

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8173

Thursday 14 November, 2013

www.obantimes.co.uk

80 pence

TOKEN 2 INSIDE
See page 4

Win a Christmas Hamper worth **£500**

bonnie babies in association with **The co-operative membership** See page 6 for full details
Here for you for life **£750** of The Co-operative vouchers to be won!

The Oban Times Bonnie Babies 2014

Oban road upgrade plans confirmed

PLANS have been confirmed to upgrade crumbling roads along Oban's busiest stretch - from the Bealach an Rìgh right the way through to Stafford Street.

Work to upgrade the routes will take place early in the new financial year and will take account of plans to pedestrianise Stafford Street.

BEAR Scotland had originally intended to make repairs to the section of the A85 next to the Corran Halls, but after consultation with Transport Scotland and Argyll and Bute Council, delayed its plans until the new financial year.

The new plans will incorporate the Bealach an Rìgh, the roundabouts next to the Corran Halls, the whole of Dunollie Road and the following stretch of George Street to the top of Stafford Street.

While the full extent of the works won't be known until BEAR Scotland concludes a detailed survey and design, it is hoped the work will be a full-depth reconstruction of the road carriageway and associated ancillary works, possibly including drainage and improvements to road markings.

Save St Conan's plan needs people power

A PLAN to save an iconic Argyll church gets underway this month - but people power will be central to whether the scheme succeeds.

St Conan's Kirk in Lochawe needs a seven-figure sum invested to maintain its crumbling walls and roof.

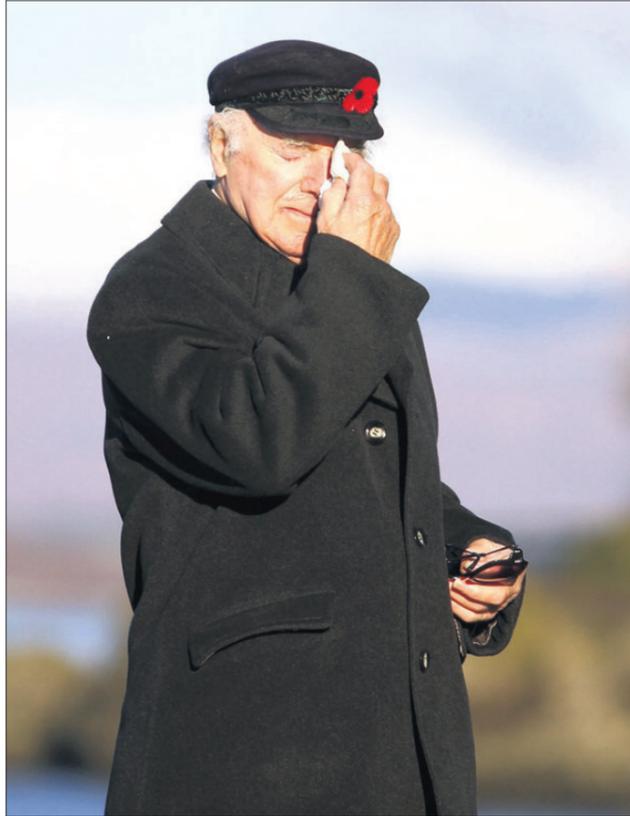
The trust behind the future of the church says it has already begun fundraising for the first phase of work and is seeking support for a Friends of St Conan's Kirk group.

St Conan's Kirk trustees are hosting an open day at the church on November 23 from 2pm, where people interested in the building's future and the history of the area are invited to hear about the trust's proposals, which include a funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. David Hodge, clerk to the trustees, said: 'We firstly need to fix the supporting walls surrounding the church to make it safe for visitors but we also plan to turn the gatehouse into a tearoom and shop with toilets. For that, we will need volunteers and that is why we are looking to establish a Friends of St Conan's Kirk.'

'We can really get some momentum going if we get the support now. That makes the next stage easier.'

The Duchess of Argyll has given her support to the project by becoming the trust's patron.

If successful with their grant application, trustees hope to start work on the church's surrounding wall by next summer.



Service evokes emotional memories

Whether Hector Morrison was wiping away a tear, or blinking from the bright sunshine on Sunday, the Remembrance Service at Oban's war memorial evoked emotional memories for many. For more on this year's services from around the west Highlands see page five. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

Air link flight trials move a step closer

Transport group drives forward plans for air journeys between Oban, Glasgow and Barra

FLIGHTS between Oban, Glasgow and Barra are a step closer after the Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership (HiTrans) recommended summer trials.

A study announced in *The Oban Times* last October revealed there would be sufficient demand for air services between Oban and Glasgow in addition to the existing Barra-Glasgow route.

It stated there would also be high demand for passenger travel between Oban and Barra, consisting mainly of outbound leisure traffic from the island.

However, the survey further revealed limited demand for an Oban-Campbeltown air link and HiTrans has moved not to investigate a new route between the towns.

Trials of Oban-Barra and Oban-Glasgow routes are to be investigated on a minimal funding basis using an existing BN2 Islander aircraft. Both would run for 16 weeks during the summer for one or two years, pending funding for the trials and pre-agreement on how any subsequent operation would be funded.

Meanwhile a Glasgow-Skye link is to be investigated further and, while all but ruled out, Oban could potentially act as a focal point for the flights depending on availability of aircraft.

The report was commissioned by HiTrans to consider the best use of two new Twin Otter aircraft the Scottish Government pledged to purchase, as well as identify improvements across the network.

Oban councillor Duncan MacIntyre, who sits on HiTrans, said the news was terrific for Oban, its airport and the west coast economy as a whole.

He added: 'This is what Oban was always envisaged as, a stopping point for the Western Isles. The trials are worth doing - but it all depends on whether the Scottish Government does buy these two Twin Otters.'

He added: 'Whatever they do though will be part of this collective work with Western Isles, Highland and Argyll and Bute Council - that makes sense.'

John Forteith, chairman of BID4Oban, says the news is great for the town.

He said: 'This is excellent news and hopefully opens up the gateway to better access for Oban and all it has to offer.'

'Anything that is encouraging footfall into Oban has to be viewed as a major positive regardless of what industry you're involved in.'

The results of the HiTrans report will be shared with the operator, Loganair, for review and to consider whether the evidence supports additional Glasgow-Barra flights.

HiTrans is also to liaise with Argyll and Bute Council and operators to identify any measures to have a BN2 Islander craft to be based in Oban, while Loganair and Transport Scotland will look at introducing refuelling facilities in Barra.

End of the road for bus firm

A MULL bus company is to be officially dissolved following its sale earlier this year.

Bowman's Coaches has been placed into voluntary liquidation by the members of the company after West Coast Motors took over operations. James Fennessey, of liquidators Scott-Moncrieff, said it was a way of 'winding down' the now dormant company as all assets had been sold. He confirmed all creditors had been paid in full.

Energy firm admits providing 'wrong information'

AN ENERGY company has admitted it provided the 'wrong information' after telling an Argyll customer they couldn't switch to another supplier because of the tariff they were on.

Speaking at the House of Commons, Alan Reid MP criticised Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) after incorrect advice it gave a customer suggested they were 'stuck' with the company because they were using the Total Heating with Total Control (THTC) system.

SSE has apologised, saying it was human error, but acknowledged to *The Oban Times* that some of the terms it uses can be confusing.

Speaking after raising the issue at Scottish Questions last week, Mr Reid said: 'I have asked the regulator, Ofgem, to investigate this.'

A spokesperson for SSE said: 'We would like to apologise for the incorrect information previously provided to THTC customers and can confirm a customer with THTC can change supplier, providing their new supplier takes over both meters at the same time.'

It admits, however, this may come at a cost. Asked by *The Oban Times* how it expected customers to understand the system if its own staff weren't able to, the spokesman said: 'We do acknowledge there is a bit of confusion in this and, on this occasion, our customer service advisors haven't helped.'

'We will be briefing all our customer service staff.' Meanwhile Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) and SSE have agreed to liaise further with reports of exorbitant heating bills across Argyll - sometimes exceeding £900 per quarter - following a recent meeting. Of those complaints received by *The Oban Times*, the bills seem to be a result of a variety of problems, including inappropriate meters, incorrect heating systems, faulty systems and a lack of advice on how to use the systems correctly - with increased heating bills exacerbating the issue.

Alastair MacGregor, chief executive of ACHA, said: 'The utility company gave a commitment to liaise with any tenant who had a concern about current tariff arrangements and to check if they were on the correct one.'

'SSE also provided advice on their hardship fund and various areas of assistance that can be sought.'

'The association agreed to consolidate this information and issue it in a future tenants' newsletter.'

'In relation to the two ACHA tenants on Tiree, it was confirmed that SSE had shifted them on to a new tariff and would financially compensate them for any overpayment.'

Any SSE customers in need of advice or support in the wake of high electricity bills should contact headofcustomerservice@sse.com or phone 0800 096 6192.

CalMac defends captains

FERRIES operator Caledonian MacBrayne has said safety is always the priority after recent criticism of the MV Hebridean Isles' performance on the Oban-Coll-Tiree run.

The Clansman took over the route on Monday, but islanders have been frustrated by interruptions to the ferry service in recent weeks.

CalMac has said 89 per cent of Coll's arrivals and departures were completed since the start of the winter timetable last month, as were 93 per cent of Tiree's.

A spokesman added that highly qualified masters take many factors into account when assessing whether to sail.

Council failed to act adequately over comment allegation

A COMPLAINT that Argyll and Bute Council failed to act adequately when dealing with an allegation that a teaching assistant made inappropriate sexual comments to a 14-year-old girl has been upheld.

The Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) has criticised the way the council handled the complaint, made last year, describing the response as 'inadequate'.

It also found that the school where the incident took place, Rothesay Academy on Bute, had 'unreasonably failed' to follow relevant procedures when dealing with the child protection issue by not notifying social workers or reporting the incident to the director of education.

The council now has to issue a formal apology to the family involved and assess whether there are any other outstanding child protection issues arising from the case.

Argyll and Bute Council said it had also upheld the complaint after carrying out its own investigation. It added: 'Action is already being taken to ensure that all the SPSO's recommendations are fulfilled as quickly as possible.'

The complaint comes just weeks after Audit Scotland raised several concerns with the running of Argyll and Bute Council, stating that a 'culture of mistrust' and a lack of strategic leadership was impacting the authority.

It also revealed chief executive Sally Loudon had missed her 2012/13 appraisal, while interventions by the monitoring officer and chief executive to address concerns by officers and councillors about the behaviour of some elected members were 'not successful'.

Addressing the report and the Accounts Commission's verdict on it, new council leader Dick Walsh said it was a 'wake-up call' and improvements would be made.

Decision time on controversial Loch Etive fish farm

A CONTROVERSIAL application to build a new, 10-pen fish farm on Loch Etive will finally be considered by councillors next week.

Dawnfresh wants to build the rainbow trout farm at Sailean Ruadh between Bonawe and Tainuill - despite a host of objections locally and from across the country. While Tainuill Community Council has backed the plan, Ardchattan Community Council unanimously voted to oppose the application. The proposed farm would consist of 80m circumference pens and a feeding barge, with a biomass per cycle of 1,500 tonnes. Permission was applied for in June this year. It is the second application the company has made for a fish farm at Sailean Ruadh. Last year's application for a fish farm comprising 14, 100m-pens was withdrawn after overwhelming public condemnation of the plans.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2004

9 771461 487099

D. McNAIR & SON LTD
Fuel Oil Specialists

INTRODUCING A NEW OIL SERVICE INTO NORTH ARGYLL

(Ardfern, Croabh Haven, Kilmelford, Kilniver, Easdale, Oban, Dunbeg, Connel, Tainuill, Loch Awe, Dalmailly, Inveraray)

Delivery will be - minimum - twice weekly - Tuesday and Friday

HEATING OIL, DOMESTIC FUEL, COOKER OIL, MARINE/TRACTOR DIESEL AND ROAD DIESEL

Competitive and Fair rates - ALL YEAR ROUND
Minimum Order Quantity ONLY 500 Litres
Domestic & Commercial Welcome

Part of the Local Community since 1903

Kinloch Road, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6EG
Tel: (01586) 552020 (24hrs)
Email: sales@dmcnairshipping.com

NEW! INTRODUCTORY OFFER

MEDITERRANEAN **TAPAS**

Choose any 3 for only **£8.95**

The Olive Garden

2 Railway Pier, Oban, Argyll | 01631 570 347 | www.theolivegardenoban.co.uk

Experience a quality service from your local oil distributor.

Call your local depot today or go online for your heating oil requirements.

Gleaner oil and gas

Argyll Depots

Ardrihaig: 01546 603213
Connel: 01631 710389
Dunoon: 01369 704445
Isle of Islay: 01496 850344
Isle of Mull: 01680 812374

Email: sales@gleaner.co.uk
www.gleaner.co.uk

Gleaner's - local to you

Mull Lines

ALMOST £2,000 has been raised for Macmillan Cancer Support through a coffee morning organised by the ladies of Salen SWRI.

The event, held in the Salen Hotel, Mull, saw £1,850 raised to help pay for the services of Macmillan nurses.

The ladies said: 'A big thank you to everybody who supported, donated or came to our Macmillan Nurse Coffee Morning. Thank you also to Cameron Whyte and Claire and Jerry Ralston for allowing us to use the Salen Hotel and to our friends in Fort William.'



TOBERMORY Lifeboat benefited to the tune of £100 after two little girls collected plenty of pennies for their Guy.

Six-year-old Jamie-Lee McKie and her sister Taylor, aged three, made their own Guy and took him along Tobermory's Main Street in a wheelbarrow on Bonfire Night.

The pennies for the Guy soon mounted up and the two girls presented Tobermory Royal National Lifeboat Institution coxswain Andrew McHaffie, below, with a cheque for £100 on Remembrance Sunday.

Jamie-Lee and Taylor have a strong family connection to saving lives at sea. Their grandfather, Davie, is a former coxswain of the Tobermory lifeboat and their father, also Davie, is currently the Coastguard station officer in Tobermory.



Susan MacAskill and Carol Harris didn't let being at Machu Picchu stop them catching up on The Oban Times.

Oban sisters enjoy trip of a lifetime to Peru

Pair help out in children's project then take to the Inca Trail

TWO OBAN women have returned from the trip of a lifetime - volunteering with a children's project in Peru before heading out on the Inca Trail.

Sisters Carol Harris and Susan MacAskill set off on the journey to celebrate Susan turning 50 in February.

The pair spent two weeks helping out in a children's project in Couso, in the south east of the country, before heading off along the Inca Trail for a week, camping with a group of 16 people.

Carol, who owns Alltavona Guest House on the Esplanade, said the experience was 'humbling' and she 'got a lot

out of it'. She added: 'The kids always want to cuddle you and touch you; it was really nice. There was a teacher and we were there to help her and help the children.'

'It just makes you think, they have got nothing - their clothes are dirty and they just have sandals - and yet we have so much.'

Carol and Susan also took toothbrushes and toothpaste out to the youngsters and helped them take care of their teeth.

The sisters also brought presents such as crayons, paper, pens, pencils and toys for the children. During breaks from teaching at the project the

youngsters tried the biscuits, cakes and juice Carol and Susan brought with them - which went down well.

The pair left the project after two weeks and headed out on the Inca trail with a group of travellers. Carol said it was 'amazing but quite difficult in parts'. She added: 'It is all steps - up and down. We were up to 4,000 metres above sea level at one point - it was fantastic. It is something I'd always wanted to do and was very interesting to see how it has all been done.'

The pair, who say they would go back to Peru, now plan on fundraising to help the children they met in the project.

Novel look at the world of work

PORT Ellen Primary School on Islay has come up with a novel way of teaching their pupils about the world of work.

The school recently invited 18 professionals into the school hall and used a speed dating format to allow every child to interview each one.

The pupils, from primary four and five, had to ask as many questions about the job and record the answers in the three minutes allocated.

School teacher Janice MacRae said: 'The hall was buzzing with enthusiasm as all the children engaged in discussions about different careers like being a doctor, photographer, editor, fireman, vet, electrician, jockey and hotel manager to name but a few.'

'The following day, the children worked together to collate all their findings and used this to create a class book about careers. All the children thoroughly enjoyed this experience and all agreed that they had really developed their knowledge of the world of work as a result of it.'

The school thanked all the people who came along to answer the pupils' questions.

Oban and Mid Argyll shopping survey

UP TO 500 people throughout Oban and Mid Argyll are being contacted as part of a survey into shopping habits across the county.

Argyll and Bute Council has commissioned Nems Market Research to carry out a telephone survey to determine how people prefer to shop, looking at whether buying locally or visiting a larger town is preferred or why they would opt to shop online instead of in their local store.

Nems will also carry out street interviews as part of the research and will be speaking to several local businesses.

However, there have been some complaints that the company is bypassing locals' wishes by ignoring their registration on the Telephone Preference Service

(TPS), which is supposed to exclude listed numbers from cold calls.

Inveraray's Bill Nelson is concerned he will be pestered by the company from now on.

He told The Oban Times: 'I strongly object to receiving unsolicited telephone calls and my number is registered with TPS.'

'I am disgusted that Argyll and Bute has sold or passed on my private contact details.'

A spokeswoman for the authority apologised if anyone registered with TPS received a call by mistake, adding it would do its best to ensure that it didn't happen again.

The spokeswoman added: 'As part of our activity on finding ways of boosting the

local economy and enhancing Argyll and Bute's town centres as quality destinations with lots to offer residents and visitors, we are currently looking at how people prefer to shop. This type of information helps us to develop our local policies and plans. We have commissioned a specialist company to do this work for us.'

'The company has been asked to speak to 500 people in the Mid Argyll and Oban areas, as well as carry out street interviews and speak with local businesses. We have not given out any personal information and understand that generally, research companies will use existing call lists and databases from various sources, including those that are publicly available.'

Golden eagle soars into Scotland's top spot

THE GOLDEN eagle, a popular sight in Argyll, has been 'overwhelmingly' voted Scotland's favourite wild animal.

The bird of prey was competing against the red deer, red squirrel, harbour seal and otter in Scottish Natural Heritage and VisitScotland's Big 5 competition.

Thousands of votes were recorded online following the campaign launch in spring this year.

With almost 40 per cent of the

vote, the eagle was well ahead of its counterparts. The next closest was the red squirrel with 20 per cent, then the red deer and otter, with the harbour seal in last place.

Dave Sexton, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' Mull officer, said: 'It's fascinating that the people of Scotland have chosen the golden eagle as their number one favourite and in such an overwhelming way.'

'Some believed that one of the more endearing, attractive

'cuddly' mammals might have won but no, it's the majesty and splendour of our top avian predator which people feel rightly proud and in awe of.'

But Mr Sexton had a warning about the bird's survival, adding: 'It beggars belief that this iconic bird is still threatened by illegal persecution in some parts of its range. In 21st century Scotland, we all have a role to play in helping to consign these despicable crimes to history once and for all.'



Udal: finds from the archaeological site are to return to the Western Isles.



An ancient comb fashioned from bone found at Udal.

Museum nan Eilean wins right to house Udal artefacts

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar has announced that all artefacts and remains unearthed at the Udal Archaeology site in Grenitote, North Uist, are to be allocated to Museum nan Eilean.

The news follows a request by Western Isles Council to the Scottish Archaeology Finds Allocations Panel (SAFAP) last month.

The decision means all finds discovered during 35 years of investigation by archaeologist Ian Crawford can go on display in museums in Stornoway and Benbecula.

Post-excavation research, funded by Historic Scotland and managed by comhairle archaeologist Deborah Anderson and lead researcher Dr Beverley Ballin Smith, indicates an unbroken sequence of occupation at the site spanning 5,000 years, from the Neolithic to the post-medieval.

Such a time spread had not been discovered on a single site excavation in Scotland before, and provides a unique sequence with which to date other sites on

the Atlantic fringe. The research was one of the largest projects of its kind ever to be undertaken in the UK.

Once the analysis and the final reports have been completed, the collection, including 250,000 shards of pottery, will return to the islands.

The Esmée Fairbairn Trust has financed a further two-year project to develop the research with universities and look at funding sources for an archaeology and environment centre on North Uist.

Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan said: 'This development is great news.'

'I hope that this co-operation between different agencies is another further step towards being able to interpret and display some of the finds to a wider audience.'

North Uist Councillor Uisdean Robertson said: 'This demonstrates the power of archaeology to bring communities together through a positive view of archaeology and create a legacy for North Uist and the Outer Hebrides.'

Historic Hebridean painting goes under the hammer for charity

A HISTORIC 100-year-old Hebridean painting is to make money for charity next week when it is auctioned off in Edinburgh.

Graham Glen's The Peat Gatherers of Eriskay, painted in 1913, was thought to have been lost but has come back onto the market after its owner, a relative of the artist, offered it to Christian Aid to be used as a fundraiser.

James Holloway, the former director of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, is convening the sale at St Andrew's and St George's West Church in Edinburgh between November 21-23, where several items will be auctioned off.

He said: 'There will be works by such celebrated artists as David Michie, Sandy Moffat,

Sam Ainslie and Lynn McGregor but the sale is also a chance to try and spot emerging talent.'

'A really exciting rediscovery this year is Graham Glen's evocative Peat Gatherers at Eriskay of 1913 which has been donated from a private collection on Orkney and which has never before been sold. It was painted when the Outer Hebrides, and Eriskay in particular, were being studied by such Celtic scholars as the artist John Duncan and the folklorist Major Kennedy Fraser.'

Glen's painting features Eriskay ponies, the last survivors of the native Scottish pony, with women and children gathering peat, which at the time was essential for crops and fuel.



The Peat Gatherers of Eriskay, by Graham Glen, will go on sale in Edinburgh next week for Christian Aid.

Police files

A BLACK iPhone was stolen from a woman's handbag while she was in Skipinich nightclub in Fort William at around 1am on Sunday morning.

Police are trying to identify a man in a white polo shirt who was seen leaving the area shortly after the theft.

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

New report shows projected rise in Scotland's population

NEW STATISTICS published by the National Records of Scotland (NRS) show Scotland's population is projected to rise from 5.31 million in 2012 to 5.52 million in 2022, and to continue to rise to 5.78 million by 2037 - an increase of nine per cent over the 25-year period.

The NRS report 'National Population Projections' attributes 28 per cent of the projected increase by 2022 to more births than deaths, with inward net migration accounting for 72 per cent.

By then, Scotland is expected to have 40,000 more children aged under 16 and 110,000 more people aged over 75.

Highlands' unemployment continues to fall

UNEMPLOYMENT in the Highlands continues to fall, with Argyll and Bute, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Highland Council all showing improved figures.

In Argyll and Bute, 111 people found work in October, leading to a 7.3 per cent reduction in jobseekers' claimants. Of those, 21 were in Oban, while Argyll's islands has 14 fewer unemployed. Campbeltown

only saw a reduction of one, while Lochgilphead went against the trend, with three more people out of work.

Eilean Siar dropped by 9.2 per cent as 41 people found employment. While 42 people gained employment in Lewis and Harris, one more person was signing on in the Uists and Barra region.

The vast majority of Highland Council's new employees were in

Inverness, Elgin and Forres but Lochaber's unemployed dropped by five while the Badenoch region saw 11 fewer people claiming benefits.

The figures, released by MacKay Consultants, show that for the year so far, Argyll and Bute's unemployed has dropped by 235, down 14.2 per cent, Eilean Siar down 58, 12.4 per cent, while Highland Council's area saw a drop of 834, 23.4 per cent.



Eye to eye with John Wallace

Children's eyesight

One of the great frustrations of life in practice is that we, as parents, take our children's eyesight for granted. Last month NHS England announced a dramatic fall in the number of children presenting for eye examinations. That is against a backdrop of an increasing birth rate. Throughout the UK it would appear almost eighty per cent of children never or seldom have a comprehensive eye examination. In Scotland all children under sixteen years of age are entitled to free annual eye examinations.

Why is it important our children have good eyesight? To be blunt our future depends on how well our children are educated and perform both at school and in their future workplace.

As our children's world becomes increasingly digitised their dependence on good reading skills and clear distance vision becomes ever more important.

In westernised economies our children seem to spend inordinate amounts of time

on their computers or mobile phones. This has had a dramatic effect on the level of myopia (short sightedness) in the UK population. When I was a youngster only sixteen per cent of the population was myopic. The level in the youth of today in now rapidly approaching forty per cent.

Another trend I have observed over the years is an increase in the number of children with undiagnosed reading problems.

Studies have consistently shown one in five children have a reading disorder of greater or lesser magnitude.

Sadly my profession has abrogated its responsibility for care in this area in a drive, in some sectors, to sell glasses.

One ray of hope for the future is a small, but increasing, number of optometrists are dedicated to providing comprehensive eyecare that includes help for children with reading disorders and also using the latest technology to reduce the levels of myopia in children.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP
Wallace Optometrists
The West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic
11/12 Argyll Square, Oban
Tel: 0845 230 3937 (EYES)
www.wallaceoptometrists.co.uk



Must-see live matches Free with BT Broadband

Get BT Sport for free with BT Broadband.

Some games are just unmissable. Like the Merseyside derby on 23rd November, followed by Tottenham v Manchester Utd on 1st December, both exclusively live on BT Sport.

And the best thing is BT Sport is free if you have BT Broadband. Our broadband starts from just £10 a month for new customers on a 12 month contract, along with monthly line rental of £15.45.

There are lots of ways to watch BT Sport for free, on your TV via the Sky Digital Satellite Platform on Sky Guide Channel 413 and online.

0800 432 0738
bt.com/freesport

£6.95 delivery for Hub.

UK residential broadband customers only. BT Broadband customers can watch BT Sport online at home with a minimum line speed of 400kpbs. To watch BT Sport online elsewhere you need 3G/4G/5G (charges may apply). To watch BT Sport at bt.com you need Microsoft Silverlight. The BT Sport App works on iPhone 3GS and above, iPad OS 5.1.1 and above and selected Android devices with OS 4.1. Max. 2 devices simultaneously. BT Sport is also available on the Sky Digital Satellite Platform for new and existing BT Broadband customers who sign up for 12 months or have 12 months remaining on their contract; ongoing renewal needed to get discounted BT Sport. Sky box and active viewing card required. E-billing required. Excludes Multiscreen. Major League Baseball not available online. Please check bt.com/sport for details. Broadband: £10 a month for 12 months, then £13 a month plus BT line rental of £15.45 a month (charging to £15.99 a month from 4 Jun 2014). New BT Broadband customers only that sign up for a 12-month minimum term. Package includes BT Broadband with a 30Gb usage limit. Unlimited UK* weekend calls and a BT Home Hub (unless BT has already provided you with one). You'll need to pay by Direct Debit. Subject to availability. *Calls of up to an hour to 01, 02 and 03 numbers excluding the Channel Islands. Other exclusions apply. Calls to 0871 cost a maximum of 10.2p per minute plus 15p set-up fee; calls to 070 cost no more than 51p per minute, with a maximum set-up charge of 51p. See our terms and conditions at bt.com/terms. Prices may change during contract period. Terms apply.

Police files

A SWIM across the Cuan Sound has landed a teenager in deep water with the authorities.

The 19-year-old was attempting to swim from Cuan Ferry to Luing last Wednesday when the tide caught him and swept him towards open sea.

The bold boy managed to reach the island but not before concerned onlookers had alerted the coastguard.

The swimmer was traced to the island and cautioned by police.

POLICE are keen to hear from anyone who may have had property stolen from within their car last weekend, particularly those living in the Shuna Terrace area of Soroba.

It is suspected that items such as mobile phones, watches and a jacket were taken from vehicles.

Among the items seized by police are a Louis Valentin watch, a Ben Sherman watch and a woman's Sprayway jacket.

If anyone can prove they are the owners of these items they can contact the police at Oban Police Station, Albany Street.

PCs Danny McBeth and Joel Edwards are also looking to speak to anyone who may have information on the alleged thefts.

AN OBAN man has been arrested for allegedly robbing a teenager at knife-point in a supermarket car park in the town.

The 21-year-old is accused of stealing the victim's bike at around 8.50pm last Saturday at Aldi.

POLICE are appealing for witnesses to an alleged assault in Oban's Station Road in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Police received a report that a 23-year-old man was knocked to the ground and kicked on the head and body at around 2am.

The attacker is described as being in his early 20s and of medium build.

Oban Police Chief Inspector Alistair Davidson said there were a number of people in the area at the time and anyone with any information should contact the police on 01631 510500 or phone Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

A MAN has been reported to the procurator fiscal for an alleged vandalism offence in the Clachan Seil area.

The 65-year-old is accused of damaging property near to a mooring near Rocky Cottage.



Andrew and Christine MacLellan cut the wedding cake, which had been a birthday cake just moments before their big reveal.

Wedding couple fool family and friends with 'birthday party'

A PRANK-playing Oban couple fooled all of their friends and family by disguising their wedding as a 40th birthday party.

Andrew 'Krankle' MacLellan married Christine last Friday in Oban's Royal Hotel at what was supposed to be Christine's 40th birthday bash.

But the couple caused an uproar among the 130 guests by taking up their places in front of registrar Gemma Cummings to tie the knot. 'It was certainly a birthday to remember,' said Christine, who runs Reflections hair salon. 'We have been together 10 years and people didn't expect us to get married, so

it was such a shock to everyone. He [Andrew] likes a practical joke and I don't do anything by halves, so it worked a treat.

'I arrived late to the party in a white dress, with the Bee Gees' Wedding Day playing but I could barely hear the song because of the uproar. People were whistling, crying, cheering and clapping. It was brilliant.'

With an Oscars theme to the 'party', guests were already suited and booted in their finest attire and Christine's brother John MacLeod, who gave her away, and flowergirl Brooke MacLellan were only informed minutes before the ceremony. A select few were let in on the

secret, including Andrew's best man, his brother Alick, and the other witness Michelle Petrie.

The promise of a 'celebrity performance' at 7.30pm made sure everyone was there on time for the secret service.

And with a 40th birthday cake that looked remarkably similar to a wedding cake, the band Eriskey Lilt in on the deception and a groom's speech prepared for the wedding was all set to go.

The happy couple, who are dreaming up a delayed honeymoon to Las Vegas, thanked Pauline MacLennan for making the cake, photographer Grant Nicholson and the Royal Hotel.

Chairman defends Taynuilt volunteers

Accusations traded as group reports community council to ombudsman

TAYNUILT Community Council's outgoing chairman has launched an impassioned defence of the volunteers who serve on it after the organisation was referred to the ombudsman.

The Friends of Loch Etive (FOLE) group - which is campaigning against Dawnfresh's application for a new, 10-pen fish farm at Sailean Ruadh - has accused the community council of failing to reveal the reasons for supporting the fish farm application, despite having opposed Dawnfresh's previous application for a larger farm.

Among the concerns raised with the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland is that the community council failed to declare any interests when discussing the matter during a recent public hearing.

However Murray Sim has dismissed any allegations of

wrongdoing and has accused FOLE of attacking volunteers to meet their own goals.

He said: 'This is a completely new application and we considered it on its merits. We're very satisfied with the decision we made and we don't know what their complaint is. We have answered their questions.'

Benefit
'These people don't realise the work done for the benefit of the community by the community council is done by volunteers - volunteers who are out of pocket most of the time to do this.'

FOLE's complaint relates to a donation to Taynuilt Sports Council by a charitable trust owned by Dawnfresh's owner, Alastair Salvesen. They say that David Thomson, who sits on both Taynuilt Community Council and Taynuilt Sports Council, should have declared an interest when the community council discussed the fish farm.

Mr Sim said: 'These people need to realise it's always the same people who are willing to go on these committees, especially in small communities; all because they're willing to give up their time as volunteers for the benefit of the community.'

Mr Thomson said the matter of whether or not to declare an interest was discussed, but it was felt unnecessary.

'The donation was nothing to do with Dawnfresh. It was to do with Mr Salvesen's charity. The donation was not a secret.'

'I asked the rest of the community council what I should do - should I declare an interest and sit out? They all said no, I didn't have to.'

Donation
He added that the Sports Council approached the Salvesen Charitable Trust prior to the new application for a fish farm on Loch Etive to ask for a donation to the new sports pavilion.

He said: 'It was myself, my wife and Fraser [Inglis] who met Mr Salvesen. The fish farm was never mentioned.'

Mr Thomson added: 'I don't know why [FOLE] are so bothered about us. It's not Taynuilt Community Council that will make the final decision, it is Argyll and Bute Council.'

A spokesman for FOLE said: 'FOLE was and remains very surprised that the Taynuilt Community Council could change its view of the proposals at Sailean Ruadh so dramatically from 'fish-farming at this location must not be considered...' to 'the council considered that the effect on landscape was not a serious issue' in a matter of just eight months.'

'Such a dramatic change of heart requires detailed examination and a thorough explanation, which the Taynuilt Community Council has so far failed to give.'

Parents force train transport rethink

Concerns voiced over pupil safety

'FEARFUL' parents have convinced Argyll and Bute Council to rethink its plan to transport pupils to Oban High School by train.

A doubling of train services between Oban and Glasgow from next May has allowed the council to transport 120 children from Dalmally, Lochave, Taynuilt and Connel to Oban from the beginning of the 2014 school year, saving £40,000.

However, at a public meeting last week in Dalmally Community Centre, parents unanimously criticised current council plans requiring high school pupils from Glenview in Dalmally to walk alongside an

unlit main road. All children arriving by train in Oban would have to walk through the town to get to school.

Also, children living in the Stronmilchan area, near

Dalmally, would get a 'feeder' bus to join up with the train in Taynuilt, passing by other pupils in Dalmally who have to walk to Dalmally train station.

Parent Susan McLaughlin said: 'There are a lot of real problems we have with safety.'

'Children from Glenview in Dalmally would have to walk along the unlit main road and we were told by the council's representative, Malcolm MacFadyen [head of facilities services], that he had walked the route himself and had no qualms with it. That was received very, very poorly.'

'The parents are nervous and fearful for the safety of our children.'

Community councillor Kate Craig, who chaired the meeting last Wednesday, said: 'I am totally behind the parents on this one.'

'I was surprised to hear about some of these plans and I am not sure if they have been thought through. To pick up kids in Stronmilchan and take them to Taynuilt for the train is crazy.'

'It will save the council £40,000 but if the children are not safe, that is not right.'

Argyll and Bute Council said it had listened to points raised at the public meeting.

A spokeswoman said: 'The proposed arrangements are being reviewed and we will be getting back directly to the community council and to a future public meeting.'

'Providing a safe and flexible way for our pupils to get to school is our priority.'

'The council makes sure that 3,500 pupils travel to and from school safely and on time each day and their safety is of paramount importance.'

Oban man denies assault

AN OBAN man is awaiting trial after allegedly assaulting a woman by seizing her by the neck while he was on bail.

Jain MacCall, of 89 McKelvie Road, Oban, denied all charges, including shouting and swearing at the woman, when he appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

The 46-year-old is expected to stand trial on January 22 next year and will appear in court next on January 7. MacCall was released on conditional bail.

Green projects win prestigious award

GREEN projects in local hospitals and schools have won Argyll and Bute Council prestigious renewables awards.

The authority has been recognised for its biomass projects, including the installation of pellet or chip boilers at the Mull Progressive Care Centre and the Tobermory pre-5 unit.

Projects are on-going in the Islay and Bowmore primary schools, the Kilmory offices and nursery and the Lochgilphead joint campus.

The council received two league champions' awards for biomass and hydro projects at the inaugural Scottish National Renewables Energy League awards.

Councillor Vivien Dance, who collected the awards, said: 'Renewable energy forms a key part of the council's economic development plan and we are delighted to see our efforts at a local level recognised nationally.'



Diane, centre, presents cheques to Glynis Dewar, left, chairwoman of the local branch of Cancer Research, and Rosemary Young of Macmillan Nurses. 16, 146cheques1

West Highland Way walker's charity double

OBAN'S Diane MacLean has handed two local branches of cancer charities a £500 boost after conquering the West Highland Way.

Diane, an admin support officer for Argyll and Bute Council, decided to take on the challenge in May, managing the feat in seven days and raising a total of £1,000, split between Cancer Research UK and Macmillan Nurses.

Explaining why she chose the charities, Diane said she knew many people who had benefited from the support of both organisations and felt they deserved more support. She added: 'Special thanks to everyone who kindly sponsored me.'

Lorn Lines

A GROUP of students from Oban High School recently took part in a team-building trip to Aviemore.

During the social enterprise outing, the group stayed overnight in a log cabin and undertook a series of team-building and trust-testing activities.

The group bonded while they prepared their meals over an open fire and visited other social enterprise groups such as New Start, who make up aid packages for the underprivileged.

Lauren McCulloch, an active member, said: 'It was a valuable and enjoyable experience where I learned a lot.'

The club meets every Thursday at the Bridge Café from 5pm until 9pm.

CONFUCIUS, George Eastmen and parlour games were among the topics at this month's meeting of Oban's Speakers Club.

Archie McPhail was first up, whose subject was 'Confucius he say'. Alex Clark followed with a talk entitled 'George Eastman'. Peter Mills was making his 'icebreaker' - or maiden - speech and chose 'Parlour Games' as his subject. Their immediate critics were Bill Leech, Eamonn Arthur and Donnie Graham.

In the second half, Tom Clegg cooked up an interesting and amusing session when all his speakers had to answer subjects on food.

His speakers were Alex Clark, Frank Walton, Bill Leech, Guido Facenda, Roy Wood and Eamonn Arthur. Time-keeper for the evening was Nick Maclean and the general evaluator was Willie Melville.

Next week members will attend their annual dinner when the speaker will be Tara Coia, learning and events officer of Dunollie.

THIS year is the 50th anniversary of the Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society.

The group held its annual meeting on Friday, November 1, followed by slides of Oban 50 years ago, presented by Bob McCulloch and Charlie Drummond.

The next meeting will be on Friday, November 15 when musicologist John Purser and poet Meg Bateman present their amazing collaborative work 'Window to the West' - a celebration of Gaelic culture, to be held in St John's Episcopal Cathedral, George Street, Oban.

Police cut plan complaint lodged

OBAN councillor and former chief inspector Fred Hall has made a formal complaint against Police Scotland's plans to reduce supervisory cover Argyll and Bute.

Police Scotland have outlined proposals to remove a chief inspector position from Argyll and Bute as part of cost-cutting measures.

In his formal response to a consultation on the move, Mr Hall

says the move would have a negative impact on the force's ability to handle complaints and would reduce the quality of service.

He further states that, as a major transport hub, Oban has a throughput of more than 725,000 passengers through the ferry terminal annually alone, and is also home to 'key infrastructure facilities' such as Cruachan Power Station and the

NATS Radar facility and justifies greater cover. Finally, he states that the move implies the force is moving towards a 'relentless pursuit of targeted policing', concentrating staff in areas where targets are more easily met. He said: 'Why should an area with the geographic and logistical challenges of Argyll and Bute... be subject to cuts in supervisory staff that has no logic to it whatsoever?'

High school bus fund's common good boost

A TOTAL of £2,000 has been awarded to Oban High School Parent Council to help buy two minibuses for school outings.

The money, from the Oban Common Good Fund, was confirmed at a meeting last week.

Other sources of funding have also been advised to the parent council to help them meet the £40,000 target.

The parent council sent out letters to businesses in Oban earlier this year in the hope everyone in the town can contribute towards purchasing the buses, which will be used for school trips, sport, music and other extra-curricular activities.

The school's minibuses are currently shared with primary schools, which limits the times they can be used

and when they have to be returned. Other applicants to the fund were Oban FM and Oban Hospice.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokeswoman said: 'More information has been requested about these applications and these items will return to a meeting of the Oban Common Good Fund in December.'

Assault with draught excluder

AN OBAN woman is awaiting sentence after assaulting a man - by hitting him with a draught excluder.

Tracey Black, 34, whose address was given in Oban Sheriff Court as 11e Colonsay Terrace, Oban, pled guilty to the offence on Monday.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence until December 10 for the preparation of reports. Black was released on conditional bail.

Council votes to retain office-bearers

IT IS A case of 'how you were' for Oban Community Council, which has voted to retain existing office-bearer positions until the new group gets to know each other.

At the inauguration of the new community council last week, members were asked to nominate individuals as chairperson, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer - although moves to appoint a planning officer were passed over.

Marri Malloy was once again elected as chairwoman, with Duncan Martin back as secretary. Andy Harper took the position of vice-chairman and Jessie MacFarlane took up the role of

treasurer. All positions were elected unopposed.

At the meeting, Argyll and Bute Council's governance and risk manager Iain Jackson urged the group to make declarations of interest a standing item on the agenda.

He said: 'Community councils are being scrutinised more than ever and having declarations of interest on the agenda is vital. If the public feels your interest is influenced by the decision you take it is important you are transparent. It's up to the individuals concerned if they want to do this though.'

New Oban High School Site Selection Consultation - November 2013

We would like to hear your views on the preferred site for a new high school for Oban. Come along to our open events to find out more and share your views. There are information displays at Oban High School, local primary schools, Oban Library and the Corran Halls. Meet the team and ask questions:

Date	Time	Details
Monday 18 November	7pm	Consultation launch, Oban High School
Thursday 21 November	10am - 8pm	Open Event, Corran Halls
Friday 22 November	11.30am - 4pm	Open Event, Corran Halls
Saturday 23 November	10am - 1pm	Open Event, Corran Halls

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

FLOORSHOP

Get your home ready for Christmas

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

Winter festival set to impress

WITH a Grand Finale fireworks display, a star-studded ceilidh and a dazzling light show across Oban Bay - this year's Oban Winter Festival is set to impress.

Organisers have finalised plans for the event, which will run from November 22 - December 1, and promise the biggest festival yet with daily events throughout the Oban and Lorn area.

Launching the festival on Friday, November 22, a light show will begin at McCaig's Tower from 5pm, before a Ballet West Winter Wonderland show takes place in the Corran Halls.

A number of events the following day culminate in the Reindeer Parade, which starts at the Corran Halls at 5pm to reach Station Square for a Christmas Lights Switch-on at 6pm.

This year's festival will also incorporate a variety of St Andrew's Day events, from an afternoon Scottish dance show to a spectacular Oban Bay Lights Show, which can be viewed from the Esplanade. The lights show will include the projection of a huge Saltire across Oban Bay - which organisers say will look even better if it is raining!

Following the lights show the Corran Halls will host a ceilidh featuring Oban Pipe Band, guest dancers and singers and ceilidh favourites Skipinnish, fronted by traditional music's man of the moment Robert Robertson,

winner of this year's Mod gold medal.

The festival will be brought to a close on Sunday, December 1 with an evening of events for all ages. Oban High School Pipe Band will lead a lantern parade from the Corran Halls at 5.30pm to a food court at Oban Distillery. From there, people are invited to enjoy the Grand Finale.

Oban Winter Festival committee member Louis Barrow said he was looking forward to the 10-day event but was most excited about the St Andrew's Ceilidh in the Corran Halls.

He said: 'We sincerely hope the community will turn out to support this great event and dust off or refresh their Scottish dancing skills. We've all learned the dances at school and maybe danced at weddings.'

'We have top quality artists on the bill and you would be hard-pushed to find a better line-up anywhere in Scotland this year for a St Andrews ceilidh.'

Tickets for the ceilidh are on sale at the Corran Halls, with proceeds going to Oban Pipe Band.

Some of the other highlights this year include street markets, dry slope skiing, a science weekend, roller disco, whisky tasting, a murder mystery night and a fire art demonstration.

Keep an eye out for the full festival programme in *The Oban Times* next week.



Firefighters Chris Findlay, front left, and Ricky Dibble hand over £4,323 each to Help the Heroes and Scottish Burned Children's Club. Behind are, from left, Peter and Susan Somerset of Help for Heroes, retired Lochaber firefighter and group manager Martin Haigh, Chris and Ricky's support man Donnie MacRae and Mark Stevenson of the Scottish Burned Children's Club.

Charities reap benefits of firefighters' endurance

TWO HIGHLAND firefighters have handed over thousands of pounds to charity following an incredible fundraising feat of endurance earlier this year.

Superfit Chris Findlay and Ricky Dibble completed the Three Peaks Challenge inside 48 hours over May 30-31 - and cycled the West Highland Way into the bargain.

Fort William man Chris, 45, retained watch manager at Fort William Fire Station, and 44-year-old Ricky, who is station manager at Dornoch, notched up £8,646 through their remarkable exploits.

At a presentation in Fort William Fire Station on Saturday, the charity cash was split equally between the Scottish Burned

Children's Club and Help for Heroes.

Local businesses, organisations and individuals in Lochaber were among those who boosted the total.

Happy Chris told *The Oban Times* after the presentation: 'We managed to complete the challenge in 44 hours 40 minutes - but at times

we were wondering if we would get to the end in time. It was great to see both charities so happy at receiving the money. I know the Scottish Burned Children's Club is using it to take the kids and their families away for a weekend over Christmas.'

Both charities thanked the dynamic duo for their efforts in raising so much cash.

Coffee morning cash boosts Crossroads Care



The Crossroads girls hosted a vintage tea party at the weekend. 16, 1461ea01

THE LONGEST standing care organisation in Oban held a vintage tea party at the weekend to raise funds for the organisation.

Crossroads Caring for Carers, the North Argyll branch of the national carer's charity, hosted the event in Glenclurran Church Centre on Saturday. Chairwoman Elaine Robertson said: 'I'm very proud of Crossroads. It is one of the mainstays of the caring fraternity in Oban and the tea party is about giving back something to the people we care for.'

Bette Hunter, manager, said the day was also about raising awareness of the charity's work in 'supporting carers at home with respite'. She said: 'We thought we'd have a vintage tea party, the staff and the management both organised it. It is going really well - very positive. Everyone works so hard to make sure Crossroads provides a very high standard of home care respite. That has changed a lot over the years as people are staying at home longer.'

Valuation board appoints new assessor

HIGHLAND and Western Isles Valuation Joint Board have appointed a new assessor and electoral registration officer.

Bill Gillies moves up from the deputy post, a position he has held since 1996.

Mr Gillies takes over from Douglas Gillespie, who has been appointed as a surveyor

member of the Lands Tribunal for Scotland. Mr Gillies said: 'I am looking forward to the many challenges over the years ahead including the extension of voting rights to 16 and 17-year-olds in the forthcoming referendum on Scottish independence and the introduction of individual electoral registration.'

Morvern Lines

I HAVE written before in these columns about seals in fresh water and citing instances of them travelling up rivers in search of food.

I saw an even more interesting phenomenon during an expedition to the uninhabited islands of Mingulay and Pabbay off Barra last week.

Here, every autumn and early winter, many hundreds of grey seal cows come ashore on the wide, south-facing, shell-beaches to mate and to give birth.

They are accompanied by a few dominant bulls nine to 10 feet long and weighing up to quarter of a ton.

Such extreme size no doubt conveys some form of assurance to the females when they are at their most vulnerable.

The main village on Mingulay - a tamer version of St Kilda - was abandoned by its residents in 1912, and since then sand has encroached on the dozen or so roofless houses and barns lying nearest to the beach.

Although a hundred or so yards from the water, many of these old dwellings have now become seal nurseries.

It was extraordinary to watch adult males and females pulling themselves over the sand dunes to join their pups under door lintels and in the corners of former bed rooms.

On nearby Pabbay, seals leave the beaches and migrate upwards of quarter of a mile along narrow, slow-moving channels cut in the sand dunes by fresh-water streams. Finding places where they can haul themselves out onto grassy banks, there they remain, half-hidden, until their pups are ready to go to sea.

It is interesting to speculate why and for how long they have followed this routine. Is it related to an age-old social problem on the beach or vulnerability to predatory man and sea eagles when both were much more plentiful?

The sea eagles have returned; man - the hunter - fortunately has not. Although the teats of the mother seal are hidden under her skin as a protection against injury on the rocks or rough ground, this does not present any difficulty for her pups with their cloven tongues.



A family of grey seals far from the beach on Pabbay.

'IS SLEAMHAIN leac dorus an tigh-mhoir,' is an old Gaelic saying which used to be heard in Morvern and elsewhere in the Highlands and Islands when the language was in common use. It roughly translates to - 'there is nothing so slippery as the door step to the Big House'.

Many historians, including the late John Lorne Campbell of Canna and Sir Compton Mackenzie, maintain that the intellectual leadership and Gaelic culture of the Outer Hebrides flourished for so long because it was free from the anglicising influence of the 'Big House'.

The islands were therefore almost wholly without the social stratification and patronage usually associated with landownership elsewhere in the UK and much more like the egalitarian societies of Scandinavia or the Basque provinces than most of rural Scotland.

This, as a matter of interest, was one of the reasons why so many people in Barra at the time were concerned about the re-imposition of a feudal superior when Robert Lister Macneil succeeded the chieftainship in 1915 and purchased Barra and Kismuil Castle some years later.

The news, in 2004, that the present chief had handed over almost all of his estate on Barra to the local community through Scottish Ministers, must have done a great deal to allay any lingering doubts.

Land ownership in the islands - where people are much less afraid to voice their opinions on the subject than on the mainland, has been a thorny problem for generations.

I heard a story not long ago about a group of high-powered government officials on a fact-finding mission to an island in the Inner Hebrides.

Keen to get a local perspective, they approached a crofter who, after many years, had managed to buy his tenancy. 'What were the agricultural benefits that attracted you to taking such a big step?' he was asked. 'My only reason,' said the crofter jerking his thumb in the direction of the mansion house, 'is to be able to say that that [expletive] over there can no longer boast he owns the whole island!'

CONGRATULATIONS go to Alasdair Whyte of Salen, Mull, on being selected as a candidate for 'Gaelic Singer of the Year' in the MG Alba Scots Trad Awards 2013.

Alasdair is well known in Morvern through his grandparents, Alasdair and Creina Jackson who, for many years, had the highly acclaimed Finuary farm overlooking the Sound of Mull.

Alasdair, a Mod gold medalist, is a nephew of Stuart Jackson who took the Skye and Sutherland Trophy for his solo singing at this year's Royal National Mod.

His mother, Riona Whyte, also a Mod gold medalist, founded 'Bourach', Morvern's new Gaelic choir which did so well in Paisley this year.

To find out who the other competitors are in this prestigious competition and to vote go to <http://projects.scottishcultureonline.com/scotlandmusicawards/voting/>

Good luck Alasdair!
Iain Thornber ian.thornber@btinternet.com.

Village toilets to re-open

KINLOCHLEVEN'S public toilets are to re-open next spring after a community cash drive raised almost £3,000 for repairs.

The toilets were shut down by Highland Council two years ago under a cost-cutting drive.

The nearby Ice Factor subsequently made its toilets available for public use under the Highland comfort scheme.

Many locals believed that arrangement to be inadequate and Kinlochleven Community Trust (KCT) agreed to buy the public toilets for the council for £1.

The fundraising campaign gathered pace as around £500 flooded in to donation boxes and collection cans - and it won't be money down the drain after the cash target for refurbishments was reached.

The Pre-65 committee also gave £500 and Lochaber Housing Association £200, while £750 came from the Lochaber councillors' ward discretionary budget, £100 each from a duck race and the 'wee charity shop' in the village, and £50 from Jim's Lawn Gardening Services.

Finally, last Thursday, the 2013 Caledonian Challenge handed over £700 by way of thanks for volunteer marshalling, taking the grand total to £2,794.45.

Delighted KCT development officer Moira Hartley said the community response had been 'amazing'.

She added: 'It will be great to have the facilities open both for the community and visitors.'

Lochaber Care and Repair will carry out the work. KCT has set March 1, 2014 as the provisional opening date.

Councillors' Ballachulish cash boost

LOCHABER councillors have awarded Ballachulish Community Council (BCC) £1,500 towards village maintenance from their wards discretionary budget.

Councillors also made a further £1,500 contribution to BCC for its organised fireworks display in the village on Saturday night.

Free child protection course

HIGHLAND Council initiative Keeping Children Safe is to hold a free child protection course for sports clubs, groups or those working with children in Caol Youth Centre on November 28 from 6.30pm to 9pm.

To book online visit www.kcs-highland.org, otherwise call Dawn Lawless on 07547 390105 or email highlandkcs@gmail.com.

Learning bus hits the road in Argyll

A TOUR bus which helps parents to educate their children in early years is coming back to Argyll for a third year in November.

The purple PLAY TALK READ bus will be stationed in Oban's George Street on November 18, Lochgilphead's Argyll Street on November 19, Inveraray on November 20 and Dunoon Pier on November 21.

Public consultation opens on new law

A PUBLIC consultation has opened on a new law to make it easier for communities to take over public sector land and buildings, reform the community right to buy and give them greater say in the provision of services.

Under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill, communities will be able to identify and ask for any asset they feel they could make better use of than its current public sector owner.

The decision whether to transfer that asset will be based on which proposed use would provide the greatest benefit to the populace. Also, local authorities will have a duty to provide allotments linked to and triggered by actual demand and to protect permanent allotment sites from closure. Where current allotment provision is not sufficient to satisfy demand, councils will be under a duty to keep waiting lists below specified targets whether by acquiring land or otherwise.

There will be new duties to strengthen community planning, so that public sector agencies work together to deliver better outcomes for areas.

The Bill also proposes widening the existing community right to buy to cover urban and rural areas as part of the Scottish Government's ambition to have one million acres in community ownership by 2020. Councils will get new powers to deal with defective and dangerous buildings and to provide local relief schemes on business rates. Local government and planning minister Derek Mackay said: 'The Bill will help community groups to take over public land and buildings where they think they can make better use of them than their current public sector owners. It will also reform the community right to buy, giving urban communities in Scotland the same rights as rural communities, where it is in the public interest.'

'Happy Medium' hosts psychic night

FORT William 'Happy Medium' Derek MacGillivray is to host a psychic night in aid of the Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide charity.

The organisation exists to meet the needs and break the isolation of those bereaved by the suicide of a close relative or friend.

Tickets for the event in the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William, can be booked with Nicola or Derek on 01397 772247 / 07903292015.

St Andrew's ceilidh and dance

IT MAY be a week early but the Highlands and Islands Society of London is holding its final St Andrew's ceilidh and dance on November 23.

The event will be held at the London Welsh Centre, 157-163 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UE.

Music comes from The Craigeaur Ceilidh Dance Band and there is a welcome return to the society from singer Iain MacKay.

WIN!

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

A Christmas hamper

worth **£500!** Courtesy of Tesco, Oban.

TESCO

The Oban Times is giving readers the chance to win a fantastic Christmas hamper worth a whopping £500!

This could be a helping hand towards your Christmas shopping or a present to yourself for being good this year. Just imagine being able to put even more Christmas presents under the tree for your friends and family to enjoy.

TOKEN TWO

To enter, simply collect five tokens
Token three will be printed next week
Full details on how to send in your tokens in *The Oban Times*, December 5.

Collect token two today

Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. The winner must take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. The competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. The winner must be aged over 18 years and provide proof of age. The winner must collect the prize in person at Tesco, Oban on an agreed date provided by The Oban Times. Digital subscribers can enter by printing the pages and cutting out the tokens and submitting their entry with the supplied entry form (printed Dec 5) accompanied by a letter explaining that you are a digital subscriber.

Woman smashed TV in former partner's home

AN OBAN woman has been fined £350 after smashing a 50-inch television screen in her former partner's home. Janice McCorquodale, of 2a Scalpay Terrace, Oban, pled guilty to the offence as well as smashing a window on the property's front door when she appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Tenants group members sought

ARGYLL Community Housing Association (ACHA) has set up an independent scrutiny panel to let tenants tell them what they want from the social landlord. The organisation is seeking a small group of interested tenants and other service users to come together and scrutinise the services ACHA delivers. While independent of ACHA, it will be supported by the organisation. Alastair MacGregor, chief executive of ACHA, said: 'I hope this new initiative will bring forward feedback and ideas from tenants and others who use our services to assist improvement and development.'

Council ready for winter

ARGYLL and Bute Council says it is ready for winter - with 33 gritters, which can also be used as snowploughs, and a stock of 11,000 tonnes of rock salt. The council's roads spokeswoman Councillor Ellen Morton said: 'There are challenges in keeping our roads clear in Argyll and Bute with its unique geography. However, we will do everything we can to keep our roads network open.'

Easdale concert success

THE KINDNESS of Easdale people has been highlighted after a fundraising concert brought in more than £1,000. When Fiona MacLarty and her husband Robbie organised an Easdale Rocks night at Seil Island Hall on Saturday November 2, they hoped to raise £700 for the Fishermen's Mission but days after the event Fiona was able to send off a cheque for £1,071.54. 'It's fantastic; people were so generous,' she said. The event, with performances by three local bands The Antics, Mudslide and Lush Puppies, was held to celebrate the life of creel fisherman Scot MacAlister, of Luing, who was lost when his boat sank in April this year. The organisers wanted to raise cash for the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen in recognition of the help given to Scot's family. Fiona told *The Oban Times* she was proud to write a cheque on behalf of the Easdale community in Scot's memory and send it to Matthew Ramsay, mission officer for Kintyre, Oban and Mallaig. There is also money for a memorial bench to be built this winter. Mr Ramsay said: 'I'd like to thank everyone on behalf of the mission, and Scot's family, for their kind and generous support. It is a fantastic sum.'

Remembering the fallen in silence

VETERANS joined cadets, members of lifesaving services, children's groups, politicians and the public across the west Highlands on Sunday to remember those who have fallen in conflict. The Oban Remembrance Parade saw a large turnout march from the Corran Halls to the War Memorial on the Esplanade, led by Oban Pipe Band, in time for a two-minute silence at 11am. Reverend Ken Hunter led a short service before wreaths were laid. Ian Blair-Simmonds, parade organiser for the Royal British Legion Scotland, said: 'It is hugely important that events like this carry on, especially with next year's anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War. 'It is good to see more people taking an interest, especially younger people. We're finding that it's not just the First and Second World Wars that people mark now, it's Afghanistan and Iraq. The injuries that are coming out of there are horrendous and we need to raise money to help them. We're not just here to support injured soldiers and veterans, we're here to support their families which is very important as well. 'Every year the parade is getting bigger and better which is lovely.'



The volunteer crew of Oban Royal National Lifeboat Institution pay their respects. 16_146remembrance01



The sacrifice of armed services personnel was marked with a poignant service at Killin War Memorial on Sunday. Pictured from left during the service, which welcomed a strong turnout of Killin residents, are: Alastair Ferguson, Major George Fraser of the Scottish Transport Regiment, Roy MacGregor, WO 11 Robert Skinner of the Scottish Transport Regiment, Willie Dunn, Rev John Lincoln, Judge Angus Stroyan, John Nelapa, Major Denis McBride of the Scottish Transport Regiment, Sergeant Major Jim Easton and Royal Regiment of Scotland Piper, Duncan MacKinnon. Photograph by The Studio, Killin.

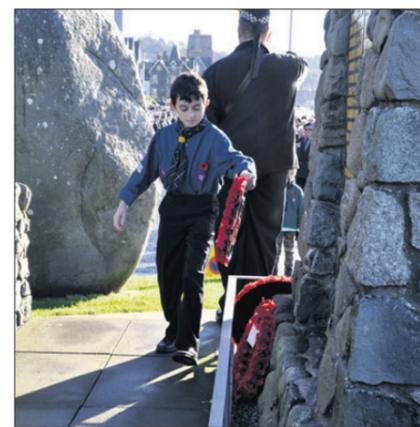


John Maitland and Stuart Carmichael with the newly dedicated plaque in Appin Church. 16_146appin01

A PLAQUE unveiled in Appin Church on Sunday commemorates all those from the parish who fought in World War Two and returned home safely. Only man from the area died during the conflict, Ian Maitland, a flight lieutenant in the volunteer reserve of the Royal Air Force was shot down and killed in Belgium on August 28, 1942. His name takes pride of place on the new plaque. John Maitland, his nephew, unveiled the plaque in Appin Church during the service, led by Reverend Roderick Campbell and attended by more than 180 people. Many of those present were relatives of those named on the plaque and had travelled from as far afield as Glasgow and Ayrshire. Mr Maitland, from Ardgour, said he thought the parish's efforts to remember people from the Second World War was 'tremendous'. He added: 'I can't think of any other parish in Scotland where they have remembered people who served in the war then came home. 'They did their part every bit as much as those who lost their lives. They came home and passed away after serving up to five years in the war. All these wonderful people should be remembered.' Stuart Carmichael, who organised the plaque, said: 'Historically it was very important to do and important to acknowledge all those from our own parish who had served as part of our Remembrance Service.' As part of his research Mr Carmichael visited Ian Maitland's Commonwealth Grave in Belgium and 'even found the grave of the Luftwaffe pilot who shot him down'.



Oban Remembrance Parade saw veterans join cadets and politicians to remember the fallen. 16_146remembrance03



Scout Calum Garvin, Oban, lays his wreath at the War Memorial. 16_146remembrance02

IN LOCHALSH, the area branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland (RBL) held its Armistice Day parade and service. Around 20 members paraded and assembled with the colours at the Lochalsh War Memorial, led by Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band under Niall Stewart. Also on the parade were Kyle cadets, Kyle Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Kyle Fire Brigade, Kyle Ambulance, Red Cross and the 1st Lochalsh Scouts. Parade commander was Captain Lloyd

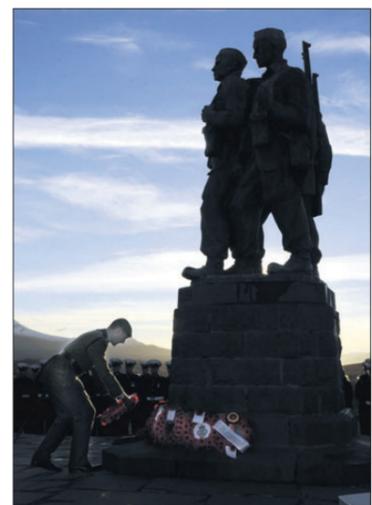
Burt of the cadets and the salute was taken by Captain John Newton, Royal Engineers, son of branch vice-chairman Paul Newton. The colour party was Seamus Maguire, Kenneth Murray and Paul Newton. After the last post and reveille, there followed the two-minute silence. While Niall Stewart played a lament on the pipes, wreaths were laid on behalf of the Royal British Legion Scotland by Captain John Newton; on behalf of the Lochalsh branch of the RBL by Terry

Grant; on behalf of the Royal Navy by Lt Cdr Andy Will; on behalf of the Seaforth Highlanders by Richard Talbot; on behalf of the cadets by Captain Lloyd Burt; on behalf of the Red Cross by Jim Eadie and on behalf of Highland Council by Councillor Audrey Sinclair. Terry Grant narrated the homily. Reverend D MacLeod of Glenelg conducted a short service watched by a large crowd. Wreaths were also laid at the Plockton War Memorial by the branch secretary and at the Glenelg War

Memorial. Following the parade a service was held in Kyle Church of Scotland. A collection was taken in the church for the Earl Haig Fund and raised £262.88. Following the service, soup and sandwiches were served in the church hall. Meanwhile in Portree, the RBL parade made its solemn way from the Skye Gathering Hall to the war memorial in Somerled Square for a short service of remembrance and the two-minute silence at 11am.



At the dying of the day: the poignant scene at the Commando Memorial in Spean Bridge on Sunday.



A Commando officer lays a wreath at the foot of the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge.



Lord Lieutenant Donald Cameron of Lochail takes the salute in Fort William High Street as members of the Commando Veterans Association file past followed by serving Marines and Commandos.



THE EASDALE branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland took part in two Acts of Remembrance on Monday. The first at 9.30am at Balvicar War Memorial, Seil Island, where local girl guides laid a wreath together with Lieutenant Colonel Tim Sinclair, and the service taken by Reverend Dr Kenneth Ross. The Standard Bearer was Donny Reynolds and the names and exhortation were read by Stuart Reid. The second service was at Kilchattan War Memorial, Isle of Luing at 11.30am where Reverend Kenneth Ross also presided. The wreath was laid by Jean Alexander, secretary of RBL Easdale. The exhortation and names were read by John Alexander, chairman RBL, and Standard Bearer was Richard Shuff. The piper at both well-attended services was RBL piper James Robb.

VETERANS of World War Two and more recent conflicts attended Tobermory's official Remembrance Day service in the town's parish church on Sunday November 10, conducted by Reverend Johnny Paton. More than 100 people were present including the Brownies, Guides and members of the fire service and Royal National Lifeboat Institution. During the singing of the opening hymn the colours of the Guide movement and the Union Jack flags were carried into the church before the two-minute silence took place at 11am. Readings were given by guider Jackie Parker and guide Rebecca Woolcock. Following the service the parade to the war memorial was led by Tobermory High School piper Alexander Anderson. Wreaths were laid and Alexander played An Eala Bhan, which was written by



Alexander Anderson leads the parade to the War Memorial.

NOW UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

CORIANDER

indian cuisine

OPEN MONDAY - SUNDAY 5.00PM - 11.00PM

01631 570806

8 SOROKA ROAD, OBAN PA34 4HU

YOU ALSO CAN PLACE AN ORDER OR BOOK A TABLE VIA TEXT ON

07446735236

FREE HOME DELIVERY

2 MILES RADIUS, MINIMUM ORDER £15.00

BYOB

10% discount on all collections over £15

MP hits out at Western Isles Council over road gritting

WESTERN Isles Council has come under fire from Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MP Angus MacNeil over its gritting policy after a spate of accidents last Thursday on icy roads. Mr MacNeil has written to council chief executive Malcolm Burr asking him to look again at the comhairle's 'unsatisfactory' road gritting regime throughout the Western Isles. The MP claims roads were not gritted despite a request from the emergency services and a number of vehicles left the road in various places on Lewis. He said on Friday: 'Thankfully no one was seriously injured after the number of vehicle accidents last night. 'I saw the van that was on its side near Back football ground as I was returning to Back last night and all of us who were held up in traffic could see the road was sparkling from the frost. 'The situation could have been worse,

and I am very concerned to hear that the emergency services on Lewis requested that the roads be gritted earlier last night, but this was not done.' The council said on Friday it would 'not speculate' on what caused one incident involving a bus. A spokesperson said: 'Thankfully there were no serious injuries in last night's incident in which a bus went off the road. However, whilst the comhairle was made aware of concerns about ice, forecasts and actual temperatures were at variance. 'On the specific issue of not gritting, although there was icing there was also rain due which would have meant gritting would have been ineffective. 'Conditions can clearly vary on a local basis and it can be difficult but decisions have to be made on the best information available at the time. As is good practice the comhairle is reviewing the events and actions of last night.'

OBAN STOVE CENTRE

Come in and see us

Sales stock now available

COMPLETE IN HOUSE FITTING SERVICE HETAS

Old Crofters Yard, Soroka Rd, Oban, Argyll, PA344HU
Tel: 01631564790 Fax: 01631562919
info@obanstovecentre.co.uk

Go Digital and Save 50%* every week PLUS RECEIVE A FREE GIFT**

▶ Read The Oban Times as soon as it comes out

▶ Access the newspaper anywhere in the world

▶ Delivered straight to your inbox

Subscribe today!

* offer applies to one year subscriptions minimum ** Terms and conditions apply

Visit www.obantimes.co.uk/digital

SLEAT

BUN SGOIL Shléite (Sleat Primary School) will celebrate its 30th birthday in its new building with a day of partying and events at the nearby Sabhal Mór Ostaig on Saturday.

LISMORE

LISMORE Gaelic Heritage Centre officially closed its doors on November 10 after a very successful season, overshadowed at the end by the death of one of the key founders, Donald Black.

Donald worked over many years to establish the centre and to promote the Gaelic language and culture of Lismore. He will be greatly missed and the centre stands as a fitting memorial to his life's work. Deepest sympathy is extended to Roma and his family for their loss.

LISMORE Lumiere showed Behind the Candelabra, the celebration of the life of Liberate, on October 26 and were to have shown Tu Seras Mon Fils - You Will Be My Son the following night but as a mark of respect to Donald Black's family postponed it. The Scottish Bafta award-nominated film, We Are Northern Lights, a 2013 Scottish documentary created using footage taken by more than 100 members of the public, will be shown on November 17.

THOSE attending the Fairtrade Fashion Show on October 19 at the Heritage Centre started their evening with a glass of Fairtrade wine and a bidding ticket for the silent hat and bag auction.

The event, organised by Anne Livingstone and Beth Campbell and hosted by Pauline Cameron, saw seven island models show off the clothes. The items were either from the One World Fairtrade shop in Glasgow or up-cycled or revamped pre-loved items.

The evening made £171 for Fairtrade Oban and £62.50 for the Heritage Centre, with the teas and coffees being donated by Bookers. Raffle tickets in aid of the children's fund went on sale and will be drawn on December 21.

The Fairtrade models, from left, Catherine Bloy, Tess McMeddes, Barbara McDougall, Mary MacDougall, Josie McMeddes, Ann Saldana and Roxanne Prando.

FOLLOWING her successful exhibition in Gigha Gallery, Lismore artist Gill Bridle, known as Gilly B, has successfully shown her paintings, prints and cards in the library at Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre.

Gilly B is an artist and illustrator who portrays both the serious and quietly hilarious aspects of island life. The exhibition was officially opened and celebrated on Saturday October 5 and finished on November 8.

THERE was a good turnout for the Heritage Centre's celebration of National Poetry Day on 3

October with readings of Gaelic poetry in the library.

Librarian Barbara McDougall also distributed poetry cards and invited readings from them. A second hand book sale ran all week.

LISMORE Bowling Group meets on Monday evenings in the hall and is looking for new members. The new season started on October 14 but anyone is welcome to come along and try their hand at 8pm on Mondays.

COLONSAY

SOME of Scotland's leading authors and poets will again head for Colonsay in April next year for the island's annual book festival.

A stellar line-up has been announced for the two-day event, dubbed a 'literary lock-in', which will take place between April 26 and 27.

The programme stars top Scottish crime writers Christopher Brookmyre and Val McDermid, acclaimed poet Jackie Kay, author and poet Andrew Greig, travel writer Patrick Richardson, and novelist and playwright Lesley Glaister. Dilly Emslie, director of the Colonsay Book Festival, said: 'With another terrific line-up of authors confirmed for the programme, we're already raring to go for next year's Colonsay Book Festival.'

'The event has been a huge success in its first two years, with many audience members now making an annual 'pilgrimage' to Colonsay to take in the festival.'

Conceived and produced entirely by the island's residents, the Colonsay Book Festival has carved its own niche in Scotland's busy book festival calendar since launching in 2012.

Ian Rankin, whose Colonsay Book Festival appearance in 2013 coincided with his birthday, summed up the event's appeal.

He said: 'It is no mystery - take a wonderful island, add

readers and writers, sprinkle the whole with outstandingly good organisation...and a magical festival results.'

Tickets for the 2014 Colonsay Book Festival will go on sale from the festival website in January 2014.

GLEN NEVIS

FRIENDS of Nevis (FoN) are holding their annual end of season clean up in Glen Nevis on Sunday.

Volunteers are invited to meet up at the Ben Nevis Highland Centre (Woolen Mill) at the Glen Nevis roundabout at 10.30am. All are welcome. Refreshments and lunch courtesy of supportive local businesses will be provided. Helpers can come along for the whole day or for just part of it.

Highland Council is providing litter pickers, including child-sized. Co-ordinator Anna Trafford said: 'This event is good fun and you get a real sense of achievement. Although we pull a lot of litter out it is getting less each year.'

Meanwhile, volunteers are needed for some indoor work at a FoN stall at Fort William Rotary Club Christmas Fayre on St Andrew's Day. Set up takes place from 9.30am to 10.30am and the event finishes at 4pm. Anyone can volunteer for a few hours or for the whole day. Contact info@friendsofnevis.co.uk

APPIN

PEOPLE interested in joining Appin Community Council are reminded that Monday is the deadline for nominations.

Following recent nominations for the community council, only four people came forward.

Although the new community council can officially run with four people, Argyll and Bute Council has agreed to allow Appin to submit nominations for a second time, with a closing date of November 18.

Up to eight people in total are required and it is hoped people will nominate themselves.



Benderloch's Mary celebrates 103rd birthday

Ford Spence Court resident Mary Ferguson got a belated 103rd birthday surprise at the Club nan Cairdean last Wednesday at St Modan's Campbell Memorial Hall. The club's oldest member was presented with a cake to celebrate her special day, which was on November 3. 16_146mry01



Gathered in the new kitchen at the church hall are, from left, Club nan Cairdean founders Sandra Munro and Maimie Cattanach, Howden's Oban sales rep Eddie Watling, club volunteer Ann Davidson, retiring Howden's Oban sales rep Eoghan May and club volunteer Ann Johnston. 16_146club01

Club thanks community

A SOCIAL club for the Ardochattan parish has thanked the Oban and Lorn community for its generosity as it begins its third season.

Club nan Cairdean, the friends club, holds fortnightly meetings in St Modan's Campbell Memorial Hall and is now attended by more than 40 people from within the parish.

It has gone from strength to strength in the past few years thanks to donations and volunteer work.

Last Wednesday the club welcomed Eddie Watling and Eoghan May from Howden's Oban to thank the company for donating a new kitchen. Mr Watling is taking over from Mr May, who retired last Friday.

The company was approached by former Club nan Cairdean member Willie Barnett, who organised the new kitchen through Howden's charitable foundation.

On one of his final tasks

ARDCHATTAN

with the company, Mr May said: 'We are keen to support locally-based charities with an emphasis on old or young.'

'It is important to be part of the community that we seek to serve.'

There was another presentation last Wednesday to club member Ann Davidson, who has made table covers for the club. Club nan Cairdean has also been given a new banner to advertise its meetings, courtesy of Diane Shellock and John Grant at Owen Sails.

Club co-founder Maimie Cattanach said: 'The club is growing and growing but we couldn't do it without all the help we have had. We are all very grateful and a special thanks must go to George Hunter and James Ferguson for installing the kitchen.'

TAYNUILT



Goalkeeper turned referee wins award

He is more used to receiving plaudits as a shinty goalkeeper but now Taynuilt's John MacGregor, right, has been recognised for his refereeing ability. John retired from the game having won international honours and a Camanachd Cup with Oban Camanachd. But at the recent Marine Harvest National Shinty Awards he was presented with the award for Emerging Referee of the Year, based on his performances last season. He was presented with his award by Alan Sutherland, Managing Director of Marine Harvest.

Down Your Way

Ardfern and Kilmelford

A PUBLIC hearing to decide whether to grant planning permission for affordable housing in Ardfern will take place on November 26.

The application, by the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland, is for six affordable housing units on the Lower Glebe.

The trustees submitted a new application for two three-bedroom homes and four two-bedroom cottage flats alongside four private housing plots last month.

The re-application came after councillors criticised the original design and described it as 'bland,' 'unimaginative,' and 'lacking open space.'

A spokeswoman for the trustees said they felt 'confident' the plan would now be approved.

The development, in partnership with Fyne Homes, has been recommended for approval by planning officers but will be decided in Craignish Village Hall on November 26. The hearing starts at 10.30am.

KILMELFORD will have a community council - despite only one person stepping forward when nominations were originally closed.

Kilniver and Kilmelford Community Council has eight openings and needs a minimum of four people to be constituted by Argyll and Bute Council.

Chairman Nigel Mitchell confirmed that number would be met as more people had put themselves forward for election in the second round of nominations. He said: 'Hopefully there should be about six or seven members. We can only have eight so it should be all sorted.'

The deadline for nominations is Monday, November 18 and a by-election will be held on December 19.

The next Kilniver and Kilmelford Community Council meeting is at 8pm on December 10 in Kilmelford Village Hall.



David Dimbleby in his boat Rocket.

A NEW BBC series presented by David Dimbleby charts Britain's relationship with the sea - following him on a journey from Craobh Haven to Glasgow.

In the third episode of Britain and the Sea, Mr Dimbleby sets out on his boat Rocket to trace the crucial importance of the sea to both Britain's trade and to individual livelihoods of coastal communities.

He follows the trade routes of the west coast of Scotland, starting at Craobh Haven before heading along the Crinan Canal, around the Isle of Bute and up the Clyde towards Glasgow during the hour-long episode.

THE NEXT coffee morning in Kilmelford Village Hall will be on December 6 at 10.30am. The two-hour event, which will raise funds for the hall as well as the local church, is an opportunity for the community to come together once a month.

A DANCE show inspired by photographs taken by the choreographer almost 10 years ago is visiting Ardfern later this month. More Sky Than We Need, a plan B production, will be performed in Craignish Village Hall on November 23 at 8pm. The show is choreographed by Frank McConnell and designed around his own interpretation of the Highlands of Scotland.

He said: 'Modern technological advances move so swiftly nowadays that we are more likely to think of clouds as somewhere where we store digital information.'

'But not so very long ago (and indeed still current in ancient cultures), clouds were a source of inspiration, a way of communicating with the gods and a guide to understanding the laws of nature. I think in this new

show, the performers are simultaneously moving as clouds, catching thermals and precipitating an intuitive sense of knowledge, allowing the skies above us to guide us through our daily lives, catching us by surprise and revealing hidden coincidences.'

The all-female cast of performers, Chrissie Ardill, Lucy Boyes and Emma Snellgrove, are accompanied by cellist Clea Friend, as well as a specially commissioned sound-scape from Lila Senior. Preceding the performance plan B will screen their 13-minute dance film Away From Here. Set in the west Highlands, it examines the 'fleeting relationship' of people to a sense of place and belonging.

More Sky Than We Need will also be at Mull Theatre on Friday 22 November at 8pm.



AN INFORMAL evening meeting to discuss faith-related questions and issues will take place later this month in the Loch Melfort Hotel.

Faith Time, organised by the Netherlorn Churches, is a six-part series of reflections on the meaning of Christian faith today.

The event on November 21 at 7.30pm sees discussion surrounding the 'pilgrimage to Busan', the journey to the 10th General Assembly of the World Council of Churches being held in Busan, South Korea, this year.

This Sunday's service will take place in Kilniver Church at midday.

CRAIGNISH Primary School is half way through a football programme funded by McDonalds.

The scheme sees youngsters enjoy an hour of football coaching every week for six weeks.

Organised by Argyll and Bute Active Schools, the football sessions aim to encourage youngsters to get active whilst having fun playing football.

The sessions are being led by coach David McAllister of Mid Argyll Sports Centre and Martin Rae, football development officer for Argyll and Bute.

Next week Down Your Way visits Lochawe, Dalmally and Bridge of Orchy with news editor Euan Paterson. Contact Euan on 01631 568000 or email epaterson@obantimes.co.uk



Fort William lad Max Sen tucks into an extra-local burger.

Cow Hill open day success

Families and residents enjoyed burgers at a recent Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) open day in Fort William - just yards from where the Highland cattle they were made from had grazed just weeks before.

The barbecue was part of an FCS drive to raise awareness of what Cow Hill has to offer in terms of recreation and nature.

After a gap of many years, the commission put the shaggy beasts back on the hill as part of a scheme to check rank grasses choking out plants and wildlife. It is hoped bio-diversity will be improved as a result.

Allotment holders from nearby plots leased from the commission also attended the event.

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

bonnie babies competition 2014

£750 of shopping vouchers up for grabs!

in association with **The co-operative membership**

Here for you for life

Child's name.....

Child's date of birth.....

Tel: Subscription No: (if applicable).....

Address:

Name of parent/guardian.....

Signature of parent/guardian.....

I agree to all terms and conditions applied to this competition (please tick)

Please post to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies Entry, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

Terms & conditions: The Oban Times Bonnie Babies competition is open to babies and toddlers born on or after February 1, 2011. Entrants must live in Argyll or West Highlands. You may also enter a child if you are a subscriber living outside this area. Only one entry per child. By entering the competition and by filling in the parental consent form that is provided with your entry, you - the parent or guardian - consent to the reproduction of your child's photograph in The Oban Times Bonnie Babies features in the paper and online and in any other related Oban Times Bonnie Babies promotions. If you do not wish for your child's photo to appear in the newspaper or online then you should not enter the competition. The Oban Times cannot take responsibility for the safe delivery and safe return of the entrant's photograph. Photos posted in without an enclosed stamped addressed envelope will not be returned. Poor quality photographs, which are out of focus, difficult to see the child's face, ripped, torn or folded, will not be accepted as an entry and will be returned to the sender providing a stamped addressed envelope is supplied by the entrant. By sending us your photograph, you agree that Wyvex Media Ltd and The Oban Times have the right to publish the images and details of the entrant without payment for the purpose of promoting The Oban Times Bonnie Babies campaign(s). The winner must take part in publicity. Employees of Wyvex Media Ltd and their immediate family are not eligible to enter.

The Oban Times Bonnie Babies competition is back for 2014. Enter your little bundle of joy today for your chance to win a whopping £500 worth of vouchers to spend at The Co-operative! Plus, this year we will have £150 of vouchers for a second place winner and £100 of vouchers for third place. Just think how handy that would be after Christmas and New Year.

The Co-operative Group is the UK's largest mutual business, owned by nearly eight million members. It is the UK's fifth biggest food retailer operating across the country with almost 2,800 local, convenience and medium-sized stores, and is also one of Britain's leading farming operations. Further information is available at www.co-operative.coop

HOW THE COMPETITION WORKS

The competition will take place in weekly rounds where readers are asked to vote for that week's bonniest baby. For example, if your child is in week one and gets the most votes out of all the entries in that issue they will be entered into the grand finale. The baby who has the most votes from the grand finale, which will be held early next year, will be crowned the Bonniest Baby of 2014. It doesn't matter which round your baby appears in, you can keep voting every week from the date your child appears until the voting deadline, which we will announce in a future issue. Voting for your wee one every week after they appear gives them the best chance to be crowned their week's bonniest. We won't count the votes to decide who goes into the grand finale until the voting deadline has been reached. Readers will be able to vote by text or by coupon, details of which will be printed when the weekly rounds begin.

HOW TO ENTER

We are now open for entries! The Oban Times Bonnie Babies 2014 is open to babies and toddlers born on or after February 1, 2011. Entrants must live in Argyll or West Highlands. You may also enter a child if you are a subscriber living outside this area. You can enter your child by posting us a photograph along with a signed entry coupon, see left, to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies Entry, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Please make sure you write the name of the child, date of birth and a contact telephone number on the back of the photo. Should you wish your photo to be returned, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. We will do our very best to return your photo but please make a copy just in case. You can also enter online by visiting www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies.

After you have entered your child, keep an eye on The Oban Times every week to see when your baby appears. The closing date for entries will be announced in a future issue. For rules and terms and conditions, visit www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies or call 01631 568000.

Good luck!

Panto rehearsals under way

REHEARSALS are well underway for Cinderella - this year's Christmas panto at Ballachulish. Written and directed by local man Nairn MacArthur, the show will have Aileen Green in the starring role and old favourites Tam McClymont and Drew MacFarlane-Slack as the very ugly sisters. Nairn himself will play 'Velcro' - a modern day Buttons - while Sheena Coull will be Bonnie Prince Charming. Nairn told *The Oban Times*: 'We have some great songs, a couple of surprises for the kids and as usual some local humour. Rehearsals are a shambles at the moment - which is a good sign!' Tickets will go on sale soon at the village tourist information centre and Co-op. Three 7.30pm performances are scheduled over December 19-21, with a 2pm matinee on the Saturday.

But chairman Mel MacAskill pointed out the inquiry had specifically mentioned the public counter - and had made no reference to the station itself closing. He said: 'He knew what we were talking about - it was about public access. They are not closing the station - it's just that there will be nobody there when you chap the door.'

Police concerns continue

BALLACHULISH Community Council has expressed disappointment at a Police Scotland response to concerns about the proposed closure of public counter services at Glencoe Police Station. In a letter to the BCC, Highlands and Islands Division Superintendent John Chisholm said: 'Contrary to what may have been reported, there is no intention to close the

police station in Glencoe.' But chairman Mel MacAskill pointed out the inquiry had specifically mentioned the public counter - and had made no reference to the station itself closing. He said: 'He knew what we were talking about - it was about public access. They are not closing the station - it's just that there will be nobody there when you chap the door.'

Paicr Estate public meeting

A PUBLIC meeting about the handover of the Paicr Estate on Lewis into community ownership will be held next Thursday. Paicr Trust board of directors will present handover terms to locals, who will have the chance

to discuss the deal before deciding whether or not to accept. Angus McDowall of the trust said: 'Please make every effort to attend and express your view on this issue.' The meeting will be held in Paicr School in Gravir from 7.30pm.

Pat lights up fundraiser with surprise proposal

A CHARITY fundraiser on Saturday turned into a night to remember for one Fort William woman - when her partner popped the question.

Pat McElhinney, group manager for the local fire service, arranged for the swimming pool area of the Ben Nevis Hotel to be decked out with flowers, candles and mood lighting. She then slipped Sandra Macdonald out of a charity ball in the hotel he helped organise and into the romantic scene where he surprised her with the proposal - and got the 'yes' he was hoping for. Pat said: 'She has made me the happiest man alive. It took me a long time to find such a beautiful woman and lady, I'm a lucky man.'



The happy couple: Pat McElhinney and his new fiancée Sandra Macdonald.

The ball, meanwhile, raised around £900 which will be split between two charities, The Scottish Burned Children's Club and Help For Heroes. Local band The Shine performed on the night with Protrax taking over for a disco into the early hours. Inverlochy Castle Hotel, Letterfinlay Lodge Hotel, The Alexandra Hotel and The Ben Nevis Hotel all donated prizes for a raffle, while the Card Factory provided table balloons. For more fundraising firefighters see page 4.



Going out with a bang: Ballachulish Community Council chairman Mel MacAskill.

Mel goes out with a bang after 20 years

BALLACHULISH Community Council (BCC) is looking for a new chairperson after long-time incumbent Mel MacAskill resigned from the organisation after over two decades of service.

Ms Whyte said: 'Unfortunately I am no longer able to longer able to give the community the time and commitment necessary because of family and work commitments.'

And Mr MacAskill went out with a bang at his last job - looking after health and safety at the annual fireworks display and bonfire in the former slate quarry on Saturday night. Earlier in the week, Mel read out his resignation statement to BCC members ahead of chairing his final session in the shinty clubhouse. He said: 'I have chosen

'I am sure everyone would agree that I have done my share and I leave the council in good financial health.' He added: 'That's it finished after the bonfire [on Saturday]. I wrote the health and safety stuff for the bonfire so it would not be fair to walk away from it if something happened.'

Secretary Irish Whyte also quit the group after six years in post. In her resignation letter, she said: 'I have chosen

Police chiefs in dock over local cops

POLICE Scotland has been challenged over its service to rural parts of the West Highlands amid claims that officer numbers on the ground do not match up with official figures.

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



Councillor Andrew Baxter: concern over rural policing.

Last month, Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Andrew Baxter fired off 18 questions about local bobbies in Lochaber villages being transferred to centralised units and not replaced. This week, Councillor Baxter received a draft, as yet unsigned, response from North Division Police Commander Chief Superintendent Julian Innes seeking to address his concerns. Key points in the reply include a commitment 'at this time' to restore Mallaig's officer complement to three and confirmation that 'five officers' were working out of Glencoe Police Station.

At Strontian, where currently the station is effectively being staffed from Fort William, 'one officer is presently on long term sick leave and the other has recently transferred to Inverness'.

reassigned to the units, while a Trunk Road Policing Unit at Fort William would 'eventually see an additional sergeant and nine constables' at the base - the only new such team being created. It adds: 'Once this transitional phase settles down, staffing levels will be reviewed in all areas of Scotland.'

Councillor Baxter told *The Oban Times* he still disputed that five officers were working out of Glencoe. He said: 'I am being told that is not true. On paper there may be five assigned there, but two of them are working out of Fort William. It is the complete opposite of what we were told at Ballachulish

Community Council last week, when I asked the police officer twice if the complement at Glencoe had dropped from five to three and he confirmed that.' 'Welcoming the commitment to staff Strontian, Councillor Baxter pointed out the difficulties being created by no police presence in the village. He said: 'We had the situation at Morvern Community Council last week where the sergeant from Mallaig came all the way down to the meeting.' He added: 'We are going to get a road policing unit in Fort William and that will make a huge difference in terms of shortening the time taken to deal with road traffic accidents - but that should not be at the expense of moving officers out of rural areas and not replacing them. I understand officers assigned to these units are front line but they are not community-based and their posts are not being back-filled. I know that a lot of officers out there on the ground are extremely demoralised at the moment, possibly because this is such a massive change. If there is a problem I would ask that they simply listen. People should understand that a bit more, because we are being told one thing by senior officers and quite another at a local level.' He added: 'Things have still not settled down but I hope by this time next year we will have a clearer picture. But it is the role of people like me to ask the questions that concern local people.'

Weather blows first sailing off course

THE FIRST sailing of the new pilot ferry between Lochboisdale and Mallaig was cancelled on Tuesday due to adverse weather. The ferry was due to leave

Lochboisdale at 6am but winds of up to 40 knots kept the ferry in South Uist. The next service will run on Saturday morning, weather permitting.

NEWSDESKS
01631 568000
01397 703003

Scottish Field The Ideal Christmas Gift

SUBSCRIBE TO Scottish Field AND RECEIVE

A FREE GILLIAN KYLE TUNNOCK'S CARAMEL WAFER APRON WORTH £24.30*

Only £9.99 per quarter

Call subscriptions on 01631 568 000
Quote SF012

Gillian Kyle creates beautiful, high quality gifts, accessories and things for your home that proudly celebrate all that makes Scotland Scottish! All produced by skilled craftspeople and small businesses throughout Scotland & the UK. Our organic cotton 'Caramel Wafer Wrapper' apron is a colourful salute to the iconic foil wrapper of the world famous Scottish biscuit. Tunnock's describe it as the "national treat" and we couldn't agree more!

To see our whole range and find out more please join us at www.gilliankyle.com

Please note: Gift is sent to the person paying for the order

Terms & Conditions: Cancellation charges apply and no refunds can be given. For UK based customers only. This offer is open to new subscribers only and does not apply to those renewing their subscription. Minimum subscription for one year only - cancellations are not possible during this period. Whilst stocks last. By purchasing this subscription offer you agree for Wyvex Media Ltd to share your details with Gillian Kyle and for them to contact you. For more information and worldwide subscriptions visit: www.scottishfield.co.uk *Price includes post & packing

BOOK WEEK SCOTLAND

To celebrate Book Week Scotland 2013, Argyll and Bute Council Library Service are pleased to welcome the following authors:

<p>Paraig MacNeil Location: Campbeltown Library Date: Monday 25th November Time: 7.00pm Tel: 01586 555435</p> <p>Douglas Jackson Location: Helensburgh Library Date: Tuesday 26th November Time: 7.00pm Tel: 01436 658833</p> <p>Bernard MacLavery Location: Rothesay Library Date: Wednesday 27th November Time: 7.00pm Tel: 01700 503266</p>	<p>Frank Muir Location: Oban Library Date: Thursday 28th November Time: 7.00pm Tel: 01631 571444</p> <p>Karen Campbell Location: Dunoon Library Date: Friday 29th November Time: 7.00pm Tel: 01369 708682</p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

To avoid disappointment please contact the relevant branch library for bookings. Tickets are free and refreshments will be provided. www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

poppies garden centre

♥ LADIES NIGHT ♥
21st November 6.30-9pm

FESTIVE OPENING HOURS

Christmas Eve - 10am-4pm
Closed 25th & 26th
Open 27th - 30th 10am-5pm
31st 10am-3.30pm
Closed 1st January
Open as usual from 2nd January

FREE PRIZE DRAW

For your chance to win a Poppies Christmas Hamper, simply fill in your details below and drop in before 21/11/13 to Poppies Garden Centre

Name: _____
Address: _____
Tel: _____
Email: _____

Please tick if you do not wish to receive promotional emails

The ideal gift for Christmas 2014 Calendars

<p>Oban Times West Highland</p> <p>£7.50</p>	<p>Arran Banner Isle of Arran</p> <p>£7.50</p>
<p>Scottish Field Large</p> <p>£10.95</p>	<p>Scottish Field Miniature</p> <p>£7.50</p>

to order visit www.scottishcalendars.co.uk or call 01371 851 868

Alan Reid MP
Constituency Tour
Meet your local MP

Alan Reid MP will be in your area for his Constituency Tour on the following date:-

Saturday 23 November 2013

Islay - 9.45am-10.45am (Bowmore Hall)
Jura - 12noon - 1.00pm (Jura Servicepoint)

For an appointment please call 01369 704840

Follow us on **facebook**

www.facebook.com/obantimes

Material Girls make beautiful brides.

Beaded lace, silks, satins, brocades, tulle, veiling and ribbons...
We are gathered here to bring you the materials and advice to help you make your day. And at well groomed prices. Get it all together today at Mandors.



Fleming House,
134 Renfrew Street,
Glasgow G3 6ST.
Tel: 0141 330 7716/4221

131 Claremont Street,
Edinburgh EH7 4JA.
Tel: 0131 558 3888

www.mandors.co.uk
Open 7 days



Me Myself & I
Beauty & Massage Studio

01631 358 016
Bridal Beauty Package

On the upcoming weeks to your wedding, the package includes

- Full Body Massage • Eyebrow Wax
- Facial with Eye Contour Treatment
- Gel Manicure • Gel Pedicure
- Full Body Spray Tan
- Bridal Make-up • Bespoke Packages

Total treatment time: approx. 3 hours.
4 George Street, Oban

Offering various massage and beauty treatments, we are your one stop beauty shop for all your needs with a 100% satisfaction guarantee

Funky Chicken

QUALITY KIDS ENTERTAINMENT
KEEP THE KIDS ENTERTAINED DURING THE SPEECHES AND MEAL

- Circus Skills
- Face Painting
- Balloon Modelling and so much more

Parties, Weddings, Festivals & Special Events

Lori Silvan, Caladh-na-Sith,
Balinakill, Clachan, Argyll PA29 6XL
Tel: 01880 740 680
Email funkychickenfun@yahoo.co.uk

Debbie McCuish
Wedding Photography



www.debbiemccuish.com
contact@debbiemccuish.com
07762464105

I am a professionally qualified photographer and extremely passionate about my work which provides couples with the best possible memories of their special day. The style of photography I prefer is reportage, a story of the day from beginning to end. Further information can be found at: www.debbiemccuish.com

Cairnbaan Hotel
On the Crinan Canal



Cairnbaan is the perfect wedding venue situated along side the beautiful Crinan canal, we have a large ballroom able to accommodate 150 guests, 12 lovely bedrooms and the experience of hosting hundreds of special days. For a wedding pack just call or better still pop in and we will show you around. Call 01546 603668

www.cairnbaan.com
AA Cairnbaan Hotel,
Loch 5 Crinan canal, Lochgilphead

Linda's Catering

Catering for Weddings, Parties, Dinner Parties, Funerals and any other Occasions.

Big or small parties can be catered for. Glass hire available.

Please contact Linda

Tel: 01681 700 372

WINTER WEDDINGS

WINTER weddings are becoming increasingly popular - and for a whole host of good reasons.

Arranging the biggest day of your life during the traditional 'off season' has several benefits, not least of which is the significant savings you can make when it comes to finding that perfect venue.

But more than that, tying the knot under the early sunset of a west-coast winter can be one of the most romantic ways of committing yourself to your significant other - and make for some memorable pictures for the wedding album.

Before you get carried away with which honeymoon destination will take you away from the chillier Scottish weather, you'll first have to decide on what venues will be housing your marriage ceremony.

Booking early will save an anguished cry later, so scout around and find the perfect spot for you. Bearing in mind the west coast's potential to fill gutters with ice as much as rain during the winter, be sure to take account of transportation and heating in the venue for both the ceremony and the reception.

Make sure too the venue is appropriate to the number of people you'll be inviting; there's no point booking the Albert Hall if you just want close family and friends joining your celebrations. Likewise, a cosy wee church on a remote island won't be perfect if you're expecting hundreds of guests.

Once booked, you'll find things can snowball so draw up a staged plan so nothing is left to the last minute. Top of the list, next to starting to think about who will be invited, is colour scheme for the wedding. Winter is perfect for warming, festive colours and, while not going so far to stretch into a Christmas theme, white, red, silver and gold are all ideal to match the season to the occasion.

Once decided, you can progress on to picking the wedding dress - arguably the biggest purchase of the wedding and one you cannot let slide into the 'leave until later' category. Yes, a lot can change between picking the dress and the wedding itself, but starting to look now will save a headache later. When you see the right one, you'll know.

Bridesmaids dresses will match your theme but your maid of honour can help you here. Not only can she give an insightful second opinion on the dresses, but she can model them for you so you can get an idea of how the whole scheme will look.

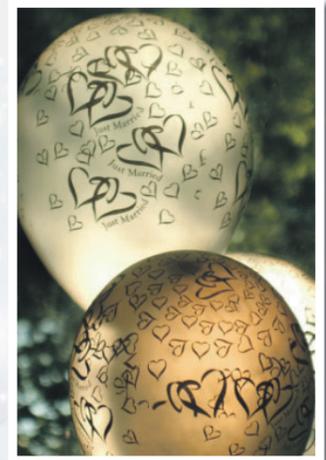
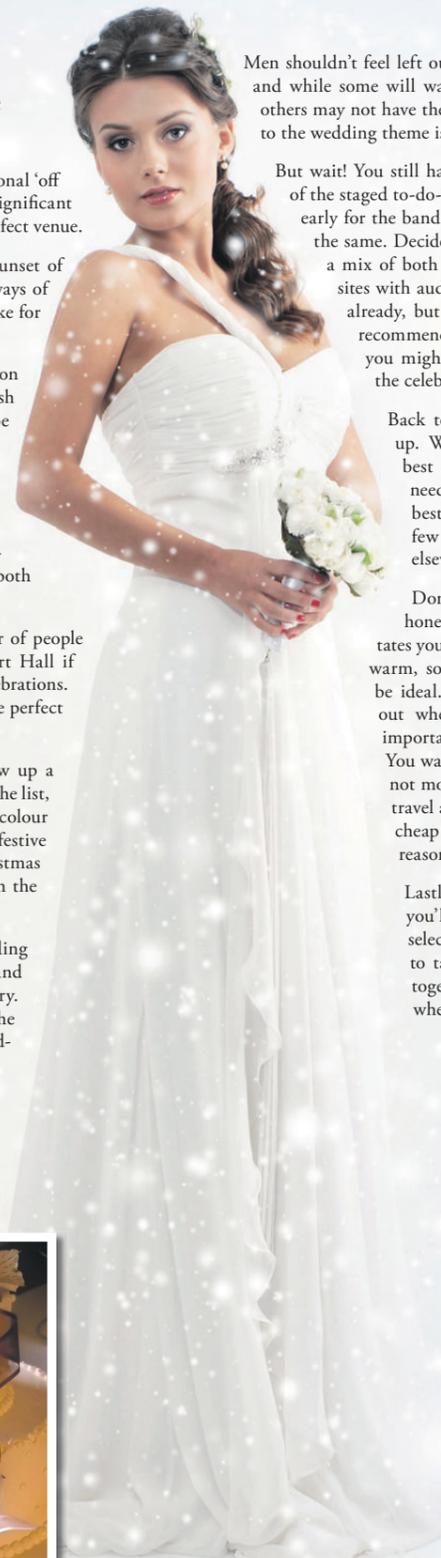
Men shouldn't feel left out - kilts and jackets are just as important and while some will want to stick with traditional family dress, others may not have the choice and the opportunity to tailor kilts to the wedding theme is there.

But wait! You still have the music to sort out. The importance of the staged-to-do-list cannot be underestimated. Again, look early for the band you want as others will always look to do the same. Decide if you want a ceilidh or a disco - or even a mix of both - and book now. Many bands have websites with audio clips if you aren't familiar with anyone already, but ask around friends and family who they recommend, you might just stumble across someone you might not find otherwise who could really get the celebrations thriving.

Back to the list, and other things start to crop up. Wine for the venue, favours, gifts for the best man and bridesmaids and, meals will all need decided on too. Badger suppliers for the best price as every penny counts. Saving a few pennies on each can mean extra pounds elsewhere.

Don't underestimate the importance of the honeymoon either - a winter wedding necessitates your first holiday as Mr and Mrs is somewhere warm, so a jaunt to the south equator might just be ideal. Speak to your local travel agent to find out where's warm, where's available and, most important, where the most stunning locations are. You want your honeymoon to be as memorable, if not more so, than your wedding so speaking to a travel agent is absolutely vital. The internet offers cheap deals but more often than not that's for a reason.

Lastly, don't forget to enjoy the occasion. Yes, you'll have speeches to prepare and rings to select and all the rest of the things you need to take into account, but when it's all pulled together, you'll be grinning from ear to ear when the big day comes.



The Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban

The perfect wedding venue!



- * Full Catering Service
 - * Seat 250 guests
 - * Dance 400 guests
 - * Full bar facilities with draft beer
 - * Wedding Hall hire
 - * Wedding Dance hire
- All prices on request

For full details contact Amanda

e: enquiries@argyllshiregathering.com or tel: 01631 569407

Lorrissa's Sweets n Treats

Let us make your day special.
We can cater for Weddings, Christenings, Birthday Parties, Corporate events, or any other celebration.
No event or gathering is too small.



Telephone: 07685 975750 Email: sweetsbylorrissa@gmail.com www.sweetsbylorrissa.co.uk



OBAN FLOWER HOUSE
Qualified freelance designer florist specialising in weddings

Distance no object

07436 072912

01631 564663 (eve)

angela@obanflowerhouse.co.uk

www.obanflowerhouse.co.uk

New date set for drink drive trial

THE TRIAL of a Glenfinnan fish farm worker accused of being drunk behind the wheel of his stationary car after a night out has been put back to December 4.

Pawel Fronczek, 33, of Drimsallie Mill, denies being in charge of a vehicle at the Moorings Hotel in Banavie on April 21 while twice over the legal drink-drive limit.

The trial had been due to go ahead at Fort William Sheriff Court last week.

But Fronczek's defence lawyer Hamish Melrose asked for more time so Mr Fronczek's wife could appear as a witness to 'substantiate his side of the case'. He said: 'It would boost his chances of success.'

Sheriff Noel McPartlin agreed to the adjournment and the new date was set.

Informal SNH reception

THE POLOCHAR Inn in South Uist will be the venue for an informal evening reception by Scottish Natural Heritage on Monday from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

Local people are being invited to the event, which SNH chairman Andrew Thin will host along with David MacLennan, unit manager for Argyll and the Outer Hebrides, and Johanne Ferguson, operations manager. Mr Thin said the evening would give people the opportunity to have an informal discussion with senior staff about the work of SNH in the area.

Donation appeal

BEAVERS and Cubs group 6th Lochaber (The Braes) has booked a table at the Rotary Club of Lochaber Christmas Fair in the Nevis Centre on St Andrew's Day.

The group is requesting donations of anything suitable for sale on the table and some uniformed Beavers, Cubs and parents to do help out on the day. Spokesperson Sean Sessions said: 'This sort of thing does our group a tremendous amount of good and enhances our reputation as an active group.'

Written guarantee sought on village recycling point

BALLACHULISH Community Council (BCC) is to seek written guarantees over a recycling point for the village.

Highland Council is selling its former roads depot at West Quarry and is retaining part of the ground for its own use.

Verbal pledges on siting recycling containers at the site have been received but so far, according to BCC chairman Mel MacAskill, there is still 'no documentation' about providing the land. 'We need to make sure we get it in writing that they are going to open up a recycling unit.' Councillor Andrew Baxter said: 'I will ask when they can confirm the plan for a recycling point and exactly when it is going to happen.'

Shinty manager stands down

BALLACHULISH Shinty Club manager Craig Munro has stood down from his position with immediate effect.

Munro said he was quitting after one season in charge due to increased work commitments.

A club spokesperson said: 'We would like to offer our thanks to Craig and extend our best wishes to him for the future.'

Ballachulish won the Sutherland Cup, the Bullough Cup and promotion to south division one last season.

Nominate a baton bearer

VOLUNTEERS from across the Highlands are being sought to carry a baton as part of celebrations to mark the start of next year's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

The Queen's Baton Relay will be making its way through 15 towns across the region on Friday July 11, and organisers want around 100 local people to be nominated by their communities. Nominations close on November 22 and can be entered at www.glasgow2014.com



John Grieve: the break-ins will not prevent regular mountain rescue operations in Glencoe. 20_f46rescue01

Rescue team rocked by thefts - but work goes on

THE LEADER of Glencoe Mountain Rescue has said thieves who broke into their base and stole thousands of pounds of equipment will not disrupt any imminent rescue operations.

The team was left shocked after their headquarters in the old Glencoe Hospital was targeted by crooks on successive nights last week with equipment valued at £11,500 in total being stolen - including radios, lifejackets and a quad bike.

But John Grieve said the response from locals, supporters and team members had ensured they would still be able to carry out their regular duties until the items were properly replaced.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It's one of these things that really annoy people, stealing from a

life-saving charity, and people are pretty keen to help us.

'We've had a very encouraging response from climbing groups and walking groups already and we've got a lot of donations coming in.'

'The first reaction was one of absolute annoyance. But after the second break-in the immediate reaction was what are we going to do so we're covered for anything that happens in the short term.'

'A couple of people in the team have quad bikes of their own which we can use, and I think we can cover just about everything else in the short term.'

The Glencoe team is one of

the busiest in the country and has been involved in several high-profile incidents this year, including an avalanche which killed four people in January.

Mr Grieve said the plan was now to increase security around their equipment by creating a new storage house - at a cost of around £50,000.

He said: 'That much money can't come out of our normal operating budget, so we're going to have to look for donations.'

'We've set up a sub-committee to decide where we're going to site it, if we put on an extension or a create a new building. Then we'll appoint an architect and go through planning.'

'We hope we'll have it up and running by spring or early summer.'



Renewing the bond: CVA national secretary Joe Murtagh presents, from left, Glen Falconer, Sarah Johnson and Ruairidh Shaw with their Vic Ralph Memorial Trophy certificates. 20_146ban01

School concert hits the high notes for commando veterans

THE ANNUAL bond between Lochaber High School and the Commando Veterans Association (CVA) was renewed at a concert at Duncansburgh Macintosh Church in Fort William on Friday.

Lochaber High School Senior Wind Band and Lochaber Schools Pipe Band delivered a wonderful medley of tunes to the audience of around 80 before signing off with a rousing joint rendition of Highland Cathedral.

Joe Murtagh, the national secretary of the CVA, presented certificates and the Vic Ralph Memorial Shield to the bands' young musicians of the year following the performance.

Joint winners from the wind

band were 17-year-old Glen Falconer and Sarah Johnson, aged 16. The pipe band winner was Ruairidh Shaw, aged 13.

Mr Murtagh said: 'The concert was fabulous. The young people were incredibly varied and versatile, playing everything from Highland music to Holst.'

Lochaber High School had teacher Jim Sutherland said: 'We are very proud and honoured to have this relationship with the Commando Veterans' Association.'

'We are always pleased to welcome them to the town. I was very proud of the young people's performance today.'

Conductor was Mark Reynolds, the brass instructor at Lochaber High School.

Hundreds mark 40 years of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

HUNDREDS of friends past and present of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig gathered to celebrate 40 years of Scotland's Gaelic College at the Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Ball and gala dinner in Glasgow's Grosvenor Hotel on Friday.

Guests recalled the college's remarkable journey from humble origins in a former farm steading to becoming the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture.

Comper for the night was BBC ALBA and BBC Scotland's Kirsteen Macdonald, while music came from the Joy Dunlop Band, Scottish fiddle champion Maggie Adamson and the John Carmichael Dance Band.

Guest of honour, Education

Secretary Michael Russell MSP, praised decades of work by the Gaelic community to almost halt the decline in the number of Gaelic speakers in recent years.

That hopeful trend was matched by growing numbers of pupils in Gaelic medium education, he said, leading to new Gaelic schools opening in Fort William, Portree, Glasgow and elsewhere.

Speaking afterwards, Mr Russell congratulated the college, its staff and students on 40 years of growth and success and wished it many more. He said: 'This was a night to celebrate. In 1973, Sir Iain Noble and his original trustees set down a vision for a Gaelic college in Skye. Many have shared that

vision since then and all should be commended. Forty years later we can all see the benefits and successful results of that hope, commitment and hard work.'

'For me, it is an honour to have had close links with the College over many years and now to be asked to be guest speaker at such an important celebration.'

He added: 'Sabhal Mòr Ostaig is a remarkable achievement and we all look forward to many more achievements at the college.' Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's principal, Professor Boyd Robertson, said many present had close personal or professional ties with Sabhal Mòr over the past 40 years, representing agencies, companies and institutions that are engaged

New bus link scheme welcomed

TWO REMOTE Lochalsh communities are to get better connected with Citylink coaches running between Skye and Glasgow.

Under a 12-month pilot, Glenelg and Arnisdale residents will take private cars or taxis 18 miles over the single-track Mam Ratagan road to the bus stop at Shiel Bridge on the A87.

Highland Council's TEC services committee has pledged £3,000 to the initiative, which was developed from a research project by Robert Gordon University under Professor David Gray.

Local voluntary community body the Bus Users Group (BUG) will run the scheme after successful trials of their own service, set up in September 30.

The group decided action was needed after the Citylink bus connection was withdrawn in April. Chairperson, Glenelg pensioner Betty Ralston, told *The Oban Times*: 'It is very positive. We hope this will not just be for OAPs. Now we have to prove to the council this is going to work.'

If successful, the service may be extended to other remote rural communities.

Local councillor Biz Campbell said: 'I'm delighted this pilot is proceeding. I have been supportive of the novel initiative throughout its development and hope it will develop into a meaningful sustainable transport system.'



Michael Russell MSP and his wife Kathleen with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig staff, members from the board of directors and development trust.



Kilmallie club winners honoured at annual dinner and prizegiving

Kilmallie Shinty Club celebrated a title-winning season with their annual dinner and prizegiving in Caol Community Centre on Saturday night. Left to right, second team player of the year Donald MacIntyre, Under 17 player of the year Alexander MacIsaac, club president Hugh MacIntyre presenting Liam MacDonald with the Robert Hood Shield for first team player of the year, Under 14 most improved player Dean Jeffries and Under 14 player of the year Kyle Michie. Missing from the photo is Under 17 most improved player Finlay Ireland.

Forum turns spotlight on rail partnerships

LOCHABER Transport Forum will hear a presentation on community rail partnerships (CRPs) at its quarterly meeting in Fort William on Tuesday.

James Wilkin, development worker for Scotland North, will highlight benefits the scheme will bring to communities on rail routes.

The meeting comes as the Scottish Government encourages communities to register their area as a CRP and gain support from the Association of Community Rail Partnerships. Speaking ahead of the meeting in the Council Chambers, transport forum chair Councillor Brian Murphy said: 'If you have a complaint about public transport such as buses not arriving on time, problems with unhelpful drivers, problems accessing some forms of transport, especially if you are elderly or disabled, or if you have complaints about difficulties in trying to book the sleeper, lack of heating or inadequate toilet facilities on the trains then we want to hear from you. We need to know dates, times, location and the service you are experiencing problems with. You can make your complaint to transportforum@carlochaber.org or 01463 702660. Please help us to help you.'

Moves continue to relocate war memorial

MOVES are continuing to relocate the war memorial near Ballachulish to a safer location in the village.

The memorial, together with a stone commemorating Queen Victoria's jubilee, currently stand on an exposed site next to the busy A82.

Ballachulish Community Council wants both monuments shifted to the garden on land owned by the army next to the hall.

Members agreed at their meeting last week that the present hillside site near St John's Church is too dangerous, has no car parking and is suffering from erosion.

Negotiations are ongoing with the army to help with the plan.

New demand for Corpach road crossing

NEW DEMANDS for a pedestrian crossing across the A830 in Corpach have been made amid fears that current arrangements are an accident waiting to happen.

Currently pedestrians only have traffic islands in the middle of the carriageway for protection - a situation Kilmallie Community Council (KCC) has warned is potentially dangerous.

Now local councillor Allan Henderson has backed calls by KCC that a crossing is essential on safety grounds.

In a letter to Bob Mitchell of Transport Scotland, Councillor Henderson said there was 'a clear desire in the community' for the safety measure.

He said: 'The traffic island refuges in the middle of the road are no longer fit for purpose, or safe, due to the amount of heavy traffic passing through the village, either to the Annat Industrial Estate, or beyond to the busy ferry port of Mallaig.'

'Transport Scotland already allude to the dangers of road crossing by making this a 30

mph zone and at the school 20mph during opening and closing.

'It is clear that a crossing similar to the crossing points at Lochaber High School, Lochybridge and Fort William leisure centre is required.'

'This combined with extra protective railings to guide pedestrians to the crossing will guarantee greater safety to both pedestrians and the travelling public.'

Transport Scotland had not provided a comment at the time of going to press.

INDEPEN-DANCE 4
A fresh, young inclusive dance quartet creating inspirational and challenging dance!
"a highly enjoyable and watchable evening of dance and performance.. both theatrical and touching."
Aberdeen Press and Journal
FRIDAY 22 NOVEMBER
APPIN VILLAGE HALL (near Oban)
7:30pm | £6/£4 | 01631 720498 | bookings@comar.co.uk

We Buy Whiskycasks.com
Looking to sell your cask of whisky?
E-mail info@webuywhiskycasks.com
www.webuywhiskycasks.com

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Let's get connected

OBAN Airport could soon be included in flights between the Western Isles and Glasgow, with the Connel-based airfield finally being considered as a key component in the west coast network.

We will also soon have double the number of train services between the Little Bay and the country's largest city.

The Internet is supposed to have made the world smaller - make us better connected - yet public transport has often fallen short when it comes to linking the west Highlands and islands with the rest of the country.

No high-speed Broadband or 4G mobile phone technology - should it ever arrive north of Loch Lomond - will enable us easier access to Glasgow and beyond.

And despite the best efforts of the Scottish Government thus far, the trunk roads serving these links are assuming third world status.

For these reasons, public transport provision, while costly, must remain a priority for the area's politicians.

Perhaps there is also an onus on the Highland population to take advantage of services when they are offered.

A lot of good work has gone into securing rail and air services but this will become pie in the sky if not used.

GLASGOW LETTER

Anniversary celebrations

THE GLASGOW Uist and Barra Association may have replaced the more formal ceilidhs from its syllabus with less formal ceilidh dances but it is about to celebrate its 125th anniversary with a star-studded evening in Partick Burgh Hall on Friday November 22.

Seonag Monk will chair the concert which will feature pipers Yvonne McHugh, Catriona MacNeil and Alison Buchanan. They will be joined on the bill by singers Mary MacLean, Archie MacLean, Cathy Ann MacPhee, Sineag MacIntyre, Maggie MacInnes, Linda MacLeod and Margaret and Donnie MacLeod.

Add in piper Fred Morrison and the Barramack Dance School and you will appreciate this is a concert not to be missed. Tickets are priced £12 and can be purchased at the door or from Mary Bell MacDonalld, telephone 0141 882 7832. The concert starts at 7.30pm.

Clydebank ceilidh

DESPITE inclement weather, many stalwart supporters of Clydebank and District Highlander's Association made their way to the Napier Hall in Old Kilpatrick for the November ceilidh.

They were well entertained by this year's Silver Pendant winner Ainslie Hamill, Duncan MacDonald, Frank McCamley and Mary C MacLean who all sang well. Fiddle selections were played by John MacMillan and resident piper Robert Wood opened both halves of the programme.

Kirsteen Grant was the accompanist and it was my privilege to try and ensure the entertainment proceeded smoothly.

Breabach

AS THEY continue their UK tour, which follows on from the release of their new CD, *Urlar*, Breabach will play the Tolbooth, Stirling, on Friday November 15 at 8pm.

Other local dates are Birnam Arts Centre, Dunkeld, November 14; Tayvallich Village Hall, November 16; and Eastgate Arts Centre, Peebles, November 21.

Reminder

A REMINDER that the annual concert of the Tirie Association will take place this evening (Thursday) in Partick Burgh Hall at 7.30pm with Johan Lamont in the chair.

Singers will be Joy Dunlop, Norman MacKinnon and Robert Robertson and they will be joined by accordionist Eilidh McFadyen, the Dunmore Ceilidh Band and pipers Donald and John Campbell.

Skipinnish will play at the dance the following evening in the Glasgow University Union at 9pm.

Echoes of Oban

THE COLLEGE of Piping will be the venue for the Echoes of Oban Concert on Saturday November 23.

It is expected the programme will feature the following pipers: Gavin Ferguson, Sandy Cameron, Darach Urquhart, Gordon Bruce, Alasdair Henderson, Alistair Dunn, Douglas Murray and Stuart Liddell.

Diary dates

Thursday November 14: Tirie Association Annual Concert - see above

Friday November 15: Tirie Association Dance - see above. Uist and Barra Association Dinner Dance, Glynhill Hotel, Renfrew, 7.30pm. Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm - see above.

Saturday November 16: St Columba's Church Guild Sale and Coffee Morning, Church Hall, St Vincent Street, 11am-1pm. Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm - Susan McFadyen's Band.

Tuesday November 19: Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72, Waterloo Street, 8pm - Clive Gregson. Gaelic Society meeting, Sgoil Ghaidhlig Glaschu, Glasgow Songs - MA Kennedy. Hugh Robertson Prizes for Scots Singing, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, 2pm.

Friday November 22: Uist and Barra Association 125th Anniversary Concert - see above. Ceol's Craic, Oidheche na h-Oigrìdh, CCA Sauchiehall Street, 8.30pm - full details next week.

Saturday November 23: Echoes of Oban, College of Piping - see above.

Pub scene

WITH this being the weekend of the Tirie celebrations the Park Bar will be the hub on Saturday with the customary 'hangover' music commencing at 2pm with Gunna Sound.

On Friday it will be Scott Harvey with Nicky McMichan on Sunday.

In the Islay Inn it will be the Keelies on Friday with Black Velvet on Saturday. Neil Murray. Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.



Oban Pipe Band in years gone by

This week's flashback photograph features Oban Pipe Band from years gone by. It was submitted by Duncan Johnston of Oban. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001

Anger over poppy parking charge

Sir, I am certain most people know The Royal British Legion Scotland (RBLs) is an organisation which offers practical, emotional and financial support to all members of the British Armed Forces, past and present, and their families.

Again, I am sure most people know poppy sales are the main fundraising event in the RBLs calendar.

To this end, the Oban branch decided this year to have *The Oban Times* caravan, kindly donated by *The Oban Times*, parked on George Street to sell poppies.

It would be re-assuring and heart-warming to find that Argyll and Bute Council fully supported the RBLs in its endeavours to raise much-needed funds for such a worthy cause but no, our caring and public-spirited council decided to charge £9 a day for the parking space.

When one learns what money-spinning schemes the council proposes time and again, one wonders why it was not possible, in the circumstances, to donate the parking space free of charge.

However, it is good to know our money is not being frittered away heedlessly.

Bill Coutts, RBLs member, Oban.

Say 'no' to fishfarm

Sir, Argyll and Bute Council will soon decide on Dawnfresh's proposed fishfarm.

This would harm wildlife, mean escaped rainbows, damage wild fisheries, impact on loch users, cause pollution and harm the landscape of Ben Cruachan. It is a threat to tourism, an industrialisation of the loch.

Dawnfresh says its plans need this, but permissions cannot be obtained by stamping your feet. The farm will only convert temporary jobs to permanent - no new jobs.

Dawnfresh plans 'blow around in the wind'. Dawnfresh promise to consolidate its five farms, then hint at expansion here too.

Opposition on the council's website is massive. Of those who made representations from PA34, PA35 and PA37, opposition is 89 per cent. Overall 73 per cent object. Opposition is stronger locally than elsewhere.

How Taynuilt Community Council could change from outright opposition to support has been referred to the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life.

Loch Etive's Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan set a presumption against new aquaculture in this part of the loch. This is not a brownfield site; overlap with an old shellfish site is negligible, but the impact massively different. Ignore the plan and public confidence in planning will collapse.

Local people have said 'no' three times. The council must refuse permission and Dawnfresh have the good grace not to appeal to Edinburgh.

Friends of Loch Etive.

Have I missed something?

Dear Sir, Have I missed something during this inexcusable talk on the topic of independence?

Surely on September 18, 2014 there has to be a minimum turnout to vote for such a closed and final decision? I mean in the region of 75 per cent before it means anything.

So far, at least, there are no really reliable facts regarding all the changes there would be if there was a yes vote for independence. Perhaps after the White Paper promised for the end of this month we may just be a little more informed.

The actual normal election in the Scottish Parliament is not, I understand, until the end of 2015. After that, new country or not, any party could have a majority and so anyone could be First Minister. What would any

previous promises or ideas mean then?

A nationalist party, as such, would then not exist. Many I have spoken to said we would be voting for a 'pig in a poke' if I can put it in a frivolous manner for such a serious and final decision. This eventual outcome was predicted by many, as soon as the Edinburgh parliament came into existence. It was just a matter of time, so please vote no to independence and get this situation finalised and Holyrood can then concentrate on running the country.

I contacted the Yes Campaign in Edinburgh back in April. They replied on July 27 and all they could say, a total of 12 times, was that Scotland would be 'fairer'. I think fairer has eight or nine meanings in the dictionary!

Mr G W Stewart, Achnaselach, Clachan Seil

International publicity

Sir, With all the controversy about the Lochaber BID, I hope the local tourist organisations have got their eye on the ball for the biggest international publicity campaign the country will have for many years.

Maybe they have got their PR campaigns all organised and I don't know about it. Maybe.

The campaign for Scotland's independence will be milking the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn and its association with Robert the Bruce for all its worth. You can expect the world's press and television cameras to be here, searching for stories everywhere and locations to shoot.

It will be a disgrace if we allow this opportunity to go by without exploiting our area's strong association with The Bruce.

The MacDonalds sheltered him while he was on the run from Edward I and Bruce's tiny forces, aided by the Campbells and the MacDonalds, defeated their bitter enemies

the McDougalls of Lorne at the Battle of Brander where now sits the hydroelectricity plant.

Bruce took possession of Dunstaffnage Castle and gave it to the Campbells. He gave the land of Duror and Glencoe to the MacDonalds. There was some talk of a possible 'parliament' held at Ardrachattan Priory, Loch Etive. Bruce might have met the Campbells and MacDonalds here, the traditional burial place of the McDougall chiefs.

This would have been the only Scottish parliament to have been conducted in Gaelic.

I note wryly that many of the hoteliers and many top tourist organisers in the area are actually English, very accomplished folks, but they would not know of the critical importance of these stories. I confess, I am myself English, but at least I had the enormous fortune to be raised in Scotland.

John Winkler, Kentallen.

Excellent care in hospital

Sir, I was recently admitted to Royal Alexandra Hospital (RAH) Paisley for a hip replacement with an expectation I would be a patient for two to five days.

I was feeling apprehensive about having such major surgery and having heard horror stories in the media about the state of the NHS. From the date of admission until my discharge five days later I cannot fault the RAH Paisley in any way; anaesthetist, surgeons, nursing staff, auxiliaries, domestics and volunteers all treated me with the utmost respect and care.

The wards were spotless and cleaned constantly. Nursing staff were very busy but took the time to answer any questions and provide help whenever they were asked. The surgeon and anaesthetist doctor visited and spoke to me before the operation, immediately after the operation and a day later. Meals and drinks were served hot and with a smile.

Susan Royle, Isle of Mull.

ISLAY LETTER

Remembrance services

A SERIES of Remembrance services were held in the island's main churches on Sunday to mark the Armistice.

Among those in attendance were representatives of local voluntary services, army cadet groups and detachments of the crew of *HMS Vanguard*, the nuclear submarine which is closely affiliated with Islay and the neighbouring Isle of Jura.

Following the acts of worship, wreath-laying ceremonies took place at the island's war memorials.

On Sunday evening, a Gaelic act of remembrance was held at Portnahaven Parish Church. In charge of the devotions was the Rev Angus Smith, a native of Lewis. He was a regular army full-time chaplain for 20 years and served in Germany, Northern Ireland and the Falkland Islands and attained the rank of colonel. Previously, he had been the parish minister in Benbecula.

The former army chaplain also led the worship at the Armistice Day act of remembrance at the military cemetery at Kilchoman.

Santa's coming

THERE is still time to sweep the lums and look out the Christmas stockings in readiness for Santa Claus' first official visit to the island on December 14.

Santa will make his eagerly-awaited appearance at Bowmore, complete

with sleigh pulled by his own reindeer. If you are of primary school age or younger you will have the opportunity of accompanying the special visitor on his sleigh ride. You require, however, to contact Santa before December 7 and you can do this by getting in touch with his helper Liz Hathaway at islayrudolphfund@gmail.com.

Donations from local businesses have made the arrival of the Cairngorm reindeer possible and these included £500 from the Islay and Jura Marketing Group.

It is planned that each child attending the event should receive a gift from Father Christmas and donations towards this should be sent to the email address above or deposited in the fund at the local branch of the Bank of Scotland.

40th birthday

THE ISLAND's local paper the *Ileach* celebrates its 40th birthday this month and this special milestone has not gone unmarked.

A special showing of the BBC's *Play for Today* version of John MacGrath's drama 'The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil' was viewed by an appreciative audience, courtesy of the Screen Machine, at Port Ellen.

The decision on the screening arose as the 7:84 Theatre Company performed the play at Portnahaven and Bowmore and their island appearance coincided with publication of the first edition of

the *Ileach*. Following the screening, a reception was held in the Ramsay Hall where the birthday cake, baked and decorated by *Ileach* staff member Mary Anne Smith, was cut by Dorothy Carmichael, a former editor of the newspaper.

The celebration continues with a reception in Ionad Chalumh Chille Ile on Wednesday December 4 at 7.30pm. This will include a mounted exhibition displaying highlights and other aspects of the publication's four decade content. Happy birthday *Ileach*.

Islay Sessions

LAST weekend saw the annual Islay Sessions traditional music extravaganza held in various venues throughout the island.

Visiting artistes, some no strangers to these shores, were in top form and were greatly augmented, and occasionally outshone, by local performers ranging from young musicians from Fèis Oigridh Ile's Dhùra and Donnie MacKinnon and his strolling players.

Events began with a family ceilidh at Laphroaig Distillery and culminated with the grand concert in Bruichladdich village hall. Gigs at the Port Charlotte and Bridgend hotels brought the sessions to a lively close.

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



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

BHA E inntinneach eisteachd ri òraid bho Ruairidh Iain MacLeod air eachdraidh Cùirt an Fhearrainn a chaidh a stèidheachadh ann an 1912 agus a bha mar sin a' comharrachadh ceud bliadhna an-uiridh.

'S e labhraiche calanta a th' ann an Ruairidh Iain agus chreidinn gun d' rachadh aige air a' chùirt agus sàraichte a dhèanamh uidheil dha luchd-eisteachd!

Ach cha robh feum aige air draoidheachd den t-seòrsa sin a chur an sàs ag òraid aig Dinnear Bhliadhnaid Chomunn Gàidhlig Inbhir Nis oir bha uidh mhòr ann an obair na Cùirte, agus tomas mhath de dh'òlas cuideachd, am measg na bha an làthair.

Mar iar-chathraiche air Cùirt an Fhearrainn bha Ruairidh Iain làn uidheamaichte bruidhinn ma deidhinn agus ged a chum e a chuid bhriathran, mar a thuir e fhèin, letheach-slighe eadar a bhith aotram agus foghlaimichte, thug e seachd dealbh air leth subsainteach air obair luachmhor a tha a' Chùirt air a dhèanamh fo stiùireadh Chathraichean eadar-dhealaichte thar nan còrr air ceud bliadhna bho thoisich i.

Chualas mar a bha a' Chùirt seo a' toirt an lagh agus ceartas chun an t-sluaigh, a' sùbhal feadh na dùthcha agus anns na bliadhnaichean a bu tràithe ag obair sia latha san t-seachdain a' feuchainn ri dèiligeadh ri mìltean de thagraidhean.

'Curaidhean a bh' anna a choisinn spèis na dùthcha' arsa Ruairidh Iain, agus thuir e gum bheil obair bhall na Cùirte andiugh nas fhasa leis gum bheil iadsan a' seasamh air guaillean nan curaidhean sin a chaidh rompa.

Tha e math a bhith a' cluinntinn moladh den t-seòrsa sin agus aithne is taing ga thoirt air obair luachmhor a chuir daoine treun às an dèidh, agus bhual e orm às ir cho cudromach 's a tha an dileab a choisinn na croitearan a sheas an cuid chòraichean san trian mu dheireadh den naoidheamh linn deug. Bho shealladh dhaoine a bha beò ann am bochdainn agus a' fulang ana-ceartas bho uachdarain agus bhàillidhean an-ìochdmhor, cha robh an lagh ach ag obair dhan fheadhainn aig an robh airgead a dhèannaicheadh e.

Dh'innis Ruairidh Iain le moit mar a chomharraich Cùirt an Fhearrainn ceud bliadhna le cruinneachadh aig Càrn-cuimhne Blàr a' Bhraighie, far an do thoisich an t-sri as an tainig a' Chùirt fhèin gu bith.

Tha e cudromach cuimhneachadh air a h-uile laoch a dh'obair uimhir gu saorsa agus tèarainteachd a chosnadh anns an t-saoghal!

RODDY John MacLeod QC described his work, and that of colleagues at The Land Court, as easier because they are 'standing on the shoulders of giants' who preceded them.

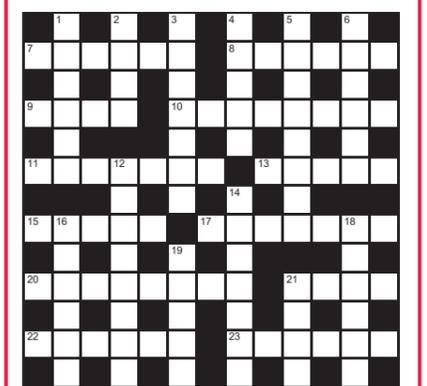
Speaking at the annual dinner of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, MacLeod, who is Deputy Chairman of the Land Court paid tribute to the achievements of the various distinguished chairmen who have served the Court since it was established in 1912.

It was a timely reminder to his audience how important it is to honour the memory of all who sacrificed much to make our world better.

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

SCOTS
Heritage Magazine
SPONSORS

THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 7 Two make a whole (6) | 1 Bribe (6) |
| 8 Fluxetine (6) | 2 Wicked (4) |
| 9 Drudgery (4) | 3 One hides it's head in the sand (7) |
| 10 Left creased (5-3) | 4 Codine source (5) |
| 11 Distress greatly (7) | 5 Lighter underneath (3-5) |
| 13 Poorly (5) | 6 Bay (6) |
| 15 Flourishing (5) | 12 Radiating light (8) |
| 17 Start of January (3,4) | 14 Mocks (7) |
| 20 Tofu (4,4) | 16 Acid (6) |
| 21 Battery contents (4) | 18 Away from home (6) |
| 19 Number (6) | 19 Exterior (5) |
| 23 Dog cut (6) | 21 Soon (4) |

LAST week's SOLUTION

SCOTS
Heritage Magazine

WINTER EDITION OUT NOW
www.scotsheritagemagazine.com

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

Correction: Project Trust

LAST week, in the article Student in Race Against Time, we stated that of 32 volunteers who attended a Project Trust selection course, only seven were offered overseas volunteering placements. This is incorrect. In fact, 28 were offered overseas volunteering placements. Apologies for the error.

'Walking lab' man's journey of discovery

Tiree researcher treks 1,000 miles to assess rural technological challenges



Llangollen to Ruthin was a 34-mile stretch, but it offered up some very Argyll-esque landscapes.



Walking alone, 'selfies' were the order of the day. Alan took this photograph half way along Offa's Dyke - at the 88-mile point.

By STEPHEN FLANAGAN
snflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

HE COVERED more than 1,000 miles in just 75 walking days in a bid to make great strides for medicine and technology - as well as embarking on a voyage of self discovery.

In setting himself up as a 'walking lab', Tiree researcher Alan Dix aimed to assess some of the technological challenges facing rural life as well as gauging some of the social aspects affecting remote areas by covering the entire periphery of Wales on foot.

Alan also used the mammoth journey to test out a host of medical equipment and collect an unprecedented amount of data that could change the way we think about how our bodies work.

However, one of his most important findings is how limited connectivity to the internet is hindering communities, saying it doesn't just put them at a disadvantage now, but for 'the rest of their lives'.

While the walk is complete, the Tiree researcher continues to work on the mammoth volumes of data he collected during his trip.

'The walk has finished but the project continues,' said Alan. 'I've got lots of writing to do from the data gathered.'

'It took 102 days but I was walking for 75. The aches and pains have mostly gone now - but some took longer to go than others.'

Starting in Cardiff, where Alan was born, and ending in Cardigan, the journey saw Alan conquer several peaks and take on some of the most difficult landscapes in the country - all for someone that hadn't walked seriously anywhere before he set off on April 18.

The primary focus was to

analyse some of the challenges facing technology in remote areas, including looking at mobile phone signal, WiFi availability, and satellite navigation.

However, there was a social element too and Alan took time to visit communities on the way and speak to people about the challenges they face with rural life.

While he intended to send updates to the Twitter website, he quickly gave up, with the mobile signal being too poor to send sometimes even a single tweet.

He said: 'The average level of connectivity was two bars of GSM. Forget 3G etcetera - just two bars. It was enough for me to pick up email, slowly, but with Twitter I couldn't send a tweet.'

'I was running several apps and most of the time you'd just get a blank screen.'

'Email was fine because it's 1970s technology. Twitter might be 140 characters but it's wrapped up in so much other code it takes too long. When you start the app it also wants to download about 50 tweets - that just doesn't work when you have poor signal.'

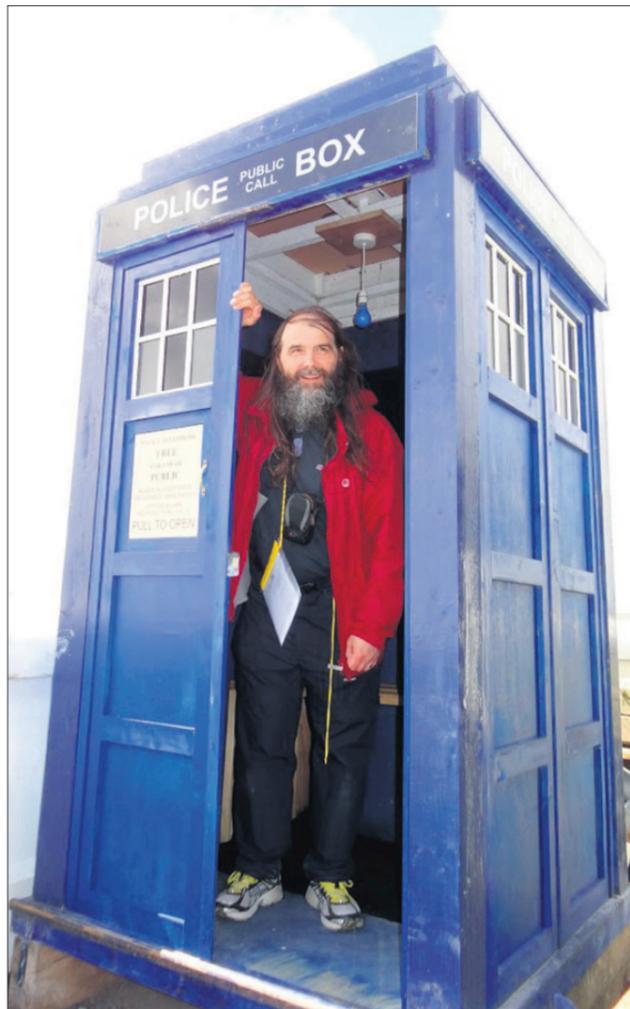
For Alan, it was indicative of a wider problem.

'Being from Tiree, I'm used to poor signal and broadband, even so the rural connectivity was worse than I expected,' he said.

'I found that I had to keep mobile phones connected to an external battery as the apps running and lack of signal drained their batteries so quickly. It's a big problem.'

Even WiFi connections were poor along the way, with hotels and guest houses often providing either no service, or a very poor one.

He continued: 'Internet connectivity is becoming far more important and lack of connectivity is a significant



Alan tried out Dr Who's Tardis during his Welsh journey - sadly the prop police call box wasn't quite as spacious as the Timelord's accommodation.

can think of. As someone who freely admits he is full of nervous energy, Alan tends to throw himself into projects with great gusto. That did have its downsides for the start of the walk.

He said: 'I'm one of those people that tends to do the hard bits first - for example I always eat the greens on my plate before anything else - so I did slightly front-load.'

'It was the half-way point where physically, I started feeling all the aches and pains. I was totally exhausted. The second half was much easier though.'

Another unexpected side effect is Alan's fitness. After walking so many miles in such a short space of time, he had expected to return to Tiree on July 28 a little more svelte than when he left. Not so.

He said: 'I didn't end up losing much weight because I was having to eat so much, but when I got back to Tiree I tried doing press ups and I could do 50 just like that. I think about 20 was my maximum before.'

'That's not strength as if you can do one press up you can do 100, but it is overall fitness.'

Significantly, data collated from the heart monitor and the GPS will also be put into the public domain, becoming the most comprehensive archive of its type available freely to anyone wishing to study it.

Alan said: 'Usually this size of data belongs to the big drug companies. This is the first time, as far as I know, this volume of electro-cardiogram records has ever been put into the public domain.'

Looking back over the journey, Alan said he didn't feel lonely, despite being 'the kind of person that's terrified of having nothing to do'.

'There were very few days I was lonely,' he said. 'There were days like that though - when times were tough going I'm sure it would have been a different experience to what it would have been like with someone else there.'

'It was as much a spiritual and psychological journey and it's amazing how you adapt to your circumstances and how quickly you get back to normal. The person walking almost feels like a different person.'

Alan says he is still digesting the data he gathered on his mammoth journey, including reams of notes and more than 20,000 photographs. He hopes to produce a book about his experiences and continues to trawl through the data he collected.

problem. They say, for example, 49 per cent of people are not able for various reasons to access Universal Credit.

'Some of that was to do with literacy etcetera, but a good chunk was that the obvious thing when you're on benefits is you can't afford high speed broadband and the forms have to be accessed there.'

'A whole section of life now is predicated on having access to these services. You can't design services for those with excellent connectivity and forget about

everyone else, especially for those who don't just have limited service, but no service.'

'The internet isn't just for recreational purposes, it really is essential now. For example, with education you aren't just disadvantaging people this year - but for the rest of their lives.'

A GPS was keeping track of Alan's movements, as were several apps running on mobile phones. Data from a heart monitor was also being collected, while he tried to keep as many audio logs of his journey as

possible. The project all started with a bit of a stumble though.

'I did take a bit of a fall early on as my blood sugar was really low.'

'I'd just forgotten to eat. I suppose we have gotten used to eating at certain times rather than treating it as fuel. After that I would take every opportunity to stuff food in my face.'

That falter aside, the main challenge was just the distance. Walking the periphery meant negotiating lots of hills, rivers and every other obstacle you



The prize-winning members of Oban Sailing Club. t46twenty05

Great season for Oban Sailing Club

OBAN Sailing Club recently held their annual prizegiving dinner dance in McTavish's Kitchen, Oban.

Commodore David Preston described the past year's activities as an excellent season with a lot achieved for both dinghy and keelboat sections.



War veterans and their wives remember comrades who gave their lives for their country. t46twenty01

Oban gathers to remember war dead

THE PEOPLE of Oban gathered on Sunday to remember those of their community who died in war and the 75th anniversary of the World War One Armistice.

Community organisations paraded from the Corran Halls to the war memorial led by the Oban Pipe Band. A short silence and the laying of wreaths followed.



Oban Saints striker 'Shuggie' Campbell is closely marked by Martinal defender Iain Maclean, but manages to get his header on target during Saturday's game at Glencruitten. t46twenty06



Fire safety poster contest winners

Mary Buchanan, of Achaleven Primary School, and Danielle Nicolson, from Park Primary School, were winners of a recent National Fire Safety Week poster competition. Mary and Danielle, both nine, are pictured with, from left, David Aitkinson, John Greenwood and David Dalzell from the local fire service. t46twenty03



Solicitor appointed

A new solicitor has been appointed at the Fort William office of MacArthur Stewart and Company, Anne O'Neill, 25, from Bearsden, Glasgow, trained with the firm in Oban. She left Glasgow University with an honours degree in legal history. t46twenty02



A Dalmally car boot sale, organised to raise cash for hall improvements, brought crowds flocking to the village on Sunday. Prominent were the 1st Glenorchy Guides whose effort was aimed at boosting funds for the local old folk's Christmas treat. Pictured are patrol leader Sheena MacDougall and guide Aileen MacDougall, both of Lochawe. t46twenty04

Business

Business reporter:

Steven Flanagan
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk
01631 568021

Lorn and Isles beers selected for festival

TWO BEERS from Lorn and the Isles have been selected to take part in a supermarket's annual Winter Beer Festival. Oban Bay Brewery's Skelpt Lug will feature as part of Aldi's popular yearly promotion, featuring alongside its sister beer from the Isle of Mull Brewery, Terror of Tobermory. Worth at least £96,000 to Scottish breweries, this year's winter beer festival builds on the success of Aldi's previous festivals which were worth a combined £190,000 to the breweries involved and saw more than 105,000 bottles of ale sold.

Outdoor chain considers Oban store

ONE OF Britain's biggest outdoor chains has confirmed it has a 'long-term' goal to open a store in Oban. Mountain Warehouse spokeswoman Roslyn Frame said the company had no definite plans to open a new shop in the town but confirmed it was something they were considering. New chief executive Mark Neale, who led an £85 million management buy-out, revealed he has his sights set on a string of new outlets across Scotland - including Oban.

Fish landings buck trend

FISH landed in Oban, Campbeltown, Mallaig and Stornoway have bucked the national trend by reporting an increased value in 2012. Figures recently released by the Scottish Government show that the value of landings across the country dropped by 12.7 per cent to £419million, while in the Highlands and Islands region - which represents half of the landings - there was a drop of 14.5 per cent to £211million. However Mallaig's £12.8million of landings was 26.4 per cent up on the year, while Stornoway was up by 14 per cent. Oban landed £8.8million of fish in 2012, up 12.5 per cent on 2011, and Campbeltown's £16million of landings was up 6.2 per cent.



Left to right: Christian Mole, executive director, Transaction Advisory Services, Ernst & Young; Anne Gracie; Ken Gunn and Stuart Shield, chairman of the International Hotel Awards.

Duisdale House on Skye best small hotel in UK

DUISDALE House on Skye has been named the best small hotel in the UK. The 18-bedroom boutique hotel overlooking the Sound of Sleat won the accolade at the International Hotel Awards at London's Grosvenor House. More than 2,000 applications from 93 countries were received for the awards, judged by a panel chaired by Sir David Michels, former chief executive officer of Hilton Hotels. After being presented with a plaque at the gala dinner Anne Gracie, who owns and runs Duisdale with Ken Gunn, said: 'Winning the title of the best small hotel in the UK is a tribute to our team's hard work, skills and dedication to customer service. Thrilled 'We are thrilled to have been compared favourably with so many of the best hotels in the world.' Duisdale was recently voted the best hotel in Scotland's Highlands and Islands in the annual Thistle Awards. 'The UK winners are exceptional hotels.'

Festive trade free parking boost

BUSINESSES are in for a festive boost as Argyll and Bute Council plans to suspend charges in its pay and display car parks from December 20 to Christmas Eve. Revellers attending the Oban Winter Festival, from November 22 to December 1, will also enjoy free access to the town's car parks during that time. It is the fifth year the authority has waived charges in the run up to Christmas and it is hoped the move will encourage shoppers into the town during the lucrative festive period. Ellen Morton, deputy council leader, said: 'The council is very aware that in the current financial climate everyone is counting the pennies, in particular during the festive season. This decision is aimed at supporting local businesses by providing drivers with free parking to enjoy festive activities, socialising and shopping.' The estimated loss in car parking revenue for the free parking days is approximately £10,000. Notices will be displayed in council parking areas advising of the suspension of charges.

Scientists win share of training cash

SCIENTISTS at the Scottish Association for Marine Science in Dunbeg have, together with the University of Edinburgh and other partners, won a share of funding to train the next generation of environment experts. The Edinburgh Earth and Environment Doctoral Training Programme, led by Professor Peter Nienow in the University's School of GeoSciences, will seek to attract and enable the brightest PhD students to address environmental challenges, by providing a multidisciplinary setting. Their initiative, funded by Britain's Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), brings together 28 partners from research, education, policy and industry sectors to deliver a programme of PhD training and research.

Funding up for grabs at new start exhibition

ENTREPRENEURS in Argyll and Bute could win funding for their business idea thanks to a 'Dragon's Den' style event. The tenth New Start Scotland (NSS) exhibition will run in Glasgow today (Thursday) and tomorrow at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre to encourage and aid start-up businesses and organisers. Angels Den has a network of more than 4,000 investors and they will be at the exhibition on both days from 2pm. They will allow six budding entrepreneurs each day three minutes to pitch their business ideas to a panel who are willing to invest their own cash in an exciting venture. Scottish Business Exhibition will be running alongside NSS. Visit www.newstartscotland.com or www.thescottishbusinessexhibition.com for further information and timings.

Plenty west coast interest at Thistle Award finals

THE FINALISTS in this year's Scottish Thistle Awards have been announced - with plenty of west coast events and businesses in the running. The ceremony, which will take place in Stirling Castle tomorrow, Friday November 15, will see new trophies, fashioned from Scottish wood, handed out to winners. Those in the running include Barcaldine's Ardtorna B&B, which is up for Best Guest House or Bed and Breakfast Award. Tyndrum's Real Food Café will battle it out with Ninth Wave Restaurant on Mull for the title of Best Café, Bar or Restaurant. The award for best hotel could be taken home by either Auchranne Resort, Arran or Duisdale House Hotel, Skye. Oban's Clan Cottages will take

on Whitefalls Spa Lodges in Lewis for the award of Best Self Serve Accommodation. Kintyre's The Village at Machrihanish Dunes is in the running to scoop the Training and Skills Development Award while the ScotRail sponsored Best Cultural Music Award could go to Tírce Music Festival. Organised by VisitScotland, the Scottish Thistle Awards recognise the exceptional efforts made by tourism businesses throughout Scotland. Mike Cantlay, VisitScotland chairman, said: 'Every year we set the challenge of improving and building on the success of the previous year and every year I'm blown away by the lengths tourism businesses go to in order to make this happen. Next year we'll welcome the world to these shores through two massive global sporting spectacles as well as Homecoming Scotland 2014. Never has it been more pertinent for us to be at the very top of our game. Winners and finalists from our regional events and of course those competing at the national final are the benchmark for where we want to be in terms of quality and for going above and beyond the expectations of visitors.' The Scottish Thistle Awards celebrate excellence across the industry with special emphasis on quality and enhancing the overall visitor experience. VisitScotland's Quality Assurance Scheme seeks to capitalise on this further and aims to position Scotland as one of the world's best visitor destinations.

Coll resident launches new childcare business

COLL resident Anna Henderson has just launched her new childcare business on the island, thanks to support from Youth Business Scotland. Coll Kids offers islanders the opportunity to have their children looked after in a safe and fun environment within the local hall 'An Cridhe'. The company's 25-year-old founder said she started to develop the idea after noticing a gap in the market - something that's not always easy to do on an island with a small population. She said: 'I considered the idea of providing childcare on the island for many years, as it is an essential provision to parents who live on the island. There was previously nothing available and many parents are now working 9am-5pm so there was a great need for consistent and professional childcare.' Coll Kids provides various childcare opportunities for local parents such as a kids' club, after-school club and mums and tots sessions. Anna also offers a much-needed holiday club, where children can come in the school holidays and spend some time undertaking fun and educational activities whilst parents are at work. Anna applied to Youth Business Scotland for funding to start Coll Kids. The organisation's regional manager, Claire Forbes, said: 'Anna has shown real drive and ambition with her business idea and has been a pleasure to work with. Anna has tapped into a real gap in the local market and developed a great facility. The funding panel were extremely impressed with her and we are sure that Anna will have a hugely successful business in the near future.'

Food and drink producers look to boost jobs and growth

HIGHLAND food and drink producers and retailers are being invited to open meetings in Portree, Fort William and Poolewe to discuss opportunities for working more closely together to boost jobs and growth. The events are the first in a series to be held throughout the Highlands under the Think Local project, which has the support of Highland Council. Project co-ordinators Sarah Allen and Davie MacLeod have been running online surveys to find out about business needs and to identify barriers to growth. Ms Allen said: 'These meetings will give us the chance to feedback what producers have

told us about supplying food and drink locally and also what retailers and the hospitality trade have told us about buying local food and drink. Intriguing 'We have received more than 100 responses to the surveys so far and the results are intriguing. The gatherings will discuss future events and support, free advice and training opportunities and will investigate ways to drive forward activities. Councillor George Farlow said: 'These meetings are an opportunity to bring together crofters and farmers alongside restaurateurs, retailers, B&B providers and hoteliers to see if they want to pursue some of the issues raised. Highland Council will be looking at the findings in spring next year to see how they can support local activities. The first three meetings take place on the following Tuesdays at 2-4pm: November 19, Tigh

West Highland firms on hair and beauty event shortlist

FIVE west Highland businesses have been shortlisted in this year's Official Scottish Hair and Beauty Awards. Oban's Ark Salon joins Fort William's The Strand and DMG Hair Studio as well as Kyle of Lochalsh's Haircraft in being shortlisted for the north west's Hair Salon of the Year category. Oban's Me, Myself and I Beauty will compete against Fort William's Venus Beauty Salon in vying for the Beauty Salon of the Year title, again shortlisted in the north west regional category. One of the most prestigious events of its kind in Scotland, the winners will be announced at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Glasgow, on Sunday November 17.

Research shows businesses turning to alternative forms of finance

BUSINESSES are turning to alternative forms of finance rather than approaching banks for funding, research from Bibby Financial Services shows. More than half of firms polled by the independent invoice finance provider said they had applied for alternative forms of funding over the last six months, whereas a quarter approached a bank to secure finance. A fifth of companies are relying on private equity, with another fifth using invoice finance or asset-based funding. Ten per cent opt for overdrafts, nine per cent loans and three per cent depend on invoice auction websites.

Wish your clients a very Merry Christmas with **Personalised Corporate Christmas Cards**. Printed full colour with company logo, greeting and signatures. **From 37p each**. **krisp print**. Call 01586 554975 (Campbeltown) 01631 568015 (Oban). email: staff@krispprint.co.uk www.krispprint.co.uk

FISH FARMER GOES DIGITAL. **SAVE OVER 35%**. **SUBSCRIBE ONLINE ONLY £44 PER YEAR**. **Subscribe to an online version of Fish Farmer magazine for one year and save over 35%**. **DON'T WAIT FOR YOUR ISSUE ANY LONGER! GET ACCESS AS SOON AS IT IS PROVIDED!**. **USER FRIENDLY NAVIGATION**. Fish Farmer is the UK's leading aquaculture magazine, this highly-regarded magazine has been serving the aquaculture industry for 30 years and enjoys a worldwide distribution. For more information visit: **www.fishfarmer-magazine.com/digital**

New Business Gateway app helps entrepreneurs. BUSINESS Gateway recently launched a new app - 'MyBusiness'. Existing business owners and budding entrepreneurs with iPhones can download it for free from the App Store. Quick and easy to use, the 'MyBusiness' app is packed with useful guides, video tutorials, case studies and a business planning tool that can be used to schedule and organise the tasks and things you need to do when starting or running a business. The app covers need-to-know topics in bite size chunks including: how to write a business plan, funding and finance, managing cash flow, branding marketing and social media, winning new business and self-assessment and VAT. The Android version will be available later this year. App users can also search and book onto free Business Gateway workshops and events via the app. As well as that it offers the ability to send questions to the Business Enquiry Team and request a free call back from them. Upon hearing about the app Scottish Finance Secretary John Swinney said: 'I welcome the development of this app. The Scottish Government is committed to developing the most supportive business environment anywhere in the UK. Making best use of digital technology to help businesses find the support and information they need quickly is key to the way we are transforming the delivery of public services.' **Last chance for spaces on book-keeping workshop**. BUSINESS Gateway is urging businesses in the Oban area to secure the last few places on its popular book-keeping workshop. The 'Practical Basic Book-keeping workshop on November 28 has a few places available and anyone who wants to attend should book now. To find out more or to book a place at these free workshops contact the Business Gateway team on 01546 605 459 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Spurdog project outlined to fishermen and industry representatives in Stornoway. BARRA and South Uist councillor Donald Manford chaired a meeting of fishermen and fishing industry representatives in Stornoway last week to mark the launch of the Fishing Industry Science Alliance Spurdog/Spiny Dogfish Project. Dr Clive Fox from the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) in Oban explained the project will run over the next two winters and aims to collect biological data on spurdog by-catch in the nephrops fisheries operating in the north and south Minch. Data will be used to inform negotiations regarding the need to discard rather than land this species and will provide information on where spurdogs and how many are being caught, and the size, sex and maturity of those being caught. In addition, local skippers will return samples of the fish to Barratlantic and Islander Shellfish, which will be analysed by SAMS. Special logbooks and labels will be supplied to participating skippers and a small payment will be made to offset the additional work taking place on the fishing vessels.

We're well established

A guide to the West Highlands' best-known businesses



Maclean's Coach hire in Skye & Lochalsh

Maclean coaches Ltd, Lochalsh Business Park, Auchtertyre. IV40 8EG
Tel: 01599 566 766 info@maclean-coaches.co.uk

Maclean Coach Hire is a family business with over 10 years experience in the transport industry. Over this period we have gained a reputation for outstanding service, comfortable coaches and friendly, helpful drivers.

We can supply for hire coaches, mini-buses and midi-coaches. We provide contract work, scheduled services and private hire. We are ideally situated for the Isle of Skye and the whole of Lochalsh in Wester Ross.

Fancy a Tour of the West Coast, contact us and we will arrange a spectacular scenic tour to your requirements.

Why not let us take you on a stress free shopping trip to Inverness of Glasgow, no parking issues or running out of space to store all that shopping.

We carry a wide range of customers with one thing in common - they all choose Maclean Coaches because we are reliable and comfortable.




GORDON AGRICULTURE
TRACTORS, MACHINERY & ATV SALES

SUZUKI **ARCTIC CAT**

Gordon Agri, Loch Lomond.
www.gordonagri.co.uk
Tel: 01360 661001

We are reputable family run business serving the needs of the agricultural industry along with the wider rural sectors including smallholders, country estates and equestrian yards. We focus on the sale of new and used tractors, agricultural machinery, ATV's and quad bikes stocking one of Scotland largest range from all leading manufacturers.

We are official and authorized agents for Suzuki and Arctic Cat ATV's & Quads, Fleming agricultural machinery & attachments, Wessex professional

ATV equipment, Westwood grounds care products and a comprehensive range of Bepco and ATV City spare parts and accessories are available from our parts department.

In addition to sales, we offer workshop facilities, UK wide delivery, finance solutions and a global export service.

We have the knowledge and experience to offer a professional service at all times.

Our full profile is online at www.gordonagri.co.uk




Highland BlindCraft Beds
They work like a dream

Open: Monday - Friday
9am - 5pm, Saturday
9am - 4pm
39 Ardconnel Street,
Inverness IV2 3EX

www.highlandblindcraft.co.uk
Telephone 01463 233662
to find out more

Highland BlindCraft has over 100 years' experience in manufacturing beds and mattresses at their factory in Ardconnel Street, Inverness, but don't think for a minute that they are stuck in the past.

Their mattresses use the most up to date fillings and spring units such as pocket springs, traditional springs and a range of memory foam options. The variation in styles and models are quite startling and you are sure to find a mattress to suit your requirements.

Don't forget that they also make a range of headboards at their factory using velour, faux leather, suede's and chenille fabrics, and they can make your headboard to a specific size or shape as a centre piece for your bedroom.

At their showroom they also have a large range of pine beds and furniture, metal beds, and a range of children's beds.

So come and visit their showroom to see what they can offer.



HAMISH HOEY & SON LTD
Joiners & Funeral Directors

01631 562269
37/39 Stevenson Street, Oban

Hamish Hoey & Son Ltd, Joiners and Funeral Directors, are a traditional west coast company established by Hamish and Teresa Hoey in 1981. Since their retirement the company has been carried on by their three son's Owen, James and John, who all served their apprenticeship with the company. In 1998 SCOTWEST WINDOWS was started, which is now also a well known name in the area. Over the years the company has grown from 3 employees to 13, with a rich tradition of bringing their men through from apprentices to fully qualified Joiners. As a family run business they are proud to have seven members of the family employed by the company, ranging from Owen at the head of the company to Hamish's grandson James as the youngest apprentice. Owen, James and John are all also experiences funeral directors, they operate a 24hr seven day a week on call service.




PTS Plumbing Trade Supplies

HEATING SPARES & Controls

- 90,000 spare parts
- 200 branches
- 1,800 appliances
- 60 manufacturers

heating replacement parts and controls...
...just part of what we do

PTS National Spares Call Centre
0844 335 1901

NOW TAKING ORDERS UNTIL 8PM for next day delivery FOR SPARE PARTS

PTS branches stock a comprehensive range of quality heating, plumbing, sanitaryware and renewable energy products as well as tools and spares sourced from the leading industry manufacturers.

We also stock an extensive range of own brand products which can offer you quality and value for money.

Most everyday plumbing and heating products are available direct from your local branch, or can be ordered for next day delivery.

If you are interested in renewable energy and would like information and advice on a range of technologies and government incentives, please come along - all welcome!

Oban 7E Glengallan Road, TEL: 01631 567640




bowman stewart
Chartered Surveyors & Consulting Engineers

- Architecture
- Building Surveying
- Civil and Structural Engineering

throughout Argyll, the Highlands and Islands

1 Victoria Buildings, 34 Union Street,
Lochgilthead, Argyll PA31 8JS
Tel 01546 606067 Fax 01546 606091
email info@bowmanstewart.co.uk
www.bowmanstewart.co.uk

Established in 1984 by Martin Stewart, Bowman Stewart is a family run practice providing architectural, engineering and surveying services throughout Argyll, the Highlands and Islands.

As a multi-disciplinary practice, we can integrate the design, structural, technical, costing and contract administration elements to provide a single point of contact for the client. Our integrated approach means that each element of the project is not considered in isolation, ensuring that our clients' requirements remain the focus of the project from its inception through to completion.

Bowman Stewart is registered with, and regulated by, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), the professional body for Chartered Surveyors.




Precision aquaculture AQUACULTURE TECHNOLOGY REDEFINED

- Wireless Camera Systems
- Portable Camera Systems
- Subsea Cameras
- Camera Winches
- Net Winches
- Sphere Camera
- Wind Turbines
- Solar Panel Systems

Lochavullin Road, Oban - PA34 4PL
t. 01631 566999 - e. info@precision-aquaculture.com
w. precision-aquaculture.com

After service in the Royal Navy and many years working in marine electronics, Telecoms and Offshore I was enthusiastic about starting a manufacturing business in Oban to utilise all the knowledge I had gained, writes Steve Davis, Director at Precision.

Helping out with some Salmon farm electrical work I spotted an opportunity to apply my technical expertise and with support from the HIE, we developed the first aquaculture wireless camera system in use locally and got the business started. That was in 2005 and today we are designing and manufacturing equipment for the global Aquaculture and Subsea sectors.

Our agreement with Ocea of Norway in 2011 was a significant boost to business and puts Argyll on the map for Aquaculture equipment manufacturing and support, indeed Ocea have also opened an office in Oban and employ two local people.

The latest recruit to the company, Alan Johnson, brings marine and military electronics experience which complements our existing skills as we develop and grow the business.



BLOCKED DRAIN?

Drain and septic tank survey, installations and repairs

Call 24/7 - **01369 840367**

Your No 1 for drainage in Argyll

ABEL Drainage & Groundworks

ABEL Drainage & Groundwork's is a specialised contractor undertaking all aspects of drainage, CCTV surveys and providing waste solutions for the domestic, commercial and industrial markets. Based in Argyll, we are ideally located to provide professional, coverage for our clients.

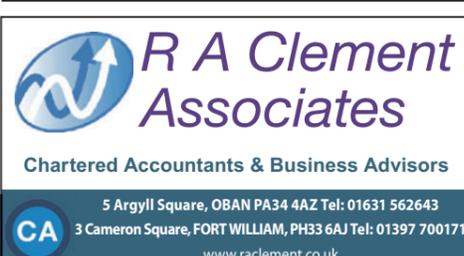
We are renowned for our reliable, efficient, 24 hour service and particularly our ability to solve problematical situations for our clients.

ABEL specialise in the design, supply and installation of sewage plants and rain water harvesting systems. Whether the client wants the smallest septic tank or a larger sewage treatment plant, ABEL Drainage & Groundwork's have the expertise.

With new, modern equipment to deal with surface cleaning from simple graffiti removal to surface preparation using water pressures up to 42,000psi. Our technical teams will assess the client's requirements and provide a cost effective solution.

Highly skilled teams are fully equipped to undertake both advanced specialist techniques such as CCTV drain surveys, as well as the more traditional ones; when required to problem solve and implement the best solutions for rehabilitation work on private drains and private or public sewers.

We would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with us on Tel: 01369 840367

R A Clement Associates

Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors

5 Argyll Square, OBAN PA34 4AZ Tel: 01631 562643
3 Cameron Square, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6AJ Tel: 01397 700171
www.racllement.co.uk

R A Clement Associates have been in business since 1949 and in Oban since 1984, so we must be doing something right. Furthermore, we want to help you make your business a big success. Keeping your business dynamic and forward-looking is not just a matter of chasing new customers. It involves every aspect of the business operation, from marketing to product development, from administration to training, from financial management to creative thinking. R A Clement Associates have experienced staff who have been helping local businesses to achieve their goals for many years and we can help you too.

There is so much involved in running a business that you have very little time to sit back and look at the bigger picture. We can offer business advice and an outside perspective on your business. After all, the money that leaves a business, whether in the form of wages, supplier bills, general overheads or the interest on loans, can be as vital to its success as the money that comes in from customers. Managing costs effectively should, therefore, play a central role in business financial planning. Feel free to phone either of our offices to see how we can help. Your first consultation is free so it is worth a phone call.



what's on

THE OBAN TIMES
FREE EVENT LISTING

THURSDAY - November 14

9.30am, Maximising your tender score, Argyll Hotel, Inveraray.
10.15am, Ramblers Scotland Glen Orchy walk, meet Fort William Woollen Mill at 9am, Oban's Longdale Road car park at 9.20am or Glencoe Village car park at 9.30am.
1pm, Value add and innovation, Argyll Hotel, Inveraray.
1.30pm, Mull Musical Minds, An Roth, Craignure, Mull.
7pm, Young Enterprise fashion show and product launch, Oban High School.
7.30pm, Dunbeg and Lochnell Primary School fundraising quiz, Oban Rugby Club.
8pm, Oban Music Club, O'Donnell's, Oban.
9pm, John 'the box' Turnbull, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

FRIDAY - November 15

Christmas shopping trip to Stirling, organised by Salen and Ulva Parish Church, Mull. Leaves on first boat and returns late ferry.
7pm, Kenneth Steven, Oban Library.
7.30pm, Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
8pm, Oban Mic, O'Donnell's, Oban.
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

SATURDAY - November 16

10am, Charities Christmas card sale, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
10.15am, Ramblers Scotland Acharacle walk, meet Oban's Longdale Road car park at 8am, Fort William Woollen Mill at 8.45am or Corran Ferry slipway for 9.15am sailing.
11am, Oban Shop Mobility Craft Sale, Great Western Hotel, Oban.
11am, Charities sale, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
12pm, Children In Need soup lunch, Connel Church Hall.
2.30pm, The Geology of Appin, Port Appin Hall.
7.30pm, Window to the West Circularity and the Gaels, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
7.30pm, Lifeboat, Mull Theatre, Tobermory, Mull.
7.45pm, Ceilidh, Taynuilt Village Hall.
8pm, Allan Taylor, Victory Hall, Benderloch.
9pm, Mel and Friends, O'Donnell's, Oban.
10pm, Live band, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

SUNDAY - November 17

2pm, Vintage high tea and crafts, Ardferris Village Hall.
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

MONDAY - November 18

11am, RNLI Christmas sale, Bunnessan Hall, Mull.

TUESDAY - November 19

7.30pm, Whist drive, Glencruitten Golf Club, Oban.

WEDNESDAY - November 20

11am, Introduction to Archives, Lochaber Archive Centre, West Highland College, Fort William.
9pm, Pub quiz, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

THURSDAY - November 21

9am, Ramblers Scotland Duror walk, meet Fort William Woollen Mill or Oban's Longdale Road car park 8.15am or Ballachulish tourist info at 8.40am.
7.30pm, We Are Northern Lights, An Tobar, Tobermory, Mull.
8pm, Oban Music Club, O'Donnell's, Oban.
9pm, John 'the box' Turnbull, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

FRIDAY - November 22

7.30pm, Independance, Appin Hall.
8pm, More Sky Than We Need, Mull Theatre, Tobermory, Mull.
8pm, Oban Mic, O'Donnell's, Oban.
8.30pm, The Indians, BA Club, Fort William.
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

SATURDAY - November 23

11am, Christmas fayre, Corran Halls, Oban.
2pm, Open day, St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe.
8pm, More Sky Than We Need, Craignish Village Hall, Ardferris.
8pm, Power the Amps, Papparazzi, Oban.
9pm, Mel and Friends, O'Donnell's, Oban.
10pm, Live band, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

SUNDAY - November 24

8.10am, Ramblers Scotland Glen Nevis walk, meet Oban Longdale Road car park, N Ballachulish PS at 9am or Fort William Woollen Mill at 9.30am.
2.30pm, Christmas market, Dervaig Hall, Mull.
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.
1-4pm, Taynuilt Village Playgroup Craft Fair, Taynuilt Village Hall

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

Public sculpture makes a splash in Ullapool



Artist Allison Weightman, centre, along with Lochbroom Leisure Centre staff Joanne MacPherson and Lindsay MacLean admire the fishy public artwork.

ULLAPOOL'S new public sculpture was unveiled at Lochbroom Leisure Centre on Friday. The giant shoal of ceramic fish pinned to the wall were made by visitors and community groups in Ullapool this summer as part of the Earth, Fins and Fire project, run by An Talla Solais (Ullapool Visual Arts). Local primary schools and staff from Wester Ross Fisheries and the harbour also contributed to the sculpture. Ceramic artists Allison Weightman, Kevin Morris and Fergus Stewart worked with the public to create the piece. The launch was attended by around 150 people from the local community including every pupil of Ullapool Primary, all of whom had made a fish. The final fish was placed in the shoal and then the sculpture unveiled by Roy MacPherson from Ullapool Harbour Trust. Lisa Macdonald led the school in singing a song in Gaelic about a fisherman reluctant to go to sea - appropriate on a day that needed waterproofs and broilies!

Dance quartet take to stage at Appin Village Hall

A YOUNG dance quartet will present a triple bill on the stage at Appin Village Hall next weekend. Independ-Dance, a fresh, young inclusive dance quartet have a programme aimed at families, including Goldfish, a piece about a boy called Owen who watches the world through his aquarium. When reality starts to shake his dream world, he submerges himself deeper into a fantasy full of fish, space and MTV. The show takes place on Friday, November 22 and is run by Comar, Argyll's new creative hub.

Big laughs in Stornoway with comedy workshop

FOLLOWING the overwhelming success of BBC ALBA's comedy 'Dà Latha san Dàmhair', FilmG, in collaboration with An Lanntair, is holding a comedy workshop with the show's director Michael Hines and actress Fiona Mackenzie.

The workshop for 12-17 year olds at An Lanntair in Stornoway town centre on Saturday is part of FilmG's training scheme for this year's national Gaelic short film competition.

It is hoped the workshop may encourage youngsters to make and enter a film for the FilmG competition.

Mr Hines has a number of impressive credits to boast, among them hit BBC comedies 'Chewin' the Fat' and 'Still Game'.

BBC ALBA continuity presenter Fiona Mackenzie revealed her comedy acting talents when she played singer 'Ishi' in 'Dà Latha san Dàmhair'.

Mr Hines will lead the workshop with the morning focusing on writing for comedy and in the afternoon the youngsters will shoot a short comedic scene.

He said: 'It's great to be involved in encouraging the next generation of comedy writers and directors. I have been a



Michael Hines: coming to An Lanntair.

supporter of FilmG for many years now and see it as an excellent platform for youngsters to showcase their talent.

Muireall Urquhart, FilmG's workshop coordinator said: 'This is a rare and exciting opportunity getting Michael and

Fiona along for a workshop and we'd encourage as many youngsters from Lewis and Harris to come along as possible.

'You don't have to be a Gaelic speaker and it doesn't matter if you're already working on a film with your school.'

Moira Macdonald, education and outreach officer at An Lanntair, said: 'We run a varied programme of expressive arts events for the youth of the Western Isles and we are excited to be able participate in such an inspiring project.'

Martha backs Mary's Meals documentary



Martha Payne

YOUNG Argyll blogger Martha Payne has given her backing to the online launch of a documentary film about the work of Mary's Meals.

Child 31 exposes the realities of chronic hunger and follows founder Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow as he shows how effective school feeding programmes can be in ending the cycle of poverty created by hunger.

Martha, who sprung to fame for writing a blog about her school meals in Lochgilphead and raised money for the charity, is among a host of other high profile figures supporting Mary's Meals, which provides a daily meal to 822,142 impoverished children.

Produced by award-winning New York production company Grassroots Films, the film was launched online to coincide with Mary's Meals Day, an annual open day to celebrate the work

of the charity.

The film, which features Hollywood star, Gerard Butler speaking about the work of Mary's Meals, was funded by a donor and gives an insight into the lives of some of the children supported by the charity.

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, chief executive of Mary's Meals, said: 'So many people who have seen Child 31 so far have been moved and inspired to help Mary's Meals, including a number of high profile figures.'

Celebrities including Celine Dion, Gordon Brown and Dermot O'Leary have shared their thoughts on Child 31 in the hope their enthusiasm will help to raise awareness of the film and the work of the charity, along with many others.

Argyll folk bands Washington Irving and Donald Macdonald and the Islands have also given their support to Mary's Meals.

Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club



Setting the heather on fire in Portree: the Roddy Matthews Trio.

THE NOVEMBER meeting of the Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club in the Royal Hotel in Portree served up a feast of what can only be described as amazing music.

To start the evening, MC Jim Campbell asked the club's own band of musicians to take to the stage where they performed several much appreciated singalong sets.

On accordions were John Cameron, John MacGilvary, Ellie MacPherson and Aly 'K' MacPherson while fiddling was provided by Caerina Campbell, Lyes Oussaiden and the versatile young Ellie MacPherson.

Unfortunately Aly 'K' never got started due to a technical problem with his box and he had to retire without sounding a note.

However he was back on stage later in the evening to lead a couple of fine sets in company of John Cameron on second box, Gary Forrest on keyboards and Johnny Bridges on drums, the latter being two members of the guest trio.

More fine music was provided by local fiddler Wendy Riva who was followed on accordion by Jimmy Johnstone, a visitor all the way from Spean Bridge.

The audience were delighted to welcome a new resident to Skye and newcomer to the club, fiddler Laura Harrington, who played a couple of great sets accompanied on keyboard by Gary Forrest.

Portree fiddler Caerina Campbell, having already played with the club band at the start of the evening, had the opportunity to

play solo and included beautiful slow airs in her selection.

And so to the guest band, The Roddy Matthews Trio with Roddy from Northumberland leading on fiddle, Gary Forrest from Jedburgh on accordion and Johnny Bridges of Haddington on drums, with what can only be described as a stunning programme of music from three musicians at the top of their game.

They had it all with drive, excitement, feeling, passion, humour, audience participation and amazing fiddle and accordion solos - a sensational performance to close a wonderful evening.

The next club night will be on December 5 in the Royal Hotel, Portree when the guest band will be The Charlie Kirkpatrick Trio. John Grundy

Young musicians busy rehearse

MORE than 300 young musicians from across the Highlands have been busy rehearsing for their showcase Concerts Festival in the Osprey Arena at Macdonald Aviemore Resort next Saturday.

The much-anticipated event will feature performances from of the eight different groups in the alongside internationally acclaimed Scottish conductor Garry Walker and members of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

The festival will open at 2.20pm with a specially written and exciting drum fanfare performed by the drum corps of Highland Youth Pipe Band.

Next on stage will be the Highland Schools Wind Band at 2.30pm, followed at 3.10pm by Gaelic choir Còisir G, before the Highland Youth Big Band takes the stage at 3.50pm.

Next up will be the Highland Youth Pipe Band at 4.30pm, followed by the Highland Youth String Orchestra at 5.40pm.

The wind band group enjoy a time-out from rehearsals before next Saturday's concert.

Traditional music group Snas' will play from 6.20pm and the Highland Youth Choir at 7.00pm before the festival ends with the Highland Regional Youth Orchestra performing at 7.40pm.

Conductor Garry Walker will lead the final concert of the festival in performances of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite and Elgar's Wand of Youth Suite no 1.

The eight Highland regional music groups are organised and run by Highland Council as an extension to the work of its instrumental tuition service.

The council's music development officer Norman Bolton said: 'It is a testament to the standards of these groups that external organisations and musicians are more than happy to collaborate with us.'

'I hope as many people as possible take this opportunity to come and enjoy some terrific music.'



Argyll-born poet recognised in plaque scheme

AN ARGYLL-born Scottish Gaelic poet is one of 12 historic figures to be recognised in the first year of Scotland's Commemorative Plaque Scheme.

However, the memorial plaque to Donnchadh Bàn Mac an t-Saoir (Duncan Ban MacIntyre) will not be placed in his native Glen Orchy, but at Roxburgh's Close in Edinburgh, where he stayed and worked for much of his life.

The Glen Orchy-born poet, who lived between 1724 and 1812, was an integral part of Gaelic poetry in Scotland during the 18th century.

His inclusion in Scotland's Commemorative Plaque Scheme was announced this

week by Fiona Hyslop, cabinet secretary for culture and external affairs.

One of the leading Gaelic poets of his time, Duncan Ban MacIntyre's work has never been out of print.

He is buried in Greyfriars Kirkyard in Edinburgh, where he died in 1812, and a memorial erected by friends and well-wishers stands there to recognise the man who gained fame during his lifetime as Donnchadh Bàn nan Orain (Fair Duncan of the Songs). There is also a monument to him in Dalmlally.

The Commemorative Plaque Scheme is designed to celebrate the life and

achievements of significant historic figures, through the erection of a plaque on their home where they lived, or the building that was particularly synonymous with their achievements.

Ms Hyslop said: 'The Commemorative Plaque Scheme highlights the range of incredible creativity shown by the talented people of Scotland, celebrating individuals such as one of our most renowned Gaelic poets who was also a pioneer in Gaelic publishing.'

Among the others included in the list are television pioneer John Logie Baird and steam pioneer James Watt.

DECEMBER ISSUE OUT NOW

Scottish Field FREE INSIDE Festive Food & Drink supplement

Dunblane Dreaming - Judy Murray on why her home town is special

Jack Vetttriano: Our greatest living artist? From Peebles to the Whitehouse

32 pages of unbeatable Xmas Gift Ideas

Makes the perfect Gift

MERRY CHRISTMAS www.scottishfield.co.uk

The ideal gift for Christmas

2014 Calendars

Oban Times West Highland £7.50

Arran Banner Isle of Arran £7.50

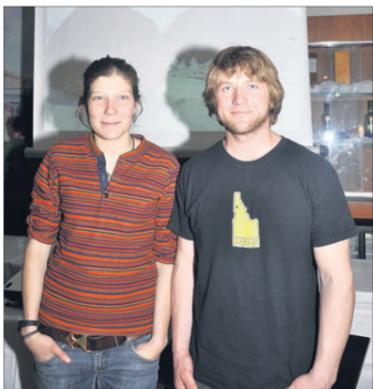
Scottish Field Large £10.95

Scottish Field Miniature £7.50

to order visit www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

or call 01371 851 868

Couple share tales of adventure



Sarah McNair-Landry and Erik Boomer visited Oban to talk about their Canadian Arctic expedition. 16_146boomer01

A COUPLE who completed a 65-day expedition in the Canadian Arctic over summer visited Oban at the weekend to share their tales of adventure.

Erik Boomer and Sarah McNair-Landry skied across ice caps, paddled down class five rapid rivers and built their own sea kayaks during their trek.

The pair were joined by Sarah's brother, Eric McNair-Landry, and his partner Katherine Breen for the Qajaqtuq Expedition.

Sarah said: 'The biggest section of the trip was sea kayaking. We decided it would be fun to build traditional Inuit sea kayaks then do a big trip with them.'

'We ran into a lot of hard

days on the sea kayaking. In a lot of parts you're not sure how big the river is or if there is even enough water to paddle it.'

'The cold too is a big part, we expected it to be cold but it was really cold. Everyone around Baffin Island said it was the coldest summer they had seen.'

'We weren't getting a chance to dry our stuff properly so it was day after day of just being cold and wet. That was the toughest continuous challenge we were dealing with.'

The sell-out event, part of 14 talks the pair were doing in the UK, was organised by Sea Kayak Oban. It raised £600 for the RNLI and saw 90 kayakers descend on Oban for the weekend.



A number of local accordion players took to the stage last Thursday at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls for the first Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club meeting of the season. The special guests for the evening were Duncan Black (Edinburgh) and Marie Fielding (Falkirk).

School shows off new extension at coffee morning



Eilidh Barron, 10, Ellen Hutchison, five, Amelia MacTaggart, 11, Claudia Barron, 10 and 11-year-old Stewart Johnstone ran the games stalls at the coffee morning.

A COFFEE morning and open day at Lochnall Primary School saw parents explore the school's new extension at the weekend.

The event, organised by the school's parent council, gave adults a chance to explore the classrooms and look at youngster's work before enjoying coffee and cake.

Susan Lowe, parent council chairwoman, said: 'It is really nice to get all the parents and children together in a social setting.'

'They have opened up the school so parents can see all the children's work but also look at the new extension. It has been really busy from the minute the doors opened.'

'There are lots of games for children and the primary seven pupils have been running the stalls.'

'Money collected at the coffee morning boosted the parent council's funds.'



Six-year-old James Joss is left scratching his head at 10-year-old Dylan Squire's magic tricks.

Christmas Fayre at Oban's Congregational Church



Helen Higgins and Eleanor Sheppard with their wares at the Christmas Fayre.

CRAFTS, baking, and even guess the weight of the cake took centre stage at Oban's Congregational Church at the weekend as it hosted a Christmas Fayre.

The event, held to boost church funds, also saw tea, coffee and soup served. It was organised by the church fundraising committee along with members of the congregation.

Lillian Wren, fundraising committee chairwoman, said: 'It has been very busy right from the word go we have had the place full. Members of the congregation are helping out - it is a whole church effort.'

Oban Phoenix Cinema	Thor 2: The Dark World	Thursday 14th	18.00 (3D), 21.00 (3D)
	One Chance	Thursday 14th	19.00
	Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs 2	Friday 15th	18.00 (3D)
		Saturday 16th	13.00 (2D), 15.30 (3D)
		Sunday 17th	12.30 (3D), 15.00 (2D)
		Monday 18th	18.00 (2D)
		Tuesday 19th	18.00 (3D)
		Wednesday 20th	18.00 (2D)
		Thursday 21st	18.00 (3D)
		Thurs 16th	17:45 2D, 20:30 2D
Captain Phillips		Friday 15th	20:30
		Saturday 16th	18:00, 21:00
		Sunday 17th	17:30, 20:30
		Monday 18th	20:30
		Tuesday 19th	20:30
		Wednesday 20th	20:30
Brief Encounter		Thursday 21st	20:30
		Thursday 21st	14.00

Thor 2: The Dark World (12A)
V to join The Live Corp Company, which has been tasked to clean the island, and where the best inventors in the world create technologies for the betterment of mankind. When Flint discovers that his machine still operates and now creates mutant food beasts like living pickles, hungry tadpoles, shrimpanzees and apple pie-thons, he and his friends must return to save the world.

One Chance (12A)
From the director of The Devil Wears Prada and The Weinstein Company comes One Chance starring BAFTA and Tony award winning comedy actor James Corden as Britain's Got Talent winner Paul Potts. A life-affirming, British film is about a shy, small town Welsh boy who, with a flip of the coin, changed his life forever.

Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs 2 (U)
After the disastrous food storm in the first film, Flint and his friends are forced to leave the town. Flint accepts the invitation from his idol Chester V to join The Live Corp Company, which has been tasked to clean the island, and where the best inventors in the world create technologies for the betterment of mankind. When Flint discovers that his machine still operates and now creates mutant food beasts like living pickles, hungry tadpoles, shrimpanzees and apple pie-thons, he and his friends must return to save the world.

Captain Phillips (12A)
Captain Phillips is a multi-layered examination of the 2009 hijacking of the U.S. container ship Maersk Alabama by a crew of Somali pirates. The film focuses on the relationship between the Alabama's commanding officer, Captain Richard Phillips (Tom Hanks), and the Somali pirate captain, Muse (Barkhad Abdi), who takes his hostage. Phillips and Muse are set on an unstoppable collision course when Muse and his crew target Phillips' unarmed ship; in the ensuing standoff, 145 miles off the Somali coast, both men find themselves at the mercy of forces beyond their control.

Brief Encounter (USA)
After a chance meeting on a train platform, a married doctor (Trevor Howard) and a suburban housewife (Celia Johnson) enter into a muted but passionate, ultimately doomed, love affair. With its evocatively fog-enshrouded setting, swooning Rachmaninoff score, and pair of remarkable performances (Johnson was nominated for an Oscar for her role), David Lean's film of Noel Coward's play Still Life deftly explores the thrill, pain, and tenderness of an illicit romance, and has influenced many a cinematic brief encounter since its release.

WWW.OBANWINTERFESTIVAL.COM

@OBANWINTERFEST

22 NOVEMBER - 1 DECEMBER 2013

MARKETS, PIPE BANDS, FAIRGROUNDS, REINDEER PARADE, WORKSHOPS, SNOW!

ST ANDREW'S DAY EVENTS - WHISKY MARKET, ST ANDREW'S DAY SPRINT

DANCE SHOW, LIGHTSHOW, GRAND CEILIDH

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE, JOIN US FOR THE BIGGEST PARTY IN THE WEST

Festival programme now available from VisitScotland Oban Office

22 NOVEMBER - 1 DECEMBER 2013

BID4Oban presents....

The REINDEER PARADE

Saturday 23rd November

Parade leaves Corran Halls at 5pm
Christmas light switch-on, Station Square 6pm
Oban Pipe Band, Oban FM, Eilidh MacInnes School of Dance, Spotlight Musical Theatre Group and SANTA & his reindeer!

Santa's family ceilidh
Royal Hotel, Admission free, doors 6.30pm
Featuring Hector McFadyen and his band

With thanks to
The Rotary Club of Oban, Oban Express, Oban Electrical Services, Oban & Lorn Lions Club, Tool & Equipment

Local Origins Rural Network
COMMUNITY PRODUCERS MARKET
Thurs. 21st November
Victory Hall, Benderloch
10 am to 2 pm
LOTS TO EAT, BUY & DO
Support local at Christmas
01631 720223
market@lorrn.org.uk
facebook.com/lorrnorguk

Ireland's No 1 Showband
THE INDIANS
Appearing Live in BA Club, Fort William
On Fri 22nd Nov
Doors Open 8.30pm
Admission £12
Tickets On Sale From Club or Tel 01463 221268

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Published on 12th December

SEND A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO FRIENDS FOR JUST £23.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR to all my relatives and friends from John Smith, Oban	B SEASONS GREETINGS to all my relatives and friends from John Smith, Oban	C MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR to all my relatives, friends and neighbours from John Smith, Oban
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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 £23 (inc. VAT), OPTIONS A, B OR C.

PAY BY CHEQUE / PO or
Phone in your message quoting your Access/Visa Number
Deadline Monday 9th December. To appear Thursday 12th December

*NAME.....	A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/>
ADDRESS.....	PLEASE TICK A BOX FOR THE TEMPLATE YOU WISH TO USE.
..... Tel.....	*(NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

20 words maximum
PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY

sing for Concerts Festival



Ben Nevis bar raises £1000



STAFF and friends of the Ben Nevis Bar in Fort William raised over £1,000 for motor neurone disease on Saturday, November 2.

The event had a special poignancy for Fort William woman Lynne Johnstone, whose mother Dorothy was diagnosed with motor neurone disease in March this year just after her 70th birthday.

Dorothy went from being a very independent lady who loved going out walking, meeting her friends to play bingo and dancing the night away to losing the power to walk, talk, eat or even breath on her own.

Lynne said: 'We lost my mother on October 2, seven months after her diagnosis. I would like to thank everyone who came along on the night and all the businesses that donated prizes. Also a special thank you to Adam Ramsey who helped put the event together and David Lamont from the Crofter Bar for helping us sell 641 raffle tickets.'

Ben Nevis Bar manager Anne Cameron said: 'Motor Neurone Disease is becoming more recognised and I'm so privileged to be involved in helping raise funds for such a cause.'

'Thank you to all staff friends and loyal customers for their support, our establishment is always front line for all charity events and we will continue to support the local community.'

TAYNUILT PLAYGROUP
CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR
Taynuilt Village Hall
Sunday 24th November
1-4pm
Tea, Coffee, Mince pies and Mulled Wine

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Argyll Animal Aid
Registered charity SC013211
Christmas Fayre
Saturday 23rd November.
11am to 3pm. Corran Halls, Oban.
Craft stalls with beautiful and unusual gifts.
Charity stalls.
Holly tea with home baking.

ST CONAN'S KIRK
OPEN DAY AND CALL FOR HELP
Saturday 23rd November 2013
14.00 till 16.30 in the Kirk
We need more help!
For info., call 01838 200298
Tea, Coffee and Cakes will be available

CANCER RESEARCH COMMITTEE
OBAN BRANCH
QUIZ NIGHT
in Masonic Hall, Albany Street
Friday 15th November 2013
At 7pm for 7.30pm
Quiz master: Tony Cave
Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd
Maximum 6 per team
Refreshments available
Admission £3.00 per person Pay at the door

APPIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
THE GEOLOGY OF APPIN
Jim Bain
Saturday
16 November
Port Appin Hall
2.30pm
All Welcome
www.appinhistoricalsociety.co.uk

SOUP LUNCH
for Children in Need
SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER
12 - 2pm
Connel Church Hall

An Comunn Gaidhealach **MEUR CHRUACHAIN** (Cruachan Branch)
CEILIDH
in TAYNUILT VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY, 16th November 2013 at 7.45 p.m.
Singers - Philip Todd, Colin Fisher and Donna Dugdale.
No Strings Attached Fiddle Group with Ann Barlow, Hector McFadyen - Accordion, Aaron Hossain - Piper, The Eilidh MacInnes Dancers
Fear an Taighe - Donnie Maroot MacLeod
Admission £4, £3 for Members. £2 for Children 5-16 yrs including Tea.

Lorn Archaeological & Historical Society
And Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Present
Uinneagan dhan Aird an Iar Window to the West
Circularity and the Gaels
John Purser and Meg Bateman
Friday 15th November 7.30
St John's Cathedral, Oban

NETHERLORN PIPING SOCIETY
Guest Players
Members of Oban Pipe Band and Oban High School Pipe Band
Wednesday 20th November 2013
ARGYLLSHIRE GATHERING HALLS at 7.30PM
Entry: Adults £3, Children Free

For that special Christmas present visit
The Gallery in the Kitchen
~ M'GUINNESS ~
@ 19 Linnet Court
Ardrihaig
Open by Appointment
E A Crawford - 01546 603043

St John's Cathedral Oban
CHARITIES DAY
Saturday 16th November
Charities Christmas Cards
In Cathedral Narthex (Entrance)
10.00 - 3.30pm
Support your local, national and international charities
Charities Sale
In Cathedral Halls (Downstairs)
11 - 3.30pm
In aid of Diabetes UK & St John's Cathedral
Usual Stalls Teas Home Baking Raffle

Jean Johnson (clarinet) & Steven Osborne (piano)
5pm Sunday 24 November 2013 at Crear, Kilberry
Soup, cakes and sandwiches will be served and the bar will be open
Advance tickets only: £20
School children free entry
T 01880 770 369

Picturing Africa
David Livingstone, Africa and his roots in Argyll
A talk by curator David McClay, from the National Library of Scotland
Thurs 21 Nov: Corran Halls, Oban
Fri 22 Nov: Craignure Hall, Mull
7.30pm both nights.

Oban Shop Mobility
CRAFT SALE
November 16th, 11-3pm
Great Western Hotel

A Accountancy services

Wylie+Bisset, LLP
 Chartered Accountants, Business & Tax Advisors

Wylie & Bisset LLP provide a comprehensive accounting and advisory service to businesses in the Argyll and Bute area.

- Audit • Corporate and Personal Tax • Corporate Finance • Business Planning and Forecasting • Management Accounts • Benchmarking • VAT
- Bookkeeping • Payroll • Financial Services

Contacts Barry Law and Andrew Cowling

4 High Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4BG Tel: **01631 562478**
 168 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 4TP Tel: **0141 566 7000**

info@wyliebisset.com www.wyliebisset.com

C Computer Services

OCS
 oban computer services

Computer repairs and technical support
 PC health checks
 Broadband setup and maintenance
 Wireless networks installation and security
 Virus/Spyware removal
 Software training (one-to-one or groups)
 Friendly advice

Tel: 01631 566561/07810 686560

F Financial Advice

Are you a small business in need of sound financial advice?

R A Clement Associates

We have been assisting local businesses since 1949 so call us for a **FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION**

www.raclement.co.uk

Offices at: 5 Argyll Square, Oban PA34 4AZ Tel: 01631 562643
 3 Cameron Square, Fort William PH33 6AJ Tel: 01397 700171

I Inn

Taynuilt Hotel
 Old Coaching Inn

Open for light lunches 12pm-2:30pm Evening meals 6pm- 8:30pm
 Recently refurbished Rooms available from £50 B & B
 Monday night quiz night from 8pm all proceeds to a good cause
 Everything fresh and cooked from scratch
 Lounge bar now open for from 12pm for drinks, teas, coffees, and homemade cakes
 We can cater for any occasion, meetings, functions, etc....

www.taynuilt-hotel.co.uk
 To make a room or restaurant booking call 01866 822437

L Lunch Club

Lochaber Action on Disability • Lochaber District

LUNCH CLUB
 Freshly prepared two course home-made cuisine
Every day: Monday - Friday
Arrive for 12.30pm
Served at 1.00pm
 Come along and enjoy our open friendly manner at Caol Community Centre
 All ages welcome

COMMUNITY CAFE ALADDIN'S CAVE
 (You can find us opposite Caol Post Office, Glenlyon Street, Caol)
 Monday - Friday 9.30 - 3.00pm
 Saturday 9.30 - 12.30pm
 Give us a call on 01397 701171 and ask for Laura or just turn up and give us a try!

L.A.D.'S FULLY ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

O Oil

BROGAN FUELS Why shiver? Let Brogan's deliver!
 KEROSENE, GAS OIL, DIESEL
 AUTOMATIC DELIVERY & BUDGET ACCOUNT
 TANK SUPPLY

Your local supplier of heating oil:
01631 570 670
 www.brogans.co.uk Part of Certas Energy

R Restoration & Cleaning

Bryden Enterprises
 Cleaning the Nation

SHOCKBLAST
 Specialist restorative cleaning

Grit blast and soda blast cleaning, rusty vessels or contaminated buildings

Tel: 01687 470 404
 Mob: 07717 183 159
 www.brydenenterprises.co.uk

U Unbeatable Value

ROBERT CAMERON
 SUPPLIED TO TRADE & DIY
 NOW FITTING IN THIS AREA
 Windows, Doors & Conservatories
 Soffits, Facias, Gutters & Downpipes
 AT UNBEATABLE PRICES! DISTANCE NO OBJECT!
 Delivery to Premises/Job Available • Small Double Glazing Repairs Undertaken
 Day 07905 412011 Night 01389 758950 Call Robert For Quotes
 All major credit cards accepted

x eXcellent Investment

solar solutions scotland
 The solar company owned and run by tradesmen

No Salesman. No Sales Commissions
 Solar PV Systems from £2,995

0141 952 4731 08448 09 09 49
 www.solarsolutions-scotland.co.uk

A-Z OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES

D Drainage

BLOCKED DRAIN?
 Drain and septic tank survey, installations and repairs
 Call 24/7 - **01369 840367**
 Your No 1 for drainage in Argyll

ABEL Drainage & Groundworks
 www.aandbel.co.uk

G Garage Services

Fin's PLACE
 timing belts, exhausts, brakes, GLUTCHES, batteries, servicing, M.O.T, repairs, diagnostics

11 Old Tweedmill, Oban
 01631 566220 07766 757013

J Just In Time

Marshall Aitken
 "Everything under one roof"

Specialist in Kitchens & Bathrooms • All home renovations undertaken
DATES AVAILABLE FOR FITTING BEFORE CHRISTMAS
 Over 30 years experience • Will beat any genuine quote

Tel: 01631 740519 / Mob: 07768 908288

M Memorials

OBAN MEMORIALS
 A & D MacLean
 Master Sculptors
 Glenalma, Soroba Road, Oban
 Design and prices on request

LETTERING AND RENOVATING DONE IN MOST CEMETERIES
TEL: 01631 563123 / 07765815982
 OBANMEMORIALS@BTCONNECT.COM
 WWW.MEMORIALGRAVESTONESOBAN.CO.UK

P Piano Tuner

ALLAN R WRIGHT
 PIANO TUNER

All types of work carried out, tuning, maintenance and valuations on pianos, harpsichords and small chamber organs.
 Harpsichord hire also available
 Quality friendly service - distance no object

Tel: **07970 443 456**

S Self-Catering

a warm welcome awaits...
 Linnhe Lochside Holidays
 Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7NL
 Tel: 01397 772376
 www.linnhe-lochside-holidays.co.uk

Luxury Chalets
 Luxury Caravans
 Touring & Camping
 Park Facilities

V Very Affordable

WEST COAST BUILDERS
 All types Of Building Work Undertaken
 EXTENSIONS, RENOVATIONS & BRICKWORK
 PLASTERING & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
 GROUNDWORKS • ROOFWORK & PAINTING
 AFORDABLE WOOD BURNING STOVES SUPPLIED & FITTED
STORM DAMAGE & INSURANCE WORK
 Call Us Now For A Quote. Tel: 01631 710334 or 01631 710851
 Mob: 07796390411 or 07730654693

Y Yes To Quality

Aluminium & Glass Balustrading
 Grille City Aluminium
 0800 169 1604
 Unit 3, Inveralmond Trade Park, Perth PH1 3HB
 Tel: 01738 639429
 Fax: 01738 621358
 Email: info@grillecity.com
 Web: www.grillecity.com

B Builder

R MAITLAND
 Building Contractor

Telephone: **01631 565859**
 Mobile: **07840 767199**
 Distance no object
 Email: ross.maitland@sky.com

E Executive Cars

Oban Executive Car Hire
 Let us drive you in style and comfort

- Airport Runs
- Weddings
- Sightseeing trips

Tel: 01631 563062
 Mob: 07825 876698
 www.obanexecutivecarhire.co.uk
 info@obanexecutivecarhire.co.uk

H Health & Wellbeing

Revivaliva
 Health & Wellbeing Products to Energise & Revitalise

www.revivaliva.com
 order products & gifts on-line for postal delivery or 'Click & Collect'

Not on-line? Call 07825 333 292 to get details on our next local event

K Krisp Print

Finding quality design and print has never been easier!

Pop in to our new office at Main Street/Longrow South, Campbeltown for more information, or **call 01586 554975**
 email: staff@krispprint.co.uk www.krispprint.co.uk

N New Windows

W B Clarke
 Improving local homes since 1985

Home Improvements, Roof Line, Garage Doors, Conservatories, GRP Flat Roofs, Driveways & Paving.

Contact William Clarke
 Mob: 07789488805 Tel: 01866 833049
 Email: w962clarke@btinternet.com

Q Quarry Services

BONNAR SAND & GRAVEL CO LTD
 (BONNAR READY MIX CONCRETE LTD)

BAGGED & BULK MATERIAL SELLING DIRECT TO THE PUBLIC

DAY 01499 600268/9
 EVENING 01369 705181
 www.bonnar.com bsgco@btinternet.com

T Tree Work

rmTree Services

All aspects tree work & windblow
 The complete job by professionals
 Hedgework / Firewood / Chainsaw art
 www.rmtreeservices.org.uk
 info@rmtreeservices.org.uk
 01631 770206
 07748414945 • 07738064384

W Window Repairs

A.W.R.
 ARGYLL WINDOW REPAIRS

WE REPAIR...
 Failed & Misted Windows, Broken Handles & Hinges, Windows Resealed, Conservatory & Patio Door Repairs.
 We cover Argyll and the Islands
 Tel. 01880 730 376

Z For All Your Advertizing

FOR ALL YOUR ADVERTISING PLEASE CALL 01631 568000

Scotland's most established Renault dealer



RENAULT

New and Pre-Reg Renaults ready for immediate delivery
NEW DACIA DUSTER AND SANDERO NOW IN STOCK

☆☆☆CAR OF THE MONTH☆☆☆

Renault Megane hatch Dynamic i music DCi, blue, 5door, 4000 miles
£12,250



These are just a small selection of cars currently in our showrooms

USED CARS

11 Renault Megane Exp 1.6, 5 door, Ruby Red, 16,000 miles.....	£8,950
11 Renault Clio Dyn 1.7/Tom DCi, 5 door, Blue, 22,000 miles.....	£8,550
59 Renault Scenic Dyn DCI 105, Blue, 40,000 miles.....	£8,950
59 Suzuki Jimny SZ4, 5,750 miles.....	£7,250
59 Suzuki SX4 GLX 1.6 saloon, Cherry Red, 21,500 miles.....	£6,450
60 Fiat Grand Punto 1.4, 5dr, white, 17,500 miles.....	£5,650
60 Renault Clio I-Music 1.2, 3 door, Grey, 12,500 miles.....	£7,950
60 Renault Twingo EXP 1.2, 3 door, Black, 10,000 miles.....	£5,450
10 Suzuki Grand Vitara SZ4 1.9, Diesel, Grey, 36,000 miles.....	£9,950
10 Renault Megane Dyn DCI 106, 5 door hatchback, Silver, 25,000 miles.....	£8,950
10 Renault Clio Dyn, tom tom, TCE, 1.2, 5 Door, Black, 18,500 miles.....	£8,500
10 Fiat Qubo Active 1.4, 5dr, silver, 13,500 miles.....	£6,150
59 Renault Clio Dyn 1.5DCI, 3dr, Red, 10,750 miles.....	£7,950
59 Renault Kangoo Exp 1.5 DCI, Blue, 39,000 miles.....	£7,350
09 Renault Modus Dyn, 1.5 DCI, Beige, 30,000 miles.....	£6,500
59 Fiat Panda Active, 1.1, 5 dr white, 35,000 miles.....	£3,950
58 Honda Jazz SE 1.4 Auto, 5 dr hatchback, Blue, 15,500 miles.....	£5,500
06 Nissan X Trail SE DCI, 4WD, Black, 114,000 miles.....	£5,250

COMMERCIALS

10 Renault Kangoo ML19 DCI, Black, 12,000 miles.....	£5,950 plus VAT
08 Renault Master, SWB, white.....	£8,000 plus VAT
02 Renault Traffic LWB, DCI, Red.....	£2,250 plus VAT

New Dacia range available for test drive today!
SELECTION OF LOW PRICE CARS UNDER £2250 TO CLEAR CAR AND VAN HIRE FROM BOTH BRANCHES

W.D. Semple

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE TO VIEW A MORE COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF VEHICLES ON OFFER

Approved Renault Dealer
www.wdsemple.com
Inveraray - Shore Street. Tel: 01499 302150
Lochgilphead - Highbank Park. Tel: 01546 606767/01546 606272

NOW AVAILABLE
The New Dacia Range
from **£5,995***



Dacia Sandero - from £5,995*
Dacia Sandero Stepway - from £7,995*
Dacia Duster - from £8,995*

WHITCAR? Best supermini under £12,000
Car of the Year 2013

Sandero shown is a Laureate 1.2 16V 75 from £7,995.
sandero Stepway shown is a Laureate Tce 90 from £9,795.
Duster shown is a Laureate dCi 110 4x2 from £12,995.
Metallic paint optional on Sandero/Duster at £470.

54%
of people travel 10 miles or less
to buy a second-hand car

Regional press is the relevant choice for motors advertising.
Regional Press
CLOSER TO THE HEART

WANTED

All types of 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Toyotas, Nissan Navara, any 4 x 4, also considered non runners or MOT failures.

Telephone: 01250 884306 or mobile 07885 203020

FIAT PANDA



08 reg, 1.3 Multijet diesel, 65+ mpg.

Telephone: 01583 431389 or 07535 087192
£3300 o.v.n.o.

WANTED

R.A.D Import Export
Wanted all 4 x 4's including commercial vans, pick-ups, diesel cars, Ivor Williams tipping trailers, motor homes and caravans, any age or condition, immediate payment on collection.

Telephone: 07703 490572

CHILDREN'S QUAD BIKE 90CC

For Ages 5-12
Perfect Condition.

Telephone: 07501 471315
£500

YAMAHA TW 125 MOTORCYCLE



1999 model, taxed and MOTd 2014 (July), 16,000 miles
Tel: 07713 793970
£750 o.n.o.

HONDA 4 X 4 QUAD

VGC, 1000 hours, new tyres.

Telephone: 07501 471315 (Connell)
£3150

WANTED

Any 4 x 4 vehicle, Landrover, Toyota, Mitsubishi etc, high mileage, any condition.

Telephone: 07423736722
£12,850 o.n.o.

LAND ROVER DEFENDER 90 - TD5 -XS 06 PLATE



Metallic Blue, Sunroof, Alloy wheels, Heated front & rear windows, elect Win, Half leather heated seats, 6 seats, ABS & TC, Tow bar, Spot lights.

Tel: 01770 700742 (Arran)
£12,850 o.n.o.

URGENTLY REQUIRED

4X4s

TOP PRICE PAID INSTANT COLLECTION AND PAYMENT ANY AGE AND CONDITION

CALL 07711 573308 01250 872424

WANTED

Any 4x4 vehicle Landrover 90 or 110, Mitsubishi, Toyota etc, any 4x4 considered, any condition.

Telephone: 07864035750

VW GOLF GTI



2L, 2005, 110,000 miles, 10 months MOT, heated leather seats, 3 door, 6 disc CD changer, good condition.

Telephone: 07789 644527 or 01586 551467
£4,995 o.n.o.

AUDI A4 S LINE QUATTRO TDI



2008. Tax & MOT until April. Full Audi history. Good condition inside & out. Priced for quick sale.

Telephone: 01880 820812
£10,000 o.n.o.

AUDI A3 5 DOOR HATCHBACK



1.6, Manual, Petrol, 58 Plate, 51,500 mileage, MOT until October 14, serviced - November 13. V.G.C.

Contact 07740807340/john_campbell67@hotmail.co.uk
£8300 o.n.o.

new car index

ISUZU S & S Services
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr
Tel: 01292 880080 / 880440

S & S SERVICES
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr
Tel: 01292 880080/880440

Great Wall

SUBARU S & S Services
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr
Tel: 01292 880080/880440

W.D. SEMPLE
www.wdsemple.com
Inveraray - Shore Street
Tel: 01499 302150
Lochgilphead - Highbank Park
Tel: 01546 606767/01546 606272

TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE
CALL: 01631 568000

HYUNDAI HATCHBACK i30



Automatic as new first reg. Feb 2013 only 1500 miles. Sale due to illness of owner.

Tel: 01369 810346
£11,500

HERWA 18



Complete with trailer and 50hp outboard

Tel: 07776 155998
£4,750

DRIVE TIMES

S & S Services Heathfield, Ayr.
UK's No.1 Subaru & Isuzu Dealer Tel: 07831 808702

THE LIMITED EDITION SUBARU XV BLACK

PETROL LINEARTRONIC £24,495
DIESEL MANUAL £24,995

IMPRESSIVE SPECS...

The Subaru XV Black is now available in the UK. This special variant of the award winning crossover is available at £24,495 for the Petrol Lineartronic, and £24,995 for the Diesel Manual version.

Hurry though, the XV Black is only available for a limited time only, so make sure you book your test drive now and bring one home.



Subaru Outback SX

Subaru's first Diesel Lineartronic model, the Outback SX, is coming soon.



Steed
includes: A 6 YEAR 125000 mile warranty and a 2.5 tonne towing limit for the price of £13998 + VAT

ISUZU D-MAX
Scottish Farmer Special Edition with towbar, bedliner and rubber mats with 3.5 tonne towing limit and 5 years / 125000 mile warranty

Used pick-ups required Excellent trade-in values given
Your number one dealer and your local Subaru, Isuzu & Great Wall experts.
Excellent finance packages available.
Call us now on 01292 880080 or John on 07831 808702 www.sandservices.co.uk
We are in Oban this Saturday & Sunday (23rd & 24th November)
Call S&S on 07831 808702

MOTORING CLASSIFIEDS

CAMERON AUTO REPAIRS
INVERARAY
01499 302995
enquiries@cameronautorepairs.co.uk

All types of bodywork and paint spraying on cars, vans, plant and commercial vehicles of all sizes

G THE GARAGE
BURNBANK STREET,
CAMPBELTOWN,
ARGYLL, PA28 6JD
TEL: 01586 552772

Car & Motorcycle MOT'S, Repairs, Services, Batteries, Tyres, Vehicle Diagnostics

C ROFT
MOTOR SERVICES Service & Parts
Unit 5B Ben Nevis Estate, Fort William PH33 6PR
01397 703877 (24 hours)

Get your winter checks here
Service maintenance on all vehicles
Vauxhall Warranty
24 hour breakdown & Recovery Service

W The Wheel Specialist
TWIS offer a wide range of finishes with a **FAIR DRY SERVICE** that can make alloy wheels look as good as new

ALLOY WHEEL REFURBISHMENT

- Durable Powder Coating to the finish of your choice
- Strip & Refit your Tyres
- Balance Wheel
- New Chrome Valve
- New Tyre Service

26 Shore Street, Inveraray IV1 1NG
For more information, please contact us on 01463 226222 or visit www.thewheelspecialist.co.uk

The ideal west coast cruising base.
Book your winter storage/afloat/ashore now.

CRAOBH MARINA
Tel 01852 500222 craobhmarina@talk21.com www.craobhmarina.co.uk

Sponsored by NFU Mutual
Oban, call Euan Warnock
and Donna MacDougall
on 01631 567 036 for
your insurance needs.
Agent of The National Farmers Union
Mutual Insurance Society Limited.



SCF defends call to do more about geese devastating crops

MORE needs to be done about the escalating numbers of geese devastating crofters' crops, according to the Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF).

Speaking at the Scottish Parliamentary Petitions Committee last Tuesday, the SCF defended its call for the government to do more about the escalating numbers of geese devastating crofters' crops.

Director Roddy MacDonald and chief executive Patrick Krause defended the SCF petition calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to address the problems created by increasing populations of wild geese in the crofting areas as a matter of priority.

It also called for it to reassess its decision to stop funding existing geese management programmes, and assign additional resources to Crop Protection and Adaptive Management programmes to ensure this threat to the future of crofting is averted.

Mr MacDonald said: 'The MSPs were very attentive and sympathetic to the issue and, in an unusual move for this committee apparently, referred the petition directly to the committee for rural affairs.'

'This is a very good outcome for crofters. There is a way to go yet but we are seeing progress in that the Parliament is taking this very seriously.'

Farmers urged to host more visits by schoolchildren



Pupils from Ormiston enjoying a visit to a nearby livestock farm as part of Royal Highland Education Trust's bid to encourage a greater understanding of how food reaches our plates.

LIVESTOCK farmers are being urged to host more visits by schoolchildren in a bid to boost the industry.

Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) and the Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET) believe that by getting more youngsters to see first hand the work done by farmers, it will give them a better understanding of farming life and learn first-hand where food is produced and how it travels from the farm to their plate.

RHET, which has a target to reach one in four children by 2020, currently has over 150 livestock farmers who willingly give up their time to welcome school children onto their farms. QMS chairman Jim McLaren has hosted a number of RHET food and farming days, most recently for 120 school children at his farm, Dargill, near Crieff, this summer. He said: 'The red meat industry in Scotland has such a great story to tell - from our world-leading assurance schemes which guarantee welfare and quality - to the range of careers available.'

'It is therefore vital that farmers make time to help educate young people who have often never visited a farm before and, of course, are our next generation of consumers.'

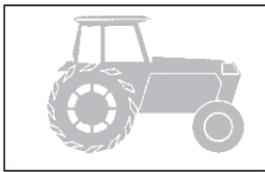
Alison Taylor, acting RHET education manager, said: 'As RHET continues to grow and with ambitious plans for the future, we are looking for new volunteer farmers to help Scotland's young people understand where their food comes from and how it gets to their plate.'

'Volunteers can give as much or as little time as they can manage, and new host farmers are very welcome.'

'RHET covers all the risk assessment requirements and liaises with the schools to assist farmers in carrying out this worthwhile work.'

Farmers interested in hosting school visits should contact RHET on 0131 335 6227 or email rhethinfo@rhass.org.uk.

CASE INTERNATIONAL 895 XL



4WD Complete with Loader
1993 Fair condition for year
Tel: 01681 705216 After 6pm (Mull)

Morris Leslie Monthly Auctions

Wednesday 27th November, 10.30 am
Errol Airfield, Errol, Perth PH2 7TB

Further entries invited

All types of plant, machinery, agri-equipment vehicles, HGV's, tools, cabins, trailers, and equipment welcome. In this Auction, items to include: plant, equipment and vehicles direct from councils, liquidators, farmers, national plant hire companies and contractors. Call Auctions on 01821 642940 or visit our website for full catalogue and further information www.morrisleslie.com

Disappointment as Scottish farming's share of UK CAP remains unchanged

SCOTTISH farming's share of the UK's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) budget is to remain unchanged, following last week's announcement on internal budget allocation.

Despite deep disappointment at that announcement, the complex deal includes commitments to review the internal allocation of UK CAP funds by 2017 and the potential for Scotland to extend the amount of coupled support it can make available to farmers - both key lobbying points for NFU Scotland in recent weeks.

Under new CAP arrangements starting in 2015, Scottish farmers are likely to receive support levels per hectare in 2015 that are well below those in the rest of the UK and much of Europe.

However, Europe has mapped out a convergence timetable that asks member states to bring all payments closer to an EU average figure of €196 per ha by 2019.

In Scotland, that figure is currently closer to €100 per ha. NFU Scotland believed that this budget allocation presented an opportunity to start that

process. While that hasn't happened, the Union has a written commitment from secretary of state Owen Paterson that there will be a review of internal allocation of CAP funds in 2016, to be concluded in 2017.

That commitment opens up a new negotiation with Westminster, one that NFUS believes must initiate changes in budget allocation from 2017 onwards. With Scotland's beef herd and hill ewe numbers falling, NFU Scotland has also been seeking help from Westminster

in extending the proportion of the Scottish budget that can be coupled to vulnerable sectors.

In discussions with the Scottish secretary of state Alistair Carmichael today, the Union understands that a deal is available that could see our potential coupled payments rise from eight percent to ten per cent of our budget. NFU Scotland president Nigel Miller said: 'It is a bitter blow that we have not secured an immediate uplift in our budget allocation. 'While we have been unable to secure a key element from this

deal, there is enough within it and the commitments made that could deliver real, long-term benefits to Scottish farming if Scottish Government and Westminster can agree. The UK must follow Europe's clear steer on budget convergence and put in place a process that will eventually see arable producers in Berwickshire receive the same level of support as those in Norfolk or hill farmers in the Highlands get equivalent support to those farming in the Lake District. 'This budget allocation was

a missed opportunity to start that convergence process but there is a clear commitment from Owen Paterson that a review of the internal allocation of UK CAP funds will start in 2016. That must start a process of convergence in 2017 that moves more money to Scotland. Without altering Scotland's share of the overall budget, having the ability to base coupled payments on a UK ceiling rather than a Scottish ceiling, gives greater scope and flexibility to Scotland's coupling options.'

Crofting federation claims government cash announcement is a 'political heist'

THE Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) is the latest organisation to criticise the allocation of Common Agricultural Policy 'uplift' funds away from Scotland.

Following the recent announcement by the UK Government to keep additional CAP cash, Norman Leask, SCF's parliamentary spokesman said: 'This decision by the UK government can surely only be seen as a political heist.'

'The Scottish Government, with cross-party support, made the reasonable claim that the 'convergence uplift', as it is known, should come to Scotland.

The only reason the UK qualifies for the uplift is because of Scotland's very low payments in the upland areas that bring the UK average down.'

Addressed to the UK Government's rural affairs secretary, Owen Paterson, and copied to Scottish secretary Alistair Carmichael, a cross-party letter followed a recent debate in the Scottish Parliament where MSPs agreed that the UK's full uplift should come to Scotland in its entirety.

A recent announcement by the UK government rejects this claim.

Mr Leask added: 'We just want what is rightfully ours. Passing the up-lift

payments on to Scotland does not incur any deductions to farmers in the rest of the UK.'

'Allowing the money to come to where it is needed, the areas that bring the average payment down and therefore qualify for uplift would be fair.'

'There is simply no argument that can justify keeping this cash - which is meant to bring average payments up to somewhere closer to the European average - in UK areas that are already at that level or above.'

'The Scottish upland areas have 'earned' this uplift and this is where it should be spent.'

Call to stand up to DEFRA in row over farming payments

ARGYLL and Bute's MSP, Michael Russell, has called on Scottish secretary Alistair Carmichael to stand up to DEFRA in the row over farming payments.

The government organisation has said Scotland will not enjoy a larger slice of CAP payments - announcing a 12.6 per cent cut of allocation to Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland over the next seven years.

Making the ruling, DEFRA said it followed after extensive consultation with farmers and ministers, but the decision has not been welcomed by the Scottish Government, who say the payment only accrues because of Scotland's unique agriculture.

Mr Russell said the decision will result on Scottish farming losing out on £51million per year until 2020.

The decision was made despite cross party support at Holyrood for the payments to be passed on.

Mr Russell said: 'As secretary of state for Scotland, Alistair Carmichael must stand up to DEFRA - this outrageous allocation is not in Scotland's interests. Mr Carmichael cannot stand by and let this happen.'

Consensus
'Politicians at Holyrood put aside their differences to gain cross party consensus on this issue and fight Scotland's corner.'

'This money only comes to the UK because of Scotland's poor CAP budget allocation and to see the funds go elsewhere is completely wrong.'

'The EU allocated the budget to our member state government in order to rectify the situation we have

in Scotland. Scotland's farmers are entitled to this money - yet secretary of state for environment, food and rural affairs Owen Paterson says the allocation is 'fair'. Farmers across Argyll and Bute and wider Scotland will be disappointed in this.'

'This is a disgraceful budget settlement for Scotland's farmers and crofters. DEFRA has condemned Scottish farmers and crofters to the lowest CAP payments in Europe and I urge Mr Carmichael to stand up and do what is right for Scotland's farmers.'

'Yet again we are reminded why Scotland needs a Yes vote - independence will ensure we get direct EU payments, not channelled via Westminster, ensuring our farmers get the fair deal they are entitled to.'

Farming newsdesks: 01631 568000 or 01397 703003

Fish Farmer

Serving worldwide aquaculture since 1977

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

- BRIGHTER pages full of essential information
- RELEVANT features which will benefit research and industry
- NEWS pages give an overview of the latest local and international news



ONLY £75 UK

Rest of World £95 (including P&P)

For subscription information see website:
www.fishfarmer-magazine.com

Tel: +44 (0)1631 568000

Fax: +44 (0)1631 568001

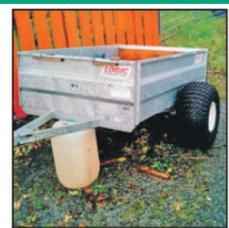
ZETOR 9641 TRACTOR AND TRIMA LOADER 95HP, 2800HRS, YEAR 2001



Argyll Agricultural Engineers
Glenshellach Road, Oban PA34 4BH
Tel: 01631 565011 Mob: 07831 609128

£12,500 plus VAT

SMALL LOGIC TRAILER



Tel: 01631 760 337 (Lismore)

£350

Farming

Crofters urged to sign up to collect group discount

CROFTERS are being urged to consider registering on the new crofting register before the end of November to qualify for a discount.

Crofting communities are being encouraged to take a collective approach towards registration in order to qualify for the reduced fee of £70 per croft instead of £90 for group registration - where 10 or more crofts are submitted in the same group - or, in crofting townships of less than 10 crofts, where all crofts are submitted at the same time.

This equates to a 22 per cent reduction in fee. The Scottish Government allocated £100,000 to fund this discount offer and it is understood that a large part of this funding remains available to be used by the end of November

due many crofters having not yet submitted registration applications.

Jamie McGrigor, Highlands and Islands MSP and convenor of the Scottish Parliament's cross-party group on crofting, said: 'I would encourage crofters to consider making registration applications before the end of November in order to be absolutely sure to benefit from the £20 per croft discount. It seems likely a significant amount of the £100,000 allocated for the discount scheme will not be used by the November 30 deadline.

'I will be writing to the Minister Paul Wheelhouse on this subject on behalf of the Cross Party Group and emphasising to him our desire to see all of this funding used to benefit crofters registering their crofts.'

First Milk ups prices

FIRST Milk, the UK's only major dairy company, has announced increases in its standard manufacturing and liquid pool prices.

The company, 100 per cent owned by British farmers, will up its prices to 23.5p per litre from December 1.

NFU Scotland's milk policy manager George Jamieson, said: 'NFU Scotland welcomes the price announcement by First Milk. While DEFRA's average GB price sits around 32.82ppl, First Milk members as a co-op also benefit from the return from invested capital, which this year is a respectable eight per cent. The latest price moves demonstrate that the co-op is achieving better returns from its core business and also that there is indeed merit in moving milk to where the market is strong, in this case milk powder through the plant at Westbury.'

Give nature a helping hand this winter...



Market reports

United Auctions Dalmally

UNITED Auctions sold 1,145 sheep of all classes at Dalmally Auction Mart on Saturday, when a mixed offering of Lambs and Ewes sold at keen rates and to a good ringside of buyers.

A small offering of cattle also sold readily and more could have been sold to seller's advantage.

Principal lots and prices:
 Top prices per head:
 Bulls: AAX: £630(2) - Garvie
 LIMx: £630 - Garvie LUNG: £560(2) - Blackmount.
 In-calf heifers: BSHx: £1140 - Braes of Ardeonaig BRBx: £1060 & £1000 - Braes of Ardeonaig.
 Top prices per kilo: Bulls: AAX: 263p(2) - Garvie
 LIMx: 263p - Garvie.
 Sheep: Top prices per head: Lambs: SUFFx: 70.00 - Acharonich : £62.00 - Couston Farm Co
 TEXx: £67.00, £65.00 & £61.00 - Acharonich. CHEVx: £53.00 & £51.50 - Maam Farm. CROSS: £54.00 - Garrogie Estate. BF: £60.00 & £56.00 - Crumachy : £55.00 - Acharonich : £50.00 - Glenoe Farms.
 Ewes: TEXx: £51.00 - Barguillan.
 CROSS: £46.00 - Upper Kinnechreckhine & Barguillan : £45.00 - Glenshellach.
 BF: £41.00 - Acharonich : £36.00 - Tullochcan Farm & Blarghour Farm : £35.00 - Acharonich & Glenmeran Farming : £32.00 - Rhemore.
 Wedders: CROSS: £46.00 - Garrogie Estates. BF: £39.00 - Glenoe Farms
 Top prices per kilo:
 Lambs: SUFFx: 180p & 172p - Couston Farm Co. TEXx: 160p - Acharonich
 CHEVx: 183p - Maam Farm.
 CROSS: 175p - Garrogie Estate.
 BF: 168p - Garrogie Estate.

United Auctions Lochboisdale

UNITED Auctions held their Annual November Sale of all classes Cattle and Sheep at Lochboisdale Auction Mart when 443 cattle and 876 sheep were sold. All classes of cattle sold in keeping with current mainland values. The bullocks sold to average 244pence per kilo or £809 per head whilst the heifers averaged 219pence and £656.

Bullocks from No15 Ormiclate sold at a top price of £1,440 whilst No9 Bornish led the kilo prices in this section with AA Crosses at 317pence.

Heifers from Aird Illery, North Uist led the prices per head at £1,000 for Limousin Crosses and the same bred from No348 North Boisdale led the kilo prices at 258pence.

An excellent selection of quality bred stock was on offer and many mainland buyers commented that the quality of stock offered easily matched anything offered at principal mainland centres. The entry of sheep consisted mainly of smaller lambs and plainer feeding sheep.

Principal Lots and Prices:
 Top Prices Per Head: Bulls: AAX: £1100 - Hopewell Cottage : £1080 - 12 Ormiclate : £1055 - 52 Bargarva : £1055, £1000 and £985 - Hopewell Cottage : £925 - 301 Kilphedar : £915 - 8 Milton(2) and Hopewell Cottage : £900 - Hopewell Cottage : £895 - 64 Bualuchrach : £875 - 2 Drimisdale : £865 - 1 Milton : £855(3) and £835(2) - 8 Milton.
 CHARx: £1440 and £1300 - 15 Ormiclate : £1175 - 100 Carnan : £1025, £855(9) and £818(2) - Drimore Farm.
 LIMx: £1360 and £1350 - 15 Ormiclate : £1300 - 103 Carnan : £1220 - 15 Ormiclate : £1160 - 20 West Gerinish : £1130 - 8 Torlum : £1120 - 20 West Gerinish : £1100 - 61 Bualuchrach : £1100(2) and £1070(2) - 103 Carnan : £1035(2) - 15 Ormiclate : £1010(2) - 103 Carnan : £1000 - 6 Dunganichy, 342 North Boisdale, 19 West Gerinish and 348 North Boisdale : £990 - 342 North Boisdale : £985 - 9 Milton : £980 - 1 Pennerine : £975 - 344 North Boisdale : £965 - 100 Carnan : £955 - 5 West Kilbride and 342 North Boisdale : £950 - 103 Carnan : £945 - 61 Bualuchrach and 344 North Boisdale : £935 - 6 Dunganichy and 6 Ormiclate : £925 - 10 Illery : £905 - Aird Illery, 14 West Gerinish, 12 Ormiclate and Drimore Farm : £900 - 15 Ormiclate.
 MRY: £800 - Hopewell Cottage.

United Auctions Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 6,355 prime sheep at its Stirling sale last Thursday, including 4,314 lambs and 2,041 ewes and rams.

Lambs: Lathange (SuffX) £118; Saddlebank (TexX) £99; Old Faskally (CharX) £97; Doune Farms (BtexX) £95; Mains of Balhall (Mule) £79.50; Wardhead (ChevX) £80; Rannoch (BF) £77

Lambs: Oatridge (Suff) 182p; Harviesmailing (Tex) 220p; Netherton (Char) 182p; West Lethans (Btex) 219p; Daldorn (Mule) 174p; Cockerstone (Chev) 182p; Springfield (BF) 177p

Ewes: Pyston (Suff) £93.50; Alton of Bandearth (Tex) £104.50; Netherton (Char) £91.50; Broomknowes (Btex) £98.50; Keillour Park (Mule) £66.50; Shanry (Chev) £84.50; Tomchulan (BF) £44.50; Parkhead (HB) £62.50; Milkieson (BFL) £52.50; Wester Highgate (Chev/Mule) £81.50; Belsyde (X) £63.50

Rams: Pyston (Suff) £128.00; Netherton (Chev) £180.00; Darnhall (BF) £45.50; Ardcho & Threepland (Chev) £49.50.

UNITED Auctions sold 1,053 store cattle, young bulls and 2787 store lambs at its Stirling sale last Wednesday.

Bullocks averaged 233.71p (+0.36p) to 285p per kg and £1460.

Black and White blks (85) - averaged 152.78p (+1.32p) to 194.40p per kg and £1050.

Heifers averaged 223.60p (+2.40p) to 292.60p per kg and £1390.

Cast Cows averaged 124.74p to 214.50p per kg and £1510

Forward Cattle averaged 159.21p to 221.20p per kg and £1370

Young Bulls averaged 225.76p to 305.70p per kg and £1100 Top prices per kilo: Bulls: £500 - Amod £560, Drumrange 285.00p 251-300kgs; East Borland £690, 237.90p; 301-350kgs; Stobshiel £890, 259.50p; 351-400kgs Thomson West Park £1090, 272.50p; 401-450kgs Golland £1160, 269.80p 451-500kgs Compostonend £1270, 263.50p; 501-550kgs Coalhill £1260,

245.10p ; 551-600kgs Compostonend £1290, 232.90p 601-650kgs Balwherrie £1460, 242.50p

Heifers: Up to 250kgs Drumrange £590, 292.60p 251-300kgs Golland £740, 262.40p; 301-350kgs Thomson West Park £870, 261.30p 351-400kgs Golland £970, Thomson, West Park 261.20p 401-450kgs Craigend £1035, Thomson, West Park 241.30p 451-500kgs Midlock £1280, Farden 257.90p 501-550kgs Glenkiln Farms £1110, Castle 220.20p 551-600kgs Castle £1390, 249.10p 600-650kgs; Harehead £1250, 201.00p

OTM Cows - Killeonan (Lim) £1430, 189.70p; Tombuie (Sim) £1390, 214.50p; Loanleven (STX) £1330, 163.00p; Redheugh (AA) £1370, 174.70p; Kepculloch (CH) £1510, 154.40; Hood (HE) £1270, 146.70p; Woodend £110, Gateside 162.90p

OTM Bulls - Strone (Lim) £1050, 113.90p; Gartvaigh (Sim) £1010, 95.30p; West Lethans (Sal) £1410, 135.30p; Banchory (Char) £1010, 88.80p

Young Bulls; up to 250kgs; Dunree £610, Drumrange 305.70p; 251-300kgs; Beeches £810, 282.50; 301-350kgs; Thomson, West Park £890, 270.70p; 351-400kgs; Beeches £980, 258.60p; 401-450kgs; Bercaldine HF £1040, Thomson West Park 241.70p; 451-500kgs; 3 Birch Avenue £1030, Glenkiln Farms 216.70; 501-550kgs; 3 Birch Avenue £1100, 210.70; 551-600kgs; 3 Birch Avenue £980, 176.30p.

SALx: £755 - 123 Craigston, Barra. SHx: £835 - 76 Ardnarnonie and 44 Liniuque.

SIMx: £995 - 8 Torlum : £985 - 61 Bualuchrach : £945 - 19 West Gerinish : £885 - 6 West Gerinish and 5 Dunmor : £855 and £845(2) - 3 Vatersay, Barra : £835 - 5 Dunmor, 5 Vatersay, Barra and 19 West Gerinish : £805 - 20 West Gerinish.

Heifers: AAX: £775 - 8 Milton : £735 - 21 Griminish. BRBx: £725 - 91 Bualadubb. CHARx: £955 - 100 Carnan. HERx: £725 - 11 West Gerinish. LIMx: £1,000 - Aird Illery : £905 - 20 West Gerinish : £900 - 92 Bualadubb : £895 - 5 Milton : £875 - 348 North Boisdale : £855 - 1 Ormiclate and Drimore Farm : £835 and £825 - 1 Ormiclate : £820 - 7 Eoligarry, Barra : £815 - 1 Vatersay, Barra : £805 - 1 Ormiclate, 7 Eoligarry, Barra, 3 Pennerine and 103 Carnan(2) : £800 - 92 Bualadubb and 348 North Boisdale.

SHx: £800(2) - 44 Liniuque. SIMx: £910 and £880 - 426 North Lochboisdale : £805 - 6 West Gerinish.

Breeding Cattle
 Cows and Calves: £1,140 - 6 Dunganichy : £1000 - 5 Dunganichy.
 COWS: £1,000 - 8 Milton : £880 - 132 Stilligarry : £800 - 5 West Kilbride, 100 Carnan and 12 Ormiclate. Top prices per kilo: Bulls: AAX: 317p - 9 Bornish : 314p - 5 Frobost : 268p - Hopewell Cottage : 264p - 52 Bargarva : 257p(4) - 5 Frobost : 252p(3) - 123 Craigston, Barra : 244p - 100 Carnan, 8 Milton(3) and Hopewell Cottage(2) : 243p - 5 Frobost(3), 2 Drimisdale and Hopewell Cottage : 242p - land2 Frobost : 241p - 123 Craigston, Barra : 239p(5) - 8 Milton : 233p - 3 Milton and 123 Craigston(2) : 232p - 356 South Boisdale : 230p - 3 Milton.
 BRBx: 248p - 91 Bualadubb.
 CHARx: 289p and 281p(2) - Drimore Farm : 274p - 15 Ormiclate : 270p, 261p(9) and 250p - Drimore Farm : 240p - 100 Carnan. HERx: 254p - 11 West Gerinish.
 LIMx: 310p - 6 Ormiclate : 297p(2) - Aird Illery : 295p - 5 Milton : 293p - 12 Ormiclate : 292p - 6 Ormiclate and 1 Drimisdale(2) : 290p - 9 Milton and 1 Drimisdale : 287p - 261 Daliburgh(2) and 9 Milton : 282p - 3 Ormiclate : 281p and 280p - Drimore Farm : 280p - 9/10 Drimisdale : 278p - 344 North Boisdale, 1 Drimisdale(2) and 6 Drimisdale : 277p - 6 Drimisdale : 276p - 261 Daliburgh(3), 15 Ormiclate(2) and 10 Illery : 275p - 61 Bualuchrach and 261 Daliburgh(2) : 273p - 9 Milton(2) and 9/10 Drimisdale : 273p - 200/233 Stoneybridge : 271p(2) - Drimore : 270p - Aird Illery, 1 Vatersay Barra, 261 Daliburgh, 1 Drimisdale and 10 Illery(2) : 269p - 15 Ormiclate and 9/10 Drimisdale : 267p - 19 West Gerinish : 266p - 14 West Gerinish, 5 Milton and Drimore Farm(2) : 265p - 342 North Boisdale : 264p - 103 Carnan : 263p - 1 Drimisdale and 8 Torlum : 262p - 12 Ormiclate : 261p - 92 Bualadubb, 132 Stilligarry, 342 North Boisdale and Drimore Farm.
 SHx: 230p - 5A Drimisdale.
 SIMx: 272p - 8 Torlum : 254p - Drimore Farm : 247p - 5 Dunmor : 245p - 64 Bualuchrach : 244p - 20 West Gerinish : 243p - 8 Torlum : 242p - 19 West Gerinish : 241p - 6 West Gerinish : 240p - 291 Daliburgh.
 Heifers:
 AAX: 235p - 253 Daliburgh : 230p - 21 Griminish.
 CHARx: 250p(2) and 240p(2) - Drimore Farm.
 HERx: 234p - 11 West Gerinish.
 LIMx: 258p - 348 North Boisdale : 256p - Aird Illery : 256p and 254p - 1 Drimisdale : 254p - 3 Ormiclate : 252p - 14 West Gerinish : 249p(2) - Aird Illery : 248p - 10 Illery : 246p - 348 North Boisdale : 245p(3) - 103 Carnan : 243p - 132 Stilligarry : 242p(2) - 261 Daliburgh : 240p(2) - 1 Drimisdale : 239p(2) and 238p - Drimore Farm : 236p - 6 Drimisdale : 235p - 14 West Gerinish, 261 Daliburgh(3) and Drimore Farm : 233p - 6 Ormiclate : 232p - 1 Ormiclate and 9 Milton : 230p - 92 Bualadubb and 1 Ormiclate.
 SHx: 232p(2) - 44 Liniuque.

SIMx: 245p - 20 West Gerinish : 241p - 426 North Lochboisdale and 8 Torlum : 237p - 5 Dunmor : 235p and 234p - 3 Vatersay Barra : 233p - 426 North Lochboisdale, 3 Vatersay Barra and 19 West Gerinish : 232p - 5 Dunmor.
 Sheep: Lambs: SUFFx: £60.00 - 371 Southboisdale. TEXx: £80.00 - 32 Liniuque. CHEVx: £60.00 - 6 Dunganichy.
 CROSS: £54.00 - 350 North Boisdale.
 BF: £70.00 - 32 Liniuque : £60.00 - 15 Aird : £58.00 - 331 North Boisdale.
 Ewes: CROSS: £50.00 - 356 South Boisdale : £48.00 - 123 Craigston, Barra. BF: £48.00 and £45.00 - 11 Howmore.
 Wedders: CHEVx: £40.00 - 6 Dunganichy CROSS: £50.00 - 6 Dunganichy and 434/435 Lochboisdale. BF: £58.00 - 6 Dunganichy and 9 West Gerinish : £55.00 - 9 West Gerinish : £52.00 - 5 West Gerinish.
 Rams: TEX: £250 - 356 South Boisdale CHEV: £180 - 31 Aird.

Dingwall and Highland Marts Lochmaddy

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 38 weaned calves and store cattle, 11 adult head of breeding cattle and 10 OTM cattle at its Lochmaddy sale on Friday.

Bullocks averaged 246.7p and sold to 298.2p per kg and £850 gross for a pair of 285kg Limousin crosses from 4A Machair, Illeray.

Heifers averaged 221.2p and sold to 253.8p per kg for a pen of 260kg Limousin crosses from 4A Machair, and £720 gross for a 345kg Limousin cross from 5 Nunton, Benbecula.

Breeding cattle sold to £2,000 gross for a Luing cross heifer in calf from 1 Ahmore, Lochmaddy.

OTM cattle sold to 154.9p per kilo for a 710kg Limousin cross from 19 Knockintorran, Bayhead and £1,100 gross twice for a 860kg Luing cross from 1 Knockline, Bayhead and also for a 710kg Limousin cross from 19 Knockintorran.

Other leading prices per head and per kilo: Bulls: 201-250kg - 2/3 Clachan Sands, Lochmaddy, £730, 292.0p; 251-300kg - 6 Borve, Berneray, £760, 281.5p; 301-350kg - No 1 Kilaulay, Lochboisdale, £740, 234.9p; 351-400kg - 5 Nunton, Benbecula, £780, 4 Nunton, Benbecula, 213.9p.

Heifers 201-250kg - 6 Borve, £540, 225.0p; 251-300kg - 4 Nunton, £690, 230.0p; 301-350kg - No 1 Clachan Farm, Lochmaddy, £680, 223.0p.

In calf Heifers - LuthX - 1 Ahmore, £1850. In calf cows - SimX - Crois Moirag, Clachan, £1400.

Cow with calf at foot - CharX - 9 Gramsdale, Benbecula, £920.

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 607 store sheep of all classes at its Dingwall sale on Friday.

Lambs sold to £69 per head for a Suffolk from 3 Claddach, Kirkibost.

Gimmers sold to £62 per head for a pen of Texel crosses from Sandhill Farm, Berneray.

Ewes sold to £68 per head for a pen of Cheviots from Sandhill Farm.

Feeding sheep sold to £66 per head for Cross wedders from 10 Rushgarry, Berneray.

Rams sold to £280 gross for a Suffolk from 2 Claddach, Kirkibost.

Leading prices per head:
 Store lambs: SuffX - 7 Sollas, Lochmaddy, £67; Chev - Aird, 9 Illeray, £62; BF - 20 Knockintorran, Lochmaddy, £61; Tex X - 1 Knockline, Lochmaddy, £59; Cross - 8 Grenitote, Sollas & 12 Sollas, Lochmaddy, £46.

Ewes: Chev - Sandhill Farm, £62; Tex - 3 Claddach, £51; SuffX - 5 Knockintorran, Bayhead, £50; Cross - 11 Illeray, Lochmaddy & 3 Middlequarter, Sollas, £44.

Gimmers: Cross - Sandhill Farm, £60; Chev - 7 Balranald, Lochmaddy, £52.

Rams: Chev - 10 Rushgarry, Berneray, £140; Suff - Seabreeze, 24 Claddach, Balshare, £100.

Spending £25 or over on any wild bird feed and receive a **FREE** high quality feeder worth over £13

Harbro Country Store, Annat, Corpach
 Tel 01397 772434 Open Monday-Friday, 9.00am-5.00pm
 Saturday, 9.00am-12.00pm

Harbro Country Store, Kilmory Ind. Est., Lochgilphead
 Tel 01546 603804 Open Monday-Friday, 8.00am-5.00pm
 www.harbrocountrystores.co.uk

Other subject to availability. While stocks last.

ARGYLL AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS
OBAN

IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING CHANGING YOUR ATV BIKE, LOOK NO FURTHER THAN POLARIS FOR THE SPORTSMAN ATV OR THE FANTASTIC RANGER SIDE X SIDE IN PETROL OR DIESEL.

POLARIS OFFER UP TO 24 MONTHS 0% FINANCE UNTIL 31ST DECEMBER 2013.
 Terms and conditions apply, please contact us for more details.

Hardest working. Smoothest riding.

AS A NFU MEMBER YOU ARE ENTITLED TO A 5% DISCOUNT ON NEW POLARIS UTILITY AND UTV'S

Tel: 01631 565011 email: info@argyllagricultural.co.uk Mob: 07831 609128

McCormick CX105, 2007, c/w Quicke loader.....	£19,495
Zetor 6341 Super, 2002, 52 reg, c/w Mollieux MX 75 loader.....	£14,495
Case 4240 XL, 1996 P reg, 4WD, 2 spools, PUH/Drawbar, aircon, 1 owner.....	£12,995
Case 4230 4wd, 1994 M reg, c/w Quicke 750 loader/3rd service/joystick, 2 spools, PUH, 540/1000 PTO.....	£12,495
Fiat Agor 82-94 DT, 1994 reg, c/w Quicke 3260 loader/HI Bucket, 2 spools.....	£11,795
Landini Blitzzer 85, 2000 Y reg, c/w FX loader and Landini 9800 Evolution 4wd, 2001 Y reg.....	priced from £10,995
Massey Ferguson 3090 3993 K reg, 1 owner from new, 12/12 shuttle.....	£11,495
Massey Ferguson 6170 4wd 1996 P reg, 8x4 dynashift, 2 spools, toplink, PUH.....	£10,995
Case 4210, 2wd, 1994 M reg, and Case 885 2wd c/w loader, 2wd, PUH, drawbar, 2 spools.....	choice of 2 £10,995
Manitou 626 wheel loader, 1996, pallet forks, PUH.....	£10,495
Zetor 6245 4wd, 1992 H reg, c/w Quicke 4060 loader.....	£8,495
Case 895 Super XL, and Case 885XL 1992 H reg, 4wd, 2 spools.....	each at £8,495
Renault 80 34, 4wd, 1993 K reg, shuttle box, HYD PUH, Perkins engine.....	£7,995
Case 4210, 2wd, 1994 M reg, and Case 885 2wd c/w loader, 2wd, PUH, drawbar, 2 spools.....	from £7,495
Massey Ferguson 3070 4wd, 1988 E reg, Autotronic 4x4 powershift.....	£5,995
Fiat 780 2wd, 1985 B reg, 2 door cab, 2 spools, PUH.....	£5,495
Siroter 204E 4wd Compact, and Kubota B1410 4wd compact.....	from £3,995
Massey Ferguson 550 2wd, average order.....	£4,495
ICB 801.8, 2006, winspaced tracking, extending undercarriage, q-hitch, choice of 5.....	from £8,495 - £9,495
Case CX 28 excavator, 2002, 3600 hours, c/w 3 buckets, rubber tracks.....	£8,995
Kubota CX36 mini digger, 2005, c/w 3 buckets, rubber tracks, 2600 hours.....	£7,995

QUADS & ATVs - Full selection of brand new Suzuki King Quads. Also brand new Arctic Cat 700 Diesels in stock. Good selection of used quads in stock all serviced, new tyres/warranty

Gordon Agri, Loch Lomond. www.gordonagri.co.uk **GORDONAGRI**
 Tel: 01360 661001 Mob: 07801 052 007

Go Digital and Save 50%* every week PLUS RECEIVE A FREE GIFT**

Read The Oban Times as soon as it comes out

Access the newspaper anywhere in the world

Delivered straight to your inbox

Subscribe today! *Offer applies to one year subscriptions minimum **Terms and conditions apply

Visit www.obantimes.co.uk/digital

phone: 01491 419000

FREE DELIVERY ON REPLACEMENT TAGS

FREE REPLACEMENT SUPERTAGS

CATTLE TISSUE TAG AVAILABLE NOW

email: sales@dalton.co.uk - website: www.dalton.co.uk
 available through selected merchants, please ask for Dalton by name.
 Terms & Conditions apply, contact us for further details. E O & E.

20th November 2013

AGRI SCOT
 THE FARM BUSINESS EVENT

Over 220 Trade Stands
 Topical Seminars
 Beef Demonstration
 Business Advice
 Technical Demonstrations
 Top Dairy Cattle Competition

FREE PARKING FREE ADMISSION

Royal Highland Centre
 Ingliston, Edinburgh

www.agriscot.co.uk

ALIENERGY

Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

Project Officer

You will deliver the Renewable Energy – opportunities for fishing communities in Argyll project, covering Campbeltown/Carradale/Tarbert; Islay/Jura; Mull/Iona; Tiree/Coll and Oban/Luing. Experienced in training or skills development; knowledgeable about renewable energy and with understanding and awareness of the fishing industry, you will work with fishing communities to help them to develop skills/qualifications and diversify their businesses. 35 hours per week; part time/ job shares considered; location: flexible within Argyll.

Salary: £24,509 FTE. Fixed term contract until March 2015 but with possibility of further employment.
Closing date: 5pm on Thursday 21st November.
Further information or job packs: www.alienergy.org.uk; 01631 565183 or mandie@alienergy.org.uk
This project is funded by EFF Axis 4



Supporting People & Communities

Carr Gomm is a national charity providing quality care and support across Scotland since 1997.

SUPPORT ASSISTANTS – OBAN, MULL & LOCHGILPHEAD

Full-Time & Part-Time: £13,684 - £15,284 pa (pro rata)
Relief: 7.02 plus paid annual leave

We are recruiting for full-time & part-time Support Assistant vacancies based in our Oban Homecare Service, our Overnight Response team on the Isle of Mull and also our services in Lochgilphead.

Carr Gomm also has opportunities for Relief Support Assistants across Argyll & Bute based in the following areas: Campbeltown, Lochgilphead, Oban, Lochaber as well as the Isle of Mull and Isle of Islay. Our services include: overnight response, care at home (days) and housing support (including support of homeless people). If you are flexible and looking to work on an ad-hoc basis, we would love to hear from you, regardless of how many hours you can spare.

As our services deliver throughout Argyll & Bute, car use is desirable, with mileage and travel time between visits paid.

Please quote job reference number 381 when applying for this vacancy. We offer competitive terms and conditions including: pension, enhanced annual leave and sickness, and training opportunities. We aim to provide services and recruit staff without discrimination. For an application pack visit our website: www.carrgomm.org, e-mail: recruitment@carrgomm.org, Tel: 0131 659 4770, or contact Carr Gomm, SPACE, 11 Harewood Road, Edinburgh EH16 4NT.
Closing Date: Noon, Monday 2nd December 2013

Argyll HomeCare

Argyll HomeCare provides a professional, flexible, reliable and high quality service for those individuals requiring additional support or care at home.

Mid Argyll: Home Care Workers
Full, part time & weekend – (£7.56 per hour plus mileage)

Campbeltown: Home Care Workers
Full, part time & weekend – (£7.56 per hour plus mileage)

Care experience is desirable but not essential as comprehensive training is provided. Ability to work occasional evenings and weekends is essential. A full driving licence and access to a vehicle is desirable.

For further information and an application pack please email: info@argyllhomecare.co.uk or telephone: 01546 600333

All staff are subject to PVG checks (enhanced disclosure)



Deck Hand

Required for our 'Multicat' and based in Oban, this opportunity will suit an enthusiastic, hard worker with proven workboat or fish farming experience who is keen to develop their skills supporting a range of marine projects. Regular, short stays away from home will be required. Current sea crane, sea survival, first aid certificates and a clean driving licence will be necessary. Salary commensurate with experience.

If interested please send your CV to The Business Services Manager, North West Marine Ltd, 7e Glengallon Road, Oban, Argyll. PA34 4HG or email to enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk or call 01631 565652.



McT's Nightclub is looking for young, enthusiastic outgoing personalities to work behind the bar!!

If interested please contact:
01631 569599 or email colinrattray@hotmail.co.uk

Payroll & Pensions Administrator

Fixed Term Appointment – 2 years
Part Time – 22.2 hrs per week
£19,721 - £22,701 per annum pro rata

SAMS is seeking to appoint an experienced, pro-active Payroll and Pensions Administrator to join the Financial Support Services team.

The successful candidate must display excellent interpersonal skills, a positive attitude and be a team player.

Duties will include processing starters and leavers in conjunction with the HR team, accurate preparation and processing of net payments, dealing with payroll and pension queries and liaising with outside agencies e.g. HMRC, pension providers.

For further information and to apply for this position online, go to: www.sams.ac.uk. Alternatively, please write to: Human Resources, Payroll & Pensions Administrator (Job Ref. D20/13.PL), The Scottish Association for Marine Science, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA or e-mail recruitment@sams.ac.uk
Closing date: Friday 29th November 2013

SAMS is a registered Scottish charity (SC 009206), has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

JIM MARTIN SUPPLIES

SALES REPRESENTATIVE: ARGYLL & ISLES

Jim Martin Supplies is an Agricultural company that covers the West Coast of Scotland selling and promoting feeding, minerals and animal health.

The ideal candidate will be based in the Argyll & Bute area. You must have strong selling skills, be computer literate and have the vision, drive and other personal qualities necessary to make a real contribution to the business. A good knowledge in agricultural and an S.Q.P licence in animal health would be advantageous.

Hours may be flexible and the job involves a large amount of travelling each day, for which a driving licence is essential. The successful applicant will be offered a challenging and rewarding position with an attractive package, company vehicle and mobile phone.

For more information please contact the office on 01586 550066 or send your CV and covering letter to: James C. Martin, Jim Martin Supplies, 109-119 Longrow Campbeltown, PA28 6EX Email: jim@jms-scotland.com
Closing date for applications: 25th November 2013.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES



Midton Acrylics Ltd
Lochgilphead

Customer Account Supervisor

We are looking for the right person to assist us with the account management of our expanding customer base. The successful applicant should possess excellent communication skills and be comfortable with multi-tasking in a fast moving environment. Good numeracy skills and experience of working in a sales environment are desirable. A degree qualification (ideally in Marketing or another business discipline) is preferred but not essential. Full in-house training will be given.

Starting salary is £19-21000 (plus potential bonuses).

Applications (covering letter and C.V.) should be submitted to:

neil@midtonacrylics.co.uk
(For more information and/or an informal chat, contact Neil on 01546602182 or email: neil@midtonacrylics.co.uk)
Closing Date for applications is the 6th of December.

We require an individual with a Pleasant and Professional Manner to take on the role of Accounts Assistant in our small but busy office.

Duties would include some book-keeping, with a knowledge of Sage being advantageous but not essential as training will be given, along with good Administration Skills. Hours will be part time and flexible with the possibility of increasing in the future. Salary offered will depend on level of experience.

Please apply with CV and covering letter to: Fiona Stephenson, John MacAlister (Oban) Limited, No 6 South Pier, Gallanach Road, Oban PA34 4LS Or by email to fiona@jmacoban.co.uk
Closing Date for Applications: 29.11.2013



Due to continued expansion Leiths (Scotland) Ltd are looking to recruit for the following position at Highland Lime, Fort William:

MIXER DRIVER

This post requires to be filled by someone who is a versatile, flexible and willing worker, who has knowledge of the local area and has a clean class 2 driving licence. You will require a sound understanding of the EU rules on drivers hours and be fully conversant with tachograph charts and digital cards.

To apply for this position please visit our website www.leiths-group.co.uk to download an application form or alternatively contact Nichola Greig on (01224) 293210 or via email recruitment@leiths-group.co.uk
The closing date for all applications is Friday 15 November 2013
Leiths (Scotland) Ltd are an Equal Opportunities Employer

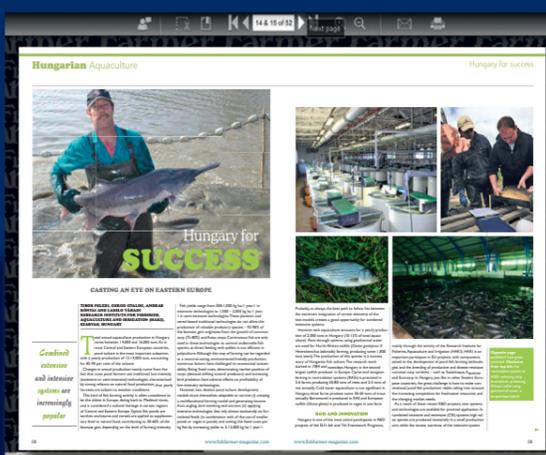
FISH FARMER GOES DIGITAL

SAVE OVER 35%

Subscribe to an online version of Fish Farmer magazine for one year and save over 35%

- * DON'T WAIT FOR YOUR ISSUE ANY LONGER!
- * GET ACCESS AS SOON AS IT IS PROVIDED!

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE ONLY **£44** PER YEAR



- USER FRIENDLY NAVIGATION -

Fish Farmer is the UK's leading aquaculture magazine, this highly-regarded magazine has been serving the aquaculture industry for 30 years and enjoys a worldwide distribution.

For more information visit:

www.fishfarmer-magazine.com/digital

DECEMBER ISSUE OUT NOW



FREE INSIDE Festive Food & Drink supplement



Claire Macdonald's Christmas recipes
Dunblane Dreaming - Judy Murray on why her home town is special
Jack Vettriano: Our greatest living artist?
From Peebles to the Whitehouse

32 pages of unbeatable Xmas Gift ideas

Makes the perfect Gift



MERRY CHRISTMAS
www.scottishfield.co.uk

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

THE ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL (QUEENS PARK PLACE, STATION ROAD AND RAILWAY STATION ACCESS ROAD, OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)(NO.2) ORDER 2013

On Monday 11th November 2013, Argyll and Bute Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Section 16(A) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, with the consent of the Scottish Ministers under Section 16B (6) of the said Act, made the above named Order, the effect of which will be that for a temporary period it will be unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle, with the exception of emergency services vehicles, through the entire lengths of Queens Park Place, Station Road and Railway Station Access Road, Oban in order to permit the switching on of the Christmas lights on or near those roads.

The Order, which is necessary to facilitate the holding of the event, shall have effect when indicated by signs between 1400 hours and 2200 hours on Saturday 23rd November 2013.

Alternative Route: There is no alternative route.

Jim Smith, Head of Roads & Amenities Services, 1A Manse Brae, LOCHGILPHEAD, PA31 8RD

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/02178/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South of Dugarro Tainuill Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Tainuill
13/02198/PPP	Erection of 4 dwellinghouses, installation of septic tanks and formation of vehicular access	Land South West of Macaulays Cottage Kilchrean Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Tainuill
13/02365/PPP	Erection of electric housing/store	Land At Former Ferry Terminal Building Pier Road Scarnish Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute PA77 6TN	Tiree Area Office Business Isle of Mull
13/02404/PPP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Land North of Scridain View Ardun Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA67 6DH	Sub Post Office Business Isle of Mull
13/02407/PPP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Land Adjacent to Fasgadh North Connel Oban Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Leidaig
13/02470/PPP	Erection of 3 dwellinghouses	Former Sawmill Site Invercraan Appin Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Leidaig
13/02513/PPP	Renewal of planning permission reference 09/01676/PPP (Demolition of 2 existing buildings and erection of 2 dwellinghouses)	Land At Port Mollag Isle of Lismore Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Lismore
13/02524/PPP	Site for proposed hotel, leisure facilities and lodges	Land at Tom Liath/Tom Ard Dunbeg Near Oban Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dunbeg
13/02531/PPP	Erection of 2 dwellinghouses, installation of 2 septic tanks and formation of vehicular access	Land South East of Eilean Mor (Croft 12) West Hynish Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute	Tiree Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardaraigh PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/02300/PPP	Change of use of land for the siting of 5 storm-pods and installation of bio-disk sewage treatment plant (part retrospective)	Surnaig Farm Lagavulin Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
13/02416/PPP	Erection of dwellinghouse, garage/workshop, formation of new vehicular access and installation of septic tank	Plot 7 Port An Truan Port Ellen Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
13/02419/PPP	Erection of cafe (class 3), installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of vehicular access	Land North of Creag Mhor Upper Kilchattan Isle of Colonsay Argyll and Bute PA61 7YR	Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay
13/02461/PPP	Erection of workshop/office	Ardnamara Croft Craighouse Isle of Jura Argyll and Bute PA60 7XZ	Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <http://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984
THE A85 TRUNK ROAD (STAFFORD STREET, OBAN) (DETRUNKING) ORDER 2011

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Scottish Ministers propose to make the following Order:

The A85 Trunk Road (Stafford Street, Oban) (Detrunking) Order 2011[] under section 5(2) and (6) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, the general effect of which will be the detrunking of the A85 Tyndrum - Oban Trunk Road at Stafford Street, Oban, as described in the Schedule to the Order.

COPIES of the proposed Order together with the relevant plan may be inspected, free of charge, during normal business hours, from 8th November 2013 until 20th December 2013 at the offices of Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF; the offices of Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RT; and Oban Library, 77 Albany St, Oban PA34 4AL.

ANY PERSON may object to the making of the Order, by notice in writing, to the Director of Trunk Roads and Bus Operations, c/o Mark Paterson, Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF quoting reference A85/NNW/MP and stating the title of the Order and the grounds of objection. Any such notice must be received on or before 20th December 2013.

R BRANNEN
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland
Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF.

CROFTING COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD
DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

Applicant, Croft, Extent/ Purpose, Case number

Mr H C MacLachlan Ben Heint, Ardnamurchan & Sunart 0.083 ha - Amenity ground 4.86.45801

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

Mr D H Young & Ms J H Young 11a Lower Carnach, Lismore & Appin 0.013 ha - Amenity ground 4.86.43082 Conditions: 3a & 4

Conditions

(3) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of: (a) the date of the direction (4) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

Proposed Division of a Croft by Owner-occupier Crofter

Mr Steven MacLeod is applying to divide the croft at 14 Clovulin, Ardgor into two new crofts.

The application includes the division of the croft grazings right in the Clovulin Common Grazings.

If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

Proposed Division of a Grazings Share

Mr Steven MacLeod is applying to divide the grazings share pertaining to 14 Clovulin in the Clovulin Common Grazings into two parts.

If you have an interest, in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

DAB VJB
Dumbartonshire and Argyll & Bute Valuation Joint Board

The Scottish Government has announced that the date of the independence referendum will be 18 September 2014.

The Scottish Independence Referendum (Franchise) Act provides that the franchise will be extended so that those who are either 16 or 17 years of age on the day of the referendum will be entitled to vote in the referendum if they would otherwise be entitled to be included in the register of local government electors.

The 2013 canvass will provide the basis for the registers to be used at the referendum

THE REGISTER OF ELECTORS ANNUAL CANVASS

Electoral Registration Forms will be posted to every residential property in Argyll & Bute during the month of November, listing the registration details held by the Electoral Registration Officer.

Each residential property will be sent two forms: an annual canvass form and a young voter registration form.

Register by Freephone, Internet or by Mobile Phone Text Message

Residents will be given the opportunity to use FREEPHONE, INTERNET and MOBILE PHONE TEXT MESSAGE to confirm their electoral roll details.

Details of how to do this will be on the Registration Forms.

All services will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, throughout the canvass period and can be used by households where the names of the electors at the address remain UNCHANGED from the information contained in the forms.

It is hoped that these convenient choices for making the return will be of particular benefit to the housebound, people living in rural areas and of course busy households wanting to save time.

Register by Post

If there are any ELECTOR NAME CHANGES required to the details appearing on the Registration Forms, amendments should be made accordingly, and the forms must be returned by POST in the pre-paid envelope provided.

David C Thomson
Electoral Registration Officer

69%
of the business community read the regional press

Regional Press
closer to home

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

BOWMANS COACHES (MULL) LIMITED IN MEMBERS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION

I, Stewart MacDonald, Scott-Moncrieff, 25 Bothwell Street, Glasgow, G2 6NL, HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that on 29 October 2013 I was appointed Liquidator of the above named company by a written Resolution of a meeting of Members. This advert is for information only, as all creditors will be paid in full.

Stewart MacDonald, Liquidator
Scott-Moncrieff, Allan House, 25 Bothwell Street Glasgow, G2 6NL
11 November 2013

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
13/04068/FUL	75M N of St Pauls Wades Road Kinlochleven	Construct a micro hydro scheme on the Allt nan Slatan and Allt a Chumhainn.
13/04082/FUL	Site 40M West of Cala Darach, Glenmore Acharacle	Erection of house

Time period for comments is 14 days.

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

The Oban Times
A WEEKLY HIGHLAND TIMES

Registration please free-delivery

Go Digital and Save 50%* every week PLUS RECEIVE A FREE GIFT**

- ▶ Read The Oban Times as soon as it comes out
- ▶ Access the newspaper anywhere in the world
- ▶ Delivered straight to your inbox

Subscribe today!
Visit www.obantimes.co.uk/digital

* Offer applies to one year subscriptions minimum
** Terms and conditions apply

West Coast property service

www.westcoastpropertyguide.co.uk

How many monkeys I give

Distance from my neck of the woods

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

But if you're a stat. lover, you'll want to know that 40 million people in Britain read a local paper,* and over 70% of people act upon the advertising they see.**

More facts at www.thewantedads.co.uk

NS the voice of local media

the wanted ads

*Source: GB TGI 2009 Q3 (April 2008 - March 2009)
**Source: The Wanted Ads. STAGE 1. GPR, NDP. Based on all adults

Car, Bike and Home Insurance

40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Cheaper Insurance for your Car, Bike and Home

Adrian Flux Insurance Services offer a range of policies which reflect the low risk nature of highland life. We can offer you great insurance deals on your car, bike and home. Call us today for a free no obligation quote.

0800 081 8989
adrianflux.co.uk

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

ADRIAN FLUX

FOR SALE

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.

M C & D Mactaggart
Solicitors
KINTYRE ESTATE AGENCY

Lagnagarach, Campbeltown
Detached 4 bedroom property with large garage/outbuilding and yard.

- Lounge
- Sitting Room
- Kitchen
- Dining Room
- Four Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Shower Room
- Conservatory
- EPC: E

Offers in the region of £178,000

Castlehill, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6AR Telephone (01586) 552317 Fax (01586) 554719 (24-Hour Answering Service)

57 Lochnell Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8JN Telephone (01546) 602581 E-mail: mail@cdm-law.co.uk

TO LET

Mossfield Avenue
3 bed furnished ground floor flat with garden, £600 pc, + bills, sorry no DSS or pets.
Contact 0776657219

Detached, newly completed house to let in Kilmore.
5 double bedrooms, 4 bathrooms (2 en-suite), oil fired underfloor heating, double sided wood burning stove. Unfurnished with new carpets.
Rent £850 pcm. Available immediately.
Call 07766 918 810.
EPC: Band C
LL Reg: 07538/130/19470

Fort William
Single room office in office complex, shared facilities, suit professional. Parking available.
Telephone 07850127671

COTTAGE / CROFT MUCH WANTED FOR RENT OVER WINTER PERIOD
All properties considered
Tel. 07990 605259

www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

NOW ONLINE

Advertise your unwanted items in either The Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser and your ad will also appear online at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk. Simply use the coupons on this page or visit the website and input your details there

LOCAL services

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

CORGI CLASSICS
BOXED die-cast model of West Coast Motor Services Burlingham Seagull Coach, £20 Telephone 01631 564578.

CORGI CLASSICS
BOXED die-cast model of David MacBrayne Ltd AEC Regal Coach, £20 Telephone 01631 564578.

BABY EQUIPMENT

AVENT STEAM STERILISER excellent condition, holds up to 6, 9oz bottles, extra basket for soothers etc, £5 Telephone 0141 239 0308.

CHICCO HIGH CHAIR Chicco Happy Snack high chair, excellent condition, easy to fold, 3 positions, good size tray, net basket underneath for storage, £25 Telephone 0141 239 0308.

COSATTO YO PUSH-CHAIR Cosatto Yo pushchair/buggy, from birth, pink, excellent condition, raincover and cosy toes included, easy to fold down, £49 Telephone 0141 239 0308.

TRAVEL COT cream colour with teddy motif on side. In very good condition and comes from a non smoking home, £30 Telephone 01631 710622.

TRAVEL COT Graco travel cot, good condition hardly used, £10 Telephone 01546 600103.

VANGO CHILDRENS BACK CARRIER navy blue in good condition with stand, raincover and mosquito net cover, £40 Telephone 01631 710622.

BICYCLES

CHILD REAR CYCLE SEAT/CARRIER Kid Cool Kooki child seat grey/red. Five point belt, adjustable foot rests. Max child weight 22kg, good condition, Benderloch, £25 Telephone 01631 720305.

BUILDING / DIY

16 SHEETS CORRUGATED ROOFING 1.380mm long + 3 ridge @1.800mm long, £35 Telephone 07788 833110 Oban.

HEAT GUN Black & Decker heat gun, will strip paint, varnish & adhesives, in seconds. 2setting high & low, saves time sanding surfaces down, £15 Telephone 07749 521916.

CDS, DVDS AND VIDEOS

DVD Led Zeppelin, lots of unseen & rare footage, runs for over 5hrs, as well as all the classic songs, cost£39.99, £15 Telephone 07749 521916.

CHRISTMAS

FIBRE OPTIC CHRISTMAS TREE 3 foot tall. Brand new in box, £5 Telephone 01631 720751.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

BOYS SNOWSUIT 7-8 YEARS Rodeo, size 122 = 7-8years, dark grey/light grey and yellow, immaculate condition, £14.99 Telephone 01631 570190.

HIMALAYAN BLACK SAFETY SHOES size 8 unused, still in box, £15 Telephone 01631 564578.

LADIES BLACK DUFFLE COAT in good condition previously worn, £10 Telephone 01631 720382.

LADIES FEATHER AND DOWN COAT by Mango, with zip fastening through front, black, size small, never worn, unwanted present, £45 Telephone 07809 678443 (Oban).

LADIES FLEECE JACKET size 10, fleece white jacket previously worn but still in excellent condition. Perfect for the winter, £10 Telephone 01631 720382.

LADIES WHITE DUFFLE COAT Next duffe coat size12 been worn but still in good condition, £10 Telephone 01631 720382.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

PC WORKSTATION / DESK brand new, sliding keyboard shelf, lower shelf, 600mm x 480mm x 750mm high. Good quality, strong frame & beech top, £35 Telephone 01631 770698.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

BOSCH CLASSIXX FREESTANDING Dishwasher used, but still in very good condition, white. Collect from Oban, £49 Telephone 07747 631117.

HOOVER HURRICANE CYCLONE 2000W Power Edge Cleaning System. Can deliver in Mid Argyll. Phone after 5pm, £25 Telephone 01546 603986.

ZANUSSI FRIDGE FREEZER used, but still in v good condition. Collect from Oban, photo available, £49 Telephone 07747 631117.

DOMESTIC PETS

HALF SIAMESE KITTEN friendly, ginger boy. Seven weeks old, litter trained, purring, playful and pretty. Last ever as mum done. Loving character, £75 Telephone 01880 760358.

LABRADOR PUPS yellow, both parents excellent hip scores and clear eye certificates. Parents and great-grandparents can be seen. Telephone 01290 338747.

FURNITURE

CANE SUITE high back, 2 seater sofa and two chairs, perfect condition, £150 Telephone 07880 625865.

CLEAR GLASS TV STAND with two shelves, cable tidy tube to back, 700mm wide x 480mm deep x 500mmH, excellent condition, £14.99 Telephone 01631 570190.

MATRESSES FOR SALE(BRAND NEW) Memory foam/ortho sprung, 1 double, 1 king-size both still wrapped. Genuine reason for sale, cost over £400 each will accept each, £150 Telephone 07553 811541.

SOLID OAK LAMP TABLE with drawer size 600mm x 600mm x 500mm high, excellent condition, £29.99 Telephone 01631 570190.

GARDEN

HUSQVARNA 225BV LEAF BLOWER petrol leaf blower/vacuum which shreds leaves as it collects them, £49 Telephone 01631 566466.

MCCULLOCH SHREDDER electric garden shredder, £25 Telephone 01631 566466.

SOVEREIGN PETROL VAC blower unused still in box, £49.99 Telephone 07789 515826 Oban.

HEATING, FIRES AND FIREPLACES

DUAL BURNING STOVE sit into normal fire, save a fortune on fuel, £49.99 Telephone 01558 821431.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

PEARLISED PAPER & CARD White, Baby Blue & Baby Pink colours in stock available in A3/A4/A5 sizes, from 13p per sheet. Contact Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

HOME FURNISHINGS

FLOOR STANDING LAMP H 56cm, gold finish with green shade, vg condition, £10 Telephone 01631 710866.

FLOOR STANDING LAMP H 66cm, with wood base finish, cream shade, £10 Telephone 01631 710866.

LILAC HAIRY RUG 120cm x 160cm, in excellent condition, not used, £25 Telephone 01631 710866.

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

BATH MIXER TAPS SINGLE LEVER chrome, wall mounted ceramic. Brand new boxed, shower hose connection, fittings, £20 Telephone 01631 770698.

SHOWERBASE unused, 1430 x 935mm, centre waste, £30 Telephone 07788 833110 Oban.

LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

SUIT CASE Tripp, Capacity 74-89 litres, Size H30" W19" D11"-12.5". Expandable, wheeled, £49.99 Telephone 07879 685771.

MAIL ORDER

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Places include: Stirling, Fort William, Glencoe, Aberdeen, Isle of Skye, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Loch Lomond, Kelso, Aviemore, Forfar, Rum and Eigg, Shetland, Glentworth and Dryburgh. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR

fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Places include: Inveraray, Appin, Oban, Seil, Isle of Mull, Campbeltown, Tarbert, Machrihanish, Fort William. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

MISCELLANEOUS

BRASS LETTERBOX new boxed with fittings, £25 Telephone 01631 720369.

PRINTING AND STATIONERY

PAPER & CARD A4/A3 size, sold in reams or by the box, ideal for copiers, lasers and fax machines. Contact Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

RAFFLE TICKETS

For your prize draw, numbered and perforated to your requirements. From Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

TOYS AND GAMES

BIG POLLY POCKETS large collection of big Polly dolls which include house car and clothes in good condition and would make ideal Xmas pressie, £20 Telephone 01631 720382.

DOLLS HOUSE this is a beautiful old dolls house which is in excellent condition and comes complete with furniture and dolls, £40 Telephone 01631 720382.

HELLO KITTY BUNDLE drawing easel, CD player, night light, water dispenser, all in immaculate condition, £30 Telephone 01631 570190.

LORD OF THE RINGS TRIVIAL Pursuit DVD edition. Excellent condition, great present, £5 Telephone 01631 720751.

PLAY MAT boy's road mat new and sealed green with roads, £10 Telephone 01631 720369.

PUSHCHAIR & CRIB would suit 3-6yrs inc doll, crib mattress, pillow, cover and foot warmer in pink pushchair. Crib white rocker. Good con. Killin, £15 Telephone 07796 491362.

STAR WARS TRIVIAL PURSUIT DVD as new, great for Christmas, £5 Telephone 01631 720751.

V-BEAT AIR GUITAR electronic toy that sounds like a real guitar. Also connects to MP3 player to play along with your favourite songs. As new, £10 Telephone 01631 720751.

OBAN TIMES TRADE CLASSIFIED

WANTED

LIGHTERS - OLD AND NEW cigarette lighters wanted. Cash paid. Telephone 01866 844220.

SCRAP METAL all types of scrap metal, we uplift scrap cars, call Mr Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals. Telephone 01499 500638 or 07787 991636.

PERSONALS

Happy 21st Birthday MAIRI MACINNES!



Love from Mum, Dad, Alan, and all the family xxx

80th Birthday Thank You

Ina MacDonald would like to thank all family and friends for making her 80th birthday a wonderful experience, and for all the cards, flowers and gifts received. Thanks to everyone for the special day. Ina, Creag Ghals, Dervaig.

OBAN TIMES TRADE CLASSIFIED

gardening

Scott Cummings GARDENING

All garden work undertaken. Pruning, hedges cut back, weeding, paths and walls repaired and small cement and concreting jobs. Log Splitting No job too big or small £10 per hour Telephone 07599982819

removals & storage

MACQUEEN BROS LTD

Removals/Storage & Self Storage Full range of packing materials We store boats, caravans, trailers etc Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG Tel: (01631) 564848 www.macqueenbros.com

blinds

Chris Craft window blinds

OBAN 01852 300174 FORT WILLIAM 0800 371250 FREE MEASURING / FREE ESTIMATES FREE FITTING / MADE IN SCOTLAND ALL BLINDS MADE TO MEASURE Check out our Customer Views at www.customers.chriscraft.co.uk

plumbing

J.M. BOYD Plumbing & Heating Contractors Ltd.

Central Heating Systems • Underfloor Heating • Oil Fired Natural Gas • LPG • Solid Fuel • Complete Bathrooms supplied & fitted • Tiling, Bathrooms & Kitchens • Joiner & Electrical work New build and complete house renovations Tel: 01631 562383 • Fax: 01631 565512 Mobile: 07774 480 393 Email: boydnjl@supanet.com 16 Airds Crescent, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5SJ 24 HOUR CALL OUT SERVICE

firewood

SEASONED HARDWOOD LOGS

Delivered by 1.5 ton tipper lorry, free delivery throughout Oban, Mid and North Argyll. £85 per load. Tel 01838 200373

accountants

BághSpoke Accounting

Self-Assessments, Tax Returns, Year-end Accounts, Payroll, Start-ups, small, medium and large companies Free Consultation. Phone: 01631 570123 Mobile: 0791 901 7002 Email: baghspoke@btinternet.com

building contractor

BIRTHS



CRAWFORD

Grant and Maria Cristina are delighted to announce the arrival of their beautiful baby son Caden Grant on November 7, 2013. First grandchild for Jimmie and Lesley and 7th for Rosemarie and Felix. Thanks to all midwives in Oban and RAH Paisley.

HARRIS - Martin and Mairi (née Menzies) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their daughter Elaina Alexandra on November 7, 2013, at the Dorchester Hospital, a little sister for Eilidh.

STUART FOTHERINGHAM - On October 25, 2013, to Sophia (née MacCarthy-Morrogh) and Charles, a daughter, Georgina Linthe.

DEATHS

MACPHERSON - Peacefully at home on November 2, 2013. Sandra, dearly loved wife of Hamish.

NEILSON - Cathie - Catherine Lewis Neilson (née Cameron) has died after a long illness, on Monday November 4, 2013. She was married to Jack Neilson for fifty-four years before he died in 2011. She was much loved and will be sorely missed by her family: Christine, John and Fergus, her daughter-in-laws, Helen and Jill, grandchildren James, Emma, Alex and Will and her sister, Mary, in Portmahaven, Isle of Islay. The funeral will take place in Torosay Church, on the Isle of Mull, on Thursday, November 14, 2013 at 11.30. No flowers please; donations may be made to Christian Aid.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DOCKER - Anne Bruce, Allan Docker and their families would like to thank everyone for all the support, cards, calls, visits and kindness following the sudden and sad loss of our beloved Eddie. Our grateful thanks to the Ambulance Service and Dr Nicky Campbell and A and E staff at the Lorn and District General Hospital for their determined efforts to save Eddie. Sincere thanks to Catriona and Staff of Hoey Funeral Directors for their efficient, sensitive and considerate handling of the funeral arrangements. To Blooms of Oban for the beautiful floral tributes and to the staff of Ravelston House, Musselburgh and the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban for their sympathetic and excellent service. Our special thanks to Belinda Braithwaite and Lara Calini of the Humanist Society, Scotland for their sensitive, comforting and uplifting celebrations of Eddie's life. Thank you to all who attended at Seaford Crematorium and the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban where contributions to the retail collection raised a substantial amount for ABCD and the British Heart Foundation.

SPENCE - Catriona, Alice and family would like to thank all friends, and neighbours for their kind words, calls and cards and expressions of sympathy on the death of their mum, Peggy. Special thanks to the staff of Kinlochleven surgery for their kindness and care, in particular Dr McConnell and Dr Ellis for his all night vigil in our Mum's final hours. Thank you to Rev Kinnear for his personal service.

THOMSON - The family of the late Stevan George Thomson would like to thank all family and friends for their kindness and support and for the many cards they received following their recent sad loss. Thanks also to Dugald Cameron for his comforting service, to D and A Munn for their efficient and caring arrangements and to Emslie Collier in Montrose. Thanks also to Moreen Gracie for the lovely flower arrangements and to the Royal Hotel for the refreshments and to all Stevan's friends and family who came to pay their last respects at the service and graveside. We as a family gained strength from you all. The sum of £329.33 was raised for Alzheimers Scotland.

MEMORIALS

CAMERON - In loving memory of my dear wife Jane Hall (Sheena) who passed away on November 13, 2012. Dearly loved and sorely missed by all the family. Gone but not forgotten.

CAMERON - In loving memory of a dear husband, father and grandfather Angus Cameron died November 18, 1994. Sadly missed and remembered every day.

- Rosemary and family.
DAVIS - Gavin Lee, left us November 17, 2000. Gav there are moments in life when we miss you so much that we just want to pick you from our dreams and hug you once again for real. Love and miss you so much son, all our love and kisses.
- Mum and Dad xx

DAVIS - Gavin Lee taken November 17, 2000. I miss you with all my might I miss the way we would fight I miss my brother I miss my friend I miss you and love you.

- Love Sheri and Martin xx
My Uncle Gavin
Just remember that no matter where I am you will be in my heart.
Lots of Love
- Tyler xx

DAVIS and WRIGHT - My dear cousin Gav and my lovely dad Bill.
Miss you too much.
- Love always, Deb.

EMSLIE - In remembrance of my beloved Anne, who was taken on November 16, 2002. We never part from those we love
No distance can divide
In memory's garden day by day
We still walk by your side.

- Hamish
EMSLIE - Remembering with love and gratitude our mother, mother-in-law and granny Anne, who passed on November 16, 2002. A light is from our household gone
A voice we love is stilled
A place is vacant in our home
Which never can be filled.

- Your family
FORBES - Precious memories of Harry, A dear husband, father and grandfather who died November 15, 2007. Love lasts a lifetime. It lives forever more. A timeless flowing in the heart.
Like waves upon the shore,
- Sadly missed by Joan and family.

GILLIES - Remembering Allan James passed away November 12, 2012, aged 33 years.
Loved always
- Mum, Isla and all the family.
GILLIES - Treasured memories of my dearly loved father, Duncan, on his 26th anniversary, November 14, 2013. Remembered always.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of my dearly loved husband, a loving dad and grandad, Domhnall Domhnallach, who died 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.
MACINTYRE - Betty died November 9, 2003, formerly of Oban and Tobermory. You will remain our lesson in how to live and we constantly give those who have joined the family since you left us a sense of how wonderfully giving you were.
- Angus, Lorn, Eric, Elizabeth and families.

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of our dad Lachie who passed away on November 15, 2012. Sadly missed every day. Love you always.
- Mairi, Elaine, Jennifer, Aran, and James xx.
MACINTYRE - Treasured memories of beloved parents, parents-in-law and grandparents Archibald (Baldy) and Mary (nee Boyd) whose anniversaries occur about this time. Always in our thoughts.

- Iain, Jane, Caroline and Boyd, Oban and Edinburgh.
MACKAY - Precious memories of Christine. Remembered every day with much love.
- Donnie, Donna, Finlay, Rebecca and families.
MCCULLOCH - In loving memory of our dear dad and grandpa Peter, died November 18, 2003 and his beloved wife Ella died January 18, 1993. Fondly remembered.

- Ellinor, John and families
MITCHELL - In loving memory of a beloved wife and mother, Kathleen, who passed away on November 11, 2012. I thought of you today, But that's nothing new I thought of you yesterday, And I will tomorrow too, I think of you in silence, And to try to make no outward show, For what it meant to lose you, Only those who love you know, Remembering you is easy, I do it every day, It's the heartache of losing you, That will never go away. Sorely missed. Your loving family.

- Husband Stewart, Diane, Greig and Tracey.
PEARSON - Proud and precious memories of our son Garry who was taken from us so tragically November 13, 1999 aged 22 years. There is a family who misses you dearly, From who's lives you were tragically torn, We think of you daily and hourly, We try to be brave not forlorn, Tears that we shed in silence, And we breathe many a sigh of regret, For you were ours and we'll always remember, Though the rest of the world may forget, In our hearts and thoughts always.
- Mum, Dad and all your loving family xxx

STORMONTH - In loving memory of our dearest Marshall who died 20 years ago on November 18, 1993. Always and forever in our thoughts.
- From Mum, Murray and Aileen.

CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Sunday 17 November 2013
Trinity 25
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion.....08.00
Sung Eucharist.....10.15
Children's Corner
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Nicki McNelly, Provost.
(01631) 562323
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist.....11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....09.30

MEMORIALS

OBAN MEMORIALS
A & D MacLean
Master Sculptor
Glenalma, Soroba Road, Oban
Design and prices on request
LETTERING AND RENOVATING
DONE IN ANY CEMETERY
TEL: 01631 563123 / 565269

CHARITY DONATIONS

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
Angel Building
407 St John Street
London EC1V 4AD

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE
Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact
Mrs Lillian Kermode
Tynwald, Glenburn,
Soroba Road, Oban
01631 571009

Oban Hospice
CARING FOR THE FUTURE
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact
Jack Tollan
Birch Hill
Achnacreebeag
North Connel, PA37 1RE

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



Go Digital and Save 50% every week PLUS RECEIVE A FREE GIFT*
Read The Oban Times as soon as it comes out
Access the newspaper anywhere in the world
Delivered straight to your inbox
Subscribe today!
Visit www.obantimes.co.uk/digital
*Offer applies to one year subscriptions minimum
Terms and conditions apply

MP's emotional farewell to former school teacher

ROSS, SKYE and Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy bade an emotional farewell to the late Bob Dick, his former Lochaber High School teacher, in an address at the former local MP's funeral in Duncansburgh Macintosh Church in Fort William on November 5.

Mr Kennedy said: 'Bob started marking and giving critiques of my speeches at Lochaber High School nearly 40 years ago. I hate to think how he might rate this most sad but privileged contribution to make at the kind

invitation of the family today. 'And 40 years ago it would have been almost inconceivable that Lochaber High School, in the course of a very few, short years, would have won its way to the top table of Scottish school debating.

'Yet that is what Bob, with his inspired leadership and assisted by Graham Kirkwood, succeeded in delivering. 'I'm now one of two MPs - the other, of course, being Fiona Kenny - now O'Donnell - who prospered under his guidance.

For that Fiona and myself agree that Bob will have some explaining to do when he meets St. Peter.

'This was a good, genuine and gifted man. 'Someone who gave so much to others but never asked anything in return for himself. And this was equally true of his involvements in both music and sport.

'As such his enduring legacy is both local and truly national. 'And so the ongoing challenge to those of us who were

so fortunate to benefit from his wisdom is surely to seek to put into practice the values and principles which he sought to instil.'

Mr Kennedy added: 'We have today all lost a great friend. I have certainly lost my critical mentor who was to shape my career and entire life.

'But Lochaber and humanity as a whole should celebrate the good fortune which Bob brought to so many and in so many ways. Bob - many salutes. And much love.'

Thought for the Week

Is religious faith essential?

Recent discoveries, from modern Turkey in the north to Jordan in the south, have shed new light on the origins of organised religion.

Archaeologists have unearthed mysterious ritual sites, megaliths and carvings, dating back over 11,000 years.

This undermines the theory, championed by the Marxist archaeologist, Vere Gordon Childe, in his book; Man makes himself. He believed that it was the development

of agriculture 8000 years ago which produced a surplus of food that allowed the growth of organised religion.

Rather many archaeologists now believe that religious practice came first, drawing people together to develop agriculture.

'Hard wired' Religious belief appears 'hard wired' into humankind's make up.

Neanderthal man more than 300,000 years ago buried their dead in shallow pits with grave goods indicating their belief

in the afterlife. Bones found in a cave at Qafzeh in Israel, dating from 100,000 years ago, were deliberately stained with red ochre; a dye which still has ritual and symbolic significance for many people even today.

If belief in God is an integral part of what it is to be human and a building block of civilized society, then for society to turn its back on God is catastrophic.

David James, Glencruitten House

20th year of island's oldest turbine

THE OLDEST operational wind turbine on the Isle of Mull celebrated its 20th year of energy production earlier this week.

Nigel and Rosie Burgess, of Kintra, installed the Kingspan Wind Turbine to provide power for their croft house 20 years ago this month.

Over that time the machine, rated at 2.2kW, has produced 68,500kWh of power and saved the couple thousands of pounds in electricity bills as well as reducing their CO2 emissions by 35 tons.

To mark the anniversary a celebration was held at Nigel and Rosie's Crofters Kitchen on Tuesday. The croft was open to visitors in the afternoon and Nigel set up the turbine to work off-grid through a bank of batteries to maintain power to the croft.

He said the celebration was a 'very happy day'. The turbine originally cost £2,500 but was financially supported by a government scheme.

He added: 'We installed the turbine to give us energy security. We often get power cuts here and I wanted to be independent of the grid and not reliant on fossil fuels for my energy.'

'It has been brilliant, we had some teething troubles early on but latterly - over the last four years - I hardly touch it with a spanner. It is very reliable and it requires very little maintenance with no significant running costs at all.'

Nigel showed visitors round the layout and described his experiences with the system during the open afternoon. Staff from Kingspan were on hand to explain their range of small wind turbines.

A birthday cake was cut and visitors also enjoyed refreshments of local produce.



Nigel and Rosie Burgess and friends marked the turbine's anniversary.

When Nigel installed the turbine 20 years ago, the system of Feed-in-Tariffs did not exist, while today anyone installing a wind turbine can be paid up to 21p/kWh for the power they generate, in addition to the energy savings they make on

their own premises. Nigel and Rosie now benefit from this tariff with a second turbine they installed four years ago. 'We are just about totally self sufficient in energy,' Nigel said.

'And the first turbine is saving us money while the second is

earning us money.'

In 2011 Nigel formed Mull Wind Power Ltd, with fellow director David Pollard. The company installs and maintains a range of turbines on the Isle of Mull including Kingspan equipment.

Muckairn members celebrate 125 years of Guild

MEMBERS of Muckairn Church Guild and friends met in the church on Monday November 4 when Stella Huntingford led the worship and welcomed all present.

A hymn 'Inspire us Lord', which was the winning entry in a competition to celebrate 125 years of the Guild, was sung to the Londonderry Air (Ann MacCallum on the piano).

Noel Mathias then gave an excellent talk on the Guild project A Passage from India, which he and Eleanor Campbell accompanying him work for, through the Church of Scotland Mission Council.

A group of 10 women from Maryhill, Glasgow travelled to India to see how women there, in similar poor circumstances, set up a self-reliant sewing group.

Money

They made advent calendars and other things and sold them and gradually made enough money to buy new sewing machines.

Rev Robert Brookes gave the thanks of a very appreciative

audience.

The meeting closed with the hymn 'One more step along the world I go' and the blessing was followed by tea.

The next Guild meeting will be the Candlelight Supper in Taynuilt Village Hall on December 5.



Lindsay Stewart, from Glasgow, sent us this photograph of a gravestone in Malaga's English Cemetery. This grave is of an Oban man Allan Muir Mitchell, who was born on April 11, 1930 and died on November 25, 1969. Lindsay says the 'English Cemetery' where he was laid to rest was a piece of land bought from the Spanish, as before the existence of this cemetery, non-catholics would be buried during the night, in the sand, on the beach, sitting upright, and left to the dogs and the tides. Lindsay is keen to hear from Mr Mitchell's family.

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 newsgagents every week

Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB
Tel: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001
www.obantimes.co.uk

Editorial
Editorial Director
Stewart MacKenzie
editor@obantimes.co.uk

News Editor
Stephen Norris
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

News Editor
Euan Paterson
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

Senior Reporter
Steven Flanagan
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter
Faith Orr
farr@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter
Richard Haddock
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

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

Newsdesk
01631 568060
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Executive
Rhona McKillop
adverts@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Sales Executive
Nadine Ross
nross@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Sales Executive
Mairi Auld
mauld@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Executive
Eilidh MacLennan
emacLennan@obantimes.co.uk

Branch Offices
Fort William
Tel 01397 703003
Fax 01397 702495

Lochgilphead
Tel 01546 602345
Fax 01546 602661

Campbeltown
Tel 01586 554646
Fax 01586 553006

Arran
Tel 01770 302142
Fax 01770 302021

www.obantimes.co.uk

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS
YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wywex Media Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wywex Media Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space thereon or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public with these publications.
1. Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.
2. The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.
3. The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.
4. An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertiser's order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.
5. Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.
6. The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.
7. The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.
8. Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.
9. The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.
10. Advertisers under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.
11. Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.
12. A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.
Published by Wywex Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Tel: (01631) 568000 Fax: (01631) 568001
www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. http://termsandconditions.wywexmedia.co.uk

Oban Athletic draw in bad tempered league cup tie

'We are not interested in fight clubs, we prefer to play football'



Ruari MacLennan congratulates Paul Carmichael on his well taken free kick which earned Athletic a draw. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

FOOTBALL

West of Scotland League Cup
**Oban Athletic 2
Corkerhill 2**
OBAN Athletic stopped their recent run of poor results by drawing with Corkerhill in a testosterone-filled match at Oban Community Pitch last Saturday. Athletic started brightly and Paul Carmichael was causing all sorts of problems with his dynamic running up front but it was his strike partner Dean Smith who had the first chance when clean through, only for the Corkerhill goalkeeper to thwart him as he pulled the trigger. Alan Miller and Dougal Graham were providing plenty of



Tempers flared between the teams during last Saturday's League Cup match at Oban Community Pitch. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

service from wide areas and it was Miller who cushioned a neat ball over to Carmichael who rounded the keeper and unselfishly laid on the opening goal for Dean Smith. You sensed the Athletic dominance would propel them on to a rout but failure to convert their dominance into goals came back to bite them on 35 minutes. A rare foray forward from the visitors led to Stephen Kelly committing a foul inside the box and Corkerhill levelled the match from the penalty spot. The second half descended into chaos as what seemed to start as light hearted 'banter' turned into

a grudge match and Corkerhill were trying to leave their mark at every opportunity. Referee Tim Woodcock had no option to dish out three red cards in the second half, one for the home team and two for the visitors. However, there could easily have been double that count if some other kicks and elbows were spotted by the referee. This style of play suited the visitors and they got forward again from a long ball which Ruari MacLennan should have ushered out of play. He was robbed, and the ball was fired across the goalmouth and knocked home, much to the

disbelief of the home side. Amid the organised chaos Athletic kept pouring forward but it was a magnificent free kick from Paul Carmichael into the top corner that brought the game back to parity and that is how it finished. Manager Calum Fox was not impressed by the conduct of their opponents. He said: 'We are not interested in fight clubs, we prefer to play football and in the first half we proved we could play them off the park and why we weren't ahead at half time is beyond me. Despite Ben Pollock making a good save to his left, they created nothing and we had

plenty of scoring opportunities. 'The second half was embarrassing and I will be contacting the league to voice my disgust at the conduct of the Corkerhill players and management. 'Focusing on ourselves Iain McInnes, Alan Miller and Paul Carmichael were stand outs for us and they can be happy with their efforts. We were a bit wasteful in front of goal which almost cost us but we are now into the quarter final of the league cup so that will give us a wee boost.' Athletic are at home to Helensburgh this weekend in a league fixture.

Lochaber Phoenix officials' hard work is recognised

BOXING

YOUNGSTERS from Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club have regularly collected regional and national accolades in recent years - and now the club officials' hard work is being recognised as well. Coach Niall Clark has been invited to join the Scottish national team coaching squad and this week is participating in a five-day International Amateur Boxing Association course to allow him to coach at international level. And club referee and judge Steve Doherty was selected to officiate at a schoolboy international between Scotland and England in Newcastle at the weekend. After his good performance, Doherty has now been offered the chance to add to the international star award that he already has by taking part in a three-day IABA course in the new year, cementing his reputation as one of the top officials in Scotland. Added to this, Scottish youth light welterweight champion Igor Shiwinski is turning heads during the Scottish Elite squad training sessions he is attending on Saturday mornings in Glasgow. Shiwinski has been sparring with youth and senior champions from lightweight to welterweight in his quest to earn a Scotland call up. Steve Doherty said: 'As this is only the club's sixth season the boxers have shown progression constantly and the standard of boxing is getting better every year. 'The club is thriving at the moment with about a dozen active boxers and many more on the verge of making their debuts. 'With so many boxers it is costing more every year to keep the club active and we couldn't do it without the support of all our sponsors, in particular Caley Timber and Building Supplies whose support has helped open new doors for us financially and enabled us to travel around the country.'

Tight at the top in Oban Pool League

MARKIE Dans 'A' now lead the Oban Pool League by virtue of game difference after a comfortable fifth consecutive win. The Lochavullin were the visitors on this occasion but they were helpless to prevent the former champions taking pole position and once again proving the Corran Esplanade venue to be a pool fortress on a Thursday night. The Lancaster 'A' still remain level on points despite being displaced from top spot but can count themselves mighty fortunate after a lacklustre performance saw their match with the newly formed Foley's Bar (former Kelvin) go right to the wire. What should have been a routine two points and healthy game count tally quickly turned sour for the Lancaster 'A' as they found themselves behind from the outset, something which wasn't overturned until the penultimate game. This year The Lancaster 'A' have added creditable doubles performances which have been missing the past couple of seasons and this was the deciding factor.

Once again The Cellar remain undefeated and tight on the heels of their rivals as they eased to victory and hand The Lochnell their second crushing defeat of the season. This was an impressive display from the reigning champions who are away to The Lancaster 'A'. Already this clash looks like it will play huge significance in the destination of the championship with both sides still boasting unblemished records, something which will have to give. Sitting in fourth spot and hoping to remain on the coat tails of the big guns are The Lancaster 'B', who made light work of Markie Dans 'B'. With an easier run of games leading up to the festive break The Lancaster 'B' will be looking to cement their claim to be the best of the rest, although they face a tricky cup-tie away to The Lochavullin before that. Current league sponsors and new recruits The Creagan Inn welcomed fellow villagers The Gluepot across the shores of Loch Creran, but their hospitality was mistaken for charity with the latter recording their biggest ever win.

The Gluepot have shown signs already this season that they are a fast improving outfit. The concluding tie of week five saw another spirited performance from The Outreach as they chased their elusive first point of the season against The Claredon. Once again the former fell just short, but considering most of their team until only weeks ago had never played competitive pool their efforts have earned praise within the pool community. Results week five (November 7):

OBAN POOL LEAGUE TABLE

	P	Pts
1 Markie Dans A	5	10
2 Lancaster A	5	10
3 The Cellar	4	8
4 Lancaster B	5	6
5 The Claredon	4	5
6 The Lochnell	5	5
7 The Gluepot	5	4
8 The Lochavullin	5	4
9 Markie Dans B	5	3
10 The Creagan Inn	5	3
11 Foley's Bar	5	0
12 Outreach	5	0

POOL

Markie Dans A 8-2 The Lochavullin; The Creagan Inn 1-9 The Gluepot; The Cellar 9-1 The Lochnell; Foley's Bar 4-6 Lancaster A; Outreach 3-7 The Claredon; Lancaster B 8-2 Markie Dans B. Oban Filling Station Cup (OFS CUP) ties to be played November 14: The Lochavullin v Lancaster B; Outreach v The Cellar; Lancaster A v The Creagan Inn; Foley's Bar v The Lochnell. Bye - The Gluepot, Markie Dans A, Markie Dans B, The Claredon.



Alan Buchanan, right, scored two goals for Oban Saints Under 17s in their 3-3 draw with Helensburgh last Saturday. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

Scottish Amateur Football League results

FOOTBALL

SCOTTISH Amateur Cup 2nd round results: Yoker 5, Tarbert 5; 3rd round - Clermiston Star 2, Dunoon 1; Glenmuir Thistle 2, v Campbelltown Pupils 7; Oban Saints v Rosyth postponed; Premier Division Two - Dunoon Athletic 3, Port Glasgow United 3; Goldenhill 5, Lochgiphead Red Star 2.

Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

SATURDAY'S results: Under 13s no game; Under 14s no game; Milngavie v Under 15s postponed; Under 17s 3, Helensburgh 3. Scoring for Saints were Alan Buchanan (2) and Stuart MacLeod.

This weekend's fixtures - Renton Craigandro v Under 13s; Ardencaple v Under 14s; Under 15s v Dumbarton Riverside; Under 17s v Allender Colts.

Dalmally Golf Club correction

GOLF

LAST week's Dalmally Golf Club report stated Lily MacKay won the Four Seasons Salver, Eclectic Stableford and Raglan Decanter. This was incorrect. The Eclectic Stableford was won by Anne Munro.

Scotland do the business in shinty-camogie match in Inverness

SCOTLAND lined up against Dublin at Bught Park recently in what had been dubbed as the County v Country Challenge match. It was the moment that coach Stuart Reid and his management team had been training the Scotland women's squad hard for over the last few months. And it was 60 minutes away from the moment when it was to become apparent whether all of the hard work had paid off and converted into a victory for Shinty over Camogie in the annual battle. Scotland were captained by GMA defender and seasoned international, Laura McCafferty, extremely proud to lead out her fellow team mates on her

ninth cap. The Irish were captained by Elaine Gallery, equally proud to lead out her All Ireland Champion team mates on both their first match outside of Ireland and their first outing against a shinty team. Scotland started strongly and it was not long before Lorna MacRae of Skye put the home side in front with a fine strike between the uprights. Scotland continued their scoring with a cracking effort from Katie Booth of Aberdour finding the back of the net by dipping just below the cross bar but above the Dublin keeper. Irish heads did not go down though and they showcased their skill and determination to get their own tally

of points on the board. The first Irish points came from a fantastic solo effort from Roisin Collins leaving the Scottish keeper standing, the second came from a free which, Georgina Kelly made no mistake in placing directly through the middle of the uprights. It was not long however before Scotland found the back of the net again following some great linking up between Booth and Smith of Aberdour which resulted in a goal for Katy Smith whose strike well and truly eluded the Dublin netminder. It was Dublin who made the next score with a point from Kelly via another free followed by another

point from open play. However it was Lorna MacRae of Skye who ensured Scotland went into half time in front, with a fine strike between the uprights. Despite the score there was no doubt that the girls from Dublin were looking very dangerous in play leading up to the half time whistle. Dublin started the second half the stronger side and asserted plenty of pressure on the shinty players, resulting in more points for Kelly via a free and then their first goal as Emer Keenan found the back of the net. The match was extremely tight at this stage and the Dubs took the lead for the first time 8-7. The Scottish team showed great

determination and fought back hard and were rewarded with a great goal from Laura Gallacher of Glangarry who made no mistake in finding the back of the net. Scottish confidence was up after Gallacher's goal and MacRae did not waste much time in adding to the points haul with another point through the uprights. Victory was not sealed however and the All Ireland Champions kept fighting hard. Katy Smith added to her points haul in the closing stages of the game with a two pointer but Dublin did not give up and Keenan secured another goal from a tight angle in the final two minutes of the game. It was

SHINTY/CAMOGIE

very close up until the final whistle but Scotland came out victorious, showing great fight and determination throughout the match. The final score was Scotland 3 - 4 (13) Dublin 2 - 5 (11). Captain Laura McCafferty lifted the trophy and thanked the girls from Dublin for a tremendous game of Shinty/Camogie. The WCA would like thank the Dublin Panel and squad for travelling over for the fixture. Thanks is also due to the principal sponsors Loch Ness Gifts and all of the training kit and individual sponsors

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

WIN £550

COMPEITION

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.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

I MacDonald, Creagan Park, Tobermory

A Taylor, Longsdale Crescent, Oban

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Please tape your £1 coin here

Name

Address

.....

.....

..... Tel No.

South shinty enjoys success at Marine Harvest Awards

Kyles, Inveraray, Bute and Dunadd keep the flag flying for south shinty

SOUTH shinty teams, mainly from Mid Argyll and Cowal, carried home a cache of silverware from the recent Marine Harvest National Shinty Awards.

The awards were presented by Marine Harvest's Managing Director Alan Sutherland. Kyles Athletic fared well in the awards, with Donald Irvine named premierships player of the year 2013 and Roddy MacColl named the South Division Two coach of the year.

Inveraray's Scott MacLachlan was the winner of the under-14 players of the year.

The Donella Crawford Award for youth and schools shinty was awarded to Kyles Athletics' Kerr Crawford.

The awards, in Inverness, saw Dunadd's Megan Yuill named women's South Division Two player of the year, while her

team was named Women's Camanachd Association Marine Harvest South Division Two team of the year 2013.

Speaking to the Oban Times after the awards, Roslyn McGuinness from Dunadd Shinty Club, said: 'The girls have had a really good season, they finished second in their league, narrowly missing out on the title in their last game against GMA. They also reached the semi-finals of the Skye ladies' sixes in August.'

Superb season
She added: 'Megan Yuill has had a superb season, with some solid displays in defence and has also chipped in with a few goals. She was also selected to play for the south under-18s when they took on their north rivals last month.'

Aged just 15, Megan saw off

competition from dozens of experienced players to be named the best in her league.

The teenager said: 'I was really happy to win. I think being selected for the South Scotland team was a big part of me winning the award. I did well that day. Throughout the year I scored a goal in every game I played for Dunadd. Next season I will be back playing for Dunadd and hope to get picked for the South Scotland team again.'

The full list of winners were as follows: Marine Harvest Coach of the Year - Paul John MacKintosh, Newtonmore.

Marine Harvest Player of the Year - Norman Campbell, Newtonmore.

Marine Harvest Club of the Year - Newtonmore.
League Coaches & Player Awards: Orion Group Premier-

SHINTY AWARDS

ship Coach of the Year - Paul John MacKintosh, Newtonmore.

Marine Harvest South Division 1 Coach of the Year - George Hay, Glasgow Mid Argyll.

Marine Harvest North Division 1 Coach of the Year - Stephen MacLean & Ian Morrison, Beaulieu.

Marine Harvest South Division 2 Coach of the Year - Roddy MacColl, Kyles Athletic.

Marine Harvest North Division 2 Coach of the Year - Graeme MacMillan, Lovat.

Marine Harvest North Division 3 Coach of the Year - Ali Ferguson, Lochaber.

Marine Harvest Award - Premiership Player of the Year - Donald Irvine, Kyles Athletic.

Marine Harvest South Division 1 Player of the Year - Iain McDonald, Bute.

Marine Harvest North Division 1 Player of the Year - Liam MacDonald, Kilmallie.

Marine Harvest North Division 2 Player of the Year - Callum Stewart, Newtonmore.

Marine Harvest North Division 3 Player of the Year - Pat Toal, Lochaber.

Marine Harvest South Division 2 Player of the Year - Donald Wilson, Ballachulish.

Women's Awards: Women's Camanachd Association Marine Harvest Volunteer of the Year - Gemma Bell, Lovat.

Women's Marine Harvest North Div 2 Team of the Year - Lochaber/Skye.

Women's Marine Harvest South Div 2 Team of the Year - Dunadd.

Women's Marine Harvest National Div 1 Team of the Year - Glasgow Mid Argyll.

Women's Marine Harvest North Div 2 Player of the Year - Helen Lamond (Skye) & Hazel



Kyles' Donald Irvine who was named Orion Premiership player of the year receives his award from Marine Harvest Managing Director Alan Sutherland

Hunter (Strathglass).
Women's Marine Harvest South Div 2 Player of the Year - Megan Yuill (Dunadd).
Women's Marine Harvest National Div 1 Player of the Year - Elizabeth MacGregor (Badenoch & Strathspey).
Youth Awards: Marine Harvest Youth Coach of the Year - Michael Ritchie, Newtonmore.
Under 14 Player of the Year - Scott MacLachlan, Inveraray.
Under 17 Player of the Year - Arran MacPhee, Fort William.
Under 21 Player of the Year - Finlay MacMillan, Glasgow Mid Argyll.

Dunadd's Megan Yuill impressed everyone when she played for the South of Scotland under-18s earlier this year.



Roslyn McGuinness and Katie Donald picked up the best team award on behalf of Dunadd Shinty Club, while Megan Yuill picked up the best South Division Two player award.

Hamilton hockey and rugby teams visit Oban High School

OBAN High School pupils had their sporting prowess put to the test when Hamilton College visited during their inaugural tour of the west coast.

Hamilton brought two hockey teams and one rugby team but the weekend kicked off with a social event for all players and coaches, kindly hosted by the Regent Hotel, which was accommodating Hamilton College for the weekend.

The matches were played on Saturday morning in a friendly but competitive spirit despite the inhospitable weather conditions. All the players did both teams proud.

The Oban hockey girls were outplayed on the day with Hamilton college winning both games but considering this was Oban's first competitive outing, coach Tara Pollock was happy with their performance.

She said: 'I am so happy with all the girls. They played out of their skin and they even looked the part in the new kit.'

'We look forward to more competitive matches in the future.'

Goalkeeper Shannon McCuish was named player of the U16s game after many outstanding saves.

The U14s all played well together but a special mention for primary seven Erin MacKin-

non, who played up in the high school side for the first time and managed to hold her own against more experienced opponents.

The U15 rugby team found themselves facing a bigger and stronger opposition, with Oban fielding many younger players but at half time the home side were leading 7-5.

In poor weather conditions the Oban players managed to play some exciting rugby to put Ham-

HOCKEY/RUGBY

ilton College under pressure.

Strong tackling from Andrew Pretswell, Rufus Stones and Lorne Sinclair held Hamilton College at bay.

However, after strong play from both sides and two break-aways trys from Hamilton College the score finished 24-12 to the visitors.



The hockey players from Oban and Hamilton meet up before the games.

Oban hockey teams lose out in West cup ties

West District Cup
Oban 1

Western Wildcats 11
OBAN Hockey Club's men's team battled hard in the torrential rain and hail storms, in their first competitive cup match in Lochgilphead.

On Sunday, November 3 the new team lined up against one of the top teams in the competition: Western Wildcats 2nds.

A strong start showed the pace of the match from the experienced Wildcat forwards, with their movement on the ball superior to Oban's previous competition and the lashing rain smoothed the ball's movement around the pitch.

It became evident that Oban were going to have to work hard along the wings to progress up the pitch, and for the first 10 minutes the match was evenly played.

But soon Wildcats pressure in the D forced a penalty flick, and as the rain washed the heat out of the players so some confidence from Oban was lost with the valiant effort by goalkeeper David Love, who wasn't quite

able to reach the ball. Steadily, the Wildcats forced errors on the home team and raced to a four-goal lead.

Mid way through the first half strikers Scott Smith and Andrew Hodge surged forward taking Wildcats by surprise, with Andrew's shot finding the back of the opponents goal to give Oban a fighting chance.

With the rain abated, Oban set to with renewed vigour. Again and again faults were forced on Oban and again and again Wildcats were denied goals by heroic defending.

However, it soon became apparent that the Wildcats attack would wear down a stubborn Oban defence as tiredness set in.

The Oban men went into the match with just 11 players making the relentless push from Wildcat's in the second half just too strong to hold back.

Sweeper Jim Elliott was named man of the match after throwing his body in the firing line on multiple occasions but goalkeeper David Love also won plaudits by persistently batting

HOCKEY

away many powering strikes and flicks from a well-trained division one team.

Oban now go on to compete in the District Plate in the new year.

West District Plate
Oban Ladies 0
Ferguslie 7

OBAN ladies faced Ferguslie Hockey Club on Sunday in the first round of the west district plate at Lochgilphead.

The game got off to an enthusiastic start with the experienced Ferguslie team piling on the pressure.

Ferguslie went ahead from some nice set pieces, albeit Oban defended well with notable performances from Ethel Johnston and Claire Treasurer at the back.

Oban were unlucky not to convert their attacking play with the game ending 7-0 to Ferguslie. Congratulations to Karen MacCorquodale who was voted woman of the match on her debut for Oban.

Commonwealth Games passport to sporting legacy

SCHOOLCHILDREN across Argyll have been issued with special passports to get them involved in sport in the run up to the Commonwealth Games.

The Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games Legacy Passports see children earn points for every sports session they attend, whether in or out of school. If

they take part in a sport featured in the games they get bonus points.

Oban-based Active Schools co-ordinator Karen MacCorquodale

said: 'The aim of the passport is not only to raise awareness of the 2014 games but also to try and create a legacy and get more children participating in sport,

SPORTS PASSPORTS

even after the games have been and gone.'

The scheme was launched in Oban's Primary Campus last week, with youngsters from table tennis and netball clubs - both Commonwealth Games sports - kicking off their points tally.

Points from the completed passports will be counted in May and bronze, silver or gold medals awarded to the children in June depending on how many sports sessions they have taken part in. Secondary schoolchildren will receive sports merchandise in place of medals.

Points are also awarded by sports clubs in the community and Active Schools is encouraging everyone to get involved and encourage the children to use the passports.

The Sports Shop is the local sponsor for Oban, Lorn and the Isles and children who have completed their passports will be entered into a prize draw for a store voucher.



Oban Hockey Club men's team.

Kyles and Kingussie share the points

FOLLOWING a request from both Kyles Athletic and Kingussie to share the points in the final Orion Group Premiership match of the season, the Camanachd Association have agreed to the points being shared.

Kyles Athletic had advised that the field at Tighnabraich was unlikely to be playable in the near future and that sharing the points would allow maintenance to the field to commence.

SHINTY

As Kingussie's last match was on September 7 many of their players have not trained since, also the club had suffered unnecessary expense when the previously arranged fixtures were cancelled on the morning of the match.

The league points will be split between the two sides and recorded as a no-score draw.



The youngsters from table tennis and netball clubs are joined by coaches Mhairi McCormack, Jack Degnan and Lesley-Ann Black to celebrate the launch of the passports.

Corporate stationery
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

Personal stationery
Matching paper & envelopes,
postcards, address labels

krisp print

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery,
Main Street/Longrow South,
Campbeltown PA28 6JD
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

Renewed contract for John McPhee

The 19-year-old will join world championship veteran Efen Vazquez in the RTG line-up

CONNEL motorcyclist John McPhee has done enough to impress his Caretta Technology-RTG team this season after being rewarded with a renewed contract for next season.

Racing Steps Foundation-backed rider McPhee will be back on the Moto3 World Championship grid in 2014.

McPhee, who delivered his first world championship top 10 finish at the Japanese Grand Prix a fortnight ago, has signed up for a second year with the German squad.

The 19-year-old will join 27-year-old world championship veteran Efen Vazquez in the 2014 RTG line-up.

'RTG is the right place for me to be,' said McPhee. 'While I've had a number of incidents and problems to contend with on-track this season, there's no doubt in my mind it's one of the strongest squads on the grid.'

'Obviously, like a lot of the other Honda teams, we've struggled to keep up with the more powerful KTM's this year. But hopefully we'll have a package that will enable us to neutralise that advantage in 2014.'

MOTORCYCLING

McPhee, in his first full year in the Moto3 series, was in 19th place before the final race in Valencia, which ended in frustrating fashion.

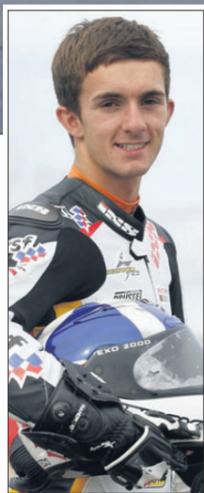
In a tight five-rider tussle for 12th place, McPhee lost the front end of his bike with 16 laps to go. All four of his sparring partners made it into the points at the finish.

Welcoming

But welcoming the re-signing of McPhee, RTG team boss Dirk Heidolf said: 'John has done well in his first year with the team putting in some really strong race performances over the course of the season, including his strong seventh place at Motegi.'

'The fact that he is to ride with us again shows the strength of the relationship that we have developed this year and a clear understanding by John and the RSF of the extent of our ambition.'

McPhee's current World Championship bike is an FTR Honda which has a top speed of around 240kph (149mph).



John's 2013 season came to a premature end with a crash early on in the Gran Premio De La Comunitat Valencia at the Circuit Ricardo Tormo, Cheste.

Saints on Scottish Cup duty this weekend

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints are on Scottish Cup duty this Saturday when they take on Fife Premier Division team Rosyth in the 3rd round.

The game will take place at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off. Referee in charge is Derek Park from Motherwell.

This match should have taken place last Saturday, but the Scottish Amateur Football Association asked Saints if they would agree to a postponement after the Rosyth manager had been injured in a car crash. The Oban club readily agreed to the game being called off.

Saints will be without midfielder Willie Gemmill who has left the club to join Fort William. On a positive note Jamie Graham is back in training with the club and is raring to go.

Manager Iain Jackson should have a full squad to choose from for this important cup tie.

He said: 'We don't know much about Rosyth, but you always get a difficult game against Fife teams, so we are expecting a tough match.'

'However, if we play the way we did against Inverness in the last round I would expect us to go through.'

Saints have been drawn at home in the 3rd round of the West of Scotland Cup to the winners of the Glasgow Harp v Kelvin match. This game is scheduled to be played on Saturday, November 23.

Green Machine on their travels

RUGBY

OBAN Lorne travel to Bonhill this Saturday to take on Loch Lomond after a two-week absence from league duty.

Lomond provided opposition on three occasions last season with both teams competing in West Division Three and meeting each other in the final of the West Regional Bowl, won by Oban Lorne on their route to Murrayfield glory.

The Men in Green will be hoping for a win to get their promotion campaign back on track against a side who have been struggling for form this season, winning only two of their eight games so far.

Oban Lorne could move back into second place with a win in what is shaping up to be a very competitive league season with several teams aiming for promotion to Division 1.

Kick off is at 2pm in Bonhill. Mini Rugby players from across Argyll and Bute will be taking part in the Oban Dalriada Festival this Saturday at Glencruitten.

The tournament will start at noon and will be showcasing mini rugby talents from Oban Lorne, Etive Vikings, Isle of Mull, Mid Argyll and Lochaber.

Islay Golf Club

GOLF

ISLAY Golf Club Lagavulin Trophy played Sunday 10 November - 1 D Livingstone 79 - 8 = 71; 2 A MacMillan 92 - 18 = 74; 3 I MacCuaig 81 - 7 = 74. CSS 73.

Olympic coaching boost for Dalriada Dolphins swim team



October swimmers of the month junior Jura MacMillan and senior Ruby Bosomworth were awarded their trophies by pool manager Stuart Owen.

MID ARGYLL could be home to future Olympic swimming stars.

That's the hope of Arlene Green, new swimming coach at Mid Argyll Community Pool, who has taken over the coaching of Dalriada Dolphins swim team.

Arlene has returned to Tayvallich after running a successful swimming school in Doha, Qatar, where she coached the country's first and only female swimmer to compete in the Olympics.

She will be using her insight to give Mid Argyll swimmers a competitive edge.

Aimed at competent junior swimmers, from age eight, Dolphins receive one hour of swim coaching and training each week and also get free access to all public swimming sessions so they can practise their skills.

Next year Arlene hopes to develop swimming teams so

SWIMMING

any competitive Dolphins can pit themselves against others at swimming galas. And young swimmers who just want to improve their technique or fitness will also benefit from Arlene's expertise - even if they do not want to compete.

Meanwhile, each month two Dolphins are named 'swimmer of the month'. A trophy is awarded to one junior and one senior squad member, who have made a big commitment to their training or shown significant improvement.

October's prize winners were junior Jura MacMillan, from Tayvallich, and senior Ruby Bosomworth from Ormsary.

Dalriada Dolphins train every Thursday - juniors at 5pm and seniors at 6pm. For more information contact Stuart or Kirsty at the pool 01546 606676.

Craggy Island Triathlon retains Scottish championship status

THE DATES for next year's Craggy Island Triathlon have been announced, as organisers prepare to once again host a round of the Scottish championship.

Entries will be accepted for the 2014 event from tomorrow (Friday) onwards but the 400 places available are expected to fill quickly.

The 2014 dates for the event, which is held on the Isle of Kerrera, have been announced as the weekend of August 23 and 24. The course starts with a swim from Oban to Kerrera, followed by a bike ride around the island and a run to Gylen Castle.

Last year, the award-winning triathlon, organised by Paul McGreal of Durty Events and Kerrera ferryman Duncan MacEachan, hosted a round of the Scottish Off-road Triathlon Championship for the first time.

The championship race brought an extra 100 competitors to Oban last year, making the total number of entrants 500.

At this year's event in August Oban celebrated two age category Scottish champions in Leigh Murray (female super

TRIATHLON

veteran) and Tim Brand (male super veteran).

Competitors can register for the 2014 event online through the Craggy Island Triathlon or Durty Events websites.



There was a record entry at this year's Craggy Island Triathlon. Photo: Stephen Lawson.

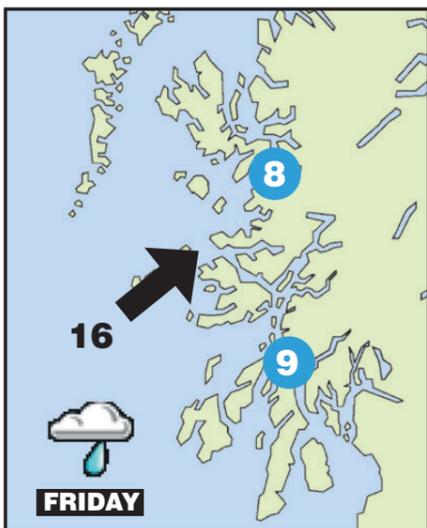
Weather

Thursday Sunshine and showers
Winds strong north westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 9°C

Friday Light rain
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 6°C to 9°C.

Weekend Light rain
Outlook Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 6°C to 9°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, November 14, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am			pm				
Thur	03.24	3.3	09.25	1.2	15.39	3.7	21.48	1.3
Fri	03.56	3.5	10.14	1.1	16.17	3.9	22.28	1.1
Sat	04.29	3.7	10.57	1.1	16.51	4.0	23.05	1.1
Sun	05.02	3.9	11.37	1.1	17.24	4.0	23.41	1.0
Mon	05.36	4.0	12.15	1.1	17.58	4.0	***	**
Tues	00.17	1.0	06.09	4.0	12.52	1.2	18.31	4.0
Wed	00.54	1.1	06.43	4.0	13.27	1.4	19.06	3.9

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with

NORTH WEST MARINE
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS

website: www.northwestmarine.co.uk
Address: 7E Glengallan Rd., Oban, Argyll. PA34 4HG
Ph: 01631 565740 Fax: 01631 565780
email: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk

The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

FORT WILLIAM & LOCHABER EDITION

Established 1861 No 8173

Thursday 14 November, 2013

www.obantimes.co.uk

80 pence

TOKEN 2 INSIDE
See page 4

Win a Christmas Hamper worth **£500**

bonnie babies in association with **The co-operative membership** See page 6 for full details
Here for you for life **£750** of The Co-operative vouchers to be won!

The Oban Times Bonnie Babies 2014

Panto rehearsals under way

REHEARSALS are well under way for Cinderella - this year's Christmas panto at Ballachulish.

Written and directed by local man Nairn MacArthur, the show will have Aileen Green in the starring role and old favourites Tam McClymont and Drew MacFarlane-Slack as the very ugly sisters.

Nairn himself will play 'Velcro' - a modern day Buttons - while Sheena Coull will be Bonnie Prince Charming. Nairn told *The Oban Times*: 'We have some great songs, a couple of surprises for the kids and as usual some local humour. Rehearsals are a shambles at the moment - which is a good sign!'

Tickets will go on sale soon at the village tourist information centre and Co-op.

Three 7.30pm performances are scheduled over December 19-21, with a 2pm matinee on the Saturday.

Police concerns continue

BALLACHULISH Community Council has expressed disappointment at a Police Scotland response to concerns about the proposed closure of public counter services at Glencoe Police Station.

In a letter to the BCC, Highlands and Islands Division Superintendent John Chisholm said: 'Contrary to what may have been reported, there is no intention to close the police station in Glencoe.'

But chairman Mel MacAskill pointed out the inquiry had specifically mentioned the public counter - and had made no reference to the station itself closing.

He said: 'He knew what we were talking about - it was about public access. They are not closing the station - it's just that there will be nobody there when you chap the door.'

Paicr Estate public meeting

A PUBLIC meeting about the handover of the Paicr Estate on Lewis into community ownership will be held next Thursday.

Paicr Trust board of directors will present handover terms to locals, who will have the chance to discuss the deal before deciding whether or not to accept. Angus McDowall of the trust said: 'Please make every effort to attend and express your view on this issue.' The meeting will be held in Paicr School in Gravir from 7.30pm.

Pat lights up fundraiser with surprise proposal

A CHARITY fundraiser on Saturday turned into a night to remember for one Fort William woman - when her partner popped the question.

Pat McElhinney, group manager for the local fire service, arranged for the swimming pool area of the Ben Nevis Hotel to be decked out with flowers, candles and mood lighting. He then slipped Sandra Macdonald out of a charity ball in the hotel he helped organise and into the romantic scene where he surprised her with the proposal - and got the 'yes' he was hoping for. Pat said: 'She has made me the happiest man alive. It took me a long time to find such a beautiful woman and lady, I'm a lucky man.'



The happy couple: Pat McElhinney and his new fiancée Sandra Macdonald.



Going out with a bang: Ballachulish Community Council chairman Mel MacAskill.

Mel goes out with a bang after 20 years

BALLACHULISH Community Council (BCC) is looking for a new chairperson after long-time incumbent Mel MacAskill resigned from the organisation after two decades of service.

And Mr MacAskill went out with a bang at his last job - looking after health and safety at the annual fireworks display and bonfire in the former slate quarry on Saturday night.

Earlier in the week, Mel read out his resignation statement to BCC members ahead of chairing his final session in the shinty clubhouse.

He said: 'I have chosen this time as it will allow the community council three months to reorganise before its next meeting in February 2014. My reasons for retiring are due to health problems.'

'I am sure everyone would agree that I have done my share and I leave the council in good financial health.'

He added: 'That's it finished after the bonfire [on Saturday]. I wrote the health and safety stuff for the bonfire so it would not be fair to walk away from it if something happened.'

Secretary Trish Whyte also quit the group after six years in post. In her resignation letter, Ms Whyte said: 'Unfortunately I am no longer able to longer able to give the community the time and commitment necessary because of family and work commitments.'

'I have enjoyed my time on the community council: it is not until you are involved in such things that you realise how much hard work by volunteers goes into making things happen for our community and I am happy to have given my bit over the past six years.'

Members present conveyed their thanks to the outgoing chairman and secretary for their long and dedicated service.

Police chiefs in dock over local cops

POLICE Scotland has been challenged over its service to rural parts of the West Highlands amid claims that officer numbers on the ground do not match up with official figures.

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



Councillor Andrew Baxter: concern over rural policing.

Last month, Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Andrew Baxter fired off 18 questions about local bobbies in Lochaber villages being transferred to centralised units and not replaced.

This week, Councillor Baxter received a draft, as yet unsigned, response from North Division Police Commander Chief Superintendent Julian Innes seeking to address his concerns.

Key points in the reply include a commitment 'at this time' to restore Mallaig's officer complement to three and confirmation that 'five officers' were working out of Glencoe Police Station.

At Strontian, where currently the station is effectively being staffed from Fort William, 'one officer is presently on long term sick leave and the other has recently transferred to Inverness.'

'An officer has been identified to fill the vacant post and should transfer to Strontian and take up residence in one of the police houses in the very near future,' the letter adds.

Councillor Baxter had asked if it was true that officers recruited to specialist units are not being replaced locally.

The response states that 'a number of police officers across the division' have been

Community Council last week, when I asked the police officer twice if the complement at Glencoe had dropped from five to three and he confirmed that.'

Welcoming the commitment to staff Strontian, Councillor Baxter pointed out the difficulties being created by no police presence in the village.

He said: 'We had the situation at Morvern Community Council last week where the sergeant from Mallaig came all the way down to the meeting.' He added: 'We are going to get a road policing unit in Fort William and that will make a huge difference in terms of shortening the time taken to deal with road traffic accidents - but that should not be at the expense of moving officers out of rural areas and not replacing them. I understand officers assigned to these units are front line but they are not community-based and their posts are not being back-filled. I know that a lot of officers out there on the ground are extremely demoralised at the moment, possibly because this is such a massive change. If there is a problem I would ask that they simply listen. People should understand that a bit more, because we are being told one thing by senior officers and quite another at a local level.'

Councillor Baxter told *The Oban Times* he still disputed that five officers were working out of Glencoe. He said: 'I am being told that is not true. On paper there may be five assigned there, but two of them are working out of Fort William. It is the complete opposite of what we were told at Ballachulish'

Weather blows first sailing off course

THE FIRST sailing of the new pilot ferry between Lochboisdale and Mallaig was cancelled on Tuesday due to adverse weather.

The ferry was due to leave

Lochboisdale at 6am but winds of up to 40 knots kept the ferry in South Uist. The next service will run on Saturday morning, weather permitting.



LOCHABER IDEASWEEK

18th - 23rd November 2013
Ideas + action = SUCCESS

Join us during a week of inspiration, and reignite that creative spark.

This is a unique platform to share your ideas, hear ideas on the next big projects in our region and provides a multitude of business networking/community building opportunities.

You won't want to miss it!

It is mostly a FREE event. Look at the programme and book your space

www.outdoorcapital.co.uk/ideasweek



Sheriff rejects assault man's claims

A KINLOCHLEVEN man has been convicted of assault after a sheriff rejected his claims he had been attacked by his estranged wife.

Stuart Symmers claimed a special plea of self-defence that his wife Maureen had hit him with a TV remote control and a 14-inch electric fan as he lay in the marital bed in his boxer shorts.

But Sheriff Noel McPartlin believed Mrs Symmers was the victim in the bedroom at 49 Lovat Road in Kinlochleven, on May 28.

In a near all-day trial, Fort William Sheriff Court heard how the pair battled during a heated row over 52-year-old Mr Symmers' girlfriend.

Bizarrely, the court heard how the Symmers shared a bed in the days leading up to the altercation. Each later gave statements under caution that they had been assaulted by each other.

Vivid bruising to Mrs Symmers' right wrist and upper arms convinced Sheriff McPartlin her husband was the assailant.

Sian Munro, the 20-year-old girlfriend of the Symmers' son Grant, testified she had a 'fleeing glance' through the bedroom door of Symmers gripping his wife's arms.

Taking the stand, Maureen Symmers, 47, admitted slapping Symmers and throwing a fan at him. She said: 'He was pushing and shoving shouting "get out of here now". I screamed for Grant to come.'

In his testimony, Stewart Symmers said his wife's injuries were caused by him trying to restrain her.

He maintained he had been 'set-up' because Maureen wanted to get him into trouble through her bitterness towards his infidelity. He himself had injuries, which he showed to police.

In the summing up, fiscal Laura Ryan said Maureen was the one calling for help and urged the sheriff to reject Symmers' self-defence plea.

'He did not need to hold on to her and seize her and push her in the way he did', she said.

Defence lawyer Stephen Kennedy said Symmers showing his injuries to police was 'consistent with his evidence of being assaulted by his wife'.

He said: 'He admits he did seize his wife. But that was in the context of attempting to protect himself. He did so in self defence.'

Finding Symmers guilty of assaulting Maureen Symmers by seizing her by the arms, shoving and pushing her to her injury, Sheriff Noel McPartlin said there was supporting evidence for Maureen's testimony from the injuries she received, her distress and from what Sian Munro briefly saw.

He told Symmers: 'No doubt the situation was very difficult and fraught and described by you and your son as a very tense situation.'

'But as I have said I accept the evidence of Maureen Symmers in this case and the incident was one in which you had an outburst of temper that resulted in this assault.'

Symmers, of 14 Morvern Place, Fort William, was fined £400.

NOBLE CONSTRUCTION
www.nobleconstr.co.uk

High Quality Steel Framed Buildings
Bespoke Agricultural, Agricultural & Equestrian Construction
Ask about our affordable, high-spec Indoor Riding Arenas

General Purpose Buildings from £8,425! (60' x 30' x 13' with 12' cladding all round minus doorways!

Cattle Building Special from just £11,100! 100' x 40' x 12' with 4'6" Cantilever

Cubicle/Stock Buildings from £14,475! 100' x 50' x 14' with 4'6" Cantilever

Dutch Barns from £14,375! 100' x 60' x 15' in 20' bays

info@nobleconstr.co.uk
Tel: 01236 793194

- Foundations
- Erection
- Concreting
- Internals supplied
- Precasts supplied

Why not try our competitive Foundation and Erection Services

Donald Rankin

Tigh An Oisean, Bridge Road, Portree, Isle of Skye

Accounts Preparation for companies, sole traders and partnerships, charities, income and corporation tax, VAT & payroll bureau. Business plans, start up advice.

Enquiries welcomed from: LEWIS; HARRIS; THE UISTS; SKYE AND THE WEST HIGHLANDS

Tel: 01478 612942
Fax: 01478 613091
office@donaldrankin.co.uk

New date set for drink drive trial

THE TRIAL of a Glenfinnan fish farm worker accused of being drunk behind the wheel of his stationary car after a night out has been put back to December 4.

Pawel Fronczek, 33, of Drimsallie Mill, denies being in charge of a vehicle at the Moorings Hotel in Banavie on April 21 while twice over the legal drink-drive limit.

The trial had been due to go ahead at Fort William Sheriff Court last week.

But Fronczek's defence lawyer Hamish Melrose asked for more time so Mr Fronczek's wife could appear as a witness to 'substantiate his side of the case'. He said: 'It would boost his chances of success.'

Sheriff Noel McPartlin agreed to the adjournment and the new date was set.

Informal SNH reception

THE POLOCHAR Inn in South Uist will be the venue for an informal evening reception by Scottish Natural Heritage on Monday from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

Local people are being invited to the event, which SNH chairman Andrew Thin will host along with David MacLennan, unit manager for Argyll and the Outer Hebrides, and Johanne Ferguson, operations manager. Mr Thin said the evening would give people the opportunity to have an informal discussion with senior staff about the work of SNH in the area.

Donation appeal

BEAVERS and Cubs group 6th Lochaber (The Braes) has booked a table at the Rotary Club of Lochaber Christmas Fair in the Nevis Centre on St Andrew's Day.

The group is requesting donations of anything suitable for sale on the table and some uniformed Beavers, Cubs and parents to do help out on the day. Spokesperson Sean Sessions said: 'This sort of thing does our group a tremendous amount of good and enhances our reputation as an active group.'

Written guarantee sought on village recycling point

BALLACHULISH Community Council (BCC) is to seek written guarantees over a recycling point for the village.

Highland Council is selling its former roads depot at West Quarry and is retaining part of the ground for its own use.

Verbal pledges on siting recycling containers at the site have been received but so far, according to BCC chairman Mel MacAskill, there is still 'no documentation' about providing the land. 'We need to make sure we get it in writing that they are going to open up a recycling unit.' Councillor Andrew Baxter said: 'I will ask when they can confirm the plan for a recycling point and exactly when it is going to happen.'

Shinty manager stands down

BALLACHULISH Shinty Club manager Craig Munro has stood down from his position with immediate effect.

Munro said he was quitting after one season in charge due to increased work commitments.

A club spokesperson said: 'We would like to offer our thanks to Craig and extend our best wishes to him for the future.'

Balachulish won the Sutherland Cup, the Bullough Cup and promotion to south division one last season.

Nominate a baton bearer

VOLUNTEERS from across the Highlands are being sought to carry a baton as part of celebrations to mark the start of next year's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

The Queen's Baton Relay will be making its way through 15 towns across the region on Friday July 11, and organisers want around 100 local people to be nominated by their communities. Nominations close on November 22 and can be entered at www.glasgow2014.com



John Grieve: the break-ins will not prevent regular mountain rescue operations in Glencoe. 20_f46rescue01

Rescue team rocked by thefts - but work goes on

THE LEADER of Glencoe Mountain Rescue has said thieves who broke into their base and stole thousands of pounds of equipment will not disrupt any imminent rescue operations.

The team was left shocked after their headquarters in the old Glencoe Hospital was targeted by crooks on successive nights last week with equipment valued at £11,500 in total being stolen - including radios, lifejackets and a quad bike.

But John Grieve said the response from locals, supporters and team members had ensured they would still be able to carry out their regular duties until the items were properly replaced.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It's one of these things that really annoy people, stealing from a

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

life-saving charity, and people are pretty keen to help us.

'We've had a very encouraging response from climbing groups and walking groups already and we've got a lot of donations coming in.'

'The first reaction was one of absolute annoyance. But after the second break-in the immediate reaction was what are we going to do so we're covered for anything that happens in the short term.'

'A couple of people in the team have quad bikes of their own which we can use, and I think we can cover just about everything else in the short term.'

The Glencoe team is one of

the busiest in the country and has been involved in several high-profile incidents this year, including an avalanche which killed four people in January.

Mr Grieve said the plan was now to increase security around their equipment by creating a new storage house - at a cost of around £50,000.

He said: 'That much money can't come out of our normal operating budget, so we're going to have to look for donations.'

'We've set up a sub-committee to decide where we're going to site it, if we put on an extension or a create a new building. Then we'll appoint an architect and go through planning.'

'We hope we'll have it up and running by spring or early summer.'



Renewing the bond: CVA national secretary Joe Murtagh presents, from left, Glen Falconer, Sarah Johnson and Ruairidh Shaw with their Vic Ralph Memorial Trophy certificates. 20_146band01

School concert hits the high notes for commando veterans

THE ANNUAL bond between Lochaber High School and the Commando Veterans Association (CVA) was renewed at a concert at Duncansburgh Macintosh Church in Fort William on Friday.

Lochaber High School Senior Wind Band and Lochaber Schools Pipe Band delivered a wonderful medley of tunes to the audience of around 80 before signing off with a rousing joint rendition of Highland Cathedral.

Joe Murtagh, the national secretary of the CVA, presented certificates and the Vic Ralph Memorial Shield to the bands' young musicians of the year following the performance. Joint winners from the wind

band were 17-year-old Glen Falconer and Sarah Johnson, aged 16. The pipe band winner was Ruairidh Shaw, aged 13.

Mr Murtagh said: 'The concert was fabulous. The young people were incredibly varied and versatile, playing everything from Highland music to Holst.'

Lochaber High School had teacher Jim Sutherland said: 'We are very proud and honoured to have this relationship with the Commando Veterans' Association.'

'We are always pleased to welcome them to the town. I was very proud of the young people's performance today.'

Conductor was Mark Reynolds, the brass instructor at Lochaber High School.

Hundreds mark 40 years of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

HUNDREDS of friends past and present of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig gathered to celebrate 40 years of Scotland's Gaelic College at the Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Ball and gala dinner in Glasgow's Grosvenor Hotel on Friday.

Guests recalled the college's remarkable journey from humble origins in a former farm steading to becoming the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture.

Comper for the night was BBC ALBA and BBC Scotland's Kirsteen Macdonald, while music came from the Joy Dunlop Band, Scottish fiddle champion Maggie Adamson and the John Carmichael Dance Band.

Guest of honour, Education

Secretary Michael Russell MSP, praised decades of work by the Gaelic community to almost halt the decline in the number of Gaelic speakers in recent years.

That hopeful trend was matched by growing numbers of pupils in Gaelic medium education, he said, leading to new Gaelic schools opening in Fort William, Portree, Glasgow and elsewhere. Speaking afterwards, Mr Russell congratulated the college, its staff and students on 40 years of growth and success and wished it many more.

He said: 'This was a night to celebrate. In 1973, Sir Iain Noble and his original trustees set down a vision for a Gaelic college in Skye. Many have shared that

vision since then and all should be commended. Forty years later we can all see the benefits and successful results of that hope, commitment and hard work.'

'For me, it is an honour to have had close links with the College over many years and now to be asked to be guest speaker at such an important celebration.'

He added: 'Sabhal Mòr Ostaig is a remarkable achievement and we all look forward to many more achievements at the college.' Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's principal, Professor Boyd Robertson, said many present had close personal or professional ties with Sabhal Mòr over the past 40 years, representing agencies, companies and institutions that are engaged

New bus link scheme welcomed

TWO REMOTE Lochalsh communities are to get better connected with Citylink coaches running between Skye and Glasgow.

Under a 12-month pilot, Glenelg and Arnisdale residents will take private cars or taxis 18 miles over the single-track Mam Ratagan road to the bus stop at Shiel Bridge on the A87.

Highland Council's TEC services committee has pledged £3,000 to the initiative, which was developed from a research project by Robert Gordon University under Professor David Gray.

Local voluntary community body the Bus Users Group (BUG) will run the scheme after successful trials of their own service, set up in September 30.

The group decided action was needed after the Citylink bus connection was withdrawn in April. Chairperson, Glenelg pensioner Betty Ralston, told *The Oban Times*: 'It is very positive. We hope this will not just be for OAPs. Now we have to prove to the council this is going to work.'

If successful, the service may be extended to other remote rural communities.

Local councillor Biz Campbell said: 'I'm delighted this pilot is proceeding. I have been supportive of the novel initiative throughout its development and hope it will develop into a meaningful sustainable transport system.'



Michael Russell MSP and his wife Kathleen with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig staff, members from the board of directors and development trust.



Kilmallie club winners honoured at annual dinner and prizegiving

Kilmallie Shinty Club celebrated a title-winning season with their annual dinner and prizegiving in Caol Community Centre on Saturday night. Left to right, second team player of the year Donald MacIntyre, Under 17 player of the year Alexander MacIsaac, club president Hugh MacIntyre presenting Liam MacDonald with the Robert Hood Shield for first team player of the year, Under 14 most improved player Dean Jeffries and Under 14 player of the year Kyle Michie. Missing from the photo is Under 17 most improved player Finlay Ireland.

Forum turns spotlight on rail partnerships

LOCHABER Transport Forum will hear a presentation on community rail partnerships (CRPs) at its quarterly meeting in Fort William on Tuesday.

James Wilkin, development worker for Scotland North, will highlight benefits the scheme will bring to communities on rail routes.

The meeting comes as the Scottish Government encourages communities to register their area as a CRP and gain support from the Association of Community Rail Partnerships. Speaking ahead of the meeting in the Council Chambers, transport forum chair Councillor Brian Murphy said: 'If you have a complaint about public transport such as buses not arriving on time, problems with unhelpful drivers, problems accessing some forms of transport, especially if you are elderly or disabled, or if you have complaints about difficulties in trying to book the sleeper, lack of heating or inadequate toilet facilities on the trains then we want to hear from you. We need to know dates, times, location and the service you are experiencing problems with. You can make your complaint to transportforum@carlochaber.org or 01463 702660. Please help us to help you.'

Moves continue to relocate war memorial

MOVES are continuing to relocate the war memorial near Ballachulish to a safer location in the village.

The memorial, together with a stone commemorating Queen Victoria's jubilee, currently stand on an exposed site next to the busy A82.

Ballachulish Community Council wants both monuments shifted to the garden on land owned by the army next to the hall.

Members agreed at their meeting last week that the present hillside site near St John's Church is too dangerous, has no car parking and is suffering from erosion.

Negotiations are ongoing with the army to help with the plan.

New demand for Corpach road crossing

NEW DEMANDS for a pedestrian crossing across the A830 in Corpach have been made amid fears that current arrangements are an accident waiting to happen.

Currently pedestrians only have traffic islands in the middle of the carriageway for protection - a situation Kilmallie Community Council (KCC) has warned is potentially dangerous.

Now local councillor Allan Henderson has backed calls by KCC that a crossing is essential on safety grounds.

In a letter to Bob Mitchell of Transport Scotland, Councillor Henderson said there was 'a clear desire in the community' for the safety measure.

He said: 'The traffic island refuges in the middle of the road are no longer fit for purpose, or safe, due to the amount of heavy traffic passing through the village, either to the Annat Industrial Estate, or beyond to the busy ferry port of Mallaig.'

'Transport Scotland already allude to the dangers of road crossing by making this a 30

mph zone and at the school 20mph during opening and closing.

'It is clear that a crossing similar to the crossing points at Lochaber High School, Lochybridge and Fort William leisure centre is required.'

'This combined with extra protective railings to guide pedestrians to the crossing will guarantee greater safety to both pedestrians and the travelling public.'

Transport Scotland had not provided a comment at the time of going to press.

New Oban High School Site Selection Consultation - November 2013

We would like to hear your views on the preferred site for a new high school for Oban. Come along to our open events to find out more and share your views. There are information displays at Oban High School, local primary schools, Oban Library and the Corran Halls. Meet the team and ask questions:

Date	Time	Details
Monday 18 November	7pm	Consultation launch, Oban High School
Thursday 21 November	10am - 8pm	Open Event, Corran Halls
Friday 22 November	11.30am - 4pm	Open Event, Corran Halls
Saturday 23 November	10am - 1pm	Open Event, Corran Halls

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

FLOORSHOP

Get your home ready for Christmas

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

Oban road upgrade plans confirmed

PLANS have been confirmed to upgrade crumbling roads along Oban's busiest stretch - from the Bealach an Rìgh right the way through to Stafford Street. Work to upgrade the routes will take place early in the new financial year and will take account of plans to pedestrianise Stafford Street.

BEAR Scotland had originally intended to make repairs to the section of the A85 next to the Corran Halls, but after consultation with Transport Scotland and Argyll and Bute Council, delayed its plans until the new financial year.

The new plans will incorporate the Bealach an Rìgh, the roundabouts next to the Corran Halls, the whole of Dunollie Road and the following stretch of George Street to the top of Stafford Street.

While the full extent of the works won't be known until BEAR Scotland concludes a detailed survey and design, it is hoped the work will be a full-depth reconstruction of the road carriageway and associated ancillary works, possibly including drainage and improvements to road markings.

Save St Conan's plan needs people power

A PLAN to save an iconic Argyll church gets underway this month - but people power will be central to whether the scheme succeeds.

St Conan's Kirk in Lochawe needs a seven-figure sum invested to maintain its crumbling walls and roof.

The trust behind the future of the church says it has already begun fundraising for the first phase of work and is seeking support for a Friends of St Conan's Kirk group.

St Conan's Kirk trustees are hosting an open day at the church on November 23 from 2pm, where people interested in the building's future and the history of the area are invited to hear about the trust's proposals, which include a funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. David Hodge, clerk to the trustees, said: 'We firstly need to fix the supporting walls surrounding the church to make it safe for visitors but we also plan to turn the gatehouse into a tearoom and shop with toilets. For that, we will need volunteers and that is why we are looking to establish a Friends of St Conan's Kirk.'

'We can really get some momentum going if we get the support now. That makes the next stage easier.'

The Duchess of Argyll has given her support to the project by becoming the trust's patron.

If successful with their grant application, trustees hope to start work on the church's surrounding wall by next summer.



Service evokes emotional memories

Whether Hector Morrison was wiping away a tear, or blinking from the bright sunshine on Sunday, the Remembrance Service at Oban's war memorial evoked emotional memories for many. For more on this year's services from around the west Highlands see page five. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

Air link flight trials move a step closer

Transport group drives forward plans for air journeys between Oban, Glasgow and Barra

FLIGHTS between Oban, Glasgow and Barra are a step closer after the Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership (HiTrans) recommended a study announced in *The Oban Times* last October revealed there would be sufficient demand for air services between Oban and Glasgow in addition to the existing Barra-Glasgow route.

It stated there would also be high demand for passenger travel between Oban and Barra, consisting mainly of outbound leisure traffic from the island.

However, the survey further revealed limited demand for an Oban-Campbeltown air link and HiTrans has moved not to investigate a new route between the towns.

Trials of Oban-Barra and Oban-Glasgow routes are to be investigated on a minimal funding basis using an existing BN2 Islander aircraft. Both would run for 16 weeks during the summer for one or two years, pending funding for the trials and pre-agreement on how any subsequent operation would be funded.

Meanwhile a Glasgow-Skye link is to be investigated further and, while all but ruled out, Oban could potentially act as a focal point for the flights depending on availability of aircraft.

The report was commissioned by HiTrans to consider the best use of two new Twin Otter aircraft the Scottish Government pledged to purchase, as well as identify improvements across the network.

Oban councillor Duncan MacIntyre, who sits on HiTrans, said the news was terrific for Oban, its airport and the west coast economy as a whole.

He added: 'This is what Oban was always envisaged as, a stopping point for the Western Isles. The trials are worth doing - but it all depends on whether the Scottish Government does buy these two Twin Otters.'

He added: 'Whatever they do though will be part of this collective with Western Isles, Highland and Argyll and Bute Council - that makes sense.'

John Forteith, chairman of BID4Oban, says the news is great for the town.

He said: 'This is excellent news and hopefully opens up the gateway to better access for Oban and all it has to offer.'

'Anything that is encouraging footfall into Oban has to be viewed as a major positive regardless of what industry you're involved in.'

The results of the HiTrans report will be shared with the operator, Loganair, for review and to consider whether the evidence supports additional Glasgow-Barra flights.

HiTrans is also to liaise with Argyll and Bute Council and operators to identify any measures to have a BN2 Islander craft to be based in Oban, while Loganair and Transport Scotland will look at introducing refuelling facilities in Barra.

End of the road for bus firm

A MULL bus company is to be officially dissolved following its sale earlier this year.

Bowman's Coaches has been placed into voluntary liquidation by the members of the company after West Coast Motors took over operations. James Fennessey, of liquidators Scott-Moncrieff, said it was a way of 'winding down' the now dormant company as all assets had been sold. He confirmed all creditors had been paid in full.

Energy firm admits providing 'wrong information'

AN ENERGY company has admitted it provided the 'wrong information' after telling an Argyll customer they couldn't switch to another supplier because of the tariff they were on.

Speaking at the House of Commons, Alan Reid MP criticised Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) after incorrect advice it gave a customer suggested they were 'stuck' with the company because they were using the Total Heating with Total Control (THTC) system.

SSE has apologised, saying it was human error, but acknowledged to *The Oban Times* that some of the terms it uses can be confusing.

Speaking after raising the issue at Scottish Questions last week, Mr Reid said: 'I have asked the regulator, Ofgem, to investigate this.'

A spokesperson for SSE said: 'We would like to apologise for the incorrect information previously provided to THTC customers and can confirm a customer with THTC can change their supplier, providing their new supplier takes over both meters at the same time.'

It admits, however, this may come at a cost. Asked by *The Oban Times* how it expected customers to understand the system if its own staff weren't able to, the spokesman said: 'We do acknowledge there is a bit of confusion in this and, on this occasion, our customer service advisors haven't helped.'

'We will be briefing all our customer service staff.' Meanwhile Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) and SSE have agreed to liaise further with regards to reports of exorbitant heating bills across Argyll - sometimes exceeding £900 per quarter - following a recent meeting. Of those complaints received by *The Oban Times*, the bills seem to be a result of a variety of problems, including inappropriate meters, incorrect heating systems, faulty systems and a lack of advice on how to use the systems correctly - with increased heating bills exacerbating the issue.

Alastair MacGregor, chief executive of ACHA, said: 'The utility company gave a commitment to liaise with any tenant who had a concern about current tariff arrangements and to check if they were on the correct one.'

'SSE also provided advice on their hardship fund and various areas of assistance that can be sought.'

'The association agreed to consolidate this information and issue it in a future tenants' newsletter.'

'In relation to the two ACHA tenants on Tiree, it was confirmed that SSE had shifted them on to a new tariff and would financially compensate them for any overpayment.'

Any SSE customers in need of advice or support in the wake of high electricity bills should contact headofcustomerservice@sse.com or phone 0800 096 6192.

CalMac defends captains

FERRIES operator Caledonian MacBrayne has said safety is always the priority after recent criticism of the MV Hebridean Isles' performance on the Oban-Coll-Tiree run.

The Clansman took over the route on Monday, but islanders have been frustrated by interruptions to the ferry service in recent weeks.

CalMac has said 89 per cent of Coll's arrivals and departures were completed since the start of the winter timetable last month, as were 93 per cent of Tiree's.

A spokesman added that highly qualified masters take many factors into account when assessing whether to sail.

NEWSDESKS
01631 568000 01397 703003

Scottish Field

The Ideal Christmas Gift

SUBSCRIBE TO Scottish Field AND RECEIVE

A FREE GILLIAN KYLE TUNNOCK'S CARAMEL WAFER APRON WORTH £24.30*

Only £9.99 per quarter

Call subscriptions on 01631 568 000
Quote SF012

Gillian Kyle creates beautiful, high quality gifts, accessories and things for your home that proudly celebrate all that makes Scotland Scottish! All produced by skilled craftspeople and small businesses throughout Scotland & the UK.

Our organic cotton 'Caramel Wafer Wrapper' apron is a colourful salute to the iconic foil wrapper of the world famous Scottish biscuit. Tunnock's describe it as the "national treat" and we couldn't agree more!

To see our whole range and find out more please join us at www.gilliankyle.com

Please note: Gift is sent to the person paying for the order

Terms & Conditions: Cancellation charges apply and no refunds can be given. For UK based customers only. This offer is open to new subscribers only and does not apply to those renewing their subscription. Minimum subscription for one year only - cancellations are not possible during this period. Whilst stocks last. By purchasing this subscription offer you agree for Wyvex Media Ltd to share your details with Gillian Kyle and for them to contact you. For more information and worldwide subscriptions visit: www.scottishfield.co.uk *Price includes post & packing

BOOK WEEK SCOTLAND

To celebrate Book Week Scotland 2013, Argyll and Bute Council Library Service are pleased to welcome the following authors:

<p>Paraig MacNeil Location: Campbeltown Library Date: Monday 25th November Time: 7.00pm Tel: 01586 555435</p>	<p>Frank Muir Location: Oban Library Date: Thursday 28th November Time: 7.00pm Tel: 01631 571444</p>
<p>Douglas Jackson Location: Helensburgh Library Date: Tuesday 26th November Time: 7.00pm Tel: 01436 658833</p>	<p>Karen Campbell Location: Dunoon Library Date: Friday 29th November Time: 7.00pm Tel: 01369 708682</p>
<p>Bernard MacLaverty Location: Rothesay Library Date: Wednesday 27th November Time: 7.00pm Tel: 01700 503266</p>	

To avoid disappointment please contact the relevant branch library for bookings.
Tickets are free and refreshments will be provided.
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

The ideal gift for Christmas 2014 Calendars

<p>Oban Times West Highland</p> <p>£7.50</p>	<p>Arran Banner Isle of Arran</p> <p>£7.50</p>
<p>Scottish Field Large</p> <p>£10.95</p>	<p>Scottish Field Miniature</p> <p>£7.50</p>

to order visit www.scottishcalendars.co.uk or call 01371 851 868

poppies garden centre

LADIES NIGHT

21st November 6.30-9pm

FESTIVE OPENING HOURS

Christmas Eve - 10am-4pm
Closed 25th & 26th
Open 27th - 30th 10am-5pm
31st 10am-3.30pm
Closed 1st January
Open as usual from 2nd January

FREE PRIZE DRAW

For your chance to win a Poppies Christmas Hamper, simply fill in your details below and drop in before 21/11/13 to Poppies Garden Centre

Name: _____
Address: _____
Tel: _____
Email: _____

Please tick if you do not wish to receive promotional emails

Alan Reid MP
Constituency Tour
Meet your local MP

Alan Reid MP will be in your area for his Constituency Tour on the following date:-

Saturday 23 November 2013

Islay - 9.45am-10.45am (Bowmore Hall)
Jura - 12noon - 1.00pm (Jura Servicepoint)

For an appointment please call 01369 704840

Follow us on facebook

www.facebook.com/obantimes

Police files

A SWIM across the Cuan Sound has landed a teenager in deep water with the authorities.

The 19-year-old was attempting to swim from Cuan Ferry to Luing last Wednesday when the tide caught him and swept him towards open sea.

The bold boy managed to reach the island but not before concerned onlookers had alerted the coastguard.

The swimmer was traced to the island and cautioned by police.

POLICE are keen to hear from anyone who may have had property stolen from within their car last weekend, particularly those living in the Shuna Terrace area of Soroba.

It is suspected that items such as mobile phones, watches and a jacket were taken from vehicles.

Among the items seized by police are a Louis Valentin watch, a Ben Sherman watch and a woman's Sprayway jacket.

If anyone can prove they are the owners of these items they can contact the police at Oban Police Station, Albany Street.

PCs Danny McBeth and Joel Edwards are also looking to speak to anyone who may have information on the alleged thefts.

AN OBAN man has been arrested for allegedly robbing a teenager at knife-point in a supermarket car park in the town.

The 21-year-old is accused of stealing the victim's bike at around 8.50pm last Saturday at Aldi.

POLICE are appealing for witnesses to an alleged assault in Oban's Station Road in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Police received a report that a 23-year-old man was knocked to the ground and kicked on the head and body at around 2am.

The attacker is described as being in his early 20s and of medium build.

Oban Police Chief Inspector Alistair Davidson said there were a number of people in the area at the time and anyone with any information should contact the police on 01631 510500 or phone Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

A MAN has been reported to the procurator fiscal for an alleged vandalism offence in the Clachan Seil area.

The 65-year-old is accused of damaging property near to a mooring near Rocky Cottage.



Andrew and Christine MacLellan cut the wedding cake, which had been a birthday cake just moments before their big reveal.

Wedding couple fool family and friends with 'birthday party'

A PRANK-playing Oban couple fooled all of their friends and family by disguising their wedding as a 40th birthday party.

Andrew 'Krankle' MacLellan married Christine last Friday in Oban's Royal Hotel at what was supposed to be Christine's 40th birthday bash.

But the couple caused an uproar among the 130 guests by taking up their places in front of registrar Gemma Cummings to tie the knot. 'It was certainly a birthday to remember,' said Christine, who runs Reflections hair salon. 'We have been together 10 years and people didn't expect us to get married, so

it was such a shock to everyone. He [Andrew] likes a practical joke and I don't do anything by halves, so it worked a treat.

'I arrived late to the party in a white dress, with the Bee Gees' Wedding Day playing but I could barely hear the song because of the uproar. People were whistling, crying, cheering and clapping. It was brilliant.'

With an Oscars theme to the 'party', guests were already suited and booted in their finest attire and Christine's brother John MacLeod, who gave her away, and flowergirl Brooke MacLellan were only informed minutes before the ceremony. A select few were let in on the

secret, including Andrew's best man, his brother Alick, and the other witness Michelle Petrie.

The promise of a 'celebrity performance' at 7.30pm made sure everyone was there on time for the secret service.

And with a 40th birthday cake that looked remarkably similar to a wedding cake, the band Eriskey Lilt in on the deception and a groom's speech prepared for the wedding was all set to go.

The happy couple, who are dreaming up a delayed honeymoon to Las Vegas, thanked Pauline MacLellan for making the cake, photographer Grant Nicholson and the Royal Hotel.



Diane, centre, presents cheques to Glynis Dewar, left, chairwoman of the local branch of Cancer Research, and Rosemary Young of Macmillan Nurses. 16,146cheques1

West Highland Way walker's charity double

OBAN'S Diane MacLean has handed two local branches of cancer charities a £500 boost after conquering the West Highland Way.

Diane, an admin support officer for Argyll and Bute Council, decided to take on the challenge in May, managing the feat in seven days and raising a total of £1,000, split between Cancer Research UK and Macmillan Nurses.

Explaining why she chose the charities, Diane said she knew many people who had benefited from the support of both organisations and felt they deserved more support.

She added: 'Special thanks to everyone who kindly sponsored me.'

Chairman defends Taynuilt volunteers

Accusations traded as group reports community council to ombudsman

TAYNUILT Community Council's outgoing chairman has launched an impassioned defence of the volunteers who serve on it after the organisation was referred to the ombudsman.

The Friends of Loch Etive (FOLE) group - which is campaigning against Dawnfresh's application for a new, 10-pen fish farm at Sailean Ruadh - has accused the community council of failing to reveal the reasons for supporting the fish farm application, despite having opposed Dawnfresh's previous application for a larger farm.

Among the concerns raised with the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland is that the community council failed to declare any interests when discussing the matter during a recent public hearing.

However Murray Sim has dismissed any allegations of wrongdoing and has accused FOLE of attacking volunteers to meet their own goals.

He said: 'This is a completely new application and we considered it on its merits. We're very satisfied with the decision we made and we don't know what their complaint is. We have answered their questions.'

Benefit

'These people don't realise the work done for the benefit of the community by the community council is done by volunteers - volunteers who are out of pocket most of the time to do this.'

FOLE's complaint relates to a donation to Taynuilt Sports Council by a charitable trust owned by Dawnfresh's owner, Alastair Salvesen. They say that David Thomson, who sits on both Taynuilt Community Council and Taynuilt Sports Council, should have declared an interest when the community council discussed the fish farm.

Mr Sim said: 'These people need to realise it's always the same people who are willing to go on these committees, especially in small communities; all because they're willing to give up their time as volunteers for the benefit of the community.'

Mr Thomson said the matter of whether or not to declare an interest was discussed, but it was felt unnecessary.

'The donation was nothing to do with Dawnfresh. It was to do with Mr Salvesen's charity. The donation was not a secret.'

'I asked the rest of the community council what I should do - should I declare an interest and sit out? They all said no, I didn't have to.'

Donation

He added that the Sports Council approached the Salvesen Charitable Trust prior to the new application for a fish farm on Loch Etive to ask for a donation to the new sports pavilion.

He said: 'It was myself, my wife and Fraser [Ingles] who met Mr Salvesen. The fish farm was never mentioned.'

Mr Thomson added: 'I don't know why [FOLE] are so bothered about us. It's not Taynuilt Community Council that will make the final decision, it is Argyll and Bute Council.'

A spokesman for FOLE said: 'FOLE was and remains very surprised that the Taynuilt Community Council could change its view of the proposals at Sailean Ruadh so dramatically from 'fish-farming at this location must not be considered...' to 'the council considered that the effect on landscape was not a serious issue' in a matter of just eight months.'

'Such a dramatic change of heart requires detailed examination and a thorough explanation, which the Taynuilt Community Council has so far failed to give.'

Parents force train transport rethink

Concerns voiced over pupil safety

'FEARFUL' parents have convinced Argyll and Bute Council to rethink its plan to transport pupils to Oban High School by train.

A doubling of train services between Oban and Glasgow from next May has allowed the council to transport 120 children from Dalmally, Lochave, Taynuilt and Connel to Oban from the beginning of the 2014 school year, saving £40,000.

However, at a public meeting last week in Dalmally Community Centre, parents unanimously criticised current council plans requiring high school pupils from Glenview in Dalmally to walk alongside an unlit main road. All children arriving by train in Oban would have to walk through the town to get to school.

Also, children living in the Stronmilchan area, near Dalmally, would get a 'feeder' bus to join up with the train in Taynuilt, passing by other pupils in Dalmally who have to walk to Dalmally train station.

Parent Susan McLaughlin said: 'There are a lot of real problems we have with safety. Children from Glenview in Dalmally would have to walk along the unlit main road and we were told by the council's representative, Malcolm MacFadyen [head of facilities services], that he had walked the route himself and had no qualms with it. That was received very, very poorly.'

'The parents are nervous and fearful for the safety of our children.' Community councillor Kate Craig, who chaired the meeting last Wednesday, said: 'I am totally behind the parents on this one.'

'I was surprised to hear about some of these plans and I am not sure if they have been thought through. To pick up kids in Stronmilchan and take them to Taynuilt for the train is crazy.'

'It will save the council £40,000 but if the children are not safe, that is not right.'

Argyll and Bute Council said it had listened to points raised at the public meeting.

A spokeswoman said: 'The proposed arrangements are being reviewed and we will be getting back directly to the community council and to a future public meeting.'

'Providing a safe and flexible way for our pupils to get to school is our priority.'

'The council makes sure that 3,500 pupils travel to and from school safely and on time each day and their safety is of paramount importance.'

Spotlight on possible new school sites

A PUBLIC consultation on the new Oban High School site will be launched at the existing campus on Monday evening.

The event, at 7pm on November 18, will see the preferred option of the current site along with land behind the Tweed Mill, Dalintart and Glenclruitten discussed, along with another four sites deemed less suitable by Argyll and Bute Council.

The other sites are land at Glenshellach near

Argyll College, the existing school and land behind the Tweed Mill, Dalintart and Glenclruitten and land near Park Primary School and Pennyfuir Cemetery.

There will also be open evenings in the Corran Halls on November 21, 22 and 23.

The consultation closes on Sunday December 8 with the results reported to the council as soon as possible for a decision to be made.

Oban man denies assault

AN OBAN man is awaiting trial after allegedly assaulting a woman by seizing her by the neck while he was on bail.

Jain MacCall, of 89 McKelvie Road, Oban, denied all charges, including shouting and swearing at the woman, when he appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

The 46-year-old is expected to stand trial on January 22 next year and will appear in court next on January 7. MacCall was released on conditional bail.

Green projects win prestigious award

GREEN projects in local hospitals and schools have won Argyll and Bute Council prestigious renewables awards.

The authority has been recognised for its biomass projects, including the installation of pellet or chip boilers at the Mull Progressive Care Centre and the Tobermory pre-5 unit.

Projects are on-going in the Islay and Bowmore primary schools, the Kilmory offices and nursery and the Lochgilphead joint campus.

The council received two league champions' awards for biomass and hydro projects at the inaugural Scottish National Renewables Energy League awards.

Councillor Vivien Dance, who collected the awards, said: 'Renewable energy forms a key part of the council's economic development plan and we are delighted to see our efforts at a local level recognised nationally.'

Lorn Lines

A GROUP of students from Oban High School recently took part in a team-building trip to Aviemore.

During the social enterprise outing, the group stayed overnight in a log cabin and undertook a series of team-building and trust-testing activities.

The group bonded while they prepared their meals over an open fire and visited other social enterprise groups such as New Start, who make up aid packages for the underprivileged.

Lauren McCulloch, an active member, said: 'It was a valuable and enjoyable experience where I learned a lot.'

The club meets every Thursday at the Bridge Café from 5pm until 9pm.

CONFUCIUS, George Eastmen and parlour games were among the topics at this month's meeting of Oban's Speakers Club.

Archie McPhail was first up, whose subject was 'Confucius he say'. Alex Clark followed with a talk entitled 'George Eastman'. Peter Mills was making his 'icebreaker' - or maiden - speech and chose 'Parlour Games' as his subject. Their immediate critics were Bill Leech, Eamonn Arthur and Donnie Graham.

In the second half, Tom Clegg cooked up an interesting and amusing session when all his speakers had to answer subjects on food.

His speakers were Alex Clark, Frank Walton, Bill Leech, Guido Faccenda, Roy Wood and Eamonn Arthur. Time-keeper for the evening was Nick Maclean and the general evaluator was Willie Melville.

Next week members will attend their annual dinner when the speaker will be Tara Coia, learning and events officer of Dunollie.

THIS year is the 50th anniversary of the Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society.

The group held its annual meeting on Friday, November 1, followed by slides of Oban 50 years ago, presented by Bob McCulloch and Charlie Drummond.

The next meeting will be on Friday, November 15 when musicologist John Purser and poet Meg Bateman present their amazing collaborative work 'Window to the West' - a celebration of Gaelic culture, to be held in St John's Episcopal Cathedral, George Street, Oban.

Police cut plan complaint lodged

OBAN councillor and former chief inspector Fred Hall has made a formal complaint against Police Scotland's plans to reduce supervisory cover Argyll and Bute.

Police Scotland have outlined proposals to remove a chief inspector position from Argyll and Bute as part of cost-cutting measures.

In his formal response to a consultation on the move, Mr Hall

says the move would have a negative impact on the force's ability to handle complaints and would reduce the quality of service.

He further states that, as a major transport hub, Oban has a throughput of more than 725,000 passengers through the ferry terminal annually alone, and is also home to 'key infrastructure facilities' such as Cruachan Power Station and the

NATS Radar facility and justifies greater cover. Finally, he states that the move implies the force is moving towards a 'relentless pursuit of targeted policing', concentrating staff in areas where targets are more easily met. He said: 'Why should an area with the geographic and logistical challenges of Argyll and Bute... be subject to cuts in supervisory staff that has no logic to it whatsoever?'

High school bus fund's common good boost

A TOTAL of £2,000 has been awarded to Oban High School Parent Council to help buy two minibuses for school outings.

The money, from the Oban Common Good Fund, was confirmed at a meeting last week.

Other sources of funding have also been advised to the parent council to help them meet the £40,000 target.

The parent council sent out letters to businesses in Oban earlier this year in the hope everyone in the town can contribute towards purchasing the buses, which will be used for school trips, sport, music and other extra-curricular activities.

The school's minibuses are currently shared with primary schools, which limits the times they can be used

and when they have to be returned. Other applicants to the fund were Oban FM and Oban Hospice.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokeswoman said: 'More information has been requested about these applications and these items will return to a meeting of the Oban Common Good Fund in December.'

Assault with draught excluder

AN OBAN woman is awaiting sentence after assaulting a man - by hitting him with a draught excluder.

Tracey Black, 34, whose address was given in Oban Sheriff Court as 11e Colonsay Terrace, Oban, pled guilty to the offence on Monday.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence until December 10 for the preparation of reports. Black was released on conditional bail.

Council votes to retain office-bearers

IT IS A case of 'how you were' for Oban Community Council, which has voted to retain existing office-bearer positions until the new group gets to know each other.

At the inauguration of the new community council last week, members were asked to nominate individuals as chairperson, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer - although moves to appoint a planning officer were passed over.

Marri Malloy was once again elected as chairwoman, with Duncan Martin back as secretary. Andy Harper took the position of vice-chairman and Jessie MacFarlane took up the role of

treasurer. All positions were elected unopposed.

At the meeting, Argyll and Bute Council's governance and risk manager Iain Jackson urged the group to make declarations of interest a standing item on the agenda.

He said: 'Community councils are being scrutinised more than ever and having declarations of interest on the agenda is vital. If the public feels your interest is influenced by the decision you take it is important you are transparent. It's up to the individuals concerned if they want to do this though.'



INDEPEN-DANCE 4

A fresh, young inclusive dance quartet creating inspirational and challenging dance!

'a highly enjoyable and watchable evening of dance and performance.. both theatrical and touching.'

FRIDAY 22 NOVEMBER

APPIN VILLAGE HALL (near Oban)

7:30pm | £6/£4 | 01631 720498 | bookings@comar.co.uk

We Buy **whiskycasks.com**

Looking to sell your cask of whisky?

E-mail info@webuywhiskycasks.com
www.webuywhiskycasks.com

Corporate stationery
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

Personal stationery
Matching paper & envelopes,
postcards, address labels

krisp print

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery,
Main Street/Longrow South,
Campbeltown PA28 6JD
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

Alleycats remain top dogs in scratch division

TEN PIN BOWLING

AFTER week six of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10-pin bowling competition at the Nevis Centre in Fort William Alleycats remain the leaders in the scratch division with 28 points after beating previous second placed team Rock & Bowl 5-0.

Bandits move to second place with 24 points with Rock & Bowl slipping to third place on 20 points.

In the handicap division Bandits lead with 23.5 points. Alleycats remain in second place with 23 points and Rock & Bowl remain in third place with 16 points.

The top two individual scratch games this week both came from Tony Whitelocke of Alleycats with 200 and 185.

Tony also swept the board this week with the top handicap game of 236, the top two-game scratch series of 385 - the season's highest so far - and the top two-game handicap series of 457.

Alleycats swept the board with the highest team scores this week with the highest scratch team game of 648, the highest handicap game of 831, the highest two-game scratch team series of 1263 - the season's highest so far - and the top two-game handicap team series of 1628.

The highest scratch average is now held by Tony Whitelocke (Alleycats) on 162 followed by Pam Weller (Alleycats) on 159 and Stewart Duncan (Rock & Bowl) on 148.

Youngster makes her mark for Fort William Falcons

NETBALL

FORT William Falcons sit top of the Highland and Moray Netball League after winning both their opening matches.

Their most recent game saw them defeat Gordonstoun 49-44, with junior player Danielle Ferguson one of the standouts in what proved a very tight affair.

The 13 year-old was making her debut after impressing in the junior side, and was joined in the squad by fellow youngsters Freya MacDonald and Rachael Simmonds.

Lia Hunter came back from injury, and despite playing the unfamiliar role of goal keeper managed to make several blocks.

Falcons' Claire Lumley-Holmes said: 'If Danielle was nervous you wouldn't have known, she held her cool to get goal after goal in the net. She has a very promising future ahead of her.'

'With a pool of talented adult and junior players and two successful results, we are left wondering could this be the Falcons year?'

Fort brought back down to earth with a bump

'If we can finish above Strathspey, Rothes and Lossiemouth we will have done well'

REPORT BY RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

FORT William's new signing Willie Gemmell is expected to go straight into the squad for this weekend's basement battle away to Strathspey Thistle.

The two teams are rooted to the bottom of the Highland League with four points each and know a win would be a massive boost in the quest to avoid the wooden spoon.

And Gemmell - brought on board from Oban Saints - will increase the options open to manager Danny Conlon.

Conlon told The Oban Times: 'He is a midfielder who can also slot into the back four, and he'll give us a bit more quality and a bit more experience.'

Hard done by

'We've played two of the other teams down there already, both away from home, and now we have to go up to Grantown. I thought against Rothes we were hard done by, but against Lossie we were very poor, very disappointing.'

'Both sides know how big this game is and both will be going for it.'

As well as Gemmell, Gordy MacCarroll and Sean Grant are

FOOTBALL

expected to return to the match-day squad, but Darren Quigg and Duncan Campbell are doubts due to work commitments.

Conlon said this year's Highland League could be split into three separate divisions such was the difference in quality between the sides.

And Fort William, according to Conlon, are battling in 'division three' this season.

'Progress for us this season would be winning division three', he said. 'If we can finish above Strathspey, Rothes and



Iain Foggo goes in hard to win the ball against Locos' Dean Donaldson

Lossiemouth we will have done well.'

After the recent promising win away to Keith, Fort were brought back down to earth with a thump on Saturday going down 6-0 at home to Inverurie Locos.

Former Peterhead marksman Martin Bavidge opened the

scoring after three minutes, and by half time the visitors were 4-0 up.

The game was effectively beyond Fort, but the home side improved after the break and let in just two further goals.

The manager said: 'We conceded early and in the first

45 there was a massive gulf between the sides. In the second half we changed it around and we were a bit better.'

'If we concede early sometimes our heads go down. The first goal is very important, goals change games and the confidence grows when you're in front.'

Cricket club game for the new season

CRICKET

FORT WILLIAM Cricket Club is looking to fly high after securing Highland Game as their new sponsor.

The Dundee-based fine foods purveyor's name will be on the club's kit from next season.

Cricket chairman Derek Spencer gave a warm welcome to the sponsorship deal.

He said: 'On the back of our most successful season yet this is a real vote of confidence.'

'Uncertainty over the future of the BA Club, Fort's home for the last seven years, will not diminish the sense of pride in the club's progress and optimism that even better days lie ahead.'

Fort achieved their best ever finish in the NoSCA senior league last season, while the reserves won their league championship and were runners-up in the cup.

Plumline move into second place

SQUASH

LOCHABER Plumline have moved into second place in the Highlands and Islands Squash Association Premier League despite losing a narrow match with leaders Jamie Tulloch Personal Training of Inverness.

An injury-hit Lochaber side lost the first match when Andrew MacMaster was beaten, but Bruce Love won three straight games in his match to level the score. Archie MacGillivray took two games against Ross Henderson but lost 3-2 before youngster Bruce MacLean succumbed to Derek Cameron's greater experience.

Lochaber next face Fraser Appliances in Inverness on November 28.

Tight at the top in winter league

GOLF

ERIC Wallace is just one point clear of the field in Fort William Golf Club's winter league with a score of 151.

After the latest competitions, Neil Feggins and Davie MacPherson are in joint second.

The back nine on Saturday was won by Allan Overend with a score of 22 points. Rusty Duncan scored 18 points, with his better inward three giving him second place ahead of Jimmy Ross. The wooden spoon went to Willie Duncan with his score of 12.

Neil Feggins won Sunday's front nine with a better inward three after tying on 21 points with Eric Wallace.

David MacPherson was three points behind in third, while Allan Overend picked up the wooden spoon for the day.

Steven wins £200 lottery prize

LOTTERY

FORT William Football Club's monthly 300 club draw took place on Saturday, with Steven Bond winning the top prize of £200.

Heidi MacLean won £50, while John MacMillan and M MacKellaig took home £25 each.



A big field of runners took part in the Canal Bank Race on Sunday, the first event in this year's winter league.

Lochaber Athletic Club's winter league gets up and running

LOCHABER Athletic Club's winter league got up and running with the Canal Bank Race on Sunday, with youngster Craig MacLean taking the win in his first senior race.

A field of 67 runners turned out on a beautiful sunny winter's day for the short and furious race.

Ice and muddy puddles made conditions a bit tricky on the return side of the canal bank. MacLean finished in 27 min-

utes and 42 seconds, 14 seconds ahead of second-placed Mike Bossard. Allan Ross made it an LAC 1-2-3, coming in just one second behind Bossard.

Amanda Blackhall was the fastest female in 33m 35s, ahead of Jo Smith of Westies and Raenne Miller.

John Binnie was the first over 40s runner home in 28m 38s, with Tim Brand the fastest over 50 in 29m 30s. Nancy Kennedy was the first over 50s female in

ATHLETICS

37m 27s. LAC's James Hamilton said: 'It was a great race, thank you to all the marshals and timers, without which these races could not take place. Thank you to John Stafford of Calendonian Canals for opening the toilets for the runners.'

The route for the next winter league race, the Drumfada Chase on Sunday, is likely to be changed due to fallen trees.

Lochaber host Aberdeenshire at Black Parks

RUGBY

LOCHABER Rugby Club are back in action this Saturday after a weekend off when they host Aberdeenshire 2nd XV at Black Parks.

Lochaber will be looking to get back to their early season form after three heavy defeats in a row, but know they will face a stern test against the side placed third in the RBS Caledonia League division two north table. Lochaber currently sit in fifth spot with 22 points from their nine games.

Leisure lead the way

INDOOR FOOTBALL

LOCHABER Leisure kept up their 100 per cent record with a 4-2 win over Caol Cosmos to stay three points clear at the top of the Ali Young indoor football league at the Nevis Centre.

Second-placed Goon Squad maintained the pressure with 4-2 win over Caol United, who slip to fifth.

Portoway recorded another big win, 8-3 against HWE Energy to stay level on points with Goon Squad.

And The Janis B Team are up to fourth following their 8-5 win against second-bottom With Ourselves.

In the night's other games, AFC Distillery defeated Kental-

Team	Pts
Lochaber Leisure	18
Goon Squad	15
Portoway	15
The Janis B Team	12
Caol United	10
AFC Distillery	10
Balachulish	9
Caol Cosmos	6
Kentallen	6
With Ourselves	3
HWE Energy	3
Ali Young	0



Successful season for Fort youngsters

FORT William Shinty Club's senior side may have been relegated from the premiership this year, but the youngsters have given supporters several reasons to be hopeful for the future.

Players from the under 14 and under 17 sides celebrated the individual and team success of the 2013 season in the clubhouse on Friday night.

The U17s were the national champions, and also won the MacFavish Juvenile Camanachd Cup and

YOUTH SHINTY

the Strathdearn sixes cup. They provided seven players to the Lochaber Area U17 side who won their league, and captain Aaran MacPhee was named national U17 player of the year.

The U14s, meanwhile, won the North of Scotland League and the Lochaber area U14 sixes tournament.

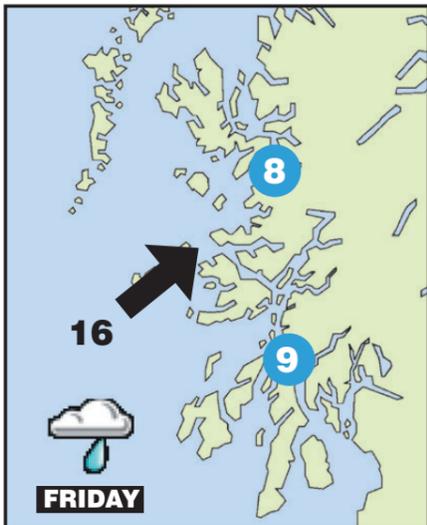
Weather

Thursday Sunshine and showers
Winds strong north westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 9°C

Friday Light rain
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 6°C to 9°C.

Weekend Light rain
Outlook Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 6°C to 9°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, November 14, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 03.24	3.3 09.25	1.2 15.39 3.7 21.48 1.3
Fri 03.56	3.5 10.14 1.1 16.17 3.9 22.28 1.1	
Sat 04.29	3.7 10.57 1.1 16.51 4.0 23.05 1.1	
Sun 05.02	3.9 11.37 1.1 17.24 4.0 23.41 1.0	
Mon 05.36	4.0 12.15 1.1 17.58 4.0 *** **	
Tues 00.17	1.0 06.09 4.0 12.52 1.2 18.31 4.0	
Wed 00.54	1.1 06.43 4.0 13.27 1.4 19.06 3.9	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with



website: www.northwestmarine.co.uk
Address: 7E Glengallan Rd., Oban, Argyll. PA34 4HG
Ph: 01631 565740 Fax: 01631 565780
email: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk