

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8016

Thursday 11 November, 2010

www.obantimes.co.uk

75 pence



BBC Children in Need

Find out how The Oban Times, Dunbeg Primary School and some generous local businesses helped to raise £435 for the annual appeal

Business update

- Kerrera Marina expansion unveiled
- Jobs boost as hotel undergoes revamp
- Success for Argyll businesses at food service awards



Also inside this week: £1million youth hostel appeal • My village, Tayvallich • Oban Lorne RFC up to fourth

Cash-strapped council didn't charge Labour Party for halls

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by LOUISE LEE llee@obantimes.co.uk

THE Scottish Labour Party did not pay for the hire of Oban's Corran Halls during its recent conference.

Cash strapped Argyll and Bute Council - which this week told hundreds of workers they face possible compulsory redundancy - did not charge for the hire of the venue, despite the party charging delegates £60 per ticket and taking over the halls for up to six days.

Hiring the Corran Halls costs up to £650 per day, and a number of staff members, from Argyll and Bute Council's leisure services

department, were also on hand at the conference.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokeswoman said: 'We did not charge the Labour Party for the use of the Corran Halls.'

'The council was competing against several others to secure the conference, which would clearly bring significant economic benefits to Oban and the surrounding area as well as raise Argyll and Bute's profile at a national level. The feedback we have received about the conference facilities and Oban itself - from both the Scottish Labour Party and from individual delegates - has been overwhelmingly positive, and we are confident

that the benefits it brought to the area represented excellent value.'

A spokesman for the Scottish Labour Party said: 'Many local authorities approach us to bring the conference to town, none of whom charge for the venue. We brought more than 1,000 delegates to town. Some stayed two and three nights and brought an estimated £400,000 - £500,000 into bars, cafes, shops, hotels and restaurants.'

'I understand offering the venue for free is a policy that is available to all political parties not just the Scottish Labour Party.'

However, regular Corran Hall hirers are outraged that one group would get the

venue for free while others are made to pay.

Officials from one organisation which holds an annual get-together at the halls said: 'I don't see why one group should be made a favourite over another. It is not fair. Our event brings benefit to the town as well and we come every year.'

Pubs certainly felt a slight to moderate two-day boom. Declan Curran of the Lorne Bar said: 'Sales were slightly up on last year.'

Aulay Dunn of Aulay's Bar said: 'We had quite a few delegates in the bar. We were a bit busier than last year.'

Jobs fears for hundreds of council staff - see page 3

Gritters axed to save authority £100,000 . . .

ARGYLL and Bute Council's executive committee has agreed to take four snow ploughs out of service, cutting the authority's 35-strong fleet of vehicles. The move will save the authority £100,000.

The decision taken at last Thursday's meeting means that the local authority will not be able to target roads hit by sudden or severe snowstorms.

Addressing councillors, Callum Robertson, roads asset manager for the council, said: 'We had four vehicles in the fleet we used as spares.'

'One of the effects of that was when

the weather got bad, these could go out with the snow plough. Now when things get bad there will be four fewer snowploughs.'

The council's current budget allocation for operations is £1.145million which officials say is sufficient to cater for an 'average' level of winter activity; equating to 58 days of pre-treatment gritting. Last year saw Argyll and Bute hit by freezing conditions and severe snow in one of the worst winters in more than 20 years.

Mr Robertson said the council would still be able to pre-treat 52 per cent of

the public road network with grit to prevent ice.

He added: 'When the situation changes from pre-treatment to help prevent ice, to ploughing, we never have enough vehicles. No roads authority in Britain does.'

'We just don't have the budget to have vehicles sitting on standby for when it snows. The unfortunate thing is that this is not going to get any better because of budget restrictions.'

Argyll and Bute Council is currently reviewing all its services as part of its budget cut proposals.

. . . but £105,000 goes on new 'executive suite'

COUNCIL bosses are shelling out £105,000 to form an executive suite at Kilmory Castle and improve disability access into the building.

Works such as levelling paths, redecoration, new carpets and office reassignment are being undertaken by Argyll and Bute Council in order to 'deliver wider efficiencies'.

A spokeswoman for the authority said: 'The council is undertaking work to upgrade the Kilmory reception

area to improve compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act.'

'The changes will also serve to improve the standard of information which is available to visitors.'

'In addition, alterations are being made to the middle floor of the new building in Kilmory which will bring together the chief executive, executive directors, heads of service, communications team and support staff on one floor.'

'This will help the senior management of the council to operate more effectively and corporately.'

'It will also speed up the delivery of the benefits from the council's 'Process for Change', which aims to deliver wider efficiencies through the modernisation of its working practices.'

'The combined cost of both elements of work will be about £105,000.'

Comment - page 6

Lorn's 'Daddy' and 'Boss Lady' enjoy holidays with a difference



A modest couple from North Connel have spent more than three decades helping those less fortunate than themselves in the Gambia. Cyril and Christine Scott were so shocked by the poverty they witnessed during their first visit to the west African country in 1979, they left behind some of their clothes and possessions. They are now planning their 16th visit, taking glasses, clothes and other supplies with them. Full story - see page 17. 07_146gambia01

SNP members call for school closure plans to be dropped

RANK and file members of the Argyll and Bute branch of the Scottish National Party are urging its elected members to fight for school closure proposals to be dropped.

At a meeting held over the weekend, SNP members spoke strongly in defence of all 26 schools which the council has earmarked for closure and urged local councillors to throw out any plans for closures.

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute SNP confirmed they were taking the members' views seriously.

He said: 'There was a strong feeling amongst constituency members about proposals for school closures. The SNP council group's hands are not tied. A decision will not be made until the end of November when we see the new proposals from the council.'

Jura ferry service could go for tender

FERRY services between Jura and Islay could be put out to tender.

Argyll and Bute Council, which runs the service, confirmed this week that the route is being considered as suitable for tender. Two other council-run routes, at Appin and Luining, will remain under the authority's control while they are subject to the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) consultation on ferry services.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokeswoman said: 'The council is considering tendering the Jura service. The other two services are subject to STAG appraisals.'

'The Luining route has a preferred option for a fixed link and the Appin route has a preferred outcome of a vehicular ferry which currently operates from Oban.'



HONDA
THE POWER OF CREATIVITY

HONDA DEALERS ARE EASY TO FIND

Helensburgh Honda
101-103 East Clyde Street
Helensburgh G84 7PJ
01436 675777
www.helensburghhonda.co.uk

FOUND IT

'Nimbys' fight Clachan Seil turbines plan

OPPONENTS fighting plans for an 11-turbine wind farm opposite Clachan Seil told an open meeting they were 'glad to be Nimbys' if it meant stopping the proposal.

However, the developer behind the scheme - near the Bridge over the Atlantic - offered to bus protesters to a working wind farm 'to look at how these turbines work in reality'.

The meeting was organised by People Against Clachan Turbines (PACT). Residents claim house prices would plummet and their health affected if the scheme progresses.

The proposals for Enercon E44 900kW turbines, whose tip height would be 256 feet, are still to be put forward to Argyll and Bute Council's planning department but an anemometer is in place on the site.

Stuart Reid, a founding member of PACT, said: 'We are not here to argue the pros and cons of wind power. We are here to say that this setting at Clachan for this turbine is wrong. People have told me I am a Nimby, well I am glad to be Nimby if it means protecting our very special back yard with historic and scientific beauty. It is certainly worth protecting.'

Mr Reid based his argument on the visual impact of the turbines, the reduction in property value, the effect on tourism 'which is the main business in Scotland' and the ecological damage the turbines would have.

Consultant physician Allan Henderson raised concerns about the effect turbine 'flicker' would have on residents' health.

He also said that low-level noise was a serious factor, affecting sleep patterns and subsequent behaviour.

Martin Waddell, a Seil Island resident said: 'The proposals for a wind farm at Clachan are simply the wrong plans for the wrong place. We have to make sure our objections are relevant to this site and do not take on the wider arguments about the effectiveness or other wise of wind farms.'

After the meeting developer Rory Young said: 'I am willing to put on a bus to take anyone wanting to look at how these turbines work in reality. I can put my hand on my heart and tell people that noise will not be a problem because I am working with my developers and planners to deal with any issues that there may be and these are the quietest turbines suitable for this landscape.'

THE FINEST VIEWS ON THE WEST COAST...

LOCH MELFORT HOTEL & RESTAURANT

A WINTER SPECIAL TREAT

Try our contemporary Scottish fine dining in Asknish Bay Restaurant

£39pp for a 4 course meal

and stay overnight for £10 per person - that's cheaper than a taxi!

based on 2 sharing. Breakfast not included. Available 1 November - 20 December inclusive

Stay overnight for £10!

We are located 25 drive minutes south of Oban on A816

Loch Melfort Hotel, Arduaine, by Oban PA34 4XG | For more information call 01852 200 233 or visit www.lochmelfort.co.uk

Fantastic pre-Christmas deals

DeWALT drill with free Flashlight

Stanley 6 piece chisel and plane set

Stanley 26" Toolbox

OBAN mica hardware

Lochside St, Oban. Tel: 01631 562395/565930

The Oban Times & West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL

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

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

Editorial

Editorial Director
Stewart MacKenzie
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Deputy Editor
Stuart Laundry
slaundry@obantimes.co.uk

Northern Editor
Stephen Norris
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Chief Reporter
Marian Miller
mmiller@obantimes.co.uk

Senior Reporter
Euan Paterson
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

Senior Reporter
Louise Lee
lleee@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter
Christine McCartney
cmccartney@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter
Edel Kenealy
ekenealy@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter
Steven Flanagan
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter
Richard Haddock
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

Newsdesk
01631 568060
editor@obantimes.co.uk

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

Advertising Sales Person
Rhona McGilp
adverts@obantimes.co.uk

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

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

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

Branch Offices

Fort William
Tel 01397 703003
Fax 01397 702495

Lochgilphead
Tel 01546 602345
Fax 01546 602661

Campbeltown
Tel 01586 554646
Fax 01586 553006

Arran
Tel 01770 302142
Fax 01770 302021

Follow us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes



Volunteers set to work protecting dunes using old fish farm nets.

Islanders lead fight back against coastal erosion

A GROUP of South Uist crofters have taken the first steps towards securing their stretch of coastline from the ravages of the Atlantic ocean.

With each fierce storm, the sea erodes away more of the beach protecting the low-lying township of Kilpheder.

Residents have had to face up to climate change scenarios which predict that South Uist could even be split in two by sea level rise.

Crofters have now begun to place a barrier built from scrap tyres

covered with disused fish farm nets along the stretch of coastline which edges their grazings.

Crofters will infill the barrier with sand and it's hoped that within a year nature will have colonised the area with tough vegetation such as maram grass which will strengthen and stabilise the foreshore.

The concept has already found success in parts of Barra and North Uist. Crofters have been demanding action since the freak storm of 2005 in which a family of five died further up the coast. After study and debate

by the authorities, little practical action had happened so crofters came up with the plan to 'plug' the area the best they could.

They found support in Oxfam Scotland climate change campaigners, including former South Uist resident Caluna Campbell.

Ms Campbell, who attended the laying of the first tyres at Kilpheder at the weekend, said: 'It's heartening to see the community come together to find an innovative and sustainable solution. 'This coastline means

everything to me as I played on it as a child and want my seven-year-old son to be able to do the same.'

Isles MSP Alasdair Allan lent his support at the tyre-laying. He said: 'This community faces such a major problem so it's good to see crofters coming together to work on a practical solution.'

Kilpheder resident Seamus MacDonald, a former crofter, said: 'We know this is a temporary solution and we hope that eventually the authorities will fund the massive defences that are needed here.'

Tiree pair tackle Great Wall for charity appeal

REPORT
by STEVEN FLANAGAN
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

A TIREE mother and daughter team have rounded off eight months of charity fund-raising by completing a five-day trek along the Great Wall of China.

Kirsteen Jewell and mother Fiona MacLeod have, since March, been tireless campaigners for The Eve Appeal, a charity that funds research into and raises awareness of gynaecological cancer.

Their fund-raising activities have included everything from bottle stalls and whist drives to charity bakes and raffles.

So far, the duo has raised more than £7,000 – more than double their original target of £3,000. Despite the fact their fund-raising activities have ended, they hope the final figure will be in the region of £10,000.

Kirsteen, aged 32, who now lives and works in London, said they decided to embark on their mammoth charity task for no other reason than to raise awareness.

She said: 'We don't have any personal connection to the charity as such. We've had family members with cancer but not of this type. Being girls together we wanted to do something for women.'

Walking 12kms per day along the Great Wall was the hardest part of their efforts, but not because of heat or humidity.

Kirsteen said: 'We paid our own

way there and stayed in lodges just outside Beijing. We walked a different part of the wall each day.

'The worst thing was the bugs – bugs galore!

'There were plenty of cockroaches. No poisonous bugs – not that they told us anyway – but lots of bugs I'd never seen before.

'I think we were lucky though as it was the coldest October they've had in years. On the first day we even had sleet so it was just like being back in Scotland!

'Temperatures were about 12-15 degrees centigrade. One or two weeks before it was up in the mid 20s.'

Thankfully for Fiona, 56, and Kirsteen, regular walks on Tiree more than prepared them for the rough, twisting and sometimes difficult terrain on the wall.

About 75 per cent of the cash raised so far has come from Tiree itself. Kirsteen said: 'The people of Tiree have been amazing. Every time I speak to mum someone else has donated.'

'We've been totally astounded by the generosity we've received. It's such a worthy cause and the money will be put to good use.'

Will they be doing it again soon? 'Maybe in a few years,' said Kirsteen.

'Our husbands would be upset if we did it again already!'

If you would like to donate to Kirsteen and Fiona, you can do so online by visiting www.justgiving.com/tireetrekks.



Fiona MacLeod and daughter Kirsteen Jewell take time out of their walk across the Great Wall of China to read *The Oban Times*.

Work begins on new primary school in Lewis



A ground-breaking ceremony for a new primary school on Lewis marked the latest step forward in a £120 million project in the western isles.

The ceremony marked the start of construction work on the new Point Primary School in Lewis.

The new school is one of five being built on the isles. The others are the Nicolson Institute, in Stornoway, and Sir E Scott in Tarbert, both secondary schools, and primaries at Balivanich and on the west side of Lewis.

Pictured at the Point ceremony were: back row, from left: Councillor Donald Nicolson; chairman of the new Point School Parent Council, Alasdair Morrison; chairman of the Interim Parent Council for the new Point School, Councillor Donald John MacSween; Chief Executive of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Malcolm Burr; head teacher of Aird Primary Trish Sinclair; Councillor Norman MacLeod; and Iain Don MacIver, chairman of the Bayble Parent Council. Front: Councillor Catriona Stewart, vice chairwoman of Education and Children's Services committee and head teacher of Bayble and Knock, Calum MacLean.

Missing from the photograph are Catherine Fish, chairwoman of Aird Parent Council, and Mairi Murray, chairwoman of Knock Parent Council.

It is anticipated that Balivanich will be completed by August 2011, followed by Point and West Side. Sir E Scott and the Nicolson Institute will be fully operational by August 2012.

Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

'NUAIR A DH' FHALBH an taigh-cèilidh, dh' fhalbh colaiste a' bhaile!'

Sin mar a thuir Peadar "Ruairidh" MacLeòid à Tolstadh a' Chaolais rium is e ag innse mar a bha am baile nuair bha e fhèin òg. Ged a tha cuimhne agam fhin air taighean-cèilidh, mar taigh mo sheanair, cha chreid mi nach robh cùisean air atharrachadh gu mòr seach na h-amannan air an robh Peadar ag aithris.

Tha gliocas bhriathran Pheadair air a bhith tighinn gum aire gu sònraichte bho chionn ghoidid an seo is uimhir a dheasbad dhòrainnich a' dol mu dhùnadh sgoiltean. Chan e, gu mi-fhortanach, cuspair ùr a tha seo agus gu deimhinne nochdaidh e a-rithist, ach an-dràsta tha fìor ghainnead ionmhais Chomhairlean a' ciallachadh nach eil uimhir de chomas gu bhith aig Buill cùl a chur ri molaidhean sgoiltean a dhùnadh far am bheil àireamh na cloinne air tuiteam 's gun dùil ri àrdachadh. Chan eil fada bhon a bha mi a' beachdachadh air suidheachadh na seann sgoile ann an Gleann Dail san Eilean Sgitheanach is cuid sa choimhearsnachd ag iomairt gun d' rachadh a gleidheadh mar ghoireas foghlaim, ged nach robh ach dithis chloinne san sgìre. Bha mi ag radh an uairsin gur e taghadh doirbh a th' ann dha choimhearsnachd sam bith nuair a thig a leithid orra, ach nuair a bheachdaicheas pàrantan air an àrainneachd agus na cothroman foghlaim a gheibh an cuid chloinne ann an sgoil ùr ghoireasach am measg mòran chomhaoisean, chan eil ach an aon taghadh ann! Tha foghlam na cloinne na bhonn-stèidh air am beatha agus iarraidh a h-uile neach a' chuid as fhèarr.

Mar sin, dùinidh sgoiltean thall 's a bhios agus gum teagamh 's e rud duilich a th' ann a bhith faicinn crìoch a' tighinn air pàirt de dh' eachdraidh na sgìre. Tha na sgoiltean sin cuideachd air a bhith cudromach mar àiteichean-coimheachaidh sgrìreil, a' toirt nan inbheach còmhla cho math ris a' chloinne. Agus an t-seadh sin, bidh ionndrainn mhòr air goireas coimhearsnachd a tha na mheadhan air sean is òg a thoirt ri chèile, agus 's dòcha gur e sin buille-bàis coimhearsnachd a ghabhas seachnadh.

As a' mhòr-chuid chan eil cus luach as na h-ionadan-sgoile seo mar thogalaichean agus tha fhios gum b' fhiach a mholadh gun toiradh na Comhairlean na togalaichean sin an-asgaidh dha muinntir na coimhearsnachd mar ionadan-cruinneachaidh sean is òg a ghlèidheas cridhe na sgìre.

SCHOOL closures seem inevitable where numbers have declined and when resources are under such extreme pressure. It is desperately sad to see such wellheads of community history closing and some would describe it as a death blow.

Schools are also important meeting places for adults as well as children, and given that most of the buildings being closed will have relatively little value surely councils should be encouraged to donate them to the communities as centres in which old and young can meet and maintain the life of their communities.

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

Under threat tug called out to stricken freighter

THE LOGIC of withdrawing the coastguard's emergency tug from the Minch has once again been questioned after it made its second rescue within a month.

On October 22, the *Anglian Prince* was called in to rescue the Royal Navy's newest nuclear powered submarine, the HMS *Astute*, after it ran aground off the coast of Skye.

Last week, it was in action again to rescue the *Red Duchess* freighter, which was en route to Stornoway with 1,500 tonnes of coal when it lost all engine power five miles south of Rum in stormy seas.

The *Anglian Prince* is facing the axe after the government announced plans to withdraw all four coastguard tugs serving the UK to save £32million.

Having already criticised the plan, Ross, Skye and Lochaber Liberal Democrat MP Charles Kennedy said the latest developments proves the need for a tug on the Minch. He has urged the Tory/Lib Dem coalition to think again.

'All it takes is for one major oil spill to happen in the Minch and heaven knows what the cost of remedying that would be financially,' he said.

Annual Hallowe'en fun for Luìng's youngsters

LUING Social Committee held its annual Hallowe'en Party in Toberonochy Hall on Saturday October 30.

The village hall was filled to capacity with children and teenagers all in fancy dress and even some brave adults in disguise. Everyone enjoyed a tea of sandwiches and cakes before the fun began. The traditional 'treacle scone' has been replaced in recent years with the ring donut. Covered in chocolate sauce

and dangling from a string, the children twisted and turned to try and bite it without using their hands - a messy game. Dooking for apples followed to wash away the chocolate sauce, and everyone tried their best to bite the bobbing apples from the water. After the party, folks hurried home to welcome the Guisers - as all the children went out round the houses to sing songs or tell jokes in return for sweets and fruit.



Hallowe'en fun at Toberonochy Hall.

Protected status for Scottish whisky

SCOTTISH whisky has gained protected status in China following negotiations with the Scottish and UK Governments, and the Scotch Whisky Association. The deal, signed on Monday, will mean any product sold in China labelled 'Scotch Whisky' must have come from Scotland.

More than 10,000 people are employed in Scotland's whisky industry, which supports a further 25,000 jobs indirectly - 20 per cent of them in rural areas.

First Minister, Alex Salmond, said: 'I am grateful to the Chinese Government for working with the Scotch Whisky Association and the Scottish and UK Governments to deliver the designation, which of course, will provide discerning Chinese consumers with the assurance that when they buy Scotch Whisky they're buying a high-quality product from Scotland.'

Body identified as missing yachtsman

A BODY found on a remote Hebridean island more than a month ago was finally identified last night as that of a missing Aberdeen yachtsman.

The body was discovered by a member of the public on September 29 on the island of Canna.

Northern Constabulary confirmed last night that it is the body of missing sailor Neil Mackenzie, 59.

His remains have been released to his wife Sarah.

Mr Mackenzie of Kirktonbridge, Skene, near Westhill, was an experienced sailor who went missing after he travelled from the north east to the marina at Arisaig on 12 September for a week-long break.

Burning napkin sparks evacuation

GUESTS at Oban's Great Western Hotel were evacuated on Saturday evening after a napkin in the restaurant was accidentally set alight. The smoke from the small fire set off the smoke detectors at about 8pm, and while the napkin was quickly extinguished, one appliance from Oban Strathclyde Fire and Rescue attended.

A subsequent search showed there was no risk of a more serious fire and guests allowed back in before 9pm.

Lorn anglers strike a pose

INTERNATIONAL pin ups have come in an unlikely guise of Lorn Angling Club. Five of the club's anglers cut a striking pose at the mouth of the River Awe for an advertising campaign for Singleton whisky.

Images of the 40, 50 and 60 somethings will be seen all over the world, including a major campaign to Japanese drinkers.

Whisky makers Diagio approached club members Eddie Murphy, Eddie Docherty, Iain Miller, Laurence Lamour and Jim Grount to go along to do a photo shoot for its Down-to-Earth advertising campaign.

Jim said: 'A crowd came up from London to photograph us in the river. We were given a free bottle of whisky and it tasted fine.'

Reservoir water level lowered

WATER levels at Polvinister Reservoir in Oban, which is owned by Scottish Water, have been lowered due to a leak from the reservoir.

A Scottish Water spokesman said: 'The reduction in water levels will allow us to monitor the situation. The reservoir is not used for supplying water to customers.'

Man arrested

A MAN was arrested for alleged breach of the peace and possession of cannabis on Soroba Road in the early hours of Sunday morning.

A report has been sent to the procurator fiscal.



100-year-old Mary Ferguson receives her quach from pipers, from left: Angus MacColl jnr, Niall Jordan, Iain Hurst, Angus MacColl snr and Angus MacLennan. 07_t46mary01

Pipers lead celebrations for Mary's centenary

TWO PIPE bands surprised a 100-year-old on her birthday by marching into her sheltered housing complex to play some of her favourite tunes.

Mary Ferguson, who has been a supporter of piping her whole life, welcomed more than 100 guests to a party at Ford Spence Court, Benderloch last Wednesday, including her sister, 90-year-old Margaret MacMillan, and her brother Ian from Stirling.

Fellow residents also delighted the centenarian by greeting her on the morning of her big day with a rendition of 'Happy Birthday', accompanied by resident accordion player Bill Mason.

But piping-fanatic Mary described the surprise visit of Oban Pipe Band

and Oban High School Pipe Band as 'the best thing that could have happened' on her birthday.

Mary's family moved to Barcaldine from Motherwell following the end of the First World War and she went to school at Rhugarbh.

After that she took up work as a housekeeper and married her late husband, Duncan, who was also a Ferguson.

Coincidentally, Mary's late brother shared the same name as her husband. Her brother Duncan 'Dochie' Ferguson was a well-known piper in the area and taught many pupils in and around Benderloch and Barcaldine.

At her 100th birthday party, Oban

Pipe Band stalwart Angus MacLennan, who was taught to play by Dochie, presented Mary with a quach on behalf of both Oban pipe bands.

Mary remains involved in the piping scene by attending the monthly recitals in Oban, organised by Netherlorn Piping Society.

She said: 'It was great to have the pipe bands here on my birthday; it was the best thing that could have happened.'

'I enjoy going to the piping nights and I'll keep going as long as I'm alive.'

The next Netherlorn Piping Society recital is on November 17 in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

Jobs fears for hundreds of council staff

REPORT by LOUISE LEE llee@obantimes.co.uk

THE future of hundreds of staff at Argyll and Bute council is under threat after the authority confirmed this week that compulsory redundancies were likely in a bid to rein in its budget.

A pool of 600 jobs has been identified 'from which a number of redundancies may arise', while the terms and condition of another 400 workers look set to change.

Chief executive Sally Loudon announced formal consultations with trades unions and employee representatives were under way and would be completed in February when any redundancies would be announced.

Ms Loudon said: 'Draft service reviews have identified a pool of more than 600 non-teaching posts from which a number of redundancies might arise.'

'We have been actively trying to reduce the need for compulsory redundancies by offering staff the option to volunteer or look at different working patterns.'

'We are attempting to match the requests for voluntary redundancy to employee changes identified in the draft service reviews.'

'It will not be possible to release all of those employees who have volunteered for redundancy as some of those posts will still be needed. We may have to consider compulsory redundancies for some posts.'

'A consultation with trades unions will end on February 3, 2011. During this time we'll continue to consider options, which will reduce the number of potential compulsory redundancies we might need to make.'

'This includes looking for redeployment opportunities. However, we need to be realistic and accept that if we are to make our 15 per cent savings target then compulsory redundancies must be considered.'

SNP Oban-based councillor Donald 'Skye' McIntosh said: 'We are trying to get as many redundancies as possible from volunteers but realistically these are still not enough and perhaps from the wrong group of people.'

'Sadly, we will have to look at compulsory redundancies if we are to live within our means and meet our budgets. If we don't then we are in trouble.'

'The redundancies, I am sure, will be spread over the whole of Argyll and Bute and therefore not specifically

affect Oban. 'We have not worked out the detail of the redundancies but I believe that frontline services will be protected as far as possible.'

Bridget Hunter, regional organiser for union Unison, said: 'We're in discussion with the council and are hopeful of avoiding compulsory redundancies.'

A representative from teaching union EIS confirmed they would consider strike action if any teacher was forced to take redundancy.

Donald Kelly, Campbelltown-based Argyll First councillor, said he was worried about the future as the council is the second biggest employer in the area.

He said: 'It would certainly be devastating for the town if the council were to pull jobs from the town.'

'We have some of the bigger departments here in Campbelltown. We have had so many job losses in the town already that it may be another blow that the town simply can not cope with.'

'It will be interesting to see the detail. I will certainly be looking for proper consultation, full and frank discussion and a justification for making people redundant.'

Why is authority recruiting in face of uncertainty, asks community councillor

A COMMUNITY councillor in Oban has demanded an end to the 'ridiculous' situation whereby Argyll and Bute is continuing to advertise for new staff while hundreds of existing workers face an uncertain future.

Neil MacIntyre said he has been infuriated by the fact that while schools are facing closure and hundreds of council jobs are under threat, the authority is

currently advertising for a number of temporary and permanent staff on its employment pages.

He said: 'It seems ridiculous to me that we would spend somewhere in the region of £650,000 appointing new members of staff into teaching and associated posts this month when so many are facing redundancy.'

A council spokeswoman said: 'Councillors have

not yet made any decision regarding putting the proposals arising from the review of our school estate out to consultation.'

'In the meantime, we have to ensure that our schools are operating properly and have the necessary staff to do so. All jobs advertised are temporary. Since June, as an interim measure, all our promoted posts are only being approved for filling on a temporary basis.'



Members of Oban High School Pipe Band hand a cheque over to Christine Pearson from the Oban Branch of Cancer Research UK. 07_t45drummer1

Young musicians strike the right note for cancer group

KIND-HEARTED youngsters beat a path to a better future for breast cancer sufferers by raising cash for Cancer Research. Youngsters from Oban High School Pipe Band tenor section were given pink drumsticks by Northern Irish

company Beatstreet, on the understanding they would use them to help raise funds for breast cancer awareness and cancer research UK. They also very kindly donated a new bass drum for use by the school band.

The young drummers decided to donate the price of each set of drumsticks received towards Cancer Research and set about collecting the money.

The band were able to surpass their expectations and raise £500, which was presented

to Cancer Research at their ceilidh on Friday October 29.

Alistair Dewar, from the local branch of Cancer Research UK, said 'We wish to thank the young members and Beatstreet for working together and raising this donation.'

Listening in to monitor shark population

NEW 'listening' devices have been installed at the mouth of Loch Etive to determine how many endangered sharks are resident there.

The technology will be utilised for the first time this weekend when the third annual Spurdog Tag-athon takes place at both Etive and Loch Sunart.

A record sign-up of more than 100 anglers has already been confirmed for the event, which is organised by the Scottish Sea Angling Conservation Network (SSACN), in conjunction with the Scottish Shark Tagging Programme.

They hope that tagging the species - a type of small shark

- will aid their campaign to protect it and allow its numbers to climb.

SSACN's spurdog tagging expert, Ian Burrett, said this year's activities will dwarf the achievements of the previous two years.

He said: 'The whole point of this project is to prove residential populations of spurdog.'

'We've had eight tagged sharks recaptured in these areas so far; each one caught within half a mile of the original capture point.'

'While it's too early to make a thing out of eight fish, it looks like our hypothesis

of residential populations is correct.'

'To enhance that, this year we have installed an acoustic listening device at the mouth of Etive.'

'The tags that we put on the sharks emit a signal that these 'listening posts' pick up, so if a tagged fish swims in or out of the loch it will register.'

'It's a leap forward for us and we hope it will strengthen our theory.'

In addition to being thought of as home to residential populations of spurdog, it's thought Etive in particular is an important pupping ground for spurdogs.

Should the new listening device back up that theory, the SSACN will move to have Etive and Sunart protected.

Mr Burrett said: 'We hope to get the area protected. That will stop any commercial farms or destructive forms of fishing taking place here.'

'I'm sure scallop farmers etc will not be happy about it, but these spurdogs are currently endangered - they are as endangered as Siberian tigers.'

For more information on the Spurdog Tag-athon, which takes place this Saturday and Sunday, or to take part, log on to the website at www.tagsharks.com/events.

OBAN & LORN SPORTS FESTIVAL 2010
 Coming Together to Support, Encourage and Praise Sports People in Oban & Lorn

Go on line and check out our activity programme for the Sports Festival at www.obanandlornsportsfestival.co.uk

Enjoy a huge selection of activities available this Saturday and Sunday
 From Archery, Squash, Shinty, Kayaking, Volleyball and Orienteering to Zumba, Body Conditioning and Body Balance. There is something for everybody. £2 per activity

SPORTS AWARDS CEREMONY

Tickets still available at Atlantis Leisure
 4pm to 7pm Sunday 14th November.

Tickets: Junior £6 and Adults £8
 Enjoy great food, watch our demonstrations and sit back, relax and listen to our guest speakers.

Look no further for all your Christmas Gifts

Indulge in our delicious home cooking, delight in our meringues.

Open 7 Days

All our cakes are made in our kitchen at Poppies with love x.

Poppies Christmas Market
 Saulmore Shore by Oban 01631 565718 poppiesgardencentre.co.uk

Mull Lines

CRAIGNURE Information Centre showed off the world-class foods produced on Mull when VisitScotland invited five producers from the island to offer tasting sessions.

Island Bakery Organics, Isle of Mull Preserves, Tobermory Fish Company, Glengorm Organics and Isle of Mull Whisky took part in the event.

Joe Reade, owner of Mull-based biscuit company Island Bakery Organics, said: 'Besides our delicious biscuits, passing punters tried the finest and freshest of local produce.'

'Holding public tasting sessions like this gives local suppliers a great opportunity to shout about the great work we are doing creating mouthwatering produce using fresh, local ingredients and highlighting the great food and drink to be found throughout Scotland.'

Helen Dewar, visitor services team leader at Craignure Information Centre, said: 'Mull and Iona has a wealth of fantastic food and drink providers, producers and experiences.'

'It is a real pleasure to be able to work with local producers and showcase them in our information centre.'

MULL has been named as the top spot for bird watching by a wildlife expert.

Nick Stringer, an Emmy award-winning director and producer of wildlife documentaries, calls the island his 'little bit of heaven'.

He said: 'The west coast of Scotland, and especially the Isle of Mull, is my little bit of heaven. Midges and rain aside, when the sun shines it's unforgettable for its wilderness, its seascapes and some of the biggest seabird colonies in Europe.'

'Spot white-tailed sea and golden eagles as well as basking sharks and seals. It is great for kayaking.'

Nick also named Namibia, Uganda, Borneo, Australia, Oman and Venezuela in his top 10 spots.

MULL is top of the list when it comes to perfect ingredients and to show off mouth-watering recipes one island chef has seen her ideas published.

Helen Swinbanks, of The Water's Edge restaurant in Tobermory, is featured alongside Michelin starred chefs Nick Nairn, Martin Wishart, Tom Kitchen and Tony Borthwick revealing her secrets in the kitchen in a new book called *Relish Scotland*.

Helen puts her success down to 'perfect ingredients that need to be allowed to speak for themselves'.

MULL Eagle Diary: It's been busy on Mull with the BBC Autumnwatch crew here filming wildlife the length and breadth of the island.

For once Frisa and Skye were uncharacteristically camera-shy. Maybe they weren't offered a big enough fee.

A red deer stag which was killed on the road last week didn't even tempt them down, at least not when the cameras were rolling.

There is probably a wealth of tasty gralloch from deer stalking around Mull's hills at the moment so they could be anywhere.

One question which came up time and time again from presenters Chris Packham and Martin Hughes-Games was: Why is Mull so good for eagles and other wildlife?

The answer is simple: it is the way the island is farmed and managed with hill livestock which creates a wide variety of habitats which attracts all manner of wildlife, including the top predators.

They, in turn, don't get persecuted here as they do in other parts of Scotland: farming and management persecution equals rich biodiversity.

Despite the very mixed autumnal weather - well it is Autumnwatch what did they expect - the crew saw and filmed some great sights.

Okay, Frisa and Skye? You can come out now. They've gone.

For a trip to the eagle hide call 07920 817362.

£1.1 million needed for repairs to youth hostel

REPORT
by EDEL KENEALY
ekenealy@obantimes.co.uk



Oban Youth Hostel, which is in need of repairs costing more than £1 million.

A £1 million appeal has been launched to restore the building housing Oban Youth Hostel.

The Scottish Youth Hostel Association (SYHA) is urging the people of Oban to support them in its fight to raise £1.1 million to preserve the hostel for future generations.

The Victorian building requires major repairs to the roof and wall fabric as well as new mechanical and electrical systems.

The aim of the project is to see the hostel, on the town's

waterfront, benefit from an internal modernisation, while still retaining the original building's historic charm.

The hostel's wooden

staircase, which has been closed off from view for many years, will be restored to its former glory and become open plan, whilst the stained glass windows are to be repaired and placed in a protected double glazed frame.

The organisation is currently recruiting budding Santas to run in the Glasgow Santa Dash on December 12 to help raise funds.

Fiona Rattray, fundraising manager for SYHA Hostelling Scotland, said: 'We would be delighted if the people of Oban felt able to support the appeal to preserve their local SYHA hostel, which provides a

valuable addition to the town's landscape and tourism business.'

'Any support that the people of Oban can give to this appeal will make a real difference. We truly appreciate the help and are keen to work with would-be fund-raisers to come up with fun, exciting ideas.'

The renovation project will also include a new reception, media room, the addition of en-suite bedrooms, self-catering kitchen, dining area and café as well as new furnishings and fittings.

SYHA hope to see the flagship hostel refurbished and re-opened by July 1 2011.

Jail for 'out of control' man who threatened his ex-girlfriend's new partner

A 20-YEAR-old man was described as being 'completely out of control' as he was sentenced to a total of 128 days in prison at Oban Sheriff Court.

Daniel Kelly, of 5 West Bay Flats, pled guilty on Monday to a breach of the peace in Colonsay Terrace, Oban, and uttering threats of violence on October 15, while on bail.

Kelly, who appeared from custody, was seen by police officers outside an address in Colonsay Terrace at about 6.45pm on the day of the incident. He was brandishing a bottle and shouting at a former girlfriend on the third floor of the building, who told him to go away.

Procurator Fiscal Depute Gillian Climie told the court Kelly had then threatened to stab the woman's current partner.

Defence solicitor Edward Thornton said his client had gone to see his former girlfriend in the hope of a reconciliation. He added: 'There was no suggestion he would use the bottle to harm anyone. He had just bought the bottle, which was unopened. He was intoxicated at the time of the incident and cannot recall making the comments. He has problems with alcohol and Valium and it is usually one, or both, of them that contribute to most of the incidents he is involved in.'

Sheriff Douglas Small noted Kelly's long list of previous convictions, saying: 'He is completely out of control if you look at it.'

Mr Thornton said his client was only at liberty for a few days at a time before being arrested and found it difficult to adjust to life outside prison as a result.

In sentencing Kelly, Sheriff Small said: 'It is about time you stopped behaving like this because you will end up with a long sentence.'

Kelly was sentenced to 38 days in prison for the offence, a punishment that took into account time already served in custody. He was also ordered to serve the unexpired portion from a previous sentence of 90 days. The sentences are to run consecutively.

Joyriding chefs caused £21,500 damage to stolen buses

TWO JOYRIDING chefs caused £21,500 worth of damage after stealing buses from a depot on Mull.

Paul Douglas Robertson, aged 22, of Barnhill, Dundee, and Carl Mark Jordan, 23, of Folkestone, Kent, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday after each previously admitted stealing a bus on the island on October 4.

Both were subsequently sacked from their jobs aboard the *Hebridean Princess* although Jordan has gained temporary employment at a restaurant in Dover.

Sheriff Douglas Small imposed £200 fines on both Robertson and Jordan for driving without insurance and banned them from driving for 12 months and 18 months respectively. Jordan was also ordered to pay £1,200 in compensation and serve 160 hours community service.

Full sentence on Robertson was deferred until February 8 2011 for him to gain new employment thus enabling him to pay a compensation order. Both, however, were admonished of charges that they drove the vehicles without licences.

The court heard the pair had decided to steal the buses after visiting pubs in Craignure on the night in question.

At about 11.10pm, they were heading back to the *Hebridean Princess* when they passed the Bowman's bus yard and decided to enter. They entered several parked coaches, which were unlocked, and managed to recover two sets of keys hidden within.

Procurator Fiscal Depute Gillian Climie said: 'Robertson started a 39-seater and manoeuvred it forward, turned left towards

the yard exit, and in doing so managed to strike another vehicle, causing damage to both. Meanwhile Jordan started the vehicle that was struck by Robertson, moved forward, turned left to exit and managed to strike an adjacent Mercedes coach, causing damage.'

The coaches were later found by police and the accused traced back to the *Hebridean Princess*, where they were arrested.

Defending Robertson, Edward Thornton said his client was not in a position to pay a compensation order to the tune of the repair

bill as his benefits of £100 per fortnight would not realistically allow him to pay it off in a reasonable period of time.

Jordan's defence agent Gordon Seaton asked the court not to impose a driving ban as his client required the use of his 125cc motorbike to get to his new job.

Sheriff Douglas Small told Robertson: 'The reason I'm not imposing a custodial sentence is because it was a spur of the moment thing, it was not pre-mediated. Otherwise, you most certainly would have been going to prison.'

Axe set to fall on 11 Western Isles schools

ELEVEN schools, including seven on the Isle of Lewis, are to close in the Western Isles following a decision by councillors at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

Councillors agreed to close eight primary schools and three junior secondary schools at a full council meeting last Thursday.

It is thought the cuts could

make savings of around £2m. Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan said: 'This will be a disappointing day for a number of communities in the Western Isles. Many people have been deeply uneasy about the sheer scale of school cuts that have been proposed and now confirmed for the Western Isles.'

'There is no doubt about the financial pressures under which the Comhairle, like the government is now working. However, I am disappointed that

the Comhairle have taken decisions that will have an impact on local communities and pupils. We should be seeking to make rural and remote communities more, not less, attractive to young families and it is a pity that this is something which appears to have been forgotten in this case.'

Mr Allan added that if

carried out in full, the plan would signal the number of schools in the Western Isles being halved within a few years.

The schools set to be closed by the end of June 2012 are: Balallan, Bragar, Carloway, Cross, Daliburgh, Lionel, Sandwickhill, Scalpay, Shawbost, Sheilebost and Stoneybridge.

Oban stop for Fiddlers' Bid

LONG-TERM members of award-winning group Fiddlers' Bid and masters of the Shetland fiddle and the Scottish harp respectively, Chris Stout and Catriona McKay, will be playing a live gig in Oban as part of their tour, following the release

of their highly acclaimed album, *White Nights*.

The gig takes place on Monday November 15 with doors open at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from the Corran Halls box office on 567333 or on the night.

Vandals target runway lights

THREE runway lights were vandalised on Saturday night at Oban Airport, Connel.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokeswoman said: 'The lights were replaced within a few hours of the discovery and the airport's

operation was not affected.' Police say they are following a line of enquiry.

Anyone with information should contact officers in Oban on 01631 510500 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Waitress tried to prevent arrest of her boyfriend

A WAITRESS who tried to prevent police officers arresting her boyfriend has been fined.

Stephanie Duffy, aged 18, of 9F Colonsay Terrace, Oban, admitted attempting to stop police officers handcuffing her now former boyfriend and also pled guilty to assaulting one of the officers on December 12 last year. The court heard how Duffy grabbed her boyfriend's arm to prevent him being handcuffed and refused to stop interfering with the arrest. Solicitor Edward Thornton said his client became involved because she saw no reason for her boyfriend being arrested.

He added: 'She stupidly got involved.'

Sheriff Douglas Small fined Duffy £270.

Motorist under the influence ordered to produce licence

AN OBAN man has admitted being in charge of a vehicle while under the influence of drink or drugs. At Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, Martin Russell, aged 26, of Corriemar Hotel, Corran Esplanade, Oban pled guilty to the charge, committed on February 6 this year on Soroba Road, Oban. Sentence was deferred until next Tuesday for Russell to produce his driving licence.

Onlookers flock to spectacular Oban firework display



The skies around Mossfield Stadium were alive with light and colour on Friday night during the Oban Community Fireworks Display. Hundreds of locals attended the event, organised by Oban Fireworks Committee and sponsored by Scottish Sea Farms. While there was no bonfire, the spectacular fireworks display more than made up for it, with the musical accompaniment delighting the crowd. 15_t46fireworks1

Santa's coming to town for lights switch-on

SANTA Claus is coming to town on November 20 when Oban celebrates switching on the Christmas lights with a parade through the town.

Santa and his reindeer will lead the parade from the Corran Halls through George Street at 5pm, followed by Oban Pipe Band, Oban High School's senior dance troupe and Spotlight Theatre Group.

Riding in Santa's sleigh will be two junior prizewinners from the Rotary Club of Oban's Primary School Christmas Card competition. Two older competition winners will have the important task of switching on the lights.

Funding for this year's parade has come from Oban Town Centre Traders Association, Argyll and Bute Council and

Rotary Club of Oban, with assistance also coming from Oban and Lorn Lions.

New to the parade this year is a Victorian Christmas Market, organised by Oban fundraising group Ready, Steady, Christmas.

The market, which will be held at the Caledonian Hotel to coincide with the parade, will raise money for Friends

of Oban Hospice. Stalls will be offering all types of food and drink, flower arranging and cooking demonstrations and various items for sale.

There will also be a postbox for children to post their letters to Santa.

Santa Claus will visit the Christmas Market once the parade finishes to collect the postbox.

first@ safety

FIRST AID COURSES
HSE Approved.

HEALTH & SAFETY COURSES
IOSH Approved

FIRE SAFETY TRAINING

For Further Information
Tel Terry Rooney
01369 820 300
email: terence@firststatsafety

All Courses Now Recruiting

krisp print

2011 Personal Calendars available to order NOW

Give the ideal gift to a loved one this Christmas - a personal calendar with all your favourite photos

Burnbank, Burnside Street, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JD
Tel: 01586 554975
Fax: 01586 554903
email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

Samples available to view in our offices in Arran, Lochgilphead, Campbeltown and Oban
Phone or email for details

Help celebrate The Oban Times' 150th anniversary

THE OBAN Times is celebrating its 150th anniversary next year by looking at the lives of our most famous sons and daughters.

We would like readers to tell us who they think should be included on a list of the top 50 characters of the area.

Trying to compile a list is already causing much debate in the office.

People from our islands, villages and towns have gone onto to be the founders of countries and companies; sanctified and sacrificed; loved and venerated.

We want to know who should be included in a list of the West Highlands' finest.

Perhaps the list should include the MacDougalls of Dunollie, John Stuart McCaig, the builder of the tower, St Columba of Iona, St Moluag of Lismore, influential engineer John Kennedy of Glenfield and Kennedy, Sergeant James Turnbull of the Highland Light Infantry who was honoured with the Victoria Cross, Gaelic ambassador Anne Lorn Gillies or Ray Michie MP.

Or perhaps the list should include unsung heroes - someone who goes above and beyond the call of duty.

There may even be some people who have a murky past that should be included such as Alan Breck Stewart, who was convicted of the Appin murder, or The Red Fox himself.

It is a subject everyone seems to have an opinion on and will make fascinating reading throughout The Oban Times' anniversary year.

Send your suggestions to Louise Lee - email lleec@obantimes.co.uk or phone 01631 568000 with the name of the person you think should be included.

Six-month prison term for attacker

A 50-year-old man suffered a broken nose, broken ribs and a black eye after a fight broke out in Lorn Court, Oban, the town's Sheriff Court was told.

The victim, who now lives in Ayrshire, told the court that Oban man David Irvine butted him, repeatedly punched him and bit him on the hand during a fight on April 4 this year.

The complainer told the court that Irvine visited Lorn Court, of which he was a tenant, to visit the resident in a neighbouring room and that the pair were making a lot of noise.

He said: 'At about 10pm I went next door and asked them to keep the noise down. I just wanted to get some sleep. The next thing I know, David Irvine came out and stuck the head on me. I was taken aback and then tried to defend myself. I was just trying to block him and then he bit my hand.'

But Irvine, aged 52, who pled self-defence at the trial, accused the complainer of making threats, barging into the room and attacking him.

Two police officers, who were called to the scene by the complainer, said they found him in his room shaking with a bloody nose. They said Irvine had no obvious injuries.

The court heard that both men had been drinking that evening but that Irvine was particularly inebriated.

PC Daryl Burnsides, of Strathclyde Police, told the court that when detained at the scene Irvine said: 'I will admit to biting him when he was on top of me but I did not head butt him.'

In summarising the case Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'This is a case of credibility, which of the two do I believe?'

In finding Irvine, of 24 Combie Court, Oban, guilty of assault, Sheriff Douglas Small sentenced him to six months in prison.

Rescued collie turns into top notch lifesaver



Lifesaving border collie Sky pictured with owner and handler Stephen Austin and Jean Sutherland from Argyll Animal Aid. 15_t45skydog1

A COLLIE from Taynuilt has gone from rescued to rescuer after receiving the highest lifesaving qualification from the National Search and Rescue Dog Association.

Tri-coloured pure bred Sky was adopted by handler Stephen Austin in 2005 after he spotted the chirpy 18-month-old bitch at Argyll Animal Aid's (AAA) kennels near Barcaldine.

Now, having achieved the 'Grade Five Full Mountain Search for a Dog Team' qualification, the pair will be among the first on the scene for any rescue operation, either with Oban Mountain Rescue Team or the Search and Rescue Dog Association of Southern Scotland.

Stephen, the Lorn and north Argyll area officer for Scottish Natural Heritage, said he's delighted with Sky's progress.

He said: 'I went up to AAA at Benderloch and as I was walking along the kennels, there was Sky jumping up and down. I think she picked me as much as I picked her.'

'At the time, I had just joined Oban Mountain Rescue Team and being a handler for a rescue dog was something I was interested in doing.'

'Sky came along and took straight to it and we've now received the top

qualification. In fact, the examiners tell me that Sky has been a Grade Five dog for years and it was me that needed to catch up!

'I would urge anyone looking for a dog, either as a pet or working dog, to consider re-homing a dog from Argyll Animal Aid - all their dogs have a lot to give.'

'Sky has proved that point by going from a rescued dog to a top notch search and rescue dog.'

Stephen and Sky have been out on live rescues for two years, but will now be put in the front line for rescue operations that require a sniffer dog.

While they are mainly tasked for the west and south of Scotland, they could potentially be called almost anywhere in the UK and earlier this year were sent to Cumbria with other dog teams to help police in tracing potential victims of gunman Raoul Moat.

Dog re-homing officer for AAA Jean Sutherland said: 'It's a great story. Sky came from a home where her old owners couldn't look after her any more. Now she's saving people. It's all about getting the right people for the right dogs and they've got a great partnership.'

For more information on Argyll Animal Aid visit www.smallpaws.co.uk.

Careless driver caused fatal crash 13 years ago

Dead man's sister forced to swerve out of danger

AN OBAN motorist, who cut across another driver in a residential area, has been found guilty of careless driving, 13 years after he caused the death of the victim's brother.

Businessman Justin Campbell-Black, aged 31, of Glendale, 2 Victoria Place, Dunollie, denied a charge of dangerous driving at Oban Sheriff Court and was found guilty of the lesser charge of careless driving.

The court heard how Maree Neilson was driving along Nant Drive to its junction with Lonan Drive after 6pm on November 14 last year when Campbell-Black's red Toyota Celica cut the corner at excessive speed, forcing her to swerve into the nearside kerb.

Mrs Neilson, whose daughter Rebecca was a passenger in the car, said: 'I just slammed on the brakes

and pulled the car into the kerb to give the other car time to get back over to its side of the road.'

'I blasted the horn but it didn't stop.'

Neither woman could identify the driver or the type of car at the time of the incident but Mrs Neilson turned and drove up Nant Drive where they caught sight of an identical car at the mini-roundabout in the housing estate.

They watched Campbell-Black get out of the car at 71 Nant Drive, his former address. An argument ensued before the Neilsons went to Oban Police Station to report the incident.

As a 17-year-old, in 1997, Black was sentenced to three-and-a-half years' detention after admitting causing the death of an 18-year-old passenger, Robert Wylie from Oban,

while on bail for another dangerous driving charge. On May 7 that year Campbell-Black was driving his car at excessive speed on the A816 between Oban and Lochgilphead and lost control of the vehicle, which overturned in Loch Feochan, where Mr Wylie drowned.

Defence solicitor Ron Mackenna suggested that because they had lost sight of the offending vehicle, the car Mrs Neilson saw at the roundabout was a different one.

He said: 'I suggest someone passed you on that corner but it wasn't Justin Black.'

'I assure you it was,' she replied.

Mr Mackenna said: 'Because of the unfortunate history you went up to Justin Black's house and I would suggest your evidence is flavoured by that because you want it to be Justin Black.'

'Certainly not,' she replied. 'I wouldn't put myself or my daughter through this for nothing.'

Expert witness Paul Reilly, a consultant in road accident investigation, claimed that Campbell-Black was not driving 'dangerously' by cutting the corner. However, in her closing submission, Procurator Fiscal Depute Gillian Climie said: 'As Mrs Neilson so eloquently put it 'I was there. Mr Reilly wasn't.'

Sheriff Paul Crozier said he was satisfied that Campbell-Black was the offending driver but accepted Mr Reilly's evidence that the incident did not constitute 'dangerous driving' and found him guilty of careless driving.

Sentence was adjourned until December 2 for Campbell-Black to produce his driving licence.

Job saves accused from prison

AN OBAN man has narrowly escaped being sent to prison after breaking a curfew.

At Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday, Ross McLellan, of 19a Glencruitten Drive, Oban, pled guilty to breaking his bail conditions when he failed

to remain at his home address between the hours of 7pm and 6am on October 30. He was found on Tweeddale Street.

Sheriff Douglas Small issued McLellan, aged 20, with a £300 fine and said he would have been

sentenced to a term in prison if he had not secured employment.

'By rights I should be sending you to custody today.'

'You have broken a court order,' he said.

'If you break this curfew again I

will have no hesitation in imposing a custodial sentence.' McLellan had been granted bail from Oban Sheriff Court on October 11 2010 after appearing before the court charged with uttering racial abuse on Soroba Road on October 9.

Swimmers make a splash for charity

IT STARTED out as fitness plan, but two local women have raised more than £1,200 for a spinal injuries charity by swimming the equivalent of the width of the English Channel.

Laurie Cameron, aged 33, of Connel, decided to take part in the 22-mile endurance swim as part of Aspire's 'Swim It' charity challenge in September after seeing it advertised at her local Weight Watchers club meeting.

She soon recruited Sharon MacKenzie, of Oban, after putting an advert up in Atlantis Leisure.

They had a deadline of December 5 to reach their goal, but Sharon completed her swim just seven weeks in, with Laurie set to meet her target shortly after illness and school holidays prevented more rapid progress.

While delighted with their fundraising efforts, they hope to be able to raise even more money for Aspire, a charity that helps people with severe spinal injuries to return to independence.

To Laurie, keeping fit has never felt so good.

She said: 'It started out a while ago when I saw the event advertised with Weight Watchers, then I chickened out and didn't do it.'

'Then I saw it advertised



Laurie Cameron, left, and Sharon MacKenzie prepare for the final stages of their Swim It challenge at Atlantis Leisure for spinal injuries charity Aspire. 15_t46charswim1

again and I thought it's going to give me the kick I need to start exercising.

'I also thought it was a good cause and I put an ad up in the Atlantis Leisure Centre to see if anyone else would do it with me.'

'I've raised about £500, which was my target, but I'd like to raise more.'

'While it's not made a great difference to my weight so far, I've never felt fitter.'

Sharon, 26, has raised £719 so far after completing

her original 22-mile target and is now considering swimming an additional 22 miles by the December 5 deadline if she hits the £1,000 mark.

That's a long way further than what her friends and family thought she'd manage though.

She said: 'They didn't think I could do it at first. It works out as 1,416 lengths. Most people do 30 lengths a day, but I've been averaging 84 lengths a day.'

'I've been going three times a week and the more you do it the quicker you get. Raising £1,000 would be amazing. I could be tempted to 'swim back' again if I got that. It'd be a challenge, but I'm certainly thinking about it.'

If you would like to donate money to Laurie or Sharon, you can visit their respective Justgiving websites at www.justgiving.com/laurie-cameron or www.justgiving.com/Sharon-MacKenzie1.

Lorn Lines

Displaying some of the works that will go on sale at the charity auction are, from left: Rosemary Young, Frank McKenna, Jack Degnan and Monika Smyth, who paints as J Reid. 07_t46paint01

WORK from some of Oban's finest artists will go on sale at the Royal Hotel this week as part of an auction for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Auctioneers for the evening, teachers Jack Degnan, from Rockfield School, and Frank MacKenna, of Oban High School, will conduct the sale of works, which include pieces from Mikki MacCormack, Ian Gibson and Kevin Whitehead.

The event has been organised by the Oban branch of Macmillan Cancer Support. The organisation's Frances Grant said: 'We are hoping some people might take the opportunity to buy one of the items for a special Christmas present.'

The other artists contributing to the event are: Gloria Young, Ian Gowdie, Bob McCulloch, Sonja Campbell, Monika Smyth, Isobel Smith, Fay Black, Rosemary Young, Richard Childs and John Coleman.

Pieces have also been submitted by pupils from the high school and other artists from around Scotland.

Tickets for the event, which starts at 7pm on Friday November 12, are available from committee members or at the door on the night. For more information, contact secretary Kate Turner on 01631 562589.

ONE OF the world's most respected climbers, who has conquered the highest peaks on all seven continents, started out by climbing mountains in the Scottish Highlands.

Doug Scott CBE, right, who, along with Dougal Haston, climbed the difficult south-west face of Mount Everest during Chris Bonnington's 1975 expedition, will be sharing his adventures at a talk in Oban's Corran Halls tomorrow (Friday).

Mr Scott has taken part in 45 expeditions to the high mountains of Asia. He has reached the summit of 40 peaks, of which half were climbed by new routes or for the first time in Alpine style, where the climber

has all his equipment on his person.

Proceeds from Mr Scott's talk will go towards Community Action Nepal. The charity supports the people in the mountainous region who helped to make all his climbs possible.

So far the charity has built eight schools, eight rural health posts and altogether 40 projects in Nepal. Mr Scott has to raise £300,000 every year to keep the projects going.

Park Primary School pupil Naomi Campbell was awarded her own Digi-AI stuffed toy and colouring pens after winning a digital switch over art competition. Organised by digital UK, in partnership with Argyll Voluntary Action, the aim was to raise awareness of the switch over date amongst primary school children and their families.

2011 Calendars

Scottish Field - £9.99* The Oban Times - £6.99* Scottish Field Mini - £6.99*

ON SALE NOW!

East Coast Fishing Scenes - £6.99* Isle of Arran - £6.99* West Coast Fishing Scenes - £6.99*

Order online at: www.scottishcalendars.co.uk or call us on 01631 568000

*Above prices include worldwide postage & packing

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Strange decisions

LEADERS of Argyll and Bute Council have been at pains to point out that no stone will remain unturned in its difficult task of cutting its budget by 15 per cent.

But with schools set to close and compulsory redundancies on the cards, some recent decisions do seem rather curious, to say the least.

The decision not to charge the Labour Party for use of the Corran Halls is one.

Agreed, there would have been a one-off financial spin-off for the town, but it doesn't sit well when groups less well off than a major political party are being forced to fork out for hire charges.

So too is the decision to splash the cash on a new executive suite at Kilmory Castle, especially when the cost - some £100,000 - would keep the four gritters councillors voted to remove from their fleet on the road.

GLASGOW LETTER

Successful annual gathering

THIS year's annual Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association concert in the Woodside Halls was well attended, with strong support from other associations.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery from illness were sent to Christine MacKay, nee Neen, who should have been occupying the chair for the evening. The association's had the good fortune to have from its own midst an ideal substitute in Murdo Morrison. This was particularly fortuitous since, for the first time, the second half of the concert was being broadcast live on Isles FM and Murdo has for some time been involved with this media.

The concert started with the Lewis and Harris pipers but they had a different format this year in that Andrew Caulfield played solo and then James MacKenzie and Seonaidh MacIntyre played together. Andrew will be better known to readers as the resident piper at the Clydebank ceilidh while James, from Lewis, is a former winner of the Pipe Idol competition held as part of Piping Live and Seonaidh, from South Uist, has played with Skipinnish. The piping selections were brilliant and each of the singers, Jenna Cumming, Maggie MacDonald, David MacKenzie and Alasdair Whyte, as well as accordionist Charles MacLeod, maintained this high level of performance. Murdo interspersed the programme with humorous anecdotes and the vote of thanks was delivered by Mairi MacKenzie.

During proceedings, president Tilly MacMillan presented Cuach Comunn Leodhas agus na Hearadh Glaschu to Donnie MacInnes, or Donnie 'Gazette' as he is known. The trophy is presented each year by the association to the person or persons who have brought honour to themselves or to the island during the past year. Having retired from his post as chief reporter with the Stornoway Gazette after 47 years, he was a worthy recipient.

The second half of concert can be heard online at www.clanradio.net.

On the evening prior to the concert a successful dinner was held in the Glasgow Pond Hotel.

Murdo Morrison chaired proceedings, John Carmichael entertained and Malcom Campbell, president of the Glasgow Islay Association, proposed a toast to the association.

Tire Association

THE ANNUAL concert of the Tire Association will take place in Partick Burgh Halls on Thursday, November 18, at 7.30pm, with the dance the following evening in Glasgow University Union from 9pm.

The Right Rev John Christie, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and principal teacher of science at Treen High School

from 1978 until 1984, will chair proceedings.

The singers will be Kathleen MacInnes, Wilma Kennedy, Calum Ross and Alasdair Whyte, with accordion selections from Campbell Brown. Gunna Sound will provide the music for the dance.

Glasgow Gaelic School sports

THE PARENT Council of Sgoil Gaidhlig Glaschu are looking for coaches for a variety of sports including football, shinty, athletics, netball, handball and hockey.

Gaelic fluency would be preferred but it may be possible to pair up with a Gaelic speaker. This venture is part of the City of Glasgow Gaelic Plan, supported by Bord na Gaidhlig, and more information is available from Angela Jenkins 07921 934967 or email angelajenkins34@hotmail.com. Sessional fees will be paid to coaches.

Diary dates

Thursday November 11: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Gerry and Donal O'Connor. Chris Stout and Catriona MacKay, Steeple Hall, Kilbarchan.

Friday November 12: Clydebank and District Highlander's Association ceilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm.

Saturday November 13: Karen Matheson, Eastwood Park Theatre, 7.30pm. Paisley and District Highlander's Association ceilidh dance, Elderslie Village Hall, 7.30pm. Glasgow Skye Association Christmas Fayre, Partick Burgh (Mid) Hall, 2 to 4pm. The Ceilidh 8, St Andrew's in the Square, Trail West in a Charity Ceilidh Dance in aid of Action for Children, 7.30pm.

Sunday November 14: Kris Drever with friends Donald Shaw and John McCusker, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm.

Wednesday November 17: Gaelic Quiz, Park Bar, 7.30pm.

Thursday November 18: Treen Association, Annual Concert, Partick Burgh Hall 7.30pm - see above. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Tom Kitchen and Gren Bartley, Chris Stout and Catriona MacKay, Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm.

Friday November 19: Treen Association, Annual Dance, Glasgow University Union - see above. Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Annual Dinner, Glynhill Hotel, Renfrew, 7.30pm.

Saturday November 20: Highlander's Club Partick Burgh Halls, 8pm. Donnie and Diane's Band. Clann Gaidhlig, Gaelic Day, University of West of Scotland, Paisley, 10am.

Pub scene

MARTIN Pottinger will be in the Park Bar this week-end playing with Monach Isles on Saturday and Don MacDonald on Sunday.

The Andrew MacDonald Ceilidh Band will be in the Park on Friday.

In the Islay Inn it will be the Clachies on Friday and the Keelies on Saturday. **Neil Murray, Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.**



Glasgow University Shinty Club 1951-52

This week's flashback photograph features the Glasgow University Shinty Club team from 1951-52. That year they won the Littlejohn Vase, the Fingal Memorial Shield and the Milton AA Shinty Cup. They were also runners up in the Celtic Society Cup and semi-finalists in the Scottish Cup. The photograph was submitted by A Graham of Feochan Gardens, Oban. We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number.

Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001

Camaghael Surgery needs a pharmacy

Sir,
When people consult their GP and are prescribed medicine they expect to collect it from the pharmacist without delay.

Lately, the service from Lloyd's Pharmacy has fallen off with people having to call the next day. Rather than blaming the staff, I suspect the fault might be a lack of confidence within the company. What we really need is a pharmacy at Camaghael Surgery, but the Pharmaceutical Board will only permit three in this area. The matter has gone to judicial review and now seems to be back with the NHS.

Let's get a move on with this; ideally we need the pharmacy at Camaghael Surgery in addition to what we have at present, as this area is unusual because of the public transport links.

If we are not going to be allowed an additional pharmacy at Camaghael, then here is my challenge to Lloyds; you are not going to get the majority of business in Fort William so, be bold, close the pharmacy which is part of your shop in the High

Street and open a pharmacy at Camaghael Surgery. A win for you and for the community.

Olwyn J Macdonald, 15 Blar Mhor Road, Caol.

Put school closures on hold

Sir,
I write regarding the protests about proposed school closures.

It has often been said that four to 11 years of age are the most important in a child's life.

I believe this to be true, not only in education but in all aspects of life: 'Give me the child at seven years and I will give you the man'. If the children, parents and community are happy with the location and academic achievements of the school then only very real economic pressures should oblige the council to consider closure.

Many councils have a financial deficit so they may well have a case for closing the least cost effective schools.

We have been told Argyll and Bute Council has a £48m surplus.

If true, there is no financial pressure for closing schools. The council could put any closures on hold for at least

two years. I assume the surplus is earning interest so this whole situation could be extended far into the future especially for rural and island schools.

George Doyle, Isle of Seil.

Local charity needs support

Sir,
Argyll and Bute councillors made a wise decision to allow the operation of the community charity shop from the White Building on The North Pier, Oban.

This local charity, in its first year, hopes to support the local community with £100,000. But the building is now being sold by Argyll and Bute Council.

Who is going to fill the massive void in supporting the most vulnerable in the community in these very difficult times?

It would appear Argyll and Bute Council is unaware of national government policy of supporting 'the big society' or even the crucial part a small local charity can play. Having worked in the care sector in Oban for the last 20 years many of the requests for charitable support I have had from the social work department, health visitors, midwives,

social care staff and members of the community have been fulfilled by McQueen Brothers and more recently the community charity shop.

I would respectfully suggest Argyll and Bute Council takes the time to consult with the trustees of this charity to find out what it will be jeopardising for a short term financial gain and also consider the potential loss of the group of dedicated volunteers who operate this enterprise.

The selling of the White Building will not represent good value for money for the wider community of Oban.

Maggie Dougall, Oban.

Clocks debate

Sir,
On December 3 parliament will debate a Bill which would involve putting the clocks an hour further ahead than they are now for all or part of the year.

This would mean it would get light an hour later in winter mornings but would stay clear for another hour in winter afternoons.

Before the debate, I would be interested to know what my constituents think. **Alan Reid MP, 95 Alexandra Parade, Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 8AL. Email reida@parliament.uk.**

ISLAY LETTER

Chimney fires blackspot

ILICH are known to occasionally set the heather alight but they are in a class of their own when it comes to setting their chimneys on fire.

According to Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, the island has the worst record in the region with 178 incidents being responded to in the last five years up to May.

Port Ellen tops the 'lum fire' poll with 82 incidents reported. Bowmore comes a close second with 80 incidents and the people of the picturesque village of Port Charlotte managed to set 16 of their chimneys ablaze.

Chimney fires on the island account for 30 per cent of all incidents of this type in Argyll and Bute. This can only be recognised as a problem and the fire brigade is anxious to change the perception locally that chimney fires are just a 'routine event'.

The fire brigade also stresses the dangers of chimney fires spreading to other roof spaces and warn that every time a chimney fire occurs that risk is exacerbated by the inevitable damage to chimney linings.

In an effort to overcome this continuing problem, the fire brigade is keen to work with the local community in an attempt to improve home fire safety.

The sobering thought is that the cost of attending to chimney fires on the island over the last five years exceeds £760,000.

Meur Ile

NEIL MacLean, from Caolila, has

been re-elected to serve for a further term as chairman of Meur Ile of An Comunn Gàidhealach. His second in command is Grahame Allison, 'mine host' at the Port Charlotte Hotel.

Conisby resident Bronwen Currie takes over as branch secretary from Hugh Smith who has retired from the post.

In charge of the Meur finances is Alasdair Gillies, Bowmore, and taking up the responsibilities of Mòd trophy co-ordinator is Alison Gray, also of Bowmore.

Ballygrant's Fiona MacGregor is the new Mòd secretary and replaces Neil Woodrow who has resigned from the post.

A number of new faces also appear on the management committee and they have decided that Mòd Ile 2011 will be held in the island high school on Saturday June 4.

Lifeboat representatives

LOCAL lifeboat coxswain David MacLellan, mechanic David MacArthur and deputy second cox Raymond Fletcher represented the Port Askaig lifeboat station at the National Seafarers' Association's annual service in St Paul's Cathedral last month.

This special service was inaugurated in 1905 to commemorate the centenary of Lord Nelson of Trafalgar fame.

This year's service was conducted by the Cathedral dean, the Right Rev Graeme Knowles, and among the other dignitaries in attendance was the Princess Royal.

Remembrance Sunday

IN COMMON with other churches throughout the land, Bowmore's Round Church holds its Remembrance Service on Sunday November 14 at 10am.

Two-minute silence will be observed at 11am and a wreath-laying ceremony will follow at the War Graves section of Bowmore Cemetery.

The act of remembrance will be conducted by the parish minister, the Rev Dr Rob Barlow, and among those in attendance will be a detachment from the crew of the nuclear submarine HMS Vanguard.

Mòd winners

SUCCESSFUL local competitors at Mòd Ghallaibh will reprise their winning ways at a post Mòd concert hosted by Còisir Ghaidhlig Ile in Bowmore village hall on Saturday November 27 at 7.30pm.

Congratulations

CONGRATULATIONS to John (Tam) Campbell, of Port Ellen, on his appointment as farm manager at Kintour in the Kildalton district.

He has been a long-serving member of staff at Ardmore Estate which includes Kintour Farm in its properties.

The new manager and his wife Jean live at Cnoc na Faire and have a family of two, Kevin, a local fisherman, and John, a manager of Laphroaig Distillery. Well done John. **Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Tel: 01496 810 658.**

A view from the tower

by McCaig

Better news for Oban pontoons

THERE is every likelihood Oban will have pontoons in place between the North and Railway piers next summer despite the local authority's sudden reaction to the project after backing it so enthusiastically.

The reason given was that the figures didn't stand up and the expensive but totally inexperienced consultants whom they employed said so. As an aside, may I ask which official on the Campbeltown wind turbine project failed to notice that the sort of capital needed for what is an enormous project was not in place as far as the Danish developers were concerned.

Perhaps, the director of economic development should have spent more time satisfying himself that the company was viable instead of placing every obstacle in the way of Oban Bay Marine.

After the very positive meeting which Oban Bay Marine held in response to the chaotic local authority one to explain why suddenly the pontoon proposal was not viable, private enterprise would step in and prove that it is a perfectly just a normal business risk, similar to that in Tobermory harbour.

A spokesman for the Oban company said this week that a marine developer has confirmed he reckons his firm could get the pontoons in place for just over £1m, including the necessary dredging as required in the already-granted planning consents.

The Crown Estate has continued its offer of a loan of £800,000 and Highlands and Islands Enterprise has stressed that its offer of at least £200,000 stands. There may still be a shortfall of about £100,000 but Oban Bay Marine is confident this can be found from private sources.

What is evident from the positive action by Oban Bay Marine, in sharp contrast to that of Argyll and Bute Council and its consultants, is never become involved with a local authority in promoting a development if you want it to happen in the time at which a normal new proposal should. I reiterate what the managing director of one of Argyll's biggest employers said: 'Never try to get help from Argyll and Bute Council for anything you wish to do commercially as it is the worst and least helpful local authority in Scotland.'

What nonsense! I've been wearing a poppy at this time of year for more than 60 years and I never been scratched. Now I just have to find a pin to hold it on my jacket. Another thing for David Cameron to sort out.

Don't close island schools

QUITE rightly there have been vigorous protests from many rural

communities in Argyll and Bute over the proposals to close so many primary schools.

The council decided, no doubt impressed by the number of public protests, that it should look at the 'kill' list again, conscious that the SNP group was not going to support it uncritically.

Some of the schools with very small rolls can be merged with little disruption but the case is not made for little island primaries. No one in their right mind could support the closure of Luinig primary. The travelling required of pre-school and newly enrolled infants from the island by bus, ferry and bus to Easdale Primary School is absurd and must not be allowed to happen.

I know the educational theory that there needs to be a minimum number and proper age range to provide the best atmosphere in which to provide education. Of course, this is the case in urban schools; however, closures will happen there also, but the transport problems are minimal when compared to those of Luinig and other island schools with small rolls.

To close such schools only expedites rural depopulation, something everyone agrees must not happen. Basic education, close to home, should be a right in the 21st century. Some of the frills that have been attached to it are not and can be postponed until later in their educational life.

Buy a poppy this week

BUYING and wearing a poppy at this time of year is something that those of us who have lived through at least one World War and numerous 'conflicts' subsequently do as a matter of course.

However, it is now a matter of discussion and, in some cases, downright rejection. I can understand the latter as the time for doing so appears to grow longer each year, seemingly dictated by politicians who are, in their words, 'doing the right thing'.

If that is all it means to them, shame on them, and shame on the Health & Safety Executive who required manufacturers of the lapel poppy not to use a pin as a stem since it might scratch purchasers. What nonsense! I've been wearing a poppy at this time of year for more than 60 years and I never been scratched. Now I just have to find a pin to hold it on my jacket. Another thing for David Cameron to sort out.

PRESS POLICY

WEATheObanTimesdourmosttomakesurethatallour reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing the biggest local newspaper in the West Highlands.

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB giving your daytime telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications. The Oban Times adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct. The views expressed in The Oban Times are not necessarily those of this newspaper.

YOUR LETTERS

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

Society welcomes Regal Brass

REGAL Brass will be the guests of Oban Music Society on Tuesday November 16.

The quintet got together in 1998 when all five members were studying at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. Each member of Regal Brass is a professional performer regularly working freelance with all the Scottish National Orchestras.

They have a very diverse repertoire encompassing five centuries of music. On this occasion they will be playing music composed from the 16th century through to some very well known 20th century compositions by Bernstein, Kamen and Lennon/McCartney.

The concert takes place at 7.30pm in St John's Cathedral and everyone is welcome.

Congratulations to the winners

THE WINNER of a weekend break to The Western Isles Hotel, in Mull, is John MacGregor, Crossways, Oban, while the winner of a meal for two at the hotel is Margaret Mather, Inveraray. Both parties will be contacted by the hotel to arrange their bookings.

Winners of a copy of the Red Hot Chili Pipers' new album *Music for the Killed Generation* are Marian MacLaren, Callander; Isobel Currie, Tighnabraich; Gillian Child, Kinross; Olive Thomson, Inverness; Marty Logan, Port Askaig; Irene Boyd, North Connel; Christine Duncan, Campbeltown; Mike McInally, Kilmacolm; Mary MacGregor, Oban; and Ian Keen-Smith, Dunbeg. The CD will follow in the post.

Online taster of singer's work

GAELIC singer Joy Dunlop is putting some of her work on the web for free.

A Puirt A Beul from the Connel singer's album *Dusgadh* will be available from November 1 to January 31 at www.fateashowcase-sessions.co.uk.

Joy explained: 'Being featured on the Fatea Showcase Sessions allows listeners the opportunity to sample music from a great selection of bands at no cost and gives recording artists wider exposure.'

100 young dancers set to step out at Corran Halls



Performers from the Atlantis Dance Show have been putting the finishing touches to their routines ahead of a performance at the Corran Halls on Saturday. The show, which takes place at 2.30pm, will feature the school's entire range of disciplines from all age groups, with more than 100 dancers taking to the stage. Some of the performers are pictured warming up before this weekend's show. 15_t46danceshow1

A west coast flavour to traditional music awards

REPORT by LOUISE LEE lleee@obantimes.co.uk

THIS year's Scottish Traditional Music Awards are heavily influenced by the west coast.

Nominated in the best venue category is Skipinnish Ceilidh House, Oban, which has hosted some of the best acts on this year's shortlists such as regular performers Skerryvore, Trail West, Rachel Walker, Oban High School Pipe Band and Angus MacColl.

Skipinnish co-owner Angus MacPhail says it is 'great news' to be nominated as a venue, but even better to be the showcase for many of the top performers on the nominations list.

In the same category as Skipinnish as venue of the year is An Tobar, the Tobermory-based venue run by Gordon MacLean.

Gordon has proved that the island

venue can attract some of Scotland's biggest traditional music talent and boasts a regular audience from Mull and beyond.

In the tutor of the year category is Gordon Connell, from Tiree, an unsung hero on the island who has been so influential in teaching the accordion, it has become a benchmark of quality.

Up and coming artist of the year nominee Angus Nicolson, from the Isle of Skye, is a piper looking to take a new approach to music. He plays in ceilidh bands Deoch 'n Dorus and the Angus Nicolson Trio as well as appearing with countless other groups.

Also from Skye is singer Darren MacLean, last year's winner of the traditional gold medal at the Royal National Mod.

This year's gold medal winner, Joy Dunlop, from Connel, is also nominated in the Gaelic singer of the year category. It has been an

exceptional year for Joy who has also launched her album *Dusgadh*.

The Mod itself makes it onto the list, under the Event of the Year banner. The festival, which was held in Caithness for the first time this year, was voted a resounding success and defied cynics who said Thurso and Wick were too far away and not interested in Gaelic.

Argyll has two groups in the Pipe Band of the Year category. Oban High School Pipe Band's musicians have shown the world how good they are this year and winning the trad award would be the icing on the cake.

In the same category are Inveraray and District Pipe Band which has also got much to celebrate this year.

Newcomers with big ambition, Trail West, are nominated in the Scottish Dance Band of the Year category.

Julie Fowlis, from the Uists, is up for the Album of the Year with her latest offering *Uam*.

In the community project of the year

Tarbert Music Classes are nominated for their skill in bringing forward accomplished musicians.

The hottest trad band, Skerryvore, are on the list. The band, who have a host of followers, still need your votes though to put them at the top of the list.

West coast composers Nick Turner and Findlay Napier, whose songs are showcased by the Bar Room Mountaineers and increasingly are appearing in other singers' repertoires, are nominated in the composer of the year category. This is the first year a song-writing partnership has been nominated.

Musician Mary-Anne Kennedy said: 'Congratulations to all the artists who have been nominated this year. It's a really strong line-up this year and I look forward to donning the posh frock in December for the awards ceremony in Perth.'

To vote in the awards log onto www.handsupfortrad.co.uk

Oban Gaelic Choir tunes up for latest concert

Conductor Sileas Sinclair was really putting Oban Gaelic Choir to the test during the final rehearsals for their Fresh Blas concert. But with Gaelic stars Rachel Walker, Taynuilt Primary School Gaelic Choir, Sileas Sinclair, Finlay Wells, Deirdre MacDonald, Hector Henderson, Hugh MacCallum and Rebecca Hill appearing with the choir on stage it sounds like it is going to be a great night at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban, on November 20. Tickets for the event can be bought from choir members, Oban Music and Connel Post Office. 07_t450GC1



Club's birthday bash

A CAPACITY audience met to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club.

A host of local talent joined guest artists, the Andy Kain Trio, on the programme.

The entertainment kicked off with club chairman Michael Garvin on accordion and one of the club's founder members, Duncan Campbell, on drums.

Duncan was then tasked with cutting the birthday cake before local accordion players took to the stage. They were: Murray Willis, Lismore; Hector and Craig MacFadyen, Oban; Alec MacKinnon, Carradale; Ross MacPherson, Appin; and Scott and Sileas Sinclair, Connel. Oban's James MacArthur played melodeon and Clare Jordan and Sileas Sinclair played keyboard, with David Cameron and David Lafferty, both Oban, on drums. The next club night is on December 2 with the Fraser McGlynn Duo.



Celebrating Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club's 35 anniversary are, from left: Anne MacFadyen, Alex MacKenzie, Michael Garvin, Craig MacFadyen, Christine Pearson and Roddie MacLeod. 07_t46fd01

gig guide your essential guide to live music in argyll

Every Sunday > Markie Duns	Quiz Night
Every Thursday > Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Ceilidh Night free entry
Friday 12 November > Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Relentless
Saturday 13 November > Markie Duns	Chris Suckle
Monday 15 November > Corran Halls	Chris Spout & Catriona McKay - 7.30pm
Friday 19 November > Markie Duns	Stretch and Archie
Friday 19 November > Skipinnish Ceilidh House	RNLI Fundraising Ceilidh
Saturday 20 November > Markie Duns	Zodiac
Friday 26 November > Markie Duns	Iasg (Stewart and Angus) Live Band
Saturday 27 November > Markie Duns	Wallace
Friday 03 December > Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Country and Western Party Night
Friday 10 December > Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Gunna Sound (with DJs)

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
Published on 9th December
SEND A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO FRIENDS FOR JUST £22.

Simply fill in the coupon below with your special festive message and send or hand in to:-
OBAN TIMES, PO BOX 1, OBAN TEL: 01631 568000
OBAN TIMES, MAMORE HOUSE, FORT WILLIAM TEL: 01397 703003
ONLY £22 (inc. VAT.) OPTIONS A, B OR C.
PAY BY CHEQUE / PO or
Phone in your message quoting your Access/Visa Number
Deadline Thursday 2nd December. To appear Thursday 9th December

*NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
Tel.....

A B C
PLEASE TICK A BOX FOR THE TEMPLATE YOU WISH TO USE.
(*NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

20 words maximum
PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Argyll Animal Aid
CHRISTMAS FAIRE
Sat. November 20th
Corran Halls, Oban
11am - 3pm
Come and buy your unique Christmas presents from a variety of craft stalls.
Come and support your favourite charity.
Holly Tea with scrumptious home baking.
Reg charity Sc013211

Tonic Fashion Show and Ladies Night
By Styling for Women
Thursday 18th November 7.30pm
Argyllshire Gathering
Admission: £10 (includes glass of wine and finger buffet)
Fashion clothing(vintageand PeopleTree), cosmetics, jewellery, accessories available to purchase on the night. Makeup and holistic massage therapy treats on offer.
Fundraiser for Kilmore & Oban Church of Scotland Development Fund
Tickets available from: Church Office (Mon - Fri 10-1pm)
Church Centre, Glencruitten Road, Oban Tel: 01631 562405
E Mail: obancs@btinternet.com Website: www.obanchurch.com
Scottish Charity No SC011171

Oban Bach Choir and Orchestra
Haydn: 'Nelson'
Mass
Arne: Judith (extracts)
St. John's Cathedral, Oban
Saturday, November 20th 2010 at 7.30pm
Seat with programme (obtainable at the door)
£7 Concessions £5

Netherlom Piping Society
Club Night
Come along and hear our local talented pipers - if you play bagpipes come and have a tune!
Wednesday 17th November
2010 at 7.30pm in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls
Entry: Adults £3; Children: Free

St John's Cathedral
CHARITIES SALE
Saturday 13th November
2.00pm
St John's Cathedral Hall
In aid of North Argyll Carers and Help for Heroes
Usual stalls, teas, raffle, door collection, donations
Friday 6.30-7.30pm
Saturday 9.00am
Contact organiser - Irene Main

Oban Gaelic Choir
A FRESH BLAS
Saturday Nov. 20th at 7.30pm
Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban
With Rachel Walker, Taynuilt prim. School Gaelic Choir
And many more
Tickets £8, £5 (conc) £20 family.
Avail. At Oban Music, Connel Post Office

Preliminary Notice
Oban Congregational Church
Are holding a
Christmas Faire
On
27th Nov. 2010
Sales tables available £10
Contact Janet
01631 562939

Scottish Wildlife Trust
Evening talk
Wildlife of Baffin Islands
Arctic Canada
By Frithjof Kuettler
With video
'Immersed in the Arctic'
Sams Marine Lab., Dunbeg
Thursday 18th Nov
7.30pm
Refreshments available.
All welcome

Presenting:
Keepers of the trees power down walk
Suitable for all the family.
Come along and help.
Baron can't be bothered.
Make an eco code and discover your own Celtic tree.
There will be a small entrance fee.
Date: 21st November 2010
Time: 2.00pm
Venue: Ardinglas wood entrance kiosk
Wet weather clothing advised. Alternative indoor venue available if required.
Also Cairndow village hall 3PM
information about firewood; information to keep your home warm; Children's activities; and refreshments.

To advertise in the
WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD
Telephone:
01631 568000

Local Origins Rural Network
Children in Need Producers Market
Thursday 18 November
Victory Hall, Benderloch
10am to 2pm
Lots to eat, buy and do
All fundraising ideas and community stalls welcome
01631 720223
market@lori.org.uk
www.lorimcommunity.ning.com

Quarry View Garden Centre
Between Furnace and Minard
Late Night Christmas Shopping
Friday 12th November
From 7pm - 9pm
Jewellery, Xmas Cards, Decorations, Presents and lots more.
Tea and coffee and home baking.
Tel: 01546 886692

OBAN MUSIC SOCIETY
CONCERT 16TH NOVEMBER 7.30.PM.
ST.JOHN'S CATHEDRAL
Brass Quintet - Regal Brass - will play music from across the centuries including well known twentieth century compositions.
Admission free to members , non-members £10 (£8) under 18 free.

ARGYLL ANIMAL AID

Danny
Very sweet boy, not in his first flush of youth but would make a nice companion. Is neutered.
Contact Pat on 01852 300362
aaa.rescueteam@btconnect.com
<http://www.smallpaws.co.uk>
Reg. charity SC013211

TICKETS SELLING FAST
Benderloch & N Connel Drama Club
Present Pantomime
JACK & THE BEANSTALK
9th/10th/11th Dec @ 7.30pm
Matinee 11th Dec @ 2.30pm
Corran Halls, Oban
Book Now on 01631 567333

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 Dunbeg 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 to the charity.

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.

And youngsters in Oban will benefit directly after the charity donated almost £100,000 to the Oban Youth Café.

The funding has enabled the café to employ a full time youth worker, provide drop-in facilities, residen-



Some of the children from Dunbeg Primary School who produced drawings.

tial trips and school holiday programmes.

Lori Hannah, a youth worker at the Oban Youth Café, said: 'We received a lot of money but we hope that what we have and can achieve in this area is priceless.'

'The financial assistance has meant that we can plan

for the future. It has given us some stability which means we can be more consistent in our work with young people.'

Lori added: 'By securing the future of the café other organisations have come forward to offer funding for me to do a youth degree. This course will help me

develop skills that I can offer the whole community.'

The Oban Times would like to thank all the businesses who have featured on this page and all the children without whom this page would not be as exciting. Be proud that you have helped the BBC Children in Need appeal.

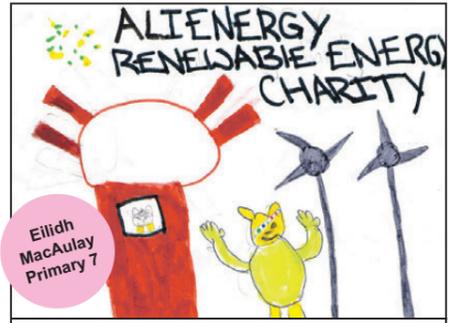


Dunbeg Village Store & Post Office

Proud to Support Children In Need

15, Jane Rd, Dunbeg, Oban, Argyll PA37 1QE.

Tel: 01631 566576.



Eilidh MacAulay Primary 7

ALIENERGY
Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

Alienergy would like to wish Pudsey a warm, energy efficient day.

Alienergy are rolling out a number of new energy efficiency projects for 2010/11.

Watch this space!

01631 565183 / www.alienergy.org.uk



Christopher Den Heijer Primary 2

HALFWAY FILLING STATION

Tel: 01631 562784

Put the Fun into Fundraising!



Chelsey Wren Primary 3



Happy to Support Children in Need

Lochavullin Drive, Oban
www.lidl.co.uk



Emily MacIntyre Primary 2



A McPhee Haulage

Shore Road, Connel, Oban Tel: 07836 538718

8 wheel tipper hire • Supplier of quarry products and site clearances

DELIGHTED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH CHILDREN IN NEED



Jennie MacLean Primary 5

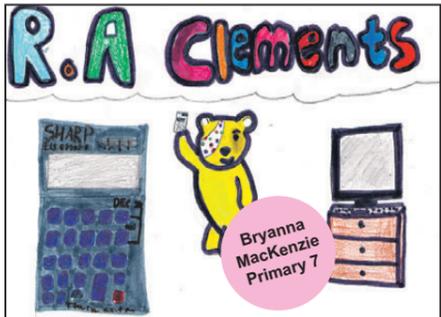
MCDUGALLS HOME HARDWARE

Pleased to support Children in Need

34 Combie Street, Oban

Tel: 01631 562304

www.mcdougallshomehardwareoban.co.uk



Bryanna MacKenzie Primary 7

R A Clement Associates
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors

www.raclement.co.uk

RA Clement Associates are pleased to support Children in Need 2010 and hope it is a brilliant year!

5 Argyll Square, Oban, Argyll PA34 4AZ
Tel: 01631 562643 Fax: 01631 566043
Offices also in Lochgilphead, Fort William and Mull



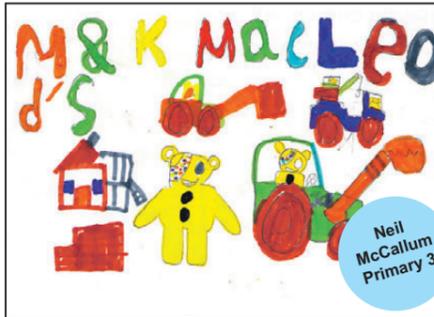
Erin Johnston Primary 7



Delighted to support Children in Need

Glenshellach Business Park, Oban PA34 4RY

01631 559 500

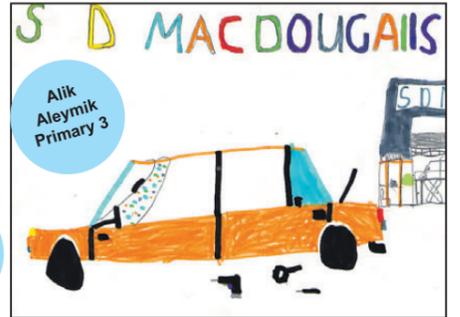


Neil McCallum Primary 3

MACLEOD
MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LTD

Building a better life for children in need

Kilmory Industrial Estate, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RR
Tel: 01546 602 989
Email: sales@mkmaclod.co.uk
www.mkmaclod.co.uk



Alik Aleymik Primary 3

S. D. MacDOUGALL AUTOSERVICES

Pleased to help Pudsey

MOT's Car Repairs, Services and Car Sales

Unit 6, Lochavullin Ind. Est., Oban

Tel: 01631 566502 01631 566470



Ewan Guild Primary 7

INVERAWE
Scotland's specialist smokehouse

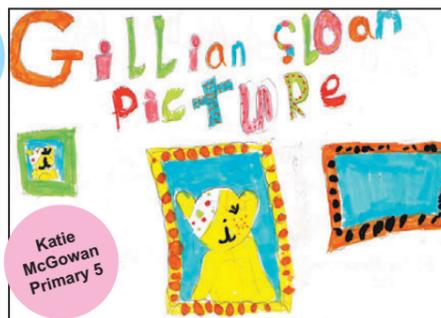


gourmet gifts & fresh-food hampers

visit Inverawe shop, call us on 0870 423 0236 or buy online

www.smokedsalmon.co.uk

Proud to support Children in Need



Katie McGowan Primary 5

Bespoke Picture Framing by Gillian Sloan GCF

We Frame almost anything

We can visit you in your own home to discuss your requirements

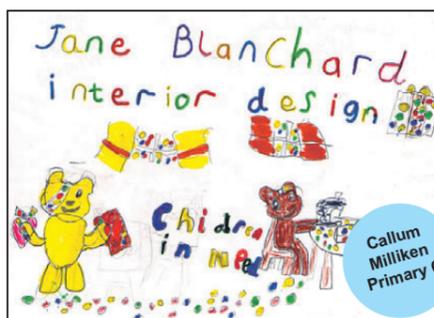
Or why not visit us at our workshop in Kinlochell

Tel: 01397 722237

Mob: 07966 143155

Email: gillian.sloan@btinternet.com

PLEASED TO SUPPORT CHILDREN IN NEED



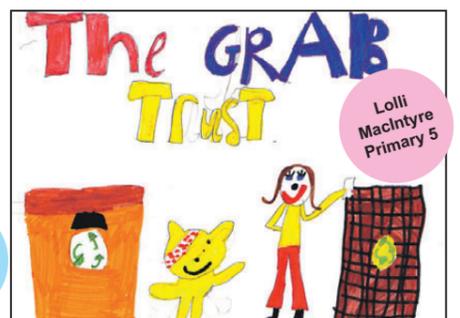
Callum Milliken Primary 6

JANE BLANCHARD
designs by nature
NEW WEBSITE!

Go to www.janeblanchard.co.uk for: Free samples from a wide range of suppliers

Free online curtain and blind estimates
Free Sample Board service (if subsequent order over £500, otherwise £30/room)

Free Sample Sourcing Service (if subsequent order over £200, otherwise £10/3 samples)
Free design tips
Tel: 01631 740 530 or 0773 326 4976 Email: jane@janeblanchard.co.uk



Lolli MacIntyre Primary 5

The GRAB Trust
GROUP FOR RECYCLING IN ARGYLL & BUTE

Why use real nappies?

- Cheaper than disposables
- Kinder to the environment
- Reduce waste
- Easy to use & come in many funky, cute designs

REAL NAPPY STARTER PACKS AVAILABLE FOR ONLY £10

For further details or to reserve your starter pack please contact:

Caroline Askew Tel - 01631 569188

or caroline.askew@argyll-bute.gov.uk

PLEASED TO SUPPORT CHILDREN IN NEED

Shop on the move

A FORT William shop that has been trading since the 1960s has moved premises after the building it previously occupied became dilapidated.

Owner Drew Purdon told *The Oban Times* the familiar white Scottish Crafts building on the town's High Street needs 'a great deal of work' done, including a new roof. Mr Purdon has amalgamated Scottish Crafts into his other business, The House of Clanjamfrid, from where it will now trade.

Mr Purdon said: 'There was no economic reason to close Scottish Crafts, it's just the building wasn't fit for purpose.'

Specsavers for Fort?

FORT William's retail centre could be set for a boost after rumours a multinational retailer is interested in taking over a vacant High Street premises.

Workmen are currently renovating the empty shop next to Black's Outdoor Leisure and local rumours suggest opticians Specsavers is a prime candidate to take over. A Specsavers spokesman neither confirmed nor denied the rumour, telling *The Oban Times*: 'Specsavers is constantly looking for opportunities to expand its retail offering in Scotland. The Highlands area is no exception.'

Carbon cut pledge

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar has formally pledged to cut carbon dioxide emissions by at least 20 per cent by 2020.

The comhairle has formally subscribed to the Pact of Islands, a European-wide agreement concerning the carbon footprints of island areas. There are 12 island groups included in the project.

NEWSDESK
01631 568000



Justine and Lisa provided the glamour at the boxing show in the Nevis Centre on Saturday night. 10_f46boxing07

Boxing club's knockout show at Nevis Centre

LOCHABER Phoenix ABC's boxing show in the Nevis Centre on Saturday night proved a big hit with the 500-strong crowd and local girls Justine Walker and Lisa McAndrew added to the sense of occasion.

Accounts administrator Justine, aged 23, from Inverloch, and Glasgow-based marketing executive Lisa, 29,

originally from Lochyside, provided a dash of glamour as they paraded round the ring with boards for the next round. Lochaber Phoenix coach Niall came up with the idea that ring girls would give that little something extra to the occasion and asked wife Lorraine to put an ad on Facebook for volunteers. Justine's sister Nina replied to say

Justine would be up for the challenge then Lisa, who is Justine's cousin, said she would like to do it as well. Niall said: 'The girls did a fantastic job - it really helped make the night.'

Lisa told *The Oban Times* ringside: 'It's my first time doing this. It's been great fun.'

Boxing night special, back page.

West End project to start soon

DEVELOPERS behind a major shops and retail development in Fort William's run down West End are close to making a start on the project.

Edinburgh-based Ashford Property Group plans to transform the former Grand Hotel and McTavish's Kitchen site into a 60-room Travelodge with a JD Wetherspoon's pub and shops below. Highland Council recently approved revised plans to include the pub in the retail space and last month granted JD Wetherspoon's a provisional drinks licence for the outlet.

Ashford director Andrew Smith told *The Oban Times*: 'As a result of the changes to the scheme as detailed in the most recent planning application,

we are now waiting for our application to amend the building warrant to be granted before we can start on site. We understand this should be granted in the next four weeks. We are very close to formalising the letting to the proposed operator for the bar/restaurant unit and their liquor licence application has also now been granted. The second letting we have in solicitors hands is also now very close to being completed. I hope to have these two deals over the line in the next fortnight. These lettings will account for more than 60 per

cent of the total retail space, which given the current climate and the fact the project has not yet started on site is a very positive achievement. I also have interest in two further units from a pharmacy operator and a bicycle retailer, which again is positive news for the scheme.'

He added: 'Given the timelines stated above, we do not now expect to be on site until the New Year as realistically once the building warrant is granted it will be too close to the festive period to make any meaningful site start this year. We are extremely keen to start the development as soon as possible as it will be a high quality improvement to the core commercial area of the town.'

Campaigners vow to save Caol lunch club

PLANS to scrap a popular lunch club for Lochaber senior citizens have met with a furious response from campaigners.

Highland Council wants to end its daily meals service for elderly residents at Caol Community Centre and hand over responsibility to local groups across greater Fort William.

Cash saved by ceasing the Caol operation would be used to fund volunteer-run lunch clubs, while 'alternative uses' for the community centre, including community ownership, will be explored.

The move has sparked fears that old people could be deprived of essential nutrition and invaluable social interaction with friends - and has cast doubt on the Caol facility's long-term future.

Social work staff currently run the lunch clubs during the working week, while franchisee Fay Houghton has evening and weekend use of the building for social events such as ceilidhs, fundraisers, bingo and weddings.

Her three-year lease expires next October. It is unclear if it will be renewed.

As housing and social work committee councillors met in Inverness yesterday to ratify the move, Ms Houghton told *The Oban Times* it

REPORT by
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

was ill-conceived and was already causing uncertainty. 'There has been no public consultation on this - I just think it's the wrong move,' she said.

'The lunch club is the reason the old folk get up in the morning. If they have not been for a couple of days the staff pick it up and contact the family members or carers to make sure they are okay.'

'I have already had two wedding bookings for next year cancelled over the weekend because of this.'

Former Highland councillor Olwyn MacDonald, who has been involved with the community centre since it was built 45 years ago, vowed to fight the move.

'Whatever happens, there has to be a public meeting,' she said.

'I will take this the whole road. I will have people out on the streets. This is going to be like the Belford Hospital campaign. In Lochaber we are not going to put up with it - the whole area uses it, not just Caol.'

'We have people at the lunch club from Glencoe, Upper Achintore, Plantation, Claggan, Camaghael, Inverloch, Caol, Corpach, Banavie and Spean Bridge.

'It is a social event for them - its not just about food. Closing it would create more problems health-wise with getting the elderly out to meet one another. At times we have 60 people there.'

Ms MacDonald doubted local volunteers would run a meals service.

'We used to have a lunch club at the Church of Scotland in Caol for years for years but it was closed down because of health and safety and lack of training,' she said.

Councillor Bill Clark, who attended yesterday's meeting, said: 'You consult with people before you make the decision, not once you have actually taken it. Lunch clubs are a way of getting the community together, ensure elderly folk get out of their homes and that they are well fed. Caol can't get a community council going - how do they expect people to come forward to take on a huge facility like the community centre?'

Highland Council says the current arrangement costs £179,621 annually and 'does not reflect' its policy of funding groups to provide the service. Staff savings of £91,000 could be made, they say, with £50,000 used to support community-run lunch clubs in the greater Fort William area.

Ladies night raises cash for high school computers

A LADIES night proved a little bit of pampering goes a long way - to raise cash for a new computer room.

The event, held in Connel Village Hall, raised cash for Oban High School.

Judith Vajk, one of the three fundraisers, said: 'Despite an evening of wind and rain, the fundraising committee of Oban High School, were delighted with the turnout.'

'Twelve individual businesses offered gift ideas, food and beauty therapies on the night and the raffle was a success thanks to generous donations from parents, staff and local businesses,' said Judith.

Tickets were also on sale for a luxury hamper, which will be drawn in time for Christmas.



Christine Hill, Anne McAllister and Judith Vajk put on a Ladies Night to raise funds for Oban High School. 07_1450H51

Islanders to have their say on development of 'sensitive' site

FEARS that plans to build two homes on Lismore will destroy areas of natural, historical and religious importance will be discussed at a planning hearing on the island tomorrow (Friday).

Argyll and Bute's planners last month decided to hold a local hearing after 27 objections were lodged against the Port Mòluag plan.

Not only is the site directly adjacent to a ruined chapel that is thought to be the island's original place of worship, but campaigners claim the creation of an access road would destroy

an ancient spring known as Tobar na Slainte, reputed to have healing qualities and frequented for medicinal purposes until the mid 19th century.

Objectors also claim the proposed buildings will be used purely as holiday homes, that the character of the area will be damaged and that several mature trees and undergrowth, which have been home to otters for several years, could be irreparably damaged.

Mandie Currie, the secretary of Lismore Community Council, said the group was firmly

opposed to the plans from the trustees of the Rev JA Fell.

She said: 'We sent a letter of objection because of the number of comments the community council had received from the community.'

There was a number of grounds for the objection, mainly that it's on a fairly sensitive site, given its history, also given the probability that they would be used as holiday homes rather than for people going to live in the community.

'People are visiting the area and the spring in

growing numbers. Until fairly recently, the last five years or so, not many people came to Lismore.'

'But we have a long history going back as long ago as pre-bronze age. There's evidence of settlement all the way back then and it has generated interest.'

'The island has wonderful views, wonderful history and heritage, and interesting wildlife. The concern is that this particular development would be damaging to them.'

The meeting will be held at 1.15pm at Lismore Public Hall on Friday.

Put your business on the map for 2011!

Reach your full visitor potential for next summer season and be included in The Oban Times series of Maps, beautifully illustrated by Anne Gardner.

Contact your local sales team on **01631 568000**



'Best birthday': Alick celebrates turning 90 with the Camanachd Cup and members of the Fort William team.

Lifelong shinty fan's thrill at 90th birthday cup surprise

LIFELONG Fort William shinty fan Alick MacDonald, of Nevis Road, Inverloch, had a dream come true on his 90th birthday when members of the team brought the Camanachd Cup to his house.

Alick, an ex-Fort William player, couldn't travel to Inverness for the cup final in September because of ill health. He was celebrating his birthday with friends and family when manager Peter MacIntyre, assistant manager William MacDonald, forward James Clark and

defender Adam Robertson paid a surprise visit with the trophy and presented Alick with a DVD of the final and a bottle of whisky.

Alick's wife Jean told *The Oban Times*: 'He was thrilled to bits, and he said it was the best birthday he's had.'

'He's followed the club since he was a boy and he travelled to all the home games and all the away games last year.'

'He managed to watch some of the final on TV and when he heard they won it made his day.'

PHOTOS & VIDEO PLUS BREAKING NEWS

This week on www.obantimes.co.uk

Caitness Mod 2010 video slideshow

Schools protest at Argyll and Bute Council

The Oban Times Travels - Your Photos

NEW Oban Index 2011

FREE in next week's edition of **The Oban Times**

Spean pupils scale new heights as climbing wall opens

SPEAN Bridge Primary School opened its new climbing wall on Friday – thanks to £1,000 each from the school's PTA and the National Lottery's Awards for All.

To celebrate the occasion, a team from the Ice Factor brought along their portable climbing 'rock' from Kinlochleven and set it up in the playground to show children the ropes.

The whole school, from P1 to P7, learned about safety and the basic climbing skills they will need as they grow in confidence.

The school wall itself is a traverse wall for health and safety reasons, so the children climb along it, not upwards.

Teacher Gail Craig said the new wall would promote

REPORT by ALEXANDER MCGARRY Lochaber High School

health and well-being and encourage teamwork between the children.

Climbing was 'an enjoyable skill' for the children to learn, she said. Ice Factor owner Jamie Smith spent the morning roping up the children for their ascent up the 20-foot moulded plastic rock.

'The kids really enjoyed getting involved in an adventurous sport but it requires a bit of courage as well,' he told *The Oban Times*. 'Young kids are amazing. Their strength to body weight ratio is higher now than it will ever be and now is the time for them to learn.'



Spean Bridge Primary School pupils Joshua and Katie show off the Awards for All cheque as their classmates try out the Ice Factor rock. 10_f46spean01

Canna body is missing yachtsman

A BODY found on Canna by a member of the public on September 29 has been formally identified by Northern Constabulary as that of missing Aberdeen yachtsman Neil Mackenzie.

Experienced yachtsman Mr Mackenzie, aged 59, of Kirktonbridge, Skene, near Westhill, went missing after he travelled from the northeast to Arisaig marina on September 12 for a week-long break. His remains have been released to his wife Sarah.

New buildings on prestigious architectural awards shortlist

NEW BUILDINGS in the West Highlands have been shortlisted for top honours at a prestigious architectural awards ceremony at Strathpeffer Pavilion tomorrow (Friday).

The Inverness Architectural Association (IAA) event, which showcases imaginatively designed projects completed over the past year, is the culmination of a series of local competitions across the Highlands and Islands.

Acharacle Primary School (Gaia Architects, Edinburgh) and Raasay Hall (Dualchas Building Design, Sleat)

have been shortlisted in the open award for best new building in the Highlands and innovative use of timber in architecture categories, and the Black Shed House at Skindin, Skye (Rural Design, Dunvegan) in the open award and confined best building categories.

The Pod on Muck (Blast Architects, Glasgow) is up for the most innovative use of timber award, while Burnside, Elgol (Dualchas Building Design) has been nominated for the new life for old buildings prize.

In a new format, those shortlisted will make a pitch

about their projects to a distinguished panel of judges, including internationally renowned fashion designer Sandra Murray and Highland Council director of planning and development Stuart Black.

IAA president Calum MacLean said: 'Our local judges have visited every shortlisted project in each category in order to see the architecture in its setting, before selecting the winning projects to go forward to the final. They have visited more than 30 projects across the Highlands and Islands, no matter how remote. It has

been a marathon of logistics and transport, but somehow they have managed it.

'Our awards format is unique in that it features local architects and projects and also includes exhibitions held in local communities. This provides an unparalleled opportunity for people to come and see what is happening in their communities and take part in a discussion about design, place and identity that is relevant to the area where they live and which directly affects them.'

The IAA awards attracted more than 70 entries.

Young Highland musicians tune up for showcase concert

YOUNG musicians from across the Highlands are busy rehearsing for their annual showcase concert, which takes place in Aviemore on Saturday November 20.

More than 320 youngsters will perform at the MacDonald Aviemore Resort, including the Highland Regional Youth Orchestra, the Highland Youth Pipe Band, the Highland Youth Choir and the Highland Schools Wind Band.

Tickets for the event are still available but anyone wishing to attend is advised to book in advance.

Pulpit Rock works row

THE GROUP campaigning for upgrades to the A82 has warned against unjustified criticism of a major improvement project to remove a major bottleneck on the lifeline route.

The A82 Partnership says planned works to bypass traffic lights at Pulpit Rock on Loch Lomondside are essential for the entire west Highlands and is worried a furore about the supposed timetable could delay the entire scheme.

Lochaber winter sports operators, including Glencoe Mountain, had believed the £11million project, which involves a complete road closure for 14 weeks and a diversion via Inveraray, would start on January 11 2012.

Fears were expressed the entire winter showsports season could be knocked out. Consultations on the road closure ended last weekend.

But A82 Partnership spokesperson Stewart MacLean dismissed talk of a definite start date as 'a completely unfounded internet rumour' and urged caution.

'There is no date set

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

whatsoever,' he said. 'Years ago local objections to the Fort William link road from An Aird to the kennels meant that road did not get built – and we have lived to regret that ever since.'

'Pulpit Rock has been a bottleneck on the A82 for 30 years so obviously major improvements there will have a hugely positive effect on the economy of the West Highlands and Islands.'

'It is far better to work around Transport Scotland's requirements and hopefully any disagreements will not lead to any delay. What we don't want is representations being such that they lead to a public inquiry.'

Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber MSP Fergus Ewing told *The Oban Times*: 'I have written to the chief executive of Transport Scotland David Middleton this week on behalf of constituents that the closure of the A82 for 14 weeks over the winter sports season would be highly damaging to the interests

of local operators. It could impact on nearly the whole of the season and therefore on substantial parts of the whole year's income.'

'All of us want to see the A82 improved and there will obviously be some disruption and inconvenience.'

'However, I am sure that Transport Scotland as well as my constituents will share the common objective of keeping such disruption to a minimum.'

A Transport Scotland spokesperson said: 'The Scottish Government recognises the A82 as a vital link in Scotland's road network and as part of improving the route are progressing work at Pulpit Rock – one of the road's most notorious bottlenecks.'

'We look forward to analysing the [consultation] responses, which will be considered fully as we move forward.'

'Proposed dates for the road closures, which will be essential for carrying out work, are still to be agreed. However, it is expected that they will be outwith the main tourist season in order to minimise disruption.'



Close shave: Kirsty gets cropped.

Kirsty's close shave raises £3,000

A LOCHABER woman has raised more than £3,000 for charity by shaving off her hair.

Kirsty Johnson, aged 22, of Corpach, handed a cheque for £3,294.90 to Cancer Research UK yesterday (Wednesday). She decided to raise funds for the charity in memory of her mum Lesley, who died of cancer nine years ago.

Kirsty said: 'Hopefully I might inspire a few others to help fund research into cancer.'

Banavie Bridge work in spotlight

SCOTLAND Transerv is to give a brief presentation about the planned works on Banavie Bridge at the Lochaber joint wards forum next Monday.

Officials will outline why the works are required and how it is planned to minimise any impact on traffic flows. The project is due to start in early January 2011.

Lochailort fish farm expansion welcomed

ARISAIG Community Council has given a broad welcome to Marine Harvest's plans to expand its operations at Lochailort.

The company is soon to lodge proposals to build a huge smolt production facility near the A861 junction with the A830 Road to the Isles to provide around six million young salmon to new fish farms in the Minches by 2012.

Each farm, to be sited in locations with deep water and strong currents, would be able to hold 5,000 tonnes of live salmon - twice the limit allowed for sea lochs.

Tests on locations in and around the southern Minch and the Small Isles are well advanced.

Secretary Maureen MacColl told *The Oban Times*: 'Generally I think the community council felt it was a very acceptable development.'

'Basically it would keep the employment for those people already there and maybe offer more jobs.'

'It's going to be a high-end development and will bring really modern production

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

techniques to the area, which might wake up a few more people that facilities like this this can be built in rural areas.'

'As there is a fish farm there already, it is going to be an indoor facility and would not be using Loch Ailort as a fish farm.'

'We did suggest to them that some kind of heritage centre to cover both the history of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) and fish farming in the area would be useful, and they said they were aware of the wartime history of the site and would take it into consideration. It was a thought we just passed onto them. We don't have much here to commemorate the SOE, apart from the Czech memorial [in Arisaig]. Through Arisaig Community Trust we might be able to get a hold of funding for a centre. There are available funds, which could be accessed.'

If approved, the new plant would require a staff of six.

The Oban Times
Delivered to your letterbox or your inbox.
The choice is yours.

1 year subscription **£58**
Delivered each week straight to your door

Call now to give the perfect Christmas gift.

1 year digital subscription **£34.99**
Available to download every Thursday from 7am

Phone Subscriptions on **01631 568000**



P7 pupils from Ballachulish, Duror, Glencoe and St Brides learned first aid skills at their save-a-life training session last week. The scheme, which has been running for the past nine years, saw children practice techniques designed to help someone unconscious and choking.

Job cut fears as firm goes bust

REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK fort@obantimes.co.uk

JOBS in the Highlands are at risk after a major construction company entered administration this week.

Rok, an Exeter-based building services company, made the announcement on Monday, just a month after securing a £32million four-year deal with Highland and Island Enterprise (HIE) to handle every stage of most of its building projects.

HIE said in a statement they want to meet with the administrators and try to ensure ongoing projects are finished despite the news. The statement said: 'HIE has been in contact with Rok's administrators, Pricewaterhouse Coopers. We are seeking an early meeting with PwC to discuss both the future of the business as a whole and how we progress specific HIE projects currently being delivered by Rok.'

industrial buildings at Arnish Point, Stornoway, has not begun yet, but both the £8million rebuilding of Rassay House and the £4.9million site works at the renewable energy manufacturing plant in Machrihanish, Campbeltown, are currently being carried out by Rok.

Highland Council has a number of construction contracts with Rok, many of which have been completed, and head of construction Gary Westwater told *The Oban Times* they had been in contact with administrators.

He said: 'It's early days but we've been through this recently with Connaught [who went into administration in September] and we know our obligations to our tenants. We will be in touch with all our tenants to let them know how things are progressing.'

No-one from Rok's plumbing, heating and electrical base in Fort William was available for comment.

Caol couple's diamond smiles



Susie and Jimmy MacDonald celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary.

DIAMOND couple Jimmy and Susie MacDonald of Caol celebrated 60 years of marriage with friends and family in the BA Social Club on Saturday night and raised £1,000 for charity in the process.

Guests at the weekend party were asked to donate money to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust instead of giving presents as Susie and Jimmy's 15-year-old grand-daughter Hannah suffers from the disease.

The pair married in St Mary's Church, Inverness, on November 7 1950 and have four children and seven grandchildren. Before retiring, Jimmy worked for Highland Council for a number of years and Susie worked at Invernevis House care home.

Jimmy and Susie thank everyone who came to the party and donated money.

Practical help, advice and support for new and growing businesses



To find out how Business Gateway can help your business, contact the local office on 01546 605 459 or visit www.bgateway.com



Supporters of the Oban Times Business pages

Business briefing

Good third quarter for SSF

SCOTTISH Sea Farms has reported operating revenue of £25 million in the third quarter of 2010.

The company, which has a packing plant outside Oban and owns 37 fish farms across the west coast of Scotland and Shetland, sold 3,100 tonnes of salmon in the last quarter.

Operating profit per kilogram gutted weight came to 10.19 Norwegian Krone (£1.09), compared with 5.77 Krone (£0.62) in the same quarter in 2009.

The company's finances were revealed last week as SalMar - the Norwegian company which owns 50 per cent of Norskott Havbruk AS, the owner of Scottish Sea Farms Ltd - published its quarterly financial report.

The report stated: 'The third quarter of 2010 was a good quarter for Scottish Sea Farms, both with respect to overall operating profit and operating profit per kilo gutted weight.'

'The performance is due to high salmon prices combined with stable developments in the company's biological situation.'

'The pound has weakened since the same quarter last year, such that the real improvement in margins is greater than it appears in the financial statements.'

Established in 1974, Scottish Sea Farms employs 300 people.

New faces at Oban practice

DM MacKinnon Solicitors has appointed Louise Fraser and Laura Russell to expand its Oban practice.

The daughter of Graham Fraser, of Alba Artshop, Louise has returned to her home town. She grew up in Oban, attending Rockfield Primary School and Oban High School before going off to study a degree in English Literature.

Louise moved back to Oban to work for DM MacKinnon for a year to gain experience in a law practice before studying for her law degree. Now specialising in conveyancing and employment law, she is already developing a busy practice.

Laura will focus on criminal and civil law and with six years experience in a central Scotland practice she is fully integrated into the busy court practice.

Originally from West Lothian, Laura studied law at the University of Edinburgh.



Expansion plan - Kerrera's Oban Marina is set to double in size.

Expansion will see marina double in size

KERRERA'S Oban Marina has announced a four-year expansion programme that will see it double in size.

The marina, owned by Edinburgh men John McCoach and Cameron McColl, is to increase the number of berths it has available to 205 by 2014.

Winter storage capacity will also double to more than 200 boats, and there are plans to provide undercover storage and an additional 33 swinging moorings.

Workshop and repair facilities at the marina will also be increased.

Both MacLean Marine Services and Owen Sails, who sublet sheds at the marina, will be operating out of upgraded workshops.

John Grant, partner in Owen Sails, said: 'We are delighted to see the expansion and we are pleased with our association to the marina over the years. We would like to continue to help it grow along with ourselves.'

'We have already taken on another employee this year to deal with the expansion of the marine industry in the area,' he added. 'We think this expansion will result in more jobs in the future.'

Alasdair MacLean, of MacLean Marine Services, also believes the expansion will mean more opportunities within his business.

'The expansion can only be good news for the yachting sector in Argyll,' he said.

Susan Deacon, general manager of Oban Marina, said: 'The demand for greater boat and berthing facilities in Oban will grow and grow over the coming years. Oban is a wonderful town which can only benefit from more and more sailors coming to the area.'

'There are still sailing and berthing opportunities nearby and both ourselves and Dunstaffnage Marina are continuing to grow and expand.'

The next five months will see the addition of 12 berths, each 15 metres in length, catering for larger boats in the area. A 50-ton boat hoist and a 25-ton all-terrain crane for mast removal and replacement are already on site.

Views sought on White Building

CHARITY workers are not monekying around any more, they want views about the North Pier's White Building.

Graham MacQueen, of McQueen Bros Removals, has been in charge of the double fronted shop for more than a year. Therefore, it was a bit of a blow when earlier this year the council decided to re-market the property as it puts into jeopardy the future of the successful charity shop in the building.

But the removals expert was not going to let a simple thing such as a commercial sale put him off and has set about trying to raise public support and ideas to keep the building.

Graham said: 'There are lots of ideas we are interested in taking forward within the White Building but it will take a little bit of time to bring them fully to light. In the meantime we are hoping that people will tell us what they think by filling in our questionnaire at www.surveymonkey.com/s/3S3RFM5.

'We have asked people to consider a few options for the building but most of all we want to get views and opinions on whether going forward for a community use of the building is a good idea.'

'We have also appointed a professional fund-raiser who is looking at options for cash for us.'

Lower Lorn agreement on fishing collapses

A CO-OPERATION agreement between Argyll fish farming companies and fish conservation groups has collapsed.

The decision by Wild Fish Interests to formally withdraw its support from the Lower Lorn area management agreement has been blamed on the serial failure of the aquaculture side of the agreement to honour its commitments. However, confidentiality clauses prevent the publication of the reasons behind it.

Wild Fish Interests in the Lower Lorn consisted of the Argyll District Salmon Fishery

Board, the Argyll Fisheries Trust, the Nell and Feochan River Improvement Association and the Add River Improvement Association.

Signatories to the agreement on the aquaculture side were fish farming companies Pan Fish Scotland, Lakeland Marine Farms and Kames Fish Farming.

As a result of the collapse, the Association of Salmon Fishery Boards (ASFB) has called into question the viability of the Scottish Government's policy of fostering local dialogue and agreements to resolve differences.

Andrew Wallace, managing director of ASFB, said: 'After repeated abuses of the Lower Lorn agreement by the salmon farming companies, wild fisheries bodies have had no other option but to withdraw.'

Chairman of Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board Roger Brook added: 'The demise of the Lower Lorn AMA has been caused by the repeated failure of the fish farmers to honour the agreement.'

'I believe that wild fish signatories to the AMA were entirely justified in saying enough is enough.'

Business correspondent

Steven Flanagan sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk 01631 568021



Jobs boost as hotel undergoes £100,000 revamp

REPORT
by STEVEN FLANAGAN
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

DUROR'S Stewart Hotel, by Appin, has re-opened for its first winter season following a management takeover and £100,000 revamp.

The hotel, which has 37 guest rooms, a bar and restaurant, has undergone a complete makeover under Nigel Bird, a consultant with new management firm West Coast Hospitality, who was appointed at the start of October by London-based owner Shamsul Arefin.

Nigel, who has more than 25 years' experience of hotel management in the UK and abroad in three to five star hotels, will manage all hotel matters for the remainder of his 18-month contract.

He said: 'This is an exciting opportunity for the local area and I am delighted to be working with the Stewart Hotel on this project. 'We have made initial, vital changes and we are confident the hotel will meet VisitScotland and the AA's three-star quality standards.'

'In particular, we are passionate about bringing this hotel back into the Duror community.'

'We have improved the service, atmosphere and facilities in the bar and restaurant.'

'A new beer garden and live entertainment is in the pipeline for next year so we hope to welcome our neighbours back to the hotel.'

Since his appointment at the start of October, the hotel has benefited from new fixtures and a revamped decor and a tidy up of the hotel's exterior and car park.

Each of the rooms has been



Duror Hotel owner Shamsul Arefin hands over management to Nigel Bird of consultancy firm West Coast Hospitality.

fully equipped with room service menus, new linen, 21-inch flat-screen televisions, hairdryers, hospitality trays, new en-suite bathrooms and tiled flooring.

Website

The hotel branding is also being reviewed, with a redesigned logo and a new website in the pipeline.

Away from the cosmetic changes, the hotel has created nine new jobs, including a new head chef, restaurant manager, reception manager and head of

housekeeping. It has also shifted its focus to local suppliers and has set a turnover target of £750,000.

Management are hoping the improvements will attract a range of guests including independent travellers, families, tour operators and visitors from overseas.

Action

Nigel said: 'This is the first step in the right direction for the Stewart Hotel and our action plan aims to deliver and maintain a high level of quality and service for all our hotel users and guests.'

Success on a plate for four Argyll businesses at food service awards

ARGYLL businesses came out on top at the Williamson Foodservice Highlands and Islands Food Service Awards after winning no fewer than four prizes.

Top of the pack was the Waterfront Seafood Restaurant and Bar in Oban, winning two awards; for Best use of Food and Drink sponsored by John M Munro, and the prestigious Excellence Award, in recognition of its diverse menus, top quality service and its dedication to the community.

The Isle of Eriska Hotel, Spa and Island won the Environmental Award, sponsored by Tio Ltd, while Loch Fyne Oysters Ltd won the Best New Product Award, sponsored by Polaris Learning Limited, for its citrus and black pepper infused Scottish smoked salmon.

The award ceremony was held in Inverness and hosted by



Nick Nairn congratulates the Waterfront's Alex Needham.

broadcaster Catriona Shearer, with prizes presented by celebrity chef Nick Nairn.

The owner of the Isle of Eriska Hotel, Beppo Buchanan-Smith, said: 'Our core purpose at Eriska is to leave it better tomorrow than

how we found it today and the environment and how we deal with our surroundings is key to this.'

'This award is a real credit to all the team who work so hard in ensuring that we offer our clients the very best service and facilities whilst minimising our impact on the environment.'

'It also highlights the importance of the environment to the future of the Scottish tourism and hospitality industry.'

Virginia Sumsion, marketing manager for Loch Fyne Oysters, said: 'Obviously we're delighted. Most of it is sold within the UK itself, but it's available all over the world. We are selling a lot of it in Switzerland.'

'It's a product we started working on last year and started selling at the start of 2010. It's great to see it getting the recognition it deserves.'

MacQueen Self Storage Ltd

Low Cost Storage with 24hr access 7 days a week - MacQueen Self-Storage is proving very popular with those who want to carry out their own removal - Either by bringing goods to a container in the Self Storage Yard or having a container delivered

which once filled can be uplifted and brought to the yard. The lowest weekly hire for a steel container would be to have it at your own home or site. Barrows, skids, covers, straps and specialist moving and handling equipment are available to hire

to make the job easier. A full range of cartons, bubble wrap, sticky tape and packing materials is always available direct from the warehouse at unbeatable prices. Call anytime from 08:30hrs till 17:30hrs Monday to Friday.



prices. Call anytime from 08:30hrs till 17:30hrs Monday to Friday.

THE STEWART HOTEL
A stunning hotel set in 5 acres on Glen Duror with spectacular views over Loch Linnhe and the morven peninsula

Highland xmas and new year packages
Xmas-arrive 23 dec for 4 nights price per person £249
This includes dinner each evening, full scottish breakfast, xmas day lunch and entertainment throughout

Hogmany-arrive 30th for 3 nights price per person £245
This includes dinner each evening, new years day brunch, full scottish breakfast and entertainment throughout

For reservations please call 01631 740268 or email info@stewarthotel.com

dm mackinnon solicitors

The partners would like to welcome Louise Fraser & Laura Russell to the team

D M MacKinnon Solicitors
Bank of Scotland Buildings, Oban,
Tel - 01631 563014
www.dmmk.co.uk

The Oban Times
HOTLINE

If you have a story to share, call us on
OBAN
01631 568000
FORT WILLIAM
01397 703003

Business is built on many things.
So make sure you get to as many customers as possible.

The Oban Times
the newspaper with the big reach

Call Fiona on 01631 568000 to find out how we can help promote your business. We are here to help

69%
of the business community read the regional press

Regional Press
Closer to home

Around the Rurals

Arisaig

ARISAIG SWRI recently held the first meeting of its new session in the Astley Hall.

Nine members attended and heard Claire Walters give an interesting and informative talk on the Bowen Technique.

Competition, floral arrangement in a clam shell: 1 M MacEachen; 2 R MacEachen; 3 V MacDonald. Four pretty buttons: 1 A Cameron; 2 V MacDonald; 3 Y MacDonald.

A photograph of Arisaig WRITablecloths was unveiled to mark the institute's 90th anniversary.

The raffle was won by B Moynihan.

Glenorchy

GLENORCHY SWRI welcomed Alice Campbell to its recent meeting.

Alice, who gave a demonstration of bead work, explained that most people start out stringing beads then move on to spiral staircase - three strands of beads twisted round a contrast strand.

Alice set up a board with all the various types of beadwork that she had made. There was bead work with netting, chevron chain braid, spiral staircase and square stitch. These were all wonderfully colourful, made with different shapes and types of beads.

Her piece de resistance was a beautiful necklace with lizards, birds, leafing and a snake circled round the beaded neck band.



Tony Gannon is flanked by his fellow ferrymen who helped say farewell to a fondly regarded ferrymen.

Cuan ferryman Tony calls it a day after 17 years

CUAN Ferry on the Island of Luig was a busy place on Sunday October 31 as more than 100 islanders turned out to surprise one of their ferrymen.

Tony Gannon has spent 17 years working on the Cuan Ferry, for Argyll and Bute Council, and when he

announced the date he would retire, the community council started a collection and card so that the people of Luig and further afield could say thank you for his hard work and dedication to the job. Alison Robertson, convener of Luig Community Council, thanked Tony on

behalf of the whole community, for the quiet and kind way he worked - nothing ever too much trouble. Tony was amazed by the gathering and said that he had enjoyed working on the Cuan Ferry and that he had loved helping the people of the Island of Luig.

All this work made members keen to have a go and after laying out boxes of beads, pliers, crimps, wires and kits everyone was given instructions and a demonstration on how to make a pair of earrings.

Alice was very helpful and everyone managed to make three pairs of earrings.

A number of members said they now plan to take up beadwork.

Competitions: Shortbread biscuits: 1 Jane Goodwill; 2 Helen Gibson; 3 Pat

Villani. Bead jewellery: 1 Jane Goodwill; 2 Sandra Boardman; 3 June Taylor.

Oban

PRESIDENT Fiona MacCallum welcomed members to the October meeting of Oban SWRI.

Guest speaker was Karen Liversedge, glass artist, maker and designer, who gave an enthralling talk in the historic and current uses of glass and its enormous potential as an artistic medium. She illustrated

this with a slide show and displayed some of her own illuminated glass art.

Karen was accorded a hearty vote of thanks before a delicious tea composed of gluten and non-gluten food was served by Jennifer Moody, Nan Black and Catherine Lamont.

Competitions: Fudge: Dorothy Bark and Anne Malloch. Patchwork Pot Holder: Red: Lindsay Elliot.

Fort William

DESPITE last Monday,

enjoys. Questions were asked and tips were passed on to and from Tanya.

Sheila Sutton gave a vote of thanks on behalf of members.

There was a display of craft items which members had entered into the SWRI handicrafts exhibition and conference in Troon. One entry for a doorstep was won by Edythe Knowles for her lighthouse creation. Isobel McGavin reported on the Troon conference.

Competition: Empire biscuits - 1 Eileen Cameron; 2 Isobel McGavin. Raffle - Sylvia Reay and Martine Young. Tea was served and the ladies enjoyed a taste of Tanya's shortbread.

Appin

PRESIDENT Doreen Evans welcomed 30 members to Appin SWRI's October meeting.

A talk on psychiatric nursing, past and present, was given by Ken Massey, who has worked in all aspects of nursing and nursing management.

Margaret Ross gave the vote of thanks.

Competition winners: Coffee and walnut sponge, Gold: Catriona MacKenzie; Silver: Ella Gunn and Myra MacDougall; Red: Barbara Carmichael and Marjorie Gifford; Blue: Isobel Jackson, Jessie MacKenzie and Ellen MacCorquodale.

Stormy seas photograph, Gold: Ann Calvert; Silver: Moira Thomson; Red: Marjorie Gifford; Blue: Doreen Evans and Green: Catriona MacKenzie.

A whist drive will be held on Friday November 12 in Appin Village Hall.



Peter and Joyce Campbell accept their farewell gifts from Captain Malcolm Anderson, chairman of the Islay lifeboat management committee. Photo by Islay Studios.

Peter sets sail from Islay for new mainland job

AN ISLAY lifeboat volunteer and distillery manager has set sail for the mainland after accepting a new job.

Islay's lifeboat crew, management committee members and fund-raising representatives met in Ionad Chalum Chille Ile last week to bid farewell to Peter Campbell, the Lagavulin Distillery manager and the local RNLI's deputy launch authority, who will take up the post of manager at Cardhu Distillery in Banffshire.

Peter arrived on the island in 2000 as production engineer at the Port Ellen Maltings and made his home at Caolila.

In 2005, he was appointed as manager at the Maltings before taking over the management of Lagavulin Distillery in 2008.

He has been a strong supporter of the local lifeboat station for 10 years and has been involved in the launching process for the past six years.

As a thank you from his lifeboat colleagues, he was presented with a tidal clock, mounted on local ash, by Captain Malcolm Anderson, chairman of the lifeboat management committee. A further reminder came in the form of a picture of the 'Helmut B Schroder of Dunlossit 11' handed over by her coxswain David MacLellan. Peter's wife Joyce received flowers from Margaret Campbell, a member of the local fund raising group. Peter and Joyce, who have a family of two, were active members of the community during their stay on the island. Peter was an eager clay pigeon participant, served on the Keills school board, the Feis Oigridh committee and through his 'hands on' support to many other local events. His parents Ena and Peter live in Dunblane and are well-known in Gaelic and Highland circles on the mainland where his father is the immediate past president of Glasgow Islay Association.

Lewis youngsters flock to Ionad Spòrs Leòdhais for holiday judo taster



Lewis youngsters enjoyed the judo sessions at the sports centre in Stornoway.

LEWIS youngsters tried out judo during the October break through a new initiative involving The Scottish Salmon Company, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and EventsScotland.

Scottish judo expert and former European gold medalist Dr George Kerr and Ultimate Judo coach Gordon McCathie led the free 45-minute taster sessions at the Ionad Spòrs Leòdhais in Stornoway.

Dr Kerr, who is only one of seven worldwide to have attained 10th Dan status, said: 'Judo is more than just a sport. There is the whole moral code you need to live by as well - honour, integrity, discipline, politeness and not picking on people who are weaker than you. I want kids to understand the importance of eating well and how this links with healthy exercise.'

It is hoped further judo sessions will take place in the coming months and that a judo club will be established.



Staffin primary one pupils smile for the camera.



Ardgour Primary School.

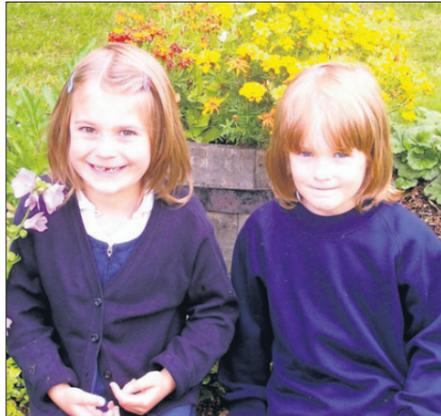


Kilmuir Primary School.

Back in the classroom with a smile

WEST Highland schoolchildren are settling back into their classrooms after the October break.

This week, we feature more primary one pupils from Skye and Lochaber. See next week's edition of *The Oban Times* for more school pictures.



Two new pupils joined Glencoe Primary School this year.



Invergarry Primary School.



Acharacle Primary School.



Fort William Primary School.



Carbost Primary School.



Inveraray's Argyll Caravan Park manager Jim McCulloch said he was 'flabbergasted' to receive a surprise visit from His Grace The Duke of Argyll, who handed over an Exceptional Service Award from the British Holiday and Home Parks Association. Jim, who has been at the park for 25 years, said he was delighted, but also surprised, to have won the personal award. He was nominated by Andrew Montgomery, factor for Argyll Estates, which owns the caravan park.



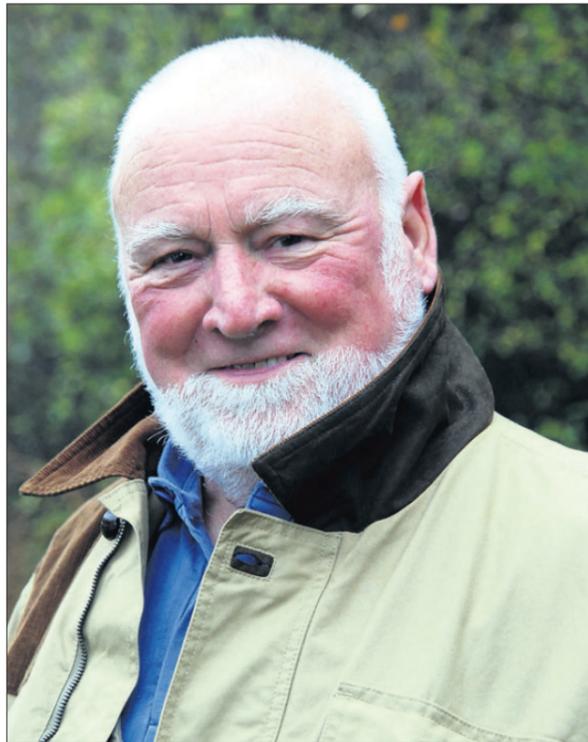
Eriskay school raises cash to help people with dementia

Kyla MacKinnon of Sgoil Eirisgeidh presents manager of Taga Uibhist Catherine MacKinnon with a £120 cheque. Children at the school raised the money to help people with dementia after Catherine gave a presentation about the illness at the school. Taga Uibhist, a local non-profit making charitable organisation, supports people with dementia in Eriskay.

My Village Tayvallich

Norman Rea has been connected with the Mid Argyll village of Tayvallich for more than 40 years. He fell in love with the community after many years holidaying in the village, so Norman and his wife - who is originally from Tayvallich - decided to move there permanently in 1997.

Norman is passionate about village life, being involved in the local art club, flower show and indoor bowling club. He is also a trustee of the village hall. Here, Norman explains to reporter JENNY SUTHERLAND why Tayvallich holds a special place in his heart.



Norman Rea.06_a45tayv01

What makes Tayvallich special for you?

It has to be the sense of community. You come to the village for the scenery, the wonderful bay, Argyll forest, the lovely fishing and great boating so to live here every day is an immense pleasure. There is so much support in the village - it has such community spirit right from children to old age pensioners. There's no division between the old and the young and I find that keeps me much younger.

Tayvallich has a mix of permanent residents, semi-permanent - those who have houses here but work elsewhere - and then there's the transient population, those who are holiday homeowners and holidaymakers.

If you love a place as much as I love Tayvallich then you want to put as much into it as you can.

Does Tayvallich have an interesting history?

One of the things I care very deeply about is the village history and culture.

I have spent many happy times speaking with long-time residents

of Tayvallich to discover things that have gone on in the past - the way the village used to be.

At the old inn, when they were building there, a Neolithic tomb was found so the history of the village goes back to those times.

And then there's the old school house; it stands empty now and you realise it was a very big community.

The recent book *Taynish: A history of the Ross Estate* also casts light on the area's history.

I was very honoured that the author John Pease should ask me to go through it with him when he was alive. The book really tells a fascinating history of the area.

I'm glad that John, and then after he died, his brother, George, and partner, Mary, were able to finish the book off because it's an important part of village history.

What does Tayvallich offer that other villages/towns in the area can't?

The village is set in such a beautiful area and everywhere you turn there's something new and inspiring to catch your imagination. What Tayvallich

has that other villages don't have is the people that live in it. There are a wide variety of professions and ideas yet they all manage to rub along together. One of the things that has happened is the village has grown in an organic way. Tayvallich hasn't seen a big increase in the number of houses that other villages have. In the 40 years I've known the village it has grown but not by large amounts of houses - just a

house here and there which have been absorbed into it.

How would you describe Tayvallich to someone who has never been there?

I would say a little jewel set in the west coast trapped beside the hills and the sea.

One of the most beautiful approaches to the village you could imagine and

then you turn the corner - it's the most wonderful entrance.

Were you born in Tayvallich? How long have you lived there?

I'm a Welshman and very proud of my Welsh roots but I wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

I first came to the village around 40 years ago when I came up and camped at Leachive. I got to know Harry Fyfe, who worked as a roadman. He used to lend me his boat and taught me how to fish and where the best places were to catch fish. My son began coming with me and then there was no other place I wanted to come on holiday. In the mid 1990s I married Morag, a local girl - her mother lived at Carsaig. We got the opportunity to build a house in the village and having built it we couldn't see any good reason to live anywhere else. We moved to Tayvallich in 1997.

How much has Tayvallich changed since you moved there?

It's changed, surprisingly, quite a lot. There have been a number of new houses that have emerged over my time here but they have been absorbed into the village.

The addition of the coffee house to the Post Office and shop has been well received. When I first came here there was no pub, but a garage. Having the new inn was a major change in its place and the development of the restaurant and then the coffee shop was welcomed.

The next major development was the sports court - it's become an immense asset to the village. The school has been a very important focus for people in the village. Fears the school would get too small and close have been proved wrong as the school is very strong and we have a lot of young families here so the school is thriving.

Do you have a favourite place or building in Tayvallich?

There are so many places I love whether it's standing at the corner of the loch at Keels or going across to Carsaig but I have to say my favourite place - where

I go everyday - is the coffee shop. It's because I get a great cup of coffee, a great chat with the staff and excellent service. It's just a lovely place to sit and look across the bay to the hills.

Do you have a favourite time of the year in the village?

Autumn is my favourite time of year. It's because you've got your village back in autumn and you are surrounded by wonderful colours. We also have an otter which appears in the bay around this time. You get to see the wild creatures that are with you all year and that's splendid.

What do visitors like about Tayvallich?

I think most visitors like the natural amenities such as the water, hills and woods. They have the option to put a kayak in the water in relatively safe conditions.

To go out in a boat and see some wild places and all in a beautiful area and the fact that there's a shop, pub, restaurant, makes it easier.

Is there anyone famous from Tayvallich?

I think the most famous person in the village at the moment is John Lowrie Morrison (Jolomo). He is, without a doubt, one of the most successful artists in his own lifetime that Scotland has ever known. He's a splendid man and a great artist. I wish I could paint with the poetry his brush has.

What are the challenges facing Tayvallich or how could it be improved?

The village is moving forward but in a cautious manner.

Its biggest challenge will be controlling the sorts of developments that may be put on it without losing its natural spirit. I never believed that my life in retirement would be living here and I'm delighted that we are here.

Whenever I go away and come back and turn the corner and see the Tayvallich sign my heart gives a little lift because I know I'm home.



The view from the coffee shop - Norman's favourite place in the village. 06_a45tayv02



Tayvallich. 06_a45tayv04

The Christmas Menu
Tayvallich Inn
 3 Courses £17.95

Starter: Warm winter vegetable soup • Succulent black pudding and pancetta with poached egg and mixed leaves
 Tayvallich prawn cocktail • Mushrooms stuffed with smoked salmon paté in crispy butter

Main Course: Roast turkey served with honey glazed roast vegetables and all the trimmings
 Poached smoked haddock in chive and crème fraiche sauce served on a bed of spinach with baby roast potatoes
 Penne pasta with roast vegetables and a white wine cream sauce served with garlic bread
 Roast beef with seasonal vegetables, roast potatoes and Yorkshire pudding
 Christmas pudding with brandy cream • Profiteroles with chocolate sauce and Swiss ice cream
 Sticky bakes and chocolate pudding • Drambuie crème brûlée

10th December - 24th December
 Please call 01546 870282 for reservations

The Coffee Shop
 Tayvallich

The coffee shop with the view
 Tel: 01546 870281
 OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND

10 Years Ago Those Were The Days
 The Oban Times
 Thursday November 9, 2000

Mystery donor gives £30,000 to Oban Hospice

AMYSTERY donor has given £30,000 to Oban Hospice Ltd.

Chairman of the board Dr Ronnie Frew announced that the generous donation was given by a supporter who wishes to remain anonymous.

"This has come at a time when discussions on the future of the establishment are at a critical stage and underlines the remarkable support for the great determination that it will succeed," he said.

This is the largest single financial contribution made to date and comes as an incredible encouragement to many people who support the hospice plan with fund-raising.

Their efforts to date have raised nearly £50,000.

A dance held recently raised £2,000 and was a great success.

One steady source of donations to the hospice has been from funeral services where families have asked people to donate to the hospice appeal instead

of sending flowers. Nearly £1,000 has been sent to the fund from funeral donations.

Fund-raising events in the run up to Christmas are now underway and include Joan McGill, the chairwoman of Friends of the Hospice, selling specially designed cards at St John's Cathedral on November 11. And soup lunches will take place over a period at Oban Youth and Community Centre.

Collection cans have also been designed and Joan would like to hear from any hoteliers, publicans or members of the public who would like to help.

Tyndrum heading for National Park?

THE PROPOSALS for a National Park in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs have been published by Scottish National Heritage.

The consultation document has been widely distributed because the proposals are likely to affect a wide range of people.

One of the main items will be where the boundaries of the park will be. As well as the core area of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, the Argyll Forest Park, including Lochgoilhead and the Rest and Be Thankful, down to Kilmun; Glen Dochart, including Tyndrum and Crianlarich; and Loch Earn to St Fillans and south of the loch, have been mooted as strong cases for inclusion in the park. Not so strong, says the document, is the case for Strathfillan, including Killin.

Power line chaos for Oban's roads

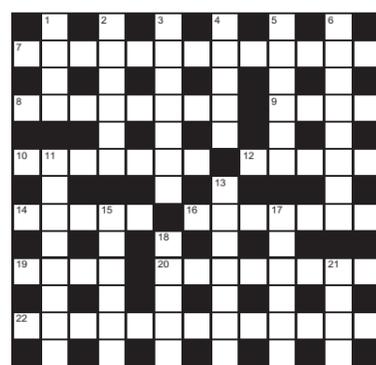
CONTRACTORS renovating the Oban water main brought a large part of the town - and its roads - to a standstill on Tuesday.

A workman accidentally brought down the overhead power lines.

More than 500 premises in Oban were without electricity for an hour and a half, and the main road into Oban from the north and east, the A85, was closed.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

- Across**
- 7 Manufacturing science using living organisms (13)
 - 8 Court (8)
 - 9 Relaxing pose (4)
 - 10 Looked after little one (7)
 - 12 Former (5)
 - 14 Sphere (5)
 - 16 Annoying things (4-3)
 - 19 Information unit (4)
 - 20 Money for nothing (8)
 - 22 Filter for removing hardening ions (5,8)
- Down**
- 1 Row (4)
 - 2 Thick-set (6)
 - 3 Public disgrace. (7)
 - 4 Fish (5)
 - 5 One on a team (6)
 - 6 Bracket of years (3,5)
 - 11 Small passage (8)
 - 13 Let up (4,3)
 - 15 Honourable promotion (6)
 - 17 January's birthstone (6)
 - 18 Explode (5)
 - 21 Not odd (4)



Last Week's Solution

M	I	T	M	E	H	A	R	M	L	E	S	S
I	U	E	M	O	F	O						
N	O	M	I	N	E	E	D	A	F	F		
I	P	C	E	U	E	A						
M	I	S	R	E	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	
U	R	P	S	V	I	D	C					
M	A	R	S	H	Y	M	I	L	I	E	U	
S	O	A	O	V								
F	U	L	L	Y	F	L	E	D	G	E	D	
C	N	I	F	N	E	S						
A	U	D	I	T	S	A	O	N	E	S		
V	O	I	E	T	U	A						
A	P	O	S	I	T	E	P	I	C			

Sponsored by Wallace Optometrists

For people who really care about their eyesight

Wallace Optometrists
 0845 230 EYES (3937)



Heifers sell to £440

LOCHBOISDALE Auction Mart hosted United Auctions' Annual November Sale of all classes cattle and sheep on Friday.

Some 398 head of suckled calves and store cattle, 22 cows and 785 all classes of sheep were sold.

The 178 heifers sold to an average of £439.06, or 149.8p per kilo, a drop of £78.57 on the year.

The 218 bullocks averaged £545.19 or 165.9p per kilo, a drop of £56.84 on the year.

The top priced bullock came from No3 Howbeg, selling at £945 and heifers from No103 Carnan sold to £670.

Bullocks from No1 Airidh-Mhuillean sold to 208p per kilo whilst heifers from No9 Bornish sold to 180p per kilo. Breeding cattle from No3 Hosta, Lochmaddy, sold to £980. Lambs sold to £57.50 from No3 Bunavullin, Eriskay, and ewes from No1 Sandwick, Berneray, sold to £44. Wedders from No3 Howbeg sold to £50.

Store cattle and sheep

UNITED Auctions sold 1,015 store cattle, 237 cows and 1,629 store sheep in Stirling last Wednesday.

Bullocks averaged 153.4p (+3.45p) to 185.5p per kilo for a 496 kilo BrahmanX from Castlewigg and £990 for a 619 kilo CharloisX from Hatton of Newtyle.

Heifers averaged 150.9p (+3.33p) to 196.8p per kilo for a 503 kilo LimousinX from Castlewigg and £1,010 for a 732 kilo SimmentalX from Woodhall Mains. Cast Cows averaged 88.93p to 124.7p for a SimmentalX from Balmonth and £935 for a SimmentalX from Balmonth.

Forward Cattle averaged 130.65p to 146.4p per kilo for a LimousinX from Langbank and £885 for a LimousinX from Langbank.

Bullock prices up

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 62 prime cattle on Tuesday last week.

Prime bullocks averaged 170.6p (+6.3p) and sold to 181p per kilo for a 610 kilo Limousin cross from Udale, Poyntzfield, to John M Munro Ltd., Dingwall, and £1,211 for a 700 kilo Limousin cross also from Udale. Prime heifers averaged 172.7p (+6.0p) and sold to 184p per kilo for a 570 kilo Limousin cross from Bridgend Farm, Dingwall, to John M Munro Ltd., and £1,116.30 for a 610 kilo Limousin cross also from Bridgend Farm.

£165 for an Old Spot

DINGWALL and Highland Marts held their poultry and rare breeds of livestock sale at Dingwall on Saturday.

Sold at the event were 117 cattle, 372 sheep, 45 pigs, four goats, 10 ponies, four rabbits, two guinea pigs, 517 lots of poultry, three lots of eggs and 23 lots of poultry equipment.

Cattle sold to £1,050 for a Shetland heifer from The Crofters Commission, Knocknagael. Sheep sold to £220 for a black Cheviot gimmer from The Cottage, East Mey.

Pigs sold to £165 for Gloucester Old Spot sow from Bridge of Wester, Wick. Goats sold to £120 for two Pygmy goats from Rowanlea, Fort Augustus.

Ponies sold to £900 for a Section B Welsh pony from Braeval Farm, Daviot. Poultry sold to £180 for a Pea hen and chick from The Farmhouse, Orbst, Isle of Skye.

UNITED Auctions held its Annual November Sale of all classes cattle and sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart on Saturday. A level trade prevailed for all classes of stock and sold at rates in keeping with principal mainland centres.

Quality the watchword for cattle farmers on Islay

THE ISLE of Islay could soon be synonymous with top quality cattle if island farmers continue to improve their stock at the current rate.

At the recent Perth Bull Sale, in Stirling, Ian McKerrrell, of Island Farm, Islay, who has been breeding Simmental cattle for more than 30 years, bought his most expensive bull to date at 6,500 guineas.

And in May this year fellow Islay farmer Bob Cunninghame, Neriby, smashed his previous record price when he paid 12,000 guineas for a new stock Limousin bull, Spittleton Drew.

Bob has cut down on the number of cows he has but has improved the quality, which is now his blueprint for success.

'I wouldn't like to have 30 Limousin cows,' he explained. 'I'm only interested in a couple that can produce a few good bulls every year.'

'Selling good calves at Islay Auction Mart is the reward for all the hard work.'

'While it is always good to get a top price, my aim is to get a good average price.'

Ian said he bought Silver Wells Alpha to help further improve his stock, which includes 50 pure Simmental cows.

Ian was a dairy farmer until the island creamery closed in 2000 and, like his dairy colleagues, had to adjust to working in beef cattle.

Ian said: 'The Simmentals are more



Bob Cunninghame with his 12,000-guinea bull, Spittleton Drew. 07_t46bob03

of a beef breed now but they were once dual purpose. People are buying into them. You get more milk than from other beef cows.

'They are also holding their value

better than Limousins or Charolais cows. At the Perth sale I was at, only eight of the first 24 Charolais were sold.'

Silver Wells Alpha is out of a dam

bred by MacPherson at Blackford, Croy, Inverness.

Ian added: 'Blackford has been at the top of the tree for a long time, as far as Simmentals go.'

Pack sets out 'ambitious' vision for farming future

THE Pack inquiry into future support for agriculture in Scotland has made 40 recommendations to support the farming industry.

Published last week, the inquiry was commissioned by rural affairs secretary Richard Lochhead in June 2009 to examine agricultural subsidy and consider how best future support should be tailored to deliver a sustainable sector.

Among its recommendations are proposals to base future support on Less Favoured Area (LFA) status to compensate farmers for the higher costs involved in meeting regulatory requirements and allowing farmers in LFA to apply for an area-based payment, top-up payments and headage payments. Non-LFA farmers would be eligible for area-based and top-up payments.

Other recommendations include introducing a new Scottish beef calf scheme and lamb headage scheme and a top-up fund to encourage competitiveness and help farmers tackle food security, climate change, biodiversity and water and energy supply.

Mr Lochhead said: 'This is a hugely important milestone in a long journey that will include several years of negotiation. I urge stakeholders to look at the big picture and engage with us on the principles the inquiry has set out.'

'We set out a vision for the agricultural sector in Scotland that is based on a productive, market orientated approach where the industry uses our natural resources sustainably and receives recognition for the many public benefits it provides.'

'This analysis supports the Scottish Government's vision and stresses the need to take into account features unique to Scotland. Importantly, it is the product of wide consultation and debate with the agriculture sector and wider rural Scotland.'

'I will now carefully reflect on Brian Pack's recommendations and work in partnership with our rural communities to deliver the best outcome for Scotland.'

'I am confident that this powerful and ambitious report provides the ideal backdrop for some of the big decisions and hard negotiations that lie ahead for Scotland.'

A spokesman for the European Commission said: 'We welcome the fact that Scotland has carried out this serious study into what future farm policy should look like.'

'The Pack report, and others like it, will make a valuable contribution to Europe's work on the future of the Common Agriculture Policy.'

However, the report has been criticised by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) which says it doesn't go far enough.

Stuart Housden, RSPB director for Scotland, said: 'The report's recommendations fail to offer adequate support for environmental challenges facing biodiversity and our landscape. Given how stretched the public purse is, all payments should deliver multiple public goods and Pack does not give sufficient recognition of this. In particular, broad and shallow environmental schemes should not be favoured over targeted agri-environment measures of proven effectiveness.'

DALMALLY

United Auctions

Bullocks

LimousinX: £570, Kingairloch Estate; Luing: £560, Tibertich; SimmentalX: £505, Shellfield.

Heifers

LimousinX: £540 (2), Kingairloch Estate. Breeding Cattle

Cows and Bull Calves: £1,020, Cladich Cows & Heifer Calves: £770, Tibertich

Heifers With Calves: £770, £760 £720, Tibertich

Incalf Heifers: £850 (3) & £800, Duncroisk: £700 (4) and £680, Succoth Ardeonaig.

Incalf Cows: £980, £950, £920 (2), £900, £850 and £800, Cladich

Lambs: Blackface: £58.00, Acharonich: £44.50, Glenmeran Farming: £41.00, Tibertich.

Ewes: Cross: £55.50, Shellachan. Blackface: £43.00, Acharonich: £34.50, Glenmeran Farming.

LOCHBOISDALE

United Auctions

Bullocks: £625, 11 Howmore. CharloisX: £610, £575 (2) and £550 (5), Dri-more Farm

LimousinX: £945, 3 Howbeg; £880, 103 Carnan; £835, 20 West Gerinish; £815, 3 Howbeg; £800 (3), 103 Carnan; £795, 233 Stonebridge; £790, £780, £770 & £750

(2), 103 Carnan; £745, 342 North Boisdale;

£740(2), 103 Carnan; £715, 11 Howmore; £705, 204 Stonebridge; £695, 19 West Gerinish; £685, 1 Airidh-mhuillinn; £670, 3 West Gerinish; £665, 204, Stonebridge; £655, 101 Carnan; £650, 100 Carnan and 44 Linique; £645, 1 Ormiclate (3) and 1 Airidhmhuillinn; £640, 4 Nunton and 103 Carnan; £635, 8 Milton; £630, 6 Dunganich; £625, 85 Borne, 6 Ormiclate, Drimore Farm and 12 Ormiclate; £615, 85 Borne, 15 Ormiclate and 8 Milton. ShetlandX: £645, 8 Kildonan

SimmentalX: £670, 301 Kilphedar; £665, 348 North Boisdale; £635, 8 Milton.

Heifers LimousinX: £670, 103 Carnan; £665, 20 West Gerinish; £650 and £615, 101 Carnan; £610, 103 Carnan; £575, 1 Ormiclate; £560, 3 Askernish. SimmentalX: £635, 9 Milton: £605, 100 Carnan.

Top Prices Per Kilo: Bullocks Aberdeen AngusX: 190p, 5 Frobost. CharloisX: 180p (2), Drimore Farm.

LimousinX: 208p, 1 Airidhmhuillinn; 202p, 20 West Gerinish; 200p, 22 Hacklet; 195p, 1 Ormiclate and 12 Ormiclate; 192p, 12 Caolis, Vatersay; 191p, 11 Uidh, Vatersay; 190p, 20 West Gerinish.

SimmentalX: 196p, 10 Bornish. Heifers CharloisX: 179p(3), Drimore Farm. LimousinX: 175p, 5 Dunmor; 174p, 100

Carnan; 172p, 6 West Gerinish; 170p, 11 Uidh, Vatersay and 12 Caolis, Vatersay. SimmentalX: 180p, 9 Bornish; 170p, 12 Ormiclate.

Incalf Heifer: £980, 3 Hosta, Lochmaddy. Lambs SuffolkX: £52.50, 5 Grimsey Island. TexelX: £57.50, 3 Bunavullin, Eriskay

CheviotX: £48.00, 18 Illery, Lochmaddy. Cross: £45.00, 3 Penin-erine. Blackface: £51.00, 4 South Glendale; £43.50 and £43.00, 331 North Boisdale.

Wedders SuffolkX: £46.00, 11 Aird. Cross: £50.00, 3 Howbeg and 465 South Lochboisdale; £46.00, 3 Howbeg. Blackface: £52.00, 465 South Lochboisdale.

Ewes Cross: £44.00, 1 Sandwick: £42.00, 475 South Lochboisdale.

STIRLING United Auctions

Bullocks: Up to 250kg Newcroft £370, 160.9p; 251-300kgs Graystale £455, 158.9p; 301-350kgs Crawfordwall £540, 173.1p. 351-400kgs Croftyntyan £540, 173.1p; 401-450kgs Broomelton £790, 177.5p; 451-500kgs Castlewigg £920, 185.5p. 501-550kgs Castlewigg £890, 175.9p; 551-600kgs Craigend £980, The Craigs 166.7p; 601-650kgs Hattonof Newtyle £990, 159.9p;

651-700kgs The Craigs £960, 114.1p.

Heifers: Up to 250kgs Bleachfield £285, 140p; 251-300kgs Woodhall Mains £430, 148.3p; 301-350kgs Castlewigg £505, 144.3p. 351-400kgs Mains of Balmadies £700, Castlewigg 178.7p; 401-450kgs Castlewigg £770, Ballechin 180.3p; 451-500kgs Castlewigg £960, 193.5p. 501-550kgs Castlhwigg £990, 196.8p; 551-600kgs Fingask £770, 139.5p; 601-650kgs The Craigs £900, 142p; 700kgs+ Woodhall Mains £1010, 138p.

OTM Cows: Hillview (Charlois) £925, 116.5p; Hillview (Limousin) £495, 120.9p; Dickmontlaw (Holstein Friesian) £875, 95.9p; Nether Dalkeith (Brahman) £795, Robertson Mains 118.3p; Drygate (Aberdeen Angus) £745, Hillview 104.2p.

OTM Bulls: Westerhill (Charlois) £1075, 124p; Robertson Mains (Limousin) £975, 103.7p.

DALMALLY Dalmally and Highland Marts

Heifers: Shetland: Knocknagael, £1000, £700; Highland: Glen Nevis Estate, Fort William, £840, £680; 1 Bindal Farm Cottages, Tain, £660, £610.

Bullocks: Highland: Brough, Thurso, £840, £700; South Clunes, Kirkhill,

£780, £750; 8 Balmea-nach, Struan, and Alladale Estate, Ardgay, £600. Young bulls: Highland: Savalbeg Farm, Lairg, £880, £870.

Bulls: Highland: Colaboll Farm, Lairg, £820, Highland, Strathpeffer, £700.

Cow and heifer calf: Highland: Upper Rosemount, Tain, £600; Morrision House, Strichen, £520.

Cow and male calf: Highland: Morrision House, £420.

Heifer and heifer calf: Dexter: 6 Heaster, Broadford, £400.

Lambs: Cheviot: The Cottage, East Mey, £160; Zwartbles: Balnespick, Kincaig, £120; ZwartblesX: The Cottage, £110;

Cross: Longoe Farm, Met, £100; Ryeland: Newlands of Smerlie, Lybster, £80; Dorset DownX: Greenlands, Arabella, £75; Herdwick: Old Pots, Auldearn, £75; Jacob: Bogallan, North Kessock, £70.

Ewes: Clune Forest: Old Pots, £190; Zwartbles: 7 Ferrindonald, Sleat, £150, £140; Grit: Woodside Croft, Ardersier, £110; Wensleydale: The Red House, Freuchie, £100; Dorset: Bogburn Farm, Duncanston, £95; Jacob: Greenlands, £80; Herdwick: Old Pots, £80.

Gimmers: Cheviot: The Cottage, £200, £180; Grit: Woodside Croft, £150;

Zwartbles: 7 Ferrindonald, £150;

Jacob: Upper Badrain, Culbokie, £80; Herdwick: 2 Vatten, Dunvegan, £60.

Rams: Jacob: Upper Badrain, £180;

Zwartbles: 116 Birch Drive, Maryburgh, £60; Shetland: 5 Acres, Lairg, £60; Herdwick: Old Pots, £60;

Hebridean: Kirkbi Estate, Strathconon, £50; Ryeland: The Old Croft, Lybster, £48.

Gimmer with lamb at foot: Dorset: Smallburn Farms, Elgin, £210.

Ewe with lamb at foot: Dorset: Smallburn Farms, £200.

Ponies: Two year old filly: Blink Bonnie Cottage, Garmouth, £500; Gypsy cob filly foal: Westbank, Airtully, £410; Gypsy cob colt foal: Westbank, £350.

Pigs: Gloucestershire Old Spot sow: Bridge of Wester, £160; Oxford gilt: Bogroy Farm, Tore, £50; KuneKune boar: Braeval Farm, £50.

DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts

Lambs: Beltex: Caberfeidh, £75; Suffolk: Ashton Farm, Inverness, £70; SuffolkX: Ashton Farm, £70; TexelX: Pollowick, Cromdale, £68.50; £47.

Rams: BeltexX: Greenlands Farm, £210; Cheviot: Blairbaie, Achiltibuie, £160; CharollaisX: Clynemilton, Brora, £160.

Feeding sheep: Cross: Crasky, £90; Cheviot: Dhivach Farm, £56; TexelX: Upper Muiryden, Rosemarkie, £47.

Stirling lambs average 157.5p

UNITED Auctions sold 6,897 prime sheep at Stirling last Thursday, including 5,465 lambs averaging 157.5p per kilo (+1.2p/wk) and 1,432 ewes and rams.

Easter Ochtermuthill fetched £84.50 for Beltex lambs and £82.20 for Suffolk, while West Park's Texels achieved £82.20. South Flanders Charollais reached £74, Kinaldy's Cheviot's £71.50, Milton and Machribeig's Mule £71 and Glendamp's Blackface's £68.80.

Lambs from West Park and Carat averaged 200p per kilo for Beltex and Texel, with Lochroisk's Cheviots getting 173p. Easter Ochtermuthill's Suffolk sold at 171p per kilo, Urlar's Blackfaces to 168p, Dalmeny's Mule's to 164p and Bleachfield's Charollais to 158p.

Kinaldy's Texel ewes sold to £99.50, with West Meikle Pinkerton's Suffolks achieving £88.50.

Bleachfield's Charollais were sold to £81.50, Hattonknowe's Mules to £74.50, Ashfield's Cheviots to £67.50; Glenramskill's Bluefaced Leicester's to £62.50 and Scart's Blackface's selling to £55.50.

Texel tups from Kipperoch sold to £110.50, with Suffolk from Broomrig selling to £90.50 and Blackfaces from Glenramskill to £76.50.

High prices for all sheep classes

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 2,228 sheep of all classes at Dingwall on Thursday, with all classes continuing to sell at the high rates of recent sales.

Lambs averaged £47.12 and sold to £76 for Texel crosses from Wester Muckernich, Tore.

Correct ewes averaged £51.76 and sold to £108 for Gritstones from Longley Farm, Forres.

Broken mouth ewes averaged £36.68 and sold to £48 for Cheviots from Inchbae Farm, Garve.

Feeding ewes averaged £48.85 and sold to £75 for Gritstones from Longley Farm. Rams and feeding sheep sold to £260 for a Texel from Greenlands Farm, Arabella.

BeltexX: Mariain, Evanton, £68; Cheviot: 34 Midtown, Inverdale, £67.50; Cross: Bogburn, Duncanston, £61; Blackface: Lower Gaich, Dulanain Bridge, £59;

Mule: Lower Gaich, £56; Charnoise: Lower Gaich, £54.50.

Correct ewes: Suffolk: Ashton Farm, £95; SuffolkX: Ord Farm, Invergordon, and Park Farm, Strathpeffer, £82; Bluefaced Leicester: 5 Tomich, Bealey, £79; Grit: Longley Farm, £75;

Beltex: Mariain, £73; Mule: Lower Gartally, Lewiston, £71; Cross: Buachaille, Fortrose, £52.50;

Cheviot: 116 Birch Drive, Maryburgh, £51; Blackface: Crasky, Duncanston, £50.

Feeding ewes: Charnoise: Wester Moy, Urray, £74.50; Cheviot: 5 Ose, Struan, £69;

Cross: Dhivach Farm, £66; Mule: Wester Moy, £57; TexelX: 8 Englishtonmuir, Bunchrew, £46; Grit: Longley Farm, £45;

Beltex: Caberfeidh, £45.

Rams: BeltexX: Greenlands Farm, £210; Cheviot: Blairbaie, Achiltibuie, £160; CharollaisX: Clynemilton, Brora, £160.

Feeding sheep: Cross: Crasky, £90; Cheviot: Dhivach Farm, £56; TexelX: Upper Muiryden, Rosemarkie, £47.

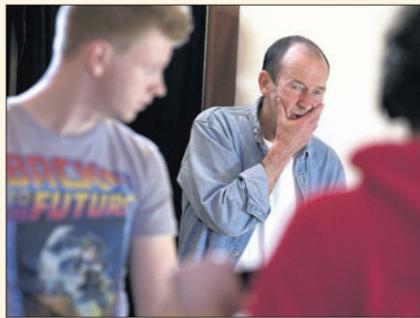
TWO NEW, AFFORDABLE, ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY WOOD FUELS
For your existing fire or stove
Highfire Sawdust Briquettes
A lower cost alternative to coal and wood made from compressed sawdust.
If you are looking to buy a new heating system or convert your old one...
Brites - The ideal fuel for wood pellet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

C. Hodge Fencing
(Lerags, By Oban) Telephone 01631 563271

COVENTRY for FENCING
Scotland's No. 1 WIRE, STOCK FENCING, BARBED, HIGH TENSILE, MILD STEEL BEST PRICES
TIMBER DIRECT FROM OUR SAWMILL
Depots throughout Scotland • Delivery available
For a competitive quote please call 01631 566866

AUCTION
WEDNESDAY - NOVEMBER 24TH 2010 10am
Enrol Airtfield, Errol, Perth - Viewing Tuesday 23rd November 9am - 4pm
SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION OF MODERN CONTRACTORS PLANT, COMMERCIAL VEHICLES, AGRICULTURAL AND GROUND CARE EQUIPMENT
DIRECT FROM LIQUIDATOR
BY ORDER OF DONALD MCKINNON OF WYLIE & BISSET LLP
LARGE PACKAGE OF PLANT, HGVS, CARS, 4X4 - INCLUDING
2008 Hyundai Robex, 210 LC - 7A (2), 2007 Komatsu PC75R, 2006 Terex 880 Elite Backhoe, Hyundai Robex 55 - 7, 2006 New Holland Kobelco E30, 2SR, 2003 Daewoo S130LC - V, 1998 JCB 5265 Farm special, Renault Premium 440 DXI 6x2 Artic, Hino 700 8x4 Hook Loader, 2008 Chieftain Tri-Axle Articulated Trailer, Hooklift Bodies, Nissan D22 2.5 DI 4x4 Navara, Also Transit, VW Caddy, Seat Inca Vans, etc.
Also included in this auction will be a large selection of other modern plant, vehicles & equipment direct from councils, local authorities, PLC companies & private Ltd Co's - SEE WEBSITE FOR ALL PICTURES/INFO
FURTHER AUCTION ENTRIES INVITED
TEL: 01821 642940 FAX: 01821 642 939
THIS AUCTION IS ONSITE & ONLINE - LIVE BIDDING
www.morrisleslie.com

Skye and Lochalsh Lines



David Hayman in action at the Sabhal Mòr Ostaig workshop.

Top Scottish actor David Hayman helps at Sleat workshop

RENOWNED Scottish actor David Hayman offered a helping hand at the recent 'Front of Camera' workshop at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in Sleat.

Twelve participants were given the chance to learn acting skills from the actor, perhaps best known for his role as DCI Walker in the TV drama *Trial and Retribution*.

The students also received expert tuition on presenting for camera from industry expert Morag Stewart, who runs production company 'Sealladh' from the college.

The workshop was delivered by the Royal Scottish Academy for Music and Drama and FilmG, the MG ALBA Gaelic digital shorts competition which aims to unearth new creative talent in the area of Gaelic media.

FilmG is open to anyone over the age of 12, providing they don't already have a broadcast credit as a director or producer. This year's theme is *Làmh an Uachdar* (The Upper Hand) and deadline for entries is November 19. Clips and more information is available on www.filmg.co.uk.

Plockton High School celebrates talent at third annual Highland Night

FINAL preparations are being made for the third annual 'Highland Night' at Plockton High School this evening (Thursday).

The event, which gets under way in the assembly hall at 7pm, will see S1 and S2 pupils join Auchtertyre, Lochcarron, Glenelg, Kyle and Plockton primary children to perform an entertaining theatrical and musical programme.

Charlie Smith, organiser-in-chief and Plockton HS head of art, music and PE, is expecting a near sell-out audience.

'It's usually pretty well packed - the local parent population, families, grannies and grandpas support us really well,' he told *The Oban Times*.

'It's great fun - it's a true celebration of local talent and the Highlands. To come from the Highlands is a wonderful thing and we are trying to encourage the kids to be proud of that fact. They should take pride and pleasure in where they come from and what we have up here.'

Mr Smith said the first half of the evening, which has a 'Braveheart' theme, will feature drama sketches while piping, ceilidh dancing, Gaelic song, clarsach, piano and button box performances will be on the menu after the interval.

The penultimate item will see pupils tell of their sporting achievements, before the evening is brought to a close with 'Flower of Scotland'.

'The night will show parents all the things we do in the school - not just what's in the curriculum, but for fun,' Mr Smith said.



Left to right, guest band Aly 'K' MacPherson, Niall Kirkpatrick and David Gracie in full flow.

Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club

THE WEST coast sound was very much to the fore when Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club met in the Royal Hotel, in Portree, last Thursday.

Club chairman and MC Jim Campbell welcomed members and friends from far and wide before handing the microphone over to his vice chairman, Aly 'K' MacPherson, of Portree, to get the music under way.

Aly, with his piano accordion, did this in fine style with some rousing march sets accompanied by local drummer Donald John Campbell and visiting musician Niall Kirkpatrick on keyboards.

Youngest player of the evening, Ceitidh Douglas of Braes, on accordion, delighted the audience with her selection of music played so competently, some of the tunes being compositions of her dad, Blair.

The only fiddler of the evening was Wendy Riva, of Kilmuir, who played some Gaelic airs, reels and finished with a selection from stage musicals.

After accordion selections from club stalwart John MacGilvary, Borne, accompanied by Donald John Campbell on drums, Portree's Ronnie MacRae took to the stage to entertain with a few well chosen songs, beautifully accompanied on keyboard by David Gracie, a member of the guest band.

More lively sets followed on accordion from a great young player from Staffin, Aly Cruikshank, who had the audience well warmed up for the appearance of the eagerly awaited guest band, The Niall Kirkpatrick Scottish Dance Band. Led by Niall, from Islay, on piano accordion, David Gracie, of Dunoon, on keyboard and Aly 'K' MacPherson, of Portree, on drums, the band entertained with a marvellous variety of jigs, reels, marches and waltzes in west coast style to round off an evening of great music.

The club's December meeting will feature the music of the Iain Angus Macleod Ceilidh Band.



The 'tourists' from Kinlochleven act the part in Mallaig.

Young 'tourists' let the train take the classroom strain

MALLAIG welcomed a late season group of 'tourists' off the train last week - a group of Kinlochleven Primary School children on their 'tourism in Scotland' project.

Teacher Fiona McSorland wanted to give her P3-5 pupils an idea of what it is like to be a visitor to Lochaber

- and hit on the idea of a journey to the fishing port by train. The children interviewed other travellers on the way to Mallaig so their comments could be included in their tourism brochure.

All comments, we are told, were 'positive' and the pupils agreed the train trip had been a great day out.

On their return, learning support assistant Ruth Butterworth compiled the brochure, which also featured photos of the children posing as tourists and their own observations on costs, comfort and cleanliness of the train. Each child received one of the brochures as a keepsake.

Skye volunteers start defibrillator training

THE FIRST session of cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training for volunteers took place in Elgol hall last Wednesday evening, conducted by Scottish Ambulance Service and Heartstart personnel.

Seven local people, two men and five women, including two nurses based at the Dr MacKinnon Memorial Hospital in Broadford, were instructed in how to use a defibrillator, which will be retained in the hall.

Broadford and Strath Community Council chairman Tony Moore told *The Oban Times* local fundraising efforts had helped to secure the defibrillator for the remote coastal

community, which lies about 20 miles along a single-track road from the nearest hospital. 'The average response time for an ambulance from Broadford is 35 minutes, so it makes sense to have some facilities based locally and we now have the kit in the hall,' he said.

'Theoretically this could make a huge difference - what you do in those first few minutes could make the difference between life and death. Training will be once a year to make sure the CPR skills are up to scratch.'

The Heartstart team had been in Knoydart to deliver the same training prior to the Elgol visit, Mr Moore said.

Picture framer shares her skills with Morar SWRI

PICTURE Framer Gillian Sloan from Kinlochell gave a talk on the intricacies of her craft at Morar SWRI's November meeting last Thursday.

The 12-strong gathering, hosted by Linda Maclean and Eileen Macphie, warmly welcomed three new ladies, Isobel Morton, Jo Stanton-Thorburn and Morag Keenan.

Eileen Macphie, Heather Simpson and Linda Maclean took top spots in the toffee apple competition while the word search had eight winners.

Highland Council housing

A TOTAL of 415 new houses, including 110 affordable homes, were completed in the Highland Council area between June and September, according to a council briefing.

The figures compare well with the same period in 2008-9 (383), 2009-10 (302) and the first quarter of this financial year (402).

Highland Council has a five-year plan of 6,000 house completions by 2011. A total of 5,400 homes have been built so far.

Scotland's islands a focus for year-long celebrations

A YEAR of events and activities celebrating the country's islands will get underway in April 2011.

Scotland's Islands will aim attract new visitors, bolster community and economic development and strengthen links with mainland cultural organisations.

The project will focus on the islands' vibrant cultures and creativity, natural environment and quality produce.

The country's six local authorities with island communities - Argyll and Bute, Highland, North Ayrshire, Orkney, Shetland and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles)

- are involved. Project leader Joe MacPhee of Western Isles Council said: 'We are very excited about this collaborative initiative between the islands. This is a tremendous example of how local authorities can work together to maximise resources and attract substantial inward investment.'

Approximately £1.8m will be available to support events and activities in each island area and an Awards for All programme.

Organisations are being invited to apply for funding support through three rounds of funding. More information at www.scotlandislands.com.



Cheers for fruit smoothies! Banavie P1s had a busy morning making healthy drinks. 10_f46ban01

Banavie eco week keeps pupils busy

LOOKING after the environment and healthy living were the themes at Banavie Primary School's 'Eco Week'.

Healthy options on menus included homemade fruit smoothies and porridge, made by the P1s for the rest of the school, while outdoors in the eco-garden Banavie nursery children planted daffodil bulbs for next spring - with a little help from P7 pupils Chloe, Iain and Robbie.

'The whole week the children have been looking at health, well-being and diet exercises,' Maxine Durham told *The Oban Times*.

'Meanwhile, our nursery children have been working in our eco-garden and learning about how things grow.'

Reindeer at the ready for Rotary fair

THE ROTARY Club of Lochaber is holding its annual Christmas Fair at the Nevis Centre, Fort William, on Saturday November 27.

The Cairngorm Reindeer Team will lead a parade to the Nevis Centre at 12 noon, which all local primary schoolchildren can join provided they bring their entry to a competition recently sent out to schools.

The free-entry craft and food fair from 11am to 4pm will showcase the work of

local producers. Anyone wanting to perform in the Buskers' Corner should register their interest by November 23.

The Rotary Club is grateful to the Highland Council Wards 12 and 22 discretionary budget for sponsoring the reindeer and to the Nevis Centre for hiring Wonder-Ice.

For further information phone 01397 704062 or email info@brideandbridesmaid.net.

Moidart couple's work honoured

MOIDART husband and wife team Angus and Michie MacDonald have been honoured for their charity work at a prestigious awards ceremony.

The self-made entrepreneurs, based for part of the year at Roshven House, were presented with the Beacon Prize for New Initiatives at the Goldsmiths' Hall in the City of London last Thursday, surrounded by key members of the charitable, political and media worlds.

The couple won the accolade for their inspirational work leading the Moidart Trust, which they set up to tackle the ongoing decline of West Highland communities by focusing on support for local enterprises.

Mr MacDonald is also the founder of the annual Fort William to Loch Lomond Caledonian Challenge trek, which has raised more than £10 million for the Scottish Community Foundation. He received an OBE last year.

Moidart Trust grants are focused on the MacDonalds' philosophy of investing in small and ambitious local businesses so 'wealth and job creation will follow and community as we once knew it will regenerate'.

The trust's work, Mr MacDonald told *The Oban Times*, builds on that of the SJ Noble Trust, set up in 2002 in memory of Loch Fyne Oysters' founder Johnny Noble. He said: 'What matters most to me is finding a way for people

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk to live in the area they were brought up in through developing their businesses and enterprises. At the moment the trend is that the best people get degrees down south and don't come back. I want to find a way to allow MacDonalads and Camerons to continue to live and work in Lochaber.'

Broadcaster Martyn Lewis, former chairman of Beacon, who hosted the prize ceremony, said: 'Our judges were especially impressed by the wide reach of the MacDonalads' work.'

The Caledonian challenge is a fantastic institution and the Moidart Trust shows an intelligent and caring approach to the well being of an oft-overlooked community.'

The couple were among nine recipients of the 2010 Beacon Prize and join the ranks of previous winners such as Sir Bob Geldof and Jamie Oliver.

Former Prime Minister Gordon Brown described the prize as the 'Nobel Prize of the charity world'.

Hundreds of nominations were received by the panel of independent judges for the seven different categories.

The Beacon Fellowship, part of the Community Foundation Network, awards annual prizes to individuals making 'exceptional contributions' to charitable causes or to organisations that benefit the public.



Mark Nicholls, Director of the Fair Share Trust, and event host Martyn Lewis CBE, present Angus MacDonald with his award. Photograph by Alex Brenner.



Your Digital Edition is AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW at www.obantimes.co.uk/digital

Frustrated waiting for your Oban Times? Our new E-Edition is delivered directly to your inbox on the day of publication.

New Poppy appeal leader praises generous donors

THE LOCHABER area organiser for Poppy Scotland has praised the generosity of local people ahead of Armistice Sunday.

Mark McCann, who became co-ordinator of the Poppy Appeal locally in 2009, saw donations jump by £700 in his first year in charge.

Now he is asking for an even bigger effort as the war in Afghanistan drags on and casualties mount.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'This year's Poppy Appeal is needed more today than ever, with so many servicemen and women being killed and injured almost on a daily basis.'

'The money raised goes a long way to help and comfort the grieving families of the dead and helps the injured on the road to recovery.'

'This help is given in a number of ways, but without the support of the general public Poppy Scotland could not fulfil its commitments.'

*British Legion members along with local

cadet forces are out in force selling poppies and collecting cans, which have been distributed to many retail outlets.

'We raised more than £5,700 last year and we want to increase this by at least £1,000 this year.'

'We know that through the generosity of the people and retailers of Lochaber we can do this - please give generously.'

Lochaber Legion members and friends recently toured the Erskine Home in Paisley, which cares for ex-service personnel, and handed over cash, whisky and shortbread donated by Lochaber people and businesses.

'There was plenty of discussion on the wonderful place Erskine is and the dedicated staff who do a great job - they need all the support they can get,' said Mr McCann, who is also a fundraiser for the local Air Training Corps.

The 79-year-old from Fort William recently led a successful 13-year campaign to build Lochaber Hydrotherapy Pool.



Just in time: Mallaig lifeboat tows the Red Duchess clear of Rum's rocky shore.

Lifeboat prevents pollution disaster

Mallaig RNLi crew pull stricken cargo ship clear from Rum rocks just in time

MALLAIG lifeboat's rescue of a stricken cargo ship in mountainous seas last week prevented an environmental disaster, it has emerged.

The 1,300-tonne coaster *Red Duchess* was drifting towards Rum's rocky southern shore at Harris Bay last Tuesday when the lifeboat arrived just in time to tow her clear.

The ship, carrying 1,500 tonnes of coal and a payload of fuel and heavy oil, had lost all engine power and had been pushed perilously close to Rum by the storm.

Stornoway Coastguard Rescue Co-ordination Centre manager James Ralston told *The Oban Times* there was 'a

real risk' of pollution had the *Red Duchess* wrecked.

He said: 'If the ship had reached the shore and the tanks had ruptured it would have meant a huge clean up operation. There were 20 cubic metres of fuel and 400 litres of lube oil for the hydraulics aboard, real thick and messy stuff. It would have quickly spread along the shore if the hull had got breached.'

The vessel, he said, could have dropped its anchor to try to halt her drift but there

was 'no guarantee' it would have held.

'I can't praise the Mallaig Lifeboat crew highly enough for what they did that day. For the length of time they were out and to get a line aboard a boat that size, they did a fantastic job.'

'We are in discussion with the area manager with regard to putting them forward for a Chief Coastguard's Commendation.'

Lifeboat coxswain Michael Ian Currie said: 'There's no doubt the coaster would have gone ashore on Rum.'

The lifeboat spent six hours keeping the coaster in tow until the Coastguard tug *Anglian Prince* arrived from

Stornoway - an extremely difficult task in storm force WSW winds, driving rain and a 16-foot swell. Just as the tug approached the tow line snapped, then the first wire line between the *Anglian Prince* and the coaster also parted in a shower of sparks. With the *Red Duchess* adrift again, the lifeboat reconnected a towline to her stern and brought her round - only a mile from land. Thirty minutes later the *Anglian Prince* secured a second wire line and towed the ship safely to Stornoway last Wednesday.

The lifeboat, with six crew aboard, returned to port 11 hours after being called out.



Mark McCann and Lochaber members of the Royal British Legion present Erskine Home fundraising co-ordinator Tracy O'Neill with gifts and donations.

Music pair nominated for Trad Award

ARDGOUR-based Watercolour Music producer-engineer Nick Turner has been nominated with song-writing partner Findlay Napier for the Scots Trad Music Awards 2011.

The duo are up for Composer of the Year after the Bar Room Mountaineers and other top acts featured their songs in their repertoires.

It is the first time a partnership has been nominated in the awards.

Hannah's fiddle festival success



Hannah MacRae from Lochside competed in the recent 61st All-Scotland Accordion and Fiddle Festival at Perth - and took third place among stiff opposition in the March Strathspey and Reel category for the 16 and under class.

Hannah plays regularly at the Fort William Accordion and Fiddle Club, where last year she was awarded with the 'Willie MacKillop Memorial Trophy' for most improved player for the 2009/2010 season.

10_f46hannah01

Work to start on final phase of Allt a' Mhuilinn track improvement

WORK ON the final phase of the Allt a' Mhuilinn track under the north face of Ben Nevis gets under way today (Thursday).

The third and last section of track will be substantially upgraded or

rebuilt, completing a large-scale project managed by The Nevis Partnership to improve access to the mountain from Torlundy.

The popular track, accessed from the North Face car park at Torlundy,

is used by thousands of climbers are leisure walkers each year.

Nevis Partnership chairman, writer and broadcaster Cameron McNeish will be present as operations commence.

Reward offered after holiday park theft

THE OWNERS of a holiday park near Fort William are offering a reward for information which leads to the recovery of 39 Calor gas cylinders which have been stolen from their premises.

The theft, at Linnhe Lochside Holiday Park, in Corpach, happened sometime between October 29 and November 1.

The orange coloured, 47kg propane cylinders were removed from a locked cage and have an estimated value of £3,000.

Anyone with information is urged to contact police in Fort William on 01397 702361 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Post Office war dead memorial to be rededicated

A REDEDICATION of the memorial plaque commemorating the war dead of Fort William Post Office will take place in the West Highland Museum on Monday at 11am.

The museum welcomes all those interested, especially people with a family connection to those named on the plaque, to the 'brief but unique' Armistice event, which will be led by local churchmen. The museum took custodianship of the memorial when the Post Office on High Street relocated.

A830 road upgrade wins prestigious award

THE ARISAIG to Loch Nan Uamh Road improvement on the A830 Road to the Isles has won the prestigious Saltire Society Award for civil engineering design.

The new five-mile section, opened in April last year, was managed by Highland Council's project design unit on behalf of Transport Scotland and was built by Morrison Construction.

Wards forum looks ahead

THE NEW Highlands-wide local development plan will be the main topic of discussion at a joint Lochaber wards forum in the Council Chambers, Fort William on Monday evening.

The plan is the council's blueprint for land use, strategy and principal policies for the whole Highland Council area excepting Cairngorms National Park. Members of the public from Caol and Mallaig and Fort William and Ardnamurchan wards are invited to the meeting at 7pm.

Beforehand, council development plans team staff will be on hand to answer questions at public drop-in sessions from 1pm to 6pm.

Footpath grant applications

SEVEN grant applications have been submitted to Highland Council to improve or create core footpaths in Lochaber.

The bids from Ballachulish (2), Lochaline, Morar, Glengarry, Sunart and Mallaig will be considered by planning, environment and development committee councillors at their meeting in Inverness next Wednesday.

North Uist in SNH spotlight

NORTH Uist residents are being invited to a Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) reception and discussion evening in the Tigh Dearg Hotel, Lochmaddy, tonight (Thursday) at 7pm.

SNH chairman Andrew Thin, board member David Crawley, local adviser Iain Mackinnon and area manager David MacLennan will host the event.

A subscription to Scottish Field is the ideal gift.

SAVE OVER 28%*

Choose from three of our amazing Christmas offers:

- 3 issues for £1, thereafter £9.99 per quarter, saving over 28%* or
- Give a one year gift subscription for only £43.20 and receive 1 issue free or
- Buy 3 one year gift subscriptions and receive another one year subscription absolutely free

Offers available to new UK subscribers only. *Saving based on 3 issues for £1, thereafter £9.99 per quarter paid by Direct Debit, available only by calling 01631 568000



Fashion show cash boost for Shopmobility

A fashion show at Edinburgh Woollen Mill's Spean Bridge outlet raised £265 for Lochaber Shopmobility last Wednesday evening. The models, almost all EWM employees, took to the 'runway' at the popular centre wearing a range of outfits before an appreciative audience. Lochaber Shopmobility manager Billy Ward thanked all involved for their kind support and donations.

Trial sees timber return to Caledonian Canal

TIMBER shipments through the Caledonian Canal have begun under a new scheme to revive commercial traffic on the Highland waterway.

The Scottish government is helping to fund a six-month £255,000 freight initiative in a bid to take lorries off Scotland's roads and cut carbon emissions.

The *MV Kanutta* carried the first consignment of logs from Corpach to Inverness last week.

Highlands waterway manager at British Waterways Scotland, Russell Thomson, said: 'Alongside partners, we have long held aspirations to see freight return to the Caledonian Canal so we are delighted that this has moved a step nearer with the six-month freight trial.'

Transport minister Stewart Stevenson described the initiative as 'an exciting development' for the Scottish freight industry and the canal network.



The MV Kanutta heads up Neptune's Staircase at Banavie.



Scotland's Census 2011
Shaping our future

Census Enumerators (around 5800)
Location: Throughout Scotland
£750 (Part-time equivalent – approx 75 hours over a 9 week period)
28 February - 29 April 2011

The census is vital to developing an understanding of our population – its size, ethnicity, health and housing. The next census will take place in March 2011.

What we need are people who can help us carry out this project – who can help us build a clear and comprehensive picture of the people of Scotland.

You will be responsible for the delivery, collection and collation of census household questionnaires. You will also follow-up any households who have not returned a questionnaire and provide assistance to the public on the doorstep. Most of your duties can be done outside normal working hours.

You should have access to a motor vehicle.

Applications must be submitted online at www.gro-scotland.gov.uk where you will also find a job profile and further information about the posts. If, after visiting our website, you require any further information, please e-mail us at: censushr@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk or call 0131 314 4347.

Closing date: Friday 3 December 2010.

As an equal opportunities employer, we welcome applications from all suitably qualified people and aim to employ a diverse workforce which reflects the people of Scotland.





The Scottish Salmon Company
Companaidh Bhradan na h-Alba

The Scottish Salmon Company is a leading producer of high quality Scottish salmon. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy. We are looking for a Marine Site(s) Manager to join our farming team on the Isle of Gigha.

Marine Site(s) Manager (Ref MSM/Gigha/10/V/1)
(Salary £32,000 - £35,000 depending on experience)

The ideal candidate will be highly experienced in marine fish farming with practical knowledge and management experience within fish husbandry. They will be an enthusiastic, self motivated individual with excellent proven leadership and management skills. The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate a sound understanding of required industry husbandry practices including automated feeding systems, feed management, biological, welfare and containment, all aspects of general fish health and environmental awareness. They should have strong skills in stock management, personnel management, support staff development and the promotion of health and safety within the workplace. In addition, the candidate should have strong planning, organisational and communication skills with an understanding of associated software systems.

Boat handling and forklift certificates desirable.
A full, clean driving licence is also essential for this position.
In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package.

For an application form and job description, please contact:
The Scottish Salmon Company, HR Department, Ardkinglas Estate, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BH. Tel. No. 01499 600 435
Email: cairndowhr@scottishsalmon.com
Closing date for applications: 5.00pm Friday, 26th November, 2010
Visit our website at www.scottishsalmon.com



marineharvest
excellence in seafood

Freshwater Farm Manager
Loch Lochy
Basic Remuneration Package £35k - £40k

We are currently looking to identify a suitably qualified and highly motivated individual to undertake the role of Farm Manager at our newest and largest freshwater farm, Loch Lochy, nr Fort William.

The role will report to the Freshwater Lochs Manager and will be fully involved in the development of the new farm site & facilities. In time, Loch Lochy is expected to produce in excess of 6 million smolts.

The successful candidate, who must be a strong team player, will possess several years fish farming experience and have a sound understanding of fish husbandry, biology and welfare. Leadership combined with strong interpersonal, communication, organisational and planning skills as well as the ability to problem solve and motivate and achieve results through the success of others are some of the attributes required for this post.

Candidates must possess excellent computer skills, particularly in Microsoft Excel and Word. In addition, applicants should have a full driving licence and should be prepared to undertake travel as required.

In return the successful candidate will benefit from a highly competitive salary package, plus bonus scheme. Assistance with relocation will also be available, if required.

If you feel you have the necessary skills to respond to this role, please submit an application in writing with details of relevant experience, no later than Friday 26th November 2010 to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT



affinitytrust
SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

SUPPORT WORKER VACANCIES
FULL TIME, PART TIME AND BANK AVAILABLE
Starting Salary £13,625 (Full Time, 37.5 hours)
Bank Staff £6.98 Per Hour Sleepover £30.90 Per Night

The successful applicants will support service users in all aspects of daily living, in a person centred way specific to their needs.

We support a wide range of people with very different needs and aspirations, hence we require a wide range of support workers to meet these needs.

All applications will be considered, so if you think this is for you please apply. Full training will be given and you will be supported by an experienced manager.

For an application pack, or to find out more about what we do, contact us on 01631 571311 or adminoban@affinitytrust.org. All appointments will be subject to an enhanced disclosure check.



Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT

John MacLachlan Group

Oban Depot - Tipper / Mixer Driver LGV2

West Highland Gas Ltd / West Coast Loos

Mull Depot - Gas delivery driver / service operative

Phone for application form on 01631 566370 or e-mail susan@jmaclachlangroup.co.uk

Carr-Gomm Scotland
Person-centred Support, Supported Living and Community Care Services

Carr-Gomm Scotland supports people to live in their own homes and to follow their interests. We use a person-centred approach to develop and sustain creative, responsive and reliable services for the people we support and for our workers. The people we support, and existing colleagues, need committed people who want to develop their skills and who can work flexibly and imaginatively to apply our philosophy and approach. Carr-Gomm Scotland is a not-for-profit organisation.

We are recruiting for new work in an Overnight Response Service to provide care and support to people in the following areas of Argyll & Bute: Dunoon; Rothsay; Helensburgh; Oban; Lochgilphead and Campbeltown.

Service Manager
£23,818 - £27,897 pa plus on-call payments

Based in Lochgilphead, the Service Manager will be responsible for the provision of Carr-Gomm Scotland's services across Argyll & Bute.

You will manage the support arrangements to be person-centred and consistent; manage and support team members; and liaise with relatives and other agencies.

You must be flexible to work days, nights and weekends as required to manage the team.

Night Support Workers
£14,338 - £17,414 pa

To respond to call outs as well as planned care and support overnight to people who live in the following areas: Dunoon; Rothsay; Helensburgh; Oban; Lochgilphead and Campbeltown.

If you believe that everyone has a right to live the life they want, we would like to meet you. You may be experienced in this kind of work or you may be new to it and have the right personal qualities to build on.

Casual Relief Workers
£7.88 ph

Casual workers are an integral part of our services. We are looking for enthusiastic and motivated people who can help make a difference. Casual relief work gives you an opportunity to learn about support work whilst pursuing other interests.

We require night workers 7 nights a week as well as daytime workers at weekends, so if you are flexible and able to work on an ad-hoc basis, we would love to hear from you.

Good IT skills or a willingness to learn, and a full, current driving licence and use of a car are essential for all the above posts.

We offer excellent terms and conditions including: excellent pension scheme, good annual leave, training and career advancement opportunities. We aim to provide services and recruit staff without discrimination.

For an application pack visit our website: www.carr-gommScotland.org.uk, email: info@carr-gommScotland.org.uk or tel: 0131 659 4770.

Closing Date: 24th November 2010.

Scottish Charity Number SC033491.




Oban Electrical Services Ltd
19 Stevenson Street, Oban PA34 5NA
Requires
General Tradesman/Handy Man
Please Apply in writing to 5 Dunlop MD



D.A. MACDONALD
Contractors Ltd.

Have vacancies for
360° Plant Operators

Please apply in writing or by email stating previous experience to Donald MacDonald
Site 13a, Kilmory Industrial Estate
Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RR
Email address donald@damacdonald.co.uk

YOUR LOCAL PAPER

Local newspapers and their websites are the number one choice for local jobs.

Source: Recruitment Choice, The Newspaper Society 2005

Regional Press
closer to home

Threatened school seeks support of former pupils

AFTER unanimously deciding to oppose the threatened closure of its school, Kilchrenan Parent Council is seeking support from former pupils.

At a meeting last Tuesday to discuss Argyll and Bute Council's proposal to close Kilchrenan Primary School and send pupils to Taynuilt Primary School, the parent council, chaired by Nial MacLeod, said it would endeavour to stop the closure of the school. The parent council also agreed a series of actions were required to help prevent the closure.

As a way of showing support, the parent council wants to hear from former pupils with a view to holding a reunion. Most parents at the meeting said they could not understand what the educational benefits of moving their children to Taynuilt Primary School would achieve, as Kilchrenan Primary school was two years ahead in the Curriculum for Excellence.

Another worry for the parents was the length of the journey for pupils from Dalavich. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was decided that various actions were needed to prevent the closure of the school.

Former pupils of Kilchrenan Primary School can contact Cara Strachan on 01866 844105.

COMMENTS attributed to Donald MacIntosh in last week's newspaper regarding the future of Luing and Barcaldine Primary Schools should have been attributed to Councillor Donald MacDonald. We apologise for any confusion.

Holidaymakers, not aid workers insist couple

REPORT by EUAN PATERSON epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

A NORTH Connel man will defy illness to make a trip to The Gambia where he and his wife are well known for their charitable donations over the past 31 years.

Cyril and Christine Scott, who have been nicknamed 'Daddy' and 'Boss Lady' by the locals, first travelled to The Gambia on holiday in 1979 and left behind some of their clothes and possessions.

Such was their shock at the poverty in the country, they returned to Bakau, in Cape Point, with pencils and notebooks for schoolchildren there and have since returned on many occasions with gifts.

The couple's son, Grigor, contacted *The Oban Times* when he heard his parents were planning their 16th visit to the country, this time with bags of lipstick, handbags, shirts, aftershave and pairs of glasses.

Only a year ago, a visit to the African country would have been out of the question after Cyril was diagnosed with the bone marrow cancer, Myeloma.

Cyril said: 'At I first I thought I would never be able to go back but we've got to the stage where people collect things for us to take to The Gambia and I felt guilty that we wouldn't be able to hand them over.'

'I'm sure people would understand if I explained my condition but I hated being in the position where I was unable to go back,' he added.

Having undergone treatment during the past year, Cyril sought medical advice about travelling.

'The doctors told me that if I felt up to it, I should go for it,' said Cyril.

'I'm going to give it my best shot anyway. Fortunately, the Gambians have a slow pace of life!'

The couple refuse to be labelled as aid workers and insist their trips are holidays.

But over the years they have supplied the people of Bakau with clothes, sweets, balloons, shoes, make-up and toiletries.

Christine said: 'On our first trip we thought the people were lovely but they didn't have much.'

'The children would come over to us on the beach and write in the sand because they didn't even have pencils, so we decided we would come back with pens and pencils and it has just gone on from there.'

The couple are so well known in the region that people now request items and Cyril and Christine have to pack as few of their own clothes as possible when heading to Africa.

'A lot of people here think we could be taking over more important things but there's no point in us carrying food,' said Christine.

'You have to give them something they can keep and it is the fun things, like make-up, that they want.'

'One year we took balloons to the school and for the whole holiday we saw balloons blowing about everywhere. Simple things like that bring the most pleasure.'

New faces on Oban Bay Marine board

THE BOARD of Oban Bay Marine (OBM) has recruited Councillor Donald Macdonald and local naval architect and surveyor Maitland Murray to its membership.

OBM, who were turned down for part funding by Argyll and Bute Council's CHORD board earlier this year, have decided to increase board members whilst looking for funding for the transit marine project in Oban Bay.

An OBM spokeswoman said: 'Donald has been the council's staunchest supporter of the project from the outset and he has a clear sighted appreciation of the widely acknowledged merits of the concept. His input will prove invaluable to the board.'

Board chairman John MacGregor said the failure to obtain council support, while disappointing, was not a major set back but simply a bump on the road.

'Soundings from other funding sources have been very positive and the board is unanimous in its determination to steer the project through to commissioning, he added.'

Schools expert was paid £8,600 during review

A CONSULTANT was paid £8,600 to advise Argyll and Bute Council during its recent school review.

Keir Bloomer, former chief executive of Clackmannanshire Council was chosen by the council to undertake the consultation.

At a meeting of the council's education executive committee he said that it was good to deliver curriculum of excellence in larger group.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council explained: 'Keir Bloomer, formerly vice-chairman of Learning and Teaching Scotland and a member of the group which wrote 'A Curriculum for Excellence', assisted in the planning and preparation of the informal consultation, moderated the consultation meetings in June and compiled a report based on those meetings. Mr Bloomer was paid £8,600 for that.'

Mull RFC awarded £250,000 grant for clubhouse

AN ARGYLL rugby club has been awarded almost £250,000 to refurbish its out-dated clubhouse – part of nearly £1m that has been given to rural groups in Argyll and Bute.

The Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) is designed to support groups in rural areas from 2007 to 2013, with a £250,000 cap on projects, and has distributed £961,000 to 14 projects in Argyll and Bute in the latest round of grants, announced on Tuesday.

Isle of Mull Rugby Club has been granted £238,525 to upgrade the clubhouse and car park at the playing fields in Garmony, a development that will benefit the whole island, according to club secretary Duncan Swinbanks.

'This grant is absolutely brilliant news for the club but Garmony is becoming more and more popular with other groups too and is suffering from its success.'

'We had 80 kids there on Saturday, playing four games, but it is also used for school sports and other clubs.'

'Because of this usage, everything is getting a bit tatty and the police have told us the parking is inadequate for large community events.'

The grant will allow the club to bring the clubhouse up to a modern standard, including upgrading the faulty showers and heating.

Duncan added: 'We built the clubhouse in 1995 on a minimum budget so this decision by the SRDP is huge for us.'

'The crux of the matter is organising sport on Mull can be a nightmare because of the logistics involved, so the last thing you want to worry about is whether the heating will work.' It is believed the refurbishment project will create six full-time jobs for six months.

Elsewhere in the county, Ian Dickson, a 22-year-old farmer on the Isle of Bute, will receive £53,937 to carry out building modifications and field improvements on his farm. This will safeguard the young farmer's job, enabling him to become established in his own right and plan for expansion.

Routine search

A 34-YEAR old man was arrested in Combie Street on November 7 after a routine stop and search of a vehicle by police officers.

The man was allegedly found in possession of cannabis. A report has been sent to the procurator fiscal.

West Coast property service

www.westcoastpropertyguide.co.uk



DAISY COTTAGE
BIG BRAE, TARBERT, ARGYLL

Stone built - Late Victorian detached house with extensive garden. A beautiful family home.

OFFERS OVER - £250,000

- 4 bedrooms, large living room, reception room, kitchen, conservatory, cloakroom, upstairs bathroom, porch.
- Stone outbuilding with attached greenhouse, several woodsheds.

For more detailed information: www.daisycottagetarbert.co.uk Email: tyleredward@hotmail.com Tel: 01880 820 656



Bell Ingram dm
estates

01631 566 122
2 Gibraltar Street, Oban, PA34 4BY
bellingram.co.uk

12 Shuna Terrace, Oban
Well presented ex local authority mid terraced house in a popular residential area. With lovely views over Oban Bay and the surrounding hills and within easy reach of all town centre facilities and amenities

Offers in the region of £125,000

- Vestibule, hall, lounge, kitchen, 3 bedrooms and bathroom
- Double glazing
- Night storage heating
- Attractive rear garden
- Large communal front garden
- On street parking

s1homes.com rightmove.co.uk

John Clegg & Co



CAMISKY WOOD
Spean Bridge, Inverness-shire
24.33 Hectares/60.11 Acres

A well located commercial conifer plantation with timber ready for felling

situated between Fort William and Spean Bridge with sporting rights.

FREEHOLD FOR SALE - OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £45,000

2 Rutland Square, Edinburgh, EH1 2AS
Telephone: 0131 229 8800 Fax: 0131 229 4827

Two bedroom flat
Dunollie, Corran Brae

Solid fuel central heating, double glazed throughout, Jacuzzi bath, walk in condition

£95,000

Telephone 07799137520

Flats & Houses for Sale in Tobermory
RECENTLY COMPLETED

1 BEDROOM FLAT
AVAILABLE FROM £54,000
One Bedroom

2 BEDROOM HOUSE
AVAILABLE FROM £90,000
Two Bedroom




Cottage Style Flats Only one left From £54,000 (60%)

Semi-Detached Houses 2 Available Now From £90,000 (60%)

These houses are now complete and available for sale at Struan Crescent, Tobermory, Isle of Mull.

You could purchase a brand new one bedroom flat for as little as £54,000 or an architect designed two bedroomed house for as little as £90,000 under the Scottish Government's Low Cost Home Ownership LIFT scheme. Conditions apply.

Please contact West Highland Housing Association for full details.

Phone: 01631 566451
Fax: 01631 565711
E-mail: mail@westhighlandha.co.uk
Contact: Susan MacAskill or Ruby Campbell
Registered charity in Scotland no. SC017357
Details also available on the website www.westhighlandha.co.uk

HANOVER SCOTLAND

Ground and first floor one bedroom flats available for immediate occupation.

Applicants should ideally be of state pensionable age but others will be considered who can demonstrate a need for sheltered housing.

Rent and service charge is currently £335 per calendar month and the Housing Support charge is £11.22 per week.

All charges are eligible for Housing or HS Benefit.

For further details and an application pack please contact June Thomson at 01855 831331 (mornings) or our North Area Office at 01343 548585.

When moving home, 62% of people relocate within a five-mile radius.

This illustrates a strong attachment to the local area. Regional press is the relevant choice for property advertising.

Regional Press
Closer to home

M C & D Mactaggart Solicitors
KINTYRE ESTATE AGENCY



8 Smith Drive, Campbeltown
This lovely little mid-terrace bungalow, freshly decorated and in walk-in condition, is situated in a central but quiet area convenient for all local amenities. Gas central heating and double glazing throughout.

Offers over £70,000

- Sitting Room
- Kitchen
- Bedroom
- Bathroom

Castlehill, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6AR Telephone (01586) 552317 Fax (01586) 554719 (24-Hour Answering Service)

57 Lochmell Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8JN Telephone (01546) 602581 E-mail: mail@cdm-law.co.uk

TO LET

ROOMS TO RENT
In Large House Central Oban
£80 per week + Bills
No DSS
Tel: 07770931967

LONG LET KINTYRE ARGYLL
Unfurnished 2 bed. Cottage 7 miles North of Carradale, on B842 at Cour, on private estate with beach and beautiful views to Arran. Also one Cottage suitable for single person.
Telephone 01880 760 236 www.cour.org

TO LET FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED
4 Bedroom House in central Oban
Views over Oban Bay
£600 pcm + C/Tax
Tel: 07760 766528

STEWART BALFOUR & SUTHERLAND
SOLICITORS & ESTATE AGENTS



Amulree, 3 Knockscalbert Way, Campbeltown
Detached Bungalow occupying a splendid, elevated site which provides superb, panoramic south facing views over the town, loch and harbour.

Offers over £139,750
Only being offered at this asking price until 1st December 2010

- Hallway
- Large sitting room
- Kitchen
- Two bedrooms (1 of these was formerly 2 bedrooms)
- Bathroom
- Full DG & electric heating
- Front and rear gardens
- Detached garage
- Planning permission for a large basement extension.

All our properties can be viewed on our website www.sbsproperty.co.uk Tel: 01586 553737

MACARTHUR STEWART



COILLE GRIANACH
DERVAIG, ISLE OF MULL PA75 6QR

Well presented bungalow with attached garage approximately one mile from the village of Dervaig. Occupying an elevated position and situated within 3 acres of ground with views to the surrounding countryside and overlooking the village from part of the garden. At present a holiday home and self catering unit but would make an ideal family home. Accommodation comprises: vestibule, hall, lounge, kitchen, 2 bedrooms and bathroom. Viewing recommended.

Offers in the region of £210,000 UNDER OFFER

OBAN OFFICE ☎(01631) 562215
Visit our website at www.macarthurstewart.co.uk

FOR RENT 'Tomonie', Banavie, Fort William
2 bedroom bungalow, part furnished, available for long let, rent £550 pcm plus council tax, deposit £550. Sorry no DSS or smokers. Available from late November.
Telephone 01397 772318

TO LET 2 bedroom, furnished house in Ballachulish.
No DSS or Smokers
£485.00 pcm plus Council Tax and Bills
Tel: 07776027025

To Let Two bedroom house, Inverlochty,
£500 pcm plus all bills.
Telephone 01852 300536.

One bedroom Flat available for long let, quiet area, central Oban (nr Atlantis Leisure)
Fully furnished. References required, no pets, smoker or DSS. Off street parking
£400 pcm plus council tax
Tel: 01631 710271

2/3 Bedroom Spacious Main Door Flat Parking, Large Garden and Access to Shore.
Approx 1 Mile from Lochgilphead.
£450 PCM plus Utilities
No Smokers and No Pets
Tel - 07553370360

GLENCOE VILLAGE
Desirable 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom unfurnished house with private garden.
£400 pcm + C/Tax.
One months deposit 6 months lease
No pets or smokers
Tel: 07899950974

STEWART BALFOUR & SUTHERLAND
SOLICITORS & ESTATE AGENTS



107 Ralston Road, Campbeltown
Situated within a popular part of town this is a very spacious semi detached dwelling house having a splendid outlook to the south towards Bengullion.

Fixed Price of £89,000

- Entrance vestibule
- Hall
- Well proportioned sitting room
- Dining kitchen
- 3 Spacious double bedrooms
- Shower room
- Gas CH & full DG
- Easily maintained garden grounds
- Off street parking

All our properties can be viewed on our website www.sbsproperty.co.uk Tel: 01586 553737

COMMERCIAL BUSINESS FOR SALE

COMMERCIAL DRY CLEANING AND LAUNDRY BUSINESS COVERING THE MID ARGYLL AREA. EXISTING CLIENT BASE, EXCELLENT TURNOVER. SALE INCLUDES ALL EQUIPMENT, FIXTURES & FITTINGS AND DELIVERY VEHICLE.

PRICE £55,000
ACCOUNTS AVAILABLE TO SERIOUS PARTIES ONLY. CONTACT 01546 600222 FOR DETAILS.

West Coast property service

STEWART BALFOUR & SUTHERLAND
SOLICITORS & ESTATE AGENTS



1 Holyrood Court, St. John Street, Campbeltown
Overlooking Stewart Green and within a few minutes walk from the town centre this detached villa offers generously proportioned family accommodation at a very attractive asking price.

Offers over £150,000

- Hallway
- Cloakroom
- Lounge
- Dining room/Bedroom 4
- Dining Kitchen
- 3 bedrooms (master en-suite)
- Family bathroom
- Full DG & electric heating
- Off-street parking to the rear of the property

All our properties can be viewed on our website www.sbsproperty.co.uk Tel: 01586 553737

COMMERCIAL PREMISES TO LET

Former Amsol Garage
Shore Street, Oban
Immediate entry

Tel: 01631 564628 after 6pm.

MIKE THE KNIFE
Sharpening and uniform sales

FOR SALE after 15 years due to ill health
Van equipment and stock at cost price
Huge customer base (expandable)
Ready to trade from day one
Training and backup given
£12,500
Tel: 01301 703311

FOR SALE



Selling your property doesn't have to cost you the earth.

Advertise your property for three weeks in The Oban Times, Argyllshire Advertiser and Campbeltown Courier from only £205.

Give your property the maximum exposure, use the Oban Times group.

PLUS All adverts include a free web listing until sold.

OPTION 1 14cm x 3 columns 3 images 3 weeks = £325	OPTION 2 10cm x 3 columns 2 images 3 weeks = £265	OPTION 3 7cm x 3 columns 1 image 3 weeks = £205
---	---	---

All prices include full colour, all photographs and are inclusive for 3 weeks. Prices are exclusive of VAT

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT OR TO DISCUSS YOUR REQUIREMENTS
TEL MARGARET ON 01631 568000 OR EMAIL adverts@obantimes.co.uk
offer exclusive to re-sale property only

SYKES COTTAGES

The ideal place to look for property advertising

The regional press is perfectly placed for property advertising. Almost one-in-five adults choose their local paper as their main source for this information, more than any other medium.

Regional Press
closer to home

Source: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society

SCRAP CARS WANTED

MOT FAILURES, CASH PAID.

Telephone: 079495 84077
01389 721278

CHEVROLET MATIZ 1.0L SE+



56 Reg. Very low 17,800 miles. 1 year MOT. Electric windows, remote locking, air con. CD player and 10-disc changer. Taxed till end Dec. Very economical. Great little car.

Telephone: 01631 565925

£2500

NISSAN X-TRAIL SPORT (PETROL)

51 plate, good condition but needs engine.

Telephone: 01586 552698 or 07788 923890

new car index

TOYOTA
Helensburgh
5 John Street,
Helensburgh
Tel: 01436 672779
www.helensburgh.toyota.co.uk

RENAULT
W.D Semple
Inveraray &
Lochgilphead
Tel: 01499 302150

ISUZU
S & S Services
Old Bridge Road,
Heathfield, Ayr
Tel: 01292 880080 / 880440

SUBARU
S & S Services
Old Bridge Road,
Heathfield, Ayr
Tel: 01292 880080/880440

TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000

HELENSBURGH HONDA
www.helensburghhonda.co.uk
101 East Clyde Street
Helensburgh, G84 7PJ
Tel: 01436 675 777

FORD FOCUS GHIA 1999



MOT May, taxed March, really good condition, metallic green.

Telephone: 07789597092

£950 o.v.n.o.

CITROEN SAXO VTR



58K. 11 months MOT. 5 months Tax. FSH.

Telephone: 07778879964

£2000

VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.4 S TDI 70



2006 (56), 3dr Diesel Hatchback, 37,000 miles, Tax and MOT 10/11. Air conditioning, Radio/CD, Central locking, Alloy wheels, Front fog lights, FSH, one year's warranty, £35 road tax.

Telephone: 07766 815606

£5250 o.n.o.

NEW OR USED CARS TO SELL?

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Be seen by over 40,000 readers

Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

S&S Services Subaru

Subaru Approved Used Cars

00 X SUBARU IMPREZA 1.6 TS 5 Door.....	£2,450
03 53 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.0 WRX TURBO 4 Door.....	£5,995
03 53 SUBARU FORESTER 2.0 XT LEATHER.....	£6,495
05 05 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.0 GX 4 Door.....	£5,980
04 54 SUBARU FORESTER 2.0 X ALL WEATHER PACK.....	£7,995
05 05 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.0 WRX 4 Door.....	£7,995
05 55 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.0 WRX 5 Door.....	£8,995
05 55 SUBARU LEGACY 2.0 R SPORTS TOURER.....	£8,995
07 07 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.5 WRX SL PPP 5 Door.....	£9,495
03 53 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.0 WRX-STI TYPE UK 4 Door.....	£9,995
06 56 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.5 WRX 5 Door.....	£9,895
05 55 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.0 WRX SL 5 Door.....	£9,995
08 08 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.5 WRX 5 Door HATCHBACK.....	£11,495
08 08 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.0 RX 5 Door HATCHBACK.....	£11,995
07 57 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.5 WRX SL 5 Door.....	£13,995
07 07 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.5 WRX-STI TYPE UK 4 Door.....	£14,995
08 58 SUBARU FORESTER 2.0 X (150 PS).....	£15,995
08 08 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.5 WRX-STI TYPE UK 5 Door HATCHBACK.....	£16,395
09 59 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.5 WRX-S 5 Door HATCHBACK.....	£16,495
09 09 SUBARU LEGACY 2.0 R SPORTS TOURER.....	£17,995
09 09 SUBARU FORESTER 2.0D X.....	£18,495
09 09 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.0D RX 5 Door HATCHBACK.....	£18,995
08 58 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.5 WRX-STI TYPE UK 5 Door HATCHBACK.....	£18,995
08 58 SUBARU FORESTER 2.0D XSN.....	£19,995
07 57 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.5 WRX-STI RB320 PPP 4 Door.....	£20,995
09 59 SUBARU LEGACY 2.0D RE 4 Door.....	£21,995
08 58 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.5 WRX-STI 330S 5 Door HATCHBACK.....	£24,990
09 09 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.5 WRX-STI 330S 5 Door HATCHBACK.....	£25,995
10 10 SUBARU FORESTER 2.0 X (150 PS).....	POA
10 60 SUBARU FORESTER 2.0 X (150 PS).....	POA
10 60 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.0D RC 5 Door HATCHBACK.....	POA
10 60 SUBARU FORESTER 2.0D X.....	POA
10 60 SUBARU OUTBACK 3.6R.....	POA
10 60 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.5 WRX-STI TYPE UK 5 Door HATCHBACK.....	POA

Isuzu Approved Used Cars

07 57 ISUZU RODEO PICKUP 2.5 CRD DOUBLE CAB DENVER MAX £10,495 + VAT

Other Approved Used Cars

00 X PEUGEOT 206 3 Door 1.4 LX..... £1,795

04 54 SUZUKI IGNIS 1.5 VVT 4GRIP GLX 5-Door HATCHBACK..... £2,995

02 52 SKODA OCTAVIA 1.9 TDI ELEGANCE 5-Dr ESTATE..... £3,995

05 55 CHEVROLET LUV3 3.0TD DOUBLE CAB 4X4 PICKUP 4-Door IMPORT £4,495 + VAT

05 55 FORD FOCUS 2.0 TDCI GHIA 5-Door ESTATE..... £5,495

03 53 BMW 5 SERIES 3.0 530i Sport TOURING 5-Dr ESTATE..... £7,495

03 53 NISSAN 350Z 3.5 V6 2-Door COUPE..... £8,495

06 06 NISSAN NAVARA 2.5 DCI OUTLAW CREWCAB PICKUP..... £8,995 + VAT

08 08 SAAB 9-3 AERO 2.8 V6 (255PS) CONVERTIBLE..... £13,995

08 08 BMW Z4 2.5 Sport 2-Dr CONVERTIBLE..... £17,495

Car of the week

09 09 FORD RANGER 2.5TDCI (143 PS) THUNDER DOUBLE CAB 4X4..... £13,495 + VAT

SUBARU ISUZU

Tel: 01292 880080/880440
www.sandsservices.co.uk

Oban Times Oban Times Oban Times
DRIVE TIMES DRIVE TIMES DRIVE TIMES

THE BOAT STORE END OF SEASON SALE



Several small boats available
Secondhand boat gear

THE BOAT STORE
Lower Dunollie Road, PA34 5PJ, Oban
01631 565005 / 07766110747

6 METRE RIBCRAFT

With nearly new 75hp outboard and trailer.

Telephone: 01586 552698 or 07788 923890

12FT ALUMINIUM BOAT SEA NYMPH



2.3 Honda outboard. Good condition.

Telephone: 01631 710334 or 07796390411

£500 o.n.o.

RINKA FESTIVA 20FT



Mercuriser 4.3 petrol

Tel: 01546 870601

£9000

HARDY FISHMAN 18

Cabin and Self Drain Deck
80hp Yamaha 2 stroke
Moored in Tobermory.

Telephone: 07881 737836

£4850 o.n.o.

FORD TRANSIT 350 LWB HI TOP



125PS Engine, new clutch and flywheel.
1 years Mot, 105,000 miles good allround condition.

Telephone: 07500786612

£2500 o.n.o.

FORD TRANSIT LWB BEAVERTAIL



Brand new alloy body. 55 reg 80,000 miles taxed and Mot'd, good condition.

Telephone: 07500 786612

£6250 o.n.o.

KAWASAKI KMX 125



Good condition, has lights to make road legal, Dep exhaust, new tyres, chain and sprocket and many more extras.

Tel: 01680 812119 (after 6pm)

£500

SUZUKI GRAND VITARA



5 DOOR, 2L PETROL 55 REG, 31000 Miles, MOT to Feb

Telephone: 01770 303530

£7350

VAUXHALL ASTRA HATCHBACK



Very reliable, Only 25,000 Miles! 6 months tax and MOT, Reg, Late 2003. Serviced locally. 1.6, Club version, Automatic, CD, central locking. In very good condition all round.

Telephone: 01770 302843 (Arran)

£2900

HONDA CIVIC 161 V TEC SE



2003, 66,000 miles, 6 months tax 12 month MOT, 4 brand new firestone tyres Excellent condition

Telephone: 01880 820138 / 07767 800794

£3500 no offers

SAAB 9-3



Vector Sport, 2005 reg, Tax & MOT March, Green with Parchment leather, many extras, vgc, fsh, 91k miles, good runner and economical.

Telephone: 01631 710176 or 07857 447547

HONDA CIVIC TYPE R 2.0L



2003, 70,000 miles Tax February 28, 2011 MOT February 18, 2011

Tel: 01880 820138 / 07767 800794

£5500

BMW 320D



Automatic 110,000 miles Full leather interior MOT 1 Year.

Telephone: 01770 600242 (Arran)

£7500 o.n.o.

CHRYSLER PT CRUISER



PLG, SILVER, NEWLY SERVICED/RUNS VERY WELL, GOOD TYRES, 9 MONTHS LICENCE, 3 MONTHS MOT, 80,000 MILES, NEW EXHAUST RECENTLY.

Telephone: 01369 810304 (Argyll)

£850 SECURES A NICE MOTOR

HONDA CIVIC TYPE R 2.0



2002 model, Nighthawk Black, 62,000 miles, MOT May 2011, Taxed 6 months, K&N Airfilter, Magnaflow exhaust, Usual Type R specs, Very good condition inside and out, Reliable and fast.

Tel: 07765 524248

£5000

FORD TRANSIT 280 85SWB 2005

84,000 miles, MOT April 2011, Tax end of January 2011 Fully lined and bulkhead towbar, CD player Very good condition

Call Stuart 07825 232970

£3800 o.n.o. No VAT



Great stories, news, views and photos are just a **click** away

as well as sport, leisure, what's on, recruitment, property section and much more - you can even order a copy online

VISIT US AT
www.obantimes.co.uk

SELLING YOUR OLD VEHICLE?

The Oban Times

Be seen by over 40,000 readers

Tel: 01631 568000

Need an MOT?
From Cars to Light Commercials



Contact Donald or Neil
Quarry Road MOT Centre
Quarry Road, Oban
Tel: 01631 564614

Motoring Times
For the latest local deals on new and used cars In association with Quarry Road MOT Centre

The Quarry Road MOT CENTRE FLIT

OBITUARY

Doctor who realised his dream as island GP on Ulva



In April 1976, Ted Jones sailed into Salen Bay, dropped anchor and became the new GP.
For the next decade he could be seen most afternoons with Pete, his big red dog beside him, making rounds anywhere from Ardnacross to Lochbuie.
He travelled, at first, in an old green Land Rover. It kept running due to miracles performed by Ronny Kennedy's father and then by Ronny. Finally, construction work on the new two lane road to Craignure finished it off.
Ted had first come to Scotland when he was 22. He was then a pilot with the US Army Air Force 422nd Night Fighter Squadron.
Following short assignments to airfields near Edinburgh and Bath, he was sent to Europe and at the end of the war returned to the US to study

medicine in New York and Rochester.
After years as a hospital surgeon, he began to dream of a small general practice with a good anchorage nearby. He and his wife and the youngest two of their five children set off on what they found to be a wonderful adventure.
When he retired in 1985, Dr Jones chose to stay in the area where he had spent the happiest years of his career among the kindest and friendliest people.
He took up his old hobby of woodworking on the Isle of Ulva in a cozy shed that was the delight of many who visited it and spent his days fixing things instead of people.
He still filled the air with music during 'office hours' as he had long ago in Salen. On October 30, 2010, Dr Jones, 88, died at home on Ulva.
A family service for him is planned in the US.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

GUNNER William (Bill) Harvey, of No4 Commando, landed at Uncle Beach Flushing and made his way with his section into Nieuwstraat.
'Mac' MacAulay, his best friend, had a rifle and was about to go into Bellamy Park.
Bill, who had a Tommy gun or a Bren gun, pulled him back saying 'I will go first'.
The intelligence report records that

Gunner Harvey was killed by machine gun fire on November 1, 1944.
In a letter to my mum, Mac wrote: 'Bill died a hero, fighting for what we all believe in, and hold dear.
'Bill and all our other heroes who have given and will continue to give their lives, whom we shall forever have to remember and thank with all our hearts for the freedom and peace which is, I hope, not far away.'

So many heroes have died and continue to die so that we might be free.
My Mum, like so many families, took consolation from Jesus' words and promise of comfort and His sacrifice for us.
We will remember them all at Spear Bridge on Sunday afternoon and remember their sacrifice for us.
Bill Harvey
Commando Veterans Association

Prizes presented to Oban unit's top sea cadets

At this year's annual Oban Sea Cadet awards, the unit's top prizes were awarded to **Cairon Black**, who picked up the prize for best new entry, **David Cameron**, who was awarded the Lord Lieutenant's trophy for most improved cadet of the year and **Daniel Burt**, who was presented with the unit's divisional shield on behalf of the unit's winning division.
Oban sea cadets meet every Thursday night in the cadet centre at the top of Tweeddale street from 7pm to 9pm and is open to 12 to 18-year-olds.



Crowds flock to Holly tea in aid of MS Therapy Centre



The bustling Holly Tea at the Parish Church Centre on Saturday.

MORE than £800 was raised for Oban's Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre with a Holly Tea at the Parish Church Centre on Glencruitten Road on Saturday.
Crowds of people swept into the hall to enjoy a cup of tea with either shortbread or mincemeat pies, later browsing the sale tables packed with the cakes, shortbreads and cupcakes made by the MS Therapy Centre committee and volunteers.
There was also a raffle and Santa was doing the rounds to entertain the children.
The MS Centre's Sandra Owens said: 'We raised £815, which is slightly down on last year.
'I think people are feeling the pinch at the moment, but we're really, very pleased with the outcome. Thanks to everyone that helped out.'

Cathedral's annual charity sale

ST John's Cathedral held its annual charity sale on Saturday, with no fewer than nine organisations taking stalls. Represented were Cancer Research Scotland, the Mother's Union, RNLI, SSPCA, Friends of Oban Hospice, the Children's Hospice Association, Mercy Ships Scotland, Perennial and the Leprosy Mission.
Organiser, June Elliot, thanked everyone who helped out and those customers who contributed to the charities. 15_146stjohnscharitysale1



Reunion caps Lochaber High School celebrations

STAFF and pupils past and present brought a week of celebrations marking Lochaber High School's golden anniversary to a close on Saturday night.
About 200 revellers, including local MP Charles Kennedy, danced the night away at a ceilidh and enjoyed a spectacular fireworks display.
Lochaber Schools Pipe Band entertained and a tasty buffet and bar in the new foyer added to the sense of occasion.
There were probably a few sore heads on Sunday morning as the current school teams took on ex-pupils at football and shinty, with the youngsters winning both matches. Staff held their own reunion ceilidh and buffet

on Friday night, while the school opened its doors to the public on Wednesday and Thursday. Other highlights included 'The Music of Lochaber High' concert on Wednesday evening and an exhibition of collected material and photographs from every stage of the school's history since it opened in November 1960.



Lochaber High School classmates from 30 years ago, Mairi Robertson, Carol Palmer, Theresa McKellar, Elaine Marelllo and Rosemary King share a joke at Saturday night's reunion 10_146school10

BIRTH
MACALLISTER - **LIVINGSTONE** - To Pamela and Kenny on October 20, 2010 at Eam Hospital, Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, the gift of a baby boy Conner Liam, born sound asleep.

DEATH
ALLAN - Peacefully in her sleep at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on November 8 2010, aged 77 years, Anna, beloved wife of the late Alex Allan, mother of Terri Johnston and the late Susan and Triona, nana of Bryan, Nicola and Leanne. Rest in Peace.

CAMERON - Peacefully at home with his loving family on November 4, 2010, John aged 70 years, beloved husband of Morag and much loved dad to Ian, Shona, Andrew and Sandra. (Love and remembered always)

NICOLSON - Suddenly at his home, Horwich, Bolton, on the November 2, 2010, Donald Cameron Nicolson, aged 72 years. Formerly of Skipness, Argyll. Loving father of Lorne and dear brother of Mary, Kenny and the late John. Dear uncle to all the family, a good neighbour, friend and former work colleague to many. Funeral service will be held in Lochgilphead Parish Church, on Monday November 15, 2010, at 1pm, thereafter at Achnabreac Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations if desired, to Macmillan Nurses Mid Argyll.

TOOLE - Suddenly but very peacefully at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, on November 5, 2010, John (Iain) Toole, aged 81 years, 15 Glenglass Road, Evanton, Ross-shire, beloved husband of Meggie, much loved father of Isabell, a dear grampa to Jenny, Karen and Andrew and a loving uncle to Sandy and Colin. Funeral service today (Thursday) November 11 at 1.30pm at Inverness Crematorium. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Arrangements by John Fraser & Son, 17-29 Chapel Street, Inverness IV1 1NA

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

MACPHERSON - The family of the late Annie, would like to thank everyone who cared for her during her illness. Special thanks go to the doctors of the Pines Medical Centre, Acharacle and Croyard Road Surgery, Beauly. Also, our gratitude to the nurses at Strontian and Beauly, ambulance and hospital staff, crossroads and Home Care staff for their care and attention. Special thanks to Ewen MacLellan and staff for their compassion and professionalism, Rev D Kellas and Rev J Carmichael for their comforting funeral service and Mr Wilson, organist and the burial team. We would also like to say a special thanks to all friends, relatives and neighbours for cards, letters, floral tributes, sympathy and support during this sad time. Thanks to all who attended the church and graveside and also the Ben View Hotel for their excellent catering services following the funeral. The sum of £410 was collected and shared equally between Cancer Research UK and Crossroads (Lochaber).

McPHEE - Linda and the family of the late Betty McPhee (nee Black) would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to all relatives, friends and neighbours for their cards, phone calls, flowers and expressions of sympathy following the sudden loss of Betty. Grateful thanks to the doctors and nurses of Ward B, Lorn and Islands Hospital and the Western Infirmary Glasgow for their attentiveness and care. A special thanks to Donald MacKinnon for his support and touching service and to Ian MacInnes, D&A Munn for his kind help and support with the funeral arrangements. Thanks also to The Rowantree for the hospitality extended to so many. The retiral collection raised £734.78 for ABCD. Thank you for your generosity. It was a cold, wet, windy day but our hearts were warm with love and deep affection for you, that will never change and one day the sun will shine again.

STEWART - The family of the late Tommy, would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for cards, flowers and expressions of sympathy. Thanks to staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban and The Royal Infirmary, Glasgow for their care also thanks to the Rev. Robert Brookes for his comforting service. A total of £404.87 was raised for Macmillan Nurses.

WHYTE - Linda and family, would like to thank all friends, relatives and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy on their sad loss of Davie. A big thank you to all the

staff of Ward C, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, especially for their care over the last three months. Thanks also to Rev. Dugald Cameron for his comforting service, Ian at D. & A. Munn for his excellent funeral arrangements, Donnie Church for piping at the church and graveside, the Rowan Tree Hotel for buffet and refreshments, and to Helen MacFarlane who cared for Davie over the last three years, without her help in the morning, it would have been a struggle. Finally, thank you to all who attended the church and graveside, a total of £400.00 was raised for Help for Heroes.

IN MEMORIAM

CAMERON - In loving memory of a beloved wife and mother, Louie, who passed away on November 10, 2000 at Kilmaleu. Ten years have passed since you went away

We think of you every single day
Words are not needed as memories are clear
You are still remembered as loving and dear.
- Your loving family Allan, Catherine and Frank, Jamie and Claire, Amber, Iona, Katie, Cara and Isla.

CAMPBELL - In memory of a much loved uncle, Norman, who passed away on November 15, 2008. Loved and remembered always

- From Donnie, Caroline, Mairi and families x
DUNCAN - In ever loving memory of my beloved husband Howard, who was called to rest on November 12, 2001.

They say in time you do forget
To some that may be true
No morning dawns, no night returns
Without my thoughts of you.
Love always Chrissie x
DUNLOP - In loving memory of our mother, mother-in-law and Granny Madge who died November 13, 2006.

Mother your life was full of deeds,
forever thoughtful of our needs,
today and tomorrow,
our whole life through,
we will always love and cherish you
Love always, David and Vivienne xx
Tenderly we treasure the past
with memories that will always last
Mum x
Gentle Jesus up above
please give Granny all our love.

we miss you Granny Madge
Isla, Iona and Fallon xxx
EMSLIE - In remembrance of my beloved wife Anne, who was taken away on November 16, 2002.

We never part from those we love
No distance can divide
In memory's garden day by day
We walk by your side.
- Hamish.

EMSLIE - Remembering with love and gratitude our mother, mother-in-law and granny Anne, who passed away on November 16, 2002.

A light is from our household gone
A voice we loved is stilled
A place is vacant in our home
Which never can be filled.
Your family.
FORBES - Cherished memories of my darling husband Harry, died November 15, 2007.

I remember the day I met you
And the day God made you mine
I remember the day God took you
And will till the end of time
We made our vows together
And till death do us part
But the day God took you from me
My whole world fell apart
In sorrow Joan.

Forbes Harry
Your photo stands in pride of place
A lovely smile lights up your face
You always seem to be so near
A wonderful father we all adored
Always loved, forever mourned
Janice, Angela, Alasdair and Harry and Christine.

FRASER - In loving memory of Mary, our beloved mum, sister and granny, who passed away November 10, 2007.

Always in our thoughts.
- From all the family
GILLIES - Treasured memories of my dad, Duncan, died November 14, 1987. Also remembering with love my dear mum, Morag, died April 24, 2002, Uncle Angus died August 1, 2005.

Silent thoughts, memories dear
As time unfolds another year.
- Maureen.
HOOD - Robert, died November 11, 2009.

Always in my thoughts.
- Bessie

MACDONALD - In loving memory of George MacDonald, 22 Camus Road, Dunbeg who died November 9, 1985.
MACDONALD - In loving memory of my dearly loved husband, a loving dad and granddad, Domhnall Domhnallach, who died on November 13, 1988. RIP
When thoughts go back as they often do
We treasure the memories we have of you.
Gad caoidh 'sgadionndrainn.

- Inserted by Christine and family, Fort William
MACKAY - In loving memory of Robert James (Bertie), who died on November 11, 1989, a dearly loved husband, father and granda.

Agnes and all the family in Oban and Lochgilphead.
Also remembering Jack, who died on November 17, 1993.
MACLEAN - Special memories of a much loved dad and papa Hector 'Teddy', died November 11, 2001.

Too special to ever forget.
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

MACLEAN - Special memories of a much loved dad and papa Hector 'Teddy', died November 11, 2001.
Too special to ever forget.
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

MACLEAN - Special memories of a much loved dad and papa Hector 'Teddy', died November 11, 2001.
Too special to ever forget.
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

MACLEAN - Special memories of a much loved dad and papa Hector 'Teddy', died November 11, 2001.
Too special to ever forget.
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

MACLEAN - Special memories of a much loved dad and papa Hector 'Teddy', died November 11, 2001.
Too special to ever forget.
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

MACLEAN - Special memories of a much loved dad and papa Hector 'Teddy', died November 11, 2001.
Too special to ever forget.
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

MACLEAN - Special memories of a much loved dad and papa Hector 'Teddy', died November 11, 2001.
Too special to ever forget.
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

MACLEAN - Special memories of a much loved dad and papa Hector 'Teddy', died November 11, 2001.
Too special to ever forget.
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

MACLEAN - Special memories of a much loved dad and papa Hector 'Teddy', died November 11, 2001.
Too special to ever forget.
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

MACLEAN - Special memories of a much loved dad and papa Hector 'Teddy', died November 11, 2001.
Too special to ever forget.
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

MACLEAN - Special memories of a much loved dad and papa Hector 'Teddy', died November 11, 2001.
Too special to ever forget.
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

MACLEAN - Special memories of a much loved dad and papa Hector 'Teddy', died November 11, 2001.
Too special to ever forget.
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

MACLEAN - Special memories of a much loved dad and papa Hector 'Teddy', died November 11, 2001.
Too special to ever forget.
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

MACLEAN - Special memories of a much loved dad and papa Hector 'Teddy', died November 11, 2001.
Too special to ever forget.
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

MACLEAN - Special memories of a much loved dad and papa Hector 'Teddy', died November 11, 2001.
Too special to ever forget.
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

PEARSON - In memory of my dad Garry, who died November 13, 1999.
There is a special angel in heaven
That is part of me
It is not where I wanted him
But where God wanted him to be
He was here but just a moment
Like a night time shooting star
And though he is in heaven
He isn't very far.
He touched the heart of many
Like only an angel can do
So I send this special message
To the heaven up above
Please take care of my angel
And send him all my love.
Miss you
Becky x
PEARSON - Garry. Always in our hearts and thoughts.

- Andrew, Lorraine and boys
RODGERS - In loving memory of our mum Jenny, who died November 11, 2008.
You had a smile for everyone
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

RODGERS - In loving memory of our mum Jenny, who died November 11, 2008.
You had a smile for everyone
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

RODGERS - In loving memory of our mum Jenny, who died November 11, 2008.
You had a smile for everyone
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

RODGERS - In loving memory of our mum Jenny, who died November 11, 2008.
You had a smile for everyone
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

RODGERS - In loving memory of our mum Jenny, who died November 11, 2008.
You had a smile for everyone
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

RODGERS - In loving memory of our mum Jenny, who died November 11, 2008.
You had a smile for everyone
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

RODGERS - In loving memory of our mum Jenny, who died November 11, 2008.
You had a smile for everyone
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

RODGERS - In loving memory of our mum Jenny, who died November 11, 2008.
You had a smile for everyone
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

RODGERS - In loving memory of our mum Jenny, who died November 11, 2008.
You had a smile for everyone
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

RODGERS - In loving memory of our mum Jenny, who died November 11, 2008.
You had a smile for everyone
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

RODGERS - In loving memory of our mum Jenny, who died November 11, 2008.
You had a smile for everyone
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

RODGERS - In loving memory of our mum Jenny, who died November 11, 2008.
You had a smile for everyone
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

RODGERS - In loving memory of our mum Jenny, who died November 11, 2008.
You had a smile for everyone
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

RODGERS - In loving memory of our mum Jenny, who died November 11, 2008.
You had a smile for everyone
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

RODGERS - In loving memory of our mum Jenny, who died November 11, 2008.
You had a smile for everyone
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

RODGERS - In loving memory of our mum Jenny, who died November 11, 2008.
You had a smile for everyone
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

RODGERS - In loving memory of our mum Jenny, who died November 11, 2008.
You had a smile for everyone
You had a heart of gold
You left most precious memories
The world could ever hold.
Also our dad, who died October 29, 1993.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Sunday 14 November 2010
Oban High School
Main Hall
10:30am
All Welcome
Telephone
07836 342 622
www.lorncf.org.uk

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 14 November 2010
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail
MA, MTh
(01631) 567076
All welcome

CHARITY DONATIONS

Oban Hospice
CARING FOR THE FUTURE
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact
David Mudie (Treasurer)
Oban Hospice Ltd
The Croft
Kilmore

FOR THE BLIND CHILDREN OF SCOTLAND'S ACADEMIC TUITION AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL IN EDINBURGH
Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy
Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

OBAN MEMORIALS
Alistair MacLean
Master Sculptor
Glenalma, Soroba Road, Oban
Design and prices on request
LETTERING AND RENOVATING DONE IN ANY CEMETERY
TEL: 01631 563123 / 565269

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 14 November 2010
Remembrance Sunday
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
Norman MacCallum, Provost.
(01631) 562323
Holy Spirit, Ardochattan No Service
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Service at Salen Parish Church.....10.15
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....10.00

CANCER RESEARCH UK
Fighting Cancer on all fronts...
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation
Commitment of over £15 million each year
Cancer Research UK Scotland Suite 1/1, Unit 4 Blair Court Clydebank Business Park Clydebank, G81 2LA

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT
Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer
West of Scotland Fundraising Office 1st Floor, Erskine House North Avenue, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR
Tel 0808 100 6000
In memory of Dawn Joyce

Stokes Memorials
Serving Argyll and the Highlands & Islands for over 35 years
Established 1973 - Fraser Downie, Master Sculptor
• New and traditional memorials. • Work carried out in any cemetery.
• Additional lettering. • Delivery to all islands.
• Cleaning and renovations. • Free estimates and advice.
• Pet memorials. • House signs.

OBAN MEMORIALS
Alistair MacLean
Master Sculptor
Glenalma, Soroba Road, Oban
Design and prices on request
LETTERING AND RENOVATING DONE IN ANY CEMETERY
TEL: 01631 563123 / 565269

Follow us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes



Ryan Watson, right and Lochee's Andy Taylor go toe to toe. 10_f46boxing02



Artom Jevstijejik forces Orbiston's Kieron Kelly to cover up. 10_f46boxing04



Bout sponsor Sharon Sweeney congratulates Mark Curtis after his hard fought victory. 10_f46boxing06



Dawid Jarzab lands a body shot on Linwood's Darren Wood. 10_f46boxing05



Lochaber Phoenix coach Niall Clark advises Chris Bradley between rounds. 10_f46boxing01

Livercaol top indoor league

FOOTBALL

LIVERCAOL are still top of the Ali Young Winter League after defeating Pogon 5-0 at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night. All Trades are keeping up the pressure in second place, and they crushed Crazy Crofter 6-0.

Caol and Ballachulish played out a goalless draw whilst Lochaber Leisure managed to win a high-scoring encounter with HW Energy 5-3.

Last season's champions Goon Squad lost their second match of the season, being beaten 1-0 by NGTW, and Funky Five and Achintore FC drew 2-2.

Fixtures for Sunday November 14: Pogon vs Caol; All Trades vs Funky Five; Ballachulish vs Crazy Crofter; Lochaber Leisure vs Livercaol; Achintore FC vs Goon Squad; NGTW vs HW Energy

Brian rolls a 208

TEN PIN BOWLING

WEEK TWO of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10-pin winter bowling league at the Nevis Centre has left three teams with maximum points in the scratch division.

Alleycats, Council and Rotavators are leading the way, with Alleycats just being posted as top by virtue of total pinfall.

In the handicap division there are still two teams with maximum points where Council have the edge over Alleycats on handicap pin total.

The second round of matches saw the first 200+ scratch game of the season, with

Brian Stewart of the Council team rolling a 208. This also gave Brian the top handicap game so far of 274 and helped him toward the season's top two games scratch series of 354.

Elsewhere, John Friel of Will-O-Bees bowled 174 with Ewen Campbell (Council) chipping in with 167 and Tommy McKnight of Alleycats with 162.

Top scratch averages after two weeks are currently held by Brian Stewart with 147 and Pam Weller (Alleycats) - also the top lady - with 140.

Lochaber boxing show - a big hit

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

AN ENTHUSIASTIC crowd of around 500 enjoyed 11 action-packed bouts at another successful Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club show in the Nevis Centre on Saturday night.

Scotland's own world champion Ricky Burns, world heavyweight title challenger Derek Chisora, champion Yassine 'The Showman' Elmachie and top coach Billy Nelson were among the 'who's who' of the boxing fraternity ringside as Lochaber's amateur boxers took on some tough opponents.

With Jim Greig (Sparta ABC), Stevie Docherty (Lochaber ABC) and Jim Pearson (Hillpark ABC) judging, the night had middleweight Ryan Watson topping the bill against big punching Lochee ABC boxer Andy Taylor.

The Lochaber man controlled the entire fight - until he walked onto a huge right uppercut seconds from the final bell, leaving ref Norman Watt with no option but to halt the contest.

Clearly distraught at coming so close to victory, Ryan nevertheless congratulated Taylor in his changing room afterwards - and secured a rematch in January. Light welterweight Stephen Cameron was judged top senior boxer in the show after boxing superbly to outpoint Derek Robson of Renfrewshire ABC - despite a chipped bone in his hand.

Robson had won eight of his last ten contests, but Cameron showed why he is rated one of the best men in his division in Scotland, displaying superior speed, balance, footwork and punchpicking throughout to get the verdict.

Lochaber's Dawid Jarzab brought the large



Stepi Cameron avoids a left from Renfrewshire's Derek Robson. 10_f46boxing03

Polish contingent in the stands to life in his rematch with Darren Woods of Linwood ABC.

Behind after two, Dawid knew he needed a big last round and hunted his man

round the ring, landing some big shots to force the ref to inflict a standing eight count on the Linwood boxer. The late effort earned Dawid the decision in what was a highly skilled bout for two

clever display of measured economy.

His accurate punching stung Kelly into a furious response, but Artom would expertly cover up behind a tight guard before countering once more. The promising youngster is currently awaiting a date for his final in the Scottish Novice championships.

The first-ever local derby saw Lochaber Phoenix's Mark Curtis prevail over John Viray of Nether Lochaber ABC in an exciting contest.

Mark's was given a fantastic support by the home crowd in his debut bout and his stamina and power earned him a unanimous verdict over his gutsy opponent and the Letterfinlay Lodge Hotel young boxer of the night award.

Chris Bradley, 13, scored another success for Lochaber by edging out Orbiston ABC's Barry Aikman in

what was a battle of highly skilled youngsters. Chris is starting to show on a regular basis why he is considered such a top prospect.

Nether Lochaber's James Viray stood his ground well in his fight, but ultimately the superior punching power of Jonlee Joyce (Duries ABC) proved to be the deciding factor.

Two exhibition bouts saw 12 year-old James Aitchison dominate Hillpark ABC's

Connor Stewart with his beautiful sharp jab and straight right cross, while Denver Small posted arguably his best showing in the ring against Sean Docherty of Orbiston ABC.

Lochaber boys, Igor Sliwinski, 13, and 11 year-olds Kevin Aitchison and Liam Gillanders gave a display of shadow boxing, padwork and light sparring to give them experience of boxing in front of a large crowd.

New playing kit

LOCHYSIDE RC Primary School football team has a brand new set of strips - thanks to the generosity of local businessman Kevin MacFadyen, of KMF Car Sales.

Kevin, left, presented the strips to team captain Dylan Fraser before joining the young players and football coach Allan MacKinnon for the photocall.

Kevin is a former pupil of the school and his two children are now pupils at Lochside.

Head teacher Violet Smith said: 'We are very grateful to Kevin for his support and generosity.'



Lochside football team show off their new strips with sponsor Kevin MacFadzean and coach Allan MacKinnon.

Fort William need to bounce back after another heavy defeat

FOOTBALL

FORT WILLIAM will be looking to bounce back from another heavy defeat when they take on Deveronvale at Claggan Park on Saturday.

Fort went down 8-1 away at Wick Academy last weekend, and manager Calum MacLean will be hoping for a much grittier showing from his troops against 'Vale, who sit ninth in the Highland League.

The game will be Fort's first home match for a month and the Lochaber men must have some grounds for optimism as 'Vale have only won one from six away games so far this season.

At Wick, however, it was a depressingly familiar story of conceding goals early as

Fort found themselves 2-0 down after 15 minutes.

Sean Ellis' set plays were causing trouble for the Wick defence, but Fort paid the price for not finishing their chances and shipped two more goals before halftime.

Four more followed in the second half, but Fort did manage a late consolation goal from Iain MacLennan.

The young striker has been one of the few bright spots for Fort William this season, and continued his good form with a strike from 25 yards two minutes from time.

Spot the

SHINTY BALL

Competition

WIN £1250

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

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. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

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 reach '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.

I enclose £1 (note) 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.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No. _____

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Got a Story?

SEND US THE DETAILS BY VISITING
www.obantimes.co.uk
24 hours a day 365 days a year

John races against world's top riders

'I now know what level I need to reach to get into the full Moto GP tour'

TEENAGE motorcyclist John McPhee is revved up this week, having raced against the best in the world in the Moto GP championship in Valencia, Spain at the weekend. The 16 year old, who races in the British Championship, was shocked to receive one of only two wildcards from the UK for the event and shared the track with famous racing names such as championship winner Marc Marquez and race winner in Valencia, Bradley Smith.

interviewed on the grid for the BBC's interactive service. John, who is only just old enough to compete at world championship level, finished 22nd out of 32 riders and was the only rider in the field to have never raced on the Valencia circuit. The Honda GP 125 rider said: 'In the British 125 Championships I am not used to people flying past me but I reckon in Valencia I had one of the slowest bikes there. I know Bradley [Smith] quite well because he used to race for my team, KRP Racing, and I noticed when he passed me in practice. He signalled for me to 'tag on'

MOTOR CYCLING

and I followed him round for a lap to see where his racing lines were. 'I was really happy with the result and I now know what level I need to reach to get into the full Moto GP tour.' John's achievement was all the more remarkable as he had fractured his coccyx in a crash just three weeks previously. Only a week after the crash he was competing in the European Championships in Albacete, Spain, having undergone laser surgery in Ipswich to speed his recovery. But despite the hi-tech treatment



John McPhee in action at Valencia in the Moto GP Championship. Photo courtesy of CanBe Images

he still needed to pack bubble wrap inside his leathers to provide extra cushion during the race. John is set to race again in Valencia today (Thursday)

and then in Jerez a few days later in two rounds of the Spanish 125 Championship. Following his experience in the Moto GP John believes he could be competing in the

world championship stage within three years. Far from being out of place during the race, the teenager's inexperience was evident on the starting grid when the

other racers welcomed their 'brolly girl' onto the track to help shield them from the sun. John's less glamorous alternative came in the shape of mechanic Gary Turner.

Residential football camp

FOOTBALL

ARGYLL and Bute Football Development Department is looking to run a residential football camp for the first time to give young footballers an insight into the daily life of a full time youth footballer. Players will live the life of a professional footballer and take their skills to the next level as they are immersed in the 'beautiful game' in a total soccer experience based at Oban High School Hostel and using the Oban 3G all weather pitch, Mossfield and Glencruitten grass pitches. The proposed date of the camp is July 25 to 29, 2011. Cost of Camp - Residential £200 all inclusive for the week (includes all meals, excursion to swimming, kit etc) Non-Residential £150 (includes all meals, excursion to swimming, kit etc) The non-residential programme - players will be dropped off at 9am each morning and picked up at 9pm each night. If you are interested in the programme please contact Football Development Officer Martin Rae at martin.rae@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Saints senior team back in action

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints senior team return to premier league action this Saturday with a tough home game against old rivals Greenock HSF. The match will take place at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off. Referee John Scott is in charge.

Saints youth results and fixtures

FOOTBALL

RESULTS from last weekend: Regional Cup - Alva Swifts 7, Under 13s 1. Scoring for Saints was Jamie MacPherson. Under 14s 2, East End Thistle 1. Netting for Saints were Douglas Tyrell-Bunge and Stewart Twort. This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Dumbarton United Black; Under 14s v Helensburgh; Under 15s v Westerton United; Under 16s v Largs Colts.

Hard-fought win sees Lorne in fourth spot

RUGBY

SHE West Division One **Oban Lorne 26 Uddingston 14**

OBAN Lorne survived a poor first half showing and a bruising encounter to come from behind and beat Uddingston at Glencruitten to continue the side's recent good run of form.

row Jamie MacMillan. However Oban's good work was undone with two tries in quick succession

Smith narrowed the score line by halftime. Smith ran into the opponents' 22 from a ruck and beat several players before scoring under the uprights. This gave a halftime score of 12-14 to Uddingston.



Oban's front row giants Craig Nicholson and Jamie MacMillan rise above the Uddingston lineout to win the ball.

Oban started the game poorly, failing to catch the kick off on the full, which put them under pressure in their own half. The team soon recovered and in less than 10 minutes scored the first try of the game. A fantastic rolling maul from a lineout gave Oban possession on the Uddingston line, allowing Robin MacQueen, who had just come on as a blood replacement, to score and give the hosts a 5-0 lead. The home side had their tails up and were playing some superb rugby with good running from the forwards, particularly from second

Both teams played out an uneventful first 10 minutes of the second half before stand-in captain Corrie Louw touched down under the posts. The Green Machine was now looking for the final try to secure a bonus point and this came from a well-read interception from Bert Wright, who made amends from his earlier mistake by zig-zagging through the Uddingston defence to win the game for Oban Lorne. Oban saw out an exciting final 10 minutes of the game, backed by a very loud and lively home support.



Pictured above are the winners and runners-up of the Oban Express Primary Football League. Winners of the junior section were Saints Under 9s with Lochgilhead as runners-up. The senior section was won by the Warriors with Stoddarts taking second place. Match reports on page 18.

Mull rally crew pick up top junior title

A MULL rally crew left it until the last event, The Kingdom Stages, of this year's Hankook Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship to pick up the top junior award. Steven O'Donnell, 20, and John Fitness, 18, battled it out with fellow Mull driver Alex Brown in his Citroen but the AML Photography supported MKII Escort never missed a beat all day to net them 25th overall. Connell driver Shaun Sinclair finished third overall, with crew member Fred Maclean taking the navigator's seat.

Sports awards at Atlantis on Sunday

OBAN and Lorn's top sporting talent will be at Atlantis Leisure on Sunday for the area's biennial sports awards. As well as awards for the area's top athletes, coaches, teams and administrators, there will be demonstrations and talks from some of the area's elite athletes and a spit-roast dinner. The prizegiving is the culmination of a four-day festival of sport with various activities on offer at the leisure centre from today (Thursday). For more on Oban and Lorn Sports Festival see www.obanandlornsportsfestival.co.uk

MORE SPORT APPEARS ON PAGE 18

THE MARINE HARVEST

SHINTY/HURLING INTERNATIONAL

SCOTLAND / ALBA v IRELAND / ÉIRINN
SATURDAY 13TH NOVEMBER / DISATHAIRNE 13 AN T-SAMHAIN
THROW IN 2:00PM / TOISEACH 2F
BUGHT PARK / PÀIRC A' BHUICHT, INVERNESS / INBHIR NIS

ALSO ON THE DAY
12.00PM SCOTTISH WOMEN'S SHINTY SQUAD
V SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES CAMOGIE SQUAD

WWW.SHINTY.COM

the weather

Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK** Ships' Chandler

Thursday
Heavy rain showers
Winds moderate west south westerly
Temperatures 6°C to 8°C

Friday
Sunny intervals
Winds moderate west north westerly
Temperatures 2°C to 10°C.

Weekend Outlook
Sunny intervals
Winds moderate northerly.
Temperatures -2°C to 4°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

FRIDAY

24

9

10

Tides

Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK** Ships' Chandler

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, November 11, 2010** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	02.41 1.3 08.30 3.7 15.12 1.6 20.35 3.2	
Fri	03.28 1.5 09.18 3.4 16.03 1.8 21.21 3.0	
Sat	04.22 1.7 10.18 3.2 17.02 2.0 22.22 2.8	
Sun	05.23 1.8 11.53 3.1 18.12 2.1 ** ** *	
Mon	00.30 2.8 06.34 1.9 13.35 3.2 19.28 2.0	
Tues	02.00 2.9 07.53 1.8 14.26 3.3 20.30 1.9	
Wed	02.42 3.1 08.55 1.7 15.05 3.5 21.15 1.7	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Cranran	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

Your Digital Edition is AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW at
www.obantimes.co.uk/digital

Frustrated waiting for your Oban Times? Our new E-Edition is delivered directly to your inbox on the day of publication.