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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Oban hospital patients hit by virus outbreak

A WARD in Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, was operating 'restricted admissions', as *The Oban Times* went to press after an outbreak of the airborne norovirus.

Five patients and several members of staff in ward B have been affected by the virus, which causes diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting.

NHS Highland said on Tuesday afternoon that one of the patients had been discharged and that there had been no new cases in the preceding 24 hours.

Dr Sarah Whitehead, infection control doctor, said it was likely the virus had been brought into the hospital by a visitor.

She added: 'As well as restricting visiting to the affected ward we are also asking people not to come to the hospital to visit if they have had any vomiting or diarrhoea within the previous 48 hours.'

Cinema strikes up the band for Winter Festival

A BRASS band is to perform at a concert at Oban Phoenix Cinema as part of the town's 10-day Winter Festival.

ArtsQwest will bring 10 musicians to the George Street venue on Sunday, November 18, which will also be an open day for people to see round the revived picture house.

A series of winter-themed films are also scheduled as the cinema joins the festivities in style.

The open day gets underway at noon, with the ArtsQwest concert starting at 1pm. Booking for the concert is essential.

Cinema manager Fee Shaw said: 'People can come take a look around the building, see "cinema two" as it currently stands and the projection room before the concert starts.'

See full Winterfest story, page 8.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2014



Fewer than 30 people turned up for Saturday's community bonfire, held at Mossfield's blaes pitch. 15_145bonfire1

'Wrong' call on fireworks

Councillor apologises for bonfire fiasco

THE COUNCILLOR who suggested cancelling Oban's annual fireworks display because of administrative difficulties has apologised following the public outcry over the paltry bonfire that took its place.

Oban councillor Fred Hall says he will accept criticism from the community after fewer than 30 people turned up for a hastily arranged bonfire on Mossfield's blaes pitch on Saturday.

More than 130 comments were submitted to *The Oban Times* Facebook page after a photograph of this year's event was posted on Saturday evening. An overwhelming majority criticised the decision not to hold a fireworks display, with many angry more wasn't made of the publicity gained for the town after footage of last year's accidental 50-second display made news bulletins across the world.

Councillor Hall, who joined the fireworks committee shortly after being elected in May, said financial concerns were at the

root of the decision - one he accepts was 'incorrect' even in the wake of proposed job cuts at the council.

However, the matter was complicated by the death of two signatories to the Fireworks Committee account, late councillors Donald MacDonald and Donald 'Skye' McIntosh.

Difficulties with the bank meant the £1,896.82 raised last year could only be moved into a new account in October. Now standing at £1,917.79, the account remains live and will be used for the sole purpose of fireworks next year. *The Oban Times* has seen an up-to-date copy of the committee's bank statement.

After that situation was resolved in early October, councillor Hall made an application to Oban Common Good Fund for £5,000 to meet the remaining cost of the event. However, he suggested withdrawing the application after Oban Winter Festival - an entirely separate organisation made up of com-

munity volunteers - asked for £2,600 to go towards its finale.

The board, consisting of councillor Hall and colleagues Iain MacDonald, Alastair MacDougall and chairwoman Elaine Robertson - agreed with Mr Hall's proposal in light of stretched resources.

Councillor Hall said: 'As an economic judgement, I made the right decision. As a political and social judgement, it was wrong. I accept that. Hands up, I should have told people sooner.'

Councillor MacDonald agreed it was a committee decision.

He said: 'We agreed with the proposal. In hindsight that may have been a bad decision.'

Councillor Hall and party colleague Louise Glen-Lee paid £140 between them out of their own pockets to ensure a bonfire was held, rather than nothing.

Apologising for the debacle, the former policeman said: 'The bottom line is it is going to be funded next year by private funds raised by me.'

Glensanda Quarry owner allays job fears

THE OWNER of Glensanda Quarry has moved to allay job fears after telling staff the site was scaling back operations until the end of the year.

Glensanda - one of the largest quarries in Europe - will cease production for four to five weeks, reducing the hours of many workers.

Quarry owner Aggregate Industries said that although the construction industry was quiet at this time there was no threat to the business or future orders and no-one would lose out on pay. A company spokesman said: 'One of our ships is due to go into dry dock, so we took the decision that while one was

going in, the other might as well go in too because it is fair to say this time of year is more quiet in the construction industry. The order book is healthy for next year, so we have decided to take the back end of this year to get in ship-shape for 2013.

'We will still have activity at the site, such as maintenance,

but the workers will be doing shorter hours, or told not to turn up. However, no-one is going to be losing any salary.'

Aggregate Industries said it was unsure how many staff would be affected by the temporary reduced workload, as the situation is updated week by week.

Mull community unites to back fish farm

A COMMUNITY united - that was the message at a planning hearing on the Isle of Mull as councillors voted unanimously to approve plans for a fish farm.

The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) applied for permission to construct a fin fish farm in Loch Tuath off Gometra on the west of Mull.

The plans were recommended for approval by Argyll and Bute Council's planning department.

Penny Hawdon of SSC said she wanted to thank the 'people living and working on Mull who have supported us through the application process'.

An extra four jobs will

be created when the site is developed bringing the total of full time SSC staff on the island to 14.

Many locals voiced their support for the plans at the hearing in Dervaig Village Hall. Rebecca Munro lives and runs a business on Ulva.

She said: 'There have been a lot of positive community benefits, a lot of people have family members who rely on fish farm jobs.'

She added: 'I would prefer it if objectors would tell the truth. The more mistruths that are told the stronger the community gets.'

A last minute letter had been received by the council on Friday. It came from environmental lawyers employed by the owner of Gometra, Roc Sandford, and claimed approving the plans would be in breach of EU law.

Principal planning officer Richard Kerr said: 'It is regrettable such a late representation has been made and I would suggest it is a tactical ploy to inhibit due process.'

The letter also suggested that there would be a legal challenge mounted to any permission granted by the planning committee. Mr Sandford had raised concerns during the

hearing about boat navigation should cages be installed but this was disputed by qualified navigators.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I think everyone on Gometra is extremely disappointed that legitimate safety concerns were ignored.'

Speaking after the hearing, Stewart McLelland, chief executive of SSC, said: 'We're delighted that the planning committee have approved our proposals.'

'We look forward to working with the people of Mull and developing and supporting the island as we go forward.'

'Bedroom tax' condemned

ARGYLL'S housing associations have hit out at a new 'bedroom tax' that will see 928 local households lose a combined £556,000 housing benefit annually.

From April 2013, Westminster legislation will see social housing tenants with one spare bedroom lose 14 per cent of their benefit, while those with two or more spare rooms will lose 25 per cent. On average, affected Argyll and Bute tenants will lose £600 a year.

Pensioners are exempt, but disabled tenants and families will be hit by the system. Children under 16 of the same gender are expected to share, as will children under 10 regardless of gender. A disabled tenant or partner who needs non-resident overnight carer will be allowed an extra room.

If parents are separated, only those in receipt of child benefit can deem a second bedroom as used.

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

He said: 'We think it's grossly unfair. It is almost as if someone has decided to just have a massive social experiment.'

A Tieve man who has a second bedroom so his daughter from a previous relationship can stay, said: 'There isn't the housing on Tieve so I can't downsize so it's a huge kick.'

'It's a massive anxiety to put on people. It's not fair to introduce a 'one size fits all' policy.'

Argyll and Bute's deputy lead councillor for housing, Oban's Iain MacDonald, said: 'It's really only being applied to people who cannot afford it.'

'People will be pulled into rent arrears from direct payments without knowing it, then the associations will be left with a problem. It is of extreme concern.'

Argyll and Bute Council have set up a 'golden number' for people concerned about the tax, 01546 605512.

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Ravenous rook's roaring supermarket trade

A RAVENOUS rook has trained shoppers at an Oban store to feed it tidbits - and even perches on people's heads as a sideshow.

The foot-high bird has been doing a roaring trade around Tesco for three weeks, and turns up every day without fail.

The beady-eyed beggar has proved a popular attraction - although one woman had to go to hospital after suffering a panic attack when he landed in her hair.

According to Tesco staff the bird - whose nicknames include Russell and Spartacus - is completely harmless and has a keen homing instinct. The rook was caught and taken in a van to Connel for release - but was back at Tesco's front door before the van made it back to the shop.

Russell's true home is unknown, but a Tesco

employee said: 'I think it has been someone's pet. It's quite friendly, but is scary when it sits and stares at you.'

David Sexton from the RSPB on Mull confirmed to *The Oban Times* the bird is not a crow, as many Obanites believe.

He said: 'It is an adult rook. It may even have been hand reared, hence the tameness and eating out of hands and perching on shoulders. Rooks eat lots of insect matter and they are very sociable. They nest in all on his own. I hope he's okay and is being fed the right food. Bread and cakes won't do him any good.'

The rook has not been content with merely sampling Tesco's produce. It has also been spotted at Aldi and Lidl, showing he has a somewhat continental palate.



'Russell' sitting at his post waiting for some treats from customers at Tesco in Oban.

Winter Wonderland

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OT

Police files

A WOMAN has been charged with assault after allegedly hitting a man on the head with a glass.

The victim suffered a significant cut to his head following the incident in Ulva Road, Oban, last Saturday.

TWO MEN have been charged for racially abusing the occupant of a flat in Oban's Richard Court.

The men, aged 32 and 31, allegedly forced entry into the close of the flat before banging on the door and shouting abuse between 1pm and 2pm last Sunday.

A 32-YEAR-old woman has been charged after two of her dogs attacked chickens and worried other livestock in Taynuilt and Kilchrenan last Friday morning.

A 20-YEAR-old man will appear at Oban Sheriff Court on an undertaking, charged with reckless driving and drink driving.

The incident happened at 3.15am on Saturday on the A85 at Connel.

A LARGE quantity of broken roof tiles and building material rubbish was dumped on agricultural land at Ferlochan Beag, Benderloch, sometime between Tuesday and Friday last week.

Police urge anyone with information on the incident, or anyone who saw a van or large vehicle in the area between those dates, to contact PC Jeremy Moore.

A TEENAGER has been charged under the Communications Act after allegedly sending abusive text messages to another girl.

The 16-year-old is accused of sending the messages to another 16-year-old last Saturday.

Famous song is 35-years-old

THIS Sunday will mark the 35th anniversary of the Sir Paul McCartney song that made a corner of Argyll famous across the world.

Mull of Kintyre, released in the run-up to Christmas 1977, sold six million copies worldwide and was the first single to sell more than two million copies in the UK.

The song famously featured Campbeltown Pipe Band marching along the sandy beach of Saddell Bay with Saddell Castle in the background.

The castle has since been restored by The Landmark Trust for self-catering holidays.

Ileach celebrates 40th anniversary

ISLAY'S community newspaper is celebrating its 40th anniversary this week.

The Ileach's anniversary issue leads on comments from its current chairman Richard Russell, who said the occasion was 'an achievement to celebrate'.

Barcaldine eco lodge to act as community hub

BARCALDINE residents plan to build a £100,000 eco lodge next to the village primary school, to act as a new community hub.

The eco lodge will act as extra space for the school and its 17 pupils, a possible community nursery, a youth club for local teenagers and a venue for wider community events such as quiz nights and children's parties.

Douglas McKenzie, chairman of the Barcaldine Community Association (BCA) says the

By PAMELA PATERSON snorris@obantimes.co.uk

eco lodge will also function as a village hall and will be much cheaper than a traditional village hall.

It will be sited next to the primary school in order to allow it to take full advantage of the facility.

Douglas said: 'Financially it is a lot less ambitious than a village hall and is much cheaper.'

The project is still in its early stages, and the association is still looking at possible cost figures. The size of the building is not yet known but the aim is to make it carbon neutral and use locally sourced materials to build it.

Recycled Douglas said: 'We plan to use recycled materials will look to do everything we can to make it a carbon neutral building. It can also be a project for the children at the same time.'

first time Barcaldine has looked into building a community hall. There has been a change of stance in the council and they are now much more receptive to the idea of a new building next to the primary school.

Douglas added: 'We looked at having a village hall some years back but there wasn't full support from the community.'

'There was doubt over the school's future in the past. Now we have assurance from the

administration that no schools will be threatened with closures over the next four years.

'We were told last time it was not possible on the basis of children's safety issues.'

It is not yet clear where the money is coming from, however, BCA believes a number of different sources for funds can be explored, including community-led fundraising. They hope to have the building completed by early 2014.



Neil Matheson.

Atlantis chairman in running for top UK award

IN THE 20th anniversary year of Atlantis Leisure, a driving force behind the sports centre has been nominated in the Social Enterprise UK awards.

Neil Matheson, chairman of Atlantis Leisure and owner of Matheson's Furnishings in Oban, is a finalist in the Social Entrepreneur of the Year category and was nominated by Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

He is one of five people in the UK shortlisted for the award and the only one from Scotland.

Neil is a founder director of Atlantis Leisure, which is supported by the local council and various funding bodies and provides a range of activities that is the envy of many throughout the country.

Atlantis Leisure was also recently short listed as Scottish

Social Enterprise of the Year. Neil said: 'To be nominated by Highlands and Islands Enterprise is a huge compliment and I'm delighted to be in the finals.'

Neil is quick to praise his colleagues on the board of directors for the many thousands of volunteer hours, which they have put in to ensure that the centre continues to provide a fantastic range of activities for the whole community.

'It has been a privilege to be a part of the Atlantis story and the enthusiasm of our board and staff and the amazing support of the local community make all the hard work well worth while.'

The UK finals are taking place at Lord's Cricket Ground in London on November 12 and will be hosted by comedian and television presenter Sue Perkins.

HOPE kitchen's dismay at supermarket policy of no food handouts

AN OBAN charity that feeds more than 100 homeless people a week has hit out at the town's biggest supermarkets for refusing to donate waste food.

HOPE Kitchen runs a number of drop ins at the Salvation Army Hall throughout the week, providing soup and other basic meals for those who are unable to feed themselves.

Entirely self-funded, the voluntary organisation relies on donations of cash and goods to keep its work going.

And while Lidl has been generous enough to hand over waste food and baked goods, the town's biggest supermarkets, Tesco and the Co-operative, have declined to offer the same help.

Jess MacPhee, who founded the charity in 2009 with Iona MacMillan with support from the late David Livingston, said she failed to understand how one company can offer the help

when others say they can't. 'We've made several approaches to Tesco and they've always said no, although once they gave us a £20 gift certificate. They just don't help out. It's not the fault of the staff in store, the decision has been made higher up.'

'The Co-operative are similar, they've offered us a day of bag packing.'

'Lidl are able to give us stuff. Going by what they're giving us, Tesco and the Co-operative must be getting rid of far more.'

'If these supermarkets did distribute their waste to local causes, it would make a massive difference not just to us, but to the old folks homes and other similar charities.'

Both Tesco and the Co-operative said they had little waste in store by what they're giving us, Tesco and the Co-operative must be getting rid of far more.'

charity, which aims to relieve food poverty and reduce waste across the country by distributing surplus products to communities via organisations such as HOPE.

Tesco's spokeswoman added: 'We have very effective ordering systems in place which means that our stores have very little food left at the end of the day and we can't guarantee that what little food waste there is would be safe for consumption.'

Co-operative Food, which donates to Fareshare from its Lanarkshire distribution centre, said: 'We support the work of the HOPE Kitchen in Oban and have helped them with opportunities for fundraising in our store.'

'However, we have a duty to ensure that any food we supply is of an acceptable quality and condition, and once an item is beyond its use by date it cannot be sold or donated.'

Kilmartin's Maggie makes her mark in first European stone skimming event

WITH its roots firmly embedded in Argyll, the European Stone Skimming Championships in the Netherlands celebrated its inauguration with a winner from Kilmartin.

Replicating the format of the World Stone Skimming Championships in Easdale, the Dutch event, organised by Coerd de Heer, welcomed participants from across Europe, including Argyll, to Scharendijke, near Rotterdam.

Easdale's own master of stones Donald Melville travelled over with partner Maggie Young, taking with them a selection of Eilean Eisdal stones to officially endorse the event.

Maggie, from Kilmartin, demonstrated her puddle-pounding

pedigree by skimming her way to the woman's silver medal.

Donald, who helped organise the inauguration of the event, said: 'We had a ball. We were welcomed like long lost family by the Dutch who were running the event.'

'They have been over at our event the last two years, eight strong, and joined in on the craic.'

'They get' the event and run theirs in the same vane of humour as we do. 'We were delighted to be able to help them by donating some stones - they are in very short supply over there - from the land Eilean Eisdal owns to strengthen the links between the two events.'

North Connel residents worried homes plan would lead to 'crammed' village

PLANS to replace a derelict care home in North Connel with 24 flats and three houses have attracted objections from residents worried the village will be 'crammed'.

Melfort Care Ltd want to demolish the former Ossians Care Home and replace it with the residential development, having twice previously gained permission to replace it with a new care home.

However, local residents have greeted the new approach with less than universal approval.

'They say the extra homes would represent a significant increase to the village's population and existing roadways would struggle to cope with the extra traffic generated by the development. Other concerns include not enough space for parking and



Beachd Ailein Ailean Caimbeul

BHA E tàmailteach a bhith a' leughadh litir anns a' phàipear seo a' cur sìos air Gàidhlig agus a' cultar, ach air an làimh eile carson a bhiodh luchd-leughaidh Tim an Obain eadar-dhealichte bho phàipearan eile.

Tha mi fhìn cha mhòr aig an ìre far nach eil mi deònach am maghar a' ghabhail tuilleadh, ach an drasta 's a' rithist chi mi rudeigin a tha ga mo ruigheachd chun na h-ìre 's nach urrainn dhomh gun freagairt a thoirt!

Chan-e fiù 's a' bhurraidheachd far am bheil leithid de dh'ionnsaigh ga thoirt air mion-chànan na dùthaich fhèin as miosa, ach an t-aineolas a tha an luib mòran de na tha a' nochdadh.

Chan eil mise air coinnreachadh air Maighstir Rodger neo bhithinn an dòchas gum biodh e mothachail gum bheil fileantaich Ghàidhlig againn, ach tha mi a' creidsinn gum bheil na ceudan de dh' fhileantaich ann an sgìre an Obain a bheireadh beagan leirsinn dha!

Tha gnàth-facal ann am Beurla - chan aithne dhomh gum bheil a leithid againn ann an Gàidhlig - gur e sòlas a th'ann an aineolas, agus 's e mo bheachd gum bu chòir dha Maighstir Rodger a bhith glè shona oir tha mòran ann nach eil e a' tuigsinn a-rèir coltais!

An dèidh linntean de gheur-leanmhainn air Gàidhlig tha Riaghaltas mu dheireadh mothachail gur e pàirt luachmhor de dhualchas nàiseanta na h-Alba a th' innte agus gum bheil dleasanais aige a dìon is a ghleidheadh.

Gun teagamh bha cùisean air a bhith na b' fheàrr nan robh am mothachadh agus an taice sin air tighinn bho chionn leth-cheud bliadhna, ach tha e air tachairi ri linn spàirn mhòr a rinn Gàidheil fhèin.

Thar nan deich bliadhna fichead a chaidh fhad 's a bha fileantaich, luchd-ionnsachaidh is luchd-taice a' dèanamh sin, bha iad cuideachd ag obair cuide ri Eòrpaich a bha a' riochdachadh còrr air leth-cheud millean luchd-labhairt mhion-chànan eile. Tha an Roinn Eòrpa glè mhòthachail air Gàidhlig! Tha mi toilichte gum bheil Maighstir Rodger a' tuigsinn an fheum a rinn a' Ghàidhlig ann an Dùn Omhainn, agus dh'iarraim a chur na shealladh gum bheil cuideachd luach do-chreidsimeach innte dha eaconamaidh na dùthaich ma ghreimeichas tionnsgalan Albanach de gach seòrsa air iomhaigh margaideachd a tha cho barraichte.

Agus ma tha Maighstir Rodger ag iarraidh maoin a thrusadh ma choinneimh gainnead sam bith bhiodh e mòran na bu bhuannachdail dha ionnsaidh a thoirt air ionmhas mòr na Beurla seach mogan beag na Gàidhlig!

IT IS SADDENING to see any minority being bullied, and particularly one being attacked in its homeland.

Mr Rodger was correct, Oban Times November 1, in admitting his lack of understanding vis-a-vis Gaelic and I am sure many hundreds of fluent Gaelic speaking readers would be happy to help educate him.

Aside from the responsibility which Government has to support so valuable a part of Scotland's national heritage, it recognises that its modest investment in Gaelic has the potential to return substantial economic as well as cultural benefits. Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell) ailean@obantimes.co.uk.

they will generate. We could be talking about 60 or 70 people coming in to the area - that's a lot. If it is retirement flats, that might be different. That's why we've asked for more information.'

North Connel couple Mr and Mrs Mitchell-Jones also objected, arguing the proposal was not in keeping with the local plan.

They said: 'North Connel has a generally low housing density, more akin to a minor settlement where a medium-scale development would result in an excessively high development density or cramming.'

Scottish Water and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) have also expressed reservations about the lack of information provided.

Advertisement for The Oban Times & West Highland Times. Features 'London Breaks' (3 days from £319.95pp) and 'London Theatre by Air' (3 days from £349.95pp). Includes details about flights, hotels, and sightseeing.

Islay and Mull lodge owners celebrate five stars

TWO ARGYLL businesses are celebrating winning the highest possible accolade from VisitScotland.

The Coillabus Lodge on Islay and Ardfenaig Lodge on Mull have been both awarded five star self-catering status by the national tourism body.

Coillabus is a newly-built luxury eco-lodge on the Oa peninsula on Islay which has been built with stone clad walls and a turf roof.

Owner Hester Ross said: 'We are thrilled our vision for Coillabus and our hard work is recognised with this award. We have worked with so many great island and Scottish craftsmen and suppliers to bring it together.'

Ardfenaig Lodge, which is by Bunessan on Mull, has undergone extensive renovations over the past four years.

Proprietor Anne Tolleson decided to restore the original character of the building when she bought it.

She said: 'The desire to create the kind of lovely Highland cottage that I would choose for my holiday was my motivation in renovating and extending Ardfenaig Lodge. Great attention to detail, careful choice of fabrics and use of family antiques has resulted in the coveted five-star award from VisitScotland and made all the hard work worth it.'

Douglas Adams McGilp, regional director at VisitScotland, said: 'It is fantastic to see Argyll tourism enhanced by high-quality properties such as these. Coillabus Lodge and Ardfenaig Lodge provide visitors to the Inner Hebrides with a fantastic base from which to explore the islands and further afield.'



Park Primary's Eco Group gathered in their garden to celebrate the school's fifth consecutive Green Flag status, marking their environmental achievements over the past two years.

Park leads the way with fifth green flag

OBAN'S Park Primary School is celebrating becoming the first school in Argyll and Bute to win its fifth consecutive Green Flag for its commitment to environmental projects.

The school's Eco Group came together last week to celebrate becoming one of the first

school's in Scotland to achieve the landmark, with teachers congratulating pupils on their efforts.

Awarded every two years, the flag is awarded to schools who can show progress and ongoing achievement to environmental projects.

Unusually, this year's flag was granted immediately after the inspection. Among the pupil-run eco schemes carried out since 2003 is the school's Orchard project, managed by Grounds for Learning - one of only ten such initiatives to be chosen. The gardening club has expanded its

garden with a greater range of vegetables, fruit and plants - with a 'bug hotel' a recent addition for over-wintering insects.

Furthermore, the school recently celebrated being recognised as a FairTrade school for the second year in a row.

Charity groups land foundation cash windfall

THREE Argyll and Bute charities have secured £11,000 between them in the latest awards from Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland.

Oban and District Disability Forum and Access Panel (incorporating Shopmobility Oban) runs a shopmobility scheme and also has a service that monitors, advises, and

encourages accessibility in Oban. Their award of £2,500 will be used to help cover the running costs of the shopmobility service that is based in the station car park. This is their third award from the foundation, bringing the total support to £18,650 since 2001.

Autism Argyll has been awarded £3,000 to

help pay the salary of the co-ordinator. This charity was set up by parents whose children had been diagnosed as having an Autistic Spectrum Disorder. This is the group's second award since 2006, bringing the total support to £14,300.

Islay and Jura Community Enterprises Ltd is receiving £5,500 to help pay the salary of

its project co-ordinator for the Inspiring and Supporting Island Life project, which aims to provide extra support to people such as single parents, the long-term unemployed, children and adults with disabilities, and older people. This is the seventh award for the group and brings the total support to £45,819 since 2003.

For more information or to book, please call: 01524 37500. Quote OBT

Lorn Lines

OBAN Camera Club held its second competition of the season on Monday, October 29 when the subject was 'Monochrome' - a prints only competition. All of the prints were of a very high standard but the best image of the evening, voted for by club members, was a still life image taken by Hugh Wilson. Runner up was a landscape by John Douglas. The club's next meeting will be on November 12 in the Regent Hotel, Oban, at 7.30pm.



Standing at the summit of Skolio peak, Mount Olympus, Graham Chadwick, Sandy Jackson and Gordon McNab.

AN OBAN solicitor has battled bad weather to climb to the summit of Mount Olympus in Greece for charity. Gordon McNab, of Stevenson Kennedy Solicitors in Oban, ascended the home of Greece's ancient gods last week in wet and windy conditions and has donated the money he raised to the Oban Carer's Centre in Albany Street. Gordon, who was joined by friends Graham Chadwick and Sandy Jackson on the climb, said: 'It was a great experience. The bad weather was a benefit as it kept the temperature down and you could not see how far you could fall!' The Oban Carer's Centre provides help and advice for dementia and Alzheimer's carers, young carers and with bereavement counselling. Gordon added: 'This is a great facility for Oban. A huge thank you is due to everyone who has donated so far and so generously.' Skolio peak, which is at the top of Mount Olympus is 2,912m high. To make a donation contact Gordon at Stevenson Kennedy, 01631 562317.



Five pupils from Oban High School have been selected to represent Scotland at the World Schools Orienteering Competition in Portugal next April. Roanne Lilley and Emma Baird qualified to join the 'Select' Scottish junior girls team which is comprised of pupils from different schools across Scotland. Callum Hunter, Tom Lines and Jamie Peden together qualified as the 'Scottish School' team for the junior boys. They will join 23 other pupils in S2-S4 from across Scotland to represent their country.

MEMBERS of Oban Speakers Club enjoyed some excellent entertainment at their meeting last week. The first half chairman Archie McPhail introduced Martin Wilson who was making his 'icebreaker' speech. He did an excellent talk on Eric Liddell and this was followed by Willie Melville giving his entertaining thoughts on 'A Massive Lottery Win'. Their immediate critics were Jim Fraser and Donnie Graham. In the second half topics chairman Eamonn Arthur gave his speakers a wide variety of subjects from 'speed limits to superwalks'. His speakers were Bill Leech, Frank Walton, John Maclean, Jim Fraser, Roy Wood and Archie McPhail. Timekeeper for the evening was Alex Clark and a comprehensive and fair general evaluation was given by Tom Clegg. The next meeting will be held on November 15 at 8pm in the Church Centre, Glenclruitten Road.



Witches, vampires and skeletons were among the spooky characters attending the Soroba Young Family Group Halloween party.

A VINTAGE afternoon tea is to be held in Oban as part of the Winter Festival and organisers are appealing for help to host it. Anyone who has old crockery, lace tablecloths, tea plates or general items suitable for a Victorian afternoon tea is asked to get in touch as soon as they can. Organiser Margaret Cooper said: 'This is a great opportunity for people to clear their cupboards and help put on a vintage tea. If you have old items lying around that you no longer need and would be suitable for the afternoon tea please get in touch.' The event will be held on November 25 in the Corran Halls. Anyone wishing to donate items can call Margaret on 07785343197 to arrange for collection.

Coin throwing sounds death knell for Oban's Halloween dance

THE DEATH knell has sounded for the popular Oban Halloween dance, the Monster's Ball, after audience members were accused of throwing coins at the headline act at this year's event. Former X-Factor contestants Diva Fever were the headline name on this year's line-up and helped to attract 450 revellers to the Corran Halls on October 27. However, two audience members had to be removed by stewards after being seen throwing coins at the camp double act. DJ Mark Gowdie, who has headed up the committee organising the annual event since 2007, expressed his anger and disappointment at the actions, claiming they were motivated by homophobia. He said: 'There are three main reasons I can't do the Monster's Ball anymore. 'We only sold enough tickets to go ahead in the final week and I feared I would lose out on a lot of money. There were a lot of people I spoke to who said they weren't going, so I wondered whether it had lost its appeal.'



Camp act Diva Fever had a coin thrown at them during their performance at the Monster's Ball.

'Secondly, the break even figure is 385 and numbers have been down on recent years. I don't run the Monster's Ball to make money but I don't do it to lose money either. There is too much risk involved now. 'The final nail in the coffin, however, was coins being thrown at the act on stage. I would never have imagined there would be a problem with that [homophobia] when I booked the act.'

Relentless: police bid to catch drug dealers

Officers raid three addresses in Oban

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

A DRUGS bust by Oban Police last week served to remind dealers of a relentless campaign to tackle the problem of illegal substances in the town.

The Oban Times was invited to join a team of officers as they simultaneously raided three addresses in Oban last Thursday morning, as part of the 'war' on illegal drugs.

During searches of the properties police found quantities of illicitly held methadone and seized £3,500 in cash from



A battering ram is used to gain entry to a property.

one flat. The success of the operation is not being measured against last summer's Operation Independence, which saw six drug dealers convicted and set the tone for chief inspector Brian Auld's term as area commander of Oban, Lorn and the Isles.

Instead, chief inspector Auld said last week's raid on suspected drug dealers was designed to reassure the public and reinforce his commitment to tackling drugs.

He added: 'These operations show our commitment to continuing the war on those involved in the supply of drugs.'

'This is a continuous course of action but I am particularly pleased with the seizure of the sum of money. It is my belief it was intended for the purchase of drugs, or to be used as a benefit from involvement in a criminal lifestyle.'

The day of the raids began at 9.30am when officers from the divisional flexi-unit joined local officers and others from Dunoon, Campbeltown and Lochgilphead at a briefing in Oban Police Station.

This gave the commanding officer an opportunity to explain

the layout of the properties and any associated risks involved with potential occupants, before splitting the officers into the three teams that entered the three properties at 10.15am.

At the first property in Kilchurn Place a speedy approach to the flat culminated in a battering ram being used to open the front door.

While officers executed the search warrant, PC Jennifer Cameron and a seven-year-old cocker spaniel, Izzy, from the specialist dog branch, searched every room in the flat.

The dog 'pointed' at any detection of a drugs scent, leading police officers to conduct a more detailed search of areas identified by Izzy.

Quantities of illicit methadone and cannabis resin were seized, as was a quantity of white powder, which has been sent for analysis.

Following these detections, a 48-year-old man was made subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal.

At the second property targeted, in Soroba Road, £3,500 of cash was seized under the Proceeds of Crime legislation.



PC Jennifer Cameron and seven-year-old cocker spaniel, Izzy, search a bedroom in one of the flats.

No drugs were found during a third search, in a flat in Miller Road.

A separate search of a property in Albany Street later in the day

led to police detecting a quantity of illicit methadone. As a result, a 28-year-old man has been charged with the supply of a class A drug.

Clachan Seil windfarm plan rejected by councillors

A BID for a windfarm at Clachan Seil, south of Oban, has been thrown out by Argyll and Bute Council.

Planning committee councillors voted unanimously to reject Clachan Community Energy's (CCE) application.

CCE chief Rory Young said he was 'disappointed' by the decision and would 'seriously consider' an appeal.

Mr Young had offered to pay the community £80,000 per year regardless of how much energy the windfarm produced.

Planners had recommended refusal because of negative visual impacts on landscape, built heritage and archaeology.

Senior planning officer Arlene Knox said the proposal was within a 'sensitive and highly prominent location'.

Objector Irene Coulson referred to windfarm as a 'wind factory'. She said: 'His industrial scale development is completely the opposite of a community project - it is community exploitation.'

Antoinette Mitchell, a member of Kilmelford and Kilniver Community Council, said the plans would 'ruin' the local landscape.

She added: 'We rather resent being taken for fools.'

The bid has divided local opinion. CCE advocate Jan

REPORT by FAITH ORR
forr@obantimes.co.uk

Barton said the nine turbines, at a 'medium' height of 77 metres, would provide a 'comfortable view'.

And supporter Duncan Macmillan told the hearing: 'There are lots of people for it but they are frightened to say so for fear of lifting their head above the parapet.'

Mr Young had also signed agreements that if the development went ahead work would go to local businesses.

Darren Mellish of Oban-based West Coast Tool and Plant Hire told the hearing: 'I want a share of the economic benefit and if that sounds selfish tell that to my employees.'

Councillor Fred Hall said the site seemed 'no different' to others he had seen. He added: 'We devour more electricity than we ever have before. We want electricity, we use electricity but when it comes to producing it we take cold feet.'

Councillor Rory Colville lives next to a windfarm and said he thought the proposed development was 'too close' to houses. He said: 'This is the wrong development in the wrong place.'



Pipe major Euan Dewar, centre, is joined by other pipe band members in thanking Calum MacAlpine, operations manager for Scottish Sea Farms, for the company's donation.

Pipe band's delight at two-year sponsorship deal

A TWO-year sponsorship deal worth £4,000 is music to the ears of Oban Pipe Band.

Scottish Sea Farms' Heart of the Community Trust has donated the funds to help with the band's running costs as they represent Oban and district in competitions and performances across the UK and Europe.

Arthur Gillies, pipe band president, said: 'This cash support from Scottish Sea Farms is really appreciated, as without it the band would be unable

to take part in a lot of competitions. We have had a lot of success in recent years, which brings publicity and recognition for the Oban and Lorn area.'

The pipe band was established in 1920 and currently has 30 band members.

Calum MacAlpine, operations manager for Scottish Sea Farms, said: 'The Oban Pipe Band gives the whole area something to be proud of and we are delighted to be able to help them go on to further success.'

Man who threatened witnesses sentenced

AN OBAN man guilty of threatening two men who had been prepared to give evidence against him in court has been ordered to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work within three months.

Scott MacCallum, 29, of 19H Shuna Terrace, Oban, made comments, including 'beast' and 'grass' to his victim after leaving Oban Sheriff Court on February 6.

MacCallum denied the charges, claiming he simply asked the complainer 'why he wasn't allowed near kids'.

He was found guilty after a trial and placed on a community payback order for a year.

Defence agent Edward Thornton said he had advised his client not to approach the complainer but added that was unlikely, since the victim was in custody.

Chance to help out at Oban Mòd 2015

ORGANISERS of the Royal National Mòd 2015 in Oban are encouraging new faces to join the committee of volunteers in order to maintain Oban's reputation as the most popular venue.

After the statutory public meeting in June this year, the local organising committee secretary had 32 names on his list of volunteers for Mòd 2015.

For the start of preparations, meetings take place roughly once every three months. The next meeting is on Saturday, November 17 at 11am in the Free Church Hall.

Review into Islay healthcare promised

AN INDEPENDENT review into healthcare on Islay has been promised by NHS Highland, following a decision by island GPs to opt out of out-of-hours care.

NHS Highland made the commitment this week, three months after the over-worked GPs first signalled their intention to opt out and subsequently called for the review.

The GPs have since gained the backing of islanders and Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell.

Following recent meetings the doctors have reached an agreement with Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership (CHP) to help seek out potential candidates to head up the review and suggestions will

be shared at a meeting on November 21. It has also been agreed that six GPs are required to cover Islay. There are currently the equivalent of four GPs, with the arrival of Bowmore's new doctor, Kate Pickering, last Thursday.

It is understood an Independent Clinical Review would begin in late January/early February 2013.

Marion Brown
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'Workmen' acted suspiciously

TWO MEN purporting to work for Scottish Water have been seen acting suspiciously in the Glendale area of Skye. Police say the men were described as white, dark-haired, wearing yellow high visibility jackets and using an Enterprise rent a van vehicle. The public is reminded to thoroughly check the identity card of any personnel calling at households and if in doubt telephone the head office of the service or contact the nearest police station. Anyone with information regarding the incident should call Portree police on 01478 612888 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

November moustaches

ARDNAMURCHAN High School pupils and staff have been inspired to grow their facial hair for 'November', the annual global cancer awareness campaign. The boys and men were clean-shaven at the start of the month and are cultivating moustaches for the next 30 days with photos taken weekly to chart their progress. The campaign aims to raise funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate and testicular cancer. Head teacher Chris Millar-Craig said: 'The school will be raising both awareness of this and funds to help combat it. It will prove to be a 'fan-tache-tic' experience for all involved.'

Police warn public to be on guard

FORT William police are warning the Lochaber public to be on their guard after receiving reports of 'non-recognised' companies and workmen calling at houses throughout the area. The men offer to carry out jobs which are often of a poor standard and hugely over-priced. A police spokesperson said: 'Elderly people should be especially careful and should seek advice from family members or police when approached by these workmen. No money should be handed over without written receipts detailing company name and contact numbers.' Anyone seeing any suspicious vehicles or persons are asked to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 or the confidential line on 01397702000.



Handing over their cheque, Rory and Heather Craig with Liz Crawford and Sandra Owens from the MS centre. 15_144mscheque1



The Princess Royal presents Alan Watson Featherstone with the commemorative plaque.

Princess Royal presents tree charity with commemorative plaque

TREES For Life has been honoured with a commemorative plaque from the Princess Royal to mark the creation of a new woodland in Glen Moriston. The conservation charity's 60-acre, native tree Diamond Wood at Dundreggan Estate is one of 60 new woods being established across the UK to celebrate the Queen's diamond jubilee. Trees for Life's founder and executive director Alan Watson Featherstone was presented with the plaque at a special reception at the Palace of Holyrood House in Edinburgh. The new woodland, Mr Featherstone said, would

last 'for hundreds of years', provide an important habitat for wildlife and would be enjoyed by many generations of people in years to come. The charity's work at Dundreggan is a key part restoring Scotland's ancient Caledonian Forest across 1,000 square miles to the west of Loch Ness. Trees for Life has now created almost 10,000 acres of new Caledonian Forest at 45 different locations in the Highlands, planting more than one million trees. A million more are pledged for the next five years.

Family makes first climb count

Effort bags £1,500 for MS Centre

THE OBAN MS centre has received a cheque for £1,500 after a family who had never attempted hill climbing before climbed three Munros for charity. Rory and Heather Craig, who are brother and sister, along with some other members of their family, climbed Ben Cruachan, Ben Lomond and Ben Nevis in memory of their father who died from MS last year. Heather said: 'Dad would go on about how much he loved Ben Cruachan.' Their father, Brian, was diagnosed with MS at the age of 19 with a very aggressive form of the disease and by the age of 24 had lost much of his mobility and needed to walk with a stick. Due to his incapacity he was unable to do hill walking but was very much into heavy metal music. Lyndsay Wilson, Heather and Rory's mum, said: 'He was more of a rocker than a walker.' Brian lived in Glasgow, but often visited the Oban Multiple Sclerosis centre. After battling the illness for many years he died on July 22 last year at the age of 47. Despite being novices at scaling mountains, the family managed to climb all three Munros in the space of six weeks. Asked how much training they had done in advance, Heather said, 'We walked up to McCaig's tower a couple of times.' Their longest and most difficult climb was up Ben Nevis, which took nine hours, and was made more challenging by the fact that Heather broke her toe two days before the climb after kicking the tumble dryer. Heather who lives in Soroba, and Rory, who lives in Taynult, were joined by Lyndsay, auntie Julia Lockhart and little sister Becky Wilson on their climb, which started on Ben Cruachan on the anniversary of their father's death. Cousins Several other members of their family, including cousins, came up from as far as London and Bath to climb Ben Lomond with them. Labrador collie cross, Charlie, also enthusiastically joined them on their ascent of Ben Nevis. Altogether 20 people were involved in Munros for MS and Heather and Rory were keen to thank Chris Bradley, from the Oban mountain rescue team and Chris Wolf, who helped them with their climbs up Ben Nevis and Ben Cruachan. The pair handed over their cheque to Sandra Owens, manager of the MS centre last Monday.

Chamber gets down to business

FORT William Chamber of Commerce will hear a business presentation from Scott Donald of the KD Partnership at its next meeting in Ben Nevis Distillery on November 29. The chamber held its October meeting last week at the award-winning Inverloch Castle Hotel, Torlundy.

Morvern Lines

MORVERN has a new loch. It lies in the Rannoch Valley between the head of Loch Aline and Loch Tearnait and is the largest man made stretch of water on the peninsula. It has been formed by a massive concrete dam built to produce hydropower for the National Grid. The flooded area comprises several hundred acres of old riverbank and moorland and a section of an ancient right of way leading to Leacraitheach and Glensanda, which has been rebuilt higher up the hillsides. There is some discussion as to what the new loch should be called and if it should be stocked with fish. One suggestion is 'Lub an Arbhair' - Gaelic, the corn-field on the river bend - a local placename now underwater. Another is 'Loch Rannoch' which might be more suitable. Could this be an appropriate site to introduce pike to the peninsula for the first time?



The - as yet nameless - new loch in Morvern, created by a hydroelectric scheme.

INTERPRETING Gaelic placenames is like religion - with not everyone singing from the same hymn-sheet over the result. There is an old story about a man from Inverness-shire arguing with someone from Argyll that his Gaelic was the best. 'It cannot be', said the latter, 'as the Bible is translated into Argyllshire Gaelic.' 'That my friend', said the Invernessian, 'is only because the Argyllshire folk are in greater need of being able to read their Bibles!' Trying to decipher placenames armed only with a Gaelic dictionary often produces misleading results and pitfalls for the unwary. A good knowledge of the dialect, wit and oral traditions of the locality is essential. Usually there is a double meaning, almost a code, known only to a few native speakers. As they have long since gone from Morvern and have not explained them to us, we can only speculate as to their initial purpose. Lochaline and Ardornish are two placenames which have puzzled linguists for a long time. The first used to be interpreted as 'The Lovely Loch'. A fine name of course but, let's face it, there are very few lochs on the West Coast which don't fit that description so there has to be another explanation. I believe the translation is 'The Loch of the Ford of the Pool' and relates to 'The Big Pool' on the Gearr Abhainn River near Claggan where there was once a ford. The pool has a strong traditional link with Somerled and his extirpation of the Norsemen from the area so it would have held an important part in the folk memory of the district. According to some academics Ardornish - that is the point with its late 13th century castle jutting out into the Sound of Mull to the south of the entrance to Loch Aline and not the house at the head of the loch - means 'Promontory of Thor's headland.' Who Thor was, we can only speculate but if there is a personal name here it is more than likely he was a Norseman. Another, more local, school of thought maintains it is 'The Headland of the Tor, or tower, of the Waterfalls'. When one considers the spectacular line of cliffs behind the castle with their reverse waterfalls, which are visible for many miles, the local version cannot be overlooked. Iain Thornber.

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Christmas is coming!

To celebrate, The Oban Times is giving readers the chance to win £500 worth of shopping vouchers to spend at Lidl in Oban or Fort William this Christmas.

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To enter, simply collect five tokens - here is token two. Token three will be printed next week, and so on. Full details on how to send in your tokens in The Oban Times, November 29.

Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. One entry per purchased copy. 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. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications. The £500 vouchers can only be spent in Lidl stores in Fort William and Oban, Scotland.

Communities urged to get ready for winter

COMMUNITIES across Argyll and Bute are being asked to prepare a plan, providing instructions on what to do in the event of an emergency. Argyll and Bute Council has issued handbooks detailing how to prepare an emergency plan to community councils throughout the region. The council is now hosting events to assist with the preparation of these plans, in the hope it will build up a winter resilience. Two events have been organised in the Corran Halls, Oban on November 13 and in the Queen's Hall, Dunoon on November 7 to help communities prepare. The events are drop-in and will run from 10.30 am until 14.30pm. Anyone with an interest in community resilience is invited to come along. Council leader Roddy McCuish said: 'The council and its partners are keen to make sure everyone plays their part this winter. I would ask as many people as possible to come along to the events in Dunoon and Oban to find out more and get the opportunity to speak to the experts. A handbook has already been sent to community councils with clear instructions on how they should prepare an emergency plan including information on roles and responsibilities, details on public safety information and key risks affecting the area. The events could help you to complete this and we are keen to get emergency plans in place as soon as possible.' The council is also stockpiling salt and preparing vehicles to respond if bad weather hits. There is almost 16,000 tonnes of salt in stock ready to use on the roads. There are more than 300 grit bins and thousands of salt heaps across the area so members of the public can spread it on local pavements and roads. Salt will also be available at roads depot gates for people who need it. For more information visit www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/winter-weather-ready or pick up a winter weather ready leaflet which will be available soon. The council will also be taking part in the Scottish Government's 'Ready for winter' campaign which will focus on individual resilience in an emergency situation. There will be two road shows in Rothesay on November 19 and Campbeltown on November 20 where advice will be given to local people.

New focus on ways to help Argyll senior citizens live healthy independent lives

PLANS to improve old age for people in Argyll by helping them live healthy and independent lives in their own homes are underway. Health officials say the focus of this work is on preventing illnesses, as well as injuries from falling, that cause people to be admitted to hospitals or care homes for long periods of time. The work is looking at how people who need care can continue to live full lives, supported within their own communities, while being less dependent on the care system. Pat Tyrrell, lead nurse for Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership said: 'We are working with communities across Argyll and Bute to look at how we can support them to develop approaches and services that will meet local needs. This is a challenging programme of work and there are a number of local projects which highlight what has been achieved so far.' Anne Austin, service manager for Community Care Resources at Argyll and Bute Council added: 'The development of dementia care teams is a good example one of these local projects in Argyll and Bute. We have health and social care professionals working closely with local communities and existing hospital and community services. Their work is already demonstrating benefits to individuals, carers and families.'

SSPCA appeal for blankets and toys

THE SCOTTISH SPCA is appealing to the public to donate blankets and toys for homeless cats and dogs at its Inverness re-homing centre. Manager Elaine Floyd said: 'Often these animals have been abandoned or neglected. It's so rewarding to see how happy they become when they are given just a little bit of comfort and kindness.' Blankets can be handed in to the centre at 5 The Holdings, Inshes, between 10am and 4pm seven days a week.

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Mull Lines

SCOTTISH Ballet will visit Mull tomorrow (Friday) with an 'exciting' programme of events for over the weekend. The programme, Find Your Feet, will focus on creative dance, ballet technique, music, costume and design. Each event will involve collaboration with local organisations, venues, community leaders, schools and nurseries as well as a wide range of recreational groups. It even includes an armchair ballet event especially for residents of Glen Iosal sheltered housing complex. Catherine Cassidy, Scottish Ballet's associate director education said: 'The Find your Feet project is a first time opportunity for us to work with some of the areas we are visiting and I'm really excited about the energy and feedback we've received before we've even arrived.'



WITCHES, spiders, zombies and even Mrs Brown's Boys put in an appearance in Salen recently. The Salen branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI) held its annual fancy dress party in the school hall on October 27. Eileen Slorach, president of Salen SWRI said: 'It was absolutely fantastic, we had more people there than ever before.' Organisers would like to thank everybody who helped them throughout the successful evening. A full list of results and lots more pictures can be found in the next issue of Mull and Iona Life.

A MULL woman who trekked across Jordan in aid of Help for Heroes has returned safely - raising thousands of pounds in the process. Belinda Jordan, who lives in Dervaig, took on the challenge to aid the charity that helped her son when he was injured in Afghanistan. She said: 'The trek was brilliant, very hard, very difficult terrain and much, much hotter than we had been led to believe. It was 110°F much of the time with very little shade and no option but to struggle on to the next camp. My fellow trekkers were amazing with inspiring and heart-wrenching stories to tell, but we all laughed a lot and helped each other.'



Belinda trekked across Jordan for Help for Heroes.

Belinda added: 'All the Band of Sisters have been through so much and I was incredibly proud to walk beside them in honour of our wounded loved ones. Every single person who started the trek finished despite the challenging conditions. I pushed myself way beyond my usual limits, as did all the trekkers, so there is a real sense of achievement about what we did.' Belinda's fundraising total so far stands at £4,030, well above the target of £3,000. 'I can continue to add to that total until December, so donations are still very welcome,' said Belinda. 'The total fundraising for the trek stands at £55,340.00, every penny of which will go to support wounded servicemen and women.' Those who wish to donate can visit www.bmycharity.com/belindatojordanh4h.

'Dead' horse hoax call leaves girl distraught

A CRUEL hoax caller purporting to be a representative of Argyll Animal Aid falsely told a 16-year-old north Lorn girl her horse was dead. The teenager's dad, Colin, was forced to check on the health of the horse at 10pm on Sunday night after the phone call left the Oban High School pupil devastated. After asking for the girl by name, 'Dave' told her that her horse was dead before hanging up. Colin said he had never seen

his daughter so upset and immediately went out to check the horse. The pair found the animal unharmed. Shortly afterwards, 'Dave,' who had an English accent, called back to say he had the wrong details before, once again, abruptly hanging up. Colin said the incident was particularly distressing for his daughter and warned others not to be taken in by the hoax. He said: 'I've never seen her in such a state. He said he was with her horse and it was dead.

We didn't know what he'd said at the time, but she just burst out in tears and handed the phone straight to her mother. 'It was particularly upsetting and the phone call came at 10pm, which meant it wasn't particularly easy to go and see if the horse was okay.' The man who made the call, described as having a mature voice, had previously called her boyfriend's house in a bid to track her down. Colin said: 'Unfortunately the number was withheld but

I wouldn't like someone else to receive a similar phone call. 'When you get a call from a well known group such as Argyll Animal Aid and they tell you something about your pet, you're inclined to take it seriously. 'Obviously, we checked with the charity, and they don't have anyone of that name working with them.' Colin has filed a report with the police. Argyll Animal Aid's Pat Blunsden confirmed 'Dave' had no affiliation with Argyll Animal

Aid, adding it was something the charity would never do. She said: 'Not only would we not do that, we'd probably never be told of something like a dead pet. 'The only people that would ever phone someone regarding Argyll Animal Aid is myself or Jean Sutherland. 'We're just concerned that someone could get a similar call. It is malicious and would never come from us.' Anyone with information should contact the police.

Man denies pub assault

A MAN has denied head butting an off duty policeman in an Oban pub. Brendan McGuckin, of 49A Combie Street, Oban, pled not guilty to the assault when he appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday. The 29-year-old, who was refused bail, is accused of repeatedly head butting his victim in the face to his injury. He is next due to appear on November 13.

Van brings down power lines

A VAN brought down power lines in Killin on Thursday after colliding with a pole on the A872. The road was closed near to Bridge of Lochay Hotel for some time until the damage was repaired. The driver received minor injuries as a result of the incident.

Asda targets Argyll and Bute

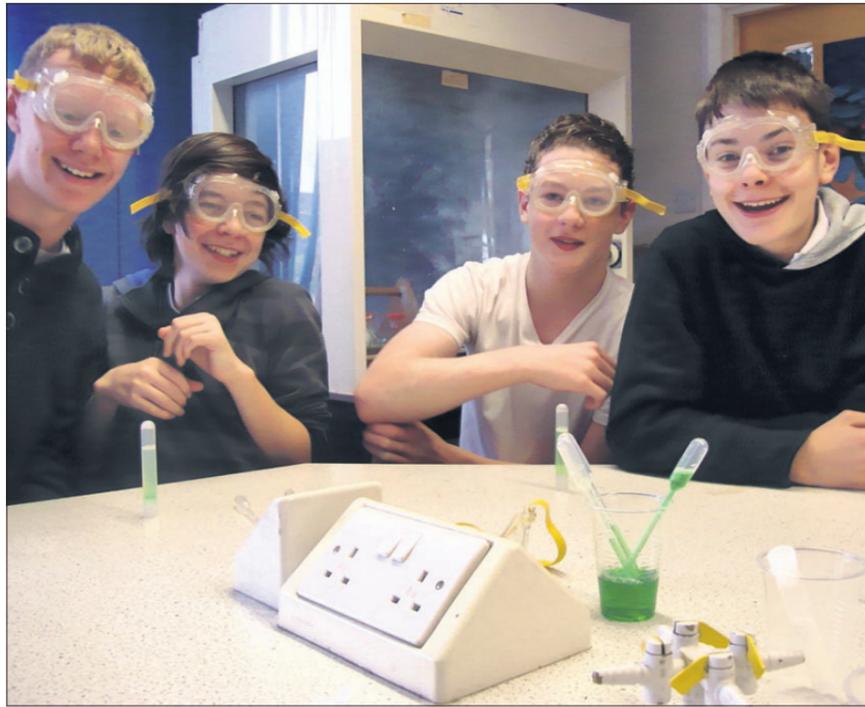
SUPERMARKET chain Asda has refused to confirm it is looking at opening a store in Oban - but admits it is interested in opening new premises in Argyll and Bute. Owned by American giant WalMart, it had been rumoured the chain was looking closely at a number of sites in the town to compete with Tesco and the Co-operative. Kathleen Hutchinson, development surveyor for Asda in Scotland said: 'We are currently looking at a number of towns across Scotland in which Asda has no representation as part of our on-going acquisition work. At present we have no stores in Argyll and Bute, but are always keen to spot new opportunities. However, no formal surveys have been carried out to date in Oban.'

Driver caught on speed camera

DRIVING though Rannoch Moor at 78mph has cost a Fort William man £200 and four penalty points. Alexander Anderson, of 38 Alma Road was caught by a speed camera at Black Mount on the afternoon of May 29. The 52-year-old pled guilty by letter at Fort William Sheriff Court.

Pupils' delight as science boffins visit Fort Augustus

BOFFINS from science centres across Scotland visited Fort Augustus to teach secondary pupils about genes, the human body and chemical experiments. S1 and S2 pupils at Kilchuimen Academy defeated more than 500 rival schools in a national competition to design a poster - earning Kilchuimen the prize of a one-off science fair. The youngsters' winning entry for 'Scotland's Minds' highlighted Scots who have contributed significantly to the development of science on the world stage. The whole school took part in the science activities day with staff from Glasgow Science Centre, Satrosphere in Aberdeen, Dundee Science Centre and Our Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh. A Bodyworks workshop revealed the inner workings of the human body and the effects of sports, exercise and diet, while the Enterprise Soapbox showed pupils how to make and sell their own soap products. Other topics included the structure and importance of DNA and genetics at Genes in a Bottle and Let's Talk, which aims to boost confidence in classroom discussions. Depute head Graham Wilks told *The Oban Times*: 'Pupils found the day interesting and enjoyable and would like to thank all of the providers for making the considerable journeys to visit our school in Fort Augustus.'



Kilchuimen Academy pupils enjoyed the special science fair held at the school.



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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

PLANNING applications can be controversial things, they divide opinion, divide communities and even divide families.

But this past week – and indeed past several months – have seen residents on the Isle of Mull united in support of a proposed fish farm in the area.

The application, lodged by The Scottish Salmon Company, is for a salmon fish farm off the coast of Gometra, west of Mull.

It was unanimously approved at a public hearing on Monday – to the delight of many in attendance.

Of course not everyone supported the proposals. The owner of Gometra, Roc Sandford, sent a lawyer's letter to the council claiming they were breaching EU law.

But even in the face of objection residents stood together. One man said joining in support of the plans meant he now spoke to people he barely knew before.

And in these times, when a lot of people don't even know who their neighbours are, this coming together of a community is heart-warming to see.

GLASGOW LETTER

Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association

GLASGOW and Lewis and Harris Association got the gathering season underway when members held their 125th Annual Gathering Concert in Woodside Halls.

With Margaret I MacLeod in the chair, and ensuring the smooth running of the concert, the singers were Kathleen MacInnes, Joan Morrison, Darren MacLean and Calum Alex MacMillan.

Young pipers Ross MacKay and Alasdair Paterson, who both have family connections with Carloway on the Isle of Lewis, opened the concert.

They were terrific and played an excellent selection of tunes.

Charlie Kirkpatrick played accordion selections.

During the evening Cuach Comunn Leodhais agus na Hearadh Glaschu was presented to Ian Angus MacKenzie on behalf of this year's recipients Harris Tweed Hebrides. Harris Tweed Hebrides has been responsible, since it was set up in 2007, for a growth resurgence of the famous tweed industry and now employs 70 people at the mill and 150 home based weavers with exports now going to more than 50 countries.

In her welcome, vice president Mairi MacKenzie expressed delight that president Iseabail (Tilly) MacMillan was able to be present at the concert and at the dinner the previous evening and she extended the good wishes for a continued recovery to good health.

There was a good attendance at the Dinner and after an excellent meal in the Pond Hotel the guests were entertained by Margaret MacLeod who emphasised how important Gaelic and the culture had been and continues to be in her life and then in a humorous speech by Bill Innes. Julia MacIsaac, President of the Uist and Barra Association, efficiently delivered a toast from kindred associations and the evening was brought to a close with a ceilidh featuring piper Alasdair Paterson and singers Joan Morrison and Darren MacLean.

Tiree Association
THE 112TH Annual Gathering Concert of the Association will take place in Partick Burgh Hall on Thursday November 15 at 7.30pm.

The singers will be Amanda Millen, Catriona Watt, Gordon McKeever and Alasdair Whyte and the instrumentalists will be accordionist Iain Smith, pipers Donald and John Campbell and accompanist Kenny Thomson. Donald Morrison will be guest chairman.

Gaels le Cheile
THE BRINGING together of Scottish and Irish culture through language, music and dance will take place this coming Saturday.

During the day, at An Lochran on Mansfield Street, Partick, there will be Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced level classes in Gaelic (Irish) from 10am-4pm and at the same time there will be an intermediate Gaelic class. The cost for each will be £5.

At 8pm there will be an evening of music, song, story and dance featuring

the special guest Maire Ni Choilm, one of Ireland's finest traditional singers in St Helen's Hall, 32 Langside Avenue.

Christmas sale

Saturday November 17 is the date of the annual Christmas Sale of the Guild at St Columba Church of Scotland and as usual this will be a good venue to start the shopping for the festive season. It will take place from 11am to 1pm.

Ceol's Craic

TICKETS can now be bought for this month's meeting of Ceol's Craic in the CCA on Saturday November 24 when special guest artists will be the 'Lochies'. For tickets telephone 0141 352 4900.

Michael MacNeil

NEWS of the tragic death of Michael MacNeil, from Barra, as the result of a traffic accident, has shocked the whole of the Highland community and beyond.

Sincere sympathy is extended to his parents Morag and Donald, his partner Sarah Ann and their young son Donald and his sisters Claire Anne and Mairead. Both Claire Anne and Mairead are teachers within the Gaelic education system in the Glasgow area and until recently, prior to moving to Barra, Sarah Ann was similarly employed as a teacher at Mount Cameron School in East Kilbride.

Diary dates
Thursday November 8: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Niamh Ni Charra.

Friday November 9: Glasgow Jura Association Annual Buffet Dance, St Vincent Bowling Club, St Vincent Crescent, 8pm to midnight, tel 07552 172118. Clydebank and District Highlander's Association Ceilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm. Eddie Reader, Hamilton Town Hall. Paul McKenna Band, Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh.

Saturday November 10: National Youth Pipe Band, Old Fruitmarket, 8pm. Paisley and District Highlander's Association Ceilidh Dance, Elderslie Village Hall, 7.30pm. Gaels le Cheile - see above.

Wednesday November 14: Eddi Reader, Albert Halls, Stirling.

Thursday November 15: Glasgow Tiree Association Annual Concert - see above. Eddi Reader, Glasgow Concert Hall. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Allan Taylor.

Friday November 16: Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Annual Dinner Dance, Glynhill Hotel, 7.30pm. Eddi Reader, Perth Concert Hall.

Sunday November 18: Bruce MacGregor, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm.

Pub scene
MUSIC on Friday in the Islay Inn will be provided by the Keelies and on Saturday by the Wild Horses. This weekend in the Park Bar will feature an all day accordion session with Nicky McMichan during the afternoon and Willie Cameron/Martin Pottinger in the evening. Scott Harvey will play in the Park on Friday and the Monach Isles on Saturday.

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



Unveiling of Lochaline First World War memorial - 1921

As was the case with all Highlands and Islands communities, Morvern suffered a grievous and disproportionate loss of young men in the Great War. Two years and eight months after the carnage ended, the First World War Memorial was unveiled at Lochaline in July 1921 by Mrs Craig Sellar, Ardtornish. Much of the local population turned out for the ceremony. The monument was designed by Mr Eric Bell, architect, Stirling and was built by Messrs MacDougall, Soroba Road, Oban. Photo: Iain Thornber Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Don't house drug dealers

Sir, How refreshing it is to see a responsible social landlord evict a drug dealer.

Alastair MacGregor, chief executive officer of Argyll Community Housing Association must be commended for standing up to his convictions.

Last year I recall this same man wrote a letter to the editor of *The Oban Times* saying that in order to continue to fight the war on drugs, evicting drug dealers should be permitted - something along those lines.

It is a pity Lesley McInnes, chief executive officer of West Highland Housing Association (WHHA), never echoed the words of Mr MacGregor in *The Oban Times*.

I am of the opinion that it costs time and money which means it is not high up on their list of priorities.

One of the reasons I am ashamed of my social landlord - WHHA - is because of their irresponsible attitude of housing drug dealers.

Name and address supplied.

Nasty diatribe against Gaelic

Sir, There are many reasoned ways to answer A Rodger's nasty little diatribe against Gaelic - the archives of every daily and weekly newspaper in Scotland must be bulging with them.

Were the subject any other language or cultural community, I think you would have spiced it as racist.

I, for one, am utterly weary of such attacks by people who choose to remain wilfully ignorant of the history of the land they inhabit. I have to ask whether you are willing to exercise proper editorial judgement with a commitment not to publish such offensive material in future or do I have to save myself a useful 79 pence per week?

Aonghas MacNeacail, via email.

Inaccurate and unfair

Sir, A letter in *The Oban Times* of November 1 associated the economic difficulties facing different sections of society with the current support being provided to the Gaelic language.

The writer quotes two examples - education and road signs - to justify the argument.

In the case of education, this has to be provided whether in English only, or bilingually in English and Gaelic. So, the cost to society of providing bilingual education is absolutely minimal. Road signs only become bi-

lingual when the signs are due for replacement. So, once again the additional cost is minimal. Neither education or road signs are in Gaelic only - the provision is, in both cases, bilingual.

I am certain that the benefits of bilingualism do not need to be listed. These benefits enrich our society. Oban, and the whole of Argyll, has always supported, and contributed massively, to that enrichment. Dunoon and the Cowal Peninsula, as the writer correctly states, hosted a hugely successful National Mod last month.

I am sure the writer will acknowledge that those who attended, and those who helped to host the Mod, were living in the present. In addition, the economic benefits, in a shoulder month of the tourism season, should not be underestimated. The Gaelic language was certainly heard in Dunoon in October.

Despite the cadences of the above paragraphs I am dismayed the writer felt it was appropriate to make these associations. They are inaccurate and unfair associations.

John Morrison/Iain Moireasdan, Chief Executive/Ard-Oifigeir, An Comunn Gaidhealach.

Alive and learning the language

Sir, I note the letter of November 1 from A Rodger which erroneously states Gaelic is a dying language.

Well, I am alive and I am learning and speaking it!

Indeed, every day I meet fellow learners and speakers in and around Oban who love to converse in Gaelic.

Across Scotland there is an upsurge in the number of children who are educated in Gaelic medium schools. Further, the increase in the visibility of Gaelic through signs and BBC Alba encourages speakers to have confidence in their language which for generations has been marginalised.

Through reading, writing and speaking the language we have access to swathes of Scottish history and culture. As Gaelic asserts its place amongst the world's languages we all find ourselves enriched in ways that monoglots can never fathom.

Here in Scotland, in Gaelic and Scots, we have our own cultural defence against the homogenisation or Disneyfication of culture and thought.

If taxpayer's money should be withdrawn from Gaelic why should the cuts stop there? Logically should it not also be withdrawn from all cultural and arts bodies and programmes?

However, in the greater scheme of things the actual sums saved

would be negligible. If you really want to save money just scrap the vainglorious nuclear deterrent - £80 billion and counting. Then we could all have a few more road signs!

Rev Dugald Cameron, The Manse, Ganavan, Oban.

Dunoon fantastic Mod host

Sir, I have not long returned from the National Mod, which was held in Dunoon this year.

I felt compelled to write to congratulate the people of Dunoon on being fantastic hosts in every possible way.

We visited several eateries while we were there, every one of which served fantastic food at reasonable prices; the shops were unique & quaint; the pubs were lively & offered great music. Every person we encountered went out of their way to be of help in any way they could, the taxi drivers were patient and prompt and the people were helpful and friendly. It is definitely a place I would visit again and I think I speak for many others when I say thank you for hosting a fantastic Mod!

Marion MacLean, Tobermory

Banavie bonfire and fireworks

Sir, We would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Fort William and surrounding areas for supporting our bonfire and fireworks display at Banavie on Saturday night.

A huge amount of time and effort is put into the event every year by club members who give up their spare time to help everything run smoothly

and safely. If you will permit us, we would like to take this opportunity to do some essential thanks to all those who helped us this year. Firstly the men who made it all go off with a bang and who put in 10 plus hours of preparation work on Saturday - our firework gurus namely Charlie, Davy, Colin, Gus, Martin and Richie to ensure the public got a great display - which they did.

Additional thanks go to all the club members - too many to mention - who volunteered to marshal the road, collect donations and serve behind the bar in the kitchen and tuck shop. External support was provided by three local contractors, AA Young Ltd, Industrial Electrical Services (UK) Ltd, Derek Fraser Ltd, Fort William Police and TEC Services.

Last, but not least, thanks to the local councillors who approved our application for funding out of their discretionary budget. We received £850 this year to put towards the cost of the fireworks which cost over £3,200.

To date the costs of the fireworks have been met by donations made by the public, but unfortunately this year the donations were not forthcoming for whatever reason and we have made a loss of £500 - which is very disappointing as we always felt that the efforts we made were appreciated by everyone.

This loss leaves us with a huge hole in our bank balance and is not sustainable to a club that works very hard to try and make ends meet.

As a result of this a meeting will be held to discuss the future of this event.

Thanks again for your all your support over the years
Lochaber RFC Committee.

Alan Cochrane



THE DAILY TELEGRAPH'S SCOTTISH EDITOR

WITH the festive period now upon us, the prospect of many parties hoves happily into view. The county ball season may be over but Christmas and New Year normally provide ample opportunities to take the floor, albeit in a less structured way. This is altogether to my liking as, while I can see the attractions of those formal events, I'd rather do my dancing in the evening rather than in the wee sma' hours. One friend, who is forced under protest to attend balls, steadfastly refuses to dance and instead makes free with the liquid refreshment on offer and calls such occasions 'drinking to music'.

The other reason for my lack of enthusiasm is a bit more obvious. I'm not exactly a dab hand at the 'proper' reels and the only time I've managed to get through a ball without making a complete idiot of myself was when I was taken firmly in hand by Jan, a general's wife, and 'made' to do the bloody things the way they're supposed to be done. My wife, who came to reeling much more recently, is an absolute aficionado now but the only way she can get through a whole ball is by never, ever dancing with me.

No, I'm a lot happier with the more easy-going, impromptu events that can spring up in the countryside, in village halls or in larger rooms when the carpets are rolled back. The latter are what I did when I lived in the south of England when, of course, nobody really knew the dances and I could pretend to be an expert.

This is not to say that standards collapse entirely in the reeling stakes away from the county ball scene; not at all. I am always astonished at the dexterity displayed on the dance floor by some of the most unlikely characters. Mind you, I do object most strongly to showing off. And if you do find someone of that ilk in your company, you can safely bet a tenner he's a soldier. Two of my acquaintances with the most blatant

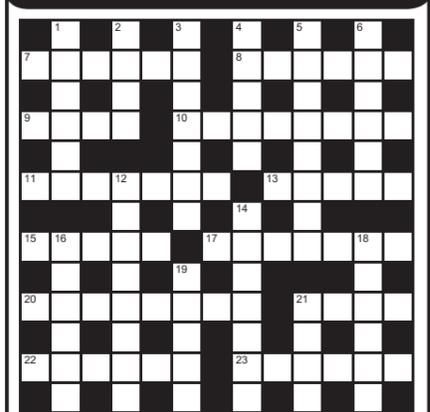
exhibitionist tendencies when it comes to reeling are both retired half-colonels from Highland regiments. Jealous? Me?

But of course there is Scottish Country Dancing, as practised at the county balls, and the version sometimes seen elsewhere. In some parts of the West Highlands, for instance, there is a sort of inverse snobbery in existence, with some locals insisting they'll have nothing to do with 'dances made up by the gentry', such as *The Reel of the 51st Me?* I think that's a fantastic dance; if only I could master it without the general's wife to push me around.

Interestingly, a recent study by Glasgow Caledonian University suggests there are verifiable benefits from such dancing and that the pas de bas step actually aids good health. Apparently, in doing that step dancers put 1.94 times their total body weight through their lower limbs, exertion which greatly reduces the chance of osteoporosis. They reached this conclusion by experimenting on dancers from Lochwinnoch and Milngavie but whether their findings only apply to people from those localities, I cannot tell. As with all scientific surveys we have little option except to accept their findings, although I know of at least one example where country dancing proved positively dangerous. A friend, who normally excels on the dance floor, suffered serious cruciate ligament damage during a foursome reel and was laid up for months.

I cannot finish an article on Scottish Country Dancing without paying fulsome tribute to the 'master' - Robbie Shepherd. His 'Take the Floor' and 'Reel Blend' programmes are the jewels of BBC Radio Scotland's schedule. And while the Pacific Quay bosses may have annoyed many by axing the Beechgrove Garden they wouldn't dare lay a hand on Robbie. If they did, they wouldn't know what hit them!

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Go this way and that (6)
 - 8 Full of energy (6)
 - 9 Thick string (4)
 - 10 Ineffectual person (4,4)
 - 11 Unsolved problem (7)
 - 13 Join securely (5)
 - 15 Take away from account (5)
 - 17 Leave the earth's surface (7)
 - 20 Distorted object (8)
 - 21 Notes (4)
 - 22 Band worn above the wrist (6)
 - 23 Begin (3,3)

- Down**
- 1 Grey and sad (6)
 - 2 Walk with heavy steps (4)
 - 3 Beseech (7)
 - 4 Excitement (5)
 - 5 Following orders (8)
 - 6 Hitchcock classic (6)
 - 12 Shape of three joined lines (8)
 - 14 Vegetable matter used as a heat source (7)
 - 16 Give a pep talk (6)
 - 18 Recurring irregularly (6)
 - 19 Milky coffee (5)
 - 21 Burlap fiber (4)

Times Diary

A DUNOON councillor was caught having 40 winks at a rather lengthy planning hearing in Oban last week.

The man in question must have been up all night reading his planning papers - he just couldn't keep his eyes open in front of the audience in the Corran Halls - until his colleague on the committee nudged him awake!

LOYAL *Oban Times* reader Fiona Robertson, Tyndrum was disappointed when she picked up her favourite paper on Sunday to discover an ad had already been cut out of it.

The owner of the Green Wellby Stop made the discovery after being reminded by her local bobby to check speed limit changes in the area - believing the culprit must have done it before putting the paper back on the shelf and she was the unlucky purchaser.

However, not long after expressing her chagrin on Facebook, Fiona tracked down the culprit. She said: 'It seems I found the scissor-wielding, hole-creating, *Oban Times* article-snipping 'guilty party'. I went to see my mum after work. There it was, on the kitchen counter top.

"Mum?"
"Yes, Fi."
"What paper did you snip that out of?"
"Your one."
Ah.

LIVING in the country means you take a lot of things for granted - not least dealing with cows and sheep out of fields. But spare a thought for the baffled residents of Colonsay in East Kilbride who woke up to find a Highland cow in their garden. The family was so surprised to see the beast they phoned the SSPCA who arrived and led the 'cow' back to its field - a mere 200 yards away.

OVERHEARD from Stewart's coaches to one of their daintier players during their rugby match against Oban Lorne Ladies on Sunday: 'Get your hands out of your sleeves, you can't play if you can't catch the ball.'

It was a bit chilly, true, but rugby is supposed to be a tough sport.

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.

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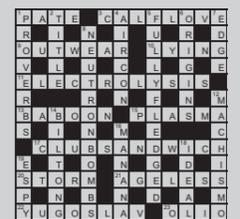
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PRESS POLICY

Last week's solution



LISMORE

THE DEATH of John (Johnnie) MacFadyen of Port Ramsay was sad news all island residents who held him in high esteem.

Sympathy goes to his widow Joanne and family.

THERE was a good turnout for the recent Friends' Day at Lismore Heritage Centre when islanders were invited to discuss the future direction of Comann Eachdraidh.

A good turnout discussed many things including recording islanders' memories, bringing back things that belong to Lismore and a possible archaeological survey of the island. Those attending were asked to rank these and other things in order of priority.

LISMORE Primary School invited islanders to an evening's entertainment to hear what had been going on this term.

As well as a quiz, refreshments and songs, the audience heard the children had had a camping day and night on Friday September 7 when they came to school with tents and sleeping bags and learnt about survival skills, had a family barbecue, went on a spooky

nature walk after dark and found lots of toads. As part of their topic about the sea, the children spent a day at the Oban Sea Life Sanctuary where they met Isla and Lewis, the centre's two otters. They also watched Laura the seal doing interesting tricks with her trainer.

FOLLOWING their great success at the Edinburgh Fringe, Mairi Campbell and David Francis have been on the road taking their Red Earth Revival Tour to many Scottish communities.

Their Lismore dates are always greatly appreciated as the Campbell family are part of Lismore history. With their moving and clever mix of music and storytelling, they told the story of 'Campbell forbears in a moving and funny performance which explored love, music and religion.

Mairi's wonderful singing was complemented by her viola and fiddle playing and Dave's guitar.

COMANN Eachdraidh Lios Mor had its most successful book week to date in October with great numbers attending every event.

This annual fixture, which was first held in 2007, has been slowly building momentum



Nevis Centre nursery Hallowe'en fun

Fort William Nevis Centre nursery children enjoyed a Hallowe'en party on Wednesday October 31. Cats, witches and pirate girls were among the costumes on display - and that was just the staff!

as word has spread about the calibre of speakers and events, thanks largely to the work of Jennifer Baker and Barbara McDougall. A well attended talk by Peggy Nicolson of Skye - herself a Liosach - shone light on Gaelic place names of Lismore and was followed by a walk to some of these places. Mairi Hedderwick, the popular illustrator and author best known for the Katie Morag series of children's picture books set on the Isle of Struay, was a popular guest on Tuesday with the children in the morning and adults in the evening.

On Wednesday Professor Donald Meek's enthusiasm and scholarship were greatly appreciated when he spoke about 'The book of the Dean of Lismore' and again as he told 'The Story of CalMac'. Thursday was an opportunity for everyone to tell stories, read poetry and prose - their own or that of other people - and generally express and enjoy themselves.

On Friday, Midge Gourlay spoke about and gave readings from 'The Gaelic Otherworld' by John Gregorson Campbell, the book which inspired her to create her Exhibition of Cu Sith, Fairy Dogs, on show throughout October in the library at the Heritage Centre. Book Week ended appropriately on Friday night on a high note with a packed out performance by Lismore Community Choir, a small number of singers ably directed by Sarah Campbell and Katie Crossan, whose numbers ranged widely around the world and through time from early liturgical settings to modern day works.

THE DIRECTORS of Lismore Hall have issued an autumn newsletter in which they are appealing for new directors to join them in the important work of keeping the hall running and offering events and entertainment. They are also keen for help with running the New Year dance on January 2 2013 which is a very important date in islanders' and visitors' diaries. Consider adding your energy and creativity by becoming a director.

LISMORE Heritage Centre

Museum and Café - are now closed for the season but the café will be open every Tuesday in December from 12pm till 3pm and on January 1 and 2 2013 from 11am till 4pm. There will be special Christmas dinner nights on Friday and Saturday December 21 and 22. Beth is also putting on a St Andrew's Night supper in the hall on Friday November 30 with bookings open now. For full details see www.isleoffismorecafe.com with details also on www.isleoffismore.com.

After attending a workshop and talk by Lorne Gill, SNH's photographer. Lorne encouraged the pupils to look at their surroundings from different angles, observing colours, patterns and textures of plants, trees, lichens, bark and water.

After the workshop, a feedback day was held for the pupils to view and compare their photographs. More than 4,700 pictures were taken during the day out and Lorne selected the most interesting photos from each pupil, discuss-

RECENTLY, The Museum of Islay Life received a donation of the 'University organ' which had been kept and played in the Round Church in Bowmore. The organ was donated to the museum by Isobel Smith of Cruach and bears a brass plaque which states it was presented to Kilarrow Parish Church by Mr and Mrs Robert Cullen from Bridgend in December 1935. It is not known when it was removed from the church. Enquiries are underway and if anyone has any information on the history of this instrument, please contact the museum at curator@islaymuseum.org.

EARLIER this month a group of Islay High School pupils took part in a photography workshop hosted by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

Twenty-four pupils from the school had a day out with their cameras around the island, exploring the visual potential of scenery, gardens, woodlands and the shores of Lochindaal

MEMBERS old and new have celebrated 40 years since Glencoe Boat Club was first formed. Some founder members of the club, based on Loch Leven near Ballachulish, attended the dinner at Alltshelach Country House in Onich.

Peter Macleod entertained the 30-strong audience with a talk about the history of the club and how it was formed. Club member Davie Cooper told *The Oban Times* the evening had been 'thoroughly enjoyable'.

He said: 'It was an occasion for people to meet and reminisce. Peter's talk was very good and much appreciated. We're looking to the future now, to carry on what we've been doing and to expand.'

CHRISTMAS celebrations in Ballachulish will be brighter than ever this year after the community council buys a new batch of lights to add to the village's decorations.

Ballachulish Community Council chairman Mel MacKisill told *The Oban Times*: 'Hopefully nearly every street will have some sort of Christmas lights.'

Ice flows were measured and monitored and many ground breaking papers written based on the findings of the cruises.

The highlight of the talk was the supposedly indestructible steel kit box that had been ripped open by a hungry polar bear seeking a chocolate bar wrapper.

It was Gold for Joan, Margaret and Elchris in the handmade wedding gift bag competition and Joan and Elchris both took Silver for their coconut ice.

Oban was represented in the national 'Ruralympics' in Perth in early October but the team of four missed out on medals to younger teams, even with the highest score in the basketball shoot out.

Everyone is welcome to attend the open night on Tuesday November 27 in the Guide Hall in Oban for a kaleidoscope of colourful demonstrations, including upcycled toys and wearables and hot mulled wine.

ing his choices and advising on possibilities. The school hopes to display the photos in a fund-raising exhibition later in the year.

IOMAIRT Chille Chomain will hold its AGM on Monday November 12 at 7.30pm in Port Mòr. Everyone welcome.

MULL

RESIDENTS on the Isle of Mull are invited to watch artist Emma Moody-Smith work on her piece in the gallery space on An Tobar in Tobermory until December 29.

The public can go along and 'see the intriguing transformation of a simple reel of paper through the process of the repeated actions of piercing and applying pigment'.

PORTREE

EDINBURGH-BASED Dance Ihayami is bringing its unique blend of traditional and contemporary Indian dance to the Aros Experience in Portree on Saturday evening.

The 'Seeing Differently' show promises the rhythmic footwork, meaningful hand gestures and facial expressions of pure Indian classical dance in a contemporary setting.

Dance Ihayami teamed up with a young Edinburgh-based BAFTA nominated director Krish Shrikumar to create the visually stunning production.

Around the Rurals

Appin

THE OCTOBER meeting of the Appin branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI) was the annual open night, held in Appin Hall.

It was business first and president Doreen Evans was pleased to report a recent coffee evening had raised £326 for Mary's Meals.

Business over, Doreen welcomed visitors to the meeting. Speaker for the evening was Elaine Robertson who gave a talk on her life as councillor, wife, mother and grandmother.

From her education at Paisley Grammar School and her training as an occupational therapist, Elaine moved on to life in Oban. Organisation was the key to combining her career which included working with special needs children and the setting up of Dalintart Day Hospital with the demands of running a home and caring for her young children.

With the family grown up, Elaine was encouraged to stand as a councillor, a role she has carried out for some years now. Despite her busy life, Elaine still finds time for reading, walking and gardening.

This was a fascinating glimpse into a very busy and interesting life and Elaine was thanked by Linda MacLeod. After tea and the drawing of the raffle the competition results were announced: Poem 'Argyll' - Gold - Nola Brook; Silver

- Pat Wyeth Webb, Doreen Evans, Jessica MacKenzie and Agnes Thomson.

Cover for Electronic Device - Gold - Pat Wyeth Webb; Silver - Brenda MacLeod.

Oban

OBAN SWRI was taken on an Arctic cruise with Elaine Mitchell from SAMS.

Pictures of polar bears, killer whales and zoo plankton contrasted with state of the art science equipment on their exploratory journeys into the Arctic oceans.

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Down Your Way

Ballachulish

MAJOR renovations at Ballachulish Village Hall are nearing completion, with new toilets, disabled facilities, double glazing and a new storage area all being installed.

The hall committee was given a grant by Highland LEADER for the works and also plans to install new low-cost heating and a sound system in the hall, with the project on course to be finished by March.

New curtains, insulation and a new stage have also been put in place in the hall.

Project committee member Jimmy Waugh told *The Oban Times*: 'The hall belongs to the village. It's there for everyone and hopefully this will give it a new lease of life.'

The hall will play host to a Christmas panto this year, which is hoped will become an annual event and a New Year dance is also likely to be held at the venue.



Pupils from Ballachulish Primary School with a flair for knitting have created more than 100 squares which will be turned into blankets to be sent out to Zimbabwe - the country with the lowest life expectancy in the world. The youngsters, who have been enjoying an after-school knitting club, have created the squares with help from their families and sent them to AIDS charity KasCare, the charity which finishes and distributes the blankets.

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CROWDS will flock to one of Lochaber's most spectacular bonfire celebrations and fireworks displays this Saturday in Ballachulish Quarry.

The village has been gearing up for the popular event, which attracted more than 1,000 spectators last year, for a number of weeks.

After the display lights up the south Lochaber sky, a family disco will be held in Ballachulish Village Hall from 8pm till late.

Ballachulish Community Council has been raising funds for the event throughout the year.

Chairman Mel MacKisill said: 'We try to do something a bit different every year and surprise people. Hopefully we can keep it going but it's getting harder to think of new things!'

Previous surprises have included a 'fire fox' being launched from the top of the quarry and fireworks exploding on the surface of the water.

Next week Down Your Way visits Appin and Duror with Chief Reporter Euan Paterson. You can contact Euan on 01631 568000 or email epaterson@obantimes.co.uk.

DALMALLY



Primary one pupils at Dalmally Primary School. 15_134dalmally01

TAYNUILT



Playtime for this year's intake of primary one pupils at Taynuilt. 15_134taynuilt01

ISLAY LETTER



Hugh Smith, third right, front row, receives the £10,000 cheque from Hamish Thomson. Photograph by Islay MacEachern.

Lifeboat donation

ISLAY lifeboat station has been presented with a cheque for £10,000 thanks to the generosity of the Company of Stationers of Glasgow.

The cheque was handed over by Samuel 'Hamish' Thomson, a former president of the Stationers Company, and accepted on the station's behalf by Hugh Smith, the island lifeboat's press officer.

The Company of Stationers of Glasgow, first established in 1837, has now been wound up with permission of the Privy Council and its assets have been distributed to a number of worthy charitable causes, including the local lifeboat.

The former company president Hamish, who was accompanied by his wife Dorothy and other family members, is no stranger to these shores. He had a home in Frederick Crescent in Port Ellen for close on 10 years in property previously owned by the Shanks family. He now lives in the Glasgow suburb of Milngavie.

At the presentation ceremony, Hamish Campbell, chairman of the lifeboat's management committee, thanked the donors for their generosity and gave the guests a brief resume of the important part the Port Aysaig-based lifeboat personnel play in the local community.

Distiller moves on

MARK Reynier, the former chief executive officer of Bruichladdich Distillery, has left the company he founded against almost overwhelming odds 12 years ago.

Mark is now seeking new challenges and his colleague and long-standing friend Simon Coughlin will now don the chief executive officer's mantle.

Bruichladdich Distillery was acquired from Whyte and MacKay in 2000 for £6m which included 1 million litres of mature stock.

Over the following decade a vibrant, innovative and industry-leading brand was created with sales growing from zero to 50,000 cases over that time.

The company was sold in July of this year to Remy Cointreau for £58m. 'It has been a privilege to put Bruichladdich firmly on the map,' said the departing chief executive, 'and I am convinced that the future prospects for the quite exceptional whisky are secure with Remy.'

His chief executive successor stressed that he is determined to protect Mark's remarkable legacy and added that he believes that the whole Bruichladdich team will wish that the founder's vision will grow, prosper and continue to challenge convention and push at the boundaries of the distilling industry.

Coastguards honoured

THE LONG service and continuing dedication of two members of the island's coastguard team have been honoured by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

Receiving his long service medal and clasp was Peter Campbell who has clocked up 30 years with the agency.

A second clasp has been added to the long service medal awarded to Duncan MacGillivray who has been involved in coastguard duties for more than 40 years. The presentations were carried out by MCA representative William Speirs. Well done gentlemen.

Remembrance services

THE REMEMBRANCE Day service in Bowmore's Round Church on Sunday November 11, conducted by parish minister the Rev Dr Rob Barlow, will begin at 10.45am.

This will be attended by representatives from local organisations, members of the uniformed services and a section of the crew from the nuclear submarine *HMS Vanguard*. A wreath-laying ceremony will follow at the war graves section of the Bowmore cemetery.

A further act of Remembrance will take place on the same day at 3pm at the military cemetery at Kilchoman. This will be led by locum minister the Rev Alexander Cairns.

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

ISLE OF RUM

AN ISLE of Rum crofting couple have become the first people to graze sheep on the island for 35 years.

Lesley Watt and Neil Boyd have put a handful of Soay animals onto rough pasture at their No 1 Croft in Kinloch Glen.

The croft, on land owned by the Rum Community Trust, is one of three new smallholdings created to attract new families to the island.

The Goddard family, originally from Sussex, moved into Croft No 3 in May.

Rum was home to around 3,000 sheep until 1957, when the island was sold by its Lancashire-based owners to the Nature Conservancy Council.

Soay sheep, which also graze on St Kilda, tend to have less environmental impacts on sensitive landscapes than more modern breeds.

SOUTH UIST

THE FINAL part of a £60 million new school development in the Western Isles has been officially opened.

The new Daliburgh Primary School in South Uist was opened last week by Catriona MacInnes, who was school secretary for 26 years until she left in 2010.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar convener Norman A MacDonald spoke at the

opening of the 83-pupil school. He said: 'I would like to wish all staff, pupils, parents and indeed the entire community, a successful and happy future in these wonderful new facilities.'

The other new schools in the Western Isles Schools Project were Sir E. Scott, The Nicolson Institute, Balivanich, Point, West Side and Daliburgh.

DALAVICH

DALAVICH village hall was the venue for the annual children's Hallowe'en party.

The night was enjoyed by local children and visiting holiday makers. The children enjoyed games such as dookin' for apples, musical statues and the mummy wrap.

The hall was decorated with ghosts, skeletons and scary faces and

'cobwebs' left by imaginary spiders. The party was attended by ghosts, zombies, princesses and other scary creatures that were all intent on having a great time.

The evening was a big success thanks to local volunteers who gave up their time to decorate the hall and provide food and entertainment for the children. JMCB.

BUTE

A BUTE woman has been selected as a finalist for a national digital media award, for her voluntary work on the community's digital media outlets.

Nicola Jones is one of three finalists from Scotland selected for TalkTalk's Digital Heroes Awards and was chosen for her work with a number of Bute's digital media projects, includ-

ing Bute TV. Nicola said: 'To say I am chuffed is a massive understatement but the opportunity - should I win, with public support and votes, of course - to sustain the work we do at the studio is enormous.'

The regional winner is voted for by the public, while the overall winner is chosen by a judging panel.

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Countdown to Oban Winter Festival fun

Volunteers organise decorative Black Lynn fountain display

DECORATIVE fountains will shoot water from the Black Lynn as part of a unique display at this year's Oban Winter Festival. Organised by a group of community-spirited volunteers entirely separate from Argyll and Bute Council, the committee behind the town's flagship festive celebration have arranged a 'dancing water' display at Stevenson Street.

The equipment for the display has been purchased by the committee and may be used for future events throughout the year.

Its first outing though will be as part of a packed 10-day programme of events for the festival, which gets underway next Friday, November 16. No fewer than 66 different attractions have been arranged, with a spectacular finale lined up for the final day on November 25.

Festival committee member Louis Barrow said: 'There will be lights in the water and fountains, but it is the kind of thing that can be added to. This is the start of what we hope will be a larger installation.'

The jets won't cause problems for the resident wildlife and funding was provided by Scottish Sea Farms.

This week sees the official launch of the finalised programme, which will be available at local shops and in Oban's Tourist Information Office. Families with children at primary school will receive a special copy of the guide, with a front cover designed by seven year old Lochmell Primary School pupil Alice Rose Needham.

A full programme will also appear in next week's *Oban Times*.

Ballet West will get proceedings off to a flyer, with its Winter Wonderland performance at the Corran Halls next Friday. Preparations are also well under way for the secret finale, which will feature specially made lanterns to light up the town for the show-stopping climax.

A lantern workshop last week saw more than 100 local children get set for the community extravaganza, while another workshop will be held at the Corran Halls on November 20 between 4pm and 7pm for those who missed it. Children must be accompanied by a parent.

Booking for the workshop is essential and can be done via the festival's website, obanwinterfestival.com.

Last year's festival helped generate an extra £1million for the local economy.



Winter Festival programme competition judge Graham Fraser of Alba art shop with winner Alice Rose Needham and the official programme. Seven-year-old Alice, from Benderloch, said her design was 'the first thing that came to my head.' 16.145/winterfestcomp01

Fisherman pleads guilty to police assault

AN OBAN-based fisherman appeared on custody at the town's sheriff court on Tuesday and pled guilty to obstructing and assaulting a police officer.

Robert Clark, 28, of 68 Beachview Court, Aberdeen, also admitted failing to appear for sentencing after having previously pled guilty to possessing ecstasy.

Sentencing was deferred on all matters until December 11 for the preparation of reports.

Art fair tickets up for grabs

THE HOLROYD Gallery in North Ballachulish is exhibiting at the Edinburgh Art Fair - and is offering two *Oban Times* readers the chance to attend.

Two tickets to the preview evening next Thursday are up for grabs, which allow access throughout the event from November 16-18.

The gallery will send a ticket to the first two readers to email sarah@holroydgallery.co.uk mentioning *The Oban Times*.

No Tيرة Array wants answers

A WIND farm protest group has written to Argyll and Bute Council to ask why it responded directly to a consultation on the proposed Islay Array and not the Argyll Array.

The local authority is a statutory consultee but No Tيرة Array has noted that it chose not to take up its position when responding to ScottishPower Renewables' proposal for the Argyll Array, preferring instead to respond via an external consultancy.

Curtain up on Oscar-nominated film on work of Mary's Meals charity

AN OSCAR-nominated film about the work of Dalmally charity Mary's Meals will be aired in Oban this weekend.

Child 31 is a powerful new documentary from Brooklyn-based production company Grassroots Films, which last week launched at more than 300 locations all over the world.

The film was unveiled by former prime minister Gordon Brown at Glasgow's Royal Concert Hall on Sunday, marking the charity's 10th anniversary celebrations.

It will be shown, free of charge, at Oban Phoenix Cinema on Saturday, with tickets only available at the door.

Mary's Meals feeds more than 700,000 children a meal every school day in some of the world's most impoverished regions, where hunger and poverty can prevent them from getting an education.

Child 31 follows Mary's Meals' work in Malawi, India and Kenya, showing the difference just one meal every school day can make to children living in extreme poverty. Followed in the film are children such as Lette who, at the age of 12, has the sole responsibility

for looking after her family, and Muksi who lived on a rubbish dump alongside other orphans in Kenya before starting at a school where Mary's Meals is served.

The film also features 12-year-old Charlie Doherty from Crawley, who has been raising money for Mary's Meals since he was six.

It has already won Best Documentary and Best Soundtrack at the Pan Pacific Film Festival in California and has screened at the likes of a movie theatre in New York and the prestigious Warsaw Film Festival. Hopes are high the film will be crowned with further success following its shortlisting in the Best Documentary Short category at the Academy Awards.

Gordon Brown, newly appointed United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education, said: 'We should all be incredibly proud of what Magnus and all those involved with Mary's Meals have achieved. Child 31 is a great testament to what can be done, what must be done and what hopefully will be done.'

Child 31 will be screened at Oban Phoenix Cinema on Saturday from 6pm. Tickets are available from noon.

Oban Pipe Band hosts family ceilidh

OBAN Pipe Band is set to host a family ceilidh signalling the start of the town's winter festival. The dance will take place on November 16 at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls and will include music from the ceilidh band, Achnaba.

They will be supported by Oban Pipe Band, Mary Catherine MacNeill and Peter and Rosie Stevenson.

Tickets are available from Oban Music or Alistair Dewar.

Woman jailed for heroin possession

AN OBAN woman found guilty of possessing hundreds of pounds worth of heroin with intent to supply has been sent to prison for a year.

Elise MacCrone, 24, was found with diamorphine and diazepam hidden around her body when police officers arrived at her flat on June 8.

Officers raided the home of MacCrone, at 10 Kilchurn Place, Oban and found 209 valium tablets and around £400 worth of heroin.

They also found a quantity of brown powder which was not a controlled substance. One officer told the court during the trial this was used for mixing the drug.

Police had received intelligence that two people, MacCrone and 49-year-old Harry Russell, would be travelling up to Oban with heroin in a green Ford Focus.

Defence agent, Duncan Durbin, told the court the supply was 'non-commercial'. He said: 'She found herself caught up in the drug environment, she hasn't helped herself with her evidence. My client has a chaotic lifestyle, she is not a meticulous operator, she is not a drug entrepreneur.'

MacCrone, who had been on a methadone programme for eight years, is 'weak willed and suggestive,' said Mr Durbin.

But Sheriff Jamie Gilchrist disagreed.

He said: 'She was sufficiently organised to join in an enterprise to take drugs up from Airdrie to Oban. She is not the lost soul that you suggest.'

The courtroom fell silent as Sheriff Gilchrist sentenced MacCrone to 12 months. He said: 'I have very little discretion in how I deal with this matter. I can see no alternative to a custodial sentence.'

Gold medal piper takes to Netherlorn stage

GOLD medal piper Finlay Johnston will be the guest at next week's Netherlorn Piping Society recital.

Finlay, whose mother hails from Tيرة, won the medal at this year's Argyllshire Gathering. He will play next Wednesday at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

The society held its first recital of the season on October 24. Members of the Oban High School Pipe Band and Oban Pipe Band took part, as well as a large number of Angus MacColl's chanter players.

The event, which was held in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, had a big turnout.

Scalpay votes for community ownership

SCALPAY residents have voted overwhelmingly in favour of taking community ownership of their island.

Local people had been offered the island as a gift from current owner Fred Taylor.

Results of a postal ballot declared on Tuesday evening showed 197 people in favour of the move with only eight against. Residents now hope Scalpay will become part of the North Harris Trust.

Life long Scalpay resident, Donald Cunningham, 58 told *The Oban Times*: 'It was a wonderful offer and we're much obliged to Fred Taylor. But the island really needs some kind of boost, it has been in decline for 20 years and the closure of the school was a hard blow so we need something else.'

Staff redundancies being considered by council

REDUNDANCIES are among those measures being considered by Argyll and Bute Council as it struggles to meet a savings target of £6million a year.

The authority has to cut £42million from its spend over the next seven years in order to balance the books, something the council admitted would represent a 'significant long-term challenge'.

A council source confirmed to *The Oban Times* that negotiations were taking place this week with a view to looking at every aspect of the council's operations - including staffing levels. The council employs around 4,500 people.

'The council is still talking about it - there are some painful decisions to be made. Just now the talk is about natural wastage and this idea of not filling posts when people leave. What happens then is, where you had four people in a department, you then have three. They end up doing too much, become stressed and they are signed off their work. So you go from people doing 125 per cent of the work they were doing previously to 150 per cent. That doesn't work.'

'The talks will go on for some weeks and it won't be easy at all. How do you decide on something emotive like childcare or reducing the frequency of filling pot holes?'

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'The council is currently considering its budget proposals for the financial year 2013/14. No details have been finalised at this stage.'

Elderly care ticking time bomb warning

ARGYLL and Bute needs to work quickly to avoid the ticking time bomb of a collapse in the elderly care system.

That's the warning from Pat Tyrell, lead nurse for Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership (CHP).

Ms Tyrell believes care for the elderly population in Argyll needs to be overhauled in order to cope with the huge increase in the number of older people over the next few years.

She said: 'I think we have got to work quickly on this, but we will get there. We must not be complacent about the need for change.'

'The demands of the service could become enormous and we will not have enough people to provide care.'

In Scotland, over the next 20 years, the number of people aged over 75 will be 83 per cent greater than in 2006 and those aged 0-50 will decrease by 15 per cent - but in Argyll the figures are much worse.

The huge change means if the situation continues, nationally a new 600-bed hospital would have to be built every three years to be able to sustain care for those admitted to hospital.

The majority of school leavers would also have to go into the care sector to maintain staffing levels.

According to nurse Tyrell, who chairs the Argyll and Bute project group reshaping care for older people, more emphasis needs to be put on people monitoring their own health and staying at home as long as possible.

She said: 'We are looking at how people can maintain independence as long as possible. It's not about not caring for people - instead, we are focusing more on rehabilitation and enablement.'

She added: 'We have to try to keep people in their own homes. That's what people want.'

The NHS, voluntary and private sectors will be working together to provide this care, using new technology in people's homes to monitor conditions and provide alarm systems to detect if someone falls while at home.

Work to linking these systems with digital televisions to make the system easier for users is also underway.



Driving ahead: Ferguson Transport's seven new apprentices form part of the firm's future.

Transport firm drives forward by recruiting local youngsters

LOCHABER haulage firm Ferguson Transport is driving ahead with a programme to recruit local youngsters under its apprenticeship schemes.

The Corpach-based company has taken on a further four apprentices and office juniors - Jordie Blackmore, Ruairidh Stewart, Stuart Callison and Michaela Horne.

The quartet join apprentice mechanics Sean McColl, Cameron Blackmore and Kevin MacInnes, who work in the maintenance facility at Corpach.

Sean and Cameron have just moved into their second year of a four-year apprenticeship and Kevin is on his fourth year.

Jordie and Ruairidh will work within our works trucks and shunting operations department, learning the basics of being a HGV driver from the ground up.

They will learn how to load, strap and secure trailers, how to drive the tug-masters and load Ferguson Transport and Shipping's own vessels.

They will also learn the theory work that goes with it before being given the opportunity to progress through into shunting and eventually gaining their HGV driving licences.

Stuart has joined the traffic office team, learning about routing lorries, working with 60 drivers and transport planning for over 40 lorries and works, plus 100 trailers.

The logistics training will help Stuart work his way up to transport management.

Junior office assistant Michaela is learning how to deal with drivers' paperwork, invoices and general administration.

The firm's managing director Alasdair Ferguson said: 'It is excellent to be in a position to offer seven young people in the area a secure future and training through apprenticeships. This will also in time benefit our company, investing in people by training up employees to our high standards of work, procedures and health and safety in all aspects of our business.'

He added: 'It is exceptionally hard for young people to move into a career in the logistics sector, especially as a HGV driver, where companies are increasingly looking for experienced drivers with around five years previous experience under their belts.'

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Accused fails to appear for trial: arrest warrant issued

A FORT William man accused of driving at speeds of up to 67mph in the town and hitting and injuring a cyclist, leading to his right leg being amputated, has failed to appear for his trial. A warrant was issued for the arrest of Graham Douglas, aged 29, on Tuesday morning at Fort William Sheriff Court. Nineteen witnesses had been due to give evidence at the trial, and 50 potential jury members were sent home. Douglas, of 12b Linnhe Buildings, denies driving dangerously and at grossly excessive speed on Lundavra Road and colliding with Andrew MacLeod, who was on a mountain bike, severely injuring and permanently disfiguring him. The alleged incident happened on March 7 last year.

Highland Games athlete too heavy on accelerator pedal

A HIGHLAND games athlete from Fort William has admitted being too heavy on the accelerator pedal while driving on the A82 north of Spean Bridge. David Hart, who regularly competes in heavy events at games across the Highlands, pled guilty to driving at 95mph in 60mph zone north of Letterfinlay on April 20. The 31-year-old offshore worker, of 15 Lochy Road, Inverlochy, will be sentenced at Fort William Sheriff Court on November 29.

Fort FC jackpot rolls over

A ROLLOVER jackpot of £400 is up for grabs this week in Fort William FC's weekly lotto draw. Numbers last week were 1-7-11.

NEWSDESKS
Oban
01631 568000
Fort William
01397 703003



Phoenix boxers stage show to remember

Lochaber Phoenix boxers put on a show to remember at the Nevis Centre on Saturday night, with a large crowd noisily cheering on the home fighters. Among the starring performers were welterweight Liam Jordan, who recorded a unanimous victory over Aberdeen fighter Arron Logan of Kincorth ABC, and youngsters Chris Bradley who narrowly lost to an opponent two weight divisions above. As well as the bouts, a raffle and auction on the night raised over £1,100 for Lochaber Phoenix ABC. Pictured left to right are Phoenix coach Steve Docherty, junior boxer of the night Chris Bradley, senior boxer of the night Liam Jordan and special guest, promoter Keith Mayo. 20_445boxing13

A82 group slams speed cut plan

CONTROVERSIAL proposals to cut the speed limit on the A82 have been slammed by the group campaigning for upgrades to the road. The A82 Partnership says Transport Scotland stands accused of 'shutting down the Highlands' over plans to drop the limit from 60mph to 50mph along 30 miles of the West Highlands' lifeline route. Three sections - Tarbet to Inverarnan, Ballachulish to Fort William and Glen Gloy to Letterfinlay - are being recommended for the slowdown under a Scotland wide review. Councillor Brian Murphy, A82 Partnership chairman fumed: 'It looks as if Transport Scotland prefers to reduce the speed limits rather than invest in the road network to upgrade the road to an acceptable standard. 'By far the majority of the proposed speed reductions are in the Highlands and this obviously reflects the inadequate

of investment are both false and unhelpful. The Scottish Government is absolutely committed to upgrading the A82. 'While signs will indicate a reduction from 60 to 50, motorists are not going to see an impact because they are already travelling at that speed or lower. 'The aim of the trunk road speed limit review is to make speed limits more consistent and easily understood by drivers across all our roads. When assessing the A82, issues such as accident rates, recorded average speeds and general road characteristics were considered in proposing the review's recommendations. Improvement schemes were being taken forward at Pulpit Rock and the Crianlarich bypass, while design work on the Tarbet-Inverarnan stretch was expected to begin next spring, the spokesperson said. A statutory process will now

Fishermen's Mission in Mallaig sold

THE FISHERMEN'S Mission in Mallaig had been sold for £175,000 and will be renamed by its new owners, The Oban Times can reveal.

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

The imposing building, which dominates the village centre, will be known as Togalach Mhoireasdain (The Morrison Building) after the purchasers, the Mrs K G Morrison Trust. The Sussex-based organisation concluded terms with the Fishermen's Mission last week after protracted negotiations. The property was put on the market two years ago following a downturn in fishing activity. Trust spokesperson Charlie Mills said the door was open for the local community to come forward with business ideas for putting the mission back into productive use. Changes to the exterior could include a new colour and doors off the pavement on Harbour Street, he said. Inside, Fishermen's Mission officer Karen Calder will retain offices on the ground floor, while the fishermen's accommodation will be made available

to visiting crews. Second hand bookseller Kenny MacKenzie has been granted permission to continue trading and the laundry operation will carry on. However, the trust has no intention of running the kitchen and extensive dining as a catering operation - unless someone locally makes an offer to take over the business. Mr Mills, who has long connections with Mallaig and Knoydart as the former manager of Knoydart Estate, told *The Oban Times*: 'We want to make this work. It's not a retirement fund or anything like that. 'It's not a quick get in get out kind of deal, we are in it for the long term. 'I don't want to tread on anybody's toes. I'm going to be looking for businesses to come in there and maybe if people are complaining that there's

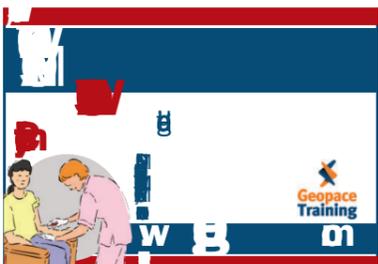
nowhere for the coach parties to go, perhaps a group of business people could get together to spread the load.' Mr Mills suggested a back-packing business would be ideally suited to operate from the mission. He added: 'We are doing our bit by splitting it up and making it more attractive. The heating costs are astronomical.' John MacMillan at Mallaig Visitor Centre said the move was good news if the new owners were going to spend money renovating the building. He told *The Oban Times*: 'Most people are happy it's been bought on instead of lying shut.' Asked about the impact on tourism of losing the mission's catering, he added: 'We had a coach tour driver in here asking where they could go with the mission closed. There are other choices in the village.' Fishermen's Mission chief executive David Dickens said: 'The trust seems completely dedicated to providing opportunities and services to the people of Mallaig.'

Two former players take charge at helm of Fort William Shinty Club

FORT William Shinty Club has appointed two former players to take over the managerial reins for next year - Victor Smith and Addie Robertson. The pair enjoyed great success on the field with Fort, reaching and winning numerous Camanachd Cup finals and will now be joint managers at the An Aird club. Former boss Peter MacIntrye stepped down from the post in September due to work commitments after three years in the job. Robertson told *The Oban Times* the short term aim was to

re-establish Fort William's place at the top of the Orion Group Premiership. He said: 'Obviously this has all happened quite quickly over the weekend so we've not had a chance to really sit down and discuss it. But we want to get the club back on an even keel, and there is no doubt the ability is there within the playing squad. 'We're very much looking towards the future, there's a lot of young guys that have been brought through to the first team. Some of them might be a bit young still, but I'm sure they can do well for us next year.'

Robertson also said he planned to speak to 'two or three' experienced players who did not play for Fort last year with a view to getting them back involved for 2013. After spending the first half of last season playing home games at Black Parks in Inverloch, Robertson said the team would be happy to start the new season at An Aird. 'It's being back at home,' he said. 'With the clubhouse and the crowds and all the regular faces. The pitch will suit our style of play much more than Black Parks as well.'



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Fox Diary

FORMER Highland Council leader and Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Michael Foxley is still a busy man. However, he still found time to pen a few lines on matters of local interest.



I AM now a Board Member of Mallaig Harbour Authority, having previously served on this between 1986 and 2007.

It is good to re-join old friends on the Harbour Authority who are committed to ensuring that their activities are not only good for the harbour, but also good for Mallaig and the surrounding area.

The marina, opened in the spring, has been a great success, with over 700 yachts using it. That would increase when the showers and toilet facilities are built next year.

AS A member of Mallaig Harbour Authority I recently met with the Scottish Affairs Committee, whose report endorsing my view that management of the Crown Estate should be transferred from London to Scotland, then down to the Highlands and Islands and on to local communities, recently met with a pathetic response from the UK Government.

Instead, they gave us local management agreements for moorings associations in Portree and North Uist, and the legal right to gather mussels. I am sure that many of us did not appreciate that we were breaking the law when we have gathered these since childhood.

THE SCOTTISH Affairs Committee intends to return to the Highlands annually to chart progress on the Crown Estate becoming more open and honest in their dealings with local communities.

The current Scottish Government stance is that the management of the Crown Estate be devolved to Scotland, and then consult on whether there should be further devolution locally. Most of us in the Highlands and Islands feel that secondary devolution will never take place, and the Crown Estate will be controlled centrally, albeit from Edinburgh rather than London.

This is unacceptable. I APPLIED for and have re-joined the Highland NHS Board.

I was previously a member between 2004 and 2007. I have enjoyed the first few months of meetings, and am very impressed by the openness and honesty of the meetings of the Board and of the Committees.

I am well aware of the issues of health provision in the remote rural areas. I remain convinced that the model for remote communities should be emergency responders who are suitably trained and paid to carry out a range of duties currently covered in urban areas by the Fire, NHS and Ambulance Services. The key

will be the recruitment and retention of GPs and District Nurses in rural areas including Salen and Kilchoan.

ANOTHER ISSUE with which I am heavily involved is to ensure that the hospital network across the Highlands is used to its full extent.

This means using the Belford Hospital to its maximum, rather than employing and ever increasing number of consultants and specialist nurses in Raigmore.

More of this to follow. OVER THE summer I had some great walks with the family.

In two sections I walked with Duncan and my old friend Chris, from Spean Bridge to Aberchalder, along the line of the old Fort Augustus and Invergarry railway track. This railway line was built at vast cost at the beginning of the 20th Century, and closed some 50 years later. As it was a railway it is virtually flat, and the route is open throughout, apart from a section near Invergarry Holt, which has about a mile of the track completely overgrown with impenetrable rhododendrons. The old bridges are all intact and have survived the decades far better than the adjoining A82.

I recommend this to anyone. ANOTHER OUTING was from Cluanie Inn to Tomdoun, along the old road to Skye.

This is still in remarkably good condition. We did not cross the bealach to come down west of Tomdoun, but continued on the old line of the road.

A hump back bridge is usually submerged below Loch Quoich, but because of the drought it was intact and passable with extreme care. Two thirds of its width has been washed away, and we very gingerly crossed the skeletal remains of the remainder.

I told the boys that they may well be one of the last people to walk the old road from Cluanie to Tomdoun.

I HAVE just been made a member of the new Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Board – the first interview that I have taken seriously since 1978.

FINALLY, in contrast to most of the UK, I don't remember a summer as good as this here since the mid 1970s. With the help of my two sons, the croft is in the best order it has ever been, with both the steading and barn painted.

Westering Home for Islay Sessions

SOME of the country's best traditional and folk musicians will be westering to Islay next weekend (November 16-18) for the return of Islay Sessions.

Following a successful maiden year in 2011, organisers say they are confident this year's event will be even better.

The festival features some of Scotland's finest traditional musicians playing in sessions across Islay and coming together for a grand concert ceildh in Bruichladdich Hall.

This year's line-up boasts Rura, a band that manages to include no fewer than three Young Traditional Musician of the Year finalists as well as an All-Ireland Bodhran Champion. Their collective talent was recognised in the MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards where they won Best Up and Coming Artist in 2011.

Since then, their debut album 'Break it up' has created a buzz throughout the traditional music scene with its tight instrumentals and stunning vocals.

Following the success of her first album and award of Best Up and Coming Artist in 2007, Maeve MacKinnon has gone from strength to strength.

Findlay Napier and Gillian Frame are also a very exciting addition to the line-up. As well known faces around Islay, the Maverick Angels are returning again this year having enjoyed last year's Islay Sessions so much. This year the band will be performing at the ceildh and promise to deliver a distinctive style of modern ceildh music which is sure to get everyone up on the dance floor.

To complete the line-up the Islay Sessions are delighted to announce that Hamish Napier and Marc Duff will be performing. A traditional music workshop will take place on Saturday 17th November to give opportunities to play with and learn from some of the talented musicians that will be here for the event.

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Maeve MacKinnon will perform at this year's Islay Sessions.

Lochaber historians hear of road trip across America on Harley Davidson

TRAVELLING across the United States of America along the fabled Route 66 on the back of a Harley Davidson is the stuff of many men's dreams.

And at a packed Lochaber Natural History Society (LNHS) meeting local geologist Noel Williams recounted, with the aid of a multitude of slides, his road trip this summer.

Noel's dream trip saw him fulfil an ambition to explore the rocks of the American mid-west, including the Grand Canyon - the Mecca of many a geologist.

Noel explored its ancient history and grandeur by making a 4,400ft descent to the bottom and back up - equivalent to a reverse hike down Ben Nevis and an ascent to the summit - as temperatures exceeded 40C by midday.

The descent traverses millions of years of geological time, with the oldest rocks at the bottom dating back more than 1,700 million years.

Body named as missing man

A BODY recovered from the River Spey near Knockando has been identified as that of Ian Grant, 71, who had been reported missing from the Grantown-on-Spey area by his family on September 26.

Fuel price seminar

A SEMINAR on the high price of fuel on Scottish islands has been promised by the UK government and is likely to be held in early 2013. Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid welcomed the coalition's commitment to invite fuel distributors to explain why the price of fuel is so high at pumps on the islands.

Above the canyon, rocks were eroded away 30-70 million years ago, exposing a multitude of layers of soft sedimentary rock, laid down successively under ancient seas - the striping so readily apparent from photographs.

The canyon itself is relatively recent in origin, having been formed some 5,000 years ago by river erosion. Remarkably, the exact mechanism for its formation is still much debated.

Noel showed stunning vistas during his descent until the mighty Colorado River was reached at the bottom. The hike was hazardous, not only because of the extreme heat, but also because walkers have to make way for mule trains on the narrow and tortuous trails.

The dangers became soberingly apparent as his ascent was halted to allow the recovery of the body of someone who did not make it.

However, the greatest threat to Noel's day was he forgot where he had parked his precious Harley! LNHS meets at 7.30pm in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William on the third Monday of each month throughout the winter, and all are welcome.

The next meeting on November 19 is on the subject of Scottish wildcats, presented by Adrian Davis, who has been studying the animals in Ardnamurchan.



Rev Bob Shepton's Dodo's Delight pictured during his latest Arctic adventure.



Rev Bob Shepton. 145b0b01

Adventurer returns to Appin after months in Arctic's ice flows

VETERAN adventurer Rev Bob Shepton has returned to his home in Appin, having helped to discover four new climbing routes during an Arctic expedition in Greenland and Canada - at the age 77.

Bob's 33-foot Westerly yacht Dodo's Delight took four South African climbers, including the renowned Clinton Martinengo, through the North West Passage to discover previously unclimbed 'extreme route' cliffs on Baffin Island, Arctic Canada, and on Greenland.

The minister was awarded a Piolets d'Or, arguably the most prestigious mountaineering award in the world, for his part in a similar expedition in 2010, where his crew discovered nine new major climbing routes on the west and south coasts of Greenland.

On this expedition, however, Bob turned down the opportunity to join in the climbs himself.

'On this occasion, towards the end of the expedition, I thought I had maybe bitten off more than I could chew, but I love the challenge element to these trips,' said the former Royal Marine.

'Sailing through the North west Passage is still one of the great challenges and not many do it in a fibre-glass boat.'

"I thought I had bitten off more than I could chew"

Rev Bob Shepton

Bob's trademark is allowing the climbers to begin their ascent from his sailing yacht, which can get alongside a cliff or ice cap.

He said: 'Motoring up the west coast of Greenland, because there was little or no wind, the team set about climbing hard new rock climbs in the Sortehul area near the settlement of Upernavik, Greenland.'

'This included another major new route on the 'Impossible Wall' but it took them nine days, occasionally sleeping on port-a-ledges on the wall, starting from the boat moored against the rock wall.'

Bob, who led the first school group to sail around the world, between 1993 and 1995, is wintering his boat in Nome, Alaska, meaning he will have to take on at least one more Arctic adventure to get it back to Appin.

Technos link in to Tiree vibe



Gareth Reece from Lancaster University, left, is pictured with Three Tech Wave organisers Alan Dix, centre, and Graham Dean. 15_1441retech1

'There is something very special about the island; it helps you think in a new way.'

IT IS designated as remote, suffers from poor broadband speeds and mobile telephone signal - yet the Inner Hebridean isle of Tiree has become a popular refuge for product designers, scientists and computer programmers.

The unlikely pilgrimage to the Land Beneath the Waves is for Tiree Tech Wave, an event that is becoming a popular six-monthly trip for technologists from across the UK and further afield.

With no set agenda, the idea behind the Tech Wave is simply to provide a shelter from the busy outside world, helping encourage innovative thinking to develop new approaches to common problems.

Inevitably, that has led designers to look closely at some of the unique challenges facing Tiree - not least the island's poor connectivity from both a transport and technology perspective.

Tiree Tech Wave met for the fourth time last week and spoke to a number of islanders about some of the things they would like to see before setting about devising their own solutions over the event's five days.

Organiser and islander, Alan Dix, said: 'Tiree Tech Wave is just getting a load of people together, technologists, artists and product



Tiree Tech Wave welcomed 20 people to the island 15_1441retech2

designers, doing stuff together and making things. We make things that have a technology edge to them, the 'computing' and 'electronics' side, but also physical design.

'We don't have a strong agenda, we don't come with a particular project to make. People come and depending on who they are and what they're interested in, things just happen.'

'We deliberately get people from the island to come in and talk about the island. We talk about the challenges of island life, the physical ones with the wind and the fact the ferries don't work, the electronic and technical ones such as the broadband speed.'

'In general, many people who

come here from an urban environment have no idea what it's like away from that constantly connected online world.

'Maybe this time we'll even be solving a few problems.'

The first islander to address this autumn's Tech Wave was Sophie Isaacson, a youth worker with the Tiree Community Development Trust.

She said: 'I was talking to them about the communication issues we face on a small island so everyone knows what's going on and what events we're holding to maximise attendance.'

'Obviously costs are high getting people across to the island so we need as many people out supporting as much as we can.'

Obtaining useful feedback from community events was one area Sophie suggested the delegates could look at, as was sex education for the island's children, saying the tightly knit community sometimes made it awkward for teenagers to ask questions.

She said: 'There were some good ideas I hadn't thought of that will definitely reach more people if we can get them to work.'

Graham Dean, a PhD researcher at HighWire, Lancaster University, helps Alan organise the Tech Wave, which this year welcomed undergraduate students for the first time.

He said: 'It's really interesting to see how we use technology in quite a stressed environment. We're also meeting the local people, who come along and join in.'

'There is something very special about the island; it helps you think in a new way.'

This autumn was Dr Alessio Malizia's second time on Tiree for the event. During his last visit, he helped create a 'touch screen' projector inspired by the film Minority Report. Using a lampstand, Microsoft Kinect and a mini projector, Alessio created a device that effectively creates a tablet computer-style 'touchscreen' interface on any surface.

Still in embryonic stage, the

senior lecturer of information systems and computing at Brunel University in London said the device could have any number of applications, all of which could be particularly useful to islanders.

He said: 'Imagine a table, you can project an interface on the table and using the Kinect you can detect the gestures and the postures, effectively providing a digital environment onto a generic surface.'

'It could be useful especially for sharing a space, so people could get together and collaborate on some tasks, say exploring a map together, taking decisions for public policies, or even surf the web together, finding information and publishing information about the community and the island.'

Returning to Tiree, he explained why the retreat was important.

He said: 'Coming from a very different background, I am Italian and have worked and lived in many different countries, this is a very different environment. This is an island with some own particularities, a very stimulating environment when you get here because many different researchers, people from the local community you can interact with and a real rural environment. It's very exciting and great experience to be here.'

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Caol man accused of pointing air rifle at youths

A CAOL man has appeared in court accused of pointing an air rifle at three youths and threatening to shoot them. Appearing from custody, David MacKay pled not guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner, which was likely to cause fear or alarm at MacMillan Place in the village on October 31. The 30-year-old is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on December 17, with a preliminary hearing set for November 21. Shaven-headed MacKay, of 19 MacMillan Place, was released on bail under strict instructions not to approach or contact any of the three alleged victims.

Fort William chef drove without insurance

A FORT William chef drove his friend's 4x4 Nissan Navara in the town without realising he was not insured. Christian Hodgson, of 7 Glenloch Road, pled guilty to driving on Kilmallie Road with no insurance on February 27. The 25-year-old claimed his friend Matthew Rosbottom, who was living in Loch Linnhe Caravan Park at the time, told him he had paid for temporary insurance.

Hodgson, who works at the Ben Nevis Inn, said: 'I trusted him as a friend. I asked to see the documents but he said he couldn't get mail at the caravan site.' Justice of the Peace Alistair Gibson accepted Hodgson's version of events and fined him £100. Rosbottom, meanwhile, faces charges of causing or permitting Hodgson to drive without insurance.

Hoax caller sentenced to unpaid work

A KINLOCHLEVEN man called police claiming someone had tied his feet together - only for officers to discover his laces were caught on his shoes. The claim was one of five false 999 calls for police and ambulances made by John Davidson, of 15 Glendale Road, on October 18 and 19. Davidson pled guilty to making unnecessary 999 calls for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety.

Ordering the 58 year-old to carry out 60 hours unpaid work, Sheriff Noel McPartlin said: 'Someone could have genuinely needed help. By calling out the services you could have prevented that.'

Golf club prizegiving

FORT William Golf Club will hold its annual prizegiving and race night in the clubhouse on Saturday at 7.15pm. Free entry.

Got a story for The Oban Times? Call our reporters on 01631 568000



Primary pupils brush up on rural skills

Around 60 primary school pupils enjoyed a day of learning a variety of rural skills at Lochaber Rural Education Centre on Tuesday. Youngsters from Banavie and Caol were shown how to churn butter, make their own jam and cakes, how to make felt bookmarks and were also given a lesson in willow weaving by Dornie-based Monique Bervoets. Making butter, from left, are Anna MacDonald, Cameron Clark, Lucy Fraser and Robbie Murray. 20_145Rural01

Dream mascot role for Ardgour's John

A 12-YEAR-OLD Ardnarmurchan High School pupil will be the proudest boy in Lochaber on Sunday when he walks out on to Murrayfield as a Scotland rugby team mascot. John Clark from Ardgour village was chosen for the dream role after being nominated by Lochaber Rugby Club, where he was Primary 6/7 player of the year last season. First year pupil John, who is coached by club stalwart Gary Hendrie at Banavie, has already been playing the game for three years. He was thrilled when he

heard he had been picked - and now hopes to bring his country luck against the world's best side, the All Blacks. John told *The Oban Times*: 'When the club phoned me to let me know, I was really excited. Hopefully I will help Scotland win against New Zealand.' Mum Heather added: 'I'm really proud of him. He really enjoys his rugby - it's a great game and the club really looks after the kids well.' John also received free tickets to the game and £200 of Scotland rugby kit.



John Clark from Ardgour: heading to Murrayfield on Sunday as a Scotland team mascot. 20_145John01

Court hears man kicked dog in head

A FORMER Fort William man has denied kicking a dog on the head in the town's high street. Appearing from custody, Scott MacKinnon, of Hazeldean House, Lochalsh Road, Inverness, pled not guilty to kicking the dog on May 12. The 36-year-old was released on bail to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on December 17.



Corpach's Donna strikes Mod gold

Corpach youngster Donna MacLeod struck gold at the recent Royal National Mod in Dunoon, winning the girls solo singing ages 11-12 (learners). The Banavie Primary School pupil won the same category for ages 9-10 last year in Stornoway. Donna is pictured outside The Oban Times office in Fort William with her trophy and medal. 20_145mod01

Highland community pharmacies target men

COMMUNITY pharmacies in the Highlands are targeting men after new figures showed women are twice more likely to check out prescription medicines before taking them. The National Pharmacy Association survey also found nine in 10 men say they don't like to trouble a doctor or pharmacist unless they have a serious problem, while a third get their partner to collect their medicines. Clare Morrison, NHS Highland north lead pharmacist said: 'We want men to take control of their medicines and their wellbeing.' 'Ask Your Pharmacist' Week began on Monday with pharmacies displaying 'Two Small Steps for Men' window posters.

Lifesaving heart start machine for Invergarry

Portree charity chips in with funds to help groups secure defibrillator

INVERGARRY is to get its own heart defibrillator - thanks to a successful fundraising campaign and Portree-based charity Lucky2Bhere. Invergarry Sheepdog Society, the local community council and The Glengarry Trust all made donations towards the lifesaving equipment, then Lucky2Bhere chipped in with the balance. The charity will despatch a Heartstart Skye team down to Invergarry to provide training on basic CPR and using the defibrillator, once 10 local volunteers have been signed up. The Invergarry machine will be based centrally - possibly in the village post office. Leaflets will be circulated round local businesses advising on the location of the defibrillator once the project is up and running. Portree man Ross Cowie set up Lucky2Bhere in 2009 after

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

suffering a life-threatening cardiac arrest during a quiz night three years previously. His life was only saved because paramedics happened to be close by at the time. Alive The charity now raises thousands of pounds annually to place defibrillators in rural areas and trains local people to use them, so cardiac arrest victims can be kept alive until an ambulance arrives. Lucky2Bhere also works with agencies such as the British Heart Foundation and the Scottish Ambulance Service on making defibrillators widely available, and aims to train all secondary school pupils in Scotland in basic life saving techniques.

Mr Cowie, 52, told *The Oban Times* Scotland lags far behind Scandinavia.

There, emergency life support (ELS) provision is far superior and one in four cardiac arrest victims survive, compared with one in 200 in this country. He said: 'Having a team trained in CPR and using a defibrillator in Glengarry gives anybody suffering a cardiac arrest a chance of surviving. 'The nearest ambulance is in Fort William - but if you have a cardiac arrest you only have five minutes.' Anyone wishing more information and/or to book a place for the training session, which will be in Glengarry Community Hall, can contact Lea McNally on 01809511220. No one who completes the training is obliged to use the machine in an emergency.

Brothers guilty of Fort William party fight chaos

TWO BROTHERS smashed windows and fought with police and other partygoers during a fracas at a birthday party in Fort William on Saturday night. Appearing from custody, Ian Roy, of 59 Carn Dearg, Claggan and Frazer Roy, of 38 Blaeberryhill Road, Whitburn, pled guilty to a total of seven charges of assault, threatening and abusive behaviour, damaging property and resisting arrest at the BA Club. Ian Roy pled guilty to attempting to fight with police and others, being continually aggressive and shouting and swearing. The 28 year-old also admitted resisting two police officers by lashing out with his

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

arms and legs, attempting to pull away, struggling and refusing to allow handcuffs to be put on him. His brother Frazer Roy pled guilty to picking up a chair and using it to smash a window, and smashing the glass in a door by punching it. The 25 year-old kicked a police officer on the leg and smashed the window of a police vehicle by kicking it. He also admitted resisted arrest by struggling violently, attempting to fight with police and others, being continually aggressive and shouting and swearing.

Ian Roy denied a charge of punching a police officer on the head, while Frazer Roy pled not guilty to lunging at an officer and attempting to headbutt her. Procurator fiscal Alison Wylie accepted the not guilty pleas. Sheriff Noel McPartlin released the pair on bail on the condition they stay away from the BA Club. Defence solicitor Hamish Melrose said the brothers, whose mother was in court, would have 'no problem' complying with the bail conditions. Sheriff McPartlin deferred sentencing until December 3 for reports, telling the brothers there was a 'real possibility' of a custodial sentence.

Sheriff's jail warning to man guilty of violent attack

A MAN has admitted violently attacking and permanently disfiguring two men during a drunken brawl near Fort William High Street last summer. Ian MacDonald Ward of 68 Mosshead Road, Bearsden, Glasgow, pled guilty to assaulting Fort William Shinty Club player Alex Duncan by striking him with a bottle on the neck and body to his severe injury. The 22-year-old also admitted assaulting Ryan Black with the bottle, by striking him on the

head to his injury. The incidents took place on Ainslie Lane at around 1am on July 29 2011. Two other men - Kris Divers, aged 22, of 32 Netherwood Road, Motherwell, Stephen McElroy, aged, 29, of 54 Hamilton Road, Airdrie - were accused of being involved in the fight, but had not guilty pleas accepted by Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie. Sheriff Noel McPartlin deferred sentencing Ward until December 3 for reports, warning him he could face jail.

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Eilean Bàn Trust outlines moves to ensure island's long-term future

THE SUCCESSFUL campaign to keep Ring of Bright Water author Gavin Maxwell's former home in public hands will be celebrated in Kyleakin next Tuesday night. Local residents at a public meeting in the village hall will hear how Eilean Bàn, the island under the Skye Bridge, was saved from being sold on the open market. Eilean Bàn Trust chairman Hugh Davies will also outline moves to secure a long term lease with Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS), the isle's new owners. The trust runs the Gavin Maxwell Museum and Loch Alsh lighthouse, which was part-created by celebrated lighthouse designer Thomas Stevenson. It also protects wildlife on Eilean Bàn, including the otters made famous by Maxwell in his novels. Doubt was cast over the site when Transport Scotland announced it was offloading the six-acre island. The trust enlisted the help of local MSP Dave Thompson and a vociferous campaign led to FCS taking ownership, ensuring public access would be maintained. Trust chairman Hugh Davies told *The Oban Times* talks were scheduled next month with FCS and land agents to discuss extending the existing lease, which expires in 2015. He said: 'We are looking for something which would allow us to get multiple bids of Lottery funding - ideally a lease upwards of

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

50 years - and also for projects we want to have a go at now. 'It means we would have the long term security of tenure we need to make proper plans to keep the island going as a proper memorial to Gavin Maxwell, to keep the lighthouse heritage that's there from the Stevenson lighthouse and also as a wildlife haven. 'Once that's in place it will be a lot simpler and we can start thinking about what to do.' He added: 'I am delighted that the efforts of the trust and our MSP Dave Thompson have resulted in Eilean Bàn being retained in public hands, preserving it as a visitor attraction, heritage site, wildlife haven and community asset. 'This outcome has removed a great weight from the shoulders of the trustees and we now look forward to a secure future for the island with Forestry Commission Scotland as our landlords.' Mr Davies added: 'Anybody who is interested in the trust can come along to the meeting. Eilean Bàn is a community asset as well as being part of Maxwell's heritage.' After the short presentation, a discussion on Eilean Bàn's future will form the first part of a community consultation on the trust's future plans. The meeting starts at 7.30pm.

Elderly Skye woman dies after being found on shore near Dunvegan home

AN ELDERLY woman has died after being found on the shore near her home in northwest Skye. Moira Ewbank, 77, was reported missing after leaving her house in Harloch, near Dunvegan at 1am on Tuesday morning. When last seen she was wearing Wellington boots and a jacket. Her disappearance sparked a huge search operation involving

coastguard volunteers, police, mountain rescue teams and SARDA search dogs. Northern Contabulary said Ms Ewbank was found at about 8.30am and was airlifted to the MacKinnon Memorial Hospital in Broadford, where she was pronounced dead just before 9am. Police report that there do not appear to be any suspicious circumstances.

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OT

Invergarry man guilty of assault

A FIGHT in a Fort William pub has cost an Invergarry man £210. Derek Tougher, of 3 Garry Bank, pled guilty to assaulting a man in the Maryburgh Inn by punching him on the head to his injury on April 2. Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'He punched him once and connected with his right eye. The victim fell to the ground as a result.' The man was left with bruising around his eye but did not require medical treatment. Defending Togh, Hamish Melrose said the incident was 'out of character' for the 27-year-old.

Holidaymaker admits hitting car

AN ELDERLY holidaymaker who drove into the side of a car in a Fort William car park before driving away has been fined £200 and given seven penalty points. Michael Thompson, of 9 Rutherglen Close, Rugeley, Staffordshire admitted hitting the car outside Morrisons supermarket and failing to give insurance details on July 18. The 68-year-old told police he had heard 'a noise' but did not realise he had hit another vehicle. However, Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'Witnesses saw the driver get out and have a look at the damage before driving off.'

Stroke service in running for award

A STROKE rehabilitation service at Western Isles Hospital could be named as winners at the Scottish Health Awards 2012 in Edinburgh's Corn Exchange today (Thursday). Joan Frieslick and her team in Stornoway are nominees for the Innovating for Quality award. Faced with no stroke consultant in the hospital's six-bed stroke unit, Ms Frieslick recruited NHS Lanarkshire consultants to provide expert assistance via video-link. The service ensures stroke patients receive top-level care in cost-effective way without having to travel to the mainland. NHS Western Isles chief executive Gordon Jamieson said the nomination was 'an incredible achievement'.

Fine and points for illegal driver

A FORT William man who has held a provisional driving licence for 29 years has admitted illegally driving home from work alone. Thomas Richardson, of 33 Castle Drive, Lochyside, pled guilty to driving unaccompanied and without 'L' plates on North Road and the B80006 Lochyside to Caol road on August 22 and driving without insurance. Justice of the Peace Alistair Gibson fined the 61-year-old £420 and gave him six penalty points.

New manager takes the helm of Skye trust

THE CLAN Donald Lands Trust in southern Skye has appointed a new general manager following a nine-month 'root and branch' review of its operations across its 20,000-acre landholdings around Armadale.

Stephen McKeown will head a major modernisation drive to boost profitability and sustainability, while forging much closer links with the local community. Staff on the estate and visitor centre at Armadale Castle have also been handed new roles under the shake-up. CDTL trustees ordered the review after deciding the ongoing difficult financial climate meant radical change was needed. Mr McKeown, who is originally from St Andrews but grew up on the west of Scotland near Hamilton, said he was delighted to be playing 'a key role' for the trust - the area's second largest employer after Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. He said: 'It's an exciting challenge and I'm very much looking forward to working with

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk colleagues, trustees, friends and the local community in delivering for the trust the success it deserves.

'The new staff structure is all about empowering people to do the jobs that need to be done in a thriving, modern organisation. The trust will be able both to meet its charitable objectives and play a key role in the area's future, by providing employment, developing collaborative projects, enriching the environment and helping the whole area to flourish.' CDTL trustee Jamie Macdonald said a new executive committee, Mr McKeown's appointment and staff restructuring were 'first important steps' towards making the trust 'fit for purpose'. He said: 'The management, staff and trustees recognise their responsibilities to the Clan Donald Lands Trust and to Sleaf and are working together to ensure the long term sustainability of the trust,

both for itself and the benefit of the wider community - a very exciting prospect.' Sleaf Community Trust, which supports sustainable economic, environmental and social development on the Sleaf peninsula, backed the review.

SCT manager Angus Robertson said: 'Sleaf Community Trust welcomes the prospect of closer working links with Clan Donald Lands Trust. 'We wish Stephen well in his new position and look forward to working with him on building closer ties between us in a multitude of areas.' Clan Donald members set up the trust 41 years ago to purchase and maintain the estate on Sleaf - one of the last remnants of the traditional lands of the Macdonalds - and to preserve and present the history of Clan Donald and the Lordship of the Isles. The estate attracts around 40,000 visitors a year and counts the castle, the Museum of the Isles, woodland gardens and an arboretum among its attractions.



Clan Donald Lands Trust trustee Jamie Macdonald, left, welcomes new general manager Stephen McKeown.

Three stand for election

THREE candidates will vie for the vacant Comhairle nan Eilean Siar ward in Lewis in a by-election later this month. The Sgir' Uige agus Ceann A Tuath nan Loch ward is currently unrepresented after SNP councillor Bill Houston died suddenly at home aged 60 in September. John Norman Macdonald, of point, will stand for the SNP against independent candidates Les Mac an Ultaigh and Angus Macdonald Morrison, both of Balalan. Voting will be held between 7am and 10pm on Thursday November 29.

Captivating story brings teacher to Glencoe

AREMARKABLE link between the Glencoe Macdonalds and Japan has inspired an American woman teaching English to students in the Land of the Rising Sun.

Patrice Spendell was working in her adopted home of Nagoya, Japan's third biggest city, when she learned she was following in the footsteps of Ranald Macdonald, the son of Glencoe native Archibald Macdonald. Patrice, originally of Spokane, Washington State, was so captivated by the duo's incredible story that she recently made a pilgrimage to the glen, the birthplace of Archibald in 1790.

With help from Glencoe Heritage Trust, Patrice discovered how Archibald, born at Leacantim and one of 12 children, was chosen by the Earl of Selkirk to take around 100 people to North America to make better lives for themselves.

After an arduous journey the party landed at Red River settlement in what is now Manitoba, where Archibald, aged only 21, set 'his' people to work farming and logging. Later he became a director in the Hudson Bay Company - but it was his son who would go on to blaze a new trail in the Far East.

Patrice said: 'Ranald Macdonald, (1824-1894) was the first native English speaker to teach English in Japan. When he arrived in Japan it was closed to foreigners and all who entered were killed. Ranald was not a missionary or a merchant, so what was his mission?' 'The answer, I found, lies in the views of the Glencoe highlands, adventure, and friendship. Ranald first landed in Rishiri Island, Hokkaido, he began teaching English, later being imprisoned, though still teaching English. He later managed to catch a whaling ship and on to further adventures.

'I have visited Ranald's grave in Toroda, Washington State. I also travelled to Rishiri Island in Japan, where he first landed. Now I have come to Glencoe to visit Archibald's home - Leacantim, where the Macdonald roots lie.'



Inspired by Glencoe: Patrice Spendell followed in Ranald Macdonald's footsteps to Japan.

Archibald Macdonald's Hudson Bay Company connections, Patrice said, enabled him to make many friends, including Donald Alexander Smith (Lord Strathcona), whom he referred to as 'our Donald'. Smith built Glencoe House, an imposing sandstone mansion above the village, which became an NHS hospital after the Second World War before being sold last year and converted into luxury holiday accommodation.

According to Patrice, Archibald, a father of 12, was 'a true family man who invited all round his table.' 'That was a true indication of the Highland gentleman he was,' she said. 'He never sought, or received, any titles for all his businesses and achievements. More importantly, he never forgot his roots, calling his home near the Lake of Two Mountains, Montreal, 'Glencoe Cottage.'

She added: 'Though things may change, the views at Glencoe inspire and fill me with a sense of connection, people, place, and purpose.' An international friendship organisation now celebrates Ranald Macdonald around the world. For more information on Ranald Macdonald visit www.glencoe-heritage-trust.com.



West Highland College UHI students celebrate their graduation. 20_145grad01

West Highland UHI students celebrate graduation

Principal thanks local industry partners

MORE than 80 West Highland College UHI students picked up their certificates at a celebration, achievement and graduation ceremony in Duncanburgh MacIntosh Parish Church, Fort William.

All the graduates and achievers from the college were present to receive their awards, and student of the year Alastair Buchanan, from Kirkcudbright, was presented with his cheque for £150 by college chair Dr Michael Foxley. Each course student of the year, nominated by their individual course leaders, was also recognised on the day. Before the celebrations, the group, along with staff and guests was led by mace bearer Ciera Harvey along The Parade. Ciera, a fourth year student in Cultural Studies, was chosen to carry the mace due to her contribution to student life. College principal Lydia Rohmer thanked local industry partners and supporters in her speech.

She said: 'A college is a community of learners and learning together is at the core of this college community. At West Highland College UHI, our learners actively contribute to this community of learning in many different ways. 'Learning does not just stay within the confines of a classroom, but our learners actively engage in activities which shape the culture, spirit and ethos of the college in replaces the eight regional forces next April. Northern Constabulary Chief Constable George Graham was 'delighted' with the response so far. Urging people to return the survey as soon as possible, he said: 'There has never been a more important time in the Highlands and Islands to make your opinions known.'



Fourth year student Ciera Harvey was chosen to carry the mace for the procession. 20_145grad03



Piper Raj Smith leads out staff and students for the procession along the parade before the ceremony. 20_145grad02

Fort William turns pink for charity campaign

SHOPS and businesses in Fort William have been turning the town pink for Lochaber Together for Cancer Research UK's new breast cancer awareness campaign this week. The charity is encouraging all businesses in the town centre to create colourful window displays, with the public then voting who has done it best. Charity vice chairman Billy Ward said: 'Voting forms will be available in all participating businesses, with the winners being presented with a certificate. Last year's winner was Toymaster.' Meanwhile, a recent collection day for Cancer Research UK at Tesco on the High Street raised a total of £1,014.36.

Forum welcomes good news on Harris Tweed

THE HARRIS Tweed Industry Forum has welcomed news that 2012 has been the best for the cloth in nearly 15 years. Its meeting in Stornoway last week heard around 40 Harris Tweed weavers have entered the workforce since 2009. Harris Tweed Hebrides chief executive Ian Angus Mackenzie said: 'We are confident that we currently have the right balance in terms of number of weavers, weaver capacity and market demand.' The Carloway Mill's Bruce Armitage said 'a stable weaver population' was vital to continued success. And Lorna Macaulay, Harris Tweed Authority chief executive welcomed the 'increasing appetite' for the cloth at home and overseas.

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Beachd Ailein
Ailean Caimbeul

BHA E tàmailteach a bhith a' leughadh litir anns a' phàipear seo a' cur sìos air Gàidhlig agus a' cultar, ach air an laimh eile carson a bhiodh luchd-leughaidh Tim an Obain eadar-dhealichte bho phàipearan eile.

Tha mi fhìn cha mhòr aig an ìre far nach eil mi deònach am maghar a' ghabhail tuilleadh, ach an drasta 's a rithist chi mi rudeigin a tha ga mo ruigeadh chun na h-ìre 's nach urrainn dhomh gun freagairt a thoirt! Chan-e fiù 's a bhurraidheachd far am bheil leithid de dh'ionnsaigh ga thoirt air mion-chànan na dùthaich fhèin as miosa, ach an t-ainceolas a tha an luib mòran de na tha a' nochdadh. Chan eil mise air coinneachadh air Maighstir Rodger neo bhithinn an dòchas gum biodh e mothachadh gum bheil fileantaich Ghàidhlig againn, ach tha mi a' creidsinn gum bheil na ceudan de dh' fhileantaich ann an sgìre an Obain a bheireadh beagan leirsinn dha! Tha gnàth-facal ann am Beurla - chan aithne dhomh gum bheil a leithid againn ann an Gàidhlig - gur e sòlas a th'ann an ainceolas, agus 's e mo bheachd gum bu chòir dha Maighstir Rodger a bhith glè shona oir tha mòran ann nach eil e a' tuigsinn a-rèir coltais!

An dèidh linn-tean de gheur-leamhainn air Gàidhlig tha Riaghaltas mu dheireadh mothachail gur e pàirt luachmhor de dhualchas nàiseanta na h-Alba a th' innte agus gum bheil dleastanas aige a dìon is a ghleidheadh. Gun teagamh bha cùisean air a bhith na b' fheàrr nan robh am mothachadh agus an taice sin air tighinn bho chionn leth-cheud bliadhna, ach tha e air tachairt ri linn spàirn mhòr a rinn Gàidheil fhèin. Thar nan deich bliadhna fichead a chaidh fhad 's a bha fileantaich, luchd-ionnsachaidh is luchd-taice a' dèanamh sin, bha iad cuideachd ag obair cuide ri Eòrpaich a bha a' riochdachadh còrr air leth-cheud millean luchd-labhairt mhion-chànan eile. Tha an Roinn Eòrpa glè mothachail air Gàidhlig! Tha mi toilichte gum bheil Maighstir Rodger a' tuigsinn an fheum a rinn a' Ghàidhlig ann an Dùn Ormhainn, agus dh'iarraim a chur na shealladh gum bheil cuideachd luach do-chreidsinneach innte dha eaconamaidh na dùthaich ma gheirmicheas tionnsgalan Albanach de gach seòrsa air iomhaigh margaideachd a tha cho barraichte. Agus ma tha Maighstir Rodger ag iarraidh maoin a thrusadh ma choinneimh gainnead sam bith bhiodh e mòran na bu bhunnachdail dha ionnsaidh a thoirt air ionmhas mòr na Beurla seach mogan beag na Gàidhlig!

IT IS SADDENING to see any minority being bullied, and particularly one being attacked in its homeland. Mr Rodger was correct, Oban Times November 1, in admitting his lack of understanding vis-a-vis Gaelic and I am sure many hundreds of fluent Gaelic speaking readers would be happy to help educate him. Aside from the responsibility which Government has to support so valuable a part of Scotland's national heritage, it recognises that its modest investment in Gaelic has the potential to return substantial economic as well as cultural benefits. Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell) ailean@obantimes.co.uk.

Northern Constabulary 'delighted' at public response to community survey

ALMOST 2,000 people across the Highlands and Islands have responded so far to Northern Constabulary's community consultation survey, latest figures show. Police and partners sent out 10,000 forms to households in the biennial exercise. The results will focus police, Crown Office and court service attention on what the public feel are their priorities to enhance safety across the North. Previous surveys have led to speeding, alcohol related crime and antisocial behaviour being directly targeted. The consultation is being implemented six months earlier in order to provide findings for use by the new Police Service of Scotland, which

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- KITCHEN & DINING ROOM
- UTILITY
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- BATHROOM
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- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARDEN
- GARAGE



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- SUBSTANTIAL DETACHED VILLA
- IDYLIC LOCATION
- IN VERY GOOD ORDER
- LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN/DINER
- UTILITY
- 5 BEDROOMS (2 WITH JACK & JILL BATHROOMS)
- STUDY
- SHOWER ROOM
- CLOAKROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- DUAL FUEL HEATING- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING & SOLID FUEL
- GARDEN



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- FRONT & REAR GARDENS
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- SOUTH FACING
- RURAL VILLAGE LOCATION
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OFFERS IN THE REGION OF **£82,000**

- DETACHED HOLIDAY CHALET
- ENVIABLE VIEWS
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- 3 BEDROOMS
- CONSERVATORY
- SHOWER ROOM
- ELECTRIC HEATING
- DECKING
- EXCELLENT HOLIDAY LETTING POTENTIAL



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OFFERS IN THE REGION OF **£145,000**

- ISLAND LOCATION
- SEA VIEWS
- LOUNGE/DINER
- KITCHEN
- BATHROOM
- BEDROOM
- ATTIC BOX ROOM
- COURTYARD GARDEN
- GARDEN SHED
- ELECTRIC HEATING
- HOME REPORT VALUATION: £165,000
- TRADITIONAL DETACHED COTTAGE



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PRICE GUIDE £199,000

- DESIRABLE DETACHED BUNGALOW
- IN EXCELLENT ORDER
- LOUNGE
- OPEN-PLAN SITTING ROOM & DINING AREA
- KITCHEN
- UTILITY
- 3 BEDROOMS (MASTER EN-SUITE)
- BATHROOM
- CLOAKROOM
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- LARGE GARDEN
- GARAGE



8 AONACHAN GARDENS, SPEAN BRIDGE

PRICE GUIDE £140,000

- ATTRACTIVE SEMI-DETACHED DWELLINGHOUSE
- IN VERY GOOD ORDER
- VILLAGE LOCATION
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINING
- 3 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- LARGE GARDEN WITH PARKING
- GARDEN SHED



3 PARK ROAD, OBAN

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF **£180,000**

- DETACHED FAMILY HOME
- IN EXCELLENT ORDER
- CLOSE TO TOWN CENTRE
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINER
- 3 BEDROOMS (MASTER EN-SUITE SHOWER ROOM)
- BATHROOM
- CLOAKROOM
- ELECTRIC STORAGE HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARDEN WITH GARDEN SHED



26 LORA VIEW, NORTH CONNELL

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF **£155,000**

- WELL PRESENTED SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE
- POPULAR RESIDENTIAL LOCATION
- IDEAL FAMILY HOME
- DETAILED PLANNING CONSENT IN PLACE FOR EXTENSION
- LOUNGE/DINER
- KITCHEN
- 2 BEDROOMS
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- OIL FIRED AND ELECTRIC HEATING
- SPACIOUS REAR GARDEN
- AMPLE OFF STREET PARKING



HILDERLEY, TOBERMORY, ISLE OF MULL

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF **£200,000**

- ATTRACTIVE SPACIOUS DETACHED BUNGALOW
- PLEASANT RESIDENTIAL LOCATION
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINER
- 3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- SHOWER ROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- ELECTRIC HEATING
- SPACIOUS ENCLOSED GARDEN
- UNDER BUILD STORE
- GARAGE AND PRIVATE PARKING



ALLT-MOR, INVERROY, ROY BRIDGE

OFFERS OVER **£295,000**

- ATTRACTIVE DETACHED VILLA
- IN VERY GOOD ORDER
- PICTURESQUE LOCATION WITH VIEWS TO THE SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE
- LOUNGE
- SITTING ROOM
- KITCHEN & DINING ROOM
- UTILITY
- 4 BEDROOMS (MASTER EN-SUITE)
- STUDY/5TH BEDROOM
- BATHROOM & SHOWER ROOM
- OIL FIRED UNDER FLOOR HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- LARGE GARDEN
- LARGE POLYUNNEL (12M X 5M)
- DOUBLE GARAGE



INCHREE HOUSE, INCHREE, ONICH

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- PERIOD COUNTRY HOUSE
- SCENIC RURAL LOCATION
- IN VERY GOOD ORDER
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN
- DINING ROOM
- 5 LARGE BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- SHOWER ROOM
- MOSTLY DOUBLE GLAZED
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- LARGE GARDEN
- PLANNING PERMISSION- FOR TWO LETTING COTTAGES



ROWAN, GLENMORE ROAD, OBAN

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF **£255,000**

- ATTRACTIVE DETACHED VILLA
- SOUGHT AFTER RESIDENTIAL LOCATION
- CLOSE TO OBAN TOWN CENTRE
- IN GOOD ORDER THROUGHOUT
- LOUNGE
- FAMILY ROOM
- DINING KITCHEN
- 3 BEDROOMS
- STUDY
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- CLOAKROOM
- GAS FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- PRIVATE GARDEN
- AMPLE OFF STREET PARKING



8B MILLER ROAD, OBAN

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF **£86,000**

- SPACIOUS FIRST FLOOR FLAT
- POPULAR RESIDENTIAL AREA
- CLOSE TO TOWN CENTRE
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN
- TWO BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- SHARED DRYING GREEN
- ON STREET PARKING



ANNANDALE, LONGSDALE ROAD, OBAN

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF **£175,000**

- SEMI-DETACHED VILLA
- IN GOOD ORDER THROUGHOUT
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN
- DINING ROOM
- 3 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- CLOAKROOM
- EASILY MAINTAINED GARDEN
- OFF STREET PARKING



BURNSIDE, BUNREE, ONICH

PRICE GUIDE £490,000

- EXCEPTIONAL LOCHSIDE VILLA
- LOCHSIDE LOCATION
- SPECTACULAR VIEWS
- IN IMMACULATE ORDER
- LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN
- UTILITY/DRYING ROOM
- 4 EN-SUITE BEDROOMS
- STUDY/5TH BEDROOM
- BATHROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- INTEGRAL GARAGE
- LARGE GARDEN



PLOTS & NEW BUILDS, PERTH PLACE, FORT WILLIAM

PLOTS FROM **£85,000**
NEW BUILDS **£249,000**

- STUNNING ELEVATED VIEWS
- CENTRAL LOCATION
- LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN
- UTILITY
- 5 BEDROOMS (MASTER EN-SUITE)
- BATHROOM
- SHOWER ROOM
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- TIMBER DOUBLE GLAZING
- AMPLE GARDEN



NEIDPATH, POLVINISTER ROAD, OBAN

GUIDE PRICE **£165,000**

- DETACHED BUNGALOW
- GOOD SIZED FAMILY HOME
- PEACEFUL RESIDENTIAL AREA
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN
- CONSERVATORY
- 3 BEDROOMS (1 EN-SUITE)
- BATHROOM
- GARDEN
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARDEN
- DETACHED GARAGE



SEILEACHAN, BALVICAR

FIXED PRICE **£149,500**

- £10,000 BELOW CURRENT HOME REPORT VALUATION
- DETACHED BUNGALOW
- RURAL LOCATION
- REQUIRES UPGRADING
- LIVING AREA
- KITCHEN
- SUN ROOM/OFFICE
- 3 BEDROOMS
- SHOWER ROOM
- UTILITY ROOM
- STORAGE HEATING AND MULTI-FUEL STOVE
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARDEN
- DETACHED GARAGE/WORKSHOP
- PARKING FOR MULTIPLE CARS
- NO ONWARD CHAIN



24 DALAVICH, BY TAYNUILT

FIXED PRICE **£90,000**

- IMMACULATE SEMI-DETACHED DWELLINGHOUSE
- PRICED TO SELL - HOME REPORT VALUATION: £100,000
- RURAL VILLAGE LOCATION
- PARTIAL LOCH VIEWS
- LOUNGE
- MODERN BREAKFASTING KITCHEN
- 3 GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- CLOAKROOM
- EXPANSIVE GARDENS
- GARDEN SHED
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- PARKING AREA



FLAT 3, BEHVIEW APARTMENTS, CLAGGAN

PRICE GUIDE £79,950

- FIRST FLOOR FLAT
- SPECTACULAR VIEWS
- IN EXCELLENT ORDER
- OPEN PLAN LIVING AREA
- 2 BEDROOMS
- SHOWER ROOM
- SHOWER ROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- ELECTRIC HEATING
- PRIVATE PARKING



THE OLD INN, LETTERFINLAY, SPEAN BRIDGE

PRICE GUIDE £420,000

- SUPERIOR LOCHSIDE DWELLINGHOUSE
- VIEWS OVER LOCH LOCHY
- IN EXCELLENT ORDER
- SEMI-OPEN PLAN LOUNGE & SITTING ROOM
- KITCHEN/DINER
- 4 BEDROOMS
- STUDY/5TH BEDROOM
- 2 BATHROOMS
- UTILITY
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- MOSTLY DOUBLE GLAZED (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ENTRANCE PORCH)
- GARDEN EXTENDING TO 2.5 ACRES
- LOCH ACCESS



17 PARK ROAD, OBAN

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF **£180,000**

- DETACHED FAMILY HOME
- IN EXCELLENT ORDER
- CLOSE TO TOWN CENTRE
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN
- DINING ROOM
- 3 BEDROOMS (MASTER EN-SUITE SHOWER ROOM)
- BATHROOM
- CLOAKROOM
- ELECTRIC STORAGE HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARDEN WITH GARDEN SHED
- DRIVEWAY WITH PARKING



DUNVEGAN, 2 MORVERN HILL, OBAN

FIXED PRICE **£210,000**

- WELL PRESENTED FAMILY HOME
- POPULAR RESIDENTIAL AREA
- WITHIN EASY REACH OF TOWN CENTRE
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINER
- 3 BEDROOMS
- STUDY/4TH BEDROOM
- BATHROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- WELL MAINTAINED GARDEN
- DECKING
- SINGLE GARAGE
- OFF STREET PARKING



11A COMBIE STREET, OBAN

OFFERS OVER **£70,000**

- ATTRACTIVE FIRST-TIME-BUY OR LETTING INVESTMENT
- EASILY MAINTAINED FIRST FLOOR FLAT
- TOWN CENTRE LOCATION
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN
- DOUBLE BEDROOM
- BATHROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- ELECTRIC HEATING



GLENLEA, NORTH BALLACHULISH, ONICH

PRICE GUIDE £250,000

- DESIRABLE DETACHED VILLA
- SPECTACULAR VIEWS TO THE SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE
- IN EXCELLENT ORDER
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINER
- DINING ROOM/STUDY
- UTILITY
- 4 BEDROOMS (MASTER EN-SUITE)
- SHOWER ROOM
- BATHROOM
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARDEN
- GARAGE & SHED



PLOTS AT GALLANACHBEG, GALLANACH ROAD, OBAN

PLOTS 1 & 2 - OFFERS OVER **£70,000**
PLOTS 3, 4 & 5 - OFFERS OVER **£90,000**

- SOLD FULLY SERVICED
- PICTURESQUE RURAL LOCATION
- VIEWS OVER THE SOUND OF KERRERA
- CLOSE TO TOWN FACILITIES AND AMENITIES
- APPROXIMATELY 1/4 OF AN ACRE EACH
- PLANNING PERMISSION IN PRINCIPLE FOR EACH PLOT



STABLE COTTAGE, AROS, ISLE OF MULL

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF **£250,000**

- BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED END TERRACED COTTAGE
- ENVIABLE LOCATION WITH ACCESS TO SHORELINE
- VIEWS OVER THE SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE AND TOWARDS THE SOUND OF MULL
- KITCHEN/DINER
- LOUNGE
- SUN ROOM
- 3 BEDROOMS (TWO EN-SUITE)
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARDEN AND COMMUNAL COURTYARD
- RANGE OF PROPERTIES AVAILABLE FROM- **£250,000**



28 TORR-NA-FAIRE, LOCHALINE

OFFERS OVER **£98,000**

- SEMI-DETACHED BUNGALOW
- VILLAGE LOCATION
- VIEWS OVER THE SOUND OF MULL
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINER
- 2 DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- SHOWER ROOM
- GARDEN
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE SMALL GLAZED PANEL AT THE BACK DOOR)



MYRTLE COTTAGE, SALEN, ISLE OF MULL

OFFERS OVER **£175,000**

- CHARMING DETACHED COTTAGE
- ISLAND LOCATION
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN
- 2 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- CONSERVATORY
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- GARDEN
- GARAGE
- STATIC CARAVAN



DRUIM DHÙ, ARISAIG

NEW REDUCED PRICE **£199,000**

- TRADITIONAL COTTAGE (0.116HA) WITH APPROXIMATELY 3.03HA OF CROFT LAND AND A BUILDING PLOT (0.076HA)
- PICTURESQUE RURAL LOCATION
- SPECTACULAR VIEWS TO THE SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE & SMALL ISLES
- LOUNGE & SITTING ROOM
- KITCHEN
- 3 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM



AN TIGH BEAG, GLEN LOCHY, BY TYNDRUM

GUIDE PRICE **£185,000**

- SELF-CATERING HOLIDAY COTTAGE WITH BUILDING PLOT
- EXPANSIVE GARDENS
- STUNNING MOUNTAIN VIEWS
- LOUNGE
- DINING KITCHEN
- 2 SPACIOUS BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- UTILITY ROOM
- TIMBER GARAGE
- STONE OUTBUILDING
- ELECTRIC HEATING
- PARKING



LARCH HOUSE, INVERFOLLA, BY APPIN

OFFERS OVER **£265,000**

- BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED DETACHED VILLA
- IDEAL FAMILY HOME
- RURAL VILLAGE LOCATION
- OPEN PLAN LOUNGE/KITCHEN/DINING AREA
- 3 BEDROOMS (MASTER EN-SUITE)
- BATHROOM
- UTILITY ROOM
- LPG CENTRAL HEATING WITH UNDERFLOOR HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARDEN
- DRIVEWAY



3 MONTROSE SQUARE, INVERLOCHRY

PRICE GUIDE **£145,000**

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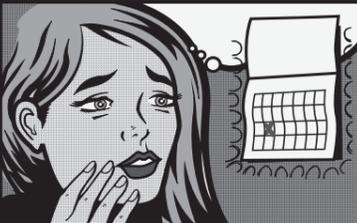
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second floor, central quiet location, new double glazed windows, night storage heaters with key meter, £550 pcm + council tax, entry end November.

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Business

Council to support shellfish producers' ambitious target

Conference hears shellfish industry is 'integral part of the future of Argyll and Bute'

SHELLFISH growers were told by Argyll and Bute Council's leader, Roddy McCuish, that he is hopeful of helping the local industry double its production by 2020. Opening the two day Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers' conference at Oban's Corran Halls, Mr McCuish pledged his support for the Scottish Government's draft National Marine Plan target, which sets the national targets and double existing production.

Positive thinking
He said he hoped: 'an appropriate partnership working response will rise to this particular challenge with all stakeholders and statutory bodies looking to replace any difficulties or obstacles in realising this vision with solutions and positive thinking.'

He added: 'I give you this assurance, Argyll and Bute Council will work with every one of you to overcome any challenges you may face, as I see this industry as an integral part of the future of this Argyll and Bute.'

Welcome
Currently, the county produces 80 per cent of Scotland's Pacific oysters and 11 per cent of Scotland's blue mussels.

The chairman of the association, Walter Speirs, of Connel firm Muckairn Mussels, welcomed the commitment.

He said: 'It is so good for people to hear that the leader of the council says come in, the doors are open for business. It was a very positive message from the council for shellfish farmers.'

Key note speaker at the conference was Courtney Hough, general secretary of the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers and the European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform.

Courtney offered a guide on the opportunities and challenges facing the industry under the new Common Fisheries Policy and demonstrated how following best practice produces a significant boost to yields.

Another important announcement came from the Scottish Government, with news of new planned measures to protect shellfish growing waters after the existing protections are phased out next year.

Mr Speirs said: 'What was re-

ally useful for everyone was the networking opportunities. Just getting together and exchanging ideas does help everyone working in the sector.'

'The message from the Scottish Government for support for shellfish growers in protecting waters was also really good news.'

Meanwhile, the hotly contested competition to find Scotland's best mussels, Pacific and native oysters returned, with the judges having a hard time picking between some of the country's finest.

However, after much deliberation, Loch Fyne was found to be producing the best mussels, while Colonsay Oysters won the best Pacific oyster competition. Loch Ryan Oysters won the best native oyster category.



Part of the annual Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers' conference is the hotly contested Best Scottish Shellfish awards. Pictured, from left, are Tristan Jones, of Loch Ryan Oysters with his award for best native oysters, Ian MacKay from Loch Fyne with his award for best mussels, and Andy Abrahams, Colonsay Oysters, with the award for best Pacific Oysters.

Booker return increased sales

WHOLESALE Booker has recorded a 13 per cent profit in its half-year results.

The foodservice retailer, which has an outlet in Oban, recorded an increase in group like-for-like sales of 3.1 per cent and an increase in internet sales of 10.7 per cent. In May, Booker acquired UK operation of Makro from the German company Metro. Booker's figures do not include the acquisition as the competitor review process is still being carried out. If the deal is approved, the company expects it to reduce group-operating profits by up to £10m in 2012/13 and increase operating profits by £10m in 2013/14.

Whisky association celebrates China trade links

THE SCOTCH Whisky Association (SWA) is to celebrate its centenary in China while holding talks to ensure the future protection of Scotch whisky.

The SWA has worked for 100 years protecting and promoting Scotch whisky and is now in China to strengthen trade links. They will also discuss the enforcement of stronger criminal sanctions for those making fake whisky in the country.

Gavin Hewitt, SWA chief executive, said: 'It is a pleasure to visit China again. Through industry efforts Scotch whisky enjoys a premium reputation in China. We have a very good working relationship with the Chinese authorities who demonstrate their commitment to protecting the reputation of Scotch whisky. However, there is always more work to be done.'

China is a top 20 market for Scotch whisky and the drink's popularity continues to grow.

Retirement savings gap widens

THE GAP between the amount men and women in Scotland are saving for their retirement has grown to a record high.

According to the eighth annual Scottish Widows Women and Pensions Report, women are continuing to feel worse off due to the economic downturn compared to men.

The report has found that the gender gap in retirement savings has increased by over 10 per cent in 12 months. Women in Scotland are saving an average of £720 less than men for their retirement and a quarter of women are saving nothing at all. This is compared to 14 per cent of men.

The report also claims many women are prioritising repaying debts over saving for retirement.

Arran brewery to merge with Skye

ONE of Scotland's oldest micro-breweries, Isle of Skye, is to merge with The Isle of Arran Brewery in a deal that will herald rapid expansion for both companies.

The merger of the breweries, both similar in plant size, will come under the banner of Arran Brewery plc. It will have an annual turnover of £1,200,000 and be able to produce just under 3,200,000 litres of beer annually. Plans are also afoot to build a new brew house on Arran to further increase capacity.

The new company will also seek to raise more than £10million over the next three years to expand production on both sites, establish a bottling facility on the mainland and open its own pub chain.

The Isle of Skye Brewery is run by Angus MacRuary who set up shop more than 18 years ago and manages it with his wife, Pam, who is the head brewster.

The Isle of Arran Brewery was

established in 2000 is now run by a father and daughter team Gerald and Veronica Michaluk.

Managing director of Arran Brewery plc, Gerald Michaluk, said: 'It is a great privilege to be working with Angus and his wife who have such a wealth of experience.'

'Each of the existing breweries, at full capacity, should be able to produce around 1,600,000 litres of beer a year providing a combined capacity of some 3,200,000 litres.'

'We are planning next year, to build a new brew house on Arran which would increase capacity to 16,000,000 litres per annum.'

'This production is mainly aimed at the export market and we will be leveraging Angus's knowledge of exporting Skye beers to the USA and Japan. We are aiming to grow the business rapidly over the next three years by expanding sales from Scotland to the rest of the UK and internationally.'



Gerald Michaluk, managing director of Arran Brewery (left) with Angus MacRuary of the Isle of Skye Brewery, left.

Harris Tweed production to reach one million metres by end of 2012

PRODUCTION of Harris Tweed is at its highest for almost 15 years, with production expected to reach a million metres by the end of the year.

The industry has taken on 40 new weavers in the last four years as the industry expands.

Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor tabled a Parliamentary motion congratulating the Western Isles producers.

He said: 'This is wonderful news for this iconic Western Isles product which has been so important to the Western Isles over centuries.'

'I am thoroughly optimistic about this great industry.'

Savings result in bonuses for MacBrayne directors

TWO directors at the Scottish minister-owned ferries operator David MacBrayne Ltd were paid £23,000 in bonuses after saving the government £5.8million.

Annual accounts from the company that owns Caledonian MacBrayne, Northlink Ferries and Argyll Ferries show that the company increased its operating profitability by 19 per cent to £3.8million, with efficiency savings helping deliver the £5.8million 'clawback'.

Decrease in passengers
Executive director Alex Lynch, who is retiring at the end of April, received a £13,000 bonus on top of his £113,000 salary, also receiving £6,000 of benefits in kind, described

'principally' as a fully expensed car.

Mr Lynch's remuneration for 2012 totalled £132,000, compared to £113,000 last year.

Meanwhile, George Taylor received a £10,000 bonus for the company's performance, also receiving £10,000 in kind benefits on top of his £102,000 basic salary. In total, he was paid £122,000, up £12,000 from last year.

Chief executive Archie Robertson, who stepped down in August after joining on June 1 2010, was paid a total of £151,000. Of that, £13,000 was of in kind benefits and he was paid no bonus.

Meanwhile, the report shows

the David MacBrayne group carried £5.2million passengers, 1.1million cars and 1.5million freight metres in the 2011-12 financial year, a five per cent decrease in passengers and cars, but a six per cent increase in freight.

Grants received from the Scottish Government rose by nearly 20 per cent compared with the previous year to £121.8m, mainly due to increased fuel costs and support for Road Equivalent Tariff fares on Western Isles routes.

Group Chairman Peter Timms said: '2011/2012 was a year of highs and lows.'

Among the high points was winning the tender to provide

the ferry service between Gourock and Dunoon, while losing the Northern Isles services to another operator after serving Orkney and Shetland for nearly 10 years was a major disappointment.

'Our commitment to customer service was recognised recently by the award of the Best Ferry Company in the Guardian and Observer Travel Awards for the third year in a row, however there are a number of further improvements we would like to make to the customer experience such as updated ticketing systems and improved online booking. We will now push ahead and make these improvements as soon as possible.'

Business reporter:

Steven Flanagan
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk
01631 568021



James Coutts of Fishing Scotland, right, and Scott Armstrong, regional director at VisitScotland, celebrate the business's five-star award. Photo: Andrew McKenna

Lochaber fishing business hooks five stars

A FORMER national wind-surfing coach who has worked with everyone from Olympic athletes to soldiers in Operation Desert Storm has reeled in a top award for his Lochaber wild fishing business.

James Coutts was presented with VisitScotland's five-star rating for his Roy Bridge-based Fishing Scotland operation - the first fishing activity provider

in the country to receive the accolade. Mr Coutts, also the author of several fishing books, teaches clients the art of fly-fishing in Glen Spean and the Great Glen.

He established the business 18 years ago on his return from the United States after 10 years as a consultant coach/trainer at the United States Naval Academy

in Annapolis, Maryland.

Mr Coutts said: 'This accolade is something I have been aiming for over a number of years, and it has taken much hard work and investment in the business, therefore we are delighted this has been recognised by VisitScotland.'

'We are very proud to be able to offer our clients a five-star experience.'

VisitScotland made the award under its quality assurance scheme, which boasts 8,000 members across the country.

Regional director Scott Armstrong said: 'Fishing is an extremely important element of Scottish tourism, especially with 2013 being the Year of Natural Scotland, and I would like to congratulate Fishing Scotland on this marvellous

achievement.'

'Five-star status shows visitors that they can expect a fantastic and enjoyable experience, while learning and improving their own skills.'

'Factors such as the warmth of the welcome, local knowledge and expertise, great service and, increasingly, value for money are all expected by visitors.'

ONE of the men charged with transforming Oban's retail prospects says the way in which rates are paid will 'have to change' in the future.

Graham MacQueen, chairman of the Oban Business Improvement District (BID) shadow board, made the comment after new figures revealed more businesses are taking advantage of small business rates relief than ever before.

Currently, more than 89,000 outlets are in receipt of rates relief, a five per cent increase on last year's uptake.

Announcing the figures, Highlands and Islands MSP Mike MacKenzie said the scheme had been 'an essential lifeline' to local businesses, but rejected the possibility larger businesses were downsizing in order to take advantage or that smaller businesses were reluctant to expand.

While most of Oban's smaller retail premises are occupied, several larger premises, such as the former home of the former Pound Crazy Jane's and Happits, have been vacant for some time.

Mr MacQueen conceded it was a possibility, but said there

'Any change to the way rates are paid now is a short term fix.'

Oban businessman Graham MacQueen

is no simple answer on how rates should be calculated, particularly in light of competition from online retailers.

He said: 'This is a national problem. Retail is, more and more, moving from the high street into big shops or the internet.'

'Any change to the way rates are paid now is a short term fix. We're only at the start of the internet shopping age, so the situation will change rapidly over the years.'

'I think small business rates relief is helping a lot of businesses. However, there is no relationship between the amount of relief and

profit.

'Some small businesses are benefiting from rate relief but are making substantial profits - some might ask why they are being subsidised.'

'Some would maybe argue we do away with rates altogether, but then the councils would have to look at how they charge for other things.'

'While we do have some big shops empty, Oban is doing a lot better than most areas, so we have to consider ourselves lucky.'

Mr MacKenzie said: 'Small business rates relief is warmly welcomed by small businesses across the spectrum.'

'The small businesses of today will become the big businesses of tomorrow. It will stimulate growth in the future.'

'I think it's a question of awareness. I couldn't say [businesses are] downsizing, but they are applying for it across the board. I know within the last year when I talk to small businesses I ask have you applied for it and most say yes - but some say no.'

'It's one of the policies I am absolutely delighted about.'

'Braw Brewsters' to celebrate women brewers

WOMEN beer brewers are to be celebrated at the 2012 West Highland Slow Food Weekend taking place at the end of this week.

The two-day event, called Braw Brewsters' will be hosted at Ardnornish House and will feature beer tasting and beer inspired cuisine. Several Scottish women brewers will speak at the event which will discuss women's role in beer making throughout the ages. Tuggey Delap, one of the brewers attending, runs a gold beer-making award winning brewery above Loch Fyne. She built it after converting the upstairs of a cow shed.

Historically in Scotland beer was primarily brewed by women called "broustaris" and is a Scottish tradition which Tuggey and several others are maintaining today.

The Slow Food event takes place on November 10 and 11.

Jobs lost at Oban plumbing firm

AT LEAST six jobs have been lost locally after Oban plumbing firm JM Gillies went into liquidation.

Devastated staff said the news came as a shock.

Rewarding careers

OVER half of people in Scotland are looking for a more rewarding career, according to a survey by retailer Aldi.

The survey found that 53 per cent of those in the poll were unhappy from the day they started, while just under half gained their role by accident.

Local businesses flock to take advantage of free workshops

BUSINESS owners and entrepreneurs have been making the most of the range of free business skills workshops available this autumn from the local Business Gateway.

More than 200 bookings have been received for places on the workshops, which run from late September through to early December in venues across Argyll.

'Some of the new workshops we introduced this year have proved very popular,' explains Kate Fraser of Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway team.

'In particular, the Introduction to Social Media workshop which explains how a business might use social media to those who have not tried it before and are unsure where to start.'

Feedback from those who attended so far has been good. 'A clear explanation of how social media can be used to our advantage,' noted one attendee whilst another comments, 'I can now improve my business social networking presence'.

The Introduction to Social Media workshop is fully booked in some locations but a limited number of spaces are still available in Oban on November 19 and Inveraray on November 21.

Those with a business website already can also brush up their knowledge with a workshop designed specifically to help them get more from their website.

The Improve your Business Website performance workshop still has places available in Oban on November 19 and Inveraray on November 21.

Tax returns
The deadline for submitting a paper tax return to HMRC for those in self-employment has passed, but online returns can be submitted until January 31. From next year all returns must be filed online.

Help is available for anyone new to this process via the Self Assessment for the Self Employed workshop.

Spaces remain at this workshop in Oban on November 27, Dunoon on December 4 and Inveraray on December 12.

Other workshops are available across the area this autumn including business start-up, book-keeping and build your own business website. To book a place or to find out more, call the local office on 01546 605 459 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Ross named Young Highland Chef of the Year

A FORT William cook has been beaten off competition from across the north of Scotland to be named Young Highland Chef of the Year.

Ross Sutherland took the title at a cook-off against five other finalists at the Burghfield House Hotel in Dornoch.

The 27 year-old, who is head chef at the Cross Restaurant in Kingussie, was given a week's work experience at the prestigious La Gavroche restaurant in London, £500 and a trophy.

He said: 'I'm over the moon. I entered the competition two years ago and it's so good to have come back and won it. I can't wait to do my stage at Le Gavroche.'



Ross receives his Young Chef of the Year award from Albert Roux and David Whiteford, North Highland Initiative chairman

Mull seafood success at food and drink awards

A SEAFOOD company on the Isle of Mull took home two accolades from the prestigious Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards.

The Tobermory Fish Company, run by Duncan and Rosie Swinbanks along with their daughter Sally, won the independent food and drink retailer of the year award.

Sally, 21, also took home the young shining star award from the ceremony, which was held in Inverness on October 19.

She said: 'It was such a shock to win, we all just looked at each other. We were fish out of water at the ceremony and were overwhelmed to be even short listed.'

'This is the first award I've won when my name came out it was a shock. We weren't even going to enter, we were going to wait until next year as we have just really got started.'

Sally and her parents took over the company in 2010 and established a retail outlet in the factory, which Sally works in on a daily basis.

She added: 'It is nice to keep the company in the family and we can't give anyone else our secret recipe. There are lots of plans for the future of the company and hopefully we'll branch out of Mull.'

'I would love to supply to delis in Edinburgh and Glasgow and I'd love to go and promote the company away for the island while I'm young but these are all things for the future - right now we're busy preparing for Christmas.'



Sally Swinbanks was selected as a young shining star

The Tobermory Fish Company shop sells its own complete range of smoked salmon, trout and shellfish as well as foods prepared in the kitchen.

It is also an outlet for the many seafood producers from both the Isle of Mull and the surrounding area. These include mussels, oysters, crab, lobster, prawns, scallops and various fish when available.

The kitchen makes various smoked fish and cooked shellfish snacks for sale in the shop. The company also makes its own chutney and relish.

The Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards aim to showcase some of the best natural produce in the world, from internationally renowned companies to small innovative producers.

Crerar Hotels book black pudding contract

CRERAR Hotels has bought into the belief at Stornoway Black Pudding is the best - after awarding a £40,000+ annual contract for supply of black puddings to their hotels.

The hotel chain's directors have chosen Charles Macleod of Stornoway to be the company's sole supplier, making Charles Macleod of Stornoway the first company to secure exclusive supply rights to Crerar.

Paddy Crerar of Crerar Hotels said: 'I can only say Stornoway makes great black puddings but Charlie's puddings are the very best of the best and more importantly that's what our customers tell us.'

Mr Crerar has also voiced his support to the Stornoway Black Pudding Producers Association for reaching the final stages of an application for Protected Geographical Indicator status (PGI) by the European Union.

Crerar Hotels has also newly branched into heritage beef, Crerar Hotels home farm is developing a 100-strong herd of Luing and Highland Cattle.

Iain Macleod, of Charles Macleod Butchers, said: 'We are delighted to have been awarded sole supply status to Crerar Hotels.'

'It's a privilege to work with such a well known and established name in the hospitality industry, and one which shares our own vision and approach to setting, attaining and delivering the highest standards of quality and service to the Scottish market place.'

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Party Time



It is almost that time of year again when the boss gets drunk and starts singing on the karaoke and someone breaks the photocopier with less than appropriate prints.

But why not avoid the embarrassment of the cliché office Christmas party this year and head out to one of the wonderful venues that Argyll has to offer.

If you are planning on organising a Christmas party with your colleagues this year now is the time to start thinking about it.

Most hotels and restaurants will already have prepared festive menus and lots will

offer a set price per head, with many great deals to be found.

Deciding where to go can be the tricky bit and finding somewhere everyone agrees on is a real achievement. But we can be sure there will be something to suit every tastebud out there.

Once you've arranged the venue don't forget to invite everyone and, if required, get their meal orders in advance. Pre-booking taxis home at the end of the night is also a good idea.

Wherever you go this year get your party hats on, pull a cracker and have a very merry Christmas.

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Fort to host celebration of traditional music

Host of top Highland names in running for awards



Fort William's Megan Henderson is one of many west Highland nominees in the MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards. 20_145901001

THE CREAM of the traditional music scene will gather in Fort William on December 8 for the 10th anniversary of the MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards.

Having last week announced the nominees, organisers have opened the public vote across 16 categories including Album Of The Year, Composer Of The Year, Venue Of The Year and Gaelic Singer Of The Year.

The winner of each category will be the artist who receives an equal combination of the most industry and fan votes.

Public voting will close on November 21 and all winners will be announced at a glittering ceremony hosted by Mary Ann Kennedy and Tony Kearney on Saturday, December 8 at Fort William's Nevis Centre.

Hoping to win in front of a home crowd is Fort girl Megan Henderson, a violinist nominated for Instrumentalist of the Year.

Megan first began playing violin at the age of four. As a multi-instrumentalist, she has played with bands on a global scale at festivals including Celtic Colours, Celtic Connections and Blas. She currently plays with

Salsa Celtica, Kristan Harvey and the Sanns and Breabach.

Megan faces direct competition from Carradale piper Lorne MacDougall, whose stock rose earlier this year when he was included on the soundtrack to Disney blockbuster Brave.

Up and Coming

Oban's Rona Wilkie is a nominee in the Up and Coming Artist of the Year category. The 22 year old enjoyed success recently when she was crowned BBC Radio Scotland's Young Traditional Musician of the Year 2012.

Also in the up and coming category is electronics fusion act, Niteworks, who hail from Skye.

South Uist's Kathleen MacInnes is up for Album of the Year with her offering of Cille Bhrìde.

Mallaig-based Feis na Mara is nominated in the Event of the Year category, while Mull's An Tobar is once again recognised in the Venue of the Year category. There was more Mull success when Riona Whyte was nominated in the Gaelic Singer of the Year category.

Riona, who has recently released her first album, Bunachas, said: 'It is all very exciting and I am some-

what stunned being shortlisted but delighted too.'

Gillian Frame, who hails from Arran, is shortlisted for Music Tutor of the Year, while Tíree Music Festival is a Community Project of the Year nominee.

The Charlie Kirkpatrick Scottish Dance band, well known to west coast audiences, has been nominated in the Scottish Dance Band of the Year category. Charlie originally comes from Iona and is a former pupil of Oban High School.

This year's Special Awards will see artists entered into the Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame. They include: Silly Wizard, Ian Hardie, Jim Halcrow, Roddy MacLeod MBE, Norman MacLean, Anne Lorne Gillies, Martyn Bennett, Donald Riddell CBE and Hamish Imlach.

The Hamish Henderson Services to Traditional Music Award, to celebrate those whom Scottish traditional music couldn't do without, will be presented to Isobel Mieras. The award for Services to Gaelic Music has been won by Rory Macdonald and Calum Macdonald.

Votes can be cast at www.scotlandmusicawards.com/voting.

Oban Phoenix Cinema

War Horse Thurs 8th, 20:30

Midnight in Paris Thurs 8th, 20:30 • Fri 9th, 19:00

The King's Speech Thurs 8th, 18:00 • Sun 11th, 18:00
Mon 12th, 21:00 • Tues 13th, 18:00

The Angel's Share Fri 9th, 21:00 • Sat 10th, 19:00

Hotel Transylvania Sat 10th, 13:00, 15:30 • Sun 11th – 13:00, 15:30

Drive Sat 10th, 21:00 • Sun 11th – 20:30

On The Road Mon 12th, 18:00 • Tues 13th, 20:30 • Wed 14th, 18:00
Thurs 15th, 18:00, 20:30 • Fri 16th, 21:00

Senna Wed 4th – 21:00

Mary's Meals Sat 10th, 6pm - FREE

Child 31 Sat 10th, 6pm - FREE

Be sure to visit www.obanphoenix.com and check the Coming Soon section for all our Winter Festival events!

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War Horse (12A)
Young Albert enlists to serve in World War I after his beloved horse is sold to the cavalry.

Midnight in Paris (12A)
Gil and Inez travel to Paris as a tag-along vacation on her parents' business trip. Gil is a successful Hollywood writer but is struggling on his first novel. He falls in love with the city and thinks they should move there after they get married, but Inez does not share his romantic notions of the city or the idea that the 1920s was the golden age. When Inez goes off dancing with her friends, Gil takes a walk at midnight and discovers what could be the ultimate source of inspiration for writing.

The King's Speech (12A)
After his brother abdicates, King George VI ('Bertie') reluctantly assumes the throne. Plagued by a dreaded stammer and considered unfit to be king, Bertie (Colin Firth) engages the help of an unorthodox speech therapist named Lionel Logue (Geoffrey Rush).

The Angel's Share (15)
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! We are thinking about renaming the cinema; Oban 'Angel's Share' Phoenix as this film just keeps coming back and wowing audiences! Ken Loach's latest contribution to the ever growing list of truly great Scottish films has not failed to charm audiences and critics alike.

Hotel Transylvania (U)
Welcome to the Hotel Transylvania, Dracula's lavish five-star resort, where monsters and their families can live it up, free to be the monsters they are without humans to bother them. On one special weekend, Dracula has invited some of the world's most famous monsters - Frankenstein and his wife, the Mummy, the Invisible Man, a family of werewolves, and more - to celebrate his daughter Mavis' 118th birthday. For Drac, catering to all of these legendary monsters is no problem - but his world could come crashing down when a human stumbles on the hotel for the first time and takes a shine to Mavis.

Drive (18)
A mysterious man who has multiple jobs as a garage mechanic, a Hollywood stuntman and a getaway driver seems to be trying to escape his shady past as he falls for his neighbour - whose husband is in prison and who's looking after her child alone. Meanwhile, his garage mechanic boss is trying to set up a race team using gangland money, which implicates our driver as he is to be used as the race team's main driver.

On The Road (15)
Based on Jack Kerouac's beloved American Beat novel, On The Road is the story of Sal Paradise (Sam Riley), an aspiring New York writer, and Dean Moriarty (Garrett Hedlund), a devastatingly charming ex-con, married to the very liberated and seductive Marylou (Kirsten Stewart). Sal and Dean bond instantly upon meeting. Determined not to get locked into a constricted life, the two friends cut their ties and take to the road with Marylou. Thirsting for freedom, the three young people head off in search of the world, of other encounters, and of themselves.

Senna (12A)
The story of the monumental life and tragic death of legendary Brazilian motor-racing champion, Ayrton Senna. Spanning the decade from his arrival in Formula One in the mid 80's.

Cyclists answer emergency call

GROUPS and charity organisations in the Western Isles are to reap the benefits of a charity cycle from Barra to the Butt of Lewis, organised by emergency service workers, raised an incredible £28,500.

Donations go to Lewis and Harris Youth Clubs Association (£2,000), Hebridean Search and Rescue

(£750) and Macmillan nurses, who receive £26,000.

Police officers taking to their bikes included PC Shona Macdonald, PC John Graham, PC Scott Christie, PC Norman Campbell, PC Scott Macdonald, Chief Inspector Gordon Macleod, Inspector Robbie Macdonald, Sergeant Jane

Nicolson, PC Donald Sinclair and Sergeant George Murray.

Nurses, ambulance and coast-guard staff together with members of the local community also lent their pedal power.

Sergeant Murray said after the cycle: 'We're planning the same next year, again for Macmillan

and already have 60 cyclists signed up. Significantly, 70 per cent of this year's cyclists want to repeat the experience. We are anxious to raise as much as possible for this most excellent cause and are hoping next year we can raise even more money.'

An auction of donated gifts and

goods raised a further £2,500.

Sergeant Murray added: 'We would like to thank all the companies and individuals who donated gifts this year which we were able to auction and raise lots of money! Anyone wishing to help next year can contact Sergeant George Murray at Stornoway Police Station.'



Wheely well done: the Western Isles charity cyclists raised £28,500 on their marathon ride from Barra to the Butt of Lewis.

Taynuilt's tiny dancer receives UK acclaim

AN ARGYLL ballerina has been named the best young dancer in the UK.

Isabella Swietlicki, aged 15, has won the prestigious Molly Lake Award and will now go on to represent her school, Taynuilt's Ballet West, at the Royal Academy of Dance's (RAD) Genée International Ballet Competition in December in Wellington, New Zealand.

Isabella will be joined in New Zealand by another colleague from Ballet West, 18-year-old Charlotte Eades.

Ballet West principal Gillian Barton said: 'This is a remarkable achievement for Isabella and for Ballet West. She is an

exceptionally talented and dedicated student and richly deserves her success.'

This autumn Isabella also won the solo section of the Festival for Stars in Wales.

The Connell girl has been training as a dancer at Ballet West since she was seven years old.

Meanwhile, Ballet West will be presenting 'Winter Wonderland', a seasonal show to get the Oban Winter Festival off to a toe-tapping start.

The performance takes place in the Corran Halls on Friday, November 16 and promises to be a fabulous display of the many and varied talents of Ballet West students.



Isabella Swietlicki has been named the UK's best young ballet dancer for 2012.

Tobermory seeks Christmas goodwill

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help put up Christmas lights in Tobermory, as the village gets 'no help' from Argyll and Bute Council.

Organiser Andrea MacPhail said: 'We raise all the money and put all the lights up. We need as many volunteers as possible but particularly men.'

'It is quite a hard job, particularly in the cold weather. If people phone or get in touch I'd be very grateful.'



Witches and washing machines at Lochside

Lochside Primary youngsters got into the spooky Hallowe'en spirit by dressing up in some creepy costumes. Amongst some of the eerie outfits on show were Edward Scissorhands, witches, the grim reaper, and a washing machine!

Rousing reels mark 'Aray club opening

THE OPENING of the season for the Inveraray and District Accordion and Fiddle Club saw 25 sets played including waltzes, pipe marches and 'rousing' reels.

The event, held in the Argyll Hotel on October 12, was compered by committee member Roddy MacDiarmid and local players included Fyne Folk with Sally Hall, Alex John MacLeod and Jake MacKay on fiddle and Agnes Liddell on keyboard.

There were also two new members, Iain Macaskill on piano accordion and Nick MacFarlane on button box.

Other supporting players were Iain Macaskill, Jake MacKay on mouth organ and James MacArthur on melodeon. Janet Graham and Johnnie Fisher both played accordion while Jimmy MacDonald took charge of the keyboard.

Guest artists were the Steven Carcary Trio from Bridge of Earn with Steven on accordion, Bill Ewan on keyboard and Mal-

High praise for Mallaig's Macbeth

Report by S6 pupils Bryony Kirk and Morvern Cameron

ON WEDNESDAY, October 31, the night had finally arrived, Hallowe'en was upon us and the pupils of Mallaig High School were ready to give the performance of their lives.

The cast gave a spine tingling, and at times terrifying, performance of Shakespeare's classic, Macbeth.

The atmospheric witches and the spooky banging really set the mood for Hallowe'en. Although everyone gave an outstanding performance, the two who really stole the show were Molly Duncan (Lady Macbeth) and Ciaran Sullivan (Macbeth).

A moving performance was given by both as the audience witnessed the rise and fall of the two characters and their relationship.

In comments afterwards the cast was particularly commended for their teamwork and for the soundscape they created with humming, whispering and banging.

Compared to the three plays performed by other schools, we felt the Mallaig High School performance was in another class.

All in all the night was a great success and hopefully the school will have many more like it; that is if our cast aren't recruited by someone from the Royal Shakespeare Company.

The pupils all wish to thank their director, English teacher Amanda Tevendale.

Charity Art Auction

10th November 2012

Artworks kindly donated by: JoLoMo; Melanie Chmielevski; Lesley Burr; Pip Weaser; Audrey MacDougall; Sheena Devitt; Alexander Hamilton; Stuart McLellan; Clare McNiven; Lyn Girdwood local Primary Schools... and more!!!!

Stag Hotel Lochgilphead
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Viewing 2pm - 4pm
Auction 4pm - 6pm

Proceeds to Carr Gomm's 'Catch the Dream' fund providing opportunities for the people supported to overcome challenges and achieve their dreams. Payment by cash, debit/credit card on the day

what's on guide

- Friday 9 November> Disco with DJ Darren Markie Duns 9.30pm
- Saturday 10 November> Crooked Reel - 9.30pm Markie Duns to celebrate Charlie Fox's 60th Birthday!!
- Sunday 11 November> Crooked Reel Markie Duns @ 3pm followed by Quiz @ 9.30pm
- Friday 16th November> Cheesy Floor Fillers Markie Duns with DJ Stevo, 9.30pm
- Saturday 17th November> Latest Dance Tunes Markie Duns with DJ Darren, 9.30pm
- Friday 23rd November> Disco Markie Duns with DJ Darren, 9.30pm
- Saturday 24th November> Tim O'Connor Markie Duns 9.30pm
- Friday 30th November> ST Andrews Mover Party Markie Duns with Chris Suckle, 9.30pm

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COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

NETHERLORN PIPING SOCIETY
Recital by **FINLAY JOHNSTON** (Argyllshire Gathering Gold Medalist - 2012) Supported by Members of Oban High School Pipe Band on Wednesday 14th November 2012 in the ARGYLLSHIRE GATHERING HALLS AT 7.30PM ENTRY: Adults £3; Children Free

Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club **Argyll Hotel, Inveraray Wednesday 14th November at 8.00pm** Guest Artists From Acharacle Robert Naim Trio Supporting players most welcome

Royal National Mod Local Organising Committee Oban 2015 MEETING Saturday, 17th November Free Church Hall, 11a.m.

To advertise in the WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD Telephone: 01631 568000

Cancer Research Committee Oban Branch **Coffee Morning** in the Royal Hotel, Argyll Square, Oban On Saturday 10th November 2012, 10:30 - 12:30 Admission by donation Baking Stall & Raffle Music by Neil Angus All Welcome!

St John's Cathedral, Oban Charity Sale In St John's Cathedral Hall On Saturday 10 November 2012 Various stalls including raffle, baking, preserves, books etc Tea and coffee with home baking

BBC Children in Need - Friday 16th November 2012

Show your spots let's raise lots!



SCHOOL children, Argyll businesses and The Oban Times have joined forces this week to support Children in Need.

Pupils at Achaleven Primary School & Taynuilt 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.

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ALIenergy would like to wish Pudsey a warm, energy efficient day.

ALIenergy are rolling out a number of new energy efficiency projects for 2012/13. Watch this space!

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STIRLING

United Auctions

UNITED Auctions sold 6,003 prime sheep including 3891 lambs avg 148p (-3.5p p/wk) and 2112 ewes and rams at Stirling last Thursday.

Texel cross lambs from Goddens sold to £89 and 202p per kilo with Suffolk cross lambs from Coates to £80.

Suffolk cross ewes from Lochran sold to £81.50, with Texels from Stratrodie selling to £77.50. Roro Estate sold Blackfaces to £49.50.

Rams sold to £90.50 for Texels from Glenchervie.

Bullocks average 189.93p at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 1,846 store cattle, 271 cows and 4,280 store sheep at Stirling last Wednesday.

Bullocks averaged 189.93p (+1.17p) and sold to 237.50p per kg for a 398kg Limousin cross from Hermitage and £1440 for a 640kg Charolais cross from Compestoned.

Heifers averaged 181.33p (+1.27p) and sold to 230.40p per kg for a 460kg Limousin cross from Hermitage and £1180 for a 656kg Charolais cross from Gillmill.

Forward cattle averaged 169.36p and sold to 185.50p per kg for a Limousin cross from Noble House and £1125 for a Aberdeen Angus cross from Falside.

Cast cows averaged 115.62p and sold to 184.90p for a Charolais cross from Quixwood and £1570 for a Simmental cross from Piersland.

Texel cross lamb averaged at £51.76 (-£3.44p on the week) and sold to £60 from Pleasant. Suffolk cross lambs averaged at £52.78 (+£0.17p on the week) and sold to £55 from Little Raith, with Mule lambs averaging £44.41 (-£3.01p on the week) and selling to £48.50 from Gartencaber and £46 Killeonan.

Blackface lambs averaged at £35.21 (-£0.05p on the week), selling to £48.50 from Dumglass.

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£835 - Heylipol Farm : £830 & £800 - Salum : £765 - 4 Kilkenneth : £760(2) - Salum : £735 & £715 - Drumaglea : £705 - Hillcrest : £670 - Salum : £615 - Drumaglea.

Hereford Cross: £625 - 3 Middleton.

Limousin Cross: £1145 - Drumaglea : £1135 & £1075(2) - Heylipol Farm : £1075 & £1025 - 4 Kilkenneth : £1015 - Sandaig : £1000 - Garaphail : £985 - 4 Kilkenneth : £975 - 6 Barrapol : £955 - Braeside, 10 Balephuil & Drumaglea(2) : £945 - 4 Kilkenneth : £935 - Salum & Sandaig : £915 - 9 Barrapol : £905 - Sandaig : £895 - Braeside, Sandaig & 6 Barrapol : £890 - 3 Kenovay : £875 - 6 Barrapol : £865(2) - Braeside : £855 - Parkhouse : £850 - Salum : £845 - 9 Barrapol(3) & Parkhouse : £835 - 10 Balephuil : £835, £825(2) - 9 Barrapol : £825 - Skipinnis : £795 - Braeside, 5 Barrapol, 10 Balephuil(2) & 7 Kilkenneth : £785, £755(4) - 9 Barrapol : £755 - Greenhill, 4 Kilkenneth & 6 Barrapol(2) : £750 - Greenhill : £745 - 10 Balephuil : £725 - Mannal House & 6 Barrapol : £720 - 2/15 Balevullin : £715 - 5 Barrapol, 9 Barrapol(2) & Parkhouse : £705 - 10 Balephuil : £695 - 9 Barrapol & Parkhouse(4) : £685 - 5 Barrapol, Parkhouse, Mainroad & 6 Balevullin : £670 - 6 Balevullin : £665 - Skipinnis & 7 Kilkenneth : £655 - 10 Balephuil, 9 Barrapol, Hillcrest & Mannal House : £645(2) - Hillcrest : £625 - 240p - 2 Heylipol : £615 - Vaul(5), Parkhouse(2), Skipinnis, Mannal House(3), Whitehouse(3) & Garaphail : £605 - Vaul.

Salens Cross: £1045 - 9 Barrapol : £1015 - Drumaglea : £785(4), £775(8), £735(5) - Middleton Farm : £615 - Lochphuil.

Simmental Cross: £1045(2) - 9 Barrapol : £985(2), £975 & £965 - Sandaig : £955 - Braeside : £935 - 4 Kilkenneth : £905(2) & £895 - Sandaig : £895(2) - Drumasaidh : £875 - 4 Kilkenneth : £855 - 10 Crossapol : £785 - Middleton Farm & Sandaig : £770 - 8 Balevullin : £765(2) - Sandaig : £745 & £730 - 10 Crossapol : £705 - 8 Balevullin : £695 & £685 - 3 Middleton : £685 - Sandaig : £680 - 8 Balevullin : £675 - Sandaig : £670 - Crofthouse : £665(4) - 6 Crossapol : £650 & £640 - 8 Balevullin : £625 - 7 Kilkenneth : £620 - 8 Balevullin : £615 & £605(4) - 6 Crossapol : £605(2) - Crofthouse.

Heifers: Aberdeen Angus Cross: £1050, £1010(2), £975, £965(3), £950(2) & £765(2) - Croish : £735 - Hillcrest : £715 - Parkhouse : £675 - Heylipol Farm.

British Blue Cross: £780 - Salum : £695 - 3 Balevullin.

Blonde D'Aquitaine Cross: £615 - 10 Crossapol.

Charolais Cross: £1015, £965 & £845 - Heylipol Farm : £810 - Salum : £795 - Ardmay : £760(2) - Salum : £725 - Heylipol Farm : £650 - Salum(4) & Drumaglea : £640 - Salum : £625(2) - Drumaglea.

Hereford Cross: £675 & £635 - 3 Middleton.

Limousin Cross: £1145 - Heylipol Farm : £1025 - Braeside : £965 & £955(2) - Heylipol Farm : £945 - Braeside : £935 - Parkhouse : £925 - 7 Kilkenneth & Drumaglea : £895

- 4 Kilkenneth : £885 - Heylipol Farm : £845 - Drumaglea : £835 - Salum & sandaig : £825 & £815 - 4 Kilkenneth : £805 - Braeside : £795 & £765 - Mainroad : £745 - Sandaig : £735(2) & £725(3) - 6 Barrapol : £715 - Parkhouse : £695 - Mannal House : £685(4) - 7 Kilkenneth : £675 - Heylipol Farm, Vaul & Sandaig : £665 - Sandaig & 6 Barrapol : £655 - Garaphail : £650(2) - Greenhill : £645 - Mannal House & 6 Balevullin : £635 - 10 Balephuil & Mannal House : £625 - 10 Balephuil : £615 - Skipinnis.

Salens Cross: £765(3) - Middleton Farm : £695 - 10 Crossapol : £685, £645 & £635 - Middleton Farm.

Simmental Cross: £965 - Sandaig : £860 - 8 Balevullin : £840(2) & £775(2) - Drumasaidh : £755(5) - Middleton Farm : £750 - 8 Balevullin : £745 - 4 Kilkenneth : £715 - Sandaig : £685 - Middleton Farm, Braeside & sandaig : £655 - Sandaig : £625 - 7 Kilkenneth : £605(2) & £600 - Sandaig.

Cast cows: £1035 - 4 Kilkenneth : £1025 & £925 - 10 Balephuil : £955(2) - Croish.

In-calf cow: £945 - Heylipol Farm.

Top prices per kilo: Bullocks Aberdeen Angus Cross: 219p - Hillcrest : 219p & 211p - Parkhouse : 207p(4) - Scarinish Farm : 206p - Heylipol Farm : 201p(3) - Hillcrest.

British Blue Cross: 291p - Salum : 240p - 2 Heylipol : 218p - 3 Balevullin : 201p - 2 Heylipol.

Blonde D'Aquitaine Cross: 201p - 10 Crossapol.

Charolais Cross: 244p(2) - Salum : 242p - Braeside : 238p & 228p - Drumaglea : 217p - Heylipol Farm : 216p - Drumaglea : 213p - Salum : 210p - Heylipol Farm(3) & Salum : 207p - Drumaglea : 200p - Salum.

Limousin Cross: 250p(2) - Hillcrest : 235p - 1 Kilkenneth : 228p - Mannal House : 224p - Hillcrest : 222p - Mannal House(3) & 6 Balevullin : 221p - 6 Balevullin : 220p(4) - 7 Kilkenneth : 219p - Parkhouse, Garaphail(2) & 10 Balevullin : 218p(2) - Mainroad : 217p - Parkhouse & Garaphail : 216p - Vaul, Mainroad & 1 Kilkenneth(3) : 213p - 1 Kilkenneth : 212p - Mainroad : 211p - Parkhouse(4), Mannal House & Garaphail : 210p(2) - Garaphail : 208p - Mainroad, Whitehouse(4), Garaphail & 6 Balevullin : 207p - Salum : 206p - Mannal House & 1 Kilkenneth : 205p(2) - 9 Barrapol : 203p(3) - Whitehouse : 202p - Heylipol Farm & Skipinnis : 201p - Vaul(2) & 6 Balevullin : 200p - Braeside(2) & Whitehouse(4).

Salens Cross: 213p(2), 206p(2) & 200p - Scarinish Farm.

Simmental Cross: 222p(2) - Crofthouse : 219p(3) & 213p(4) - 10 Balevullin : 205p(3) - 6 Crossapol : 204p(2) - 8 Balevullin.

Heifers: Aberdeen Angus Cross: 198p(2) - Croish.

British Blue Cross: 221p - 3 Balevullin.

Charolais Cross: 220p - Drumaglea : 217p - Garaphail : 216p(2) & 215p(4) - Salum : 213p - Garaphail : 205p - Drumaglea : 202p - Heylipol Farm & Drumaglea(2) : 201p

- Heylipol Farm & Salum. Limousin Cross: 252p(2) - Parkhouse : 245p, 244p & 222p(2) - Mannal House : 213p - Mainroad : 209p - Braeside : 208p(2) & 206p - Mannal House : 206p - Drumaglea : 202p(2) - 6 Balevullin : 201p - Braeside.

Dingwall sells 3,768 store sheep

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 3,768 store sheep at Dingwall last Thursday when store lambs met an improved market. Prime and feeding ewes tended to be easier than the previous week.

Lambs averaged £43.81 and sold to £170 for Texel ram lamb from Woodside, Muir of Tarradale.

Gimmers averaged £62.20 and sold to £90 for Cheviots from Ashcroft, Erbusaig.

Ewes averaged £41.92 and sold to £90 for Suffolks from Ashton Farm, Inverness.

Rams sold to £260 for a Cheviot from Achue, Spinningdale.

Widders averaged £35.95 and sold to £61 gross for Texel crosses from Dunain Mains, Inverness.

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Quintin Dunlop, right, topped the sale when he sold this high quality ram for £5,000 to Iain MacLarty, left. 20_445ale01

Blackface shearling tops Fort prices

A BLACKFACE shearling from Messrs William Dunlop, Elmsleugh, Dunbar topped the prices when it sold for £5,000 at Dingwall and Highland Mart's ram sale at Ben Nevis Auction Mart, Torlundy, on Friday.

Buyer of the fine ram lamb was Perthshire farmer Iain MacLarty of Littleport, St Fillan's. Delighted seller Quintin Dunlop had no inkling bidding would go so high. He told *The Oban Times*: 'He's been a good

shear from 80 Strathcanaird, Ullapool. Texels sold to £300 thrice for shearlings from North Deanhead, Dunsyre. Suffolks sold to £300 for a shearling from Newton of Crathie, Ballater. Swaledales sold to £300 for a shearling from Cara View, Tayinloan.

valuable addition to his Loch Earn-side farm, where he runs 3,000 Blackface ewes. Asked if he had anticipated paying such a high price, he said: 'No, but then you don't see many lambs with that kind of skin.'

Annual sale sees Cheviots sell to £450

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 417 rams at its annual sale of rams at Fort William last Friday.

Blackface shearlings sold to £800 twice from Elmsleugh, Dunbar, and Balrazzie, Ballantrae.

Blackface two shears sold to £650 from Knockdon, Straiton

while three shears sold to £500 from Brisbane Glen, West Kilbride. Blackface four shears

marineharvest
excellence in seafood

Farm Manager & Assistant Farm Manager Loch Skipport

Due to the re-stocking of our seawater site at Loch Skipport we are currently looking to employ a Farm Manager and Assistant Farm Manager to deal with the day to day operations on site. The posts will commence in early summer 2013 and the site will be re-stocked in October 2013 with 600,000 Q4's and will operate with 100 metre plastic circular pens.

Farm Manager
Salary £33,000 - £40,000 per annum

As Farm Manager you will be responsible for the day to day planning, running and reporting of the farm. The successful candidate will ideally have several years' experience in a managerial role within the aquaculture industry with proven ability for developing site infrastructure and establishing best farming practice.

Essential skills will include a sound understanding of fish husbandry, biology, and welfare. Leadership skills combined with strong interpersonal, communication, organisational and planning skills, as well as the ability to motivate and achieve results through the success of others are some of the attributes also required for this post.

Assistant Farm Manager
Salary £24,700 - £26,947 per annum plus overtime

Potential candidates should possess several years' salmon farming experience, have a sound understanding of fish husbandry and be conscientious in relation to recording and maintaining reliable data records. Good communication & planning skills and a high degree of computer literacy are also essential. It is also a requirement of the post that the incumbent be an effective deputy for the Manager as and when required.

A driving license is essential for both posts.

If you would like to apply for one of these posts, please submit an application in writing with details of relevant experience, no later than Friday 30th November 2012 to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.

marineharvest
excellence in seafood

Assistant Farm Manager Farm Technician Loch Lochy

We are currently looking to identify a suitably qualified Assistant Manager and a Farm Technician to work at our largest freshwater farm, Loch Lochy, nr Fort William.

Assistant Farm Manager
Salary £24,700 - £26,947 plus overtime

Potential candidates should possess several years' salmon farming experience, have a sound understanding of fish husbandry and be conscientious in relation to recording and maintaining reliable data records. Good communication & planning skills and a high degree of computer literacy are also essential. It is also a requirement of the post that the incumbent be an effective deputy for the Manager as and when required.

Farm Technician
Salary £16,946 - £21,499 plus overtime

The successful applicant will be required to carry out a variety of duties including feeding, net changing and other general farm tasks, and be willing to work flexibly to meet the demands of the post. The position will require working a 40 hour week on any five out of seven days.

Applications are invited from individuals who have a positive approach to this type of work and who are competent swimmers. Experience is certainly an advantage although training will be provided.

A driving license is essential for both posts.

If you would like to apply for one of these roles, please submit an application in writing with details of relevant experience, no later than Friday 23rd November 2012 to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.

PUBLIC NOTICES

The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A85 (OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITIONS) ORDER 2012

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order temporarily prohibiting traffic and pedestrians on: That length of the A85 Tyndrum - Oban Trunk Road, known as George Street, Oban, northwards to its junction with Breadsall Street, Oban, a distance of 534 metres or thereby. That length of the A85 Tyndrum - Oban Trunk Road, known as Corran Esplanade, from its junction with George Street, Oban, northwards to its junction with Dunollie Road west Roundabout, Oban, a distance of 463 metres or thereby. That length of the A85 Tyndrum - Oban Trunk Road, known as Stafford Street, from its junction with George Street, Oban, westwards to its junction with Corran Esplanade, Oban, a distance of 54 metres or thereby. That length of the A85 Tyndrum - Oban Trunk Road, known as Dunollie Road, from its junction with Breadsall Street, Oban, northwards to its junction with Dunollie Road East Roundabout, Oban, a distance of 205 metres or thereby.

The Order, which is required because works are being or are proposed to be executed on or near those lengths of road to allow essential road resurfacing to take place, will be in operation from 11th November 2012 until 31st December 2012 but will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the lengths of road as are indicated by the appropriate traffic signs.

The Order does not apply to vehicles being used to carry out the works, vehicles being used in an emergency for fire brigade, coastguard, ambulance or police purposes or to anything done with the permission or upon the direction of a police constable in uniform.

Alternative routes for the traffic affected by the Order during the prohibition will be signposted. Detailed descriptions can be obtained at Scotland TransServ, Broxden House, Broxden Business Park, Lamberkine Drive, Perth PH1 1RA. For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit www.trafficscotland.org.uk

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/policy/legal-requirements/road-and-traffic-orders/TRO's

A R T ANDERSON
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland
Buchanan House,
58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF.

SALES EXECUTIVES

We are offering an exciting opportunity to build a career in local newspapers to develop, expand and strengthen the potential of our advertising sales teams.

We are seeking to appoint an experienced and/or trainee sales person who is lively, enthusiastic, a good communicator and committed to customer satisfaction. The successful candidate will join our Campbeltown Courier sales team and work across a variety of publications and products. Ongoing in-house training will be given as required. A full driving licence is essential as you may not necessarily be office based but could have the opportunity to travel throughout Argyll and surrounding area in one of our company vehicles.

We offer an excellent rate of pay, generous annual holiday entitlement, company pension scheme, life assurance and private medical insurance.

If you are looking for a career with a well established company and have the above attributes - we want to hear from you.

Please apply by email with a full C.V. including contact details to: ali@obantimes.co.uk

Closing date Friday 26th October

WYVEX MEDIA

Administration Assistant

OBAN - Temporary Contract

A temporary vacancy has arisen within our Accounts Department to provide support over the busy seasonal period. The contract will be for a 3 month period for 35 hours per week.

The successful candidate will assist in functions including credit control, invoice processing, subscriptions administration, banking and other accounts related tasks.

Although training will be given the successful candidate must be able to work in an organised manner and be meticulous in attending to detail when keying information. The ideal candidate would have experience in dealing with the general public and businesses and have a pleasant and courteous telephone manner.

Please apply in writing enclosing a full C.V. with contact telephone number to: Ali Arden, Wyvex Media Limited, Crannog Lane, Oban PA34 4HB.
Fax: 01631 568001. email: ali@obantimes.co.uk

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 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 and online at <http://www.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
12/03777/FUL	Coire Beag, Onich Fort William	Extension to house and erection of garage
12/03890/FUL	Auchindarroch Caravan Park, Duror, Appin	Erection of shed
12/04011/FUL	Land 40M South East of Fuaim Na Mara, Onich	Erection of house
12/04013/PIP	Land 100M SW of River Coe Lodge, Glencoe	Erection of house
12/04093/FUL	Land 50M North of 4 Clouvinin, Ardgor	Erection of house (renewal of 09/00298/FULLO)
12/04104/PIP	Land 80M NE of Ivy Cottage, Inverie, Knoydart, Mallaig	Erection of house
12/04114/PIP	Land 45M West of Braeside Cottage, Achdaluie Fort William	Erection of house (renewal of 09/00267/OUTLO)
12/04146/FUL	6 Caberfeidh Fassifern Road Fort William	Demolition of conservatory and construction of new extension to form owners' lounge and first floor dining area

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

DMC Donald McLean Contractors

Have the following vacancies:

2 GENERAL LABOURERS
1 CHARGEHAND
1360° EXCAVATOR OPERATOR

Rate of pay will be determined by experience and certification

Please apply by email with full CV to lyle.donaldmcleancontractors@gmail.com

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

TARBERT HARBOUR

TARBERT (LOCHFYNE) HARBOUR AUTHORITY

Applications are invited for the full-time position of

Deputy Harbour Master

Duties include ensuring the safety of all vessels and persons using the Harbour. Implementation of Byelaws and the Port Marine Safety Code. Record keeping, berth planning and allocation, supervision of maintenance tasks, maintenance of Harbour property and safety equipment. Supervision of quay, collection of Harbour dues and liaison with customers.

Weekend and evening work involved.

Boat handling and handyman skills preferable

Please send applications in writing marked 'Vacancy'

To: Harbour Office, Garval Road, Tarbert PA29 6TR

by Friday 23rd November 2012

Argyll Voluntary Action
(Incorporating Argyll & Bute Volunteer Centre and Argyll CVS)
Supporting people and communities to thrive

Argyll Voluntary Action
(Charity no.29947 Co. 277345)

Is holding it's AGM

5th December 2011 at 11.00am
Loch Fyne Hotel Inveraray
Finishing with refreshments at 12.30
RSVP 01631 564839 or email kathleen@argyllvoluntaryaction.org.uk

ALAN REID MP

Alan Reid will hold a surgery in Oban on Wednesday 14 November 2012 at the Kilmore and Oban Church of Scotland Centre, Glencruitten Road, Oban between 4.00pm and 5.00pm

To make an appointment, please phone Alan Reid's office (01369 704840)

OPEN MEETING

November 12th, MacPhail Centre, Ullapool at 7.30pm

Salmon Farming on the West Coast of Scotland

Salmon Farming Today

Talk by Salmon Farming Representative
Salmon Farming - Chemicals, Disease and the Environment
Talk by Don Staniford environmentalist (Scotland, Norway & Canada)

Debate: Scottish Salmon Farming - Economic Saviour or Ecological Nightmare?

Questions

Refreshments, tea/coffee and sandwiches in the concourse
All welcome

D.A. MACDONALD
Contractors Ltd.

have a vacancy for an experienced

Plant Operator

Please apply in writing or by email stating previous experience

FAO Donald MacDonald
D A MacDonald (Contractors) Ltd
Site 13a, Kilmory Industrial Estate
Lochgilthead, Argyll, PA31 8RR
Email:- donald@damacdonald.co.uk

FRASER WOODROW

HAULAGE ISLAY

A class 1 HGV driver - mainland work

A mechanic -based on Islay.

Contact Fraser for enquiries on Mob No: 07787 153 187

Carers Direct Limited
are an independent provider specialising in care at home.

We are looking for Carers to work in the Oban Area.

Rate of pay from £7.80/hour - variable hours.

Alternate weekends essential. Car driver essential
SVQ 2 preferred, training provided.
Application forms from 01631 569 550.
Registered with Scottish Care Commission.
Applications subject to PVG Scheme vetting.

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

ACHA
argyll community housing association

Community Support Assistant Inveraray
17.5 hours per week Monday - Friday
Salary Grade 10
£8,148 - £9017.50 per annum

To apply visit our website at www.acha.co.uk
Tel 01546 605859 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 16th November 2012

Interviews for this post will be held in Inveraray in late November 2012

ANAHEILT COMMONS GRAZINGS

A Public meeting will be held to elect a new committee on Wednesday, November 28, at 8pm in Fire Station, Strontian.

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected 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
12/02214/PP	Erection of 10 no. self-catering, holiday lodges with associated access road, pathways and infrastructure	Isle of Mull Hotel Craignure Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA65 6BB	Sub Post Office Craignure
12/02264/PP	Modification of existing planning permission reference 10/00671/PP (Erection of 2 dwellings and garages) incorporating amendment of house type and location on Plot B and change of garage on Plot A to workshop and stores and amendment to vehicular access serving both plots (partly retrospective).	Plots A And B Swallow Craig Glenmore Road Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office
12/02274/PP	Formation of layby.	Land to East of Salmon's Leap on the B840 Eredine Dalmally Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmally
12/02301/PP	Erection of wind turbine (225kW, 45.9 metres high to blade tip) with temporary access track and substation	Land South West of Ardtreatie Cottage Dalmally Argyll and Bute PA33 1AT	Sub Post Office Dalmally
12/02318/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse (renewal of planning permission 09/00938/DET).	Land North West of Ardtornish Crannag A' Mhinisteir Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4LU	Oban Area Office
12/02319/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse (renewal of planning permission reference 09/00991/DEE)	Land South of Ardtornish Crannag A' Mhinisteir Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4LU	Oban Area Office
12/02364/PP	Erection of decking (part retrospective)	Dundonald North Connel Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1RE	Sub Post Office Lcdaig

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Whitegates Offices, Whitegates Road, Lochgilthead, PA31 8SY, 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
12/02072/PP	Replacement of existing cages including moorings, installation of access pontoon and new service and feed barge	Loch Frisa Fish Farm Tormory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 60F	Tormory Area Office

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilthead PA31 8SY.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (QUEENS PARK PLACE AND STATION ROAD, OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)(NO.2) ORDER 2012

On Monday 5th November 2012, 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 (b) 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 17th November 2012.

Alternative Route: There is no alternative route.
Sandy Macgarrig, Executive Director, 1A Manse Brae, LOCHGILTHEAD PA31 8RD

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Follow us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

2000 CORSA CLUB 1.2 16V



9 months tax, 9 months MOT.
Contact Kathleen
Tel: 01770 700407

Offers over £500

1998 BMW 316i



10 months Tax, 10 months M.O.T
Sony Stereo with Bluetooth
Call Andy Tel: 07584 257081
or 01770 700407

Offers over £500

2005 MITSUBISHI L200 4X4 DOUBLE CAB



2.5 diesel six months Mot & Tax.
Two previous owners good condition any inspection welcome.
Tel: 01586 552283 or 07876614456

£3950

JAGUAR X-TYPE



53 reg, 2ltr Turbo Diesel, 130,000 miles with 1/2 service history. 12 months MOT. Metallic blue, alloy wheels, full leather, full elec pack, very good on fuel, comfortable car.

Telephone: 0744 7367942

£1950 o.n.o.

VANS 4 SALE

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTi VAN
57 Reg, 08 Silver, 69K Miles, MOT Jan, CD Player, Wood Lined, Very Clean £3,650.00 +VAT O.N.O.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTi VAN
07 Reg, Silver, 69K Miles, MOT June '13, 6 Speed, Electric Windows, Wood Lined, Very Clean £3,650.00 +VAT O.N.O.

BILLY ROBERTSON VAN SALES
Crannog Lane, Oban 07990 548046

LOMOND CAR CENTRE

If you are looking for a new car or 4x4, please call or check

Lomond Car Centre, Tel: 01389 765666
www.lomondcarcentre.co.uk

Lomond Auto Centre, Tel: 01389 756655
www.lomondautocentre.co.uk

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SUIT 8-12 YRS, E/START 2 PERSONS, FULLY AUTOMATIC 4 STROKE, DELIVERY ARRANGED, DEPOSITS TAKEN.
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www.stoddarts.co.uk

£1450

FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCi TITANIUM



2009 model (diesel) on 09 plate, Avalon blue, main dealer serviced (next due Sept. 2014). Privacy glass, mudflaps, MOT 'til June 2014. Outstanding condition.
Tel: 01631 710371

£7800 o.n.o.

RENAULT KANGOO SL 17 DCI 70+



49,000 miles, 04 plate, MOT July 2013, Tax December 2012.
CD Player, alarm, electric windows, roof bars and low bar.
Great van looks and drives like new.

Telephone: 01546 510207 / 07836 218305

£1650 o.n.o.

WANTED

All Types of Diggers, Mini Diggers, JCBs 3CXs, Also MF and CASE, Any Condition, Any Age

Telephone: 01250 884306
07885203020
gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk

WANTED FOR EXPORT

Landcruisers, Hilux, also 2 w/d Vauxhall Bravos, any 4 x4 considered old or new, running or not, immediate payment on collection.

Telephone 07703 490572

2010 / VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 2.0 DIESEL GT



Black, 14,000mils, immaculate condition. Years tax f/x possible.
Telephone: 01586 551195

£16,600

ISUZU TROOPER COMMERCIAL 4X4



Aug 2002, Diesel, 173595 miles, MOT July 2013, rear seats, tow bar.
Tel: 01770 600242

£1500 + VAT o.n.o.

PEUGEOT 206 SW



Diesel, "53" Reg, MOT - October 2013
Road Tax (£30 per year)
Mileage 120,000 miles
Tel: 01586 830619 or 07955034949

£1200 o.n.o.

SEAFOOD TRAILER, 12FT X 7FT

Great opportunity has arisen to purchase a 12ft by 7ft seafood trailer. The trailer is in great condition inside and outside and is passed with all health and safety certificates. It is easy towed and has plenty of bookings for festivals, shows and highland games.

Telephone 07733080339

RANGE ROVER 2.5 DHSE AUTO



Oct 51 plate. Oxford Blue/Beige trim. 135,000mils. MOT March 2013. Currently SORN - wife's winter car. Private reg. available on retention.
Telephone: 07831 569000

£4250 o.n.o.

TOYOTA RAV 4 T180



06 reg, 57,371 miles, 2.2 Diesel, 6 speed, leather heated electric seats, dual climate control, sunroof, cruise control, factory fitted Sat-Nav, multi function leather steering wheel, rain sensitive wipers, keyless entry and go, roof rails, auto headlights, 4 months road tax, 1 years MOT.
Telephone: 07788 438667

£8,600 o.n.o.

WANTED

All types of 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Toyotas, Daihatsus, any 4 x 4, also considered non-runners or MOT failures.

Telephone 01250 884306 or mobile 07885 203020.

2006 RENAULT CLIO 1.5 EXPRESSION DCI 86 (DIESEL)



77,000 miles, full service history, MOT May 2013, 2 owners.
Call or text 07787561452

£2995 o.n.o.

NISSAN CABSTAR



mwb, 2010, 26000 miles, vgc
Please call 07833397240 for more details

£10,500

WANTED

4x4 any type, year, condition, also commercial van or pick up, will pay cash and collect.

Telephone: 07832 008156

LANDROVER DEFENDER 110TD5

2002, 02 Plate. MOT till Sept 2013. Tax till Nov 2012. Selling on behalf of customer.
Email: sales@lxtoll.com

****Offers****

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

S & S SERVICES
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr
Tel. 01292 880080/880440

Great Wall

TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000

BOAT TRAILER

Substantial 4 wheel heavy duty; will carry 28ft, 3 ton yacht, very good condition, £1200. Includes free boat.

Telephone: 01852 500258
Ardfern

£1200

WANTED

All types of 4 x 4's and light commercials, Ford, Mercedes, Toyota etc. Finance settled, company clearances welcome, high miles, non runners considered, cash buyer.

Telephone 07734304924

Cars sell **QUICKER** and for a **BETTER PRICE** when accompanied by a photograph.

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FANTASIA 27



Fully equipped, 6 berth inboard diesel, drop keel, mooring included prime site Connel.
Tel: 07515 105472

£8500 reduced to £6500 for quick sale

16' ARRAN BOAT WITH CUDDY



16' Arran boat with cuddy with 8hp Evinrude 2 stroke outboard and galvanised road trailer, all in good condition.
Tel: 01631 720414

£2750

winter weather ready

Are we ready to deal with the problems that snow, ice, storms and floods can bring?

To hear an automated version of our service disruptions call 01546 604040

Which roads do we treat?
For our winter maintenance programme, including a full list of priority roads and pavements please visit our website:
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/winter-weather-ready

Almost the entire road network in Argyll and Bute is looked after by the council. Scotland TransServ Ltd looks after the trunk roads in the area on behalf of Transport Scotland, the national transport body. TransServ is responsible for the A82, A85, A828, and the A83 as far south as Kennacraig.

Where can you report a road problem?
You can report your problem online anytime by visiting our website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/road-faults
By telephone during office hours: (Monday – Friday 09:00 -17:00)
Argyll and Bute Council: Customer Service Centre Tel. 01546 605514

If you have a problem with the A82, A85, A828 and the A83 (as far South as Kennacraig) contact Scotland TransServ on 0800 032 2520

Look out for a copy of Argyll and Bute Council's winter weather ready leaflet or find information online at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/winter-weather-ready

Tips for winter driving

Ice
Slow down, steer gently and use the highest gear you can. If you have to brake don't do it sharply. Look out for other skid hazards like frost and wet leaves. Always be aware that there could be 'black ice'. This is a thin coating of ice on the road and while not truly black it is transparent, so you will be able to see the road through it.

Snow
If your tyres won't grip, there may be a salt heap or grit bin nearby. Spread salt or grit in front of your driving wheels and set off in the highest gear you can. If you are caught in heavy snow, wrap up warm and stay inside your vehicle is possible.

Fog
Use dipped headlights, keep your windscreen clear and drive so you can stop in the distance you can see. Use rear fog lights if visibility is less than 100 metres.

Rain
Use dipped headlights, keep your speed down and keep well back from the vehicle in front. If you come to a flood, slow right down but keep your revs high.

Hail
Slow down and use dipped headlights. Beware of slush on the road after a hail storm

Before travelling in bad weather you should

- Check the weather forecast and road conditions
- Decide if your journey is really necessary
- If it is - allow extra time
- Tell someone your destination and when you expect to arrive

Your emergency kit should include

- An ice scraper and de-icer
- A shovel for snow
- A torch and spare batteries
- Warm clothes, boots and a blanket
- Some food and a warm drink in a flask
- A first-aid kit
- Battery jump leads
- A map for any unplanned diversions
- A fully charged mobile phone

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

RS used cars

Tel: 07590 914 558 / 07733 888 392
Dunollie Road, Oban PA34 4PJ
Trade-ins welcome and Finance available

Open 7 days
Free Warranty with every car.
www.rsusedcars.co.uk

www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

NOW ONLINE

Advertise your unwanted items in either The Oban Times, Campbelltown 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

LOCAL services

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

COLOUR ENGRAVING framed of Dunollie Castle from the Bay, very good condition, £14.99 Telephone 01631 564578.

BABY EQUIPMENT

BABY CAR SEAT Petite Star, car seat and baby carrier group 0 up to 12 months. Matching change bag, black & grey, Good clean condition, £20 Telephone 01631 720674.

BABY COT BED perfect for use from birth until your child can sit up or kneel. Natural wood, size L102 x H52 x W81cm, with soothing rocking motion, washable mattress and crib bale, excellent condition, £40 Telephone 01546 832025.

FOLDING TRAVEL COT Petite Star Traveller, travel cot, navy, 43"x 30"x32" deep, folds down 1x1x3 ft. Excellent condition no offers, £25 Telephone 01852 300757.

TOMY BED RAIL excellent condition with original box and full instructions. Fold down soft bed rail with child proof double hinge, £10 Telephone 07971 970339.

TRAVEL COT Mamas and Pappas, excellent condition, Furnace, £40 Telephone 01499 500216.

BICYCLES

UNISEX BICYCLE hardly used, £39 Telephone 01631 562148 or 07833 127424.

BUILDING / DIY

AMES TAPING ACCESSORIES 23 Useit Superpad P perforated sanding pads for long neck vacuum sander 225mm dia. Spec @ slingers1858.co.uk/Drywall-Sanding/, £22.50 Telephone 01631 566067.

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SLIM PS2 +BUNDLE black w/box, stand, 1 controller, 2 microphones +4 games (GTAAIII, Singstar, Simpsons, MegaDrive Collection) fair condition, £25 Telephone 01631 562796.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

BUSH OVEN brand new, £49.99 Telephone 01631 562553.

RAYBURN COOKER 300 series oil Range - white. Slight damage to lid otherwise good condition. Near Oban, buyer collects, £650ono Telephone 07872 222654.

DOMESTIC PETS

COCKER SPANIEL Orange Roan dog puppies, show type, ready to go 17th November. Telephone 01631 720311.

COCKER SPANIEL PUPS beautiful Pedigree, vet checked, very sociable, working strain, please enquire, £350 Telephone 07756 434291 78.

HALF SIAMESE KITTENS three ginger kittens, girl and boys. Weaned, wormed and ready to go. Delightful loving characters, used to children and dogs, £60 Telephone 01880 760207.

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GLIDER /ROCKER CHAIR with matching chair stool, red cushions, excellent condition, £49.99 Telephone 01586 550265.

LEATHER SUITE sage green three piece leather suite, very good condition, £450 onvo. Telephone 01880 820802.

LOUNGE SUITE quite large, can email photo and sizes. Reclining settee and one chair. Was expensive,

now faded by light, £49.99 Telephone 01546 8702289. PINE TABLE extending Pine dinner table. Round 106 cm or with removable middle section oval 145 cm. Used but in reasonable condition, £15 Telephone 01631 563466.

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RAFFLE TICKETS For

PERSONALS

I, Joan MacKintosh, wish to convey my sincere thanks to the following:-

Davy and Peter, the Paramedics, the Doctors and Staff of A&E, Doctors and Nurses of Ward 1, Peter and Ian, Physiotherapists, Julie and Carol, Occupational Therapists. To Fr Donald and Stan for their regular visits, to all who visited me, sent flowers and cards or made telephone inquiries.

A special thank you to Dr Shirley for his home visits, Ballachulish District Nurses, especially Elaine Cameron and to Gail for her hair do!

My most sincere and heartfelt thanks go to Morag and Julie for their constant care and attention. I can never repay them. Fortunately, I am now on the mend.

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HARDY FISHING TACKLE Old and Modern Also other makes of old tackle Please Telephone 01786 823361 Email strathmoretackle@gmail.com

OBAN TIMES PERSONALS

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OBAN TIMES PERSONALS

BIRTHS

DUNCAN - Iain and Morven (née McMillan), are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their daughter Freya Margaret on October 22, 2012 at the RAH Paisley, granddaughter for Janis and the late George McMillan and Donald and the late Margaret Duncan, Balmullo.

ENGAGEMENTS

YOUNG - DEVINE - Roddy and Sandra are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter Andrena to Kevin son of Tricia Steele on October 19.

DEATHS

CAMPBELL - With peace and dignity at home, after a short illness, on November 4, 2012, Gus, formerly of Armadale, Skye, beloved husband of Helen and adored Dad, Grampa and brother. Funeral service on Thursday November 8, at Oban Church of Scotland at 1.30pm, thereafter Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection to the Macmillan Nurses.

KOWBEL - Lorna Margaret (nee Boyd) (East Linton/North Berwick). Lorna (formerly of Oban) passed away peacefully at Edington Cottage Hospital on Sunday November 4, 2012, much loved wife of Michael, devoted and adored mum of Joe and Ruth, dearly loved daughter of Angus and Margaret Boyd, loving sister, sister in law and aunt of all the family. A funeral service to which all friends are invited will be held at Prestonkirk Church, East Linton on Friday November 9 at 10.30am followed by interment in churchyard. Donations in aid of The Friends of Edington Cottage Hospital may be given on return from the Church.

MACNEILL - Very peacefully at Lorn and Isles Hospital on November 1, 2012, aged 93 years, Flora (affectionately known as Foelalie), Hazel Cottage, Isle of Colonsay. A much loved 'Auntie' and friend to many who will be very sadly missed.

MORRISON - Neil Donald, aged 67, Isle of Mull, lost his fight with cancer, on Tuesday October 30, 2012, at Western Infirmary, Glasgow, retired police officer of Argyll County Police & Strathclyde Police, stationed in Dunoon, Strachur, Oban, Dumbarton, Inellan, Tiree and Mull. Husband of Helen, father to Neil, Christine and Donald, brother to Hugh, Grandfather to Amanda, Ruairidh, Ryan and Claire and father-in-law to Lorraine and Geordie. Funeral took place on Tuesday. Tha gaol agam ort.

SEGIE - Peacefully at Lynn of Lorne care Home, Doreen (Nee Blackwood), beloved wife of the late Robert, dearest mother of Sheila, Carolyn, Hilary and Robin and a dearly loved Mother-in-law, Gran and Great-gran.

TINDAL - Colin Hunter Roxburgh. Peacefully at home on October 30, his 70th birthday. Beloved husband of Jane, adored father of Jennifer and much loved grandfather of Gracie, Evie, Tilly and Tess. Memorial Service at Kilmelford Church on Friday, November 9, at 2pm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DALY - Lilian, Donald and Colin, would like to thank all family and friends for the kindness and support shown after the passing of our mum Helen. Many thanks to Fr McAuley for holding a lovely service and to Ewen MacLennan. Thank you also to all who attended the funeral, also for the generous donations toward the RNLI and St John's Church.

WYLIE - The family of the late Margaret Wylie who passed away on November 15, 2012, would like to thank Rev Cringles of St Orans and all who attended service and graveside, Connel doctors and nurses, all from Care+, neighbours, friends, Hamish Hoyer for funeral arrangements, Falls of Lora. All who donated to Oban Dementia Group (£399.87).

MEMORIALS

CAMERON - In loving memory of a beloved wife and mother Louie, who passed away on November 10, 2000 at Kilmalieu. It doesn't take a special day

To bring you to our mind For days without a thought of you Are always hard to find. - 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.

DUNCAN - Treasured memories of my beloved husband Howard, who passed away on November 12, 2001.

I miss you more than anyone knows As time goes by the emptiness grows The tears I shed are wiped away

But the ache in my heart is here to stay. Love always.

- Chrissie x **GALBRAITH** - Neil, Croig, November 7, 2006. Though I still feel you all around me I miss your presence dreadfully.

- Jill. **LOCKHART** - In loving memory of Cecil, dearly loved husband of Margaret and a much loved father, father-in-law and grandpa who found peace from his long suffering on November 9, 2011.

Remembered always with love. - From Margaret and all the family.

LOCKHART - Never forgetting our dear brother-in-law and uncle Cecil who died November 9, 2011. Love always. From all the Campbells.

MACKAY - In loving memory of our dear father, father-in-law and granda Bertie, who died on November 11 1989. Also remembering Uncle Jack, who died November 17, 1993.

Fondly remembered. - From all the family in Oban and Lochgilphead.

MITCHELL - Moira. A year has passed since you left us that day And believe me the pain never really goes away There are days when I need you more than ever But I take comfort knowing you and Dad will always be together I missed you at my wedding, I miss you in my life.

- All our love, Sheen and John, Chloe, Archie and Brodie.

MITCHELL - Moira. A precious Mum and Grandma A very difficult year has passed I miss you with every breath I take Remember what was, accepting what now is Living with what will never be the same again Is the part that causes the most pain Guide us through our heartache. - Moira x Shannon and Aaron xxx

PARKINSON - Treasured memories of a dear Dad and Pop Arthur (Scouse), who passed away on November 12, 1990. Your passing left us sore We loved you then We love you now And will forever more.

- Peggy, Alistair and Family x **SIM** - In memory of my dear husband, Ian Pickard Sim, who died November 11, 2011, loving father and grandfather, remembered always. - Betty.

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

Schools re-dedicate Dunblane tree

Oban pupils and teachers remember victims of primary school shooting

A TREE planted in memory of those who lost their lives in the tragic shooting at Dunblane Primary School 16 years ago was re-dedicated at Oban Primary Campus.

Both St Columba's and Rockfield schools planted a Dunblane Tree at their respective school sites following the tragedy but since their move to a joint campus it was decided a single tree would be more suitable.

The re-dedication was carried out last Friday by Rev Dugald Cameron, Rev James Beaton and Monsignor James MacNeil.

Rockfield Primary School head teacher Jack Degnan gave words of recollection from that fateful day on March 13, 1996 when 43-year-old Thomas Hamilton entered Dunblane Primary School armed with four handguns and shot dead 16 children and one adult, before turning a gun on himself.

Atrocity

The senior pupils at both schools, who were not even born when the atrocity took place, helped to place a memorial plaque by the tree during the re-dedication.

Mr Degnan, who was head teacher of Bunesan Primary School and in Inveraray with a working party of teachers at the time, said: 'As a head teacher of a primary school at that time and ever since, this terrible tragedy resonated very deeply with me and with head teachers across the country and, I'm certain, across the world, and continues to do so.'



Senior pupils of St Columba's and Rockfield schools, with their respective head teachers, Sarah Jane MacSween and Jack Degnan at the re-dedication of the Dunblane Tree. 15_145Tree01

Church has 'green' ambition

A PARISH Church on the banks of Loch Lomond is aiming to become Scotland's first ever Green Pilgrimage Place.

Luss Parish Church is among a list of global faith pilgrimage sites which are seeking to ensure the environmental consequences of tourism are minimised.

Obituary

Lt Col Donald A MacLean 1936-2012

Donald MacLean was head of a distinguished MacLean family, whose origins lay in Tiree.

His direct forebear in the male line, after whom he was named, was Donald MacLean [c1726-c1800] from Ruag, who piloted a French frigate in and out of Loch nan uamh in 1746, and then famously hid in a cave in Vaul for nine months, before being persuaded to surrender to the authorities.

His great grandfather, Andrew Bruce MacLean, a most successful engineering entrepreneur in Glasgow, was a key player in the 1912 MacLean Gathering, and Donald too was a key player in the Centenary Gathering last June, which was attended by 1,000 clans people.

Donald was brought up in the West of Scotland, and after school and college, where he studied engineering, he was called up for National Service.

Joining the Royal Engineers; the same regiment in which his father had served, he became a regular Officer, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He served in Gibraltar, Canada, England, Northern Ireland during the height of the Troubles, Germany [5 tours], and ended up as Commander, Royal Engineers, Scotland. Thereafter he was the very popular and successful Army Careers Officer [ie Recruiting Officer] in Glasgow.

Donald and his first wife Sally were fortunate to purchase a house in Seamill, Ayrshire, that overlooked the sea, and was opposite the golf club, thus combining two of Donald's interests readily at hand, sailing and golf. He was a member of the Clyde Cruising Club, and 20 years ago, following the death of his wife, he sailed to the Caribbean and back; Robin Maclean of Ardgour and Marcus MacLean joining him for the trip out.

Donald was recent past president of the Rotary Club of Glasgow, and for several years organised the Glasgow Charathon, which raised huge sums of money for charity, and he also organised the annual central conferences of Rotary International when they came to Glasgow in 1992 and 2012.

However, one of his greatest interests was the Clan Maclean Association, of which he was at various times president, treasurer and acting secretary, as well as president of the International Joint Association. He and his second wife, Vera, were instrumental in organising a series of international Gatherings on Mull, as well as the annual Scottish



Gathering over many years.

In this, their knowledge of Mull was a key component; every summer they sailed in their yacht, *Trompette*, to Tobermory where they had many friends, and they also usually attended the Tobermory Games. Mull Community Council has recently sent a personal letter of condolence to Vera.

For 10 years Donald was a Trustee of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust, and he spent a great deal of effort and time in compiling 'The Pipe Music of the Clan Maclean' which was launched in June at Gruline House on Mull. It has been very well received in piping circles, and is a very fitting memorial to Donald.

One of Donald's oldest friends, General Sir Peter Graham, Gordon Highlanders, gave the Address at Donald's Funeral Service at West Kilbride Parish Church, and Sir Lachlan Maclean, the Chief of Clan Maclean, gave a most moving personal tribute.

Donald is survived by his widow, Vera [Seamill], and his children Hamish [Aberdeen], Sandy [Edinburgh] and Sara Bishop [Kilbarchan].

Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch, president of the Clan Maclean Association.

ECCLIASTICAL NOTICES

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 11 November 2012
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh
(01631) 567076
All welcome

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 11 November 2012
Remembrance Day
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion..... 08.00
Sung Eucharist..... 10.15
Sunday School and Creche
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Nicki McNelly Provost
(01631) 562323
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Service at Salen
Parish Church..... 10.15
St Columba,
Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist..... 10.00

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WEDDINGS



MACEACHEN - GALBRAITH
Ailsa and James' wedding ceremony and reception were held at Isle of Seil Community Hall on September 8, 2012. The wedding was celebrated by close family and friends.

GRADUATION



Carol Mac Crone graduated from UHI with a B pass in Business Management. Carol is the daughter of Jessie and Alex Duncan and granddaughter of the late Hughie and Katie Mac Crone, former pupil of Dervaig Primary and Tobermory High School.

Thought for the week

Lest we forget

THE GREAT 19th century Baptist preacher, Charles H. Spurgeon, was invited to preach at the opening of the new Free Church building in Dingwall. As he walked to the church with his friend, Rev. Dr. John Kennedy, Spurgeon picked some forget-me-nots growing by the roadside and attached them to his lapel.

At this time of year we wear poppies, not forget-me-nots, on our lapels. Before the poppy was adopted as a symbol of remembrance, in Newfoundland the forget-me-not was in fact used to honour the memory of those who had fallen in the Great War.

Rudyard Kipling, whose son, John, lost his life at the battle of Loos in 1915 at the age of eighteen, wrote: 'Lord God of hosts, be with us yet, Lest we forget, lest we forget.' This is a time for remembrance, as we look back over the conflicts of the twentieth century.

As his sermon drew to a close, Charles Spurgeon said to the congregation: 'Some of you may have noticed that I have forget-me-nots on my lapel. There are there for a purpose. You may forget me, but I hope you will not forget my message to you today.'

It is a time for reflection, as we think about the terrible cost of war, the preciousness of peace, and the need to pray for a less violent, a safer, more peaceful world as so many suffer and lives are still being lost in so many trouble spots.

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Nathan Jon Berrie, Fort William, graduated from Stirling University in June, with an Honours Degree in Environmental Geography. Son of Veronica and Peter Berrie, Fort William. Nathan is a former pupil of Lochyside Primary and Lochaber High School.

Ailsa MacEachen graduated from UHI with a BA in Health and Welfare Studies. Ailsa is the daughter of Angus and Margaret MacEachen and grand-daughter of the late Neil and Seana MacEachen and the late James and Margaret Graham.

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Saints turn on the style to beat Finnart

'I was delighted to get the win, but more importantly, the commitment of the players'

Umbro SAFL Premier Division
Oban Saints 4
Finnart 1

THE first ever match between these two teams took place at Glenruitten and the spectators on a rather dreich day were entertained to a good game of football by two teams who wanted to get the ball down and play it out from the back.

Manager Iain Jackson made three changes from last week's game against Thorn Athletic. Keith Millar, Ross Maitland and Eddie Swift came into the starting line-up in place of Mattie Rippon, Alan Miller and Lewis Cameron.

You could tell from the opening exchanges that this was going to be a good game with both teams looking comfortable on the ball.

Saints created the first half chance in the second minute when Ross Maitland crossed into the box but Keith Millar's header flew past the post.

The visitors looked a good solid cohesive unit and were passing the ball about well, but it was a mistake at the back from Saints central defender Alex Craik that gave Finnart the opening goal. Alex failed to clear his lines properly and the ball fell to Brian Blair who thumped a right foot shot past Saints keeper Daniel Cassells.

The home side didn't panic at this reversal, they kept playing the same way, although the passing at times was a bit slack, something the manager had insisted be sharpened up after the sloppy display against Thorn the previous Saturday.

Great cross

The home side were pushing forward in search of an equaliser, but the Finnart rearguard looked to be in good form although the home side had a great chance to draw level when Ross Maitland made progress up the right flank before firing over a great cross to the far post. Eddie Swift and Craig MacEwan seemed to get in each other's way and a good opportunity was missed.

The home side had another good chance on 33 minutes when Eddie Swift was through on the left, but he shot for goals while a square ball across the box for Donald Campbell might have been the better option.

Both teams continued to play good football as the half wore on, but there was no further scoring with the Glasgow side

going in with a narrow 1-0 lead at the break.

The second half was only 60 seconds old when Saints got back on level terms. They were awarded a free kick 25 yards out. Willie Gemmel rolled the ball to Donald Campbell who blasted a shot on target. Finnart keeper Brian Paton failed to hold the shot and Ross Maitland was first to react, knocking the ball home from close range.

This was just the start the home side were looking for and they were unlucky again in the 51st minute when Craig MacEwan and Donald Campbell were involved in a great one-two that ripped the Finnart central defenders apart but Donald was off balance and his shot squirmed past the post.

The home side took the lead in the 59th minute when Mattie Rippon and Ross Maitland combined to set up Donald Campbell who calmly slotted the ball past the keeper to make the score 2-1. A minute later Craig MacEwan had a great chance but his effort went over the bar.

Credit to Finnart though they kept trying to play football and never resorted to humping the ball up the park but, with only a bare squad of players, tiredness was beginning to set in.

Saints increased their lead in the 71st minute when Alex Craik made up for his earlier mistake when he netted through a ruck of players after Mattie Rippon and Craig MacEwan had shots blocked by defenders.

The Glasgow side were now finding it difficult to get forward in numbers and with the Saints defence in top form they never really troubled Saints keeper Daniel Cassells.



Saints' Ross Maitland takes on Finnart defender David McHendrie. 15_145saints07

FOOTBALL

Myles McAuley had a great opportunity when he was sent clean through on goals with only the keeper to beat, but he knocked the ball wide of the target.

The final nail in the Finnart coffin came in the 73rd minute and it must be said it was a tad fortunate. Willie Gemmel fired in a great free kick which crashed off the bar and on the way down hit Finnart keeper Brian Paton on the back of the head and the ball ended up in the back of the net.

Celebrated

The game was over as a contest now and both teams were quite happy to play out time and when referee Alessandro Savarese, who had a good game, blew for full time it was the Oban lads who celebrated a fine 4-1 win.

Manager Iain Jackson said: 'Naturally I was delighted to get the win, but more importantly it was the attitude and commitment of the players that pleased me most.'

'We had a heart-to-heart at training last week as I wasn't happy with the way we played against Thorn in the second half and I'm glad to say the boys took on board what I was saying and the performance from everybody against a very good Finnart side was excellent, but we need to show that appetite in all the games.'

This Saturday Saints are on Fosters Scottish Amateur Cup duty when they travel to take on Hamilton FPs in the third round. The match will kick-off at 2pm with referee Jim Brown in charge



Oban Saints midfielder Myles McAuley gets a shot on target despite this challenge from Finnart central defender Gary Somerville, as Eddie Swift and Finnart captain Brian Blair look on. 15_145saints01

Red Star dump Wee Rangers to go top of the league

SAFL Division 1 (B)
Lochgilhead Red Star 5
Kings Park Rangers 'B' 0

LOCHGILHEAD Red Star returned to league action on Saturday following the previous weekend's disappointing cup defeat in Dunoon.

Boosted by the return from suspension of Broderick and Alderson, the home side took control of this contest in the first half despite a nervy opening to the game.

Red Star broke the deadlock after 20 minutes after some good hold up play by Peacock in the corner, he laid the ball back to Weir whose well flighted cross was matched by an excellent

leap by Naisby who managed to bullet his header past the Kings keeper to make it 1-0.

The visitors did their best to get back on terms straight away but despite having some decent possession at times, Kalache in the Star goal was a spectator for most of the half. Red Star doubled their lead when some good play down the right from Naisby and Broderick resulted in the ball falling to Peacock in the box who made no mistake with the finish to make it 2-0.

Star's tails were up now and it was 3-0 after 35 minutes when a superb through ball from the back by Moore was met by Naisby coming off the right

hand side. He showed excellent composure to round the keeper before firing the ball past the defender on the line.

The Kings defence were really struggling with the pace of the Star frontline and this was evident again just before the break as Peacock picked up the ball on the outside right channel before cutting inside two defenders and firing past the keeper to make the score 4-0 at half time.

Into the second half, and with a healthy lead intact, manager Weir was able to ring the changes with all 16 players in the squad getting a run out on a cold afternoon.

To their credit, Kings never

FOOTBALL

gave up and enjoyed some decent spells of pressure in the second half but it was the home side who scored the only goal of a scrappy second half after Morrison was quickest to react after a goalmouth scramble to make the final score 5-0 to Red Star.

This result sees Red Star top of the table by three points having played a game more than their title rivals.

Tomorrow the Lochgilhead side are away from home as they travel to Blantyre to take on Millerston Thistle in another league encounter where three points are vital.

Big shots at Glenfinnan

SHOOTING

GLENFINNAN Gun Club's shoot on Saturday in cold, sunny conditions and the occasional shower saw a good turn out of 23 guns.

Results:
First competition for the John MacLeod Memorial Shield - Sandy Ferguson. Second competition for the Duncan Stoddart Memorial Quiaich - Fred Lockwood. Local shield, the David MacDonald Shield - Michael Rhoden.

Under-18 competition - Aaron McGhee. High Gun for the day and the Joe MacLeod Cup - Donald MacCush. Ladies prize and the 'McDonald Brothers bouquet - Ann Black.

Oban curlers win Chalmers Cup

CURLING

OBAN Curling Club has won the Chalmers Cup in Greenock as the club returned to competitive action.

The team, which comprises of David Howie, skip; Graham Innes; Fraser Inglis and Trevor Lines, won the cup two shots ahead of Millport.

Oban defeated Dunoon Ladies 12 - 5 in their first game and beat Dunoon Argyll 6 - 5.

Atlantis Leisure Indoor league

INDOOR FOOTBALL

RESULTS from the Atlantis Leisure Indoor League.

Oban Times 20, OES A 2; Handy Men 6, Eddie Stoddarts 9; Oban High School 17, OES B 2; Royal Hotel 3, Glenorchy 7

Connel motorcycle ace signs for German team

CONNEL racer John McPhee has continued his speedy rise through the motorbike ranks after signing for Racing Team Germany (RTG) for the 2013 Moto3 World Championship campaign

The Racing Steps Foundation-backed rider has signed a one-year deal with the Zwickau-based team for its protégé to replace Moto2-bound Grand Prix winner Louis Rossi.

The 18 year old, who has impressed on the European stage since leaving the British 125GP series in 2010, will bring with him a contingent of fans from Oban and Lorn for his last race of the Moto3 season in Valencia this weekend.

John, who has raced in the CEV Buckler series in Spain in the 125GP and Moto3 classes over the last two years, is in the throes of completing the tail-end

of the 2012 World Championship Moto3 season with Caretta Technology.

He stepped in at short notice to replace the Italian squad's injured Alexis Masbou at Aragon in September with five races of the 18-round season to go.

John said: 'I'm delighted that the RSF has secured this ride for me to continue in the World Championship next year.'

'RTG is a competitive team which has taken Rossi to his maiden Moto3 GP win and into the top half of the rider standings.'

Fantastic

'So this is a fantastic opportunity for me for which I'm extremely grateful.'

RTG, which runs FTR Hondas, has yet to announce its second rider but team boss Dirk Heidolf said he was pleased to capture John's signature.

'We've watched John for some time and been impressed with his approach and attention to detail,' he said. 'He's disciplined and does a very good job of dialling himself and his bike in over race weekends.'

'Obviously he's been on a steep learning curve over the last few weeks and hasn't had the best of luck. This, of course, is reflected in his results.'

'But he showed very convincingly that he has the ability to make the most of his chances when he took himself to the front in the wet at Brno.'

'As a wildcard entry with only a little Grand Prix experience, that impressed me a lot.'

In 2013 our job will be to provide him with well organised teamwork and a competitive bike that will give him the confidence to produce that kind of ride in many races, not just one.'

MOTORCYCLING

John completes his 2012 season in a week's time when he returns to the Circuito de la Comunitat Valenciana for the final round of Dorna's CEV Buckler series. He is currently fifth in the rider standings.

Final ride

The race will be his final competitive ride with the RSF-backed KRP squad with which he has raced in the 125GP and Moto3 classes in the UK and Spain since 2010.

RSF founder Graham Sharp said the step up to a full season's ride in the World Championship was a natural career progression for McPhee but praised Mark Keen's KRP team for developing John as a rider to the point where he can now hold his own at Grand Prix level.

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

WIN £650

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

I Campbell Lagavulin, Isle of Islay
D Cruickshank Kames, Tighnabruach

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

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Please tape your £1 coin here

Oban Lorne's Jen MacLennan breaks through the Stewartry defence. 07_145wrugby05

Impressive home win for Oban Lorne ladies

RBS Women's National League
Oban Lorne 57
Stewartry 19

OBAN Ladies' first game of the season saw them run away with a win and a bonus point last Sunday.

The game finished 57-19 in favour of the home side, thanks to tries from Audrey Barr, Laura MacCormack, Jemma Campbell and Jen MacLennan.

Crucial conversions from Jen MacLennan and Mull girl Lucy Langford upped the score for Oban Ladies against a team who in their previous two matches had scored 111 points and not conceded a try. With injuries and unavailability of players affecting both teams, the 70-minute

match was played at 10-a-side, meaning the Green Army had to work extra hard to cover the yards on the Glenelg pitch.

Oban captain Katie Ritchie said: 'What a great opening match.'

'The girls worked really hard and dug deep to open up a gap against a team that have started really well in our league.'

'Our scrum worked especially well on a day with lots of knock-ons and I'm very proud of the effort put in.'

'Hopefully we can carry on this momentum to our next match in two weeks away to Grangemouth Ladies.'

WOMEN'S RUGBY

Kilmallie win under-17 shinty sixes at Mossfield

'A lot of these boys are playing premier league shinty and this made for an exceptionally high standard'

A RECORD number of teams competed in this year's National Under-17 Shinty Sixes tournament, held at Oban's Mossfield. Among the 16 entrants on Saturday were far-travelled teams from Lochbroom, Skye and Aberdour.

Dominated

Lochaber teams dominated the Macaulay Association-sponsored competition; Fort William, Lochaber and Kilmallie were joined by Skye in the semi-finals.

And it was an all-Lochaber affair in the final, with Kilmal-

lie only beating Lochaber after a tense penalty shoot-out that finished as the light began to fade. The teams could not be separated during normal or extra time and had been locked at 0-0 with Kilmallie eventually winning 8-7 on penalties.

Kilmallie's Martin Munro also celebrated individual success by taking home the player of the tournament award.

The Camanachd Association's national development officer Ronald Ross said: 'We had the most teams we've ever had at one of these competitions and I

thought the standard of play was first class.

'A lot of these boys are playing premier league shinty and this made for an exceptionally high standard.'

Favourites

'You could say Kinlochshiel were favourites at the beginning of the competition but the successful teams were the ones who worked chances with clever passing play.'

With the majority of teams representing the north area, Ronald conceded there was work to be done to increase the number of

SHINTY

south teams competing at youth level.

However, he said any claim that north shinty was of a better standard was a myth.

He added: 'The number of south teams competing is something we are looking at but there is a good standard of player in the south. Oban Camanachd have the best under-14 team in the country and, from what I have seen, the Oban Camanachd and Oban Celtic teams at under-17 level are a match for anyone.'



Action from the Fort William versus Lochaber game. 07_t45shintyaction03



The winning Kilmallie squad, coached by Peter Jackson with the national under-17 shinty sixes trophy. Player of the tournament Martin Munro is pictured bottom right. (Photograph by Nicola MacIsaac)



Kinlochshiel. 15_t45shinty04



Lochbroom. 15_t45shinty01



Oban Celtic. 15_t45shinty07



Oban Camanachd. 15_t45shinty02



Inverness. 15_t45shinty03



Aberdour. 15_t45shinty06



Newtonmore. 15_t45shinty05

Hard-fought victory for Fort William under-17s

FORT WILLIAM U-17s travelled away to Clach on Sunday and returned with a hard fought and deserved 2-1 victory.

With Fort's previous defeat to Clach still fresh in their minds the Lochaber boys were determined to make amends and started the game the brighter of the teams with Jordan MacPhee and Kieran Voisey in midfield dictating the early play.

Fort had several chances for the opener with Lewis Morrison firing in the crosses but found no takers and the first period ended in a 0-0 stalemate.

But Fort were not to be denied and made an excellent start to the second period as a Lewis Morrison free kick was parried by the Clach keeper into the path of Keir Kennedy, who tucked the ball in the bottom corner for 1-0.

Initiative

Buoyed by the goal Fort quickly grabbed the initiative and striker Aelcan MacLellan produced an excellent finish from a Ryan Clark corner to put the Fort 2-0 up.

In the final moments of the second period Clach worked

YOUTH FOOTBALL

their way back into the game as their defender rose highest to head home a corner kick to reduce the deficit to 2-1.

The final period saw Clach throw caution to the wind as they looked for a leveller but gaps at the back meant Fort had several chances on the break to wrap up the game.

Remarkable

With the clock ticking down it took a remarkable save from Fort's Ruairidh MacInnes to keep the scores level as the Clach striker ran through on goal.

But Fort composed themselves and retained the ball well to see out the game and a deserved 2-1 win.

Coach John Matheson was delighted with the hard-fought win.

He told The Oban Times: 'Overall, this was the most committed and hard working performance of the season so far with all players contributing to the result.'

'A change of positions for two or three players brought a better shape and balance to the team.'



Inverlochty pupils show off their new strips donated by Inverlochty and Torlundy Community Council

New strips for Inverlochty Primary

INVERLOCHTY Primary School has a brand new set of sports strips - thanks to the generosity of Inverlochty and Torlundy Community Council.

The gift came after the parent council approached ITCC to see if they could help out with the cost - which was met in full. The new kit will be used for both football and shinty.

Head teacher Ainsley Burns told The Oban Times: 'I'd like to extend a huge thanks on behalf of the pupils who are going to have the benefit of wearing the strips to both the community council and the parent council.'

Claymores youngster wins on his international debut

CLAYMORES Amateur Boxing Club in Kinlochleven has followed Callum Clement's gold at the Scottish Novice Championships with further success - this time in the international arena.

Promising young boxer Ben Wilson was picked for a Scotland select team against Wales at the Inverness City ABC show at the Ironworks in the Highland Capital on Friday night - and did his country proud with a gritty win.

Ben, aged 13, boxing in only his third bout, was matched against a very good boxer in George Stewart.

Both lads made a good start as they both stood up tall and sized each other up with their lead hands probing for an opening to give an advantage.

Combinations

The second round remained close with neither prepared to give an inch. Both threw some very fast and accurate combinations but Wilson started to use excellent movement to bob and weave away from the taller Stewart's shots.

In the third and final round, both lads began to tire and things began to get sloppy. Wilson was warned for hitting with the inside of the glove and Stewart for holding. Both lads were very relieved to hear the bell.

And after three ferocious rounds of very even first class boxing it was young Wilson who got the nod when two of the three judges scored the bout in his favour.

Delighted Claymore's head coach Martin Glenesk told The Oban Times: 'Ben has had two very close bouts before this one. He lost the first by a single point

and the second on countback, so I knew he was due for a decision to go his way.'

'I am delighted that he got this one but he had to fight all the way for it which makes it even more deserved.'

Ben Wilson and all of the other Claymores boxers will be in action at their home show in

BOXING

Kinlochleven on December 8. Anyone wishing ticket information can contact on 07799 705 742 or go along to the club during their regular training sessions on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6.30-8.30pm.



Winner for Scotland against Wales: Claymores ABC's Ben Wilson

Lochaber remain unbeaten

SHINTY

LOCHABER secured an unbeaten 2012 league season without hitting a ball after Inverness could not field a team for last Saturday's tie at Spean Bridge.

The forfeiture meant Lochaber were awarded a 5-0 win - the third time the Spean side has been awarded the points in four games since they were confirmed as Marine Harvest North Division One champions.

Lochaber finished the 18-game season with 16 wins and two draws, having scored 87 goals and conceded just 16.

Michael Delaney and his players will now take a well-deserved rest before starting preparations for the Orion Group Premiership season opener in spring 2013.

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Last minute penalty seals victory for Oban Lorne

'We made it hard for ourselves but we came from behind twice to win'

A LAST minute penalty from Craig Wright sealed a superb comeback and a vital win for The Green Machine at home to league leaders Loch Lomond.

With several first team players missing, including Chris McDonald and the Smith twins, the home team put in a spirited performance to stake a claim to the league title.

Loch Lomond started strongly, buoyed by some hard running from their forwards, and soon pushed into the Oban half. They were awarded a penalty on three minutes, but this was kicked left of the posts.

As the game opened up, Oban Lorne debutant Ruairidh Aitken impressed in the back line with some good handling and accurate passes. The former Mid-Argyll ace settled well into his new team and enjoyed testing the Loch Lomond line.

First blood, however, went to Loch Lomond, who took advantage of some missed tackles to power over the Oban try-line. A successful conversion and the visitors were 7-0 up.

Soon after, Oban fly-half Craig Wright sustained an injury, which forced him off the pitch. Taking his place was veteran Billy Thomson. The former Glasgow Academical rolled back the years as his cultured boot went to work, kicking with pinpoint accuracy to gain territory.

Despite some positive forward play, Oban found themselves two tries down shortly after. A speculative kick from the Loch Lomond centre took a good

bounce down the left wing, and the league leaders ran in under the posts. Another well-taken kick left The Green Machine chasing a 14-point lead.

The rain began to pour down heavily as Oban Lorne continued to fight hard for possession. The versatile Ryan Jackson, playing at full back, kept the pressure off with some excellent clearance kicking and bone-shuddering tackling in the back line. The Napier University student was to prove just how adaptable he is later in the game, switching to hooker in the second half.

Shortly before half time, Oban's impressive maul got into gear, driving back the visitors' defensive line. Just as the half was ending, Corrie Louw smashed over the line for the home team's first try of the game. The South African powerhouse let out a roar as he brought Oban back into the game.

This momentum carried forward into the second half and it wasn't long before Oban scored their second try of the afternoon. Some quick ball distribution from scrum-half Fergus Matheson made some space for Neil Rimmer to force the ball down. Another missed conversion left the score at 14-10 to Loch Lomond.

Part of Lorne's dominance was down to Jamie MacMillan, who showed why he was worthy of his second man of the match award this season with a display of textbook lineout technique, winning the ball with vicious regularity from the away team's line-outs.

RUGBY

Tempers began to flare as both teams gave everything they had to secure the win, with the referee's whistle becoming a prominent feature. Loch Lomond were soon to feel the wrath of the match official, as their stand-off was sent to the sin bin for repeated offences at the breakdown.

Smashed

With an extra man, the Green Machine could see the lead in their sights and captain Robin MacQueen led by example when he smashed through the Lomond defensive line and forced the ball down and give Oban a 15-14 lead.

Loch Lomond regained the lead with 15 minutes to play with a well taken penalty but on the stroke of full time Oban had the chance to win the match with a penalty in front of the posts.

Returning to the game after his early injury, Craig Wright showed nerves of steel to fire the ball between the posts. The kick sealed a 18-17 win for Oban Lorne.

There were scenes of jubilation from the fans and players as the men in green celebrated a huge win over the league leaders.

Head coach Corrie Louw said at full time: 'There is no better feeling than this. We made it hard for ourselves but we came from behind twice to win. The boys showed their mental and physical strength today.'

Next weekend, Oban Lorne are in action in the National Bowl competition away to Birkmyre.



Oban Lorne's Corrie Louw brushes aside a Loch Lomond defender during last Saturday's league game at Glencruitten.

Photo: Stephen Lawson

Toby turns the corner to win Tin Farm 5 race

THE ENDURANCE and stamina of Argyll runners was put to the test this week as they took on the hilly Tin Farm 5 race on a muddy track in torrential downpours.

Almost 80 runners took part in the 5.5-mile run through Ormsary Estate, near Kilberry on Sunday, testing the stamina of the most experienced athletes.

The sixth annual race, which has become a popular fixture on the local race calendar, attracted not only local runners but athletes from further afield.

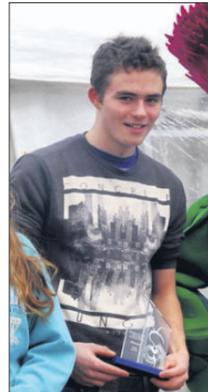
The heavy rain failed to dampen the spirit of Inveraray's Toby Corner who led home the strong field of male runners, lifting the senior male title with a time of 34mins, 34seconds.

Second male senior went to Stuart McGeachy of Campbeltown in a time of 34:38, with third going to Tommy Morran of

Campbeltown in a time of 35:13. Andy Law of Ardrishaig brought home the male veteran runners in a time of 35:15, with Stephen Whiston, also of Ardrishaig, in second on 36:59 and Tim Jackson of Kilberry in third on 39:08.

Campbeltown women dominated the female competition, with Jennifer Martin of the 'wee toon' winning the ladies race and first female senior in a time of 41:03. Second female senior went to Emma Morran of Campbeltown in a time of 45:26, whilst Ardrishaig's Sarah Griffin finished third in a time of 45:35.

Bringing home the ladies in the veteran class was Campbeltown's Rachel Edwards in a new female veteran record of 42:20. Jennifer Reid of Campbeltown came in second (44:04) and Jaceyln Richard, also of Camp-



Inveraray's Toby Corner won the sixth Tin Farm 5 race on Sunday. 06. t39res03

ATHLETICS

belton, finished in third place in a time of 45:35.

In the junior boys category William Salton of Ormsary came in first with a time of 44:42, with Ruairidh Donald, also of Ormsary, in second with 44:43.

Freya Corner made it a Corner family double winning the junior girls category in a great time of 45:24, with sister Rosie taking second on 52:36 and Maryann Wylie of Campbeltown in third with 52:58.

The prize for the first local male athlete went to Stuart Crutchfield who finished fifth overall in a new local male record time of 35:23. The local female winner for the second year in a row went to Jackie Preece, also in a new record time of 50:10.

Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Scottish Cup, 3rd round - Antonine v Under 13s, postponed. League games - Antonine v Under 14s and Dalmuir Park v Under 15s, both postponed. Regional Cup, 2nd round - Under 16s 1, Cadzow BC 6. Scoring for Saints was Rhys Cooke. Friendly - Under 17s 1, Campbeltown 4. Netting for the Oban side was Allan MacPhee.

This weekend's fixtures: Scottish Cup, 3rd round - Antonine v Under 13s. League games - Under 14s v Drumchapel United; Goldenhill v Under 15s; Allander v Under 16s. Regional Cup - St Conval's v Under 17s

Race Night raises £1,412 for funds

TENNIS/SQUASH

A RACE night at the Caledonian Hotel helped Oban Tennis and Squash Club raise £1,412 on Friday.

Club secretary Jackie Kersley said: 'Thanks to everyone who donated prizes and supported the event. Thanks also to Harry McMaster for helping organise the event, Neil Armour for being compere Sunny Galbraith and Sandy Rokitta.'

Winter Trophy at Glencruitten

GOLF

THE first round of the Winter Trophy was played on Saturday with Paul Kersley scoring 36 points, Joe McLean and Philip Murphy scoring 35 points.

In the second round played on Sunday John Plunkett and Ian McCuish scored 39 points and Martin Tait scored 37 points.

This weekend there will be a Saturday Stableford.

Results from Islay Golf Club

GOLF

RESULTS from Islay Golf Club: November Medal played Sunday 4 November - 1 Neil Carmichael 82 Less 12 Net 70; 2 Robert Quail 84 Less 13 Net 71; 3 Ian MacCuaig 77 Less 5 Net 72.

Nine-hole medal at Tobermory

GOLF

RESULTS of the Winter nine-hole medal played on Sunday - 1 Paul MacKinnon 33-04-29; 2 Ross Laurie 39-10-29; 3 Alasdair MacLeod 40-10-30.

The junior medal was won by William MacCrone 37-03-34.

Oban golden oldies

OVER 35s FOOTBALL

RESULTS from the Oban Over-35s League: Hydro 3, Taynuilt 5; Clements 6, Sail Trim Coach 1; Teachers 4, Trialists 7.

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OBAN Lorne Rugby Club celebrated new shirts and a new sponsorship deal with local firm MacQueen Brothers with a dramatic last minute win against league leaders Loch Lomond on Saturday. 15_145rugbytrips1

Oban Pool League teams switch to OFS Cup duty this week

POOL

FOR the last four years Markie Dans 'A' and the Lancaster 'A' have traded glory and championships and, ominously for their rivals, both occupy positions one and two after week four of the Oban Pool League.

Defending champions Markie Dans 'A' lead the way by a solitary point after seeing out victory against the Kelvin in an epic tussle.

A rampant Lancaster 'A' showed no signs of fatigue following up their derby success against the Lancaster 'B' on Thursday with an emphatic victory against the Claredon in

a re-arranged clash on Friday evening. The Claredon went into the match full of confidence on the back of their win over Lochnell, unfortunately the Lancaster 'A' proved just too hot to handle.

The Cellar to their credit are hanging on to 'The Big Two's' coat-tails, after finally seeing off the Gluepot, who look like being a good addition to the league.

In Thursday's other clash the Lochavullin took the honours defeating Markie Dans 'B' who even at this stage are favourites for the dreaded wooden spoon.

Week five sees the majority of teams enjoy the luxury of a bye

in The Oban Filling Station Cup first round, although there is one league fixture scheduled to go ahead.

Results: Lochavullin 7, Markie Dans 'B' 3; Markie Dans 'A' 6, Kelvin 4; Lancaster 'B' 3, Lancaster 'A' 7; Cellar 6, Gluepot 4; Lochnell 3 The Claredon 7; Lancaster 'A' 9, Claredon 1

Fixtures: League - Lochavullin v Lochnell; Oban Filling Station Cup, 1st Round - Markie Dans 'A' v Lancaster 'B'; Kelvin v Markie Dans 'B'.

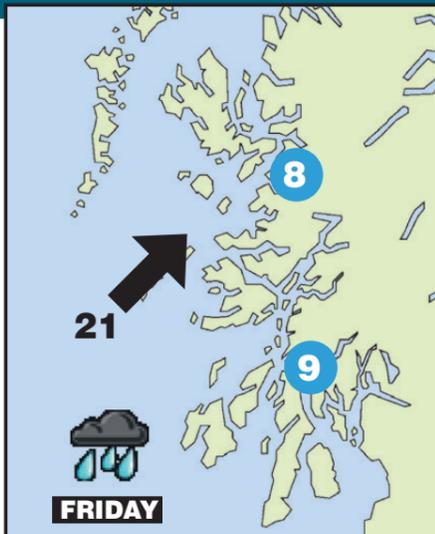
Weather

Thursday Cloudy
Winds moderate west north westerly
Temperatures 8°C to 10°C

Friday Heavy rain
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 9°C.

Weekend Light rain showers
Outlook Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 4°C to 6°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, November 8, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	06.07	1.9	12.38	3.2	19.30	2.0
Thur	00.36	2.9	06.07	1.9	12.38	3.2	19.30
Fri	02.06	3.0	07.15	1.7	14.04	3.4	20.32
Sat	02.54	3.3	08.18	1.5	14.55	3.6	21.21
Sun	03.33	3.5	09.14	1.2	15.39	3.9	22.04
Mon	04.09	3.8	10.05	0.9	16.20	4.1	22.44
Tues	04.46	4.0	10.54	0.7	17.00	4.2	23.25
Wed	05.25	4.1	11.41	0.5	17.42	4.2	*** **

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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The 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

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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Accused fails to appear for trial: arrest warrant issued

A FORT William man accused of driving at speeds of up to 67mph in the town and hitting and injuring a cyclist, leading to his right leg being amputated, has failed to appear for his trial. A warrant was issued for the arrest of Graham Douglas, aged 29, on Tuesday morning at Fort William Sheriff Court. Nineteen witnesses had been due to give evidence at the trial, and 50 potential jury members were sent home. Douglas, of 12b Linnhe Buildings, denies driving dangerously and at grossly excessive speed on Lundavra Road and colliding with Andrew MacLeod, who was on a mountain bike, severely injuring and permanently disfiguring him. The alleged incident happened on March 7 last year.

Highland Games athlete too heavy on accelerator pedal

A HIGHLAND games athlete from Fort William has admitted being too heavy on the accelerator pedal while driving on the A82 north of Spean Bridge. David Hart, who regularly competes in heavy events at games across the Highlands, pled guilty to driving at 95mph in 60mph zone north of Letterfinlay on April 20. The 31-year-old offshore worker, of 15 Lochy Road, Inverlochy, will be sentenced at Fort William Sheriff Court on November 29.

Fort FC jackpot rolls over

A ROLLOVER jackpot of £400 is up for grabs this week in Fort William FC's weekly lotto draw. Numbers last week were 1-7-11.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2004



Phoenix boxers stage show to remember

Lochaber Phoenix boxers put on a show to remember at the Nevis Centre on Saturday night, with a large crowd noisily cheering on the home fighters. Among the starring performers were welterweight Liam Jordan, who recorded a unanimous victory over Aberdeen fighter Arron Logan of Kinloch ABC, and youngsters Chris Bradley who narrowly lost to an opponent two weight divisions above. As well as the bouts, a raffle and auction on the night raised over £1,100 for Lochaber Phoenix ABC. Pictured left to right are Phoenix coach Steve Docherty, junior boxer of the night Chris Bradley, senior boxer of the night Liam Jordan and special guest, promoter Keith Mayo. For a full report and photos from the night, see the sports section. 20_445boxing13

A82 group slams speed cut plan

CONTROVERSIAL proposals to cut the speed limit on the A82 have been slammed by the group campaigning for upgrades to the road. The A82 Partnership says Transport Scotland stands accused of 'shutting down the Highlands' over plans to drop the limit from 60mph to 50mph along 30 miles of the West Highlands' lifeline route. Three sections - Tarbet to Inverarnan, Ballachulish to Fort William and Glen Gloy to Letterfinlay - are being recommended for the slowdown under a Scotland wide review. Councillor Brian Murphy, A82 Partnership chairman fumed: 'It looks as if Transport Scotland prefers to reduce the speed limits rather than invest in the road network to upgrade the road to an acceptable standard. 'By far the majority of the proposed speed reductions are in the Highlands and this obviously reflects the inadequate

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk road infrastructure which we are faced with on a daily basis and which negatively impacts on our economy. 'When you look at what they are now proposing against the background of all too frequent planned and unplanned road closures you have to ask yourself the question are Transport Scotland trying to shut down the Highlands altogether? 'I would urge people to show their displeasure by inundating Transport Scotland with objections to these proposals.' He added: 'The A82 Partnership intend to make representations to the Transport minister, Keith Brown, against the implementation of these further restrictions on the A82.' A TS spokesperson told The Oban Times: 'Any suggestions that speed limits reductions are being implemented in place of investment are both false and unhelpful. The Scottish Government is absolutely committed to upgrading the A82. 'While signs will indicate a reduction from 60 to 50, motorists are not going to see an impact because they are already travelling at that speed or lower. 'The aim of the trunk road speed limit review is to make speed limits more consistent and easily understood by drivers across all our roads. When assessing the A82, issues such as accident rates, recorded average speeds and general road characteristics were considered in proposing the review's recommendations.' Improvement schemes were being taken forward at Pulpit Rock and the Crianlarich bypass, while design work on the Tarbet-Inverarnan stretch was expected to begin next spring, the spokesperson said. A statutory process will now

Fishermen's Mission in Mallaig sold

THE FISHERMEN'S Mission in Mallaig had been sold for £175,000 and will be renamed by its new owners, The Oban Times can reveal.

The imposing building, which dominates the village centre, will be known as Togalach Mhoireasdain (The Morrison Building) after the purchasers, the Mrs K G Morrison Trust. The Sussex-based organisation concluded terms with the Fishermen's Mission last week after protracted negotiations. The property was put on the market two years ago following a downturn in fishing activity. Trust spokesperson Charlie Mills said the door was open for the local community to come forward with business ideas for putting the mission back into productive use.

Changes to the exterior could include a new colour and doors off the pavement on Harbour Street, he said.

Inside, Fishermen's Mission officer Karen Calder will retain offices on the ground floor, while the fishermen's accommodation will be made available

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

nowhere for the coach parties to go, perhaps a group of business people could get together to spread the load.' Mr Mills suggested a back-packing business would be ideally suited to operate from the mission. He added: 'We are doing our bit by splitting it up and making it more attractive. The heating costs are astronomical.' John MacMillan at Mallaig Visitor Centre said the move was good news if the new owners were going to spend money renovating the building. He told *The Oban Times*: 'Most people are happy it's been bought on instead of lying shut.' Asked about the impact on tourism of losing the mission's catering, he added: 'We had a coach tour driver in here asking where they could go with the mission closed. There are other choices in the village.' Fishermen's Mission chief executive David Dickens said: 'The trust seems completely dedicated to providing opportunities and services to the people of Mallaig.'

Two former players take charge at helm of Fort William Shinty Club

FORT William Shinty Club has appointed two former players to take over the managerial reins for next year - Victor Smith and Addie Robertson.

The pair enjoyed great success on the field with Fort, reaching and winning numerous Canna Cup finals and will now be joint managers at the An Aird club.

Former boss Peter MacIntyre stepped down from the post in September due to work commitments after three years in the job.

Robertson told *The Oban Times* the short term aim was to

re-establish Fort William's place at the top of the Orion Group Premiership.

He said: 'Obviously this has all happened quite quickly over the weekend so we've not had a chance to really sit down and discuss it. But we want to get the club back on an even keel, and there is no doubt the ability is there within the playing squad. 'We're very much looking towards the future, there's a lot of young guys that have been brought through to the first team. Some of them might be a bit young still, but I'm sure they can do well for us next year.'

Robertson also said he planned to speak to two or three experienced players who did not play for Fort last year with a view to getting them back involved for 2013.

After spending the first half of last season playing home games at Black Parks in Inverlochy, Robertson said the team would be happy to start the new season at An Aird.

'It's being back at home,' he said. 'With the clubhouse and the crowds and all the regular faces. The pitch will suit our style of play much more than Black Parks as well.'

Ardnamurchan 999 scheme leads the way for rural health care

THE 999 emergency responder scheme recently set up in west Ardnamurchan could be used as a model for future cover in rural areas across the country, according to the Scottish Ambulance Service. A scheme agreed earlier this year aims to have a retained emergency responder team made up of six qualified medical professionals providing 24-hour cover for the area. Four responders have so far been appointed. Area manager Alan Knox addressed a meeting of Lochaber District Partnership in Fort William on Tuesday, and said the new system had attracted attention from areas such as Orkney and Caithness. He said: 'I've had requests from other communities for wanting what Kilchoan has got.

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK

It's been quite expensive to set up this scheme, but I think it could be used as a model for other rural areas.'

West Ardnamurchan Community Council chair Rosie Curtis said one of the aims of the community's long battle to secure cover after the district nursing cover ended last year was to set up a viable model for other similar areas.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'If there's something we have set up down here that gets rolled out to other rural areas, I'd be quite proud.'

Meanwhile, a group set up to find new ways to deliver NHS services in the Highlands and islands

is to launch a pilot project to develop a new model for primary care in NHS Highland.

The Dewar Centenary Group will develop the plan with Scottish Government and NHS Highland.

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson said: 'Remote and rural regions, such as those found in my constituency, face different challenges in delivery primary care services.

'I have high hopes that this pilot will provide valuable lessons not only for the future of NHS Highland but throughout Scotland.'

NHS Highland board chair Garry Coutts said: 'This project gives us the chance to work with patients, the public and all of the professions to try to find ways of working that is fit for the 21st Century and will serve us into the future.'

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Invergarry man guilty of assault

A FIGHT in a Fort William pub has cost an Invergarry man £210. Derek Tougher, of 3 Garry Bank, pled guilty to assaulting a man in the Maryburgh Inn by punching him on the head to his injury on April 2. Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'He punched him once and connected with his right eye. The victim fell to the ground as a result.' The man was left with bruising around his eye but did not require medical treatment. Defending Togh, Hamish Melrose said the incident was 'out of character' for the 27-year-old.

Holidaymaker admits hitting car

AN ELDERLY holidaymaker who drove into the side of a car in a Fort William car park before driving away has been fined £200 and given seven penalty points. Michael Thompson, of 9 Rutherglen Close, Rugeley, Staffordshire admitted hitting the car outside Morrisons supermarket and failing to give insurance details on July 18. The 68-year-old told police he had heard 'a noise' but did not realise he had hit another vehicle. However, Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'Witnesses saw the driver get out and have a look at the damage before driving off.'

Stroke service in running for award

A STROKE rehabilitation service at Western Isles Hospital could be named as winners at the Scottish Health Awards 2012 in Edinburgh's Corn Exchange today (Thursday). Joan Frieslick and her team in Stornoway are nominees for the Innovating for Quality award. Faced with no stroke consultant in the hospital's six-bed stroke unit, Ms Frieslick recruited NHS Lanarkshire consultants to provide expert assistance via video-link. The service ensures stroke patients receive top-level care in cost-effective way without having to travel to the mainland. NHS Western Isles chief executive Gordon Jamieson said the nomination was 'an incredible achievement'.

Fine and points for illegal driver
A FORT William man who has held a provisional driving licence for 29 years has admitted illegally driving home from work alone. Thomas Richardson, of 33 Castle Drive, Lochyside, pled guilty to driving unaccompanied and without 'L' plates on North Road and the B80006 Lochyside to Caol road on August 22 and driving without insurance. Justice of the Peace Alistair Gibson fined the 61-year-old £420 and gave him six penalty points.

New manager takes the helm of Skye trust

THE CLAN Donald Lands Trust in southern Skye has appointed a new general manager following a nine-month 'root and branch' review of its operations across its 20,000-acre landholdings around Armadale.

Stephen McKeown will head a major modernisation drive to boost profitability and sustainability, while forging much closer links with the local community.

Staff on the estate and visitor centre at Armadale Castle have also been handed new roles under the shake-up.

CDLT trustees ordered the review after deciding the ongoing difficult financial climate meant radical change was needed.

Mr McKeown, who is originally from St Andrews but grew up on the west of Scotland near Hamilton, said he was delighted to be playing 'a key role' for the trust - the area's second largest employer after Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

He said: 'It's an exciting challenge and I'm very much looking forward to working with

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

colleagues, trustees, friends and the local community in delivering for the trust the success it deserves.

'The new staff structure is all about empowering people to do the jobs that need to be done in a thriving, modern organisation.

'The trust will be able both to meet its charitable objectives and play a key role in the area's future, by providing employment, developing collaborative projects, enriching the environment and helping the whole area to flourish.'

CDLT trustee Jamie MacDonald said a new executive committee, Mr McKeown's appointment and staff restructuring were 'first important steps' towards making the trust 'fit for purpose'.

He said: 'The management, staff and trustees recognise their responsibilities to the Clan Donald Lands Trust and to Sleaf and are working together to ensure the long term sustainability of the trust,

both for itself and the benefit of the wider community - a very exciting prospect.'

Sleaf Community Trust, which supports sustainable economic, environmental and social development on the Sleaf peninsula, backed the review.

SCT manager Angus Robertson said: 'Sleaf Community Trust welcomes the prospect of closer working links with Clan Donald Lands Trust.'

'We wish Stephen well in his new position and look forward to working with him on building closer ties between us in a multitude of areas.'

Clan Donald members set up the trust 41 years ago to purchase and maintain the estate on Sleaf - one of the last remnants of the traditional lands of the Macdonalds - and to preserve and present the history of Clan Donald and the Lordship of the Isles. The estate attracts around 40,000 visitors a year and counts the castle, the Museum of the Isles, woodland gardens and an arboretum among its attractions.



Clan Donald Lands Trust trustee Jamie MacDonald, left, welcomes new general manager Stephen McKeown.

Three stand for election

THREE candidates will vie for the vacant Comhairle nan Eilean Siar ward in Lewis in a by-election later this month.

The Sgir 'Uige agus Ceann A Tuath nan Loch ward is currently unrepresented after SNP councillor Bill Houston died suddenly at home aged 60 in September.

John Norman MacDonald, of point, will stand for the SNP against independent candidates Les Mac an Ultaigh and Angus MacDonald Morrison, both of Balalan.

Voting will be held between 7am and 10pm on Thursday November 29.

Captivating story brings teacher to Glencoe

AREMARKABLE link between the Glencoe Macdonalds and Japan has inspired an American woman teaching English to students in the Land of the Rising Sun.

Patrice Spendell was working in her adopted home of Nagoya, Japan's third biggest city, when she learned she was following in the footsteps of Ranald MacDonald, the son of Glencoe native Archibald MacDonald.

Patrice, originally of Spokane, Washington State, was so captivated by the duo's incredible story that she recently made a pilgrimage to the glen, the birthplace of Archibald in 1790.

With help from Glencoe Heritage Trust, Patrice discovered how Archibald, born at Leacantim and one of 12 children, was chosen by the Earl of Selkirk to take around 100 people to North America to make better lives for themselves.

After an arduous journey the party landed at Red River settlement in what is now Manitoba, where Archibald, aged only 21, set 'his' people to work farming and logging.

Later he became a director in the Hudson Bay Company - but it was his son who would go on to blaze a new trail in the Far East.

Patrice said: 'Ranald MacDonald, (1824-1894) was the first native English speaker to teach English in Japan. When he arrived in Japan it was closed to foreigners and all who entered were killed. Ranald was not a missionary or a merchant, so what was his mission?'

'The answer, I found, lies in the views of the Glencoe highlands, adventure, and friendship. Ranald first landed in Rishiri Island, Hokkaido, he began teaching English, later being imprisoned, though still teaching English. He later managed to catch a whaling ship and on to further adventures.'

'I have visited Ranald's grave in Toroda, Washington State. I also travelled to Rishiri Island in Japan, where he first landed. Now I have come to Glencoe to visit Archibald's home - Leacantim, where the MacDonald roots lie.'



Inspired by Glencoe: Patrice Spendell followed in Ranald MacDonald's footsteps to Japan.

Archibald MacDonald's Hudson Bay Company connections, Patrice said, enabled him to make many friends, including Donald Alexander Smith (Lord Strathcona), whom he referred to as 'our Donald'.

Smith built Glencoe House, an imposing sandstone mansion above the village, which became an NHS hospital after the Second World War before being sold last year and converted into luxury holiday accommodation.

According to Patrice, Archibald, a father of 12, was 'a true family man who invited all round his table'.

'That was a true indication of the Highland gentleman he was,' she said. 'He never sought, or received, any titles for all his businesses and achievements. More importantly, he never forgot his roots, calling his home near the Lake of Two Mountains, Montreal, 'Glencoe Cottage'.'

She added: 'Though things may change, the views at Glencoe inspire and fill me with a sense of connection, people, place, and purpose.'

An international friendship organisation now celebrates Ranald MacDonald around the world.

For more information on Ranald MacDonald visit www.glencoe-heritage-trust.com.



West Highland College UHI students celebrate their graduation. 20_145grad01



Piper Raj Smith leads out staff and students for the procession along the parade before the ceremony. 20_145grad02

West Highland UHI students celebrate graduation

Principal thanks local industry partners

MORE than 80 West Highland College UHI students picked up their certificates at a celebration, achievement and graduation ceremony in Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church, Fort William.

All the graduates and achievers from the college were present to receive their awards, and student of the year Alastair Buchanan, from Kirkcubright, was presented with his cheque for £150 by college chair Dr Michael Foxley.

Each course student of the year, nominated by their individual course leaders, was also recognised on the day.

Before the celebrations, the group, along with staff and guests was led by mace bearer Ciera Harvey along The Parade.

Ciera, a fourth year student in Cultural Studies, was chosen to carry the mace due to her contribution to student life.

College principal Lydia Rohmer thanked local industry partners and supporters in her speech.

She said: 'A college is a community of learners and learning together is at the core of this college community. At West Highland College UHI, our learners actively contribute to this community of learning in many different ways.

'Learning does not just stay within the confines of a classroom, but our learners actively engage in activities which shape the culture, spirit and ethos of the college in



Fourth year student Ciera Harvey was chosen to carry the mace for the procession. 20_145grad03

each of our nine - soon to be 10 - learning centres throughout the West Highlands. Many of our achievers here today have been with the college for more than one year and have taken up the many opportunities provided by our college from entry through to degree level qualifications. We congratulate them all.'

Film maker and TV producer Richard Else delivered the keynote speech, and told the students: 'Today, you are at the peak of an achievement looking outwards to the next, celebrate it and enjoy it.'

After the ceremony, the students enjoyed a grand graduation ball in the Alexandra Hotel, organised by a former event planning student at the college, Lisa Donaldson.

Fort William turns pink for charity campaign

SHOPS and businesses in Fort William have been turning the town pink for Lochaber Together for Cancer Research UK's new breast cancer awareness campaign this week.

The charity is encouraging all businesses in the town centre to create colourful window displays, with the public then voting who has done it best.

Charity vice chairman Billy Ward said: 'Voting forms will be available in all participating businesses, with the winners being presented with a certificate. Last year's winner was Toymaster.'

Meanwhile, a recent collection day for Cancer Research UK at Tesco on the High Street raised a total of £1,014.36.

Forum welcomes good news on Harris Tweed

THE HARRIS Tweed Industry Forum has welcomed news that 2012 has been the best for the cloth in nearly 15 years.

Its meeting in Stornoway last week heard around 40 Harris Tweed weavers have entered the workforce since 2009. Harris Tweed Hebrides chief executive Ian Angus Mackenzie said: 'We are confident that we currently have the right balance in terms of number of weavers, weaver capacity and market demand.'

The Carloway Mill's Bruce Armitage said 'a stable weaver population' was vital to continued success. And Lorna Macaulay, Harris Tweed Authority chief executive welcomed the 'increasing appetite' for the cloth at home and overseas.

Northern Constabulary 'delighted' at public response to community survey

ALMOST 2,000 people across the Highlands and Islands have responded so far to Northern Constabulary's community consultation survey, latest figures show.

Police and partners sent out 10,000 forms to households in the biennial exercise.

The results will focus police, Crown Office and court service

attention on what the public feel are their priorities to enhance safety across the North. Previous surveys have led to speeding, alcohol related crime and antisocial behaviour being directly targeted.

The consultation is being implemented six months earlier in order to provide findings for use by the new Police Service of Scotland, which

replaces the eight regional forces next April.

Northern Constabulary Chief Constable George Graham was 'delighted' with the response so far.

Urging people to return the survey as soon as possible, he said: 'There has never been a more important time in the Highlands and Islands to make your opinions known.'



Beachd Ailein
Ailean Caimbeul

BHA E tàmailteach a bhith a' leughadh litir anns a' phàipear seo a' cur sìos air Gàidhlig agus a' cultar, ach air an laimh eile carson a bhiodh luchd-leughaidh Tim an Obain eadar-dhealichte bho phàipearan eile.

Tha mi fhìn cha mhòr aig an ìre far nach eil mi deònach am maghar a' ghabhail tuilleadh, ach an drasta 's a rithist chì mi rudeigin a tha ga mo ruigeadh chun na h-ìre 's nach urrainn dhomh gun freagairt a thoirt!

Chan-e fiù 's a bhurraidheachd far am bheil leithid de dh'ionnsaigh ga thoirt air mion-chànan na dùthaich fhèin as miosa, ach an t-ainceolas a tha an luib mòran de na tha a' nochdadh. Chan eil mise air coinneachadh air Maighstir Rodger neo bhithinn an dòchas gum biodh e mothachail gum bheil fileantaich Ghàidhlig againn, ach tha mi a' creidsinn gum bheil na ceudan de dh' fhileantaich ann an sgìre an Obain a bheireadh beagan leirsinn dha! Tha gnàth-facal ann am Beurla - chan aithne dhomh gum bheil a leithid againn ann an Gàidhlig - gur e sòlas a th'ann an ainceolas, agus 's e mo bheachd gum bu chòir dha Maighstir Rodger a bhith glè shona oir tha mòran ann nach eil e a' tuigsinn a-rèir coltais!

An dèidh linn-tean de gheur-leamhainn air Gàidhlig tha Riaghaltas mu dheireadh mothachail gur e pàirt luachmhor de dhualchas nàiseanta na h-Alba a th' innte agus gum bheil dleastanas aige a dhion is a ghleidheadh. Gun teagamh bha cùisean air a bhith na b' fhearr nan robh am mothachadh agus an taice sin air tighinn bho chionn leth-cheud bliadhna, ach tha e air tachairt ri linn spàirn mhòr a rinn Gàidheil fhèin. Thar nan deich bliadhna fichead a chaidh fhad 's a bha fileantaich, luchd-ionnsachaidh is luchd-taice a' dèanamh sin, bha iad cuideachd ag obair cuide ri Eòrpaich a bha a' riochdachadh còrr air leth-cheud millean luchd-labhairt mhion-chànan eile. Tha an Roinn Eòrpa glè mothachail air Gàidhlig! Tha mi toilichte gum bheil Maighstir Rodger a' tuigsinn an fheum a rinn a' Ghàidhlig ann an Dùn Ormhainn, agus dh'iarraim a chur na shealladh gum bheil cuideachd luchd do-chreidsinneach innte dha eaconamaidh na dùthcha ma gheirmicheas tionnsgalan Albanach de gach seòrsa air iomhaigh margaideachd a tha cho barraichte. Agus ma tha Maighstir Rodger ag iarraidh maoin a thrusadh ma choinneimh gainnead sam bith bhiodh e mòran na bu bhunnachdail dha ionnsaidh a thoirt air ionmhas mòr na Beurla seach mogan beag na Gàidhlig!

IT IS SADDENING to see any minority being bullied, and particularly one being attacked in its homeland.

Mr Rodger was correct, Oban Times November 1, in admitting his lack of understanding vis-a-vis Gaelic and I am sure many hundreds of fluent Gaelic speaking readers would be happy to help educate him.

Aside from the responsibility which Government has to support so valuable a part of Scotland's national heritage, it recognises that its modest investment in Gaelic has the potential to return substantial economic as well as cultural benefits. Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell) ailean@obantimes.co.uk.

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Caol man accused of pointing air rifle at youths

A CAOL man has appeared in court accused of pointing an air rifle at three youths and threatening to shoot them.

Appearing from custody, David MacKay pled not guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner, which was likely to cause fear or alarm at MacMillan Place in the village on October 31.

The 30-year-old is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on December 17, with a preliminary hearing set for November 21.

Shaven-headed MacKay, of 19 MacMillan Place, was released on bail under strict instructions not to approach or contact any of the three alleged victims.

Fort William chef drove without insurance

A FORT William chef drove his friend's 4x4 Nissan Navara in the town without realising he was not insured.

Christian Hodgson, of 7 Glenloch Road, pled guilty to driving on Kilmallie Road with no insurance on February 27.

The 25-year-old claimed his friend Matthew Rosbottom, who was living in Loch Linnhe Caravan Park at the time, told him he had paid for temporary insurance.

Hodgson, who works at the Ben Nevis Inn, said: 'I trusted him as a friend. I asked to see the documents but he said he couldn't get mail at the caravan site.'

Justice of the Peace Alistair Gibson accepted Hodgson's version of events and fined him £100. Rosbottom, meanwhile, faces charges of causing or permitting Hodgson to drive without insurance.

Hoax caller sentenced to unpaid work

A KINLOCHLEVEN man called police claiming someone had tied his feet together - only for officers to discover his legs were caught on his shoes.

The claim was one of five false 999 calls for police and ambulances made by John Davidson, of 15 Glendale Road, on October 18 and 19.

Davidson pled guilty to making unnecessary 999 calls for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety.

Ordering the 58 year-old to carry out 60 hours unpaid work, Sheriff Noel McPartlin said: 'Someone could have genuinely needed help. By calling out the services you could have prevented that.'

Golf club prizegiving

FORT William Golf Club will hold its annual prizegiving and race night in the clubhouse on Saturday at 7.15pm. Free entry.

Got a story for The Oban Times? Call our reporters on 01397 703003



Primary pupils brush up on rural skills

Around 60 primary school pupils enjoyed a day of learning a variety of rural skills at Lochaber Rural Education Centre on Tuesday. Youngsters from Banavie and Caol were shown how to churn butter, make their own jam and cakes, how to make felt bookmarks and were also given a lesson in willow weaving by Dornie-based Monique Bervoets. Making butter, from left, are Anna MacDonald, Cameron Clark, Lucy Fraser and Robbie Murray. 20_145Rural01

Dream mascot role for Ardgour's John

A 12-YEAR-OLD Ardnarmurchan High School pupil will be the proudest boy in Lochaber on Sunday when he walks out on to Murrayfield as a Scotland rugby team mascot.

John Clark from Ardgour village was chosen for the dream role after being nominated by Lochaber Rugby Club, where he was Primary 6/7 player of the year last season.

First year pupil John, who is coached by club stalwart Gary Hendrie at Banavie, has already been playing the game for three years. He was thrilled when he

heard he had been picked - and now hopes to bring his country luck against the world's best side, the All Blacks.

John told *The Oban Times*: 'When the club phoned me to let me know, I was really excited. Hopefully I will help Scotland win against New Zealand.'

Mum Heather added: 'I'm really proud of him.'

'He really enjoys his rugby - it's a great game and the club really looks after the kids well.'

John also received free tickets to the game and £200 of Scotland rugby kit.



John Clark from Ardgour: heading to Murrayfield on Sunday as a Scotland team mascot. 20_145John01

Court hears man kicked dog in head

A FORMER Fort William man has denied kicking a dog on the head in the town's high street.

Appearing from custody, Scott MacKinnon, of Hazeldean House, Lochalsh Road, Inverness, pled not guilty to kicking the dog on May 12.

The 36-year-old was released on bail to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on December 17.



Corpach's Donna strikes Mod gold

Corpach youngster Donna MacLeod struck gold at the recent Royal National Mod in Dunoon, winning the girls solo singing ages 9-11 last year in Stornoway. The Banavie Primary School pupil won the same category for ages 9-10 last year in Stornoway. Donna is pictured outside The Oban Times office in Fort William with her trophy and medal. 20_145mod01

Highland community pharmacies target men

COMMUNITY pharmacies in the Highlands are targeting men after new figures showed women are twice more likely to check out prescription medicines before taking them.

The National Pharmacy Association survey also found nine in 10 men say they don't like to trouble a doctor or pharmacist unless they have a serious problem, while a third get their partner to collect their medicines. Clare Morrison, NHS Highland north lead pharmacist said: 'We want men to take control of their medicines and their wellbeing.'

'Ask Your Pharmacist' Week began on Monday with pharmacies displaying 'Two Small Steps for Men' window posters.

Lifesaving heart start machine for Invergarry

Portree charity chips in with funds to help groups secure defibrillator

INVERGARRY is to get its own heart defibrillator - thanks to a successful fundraising campaign and Portree-based charity Lucky2Bhere.

Invergarry Sheepdog Society, the local community council and The Glengarry Trust all made donations towards the lifesaving equipment, then Lucky2Bhere chipped in with the balance.

The charity will despatch a Heartstart Skye team down to Invergarry to provide training on basic CPR and using the defibrillator, once 10 local volunteers have been signed up.

The Invergarry machine will be based centrally - possibly in the village post office. Leaflets will be circulated round local businesses advising on the location of the defibrillator once the project is up and running.

Portree man Ross Cowie set up Lucky2Bhere in 2009 after

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Mr Cowie, 52, told *The Oban Times* Scotland lags far behind Scandinavia.

There, emergency life support (ELS) provision is far superior and one in four cardiac arrest victims survive, compared with one in 200 in this country.

He said: 'Having a team trained in CPR and using a defibrillator in Glengarry gives anybody suffering a cardiac arrest a chance of surviving.'

'The nearest ambulance is in Fort William - but if you have a cardiac arrest you only have five minutes.'

Anyone wishing more information and/or to book a place for the training session, which will be in Glengarry Community Hall, can contact Lea McNally on 01809511220.

No one who completes the training is obliged to use the machine in an emergency.

Brothers guilty of Fort William party fight chaos

TWO BROTHERS smashed windows and fought with police and other partygoers during a fracas at a birthday party in Fort William on Saturday night.

Appearing from custody, Ian Roy, of 59 Carn Dearg, Claggan and Frazer Roy, of 38 Blaeberryhill Road, Whitburn, pled guilty to a total of seven charges of assault, threatening and abusive behaviour, damaging property and resisting arrest at the BA Club.

Ian Roy pled guilty to attempting to fight with police and others, being continually aggressive and shouting and swearing. The 28 year-old also admitted resisting two police officers by lashing out with his

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

arms and legs, attempting to pull away, struggling and refusing to allow handcuffs to be put on him. His brother Frazer Roy pled guilty to picking up a chair and using it to smash a window, and smashing the glass in a door by punching it.

The 25 year-old kicked a police officer on the leg and smashed the window of a police vehicle by kicking it.

He also admitted resisted arrest by struggling violently, attempting to fight with police and others, being continually aggressive and shouting and swearing.

Ian Roy denied a charge of punching a police officer on the head, while Frazer Roy pled not guilty to lunging at an officer and attempting to headbutt her. Procurator fiscal Alison Wylie accepted the not guilty pleas.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin released the pair on bail on the condition they stay away from the BA Club.

Defence solicitor Hamish Melrose said the brothers, whose mother was in court, would have 'no problem' complying with the bail conditions.

Sheriff McPartlin deferred sentencing until December 3 for reports, telling the brothers there was a 'real possibility' of a custodial sentence.

Sheriff's jail warning to man guilty of violent attack

A MAN has admitted violently attacking and permanently disfiguring two men during a drunken brawl near Fort William High Street last summer.

Ian MacDonald Ward of 68 Mosshead Road, Bearsden, Glasgow, pled guilty to assaulting Fort William Shinty Club player Alex Duncan by striking him with a bottle on the neck and body to his severe injury.

The 22-year-old also admitted assaulting Ryan Black with the bottle, by striking him on the

head to his injury. The incidents took place on Ainslie Lane at around 1am on July 29 2011. Two other men - Kris Divers, aged 22, of 32 Netherwood Road, Motherwell, Stephen McElroy, aged, 29, of 54 Hamilton Road, Airdrie - were accused of being involved in the fight, but had not guilty pleas accepted by Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin deferred sentencing Ward until December 3 for reports, warning him he could face jail.



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Eilean Bàn Trust outlines moves to ensure island's long-term future

THE SUCCESSFUL campaign to keep Ring of Bright Water author Gavin Maxwell's former home in public hands will be celebrated in Kyleakin next Tuesday night.

Local residents at a public meeting in the village hall will hear how Eilean Bàn, the island under the Skye Bridge, was saved from being sold on the open market.

Eilean Bàn Trust chairman Hugh Davies will also outline moves to secure a long term lease with Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS), the isle's new owners.

The trust runs the Gavin Maxwell Museum and Loch Alsh lighthouse, which was part-created by celebrated lighthouse designer Thomas Stevenson.

It also protects wildlife on Eilean Bàn, including the otters made famous by Maxwell in his novels.

Doubt was cast over the site when Transport Scotland announced it was offloading the six-acre island.

The trust enlisted the help of local MSP Dave Thompson and a vociferous campaign led to FCS taking ownership, ensuring public access would be maintained.

Trust chairman Hugh Davies told *The Oban Times* talks were scheduled next month with FCS and land agents to discuss extending the existing lease, which expires in 2015.

He said: 'We are looking for something which would allow us to get multiple bids of Lottery funding - ideally a lease upwards of

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

50 years - and also for projects we want to have a go at now.

'It means we would have the long term security of tenure we need to make proper plans to keep the island going as a proper memorial to Gavin Maxwell, to keep the lighthouse heritage that's there from the Stevenson lighthouse and also as a wildlife haven.'

'Once that's in place it will be a lot simpler and we can start thinking about what to do.'

He added: 'I am delighted that the efforts of the trust and our MSP Dave Thompson have resulted in Eilean Bàn being retained in public hands, preserving it as a visitor attraction, heritage site, wildlife haven and community asset.'

'This outcome has removed a great weight from the shoulders of the trustees and we now look forward to a secure future for the island with Forestry Commission Scotland as our landlords.'

Mr Davies added: 'Anybody who is interested in the trust can come along to the meeting. Eilean Bàn is a community asset as well as being part of Maxwell's heritage.'

After the short presentation, a discussion on Eilean Bàn's future will form the first part of a community consultation on the trust's future plans. The meeting starts at 7.30pm.

Elderly Skye woman dies after being found on shore near Dunvegan home

AN ELDERLY woman has died after being found on the shore near her home in northwest Skye.

Moirra Ewbank, 77, was reported missing after leaving her house in Harloch, near Dunvegan at 1am on Tuesday morning. 'When last seen she was wearing Wellington boots and a jacket. Her disappearance sparked a huge search operation involving

coastguard volunteers, police, mountain rescue teams and SARDA search dogs

Northern Contabulary said Ms Ewbank was found at about 8.30am and was airlifted to the MacKinnon Memorial Hospital in Broadford, where she was pronounced dead just before 9am. Police report that there do not appear to be any suspicious circumstances.

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Oban hospital patients hit by virus outbreak

A WARD in Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, was operating 'restricted admissions', as *The Oban Times* went to press after an outbreak of the airborne norovirus.

Five patients and several members of staff in ward B have been affected by the virus, which causes diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting.

NHS Highland said on Tuesday afternoon that one of the patients had been discharged and that there had been no new cases in the preceding 24 hours.

Dr Sarah Whitehead, infection control doctor, said it was likely the virus had been brought into the hospital by a visitor.

She added: 'As well as restricting visiting to the affected ward we are also asking people not to come to the hospital to visit if they have had any vomiting or diarrhoea within the previous 48 hours.'

Cinema strikes up the band for Winter Festival

A BRASS band is to perform at a concert at Oban Phoenix Cinema as part of the town's 10-day Winter Festival.

ArtsQwest will bring 10 musicians to the George Street venue on Sunday, November 18, which will also be an open day for people to see round the revived picture house.

A series of winter-themed films are also scheduled as the cinema joins the festivities in style.

The open day gets underway at noon, with the ArtsQwest concert starting at 1pm. Booking for the concert is essential.

Cinema manager Fee Shaw said: 'People can come take a look around the building, see 'cinema two' as it currently stands and the projection room before the concert starts.'

See full Winterfest story, page 8.



Fewer than 30 people turned up for Saturday's community bonfire, held at Mossfield's blaes pitch. 15_145bonfire1

'Wrong' call on fireworks

Councillor apologises for bonfire fiasco

THE COUNCILLOR who suggested cancelling Oban's annual fireworks display because of administrative difficulties has apologised following the public outcry over the paltry bonfire that took its place.

Oban councillor Fred Hall says he will accept criticism from the community after fewer than 30 people turned up for a hastily arranged bonfire on Mossfield's blaes pitch on Saturday.

More than 130 comments were submitted to *The Oban Times* Facebook page after a photograph of this year's event was posted on Saturday evening. An overwhelming majority criticised the decision not to hold a fireworks display, with many angry more wasn't made of the publicity gained for the town after footage of last year's accidental 50-second display made news bulletins across the world.

Councillor Hall, who joined the fireworks committee shortly after being elected in May, said financial concerns were at the

root of the decision - one he accepts was 'incorrect' even in the wake of proposed job cuts at the council.

However, the matter was complicated by the death of two signatories to the Fireworks Committee account, late councillors Donald MacDonald and Donald 'Skye' McIntosh.

Difficulties with the bank meant the £1,896.82 raised last year could only be moved into a new account in October. Now standing at £1,917.79, the account remains live and will be used for the sole purpose of fireworks next year. *The Oban Times* has seen an up-to-date copy of the committee's bank statement.

After that situation was resolved in early October, councillor Hall made an application to Oban Common Good Fund for £5,000 to meet the remaining cost of the event. However, he suggested withdrawing the application after Oban Winter Festival - an entirely separate organisation made up of com-

munity volunteers - asked for £2,600 to go towards its finale.

The board, consisting of councillor Hall and colleagues Iain MacDonald, Alastair MacDougall and chairwoman Elaine Robertson - agreed with Mr Hall's proposal in light of stretched resources.

Councillor Hall said: 'As an economic judgement, I made the right decision. As a political and social judgement, it was wrong. I accept that. Hands up, I should have told people sooner.'

Councillor MacDonald agreed it was a committee decision.

He said: 'We agreed with the proposal. In hindsight that may have been a bad decision.'

Councillor Hall and party colleague Louise Glen-Lee paid £140 between them out of their own pockets to ensure a bonfire was held, rather than nothing.

Apologising for the debacle, the former policeman said: 'The bottom line is it is going to be funded next year by private funds raised by me.'

Glensanda Quarry owner allays job fears

THE OWNER of Glensanda Quarry has moved to allay job fears after telling staff the site was scaling back operations until the end of the year.

Glensanda - one of the largest quarries in Europe - will cease production for four to five weeks, reducing the hours of many workers.

Quarry owner Aggregate Industries said that although the construction industry was quiet at this time there was no threat to the business or future orders and no-one would lose out on pay. A company spokesman said: 'One of our ships is due to go into dry dock, so we took the decision that while one was

going in, the other might as well go in too because it is fair to say this time of year is more quiet in the construction industry. The order book is healthy for next year, so we have decided to take the back end of this year to get in ship-shape for 2013. 'We will still have activity at the site, such as maintenance,

but the workers will be doing shorter hours, or told not to turn up. However, no-one is going to be losing any salary.'

Aggregate Industries said it was unsure how many staff would be affected by the temporary reduced workload, as the situation is updated week by week.

Mull community unites to back fish farm

A COMMUNITY united - that was the message at a planning hearing on the Isle of Mull as councillors voted unanimously to approve plans for a fish farm.

The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) applied for permission to construct a fin fish farm in Loch Tuath off Gometra on the west of Mull.

The plans were recommended for approval by Argyll and Bute Council's planning department.

Penny Hawdon of SSC said she wanted to thank the 'people living and working on Mull who have supported us through the application process'.

An extra four jobs will

be created when the site is developed bringing the total of full time SSC staff on the island to 14.

Many locals voiced their support for the plans at the hearing in Dervaig Village Hall. Rebecca Munro lives and runs a business on Ulva. She said: 'There have been a lot of positive community benefits, a lot of people have family members who rely on fish farm jobs.'

She added: 'I would prefer it if objectors would tell the truth. The more mistruths that are told the stronger the community gets.'

A last minute letter had been received by the council on Friday. It came from environmental lawyers employed by the owner of Gometra, Roc Sandford, and claimed approving the plans would be in breach of EU law.

Principal planning officer Richard Kerr said: 'It is regrettable such a late representation has been made and I would suggest it is a tactical ploy to inhibit due process.'

The letter also suggested that there would be a legal challenge mounted to any permission granted by the planning committee. Mr Sandford had raised concerns during the

hearing about boat navigation should cages be installed but this was disputed by qualified navigators.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I think everyone on Gometra is extremely disappointed that legitimate safety concerns were ignored.'

Speaking after the hearing, Stewart McLelland, chief executive of SSC, said: 'We're delighted that the planning committee have approved our proposals.'

'We look forward to working with the people of Mull and developing and supporting the island as we go forward.'

'Bedroom tax' condemned

ARGYLL'S housing associations have hit out at a new 'bedroom tax' that will see 928 local households lose a combined £556,000 housing benefit annually.

From April 1 2013, Westminster legislation will see social housing tenants with one spare bedroom lose 14 per cent of their benefit, while those with two or more spare rooms will lose 25 per cent. On average, affected Argyll and Bute tenants will lose £600 a year.

Pensioners are exempt, but disabled tenants and families will be hit by the system.

Children under 16 of the same gender are expected to share, as will children under 10 regardless of gender. A disabled tenant or partner who needs non-resident overnight carer will be allowed an extra room.

If parents are separated, only those in receipt of child benefit can deem a second bedroom as used.

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

He said: 'We think it's grossly unfair. It is almost as if someone has decided to just have a massive social experiment.'

A Tیره man who has a second bedroom so his daughter from a previous relationship can stay, said: 'There isn't the housing on Tیره so I can't downsize so it's a huge kick.'

'It's a massive anxiety to put on people. It's not fair to introduce a 'one size fits all' policy.'

Argyll and Bute's deputy lead councillor for housing, Oban's Iain MacDonald, said: 'It's really only being applied to people who cannot afford it.'

'People will be pulled into rent arrears from direct payments without knowing it, then the associations will be left with a problem. It is of extreme concern.'

Argyll and Bute Council have set up a 'golden number' for people concerned about the tax, 01546 605512.

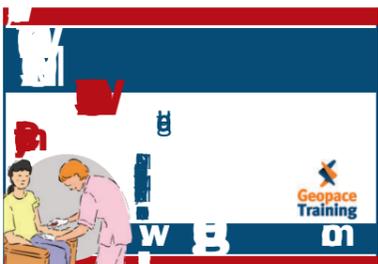
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Lorn Lines

OBAN Camera Club held its second competition of the season on Monday, October 29 when the subject was 'Monochrome' - a prints only competition. All of the prints were of a very high standard but the best image of the evening, voted for by club members, was a still life image taken by Hugh Wilson. Runner up was a landscape by John Douglas. The club's next meeting will be on November 12 in the Regent Hotel, Oban, at 7.30pm.



Standing at the summit of Skolio peak, Mount Olympus, Graham Chadwick, Sandy Jackson and Gordon McNab.

AN OBAN solicitor has battled bad weather to climb to the summit of Mount Olympus in Greece for charity. Gordon McNab, of Stevenson Kennedy Solicitors in Oban, ascended the home of Greece's ancient gods last week in wet and windy conditions and has donated the money he raised to the Oban Carer's Centre in Albany Street. Gordon, who was joined by friends Graham Chadwick and Sandy Jackson on the climb, said: 'It was a great experience. The bad weather was a benefit as it kept the temperature down and you could not see how far you could fall!' The Oban Carer's Centre provides help and advice for dementia and Alzheimer's carers, young carers and with bereavement counselling. Gordon added: 'This is a great facility for Oban. A huge thank you is due to everyone who has donated so far and so generously.' Skolio peak, which is at the top of Mount Olympus is 2,912m high. To make a donation contact Gordon at Stevenson Kennedy, 01631 562317.



Five pupils from Oban High School have been selected to represent Scotland at the World Schools Orienteering Competition in Portugal next April. Roanne Lilley and Emma Baird qualified to join the 'Select' Scottish junior girls team which is comprised of pupils from different schools across Scotland. Callum Hunter, Tom Lines and Jamie Peden together qualified as the 'Scottish School' team for the junior boys. They will join 23 other pupils in S2-S4 from across Scotland to represent their country.

MEMBERS of Oban Speakers Club enjoyed some excellent entertainment at their meeting last week. The first half chairman Archie McPhail introduced Martin Wilson who was making his 'icebreaker' speech. He did an excellent talk on Eric Liddell and this was followed by Willie Melville giving his entertaining thoughts on 'A Massive Lottery Win'. Their immediate critics were Jim Fraser and Donnie Graham. In the second half topics chairman Eamonn Arthur gave his speakers a wide variety of subjects from 'speed limits to superwalks'. His speakers were Bill Leech, Frank Walton, John Maclean, Jim Fraser, Roy Wood and Archie McPhail. Timekeeper for the evening was Alex Clark and a comprehensive and fair general evaluation was given by Tom Clegg. The next meeting will be held on November 15 at 8pm in the Church Centre, Glencruitten Road.



Witches, vampires and skeletons were among the spooky characters attending the Soroba Young Family Group Halloween party.

A VINTAGE afternoon tea is to be held in Oban as part of the Winter Festival and organisers are appealing for help to host it. Anyone who has old crockery, lace tablecloths, tea plates or general items suitable for a Victorian afternoon tea is asked to get in touch as soon as they can. Organiser Margaret Cooper said: 'This is a great opportunity for people to clear their cupboards and help put on a vintage tea. If you have old items lying around that you no longer need and would be suitable for the afternoon tea please get in touch.' The event will be held on November 25 in the Corran Halls. Anyone wishing to donate items can call Margaret on 07785343197 to arrange for collection.

Coin throwing sounds death knell for Oban's Halloween dance

THE DEATH knell has sounded for the popular Oban Halloween dance, the Monster's Ball, after audience members were accused of throwing coins at the headline act at this year's event. Former X-Factor contestants Diva Fever were the headline name on this year's line-up and helped to attract 450 revellers to the Corran Halls on October 27. However, two audience members had to be removed by stewards after being seen throwing coins at the camp double act. DJ Mark Gowdie, who has headed up the committee organising the annual event since 2007, expressed his anger and disappointment at the actions, claiming they were motivated by homophobia. He said: 'There are three main reasons I can't do the Monster's Ball anymore: 'We only sold enough tickets to go ahead in the final week and I feared I would lose out on a lot of money. There were a lot of people I spoke to who said they weren't going, so I wondered whether it had lost its appeal.'



Camp act Diva Fever had a coin thrown at them during their performance at the Monster's Ball.

'Secondly, the break even figure is 385 and numbers have been down on recent years. I don't run the Monster's Ball to make money but I don't do it to lose money either. There is too much risk involved now. 'The final nail in the coffin, however, was coins being thrown at the act on stage. I would never have imagined there would be a problem with that [homophobia] when I booked the act.'

Relentless: police bid to catch drug dealers

Officers raid three addresses in Oban

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by EUAN PATERSON epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

A DRUGS bust by Oban Police last week served to remind dealers of a relentless campaign to tackle the problem of illegal substances in the town. The Oban Times was invited to join a team of officers as they simultaneously raided three addresses in Oban last Thursday morning, as part of the 'war' on illegal drugs.



A battering ram is used to gain entry to a property.

During searches of the properties police found quantities of illicitly held methadone and seized £3,500 in cash from one flat. The success of the operation is not being measured against last summer's Operation Independence, which saw six drug dealers convicted and set the tone for chief inspector Brian Auld's term as area commander of Oban, Lorn and the Isles. Instead, chief inspector Auld said last week's raid on suspected drug dealers was designed to reassure the public and reinforce his commitment to tackling drugs. He added: 'These operations show our commitment to continuing the war on those involved in the supply of drugs. 'This is a continuous course of action but I am particularly pleased with the seizure of the sum of money. It is my belief it was intended for the purchase of drugs, or to be used as a benefit from involvement in a criminal lifestyle.' The day of the raids began at 9.30am when officers from the divisional flexi-unit joined local officers and others from Dunoon, Campbeltown and Lochgilphead at a briefing in Oban Police Station. This gave the commanding officer an opportunity to explain

the layout of the properties and any associated risks involved with potential occupants, before splitting the officers into the three teams that entered the three properties at 10.15am. At the first property in Kilchurn Place a speedy approach to the flat culminated in a battering ram being used to open the front door. While officers executed the search warrant, PC Jennifer Cameron and a seven-year-old cocker spaniel, Izzy, from the specialist dog branch, searched every room in the flat. The dog 'pointed' at any detection of a drugs scent, leading police officers to conduct a more detailed search of areas identified by Izzy. Quantities of illicit methadone and cannabis resin were seized, as was a quantity of white powder, which has been sent for analysis. Following these detections, a 48-year-old man was made subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal. At the second property targeted, in Soroba Road, £3,500 of cash was seized under the Proceeds of Crime legislation.



PC Jennifer Cameron and seven-year-old cocker spaniel, Izzy, search a bedroom in one of the flats.

No drugs were found during a third search, in a flat in Miller Road. A separate search of a property in Albany Street later in the day led to police detecting a quantity of illicit methadone. As a result, a 28-year-old man has been charged with the supply of a class A drug.

Clachan Seil windfarm plan rejected by councillors

REPORT by FAITH ORR forr@obantimes.co.uk

A BID for a windfarm at Clachan Seil, south of Oban, has been thrown out by Argyll and Bute Council. Planning committee councillors voted unanimously to reject Clachan Community Energy's (CCE) application. CCE chief Rory Young said he was 'disappointed' by the decision and would 'seriously consider' an appeal. Mr Young had offered to pay the community £80,000 per year regardless of how much energy the windfarm produced. Planners had recommended refusal because of negative visual impacts on landscape, built heritage and archaeology. Senior planning officer Arlene Knox said the proposal was within a 'sensitive and highly prominent location'. Objector Irene Coulson referred to windfarm as a 'wind factory'. She said: 'His industrial scale development is completely the opposite of a community project - it is community exploitation.' Antoinette Mitchell, a member of Kilmelford and Kilniver Community Council, said the plans would 'ruin' the local landscape. She added: 'We rather resent being taken for fools.' The bid has divided local opinion. CCE advocate Jan Barton said the nine turbines, at a 'medium' height of 77 metres, would provide a 'comfortable view'. And supporter Duncan Macmillan told the hearing: 'There are lots of people for it but they are frightened to say so for fear of lifting their head above the parapet.' Mr Young had also signed agreements that if the development went ahead work would go to local businesses. Darren Mellish of Oban-based West Coast Tool and Plant Hire told the hearing: 'I want a share of the economic benefit and if that sounds selfish tell that to my employees.' Councillor Fred Hall said the site seemed 'no different' to others he had seen. He added: 'We devour more electricity than we ever have before. We want electricity, we use electricity but when it comes to producing it we take cold feet.' Councillor Rory Colville lives next to a windfarm and said he thought the proposed development was 'too close' to houses. He said: 'This is the wrong development in the wrong place.'



Pipe major Euan Dewar, centre, is joined by other pipe band members in thanking Calum MacAlpine, operations manager for Scottish Sea Farms, for the company's donation.

Pipe band's delight at two-year sponsorship deal

A TWO-year sponsorship deal worth £4,000 is music to the ears of Oban Pipe Band. Scottish Sea Farms' Heart of the Community Trust has donated the funds to help with the band's running costs as they represent Oban and district in competitions and performances across the UK and Europe. Arthur Gillies, pipe band president, said: 'This cash support from Scottish Sea Farms is really appreciated, as without it the band would be unable to take part in a lot of competitions. We have had a lot of success in recent years, which brings publicity and recognition for the Oban and Lorn area.' The pipe band was established in 1920 and currently has 30 band members. Calum MacAlpine, operations manager for Scottish Sea Farms, said: 'The Oban Pipe Band gives the whole area something to be proud of and we are delighted to be able to help them go on to further success.'

Man who threatened witnesses sentenced

AN OBAN man guilty of threatening two men who had been prepared to give evidence against him in court has been ordered to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work within three months. Scott MacCallum, 29, of 19H Shuna Terrace, Oban, made comments, including 'beast' and 'grass' to his victim after leaving Oban Sheriff Court on February 6. MacCallum denied the charges, claiming he simply asked the complainer 'why he wasn't allowed near kids'. He was found guilty after a trial and placed on a community payback order for a year. Defence agent Edward Thornton said he had advised his client not to approach the complainer but added that was unlikely, since the victim was in custody.

Chance to help out at Oban Mòd 2015

ORGANISERS of the Royal National Mòd 2015 in Oban are encouraging new faces to join the committee of volunteers in order to maintain Oban's reputation as the most popular venue. After the statutory public meeting in June this year, the local organising committee secretary had 32 names on his list of volunteers for Mòd 2015. For the start of preparations, meetings take place roughly once every three months. The next meeting is on Saturday, November 17 at 11am in the Free Church Hall.

Review into Islay healthcare promised

AN INDEPENDENT review into healthcare on Islay has been promised by NHS Highland, following a decision by island GPs to opt out of out-of-hours care. NHS Highland made the commitment this week, three months after the over-worked GPs first signalled their intention to opt out and subsequently called for the review. The GPs have since gained the backing of islanders and Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell. Candidates Following recent meetings the doctors have reached an agreement with Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership (CHP) to help seek out potential candidates to head up the review and suggestions will be shared at a meeting on November 21. It has also been agreed that six GPs are required to cover Islay. There are currently the equivalent of four GPs, with the arrival of Bowmore's new doctor, Kate Pickering, last Thursday. It is understood an Independent Clinical Review would begin in late January/early February 2013.

Glen Nevis Restaurant and Lounge Bar

The restaurant will be closed as from 2nd November 2012 and re-opening mid March 2013

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FW

Police files

A WOMAN has been charged with assault after allegedly hitting a man on the head with a glass.

The victim suffered a significant cut to his head following the incident in Ulva Road, Oban, last Saturday.

TWO MEN have been charged for racially abusing the occupant of a flat in Oban's Richard Court.

The men, aged 32 and 31, allegedly forced entry into the close of the flat before banging on the door and shouting abuse between 1pm and 2pm last Sunday.

A 32-YEAR-old woman has been charged after two of her dogs attacked chickens and worried other livestock in Taynuit and Kilchrenan last Friday morning.

A 20-YEAR-old man will appear at Oban Sheriff Court on an undertaking, charged with reckless driving and drink driving.

The incident happened at 3.15am on Saturday on the A85 at Connel.

A LARGE quantity of broken roof tiles and building material rubbish was dumped on agricultural land at Ferlochan Beag, Benderloch, sometime between Tuesday and Friday last week.

Police urge anyone with information on the incident, or anyone who saw a van or large vehicle in the area between those dates, to contact PC Jeremy Moore.

A TEENAGER has been charged under the Communications Act after allegedly sending abusive text messages to another girl.

The 16-year-old is accused of sending the messages to another 16-year-old last Saturday.

Famous song is 35-years-old

THIS Sunday will mark the 35th anniversary of the Sir Paul McCartney song that made a corner of Argyll famous across the world.

Mull of Kintyre, released in the run-up to Christmas 1977, sold six million copies worldwide and was the first single to sell more than two million copies in the UK.

The song famously featured Campbeltown Pipe Band marching along the sandy beach of Saddell Bay with Saddell Castle in the background.

The castle has since been restored by The Landmark Trust for self-catering holidays.

Ileach celebrates 40th anniversary

ISLAY'S community newspaper is celebrating its 40th anniversary this week.

The Ileach's anniversary issue leads on comments from its current chairman Richard Russell, who said the occasion was 'an achievement to celebrate'.

Barcaldine eco lodge to act as community hub

BARCALDINE residents plan to build a £100,000 eco lodge next to the village primary school, to act as a new community hub.

The eco lodge will act as extra space for the school and its 17 pupils, a possible community nursery, a youth club for local teenagers and a venue for wider community events such as quiz nights and children's parties.

Douglas McKenzie, chairman of the Barcaldine Community Association (BCA) says the

eco lodge will also function as a village hall and will be much cheaper than a traditional village hall.

It will be sited next to the primary school in order to allow it to take full advantage of the facility.

Douglas said: 'Financially it is a lot less ambitious than a village hall and is much cheaper.'

The project is still in its early stages, and the association is still looking at possible cost figures. The size of the building is not yet known but the aim is to make it carbon neutral and use locally sourced materials to build it.

Douglas said: 'We plan to use recycled materials will look to do everything we can to make it a carbon neutral building. It can also be a project for the children at the same time.'

first time Barcaldine has looked into building a community hall. There has been a change of stance in the council and they are now much more receptive to the idea of a new building next to the primary school.

Douglas added: 'We looked at having a village hall some years back but there wasn't full support from the community.'

'There was doubt over the school's future in the past. Now we have assurance from the

administration that no schools will be threatened with closures over the next four years.

'We were told last time it was not possible on the basis of children's safety issues.'

It is not yet clear where the money is coming from, however, BCA believes a number of different sources for funds can be explored, including community-led fundraising. They hope to have the building completed by early 2014.



Neil Matheson.

Atlantis chairman in running for top UK award

IN THE 20th anniversary year of Atlantis Leisure, a driving force behind the sports centre has been nominated in the Social Enterprise UK awards.

Neil Matheson, chairman of Atlantis Leisure and owner of Matheson's Furnishings in Oban, is a finalist in the Social Entrepreneur of the Year category and was nominated by Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

He is one of five people in the UK shortlisted for the award and the only one from Scotland.

Neil is a founder director of Atlantis Leisure, which is supported by the local council and various funding bodies and provides a range of activities that is the envy of many throughout the country.

Atlantis Leisure was also recently short listed as Scottish

Social Enterprise of the Year. Neil said: 'To be nominated by Highlands and Islands Enterprise is a huge compliment and I'm delighted to be in the finals.'

Neil is quick to praise his colleagues on the board of directors for the many thousands of volunteer hours, which they have put in to ensure that the centre continues to provide a fantastic range of activities for the whole community.

'It has been a privilege to be a part of the Atlantis story and the enthusiasm of our board and staff and the amazing support of the local community make all the hard work well worth while.'

The UK finals are taking place at Lord's Cricket Ground in London on November 12 and will be hosted by comedian and television presenter Sue Perkins.

HOPE kitchen's dismay at supermarket policy of no food handouts

AN OBAN charity that feeds more than 100 homeless people a week has hit out at the town's biggest supermarkets for refusing to donate waste food.

HOPE Kitchen runs a number of drop ins at the Salvation Army Hall throughout the week, providing soup and other basic meals for those who are unable to feed themselves.

Entirely self-funded, the voluntary organisation relies on donations of cash and goods to keep its work going.

And while Lidl has been generous enough to hand over waste food and baked goods, the town's biggest supermarkets, Tesco and the Co-operative, have declined to offer the same help.

Jess MacPhee, who founded the charity in 2009 with Iona MacMillan with support from the late David Livingston, said she failed to understand how one company can offer the help

when others say they can't. 'We've made several approaches to Tesco and they've always said no, although once they gave us a £20 gift certificate. They just don't help out. It's not the fault of the staff in store, the decision has been made higher up.'

'The Co-operative are similar, they've offered us a day of bag packing. 'Lidl are able to give us stuff. Going by what they're giving us, Tesco and the Co-operative must be getting rid of far more.'

'If these supermarkets did distribute their waste to local causes, it would make a massive difference not just to us, but to the old folks homes and other similar charities.'

Both Tesco and the Co-operative said they had little waste in store that could be donated for safety reasons, but any that could be returned to communities would be via the Fareshare

charity, which aims to relieve food poverty and reduce waste across the country by distributing surplus products to communities via organisations such as HOPE.

Tesco's spokeswoman added: 'We have very effective ordering systems in place which means that our stores have very little food left at the end of the day and we can't guarantee that what little food waste there is would be safe for consumption.'

Co-operative Food, which donates to Fareshare from its Lanarkshire distribution centre, said: 'We support the work of the HOPE Kitchen in Oban and have helped them with opportunities for fundraising in our store.'

'However, we have a duty to ensure that any food we supply is of an acceptable quality and condition, and once an item is beyond its use by date it cannot be sold or donated.'

Kilmartin's Maggie makes her mark in first European stone skimming event

WITH its roots firmly embedded in Argyll, the European Stone Skimming Championships in the Netherlands celebrated its inauguration with a winner from Kilmartin.

Replicating the format of the World Stone Skimming Championships in Easdale, the Dutch event, organised by Coerd de Heer, welcomed participants from across Europe, including Argyll, to Scharendijke, near Rotterdam.

Easdale's own master of stones Donald Melville travelled over with partner Maggie Young, taking with them a selection of Eilean Eisdale stones to officially endorse the event.

Maggie, from Kilmartin, demonstrated her puddle-pounding

pedigree by skimming her way to the woman's silver medal.

Donald, who helped organise the inauguration of the event, said: 'We had a ball. We were welcomed like long lost family by the Dutch who were running the event.'

'They have been over at our event the last two years, eight strong, and joined in on the craic. 'They get' the event and run theirs in the same vane of humour as we do.'

'We were delighted to be able to help them by donating some stones - they are in very short supply over there - from the land Eilean Eisdale owns to strengthen the links between the two events.'

North Connel residents worried homes plan would lead to 'crammed' village

PLANS to replace a derelict care home in North Connel with 24 flats and three houses have attracted objections from residents worried the village will be 'crammed'.

Melfort Care Ltd want to demolish the former Ossians Care Home and replace it with the residential development, having twice previously gained permission to replace it with a new care home.

However, local residents have greeted the new approach with less than universal approval.

'They say the extra homes would represent a significant increase to the village's population and existing roadways would struggle to cope with the extra traffic generated by the development. Other concerns include not enough space for parking and



BHA E tàmailteach a bhith a' leughadh litir anns a' phàipear seo a' cur sìos air Gàidhlig agus a' cultar, ach air an làimh eile carson a bhiodh luchd-leughaidh Tim an Obain eadar-dhealichte bho phàipearan eile.

Tha mi fhìn cha mhòr aig an ìre far nach eil mi deònach am maghar a' ghabhail tuilleadh, ach an drasta 's a' rithist chì mi rudeigin a tha ga mo ruigheachd chun na h-ìre 's nach urrainn dhomh gun freagairt a thoirt!

Chan-e fiù 's a' bhurraidheachd far am bheil leithid de dh'ionnsaigh ga thoirt air mion-chànan na dùthaich fhèin as miosa, ach an t-aineolas a tha an luib mòran de na tha ' nochdadh.

Chan eil mise air coinneachadh air Maignistir Rodger neo bhithinn an dòchas gum biodh e mothachail gum bheil fileantaich Ghàidhlig againn, ach tha mi a' creidsinn gum bheil na ceudan de dh' fhileantaich ann an sgìre an Obain a bheireadh beagan leirsinn dha!

Tha gnàth-facal ann am Beurla - chan aithne dhomh gum bheil a leithid againn ann an Gàidhlig - gur e sòlas a th'ann an aineolas, agus 's e mo bheachd gum bu chòir dha Maignistir Rodger a bhith glè shona oir tha mòran ann nach eil e a' tuigsinn a-rèir coltais!

An dèidh linntean de gheur-leanmhainn air Gàidhlig tha Riaghaltas mu dheireadh mothachail gur e pàirt luachmhor de dhualchas nàiseanta na h-Alba a th' innte agus gum bheil dleastanas aige a dìon is a ghleidheadh.

Gun teagamh bha cùisean air a bhith na b' fheàrr nan robh am mothachadh agus an taice sin air tighinn bho chionn leth-cheud bliadhna, ach tha e air tachairi ri linn spàirn mhòr a rinn Gàidheil fhèin.

Thar nan deich bliadhna fichead a chaidh fhad 's a bha fileantaich, luchd-ionnsachaidh is luchd-taice a' dèanamh sin, bha iad cuideachd ag obair cuide ri Eòrpaich a bha a' riochdachadh còrr air leth-cheud millean luchd-labhairt mhion-chànan eile. Tha an Roinn Eòrpa glè mhòthachail air Gàidhlig! Tha mi toilichte gum bheil Maignistir Rodger a' tuigsinn an fheum a rinn a' Ghàidhlig ann an Dùn Omhainn, agus dh'iarraim a chur na shealladh gum bheil cuideachd luach do-chreidsimeach innte dha eaconamaidh na dùthaich ma ghreimeicheas tionnsgalan Albanach de gach seòrsa air iomhaigh margaideachd a tha cho barraichte.

Agus ma tha Maignistir Rodger ag iarraidh maoin a thrusadh ma choinneimh gainnead sam bith bhiodh e mòran na bu bhuannachdail dha ionnsaidh a thoirt air ionmhas mòr na Beurla seach mogan beag na Gàidhlig!

IT IS SADDENING to see any minority being bullied, and particularly one being attacked in its homeland.

Mr Rodger was correct, Oban Times November 1, in admitting his lack of understanding vis-a-vis Gaelic and I am sure many hundreds of fluent Gaelic speaking readers would be happy to help educate him.

Aside from the responsibility which Government has to support so valuable a part of Scotland's national heritage, it recognises that its modest investment in Gaelic has the potential to return substantial economic as well as cultural benefits. Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell) ailean@obantimes.co.uk.

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Islay and Mull lodge owners celebrate five stars

TWO ARGYLL businesses are celebrating winning the highest possible accolade from VisitScotland.

The Coillabus Lodge on Islay and Ardfenaig Lodge on Mull have both been awarded five star self-catering status by the national tourism body.

Coillabus is a newly-built luxury eco-lodge on the Oa peninsula on Islay which has been built with stone clad walls and a turf roof.

Owner Hester Ross said: 'We are thrilled our vision for Coillabus and our hard work is recognised with this award. We have worked with so many great island and Scottish craftsmen and suppliers to bring it together.'

Ardfenaig Lodge, which is by Bunessan on Mull, has undergone extensive renovations over the past four years.

Proprietor Anne Tolleson decided to restore the original character of the building when she bought it.

She said: 'The desire to create the kind of lovely Highland cottage that I would choose for my holiday was my motivation in renovating and extending Ardfenaig Lodge. 'Great attention to detail, careful choice of fabrics and use of family antiques has resulted in the coveted five-star award from VisitScotland and made all the hard work worth it.'

Douglas Adams McGilp, regional director at VisitScotland, said: 'It is fantastic to see Argyll tourism enhanced by high-quality properties such as these. Coillabus Lodge and Ardfenaig Lodge provide visitors to the Inner Hebrides with a fantastic base from which to explore the islands and further afield.'



Park Primary's Eco Group gathered in their garden to celebrate the school's fifth consecutive Green Flag status, marking their environmental achievements over the past two years.

Park leads the way with fifth green flag

OBAN'S Park Primary School is celebrating becoming the first school in Argyll and Bute to win its fifth consecutive Green Flag for its commitment to environmental projects.

The school's Eco Group came together last week to celebrate becoming one of the first

school's in Scotland to achieve the landmark, with teachers congratulating pupils on their efforts.

Awarded every two years, the flag is awarded to schools who can show progress and ongoing achievement to environmental projects.

Unusually, this year's flag was granted immediately after the inspection. Among the pupil-run eco schemes carried out since

2003 is the school's Orchard project, managed by Grounds for Learning - one of only ten such initiatives to be chosen. The gardening club has expanded its

garden with a greater range of vegetables, fruit and plants - with a 'bug hotel' a recent addition for over-wintering insects.

Furthermore, the school recently celebrated being recognised as a FairTrade school for the second year in a row.

Charity groups land foundation cash windfall

THREE Argyll and Bute charities have secured £11,000 between them in the latest awards from Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland.

Oban and District Disability Forum and Access Panel (incorporating Shoppability Oban) runs a shoppability scheme and also has a service that monitors, advises, and

encourages accessibility in Oban. Their award of £2,500 will be used to help cover the running costs of the shoppability service that is based in the station car park. This is their third award from the foundation, bringing the total support to £18,650 since 2001.

Autism Argyll has been awarded £3,000 to

help pay the salary of the co-ordinator. This charity was set up by parents whose children had been diagnosed as having an Autistic Spectrum Disorder. This is the group's second award since 2006, bringing the total support to £14,300.

Islay and Jura Community Enterprises Ltd is receiving £5,500 to help pay the salary of

its project co-ordinator for the Inspiring and Supporting Island Life project, which aims to provide extra support to people such as single parents, the long-term unemployed, children and adults with disabilities, and older people. This is the seventh award for the group and brings the total support to £45,819 since 2003.

Furthermore, the school recently celebrated being recognised as a FairTrade school for the second year in a row.



Robbie Hall recovered from taking this blow to win his light flyweight contest with Connor MacKenzie. 20_45boxing01



James Aitchison put in an all-round show of defence and attack to defeat Matty O'Neil. 20_45boxing03



Liam Jordan celebrates after being awarded a unanimous decision by the judges. 20_45boxing11



Despite giving away a height, weight and reach advantage to Jack Crawford, Chris Bradley impressed, only losing on a split decision. 20_45boxing06

Fort should have stronger squad to face Cove Rangers

FOOTBALL

FORT William face another of the Highland League's top sides when Cove Rangers visit Claggan Park this Saturday.

But the Lochaber side should at least have a stronger squad than in recent weeks, with Ryan MacDonald, Sean Grant, Gary Farquhar and Iain MacLennan all expected to be involved.

Cove sit second in the league and nearly caused a Scottish Cup upset away to Division One side Partick Thistle last weekend, eventually going down 2-1.

Manager Danny Conlon said he was under no illusions his side were facing another tough game.

He told the Oban Times: 'In the last few weeks we have faced probably the top five sides in the league.'

'We have to try and put last Saturday out of our minds and get the boys lifted.'

'We might see a bit more of the ball this weekend, and it'll be on the deck more, but Cove have got some cracking players, especially up front.'

Last weekend, Fort went down 5-0 away to reigning champions Forres Mechanics.

They found themselves 2-0 down after 18 minutes, with the Can Cans scoring three times in the second half.

Conlon said: 'It was a tough game. They bossed and bullied us all over the pitch. We just couldn't compete with the sheer physical size of them.'

'It was boys against men at times, but they are not league champions for nothing.'

Ali Young League

INDOOR FOOTBALL

LOCHABER LEISURE and Achintore FC remain tied at the top of the Ali Young indoor football league after both recorded wins at the Nevis Centre On Sunday Night.

Achintore were 4-2 winners against fifth-placed Caol FC, while Lochaber Leisure easily defeated Portoway 9-2.

Balachulish remain three points back in third after winning 8-3 against All Blacks, while HWEnergy No Stars moved up to sixth with a 9-4 win over AA Young.

The night's other game saw The Goon Squad beat Old Codgers 7-3 to stay in fourth.

Fort William GC

GOLF

FORT William Golf Club's latest round of winter league competitions saw Brian Gillespie and Brian O'Neill pick up wins.

Gillespie won the front nine competition on Saturday with a score of 22 points, ahead of Davie MacPherson on 21 points. Sinclair Gunn finished third with 20 points.

O'Neill finished first in the back nine competition after scoring 19 points. O'Neill's better inward six meant he finished ahead of Donnie Gillies. Neil Young was third with 18 points.

Winter league standings (after four rounds): 1, Toby Richardson 86 points; 2, Neil Young 67 points; 3, William Duncan 63 points.

Fireworks at the Phoenix Boxing Club show

Seven Fort William-based boxers were on the card including GB champion Chris Bradley

REPORT BY
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LOCHABER Phoenix boxers lit up the Nevis Centre in Fort William with a night of boxing fireworks on Saturday.

Seven Fort William-based boxers were on the card, including GB champion Chris Bradley and light welterweight Aidan Donnelly, along with newly crowned Scottish novice champion Calum Clement of Kinlochleven club Claymores ABC.

Top-billed Donnelly faced a rematch against Alex Bailey of Aberdeen-based Granite City ABC, who defeated the Lochaber

fighter in last season's Northern District final.

Both boxers used subtle changes in technique and tactics throughout the contest as they probed and changed angles looking for the advantage. Donnelly showed a much-improved defence, and after three hard, physical rounds came away the winner on points.

Sparkling form

Senior welterweight Liam Jordan was in sparkling form against Aron Logan of Kinloch ABC. Logan came flying out of the blocks but Jordan kept his defences tight before working his way into the contest with jabs, always looking to follow with his right cross.

In the second round Jordan assumed command and took a greater stranglehold until the final bell. Logan was given a standing eight count by the referee before the judges handed Jordan a unanimous victory.

Jordan was named senior fighter of the night for his display, while 15 year-old Chris Bradley was named top junior fighter after his bout with GB silver medalist Jack Crawford of Auchengeich.

GB and Scottish champion Bradley gave away height, weight and reach to Crawford, who is two weights above.

Both boxers used an incredible amount of skill and intensity, coupled with incredible desire as

BOXING

Bradley raked Crawford's body and landed a large amount of jabs and overhand rights.

The home corner were convinced Bradley had done enough but the split decision went to Crawford.

James Aitchison, 14, was given a unanimous judges' decision against Eddie Copland of Granite City ABC after a masterful boxing clinic.

Aitchison was making his opponent miss and countering with punishing right crosses intermingled with powerful jabs.

Igor Sliwinski and Kier Hardie's Jack Thorburn both



Lochaber coaches were stunned when the judges gave a split decision against 16 year-old Igor Sliwinski. 20_45boxing09

possess strength of grown men and they engaged in a real war of attrition.

Every time Sliwinski landed he would hurt Thorburn and he certainly threw a far larger percentage of shots than his opponent, but judges gave a split decision to Thorburn.

Tyndrum fighter Callum Clem-

ent faced a tough fight against George Stewart, losing a split decision after three hard rounds.

Controversial

Kevin Aitchison's rematch against Matty O'Neil was the most controversial of the night. After an even bout judges announced O'Neil as the winner, before soon realising they had

made a mistake in totting up the scorecards. Aitchison was then called back to the ring to receive his trophy.

Robbie Hall was relaxed throughout his light flyweight contest with Connor MacKenzie, preserving energy and working behind his jab and was given a split decision by the judges.

New playing kit for Fort William

FORT William FC have swapped their yellow home strip for a Netherlands-style orange kit – and will be hoping some of the Dutch masters' magic rubs off on them.

The new kit has been worn for Fort's last two games, and has been provided by the club's new sponsor, Ben Nevis Industrial Estate-based Plumbase.

Fort FC secretary Marg Byron told The Oban Times: 'We're thrilled and proud to have them as a shirt sponsor.'

'I don't think the colour of the shirt really matters to the players, it's

the badge they are playing for.'

Plumbase's Paul Sclater said: 'We at Plumbase are delighted to support Fort William FC.'

'Our manager Michael MacEachan is very passionate

about his local football and when this sponsorship opportunity came up I saw it as a no brainer to help try and put something back into the local Fort William community.'



Fort players Scott Hunter, Darren Duncan and Michael Gillespie model the new strips with (left to right) Paul Sclater, of Plumbase; Marg Byron, Fort secretary; Michael MacEachan, Fort deputy manager; Scott Lawrie, Plumbase.

Harsh lesson for Lochaber rugby boys

LOCHABER were taught a tough lesson by unbeaten league leaders Garioch at a wet and muddy Banavie park on Saturday, going down 40-0.

The visitors started the first half with some good interlinking play and great offloading from tackles, leading to them scoring the first try of the game.

Lochaber's defence creaked and groaned as they tried to stop the impressive visitors who scored another two tries before the half was over.

The home side did have forays into the opposition territory and crossed the visitors try line on two occasions, only to be denied by the decision that the ball was held up.

Determination

A different looking Lochaber team came out in the second half, facing Garioch with great determination. The forwards battled to get the team into good attacking

positions, but found themselves up against an extremely well organised defence.

They found it hard to penetrate the Garioch line leading to a score against the run of play by the visitors who moved the ball through umpteen pairs of hands to take a great try.

Denied

Lochaber never gave up and were denied two tries of their own one being held up over the line again.

Garioch were worthy winners and showed why they are unbeaten so far this season. Lochaber can take some comfort by the way they lifted their game in the second half, especially good to see the forwards matching their much bigger opposition in both the set piece and the loose.

Youngster Finlay Ireland impressed for Lochaber in his first senior game, as did Jack

Ringland returning to scrum half.

Lochaber's attentions will turn to the Bowl cup competition this

weekend, when they travel to take on Aberdeen University.

RUGBY



Lochaber's Rory MacKay tries in vain to get past the resolute Garioch defence. 20_45rugby01

Weather

Thursday Cloudy
Winds moderate west north westerly
Temperatures 8°C to 10°C

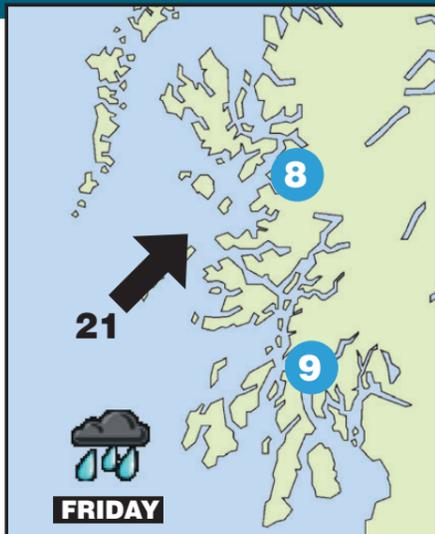
Friday Heavy rain
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 9°C.

Weekend Light rain showers

Outlook Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 4°C to 6°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, November 8, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	00.36 2.9 06.07 1.9 12.38 3.2 19.30 2.0	
Fri	02.06 3.0 07.15 1.7 14.04 3.4 20.32 1.7	
Sat	02.54 3.3 08.18 1.5 14.55 3.6 21.21 1.4	
Sun	03.33 3.5 09.14 1.2 15.39 3.9 22.04 0.9	
Mon	04.09 3.8 10.05 0.9 16.20 4.1 22.44 0.9	
Tues	04.46 4.0 10.54 0.7 17.00 4.2 23.25 0.7	
Wed	05.25 4.1 11.41 0.5 17.42 4.2 *** **	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with



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