

# The Oban Times

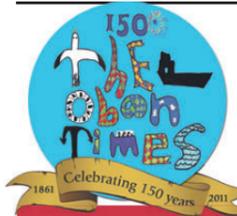
## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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this winter

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### National award short-list for Lorn orienteering event

THIS year's Scottish Six Days Orienteering Event, held throughout the Lorn area, has been nominated in the Event of the Year category at the Scottish Sports Awards.

Around 4,000 people from across the globe descended on orienteering courses around Lorn. Organisers were praised for overseeing a very successful event in July and August.

Organisers of the event will be rubbing shoulders with the likes of Andy Murray, Dario Franchitti and John Higgins next Thursday at the ceremony in Glasgow's Thistle Hotel.

The other finalists in the category are the Walker Cup golf team and the Davis Cup tennis squad.

### Cinema gains £25,000 boost

OBAN Phoenix Cinema received a boost on Friday when the North British Hotel Trust awarded the group £25,000.

The team had only applied for £10,000 of funding from the Trust, which is chaired by Paddy Crerar, chief executive of Crerar Hotels owners of the Oban Bay Hotel.

Oban Phoenix Cinema director, Laura Russell, said: 'This wonderful boost means we will be able to renovate to a much higher standard.'

### Appin assault

AN APPIN man appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on petition last Thursday charged with assaulting a man to severe injury. James Weir, aged 68, made no plea or declaration and the case was continued for further examination. He was granted bail.

### Connel Bridge closure dates

THE LIFELINE Connel Bridge will be closed overnight for five nights to carry out repairs after a lorry hit it in September.

Scotland TransServ will shut the bridge from 10pm to 6am between Sunday December 4 and Thursday December 8, with access for emergency services only. Drivers face an 80-mile diversion via Bridge of Orchy.



A Victorian affair: Stallholder David Berry tips his hat to Oban Winter Festival's opening weekend, with, from front left, Marie Rowan, Jean Campbell, Catherine Wylie, Michele MacLennan, Christine Litster, Mary MacInnes, Lottie Wilson and Margaret Cooper. 15\_147/vicmarket1

## Oban's first winter festival off to flying start

THOUSANDS of locals joined Santa Claus and his reindeer in helping the first ever Oban Winter Festival get off to a 'flying' start on Saturday.

A procession followed Santa from the Corran Halls to Station Square for the switch on of the Christmas lights, and, unlike Mossfield's fireworks, this was

a light show that went entirely according to plan.

And heavy rain half way through the ceremony didn't dampen spirits, with many taking the chance to explore the ever-popular Victorian Market in the town's Caledonian Hotel prior to the big switch-on.

One of the parade's organis-

ers, David Finlayson, said: 'The reindeer parade was a huge success on Saturday with more than 2,000 people attending. 'The Victorian market was also a huge success and is sure to be repeated again next year.'

Oban Pipe Band led Santa, his reindeer and sleigh into town, while the Spotlight Theatre

Company, in full pantomime costumes followed closely behind.

Riding with Santa were Ruby Heritage-Crabb from Lochnell School and Rowan Duffy from Park School, who were winners of a Christmas card competition organised by the Rotary Club of Oban.

Park Primary's Natasha Cameron and Katie Barlow from Lochnell Primary School assisted local councillor Duncan MacIntyre in switching on the lights, which was greeted with a large cheer from the crowd.

You can find a full round up of Oban Winter Festival's first weekend on Page 4.

## NHS to review Oban dialysis

Satellite units' success encourages health chiefs

HEALTH bosses have announced they will look again at how dialysis services can be provided in Oban.

At present, patients have to travel to Fort William or Glasgow for the lengthy treatment. But there was a ray of hope this week, when NHS Highland said the possibility of a satellite service at Lorn and the Islands District General Hospital would be examined.

**Shocked**  
Catherine Reid from Taynult started dialysis in July and said she was shocked to discover the travelling involved.

'I travel three days a week to Fort William,' she said. 'A taxi picks me up, waits for me to have my treatment, then takes me home, paid for by the health board. 'If it was in Oban, it would be so handy. I could drive myself and it would only take half a day.'

**Petition**  
She has launched a petition to campaign for local dialysis. Catherine added: 'We shouldn't have to go when there's a hospital in Oban - there are six machines in Fort William, even if we had two machines here it would make a difference.'

Derek Leslie, general manager of Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership, acknowledged the impact on patients having to travel for dialysis but said a full-scale unit would not be possible in Oban.

### EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by  
Christine McCartney  
cmccartney@obantimes.co.uk

'However NHS Highland has had good experience with regard to establishing satellite units such as those already available in Caithness and Fort William,' he continued.

'These have to be justified on the grounds of quality of care, patient safety, incidence of the disease and the best use of resources.'

**Commitment**  
'I have therefore given a commitment that I will examine the potential for developing such a satellite service in Oban and I will report back to the community as soon as I can.'

An Oban service would make a world of difference to Bunnessan woman Linda MacGillivray. She has been on dialysis for 14 years and is planning to leave her home on the Isle of Mull to be nearer a dialysis unit.

'I have grown up on Mull, my partner is from Iona and we don't want to leave,' she said.

'If you have travelling on top of your treatment, it washes you out even more.'

'It was a 12-and-a-half hour day for me to go to Fort William. I can't do it long-term. 'If we could have the equivalent unit in Oban, I would like to support it very much.'

## Lorn stunned by sudden death of Councillor 'Skye'

OBAN and Lorn has lost a second councillor in a matter of months through tragic circumstances following the sudden death of the charismatic Councillor Donald 'Skye' McIntosh last week.

A councillor for the past 12 years, he had recently been a driving force behind plans for a Soroba Community Centre and was a strong voice for the retention, and improvement, of hospital services in Oban.

His death follows the sudden passing of fellow councillor Donald MacDonald in August.

Council leader Dick Walsh paid tribute to Councillor McIntosh's dedication to his job, adding: 'He always gave 200 per cent.'

A funeral service will take place tomorrow (Friday) at 1pm in Glencruit-



Donald 'Skye' McIntosh

ten Parish Church, Oban. As a recognition of Skye's devotion to the SNP, mourners are asked to wear yellow flowers.

## Strike threat may bite next week

A DAY of Action by teaching and public service unions is to affect schools, health and public services in Argyll and Bute and the rest of Scotland next Wednesday, November 30.

Billy Marshall, a principal teacher at Dunoon Grammar and secretary of the EIS teaching union's local association, said Argyll teachers were 'genuinely unhappy about having to take strike action'.

But they are 'enraged' at government changes to public sector pensions and conditions of employment, he said.

Mr Marshall added: 'We hope that parents and the community

in Argyll and Bute will support us in our Day of Action and our campaign to protect public services in Argyll and Bute and across the country.'

Joining EIS in strike action are the Scottish Secondary Teachers' Association and NASUWT, with the vast majority of schools likely to be affected. Parents at some Argyll schools have been sent letters advising them that schools may be closed to some or all pupils on the day.

Council offices, health centres and job centres are also likely to be affected. For updates, see [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk), and our Facebook page.

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A huge articulated lorry carrying road maintenance equipment became the victim of soft verges on the notorious A819 Dalmally to Inveraray road on Monday morning when the vehicle overturned. The 15-mile section of road has been recorded as one of the most dangerous in Scotland and is currently in the process of being upgraded.

# Argyll science park takes first step

'European Marine Science Park is a landmark project for Argyll and is of national significance.' - Douglas Cowan, HIE

A TURF-Cutting ceremony marked the first steps towards an ambitious new science park near Oban last week.

The £7.5 million European Science Park will bring an extra 20,000 square feet of office and laboratory space and up to 125 jobs to the site at Dunstaffnage.

There to turn the first sod at the site were representatives of Robertson construction group, which will carry out the work, and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), which has funded the new park, along with cash from European Regional Development Funds.

Douglas Cowan, Area Manager for HIE, said: 'The European Marine Science Park is a landmark project for Argyll and is of national significance. It builds on our strong reputation in marine sciences and will lead to more businesses employing more people in high value jobs, creating greater prosperity for north Argyll and the wider area.'

Andrew Cowan, group chief executive officer of Robertson, said the firm would work to use local suppliers and engage with the local community.

He added: 'Robertson are delighted to be working in partnership with Highlands and Islands Enterprise to deliver this significant infrastructure project for Argyll. We have considerable experience in delivering high profile public sector projects throughout Scotland and we are thrilled to add the European Marine Science Park to that prestigious list.'

The building site is next to the Scottish Association of Marine Science (SAMS). Its director, Professor Laurence Mee, welcomed the expansion of marine science at Dunstaffnage. He said: 'With the success of the European Centre for Marine

Biotechnology at SAMS, we have demonstrated how the private sector can make innovative use of the scientific knowledge and unique natural assets available in Argyll.'

'HIE's European Marine Science Park will build on this, allowing entrepreneurs

to spin out companies that will bring new jobs to the region and create a knowledge-based society that will resonate nationally and internationally. This is a fantastic development and a huge vote of confidence from HIE, the private sector and the Scottish Government.'

Dr Allan also congratulated Galson and Breasclate, who were second and third respectively. Communn na Gàidhlig chief executive Donald MacNeill said: 'South Uist and Eriskay demonstrated how Gaelic is used amongst young and old, and at every level of daily life, from the workplace to the school and clubs for younger people.'



Andrew Cowan, Robertson chief executive officer, and Alex Paterson, chief executive of HIE, start the work at the new £7.5m European Marine Science Park. 16\_1475science02

to spin out companies that will bring new jobs to the region and create a knowledge-based society that will resonate nationally and internationally. This is a fantastic development and a huge vote of confidence from HIE, the private sector and the Scottish Government.'

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Alasdair Allan MSP, Minister for Learning and Skills presents the award to representatives from Iomairt Ghàidhlig Uibhist a Deas agus Eirisigeigh, Mary Ann Campbell, Lena MacLellan and Shona Mackay. Also pictured is Calum Iain MacLeod, Director of Development with Communn na Gàidhlig

# Tourism chiefs welcome Cowal sale

THE decision to sell an Argyll estate to a major holiday firm has been welcomed by tourism and business chiefs, as further details of the deal emerged.

Argyll and Bute Council chose Seasons Holidays as their preferred bidder for the 142-acre Castle Toward site in Cowal earlier this month.

Barry Hurley, chairman of Seasons, said his firm first visited the site in 2006 and has been working closely with the council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Scottish Development International (SDI), a government agency encouraging investment in Scotland.

He added: 'We will now endeavour to work closely with the local planning authority, Historic Scotland and all the associated bodies to achieve a deliverable mixed use resort development, whilst retaining the important historical heritage of the site.'

In addition to a hotel, conference centre and spa, a family-focussed fractional ownership resort is planned. Anne MacColl, head of SDI, said the announcement was 'excellent news' for Argyll and Scotland as a whole.

A council spokesperson said Seasons had not received any assurances about planning applications and would involve the community through the planning process.

Meanwhile, South Cowal Community Council has made a plea for a voice in discussions about the future of the site.

*"We would like to be involved at an early stage.*

*There is no need for secrecy"*

**Alan Stewart community council**

The developments were discussed at its recent meeting and they agreed to write to Seasons to open up discussions about their plans.

Alan Stewart, community councillor, said: 'It is accepted that things are going to change, and we would like to be involved at an early stage.'

'Some members of the public who were at the meeting had grave concerns as to the type of development that may be planned, and it is difficult to allay their fears without more information.'

'There was general agreement at the meeting that there was potential for this to be a very good thing for the area, and for some very positive outcomes, that the Ardyne basin could finally be developed if this was as good a plan as Seasons say, and perhaps a ferry link to Bute.'

'But we also felt that the wrong type of development could be a disaster, hence our desire for involvement from the beginning.'

'There is no need for secrecy.'

# Uncertain future for community councils' body

Review of AABCC has been launched

THE future is uncertain for an organisation supporting local community councils.

After a number of members did not attend the last meeting organised by Association of Argyll and Bute Community Councils (AABCC), the first in 18 months, a wholesale review of the organisation has been launched. The news comes after the demise of the Scottish Association of Community Councils' earlier this year.

David Price, Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council, said the disappointing turnout at the meeting undermined what the organisation was trying to do.

He said: 'The AGM of the AABCC was held at Kilmory on October 29, but attendance was disappointing, suggesting that by and large, Argyll and Bute Community Councils were not able to see if the association has a role in the community.'

He is convening a working group to ask Argyll and Bute's 54 community council if the organisation has a future and was role it should have. Letters are being sent to all the community councils asking for responses by December 15, so that the group can come up with recommendations.

Les Stewart, secretary of Connel Community Council, who was at the AGM, said: 'There is a huge amount of apathy towards the association. There is a value to it, but in the shape and form that it has at the moment it's pretty useless.'



# Eye to eye with John Wallace

## The dangers of winter sunshine

Are you prepared for the problems caused by winter sunshine? At this time of year when we do see the sun it is low in the horizon and can make driving very difficult. In addition to problems caused by glare from the low lying sun the extreme cold over the Arctic and polar region dramatically increases the size of the hole in the ozone layer. That in turn permits high levels of UV light to pass through the atmosphere. Exposure to high levels of UV light have been directly linked with a variety of eye problems e.g. cataracts, macular degeneration and tumours around and within the eye.

UV light is more insidious. It is all around and invisible. Winter sports enthusiasts are well aware of the dangers and wear appropriate eye and skin protection. For the rest of us the thought of wearing sunglasses in winter-time may seem daft. However, the long term protection offered by wearing sunglasses should greatly outweigh any thoughts of vanity. North Argyll is particularly prone to problems caused by UV light with the high mountains, the sea and snow all reflecting very high levels of UV light. Ask your optometrist about protecting your eyes. You only get one pair to last a lifetime!

What can we do to protect ourselves? Driving is perhaps the easier problem to solve. Because the sun is low over the horizon it causes significant problems due to reflections off wet roads. Polarised lenses are the best option to reduce this type of glare. They dramatically

reduce reflections and help drivers see all the pot holes on the road. An investment in a good quality pair of polarised sunglasses potentially could save thousands of pounds in damage to your car if you had the misfortune to hit a deep pot hole.

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# Tiree residents' anger at damage to machair land

ISLANDERS on Tiree have condemned the actions of the driver who destroyed road bollards and severely damaged several areas of protected machair land during a weekend rampage.

Sometime on Saturday night or early Sunday morning, someone took a vehicle off road in a protected area known as The Reef, performed handbrake turns and caused damage to fragile machair land that will take years to put right.

The same night, 10 traffic calming bollards at Reef Terrace, Crossapol, were destroyed by a vehicle, causing more than £3,000 of damage.

The Reef is owned by Highlands and Islands airports and leased by RSPB Scotland.

RSPB officer, John Bowler, said: 'Quite a lot of people are unhappy about this, it is vital winter grazing ground for cattle. It will take about two or three years to repair itself, but only if it's left alone.'

Anyone with information can contact PC Steph Tanner on 01879 220 366.

# Irish ferry operator moves base to Cairnryan

WEST Coast travellers bound for Ireland saw changes this week, as one of the main carriers moved port and introduced new ships to the Irish Sea route.

Stena Line constructed their new terminal on the site of a military port in Loch Ryan, north of Cairnryan, closing their operations in nearby Stranraer. The new port will be officially opened tomorrow, Friday.

Two new ships have been leased to serve the route, replacing Stena's Voyager, Navigator and Caledonia craft. The average journey time to Belfast will be two

hours and 15 minutes. Paul Grant, Stena Line Route Director, said there could be further improvements in the pipeline for passengers travelling to Cairnryan by car.

He said: 'We are delighted that our new port has been designated a National Project by the Scottish Government and are currently working with the government to look at improvements to the road infrastructure to and from the port to help the new facility maximise its full potential in terms of overall journey times between Scotland and Northern Ireland.'

# Angel OF THE YEAR

150TH ANNIVERSARY 1861 - 2011

If you know someone who really makes a difference in their community or to someone's life then fill in the nomination form provided below or online at [www.obantimes.co.uk/angel](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/angel) and let us know.

All nominations will be assessed by an independent panel and the winner announced in The Oban Times this Christmas.

**As well as winning a trophy and the title of ANGEL OF THE YEAR, the winner will also receive £500. Two runners up will each win £100.**

**All nominations must be received by 10am MONDAY DECEMBER 5 2011.**  
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Send to: Pauline Clifford, The Oban Times, Angel of the Year, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.

**Tobermory chef cooks on TV show**

TOBERMORY chef Liz McGougan has been to London for a cooking competition to be shown on ITV's Britain's Best Dish. The televised competition sees some of the country's best chefs go head-to-head. Liz is the chef at Cafe Fish, which was recently awarded the Good Food Guide's Best Fish Restaurant honour for 2012.

**Attempt at police assault leads to payback order**

A MAN admitted at the Oban Sheriff Court last week attempting to assault a police officer, resisting arrest and struggling violently with two constables. David Irvine, 53, of 24 Combie Court, committed the offences at Station Square on June 20. He was placed on a 12-month community payback order.

**Charity searches for enterprising stars in Argyll**

A CHARITY is looking for the stars of social enterprise in Argyll and Bute. Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network is looking for nominations in four categories – social enterprise of the year, best start-up, and leader young people's social enterprise. Bill Stewart, development manager for ABSEN, said Argyll has a particularly buoyant and successful third sector and this is a chance to celebrate all the quality work going on. To get a nomination form, contact justine.absen@gmail.com.

**Lochgilhead man charged with serious assault**

A 31-YEAR-old Lochgilhead man appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday on petition, charged with an Oban assault to severe injury and permanent disfigurement. Graham Leith appeared from custody and made no plea or declaration. The case has been continued for further examination and bail was granted.

**Woman accused of theft from store**

A 54-year-old woman has been charged with theft after allegedly taking a jacket from a store in Oban. The jacket, belonging to a member of staff, had a mobile phone and a purse in it and was taken from the store at around 11.15am last Saturday.

**Exposed in street**

URINATING outside and exposing himself to four women has cost an Oban man £375. Steven MacLeod, 26, of 8 Hazeldean Crescent, admitted placing the women in a state of alarm during the breach of the peace in George Street on June 22.

**Drug dealer fined**

DEALING ecstasy in Oban has cost a Glasgow man £750. Kyle McPherson, 22, of Flat 2/5, Finlay Drive, Dennistoun, who was sentenced at Oban Sheriff Court last week, admitted to dealing the drug at Airds Place on February 25.

**Distillery gifts drum to pipers**

OBAN Pipe Band took delivery of a new tenor drum on Saturday, just ahead of their Winter Festival march, thanks to Oban Distillery's owners, Diageo. Senior tour guide, Fergus Gillanders, right, presented the drum purchased with a £500 donation from the company's Local Citizens' Fund, to pipe band drummer Jenny Livingstone and pipe major, Euan Dewar.



**Crieff duo caught carrying cannabis**

TWO CRIEFF men who were stopped and searched on Oban's Esplanade, outside the Queen's Hotel, were found to have cannabis in their possession. The men, aged 20 and 44, were charged following the search last Tuesday.



Madam MacDougall, Chief of the Clan MacDougall, looks towards Dunollie during the first horse and carriage ride to the historic house for approximately 100 years. 15\_147dunollie1

**Clan chief turns back the clock for visit to Dunollie**

THE first horse and carriage ride into the grounds Dunollie for approximately 100 years was taken by the Chief of the Clan MacDougall on Saturday as part of Oban's Winter Festival celebrations. Madam Morag Morley MacDougall, the 31st chief of the clan, was joined by husband Richard Morley and son Robin MacDougall, Younger of Dunollie, in boarding the cart, provided by the Oban and Lorn Riding for the Disabled, who were fundraising on the day. The cart was driven by Elaine Trigg, with Jane Isaac assisting. Pulling the carriage was the 17-year-old coloured cob, Bramble. Future clan chief, Robin, also took the opportunity to look around Dunollie's 1745 House for the first time since extensive renovations were completed, saying he was delighted with the new look.

**Firth of Lorne to host carbon capture project**

**'Argyll demonstrates that this part of the world makes important contributions to research that matters'**

ARDMUCKNISH Bay, near Benderloch will host a leading research project into the safety of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) techniques next spring. Dr Henrik Stahl, a scientist at the Scottish Marine Institute (SAMI) at Dunstaffnage, is leading the project which will investigate possible issues relating to carbon dioxide storage in sub-seabed reservoirs. An information evening will be held for the public in Benderloch next month to discuss the project in more detail and answer any questions. CCS is favoured by a growing number of governments as a clean method of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by storing it underground. While the technology for CCS is more or less in place, little research has been done into the success or safety of the technique. Dr Stahl and his team hope to examine just how sound the theory behind CCS is by replicating in miniature what happens in the event of a leak in a marine environment. As well as looking at how the eco-system is initially impacted, the team will study how quickly it recovers. Dr Stahl said: 'It is critical to understand the impacts from potential carbon dioxide leaks and how best to monitor CCS sites, as little is known about what will happen to marine life around a potential leak of carbon dioxide from a CCS reservoir. 'Our project will investigate the nature and environmental impacts of carbon dioxide leaks that could develop at CCS storage sites. 'It is critical to understand the impacts of potential carbon dioxide leaks. Dr Henrik Stahl

'We will also use the experiment to test various methods of monitoring and discovering potential carbon dioxide leaks from a CCS reservoir. 'Our work will provide important information on operational and risk assessment procedures for any future CCS installation.' Impacts on conservation, recreational and fishery activities in the area will be 'minimal', he added. Professor Laurence Mee, director of SAMI, said: 'Together with visiting experts from as far as Japan, Henrik's team of scientists will be addressing some really big issues with this research and are exploring possible solutions to the climate change challenge. 'Conducting this work in Argyll once again demonstrates that this part of the world makes important contributions to research that matters.' Residents can find out more at the Victory Hall, Benderloch at 7.30pm, Thursday, December 8.

**Thief stole Oban poppy charity tin**

THE THEFT of a Poppy Scotland charity tin from an Oban hotel has been branded 'disgusting' by the town's Royal British Legion Scotland (RBL) branch. Police in Oban described the man who took the tin from the Caledonian Hotel the day after Remembrance Sunday as aged between 30 and 40 years, around six-foot tall and wearing a white top, black trousers and white trainers. He had a black goatee beard. Anyone who may have seen the man, or has any information is urged to contact PC Greg Bryce at Oban Police Station on 01631 510 500.

**A85 driver is clocked at 86mph**

A 43-year-old driver has been charged with speeding after travelling at 86mph in a 60mph zone on the A85 near Dalmailly last Tuesday.

**Isles rower fails in Barra to Lewis bid**

GAELIC broadcaster, Niall Iain Macdonald, from Barra, had to be rescued by Stornoway Coastguard last week, after a charity fundraising effort went wrong. Niall had intended to row from Barra to Lewis for Children in Need last Wednesday, but with 100 miles left to go, his oar snapped. He was towed by Barra lifeboat to Leverburgh on Harris, but suffered no ill effects from his ordeal.

**Connel PO raider is spared jail term**

AN AXE-wielding raider who held up Connel's village shop last year has been spared jail, but warned he is not 'off the hook' yet. Lord Bonomy had earlier told Brendan McGuckin, 27, he was not convinced prison was the answer and gave him a chance to stay out of trouble and get a job. When McGuckin returned to the High Court in Edinburgh last Tuesday, defence advocate Stewart Ronnie, told how he was getting up at 5am to get to work as a labourer. He had also saved £300 in case he was ordered to pay his victim compensation. Lord Bonomy said: 'I think I made it clear before that there will be some kind of penalty to pay.' He told the repentant robber to keep saving and come back to court next June.

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**Nominations rolling in**

AS NOMINATIONS come rolling in for The Oban Times' first Angel of the Year award, tales of our everyday heroes and heroines are emerging from the woodwork. The prize, part of the paper's 150th anniversary celebrations, seeks to honour our unsung community champions. Rev Carol Leech was one of the first into our offices with her nomination form. She has put forward Oban street sweeper Christoph Josepitt, who she says works tirelessly to make the town look its best. She said: 'What an amazing man. Anybody out and about in recent years in Oban will know Christoph, if not by name, then by sight, as the cheery, larger-than-life figure in the high-vis jacket who works tirelessly to keep the town clear and tidy. 'Few of us would undertake such a task, but Christoph persists in his mission to make Oban look its best for citizens and visitors alike. He is to be seen at work in all weathers and seemingly at any time on any day. 'Christoph is more than a street cleaner – he is an ambassador for the town and many a visitor has benefited from his friendly concern to help them appreciate Oban's facilities. 'I just think it is so important to thank people,' she added. Do you know someone special who goes above and beyond the call of duty to improve their community? You can nominate them today, using the form on page 2 of this week's paper or online at www.obantimes.co.uk/angel. Nominations close on December 5 and will be judged by an expert panel.



Carol was one of the first to hand in her nomination for an Angel of the Year 16\_147angel01

**007 - Live and Let Down!**

There will be no 007 movie shot in Argyll after all. Only two weeks after a red carpet unveiling of Duntrune Castle, Poltalloch, near Lochgilhead as the setting for the finale of the 23rd Bond movie, to be called Skyfall, the owner Robin Malcolm received a letter saying that it was all off. 'I think the title should be Live and Let Down,' he said. 'Forty-eight hours after they made the announcement, they pulled out.' A spokeswoman for Eon Productions, the company behind the Bond franchise of films confirmed this week: 'The locations were never confirmed.' 'I'm sorry for the local businesses that all thought they were going to have a prosperous start to 2012,' said Mr Malcolm, who had been told originally that the film would be shooting at Duntrune in February. He expected a crew of more than 200 to have been arriving.

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OT

**Lorn Lines**

OBAN Photographic Club held a prints only competition on Monday November 14 at its weekly meeting in the Regent Hotel, Oban. Members were invited to judge the 53 excellent prints they had brought in.

Winner was club stalwart John Douglas with a memorable image of autumn leaves. Second was Stephen Lawson with a night picture of Sydney Opera House taken on Remembrance evening last year when a red filter was put over the floodlights.

Third prize was awarded to Tim Haynes with an excellent black and white landscape showing a lovely milky waterfall.

These images, as well as information about the club, can be found on the website obanpc.co.uk.

The next meeting, on November 28, is a showing of the Scottish Photographic Federation Print Portfolio. Members should also hand in their entries for the 'Dusk to Dawn' competition.

□ □ □

OBAN Speakers Club chairman Frank Walton had the job of chairing the first half of the programme at the club's meeting last week.

The speakers covered subjects from 'water' to the 'English language'. Archie McPhail spoke on 'Water, water everywhere', Alex Clark spoke on 'White settlers' and Jim Fraser on 'Observations'.

Their immediate critics were Donnie Graham, Roy Wood and Tom Clegg.

In the topics session, Cameron Fletcher gave a variety of subjects to his speakers Iain Fullerton, Ian Crawford, Tom Clegg, Malcolm Black, Roy Wood and Martin Wilson. Timekeeper for the evening was Bill Leech and the general evaluation was given by Guido Faccenda.

In closing the meeting, president John Maclean reminded members about the annual dinner being held in Soroba House Hotel tonight (Thursday).

□ □ □



Back: Walker Owens, left, Harry McMaster, secretary of Oban Cash for Kids, who took part in a 30-hour marathon broadcast for the charity, with Hazel, Catherine and Laura, staff from the Hydro shop, and Romano, right. Front are Chris Taylor, Co-op manager, and Oban FM station manager Laura Johnston.

16\_147hyd001

OBAN man Romano Capocci had never won anything, but his luck changed earlier this month when his name was called out twice in the Cash for Kids fundraising raffle.

Mr Capocci, who won a new washing machine and cooker, said: 'I won £5 on the lottery that day as well.'

Cathy Buchanan was the winner of a one-minute trolley dash at the Co-operative and Walker Owens received a new washing machine, supplied by Beko.

□ □ □

OBAN High School has become the first, and only, school in Scotland to offer its students a new National Progression Award (NPA) in Musical Theatre.

The new course, which is a new style of qualification, was introduced into schools two years ago as a more practical and realistic way of learning. The NPA is the same level as an SQA Higher qualification but without the final written exam. Oban High School drama teacher Sam Martin said: 'This course has a more direct focus on the pupils practical performance as opposed to the theory behind it.' He added: 'This lets students realise how difficult the reality is, but at the same time they realise how much they enjoy it and get a buzz out of it.'

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**Fun for all at Oban Winter Festival attractions**



There were scullery maids and chimney sweeps aplenty, along with a few lords and ladies, at Oban's Joint Campus last Friday. The youngsters dressed up as Victorians to join in with the theme of Oban's Winter festival. 16\_147vic01



Santa takes off! Ruby Heritage-Crabb, from Lochnell Primary School, and Rowan Duffy from Park Primary School, look on as Santa's reindeer pull his sleigh towards Oban's Station Square. 15\_147par03



Santa's reindeer proved a star attraction in Oban on Saturday night. Photograph by Kevin McGlynn.



Calum MacLuckie, Lauren MacLeod, Joy Barrow, Ellen McKechnie and Shauna MacLeod, from Oban's Gaelic Medium Unit, met with a Gaelic-speaking Santa in the pantry of Dunollie House last week. Photograph by Kevin McGlynn



Natasha Cameron from Park Primary School and Katie Barlow from Lochnell meet Santa, while Ruby Heritage-Crabb from Lochnell School and Rowan Duffy from Park School, get comfy in the sleigh ahead of his ride into Oban. Natasha and Katie later helped local councillor Duncan MacIntyre switch on the Christmas lights for 2011. Photograph by Kevin McGlynn.



Argyll Animal Aid welcomed a bumper crowd for its Christmas Fayre at the Corran Halls on Saturday, with hundreds arriving to browse the festive treats on offer. 15\_147aniald1fayre3

**New films on show at Corran Halls**

LORNE Resource Centre's film group, run jointly with James Watt College, presented a collection of films created by budding film-makers at the Corran Halls last week.

Students have been making films for a decade now and the final showing has become quite an occasion for the actors and production crews involved.

Four short films by the team were shown at last week's screening: *White Dust*, a short thriller about an undercover police officer; *Hit and Run*, a story about how a terrible secret ruins lives; *The Theft*, when a woman suffers terrible consequences after making an irreversible mistake, and *Safehouse*, where an innocent woman's life is put in danger by a worried friend and a nosy reporter.

**Photo sale and coffee morning**

BUDDING photographers on H2O's Zoom! Creative Photo Space project are having a sale of photos and coffee morning on Saturday at The Well, the H2O Base on Lochavullin Road.

The exhibition will be open from 10am - 12pm and cards, prints and framed pictures will be on sale to raise funds towards the group's exhibition next summer.

**Primary school damage**

POLICE on Mull are seeking information following vandalism at Salen Primary School.

Smashed bottles were found on the playground, a satellite dish was pulled from a wall and there was damage to the school minibus.

The offences happened overnight between last Friday and Saturday.

It is claimed a group of eight to 10 youths were seen in the playground between the hours of 8pm and 10pm on the Friday night.

Anyone with any information regarding the vandalism should contact PC Stephen Brown at Mull Police Station 01688 302016.

**Cut to head**

A TEENAGER suffered a five centimetre cut to his head after being hit with a glass bottle during an assault on Soroba Road, near to the Birchwood Garage, last Friday.

As a result of the incident, which occurred at 8.55pm, a 14-year-old boy has been charged with assault.

The 14-year-old and a 15-year-old have also been charged with conducting themselves in a disorderly manner.

**SAMS students in Oban Zumba dance down for charity**

STUDENTS at the Scottish Association of Marine Science (SAMS) growing moustaches as part of the Movember charity drive will host a special Zumba dance-down, 118 style, at Atlantis Leisure, Oban, next week.

While the 'Filter Feeders' group has already raised more than £1,000 in sponsorship, they are hoping to boost their funds further with a host of amusing events next Wednesday - the last day of the month.

Also held that day will be a fancy dress carwash at SAMS in Dunstaffnage followed by an auction of the moustaches at Markie Dans' Bar, Oban that night.

To donate, log on to uk.movember.com and search for Filter Feeders.

**Coll car crash**

A WOMAN had to be airlifted to the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow after the Ford Fiesta she was driving crashed into a stationary car on the Isle of Coll.

The 24-year-old sustained serious injuries in the incident last Friday but was discharged from hospital at the weekend.

**Assault**

A TEENAGE girl has been charged with assaulting a 20-year-old man in Market Street, Oban, at 10.15pm last Tuesday.

**Gold medallist to sing in London**

A FORMER Mod gold medallist is travelling from the Isle of Arran to perform at The Highlands and Islands Society of London's annual St Andrew's ceilidh and dance.

Mairi MacInnes will sing at the event, to be held at the London Welsh Centre, Gray's Inn Road, London, this Saturday.

The evening will also feature the Craigevar Ceilidh Band, which featured in the film *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

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**180 hours community service after assault on off-duty police officers**  
AN OBAN woman found guilty of two counts of assault on off-duty Strathclyde police officers has been ordered to carry out 180 hours of community service.  
Paris Louis, aged 18, of 3B Croft Avenue, was also found guilty of a breach of the peace during the incident on November 13 last year in the town's Stevenson Street.  
She appeared for sentence last week after denying all three charges during a trial at Oban Sheriff Court earlier this year. Co-accused Somaya Al-Hosani, aged 20, of 2G Colonsay Terrace, also denied breach of the peace but was found guilty. She was fined £480.  
At the conclusion of the trial, Al-Hosani was found not guilty of a further charge of brandishing a piece of wood and threatening two off-duty officers, members of the Strathclyde Police netball team, with violence.

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**Oban rugby players to take the strain in fundraising lorry pull**  
OBAN Lorne Rugby Football Club's under-16 team will be 'on the pull' for their latest fundraising venture.  
The teenagers will leave removal company MacQueen Bros' largest delivery lorry, weighing 10 tonnes, along Oban's Esplanade, from the war memorial to St Columba's Cathedral.  
The back-breaking challenge will take place on December 11, starting at 4pm.  
And in an innovative way of collecting sponsors, the rugby club will be among the first organisations to use a new free-of-charge text message service.  
Supporters can make donations of up to £10 by texting PULL 16, followed by the figure of their donation to 70070, through JustTextGiving by Vodafone. The full donation will be given to the rugby club to buy new strips.  
Murray Hamilton, of Oban Lorne RFC, said: 'This is a wonderful way for us to raise money as it's speedy, simple and spontaneous.  
'Most people have a mobile phone these days so we expect this to be very popular with our supporters.'

# New Connel school not planned at the moment says council

RUMOURS of a new primary school for the village of Connel have been quashed by council officials.

Argyll and Bute Council put the village's Achaleven Primary on ice in August, after the school roll dropped to zero.

The future of schooling in

the village was discussed at the community council's meeting earlier this month.

Secretary of Connel Community Council, Les Stewart, said people in the village would like to see a primary school, but parents needed to take the lead: 'Unless the parents of the

pre-school children show an interest right now, the intake is going to be zero.'

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, council spokesperson for transport and infrastructure, told *The Oban Times*: 'I am quite clear that, with Lorn Arc future developments, particu-

larly around Dunbeg, the need for a new school is what the whole community should be pursuing.'

He had told the meeting that parents were already getting out of the habit of sending their children to school in the village and if a school bus service to

nearby Dunbeg became the norm, it will be difficult to change.

'We have really got to say what we want the village to look like in 10-year's time - and if we don't see a school there, I would be surprised,' he added.

However, an official statement

from Argyll and Bute Council said that no site had been identified for a new-build school in the village. It said: 'Currently there are no pupils registered for session 2011/12 and Achaleven school is therefore non-operational. If circumstances arose in the future which meant

that the status of the school had to be looked at again, this would of course be done.'

Councillor MacIntyre has arranged for the community council to meet with the council's executive director and spokesperson for education to discuss the future for Connel.

## Planners urged to think again about Argyll Hotel

ARGYLL and Bute councillors on the planning committee were yesterday advised to refuse the removal of a condition placed on the demolition of Argyll Hotel at a meeting to potentially decide its future.

The planning, protective services and licensing committee yesterday considered an application from developers Alan and Callum MacLeod to remove a condition that states demolition cannot proceed until a contract for re-development is awarded.

However, Callum MacLeod told *The Oban Times* he has commissioned a third engineer's report that is 'extremely damning' and states the building is unlikely to survive the winter.

Ahead of the meeting newly-elected Councillor Louise Glen-Lee urged colleagues to reconsider the demolition of the building over another winter, adding: 'Leaving it up for one day longer gives me grave concerns, as the lack of firm foundations in the building are well documented.'

'What are we leaving it up for?'

## Connel speeder almost double village limit

A DRIVER has been charged with speeding after being clocked at 53mph in a 30mph zone through Connel.

The 48-year-old man was driving on the A85 in the village last Wednesday.

## Woman caught with cannabis

A WOMAN who was stopped by police after conducting herself in a disorderly manner was found to have cannabis in her possession.

The 31-year old came to the attention of officers in Hill Street, Oban, just after midnight on Monday. When searched, she was found to have cannabis resin and herbal cannabis.

## Speeding driver fined £400

AN OBAN man has been fined £400 after he admitted to driving at 87 miles per hour on a 60mph stretch of road on the A85 at Tyndrum.

Donald Campbell, 24, of 7B Colonsay Terrace, admitted driving without due care and attention for other road users on June 9. He also had eight points placed on his licence.

## Wrong sheriff

SHERIFF Simon Fraser sentenced the teenage girl convicted of starting a fire in Dalavich, and not Sheriff Douglas Small as was reported.

Apologies for the error.

# Oban to host rural debate

All-party discussion on how an independent Scotland would affect life in rural areas

OBAN will next week host the first-ever debate of its kind to discuss the pros and cons of an independent Scotland for rural areas.

Argyll and Bute's SNP MSP, Mike Russell, will be joined by the Scottish Conservatives' Fife MSP Murdo Fraser and Alan Reid, Liberal Democrat MP for Argyll and Bute at the debate, held at the SAMS base in Dunstaffnage from 2pm next Friday.

Ian Hamilton QC, known for his part in the removal of the Stone of Scone from Westminster Abbey in 1950, will also speak at the event, which has been organised by Scottish Land and Estates and local property management firm, Bell Ingram with support from

chartered accountants Saffery Champness.

It is hoped the event will provide an ideal opportunity for those who live, work and own property in rural Scotland to determine whether independence will be beneficial or otherwise for them.

Drew McFarlane Slack, Highlands and Islands regional manager for Scottish Land and Estates, said: 'We will hear each party's thoughts on how rural communities may be affected in an independent nation, and discuss the possible advantages and disadvantages.'

'We are delighted that a range of respected speakers are taking part and appreciate the opportunity to engage directly with them in what is bound to be a

very lively discussion.'

Paul Nicoll, Director at Bell Ingram, said: 'It is the first debate of its kind to be held in Scotland and is an unrivalled opportunity for landowners to speak one-on-one with members of the key political parties in an informal setting and address any concerns about government policy they may have.'

While each party member has their own take on what issues the debate will raise, Ian Hamilton QC said: 'Rural Scotland is already independent but nobody bothers to recognise it.'

The event is open to the public and anyone with an interest in attending should contact jane.corcoran@scottishlandandestates.co.uk or telephone 0131 653 5400.



MacLeod Construction celebrated 30 years of apprenticeships last week, having taken 150 locals into the building trade since 1981.

## Argyll builder urges authorities to keep contracts local to safeguard apprentices

ONE of Argyll's largest employers has warned that the local economy will suffer if public tendering processes continue to ignore possible long-term community benefit.

Kenny MacLeod, a director of Lochgilphead firm MacLeod Construction, has called on Argyll and Bute Council, the Scottish Government and other

public bodies to look again at the system which favours the lowest tender at the expense of local interests.

And he believes companies from elsewhere within the EU - particularly Ireland - will continue to win contracts in Argyll and Scotland until such time as tendering rules are revised, with companies from

struggling economies undercutting Scottish firms just to stay in business.

Mr MacLeod was speaking after it was revealed only 26 per cent of Argyll and Bute Council's spending over £1,000 stayed within the county.

He said: 'Irish companies are coming in and tendering for cost because there's no work

in Ireland. That allows them to win contracts and because they're tendering at cost they cannot afford apprentices. There is no long-term benefit to the community.'

'If local government doesn't start looking after those employers who employ locally and take on apprentices then the future is very grim.'

## Torch-light parade and fireworks end winter fest

OBAN Winter Festival will come to a stunning end this Sunday with a torch-lit parade and fireworks festival.

The event is a collaboration between Oban volunteers and Pyrol, the company that ran the now world-famous Fireworks Night at Mossfield Stadium.

The parade kicks off from the Corran Halls at 4.30pm as folk gather for the march off, led by Oban High School Pipe Band, at 5pm, when firework sparkles will be shot over the town from MacCaig's Tower, followed by a lantern parade.

The event will wind its way into the distillery for a Winter Festival extravaganza, for all

the family, including storytelling and top-class entertainment, finishing with the singing of Auld Land Syne at 7.30pm.

Fireworks will then be displayed from a barge in the bay along the Esplanade. Pyrol said they will be short but sweet and that the whole event will go with an 'Obang.'

## Tran-serv hand out village self-help winter grit kits

A HANDFUL of remote communities have been picked to receive kits to help them grit and clear paths on main roads in winter weather.

Winter resilience kits, containing wellies, shovels and high-vis vests, are being sent to Benderloch and Connel among other villages.

The idea was described as 'off the wall' at last week's Ardchattan Community Council meeting. Ronnie Campbell, community councillor, told the meeting: 'It is a health and safety nightmare.'

A spokesman for Scotland TranServ said the move was only for footpaths, not roads, and would not replace their regular gritting programme.

He said: 'Transport Scotland has launched an initiative this winter to resurrect the concept of self-help within communities particularly in relation to winter resilience. Scotland TranServ has identified six communities in the north west who are prepared to receive equipment to enable them to spread salt and clear footways.'

Argyll and Bute Council has said it has no plans to operate a similar scheme, though it does provide grit to 300 bins plus heaps in rural areas to allow people to help keep their local roads and pavements clear.



Pipe Major Stuart Liddell, left, and Gold Medal winner Callum Beaumont are both members of the Grade One Inveraray and District Pipe Band

## Netherlorn event reflects current popularity of piping

'It's very encouraging' - says Inveraray's Pipe Major Stuart Liddell

NETHERLORN Piping Society hosted the second recital of this season in Oban last week when Callum Beaumont, this year's winner of the Argyllshire Gathering Gold Medal, was the headline performer.

The well-attended event also proved that the popularity of piping, particularly among the young, is still on the increase.

Opening the evening was Oban High School Novice Juvenile Pipe Band, who were appeared under the guidance of their new young Pipe Major, DJ MacDougall for the first time. The young band's sets were very well received by a knowledgeable audience.

Next up was the champion quartet from the Grade One Inveraray and District Pipe Band. Making up the quartet were Pipe Major Stuart Liddell, Alasdair

## Former North Connel care home nurse struck off

A NURSE has been struck off after admitting leaving emergency buzzers outside the reach of residents at a former North Connel care home.

Ronald Dimaano admitted that while at the Ossians Care Home between August 2007 - March 2008, he put buzzers outwith the reach of two residents on a number of occasions. As a direct result of this, one lady was found on a bathroom floor trying to reach her buzzer.

Mr Dimaano admitted moving the buzzers at a previous hearing in May. He said it happened when there was only one

other carer on duty, when busy with other residents and when residents used their buzzers more than five times. He told the panel that, while he knew it was not the right thing to do, he felt it was the right thing to do at the time, adding that he thought their calls for assistance were not genuine.

Making their decision, the Nursing and Midwifery Council said there was concern that Dimaano could make the same decision again. Dimaano has 28 days to appeal the decision, but in the meantime is subject to an 18 month suspension.

## Dancers hear from Dunbeg pupils

THE Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS) will this week hear pupils from Dunbeg Primary School on how to improve youth engagement.

Pupils from the school designed, developed and implemented a research project to help the RSCDS develop its organisation policy regarding young people - the first school in Scotland to do so.

They will present their findings to the society's chairman, Ruth Beattie, executive officer, Elizabeth Foster and chairman-elect John Wilkinson ahead of the St Andrew's Day Dance at Atlantis Leisure on Thursday.

## Benderloch skips cause concern

VILLAGERS concerned about the state of their recycling area have taken to cleaning it up themselves.

Dumpers have been targeting Benderloch's recycling area since a fence was put up to make the village centre look tidier.

Lewis Morrison, owner of Ledaig Leisure, is one of those who have had to clean up the mess and take rubbish home to dispose of.

He said: 'I'm saddened by the way our recycling compound has deteriorated into a rubbish dump. I went in on Sunday and removed all the black bags and inappropriate rubbish - it would have filled four wheelie bins. I

spent an hour cleaning and sweeping up. I'm not the only one that's tidied it.'

'The council have been a bit lax at emptying their skips,' he added.

A spokesperson from Argyll and Bute Council, which is responsible for the area, said it is cleaned once a week.

**SPOTLIGHT**  
musical theatre group

# Cinderella

a pantomime by Graham Barraclough

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## Prawn fishermen land deal with Sainsbury's

WEST coast prawn fishermen have received a boost with news that their fresh-caught langoustines will go on sale at 500 of Sainsbury's 800 supermarkets across the UK. The delicacies will replace small warm water prawns previously sold from the retail giant's fresh fish counters. Mallaig and North West Fishermen's Association (MNWFA) members will supply the seafood under the Scottish Langoustine Project, set up to give large retailers secure and sustainable supplies to meet anticipated demand. The scheme followed a summit at the West Highland Hotel in Mallaig to hear how the association could better market their catch to domestic consumers. Fisheries minister Richard Lochhead attended the meeting, which was convened by Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson. Mr Thompson hoped the Sainsbury's deal would encourage other rural food producers to follow suit. He said: 'This is about much more than simply a reliable new market for our fishermen. It is about improving the quality of product available to consumers, cutting the number of miles seafood has to travel before it reaches our dinner plates and about giving stability to some of our most fragile local economies.'

MNWFA chief executive John Hermse told *The Oban Times*: 'At long last we are getting there. We have done a lot of work on this project and I think it's the type of thing a lot of west coast communities and smaller type enterprises should be trying to do. This kind of deal will decrease our dependency on exports - which is important given the current state of the Eurozone just now.'

Sainsbury's is the first major supermarket chain to sign up under the innovative project. Head fish buyer Andy McFeare said the deal would support the Scottish fishing industry and give customers another 'delicious and sustainable product' to choose from. He added: 'We continue to work in partnership with fishermen and suppliers to offer the best quality UK caught fish and support the whole supply chain.'



Whizzkid Michael: selling his i-Phone application to the world. 20\_147game02

## Pupil's game goes global

A FORT William schoolboy has become one of the West Highlands' youngest i-Phone application (app) developers after Apple accepted his touch screen game for worldwide sale. Lochaber High School pupil Michael Lawrie, aged 15, has already had customers from Russia, Australia and the USA downloading his 'Atomic Dodgeball' to their computers, i-Phones and i-Pads. The young whizzkid spent two months working up the game before sending it to Apple for approval on November 10. The complicated process means one tiny error and the app will be rejected. Many proposals, even from experts, fail first time around.

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

Michael, from Camaghael, expected a knock-back - but when he switched on his computer last week a 'ready for sale' flashed on the screen. He told *The Oban Times*: 'When it was finished it took four nights to send it, then it took a week for them to approve it. I woke up on Thursday morning, checked the app's status on my i-Pad and found a green light confirming it was up for sale on the App Store. It was magic - I did not expect to get approved first time. My mates were really surprised.'

Astounded, the expert suggested he should write applications for i-Phones and i-Pads. With a new Apple computer and applications development manual from his dad John, Michael got busy. Mum Lyn said: 'Some nights he would not go to bed - he would be sitting there for hours and hours and sometimes he would get quite crabbit. I would ask "can I help?" and he would just say "you wouldn't understand - it's very complicated!"'

Michael's invention came after a visit to his cousin Claire, who could not figure out how to get her new Apple TV to work. A computer technician friend from Ireland was also stumped - but within 30 minutes Michael had it running perfectly.

John said: 'Michael thoroughly researched what he had to do and anything he thought might be a problem was checked. If he can pay back the price of the Apple computer I bought him from his earnings I will be happy.'

Michael, who earns 35p from each app sale, is already planning more. He said: 'I would hope to have another six apps out by the summer holidays next year. Now I have done it once it should be easier.'

Atomic Dodgeball challenges players to keep their ball away from nuclear, bio, chemical and toxic waste 'danger balls', which grow in number and speed on the screen as the difficulty increases. The game has five levels - too many, it would seem, for one customer - Lochaber High headteacher Jim Sutherland. He said: 'Michael has done extremely well with the app. I have it on my own i-Pad and it's an impressive game which I find really difficult to get beyond beginner level.'

## New website launched by reformed council

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

NEWLY-reformed Kilmallie Community Council (KCC) launched its new website on Monday as results of community council elections across Lochaber and Lochalsh were released. KCC reconstituted earlier this year after a four-year gap, citing the creation of www.kilmallie.org.uk as one of its top priorities. The website was developed with a Highland Council grant and help from Fort William-based design company Hotscot.



Kilmallie Community Council launched its new website with councillors Bill Clark and Eddie Hunter at Caol Community Centre on Monday night. 20\_147kilmallie01

A KCC spokesperson said: 'The aim has been to produce a site that is much more of a community asset than just information about the community council. Alongside news, what's on, local information and environmental issues, the site was designed with flexibility to allow local community groups who could not otherwise afford a website to create their own pages.'

No election was needed for KCC, with eight current members continuing in post. Ballots were

required in 25 Highland areas including Kinlochleven, which has been without community representation for several years. Votes were also held in Ardgour, Morar and Morvern, and at Glenelg and Plockton in Lochalsh. Fourteen candidates competed for eight seats in Kinlochleven, with Allison Sweeney and Allan Ferguson topping the poll. Morvern CC saw the highest response in the Highlands, with 80 per cent of postal votes returned. Former chairman Iain Thornber was among those who missed out on re-election. John and Jenni Hodgson were both elected. A new chairperson will be decided on Monday night. Mrs Hodgson told *The Oban Times*: 'We've both been on the council before, but I've been completely out of community issues for eight years because of my work. I've got a little bit more time now so I decided to

get back involved.' In Ardgour, Patricia Kennedy, Anna Craig and Norrie MacLaren were unsuccessful. Previous council members Nigel Colburn and Val Bremner were among those elected.

Ten candidates stood in Morar. Mairead MacDonald, Alistair MacKay, Eleanor Read, Stuart Griffin, Bill Cornelius, Douglas MacKellaig, Deirdre Roberts and Tina McVish were elected. Three candidates were whittled out at Plockton, with Oban Times correspondent Charlie MacRae attracting the most community support. Eddie Stiven missed out in Glenelg, with Donald Lamont and Donald MacDonald receiving the highest number of votes.

Community councils who did not attract enough candidates to reform are being given a second chance to do so. Caol, Nether Lochaber, Glencoe and Glen Etive, Raasay, Glendale, Broadford and Strath, Dunvegan, Skeabost and District and Sleat have until Friday December 9 to nominate candidates.

## Residents reject care plan

WEST Ardnamurchan residents have unanimously rejected the latest plan for the future of out-of-hours emergency care in the area at a public meeting on Monday. NHS Highland and the Scottish Ambulance Service proposed training local volunteers to deal with emergency situations until an ambulance arrives from Strontian. West Ardnamurchan Community Council chairwoman Rosie Curtis said: 'The community finds the idea totally unacceptable. These volunteers would be expected to look after severely injured or ill patients for an hour or more.'

## Future of Fort football tops agenda

A MEETING about the future of football in Fort William is being held at the Nevis Centre tonight (Thursday). Scottish Football Association representatives will meet in private with members of Fort

William FC, Lochaber Welfare League and councillor Bill Clark, with the lack of playing areas in the town top of the agenda. Councillor Clark told *The Oban Times*: 'I went to Canal Parks at the weekend and it's worse than it's ever been. Unless we have a change of heart, we will deprive youngsters of being able to use the pitches at any level.'

Newsdesk: 01631 568000

## Sports group switches pitch site to kickstart project

LOCHABER Sports Association (LSA) has switched the site of its proposed multi-sports indoor training centre in a bid to kickstart the project.

The group had targeted land next to Fort William Shinty Club's An Aird ground, but is now looking to develop a 60m by 40m '3G' pitch at Lochaber High School. Other sites will also be investigated.

LSA gave a presentation to local councillors on Monday and won provisional support to progress the £800,000 scheme.

Jane Blanchard, the group's chairperson, said the next step was to re-apply to LEADER to fund a feasibility study into siting the centre next to the school's new grass football and shinty pitches,

which are currently bedding in. She told *The Oban Times*: 'We are now confident that we are aiming for a facility that will be of benefit to the greatest number, at minimum cost, and that will be affordable to the clubs and therefore sustainable into the future.'

The advantages of siting the facility at the high school, as opposed to building a 'stand-alone' facility, are numerous. It would link into an existing infrastructure with adequate changing, showering, parking and security and therefore minimise capital costs and increase the likelihood of finding the capital funding.'

She added: 'It would allow the high school - the largest in Lochaber - curricular access, with

community access in the evenings, over holidays and at weekends. It would be a major step forward, in conjunction with the existing facilities, in creating a sports hub for Lochaber and would continue to strengthen the ties between schools, clubs and community.'

Councillor Donald Cameron told *The Oban Times*: 'There was agreement in principle for the need for the facility, but there needs to be further examination of where it will be located and how it will be funded.'

'My personal belief is the indoor facility should be adjacent to the 3G community pitch on the Blar Mhor to create a sports hub there. I think that's achievable within the community benefits scheme for the site.'

## Toddlers gain toys thanks to donation

PARENTS and children at Benderloch Toddler Group are smiling once again, after a surprise donor stepped in to replace damaged toys.

Michael Riemenschneider of Barcaldine House said when he heard about their plight, he was happy to help: 'I'm not in the community and I thought making a few children happy would be nice.'

Angela Hutchison had mentioned in passing to Michael how disappointed the group was about the damage. She said: 'Very, very kindly and unexpectedly, he gave us a cheque for £500 to help us out.'

She said the cash will be used to buy specialised equipment for disabled children and a new garage for the tots to play with. Gemma Macdonald, parent and treasurer of the group, said: 'We are just so grateful. It makes a big difference.'

'The group has been going for so long and its so nice to get a healthy donation like this.'



Youngsters and parents at Benderloch Toddler Group are thrilled to receive £500 from Michael Riemenschneider (centre back) 16\_147todlrs2

## Coll pier fire stalls ferry travellers

FERRY passengers making their way to Coll had a delay getting onto the island on Sunday - after the pier went on fire.

Contractors were working at the site on behalf of Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) to replace damaged fender units on the roundhead of the pier. But the rubber fenders overheated and staff had to be evacuated until local firefighters extinguished the blaze.

A spokesperson for CMAL said damage was minor but a programme of repairs was being implemented.

No further service disruptions are anticipated.

## Glasgow man fined after Oban incident

A MAN who forced his way into an Oban home, before cutting his own arms and shouting and swearing at a local woman has been fined £350.

Mark Edgar, 48, of 3-1, 79 Batson Street, Glasgow, had previously admitted the offence.

### 25 Years Ago

**Pupils in mass exodus after school buses are stranded by ice**

ONE hundred schoolchildren headed homewards on foot when icebound roads left three school buses stranded near Taynuilt in North Argyll last Wednesday. The disruption occurred shortly after 8am as three buses which had earlier picked up schoolchildren in Dalmailly, Lochawe and Taynuilt, were driving back towards Oban. A sharp early morning frost had turned the, as yet ungritted, roads to sheets of ice. Concerned about the safety of their charges, the drivers pulled in at Lakefield, about one-and-a-half miles from Taynuilt to await the arrival of gritters. After an hour, with still no sign of the gritters appearing, the children, who were by this time chilled and restive, began to leave the buses despite being warned not to do so by the drivers. Soon all 100 of them were trudging back to Taynuilt, sometimes walking four abreast and often on both sides of the road. Alarmed at the risk to the children, several passing drivers complained to the police. Once the children reached Taynuilt, parents were alerted and made arrangements to pick up those who still had some distance to travel. Some of the younger ones, who were obviously thoroughly chilled, were given tea and

### Those Were The Days

## The Oban Times

Thursday, November 27, 1986

food by villagers while they waited for parents to pick them up.

**Love - and the RNLI - will find a way**

MALLAIG Lifeboat went to the rescue when stormy weather looked set to stop a wedding on the Isle of Egg last Sunday. For while bride Lucia Hoffman and bridegroom Iain MacKinnon were on the island - the priest, the best man, the bridegroom's parents and other guests were stuck on the mainland. The wedding had already been postponed for a day because of Saturday's 60 mile-per-hour winds. Iain's brother Charles, of Bishopbriggs, Glasgow, who was the best man, said: 'It was only late on Saturday night that we found out there was a possibility of going over on the lifeboat. It was better on the Sunday - but it was still about 55 miles-per-hour.' He added: 'We were very grateful to the lifeboat crew - there was actually a donation made to the RNLI.'

But Charles admitted that quite a few of the guests, including his fiancée Gillian Ferrier were sick: 'My grandfather was born on the Isle of Egg and I think because of my family connections I am used to that type of weather - I think the priest from Bishopbriggs was the one that was most surprised.'

Second coxswain John Henderson, of Rockcliffe, Mallaig skipped the lifeboat on its mercy mission.

**Conservation village with road problems**

A SITE meeting has been proposed for early December between Seil Community Council and the Department of Physical Planning, Argyll and Bute District Council to discuss the problem of the road with its becoming an increasing hazard through the conservation village of Ellenabeich, Isle of Seil. The proposal for the meeting came from deputy director of physical planning Mr Alan MG Walker in his response to a letter for Councillor Jim Watson, chairman of Seil Community Council, expressing residents' concern about the situation. 'We have been trying to get something done for years,' said Councillor Watson. 'The increasing tourist traffic to the village and the growing number of young children living in the cottages alongside the road constitutes a real danger to local residents. The situation developed following the destruction of the old quarry tramway bridge - much to the dismay of the villagers. The narrow bridge had forced motorists to slow down. With the bridge gone, buses and cars and known to go through the village at an alarming rate.'

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

**Across**

- 1 Get rid of the large bag (4)
- 3 Violet quartz (8)
- 9 Put in again (2-5)
- 10 Showy display (5)
- 11 Doctor's paper (12)
- 14 Pixie (3)
- 16 Wavelike design (5)
- 17 Blue (3)
- 18 Will help to see at this stage (5,7)
- 21 Similar (5)
- 22 Faite (7)
- 23 Stickiness (8)
- 24 Also... (4)

**Down**

- 1 Explosive piece (8)
- 2 Pancake (5)
- 4 Fold, spindle or mutilate (3)
- 5 Temporary surface to work on (7,5)
- 6 Ochre or buttermilk? (7)
- 7 "Bye!" (2-2)
- 8 Where to purchase flowers? (5,7)
- 12 Cake topping (5)
- 13 Leader in Trojan war (8)
- 15 Over-elegant man (7)
- 19 Glower (5)
- 20 Sparkling wine (4)
- 22 Which person? (3)

**Last week's solution**

B	R	E	E	Z	V	C	A	U	C	U	S
U	R	E	R	S	M	A	C				
N	I	R	V	A	N	A	S	I	M	A	C
C	O	L	I	T	E	R	B	A	L		
L	A	R	G	O	N	A	T	U	R	A	L
E	V	E	H	I	E						
G	O	N	S	I	S	T	E	N	G	Y	E
V	E	X	E	N	G						
A	N	A	B	E	L	A	P	A	R	T	
N	T	I	S	I	S						
S	O	E	T	C	U	T	W	C	R	N	
H	E	N	R	I	S	F	E	L	L	I	D

## New shop to open on High Street

FORT William has received another retail boost with news that economy chain Nickel n' Dime is to open a store on High Street.

Workmen are currently fitting out premises formerly occupied by the Post Office until it relocated to the nearby WH Smith outlet on St Patrick's Day, 2008.

The retail unit had been lying empty since then.

Nickel n' Dime spokesperson Kaleem Ahmed, speaking from his Arbroath store, said he expected the Fort William business to be trading by the first week of December.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Even in a recession we are going pretty strongly, because we have opened seven new shops in the north of Scotland this year alone.'

'We were jumping to get a property on High Street and we feel we will be a valuable addition to the retail offer there. If there had been anything bigger we would have taken it, but there was nothing at all.'

Mr Ahmed was unable to say how many staff would be employed in the new store.

Two weeks ago Ashford Property Group started an £8million project to transform the former Grand Hotel/McTavish's Kitchen as a Travelodge, Wetherspoons and shops.



Ally Ferguson listens intently. 20\_147road02



Area Commander David Bushell gives his view. 20\_147road03



John MacMillan speaks on behalf of Mallaig Community Council. 20\_147road04

# Road safety plans set out at Arisaig meeting

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

TRANSPORT chiefs sought to allay public safety concerns over the A830 Road to the Isles at a packed meeting in Arisaig on Friday night.

With Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson in the chair, Transport Scotland (TS), Scotland Transerv (ST) and Northern Constabulary representatives faced tough questions from the 50-strong audience over the need to improve the notorious road's accident record.

The event, in the Astley Hall, was attended by Heather MacInnes and John and Jan Bryden, the bereaved parents of Kirsty Bryden and Roddy MacInnes, who died when their car skidded off the road and overturned in Loch Eilt last September.

Mr and Mrs Bryden have since campaigned for the narrow, twisting four-mile stretch east of Lochailort to be upgraded. Opening the meeting, Mr Thompson said information provided by Mr Bryden showed 'an inordinate number of



Jan Bryden, John Bryden, Heather MacInnes and MSP Dave Thompson hear John Wrigley of Transport Scotland outline proposals for the A830. 20\_147road01

accidents' on the fatal section. 'It is difficult to know what has been causing this,' he said, introducing two reports from TS and ST on the road. The first, on 10 decaying bridges and parapets on the A830, listed six options until funding became available: installing safety barriers; bridge

strengthening; pedestrian guard rails; traffic light management; building masonry parapets and ongoing monitoring.

TS unit bridge manager Ian McFetridge said: 'Within five years we would hope to upgrade all the parapets.' John Bryden produced a metal pole from the Craiglea bridge

warned traffic flows on the road would increase once the South Uist-Mallaig ferry became a reality.

He said: 'You better get the road ready or the emergency services are going to be called out two or three times more often.'

'Somebody in Edinburgh should be looking at these accidents because there is going to be trouble when the ferry comes from Lochboisdale.'

The second study, from ST head of roads team John Wrigley, examined accident frequency, road defects, speed into bends, road surface grip, deer strikes and reported spillages.

Tests showed a drop in surface friction at three bends in damp conditions, prompting recommendations for more roadside drainage channels and electronic signs to warn motorists of dangerous corners ahead.

Several speakers highlighted huge discrepancies between the number of accidents logged by TS and those counted locally.

And Angela Hardman of Arisaig Community secured agreement for a follow-up public meeting in the spring to update the community on progress made.

## Cool man admits repeatedly kicking victim

A CAOL man repeatedly kicked a man on the head to his injury during a drunken brawl on Fort William High Street.

Iain MacKay, of 15 Clunes Avenue, pled guilty to assaulting Thomas Bell at a taxi rank by striking him on the head and repeatedly kicking him on the head on May 8.

Area Procurator Fiscal Andrew Laing said the incident, which was caught on CCTV, occurred at around 2.30am at the taxi rank outside Tesco when an argument flared up between MacKay and Mr Bell.

Mr Laing said there was 'previous background' between the two men. 'Mr Bell had taken off his leather belt,' he said. 'This was partially tied round his hand, and he then approached Mr and Mrs MacKay.'

Mr Bell was punched in the face by another man, Alan Mathers, and fell to the ground.

Mr Laing said: 'Mr MacKay took the opportunity to quickly move over to where the victim was.'

'He struck him on the head and kicked him a number of times on the head.'

Defending, Pat Campbell told Fort William Sheriff Court MacKay had acted 'under extreme provocation'.

Sheriff William Taylor QC deferred sentencing until December 19 for reports.

MacKay's wife Iona, aged 27, was also accused of taking part in the assault but had a not guilty plea accepted by the Crown.

## Extended ferry services cover A82 road closure

CORRAN Ferry services will be extended while the A82 is closed for rock removal next month.

The ferry will run from 6.30am on Friday December 9 and Saturday December 10, with last sailing at midnight both nights. On Sunday December 11, the service will run from 8.45am to 9.30pm.

West Coast Motors' Oban to Fort William bus service will only operate between Oban and

Ballachulish. The Shiel Buses route between Kilchoan and Fort William will travel round Loch Linnhe, with departure times unaffected.

Stagecoach's hourly buses between Fort William and Kinlochleven will remain in place, travelling round the loch and across the ferry.

Emergency services will also be affected. Ambulance patients in Onich and Ballachulish

will be taken around 30 miles to Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban. Onich is 10 miles from the Belford Hospital.

Local GPs will deliver out-of-hours care. Fire and police services south of the closure will be on call for that area.

An emergency inflatable boat will run between Corran and Fort William should a major emergency arise.

Police area commander Chief

Inspector David Bushell said: 'Each of the emergency services will be in a position where we will be able to manage emergencies during the closure period as well as maintaining our normal services to the communities in this area.'

Forestry Commission Scotland will remove a 250-tonne overhanging rock between 10pm on Friday December 9 and 6am on Monday December 12.

## Poppy volunteer wins top award

FORT William volunteer Audrey Dennison is to receive an award for her contributions to the Remembrance Day celebrations in the town.

Ms Dennison will be given the President's Award from PoppyScotland, its highest accolade, at the Railway Social Club, Inverlochy, on Sunday afternoon.

Ms Dennison counted the contents of more than 3,000 collecting cans single-handedly, as well as sorting and banking more than £87,000 for the poppy collection.

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FOOF and supporters at the unveiling of the new panels on Monday.

## Fort friends unveil new panels

FIVE interpretative panels in the only remaining area of the former Fort of Fort William were unveiled on Monday.

Local group Friends of the Old Fort (FOOF) installed the panels to provide visitors and locals with information on the Fort's colourful history.

The fortification, now almost obliterated by road development, was built to house troops from Cromwell's New Model

Army in 1654, and strengthened by William III in the 1690s to counter Jacobite insurrection. FOOF member Ian

Abernethy said: 'Thanks to the Friends' own fundraising activities and generous donations by several public and private Lochaber agencies, the last vestiges of the Fort, both within and outside its walls, are now highlighted by an acceptable form of pictorial history.'

## Fort man admits punching partner

A FORT William man has admitted punching his partner on the face during an argument at his house.

Rael Nolan, of 6 The Maltburn, Old Glenlochly Distillery, pled guilty to assaulting the woman by striking her on the head to her injury.

Procurator Fiscal Andrew Laing told Fort William Sheriff Court the argument began in the early hours of August 17 and became heated when the woman decided to leave.

Mr Laing said: 'The argument was ongoing and moved outside the house. Nolan struck the victim in the face and burst her lip, which began to bleed heavily.'

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said a large TV belonging to Nolan had been damaged during the row.

After hearing Nolan had no previous convictions for domestic assault, Sheriff William Taylor QC gave the 30-year-old an absolute discharge.

## Arctic convoy museum plans move forward

PLANS for a Russian Arctic Convoy Museum in Aultbea to honour those who lost their lives supplying the Soviet Union with vital supplies during WW2 are making progress.

Architects are currently working on a provisional design, likely to show an L-shaped building, with the museum at right angles to the proposed community centre.

A shared social area where the two meet would also feature.

The centre is planned for a plot of land at the end of Pier Road, overlooking Loch Ewe, from where merchant ships assembled for their perilous journey round Norway to Murmansk from 1941-45.

Museum project chairman Francis Russell told *The Oban Times* 'a ballpark figure' for the scheme would be in the region of £3million.

'It is a whole lot of money, but we will cross that bridge when we come to it,' he said.

'Once we have a plot of land and some basic drawings it will look a lot more credible to potential funders.'

Combined, the museum and community centre form part of the local regeneration plan. Aultbea's present hall is a WW2 Nissen hut built as an entertainment centre for servicemen and women during the war.

It is hoped Highland Council will gift the land needed for the centre.

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LISMORE

AN IMPRESSIVE display of pyrotechnics was enjoyed by everyone who accepted Beth Campbell's invitation to join her at the café for a meal of soup, stovies and haggis pie followed by fireworks.

This was all enjoyed on a beautiful evening from the comfort of the café balcony. The café and museum are now closed until March 2012 but on November 8 Beth opened for lunch, donating the profits to the Poppy Day appeal. For subsequent opening times before March see www.isleoflismore.com.

LISMORE Primary School Parent Council transformed Lismore Hall into a spooky wonderland and a fantastic array of costumed ghouls lined up before judges, Sebastian and Eva Tombs, hoping to win the coveted prizes.

The winners were: Pre 5 - Evie as a scary witch, Primary - Lewis as Dracula; Teenage - Jenny Iris as a very scary witch, and Adult - Lorraine as Lady Gaga. Twenty two children and 30 adults took part making it a great ghastly night out.

Entertainment was also full of horrors with the children making spooky spiders from marshmallows, decorating jam jar lanterns for guising and dooking for apples. Tea, spooky foods and juice were provided by the parent council and the children enjoyed lots of games with a ghostly theme. Very popular was Dr Katy's 'not so well surgery' where they found themselves at the mercy of extreme medicine. The parent council thank Eva and Sebastian for taking on a near impossible task and to everyone who helped with the party.

STRONTIAN

STRONTIAN played host to a national schools shinty competition recently, with the home side narrowly losing out in the final.

Girls from secondary schools across Scotland took part in the six-a-side tournament, with teams from Ardnamurchan, Lochaber and Kinlochleven high schools making the semi finals, along with eventual winners Douglas Academy from Milngavie.

Both the semi finals went to extra time, with Kinlochleven losing out to Douglas 1-0 and Lochaber losing to Kinlochleven by the same score.

The final was closely fought, but Ardnamurchan couldn't break through the Douglas defence and a long-range strike from centre Rachel McCafferty won the game.

CONNEL

CONCERNS have been raised about the safety of a junction in Connel, following recent resurfacing works and new line painting in the village.

Turning out of the Achaleven Road is tricky at the best of times, as drivers must edge their vehicles out into the main road to see if any traffic is coming. Previously the stretch of road had a double white line, re-inforcing that it is not a safe place for drivers on the main A85 to overtake.

But after resurfacing works by Scotland TranServ, road markings in the village were re-done, and there is now only a single white line.

The issue was raised at Connel Community Council by concerned villagers.

David Gibson said he had witnessed some near misses



Glensanda backs community bus with £2,500

Darren Loftas, Glensanda Quarry Works Manager, visited Lismore recently to hand over a £2,500 cheque as part of Aggregate Industries continued support of the activities of Lismore Community Transport. Volunteer drivers Julian Wormleighton, Freda Drysdale and Eileen Ferguson thanked Darren and assured him the money would be well used in continuing to provide transport for elderly and mobility impaired islanders. As this service no longer receives any local authority funding since the demise of the Staying Put Project, such support is vital to enable the continuation of regular trips to Oban for appointments, shopping and visiting friends as well as twice-weekly trips on the island to the café, library, the shop and doctor.

since the double white lines were replaced.

He said: 'I haven't heard any reason why that double white line has been removed.'

'Three times in ten days somebody has nearly had their front end taken off by someone overtaking going past the school.'

However, a spokesman for TranServ said: 'The existing solid double white lines were not replaced for a combination of reasons, principally that they no longer met current road design standards along with the narrow average road widths.'

'The police were also consulted on this issue and were supportive of the removal of the lines.'

OVER-grown bushes and bracken in Connel have been cut back by a group of offenders carrying out unpaid community work.

The community council has been working with Argyll and Bute Council's unpaid work officer Richard Green to identify tasks.

Les Stewart, secretary, said it was a great opportunity for the village to get help with work. 'They are very keen to do all sorts of things,' he added.

The community council is also looking for funds to run a pilot Japanese Knotweed eradication programme in the village.

ARDCHATTAN

ARDCHATTAN Community Council is to write to Sustrans to indicate its backing for a cycle track through the area.

With funding for cycle paths under pressure and protracted discussions with landowners around North Connel, Benderloch and Balcaldine, the community council is keen that their area is not overlooked.

Community councillor Jill Bowis said: 'We need to give them as much support as possible as we seek to focus their minds on our bit, so that this area doesn't get forgotten.'

'We just need to make sure they don't think we don't really care and therefore move onto somewhere else.'

Jill added that the cycle path is bringing new visitors, both daytrippers from Oban and holidaymakers, to the area.

A COMMUNITY speed survey found that half of drivers were at more than 30 miles per hour through Benderloch.

Community councillors borrowed a speed gun from their neighbours in Connel to measure the extent of the speeding in the village.

Iain MacDonald said that most cars were not going at over 40 miles an hour, but half were still driving faster than the legal limit.

They are planning to gather more data to plan how to tackle the problem.

SKYE

THE WELL-attended November meeting of the Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club on the first Thursday of the month in the Royal Hotel, Portree, was opened by MC Jim Campbell inviting 'mine host' of the hotel, David Morton, on stage with his piano accordion to lead

off an evening of great music. David was accompanied on keyboard by John Cameron who went on to accompany other players during the evening and also give some great sets on his own accord. The other box players to entertain were Aly 'K' MacPherson and John MacGilvary. Fiddle music was ably provided by Wendy Riva and Joe Buchan and on drums it was Donald John Campbell and a visitor from Forres, Ian Anderson, who filled the bill.

Special mention must be made of local fiddle tutor Caerina Campbell who brought along four of her young pupils, Mhairi MacKinnon, Ellie MacPherson, Marion Docherty and Bradley Hunter, all of whom played individually before finishing as a group led by Caerina to the delight of the audience.

In a 'first' for the club, two young ladies, Nicola Stevenson and Kathryn Beaton, gave an excellent display of Highland dancing to the fine piping of Louise McBain who was a member of the guest band. During the evening cheques totalling £600 from money

raised by the club at its popular festival in May were presented to three local charities and the evening went on to include a grand 'stramash' from the local players. Highlight of the evening was the superb performance of the Colin Donaldson Trio, with Colin leading on accordion, Louise McBain on fiddle, highland pipe and small pipes, Ena Brian on piano and Heather Donaldson on drums. Yes, it was a trio with four musicians!

With a strong, tight sound they provided a varied programme which delighted the audience and sent folk homeward with the best of music ringing in their ears. The next club night is on December 1 when guests will be Alexander and Jimmy Lindsay. John Grundy.

ARISAIG

ARISAIG and District Community Council held its monthly meeting in the Astley Hall on October 24.

Abridged minutes: Matters arising from the September meeting minutes: Development

plan for Roshven - Dr Foxley intends to go ahead with forming a development plan for the Roshven area. The Community Council will contact him to welcome this and ask what role it can play.

Correspondence: Minutes from Mallaig CC and Morar CC - Arisaig and District Community Council will support Mallaig CC in its complaints against the way the Bank of Scotland in Mallaig is being run. It will also contact Mark Haldenby from the Criminal Justice Service to see if they can be tasked to do work in Arisaig - such as the problem with ragwort.

Christmas lights - Robbie Milne will be contacted to discuss arrangements for this year. Last year's lighting cost £317 for the lights on the lampposts, which were considered less than satisfactory. Other forms of funding will also be looked into.

A request for another memorial bench has been passed on from the Highland Council. This will be a high quality oak bench and the family involved has pledged to take responsibility for its upkeep.

AOB: The Czech Monument - maintenance for the monument has been accepted by the Czech government. There is still some concern about the lease for the land the monument is on, which has still not been sorted out.

Thanks were extended to the departing members of the community council by Councillor Henderson with particular thanks going to Mrs Benfield for her work as chairwoman.

The community council is keen to know what people's priorities are and welcome comments on what it can do to improve community life. Anyone can contact a member of the community council to raise an issue or come along to the monthly meetings at the Astley Hall.

INVERLOCHY

INVERLOCHY Women's Rural Institute's November meeting was enlivened by a visit from local dentist and amateur beekeeper Gregor Muir.

Mr Muir had the ladies rolling in the aisles with his description of the life of a bee. He explained the make up of a hive, the different bees and their roles in the hive. With his bee suit on he demonstrated that with a nod of the head, a couple of twirls and a shake of the bottom, a bee can direct his mates to a source of nectar, the food they need to make honey.

After tea the ladies had a taste of honey while Mr Muir judged the candlestick competition, which was won by May Webb, with Cathie Cameron in second and Elizabeth Murray third.

COLONSAY

ISLANDERS on Colonsay are offering to help the town of Oban with its fireworks next year after the success of their annual display.

Held on Saturday November 5, there was a good turnout for the bonfire and 20 minutes of fireworks.

INVERGARRY

INVERGARRY is gearing up for a special dance in the village to celebrate St Andrew's Day.

The event, held in honour of Scotland's patron saint, will be held at Glangary Community Hall at 7pm on Saturday November 26. Music will be provided by the Alan Roy Band.

Down Your Way

This week - Killin

PUPILS of Killin Primary Scholl's P3/4 class were getting into the Christmas spirit on Wednesday, making festive gifts as part of an enterprise project.

Creations of all sorts from Christmas tree and lemonade glass decorations to calendars and Christmas cards were conjured up by pupils, who let their imaginations run wild as they crafted to their heart's content.

The pupils were set the task of making a profit from their festive gifts, with five groups of four given just £1 to buy materials for their chosen products.

Parents and family friends will have a chance to buy some of the creations.

The profits will be returned to the pupils who will decide what to do next with the money, whether to give it to charity, re-invest it or return it to school funds.



From left: Beth Young, Lydia Hill, Liam Rennie, Ellie Ridgewell and Eilidh Kemp show off some of their creations. 15\_147killinps1

IT IS said that the hardest part about training a dog for mountain rescue is training your second dog. Killin constable Andy Fleming, though, is bucking that trend.

Andy is currently guiding American-bred black Labrador Dugald through his Search and Rescue Dog Association (SARDA) mountain rescue training, last month taking the one-year-old through his grade two exam with flying colours.

Andy, a member of SARDA Southern Scotland, is keen to see Dugald follow in the footsteps of seven year old German Shepherd Angus, a full graded rescue dog who has been Andy's loyal companion on searches with Killin Mountain Rescue since he was a pup himself.

The hope now is that Dugald will achieve grade three status by April, ensuring he can then be used on live rescues.

For those in need of rescue, dogs like Angus - who has been on hundreds of rescues in his time - and Dugald can be the difference between life and death.

Andy said: 'The dogs can pick up a scent pretty quickly. I've seen Angus pick up 3-400m strikes on a casualty.'

'They can cover as much ground as a team of 10 or 20 people in the same time or less. It's another tool in the box for a rescue team and their assistance is invaluable.'

On the hill, the dogs act in a similar manner to a radar. Once they find the casualty, the dogs will return to their handler and give a positive reaction, barking positively before running back to the casualty. The rescue dog will then 'ping' back and forth between its handler and casualty until the rescue is complete.

The handler will then present the dog with a toy as a reward for his efforts.

As well as being used on mountains, the dogs are often called upon to search for missing persons - including children - across Scotland, as well as being a big part of Andy's family life.

Having trained Angus already, Dugald is presenting a different series of challenges for Andy, but he still enjoys the experience.

He said: 'I'm training a totally different personality of dog and a totally different breed, which means I sometimes have expectations of where he should be and that's obviously going to be different.'

'It is good fun though and we're both learning all the time.'



Killin's community constable Andy Fleming with one-year-old black Lab Dugald, who he hopes will become a grade three rescue dog by April next year. 15\_147award1

SQUIRREL numbers in Killin are being collated by the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT), and they're asking locals for their help.

The trust is trying to determine the distribution of red and grey squirrels across Scotland, with the woods around Killin a hot spot for native red population.

The trust says gathering the information will not only allow them to identify areas of importance where habitat management or grey squirrel control will benefit red squirrel populations, but also to understand natural changes in their populations.

The data will be shared with local biological records centres and the national database of squirrel records.

A spokesperson for SWT said: 'Please help us by reporting your sightings of red or grey squirrels in each new place where you see them.'

To report squirrel sightings, or for more information, log on to swt.org.uk/wildlife/squirrelsightings.

WHACKY hair was the order of the day on Friday, as pupils from Killin Primary School got into the spirit for Children in Need.

Hoping to raise as much money as possible for Pudsey, the children turned up sporting unusual hairdos while wearing costumes of their own creations.

The pupils also held a talent show, before teachers got in on the act by grouping up to sing S Club 7 hit Reach For The Stars. A disco afterwards ensured the day ended as it started, in good spirits.

The entire event was organised by the school's enterprise committee, made up of pupils from P1-P7.

A NEW management group has been formed to look after Moirlich Longhouse, which is set for a new lease of life after extensive conservation work.

The management group consists of specialist National Trust for Scotland staff and representatives of Killin Heritage Society, which recently held its inaugural meeting after renovations were completed with the installation of a new interpretative panel outside the cottage.

It comes after conservation work allowed trust staff to carry out a detailed examination of the thatched roof, which gave a fascinating glimpse into the traditional Scottish techniques used.

Formation of the management group means there is now a local forum to drive development of the Longhouse and be pro-active on its preservation. The building was home to at least three generations of the Robertson family, with the last member leaving in 1968. It has hardly changed since and retains many of its original features such as the 'hingin' lum' - or hanging chimney - and box beds.

More information is available at the trust's website at nts.org.uk.

Next week DOWN YOUR WAY visits Gigha with reporter Ruth McClean.

You can contact her on 01586 554646 or email editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk.



Raffle raises Christmas lights cash

Pupils from Ballachulish Primary School present a cheque for £137 to Ballachulish Community Council for their Christmas Lights appeal. The pupils organised a hamper raffle from items collected during their recent Harvest Church Service. The goodies were won by Mrs Milne - a teacher in the school!

LOCHGOILHEAD

AN ARGYLL holiday park has won a national award from its parent company.

Lochgoilhead Lodges is one of 470 Hosesons centres and won the Relax and Explore award in Scotland.

Owner Alan Campbell said: 'This award recognises the effort and hard work put in by every member of the team, all of whom are responsible for ensuring our customers have a great holiday experience.'

The Lochgoilhead park was also praised by Geoff Cowley, managing director of The Hosesons Group.

He said: 'The award means Lochgoilhead Lodges is one of the UK's most popular and successful locations in our portfolio.'

RAASAY

RAASAY Primary School Coffee Day raised an astonishing £2,052 on Saturday November 12.

The feat was all the more remarkable in that the school has under 20 pupils, while the island boasts a population of less than 200 - fewer at this time of year.

Local crofter Paul Camilli, of South Arnish, said: 'In the 22 years I've been here I don't think they've ever raised less than a grand and they've topped £2,000 before now. A big well done to all who helped and participated. I can't wait for the next one.'

KILCHRENAN

CONTRACTORS engaged in building the West Loch Awe Timber Haul/Carraig Gheal windfarm route have had to stop work on building part of the route following the discovery of freshwater pearl mussels which are a protected species.



Margaret Stewart: residence.

Margaret is new Gaelic musician in residence

SABHAL Mòr Ostaig UHI has appointed a new Gaelic musician in residence.

Margaret Stewart, born and raised in the village of Upper Coll on Lewis, won the Gold Medal at the Royal National Mod in Airdrie in 1993.

The 2008 Gaelic Singer of the Year spent many years living abroad in Venezuela, Canada, East Asia and the Middle East, but is now based in Nairn.

She has sung at the biggest festivals across Britain and Ireland, including the Edinburgh International Festival, Celtic Connections, Piping Live, Willie Clancy's Summer School and Earagail Arts Festival in Donegal.

The singer has graced stages in Canada, Singapore, Lebanon, Germany and France. The two CDs she made with piper Allan Macdonald from Glenuig, Fhuair mi Pòg and Colla Mo Rùn, are widely acclaimed as is her own album, Togaidh mi mo Sheòlta.

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Caol Primary School pupils dressed up in spots on Friday in honour of Pudsey and Children in Need. Each child donated £1 to the charity and brought in their own colourful outfits. 20\_147pudsey03



Children in Elgol in south Skye, along with their parents and teachers, got together for a Children in Need pyjama party. Two Elgol Primary School primary 7 pupils, Fiona and Cori Lamond, pictured, organised the event. School administrator Lorna Nice told *The Oban Times*: 'The girls organised the party because they believe Children in Need is a great charity to support and they wanted to be children helping children within the UK. Great fun was had by all and the pyjama party raised £255.'



Children in the P1/2 class at Upper Achintore Primary School raised more than £160 for Children in Need on Friday, with each pupil donating £1 to dress up in spots for the day. Class teacher Mrs McGilp told *The Oban Times*: 'We're making Pudsey hats and this afternoon we'll be having a disco.' 20\_147pudsey01



Children from the nursery at Caol Primary School joined in the fun too. 20\_147pudsey04



The 31 children at Easdale Primary School, Isle of Seil, raised £41.80 by painting a Pudsey bear and playing games. The children also dressed in spots to mark the fundraising day.



West Lochaber residents dug deep to raise £1,400 for Children in Need in an evening of fun and laughter in Mallaig and Morar Community Centre on Friday. Among the attractions was a guest appearance from the local emergency services to do a zumba show and performances from the local Irish dancing group, pictured, and the local zumba group. Funds were also boosted through a bottle stall, face painting, nail art, raffle and an international buffet. 'It was a great night,' co-organiser Rachel MacLean told *The Oban Times*.



Lochside RC Primary School raised more than £300 for Children in Need with a day of fun activities on Friday. The event was organised by the school's pupil council, and council member Sophie Munro, aged 10, told *The Oban Times*: 'We've got a cake and candy stall, face painting and a non-uniform day. It's gone pretty well.' The school held other fundraising challenges, with P1/2 pupils holding a sponsored silence, while the P5/6 class had a sponsored read. 20\_147pudsey02

**ISLAY**

THE INAUGURAL Islay Sessions, held from November 11 to 13, comprised of Friday evening's live traditional music sessions and Saturday's varied musical workshops, followed on Saturday evening by the highlight event - an exceptional concert with sets by all the participating musicians, and a lively ceilidh to follow. The weekend started with Friday evening's live sessions at the Islay Hotel, Lochside Hotel and Port Charlotte Hotel. The open sessions introduced the musicians who were taking part in the weekend; *Maverick Angels* played at the Lochside Hotel, five-piece *Anarkali* from Glasgow at the Port Charlotte Hotel and fiddler Eilidh Shaw with guitarist Ross Martin at the Islay Hotel. These events encouraged participation and many of Islay's talented local musicians joined in at each of the venues. Saturday's workshops were a great opportunity for Islay's talented local musicians to gain inspiration and skills on fiddle, whistle, guitar and Gaelic song. The workshops were open to all ages, and all of the sessions were well attended, with participants making the most of the opportunity to improve their abilities. The day's workshops concluded with

the ensemble performance of a new tune, written by singer Darren Maclean. This first Islay Sessions traditional music festival was an overwhelming success in terms of both quality of musicianship and local participation, and looks certain to become an annual event in Islay's musical calendar. Next year's event is already being planned for the weekend of November 9 to 11 2012. The Islay Sessions could never have taken place without the support of the sponsors, the hospitality of the hotels and the generous contributions of accommodation for the visiting musicians. Thanks go to Kilchoman, Ardbeg, Bruichladdich, Laphroaig and Lagavulin distilleries, Islay Ales, Liddell Thomson, The Islay Hotel, Lochside Hotel and Port Charlotte Hotel. COISIR Ghaidhlig Ile, Islay's senior Gaelic choir, will hold its AGM on December 8 in Bowmore Village Hall. This friendly and successful choir, conducted by Iseabail Mactaggart, one of Islay's Mòd gold medallists, welcomes new members and this is a good time of year to join. The choir meets weekly on Thursday evenings, and sometimes more often, in Bowmore Hall for practices throughout



Islay Sessions workshop group. Photograph by Mark Unsworth.

most of the year. Members do not need to be fluent Gaelic speakers, as the choir's excellent Gaelic tutors, Libby Morris and Robert Forrest, help singers to learn the songs. ISLAY House Community Garden is open all year round and continues to have winter vegetables for sale. There are also opportunities for volunteers. To visit the garden, go through the arch in Islay House Square, and look ahead for the garden door in the wall. For further information, telephone 07767 688051. SC

**DALMALLY**

GLENORCHY Kirk bicentenary celebrations continued last Saturday night with a performance by the ever-wonderful Three Wee Crows. With their usual eclectic mix of humour and mysticism the company, now a six-part team, delighted the audience with histories of Argyll and Oban, tales of wartime from two young lads and a poem, very appropriately, from Duncan Ban MacIntyre, the 'Glenorchy poet'. The show took place inside the church, which created a fitting atmosphere. Follow us on facebook www.facebook.com/obantimes

**MORVERN**

SKYE, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson visited Kingairloch Estate on Saturday November 12 to learn more about how the estate contributes to the local economy and is planning future investment. In discussions, owners the Larson family focused on business diversification activities including forestry, existing and future renewable energy projects and deer management. Mr Thompson was also briefed on other initiatives, including provision of accommodation, sporting attractions, a restaurant and venison business. The MSP said: 'I am pleased to see Kingairloch operating as a successful, independent and multi-functional rural business which is playing a significant role in the Highland economy.' Kurt Larson said: 'We hope the visit provided Mr Thompson with a working background on the ways in which Kingairloch Estate is contributing to the rural economy and how it can continue to do so. Our staffing complement has recently increased from one to eight as a direct result of diversification. While the traditional sporting activities have been retained and enhanced, we have continually sought to create new activities which meant significant employment opportunities in a remote area. The estate continues to investigate further renewable potential in particular, being committed to helping the government meet its target for renewable energy.'

**LISMORE**

LAST week, *The Oban Times* printed a photograph of the opening of a new exhibition on Lismore's trading smacks at the island's heritage centre. Shown in the photograph along with Mike Rich was Calum MacCorquodale and not John McFadyen as was stated.

Send your district news to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.

**APPIN**

THE APPIN branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI) held its annual whisky drive on Friday November 11 in Appin Hall. President Doreen Evans welcomed local players as well as those from further afield. Cardmaster Alan MacKenzie got the evening underway and players stopped at the interval for a welcome cup of tea and a bite to eat. While the scores were being checked, the raffle was drawn and the president thanked all those who had contributed in any way to the success of the evening. A total of £250 was raised for the children's Christmas parties. Prizewinners were: Ladies - 1 Ellen MacCorquodale; 2 Mary Cormack, Consolation, Carole Livingston. Travelling prize, Christine Jackson. Gents - 1 Moira Thomson; 2 Yvonne Wilson, Consolation; Darius Scorgie. Travelling prize: Sarah Campbell. Longest sitter: Christine Jackson.

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God placed Himself in men's hands when He sent Jesus Christ into the world as perfect God and perfect Man in one Being. He was then in man's hands. They cursed Him. It was permitted. Men spit on Him. God allowed it.

They called Him a devil. God withheld His wrath. Finally men arrested Him, gave Him a mock trial, flogged Him, nailed Him on a cross and hung Him between earth and heaven; and God allowed it.

You can do likewise, though Christ is not bodily present. You can ignore Him. You can ignore His Book, the Bible. You can laugh at His bloodbought salvation, curse His followers, and laugh at hell. It is permitted. The eternal Christ may knock at your soul's door, calling you to give up sin and prepare for heaven. You may refuse Him, spit on Him, call Him a devil, curse Him. It is permitted.

You may take His Name upon your lips in oaths and curses if you so choose.

**He is in your hands - now.**

On the other hand, you may seek His favor, humble yourself before Him and beg His mercy, implore His forgiveness, forsake your sins, and commit your whole life to Him. He has said, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he will with Me." Revelation 3:20

The choice is up to you. The latch is on your side of the door. The choice is yours: the revellings and pleasure-seekings of this world or quiet communion with God; the ever burning lusts of the flesh or the powerful victory of Holy Spirit discipline. The choice is yours: **God is in your hands, now...**

**God has already set the day when you will be in His hands.**

**What He does with you then depends on what you do with Him now.** Then it will be a "fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" Hebrews 10:31, if you have abused Him in your hands. In that day God will have only two verdicts: "Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" Matthew 25:41, or "enter thou into the joy of thy Lord" Matthew 25:21. **The verdict that will fall upon you depends on what you do with Christ now.**

The Lord Jesus Christ is the only shelter in the day of God's wrath; He is the appointed expression of God's love to us, demonstrated in His life, death, and resurrection. Through the Holy Spirit, He continues His love, moving upon our human spirit and prompting our human conscience. You have no connection with God or with heaven but through the Lord Jesus Christ. There is "one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus..." 1 Timothy 2:5

**You may choose to be neutral, but that is delusion.** You may postpone decision, so to speak. But, to the ear of God, the postponement is a flat "no." This is your day. He is in your hands. In God's day, when you are in His hands, there will be no postponement of sentence, no neutral place between heaven and hell, no mediator between God and man. No mediator - for He who is now mediator has already been appointed to be Judge in that day.

If you want mercy and pardon, you will have to get it now. God loves you, Christ died as a substitute for your sins on the cross. You have to receive Him for yourself; no-one can do it for you. But do it now.

**"But God commendeth His love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."** Romans 5:8

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**WIN £250 to spend on winter warmers**

To help keep you warm this winter, The Oban Times has teamed up with Trespass Performance Clothing, Fort William High Street, to give one lucky reader £250 to spend in-store. The winner will enjoy a shopping spree at the store, which offers a wide selection of winter warmers

and handy accessories. The store boasts a range of toasty warm base layers, priced down jackets, waterproofs and ski style clothing. Accessories that will keep you moving this winter include ice scrapers and shovels, ice grippers to slip over your shoes, snowboots and sledges.

**TRESPASS at Trespass, Fort William**



To be in with a chance of winning, simply answer this question and enter by phone or text: **Lochaber is home to the UK's tallest mountain. What is this mountain called?**

a) Ben William b) Ben Nevis c) Ben Fort

**call 0901 293 0450**

or text **WM47** followed by a space, your answer, name and town to **88010**.  
Lines open Wednesday, November 23, at 6pm and close midnight, Tuesday November 29 2011.

Terms & conditions: Calls cost £1.02 from a BT landline. Other networks will vary and calls from mobiles will cost considerably more. Text messages cost £1.02 plus one message at standard network rate. Entries made after the closing date will not be counted but will still be charged. Entries must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. To enter by telephone, please make sure the device from which you call has a touchtone telephone keypad. The winner will be contacted by telephone. The prize must be taken by December 19, 2011 and can only be spent in one transaction at the Fort William store. The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Winners with the correct answer will be chosen at random. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and their name may appear in a Wyrex Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyrex Media and associated company employees and their families.

Major work like insulating the attic and walls can cost a bit but will be paid off in reduced heating costs. Grants are also available to homeowners and tenants. Even simple measures like draught proofing doors, windows and the letterbox can save about £60 a year in fuel bills. Also consider lining curtains and hanging a thick curtain over the porch door and remember to close your curtains at dusk to keep the heat in as the temperatures drop. A reflective, insulated material can be put behind radiators to bounce the heat back into the room. And don't forget pipes - lagging them and popping a jacket on the hot water tank are quick and easy actions to carry out yourself, to prevent frozen pipes and heat loss. When it's really cold, focus on keeping one or two rooms nice

and snug. Wear a lot of layers and don't be afraid to pop a woolly hat on. Particularly for older or unwell people, it is important to eat well, get lots of hot drinks and stay active when it is cold. It also the time of the year to be a good neighbour, and keep an eye on those living alone or who might need a bit of extra help with shopping or cooking. A friendly call or a hot meal will go a long way to make sure they don't feel isolated.



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## Santa pays visit to Barcaldine Sea Life Sanctuary

TAYNUILT brothers Josh, seven, Ben, five, and Angus Brack, six, couldn't hide their smiles at Barcaldine's Sea Life Sanctuary on Sunday, each getting special presents from Santa. Both Mr and Mrs Claus were on hand for the Winter Wonderland of events, organised as part of Oban's Winter Festival. Such was the success of the full day programme, that more than double the



Josh, Ben and Angus Brack beam after receiving presents from Mr and Mrs Claus during the Sea Life Sanctuary's Winter Wonderland on Sunday. 15\_t47slifesanta1

## BBC Alba to offer something different for festive season

BBC ALBA has unveiled its festive schedule. A special Christmas Eve service will come from Martin's Memorial Church, Stornoway, featuring music from Back Gaelic Choir, Ishbel Ann Martin, Donnie

MacDonald at An Talla Duiseil in Sleat, Skye with Manran, Julie Fowles and Eamon Doory. Christine Primrose and Arthur Cormack and a host of other top performers will also star.



This masked dancer drew raptures of applause after her performance at the Corran Halls last week.

## Ballet West perform to full house at Corran Halls

DANCE school, Ballet West, opened Oban's Winter Festival celebrations on Thursday, with their performance of Another Opening at the Corran Halls. A full house watched as students of all ages took to the stage for the show, which opened Oban's first Winter Festival.



Some of the younger dancers show what they can do during Thursday's show. 15\_t47ballet2

## Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club hosts a wealth of talent

A WEALTH of talent greeted those in attendance at the monthly meeting of Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club. As usual, chairman Michael Garvin welcomed everyone and started the evening with himself on accordion. Other local accordion players were young Ruairidh Morrison, Kilmore, Sileas Sinclair, Connel, Scott Sinclair, Connel, accompanied by Fred Morrison Reel Pipes by Angus J MacColl, Benderloch, and David Cameron, on drums and playing melodeon James MacArthur both Oban. Colin Campbell, Oban, a founder member and first chairman of the club in 1975, was also a welcome guest on accordion. Michael then introduced the guest artist Roy MacLean Trio: Roy, from Beaulieu, on accordion, Iain Angus MacLeod, Harris, on drums and Lisa Moyes, Maryburgh, granddaughter of Colin Campbell, playing fiddle. The trio played many tunes and sets delighting the audience. Freddie MacKenzie thanked both the local and guest artists for another night of great entertainment. The next recital will take place next Thursday (December 1) when the special guest artist will be the Robert Nairn Trio.

## Oban Times lucky winners will 'go to the ball' with Cinderella

FOUR lucky winners have been chosen to receive tickets for this year's Spotlight Musical Theatre pantomime, Cinderella. The Oban Times giveaway asked readers to tell us what Cinderella's magic slipper was made from. The following people saw through our festive question and correctly answered 'glass', winning themselves a pair of tickets: Thursday 1st December showing - Mrs Brenda Fallon, Kilchrean; Friday 2nd December showing - Mrs J Cleave - North Connel; Saturday matinee show - Morine MacCall - Benvenutoin Road, Oban; Saturday night show - Helen Geddes, Nant Drive, Oban.

Local Origins Rural Network  
**Local Producers Christmas Fayre**  
Thursday 1st December  
Victory Hall, Benderloch  
10am to 3pm  
5.30pm to 8pm  
LOTS TO EAT AND DO  
01631 720225  
market@lori.org.uk  
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**Oban Times LEISURE TIMES**  
**Oban Times LEISURE TIMES**

Rotary Club of Lochaber  
**CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL @ THE NEVIS CENTRE**  
Saturday, 26th November 11am - 4pm

Oban Camanachd Association  
**Raffle Bonanza Draw at Coasters 21/11/2011**  
1st prize Hamper of Spirits - Joan Hay  
2nd prize Hamper of Wine - Cath MacKichan  
3rd prize Case of Beer - David MacCush  
Tickets for Nov/Dec draw can be bought from players & Committee of O.C.C

Oban Congregational Church  
**Christmas Fayre**  
Saturday 26th November 10.30am - 4pm  
In the lower Church Hall  
Tea, Homebaking, Coffee, Soup/Bread  
Stalls in the hall (next to the church)

Eilean Eisdal  
**CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR**  
Easdale Island Community Hall  
Sunday 27th November 11a.m. till 4p.m.  
Crafts all hand made locally, soup and home baking.  
To book stalls 01852 300093 or arts.admin@easdale.org  
Puffer tea room and bar open

St Orans & Dunbeg Church  
**CHRISTMAS FAYRE**  
Connel Village Hall  
Saturday 26th Nov. 11.00am to 3pm  
Coffee & Tea, Soup Lunch  
Lots to Buy.

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Thursday night > Skipinnish Cèilidh House  
Saturday night > Skipinnish Cèilidh House  
Friday 25 November > Chris Suckle Markie Dans  
Saturday 26 November > Chris Suckle Markie Dans  
Friday 2 December > Tim O Connor Markie Dans  
Saturday 3 December > Tim O Connor Markie Dans  
Saturday 26 November > K.I.L. Showcase (Keep it Local) Balmoral Hotel 1st Floor 8pm-1am FREE ENTRY Local Bands and Acts  
Saturday 3rd December > Pub Quiz Championship The Oyster Inn & Gluepot, Connel £2.50 per player  
Friday 9th December > Pool Competition The Oyster Inn & Gluepot, Connel Cash Prizes, 7pm  
Saturday 10th December > Tambo Park and The Oyster Inn & Gluepot, Connel Open Mic Night  
Saturday 31st December > Taste of Scotland The Oyster Inn & Gluepot, Connel Dinner Dance  
Sunday 1st January > General Knowledge Quiz The Oyster Inn & Gluepot, Connel 1pm  
Sunday 1st January > Glue Pot Race Night The Oyster Inn & Gluepot, Connel 8pm

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**Live Music at Seil Island Hall**  
The Antics & The Lush Puppies  
Saturday 26th November 9pm - 1am  
Bring your own bottle  
Admission £8  
All proceeds go towards Seil Hall Children's Play Area

Free Church of Scotland  
Oban Free High Church  
**Coffee Morning & Baking Stall**  
Saturday 3rd December at 10am - noon  
In the Church Hall, Rockfield Road  
Entry by donation  
All welcome  
In aid of church funds

Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club  
**Monthly Club Night**  
Thursday 1st December 2011  
Argyllshire Gathering Hall 7.30pm  
Audience and Players Welcome  
Special Guest Artistes Robert Nairn Trio  
Admission £3  
Come Along and Enjoy the Music

Scottish Wildlife Trust  
**Annual Coffee Morning**  
St John's Cathedral Hall, Oban  
10am - 12pm  
Saturday 26th Nov.  
Tea, home baking, raffle, Xmas decs. and more.

Oban Art Society  
**Demonstration by Jane Smith**  
Wildlife Art and Printmaking  
Friday 25th November 2011  
The Lorn Resource Centre Soroba Road Oban  
7.30pm to 9.30pm  
Visitors Welcome

**Christmas Fair**  
Craignish Village Hall, Ardfert  
Sunday 27th November 12.00 - 3.00pm.  
See www.craignishvillagehall.org.uk for further details

Spotlight Musical Theatre Group  
**Cinderella**  
a pantomime by Graham Barraclough  
1st, 2nd & 3rd December 7.30pm  
Saturday Matinee 2.00pm  
Corran Halls Box Office 01631 567333

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**CD review**

**Elbow Jane - The Boldest Blood**  
ELBOW Jane's fourth CD reaffirms the Merseyside band's reputation as one of the country's top acoustic folk rock acts. The Boldest Blood offers yet more evidence that the five-piece band's musicianship is second to none, with just as much care taken over their carefully crafted lyrics. Most of the songs on this album have been written by multi-talented guitarist Rich Woods, with keyboard player collaborating on a number of tracks to create a truly masterful sound.

**Dagger Gordon And Colin Gordon Like Father Like Son**  
Mandolinist Dagger Gordon is joined by his son Colin on guitar on this album to effortlessly breathe new life into a collection of their favourite old Scottish tunes. Recorded live in studio using only two instruments - a Sobell mandolin and a mahogany Martin guitar - the album displays a true warmth and affection for their music, something Dagger felt the tunes deserved.

**Cheyenne Brown - Parallel Latitudes**  
Alaskan harpist Cheyenne Brown draws on her own upbringing in Scotland to create a unique album highlighting the unlikely links between the countries. While her nine years in Scotland have clearly influenced her musicianship, Cheyenne's feeling for music from all over the world is more than noticeable here, with cello, fiddle and bodhran thrown into the melting pot with equal measures of tabla, dobro and banjo. An ambitious approach, but one that has paid dividends for this talented artist.

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# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Rising costs fuelling anger

IT IS as the cold grey light of winter approaches, that high fuel prices are most keenly felt - and nowhere is the pain more acute than in the West Highlands and Islands.

Transport costs further inflate already high pricing over an ever widening range of goods, with even the most frugal of vehicles expensive to fill at the pump.

The price of oil though, regarded as the main driving factor behind increases in all main energy source costs, remains significantly lower than it was at its peak in 2008 - by nearly \$50 a barrel. Yet bills keep rising.

As if to further fuel our anger, politicians periodically put pressure on central government to tackle escalating energy bills only when there is the wiff of a duty escalator on petrol and diesel.

Instead of grabbing headlines at the expense of rival parties, it would be more agreeable for our elected members to consistently apply pressure to tackle all our unreasonably inflated household and business bills.

Only then will we be able to say the elected members truly represent the will of their constituency.

### GLASGOW LETTER

#### Ceol's Craic

SINCE 2006 Ceol's Craic has been organising events which bring Gaelic culture in an innovative way to old and new audiences and its recent function in the CCA certainly demonstrated that our culture is evolving rather than being static.

The theme of the evening was spirituality with an epic mix of genres and styles, ages and traditions. For those who chose an early start there was the opportunity to converse in Gaelic, enjoy a meal, watch a documentary film about the Laisair Dhe CD from several years ago or take part in a drama initiative with Mairi Morrison, a dramatised rehearsal of her new work 'Happy Days'. If the musical part of the evening promised to be different it certainly was. It started with a collaboration between Dance House, represented by dancers Rossalind Masson and Jack Webb, and Govan Gaelic Choir. This was followed by spiritual songs from Gillebride MacMillan and his sister Mary, ably supported by four musicians from Atlantic Seaway, a group comprised of students from the University of Stathclyde, the Royal Conservatoire and Berkeley College of Music, Boston. The MacMillan's repertoire consisted of material from their homeland in the southern Hebridean Islands with many of the melodies being beautiful tunes composed by Ishbel T MacDonald.

Then, as a complete contrast, three youngsters from Downvale Free Church of Scotland demonstrated the art of Gaelic Psalm singing with the Precorator 'putting out the line' and the congregation responding. Ricky Ross, of Deacon Blue, accompanying himself on piano, sang some old favourites, many his own compositions, finishing his set with backing from members of the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association.

#### Tire Association Annual Concert

WITH the format of having its annual concert and dance on separate evenings the Tire Association attracted a sizeable attendance, despite the inclement weather, to its concert in Partick Burgh Halls.

Councillor Colin O'Brien, better known to most in the audience as the headmaster of Cornaigmore School from 1979 until 1984 and the person mainly responsible for the upgrading of the school to become a six-year secondary, Tiree High School, talked fondly of his time on Tiree and his delight at being back amongst many friends.

The programme for the evening was sustained by singers Iona Brown, Donald Iain Brown and Islay MacTaggart, piper Donald Campbell and young accordionist Iain Smith, fresh from his success at the Royal National Mod and now a student of Traditional Music at the newly named Royal Conservatoire. Iain is, of course, a member of the increasingly popular Trail West Band which played for the successful dance at Glasgow University Union. Accompanist for the concert was Kathryn Callender who deputised for Norma MacDougall and played

selections for a 'sing along'. Our best wishes are extended to Norma and we hope to see her back at functions in the near future.

#### Glasgow Skye Association

NEXT week, Thursday and Friday December 1 and 2, the Glasgow Skye Association will be having its Annual Dinner, Gathering Concert and Dance.

The dinner, as is the custom, will be on the Thursday, in the Hilton Grosvenor Hotel, with the concert in the Gaelic School at 7.30pm on Friday and the dance the same evening in Glasgow University Union.

Last year's event was badly affected by the inclement weather so two of the artists who were unable to perform, Sineag MacIntyre and Donald Murray, are on this year's programme. They will be joined by singers Riona Whyte and Gillebride MacMillan, accordionist Robert Nairn and the Phoenix Honda Glasgow Skye Pipe Band.

Guest chairman will be Archie Robertson, president of the Camanachd Association, who although he has lived in Glasgow for many years has strong links with Breakish on the Isle of Skye. Robert Nairn's Band will play at the dance.

#### Gaels le Cheile

THIS coming Saturday, November 26, will see the coming together of Scots and Irish Gaelic.

During the day, starting at 10am, there will be language classes in both languages and then in the afternoon workshops in song. In the evening, from 8pm, there will be music, song, story and dancing in the Premier Inn, 80 Ballater Street. For more information or tickets telephone 0141 342 4119 or email Duncan@anlochran.com.

#### Charity concert

ON THURSDAY December 1, Bearsden Burgh Choir and Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir will provide the entertainment at a charity concert for prostate cancer in the National Piping Centre starting at 7pm.

#### Diary dates

**Thursday November 24:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Kieran Goss.

**Friday November 25:** Glasgow Sutherland Association Annual Dinner, West of Scotland Rugby Club, Milngavie, 7pm for 7.30pm.

**Saturday November 26:** Phil and Ali with Scottish National Orchestra, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. Gaels le Cheile - see above.

**Wednesday November 30:** Jimmie MacGregor, Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm.

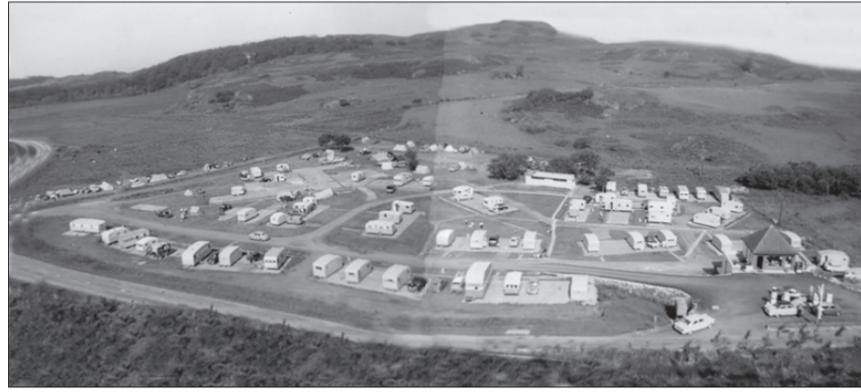
**Thursday December 1:** Glasgow Skye Association Annual Dinner - see above. Christmas Carol Concert - see above. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Lurach.

**Friday December 2:** Glasgow Skye Association Annual Concert and Dance - see above.

#### Pub scene

GUNNA Sound will be playing in the Park Bar on Friday evening. Pneumatic Drills on Saturday and Willie Cameron on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Crooked Reel on Friday and the Keelies on Saturday.

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



## Caravan park at Dunbeg, near Oban

Gordon Clark of Fort William submitted this week's flashback photo which he took as an eight-year-old whilst on holiday in Dunbeg in his uncle's caravan. Gordon's dad had towed the caravan from Southend in Kintyre. Gordon said: 'It was my first attempt at a panoramic shot on my wee Brownie camera! We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

## Letters to the editor

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### Memories of Sir Jimmy Savile

Sir, Jimmy Savile first came to Lochaber in February 1969 to test clothing, equipment and a new type of tent with the directors of Ellis Brigham on Ben Nevis.

Because of the change in weather conditions they came down without Jimmy and raised the alarm with Lochaber Mountain Rescue but he made his own way down before the team came out.

On his trip home by train he was approached by a councillor who asked him to help in some fundraising for the town and he said he would give a week of his life to help. What followed was the biggest fundraising event Fort William had seen. Thousands of pounds were raised for the Belford Hospital.

Alistair MacMillan, secretary of Lochaber Athletic Club and Lochaber Highland Games, asked Sir Jimmy to become chieftain of the games. Sir Jimmy was involved in the games for more than 30 years.

He came back again and again not only for the Games but many events at Mallaig, Glencoe, Ballachulish, and Duror. For Lochaber Handicapped a grand ball was held at Lochailort Castle and fund raising with Lochaber Round Table for a scanner for the Belford Hospital. Jimmy will be remembered for his support of many charities, including Help for Heroes.

A number of Sir Jimmy's friends from Lochaber attended the funeral service at St Anne's Cathedral in Leeds and Woodlands Cemetery in Scarborough where he was buried in the tartan track suit he had specially made for Lochaber Highland Games. We will miss Sir Jimmy. Peter and Paulette Weir, River Coe Lodge, Glencoe.

### Keep control of finances

Sir, Oban Marina, despite being viable itself, is up for sale because its parent company has gone into receivership.

How many businesses in and around Oban are in the same or similar position financially?

If they are to be included in CHORD or the Oban Arc projects, what guarantee does the taxpayer have that parent companies, having

received public money, will not conveniently go into liquidation leaving any new owners to repay the loans for the £20m that the council has borrowed to make Oban an attraction for all the cruise tourists and the renewable hub of the west. I hope a buyer is found for Oban Marina, if only for the sake of the employees and their dependants. I would suggest that if they are viable and small, businesses should remain that way and not seek to expand beyond their financial comfort zone. George Doyle, Easdale.

### Election thanks

Sir, May 1, through your columns, thank the people in Oban North and Lorn ward who voted for me in the by-election on Thursday November 3.

I was clearly disappointed not to win, but I enjoyed the campaign, which I fought on local issues, and enjoyed meeting so many local people.



Dougie Roderick.

### Generosity made special visit possible for Commando veterans

Sir, I write regarding the Commandos at Fort William, remembrance day, the trips veterans had to Spean Bridge and their visit to the commando museum and the training ground at Achnacarry. Many would not have been able to get to these places if it were not for the help and generosity of many people.

I personally would like to thank the manager of Tesco at Fort William who lent us a wheelchair for three days so that we could get 94-year-old Dougie Roderick, No. 3 Commando, who had not been back since he had done his commando training in 1941 to all the events.

Also a special thank you to the mobility shop at Fort William who loaned us several mobility scooters as they do every year.

Without the help of people like these and the generosity of the people of Fort William the veterans would be unable to come back and pay their respects to the fallen at the commando monument.

Thanks also to the manager and staff of the Alexandra Hotel who welcome the commandos back year after year. Our thanks and appreciation go to all the people of Fort William. Thomas Roderick, Ashford, Kent.

### Happy retirements

PORT Ellen Primary School cleaner Jean (Tam) Campbell has wrung out her last mop and packed away her dusters following her retirement after 10 years' devoted service to the village school.

Previously, Jean had worked in the school's kitchen for 12 years where she served lunches to generations of pupils.

Her retirement did not go unnoted as she was guest of honour at a special presentation where she received farewell gifts from staff and grateful pupils.

These were handed over by her grand-children Orla, Ronan and Murray who are all pupils at the school.

Jean and her husband John, farms manager at Ardmore Estates, live in the Cnoc na Faire district of Port Ellen.

A further presentation at Port Ellen marked the retirement of Colina and Donald Holyoake as caretakers of the village's Ramsay Memorial Hall. They have given 77 years combined service in the maintenance of the hall and their dedication was marked with gifts from the local

community as well as a quaiach presented by Argyll and Bute Council. Everyone wishes Jean and the Holyoakes long and happy retirements.

### Dancing in Berlin

THREE pupils from the Ella Edgar School of Dancing were among the 25 dancers representing Scotland at the Berlin International Tattoo at the beginning of November.

Katie MacNiven, Mairi MacGillivray and Stacey Baker were an integral part of the troupe directed by Ayr dance teacher Aileen Robertson and appearing under the name of Ailsa Craig Dancers.

It was not all 'pumps at the ready' for the visiting dancers as the event organisers included a tour of the German capital in the busy schedule.

### Poppy appeal

THE GENEROUS folk from the Bowmore district dug deep into their pockets and donated £576.16 to the 2011 Poppy Scotland Appeal.

Local co-ordinator David Barr Junior commends all who gave so generously to the cause.

The election ended up as a close fought contest and was not decided until the fourth count although I was eliminated on the second. I wish the winner well and hope she will be a good councillor to the residents of the area. Finally, I would like to thank the returning officer and all their staff and my hard working campaign team, with special thanks to Alan Reid, our MP, who came along to give me his support at the count.

**Dr David Pollard, LibDem Candidate, Oban North and Lorn by-election.**

### Stories from Dunstaffnage

Sir, Many thanks for sending me the edition of your paper which covered previous years and covered the time that I spent in Dunstaffnage from 1942-45 as the son of a shipwright from Portsmouth who had brought up the Floating Dock AFD19 to complete the dockyard that had been built in the castle grounds.

It was interesting to see that in 1959 they decided to build a new church to replace the old nissen hut which had stood from 1941. This nissen hut could have told some stories. Besides my sister being baptised on the stage in 1944 the hut was also used as a pub, working men's club, social hall and cinema.

I remember seeing the film *Phantom of the Opera* with Claude Rains and in the newsreel the relief of Belsen. As a kid of seven years old, both very frightening I have often thought if it was not for WW2, no Dunstaffnage and no Dunbeg and I wonder if today's residents have ever thought that.

We recently had the annual reunion of the kids from Dunstaffnage in Portsmouth and we had a lady from Inverness and a man from Newton Abbot in Devon who had been in Dunstaffnage to talk over old times of when we lived there. Your paper also surprised me in the drug abuse that you have in Oban. I live in Brighton which also has its problems.

Your Alzheimers group that sold its mini bus to finance other projects saddened me as my wife has Alzheimers and we in Brighton are fighting cutbacks. Through fighting and newspaper coverage, we have managed to save our Monday morning coffee get together and are now working on keeping the twice a week day centre from moving out of town. I hope your paper can help the Alzheimers Society in Oban with their cause.

### Brian Woodward, Brighton. Great trip to Uist

Sir, As a native of South Uist, I have just revisited the area with some friends.

I would like to thank my relatives for the warm welcome we received. I would also like to say a big thank you to my friends, old and new, for a lovely time.

A special thanks to Ronnie and Shirley of South Uist bunkhouse for their first class hospitality, which we would highly recommend to anyone visiting Uist. Last but not least, we would like to thank Peter and Kay McDonald from Fuaran, Oban, for looking after us all. We hope to see you all next year. Neil, Cockney and the Welsh boys.

**Neil Beaton, Gwynedd, North Wales.**

complete the dockyard that had been built in the castle grounds.

It was interesting to see that in 1959 they decided to build a new church to replace the old nissen hut which had stood from 1941.

This nissen hut could have told some stories. Besides my sister being baptised on the stage in 1944 the hut was also used as a pub, working men's club, social hall and cinema.

I remember seeing the film *Phantom of the Opera* with Claude Rains and in the newsreel the relief of Belsen. As a kid of seven years old, both very frightening I have often thought if it was not for WW2, no Dunstaffnage and no Dunbeg and I wonder if today's residents have ever thought that.

We recently had the annual reunion of the kids from Dunstaffnage in Portsmouth and we had a lady from Inverness and a man from Newton Abbot in Devon who had been in Dunstaffnage to talk over old times of when we lived there.

Your paper also surprised me in the drug abuse that you have in Oban. I live in Brighton which also has its problems.

Your Alzheimers group that sold its mini bus to finance other projects saddened me as my wife has Alzheimers and we in Brighton are fighting cutbacks. Through fighting and newspaper coverage, we have managed to save our Monday morning coffee get together and are now working on keeping the twice a week day centre from moving out of town. I hope your paper can help the Alzheimers Society in Oban with their cause.

### Brian Woodward, Brighton. Great trip to Uist

Sir, As a native of South Uist, I have just revisited the area with some friends.

I would like to thank my relatives for the warm welcome we received. I would also like to say a big thank you to my friends, old and new, for a lovely time.

A special thanks to Ronnie and Shirley of South Uist bunkhouse for their first class hospitality, which we would highly recommend to anyone visiting Uist. Last but not least, we would like to thank Peter and Kay McDonald from Fuaran, Oban, for looking after us all. We hope to see you all next year. Neil, Cockney and the Welsh boys.

**Neil Beaton, Gwynedd, North Wales.**

### ISLAY LETTER



**Beachd Ailein**  
Ailean Caimbeul

NACH iongantach cho doirbh 's a tha e dhan Riaghaltas faochadh chisean a thoirt dha daoine ach nach eil duilgheadas sam bith aca airgead a thoirt bhuanail!

Tha mi a' faicinn gum bheil Ard-Rùnaire an Ionmhais a' nochdadh gum bheil obair ullachaidh an ire mhath air dòigh airson lasachadh cis conaich coig sgillinn guca nach eil a' cosg barrachd agus far nach eil seirbheisean còmh-dhail eifeachdach ann dha sluaigh nan sgìrean sin, tha iad an eisimeil charbadan airson a h-uile gluasad a dh'fheumas iad a dèanamh. Ach ead a tha sgìrean an ionaill sin farsaing, mar eisimpleir eadar Dùra agus Sealtainn agus fìu 's a' cunntas na Gàidhealtachd air fad an iar air an Fhaoighteach Albannach, chan eil ach glè bheag de shluagh a' còmhnaidh ann. Bho shealladh riaghaltas, tha mi creidsinn gur e th'ann sgìre mhòr le mòran duilgheadasan agus am beagan luchd-bhòtaidh! Ach aig an aon àm, tha riaghaltasan fa leth air milleanan a chosg ann an sgeamaichean leasachaidh de gach seòrsa tha còr math is leth-cheud bliadhna a' feuchainn ri eaconamaidh a bhothachadh agus cor an t-sluaigh a thoirt air adhart. Fhad 's a tha iad a' dèanamh sin air an aon làimh, tha cosgaisean conaich a' traoghadh na beatha as na sgìrean is a' fuadach dhaoine leis nach tèid aca air cothachadh riutha. Tha e math gum bheil mu dheireadh thall tomhas faothachaidh air choreigin air faire dha eileanach, ach 's e firinn na cùise gum bheil cosgaisean conaich ro àrd air feadh na dùthcha. Agus 's ann aig an Riaghaltas a tha smachd air sin le cisean a' cur ri faisg air dà thrian de chosgais guca liotair ola!

Tha na cosgaisean àrda sin air cron mòr a dhèanamh air eaconamaidh nan sgìrean air an ionaill agus tha iad a' dèanamh sin fhathast! Chan eil sgath a thig a-staigh guca nach eil a' cosg barrachd agus far nach eil seirbheisean còmh-dhail eifeachdach ann dha sluaigh nan sgìrean sin, tha iad an eisimeil charbadan airson a h-uile gluasad a dh'fheumas iad a dèanamh. Ach ead a tha sgìrean an ionaill sin farsaing, mar eisimpleir eadar Dùra agus Sealtainn agus fìu 's a' cunntas na Gàidhealtachd air fad an iar air an Fhaoighteach Albannach, chan eil ach glè bheag de shluagh a' còmhnaidh ann. Bho shealladh riaghaltas, tha mi creidsinn gur e th'ann sgìre mhòr le mòran duilgheadasan agus am beagan luchd-bhòtaidh! Ach aig an aon àm, tha riaghaltasan fa leth air milleanan a chosg ann an sgeamaichean leasachaidh de gach seòrsa tha còr math is leth-cheud bliadhna a' feuchainn ri eaconamaidh a bhothachadh agus cor an t-sluaigh a thoirt air adhart. Fhad 's a tha iad a' dèanamh sin air an aon làimh, tha cosgaisean conaich a' traoghadh na beatha as na sgìrean is a' fuadach dhaoine leis nach tèid aca air cothachadh riutha. Tha e math gum bheil mu dheireadh thall tomhas faothachaidh air choreigin air faire dha eileanach, ach 's e firinn na cùise gum bheil cosgaisean conaich ro àrd air feadh na dùthcha. Agus 's ann aig an Riaghaltas a tha smachd air sin le cisean a' cur ri faisg air dà thrian de chosgais guca liotair ola!

SCOTTISH islanders look likely to get some easing of excessive fuel costs and not before time!

One of the problems in the Highlands and Islands is its large geographical area, many logistical problems, and relatively few voters. But fuel costs are too high everywhere and the solution lies with the Government which takes roughly two thirds of the cost of every litre in tax. Of course, we have economic problems and government must reduce national debts, but a lighter touch on the tax tiller might deliver better dividends. Businesses and workers crippled by fuel costs will become burdens on the state rather than contributors to its wealth! **Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell) ailean@obantimes.co.uk.**

### Times Diary

ELECTRICIAN Paul McLaren was about as far from Scotland as he could get when he was touring Australia recently - but he was still able to keep up with a major local event through an unlikely source.

The Oban man was driving through Brisbane and listening to the popular satirical Peanut Gallery show on the Triple M Network, when the presenters interviewed Easdale's Donald Melville about the island's World Stone Skimming Championships.

A WHITE stretched limousine was the main attraction in Port Ellen at the opening of the new Islay Hotel.

But staff at CalMac's Kennacraig port were left scratching their heads when it came to entering the unusual vehicle's classification, eventually putting it down as a motorhome.

AN EMPLOYEE of Wyvex Media was left miffed after losing his phone last week, even though it was found by a helpful member of the public.

However, tracing the phone's owner proved difficult for the good Samaritan, who dialled every name from A-C in the phone book before someone took his call.

SPARE a thought for our poor old MSP Mike MacKenzie. Readers who have noticed him driving round in a nice, new Mercedes may be tempted to think that he's going up in the world since his election to the Parliament. But no, his own car was the unfortunate victim of vandalism and, because of a shortage of other makes and models from the car hire company, he is being forced to drive around the country in such comfort.

POLITICIANS have always had the impossible task of trying to keep everyone happy but Western Isles MP Angus Brendan MacNeil is giving it his best shot.

On his Facebook page, the Castlebay man has listed Celtic Football Club legend Henrik Larsson alongside former Rangers Football Club manager Walter Smith under the section 'Favourite Athletes'.

NOMADIC chorister Brian Owen had a hectic couple of days at the Royal National Mod after deciding to compete with four different Gaelic choirs and a quartet over two days.

The Oban bus driver had to learn a total of 11 new songs - as well as a Stornoway street map - as he raced from competition to competition. Brian sang with Oban, Dundee, Argyll's Ceann an Tuirc and the quartet Fuaimeach, from Aberfeldy. But most of his commitment was as an integral part of the prizewinning Taynuilt Gaelic Choir - not least because he drove the bus to Stornoway.

DUBLIN-born acclaimed poet and translator Roddy Gorman, from Isle Ornsay in Sleat, has penned hundreds of criomagán (fragments) over the years.

His latest poetry collection in Gaelic and English, *Beartan Briste/burstbroken judgments/shroudloom deeds*, was shortlisted for the 2011 Donald Meek Literary Award.

'Thall air a' chàthar eadar an gàrradh is an t-adhar, fraoch eadar gheal is chorcair...'

'Over on the moss between the garden dyke and the sky heather between both white and lilac...'

Got something for our diary column? Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

YOUR LETTERS

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

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

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

honorarium...'

honorarium...'

honorarium...'

honorarium...'

**Prime trade remains buoyant at Stirling**

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 134 prime cattle including nine young bulls and 21 OTM plus 120 cast cows and bulls.

Bullocks averaged 197.5p per kg and sold to 229.5p per kg. 625kg Limousin, Wellhead Farm, Livingston and £1435 for 625kg from Wellhead.

Heifers averaged 205.5p per kg and sold to 232p per kg (4 times), for Limousin crosses from Wester Thomaston Farm, Banknock (twice), Strathaven House Farm, Carluke and North Glassmount Farm, Kirkcaldy and to £1389 for 600kg Wester Thomaston.

Butchers cattle sold to average 225p per kg and to 229p per kg, for a 525kg Charolais heifer from Pirnhall Farm, Bannockburn.

Young bulls sold to 206.5p per kg and £1704 for a 825kg Limousin from Glassick Farm, Braço.

Cast cows sold to £1335 for a Simmental from Kirkton and £1325 for a Simmental from I.D. Johnston, Kirkton Farm, Falkirk and to £1285 for a Limousin from Wester Carmuir.

Stirks sold to £460 for a Limousin cross from Euanachan Farm, while dairy calves sold to £95 from Gallamuir Farm.

**Breeding sheep scarce and dear**

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 1,984 store sheep at Dingwall last week when top and mid store lambs maintained recent high rates.

Correct ewes of all breeds proved scarce and dear, while prime and feeding ewes met a similar demand to last week.

Lambs sold to £85 for a pen of Suffolk crosses from Ashton Farm, Inverness, while ewes averaged £52.04 and sold to £112 for Texels from Achavrole, Halkirk. Gimmers sold to £75 for a cross from Gorthleck Mains.



A mixed entry of cattle at Fort William market last Friday met with a brisk trade

**Blargie Suffolk lambs sell to £86 at Fort William**

Charolais bullocks sell to 295.7p per kilo in brisk trading

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 191 store cattle, 29 breeding cattle and 46 OTM cattle, plus 1035 sheep at Fort William last Friday when a mixed show of cattle met a very dear trade while the sale season ended on a high with all sheep classes meeting the dearest trade of the season.

Bullocks averaged 190.2p and sold to 295.7p per kg for a pen of

186kg Charolais crosses from Dunlichity Farm, Farr, and £910 for a 534kg Limousin cross from Gorten, Arisaig.

Heifers averaged 173.9p and sold to 254.9p per kg for a 204kg Simmental cross from Kinloids, Arisaig, and £670 for a 276kg Limousin cross from Shoshone, Ardgoor.

In-calf cows sold to £900 for a Limousin cross from Muner-

gie, Invergarry. Cow with calf at foot sold to £680 for a Limousin cross cow with a heifer calf at foot from Lundavra, Fort William.

Bulls sold to £850 for a British Shorthorn from Invernahyle, Appin.

OTM cattle averaged 96.4p and sold to 143.5p per kg for a 704kg Shorthorn bull from 5/6 Bohuntin, Roy Bridge and

£1,070 for a 1045kg Limousin bull from Breakachy, Laggan.

Lambs averaged £37.61 per head and sold to £86 for a pen of Suffolk crosses from Blargie Farm, Laggan.

Ewes sold to £58 for a Cheviot from Glenfintaig Estate, Beauly.

Feeding sheep sold to £73 for Blackfaces from Etteridge Farm, Newtonmore

**Dingwall cattle trade continues to climb**

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 882 weaned calves and store cattle plus breeding cattle at Dingwall last week when a very mixed show of cattle sold to the dearest trade of the season.

The firm also had forward 159 OTM cattle.

Bullock calves averaged 205.3p and sold to 265.3p per kg for a 245kg Charolais cross from Lochdhu, Nairn and £900 for a Charolais cross also from Lochdhu.

Heifer calves averaged 197.8p and sold to 258.1p per kg for a 310kg British Blue cross from Dunmaglass Estate, Inverness and £810 for a pen 345kg Limousin crosses from Wester Tomloan, Nairn.

Store bullocks averaged 192.8p and sold to 217.5p per kilo for a 570kg British Blue from Dunmaglass Estate and £1,320 for a 740kg Limousin cross from Hilton Farm, Tain.

Store heifers averaged 184.1p and sold to 201.0p per kilo for a pen 423kg Charolais crosses, from Torgormack, Beauly and £1,205 for a pair of 648kg Simmental crosses from Dunain Mains, Inverness.

Young bulls averaged 129.1p and sold to 182.5p per kilo and £1,190 for a pair of 652kg Aberdeen Angus crosses from Sandside Estate, Reay.

Cows with heifer calf at foot sold to £1,210 for a Simmental cow with a heifer calf at foot from Blackfield, Canisbay while in-calf cows sold to £850 for a Limousin cross from 17 Hougharry, Isle of North Uist.

Bulls sold to £1,050 for a Limousin from Inchbae, Garve.

OTM prime cows averaged 153.0p and sold to 200.9p per kg and £1,445 for an 850kg Limousin cross from Clury Farm. Feeding cows averaged 102.8p and sold to 146.6p per kg and

£975 for a 665kg Galloway cross from Dunmaglass. Heifers averaged 163.5p and sold to 191.7p per kg and £1160 for a 605kg Limousin from Clury Farm gross for the same animal.

OTM bulls averaged 86.1p and sold to 107.5p per kg for a 935kg Limousin from Knocknagael, Inverness, and £1,110 for a 1,070kg Limousin also from Knocknagael.

**Appin Texel ewes sell to £94 at Oban**

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had forward 1,847 sheep and 78 suckled calves, store and OTM cattle at Oban Livestock Centre on Tuesday of this week.

Bullocks sold to 188p per kg for a 185kg Sailer from Ballindore, Taynait.

Heifers sold to 184p per kg for a 190kg Simmental from No.14 Vattersay, Isle of Barra.

Over 30 Month cows sold to £781 for a 520kg Limousin from Turnault, by Lochgilphead while Over 30 Month bulls sold to £880 for a 980kg Simmental from Scammadale, Kilninner.

Store lambs averaged £53.32 (+£5.82) selling to £84 for Texels from D MacDonal, Tyree, Benderloch.

Ewes averaged £48.48 (+£4.15) and sold to £94 for Texels from R S McColl, Stalker Cottage, Appin.

**Islay judge for Royal Highland Show**

GEORGE Porter, West Carrabus, Islay has been selected as a judge for next year's Royal Highland Show.

The only farmer from Argyll and Bute selected this year to adjudicate during Scotland's biggest farming event, George will cast his eye over the Galloway cattle ring. He is one of 100 judges who will run the rule over an anticipated 5,000 livestock at the Royal Highland Centre on June 21-24.

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**Market reports**

**OBAN**

**Caledonian Marts**

Lambs:  
Texel: £81 Ballygrundle;  
Suffolk: £81 Ballinmackilichan;  
Continental: £78 Balliemore Farm Estates;  
SuffolkX: £77 Achnacree more;  
Cheviot: £76 Tyree;  
CheviotX: £76 Lagganulva;  
Suff X CheviotX: £76 55 Tangasdale;  
Mule: £74 Dalrannoch; Cross: £71 Calliach; Blackface: £68 Clachan; BlackfaceX: £63 Slaterich.  
Ewes:  
Mule: £88 Craignich; Cross: £80 Tirfuir;  
Texel: £83 Callart;  
Continental: £82 lochdar;  
Blackface: £59 Clachan; BlackfaceX: £57 Bentalla Cres.  
Ewe Lambs:  
Bluefaced Leicester: - £79, £69 Seaview.  
Blackface: £49 Lagganulva; BF x

- 345 Birchfield.  
Sheep: BF Leic - £88 Culbhuir;  
Tex - £78 Carnasserie; BF - £75 Killiechroan.

**FORT WILLIAM, Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd**

Lambs:  
SuffolkX: Blargie Farm, £76.50;  
Blackface: 26 Tomonie, Banavie, £68;  
Cross: Burnbank, Ardgoor, £61;  
Cheviot: 3 Tarskavaig, Isle of Skye, £48.50.  
Ewes:  
Blackface: Greenfield, Invergarry, £58;  
Cross: 3 Blaich, Fort William, £53;  
Cheviot: Bundaloch Sheep Stock Club, Dornie, £52;  
Suffolk: Balmaglaister, Spear Bridge, (Cameron), £49.  
Feeding sheep:

Cross wedder: Bohuntin Sheep Stock Club, Roy Bridge, £65;  
Cheviot ram: Meall Mo Chridhe, Kilchoan, £62;  
Suffolk ram: Keppoch Farms, Roy Bridge, £62;  
Blackface wedder: North Morar Estate, Morar, £59.

**DINGWALL # Dingwall and Highland Marts**

Lambs:  
CharollaisX: Ganslett, Thrumster, £81;  
Suffolk: Ashton Farm, £80;  
TexelX: Anvil House, £79.50;  
MuleX: Crakaig Estate, Helmsdale, £76;  
Blackface: Garthbeg Farms, Inverness, £72;  
Cross: 18 Heights of Brae, Alness, £71.50;  
Cheviot: Seaforth, Westside, & 67 Strathcanaird,

Ullapool, £64.50.  
Ewes:  
CharmoiseX: Wester Moy, Urray, £89;  
Cheviot: Achnacloch, Ardross, £87;  
TexelX: Wester Moy, £82;  
SuffolkX: Balblair Farm, Dingwall, £82;  
Cross: Gorthleck Mains, £75;  
Mule: Wester Moy, £74;  
Blackface: Tyeantore, Abriachan, £59.  
Rams:  
Cheviot: 67 Strathcanaird, £92;  
Charollais: Swiney Hill, £80;  
Zwarbles: Balvaird, Muir of Ord, £70.

**DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts**

Bullocks up to 200kg - 7 Brogaig, Staffin £460, 248.7p;

201-250kg - Lochdhu, £650, 256.0p;  
251-300kg - Wester Tomloan, Nairn, £730, Shewglie, Glenurquhart, 250.9p;  
301-350kg - Lochdhu, £850, 262.4p;  
351-400kg - Wester Tomloan, £860, Breakachy Farm, Beauly, 243.1p;  
401-450kg - Lochdhu, £900, Pennick Farm, Auldearn, 209.9p;  
451-500kg - Lyne of Urchany Farm, Geddes, £1,040 208.6p;  
501-550kg - Hilton Farm, £1,100, 201.8p;  
551-600kg - Hilton Farm, £1,240, 217.5p;  
601-650kg - Hilton Farm, £1,140, 185.4p;  
Heifers up to 200kg - 7 Brogaig, £430, 238.9p;  
201-250kg - Dunlichity farm, £540, Cuilaneinan, Kinlochewe, 245.1p;  
251-300kg - Wester Tomloan, £700, 83 Incheape, Rogart, 254.9p;  
301-350kg - Wester Tomloan, £810, 258.1p;  
351-400kg - Little Croy Farm, Croy, £800, Lochdhu, 207.9p;

401-450kg - Clury Farm, Duinain Bridge, £880, Torgormack, Beauly, 201.0p;  
451-500kg - Lyne of Urchany, £950, 191.9p;  
501-550kg - Ardersier Mains, Ardersier, £900 Clury Farm, 193.2p;  
551-600 - Blackfield, £880, 157.1p;  
601-650kg - Dunain Mains, £1,135, 188.2p.  
Young Bulls:  
201-250kg - 68 Foindie, Lairg, £450, 180.0p;  
251-300kg - 14 Aultgrishan, Gairloch, £440, Borroble Estate, 166.7p;  
301-350kg - Blackfield, £550, 180.3p;  
351-400kg - Achingills, Halkirk, £450, 115.3p;  
401-450kg - Wellhouse, Beauly, £700, 164.7p;  
451-500kg - Wellhouse, £750, 151.5p;  
501-550kg - Sandside Estate, £810, 152.8p.  
In-calf cows:  
Highland - Inverinate, Estate, £740; SimmentalX - Ruarach Croft, £700.

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# Drive SAFE this winter

**TOP TIP**  
Never use water to defrost your windscreen. Warm water can crack the glass and damage the rubber wipers, whereas cold water will quickly freeze over again

The coming of winter always brings bad news for motorists in Argyll and the west Highlands with traditionally some of the worst driving conditions experienced anywhere in the UK. It can hit us first and leave us last, meaning month after month of mounting misery on the roads with unpredictable traffic delays and unforeseen dangers lurking around every corner. Argyll and Bute Council's road safety department have offered seasonal advice on staying safe behind the wheel and how to be properly prepared for whatever hazards the winter ahead might have in store.

**Driving in Fog**

Fog is the most dangerous of all winter weather conditions for motorists – especially freezing fog which can make the road surface wet and slippery. Drive very slowly with dipped headlights. Use front and rear fog lamps if visibility is seriously impaired – generally when you cannot see for more than 100 metres (328 feet) – remembering to turn them off if visibility improves. Don't rely on the rear lights of the vehicle in front to lead the way. This can cause you to travel too close and not be able to stop in time if the vehicle in front brakes. Fog can be patchy, so don't speed up if it appears to clear as you could suddenly find yourself back in the thick of it!

**Low winter sun**

The angle of the sun during winter is often too low for your visor to be of any help. If you are temporarily blinded by glare, it would be advisable to

put on a pair of polarised sunglasses. Make sure you keep your windscreen clean both inside and out, to reduce the effects of glare.

**Rain and flooding**

Rain and spray from other vehicles can make it difficult to see and be seen so slow down and always drive with dipped headlights.

If steering becomes unresponsive, this could be because water is preventing the tyres gripping the road. Ease off the accelerator and slow down gradually.

Never attempt to drive through floodwater if you are unsure how deep it is, and don't drive through any kind of floodwater if a vehicle is coming the other way. Keep towards the middle of the road to avoid deeper water at the side of the road.

Always test your brakes after driving through a flooded area as soon as you can be sure it is safe to do so by checking the traffic behind in your rear view mirrors.

**High winds**

Take extra care when driving over bridges or open stretches of road exposed to strong winds. Keep your distance from motorcycles and make sure there is always sufficient space for you to pass high sided vehicles as they could suddenly swerve or even topple over – better to be late than never arrive at all!

**S&S Motors**

**SURE-FOOTED SUBARU WELCOME ARGYLL'S WINTER WEATHER**  
At this time of year, when the days are short and the roads become slippery, you could be forgiven for thinking that taking to the roads in Argyll is a bad idea. However, this needn't be the case. At S & S Services Subaru you'll find a range of vehicles that are capable of dealing with whatever Mother Nature throws at them. Subaru's quick-thinking Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive (AWD) transmission, which distributes power to front and rear, enhances straight-line traction and provides sure-footed grip through corners, whatever the conditions.



**Look after your car and it will look after you**

Before winter bites, have your car professionally serviced so it can be checked for such things as antifreeze, tyre pressures and tread depth which should be at least 3mm for winter driving compared to the minimum legal limit of 1.6mm.

Have your battery tested to make sure it won't let you down with all the extra hard work it has to do during the winter months.

Keep checking that your wipers and lights are in perfect working order, and that your washer reservoir is fully topped up with the right concentration of screenwash additive. Squirt WD40 into your door locks to prevent them from freezing

**TOP TIP**  
If you get stuck in a snowdrift, try to manoeuvre yourself out by moving slowly backwards and forwards using the highest gear you can.

**Watch out for gritters and snowploughs**



Take extra care when traveling behind winter maintenance vehicles.

Salting vehicles can travel at speeds up to 40mph, spraying salt and grit across the road. This can be a hazardous operation and remember ... it takes time for the road salt to take effect!

Watch out for the hazard of irregular amounts of snow thrown up by snowploughs. Avoid the temptation to overtake snowploughs by squeezing past into partially cleared lanes

Argyll and Bute Council have reserves of over 17,000 tonnes of rock salt, a 70 % increase on previous years, held in stores strategically located around Argyll and Bute together with thirty three gritting and ploughing vehicles.

**TOP TIP**  
Keep well topped up on fuel during the winter months as you never know when you might get caught up in a traffic jam or unexpected weather conditions that could leave you stranded

On slippery surfaces, conventional front- and rear-wheel-drive cars can easily lose grip, sending the vehicle into a dangerous spin. But Subaru's full-time AWD, coupled with its state-of-the-art Vehicle Dynamics Control, provides extra peace of mind, allowing the driver to relax and hit the road with confidence.

Brian Spicer Dealer Principal at S & S Services, said: "Subaru's All-Wheel-Drive model range, including the Forester, Legacy and Outback, provide reliable and safe driving, even in inclement weather conditions. They highlight our commitment to delivering state-of-the-art active safety to our customers, along with excellent build quality and reliability."

**Don't drink and drive**

ALCOHOL in the blood stream depresses the nervous system and as a result it slows down the body's reflexes. The more alcohol consumed, the more the depressant effect. This, however, is not the whole picture. Alcohol also affects a number of other abilities.

Firstly, it affects judgement, making a person's ability to judge speed, distance and angle, very distorted. This can be lethal in heavy or fast traffic where you must judge the speed and possible manoeuvres of other road users.

Secondly, there is its effect on co-ordination. It seriously impairs the actions of hands, arms, legs and eyes. Under the influence of alcohol, simply controlling the car accurately can become very difficult. Unfortunately, it also impairs the ability to realise these shortcomings so someone under the influence is never aware of their danger.

There is nothing you can consume that will alleviate the effect of alcohol until the body has processed it, so this Christmas, be sensible. Don't drink and drive!

**Free winter checks**  
tyres, batteries and anti-freeze  
Distributors of Autosock  
Quick and easy solution for traction on ice and snow - Brings you home  
Winter Tyres  
Electronic diagnostic for all makes and models  
Call for an appointment or visit us today  
**J Adcock Autocare and Tyre Services**  
Kilmory Industrial Estate, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RN  
01546 600040  
Mon - Fri 8.30am - 6pm

**LONDIS**  
BEST VALUE LOCALLY  
Anti-freeze, screen wash, de-icer, pavement salt, petrol and water convenience store  
Don't get caught out this winter!  
Wishing motorists safe driving  
Londis Arch Filling Station, Inveraray PA32 8XD  
01499 302 289

**HEGARTY'S**  
ACCIDENT REPAIR CENTRE  
Keeping your wheels in the road  
**'GOLD SELECT' APPROVED ACCIDENT REPAIRERS**  
Panel Beating & Spray Painting  
Vehicle & Light Commercial Repairs  
Courtesy Cars Available  
Simon and his team would like to wish all drivers safe driving this winter  
Call for your estimate today 01397 705566

**ARGYLL TYRES**  
PROMOTES SAFE WINTER DRIVING  
ORDER YOUR WINTER TYRES NOW  
Designed to deal with colder, wet, icy and snowy surfaces  
Bishopton Road, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8PY  
Tel: 01546 602692 Fax: 01546 603279

Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, PA34 4PL  
**RENAULT TRUCKS**  
AUTHORISED SERVICE DEALER

**John Allan Motors (Oban) Ltd**  
Commercial Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance  
Computer Diagnostics  
24 Hour On-Call Service  
Tel: 01631 563817 - Workshop Tel: 01631 562275 – 24 Hours  
Supporting Safe Motoring this Winter

**S&S SERVICES AYR** **ISUZU SUBARU**  
UK'S No.1 Subaru & Isuzu Dealer

**Winter Demo Sale - Unbeatable Deals across the range**

**IF YOU REMEMBER LAST WINTER, YOU WON'T FORGET TO TEST DRIVE A NEW SUBARU.**



Don't take any chances this winter. Buy a new Subaru before the snow takes over the landscape again and you'll avoid those winter blues. Not only will you benefit from the fact that all our cars have permanent Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive, our unique range of Boxer engines, and a host of luxuries but you'll also get the added satisfaction of not getting stuck out in the snow.

Catch our drift and arrange a test drive to experience Subaru's unequalled levels of grip, performance, stability and safety for yourself.

**FORESTER RANGE FROM £21,370** **SUBARU**  
Confidence in Motion

Forester range fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km): Urban from 29.1 (9.7) to 39.8 (7.1). Extra Urban from 44.1 (6.4) to 54.3 (5.2). Combined from 37.7 (7.5) to 47.9 (5.9). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 174 to 155 (g/km).

We welcome your present car as a trade-in  
Excellent finance packages available  
Tel: 01292 880080 John Spicer 07831 808702  
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Adrian Flux Insurance Services has launched a new range of policies which reflect the low risk nature of island life. If you take out a car insurance policy with us, you can save up to 50% compared with similar policies on the mainland. Call us today for a free, no obligation, quote.  
FREEPHONE 0800 081 8989  
Quotation hours Mon to Fri 9am-7pm | Sat 9am-4pm  
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Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority  
**ADRIAN FLUX**

**RS Recovery**  
24 HOURS  
GLASGOW & ARGYLL

CARS WANTED FOR CASH • MOT FAILURES WANTED  
FLAT BATTERY : FLAT TYRE : NO FUEL  
TRY OUR HOME START SERVICE!

24 HOUR RECOVERY SERVICE • INSURANCE APPROVED • COMPETITIVE RATES  
VEHICLE STORAGE • FAST RELIABLE SERVICE • TRADE DISCOUNTS  
DISTANCE NO OBJECT • SCRAP CARS REMOVED

Telephone: 07733 8888392 • Office: 0141 8920047

**Scott Robertson**  
**Accident Repairs**

- Car & Van Body Repairs
- Insurance Work Undertaken
- Paint Work Services

**Tel: 01631 569441**  
**Quarry Road, Oban PA34 4DP**

**Kerrie's Tyre Service**  
NO TYRE TOO BIG OR  
SMALL WE FIT THEM ALL

Wishing all drivers safe motoring this winter

ALL MAKES OF TYRES AVAILABLE  
FROM ATV TO AGRICULTURAL

24 Hour Breakdown Service  
with Fully Equipped Van

Contact our friendly helpful staff  
who will be happy to help

Exhausts, Batteries, Brakes and Wheel Alignment  
Quarry Road, Oban Tel/Fax: (01631) 570000

**DRIVING IN WINTER**

Whenever possible avoid driving on snow or ice.  
However, if you really must make the journey

- tell someone where you are going and when you hope to arrive
- listen to news and weather broadcasts
- reduce your speed
- increase the gap between you and the vehicle in front
- Use dipped headlights when visibility is reduced
- avoid harsh braking and acceleration
- keep your vehicle well ventilated to avoid feeling drowsy
- if caught in a snowdrift remain in vehicle unless shelter is nearby - let help come to you. Do not run your engine to keep warm unless you are sure the exhaust can vent.

**PREPARE YOUR VEHICLE**

- have a full service before winter starts - have anti-freeze tested
- check tyres regularly - tread condition & inflation pressures
- check lights regularly - must be working and clean, consider fitting fog lights
- windscreen - keep clean and washer bottle filled with screenwash

Always carry emergency equipment during the winter months.

**In the Boot:** Tow rope, spare bulbs, spare fuel, shovel, spare wheel, jack & tools, hazard warning triangle

**In the Car:** de-icing can, first aid kit, torch, car blanket, wellington boots, phone, hi-vis jacket

**SNOW CLEARING**

During the winter period Argyll and Bute Council will endeavour to keep our roads and footways free of snow and ice. Trained operatives and managers from Development and Infrastructure Services will be on standby from the beginning of November until the middle of April. This workforce can be backed up by an additional eighty operatives with further resources capable of being called upon when necessary. There are over 17,000 tonnes of rock salt, an increase of 70% over previous years, held in stores located around Argyll and Bute together with thirty three gritting and ploughing vehicles. Senior employees monitor weather reports which are regularly updated by the Weather Service Provider, MeteoGroup UK and any relevant information on road and weather conditions is passed to Strathclyde Police and Traffic Scotland control rooms.

On Priority 1 routes gritting operations will normally be carried between 6am and 10pm but additional treatments will be made during the overnight period as required.

Priority 2 routes will also be treated between 6am and 5pm with additional reactive treatments as required until 10pm but overnight treatments will only be made when conditions are extreme.

Priority 3 School or Service Bus routes will be treated similar to Priority 2 but only in advance of scheduled journey days and times.

Priority 4 routes will normally only be treated during normal working hours as resources become available from other routes and only when hazards persist.

DRIVING IN WINTER ALWAYS INVOLVES THE RISK OF AN ICY ROAD SURFACE - EVEN AFTER GRITTING OR SNOW PLOUGHING YOU MUST TAKE GREAT CARE AT ALL TIMES - DRIVE SENSIBLY

ENSURE ALL ICE IS CLEARED FROM ALL GLASS BEFORE DRIVING, YOU WILL BE COMMITTING AN OFFENCE IF YOU DON'T.

**DRIVE SAFE**  
IN ARGYLL AND BUTE

Drive Safe is a Community Planning Partnership initiative

**Make sure your vehicle is fit for winter**

- Winter safety checks
- Battery & anti freeze checks
- Certified to BSPA43 for recovery work
- Fuel
- Repairs

For more than just an accident

**MacDougall's Garage**  
Corrie Glen, Fionnphort Tel: 01681 700294

**TOYOTA HILUX 4X4**

1997, one owner, great condition for age, only 80,000 miles.

Telephone: 01586 551196 or 01586 552024

**£1700**

**PEUGEOT PARTNER HDI 52 PLATE**

1 years MOT 6 months TAX  
110k miles - recent full service  
Too many new parts to mention  
Superb work horse in great condition

Contact Mark/Russell 01770 700308 / 602

**£1250 - Priced to sell...**

**TOYOTA PREVIA CDX VTI AUTO**

Top of the Range  
Sat nav, air con, cd auto changer.  
2001, Taxed and Motd  
Seven seater  
Good clean condition

Telephone: 07500 786612

**£2500 o.n.o.**

**MAZDA 3, 2.0 SPORT**

Good condition, 33,800 miles, 56 plate, radio/cd.

Telephone: 07849 850146 (after 7pm)

**£4999**

**S.D. MacDougall**  
AUTOSERVICES

GET READY FOR SAFE WINTER  
MOTORING THIS YEAR WITH A  
SAFETY CHECK AND TOP UP  
**DRIVE SAFE THIS WINTER!**

Mot's, Car Repairs, Services and Car Sales  
Unit 6, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban  
Tel: 01631 566502/566470

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ARRIVE ALIVE.....  
DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

7 Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG

Tel: 01631 563745 Fax: 01631 563424  
Glasgow: 0141 427 2229

E-mail: enquiries@obanexpress.com

**DRIVE SAFE THIS WINTER**

Phone Hawco Fort William to book your  
FREE multipoint winter health check!  
(any make and model)

Hawco Fort William, Ardgour Road, Caol, Fort William

01397 700900 Hawco

**MUNRO'S OF OBAN**  
24HR RECOVERY

IS YOUR CAR READY FOR WINTER?  
Have your car checked by the professionals  
we are always available whenever you or your customer needs us.

Daytime 01631 564463 • Out of Hours 07771 608956  
Mill Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban PA34 4PL  
Email: enquiries@munrosoban.co.uk

**Make sure your vehicle is fit for winter**

For more than just an accident

**MacDougall's Garage**  
Corrie Glen, Fionnphort Tel: 01681 700294

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Telephone: 07500 786612

**£2500 o.n.o.**

**MAZDA 3, 2.0 SPORT**

Good condition, 33,800 miles, 56 plate, radio/cd.

Telephone: 07849 850146 (after 7pm)

**£4999**

**VOLVO V50 D ESTATE GREY**

2006, 82000 miles  
MOT 27/03/2012, Road Tax end Feb 2012.  
Very reliable clean car.

Telephone: 01631 570060

**£5250 o.n.o.**

**PEUGEOT 206 SW 1.4 VERVE**

56reg, only 16,250 miles  
First to view will buy.

Telephone: 01770 (Arran) 700466

**£3695 o.n.o.**

**ASTRA ESTATE 1.7L DIESEL**

2004  
Excellent condition inside and out  
Low mileage, 43k.  
Taxed and Mot

Telephone: 01770 830219

**£2500**

**CITROEN C4 1.6, 16V VTR COUPE**

2005 (05 reg), Coupe, 69,500 miles, Manual, 1.6L, Petrol  
70,000 miles, Citroen C4, 1.6 vtr in excellent condition with cruise control, speed limiter, air con + + + fitted until April 2012 and M.O.T. 8 until September 2012. 3 Door, Coupe, Grey, Petrol, Manual, PAS, Trip computer, Service indicator, Side airbags, Immobiliser, Solid Paint. A lovely car and great to drive. Only selling as self-employment requires that I buy a van.

Tel: 01967421683 or 07711550960

**£2950**

**FORD MONDEO ZETEC**

04 plate  
Taxed and Mot'd.  
Good condition.

Telephone: 01631 730617

**£1750 o.v.n.o.**

**MOTORCYCLE WANTED**

Old, British, European or American  
Any condition considered

Telephone: 01369 830576 (evenings)

**ISUZU 7.5 TONNE, RECOVERY VEHICLE**

2001, slide and tilt with spec lift, hydraulic winch, beacons, Excellent condition.

Telephone: 07899 896608 (Fort William)

**£7,500**

**WANTED**

Pioneer or Orkney boat, any condition, any age, also 4 stroke engine, will collect anywhere on West Coast or Islands.

Telephone: 07740 554505

**NISSAN ALMERA TINO S**

2005, Petrol, Silver  
6 months tax, 1 year MOT  
Good condition

Tel: 07799 098062

**£1600 o.n.o.**

**MITSUBISHI PAJERO SPORT COMMERCIAL**

LWB, 2002, 2.5 turbo diesel manual  
5 months tax and MOT  
Very good condition inside and out

Tel: 07717 047470

**£3350**

**TOYOTA PREVIA CDX VTI AUTO**

Top of the Range  
Sat nav, air con, cd auto changer.  
2001, Taxed and Motd  
Seven seater  
Good clean condition

Telephone: 07500 786612

**£2500 o.n.o.**

**YAMAHA SR125 1991**

MOT till June 2012  
Lots of new extras  
Excellent condition.

Telephone or text 07871 877005 after 4.30pm

**£650 o.n.o.**

**ISUZU TROOPER 3.0 TD DUTY**

(2002 model) SWB, F5.H. from new, just fully serviced, new exhaust, one year mot. Very reliable clean jeep, exceptional towing capacity, very well looked after.

Telephone: 07789628409

**£3650 o.n.o.**

**ASTRA ESTATE 1.7L DIESEL**

2004  
Excellent condition inside and out  
Low mileage, 43k.  
Taxed and Mot

Telephone: 01770 830219

**£2500**

**YAMAHA SR125 1991**

MOT till June 2012  
Lots of new extras  
Excellent condition.

Telephone or text 07871 877005 after 4.30pm

**£650 o.n.o.**

**AUDI A4 QUATTRO**

Black, Really Good Condition for Year  
1 Year MOT, 3 Months Tax

Tel: 07796760830

**£800**

**GO KART 50CC**

4 Stroke petrol,  
2 seater with belts.  
Suit 4 - 10 years  
Excellent condition.

Telephone: 07789515826

**£525 o.n.o.**

**WANTED ALL TYPES OF 4 X 4 VEHICLES**

Landrover, Toyota, anything considered. We also buy non runners, accident damaged and MOT failures, instant cash.

Telephone 01250 884306 or mobile 07885 203020

**WANTED ALL TYPES OF 4 X 4 VEHICLES**

Petrol or diesel  
Any mileage  
From old to new  
Instant decision  
Cash paid.

Telephone 07889 224043

**RENAULT MEGANE ESTATE 1.6 2006**

70,000 miles, Black, FSH  
Tax and MOT'd  
Air bags, electric windows

Tel: 01546 606737

**£2500 o.n.o.**

**LEXUS IS 200 05 PLATE**

MOT and taxed, 56,000 miles, full leather interior, electric sunroof, electric seats and heated seats, air conditioning and 6 speed box

Tel: 07557334799

**£4500**

**TOYOTA RAV4 T180 2006 4X4 (TOP OF RANGE)**

YEARS MOT, 60,100m, 33-46 M.P.G.  
SAT/NAV, LEATHER, AIR CON ETC.

Tel: 01852 500301

**£10,750 o.n.o.**

**THE NEW SUBARU XV IS ON ITS WAY.**

After the exciting unveiling at the Frankfurt Motorshow the new Subaru XV is already being acclaimed by the world's press. Stylish and distinctly urban, the new XV caused a storm of its own, and not just because of its good looks. The new Subaru XV promises to offer a driving experience most unlike other crossovers. And with permanent Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive and a range of Boxer engines, the XV is 100% Subaru. The new XV will arrive in the UK in early 2012. Please let us know if you would like to be kept informed about the launch of the XV and we'll ensure you're the first to know.

**Airds Motors Limited**

High Street  
Beaulieu  
IV4 7BP  
01463 782266

www.airdmotors.co.uk  
sales@airdmotors.com

CONTACT US TODAY TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST OR FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE SUBARU RANGE.

SUBARU  
Confidence in Motion

**new car index**

**ISUZU S & S Services**  
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Heathfield, Ayr  
Tel: 01292 880080 / 880440

**RENAULT W.D Semple**  
Inveraray & Lochgilphead  
Tel: 01499 302150

**TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000**

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Old Bridge Road,  
Heathfield, Ayr  
Tel: 01292 880080/880440

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In association with Quarry Road MOT Centre

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Quarry Road MOT Centre  
Quarry Road, Oban  
Tel: 01631 564614

**FLIT**

**WANTED ALL TYPES OF 4 X 4 VEHICLES**

Landrover, Toyota, anything considered. We also buy non runners, accident damaged and MOT failures, instant cash.

Telephone 01250 884306 or mobile 07885 203020

**RANGE ROVER**

2498cc Diesel 2000 Reg.  
168k miles. 11 months MOT.  
Tax end Jan 2012.  
CAN DELIVER OBAN.

Telephone: A MacKay  
07500 929 240 or 07407 644 053

**£3950 o.n.o. Mull**

**WANTED ALL TYPES OF 4 X 4 VEHICLES**

Petrol or diesel  
Any mileage  
From old to new  
Instant decision  
Cash paid.

Telephone 07889 224043

**RENAULT MEGANE ESTATE 1.6 2006**

70,000 miles, Black, FSH  
Tax and MOT'd  
Air bags, electric windows

Tel: 01546 606737

**£2500 o.n.o.**

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Quarry Road, Oban  
Tel: 01631 564614

**FLIT**

**WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 THE WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011**

**APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AUTHORISATION LOCH ARKAIG SALMON FARM; LOCH GARRY SALMON FARM**

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the above regulations, that applications have been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited to vary water use licence numbers CAR/L/1002071 and CAR/L/1008962 each authorising the carrying on of a controlled activity at, near or in connection with existing freshwater cage fish farms on Loch Arkaig and Loch Garry, as follows:

Licence Number	Description of Change to Controlled Activity	Waters Affected	National Grid Reference
CAR/L/1002071	Additional discharge of trade effluent arising from an increased production of fish. There is however no change proposed to the release of medicines from the site.	Loch Arkaig	NN 1550 8860
CAR/L/1008962	Additional discharge of trade effluent arising from an increased production of fish. There is however no change proposed to the release of medicines from the site.	Loch Garry	NH 2200 0170

SEPA considers that the above change(s) to controlled activities have or are likely to have an impact on the water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment. Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the applications may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting the respective licence number(s).

Registry Department, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB  
A copy of the applications and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the above address, between 9.30 am and 4.40 pm, Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) and by prior arrangement at SEPA's Fort William Office at Carrs Corner Industrial Estate, Lochybridge, Fort William, PH33 6TL. Alternatively, the applications may be viewed on SEPA's website at: www.sepa.org.uk/about\_us/consultations.aspx

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the applications. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made SEPA will include a statement in the register indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such request.

When ready to determine the applications, SEPA will serve notice on any person who has made a representation within 28 days of this advertisement, informing them of SEPA's proposed determination and giving them the opportunity to notify the Scottish Ministers in writing that they object to SEPA's proposed determination within 21 days of the notice being served.

- Before determining applications, SEPA will:
- Assess the risk to the water environment posed by carrying on of the activity or activities;
  - Assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
  - Consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
  - Consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
  - Assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
  - Assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use;
  - Apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant an authorisation to carry on the activity or each of the activities referred to above, and will make its decision available to the public together with the main reasons for it, the matters considered in making it and, if granted, details of any measures that will be taken to mitigate impact.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected
11/03910/FUL	Land 120m North of Camus Cairain Glenacross Road Morar Mallaig	Erection of a dwelling house	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
11/04091/PIP	Land 35M South of Carran Beag Onich Fort William	Erection of house (Plot 1) - Renewal of 08/00486/OUTLO	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/04105/FUL	The Olds Post Office Cottage Invergarry PH35 4HL	Alterations and extension to house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

**PROPOSED ASSIGNATION OF GRAZINGS SHARES**

Nigel James Grant is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to assign the grazings shares pertaining to the crofts at 1, 2, 3, and 3a Uragai, Isle of Colonsay, to William James Dady of 1 Hall Cottage, Kiloran, Isle of Colonsay PA61 7YT (1 share), Philip Anthony Jones of Croft 2 Uragai, Isle of Colonsay, PA61 7YT (1 share), Donald MacLeod, of Tighe Donnar, Uragai, Isle of Colonsay, PA61 7YT, (2 shares) John H D Bridges of Dunshaltaig, Isle of Colonsay PA61 7YT (2 shares) and Daniel Hamilton of Ben Sgoltaire Cottage, Isle of Colonsay PA61 7YT (1 share).

If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to The Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8N (email: info@thecrofterscommission.org.uk) within twenty eight 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 the Freedom of Information Inquiry.

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**The Scottish Government**

**TRANSPORT SCOTLAND**

**THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (GLEN RIGH) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC, TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF OVERTAKING AND TEMPORARY 40MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) ORDER 2011**

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order temporarily prohibiting traffic, temporarily prohibiting overtaking and temporarily restricting the speed of vehicles to 40 mph on that length of the A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road from the junction with A861 (access road to the Corran Ferry Pier) northwards to the view point known as Speir Na Sean Croit (the Forestry Commission Loch Linnie Picnic Site) a distance of 2.862 kilometres or thereby.

The Order, which is required to conduct works for the removal of an unstable rock and to facilitate slope stabilisation works will be in operation from 18th November 2011 until 1st January 2012 but will only have effect in relation to any part or parts of the length of road as indicated by the appropriate traffic signs. The Order does not apply to vehicles being used in an emergency for fire brigade, coastguard, ambulance or police purposes or vehicles while being used in the service of the special forces.

The alternative routes for traffic during the prohibition will be signposted. Detailed descriptions can also be obtained at Scotland TransServ, Broxden House, Broxden Business Park, Lamberkin Drive, Perth PH1 1RA.

For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit www.trafficscotland.org.uk

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/policy/legal-requirements/road-and-traffic-orders/TROS

**A R T ANDERSON**  
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers  
Transport Scotland  
Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF.



**PLANNING**

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09.00 - 17.00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
11/02050/PP	Demolition of studio, erection of replacement dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land North East Of The Bungalow Torran Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA69 6ES	Sub Post Office Bunesan Isle of Mull
11/02133/PP	Demolition of existing garage, erection of extension and new boundary fence	Ailand North Connel Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 10X	Sub Post Office Ledaig
11/02139/PP	Substitution of house type and minor alterations to one of the house types in connection with the three staff houses (relative to Planning Permission 09/00282/DET).	Land North East Of Java Houses Craignure Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Craignure
11/02169/PP	Installation of replacement windows (part retrospective)	Flat Ground/1 3 Branksome Park Longdale Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5JZ	Oban Area Office
11/02182/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of sewage treatment plant and infiltration area.	Garden Ground Of Katrine Cottage Pennyghael Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA70 6HB	Sub Post Office Bunesan Isle of Mull
11/02194/PP	Erection of conservatory and formation of deck area.	Ard Shonass Kilmaluig Road Kilmaluig Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA77 6XB	Treace Area Office
11/02195/PP	Erection of domestic garage (retrospective).	Plot 20 Ganavan Sands Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5TB	Oban Area Office
11/02240/PPP	Site for the erection of one dwellinghouse, formation of access and installation of sewage treatment plant and infiltration area.	Garden Ground and Woodland to east of Little Cuin, Dervaig, Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute, PA75 6DL	Sub Post Office Dervaig
11/02254/PPP	Site for the erection of one dwellinghouse and installation of shared sewage treatment plant.	Plot 1 Garden Ground Of Roineabhal Kilchreanan Tainuill Argyll And Bute PA35 1HD	Sub Post Office Tainuill
11/02255/PPP	Site for the erection of one dwellinghouse and installation of shared sewage treatment plant.	Plot 2 Garden Ground Of Roineabhal Kilchreanan Tainuill Argyll And Bute PA35 1HD	Sub Post Office Tainuill

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
11/01447/PP	Refurbishment and change of use from store to day shelter/occasional bothy.	The Beach Hut Isle Of Iona Argyll And Bute PA76 6SJ	Sub Post Office Isle of Iona

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09.00 - 17.00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
11/01713/PP	Demolition of existing derelict building, erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Land East Of Machrie Rockside Kilchoman Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA49 7JX	Sub Post Office, Bridgend
11/02026/PP	Erection of 50 metre high meteorological mast for a temporary period of 2 years	Land South West Of Ballinaby Farm Grunart Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA44 7PS	Sub Post Office Bridgend
11/02052/PP	Demolition of existing dwellinghouse, erection of replacement dwellinghouse and alterations to access	2 Burnside Craighouse Isle Of Jura Argyll And Bute PA60 7XP	Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09.00 - 17.00hrs Monday to Friday at Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, PA31 8SJ, 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
11/02248/PP	Erection of 50 dwellings (comprising 14 houses and 36 flats).	Land North Of Dunstaffnage Mains Farm Dunbeg Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8SJ. 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.

**BUDGET CONSULTATION MEETINGS**

You are invited to have your say at our community planning partnership budget consultation meetings:

**Council chamber, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, 29 November, 1.30pm**  
Make your voice heard on next year's budget for the council, NHS and other community planning partners. Find out more about the council's budget and other meetings at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk



**Alan Reid MP**

will hold a surgery on Friday 2 December 2011 at the Corran Halls, Oban between 6.15pm and 7.15pm

To make an appointment, please phone 01369-704840

**GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE**

Ian Campbell and James Campbell trading as D & J Campbell No 1 Black Crofts, North Connel, Argyll, PA37 10X is applying to change an existing licence as follows to keep an extra 3 goods vehicles and 3 trailers at the operating centre at No 1 Black Crofts, North Connel, Argyll, PA37 10X. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

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**Hatchery Technician**

Meridian Salmon Group is the largest supplier of salmon eggs and smolts in the UK.

We are looking to recruit a hatchery technician to join our small team, based mainly at Cairndow in Argyll, but you will be expected to work at our other sites when required. There will also be a requirement to spend some days at sea on board boats for smolt delivery

You will preferably have hatchery experience and be prepared to participate in the one-in-four week on-call/ weekend rota during which time you will have to be resident in the village (on-call accommodation can be provided).

A flexible approach to working hours is necessary. Some technical knowledge would be an advantage, but not essential. A driving licence is essential to this post.

The successful candidate will receive an excellent remuneration package which includes on-call allowance, a generous pension scheme and target-driven bonus.

Please send your applications in writing to: Violet McDougall, Lakeland Smolt Ltd, Tigh MhicLeoid, 3 Lochnell Street, Lochgilphead, PA31 8JL

Email: violet.mcdougall@meridiansalmon.com

**FULL TIME VETERINARY RECEPTIONIST**

Receptionist required with good communication and practical skills, a caring attitude and enthusiasm for the job. Computer experience preferred. Must be able to work some Saturdays.

Apply in writing to:-  
The Partners, Westwards Veterinary Practice, 89/91 Longrow, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6EX

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email janet@gmcnaughtonandson.co.uk





BIRTHS



GLEN

Stephen and Kirsteen (née Rae), are delighted to announce the birth of their son Alexander Joe Rae Glen (Zander), on November 12, 2011. First grandchild for Margaret Rae and the late Joe Rae, Ballachulish and fifth grandchild for Margaret and Alasdair Glen, Milton of Campsie. Special thanks to staff at Forth Valley Royal Hospital.

**SCOTT - MCINTYRE** Stuart and Kay are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Kara Kathleen Scott on Thursday, November 17, 2011. A new grandchild for Ann and Lawrence Scott, Taynuilt and Iain and Pat McIntyre, Dalnally. With thanks to Oban Maternity Unit and the RAH, Paisley.

ENGAGEMENTS

**BRECHIN - BROCK** - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Cameron, elder son of Gordon and Shona Brechin, Kilmartin to Jennifer, only daughter of Duncan and Joan Brock, Lenzie

**McKAY - McKAY** - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Lorna, daughter of Stephen and Ellinor, Bridge-of-Allan, to Gerry, son of Danny and the late Barbara, Shawlands, Glasgow.

RUBY WEDDING

**MACINNES - RODGER** - On December 2, 1971 at F.P. Church, Campbell Street, Oban, Malcolm to Jennifer. Present address Gallanach, 1 Hawthorn Avenue, Lenzie.

DEATHS

**MACKECHNIE** - After a short illness, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on November 20, 2011, John, (Jura), aged 71 years, beloved husband of Betty, 16 Hazeldean Crescent, Oban, a dear dad to David, Marina and the late John, a loving papa to Emma, Cameron, Kenneth, Karen, Diane and Gavin and great granddad to Calvin, Jessica and Joseph Jr. Sorely missed by all, forever in our hearts.

**MACKINNON** - Kenneth Neil, born in Bunnassan, Isle of Mull. Passed away peacefully on November 20, 2011 in the wonderful care of Glenlivet Gardens Home aged 87 years. Kenneth, beloved husband of the late Mary, a much loved dad of Dorothy and Kenny, a special granddad of Rachel, David, Craig and Kirsty and a treasured father-in-law and uncle. Funeral Service at Linn Crematorium, Lainshaw Drive on Friday, November 25 at 12.15pm to which all friends are respectfully invited. *Nar cridheachan gu bràth.*

**MACLEAN** - Suddenly on November 13, 2011, Duncan, beloved husband of Rita, a much loved dad, granddad, great granddad, son-in-law, brother-in-law and uncle. Will be very sadly missed.

**MCINTOSH** - Donald (Skye) McIntosh passed away on Friday, November 18, 2011 at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, aged 59 years. Beloved husband of Wilma, and father of William, Sonia and Victoria, grandfather of Sophie, Cameron, Bernadette and Robbie. Funeral will take place at Glencruitten Parish Church on Friday, November 25 at 1pm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**KENNEDY** - The family of Alexander (Toshie) Kennedy would like to thank all the family members and friends for the kind wishes and sympathy words and cards and phone calls. Special thanks to Fr MacKinnon of St Mary's for the comforting service, all the staff at MacLellan's for the efficient funeral arrangements and the staff at the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh for the care and compassion they gave to Toshie. Thanks to all who paid their respects at the church and graveside.

**MITCHELL** - Heather, Jim, Sheena and Moira would like to express their sincere thanks to everyone who has supported us through a very difficult time following the death of our Mum, Moira. The love, support and friendship shown has been a huge comfort and we are all blessed to have such wonderful people around us. For all the lovely cards, telephone calls, letters and flowers all of which has been overwhelming. A special note of thanks to all the staff in both

dependency wards in the Belford and Raigmore Hospitals. The respect and dignity shown in the last hours of our Mum's precious life has been a huge comfort to us all. Thank you to Rev Dr Malcolm Kinnear for his comforting service both at the church and graveside, Douglas and Helen McIntyre for their caring and efficient handling of the funeral arrangements and John McCullum for piping for Mum which brought such a welcome and personal touch. Finally we would like to thank everyone from near and far who paid their respects. A collection for Lochaber Macmillan Nurses Palliative Care Fund raised £350. Somehow life without you Mum will never be the same again, but you will live forever in the hearts of those who loved you so much. Together again with Dad xxxx

**PATERSON** - The family of the late Donald Neil (Donnie) Paterson would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards, flowers and telephone calls following their recent sad loss of Donnie. Special thanks to Rev Duncan MacDonald for a comforting service and to Billy McClymont for efficient funeral arrangements. We would also like to thank all those who came to pay their last respects at the church and graveside. Retiral collection at the church raised the sum of £600 for Cornhill Macmillan Centre, Perth.

**RODGERS** - Nat Rodgers would like to thank the Glen Mor Surgery, Doctors Tangney, MacMillan, Feeney and McGlynn, for their outstanding medical treatment and care shown to my wife Lexie, in and out of hours. Also the practice nurses and Crossroads ladies all of whom gave unstinting care. Sincere thanks also to all who sent cards and messages of sympathy. Collection at church in aid of Crossroads Lochaber raised £341.95.

**YUILL** - The family of the late Ian Yuill would like to thank friends and colleagues for their cards, flowers, telephone calls and the wonderful support they gave us following our sad loss. Special thanks to the Southern General staff for their great care of Ian and the family, to the Rev Cliff Acklam for making it such a special service, Mr Robin Malcolm for his words that brought a smile to all who knew Ian and to Mr Charles Ferguson for his piping. Thanks to Roddy MacDonald and his staff for a caring and efficient service in handling all the arrangements. Kilmartin Hotel for their excellent catering and to all who came and gave Ian such wonderful farewell. The collection for the church and Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland raised £1040.

IN MEMORIAM

**CAMERON** - In loving memory of a dear husband and father, Alexander (Allie), who passed away November 24, 1998. Loved and remembered every day. - Inserted by his loving wife Florence and son David.

**COLETTA** - Precious memories of our dearly loved Mum, Christina Rose, who died 20 years ago on November 23, 1991. We love you and we miss you, always. Memories make love eternal. Marina and Caroline xx

**CUMMING** - In loving memory of our dear mother and gran, Kate who died on November 27, 2005 and remembering also our father, Donald who died June 4, 1977. R.I.P. Our Lady Star of the Sea and Saint Martin De Porres pray for them. Inserted by Angus, Linda, Karen and Laura, Newton Mearns and Oban, Paul and Laura, Glasgow

**GUNN** - Duncan, November 24, 2004. Treasured memories of a special dad Always in our thoughts. - Andrew and Susan.

**HENDERSON** - In loving memory of my dear husband, Iain, who died November 22, 2002. Dear are the memories and precious they stay No passing of time Can take them away Loved always. - Isabel.

**LIVINGSTON** - Treasured memories of Cathie, a devoted mum, granny, great granny and great great granny, who passed away November 25, 2005. Though absent you are very near Still loved, still missed and very dear. - The Livingston family home and away.

**MACINNES** - Treasured memories of a dearly loved wife Ina, died November 28, 2010. Silent thoughts of times together. That will last forever -Loving husband Roddy MACINNES - In loving memory of a very special mum and granny who passed away on November 28, 2010. Remembering you is easy We do it everyday It's the pain of losing you that never goes away -Fiona, Brian, Brian and Euan xxxx

**MACINNES** - Happy memories of our dear friend Ina who died on November 28, 2010. -Lorne x and Kathie x

**MACINNES** - In loving memory of a dear mum and nana, Nancy, passed away November 25, 2005. Forever loved and missed. - Mairi, Donald and Sarah. xxx

**MACINNES** - Annie (Nancy). In loving and eternal memory of our dear mum and nana, Nancy, who passed away on November 25, 2005. She was a mother so very rare Content in her home and always there On earth she toiled, in Heaven she rests God bless you mother you were the best. - With love from Tom, Alice and family xxx.

**MACKAY** - In loving memory of Eddie, father and grandfather, who died November 22, 1968. Always in our thoughts. - Families Inveraray and Canada.

**MACKENZIE** - Cherished memories of Willie, a loving husband, dad and grandad, who passed away on November 29, 2008. Always in our thoughts. - Neileen and family.

**MAY** - In loving memory of my dear mum Cathie, who died November 23, 2006. Sadly missed and remembered every day. Love Steven. In memory of my dear mum Always in my thoughts Love Norman.

Treasured memories of my dear mum Though absent you are very near Still loved, still missed Still very dear Love Karen. If I could have one lifetime wish One dream that could come true

I'd pray to God with all my heart For yesterday and you Love Sandra and Chris Sweet Jesus take this message To our dear granny up above Tell her how we miss her And give her all our love Love always Caitlin and Erin xx

**NICOL** - Treasured memories of Gavin a beloved son who passed away on November 23, 2010. His courage, smile and joy of life will remain forever in our hearts. - Mum, Jimmy and Chloe.

**RATCLIFFE** - Cherished memories of Malcolm, a much loved husband and father who died November 27, 1991. Never forgotten. - Linda and family, Dumfries and Norway.

**RATCLIFFE** - In loving memory of Malcolm, dear brother, brother in law and uncle who died November 27, 1991. Time passes Memories stay Loved and remembered everyday. - Alyson, Ian, Alistair and Robert.

**RILEY** - Remembering with love our dear mother and gran Margaret (The Dancing Queen), who died November 24, 2007. You left us happy memories Your love is still our guide Although we cannot see you You are always by our side. Also our dear father Frank, who died November 14, 1991. Always in our thoughts. Also our dear brother Alan, who died prematurely in Glasgow this year on February 22. A smile we'll remember forever While we try to forget every tear Until we meet again. - Betty, Tam and all the family.

**SMITH** - In loving memory of my dear brother Billy (Pancho), who died November 21, 2010. Sadly missed Cammy, Isobel and family.

**THOMSON** - In loving memory of my dear husband Richard, who died November 25, 2005. Forever missed. - Mary and family, Perth.

**TRAYNOR** - Precious memories of my dear husband John, who passed away November 22, 1994. When a loved one becomes a memory, That memory becomes a treasure. - Lovingly remembered Jessie

**TRAYNOR** - Cherished memories of a much loved father and papa, John A little tribute small and tender Just to say that we remember - Love Violet, Iain, Janette, Jennifer and families



David Sloss hands over a fire service long service medal to Mike MacKenzie while Oban Fire Station's Group Two look on. 16\_447fr001

MSP to stand down after 23 years as firefighter

MIKE MacKenzie MSP said he was little more than a boy when he joined the Seil and Easdale Volunteer Fire-Brigade in 1988, shortly after they were formed. Now, 23 years and four months on, he has been presented with a fire service long service and good conduct medal under Royal Warrant. David Sloss, Group Commander of the North Argyll District, handed

over the medal in a ceremony at Oban Fire Station last week. He said volunteer firefighters were just as important as retained or full time staff, and demonstrated the same commitment. He continued: 'This medal recognises people who demonstrate that commitment in missed meals, appointments, families left waiting, who are going to drag themselves out in the middle

of the night in the rain to stand with a banana pump. 'You are going on to do another form of community service and I think that's important to note,' he told Mr MacKenzie, who will be standing down from the unit now his work as a Member of the Scottish Parliament involves significant travel away from his home on Easdale. Mr MacKenzie said: 'I want to

thank Strathclyde Fire and Rescue and to say it has been a real privilege doing my bit and to pay tribute to the training and ongoing support that we get. Particularly in the early years, we were very busy and there were some serious fires. I think the unit dealt very well with being 'first aid' - sometimes if we were able to get their quickly it stopped an incident becoming much worse.'

Memorial refurbishment is fitting tribute to Ganavan

THE MEMORIAL to Ganavan's coastal command has been tidied up to make it worthy of the site's significance in World War Two. In glorious November sunshine, former servicemen and women paraded to the monument, overlooking the bay where the air and ground personnel of the 18 Group Coastal Command were based from 1939 to 1945.

Ronnie McIntyre laid a wreath on behalf of the Oban branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland, followed by representatives of the local air cadet corps. Oban War and Peace Museum has taken on the project of refurbishing the area around the war memorial, improving access and signs to tell the story of the strategically important site.

Work to refurbish the flagpole and its fittings was carried out just in time for Armistice Day by museum volunteers John MacPherson and Bill Leech. They were helped by Lorn Weld who supplied and fitted new plates and bolts to improve the safety of the pole's mounting.

The museum is currently seeking funding to improve the pathway to the memorial and put up signs from the Ganavan car park.



The flag is flying once more at the Ganavan War Memorial, thanks to a project by Oban War and Peace Museum. 16\_446rem08

CHARITY DONATIONS

**WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT** Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer West of Scotland Fundraising Office 1st Floor, Erskine House North Avenue, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR Tel 0808 100 6000 In memory of Dawn Joyce

**FOR THE BLIND CHILDREN OF SCOTLAND'S ACADEMIC TUITION AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL IN EDINBURGH** Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

**Oban Hospice** CARING FOR THE FUTURE Donations always gratefully accepted Please contact David Mudie (Treasurer) Oban Hospice Ltd The Croft Kilmore

**MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch** Donations always gratefully accepted Please contact Mrs Lillian Kermode Tynwald, Glenburn, Soroba Road, Oban 01631 571009

ECCLIASTICAL NOTICES

**ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN** Campbell Street Church Sunday 27 November 2011 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Phone-In 'Worship Link' available Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh (01631) 567076 All welcome

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION** Sunday 27 November 2011 Advent Sunday St John's Cathedral, Oban Holy Communion .....08.00 Choral Mattins .....10.15 Sunday School and Creche Parish Eucharist .....11.30 Loop System Large Print Hymn Books All Welcome Norman MacCallum, Provost. (01631) 562323 St Columba, Gruline, M10 Holy Communion ..... 11.00 St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Holy Eucharist .....10.00

GRADUATIONS

**Robert A J Macdonald** graduated with Masters with distinction in Product Design Engineering from Strathclyde University, receiving the Helen Mills prize for best overall final year student and the Joanne Meechan prize for best research dissertation. Robbie is the son of John & Jenny Macdonald North Connel, brother of Jilly and grandson of the late Rev Norman and Rona Macdonald and of Dr Alex and Nita Menary. Robbie has set up Solid Sea Transfer, working in design and has just collected Strathclyde's Brightest Young Business Award.

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Thought for the week

RECENTLY, I spent a few days in Perthshire. After a predominantly grey, wet, windy autumn on Iona I was looking forward to feasting my eyes on hillsides covered with bronze beech and oak trees. But after just one golden afternoon, the November damp descended, shrouding all in thick mist. Yet disappointment faded as I found myself captivated by the little things so often missed when our senses are seduced by a blaze of colour; curling birch bark, rindrops on grasses, lichens and moss and tiny toadstools.

November is the month of All Saints and Remembrance Day. We rightly revere those who made a difference in the world, whose lives were an inspiration, either because of what they achieved, or because of their courage and self sacrifice. But let us remember also and be thankful for the countless unsung heroes, those good neighbours who quietly go about their daily lives in un spectacular service to the communities in which they live. The apparently insignificant things which we so often overlook or undervalue, whether in nature's beauty or in human service, are precious. 'I come in the little things, says the Lord.' (Evelyn Underhill)

Rev Joyce Watson, Isle of Iona

Obituary

Donald Ferguson Morrison MBE (1909 - 2011)

DONALD Morrison who died on September 14, 2011 was 102. He was a Strachur man. He was an Argyll man. And he defended Britain in WWII. Highland by birth and culture, Donald grew up speaking Gaelic, piping and playing shinty. He played in the Strachur shinty team until he was 43 and he was in the Miss Joan Campbell Pipe Band up until the war. In 1997, the Queen honoured Donald with an M.B.E. for services to the community. He had been District Registrar in Strachur since 1933, having become assistant to his father in 1930. In 1994, Donald featured in the 'Strathclyde Insider' in an article entitled 'Meet the Council's oldest employee'. At that time, Donald had been registrar for 64 years - the longest serving registrar in the country. Employed locally as a mechanic, Donald was a prominent and active member of the community throughout his life. He was a member of Strachur Memorial Hall Committee for 30 years; secretary of the local branch of the Royal British Legion for 25 years and he founded the Memorial

Hall Badminton Club of which he was secretary and treasurer for 10 years. Donald was a member of Strachur church; a member of Lodge St. John 50 Inveraray and a member of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Argyll and the Isles. And Donald was a Burns man. He was renowned for his spirited recitation of 'Tam o'Shanter', which was captured on CD in his 100th year. Donald's long memory and local knowledge had immense value and he was regularly sought out by people on the genealogy trail. The Local History Society is attempting to secure the information which Donald passed on. When Donald's 100th birthday was celebrated locally, Pipe Major Craig Campbell played the tune DONALD MORRISON M.B.E. CENTENARIAN, which had been specially composed by Donald Files, Oban, to mark the occasion. Donald's wife, Amy, predeceased him in 1995 and he is survived by two sons, William and Hamish and their families. A chapter of Strachur history has now closed.

Women's Institute hosts 'Taynuilt Of Old' evening

TAYNUILT SWRI hosted a talk on 'Taynuilt Of Old' in the village hall. There were 17 members and 45 visitors for the presentation on November 9 by John McVean and Iain

Kennedy, who presented old postcards of Taynuilt and the surrounding area including Kitchrenan, Bon-awe, Inverawe, Cladich and Portsonachan. Many of these postcards showed the old coaching inns and single track roads along which horse drawn carriages, travelled. It was fascinating to see all the crofters working their land and the tools used.

# Newtonmore leave it late

## Premier title decided by goal in injury time

A DANNY McRae goal in the 93rd minute saw Newtonmore retain the Scottish Hydro Premier Division title and bring to a conclusion the best season in the Badenoch club's recent history.

The late goal was also a bitter blow for a Kyles Athletic side which held the balance of play for much of the second period but failed to find the vital goal to clinch the win.

'We robbed them,' admitted 'More manager Norman MacArthur. 'To win the league a second season was important to stop people saying it was a one-off. But it's been a brilliant season - and I'm very chuffed.'

Kyles looked shell-shocked and silent.

On a heavy and short park at Dunoon Stadium, Kyles were quicker to the ball and looked sharper over the opening half-hour. As the tie levelled out in the final quarter of the first-half Duncan Kerr tipped the balance in Kyles' favour with a typically deft goal.

### SHINTY

Scottish Hydro Premier Division  
Kyles Athletic 1  
Newtonmore 2

Oban Camanachd 4  
Kilmallie 2

But the lead was to last only three minutes after the start of the second-half when Danny McRae smashed home an equaliser and 'More took the game to the title challengers with determination and renewed self-belief.'

Both teams had created scoring chances - both goalkeepers had been on top form with several outstanding saves a-piece, but as the soft ground sapped tiring legs it looked as if Kyles might be content with the draw, confident that they, unlike their opponents, had another league tie up their sleeve to take the title.

With light fading fast and a draw looking likely, substitute John MacKenzie drew the Kyles

defence left before slipping the ball to McRae who netted the winner before disappearing under a pile of blue and white hooped bodies.

Now the sights of both teams will be set on next season.

At the other end of the Premier table Oban Camanachd knew that they had to defeat visitors Kilmallie by seven goals in the final game of their season to avoid the drop from the top flight.

Goals had been hard to come by for the Oban side throughout the year but they started well with an Ian MacMillan opener after 18 minutes. Peter MacIntyre clawed a goal back just before half-time, with Matt Rippon and John Stewart trading goals before the hour mark to keep the score at level-pegging.

Aiden MacIntyre and Scott MacMillan scored twice for Camanachd within a five minute spell just after the hour but Kilmallie never looked likely to lose a late barrow-load and Oban



Premier league champions Newtonmore celebrate after the final whistle at Dunoon Stadium

Camanachd's fate was sealed.

In a double-whammy, Oban Camanachd's second team, Lochside Rovers, will, under the sport's ruling body, the Camanachd Association's rules, also face relegation despite finishing the season third in South Division One, ahead of six other clubs - as two teams from the same club cannot play in the same league.

This Saturday the curtain comes down with the final league game in what has proved a long and very drawn out season. March will come soon enough!

## Plenty of action at Oban Express Primary League

OBAN Community Pitch welcomed the Oban Express Primary Football once again on Sunday and with three 7 a-side pitches on the go it was all action right from the start where the boys from 'down the road', Lochgilhead and Scorpions, engaged in their own local derby, all be it 40 miles away from home.

The older boys of Red Star came away with the win thanks to goals from Brody Kalachi, Kian Francis and Ewan Litsier but they didn't get it all their own way with Craig Millar netting a double in reply.

Red Star went on to beat Saints 02 courtesy of two first half goals from Ian Munro, however Lennon Campbell brought the Saints back into the game before Litsier netted a third in the second half to ensure the win.

The Star went on a scoring frenzy against the Jags who would have lost more if it wasn't for some excellent saves from goalkeeper Jordan McKay.

Earlier in the day the Jags

had defeated the Wasps with Finlay Lawson marking his first appearance of the season by grabbing a brace of goals. Ryan Woodrow also scored with a wonderful long range effort. In Jags' match with Lochnell Jamie Anderson got his name on the scoresheet but it was to prove a consolation with Lochnell's deadly due of Finlay Bennett and Stuart MacAllister both scoring two a-piece and Rory Dowd completing the win.

Lochnell went on to claim the team of the day accolade with a great win over the All Stars after a MacAllister double ensured the victory.

The North of the Bridge derby of Lochnell and Tralee served up a cracking first half which ended goalless, thanks to the efforts of Tralee's keeper Dougie MacDonald. However he was powerless to prevent James Diver's opener and rare goal from defender Sean Gordon.

Thistle opened their day with a match against the ever impressive Saints Boys and found

themselves two down with Martin Rennie running amok but they steadied and found their feet and got themselves back into the match through Oran Bryce.

Thistle went on to score some fine goals in their match with Galaxy with Kier MacLean helping himself to a hat trick and a magnificent overhead kick from Scott Mossman.

Thistle's last match was the always eagerly awaited contest against Saints 02 who tried to punch above their weight again and with the wee Saints struggling to get their passing going Thistle went on the attack. Saints defence held firm thanks to good defending from Lewis Campbell but it was midway through the second half when the inevitable breakthrough came. Thistle's Cameron Hill scored with a lobbed shot from distance, which looped over the goalkeeper's head and in.

The Young Saints do play some nice football and in their match with Pumas a neat one-two on the left opened up an opportu-

### PRIMARY FOOTBALL

nity for a cross which was met in the middle by Cameron Clark who placed his header beyond the keeper into the corner of the net for a great goal. Saints went on to win the match comfortably without conceding.

The youngsters of Galaxy took on Tralee and opened the scoring when Struan MacDonald slipped a weighted pass in for on-loan striker Lewis Budge to finish neatly with the only goal of the game but the stars of Galaxy depended heavily on goalkeeper Szymon to keep them in front. Szymon then turned goalscorer in Galaxy's next match against the ever-improving Wasps, who recorded a much needed confidence boost with two Josh MacInnes goals to record the victory.

Wasps had earlier drawn 1-1 with Pumas so the Galaxy victory is real reward for their hard work at training.

All the teams meet next week for their next round of fixtures.

## 'Shiel and Glen in London Shield Final

KINLOCHSHIEL's under 17 team will face Glenurquhart in the final of the London Shield this Saturday following a convincing 4-1 defeat over Fort William in last Saturday's semi-final clash at Balmacara.

The opening period saw both sides looking for chances but it was 'Shiel who scored first with a 15th minute strike from Conall Fraser's. The remainder

of the half saw equal play at both ends, with neither adding to the scoresheet.

The second period saw 'Shiel come out with a new vengeance and Fraser completed his hat trick, scoring in the 49th and 56th minutes.

A lapse in concentration from the 'Shiel defence saw Fort William's Mark Fraser pull one back in the 70th minute but

this seemed to make Kinlochshiel step up a gear and Fraser secured the Balmacara sides place in the final with a fourth goal two minutes from the end of play.

At the Dell, Kingussie, Oban Celtic and Glenurquhart shared a one-all draw after 90 minutes - with the cup tie, and a place in the final, being decided on penalties.

Duncan MacDonald had put Celtic ahead after 32 minutes and this was a lead that the Oban team were to hold onto until midway through the second half when Ewan Brady equalised for the Glen.

At the final whistle the teams were still level - Glenurquhart holding their nerve to take the cup final place thanks to three penalties to nil.



Kinlochshiel Under 17s will meet Glenurquhart Under 17s in the final of this season's London Shield

## International show jumper trains at Kilmartin

EQUESTRIANS in Mid Argyll were delighted to recently meet and receive training from international show jumper Nigel Springer.

Meeting horse riders at the Riding School in Kilmartin, the level two accredited instructor spent time with riders, horses and ponies with varying skills and ability.

Having competed successfully overseas and at home in the UK, Nigel, from Cumbria, is now focusing on training and is a superb instructor.

One rider, on her inexperienced four-year-old youngster, had expected to simply have her horse introduced to pole work, but was delighted to have completed a small course by the end of the lesson. Another rider had not jumped confidently for a long period of time but was again thrilled at what was achieved at the training event. Delighted by

### SHOW JUMPING

the turnout and the talent of both horses and riders in Mid Argyll, Nigel has agreed to host training sessions at Kilmartin on a regular basis. His next training event is already booked for December 10 in Oban.

Joining Nigel at the Kilmartin school in 2012 is eventer and trainer Denise Richardson.

Denise, also a level two accredited coach, has gained recognition in the disciplines of eventing, working hunter and showing.

She has also produced and trained youngsters who have qualified for Burley Horse Trials, Royal International and HOYS.

For more information about forthcoming training events, email: riding.scoo@virgin.net or call 07554 878321 and 01880 770253.



Top show jumper Nigel Springer puts Justine Armstrong through her paces.

### Results

Saturday 19 November  
Kyles Athletic 1, Newtonmore 2  
Oban Camanachd 4, Kilmallie 2

### League tables

Scottish Hydro Premier Division	P	W	D	L	Pts
Newtonmore	18	14	3	1	31
Kyles Athletic	17	12	4	1	28
Fort William	18	10	2	6	22
Glenurquhart	18	9	2	7	20
Kingussie	17	7	5	5	19
Kilmallie	18	7	1	10	15
Lovat	18	7	1	10	15
Inveraray	18	6	2	10	14
Oban Camanachd	18	6	2	10	14
Glenorchy	18	0	18	0	0

### Fixture

Saturday 26 November  
Kyles Athletic v Kingussie

### Marine Harvest North Division Two

Newtonmore	18	16	1	1	33
Fort William	18	11	3	4	25
Glengarry	18	12	0	6	24
Kingussie	18	7	2	9	16
Skye	18	7	1	10	15
Lochaber	18	7	0	11	14
Kinlochshiel	18	6	2	11	14
Lovat	18	7	1	10	13
Glenurquhart	18	6	1	11	13
Kilmallie	18	3	5	10	11

### Marine Harvest South Division Two

Strachur	14	12	1	1	25
Tayforth	14	11	1	2	23
Bute	14	7	3	4	17
Colglen	14	7	0	7	14
Ballachulish	14	5	1	8	11
Inveraray	14	5	0	7	10
Glasgow MA	14	4	8	7	10
Aberdour	14	1	0	13	2

### Marine Harvest North Division Three

Aberdeen U	18	18	0	0	36
Beauly	18	13	2	3	28
Boleskine	18	14	1	4	27
Caberfeidh	18	12	2	4	26
Lochcarron	18	7	2	9	16
Lochbroom	18	6	4	8	16
Inverness	18	5	1	12	11
Strathglass	18	4	1	13	9
Ardnamurchan	18	4	0	14	8
Lewis	18	1	1	15	3

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**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.

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If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

**Easy to enter**

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition Rules**

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

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This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

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Breadalbane Street, Oban

# Spot the SHINTY BALL

## Competition

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**Steve to judge at international against Ireland**

**BOXING**



Officiating: Lochaber Phoenix's Steve Docherty

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club aims to make a big impact both inside and outside the ring when Scotland face Ireland in a schoolboy international in Motherwell on Sunday. Fourteen year-old Fort William youngster Chris Bradley has once again been selected to represent his country, while international standard referee and judge Steve Docherty of the local club will be officiating.

The international at Ravenscraig Sports Centre is the return fixture after Scotland travelled to Cork last month. Steve, one of the most respected officials in Scotland, said the Irish would be a tough prospect.

He said: 'Ireland are one of the strongest nations in Europe. The reason they were selected for this double header is that it lets Amateur Boxing Scotland gauge just what level the schoolboys are at.'

'There will be 15 bouts at the match with boxers from four different age groups. Chris is only one of three boxers who has been selected for both internationals.'

**Winter league**

**ATHLETICS**

Lochaber Athletic Club's junior winter season got underway with the Canal Bank race on Sunday. Innes Blackhall clearly won the Under 15 boys' race in 9.34 from Bruce MacLean 10.26, with Rachel MacPherson 1st Under 15 girl in 11.49. Robyn Blackhall ran a very good time of 11.10 to win the Under 13 girls' race, from sister Abbie (11.24), whilst Grant Swanson was 1st Under 13 boy. Keir Gibson was the Under 11 boy winner in 9.32 with Fergus Fraser 2nd 10.50 and Alasdair Poll 3rd 11.50. 1st Girl was Katie Macrae (11.28) 2nd was Molly Blackhall (13.19) and 3rd Lily Paterson (14.45).

The Under 17 junior ran in the adults' event with top performances - Calum Fraser 1st 25.21, Joseph Tangney 2nd 27.31, Craig MacLean 3rd 29.46 and Isla MacKay 1st 28.35.

Calum and Isla had also been competing the day before in the North of Scotland cross country league in Inverness where Calum had a good 4th place and Isla an excellent 3rd place. Dawn Scott also finished 3rd in the ladies event.

The next junior race will be the Christmas relays on Saturday 17th December 11am at the B.A. Park. (Teams of 3 - which can include seniors)

## Women's record broken at Drumm Fada Hill Race

'It was good going, considering it was quite muddy - I'm happy with the time'

**REPORT BY STEPHEN NORRIS**  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

LOCHABER Athletic Club speed queen Nicola Meekin was the toast of her clubmates on Sunday when she shattered her own women's record in the Drumm Fada Hill Race.

Nicola stormed home in 50 minutes 24 seconds, breaking her own 2009 mark by a full 16 seconds - despite the heavy conditions.

'It was good going, considering it was quite muddy,' a delighted Nicola told The Oban Times. 'I'm very happy with the time.'

A strong field of 72 runners turned up for the 10.5km race, which started from the Outward Bound Centre on Locheilside.

In unseasonably warm conditions, athletes faced a 1,000-foot climb up the hill before negotiating a tricky descent to Annat farm, on the outskirts of Corpach on the A830.

First man home was Tom Smith, also of LAC, who broke the tape in a time of 45.27, with a good lead on second placed Peter Devenport of Bellahouston Road Runners, who came home in 46.19. Third man

over the line was Alan Ross of LAC, coming in at 47.22. In the women's race, 40+ veteran Dawn Scott was second behind Nicola in 53.29, with another 40 year-old, Amanda Blackhall third in 57.08.

Third 40+ female veteran over the line was Westerlands runner Paula Cowan in 59.26. Elvire Feeney was first 50+ female veteran home in a time of 83.27.

The male veterans' races finished with MV40 John Binnie across the line in 50.15, with Andy Dale second in 52.14 and Niall Macbeth third in 55.02.

**Category**

The MV50 race was won by John Hepburn, new to this category, in 49.05. Second was Ali Kennedy in 51.36 and third was Brian Campbell in 58.58. The MV60 race was won by Davie Tomlinson in 61.31, second was Johnny Banks in 61.45 and third Roger Boswell in 64.43. All of the top three finishers in the male category were LAC.

The club congratulates the group of Jog Scotland runners who tried their first Drumm Fada race and did really well. Thanks also go to all the helpful marshals.

Results (Lochaber AC unless otherwise stated):  
1 Tom Smith 45:27; 2 Peter Devenport 46:19; Bellahouston Road Runners; 3 Alan Ross 47:22; 4 Mike Bossard 47:39; 5 Ross Bannerman 48:03; Highland Hill Runners; 6 John Hepburn 49:05; 7 Donald Paterson 49:52; 8 John Binnie 50:15; 9 Dougie MacDonald 50:22; HHR; 10 Nicola Meekin 50:24 (new course record); 11 Craig Forbes 51:33; 12 Ali Kennedy 51:36; 13 Tony Robson 51:43; Pennine Hill Runners; 14 Steve MacDonald 51:47; 15 Ryan Stewart; 51:55; 16 Andy Dale 52:14; 17 Dawn Scott 53:29; 18 Niall MacBeth 55:02; Spook Munro 55:14; 20 Nathan Martin 55:21; 21 Stuart Forrest 55:24; 22 Jonathan Weir 55:48; U/A; 23 Ronnie Turner 55:59; 24 Alan Lamont 56:09; 25 Amanda Blackhall 57:08; 26 Julie Connor 57:26; Moorfoot; 27 Colin Denny 58:26; 28 Damien Foster 58:57; Brian Campbell 58:58; 30 Graham MacNab 59:15; 31 Paula Cowan 59:26; Westerlands; 32 Sarah Adam 60:36; Maryhill Harriers; 33 Ian Adams 61:00; 34 Davie Tomlinson 61:31; 35 Susan Jane Ross 61:41; 36 Johnny Banks 61:45; 37 John Dougan 63:36; 38 Andrew Cameron 63:40; 39 Bill Scott 63:44; 40 Morgan Artacho 64:08; U/A; 41 Roger Boswell 64:43; 42 Dave Ford 64:50; 43 Jo McGuire 64:57; Westies; 44 Elizabeth Gow 65:04; 45 Matthew Toberman 65:16; U/A; 46 Kyla Orr 66:16; U/A; 47 Caroline Cassidy 66:33; 48 Jim Hamilton 66:50; 49 Richie Collins 66:51; 50 Ken Rungay 66:55; 51 Ernie Orr 66:58; 52 Helen Karlsson

**ATHLETICS**



Nicola Meekin of Lochaber AC breaks the tape in a new women's record time for the Drumm Fada Hill Race. 20/11/11

67:19; U/A; 53 Fiona Gardiner 67:20; 54 Sharon Morgan 69:05; 55 John Grant 70:01; 56 Aileen Duncan 70:08; 57 Lyn MacLennan 70:15; Jog Scotland; 58 Andrew Finniemore 71:42; 59 Teresa MacKay 73:04; 60 Suzanne Duncan 75:46; 61 Angelina Kennedy 75:47; 62 Mairi MacCallum 75:47; 63 Sandra MacDonald 76:05; 64 Morag Aitken 76:26; 65 Margaret Rose MacPhee 79:31; 66 Claire Treasurer 79:55; 67 Pamela Hamilton 80:54; 68 Elvire Feeney 83:27; 69 Ray Morrison 85:17; 70 Katherine Landsborough 86:32; 71

**Alleycats are the top dogs**

**TEN PIN BOWLING**

ALLEYCATS moved clear at the top of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10 pin bowling league at the Nevis Centre.

Council and Ardtoe/Nevis Radio sit in joint second on 12 points, one behind the leaders, after three weeks of play.

Likely Lads, who were joint top last week, were beaten 5-0 by the Alleycats and dropped to sixth.

Three teams - Council, Ardtoe/Nevis Radio and Underdogs share top spot in the handicap division, with Phoenix and Alleycats just one point back.

The highest team game of the week went to Council with 592 scratch, 807 handicap. Council also had the highest two game scratch total of 1,106.

The highest individual scratch game of the week came from Tim Attack of Ardtoe/Nevis Radio with a 177, with his team mate Rossamy Warring's 168 the best ladies score of the week. Colin Pinkett of Council had the top scratch two game series with 320.

**Lochaber Leisure extend their lead**

**INDOOR FOOTBALL**

LOCHABER Leisure extended their lead at the top of the Ali Young Premier League with a 4-1 win against Achintore FC at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

Second-placed Goon Squad slipped to their second defeat of the season, losing 8-6 to TNF United, who have now scored 25 goals in their last two games.

Balachulish maintained third place with a 3-1 win against Livercaol, while AA Young and Steaua Sookabrest drew 4-4.

The Granite House beat Stroke City 6-2, and bottom side Bayern Bru lost 6-2 to HWEnergy.

**Arran wins Junior Ambassador for Sport Award**

**SPORTS AWARD**



LOCHABER High School youngster Arran MacPhee was given the 'junior ambassador for sport award' at a recent school assembly.

S4 pupil Arran plays a number of sports, including football, shinty, basketball and snowboarding. The award is presented annually in memory of Arran's older brother Fraser, who sadly died in 2002.

**Home to Garioch**

**RUGBY**

LOCHABER Rugby Football Club take on the Garioch at either Banavie or Black Parks on Saturday at 2pm, depending on which pitch is playable.

Last week's match against Aberdeenshire was wiped out after inspections found both parks to be waterlogged.

## Nevis Cycles RT riders scoop North of Scotland awards

NEVIS Cycles RT riders scooped most of the top honours at the North of Scotland Cycling Association (NoSCA) awards on Saturday.



Lochaber speed merchants Ben Miller, Gavin Shirley and Geoff Martin with their trophy haul from the NoSCA awards.

**CYCLING**

the year Gavin Shirley of Roy Bridge received no fewer than eight awards, including gold in the Nosca championships in 10mile time trial, 25mTT, 50mTT, 100mTT, road race and Nosca senior male best all rounder (BAR).

Ben Miller from Duror won two awards - the NoSCA BAR youth male and the Skelly Trophy for the highest placed rider in the Scottish Cyclist Union TT, when he won the Scottish BAR in the youth category.

**Bronze**

Geoff Martin was awarded bronze for the road race championships, while Gavin Shirley, Geoff Martin and Ewan Thorburn won the team prize at the road race championships.

The BAR is calculated on the best TT times. For the youth BAR it is the best time at a 10mTT and a 25mTT to give an average speed over the two. Ben Miller clocked 25.295mph.

For the Senior BAR the average speed is calculated from best times at a 10mTT, 25mTT, 50mTT and a 100mTT. Gavin Shirley recorded an average of 26.558mph over the four events.

## Fort looking to build on recent results

FORT William will be looking to build on recent good results when they travel to Aberdeenshire to take on Huntly on Saturday.

Fort have climbed off the bottom of the Highland League after picking up four points from their last two games.

Danny Conlon's men faced Huntly at Claggan Park on the opening day of the season, and narrowly lost 2-1 after midfielder Kevin Ferguson was sent off.

Conlon told The Oban Times: 'We were very unlucky not to get anything off them at the game down here, but both sides have changed a lot since then.'

'If you look at their recent

results, they are going quite well and they've got a good squad. We're expecting a really difficult game.'

Defender Graeme Bamber will be available for the game after injury, and fellow centre back Andy Martin should also be fit.

**Recovered**  
Forward Davie Forbes has recovered from his hamstring injury but is unlikely to start at the weekend due to a lack of match fitness.

Midfielder Andy MacLean, aged 16, will be out for around six weeks after breaking his ankle. Conlon said: 'He's been in the starting 11 for the last few

**FOOTBALL**

weeks on merit. It's a bit of a blow to us and a bit of a blow to him as well.'

Meanwhile, Fort seem to be close to a temporary fix to their goalkeeping problems. Conlon said talks with Stewart Gray over a deal which would see him installed as Fort's number one until the New Year were ongoing.

Regular stopper John Campbell is still out with a knee injury and his replacement Jonathan Smith will be out for up to three months after breaking his hand in training.



**Bowled over at the Railway Club**

Pictured are the trophy winners after receiving their awards at the Railway Bowling Club's recent dinner dance at the Railway Social Club in Inverloch.

## Weather

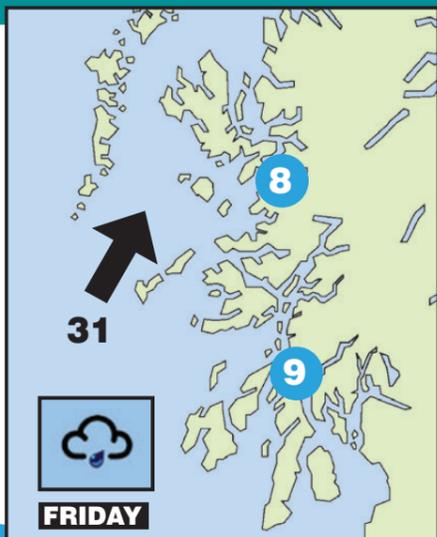
**Thursday** Heavy Rain.  
Winds strong, southerly  
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C

**Friday** Rain.  
Winds strong, south westerly  
Temperatures 6°C to 9°C.

**Weekend** Heavy rain.

**Outlook** Winds strong, southerly  
Temperatures 5°C to 10°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 24, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	04.30 3.9 10.40 0.8 16.46 4.1 23.11 0.8	
Fri	05.11 4.1 11.30 0.7 17.28 4.1 23.54 0.7	
Sat	05.53 4.2 12.18 0.7 18.10 4.1 ** ** *	
Sun	00.38 0.7 06.35 4.2 13.06 0.8 18.51 3.9	
Mon	01.22 0.8 07.19 4.1 13.53 0.9 19.33 3.7	
Tues	02.07 0.9 08.03 3.9 14.40 1.2 20.14 3.5	
Wed	02.53 1.1 08.49 3.7 15.28 1.4 20.56 3.3	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

# The Oban Times

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### Prawn fishermen land deal with Sainsbury's

WEST coast prawn fishermen have received a boost with news that their fresh-caught langoustines will go on sale at 500 of Sainsbury's 800 supermarkets across the UK. The delicacies will replace small warm water prawns previously sold from the retail giant's fresh fish counters. Mallaig and North West Fishermen's Association (MNWFA) members will supply the seafood under the Scottish Langoustine Project, set up to give large retailers secure and sustainable supplies to meet anticipated demand. The scheme followed a summit at the West Highland Hotel in Mallaig to hear how the association could better market their catch to domestic consumers. Fisheries minister Richard Lochhead attended the meeting, which was convened by Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson. Mr Thompson hoped the Sainsbury's deal would encourage other rural food producers to follow suit. He said: 'This is about much more than simply a reliable new market for our fishermen. It is about improving the quality of product available to consumers, cutting the number of miles seafood has to travel before it reaches our dinner plates and about giving stability to some of our most fragile local economies.'

MNWFA chief executive John Hermse told *The Oban Times*: 'At long last we are getting there. We have done a lot of work on this project and I think it's the type of thing a lot of west coast communities and smaller type enterprises should be trying to do. This kind of deal will decrease our dependency on exports - which is important given the current state of the Eurozone just now.'

Sainsbury's is the first major supermarket chain to sign up under the innovative project. Head fish buyer Andy McFeare said the deal would support the Scottish fishing industry and give customers another 'delicious and sustainable product' to choose from. He added: 'We continue to work in partnership with fishermen and suppliers to offer the best quality UK caught fish and support the whole supply chain.'



Whizzkid Michael: selling his i-Phone application to the world. 20\_147game02

### Pupil's game goes global

A FORT William schoolboy has become one of the West Highlands' youngest i-Phone application (app) developers after Apple accepted his touch screen game for worldwide sale. Lochaber High School pupil Michael Lawrie, aged 15, has already had customers from Russia, Australia and the USA downloading his 'Atomic Dodgeball' to their computers, i-Phones and i-Pads. The young whizzkid spent two months working up the game before sending it to Apple for approval on November 10. The complicated process means one tiny error and the app will be rejected. Many proposals, even from experts, fail first time around. Michael, from Camaghal, expected a knock-back-but when he switched on his computer last week a 'ready for sale' flashed on the screen. He told *The Oban Times*: 'When it was finished it took four nights to send it, then it took a week for them to approve it. I woke up on Thursday morning, checked the app's status on my i-Pad and found a green light confirming it was up for sale on the App Store. It was magic - I did not expect to get approved first time. My mates were really surprised. 'To build it was really hard. At every stage of the process if there was a problem the build would fail. You then had to identify the problem and fix it.' Michael's invention came after a visit to his cousin Claire, who could not figure out how to get her new Apple TV to work. A computer technician friend from Ireland was also stumped - but within 30 minutes Michael had it running perfectly.

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

Stounded, the expert suggested he should write applications for i-Phones and i-Pads. With a new Apple computer and applications development manual from his dad John, Michael got busy. Mum Lyn said: 'Some nights he would not go to bed - he would be sitting there for hours and hours and sometimes he would get quite crabbit. I would ask 'can I help?' and he would just say 'you wouldn't understand - it's very complicated!' John said: 'Michael thoroughly researched what he had to do and anything he thought might be a problem was checked. If he can pay back the price of the Apple computer I bought him from his earnings I will be happy.' Michael, who earns 35p from each app sale, is already planning more. He said: 'I would hope to have another six apps out by the summer holidays next year. Now I have done it once it should be easier.' Atomic Dodgeball challenges players to keep their ball away from nuclear, bio, chemical and toxic waste 'danger balls', which grow in number and speed on the screen as the difficulty increases. The game has five levels - too many, it would seem, for one customer - Lochaber High headteacher Jim Sutherland. He said: 'Michael has done extremely well with the app. I have it on my own i-Pad and it's an impressive game which I find really difficult to get beyond beginner level.'

### New website launched by reformed council

By RICHARD HADDOCK  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

NEWLY-reformed Kilmallie Community Council (KCC) launched its new website on Monday as results of community council elections across Lochaber and Lochalsh were released. KCC reconstituted earlier this year after a four-year gap, citing the creation of [www.kilmallie.org.uk](http://www.kilmallie.org.uk) as one of its top priorities. The website was developed with a Highland Council grant and help from Fort William-based design company Hotscot. A KCC spokesperson said: 'The aim has been to produce a site that is much more of a community asset than just information about the community council. Alongside news, what's on, local information and environmental issues, the site was designed with flexibility to allow local community groups who could not otherwise afford a website to create their own pages.'

No election was needed for KCC, with eight current members continuing in post. Ballots were required in 25 Highland areas including Kinlochleven, which has been without community representation for several years. Votes were also held in Ardgour, Morar and Morvern, and at Glenelg and Plockton in Lochalsh. Fourteen candidates competed for eight seats in Kinlochleven, with Allison Sweeney and Allan Ferguson topping the poll. Morvern CC saw the highest response in the Highlands, with 80 per cent of postal votes returned. Former chairman Iain Thornber was among those who missed out on re-election. John and Jenni Hodgson were both elected. A new chairperson will be decided on Monday night. Mrs Hodgson told *The Oban Times*: 'We've both been on the council before, but I've been completely out of community issues for eight years because of my work. I've got a little bit more time now so I decided to get back involved.' In Ardgour, Patricia Kennedy, Anna Craig and Norrie Maclaren were unsuccessful. Previous council members Nigel Colburn and Val Bremner were among those elected. Ten candidates stood in Morar. Mairead MacDonald, Alistair MacKay, Eleanor Read, Stuart Griffin, Bill Cornelius, Douglas MacKellaig, Deirdre Roberts and Tina McVarish were elected. Three candidates were whittled out at Plockton, with Oban Times correspondent Charlie MacRae attracting the most community support. Eddie Stiven missed out in Glenelg, with Donald Lamont and Donald MacDonald receiving the highest number of votes. Community councils who did not attract enough candidates to reform are being given a second chance to do so. Caol, Nether Lochaber, Glencoe and Glen Etive, Raasay, Glendale, Broadford and Strath, Dunvegan, Skeabost and District and Sleat have until Friday December 9 to nominate candidates.

Kilmallie Community Council launched its new website with councillors Bill Clark and Eddie Hunter at Caol Community Centre on Monday night. 20\_147kilmallie01

### Residents reject care plan

WEST Ardnamurchan residents have unanimously rejected the latest plan for the future of out-of-hours emergency care in the area at a public meeting on Monday. NHS Highland and the Scottish Ambulance Service proposed training local volunteers to deal with emergency situations until an ambulance arrives from Strontian. West Ardnamurchan Community Council chairwoman Rosie Curtis said: 'The community finds the idea totally unacceptable. These volunteers would be expected to look after severely injured or ill patients for an hour or more.'

### Future of Fort football tops agenda

A MEETING about the future of football in Fort William is being held at the Nevis Centre tonight (Thursday). Scottish Football Association representatives will meet in private with members of Fort William FC, Lochaber Welfare League, Lochaber Street League and councillor Bill Clark, with the lack of playing areas in the town top of the agenda. Councillor Clark told *The Oban Times*: 'I went to Canal Parks at the weekend and it's worse than it's ever been. Unless we have a change of heart, we will deprive youngsters of being able to use the pitches at any level.'



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### Sports group switches pitch site to kickstart project

LOCHABER Sports Association (LSA) has switched the site of its proposed multi-sports indoor training centre in a bid to kickstart the project. The group had targeted land next to Fort William Shinty Club's An Aird ground, but is now looking to develop a 60m by 40m '3G' pitch at Lochaber High School. Other sites will also be investigated. LSA gave a presentation to local councillors on Monday and won provisional support to progress the £800,000 scheme. Jane Blanchard, the group's chairperson, said the next step was to re-apply to LEADER to fund a feasibility study into siting the centre next to the school's new grass football and shinty pitches, which are currently bedding in. She told *The Oban Times*: 'We are now confident that we are aiming for a facility that will be of benefit to the greatest number, at minimum cost, and that will be affordable to the clubs and therefore sustainable into the future. 'The advantages of siting the facility at the high school, as opposed to building a 'stand-alone' facility, are numerous. It would link into an existing infrastructure with adequate changing, showering, parking and security and therefore minimise capital costs and increase the likelihood of finding the capital funding.' She added: 'It would allow the high school - the largest in Lochaber - curricular access, with community access in the evenings, over holidays and at weekends. It would be a major step forward, in conjunction with the existing facilities, in creating a sports hub for Lochaber and would continue to strengthen the ties between schools, clubs and community.'

Councillor Donald Cameron told *The Oban Times*: 'There was agreement in principle for the need for the facility, but there needs to be further examination of where it will be located and how it will be funded. 'My personal belief is the indoor facility should be adjacent to the 3G community pitch on the Blar Mhor to create a sports hub there. I think that's achievable within the community benefits scheme for the site.'

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## New shop to open on High Street

FORT William has received another retail boost with news that economy chain Nickel n' Dime is to open a store on High Street.

Workmen are currently fitting out premises formerly occupied by the Post Office until it relocated to the nearby WH Smith outlet on St Patrick's Day, 2008.

The retail unit had been lying empty since then.

Nickel n' Dime spokesperson Kaleem Ahmed, speaking from his Arbroath store, said he expected the Fort William business to be trading by the first week of December.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Even in a recession we are going pretty strongly, because we have opened seven new shops in the north of Scotland this year alone.'

'We were jumping to get a property on High Street and we feel we will be a valuable addition to the retail offer there. If there had been anything bigger we would have taken it, but there was nothing at all.'

Mr Ahmed was unable to say how many staff would be employed in the new store.

Two weeks ago Ashford Property Group started an £8million project to transform the former Grand Hotel/McTavish's Kitchen as a Travelodge, Wetherspoons and shops.



Ally Ferguson listens intently. 20\_147road02



Area Commander David Bushell gives his view. 20\_147road03



John MacMillan speaks on behalf of Mallaig Community Council. 20\_147road04

# Road safety plans set out at Arisaig meeting

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

TRANSPORT chiefs sought to allay public safety concerns over the A830 Road to the Isles at a packed meeting in Arisaig on Friday night.

With Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson in the chair, Transport Scotland (TS), Scotland Transerv (ST) and Northern Constabulary representatives faced tough questions from the 50-strong audience over the need to improve the notorious road's accident record.

The event, in the Astley Hall, was attended by Heather MacInnes and John and Jan Bryden, the bereaved parents of Kirsty Bryden and Roddy MacInnes, who died when their car skidded off the road and overturned in Loch Eilt last September.

Mr and Mrs Bryden have since campaigned for the narrow, twisting four-mile stretch east of Lochailort to be upgraded. Opening the meeting, Mr Thompson said information provided by Mr Bryden showed 'an inordinate number of



Jan Bryden, John Bryden, and Heather MacInnes and local MSP Dave Thompson hear John Wrigley of Transport Scotland outline proposals for the A830. 20\_147road01

accidents' on the fatal section. 'It is difficult to know what has been causing this,' he said, introducing two reports from TS and ST on the road.

The first, on 10 decaying bridges and parapets on the A830, listed six options until funding became available: installing safety barriers; bridge

strengthening; pedestrian guard rails; traffic light management; building masonry parapets and ongoing monitoring.

TS unit bridge manager Ian McFetridge said: 'Within five years we would hope to upgrade all the parapets.'

John Bryden produced a metal pole from the Craiglea bridge

railing he said had ended up in the back seat of a car, almost killing the driver - an incident TS was unaware of.

**Prioritise**

Mr McFetridge said: 'If such information is presented to us, then we can prioritise the work.'

Mallaig Community Council chairman John MacMillan

warned traffic flows on the road would increase once the South Uist-Mallaig ferry became a reality.

He said: 'You better get the road ready or the emergency services are going to be called out two or three times more often.'

'Somebody in Edinburgh should be looking at these accidents because there is going to be trouble when the ferry comes from Lochboisdale.'

The second study, from ST head of roads team John Wrigley, examined accident frequency, road defects, speed into bends, road surface grip, deer strikes and reported spillages.

Tests showed a drop in surface friction at three bends in damp conditions, prompting recommendations for more roadside drainage channels and electronic signs to warn motorists of dangerous corners ahead.

Several speakers highlighted huge discrepancies between the number of accidents logged by TS and those counted locally.

And Angela Hardman of Arisaig Community secured agreement for a follow-up public meeting in the spring to update the community on progress made.

## Caol man admits repeatedly kicking victim

A CAOL man repeatedly kicked a man on the head to his injury during a drunken brawl on Fort William High Street.

Iain MacKay, of 15 Clunes Avenue, pled guilty to assaulting Thomas Bell at a taxi rank by striking him on the head and repeatedly kicking him on the head on May 8.

Area Procurator Fiscal Andrew Laing said the incident, which was caught on CCTV, occurred at around 2.30am at the taxi rank outside Tesco when an argument flared up between MacKay and Mr Bell.

Mr Laing said there was 'previous background' between the two men. 'Mr Bell had taken off his leather belt,' he said. 'This was partially tied round his hand, and he then approached Mr and Mrs MacKay.'

Mr Bell was punched in the face by another man, Alan Mathers, and fell to the ground.

Mr Laing said: 'Mr MacKay took the opportunity to quickly move over to where the victim was.'

'He struck him on the head and kicked him a number of times on the head.'

Defending, Pat Campbell told Fort William Sheriff Court MacKay had acted 'under extreme provocation'.

Sheriff William Taylor QC deferred sentencing until December 19 for reports.

MacKay's wife Iona, aged 27, was also accused of taking part in the assault but had a not guilty plea accepted by the Crown.

## Extended ferry services cover A82 road closure

CORRAN Ferry services will be extended while the A82 is closed for rock removal next month.

The ferry will run from 6.30am on Friday December 9 and Saturday December 10, with last sailing at midnight both nights. On Sunday December 11, the service will run from 8.45am to 9.30pm.

West Coast Motors' Oban to Fort William bus service will only operate between Oban and

Ballachulish. The Shiel Buses route between Kilchoan and Fort William will travel round Loch Linnhe, with departure times unaffected.

Stagecoach's hourly buses between Fort William and Kinlochleven will remain in place, travelling round the loch and across the ferry.

Emergency services will also be affected. Ambulance patients in Onich and Ballachulish

will be taken around 30 miles to Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban. Onich is 10 miles from the Belford Hospital.

Local GPs will deliver out-of-hours care. Fire and police services south of the closure will be on call for that area.

An emergency inflatable boat will run between Corran and Fort William should a major emergency arise.

Police area commander Chief

Inspector David Bushell said: 'Each of the emergency services will be in a position where we will be able to manage emergencies during the closure period as well as maintaining our normal services to the communities in this area.'

Forestry Commission Scotland will remove a 250-tonne overhanging rock between 10pm on Friday December 9 and 6am on Monday December 12.

## Poppy volunteer wins top award

FORT William volunteer Audrey Dennison is to receive an award for her contributions to the Remembrance Day celebrations in the town.

Ms Dennison will be given the President's Award from Poppyscotland, its highest accolade, at the Railway Social Club, Inverlochy, on Sunday afternoon.

Ms Dennison counted the contents of more than 3,000 collecting cans single-handedly, as well as sorting and banking more than £87,000 for the poppy collection.

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FOOF and supporters at the unveiling of the new panels on Monday.

## Fort friends unveil new panels

FIVE interpretative panels in the only remaining area of the former Fort of Fort William were unveiled on Monday.

Local group Friends of the Old Fort (FOOF) installed the panels to provide visitors and locals with information on the Fort's colourful history.

The fortification, now almost obliterated by road development, was built to house troops from Cromwell's New Model

Army in 1654, and strengthened by William III in the 1690s to counter Jacobite insurrection. FOOF member Ian Abernethy said: 'Thanks to the Friends' own fundraising activities and generous donations by several public and private Lochaber agencies, the last vestiges of the Fort, both within and outside its walls, are now highlighted by an acceptable form of pictorial history.'

## Fort man admits punching partner

A FORT William man has admitted punching his partner on the face during an argument at his house.

Rael Nolan, of 6 The Maltburn, Old Glenlochly Distillery, pled guilty to assaulting the woman by striking her on the head to her injury.

Procurator Fiscal Andrew Laing told Fort William Sheriff Court the argument began in the early hours of August 17 and became heated when the woman decided to leave.

Mr Laing said: 'The argument was ongoing and moved outside the house. Nolan struck the victim in the face and burst her lip, which began to bleed heavily.'

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said a large TV belonging to Nolan had been damaged during the row.

After hearing Nolan had no previous convictions for domestic assault, Sheriff William Taylor QC gave the 30-year-old an absolute discharge.

## Arctic convoy museum plans move forward

PLANS for a Russian Arctic Convoy Museum in Aultbea to honour those who lost their lives supplying the Soviet Union with vital supplies during WW2 are making progress.

Architects are currently working on a provisional design, likely to show an L-shaped building, with the museum at right angles to the proposed community centre.

A shared social area where the two meet would also feature. The centre is planned for a plot of land at the end of Pier Road, overlooking Loch Ewe, from where merchant ships assembled for their perilous journey round Norway to Murmansk from 1941-45.

Museum project chairman Francis Russell told *The Oban Times* 'a ballpark figure' for the scheme would be in the region of £3million.

'It is a whole lot of money, but we will cross that bridge when we come to it,' he said.

'Once we have a plot of land and some basic drawings it will look a lot more credible to potential funders.'

Combined, the museum and community centre form part of the local regeneration plan. Aultbea's present hall is a WW2 Nissen hut built as an entertainment centre for servicemen and women during the war.

It is hoped Highland Council will gift the land needed for the centre. Mr Russell said: 'The project group here in Aultbea is working hard to fundraise for this important project. We are so pleased with the media coverage that the area and our museum plans are receiving.'

A BBC documentary featuring interviews with convoy veterans and local people attending the 70th anniversary memorial service at Loch Ewe in August, was shown over Remembrance Day weekend.

poppies

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# Charity honoured with community transport award

A LOCHABER charity has been given a national award for the services it provides to help elderly and disabled people get around the area.

Lochaber Action on Disability (LAD) was given the 'most improved community transport' award by the Community Transport Association (CTA) (Scotland). CTA's Sheila Fletcher visited the Caol-based charity recently to present them with a silver plaque to mark the honour.

LAD provides transport for 139 people every week and supports seven community groups, excursions for the local community, care homes and sheltered housing complexes.

The charity, which was set up in 1993, also recently started running the Caol Community Centre senior citizens lunch club provision until the community



LAD manager Laura Cheetham and driver Caroline Watt receiving the plaque from Sheila Fletcher with other LAD members.

takeover of the centre is completed next year. It provides transport to and from the centre for around 200 people per week, as well as up to 40 meals a day. LAD manager Laura Cheetham said: 'We are extremely grateful for the most

and we are kept extremely busy. As more local public services are withdrawn in this hard financial climate, our fully accessible transport service increases to meet the demand.

'Supported shopping runs covering Lochaber have been implemented and strengthened through Transport Scotland enabling clients to use their concessionary passes on the bus.

'The purchase of an additional minibus will take over from social services transport for the Caol community lunch club.'

Lochaber provost Councillor Allan Henderson said: 'This is a well deserved award for LAD which has used its talents, labour and limited budget, in this time of constraint and change, to deliver a unique local service, which is much needed and appreciated in the community.'



Highland Council ranger Michelle Melville showed TyLeigh Kitson and her Inverlochty classmates a bat box as part of the school's 'night and day' topic.

## School turns spotlight on Lochaber's bats

INVERLOCHTY Primary School pupils are learning all about Lochaber's thriving bat population as part of their 'night and day' studies.

Highland Council ranger Michelle Melville and Forestry Commission Scotland recreation ranger Ruari Watt popped into school last Thursday to

tell the children something of the furry fliers' nocturnal habits.

### Exploring

Mr Watt will follow up his talk tonight (Thursday) when he takes the pupils exploring round Glen Nevis looking for night-time creatures.

# Lochaber leads the way in High Life Highland winter workout

LOCHABER is leading the way in a Highland initiative to help people shed the pounds in time for Christmas.

Some 267 people have signed up at Lochaber Leisure Centre for the High Life Highland (HLH) winter workout programme. Move it to Lose it - almost a quarter of the regional total.

More than 1,300 people across the Highlands have joined the get fit drive hoping to step into 2012 healthier and fitter.

In total, 15 HLH sports and leisure centres offer the

programme, which provides professional fitness assessments and exercise programmes suited to individual needs.

Lochaber Leisure manager Gary Davidson said demand is so high that weekend workouts at Lochaber High School have been arranged. The sessions, from 9.15-10.30am and 10.45 to midday on Saturdays, are expected to prove popular.

Mr Davidson told *The Oban Times*: 'Everybody who has signed up can come along. There will be a range of exercises

specifically designed for people that they probably have not tried before.

'We are also putting on extra classes through the week - body blast sessions of 20 to 25 minutes of intense exercise.

'There's also a beginners' running group on Fridays at 1pm starting from the leisure centre, in conjunction with JogScotland.'

He added: 'The response has been fantastic. I thought we would only get a few members, but we have had 45 new people

come into the building through this scheme.'

HLH chair Drew Millar, who has himself signed up for the scheme, said: 'As far as HLH is concerned, all of our participating facilities are still recruiting newcomers to the programme. It's a great, fun way to get fit, lose weight and do something positive that will have a lasting impact on your physical and mental health.'

Around 50 people have joined the programme at Arainn Fhinn in Portree's Fingal Centre.

## Forestry Commission carries out more improvements around Glencoe Lochan

FORESTRY Commission Scotland (FCS) is to carry out further upgrade work at Glencoe Lochan as part of its long term management plan for the site.

Tasks include rhododendron and knotweed removal and improving the path network around the scenic water feature, created by Lord Strathcona over a century ago.

FCS will be working with the Fieldfare Trust, which aims to improve access to the countryside for people with disabilities.

The path up from the main car park will be made an all-abilities route, removing the need for vehicles to be taken up to trails round the lochan.

Work is due to start in the next few weeks and be completed in March. Access will be maintained

but visitors are urged to pay attention to information signs and follow any diversions.

Craig Millar, of the Commission's Lochaber team, said: 'The woodland is a great amenity for the local community and for visitors to the area, and the planned upgrades will help deliver even more benefits.'

'We're planning to clear out invasive species like knotweed and rhododendron, which includes removing rhododendron from the Lochan islands because it is currently acting as seed source, which only helps it spread.'

'Combined with ongoing thinning and woodland improvement work over the next few years, this will allow light into the forest floor and encourage the establishment of a layer of diverse ground veg-

etation, which until now has been smothered by dense rhododendron. This will also help to improve the existing trees.'

Mr Millar added: 'Once this is completed, there will be scope to plant new trees and introduce some non-invasive varieties of rhododendron, which will help enhance the visitor experience and help realise Lord Strathcona's original vision for the lochan.'

In August, Glencoe dentist and amateur botanist John Roy criticised the clearance work for killing magnificent non-invasive Loder's White rhododendrons planted by Lord Strathcona.

FCS said it would work with its environment team to make sure rhododendron that were not a problem were retained.

## Claggan firm helps centre re-open café

A FORT William mental health support centre has re-opened its café after the kitchen's recent refurbishments were completed thanks to a donation from a local firm.

Howdens Joinery of Claggan donated a new kitchen free of cost to the Glengarry Centre, which is

located on the town's High Street. The new kitchen was fitted by local tradesmen Alastair Wallace and Billy MacKail and the café was officially opened on Monday afternoon. A centre spokesman said: 'The Glengarry Centre is very grateful to Howdens and Alastair and Billy for their help.'

The centre was setup 17 years ago with a number of items of furniture donated by members of the public.

Much of the furnishings have become worn and need replacing, and so users and staff members will walk a five-kilometre loop from the centre tomorrow morning at 10am (Friday) to raise funds.

## Mallaig lifeboat launched to transfer patient

MALLAIG lifeboat was called out on a mercy mission last Tuesday to pick up a patient from Muck.

A call requesting immediate transport for the patient was made to Stornoway coastguard around 12pm and the lifeboat was tasked to attend. The only ferry that day had already departed.

The woman was safely conveyed to Mallaig pier, where an ambulance was waiting to take her to Belford Hospital, Fort William.

## Public meeting on future of Caol Community Centre

THE GROUP which will take over the running of Caol Community Centre (CCC) will meet members of the local community on Monday to discuss the future of the centre.

The CCC steering group, which has been given permission to set up a community organisation to take control of the centre from April 1 2012, has handed out surveys in the local area to gauge what services the public want from the centre.

The meeting starts at 7pm in the centre, and is the first public meeting about CCC since February.

## New boiler and wind turbine at Broadford School

BROADFORD Primary School has been granted permission to build a biomass boiler and a 15metre high wind turbine to power the school.

Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee approved the plans, which have received no complaints from the public, at a recent meeting in Inverness. The boiler will be situated within the grounds of the Skye school and the 5kW turbine will be positioned at the southeast corner of the playing fields.

## Arisaig band wins top award

AN ARISAIG man is celebrating after his band was named top wedding band of the year at a national awards ceremony.

Steve Brown is the singer and guitarist in duo Wonderland, who picked up the prize at the Voted Outstanding Wedding Supplier (VOWS) Awards at the Hilton Hotel in Glasgow. Wonderland was nominated for the first time this year after performing at weddings for the past three years, and have played at 54 nuptial celebrations so far this year.

Steve said: 'We almost can't take in the fact that we've won after receiving our first nomination this year. We've been in the business for 20 years but we've only been doing weddings for three of them and it is wonderful to win. Thank you so much to all who voted for us.'

The VOWS Awards celebrates the Scottish wedding industry and has been running for the past seven years. This year they attracted 12,000 nominations from newlywed couples and 100 companies made the shortlists.



Arisaig musician Steve Brown celebrates with his trophy after winning wedding band of the year.

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## Museum launches DVD of town's 'Longest Strip the Willow in the West'

WEST Highland Museum in Fort William is to launch a DVD showing 'The Longest Strip the Willow in the West' staged in High Street on May 23 1997 to commemorate its 75th anniversary.

The 40-minute video of the 3,000 dancers will be shown in the Duncansburgh/MacIntosh Hall on Saturday December 3 at 2.30pm.

The footage shows Lochaber's two pipe bands leading the dancers along the street from the Grand Hotel to the Royal Bank.

A band played in Cameron Square from the stage of Peter Donald's potato van, led by Ian MacFarlane and Farquhar MacRae.

The video was made by Wattie Adams and Bill Stewart, with Josh Gosling also on camera. The producers' families have generously given permission for the video to be re-released.

Entry will be free and tea will be available courtesy of the church hall committee. Proceeds of the DVD will go towards museum funds.

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# Politicians clash over Caledonian sleeper services

SLEEPER trains from Fort William to London could face the axe under a shake-up of rail services, it is being claimed.

In its Rail 2014 consultation launched last week, Transport Scotland signalled removing the Caledonian sleeper as one of several options.

Comments are invited on whether Fort William, Inverness and Aberdeen are the correct destinations and if Oban would provide better connectivity.

Responses are also sought on whether more early and late trains would boost the sleeper's appeal and if passengers would pay for better facilities.

Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy warned if the sleeper was cut, flying would be the only realistic way to arrive early morning in London.

Calling on community and business leaders to come together 'quickly and effectively', he said: 'The service is vital to connect Fort William to the capital. Without it we'd be cut off from the rest of the nation. Cutting off the sleeper would force more people to drive and fly to London, with the associated environmental factors and costs. Public transport in the Highlands needs more investment, not less, so I call on the Scottish Government to retain the service.'

However, Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, MSP Dave Thompson hit out at 'scare stories'.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'The Caledonian sleeper service will not disappear - I am 100 per cent convinced about that.'

'Charles Kennedy seems to misunderstand the consultation, and he really needs to have a closer look at it.'

'He should come on board with me and others to campaign for improvements to the service and not frighten people about losing the sleeper, which is not on the cards.'

'We need politicians, the public, the council and business bodies to make a positive case for improvements to the current service and take the opportunity

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

to make things better, instead of scaremongering and putting out false information about services disappearing.'

Lochaber councillor Brian Murphy urged the public to attend Transport Scotland's (TS) rail consultation event today (Thursday) at Fort William train station and to make written submissions.

He said: 'As many people as possible should respond to the consultation to show just how strong the feeling is to retain the sleeper. There is a line in the document that it might be better for the service to leave from Oban - but we don't have an airport.'

TS says it is examining 'a number of options' for the sleeper, including removing or increasing financial support. Potential exists, it states, to improve longer-term financial performance across Scotland's sleeper routes through investment in services and rolling stock. However, reducing provision 'either through removing the Highland or Lowland service, or by running the Lowland services to and from Edinburgh only' is flagged up, as is letting sleeper services as a separate franchise.

TS state: 'A sleeper-only franchise service could also attract new entrants with innovative ideas to the rail franchise market. As a specialised service, it may benefit from more focused and specialised management.'

They add: 'We would be interested in your views in the level and type of service that the Caledonian Sleeper services should provide.'

Highland Council's TEC services committee discussed the consultation last Thursday and will consider a full response in January. After the meeting chairman John Laing insisted the council was 'on the case'.

The consultation, at www.transportscotland.gov.uk/rail2014, will run until February 20 2012.



Dance stars: local schoolchildren put on a great show at Lochaber High School.

# Dance stars turn on the style at spectacular school show

MORE than 200 pupils from Lochaber primary and secondary schools performed a series of spectacular routines at the 2011 Dance Platform at Lochaber High School last week before packed and appreciative audiences.

The event, a firm favourite in the Active School's calendar, was kicked off by Lochaber Gymnastics Club members who performed a dynamic routine with balances, cartwheels, somersaults and splits.

The evening went on to showcase ballet, step dancing, contemporary dance and hip hop, with choreography by professional dance tutors and the pupils.

Ten senior girls and former pupils, parents and staff at Lochaber High School ran dance classes at Banavie, Caol, Fort William, Fort William RC, Lochside, Inverloch, Spean and Upper Achintore primary schools ahead of the show.

Highlife Highland's Active Schools co-ordinator Bridget Thomas, who organised the event, praised the exceptionally high standard of the

performances. She said: 'This is a great opportunity for the older girls to pass on their skills as well as to learn empathy and leadership skills.'

'They choreographed dances for the younger pupils, some of whom are as young as 11, and spent many hours coaching the youngsters through the routines.'

'But it's not just the dancing. A huge amount of thought goes into the whole performance including costumes, hair and make-up, to really give a polished final performance.'

'I am so impressed by what they achieve. Huge thanks are due to all those involved, dancers, choreographers, teachers and all those behind the scenes without whom this event could not take place.'

This year also saw guest performances from Kinlochleven High School, Bunscoil Keltica Danasa, Ben Nevis Allstars, Ballet West and Scott Fairley, who choreographed and taught the finale.

# Portree police hunt reckless fossil hunters

Criminals prise tonnes of rock from cliffs near Bearreraig Bay

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

PORTREE Police are continuing to hunt the fossil hunters responsible for wrecking a section of bedrock on a coastal Site of Special Scientific Interest north of the town.

Last week Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) discovered that tonnes of rock had been prised from cliffs with crowbars or mechanical means near Bearreraig Bay.

The conservation body described the crime as one of the worst examples of reckless fossil collecting in recent years.

The damage follows reports of dinosaur footprint fossils being removed from Valtos SSSI in north Skye.

Bearreraig Bay includes important beds of fossils dating from the Jurassic period, which lasted until around 145 million years ago.

Fossilised remains of marine creatures such as ammonites and dinosaurs including *Megalosaurus*, *Cetiosaurus* and *Stegosaurus* mean Skye is known as Scotland's 'dinosaur isle'.

The SSSI designation means any excavation and removal of rock needs permission from SNH and the landowner.

Sergeant Andrew Shaw told *The Oban Times* it was unclear when the gang, which is not thought to be local, vandalised the area.

He said on Monday: 'The case is still open are inquiries are ongoing. We do not have any suspects at the moment.'

'I speak from some of the websites that are around that Skye is quite an attraction for fossil hunters. We are still being



The demolished fossil rock on Skye.

helped by the public and when the matter comes to a conclusion it will be dealt with firmly.'

Rural affairs and environment secretary Richard Lochhead condemned the destruction as a loss to the scientific community and to the natural heritage of Scotland. He said: 'Scotland is fortunate to have such a spectacular collection of dinosaur fossils, and these sites must be protected. We need to ensure that scientists and enthusiasts can study and enjoy this natural national treasure for generations to come. I would urge anyone who knows anything about this reckless act to help the police in their enquiries.'

SNH geologist Colin MacFadyen urged people to abide by the Scottish Fossil Code. He said: 'Fossil collecting is important for scientific and

educational purposes and is a popular hobby. It is better for fossils that fall from cliffs to be found, collected and enjoyed rather than be eroded and washed away by the tide.'

'However, speeding up the process by large scale rock removal as in this alarming case is irresponsible and illegal and also potentially dangerous to people as the cliff faces are undermined and destabilised.'

SNH is working with police to find out those responsible and asks anyone with information to contact Northern Constabulary on 01478 612888.

Three Isle of Skye ammonites were advertised for sale on Ebay on Monday, with bids logged around £5. Their origin is unclear. It is legal to collect fossils from beaches if rocks containing them have eroded naturally.

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## Spotlight on Lochboisdale project

STÓRAS Uibhist is holding a community consultation for the Lochboisdale Regeneration Project in Geirinis Taigh Ceilidh in South Uist tonight (Thursday) at 7.30pm.

Stóras, which owns and manages 93,000 acres covering almost the whole of Benbecula, Eriskay, South Uist and other small islands, has secured £7.5million in funding towards the project from HIE (£5.1m) CnES (£625k) and ERDF (£1.9m). The public event will provide an opportunity for local people to discuss plans and hear an update on current developments. Meanwhile, to mark the fifth anniversary of the community buyout of the South Uist Estate, a community celebration has been organised for Saturday December 3.

Celebrations will begin with a turf-cutting ceremony at 2pm at the site for the Lochcarnean access track. From 5pm there will be a bonfire, fireworks and a barbecue at Talla an Lochdar followed by a ceilidh dance in the hall from 7pm. The event is open to all members of the community.

**£900 jackpot**  
THERE were no winners again in the Fort William FC lotto draw on Saturday. Numbers were 1-15-19. A jackpot of £900 is up for grabs this week.

## Scenic Lochaber isle put up for sale

A SCENIC Lochaber isle is up for sale - to someone with £400,000 in his or her back pocket.

Ayrshire-based David Brooks has put Eilean Balnagowan in Cuil Bay, Duro, on the market at offers over £395,000.

Mr Brooks, a former Duro Primary School pupil, has owned the 36-acre island since 1982. It was formerly in the possession of his grandfather Donald Tyson of Achara Farm, Duro, who grazed sheep and

cattle on Balnagowan over the summer. Mr Tyson acquired the island from Mrs Jean Dewes.

The Brooks family stayed on a croft at Cuil Bay until their move away from Lochaber in 1989.

Mr Brooks, 38, a building maintenance contractor from Alloway, told *The Oban Times* he had only visited Balnagowan a couple of times.

He said: 'Because we are not living there any longer we don't have any use for it ourselves. Having planning permission for

both accommodation makes it more viable for anyone looking at it.'

'There is archaeological interest on the island and we were told there were certain areas we could not build. There was some form of construction there, but obviously a long time ago. The RSPB also has an interest in the wildlife there.'

He added: 'Not a lot of people have a lot of money at the moment, so we will see what happens.'



Up for sale: Eilean Balnagowan in Loch Linnhe.

## Man punched pregnant girlfriend in the face

A KINLOCHLEVEN man left his pregnant girlfriend with a burst lip after punching her on the face during a drunken row.

Stuart Patterson, of 4 Glendale Road, pled guilty to assaulting the woman at 5 Sutherland Avenue, Kinlochleven, on July 24.

Prosecutor Fiscal Andrew Laing told Fort William Sheriff Court the couple had been out in the village drinking and after getting home they got into an argument about Patterson's paternity of the child. Mr Laing said: 'The accused walked over to her and punched her on the head.' Sheriff William Taylor QC told Patterson: 'Emotions were running high and I take that into account. You have an alcohol problem and you may have a violence problem.'

Sentencing was deferred for one year for good behaviour.

## Fun for all at Rotary Christmas Festival

THE ROTARY Club of Lochaber has arranged a spectacular Christmas Festival at the Nevis Centre on Saturday.

The Cairngorm Reindeer Team arrives with Santa and the parade at 12noon and will be in attendance throughout the afternoon.

Children's activities include

Santa's Grotto, face painting, glitter transfers and an opportunity to write letters to Santa.

Decorations  
There will be the opportunity to make Christmas decorations at the Forestry Commission stand, while Lochaber Environmental Group will be giving tips on cutting down

on waste over the festive period. 'Bodyzorb' in the back hall and a Buskers' Corner showcasing local musicians will also add to the atmosphere.

Any buskers wishing to book a free 45 minute slot should register on 01397 704062. Meanwhile, the main hall is fully

booked by craft and food producers, who will give live demonstrations from 1pm.

Free  
Entry to the festival, which runs from 11am to 4pm, is free. The Rotary Club is grateful to local councillors for part-funding the reindeer team.

## Appeal for information on Lochcarron oil tank theft

POLICE are investigating a theft of a green plastic 1300ltr oil tank and its contents from the old mission hall at Ardeneaskin, Lochcarron.

Officers say the tank was removed sometime between an unspecified date last year and last Saturday. Police are appealing for anyone who may have offered the tank, or saw suspicious people or vehicles near the scene, to contact Kyle Police Station on 01599 534222 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

SPOTLIGHT musical theatre group  
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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT SOROKA HOUSE HOTEL 01631 563367

FW

**Coll pier fire stalls ferry travellers**

FERRY passengers making their way to Coll had a delay getting onto the island on Sunday - after the pier went on fire.

Contractors were working at the site on behalf of Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) to replace damaged fender units on the roundhead of the pier.

But the rubber fenders overheated and staff had to be evacuated until local firefighters extinguished the blaze.

A spokesperson for CMAL said damage was minor but a programme of repairs was being implemented.

No further service disruptions are anticipated.

**National award short-list for Lorn orienteering event**

THIS year's Scottish Six Days Orienteering Event, held throughout the Lorn area, has been nominated in the Event of the Year category at the Scottish Sports Awards.

Around 4,000 people from across the globe descended on orienteering courses around Lorn. Organisers were praised for overseeing a very successful event in July and August.

Organisers of the event will be rubbing shoulders with the likes of Andy Murray, Dario Franchitti and John Higgins next Thursday at the ceremony in Glasgow's Thistle Hotel.

The other finalists in the category are the Walker Cup golf team and the Davis Cup tennis squad.

**Cinema gains £25,000 boost**

OBAN Phoenix Cinema received a boost on Friday when the North British Hotel Trust awarded the group £25,000.

The team had only applied for £10,000 of funding from the Trust, which is chaired by Paddy Crerar, chief executive of Crerar Hotels owners of the Oban Bay Hotel.

Oban Phoenix Cinema director, Laura Russell, said: "This wonderful boost means we will be able to renovate to a much higher standard."

**Appin assault**

AN APPIN man appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on petition last Thursday charged with assaulting a man to severe injury. James Weir, aged 68, made no plea or declaration and the case was continued for further examination. He was granted bail.

**Connel Bridge closure dates**

THE LIFELINE Connel Bridge will be closed overnight for five nights to carry out repairs after a lorry hit it in September.

Scotland TransServ will shut the bridge from 10pm to 6am between Sunday December 4 and Thursday December 8, with access for emergency services only. Drivers face an 80-mile diversion via Bridge of Orchy.

**Glasgow man fined after Oban incident**

A MAN who forced his way into an Oban home, before cutting his own arms and shouting and swearing at a local woman has been fined £350. Mark Edgar, 48, of 3-1, 79 Batson Street, Glasgow, had previously admitted behaving in a threatening or abusive manner at 2F Scalpay Terrace on April 18.

Newsdesk: 01397 703003



A Victorian affair: Stallholder David Berry tips his hat to Oban Winter Festival's opening weekend, with, from front left, Marie Rowan, Jean Campbell, Catherine Wylie, Michele MacLennan, Christine Litster, Mary MacInnes, Lottie Wilson and Margaret Cooper. 15\_147vicmarket1

**Oban's first winter festival off to flying start**

THOUSANDS of locals joined Santa Claus and his reindeer in helping the first ever Oban Winter Festival get off to a 'flying' start on Saturday.

A procession followed Santa from the Corran Halls to Station Square for the switch on of the Christmas lights, and, unlike Mossfield's fireworks, this was

a light show that went entirely according to plan.

And heavy rain half way through the ceremony didn't dampen spirits, with many taking the chance to explore the ever-popular Victorian Market in the town's Caledonian Hotel prior to the big switch-on.

One of the parade's organisers, David Finlayson, said: "The reindeer parade was a huge success on Saturday with more than 2,000 people attending."

"The Victorian market was also a huge success and is sure to be repeated again next year." Oban Pipe Band led Santa, his reindeer and sleigh into town, while the Spotlight Theatre

Company, in full pantomime costumes followed closely behind.

Riding with Santa were Ruby Heritage-Crabb from Lochell School and Rowan Duffy from Park School, who were winners of a Christmas card competition organised by the Rotary Club of Oban.

Park Primary's Natasha Cameron and Katie Barlow from Lochell Primary School assisted local councillor Duncan MacIntyre in switching on the lights, which was greeted with a large cheer from the crowd.

You can find a full round up of Oban Winter Festival's first weekend on Page 4.

**NHS to review Oban dialysis**

Satellite units' success encourages health chiefs

HEALTH bosses have announced they will look again at how dialysis services can be provided in Oban.

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT by**

Christine McCartney cmmccartney@obantimes.co.uk

At present, patients have to travel to Fort William or Glasgow for the lengthy treatment. But there was a ray of hope this week, when NHS Highland said the possibility of a satellite service at Lorn and the Islands District General Hospital would be examined.

**Shocked**

Catherine Reid from Taynuilt started dialysis in July and said she was shocked to discover the travelling involved.

"I travel three days a week to Fort William," she said. "A taxi picks me up, waits for me to have my treatment, then takes me home, paid for by the health board."

"If it was in Oban, it would be so handy. I could drive myself and it would only take half a day."

**Petition**

She has launched a petition to campaign for local dialysis. Catherine added: "We shouldn't have to go when there's a hospital in Oban - there are six machines in Fort William, even if we had two machines here it would make a difference."

Derek Leslie, general manager of Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership, acknowledged the impact on patients having to travel for dialysis but said a full-scale unit would not be possible in Oban.

"However NHS Highland had good experience with regard to establishing satellite units such as those already available in Caithness and Fort William," she continued.

"These have to be justified on the grounds of quality of care, patient safety, incidence of the disease and the best use of resources."

**Commitment**

"I have therefore given a commitment that I will examine the potential for developing such a satellite service in Oban and I will report back to the community as soon as I can."

An Oban service would make a world of difference to Bunesan woman Linda MacGillivray. She has been on dialysis for 14 years and is planning to leave her home on the Isle of Mull to be nearer a dialysis unit.

"I have grown up on Mull, my partner is from Inna and we don't want to leave," she said. "If you have travelling on top of your treatment, it washes you out even more."

"It was a 12-and-a-half hour day for me to go to Fort William. I can't do it long-term."

"If we could have the equivalent unit in Oban, I would like to support it very much."

**Strike threat may bite next week**

A DAY of Action by teaching and public service unions is to affect schools, health and public services in Argyll and Bute and the rest of Scotland next Wednesday, November 30.

Billy Marshall, a principal teacher at Dunoon Grammar and secretary of the EIS teaching union's local association, said Argyll teachers were 'genuinely unhappy about having to take strike action'.

But they are 'enraged' at government changes to public sector pensions and conditions of employment, he said.

Mr Marshall added: "We hope that parents and the community in Argyll and Bute will support us in our Day of Action and our campaign to protect public services in Argyll and Bute and across the country."

Joining EIS in strike action are the Scottish Secondary Teachers' Association and NASUWT, with the vast majority of schools likely to be affected. Parents at some Argyll schools have been sent letters advising them that schools may be closed to some or all pupils on the day.

Council offices, health centres and job centres are also likely to be affected. For updates, see www.obantimes.co.uk, and our Facebook page.

**Lorn stunned by sudden death of Councillor 'Skye'**

OBAN and Lorn has lost a second councillor in a matter of months through tragic circumstances following the sudden death of the charismatic Councillor Donald 'Skye' McIntosh last week.



Donald 'Skye' McIntosh

A councillor for the past 12 years, he had recently been a driving force behind plans for a Soroba Community Centre and was a strong voice for the retention, and improvement, of hospital services in Oban.

His death follows the sudden passing of fellow councillor Donald MacDonald in August.

Council leader Dick Walsh paid tribute to Councillor McIntosh's dedication to his job, adding: "He always gave 200 per cent." A funeral service will take place tomorrow (Friday) at 1pm in Glenclutrin Parish Church, Oban. As a recognition of Skye's devotion to the SNP, mourners are asked to wear yellow flowers.

**Toddlers gain toys thanks to donation**

PARENTS and children at Benderloch Toddler Group are smiling once again, after a surprise donor stepped in to replace damaged toys.

Michael Riemenschneider of Barcaldine House said when he heard about their plight, he was happy to help: "I'm not in the community and I thought making a few children happy would be nice."

Angela Hutchison had mentioned in passing to Michael how disappointed the group was about the damage.

She said: "Very, very kindly and unexpectedly, he gave us a cheque for £500 to help us out."

She said the cash will be used to buy specialised equipment for disabled children and a new garage for the toys to play with.

Gemma Macdonald, parent and treasurer of the group, said: "We are just so grateful. It makes a big difference."

"The group has been going for so long and its so nice to get a healthy donation like this."



Youngsters and parents at Benderloch Toddler Group are thrilled to receive £500 from Michael Riemenschneider (centre back) 16\_147todlrs2

**25 Years Ago**

**Those Were The Days**

**The Oban Times**

Thursday, November 27, 1986

**Pupils in mass exodus after school buses are stranded by ice**

ONE hundred schoolchildren headed home-wards on foot when icebound roads left three school buses stranded near Taynuilt in North Argyll last Wednesday.

The disruption occurred shortly after 8am as three buses which had earlier picked up schoolchildren in Dalmailly, Lochawe and Taynuilt, were driving back towards Oban.

A sharp early morning frost had turned the, as yet ungritted, roads to sheets of ice.

Concerned about the safety of their charges, the drivers pulled in at Lakefield, about one-and-a-half miles from Taynuilt to await the arrival of gritters.

After an hour, with still no sign of the gritters appearing, the children, who were by this time chilled and restive, began to leave the buses despite being warned not to do so by the drivers. Soon all 100 of them were trudging back to Taynuilt, sometimes walking four abreast and often on both sides of the road.

Alarmed at the risk to the children, several passing drivers complained to the police.

Once the children reached Taynuilt, parents were alerted and made arrangements to pick up those who still had some distance to travel.

Some of the younger ones, who were obviously thoroughly chilled, were given tea and food by villagers while they waited for parents to pick them up.

**Love - and the RNLI - will find a way**

MALLAIG Lifeboat went to the rescue when stormy weather looked set to stop a wedding on the Isle of Egg last Sunday.

For while bride Lucia Hoffman and bridegroom Iain MacKinnon were on the island - the priest, the best man, the bridegroom's parents and other guests were stuck on the mainland.

The wedding had already been postponed for a day because of Saturday's 60 mile-per-hour winds.

Iain's brother Charles, of Bishopbriggs, Glasgow, who was the best man, said: "It was only late on Saturday night that we found out there was a possibility of going over on the lifeboat. It was better on the Sunday - but it was still about 55 miles-per-hour."

He added: "We were very grateful to the lifeboat crew - there was actually a donation made to the RNLI."

But Charles admitted that quite a few of the guests, including his fiancée Gillian Ferrier were sick: "My grandfather was born on the Isle of Egg and I think because of my family connections I am used to that type of weather - I think the priest from Bishopbriggs was the one that was most surprised."

Second coxswain John Henderson, of Rockcliffe, Mallaig skipped the lifeboat on its mercy mission.

**Conservation village with road problems**

A SITE meeting has been proposed for early December between Seil Community Council and the Department of Physical Planning, Argyll and Bute District Council to discuss the problem of the road with its becoming an increasing hazard through the conservation village of Ellenabeich, Isle of Seil.

The proposal for the meeting came from deputy director of physical planning Mr Alan MG Walker in his response to a letter for Councillor Jim Watson, chairman of Seil Community Council, expressing residents' concern about the situation.

"We have been trying to get something done for years," said Councillor Watson. "The increasing tourist traffic to the village and the growing number of young children living in the cottages alongside the road constitutes a real danger to local residents."

The situation developed following the destruction of the old quarry tramway bridge - much to the dismay of the villagers. The narrow bridge had forced motorists to slow down. With the bridge gone, buses and cars and known to go through the village at an alarming rate.

**GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD**

Across

- Get rid of the large bag (4)
- Violet quartz (8)
- Put in again (2-5)
- Showy display (5)
- Doctor's paper (12)
- Pixie (3)
- Wavelike design (5)
- Blue (3)
- Will help to see at this stage (5,7)
- Similar (5)
- Faillie (7)
- Stickiness (8)
- Also... (4)

Down

- Explosive piece (8)
- Pancake (5)
- Fold, spindle or mutilate (3)
- Temporary surface to work on (7,5)
- Ochre or buttercup? (7)
- "Bye!" (2-2)
- Where to purchase flowers? (5,7)
- Cake topping (5)
- Leader in Trojan war (8)
- Over-elegant man (7)
- Glower (5)
- Sparkling wine (4)
- Which person? (3)

Last week's solution

B	R	E	Z	V	C	A	U	C	U	S	
U	R	E	R	S	A	C					
N	I	R	V	A	N	A	S	U	M	A	C
C	O	L	I	E	R	B	A	K			
L	A	R	G	O	N	A	T	U	R	A	L
E	U	V									
G	O	N	S	I	S	T	E	N	G	Y	
V											
A	N	A	E	L	A	P	A	P	T		
S											
S	V	O	T	N	W	C	R	N			
H	E	N	R	Y	S	E	V	E	L	I	D

**Tobermory chef cooks on TV show**

TOBERMORY chef Liz McGougan has been to London for a cooking competition to be shown on ITV's Britain's Best Dish.

The televised competition sees some of the country's best chefs go head-to-head.

Liz is the chef at Cafe Fish, which was recently awarded the Good Food Guide's Best Fish Restaurant honour for 2012.

**Attempt at police assault leads to payback order**

A MAN admitted at the Oban Sheriff Court last week attempting to assault a police officer, resisting arrest and struggling violently with two constables.

David Irvine, 53, of 24 Combie Court, committed the offences at Station Square on June 20. He was placed on a 12-month community payback order.

**Charity searches for enterprising stars in Argyll**

A CHARITY is looking for the stars of social enterprise in Argyll and Bute.

Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network is looking for nominations in four categories – social enterprise of the year, best start-up, and leader young people's social enterprise.

Bill Stewart, development manager for ABSEN, said Argyll has a particularly buoyant and successful third sector and this is a chance to celebrate all the quality work going on.

To get a nomination form, contact justine.absen@gmail.com.

**Lochgilhead man charged with serious assault**

A 31-YEAR-old Lochgilhead man appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday on petition, charged with an Oban assault to severe injury and permanent disfigurement.

Graham Leith appeared from custody and made no plea or declaration.

The case has been continued for further examination and bail was granted.

**Woman accused of theft from store**

A 54-year-old woman has been charged with theft after allegedly taking a jacket from a store in Oban.

The jacket, belonging to a member of staff, had a mobile phone and a purse in it and was taken from the store at around 11.15am last Saturday.

**Exposed in street**

URINATING outside and exposing himself to four women has cost an Oban man £375.

Steven MacLeod, 26, of 8 Hazledean Crescent, admitted placing the women in a state of alarm during the breach of the peace in George Street on June 22.

**Drug dealer fined**

DEALING ecstasy in Oban has cost a Glasgow man £750.

Kyle McPherson, 22, of Flat 2/5, Finlay Drive, Dennistoun, who was sentenced at Oban Sheriff Court last week, admitted to dealing the drug at Airds Place on February 25.

**Distillery gifts drum to pipers**

OBAN Pipe Band took delivery of a new tenor drum on Saturday, just ahead of their Winter Festival march, thanks to Oban Distillery's owners, Diageo.

Senior tour guide, Fergus Gillanders, right, presented the drum purchased with a £500 donation from the company's Local Citizens' Fund, to pipe band drummer Jenny Livingstone and pipe major, Euan Dewar.



**Crieff duo caught carrying cannabis**

TWO CRIEFF men who were stopped and searched on Oban's Esplanade, outside the Queen's Hotel, were found to have cannabis in their possession.

The men, aged 20 and 44, were charged following the search last Tuesday.



Madam MacDougall, Chief of the Clan MacDougall, looks towards Dunollie during the first horse and carriage ride to the historic house for approximately 100 years. 15\_147dunollie1

**Clan chief turns back the clock for visit to Dunollie**

THE first horse and carriage ride into the grounds Dunollie for approximately 100 years was taken by the Chief of the Clan MacDougall on Saturday as part of Oban's Winter Festival celebrations.

Madam Morag Morley MacDougall, the 31st chief of

the clan, was joined by husband Richard Morley and son Robin MacDougall, Younger of Dunollie, in boarding the cart, provided by the Oban and Lorn Riding for the Disabled, who were fundraising on the day.

The cart was driven by Elaine Trigg, with Jane Isaac assisting.

Pulling the carriage was the 17-year-old coloured cob, Bramble.

Future clan chief, Robin, also took the opportunity to look around Dunollie's 1745 House for the first time since extensive renovations were completed, saying he was delighted with the new look.

**Firth of Lorne to host carbon capture project**

**'Argyll demonstrates that this part of the world makes important contributions to research that matters'**

ARDMUCKNISH Bay, near Benderloch will host a leading research project into the safety of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) techniques next spring.

Dr Henrik Stahl, a scientist at the Scottish Marine Institute (SAMI) at Dunstaffnage, is leading the project which will investigate possible issues relating to carbon dioxide storage in sub-seabed reservoirs.

An information evening will be held for the public in Benderloch next month to discuss the project in more detail and answer any questions.

CCS is favoured by a growing number of governments as a clean method of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by storing it underground. While the technology for CCS is more or less in place, little research has been done into the success or safety of the technique.

Dr Stahl and his team hope to examine just how sound the theory behind CCS is by replicating in miniature what

'We will also use the experiment to test various methods of monitoring and discovering potential carbon dioxide leaks from a CCS reservoir.'

'Our work will provide important information on operational and risk assessment procedures for any future CCS installation.'

Impacts on conservation, recreational and fishery activities in the area will be 'minimal', he added.

Professor Laurence Mee, director of SAMI, said: 'Together with visiting experts from as far as Japan, Henrik's team of scientists will be addressing some really big issues with this research and are exploring possible solutions to the climate change challenge.'

'Conducting this work in Argyll once again demonstrates that this part of the world makes important contributions to research that matters.'

Residents can find out more at the Victory Hall, Benderloch at 7.30pm, Thursday, December 8.

*It is critical to understand the impacts of potential carbon dioxide leaks.*

**Dr Henrik Stahl**

**Connel PO raider is spared jail term**

AN AXE-wielding raider who held up Connel's village shop last year has been spared jail, but warned he is not 'off the hook' yet.

Lord Bonomy had earlier told Brendan McGuckin, 27, he was not convinced prison was the answer and gave him a chance to stay out of trouble and get a job.

When McGuckin returned to the High Court in Edinburgh last Tuesday, defence advocate Stewart Ronnie, told how he was getting up at 5am to get to work as a labourer. He had also saved £300 in case he was ordered to pay his victim compensation.

Lord Bonomy said: 'I think I made it clear before that there will be some kind of penalty to pay.' He told the repentant robber to keep saving and come back to court next June.

**Nominations rolling in**

AS NOMINATIONS come rolling in for The Oban Times' first Angel of the Year award, tales of our everyday heroes and heroines are emerging from the woodwork.

The prize, part of the paper's 150th anniversary celebrations, seeks to honour our unsung community champions.

Rev Carol Leech was one of the first into our offices with her



nomination form. She has put forward Oban street sweeper Christoph Josepelt, who she says works tirelessly to make the town look its best.

She said: 'What an amazing man. Anybody out and about in recent years in Oban will know Christoph, if not by name, then by sight, as the cheery, larger-than-life figure in the high-vis jacket who works tirelessly to keep the town clear and tidy.'

'Few of us would undertake such a task, but Christoph persists in his mission to make Oban look its best for citizens and visitors alike. He is to be seen at work in all weathers and seemingly at any time on any day.'

'Christoph is more than a street cleaner – he is an ambassador for the town and many a visitor has benefited from his friendly concern to help them appreciate Oban's facilities.'

'I just think it is so important to thank people,' she added.

Do you know someone special who goes above and beyond the call of duty to improve their community? You can nominate them today, using the form on page 2 of this week's paper or online at www.obantimes.co.uk/angel. Nominations close on December 5 and will be judged by an expert panel.

**007 - Live and Let Down!**

There will be no 007 movie shot in Argyll after all.

Only two weeks after a red carpet unveiling of Duntrune Castle, Poltalloch, near Lochgilhead as the setting for the finale of the 23rd Bond movie, to be called Skyfall, the owner Robin Malcolm received a letter saying that it was all off.

'I think the title should be Live and Let Down,' he said. 'Forty-eight hours after they made the announcement, they pulled out.'

A spokeswoman for Eon Productions, the company behind the Bond franchise of films confirmed this week: 'The locations were never confirmed.'

'I'm sorry for the local businesses that all thought they were going to have a prosperous start to 2012,' said Mr Malcolm, who had been told originally that the film would be shooting at Duntrune in February.

He expected a crew of more than 200 to have been arriving.

**Looking for the perfect gift?**



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\*PRICES APPLY 21ST - 27TH NOV WHILE STOCKS LAST

**GORDONS CHEMISTS**  
www.gordonsdirect.com  
16 GEORGE STREET, OBAN

**Thief stole Oban poppy charity tin**

THE THEFT of a Poppy Scotland charity tin from an Oban hotel has been branded 'disgusting' by the town's Royal British Legion Scotland (RBSL) branch.

Police in Oban described the man who took the tin from the Caledonian Hotel the day after Remembrance Sunday as aged between 30 and 40 years, around six-foot tall and wearing a white top, black trousers and white trainers. He had a black goatee beard. Anyone who has seen the man, or has any information is urged to contact PC Greg Bryce at Oban Police Station on 01631 510 500.

**A85 driver is clocked at 86mph**

A 43-year-old driver has been charged with speeding after travelling at 86mph in a 60mph zone on the A85 near Dalmlally last Tuesday.

**Isles rower fails in Barra to Lewis bid**

Gaelic broadcaster, Niall Iain Macdonald, from Barra, had to be rescued by Stornoway Coastguard last week, after a charity fundraising effort went wrong.

Niall had intended to row from Barra to Lewis for Children in Need last Wednesday, but with 100 miles left to go, his oar snapped.

He was towed by Barra lifeboat to Leverburgh on Harris, but suffered no ill effects from his ordeal.

*It's the most wonderful time of the year*

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

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

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

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

For more info or to book please call or visit the website.

Ballachulish Hotel T: 0844 855 9133  
Isles of Glencoe Hotel T: 0844 855 9134  
Oban Caledonian Hotel T: 0844 855 9135  
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## Lorne lose out to the Bankies

Oban face a must win game against Strathaven

RBS West Division 2  
Clydebank 39  
Oban Lorne 7

A POOR performance from Oban Lorne was compounded by injuries to two of their most experienced players as they suffered a heavy defeat at Clydebank.

Oban were looking for revenge, following a home defeat to Clydebank earlier this season but their hopes were dashed almost immediately when the home side went 7-0 ahead within minutes. A Callum MacLachlan clearing kick was charged down in the 22 and scored over the line by a member of the Clydebank backline.

Oban struggled to get out of the Clydebank half and conceded a further score as the result of an impressive driving maul from the home side, giving them a 12-0 lead.

Oban made a first half change with Allan Wright replacing injured father Robert and he took his place on the right wing.

Clydebank scored a further try before half-time to extend the lead to 17-0. An extremely poor first half showing from Oban.

Injured captain Struan Smith was also replaced by at half-time

### RUGBY

by youngster Connor Ferris, with Andy MacDougall taking his place with Cammy Smith and Corrie Louw in the back row.

Oban offered nothing of note and conceded a further three tries in the second half, aided by some poor first up tackling and again an efficient drive at the lineout from the home pack.

Trailing 34-0 Oban finally started to show their potential and dominated the final 20 minutes of the match. A consolation score from Cammy Smith was all the away side could manage despite a few scoring opportunities.

Clydebank, however, broke away with a few minutes remaining and were controversially given a score despite the scorer not touching the ball down with his hands.

Despite this Oban comeback, the match was long over and the home side fully deserved their win against a poor Oban side.

Oban slip to eighth place in West Division 2 and face seventh-placed Strathaven at Glencruitten next Saturday – a must win game. Kick-off 2pm.



Club members of all ages gather outside the new clubhouse.

## Mull Rugby Club celebrate re-opening of clubhouse

MULL Rugby Club celebrated the re-opening of its clubhouse with a dinner and ceilidh, welcoming special guests from the Scottish Rugby Union.

The upgraded sports facility and clubhouse at Garmony boasts revamped changing rooms, a kitchen, a shop, foyer, decking and spectators' area and a function room and bar, which will be used by a vast array of sports teams.

This will be bolstered by weddings, fun days and corporate meetings.

Moreover, the facility will allow the growth of rugby on the island to flourish.

However, its main purpose will be for the continued development of rugby on the island, which supports a senior team; under-18, 16 and 14 youth teams; 30 mini rugby players; and at least one tag rugby team in every primary school on the island in partnership with Active Schools. This makes a total of approximately 335 players.

The clubhouse's re-opening celebrations took place after the senior team's 20 - 6 defeat to Carrick on Saturday. The

club hosted more than 90 locals, players and sponsors as well as Scottish Rugby Union's Chief Executive Mark Dodson, President Ian McLauchlan, council and board representative Ed Crozier and Director of Communications and Public Affairs Dominic McKay.

Also in attendance was former international and founding

member of Mull RFC, John Rutherford.

Mr McLauchlan said: 'I'm completely taken with the enthusiasm and energy that Mull Rugby Club have had in building this facility and developing rugby on the island.'

'They have created a fantastic clubhouse here at Garmony but haven't settled at that; they

are now looking to phase two whereby they want to build an indoor training centre.'

Mull Rugby's secretary and treasurer, Duncan Swinbanks, added: 'Running a rugby team out on the islands is a difficult task, but having a central hub where we can work out of is great and allows the business to run well. It just leaves the travel-

ling to worry about.'

The club receives support from Rural Opportunities, TSL Construction, Glengorm Estate (main shirt sponsor), Salen Hotel, Craignure Inn and Mull Mussels; City Architects in Edinburgh helped them with the planning for the new build.

It took 30 minutes for Taynuilt

to make their first chance on goal but they were soon level in bizarre circumstances. The ball was put out left to Connor McIntyre, who pinged a seemingly tame 20-yard shot, which the keeper parried into his own net.

The second half started in similar fashion to the first, with Westcliff getting an early goal. This was to be their only real chance. The lead wasn't to last long as Kris Gillies equalised from a tight angle on 55 minutes.

Taynuilt began dominating the midfield with wave after wave of attack, as the home side went

down to 10 men after a sending off.

**Frustrating**

The last 10 minutes was to prove frustrating for Taynuilt as they couldn't find a way to goal, despite monopolising possession.

Taynuilt: Ben Pollock, Davie McPhee, Ally Gunn, Martin Collins, Craig Campbell, Stefan Campbell, Connor McIntyre, Kris Gillies, Josh Rippon. Subs all used: Craig MacDougall, Mark Ferguson, Chris McGrath and Martin Bonner.

Seb Coe is chairman of the London Organising Committee of the Olympics and Paralympics.

He said: 'The Inspire Programme is ensuring the legacy of the 2012 Games starts now as projects like Coaching Champions are enabling people in Argyll and Bute to make positive life changes.'

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