film will turn out but they got some beautiful dry sunny weather for November and filmed down in Duror, on the old bridge and in the shop.'

Mr Spurlock's camera crew also visited Cameron of Lochiel's estate and interviewed him, as well as taking trips to Glencoe Museum, Clan Cameron Museum and the West Highland Museum in Fort William.

Lady Alex, chief fundraiser for Highland Titles, was also interviewed for the show.

The last day of filming saw a group of local people invited to the Loch Leven Hotel for food, drink and conversation.

Ms Wilson said: 'It turns out Morgan's style is to interview you while you think you are just having a conversation so it will be something to look out for. The whisky was flowing and so were the tongues!'

'He was all decked out in his silver button jacket and a kilt. One of the ladies, who had had a couple of glasses of wine, said he looked ridiculous - which he did! But he took it in good humour.'

Mr Spurlock's famous documentary 'Super Size Me' saw him eat nothing but McDonald's food for 30 days to see what effect it would have on his body. 'Morgan Spurlock's 51st State' is due to be shown in April next year.



Second year pupils at Ardnamurchan High School have recently finished a class project to gather food to donate to the Highland Food Bank charity. Pupils, staff and members of the local community all donated to the cause. The charity is run by Blythswood Care, and gives food to people across the Highlands who cannot afford to buy food for themselves. Pupil Andrew Jackson said: 'I don't think I've ever seen so much food in one place. Thank you to everyone who donated.' The donations will now be sent to the Blythswood depot in Evanton to be weighed and then distributed to individuals and families in the Highland area.

Follow us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes



The club champions line up with their trophies. 20_45table01

Fort Table Tennis Club gets new season underway

FORT William Table Tennis Club got its new season underway on Monday night, and marked the occasion by handing out trophies to last season's winners.

The awards were handed out by club chairperson Angus MacDonald at the weekly club night at the Nevis Centre. The table tennis club was set up in 1999, with membership growing year-on-year.

Mr MacDonald told *The Oban Times*: 'This season's programme is now underway and the winter leagues are about to be set up with at least three divisions of eight players anticipated. However, it is not too late to come along on Monday evenings whether you want to play in the leagues or other competitions, have some practice or friendly games. Coaching is also available. Everyone is equally welcome whatever standard they wish to play.'

Trophy winners - Division 1: winner - Monte Bleasdale; runner up - John Grant. Division 2: winner - Chris Drain; runner up - Tommy Disher. Division 3: winner - Jim Hinchley; runner up - George Rodger. Open Singles (club champion): winner - Monte Bleasdale; runner up - Angus MacDonald. Handicap Singles: winner - Monte Bleasdale; runner up - Donald Gillies. Best Newcomer - George Rodger. Most Improved Player - Annette Summers.

Group launches new scheme in bid to keep visitors safe

AN OUTER Hebrides scheme to try and increase safety for tourists visiting the islands has won praise from Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs Roseanna Cunningham.

The Visitor Safety Initiative was launched after the Coastguard released figures which showed 86 per cent of their call outs last summer involved visitors to the islands.

The Outer Hebrides Community Safety Partnership produced 5,000 booklets with advice and help numbers in relation to hill, road, sea and shoreline safety. They also distributed route maps to hotels and B&Bs in the islands. These aimed to make it easier for hillwalkers to leave specific details of the journey and anticipated return time.

The Coastguard said the initiative had reduced the number of call outs to their service.

At a meeting of local authority representatives in Edinburgh, Ms Cunningham said: 'It is clear their work is having an impact in improving community safety in the Outer Hebrides for visitors and local people. It is fitting that the partnership's innovative work has been recognised by the World Health Organisation's Safer Communities Programme and I wish them well in the future.'

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's lead community safety officer Frank Creighton said: 'The success of this initiative is indicative of the close working relationship we enjoy in the Outer Hebrides.'

'The priorities we set ourselves are identified through statistical evidence gathered from each partner organisation. This way we are able to make the best use of the collective resources at our disposal.'

Newsdesk 01397 703003

Approved fitters of **CR SMITH** home sweeter home **VELUX**

gage.joinery **windows**

CR Smith PVC Windows, Fully Guaranteed, Professionally Fitted
5 Windows 1 Front Door 1 Back Door - from only £2500 Fitted ex VAT
PVC Front Door - from only £450 Fitted ex VAT
Velux Trained Installers - Kitchens Supplied and Fitted
www.gage.uk.net

Call now for a free quote and full colour brochure
07756 514660 01631 570455

Beaver Timber LTD
Barcaldine, by Oban
Telephone: 01631 720 353 • Mobile: 07861 247 237
www.beavertimber.co.uk • email: info@beavertimber.co.uk
Established over 30 years

DON'T FORGET YOUR LOG STORE THIS WINTER

FREE FITTING OF SHEDS IN OBAN & SURROUNDING AREA

BEAVER TIMBER WILL DISMANTLE YOUR OLD SHED, DELIVER AND ERECT YOUR NEW SHED

BROCHURE & FREE QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST

All our buildings are made from 19mm boards and come complete with 18mm flooring.
GARAGE BASES PREPARED

SHOWSITES NOW OPEN - Beaver Timber, Barcaldine; Corachie Clematis, Loch Awe and MGM Timber, Oban

- Summer Houses
- Sheds
- Garages
- Fencing
- Stables
- Dog Kennels
- Log Stores
- Boat Houses
- Chalets
- Bespoke Buildings
- Home Offices

Artwork on show

ARTWORK by a group of Lochaber youngsters will be on display in Caol next Wednesday.

Aspiring artists from Caol Youth Centre and Fusion Youth Space have been working with Fort William art studio Room 13 and have produced a project of visual and media art.

The work, which has been funded by the anti-bullying service RespectMe, will be on show from 7pm to 9pm at Caol Youth Centre.

Poppies Christmas Market

Christmas Market Now On

Open 7 days 10am - 5pm

Saulmore Shore by Oban 01631 565718 poppiesgardencentre.co.uk

Supersexy
Exclusive Christmas Party

Graeme Platt (Intensity)
Simon Hegarty

Willie Neilson
CRÈME DE LA CRÈME OF HOUSE MUSIC

BURLESQUE PERFORMANCES
COMPLIMENTARY SHOTS

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY

RockNess WKD Ticket Giveaway

Friday 2 December
Argyllshire Gathering, Oban • £10 • 01631 569407

G8 promotions
Ticket information 07429 224335

Caroline impresses at BGT audition

ANOTHER Lochaber singer is in the running for a coveted place in the 'Britain's Got Talent' knockout stages, it has emerged. Caroline MacPhee sang at the same Edinburgh auditions last month for the ITV talent show as Mallaig's Rosemary Leckie, whose own bid for fame was reported in last week's *Oban Times*.

Caroline's offering was totally different from classically trained Rosie's - 'Fear a' Bhata (The Boatman), in Gaelic, was her first choice song.

The 25 year-old from Claggan, Fort William, impressed the producer so much she was asked to sing again - and belted out her version of Adele's Rolling in the Deep.

'I loved it and I'm glad I did it,' she told *The Oban Times*. 'I entered for the experience and it definitely gives you confidence.'

Caroline, who currently works as a hotel receptionist in Glenrothes, added: 'I have been singing since I was old enough to walk.'

'I was taught to sing in Gaelic by Chrissie MacEachen from the age of five and won my first gold medal for Gaelic learners at Dunoon in 1994.'

The talented vocalist also has two CDs to her name - 'Dance With My Father Again' and 'This is the Life' - and mum Sandra reckons Caroline has what it takes.

'If she does not get through there's something far wrong,' said Sandra, a shopworker at Morrisons in Fort William. 'But you have to remember there are thousands of people going for this.'

Caroline - and Rosie - won't find out if they have made the cut until early in the New Year.



Gaelic singer Caroline: hoping for Britain's Got Talent success. 20_caroline01

Video of this available online OBANTIMES.CO.UK



Linking up for sport: Jared Simpson, Jane Blanchard of Lochaber Sports Association, Alan Clark from SportsScotland, and Active Schools' Bridget Thomas, front, with some of the club representatives attending the open evening at Lochaber High School. 20_451aa01

Shinty club voices new pitch concern

HIGHLAND Council is being urged to ensure the new grass shinty and football pitches at Lochaber High School are capable of handling both school and community use.

Local sports clubs touring the school's new £7million sports centre were impressed with facilities for hire at an open evening last Wednesday.

Representatives from Lochaber Sports Association, Sports Scotland and Active Schools also attended the link-up event.

But at the question and answer session, Fort William Shinty Club chairman Richard Gall expressed concerns over upkeep of the outdoor pitch.

Turf is still bedding in on the 90m by 110m surface, which remains without lines or goals. A shinty pitch and two football pitches at right angles will share the playing area.

The club, whose An Aird home is out of commission until next summer, plays its first game in early March and is awaiting confirmation the school pitch will be available.

Mr Gall asked: 'When is it going to be ready and when are we going to be getting it?'

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Nobody seems to be able to tell us. A pitch like that will probably need verti-drained two or three times a year. In Lochaber, Highland Council has nobody here qualified to look after grounds - and we need somebody full time.'

Principal teacher of PE Jared Simpson, who hosted the event, replied: 'No-one has been able to give us a definitive answer as yet. We still have no lines and no goals and we need to have a proper pitch maintenance programme in place, although the new turf seems to be fairly well embedded now.'

'It is all still a bit up in the air just now and I'm as keen as you are to get an answer to all these questions as quickly as possible.'

Mr Gall suggested an approach should be made to pitch consultant Michael Clark from Kingussie, 'one of the top groundsmen in Europe' who had made The Dell - Kingussie's shinty pitch - into 'probably the best playing surface in the north of Scotland'. Alan Clark of SportsScotland

said: 'When the pitch is handed over, it is important a maintenance programme and guidelines are in place to keep the pitch in good condition. Eight hours per week is pretty heavy usage.'

Mr Gall told *The Oban Times*: 'Fort William Shinty Club is homeless until the first Saturday in March, when we have our first game.'

'In the Camanachd Association we have to get our fixture list out and at the moment there is still a question mark over where our first and second teams are going to play.'

'We have been chasing Highland Council for two years and nobody seems to be able to tell us.'

Mr Simpson said: 'We would be unwilling to make the pitches available for full use until a

proper maintenance programme is in place.

'At the moment we don't have anybody to cut, line, fertilise or maintain it. Until that happens we won't be able to lease the pitch for outside use.'

The successful open evening heard a presentation from Mr Clark on maximising sports facility use through partnerships between clubs, schools and the wider community.

Mr Simpson said: 'It's all about establishing better links with the local community and clubs, and making them aware of how easy it is to book and use our facilities. That's what we are keen on in the school - that the facilities are used.'

Mr Simpson thanked everyone for attending and announced the school is to revive its annual sports day in summer 2012.

Care forum adopts new name

LOCHABER Community Care Forum has adopted a new name and from now will officially be known as Care Lochaber. The organisation, based at the An Drochaid centre in Fort William, runs projects including a community car scheme, a handyman service and volunteer placements. Anyone wishing information can contact administrator@carelochaber.org.

Doors close on tiny Duror village store

ST ANDREW'S Day is usually a cause for national celebration - but that won't be the case in Duror when the local shop closes its doors for good.

The tiny business and sub Post Office has been struggling for some time and owner Hilary Wilson has decided to call it a day on November 30.

Ms Wilson and partner John MacAskill, who have run the shop since 2007, say the business has lost money every year and diverted precious time away from their main business, the Loch Leven Hotel in North Ballachulish.

Last month *The Oban Times* reported that the little store, next to the busy A828, was in danger of closing after plans to turn it into a café and community hub under new ownership fell through.

Ms Wilson admitted stock levels had been low latterly and operating hours less than ideal - but said the lack of trade made the closure decision inevitable. Mr MacAskill generally mans the counter between 9am and 2.30pm. She told *The Oban Times*: 'We did have stuff on the shelves initially, but we did not get enough support and we lost a fortune.'

John was not taking a wage out of it and the shop was losing £3,000 to £4,000 every year - and that all adds up. We just generally had less and less interest and more and more apathy. I would have shut it a long time ago if I had everything to do with it.



Duror village shop: closing on St Andrew's Day. 20_445duror01

'We really have had loyal customers and it is a shame for them - but we just can't do it any more. For some little old ladies it was their life.'

Ms Wilson added: 'We might apply to make it into a house - that's probably the best thing we could do to it.'

Duror and Kentallen Community Council member and local resident Kim Malcolm goes to Duror Stores daily between nine and 11am to pick up milk and papers.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I will have to go up to Ballachulish to collect my pension now. A lot of people are extremely grateful to John, who has been very helpful. If you missed him, he would put your papers in the box outside, little things like that. We shall miss him.'

He added: 'We are having to bow to the inevitable. If somebody does take the shop on, the big problem is parking. You have to cross a busy main road and that's the drawback.'

Kinlochleven Hallowe'en party fun



Hayley MacCallum, Mikayla Cameron and Sarah Cameron were among the revellers at Kinlochleven High School's Hallowe'en disco.

KINLOCHLEVEN High School welcomed some weird and wonderful beings at its Hallowe'en disco last Thursday night.

More than 100 pupils - around two thirds of the school roll - dressed up for the event and the chance to win prizes for their costumes.

Judges voted Robyn MacMahon in her zombie outfit as junior winner and Rowena MacIntosh best senior for her scary doll costume. Group winners were the cast of Father Ted - Mrs Mills was a dead ringer for Mrs Doyle, while the three priests bore a remarkable resemblance to Amy and Mikey Harris and Alasdair MacDonald.

Head teacher John McGilp said: 'It was a fantastic night. Pupils were up to their usual high standard in terms of who - or what - they came dressed as.'

Community council election deadline

VOTERS in Ardgour, Glenelg and Arnisdale, Kinlochleven, Morar, Morvern and Plockton have until next Wednesday to return postal ballot papers for community council elections in their area.

The vote was triggered after the number of candidates nominated exceeded the places available. Counting will take place next Thursday and Friday.

A total of 19 community councils failed to attract half the maximum membership and will disband from midnight on November 15. Highland Council will contact them to see if there is demand to re-run the elections.

Among those in danger of falling into abeyance are Broadford and Strath, Caol, Dunvegan, Glencoe and Glen Eive, Glendale, Laggan, Nether Lochaber, Raasay, Sleat and Skeabost.

Shoe shop closure confirmed

CLARKS Shoes bosses have confirmed they are closing their Fort William store for business reasons. Last week *The Oban Times* reported that the High Street shop would cease trading on December 14 with the loss of four jobs.

A Clarks spokesperson said: 'I can confirm that we are due to close this store. This is part of our ongoing programme to open and close new stores across the UK as business dictates.'

The shop has been open since 1982. The town is now left with only two dedicated shoe shops - DE Shoes and Stead & Simpson, also both on High Street.

Banavie hostel put up for sale

THE WILD Goose Hostel at Banavie, Fort William, has been put up for sale.

Offers of around £350,000 are being invited for the property, which is owned by Stephen and Liz Fairclough.

The pair run the business under management and operate a separate leisure business in south Argyll.

Vet talks at Chamber

FORT William Chamber of Commerce members enjoyed a talk from Crown Vets director Keith Chandler at its October meeting in the firm's new premises.

Mr Chandler highlighted the seasonality as a problem and the importance of building sufficient business during the summer months to enable all staff to be employed throughout the year.

In July and August some 10 per cent of turnover can be attributed to visitors to the area, he said, but weekend and evening work can make it difficult to recruit vets in such a rural area.

He said: 'It's a great and rewarding profession to be in - it's a vocation. One of the great things of being involved in the chamber is getting to know what other businesses are all about.'

'As a business it's easy to do business here, we have all that we need to support our business right here on our doorstep.'

After vice chairman Stewart Leitch gave the vote of thanks, chairman Robert Hawkes reminded members the next meeting at the distillery on Thursday November 24 will include presentations from Kris Frampton, HighNet and Blair Allan, Lochaber Housing Association. Everyone welcome.

Scottish timber technology...

 ...designed for the Scottish climate
 Durable, affordable and sustainable all-timber homes and lodges made using generations of experience. Full design, approvals, fabrication and build service.
 Telephone 01464 851 208
 Sylvan Stuart
 enquiries@sylvanstuart.com
 www.sylvanstuart.com
 Sylvan Stuart Ltd. Inch, Aberdeenshire AB52 6RX

whats on LOCHABER
 Thursday > Open Late
 Skipinnish Ceilidh House 10pm till 2AM Free Entry
 Friday > DJ Connor
 Skipinnish Ceilidh House 10pm - 2am £3 entry
 Saturday > Clubnight with PAT STEEMAN
 Skipinnish Ceilidh House £5 entry 10pm till 2am
 Tuesday 8th Nov > Gaelic Conversation Class
 Skipinnish Ceilidh House All abilities welcome FREE
 Tuesday 22nd Nov > Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas
 Skipinnish Ceilidh House World renowned Fiddle & Cello duo
 Tickets on sale now from www.ticketsoup.com & from Skipinnish Ceilidh House 01397 705 666
 Do you have an event or live music on?
 Do you want your advert to be read by 12,586 weekly readers?
 Call Fiona on 01631 568000 for more information
 Source Jicreg data as at 01/01/2011

Community council election deadline
 Vet talks at Chamber
 Shoe shop closure confirmed
 Banavie hostel put up for sale



WINTER OFFERS

Join us at the hotel this festive season! Situated in the centre of Inverness, within walking distance of the train & bus stations and the shopping district.

1 Nights - £55.00 per room B&B
 2 Nights - £99.00 per room B&B

To book call 01463 228850 & quote 'Oban'

Subject to availability, fully pre-paid when booked, non refundable. Valid 01.11.11 - 30.04.12 (exc. New Year)

Ramada Encore Inverness, 63 Academy Street, Inverness, IV1 1LU



Follow us on facebook
 www.facebook.com/obantimes

TWO NEW, AFFORDABLE, ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY WOOD FUELS
 For your existing fire or stove
 Highfire Sawdust Briquettes
 A lower cost alternative to coal and wood made from compressed sawdust.
 If you are looking to buy a new heating system or convert your old one...
 Brites - The ideal fuel for wood pellet stoves and boilers.
 C. Hodge Fencing
 (Lerags, By Oban) Telephone 01631 563271

Residents reap recycling praise

HIGHLAND residents are being congratulated for helping Highland Council recycle more than 40 per cent of household waste for the first time.

People are also reducing the amount of rubbish for disposal and are providing 'the highest standard of materials' for re-use, say councillors.

The recycling rate of 41 per cent from April to June was maintained between July and September.

Transport, environmental and community services chairman John Laing said breaking the 40 per cent barrier was 'a huge achievement and a significant milestone'.

He said: 'The public deserves a huge thank you for responding so readily and effectively to our recycling messages to reduce, reuse and recycle.'

'Not only is the amount of waste sent to landfill down by more than 11 per cent, but the amount being recycled has increased by over three per cent - so we have a win-win situation.'

Marketable

'On top of this, the materials being recycled are of the very highest quality and highly marketable.'

'The message is 'keep up the great work' and help us sustain the improved performance.'

Ross-shire became the fifth area in the Highlands to switch to alternate weekly collection of waste and recyclable material five weeks ago.

Earlier rollouts to Skye and Lochalsh, Caithness, Lochaber and Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey have seen 'very few problems' with excess waste or contamination of recycling bins, the council says.

The new collection system will be introduced throughout the Highland Council area by next summer.

The Scottish Government has set a target of 70 per cent of all waste to be recycled by 2025.



Researcher Dr Donald Gillies, with Raasay residents, from left, Calum Gillies, John MacLeod, Chrissie MacLeod and Finlay MacLennan.

Study reveals jobs hold the key to Raasay future

SUITABLE job opportunities locally are the key to reversing island depopulation, according to a research project unveiled on Raasay last weekend.

At a well-attended public meeting in the community hall, University of Strathclyde academic Dr Donald Gillies presented initial findings from a study of links between the school system and island depopulation during the 20th century.

The study found that only one in six pupils at Raasay Primary School stay on the island as an adult. Over the course of the 20th century, 83 per cent of school pupils left the island, never to return.

The importance of qualifications for employment was inevitably leading to more youngsters leaving for college and university, the meeting also heard.

Dr Gillies, who has strong Raasay connections on both sides of his family,

opened the floor to questions and discussion after his presentation.

Debate centred on the difficulties of business start-up in sparsely populated areas such as Raasay. More distance learning opportunities were also raised as a possible answer, as was the need to provide attractive alternative routes to productive careers, especially ones which could be fulfilled locally.

Helpful

Speaking afterwards, Dr Gillies told *The Oban Times* local views had been 'extremely helpful' in trying to make sense of the data.

He said: 'I am extremely grateful to local residents who turned up in numbers in such inclement weather and offered us important ideas and suggestions.'

'While we could see that the desire for education draws people away from the island, questionnaire returns did suggest

that it was the lack of employment which kept people from returning.'

'Local opinion added weight to that impression and there were repeated references at the meeting to 'suitable employment' as being absolutely vital to stemming the tide of depopulation.'

He added: 'Relying only on the local population for trade would not seem to be economically sustainable. Voices at the meeting were clear that any business would have to trade much more widely and online ventures might well provide a good example.'

The research project, funded by the British Academy, concludes early in 2012 when complete findings will be published.

The meeting was part of the Economic and Social Research Council's Festival of Social Science, an annual event showcasing current social research of public interest.

Join forces, Foxley tells local HAs

Lochalsh and Skye, Lochaber associations reject merger call

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



Michael Foxley: controversial merger mover.

HIGHLAND housing associations should consider merging to give them more clout and free up cash for building more affordable homes, says Highland Council leader Michael Foxley.

Under the controversial proposal, Lochaber, Lochalsh and Skye and other associations would join together to form a single body.

Councillor Foxley believes the move would cut bureaucracy and strengthen calls for more government support.

Housing associations effectively became the only providers of rented homes from the 1980s after local authorities were forced to sell off homes cheaply to tenants under Margaret Thatcher's right-to-buy policy.

Recent years, however, have seen a change as the SNP government allowed Highland Council to ban sales in areas where homes for rent were scarce.

Cash for 107 new council homes by next year was provided but funding for housing association schemes was slashed, leaving them little leeway to build new homes of their own.

Councillor Foxley told *The Oban Times*: 'Faced with that reality, I think it's essential that at the very least they should share services and discuss merging. If they are not able to develop [new homes] they need to reduce their costs.'

'There should be much greater collaboration - combining Lochaber, Lochalsh and Skye would mean having only director instead of two, one income in place of two, and savings made.'

'But I would like to see it happen on a larger scale than that. A Highland-wide association, for example, could still have local development committees looking at opportunities and resolving

'Of these, 107 will be delivered by Highland Council, 65 by the local housing associations and the remainder by HA and council partnership vehicles.'

'Two-thirds of the 204 houses will be built in the inner Moray Firth area, the great majority of them in Inverness and Dingwall. Of the other third, 14 will be built in Lochaber and 15 in Skye and Lochalsh, most by their two local associations.'

She added: 'The real challenge facing all of us - councils, housing associations, partnership vehicles and indeed government - is how to fill the funding gap we find ourselves with.'

'We simply can't do it overnight but, make no mistake we're well up for the challenge. No-one understands better than a community-based housing association how vital it is to build new and affordable homes, which is why Lochaber HA and our old friends and neighbours in Skye and Lochalsh have consistently been at the forefront of developing and delivering innovative and cost-effective solutions to the age-old housing problems facing our local areas.'

LSHA chairman Iain MacLean told *The Oban Times*: 'The suggestion that the problem somehow lies with the associations misses the point. The real issue is the massive cut that has taken place in the public subsidy available for housing.'

'Not only has the total pot shrunk by 37 per cent but, even more problematically, the subsidy per unit has been halved at the stroke of a pen.'

'We will continue to work hard with all our housing partners in the Highlands to come up with realistic and cost-effective ways of tackling the problem but they must be in the best long term interests of our hard-pressed local communities.'

The merger call received a chilly response from both Lochalsh and Skye and Lochaber housing associations.

Di Alexander, chairperson of both Lochaber Housing Association and the Rural and Islands Housing Associations Forum said: 'Michael is usually well informed but the facts are that the Scottish Government's housing investment programme for 2011-12 will deliver just 204 new homes in the Highlands - 4.7 per cent of the Scottish total.'

Green Apple award for HWEnergy

TORLUNDY-based HWEnergy bosses will be making their way to London on Monday to collect an award for an environmentally friendly heating scheme.

Managing director Bruno Berardelli and head of marketing and sales Stuart Reid will receive the Green Apple accolade from successful environmental

businessman Chris Hopkins in the House of Commons.

Mr Hopkins appeared recently on Dragon's Den and won cash backing from Deborah Meaden and Theo Paphitis for his Huddersfield-based solar panel business.

HWE's entry, for 'best environmental practice', was

based on a successful installation at Walter Cameron Way in Corpach.

The firm helped residents in the 23-house sheltered housing development reduce heating costs and CO2 emissions by designing, installing and now operating its biomass heating system.



Kinlochleven pupil council members Andrew, Bethany and Lauren: helped raise more than £1,000. Pupils boost school shelter fund by £1,000

KINLOCHLEVEN Primary School and Nursery has raised more than £1,000 for the school shelter fund through a spelling bee and rhyme recital.

Nursery children aged three and four learned and then recited

their rhyme in front of the pupil council, while primary children had a list of words to memorise.

Perfect scores
Thirty nine gold awards were given out to those who achieved perfect scores and the successful

event took the shelter fund total to £3,255.

The pupil council expressed their delight that everyone had taken part and thanked all members for their help in planning and running the event.

MSP honoured with guest speaker slot

NA H-EILEANAN an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan was guest speaker at the Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association annual dinner in Glasgow on Thursday night.

Dr Allan said: 'It was a great honour to speak to this 124th annual gathering of Glasgow Gaels. It was nice to speak about something non-political

for a change and just extol the virtues of the Western Isles - steering clear, I hope, of praising any one island or village above another!'

Mr Allan was also fear an taigh at the association's annual gathering the following evening. He said: 'I wish the Lewis and Harris Association every success for the future.'

Follow us on facebook www.facebook.com/obantimes

Free Gaelic translation software welcomed

ROSS, SKYE and Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy has welcomed Microsoft's introduction of Gaelic translation software at no cost to home users.

The Scottish Gaelic Microsoft Captions Language Interface Pack provides Gaelic translations of commonly used menus and options in programs like Microsoft Word and Internet Explorer.

The company believes the software will be a useful aid for native speakers and learners - and has indicated full translations of all software could follow. Mr Kennedy said: 'This is a great step towards making Gaelic accessible to everyone. This software can help many who want to introduce a little bit of Gaelic into their daily lives and get a taste for that amazing language.'

Olympic flame to pass through Lochaber

THE OLYMPIC flame is to pass through Lochaber three days before the opening ceremony for the 2012 London Olympic Games, Highland Council has confirmed.

Torchbearers will cross the border from Argyll on Saturday June 9 and carry the flame down through Glencoe to Ballachulish.

The runners will follow the A82 to Fort William and Spean Bridge before travelling on to Fort Augustus, Invermoriston, Drumnadrochit and into Inverness.

An evening celebration of the historic occasion at the Northern Meeting Park will follow the flame's arrival in the Highland capital.

Early in the New Year council staff will meet representatives of the communities the torch is passing through to encourage

them to host a welcome on behalf of local people. Full details of the relay will be announced closer to the time.

Highland Council convener Sandy Park said: 'I am sure the Highland public will turn out in large numbers to follow the torch's journey. What a weekend we have in store as Rock Ness, the popular rock concert, and the World Mountain Biking Championships in Fort William are taking place at the same time.'

Spean Bridge musician and international shinty player Gary Innes welcomed the news. He said: 'I am sure we will give the torch's entry to the Highlands a right Lochaber welcome and I hope that it will have the chance to encounter our shinty tradition on its travels through the district.'

Customers' growing frustration over breaks in Stornoway Vodaphone signal

NA H-EILEANAN an Iar (Western Isles) MP Angus Brendan MacNeil has urged Vodaphone to take action following breaks in the mobile signal in the Stornoway area.

Mr MacNeil said the signal had been 'poor' over past weeks with customers either having a patchy signal or no signal at all.

He said: 'I know that Vodaphone were aware of the problem and claim to have resolved the matter. However, many constituents tell me that this is not the case and that the signal is still unreliable.'

'Vodaphone customers are fast becoming frustrated with the service they are receiving.

I have contacted Vodaphone and asked why the signal in Stornoway is so poor and what they propose to do to restore normal service.'

A Vodaphone spokesperson told *The Oban Times* on Friday: 'We have had problems with that particular area and we did an investigation yesterday which made it clear that replacement equipment was needed on the mast.'

'We have that ready to go and we will be going up there tomorrow morning to do a switch over of the equipment, which should remedy the problem. We apologise to our customers for any problems they have had.'

NICKEL 'N' DIME

HUNDREDS OF HOUSEHOLD ITEMS ACROSS 2 FLOORS
LARGE RANGE OF CHRISTMAS STOCK NOW IN

- ARTIFICIAL TREES & FLOWERS
- CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
- CARDS, WRAPPING PAPER & GIFT BAGS
- SANTA'S
- Fireworks

.....and much more!

HUGE BOXING DAY SALE

11AM - 5PM

6 Combie Street, Oban, PA34 4HN
Open Monday - Saturday 9am - 6.30pm Sunday 11am - 5pm

Angel OF THE YEAR

150TH ANNIVERSARY 1861 - 2011

Do you know an unsung hero who deserves recognition?

Then don't miss next week's Oban Times to find out how you can nominate someone special for The Oban Times ANGEL OF THE YEAR award!

Launching in next week's paper and online at www.obantimes.co.uk.

FW



An eye-catching photograph taken by Tobermory Lifeboat crew member Sam Jones will be touring the UK and Republic of Ireland as part of the Royal Photographic Society's International Projected Image Exhibition. The photograph shows Tobermory Lifeboat on exercise with Rescue 177 helicopter and is among 480 pictures chosen from 47 countries. Sam, from Tobermory, said: 'It was taken during an exercise with the Royal Navy last August using a fisheye lens, which is perfect for getting wide angle shots in confined spaces like the aft deck.'

Council sells Cowal castle

'The last thing we want is a 'Heidi Hi' development'

REPORT

by Christine McCartney
cmccartney@obantimes.co.uk

A LISTED castle and estate gifted to Argyll and Bute Council is to be sold to a major holiday company for an undisclosed sum.

The Council's Executive, meeting behind closed doors last week, chose Seasons Holidays plc as its preferred bidder for the Castle Toward estate on the Cowal peninsula.

There were three other bidders for the property, which had a £2.25m price tag, two believed to be other developers and a third from social enterprise Actual Reality, the current tenants.

Director Dr Christopher Mason said although it was disappointing that a 60-year tradition of outdoor and music education at the site was coming to an end, Actual Reality would not appeal the decision. He said: 'We now have to find alternative premises and that is our priority. Our commitment has always been to the work not the place.'

Dr Mason added Actual Reality, a major Cowal employer also running the nearby Ardentiny Centre, would not rule out a move away from Argyll.

Bristol-based Seasons Holidays plc plans to create a resort with a hotel, spa, conference facility and lodges.

Council leader Dick Walsh said the firm offered the highest figure for the site, as well as the best potential economic development for the local area. He said: 'Initial estimates are that Seasons Holidays could create more than 200 jobs at the site, and commit some £20m to Castle Toward in the initial development phase.'

Argyll and Bute Council, which acquired Castle Toward from the

Strathclyde Regional Council in the 1990s, made initial moves to sell it in 2004.

However, last week's deal, which is subject to a confidentiality clause, has left locals with as many questions as answers.

South Cowal Community Council, meeting last night (Wednesday), hoped to hear more details from the council.

Alan Stewart, chairman of the South Cowal Community Development Company, which had its community buy-out bid rejected by Scottish Ministers in September, said it was time to lift the veil of secrecy.

He told The Oban Times: 'I am disappointed the council has not chosen Actual Reality as the preferred bidder for Castle Toward. We have always felt maintaining the castle as an outdoor centre was the best use for the building.'

'However now the decision has been taken, I hope the council will involve the community in discussions with Seasons Holidays. The need for secrecy has now passed and it is important we get the best for the area out of any negotiations.'

The deal is conditional on planning permission approval, a process in which the community council has a formal say.

Mr Stewart added the kind of holiday complex and jobs created would influence community views: 'The last thing we want is a 'Heidi Hi' development down here.'

Dunollie Halls deal close to completion

A FORMER Oban town centre church building that has been on the open market for more than a year is close to being sold.

A deal to purchase Dunollie Halls, situated at the junction of Oban's Dunollie Road, George Street and Breadalbane Street, and which is home to Ferguson Hair and Beauty, Argyll and Bute Volunteer Centre and Argyll Training Ltd, was reached last month and the sale of the building, listed at £385,000, is expected to be concluded this month.

The converted church building had been advertised through local estate agency Bell Ingram.

Care home uncertainty

THE OPERATOR of the Lynn of Lorne Care Home in Benderloch, Doon Valley Healthcare Ltd, has gone into administration.

Around 80 staff and 60 residents were told on Tuesday the home was being handed over to administrators at PKF.

Doon Valley is part of Aberdeen-based parent company, Argus Care Homes, which operated 12 Scottish homes through a number of subsidiaries. Administrators were keen to stress it would be business as normal at the homes.

Bryan Jackson, joint administrator, said: 'We will continue to operate the homes as normal while they are in administration. We will ensure that all

residents, their relatives and staff are kept fully informed of any developments as well as notifying the relevant local and regulatory authorities.

'We appreciate that these are not like any other businesses but are the homes of the residents and ensuring there is continuity of care is priority.'

The Argus group faces debt and cash flow problems, exacerbated by creditor pressures.

Administrators have visited the Lynn of Lorne and brought in care home experts to help run the company. Mr Jackson added: 'Whilst trading we will be seeking buyers for the business trading from the homes and will market them as going concerns.'

Oban's first Winter Festival receives cash boost from Trust

OBAN'S inaugural Winter Festival received a timely boost at Dunollie's 1745 house on Friday, when it received an £800 cheque from MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust.

Graham MacQueen was on hand to present the cash to the organisers at the revamped house as they hosted a trial run of cream teas which will be part of the festival's line up.

The money will go towards general running costs and was gratefully accepted by one of the organisers, Pamela Lockhart. She said: 'It's fantastic to receive this donation, which will help with the running of the

whole winter festival.' Graham said: 'It's such a wonderful event and the whole of the town is set to benefit from it.'

'There's no business in the town that won't benefit so every one of them should help support the event.'

Starting on November 19, the Winter Festival runs to the 27th, with a host of events planned throughout the town.

Among the attractions will be a special ice-skating rink at Atlantis Leisure and the popular reindeer parade and Christmas lights switch on.

The full programme can be

found online at obanwinterfestival.com.

Meanwhile, the cheque to the festival committee comes as part of £3,800 of donations from the MacQueen Charitable Trust this month.

Also benefiting are Oban FM Cash for Kids, which received £1,000, while the Oban Gaelic Choir and Oban Lorne Rugby Club each received £500. Donations of £300 went to the Macaulay Camanachd Association, Seil Island's Hall charity and Family Mediation Argyll and Bute. The North Argyll Diabetic Association received £100.

LOCH LEVEN HOTEL
tel 01855 821236
Old Ferry Road, North Ballachulish
www.lochlevenhotel.co.uk
eMail: reception@lochlevenhotel.co.uk

Have a Merry Christmas Party Night ...
The team at The Loch Leven Hotel invites you to celebrate Christmas with us.
23rd or 24th December 2011 | £19.95pp
3 Course Dinner
Traditional live music from Brocken Spectre, a young local Ceilidh Band from the Spean Bridge area.
... at The Loch Leven Hotel!

Christmas Party Nights and festive celebrations

CELEBRATE IN STYLE AT THE COLUMBA HOTEL! HURRY TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER LIMITED AVAILABILITY
"JINGLE BELL ROCK DISCO" FOR ONLY £19.95 PER PERSON
DONT MISS OUT ON OUR PHENOMENAL CHRISTMAS PARTY WHICH INCLUDES A 4 COURSE EVENING MEAL, COMPLIMENTARY BUBBLY, PARTY PACKS AND A NIGHT JAM PACKED WITH ENTERTAINMENT.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 3 COURSE £9.95pp
AVAILABLE 1ST - 31ST DECEMBER (excludes Christmas Day)

CHRISTMAS DINNER 3 COURSE £14.95pp

CHRISTMAS DAY CRACKER
ENJOY A SUPERB CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER FOR ONLY £25 PER PERSON!

COLUMBA HOTEL - OBAN NORTH PIER, OBAN PA34 5QD
01631 562 183

Light of India TANDOORI RESTAURANT

Choose Light of India for your 2011 Festive Celebrations!

Thank you to all our customers supporting us for 27 years

Fully Licensed

43 Stevenson St, Oban Tel. 01631 563728

It's the most wonderful time of the year

Get together with friends, family and colleagues over the festive season and celebrate in style with delicious food, good hospitality and a well stocked bar at one of our waterside locations.

Festive Party Nights from £24.50 per person with 1 FREE PLACE FOR EVERY 15
Available at the Oban Caledonian & Isles of Glencoe Hotel on the Sat 10th and Fri 16th Dec. Murder Mystery at Ballachulish Hotel on 17th Dec as alternative to a party night - £32.50 pp

Festive Lunches from 1st - 23rd Dec with 1 FREE PLACE FOR EVERY 15
Ballachulish & Isles of Glencoe from £12.95 pp and Oban Caledonian Hotel from £11.95pp.

Traditional Christmas Day Lunch from £42.00 per person
Available at the 3 hotels from 1pm - 3.00pm on Christmas Day.

For more info or to book please call or visit the website.

Ballachulish Hotel T: 0844 855 9133
Isles of Glencoe Hotel T: 0844 855 9134
Oban Caledonian Hotel T: 0844 855 9135
www.akkeronhotels.com

the SPINNAKER cafe

Spinnaker FESTIVE Set Menu

Starters
Curried Parsnip & Butternut Squash Soup
Hot Smoked Salmon with Cream Cheese Mousse & Crusty Wholemeal Bread
Timbale of Crushed Spring Onion Potatoes, Stormoway Black Pudding & Haggis

Mains
Traditional Roast Turkey
The Festive Burger
Grilled Sea Bass Fillet
Moroccan Chick Pea & Vegetable Tagine

Desserts
Warm Christmas Pudding
Homemade Caramelised Apple Crumble
Homemade Lime & Gingerbread Cheesecake
Cheese & Oatcakes

Main Course - £12.95 2 Courses - £15.95 3 Courses - £18.95
For Bookings ring 01631 569555 - 28A George St, Oban PA34 5SB

paparazzi 4 COURSE DINNER £19.95 inc. CHAMPAGNE COCKTAIL
FUNKY XMAS PARTIES LIVE BAND OR D.J.
BOOK BEFORE 20TH NOVEMBER AND GET A FREE BOTTLE OF BUBBLY!
BOOK NOW. 01631 565421/ 07770 931 967
Breadalbane Street, Oban, PA34 5NZ

MENU FOR CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Starters	Main Course	Dessert
Prawn & Smoked Salmon Salad with marie rose sauce & Brown Bread	Traditional Roast Turkey	Traditional Christmas Pudding with rich brandy sauce
Duck Liver Pate our own recipe, served with hot oatcakes & port jelly	Peppered Rib of Roast Beef	Raspberry Cheesecake with raspberry coulis and fresh cream
Spicy Pumpkin Soup with toasted pumpkin seeds & crusty bread	Fillet of Scottish Salmon	Hot Chocolate Fudge Cake with vanilla ice cream
Warm Goats Cheese Salad with toasted pine nuts & apricots coulis	Prime Cut of Scottish Sirloin £3.50 surcharge	Coffee and Baby Mince Pies
	Vegetarian Christmas Roast	
	All Main Courses served with seasonal vegetables, roast potatoes & buttered baby potatoes.	

SEE THE DIFFERENCE IN 6 WEEKS GUARANTEED!

Get into your little black dress for the Christmas Party Season.
Buy one empower Get One FREE!!!! Only 50 available!
Call us NOW on 01631 565000

RESULTS IN 6 WEEKS
empower
OR YOUR MONEY BACK

energie fitness clubs

Follow us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

f

† Terms and Conditions apply

Domestic violence officer added to Oban force

A NEW police officer dedicated to tackling domestic violence took up post in Oban this week.

Constable Caroline MacArthur is one of three specialist officers appointed, with others in Dunoon and Lochgilphead.

Top priority
Chief Inspector Brian Auld said the issue is a top priority for police in Argyll.

He said: 'I hope it will make it easier for people to come forward. My objective is to reduce repeat victims, repeat offending and send out the strong message that we will robustly police domestic abuse incidents.'

'The force recognises that domestic abuse is a priority for the organisation and we are there to protect victims, to detect offenders and we are taking on the broader aspects of that.'

Caroline will be working with other organisations, including domestic violence charities, health and social services, not only to investigate and prosecute cases, but to provide a range of support to victims.

He said: 'It can be incredibly hard to leave, sometimes the offender is the main income generator. It's putting things in place, working with other agencies to put a care plan in place, so when they are ready to withdraw the support is ready and available to them.'

'Even if we only act as a gateway to leave an abusive relationship and no crime is recorded, I would be happy that we are safeguarding somebody.'

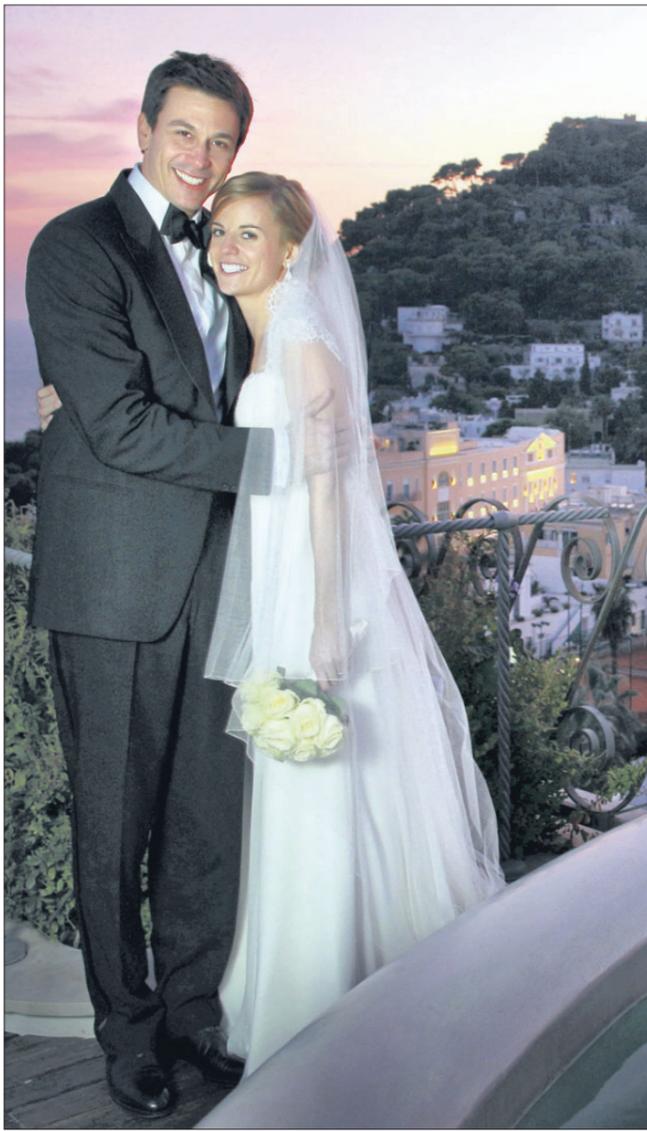
'Protection and prevention are every bit as important as detection.'

Caroline will also be involved in youth justice issues and supporting children caught up in fraught domestic situations, working closely with schools and social workers to make sure they do not suffer further if they have witnessed domestic violence.

The appointment was welcomed by Argyll and Bute Women's Aid.

Janine Calder, violence against women support worker, said: 'I think it is fantastic news. Women that I have worked with said that a dedicated officer for domestic violence would help them come forward.'

'The police in Oban have given me absolutely fantastic support in my role and I'm looking forward to working with Caroline.'



Susie Stoddart and her husband Christian 'Toto' Wolff married in the stunning setting of Capri.

Oban racing driver Susie becomes a Wolff in Capri

RACING driver Susie Stoddart is used to covering her good looks with fire-proof racing overalls and full-face helmet. But the 28-year old looked stunning in a traditional wedding dress when she tied the knot with former racer Christian 'Toto' Wolff, aged 39.

The glamorous ceremony took place in Capri, Italy, and was attended by Susie's family from Oban.

Susie, who races in the Ger-

man Touring Car Championship (Deutsche Tourenwagen Masters) with Mercedes, and Toto, an investor and co-owner of a driver management company, enjoy celebrity status as a couple in both Germany and in Toto's native Austria.

With the media spotlight on their big day, the couple opted for a very private ceremony and only two official photographs were released.

Speaking from her home in

Switzerland, Susie told *The Oban Times*: 'The wedding was in Capri and was most definitely the best and happiest day of my life.'

The wedding was held before the final race of Susie's season at Hockenheim, where she drove as Susie Wolff for the first time, complete with a new name badge on her overalls and her iconic pink car.

The couple live in Steckborn at Lake Constance, Switzerland.

Oban rockets to world-wide video fame

Fireworks fiasco explodes onto international screens

IT WAS meant to be a half hour extravaganza of light and sound, but instead Oban's community fireworks display became the town's most explosive marketing tool.

Thousands of locals had gathered at Mossfield Park on Friday to take in the popular annual event, with numbers boosted by the success of Pyrol's first Oban display last year.

However, nobody could have anticipated it would have taken longer to switch out the lights than it did for all £6,000 of fireworks to shoot into the air at once, thanks to a never-before encountered technical glitch.

There were laughs and boos in equal measure as local councillor Roddy McCuish told the crowd that the display was finished just a minute after it started.

However, since *The Oban Times*' video of the 50-second 'fiasco' went online, it has been picked up by news networks across the world, featuring on the likes of Good Morning



Oban's 50-seconds of fireworks film has been seen worldwide

America, ABC Eyewitness News, NBC's Today programme and Australia's NineNews.

It has been covered extensively in the UK too with daily newspapers and broadcasters picking up the story.

Nearly half a million people watched the clip as *The Oban*

Times went to press and it is anticipated that more than a million people will have seen it by the end of the week.

It is an unexpected boost to Oban's profile, according to the councillor who had to apologise to the crowd after the spectacular error.

Roddy said: 'It's actually worked out really well, we've been able to turn it round and turn it into something positive.'

'I've been giving interviews to news stations across the world - there's no doubt it's put Oban on the map.'

'Pyrol have also confirmed they will put on an extra special display on the last day of the Winter Festival, on November 27, and we're looking at locations to shoot the fireworks over the bay.'

Pyrol remain apologetic for the error but say they have been 'flabbergasted' by the scale of the response, adding it could prompt a trend for shorter, more spectacular displays.

Firefighters face fewer problems

FIREFIGHTERS in Oban had fewer problems than normal during this year's Guy Fawkes Night, but still had to be called to three out-of-control bonfires. All three of the problem bonfires were on Saturday night, one at Dunollie and two in Soroba. Watch commander

Paul Finnegan said: 'There's usually about seven bonfires we are called, so three isn't all that bad.'

Meanwhile, Chinese lanterns were lit across the town at the weekend, some of which drifted over Mossfield during Friday's ill-fated community fireworks

display. Watch commander Finnegan said: 'They are becoming much more common and people need to be aware of the dangers. If they land on dry grass or bushes they can start fires, so people need to be think about where they will drift to when lit.'

Round house gets planners nod for Isle of Seil

PLANNERS have approved an unusual cylindrical design for a new home at Ellenabeich, Isle of Seil, despite objections.

The two-storey house will use traditional stone and slate on land west of Inshaig Park House at the entrance to the village.

Three locals and Seil Community Council raised concerns about the suitability of the house in a conservation village.

However, planners concluded: 'It is considered that the proposed dwellinghouse will enhance the area by introducing an interesting feature.'

Police appeal after Oban pub assault

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a 35-year-old man was the victim of an alleged assault in a public house in Stevenson Street, Oban.

Another man, described as being around 35 years old, wearing a blue jumper, blue jeans and with a Eastern European accent, is being sought.

Witnesses are asked to contact Constable Barber at Oban Police Office on 01631 510500.

New thatched cottage for Coll

PLANNING permission to build a house on the site of a ruined cottage has been renewed.

The site, at Sorrisdale, Isle of Coll, is next to a formerly-listed cottage. The new dwelling is to be traditional built with a thatched roof and single storey.

Motorbike seized

A MOTORCYCLIST has had his bike seized by police after he was arrested for suspected drink driving and driving without insurance near Dunbeg.

Speeding drivers

WEEKEND speed checks resulted in 11 drivers being caught in Taynuilt, Connel and Kilinver. A motorist was reported to the procurator fiscal for speeding and crossing double white lines while overtaking in a 30 mph zone.



New councillor Louise Glen-Lee reflects on her success.

Former journalist becomes local councillor

OBAN North and Lorn has welcomed Louise Glen-Lee as its new councillor after the SNP candidate won last week's by-election with a landslide margin.

In retaining the seat for the SNP, the former *Oban Times* journalist received 1,081 first-choice votes, double that of her nearest rival, Roy Rutherford of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, who took 505.

Turnout was 32.4 per cent. Mrs Glen-Lee said: 'I am delighted to have been elected to serve the people of Oban North and Lorn.'

'I look forward to working with councillors from all political groups in the area committee and in the full council.'

The Oban North and Lorn seat had been made vacant following the untimely death of Donald MacDonald in August.

Loch Awe safety group renew efforts to establish safety boat

THE COMMUNITY safety company set up following the deaths of four fishermen on Loch Awe in 2009 is pressing on with aspirational plans to provide a safety boat for the loch.

The Fatal Accident Inquiry into the deaths of Steven Carty, 42, Thomas Douglas, 36, William Carty, 47, and Craig Currie, 30, ruled the fishermen were responsible for their own deaths and pointed to the fact they took to the water in fog without proper lifejackets.

But although firemen from Strathclyde Fire and Rescue were on scene to hear the cries of the victims, they had no means of reaching them safely.

The Loch Awe Safety Company (LASC) was due to meet with members of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Community Safety Forum yesterday (Wednesday) to request a round-the-table meeting with all interested parties.

The company said it acknowledged that, despite the tragic circumstances leading to the inquiry, and the ongoing distress to the

families of the deceased, the inquiry report contained 'valuable findings and recommendations.'

The statement, from LASC chairman David Price, continued: 'We are pleased that the Sheriff, in his report, has acknowledged the ongoing efforts of the Loch Awe Safety Company, and its associated LochWatch Loch Awe scheme.'

LASC has overseen a loch safety awareness campaign and set up a LochWatch scheme, which employs volunteer 'spotters', who live around the loch.

With the help of Gael Force Marine, it is also selling lifejackets at discounted prices to encourage more loch users to wear them.

LASC member Iain MacKinnon added: 'The £8,000 raised by the families of the fishermen who died and the money raised by readers of *The Oban Times* could be put towards a patrol boat or safety boat, which would do a similar job to a rescue boat.'

'After meeting with all interested parties, we should know the way forward by spring next year.'

Japanese Knotweed causing problems for home owners

AN INVASIVE weed that can grow through concrete, destroy foundations and can take up to three years to remove is causing problems for local homeowners by affecting insurance or mortgage arrangements.

Japanese Knotweed, which is becoming increasingly common throughout the west coast, is an extremely aggressive plant that can grow up to four inches in just one day.

It is also extremely difficult to eradicate, as just one shoot of its roots can regrow an entire plant.

Knotweed can grow two metres down into the soil and treatment by herbicides can take up to three years to be successful.

As the weed continues its relentless march into new areas, there is concern from homeowners and the building trade that mortgage and insurance applications will be affected by its presence.

One resident who lives near Oban and who declined to be identified after finding that the presence of the weed resulted in his insurance application being refused, said: 'I've been unable to get buildings insurance until I get rid of the weed, which has just crept into my garden. 'That could take years though.'

ORDER EARLY TO AVOID THE WINTER RUSH

SCOTLAND'S INDEPENDENT OIL SUPPLIER

- Free Top Up Scheme
- Interest Free Payment Plan
- Fuel Collection Points
- Reliable Local Service

For Delivery Throughout Scotland...
Call Free Now On 0800 224 224
www.highlandfuels.co.uk Office open from 8am Mon-Fri

HIGHLAND FUELS

Argyll's 1st uPVC sliding sash window

Traditional Windows without compromise

Our vertical slider is an authentic looking sash window with Ovolo finishing. This combines all the benefits of high performing modern materials and functionality with period character and design.

Our frames are good for the environment
Our windows and doors provide an outstanding barrier against heat and noise loss

Systems designed to achieve a Window Energy Rating of Band A

Systems designed to achieve a Window Energy Rating of Band A

Fully committed to ISO 9001 standards covering all environmental issues

All Spectus products come with a 10 year guarantee

MacLeod Windows - Handcrafted by the men of Argyll for the houses of Argyll

For more information contact
Iain Macaskill: 0800 526 781

FLOORSHOP

FANTASTIC OFFERS ON FURNITURE FOR ONE WEEK ONLY

Bunk beds £90,
Wardrobes from £99.00
and many many more offers

superb selection of carpets, vinyls, laminates and much much more

WE WON'T BE BEATEN ON PRICE !!

Telephone: 01631 563316 • Unit 12, Mill Lane, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HA

Corporate stationery
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

Personal stationery
Matching paper & envelopes, postcards, address labels

krisp print

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery,
Burnbank, Burnside Street,
Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JD
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

Buoyed Fort finally make their point

REPORT BY
RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

FOOTBALL

Fort William will be buoyed when they take on Rothes this Saturday after picking up their first point of the season last week.

Manager Danny Conlon hopes his players have gained confidence after twice coming from behind to get a draw against fellow strugglers Strathspey Thistle at Claggan Park.

Conlon told *The Oban Times*: 'We'll go up there quite confident, I think we're improving as a team.'

'We're looking for a win and we're looking for three points to give us a kick-start. We got a point on the table now so maybe that can be a start for us.'

'I'm encouraged by the way we came back from behind twice against Strathspey. But it will be another hard game. Rothes have had a really good start to the season.'

Sean Grant will be available after missing the Strathspey game

but Darren Duncan will again be out. Fort got their point the hard way in the 2-2 draw with Strathspey. Midfield maestro Sean Ellis started brightly and his through ball created a chance for Michael Ellis in the third minute, but his shot from 12 yards was pushed round the post by the visiting keeper. Sean Ellis then hit the post directly from the resulting corner.

Fort stopper Jonathan Smith then had to make a smart save at the other end before a Sean Ellis free kick narrowly missed the forwards in the box.

Despite their good start, Fort fell behind in the 14th minute when a free kick into the box was met by the head of Strathspey striker Craig Rothney.

It took Fort until the 71st minute to get back on level terms, when Danny Mackintosh curled a shot from the edge of the box into the top corner.

Michael and Sean Ellis combined well minutes later but

Sean's 30-yard drive was tipped over by the keeper.

With just seven minutes to go, Strathspey retook the lead with a shot from Mattusz Bobrowski from 12 yards finding the corner of the net. But Fort didn't give up and two young substitutes combined to get the equaliser, with Iain Maclellan sliding a perfect pass through for Logan Barker, who beat the keeper from 10 yards in the last minute.

Conlon said: 'They were the better side in the first half, but in the second half we improved and I think over the 90 minutes we created more chances. Both sides were desperate not to lose, and it was more blood and guts than silky football.'

Meanwhile, Fort's under-19 side are preparing for their Scottish Youth Cup third round tie with Falkirk on Sunday. Falkirk senior team lie second in the Scottish First Division and have reached the semi-finals of the Scottish Communities League Cup, having knocked out Glasgow Rangers and Dundee United along the way.



Fort's Mark Gilliespie takes on Thistle's Donald Horsburgh. 20_145football01

Nine teams line up for new season

10 PIN BOWLING

THE NEW season of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10 pin Bowling League at the Nevis Centre has started, with nine teams of four players taking part.

After the first week of play, five teams sit on the maximum of five points in the scratch division - Alleycats, Council, Ardtoe/Nevis Radio, Likely Lads and British Legion Scotland.

In the handicap division, Council and British Legion Scotland have the maximum points.

The highest game of the week went to Council with 627 scratch, 823 handicap, and Alleycats had the highest two game scratch total 1175.

The highest individual effort was by Tony Whitelocke of the Alleycats with a 209 scratch, 235 handicap game. Tony also had the top scratch 2 game series with 335. Frank Sweeney of Council also chipped in with a 178 scratch game, 325 scratch series.

Lochaber take top spot after 8-2 win

INDOOR FOOTBALL

LOCHABER Leisure moved to the top of the Ali Young Premier League at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night after beating Granite House 8-2 to keep up the league's only remaining unbeaten record.

Last week's leaders Goon Squad lost out 5-2 to Ballachulish, seeing their 100 per cent record come to an end.

HWEnergy No Stars moved up to third after recording a 3-2 win against rivals Achintore FC. Livercaol moved to nine points after defeating AA Young 4-2 while Steaua Sookabreast came out on top of an entertaining game with Stroke City as 8-3 winners.

Meanwhile, Bayern Bru remain rooted to the bottom of the league following an 11-4 humbling against TNF United.

Final home game for Kilmallie

SHINTY

KILMALLIE are due to play their final home game of the season this Saturday when they take on Lovat at Canal Parks, weather permitting.

After achieving promotion to the premier division last year, Kilmallie can consider 2011 a successful year after avoiding relegation and reaching the semi-finals of both the Camanachd Cup and the MacTavish Cup.

After a 6-0 reverse to Newtonmore on Saturday, their final two games are against relegation battlers Lovat and away to Oban Camanachd the following week, which means Kilmallie will have a massive say in who drops out of the top tier of shinty.

For more build up to all the weekend's action see page 19.

Fort FC Lotto draw

THERE were again no winners in the Fort William Football Club Lotto draw on Saturday. The numbers drawn were 8-14-15. Prize money rolls over to next week and goes up to £700.



Lochaber's Conor Taylor breaks clear to set up another Lochaber attack. 20_145rugby02

Basic mistakes prove costly as Lochaber slip to bottom of the table

LOCHABER slipped to the bottom of the Caledonia regional division two north league after losing out to top-of-the-table Ross Sutherland at Banavie on Saturday.

Although the home side were in touch for a good part of the game, general fitness and a failure to complete basic tasks such as tackling, running and winning line-outs meant it was always an uphill task.

The visitors scored a try virtually from the kick off to make it 5-0, but Lochaber were undaunted and some good play saw them peg the score back with a well taken penalty from captain Kenny Turnbull.

Unfortunately, poor tackling

and reading of the game from the majority of Lochaber's players saw Ross Sutherland score again, this time converted. It was perhaps indicative of how well Lochaber were still doing that the next score was a drop goal from the visitors to make it 3-15. With 10 minutes to go in the first half, a superb break and 40-metre run from No8 Adam Mercer, following by good work from the Lochaber pack and half-backs, saw Lochaber claw back the score to 10-15.

The second half unfortunately saw all of Lochaber's faults highlighted again, with a soft try being scored to make it 10-20. Ross Sutherland scored again, even though Lochaber

were doing some good stuff in patches, and for a while it looked like Lochaber had woken up because they scored right back at them.

The score was 15-28, and at this point Lochaber did look in the ascendancy in certain areas of the game; but it was not to be. The superior fitness and well-drilled game discipline of Ross Sutherland saw two more easy tries scored in the last quarter of the game.

Despite the defeat, Lochaber's Craig MacPherson was named man of the match.

Lochaber travel to Aberdeenshire to take on Garioch this Saturday looking for their second win of the season.

Strong wind affects Fort to Fort times

THE RAIN relented briefly last Sunday for West Highland Wheelers' annual Fort 2 Fort event, which this year marked its 20th anniversary.

A strong southwesterly meant that times from Fort Augustus to Fort William were a lot slower than last year and the two Bens, Gavin and Ewan fought a hard battle at the front.

Ben Thompson fell out of contention after suffering mechanical problems and it was Fort William Sports Association sportman of the year

Gavin Shirley who pipped Ewan Thorburn on the line to take victory.

Nix Forster was the first lady home and Ben Miller from Duror took the first junior award. Alex Dent - aged only 10 - led his mum home to a very respectable time for them both.

A few cyclo cross bikes were seen as entrants tried to squeeze a little extra advantage from the choice of wheels.

Thanks to Andrew and Colleen for helping to mark the course, Colleen for timing,

Ilona, Lorna and Fiona for marshalling the key junctions, to Marian Austin for the lantern rouge role and Fiona Gunn and Jim Shearer for acting as broom wagon. Also, thanks go to the Great Glen team and Lochaber Rugby Club for all their assistance.

Results: 1, Gavin Shirley 1:50:14; 2, Ewan Thorburn 1:50:15; 3, Pele Munro 1:54:48; 4, Ben Miller 1:57:13 First junior; 5, Ruari Watt 1:58:54; 6, Alan Dent 2:00:04; 7, Ed Daynes 2:00:18; 8, John Shirley 2:04:45; 9, Gavin Gunn 2:06:12; 10, Gavin Linfield 2:10:06; 11, David Aitken 2:13:05; 12, Ken Whyte 2:13:35; 13, Sam Wood 2:15:30; 14, Neil Wright 2:16:55; 15, Stephen Dent 2:17:33

Second Junior; 16, Roddy Wells 2:18:40; 17, Keith Melton 18, Nix 2:23:21 First female; 19, Spook Munro 2:24:04; 20, Steve Bradley 2:26:22; 21, Gregor Muir 2:27:22; 22, Brian Barbour 2:28:07; 23, Kim Cameron 2:28:18; 24, Marie Meldrum 2:28:27 Second female; 25, Emma Holgate 2:30:20 Third female; 26, Christina Bell 2:32:29; 27, Johnny Bellshaw 2:32:38; 28, Alex Dent 2:39:21 Third

Junior; 29, Frances Dent 2:39:27; 30, Ben Dodman 2:42:42; 31, Brian Holgate 2:43:09; 32, Donnie Meldrum; 33, Lyndsay Shaw 2:45:29; 34, Lee Sutherland 2:48:45; 35, Johnny and For 2:49:09; 36, Andy Rogers 2:49:55; 37, Gordon Watson 2:53:17; 38, Amanda Henderson 2:56:44; 39, Lorna Wells 3:01:11; 40, Sile Morris 3:01:11; 41, Helen Karlsson 3:35:50; 42, Claire Ellis 3:48:20; 43, Alison Hardman 3:48:21.

Under-13s are turning on style thanks to donation



Lochaber High School under-13 football team is playing in style this year thanks to a £400 donation by Kim Cameron of KK stores in Caol. The under-13s, who play in the eight-a-side Highland Schools League, have won four out of five games so far this season. PE teacher and team coach Liam Beagent, also pictured, said: 'The boys are playing really well and credit must go to the whole squad for this achievement. We're really grateful to Kim Cameron for giving us his support.'

Weather

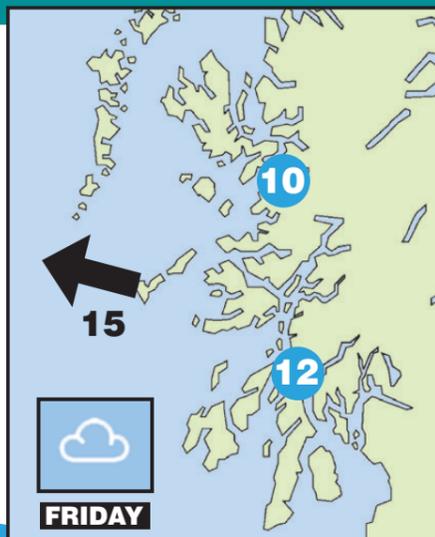
Thursday White cloud.
Winds moderate, south easterly
Temperatures 10°C to 12°C

Friday White cloud.
Winds moderate, easterly
Temperatures 10°C to 12°C.

Weekend Sunny intervals.
Outlook Winds strong, south easterly
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, November 10, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 05.01	3.8 11.31 1.2 17.23 4.0 23.38 1.1	
Fri 05.34	3.9 12.03 1.3 17.57 4.0 ** **	
Sat 00.12	1.1 06.05 3.9 12.36 1.3 18.29 3.9	
Sun 00.46	1.1 06.37 3.9 13.08 1.4 19.01 3.8	
Mon 01.19	1.2 07.09 3.8 13.40 1.5 19.33 3.7	
Tues 01.52	1.3 07.42 3.7 14.12 1.7 20.08 3.5	
Wed 02.30	1.4 08.21 3.6 14.53 1.8 20.50 3.3	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

NANCY BLACK

Ships' Chandler



Sponsors the
Oban Times
weather

come rain
or shine

NANCY BLACK Ships' Chandler
Telephone: 01631 562550