

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Christmas

Your essential guide to Christmas shopping

Bumper 12 page pull out

Inside:
Something Special
Christmas far and wide
Oban Festivities

Cosy for Christmas
Unique online gifts
Christmas on the Islands
Christmas A-Z

Redundancies sought at quarry

OPERATOR of Glensanda Quarry, Aggregate Industries UK, has asked for nine voluntary redundancies as it looks to make staff cuts. The job cuts would include at least one post from lab technicians, transport workshop, plant fitters, coxswains and secondary operators. Aggregate Industries agreed the site restructuring with the GMB Union and insists that no further redundancies would be made, if the quota was met. The company, which directly employs 128 staff at the Morvern site, denied in late 2012 that redundancies were being considered when production ceased for four weeks.

Bid to find new shop tenant

AN APPLICATION to turn two vacant retail premises in Oban into a food and drink unit has been lodged with Argyll and Bute Council in a bid to find a new tenant.

Blockbuster Video has been empty since the spring while Winehouse closed its doors last year, leaving a void at the top end of George Street.

The owner of the shops, investment firm Methcroft Ltd, believes getting permission to use the premises jointly as a restaurant or café could stimulate new interest, with there being no demand for retail.

New tower lights go on show

NEW LIGHTING around McCaig's Tower will be displayed for the first time tomorrow (Friday) during the launch of the Oban Winter Festival.

People will be able to see the dramatic effects for the first time at around 5pm. The lights will go out overnight, before a second switch-on takes place this Saturday when the town's traditional Christmas illuminations are officially lit up. The new McCaig's Tower scheme has been delivered and funded through Argyll and Bute Council's CHORD programme. It sees the existing lighting at the tower enhanced, with its facade changing colour every hour and a colour wash illuminating its top level windows. The new lighting scheme can change its colours for different events.



Emma serves up £723 for Pudsey

Connell's most enterprising youngster, Emma Hill, above, raised £723.41 for Children in Need on Saturday, by hosting a Pudsey-themed soup lunch. As well as organising food for villagers, the 11-year-old Park Primary School pupil arranged a stall selling various goods to raise money for the charity, as well as a host of competitions - including guess the weight of the Pudsey cake. For a full round-up of this year's Children in Need fundraisers, see page eight. 05_147cinsale2

No plans to close any Argyll rural schools

THERE are no plans to close any rural schools in Argyll and Bute, according to councillor Aileen Morton, the authority's education spokeswoman.

Speaking after the findings of a Scottish Government consultation on rural education were published, councillor Morton said closures 'were genuinely

not on the agenda at all'. The Helensburgh-based councillor also confirmed Argyll and Bute Council has no plans for any more cost cutting in the education department, beyond that already agreed. She said: 'This administration has no plans to close schools. We need to get an education management team

structure in place that works but we have nothing else planned.'

Changes to Scottish law as a result of the government consultation will include clarifying the presumption against closure of rural schools and imposing a five-year moratorium on shutting down a school that has already survived a closure process.

Fears for Argyll man held in India

THE DISTRAUGHT family of an Argyll seaman detained in an Indian prison for the past month have taken hope from a huge response to a petition calling for him to be freed.

Billy Irving, aged 33, who grew up in Appin and Campbeltown and now lives in Connel, is one of six British ex-soldiers among the 35 crewmen jailed after Indian authorities claimed their boat was carrying weapons illegally.

Their boat, the US-owned MV Seaman Guard Ohio, was detained at Tuticorin Port in southern Tamil Nadu state on October 18.

Billy's girlfriend of four years, Yvonne MacHugh, who writes to him every day not knowing if he receives her letters, has launched a petition on change.org calling on the UK Government's foreign secretary William Hague to help free the men.

As *The Oban Times* went to



Billy Irving, who could remain in an Indian prison for up to a year without charge or trial.

press, the petition had gained more than 5,000 signatures.

Billy, the son of former Appin police officer, Jim, plays for Taynuilt Shinty Club and his

teammates have joined friends in helping to spread word of the petition.

Yvonne admitted the support from friends and family had helped greatly but described the situation as a 'nightmare'.

She said: 'It's so stressful not knowing if he's okay. It's constant. I think about him all the time.'

'I can't sleep and I had Billy's dad on the phone at 4am earlier this week; I was in tears and he was distraught as well.'

There have been three unsuccessful bail hearings and, under Indian law, the crewmen can be held without charge and without going to trial for a year.

After a period of silence, Billy's family has decided to speak out as they feel the British Government is not doing enough to free him or five other Britons imprisoned.

The ship, owned by security

firm Advanfort, was carrying out anti-piracy operations in the Indian Ocean on the main trading route between Europe and Asia. The company has denied allegations by the Indian Government that the ship had illegally procured diesel and was in possession of arms and ammunition without required documentation.

Yvonne, who had expected to have Billy home for her birthday last week, said: 'We are fighting this battle ourselves and getting no information on what's happening.'

'These guys have been wrongly imprisoned and our government needs to do something to get them home.'

A spokesperson from the Foreign Commonwealth Office said it could not comment on ongoing investigations but added it was providing consular and was in touch with the local authorities.

Charities and volunteers left in limbo over referendum question

THIRD sector bodies in Argyll say they're becoming increasingly concerned by a lack of clarity over claims independence could leave charities facing a £1.5billion funding shortfall.

Figures compiled by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) show that, between 2009-12, the sector's income was around £4.4billion.

But unanswered questions over what would happen to funding that comes from organisations based in England are leaving charities fearing up to one third of potential funding streams could be cut off.

Among the biggest concerns is the future of Big Lottery, one of the largest funders of charitable and voluntary bodies across Scotland. Now Argyll charitable organisations have pleaded for

both sides of the independence debate to detail their plans. Argyll Voluntary Action (AVA) chief executive Glenn Heritage said: 'A lot of trusts are England-based and have a UK-wide remit. Would that include an independent Scotland?'

'People are still having to surmise quite a lot - there's too many unknowns.'

Philip White, a director of the North Argyll Carers' Centre, is similarly concerned.

'Like most charitable organisations, you're flying by the seat of your pants most of the time, so things like this are a real concern. The first thing people do when they're uncertain is tighten the purse strings,' he said.

'We need detail and there has been none. All we seem to be getting is soundbites from politicians and no detail.' The

concerns come after a recent SCVO survey revealed nearly 40 per cent of third sector organisations are disengaged with the independence debate, with 30 per cent finding it alienating.

SCVO's director of public affairs, John Downie, said: 'Instead of more rhetoric about how things will be better, we need hard facts from Better Together and Yes Scotland.'

Speaking after a meeting with charities in Oban last week, David Mundell MP, the Conservative undersecretary for state, said: 'There are a lot of issues about the independence debate the charities feel haven't been satisfactorily answered. It is for those who are proposing change to set out how that will work.'

The SNP's cabinet secretary for finance, John Swinney, said

the voluntary sector would have a 'thriving' future in Scotland, with a further £49million invested through 2013/14 and 2014/15.

He added: 'We are not proposing any changes to the National Lottery, where the current franchise runs for a number of years and will not change. Scotland will continue to receive its fair share.'

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

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Couple's amazing coffee cash total

FIVE and a half years of holding weekly coffee mornings has paid off for one Kilmelford couple - after they donated almost £42,000 to charity.

Jean and John Bowman's dedicated fundraising effort began after their daughter, Alyson, died from stomach cancer in 2007 aged just 33.

The couple set up the Oban Cherish Fund in Alyson's memory, hoping to pay back the North Argyll Carers Centre (NACC) for the help it provided the family with toward the end of her life.

The money will now be used to provide transport for the cared for and their carers,

getting people wherever they need to be, including hospital appointments, therapy sessions or even just a day out.

Jean said: 'It is putting the money to the best use it possibly can be. It is like a safety net. We took about five and a half years to raise the money but we're intending to continue. We're currently looking for musicians to donate tracks as we're hoping to produce a CD.'

Jean and John will also be auctioning off a special item of Downton Abbey memorabilia in the New Year.

Jean added: 'All the major cast members have signed a book wishing the Cherish

Fund all the best. We're hoping it will raise pretty pennies.'

The couple, along with fund supporter Ian Kerr, handed over a cheque for £41,735.45 to Morag MacLean, the manager at NACC.

Morag said: 'It is a real legacy and we know we can put the money to good use. The cost of transport around the area can be prohibitive for people. This fund can help with that and support people.'

Anyone who wants more information can contact Jim Bowers, who will be administering the fund, or Morag MacLean at North Argyll Carers Centre on 01631 564422.



Ian Kerr and John and Jean Bowman hand over £41,735.45 to Jim Bowers, Morag MacLean and Peter Kemp from the North Argyll Carers Centre. 16_147cherish01

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Gleaner's - local to you



Kilted Stuart MacLennan, left, and Daniel Gillespie collect their awards from TV presenter Lorraine Kelly and the award sponsor.



Duisdale success: From left are Annie Gracie, award sponsor Alan Harrop, Ken Gunn and TV presenter Lorraine Kelly.



Sean and Karen O'Byrne of Barcaldine's Ardtorna with their Thistle Award for Scotland's best guest house.

West coast trio triumph at VisitScotland Thistle event

WEST has once again proved best after triumphing in three categories in this year's Scotland-wide VisitScotland Thistle Awards.

Barcaldine's Ardtorna was named best guest house/bed and breakfast in Scotland becoming, it is thought, the first establishment to clinch the top three honours in the country in the same year after previous

wins in the Scottish Hotel Awards and AA.

Treec Music Festival (TMF) is also enjoying a triumphant year, with the Thistle Awards naming it the country's best cultural event. Having qualified for the final by winning the best cultural event in the Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards in October, it had previously been named best small festival by

the Scottish Event Awards in September.

Skye's Duisdale House is popping the champagne corks too. The Thistle Award as best small hotel comes just two weeks after it was named the UK's best small hotel at the International Hotel Awards.

After collecting their trophy, Ardtorna's owners Karen and Sean O'Byrne couldn't hide

their delight. Karen said: 'We are both honoured and delighted to be the recipients of such a host of prestigious and coveted awards.'

'It gives us a great deal of pleasure to attract guests into this beautiful region of Scotland and it's a great privilege to welcome guests into our home and to have them experience West Highland hospitality.'

TMF director Daniel Gillespie was similarly overjoyed. 'We are just stunned to collect this award,' he said. 'Winning the regional award was a big enough shock to us, so to win the national award is just something we would have never dreamed of. We have a very special team that commit so much of their time and energy to the festival. This award is testament to all

their hard work over the past four years.'

Duisdale Hotel co-owners Anne Gracie and Ken Gunn are still smiling.

Anne said: 'This has capped a fabulous year for us. It is a tribute to the skills, hard work and dedication of our management and staff as well as our total concentration on consistent top quality and customer service.'



Catriona Henderson and Annie MacLean: SQA award winners.

Castlebay pair rewarded for commitment to learning

TWO TEACHERS from Castlebay School in Barra have been commended for their commitment to learning at the SQA Star Awards ceremony 2013.

Head teacher Annie MacLean won the SQA Champion Award and Geography exam marker Catriona Henderson took the Appointee of the Year accolade.

The awards recognise individuals, schools, colleges, training organisations and employers who deliver SQA

Barra left in dark over shop move

A COMMUNITY-run shop on Barra is facing a period of homelessness after Comhairle nan Eilean Siar vowed to build it a new home.

Buth Bharraigh has been served notice to quit its current home in Castlebay after the building was leased to a third party.

While the local produce shop had been expecting to move into the vacant former Co-op building, the council has had a late change of heart and says it is chasing funding for a new-build.

While that would be welcome, Buth Bharraigh's Sarah MacLean said the move does

Rare fish sighting near Mull put down to climate change

A RARE sighting near the Isle of Mull of a fish usually found in Mediterranean waters is being put down to climate change.

A trigger fish was recorded near the island during autumn by people using a new mobile phone app designed to fight against invasive species in Scottish waters.

Trigger fish are common in the Mediterranean, but have been spotted more and more in the south and southwest of England and sporadically in Scotland.

Their movement is a climate change indicator and scientists would like to better understand its distribution in UK waters.

Two new apps, launched by Scottish Natural Heritage, allows people to report freshwater and marine invasives.

Invasive non-native species such as killer shrimp and zebra mussels are the second most serious threat to global biodiversity after habitat loss, with non-native species costing the Scottish economy around £246 million each year.



A trigger fish like that found off Mull.

Mallaig youngster wins top card prize

A MALLAIG youngster's Christmas card design will be on sale across the UK next year after she was chosen as one of four winners of a nationwide competition.

Kiera Stephen's nautical-themed creation was selected by judges in the RNLI's Design a Christmas Card contest as one of the best from hundreds of entries.

Mallaig Primary School teacher Dawn MacPhie said: 'It's wonderful to have a winner in our area in which the lifeboat is so richly supported.'

'All the P4-P7s took part and thoroughly enjoyed designing the cards.'

The P6 youngster will also get a goody bag and a two-night stay at the RNLI college in Poole as part of her prize.



Kiera with her prize-winning Christmas card.

Mull Lines

THE OFFICIAL launch of the Green Energy Mull (GEM) share offer took place on Tuesday evening in Craignure Village Hall.

During the event, officials from GEM, which has been set up to build and operate the Garmony hydro scheme, explained how the share offer works, what they are trying to achieve and what the profits from the scheme will be used for.

Mull and Iona community councils have been invited to jointly set up the 'waterfall fund' which will oversee distribution of the surpluses from the hydro project.

More than £1 million is needed to fund the scheme, with shares in GEM available at £50 each. All net profits from the hydro scheme must be donated to the community.

More than £1,100,000 – around 22,000 shares – needs to be raised for the scheme to go ahead.

DEVELOPMENTS on the situation with medical services on the Ross of Mull are expected in the next few days.

Both doctors at Bunesan Surgery handed in their resignations recently, citing 'discomforting pressure' from the community.

But Mull councillor Mary-Jean Devon told last week's meeting of Mull Community Council negotiations were ongoing and there would be a 'positive outcome for the community'.

ELECTION of office bearers on Mull Community Council (MCC) took place last week – with no changes to be seen.

Steve Willis retains the role of chairman with Calum MacLachlainn as his deputy. Susan Campbell remains as secretary and Jane Stevens as treasurer.

Planning issues on the island will be covered by Michael Shilson for the north and Fiona Brown in the south.

However, the shape of MCC could change in the future as the body must take action to engage younger people.

Tricia O'Neill, Argyll and Bute Council's central governance manager, said MCC will need to report to the council on what actions they have taken to encourage young people to join.

She added: 'It is important community councils represent the breadth of the community.'

Ms O'Neill also encouraged the body to be transparent, asking community councillors to declare any interests at the start of meetings.

She also addressed the issue of complaints, adding: 'Any complaints received by the community council should be tabled and discussed at the next community council meeting.'

MULL Community Council (MCC) is to ask for maternity services to return to the island.

The move follows the case of a young mum who had to leave hospital in Oban in the middle of the night soon after giving birth.

At the moment pregnant women have to leave Mull a fortnight before their due date, staying in a bed and breakfast in Oban, or travelling to Glasgow to give birth.

MCC is writing to health authorities in the hope maternity services will return to the island – bringing Mull into line with several islands elsewhere.

A COMMUNITY survey about waste is currently circulating on the Isle of Mull – in the hope of increasing recycling on the island.

Terry Hegerty gave a Zero Waste presentation to Mull Community Council last week, revealing the current recycling rate on Mull is 30 per cent. It is hoped to increase this figure to 70 per cent.

The form, which is available at community events as well as Island Castaways in Craignure and Bunesan, asks how keen people are on recycling, what they recycle and what facilities they have nearby.

It is hoped the results of the survey, which must be returned by December 20, will help Mull become one of Scotland's first official Zero Waste Communities.



Provost of Inverness Alex Graham presents Duncan Cameron with his award along with guest on the night, STV presenter Nicola McAlley.

STRONTIAN roadman has been commended for services to his local community at The Highland Council's annual Quality Awards at Inverness Town House.

Duncan Cameron was presented with a community council commendation by Inverness Provost Alex Graham after being nominated by Sunart Community Council (SCC).

SCC chairperson Claudia Nicholson said: 'Duncan always goes the extra mile to keep things going, even in the most adverse of weather conditions. He is also a great person to have in the community – most of his time is spent doing things for other folk.'

winter weather ready

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Which roads do we treat?

For our winter maintenance programme, including a full list of priority roads and pavements please visit our website: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/winter-weather-ready

Almost the entire road network in Argyll and Bute is looked after by the council. BEAR Scotland looks after the trunk roads in the area on behalf of Transport Scotland, the national transport body. BEAR Scotland is responsible for the A82, A85, A828, and the A83 as far south as Kennacraig.

Where can you report a road problem?

You can report your problem online anytime by visiting our website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/road-faults

By telephone during office hours: (Monday - Friday 09:00 - 17:00) Argyll and Bute Council: Customer Service Centre Tel. 01546 605514

If you have a problem with the A82, A85, A828 and the A83 (as far South as Kennacraig) contact BEAR Scotland Traffic Customer Care Line on 0800 028 1414

Look out for a copy of Argyll and Bute Council's winter weather ready leaflet or find information online at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/winter-weather-ready

Tips for winter driving

Ice

Slow down, steer gently and use the highest gear you can. If you have to brake don't do it sharply. Look out for other skid hazards like frost and wet leaves. Always be aware that there could be 'black ice'. This is a thin coating of ice on the road and while not truly black it is transparent, so you will be able to see the road through it.

Snow

If your tyres won't grip, there may be a salt heap or grit bin nearby. Spread salt or grit in front of your driving wheels and set off in the highest gear you can. If you are caught in heavy snow, wrap up warm and stay inside your vehicle is possible.

Fog

Use dipped headlights, keep your windscreen clear and drive so you can stop in the distance you can see. Use rear fog lights if visibility is less than 100 metres.

Rain

Use dipped headlights, keep your speed down and keep well back from the vehicle in front. If you come to a flood, slow right down but keep your revs high.

Hail

Slow down and use dipped headlights. Beware of slush on the road after a hail storm

Knitters urged to pick up needles for charity rowers

A DARNED good project to knit welly socks in aid of a 100-mile charity row from St Kilda to Skye next summer will be launched in Portree next Saturday.

The Great Welly Sock Challenge will be introduced by lead artist artist Deirdre Nelson at the Isle of Skye Baking Company on Dunvegan Road. Donnie Nicolson from Row St Kilda to Skye and representatives from Skye and Lochalsh Young Carers and RNLI Portree, the recipient charities involved, will attend.

The gathering will allow volunteer knitters to meet Ms Nelson, find out more about the Row St Kilda project, the charities involved and, if needed, get help with the art of knitting from a pattern. Completed socks will be for sale in various outlets around Skye and Portree.

To help needles start clicking, a basic pattern has been specially created and is available on ATLAS Arts' website www.atlasarts.org.uk and local outlets, including the Isle of Skye Baking Company and Over the Rainbow.

Row St Kilda will see eight Skyemen take the oars in turn in an 18-foot larch skiff to make the journey back from St Kilda to Portree - weather permitting.

The challenge is part of a Spincycle-Skye ATLAS Arts project to involve the community in its work.

Booking for the event is advised and anyone unable to attend but still wanting to knit socks should contact admin@atlasarts.org.uk or 01478 617017.

Garden waste collection reminder

HIGHLAND householders are being reminded that brown bin garden waste collections will stop over December, January and February.

The final 2013 uplift will be Friday November 29. Collections will start again on Monday March 3 2014.

In the meantime, people can use garden waste skip recycling centres or make compost at home for the garden.

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Fish farm recommended for approval

A PROPOSAL to build a 10-cage fish farm on Loch Etive has been recommended for approval by planners - subject to a local hearing.

Councillors are this week expected to agree to hold a discretionary meeting of the planning committee in the Lorn area to decide on the fate of Dawnfresh's application, which has split the communities either side of the loch.

While Ardchattan Community Council unanimously voted to oppose the development during a well-attended public meeting, its Taynuilt equivalent decided to back the farm - but behind closed doors after a public meeting revealed mixed opinions.

While Dawnfresh say the fish farm is necessary to preserve the future of fish farming on the loch and will secure local jobs, opponents say it will cause significant pollution, will harm the area's visual amenity and could endanger local species of fish due to an increase in lice and harm indigenous crustaceans through the use of chemical lice treatments.

Crash driver's fuel spill claim

A DRIVER crashed through the island bollard on Soroba Road outside Oban Co-op after claiming to have skidded on oil or diesel.

The female was one of two people to report the spill to police last Saturday morning.

Concern voiced over road closures

THE MAIN arterial routes into Argyll close, on average, once every six days, the minister for transport Keith Brown has revealed.

Answering a parliamentary question from Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor, Mr Brown said that the three main trunk roads serving Argyll and Bute have been closed a combined 186 times in the previous three years.

The A83 was closed 43 times between 2010 and 2012 - meaning the road was closed on average once every three weeks.

The A82, which runs from Glasgow to Fort William, was closed 97 times for the same period - an average road closure every 11 days, while the A85, which runs between Perth, Criarlach and Oban, closed 46 times.

Mr McGrigor, who raised the parliamentary question, said: 'Many constituents have expressed concern to me that the occurrence and duration of these closures, especially on the A82, has increased significantly in recent years and they are questioning why the roads cannot be reopened more quickly as they appear to have been in the past.'

Fraud complaint reported

FOLLOWING a complaint regarding financial irregularities at a shop in Oban's George Street a 39 year old has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

Police in Oban confirmed they had received a report from the store's internal fraud investigators on November 12.

New school could leave sports teams stumped for pitch

All-weather surface could be out of action for two years

SPORTS teams in Oban could be faced with two years without access to all-weather pitches due to the construction of the new Oban High School.

The preferred site for the new school is an area of the current site along with land behind the Tweed Mill, Dalintart and Glencruitten.

As part of the plans two new all-weather pitches would be constructed but the current one would be removed.

Council officials attending the launch of the public consultation in Oban High School last Tuesday refused to guarantee any of the new pitches would be available before access to the current one is restricted.

Oban Saints FC secretary David Buchanan asked whether it would be possible to have the new pitches ready



Loving Oban: Launching the new voucher scheme at Oban's Royal Hotel are, BID4Oban administrator Shona Neil, events manager Mike Rowell and the Royal Hotel's Peter MacDougall. 15_t47giftv1

Stock up on shop vouchers and boost Oban

A NEW voucher scheme from BID4Oban could be set to deliver a boost to the town centre - as well as making an ideal Christmas present for festive shoppers.

The Love Oban scheme has been described as a win-win scheme for businesses, who can redeem vouchers at no cost to themselves as BID4Oban is absorbing the administration and printing fees. With denominations of £5, £10 and £20 available, the vouchers are sold and accepted by 54 traders in the town currently, from pubs and

restaurants to retailers, service firms and tourist attractions.

Launching as part of Oban Winter Festival, the vouchers will be available at the Royal Hotel from November 23.

BID4Oban's Mike Rowell said the vouchers are a great way to support local business.

He added: 'From Alba Art to The Wool and Needlecraft Centre, Love Oban vouchers can be exchanged for an enormous variety of products and services, for beauty treatments, meals out or a special piece of jewellery. 'The scheme encompasses

large and small businesses, so whoever receives Love Oban vouchers will be able to choose the gift that suits them. It also encourages local people to support local businesses and keep the town prospering.'

BID4Oban is keen to hear feedback about the scheme and will review how successful it is as time goes on, while local traders not already signed up are being urged to do so.

Mike said: 'Love Oban vouchers are not just for Christmas, they can also be given for birthdays, anniversaries and

weddings. If you want to reward employees or regular customers, the vouchers are the ideal gift.'

BID4Oban chairman John Forteith added: 'Oban has a wealth of great shops and by giving Love Oban vouchers this Christmas, people are opening up a wide range of products and services for their loved ones to choose. Best of all, the money stays in the local economy, encouraging businesses to thrive. The scheme is open to all live payers and associate members and I'd encourage everyone to get involved.'

Young father jailed on drugs charges

A YOUNG father has been sentenced to two years in prison after pleading guilty at Oban Sheriff Court to two charges relating to class A drugs.

Ross MacLellan, aged 23, who is serving time in Greenock prison, admitted last Tuesday to possessing ecstasy with intent to supply and to being concerned in the supply of diamorphine (heroin) on September 15 this year.

In the early hours of that morning police saw MacLellan

on CCTV in Oban's George Street seemingly counting out large sums of money to another man and nearly an hour later the attention of officers in an unmarked car was drawn towards MacLellan speaking to another man in the doorway of a licensed premises.

Search Based on what they had seen, and police intelligence, officers detained MacLellan for a search at Oban Police Station where they found 81 ecstasy tablets between

his buttocks and, following a search of his home address, they found a bag of heroin, weighing 9.94 grams, scales and other drugs paraphernalia.

He was also in possession of £85 in cash.

Drugs experts from Police Scotland's Statement of Opinion (STOP) Unit said the quantities found were indicative of forward supply.

Defence agent David Watt said: 'He just wanted to get the sentence from the court,

do his time in prison and get on with his life. He has a two-year-old daughter and realises he is missing out on the most important period of her life.'

In sentencing, Sheriff Douglas Small told MacLellan: 'I have said on numerous occasions that people dealing in drugs can expect to be dealt with severely in this court.'

MacLellan's sentence was backdated to September 17, when he was taken into custody for the matter.

Court sentences fraudster to 200 hours' unpaid work

AN EMPLOYEE in the Oban office of Bell Ingram has been placed on a community payback order after embezzling £6,000 from the company.

Steven Hornby, 39, of 12c High Street, Oban, previously admitted the offence, which took place between January 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013, and appeared in Oban Sheriff Court last week for sentencing.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court the fraud happened after Hornby had taken over the management of one of the accounts in Bell Ingram, a UK-wide firm of land and estate agents.

He said: 'It was noticed money had gone missing and the accused left a voicemail with one of his colleagues stating he could explain some of the discrepancy.'

'He was invited to a disciplinary meeting and made admissions to taking some of the money.'

Defence agent Danielle Varela said Hornby had been unable to repay the cash as he had separated from his wife and was paying to upkeep the marital home as well

as renting a property for himself. He is currently unemployed.

She added: 'He deeply regrets his actions, he knows he impacted on other people and he is very sorry about that.'

Sheriff Douglas Small ordered Hornby to carry out 240 hours of unpaid work over the next year.

He said: 'This is a serious offence. You were in a position of trust when you embezzled this money.'

Bell Ingram dismissed Hornby as soon as the financial irregularities were uncovered in June, during a routine audit.

Paul Nicoll, a director in the firm's Oban office, said: 'This incident was the result of the actions and activities of a lone individual.'

'No system is foolproof when a determined individual sets out to cause harm.'

'Thankfully our rigorous internal procedures meant we uncovered the problem quickly and were able to deal with it firmly and conclusively.'

Typhoon trauma ends with ecstatic tears of joy

Oban woman waits five days to hear mother had survived

THE DAUGHTER of an Oban woman caught in the eye of the storm in the Philippines has described how she was 'numb for days' before hearing her mum had survived.

Tess Campbell had flown out to Lawaan, in Eastern Samar, in September planning to stay for a year but she had only been there a matter of weeks before Typhoon Haiyan, known in the Philippines as Typhoon Yolanda, hit.

Her daughter Margaret Campbell-Black was in Oban when she saw the storm approaching Lawaan on the news. Concerned, she phoned her mum but Tess told her everything was calm, in fact they had just been at the beach.

Three hours later Yolanda struck.

The storm killed thousands of people and left millions more without food, water or electricity.

Margaret said: 'Once I heard it had hit I couldn't get in touch with her.'

'I hadn't spoken to her in five days. I didn't know if she was dead or alive.'

Tess, aged 45, survived the typhoon with only her home damaged, it needs a new roof. Around 95 per cent of homes in the region are completely destroyed.

Margaret added: 'Once it



Just after arriving in Manila, Tess Campbell enjoys her first drink of water. t47tess1no

neighbour's home. Tess has now managed to get to the safety of Manila, but family and friends are still in Lawaan without food, water, electricity or phone signal.

Margaret said Tess had gone for five days without eating in the aftermath of the storm. But she is one of the lucky ones. Some families still haven't heard from their loved ones.

Tess grew up in Lawaan but came to Oban around 14 years ago, working in McConechy's during that time.

Margaret, aged 26, and family friend Ann Rowan are now trying to raise money to support the relief effort in Eastern Samar. Donations can be made in McConechy's and Dolce Vita.

Margaret said the remoteness of Lawaan means it is not getting as much aid as areas featured on international media.

She added: 'We need money to feed people as they have no food, water or medicines. The rest will go to rebuilding homes even if it just contributes towards materials. The community needs rebuilt.'

After the trauma of not knowing whether Tess had got through the storm Margaret said she was 'over the moon' to hear her mother's voice for the first time. 'I was ecstatic when I heard from her,' she said. 'I was crying with joy.'

The Scottish SEA LIFE Sanctuary in conjunction with 'Oban's Winter Festival' proudly presents

Winter Wonderland Fun Day

only £5 entry including a mince pie

The Scottish SEA LIFE Sanctuary, Barcaldine PA37 1SE
 Sunday November 24th 2013 10am - 4pm

- Magician
- Come and Meet **Santa and Mrs Claus** in their Woodland Grotto
- Magician's Magical Workshops
- Chainsaw Carving Demonstrations and Sale
- Christmas Craft Market
- Face Painting
- Badge Making and Clay Model Making and much, much more ...

In aid of Merlin's Magic Wand

SCOTTISH SEA LIFE SANCTUARY

Man brandished knife at teenager

A MAN has admitted brandishing a knife and threatening to stab a teenager after he refused to hand over his bike.

Donald Morrison, aged 21, of 1F Colonsay Terrace, Oban, pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday to robbing the 15-year-old boy on November 9 at Aldi car park in Oban.

Morrison had approached the victim and a friend and after initially being refused the bike, brought out a seven-inch, red-handled kitchen knife from his trouser waistband, telling the

victim: 'I don't want to have to stab you. Give me the bike.'

Procurator fiscal Mhairi Crilly told the court: 'The witnesses were terrified at this and the complainer surrendered the bike.'

Bike

'The accused said his name was Donald, stated he was going to commit suicide that night and that he would leave the bike outside Tesco.'

Aware Morrison had left the house and had taken the knife, his parents

contacted friends and the police as they tried to find him. Around half an hour after the robbery police traced Morrison to Tesco and searched him but no weapon was found.

Defence solicitor Edward Thornton told the court his client's mental health had been assessed and that he was no longer a threat to himself, or others.

His motion for bail, with a special condition of a curfew, was unopposed. Sentence was deferred until December 10 for background reports.

Gaelic centre's festival events

A SERIES of events will be held at Oban's Gaelic centre, Furan, during the town's winter festival.

Furan, which is situated at the Corran Halls, will host Blasad Gaidhlig - A Taste of Scottish Gaelic Workshop on the Monday of the festival, followed by Gaelic singing workshops the following night and on Wednesday.

On Thursday people are invited to Farpuis-Cheist Taigh-seinne, a Gaelic pub quiz, which is open to anyone, regardless of whether they speak Gaelic.

School meal meat denial

HIGHLAND Council has quashed rumours it is to stop serving red meat in its school meals.

Director of Education, Culture and Sport Service Hugh Fraser said the current meals are planned in accordance with 'national guidance on nutritional content, portion control and sourced from the best quality suppliers'. He said: 'Contrary to recent reports in the media we are not reducing the amount of red meat served up in our school meals at this time. Any changes to school menus would be made in compliance with national guidelines.'

St Andrew's ticket giveaway

VISITORS to Iona Abbey and Dunstaffnage Castle will enjoy free access over Saint Andrew's weekend.

Thousands of tickets for Historic Scotland sites all over Scotland will be given away free to people who pre-register online. A special website, www.ticketgiveaway.co.uk, is now live, offering people the chance to apply for tickets. It will remain open until 5pm on Friday November 29.

Bike stolen from Fort garden

A SILVER Onza mountain bike was stolen from a Fort William garden sometime between Wednesday November 13 and the next day.

The cycle, which has black writing on the frame and green handle grips, was taken from a garden on Nairn Crescent.

Anyone with any knowledge of this incident is asked to contact local police on 101, the confidential line on 01397 702000 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Cash boost for Oban groups

FIVE Oban charities have been handed £100 each by the town's branch of the Yorkshire Building Society.

Home-Start Lorn, Oban and Lorn RDA, Macmillan Cancer Support, Argyll Animal Aid and the local pilgrimage trust HCPT all benefited from the cash after being nominated by members of the public.

Glenfinnan homes plan

A GLENFINNAN couple have applied to Highland Council to build three houses in the village. Mr and Mrs J Gillies, of Island View, are seeking permission for homes on three sites on land near Torr an Eas.



Spotlight's Raymond takes final curtain

The show's over: Raymond Shaw, who has been with Spotlight Musical Theatre Group - formerly Oban Operatic Society - for the past 40 years, said his final farewell to the group last Saturday, as he is moving to Glasgow. Raymond has been in many shows over this time, has also been chairman of the group and has taken an active role behind the scenes and front of house. He was presented with a picture of Oban by current chairwoman Lesley Duncan on behalf of the group and a night of reminiscence and some singing from those present filled the evening.

Former transport boss calls for ferry change

RADICAL reforms of the ferry service CalMac and CMAL provides are both realistic and the best way forward to protect the service to the islands.

That's the view of author Roy Pedersen, the former head of transport at Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), who visits Oban next week to launch his new book, *Who Pays the Ferryman*.

In it, Roy casts an eye over the service delivered to the west coast, asking if models used elsewhere could be applied to Scottish Government-owned CalMac to not only save the taxpayer money, but provide a 'huge' improvement.

Roy, who is the original architect of the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET), said: 'Currently, the system is very expensive in terms of public funds. It doesn't compare with best practise demonstrated elsewhere across



Roy Pedersen, whose book *Who Pays the Ferryman* casts a critical eye over the west coast's ferry services and proposes ways the system can be modernised, saving the taxpayer money.

the world. I've looked towards places such as Australia, Norway, British Columbia and

New Zealand - but you could look at almost anywhere else.

'Basically it comes down to two key points. First, if you go for the shortest feasible crossing, which isn't difficult, that will automatically reduce costs and increase potential frequency.'

'Another point is the design of the ships themselves. In the modern world there are much more efficient vessels which are cheaper to build and operate - all while having less CO2 emissions.'

'If you combine these two things, you get an improved service immediately.'

If CMAL was to change the type of ferries it commissions for CalMac to operate, not only would there be an efficiency saving in terms of fuel, but staffing requirements would drop, he said.

A prime example of that, he said, was the recent launch of

the Finlaggan. At £24.5million, it carries 85 cars and 550 passengers. He argues CMAL could have bought three catamarans for that price, with a total capacity of 240 cars and 1,050.

The design of the linkspans could be changed too, says Mr Pederson, with a pin-lock system reducing the staffing requirement when docking.

Furthermore, two hybrid vessels bought for more than £20million fared poorly when compared to diesel vessels which cost more than half the price.

While he accepts his proposals won't be universally popular, particularly with CalMac staff, he says change is required to safeguard the service's future.

Roy will give a lecture on his new book at Oban Library on Tuesday November 26 at 7pm, where he will also take questions from the floor.

Volunteers complete annual Glen Nevis clean up



Jean O'Brien, right, Anne Claydon-Wallace and Roddy Mainland help to clean up along the River Nevis on Sunday.

GLEN Nevis near Fort William got its annual end of season clean up on Sunday thanks to Friends of Nevis (FoN) volunteers.

The local charity is determined the beauty spot eventually becomes litter-free and its efforts appear to be working.

FoN co-ordinator Anna Trafford told *The Oban Times*: 'We had a very successful litter-pick and curling ponds tidy-up. We do pull stuff out every year but it is less than when we first started. For the first time there were no bikes in the river.'

Ms Trafford thanked Lidl and Ben Nevis Highland Centre for providing food and refreshments and Highland Council for litter grabs and a skip for the day.

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

Oban Sheriff Court

AN OBAN woman has been fined £360 for theft - including stealing a ring from an elderly man.

Donna Duffy, 39, of 2 MacDougall Court, Oban, previously pled guilty to the theft of the ring as well as stealing an iron from Homebase while on bail.

Duffy appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week for sentencing.

The court heard both items were recovered.

A STAG do reveller who assaulted a bouncer by punching and biting him said he would not have done so had he known he was a door steward.

Steven Macauley, aged 31, of 1 Hillside, Dunbeg, pled guilty to assaulting the door steward at Skipinnish Ceilidh House on August 25 by punching him on the head and biting his tricep.

The court heard the bite pierced the skin and the resulting injury required hospital treatment.

The bouncer had been trying to break up a fight between Macauley and another man when he was assaulted.

Representing himself, Macauley, a barman and former bouncer, said: 'I initially thought it was someone else trying to attack me and I was defending myself.'

If I had known he was a door steward I would not have reacted that way.'

Macauley was fined £300 and ordered to pay the victim £150 in compensation.

A TEENAGER who assaulted an 11-year-old boy in a school playground has been admonished at Oban Sheriff Court.

Daniel MacCuish, aged 17, admitted seizing the boy by the clothing and holding him in a headlock at Dunbeg Primary School on January 26 this year.

A DRINK driver who was less than a third over the legal limit has been banned from getting behind the wheel for one year.

Robert Ball, 43, of Darley Barn, Flash Lane, Matelock, was also fined £275 when he admitted the offence at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

The court heard Ball had made the 'fatal error' of driving early in the morning after a night out.

He had 45mcgs of alcohol in 100mls of breath. The legal limit is 35mcgs.

A MAN accused of drink driving walked free from Oban Sheriff Court last Wednesday after an administrative error meant no Crown witnesses attended court.

John Blair, aged 52, of 15 Camus Road, Dunbeg, had denied driving in Oban's Albany Street car park on July 21 this year with 83 mcgs of alcohol in 100 ml of breath.

The legal limit is 35mcgs. As Mr Blair's trial was about to proceed last Wednesday

Prosecutor Fiscal Eoin McGinty explained an office error meant his witnesses had been countermanded and mistakenly told not to appear.

Sheriff Douglas Small refused a Crown motion to adjourn the case, on the basis that the defence had called upon witnesses to appear, and found Mr Blair not guilty of the offence.

IT WAS a case of double trouble for twin brothers who were both caught in the same police speed trap on the Arrivain straights, travelling at 100 mph on their motorbikes.

Brothers David and Ryan Leckie, both aged 29, pled guilty by letter to the offence and appeared for sentencing on

separate complaints at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday.

Ryan admitted travelling at 103.8mph in the 60mph zone, east of Dalnally, on July 20, while his brother admitted travelling at 100 mph.

The twins, of 14a Union Court, Paisley, were both fined £400 and disqualified from driving a motorcycle for three months.

Sentencing David, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'It seems you have not got the message that driving at speed on a motorbike in this area will not be tolerated.'

PUNCHING a man on the head repeatedly while he was standing in the queue for the Mull boat at Oban Ferry Terminal landed an Oban man in the town's sheriff court last week.

Patrick Crawford, of 9 Polvinister Gardens, Oban, admitted the assault and was placed on a deferred sentence for nine months.

Oban Sheriff Court heard the assault happened following a dispute over child maintenance payments.

Crawford, aged 29, will appear in court for sentencing on August 19 next year.

AN OBAN man who pushed a man onto the ground, sat on top of him and repeatedly punched him on the head is awaiting sentence.

Stewart Beattie, 20, of 25H Glencruitten Drive, Oban, admitted the assault, which left his victim with a fractured cheekbone, when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Sentence was deferred on Beattie until December 10 for the preparation of reports.

AN OBAN man is awaiting trial accused of assaulting a man by punching him on the head, causing severe injury and permanent disfigurement.

Damian McAuley, aged 21, pled not guilty when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Mcauley, of 10d Sinclair Drive, Oban, is due to stand trial before a sheriff and jury on November 26.

A FORMER Oban man narrowly avoided going to prison last week after admitting being in possession of drugs the last time he was taken into custody.

Hugo Martins, 31, of flat 3/1.4 Maxwell Street, Glasgow, pled guilty to possessing cannabis when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Prosecutor Fiscal Eoin McGinty said: 'After being sentenced at Oban Sheriff Court for a previous offence the accused was brought into custody by G4S and searched within the charge bar of Oban Police Office. He was found to have £35 worth of cannabis on his person.'

Fining Martins £300, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'With your record anything to do with drugs puts you at a serious risk of going to prison, bear that in mind.'

A DUNBEG man who was found with a stash of almost 700 counterfeit DVDs is awaiting sentence at Oban Sheriff Court.

Stuart Ashley, 38, of 8 Lochnell Road, Dunbeg, admitted a total of 11 offences including breaching copyright and having DVDs with fake trademarks, which he was going

to sell or rent, when he appeared in court last week.

Included in the haul of 695 discs were titles from Paramount Pictures, 20th Century Fox and Disney. Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence for the preparation of reports until December 10.

AN OBAN man will be doing 200 hours of unpaid work over the next year after driving while unfit through drink or drugs.

Derek Darrah, 36, of 32c McCaig Road, Oban, was previously banned from getting behind the wheel for two years for the same offence.

Sheriff Douglas Small imposed a community payback order on Darrah when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

A MAN accused of assaulting a woman before locking her in a house in Oban against her will is awaiting trial.

Darren MacIntyre, 38, currently a prisoner in HMP Greenock, denies all charges including shouting remarks of an indecent nature on September 24 in 5b Glenshellach Terrace, Oban.

He is expected to face trial before a sheriff and jury in Oban Sheriff Court on November 26.

HITTING a woman on the head with a camera in Tobermory's Main Street landed a Mull woman with an order to appear in Oban Sheriff Court.

Zoe Goodwill, 29, of 22 Struan Crescent, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, pled guilty to the assault by letter last week.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence on Goodwill until December 10 for her personal appearance in court.

A KILMELFORD man pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court last Wednesday to shouting in a threatening or abusive manner.

Stephen MacPherson, aged 44, of 38 The Glebe, admitted shouting at neighbours who came to his door on May 18 this year in relation to a issue between the families' children.

He was fined £300 by Sheriff Douglas Small.

A YOUNG driver has admitted causing a collision on the A85 by attempting a dangerous overtaking manoeuvre.

Samuel Black, aged 19, of Lorne View, Ardconnell Road, Oban, pled guilty last Tuesday to driving dangerously on May 12 this year near Cruachan Visitor Centre.

Black admitted crossing a solid white line to overtake a lorry in the face of oncoming traffic, colliding with the car, causing damage and injuring occupants of the other vehicle.

Solicitor Laura McManus said the student, who passed his test last year, was an inexperienced driver and extremely remorseful for his actions.

Black was fined £400 and disqualified from driving for 12 months.

A MAN who refused to leave a house after shouting and kicking a door of a house that had a mother and baby inside has been fined £300.

Alan MacCuish, aged 20, of 2 Carnie Cottages, Oban, pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday to acting in a threatening or aggressive manner at 58 Lochnell Road, Dunbeg, on May 26 this year.

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Supply Teachers Urgently Needed for Highland Schools...

The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

Recently, there has been some press coverage relating to a national shortage of supply teachers to cover teacher absences in schools. The Highland Council is experiencing a similar shortage, which is causing increasing difficulties for schools and staff in every part of Highland.

Shortages are currently being experienced in both primary and secondary schools and also in Gaelic Medium classes. In order to address current shortages, and to increase the number of supply teachers available, the Highland Council is interested in hearing from teachers across all geographic areas within Highland who may be willing to consider joining the Highland Council supply teacher lists. Primary and secondary teachers, including those able to teach through the medium of Gaelic, are urgently needed.

Teachers who register for supply teaching can be asked to undertake supply teaching at both short and advance notice in their local areas, and periods of supply can vary from one day to several weeks or months depending on the kind of absence to be covered. Even if teachers can only make themselves available for one day a week, or at certain times of the year, the Highland Council would like to hear from them.

This may be of particular interest to teachers who are currently not working, and who have perhaps not worked for some years. If necessary, training will be provided locally for any teachers who feel that they would benefit from this. Applications are welcome from all teachers, including any teachers currently living outside Highland but who may be available to work in Highland schools.

Anyone interested in finding out more should contact the Education, Culture & Sport Service Workforce Planning Team on 01463 702735/702734 or email ECSStaffing.Teaching@highland.gov.uk Applications can be made on www.myjobscotland.gov.uk

Morvern Lines

IN THE days before the Highland Council, a body called the Commissioners of Supply along with JPs were responsible for roads, ferries and bridges in Morvern from 1686 until 1775 when a local Act transferred their responsibilities to the Argyllshire Road Trustees.

The Commissioners were concerned with driving and the movement of black cattle as well as ferry fares, the condition of piers and jetties, damage to roads and crops.

They also gave support when there were threats from outside the county likely to affect trade and provided help to the building of military roads through the provision of labour and materials.

Unfortunately the first minute book of the Commissioners of Supply in Argyll has been lost; the earliest does not begin until 1744. Needless to say what has survived is a tremendous source of local information. Morvern features prominently in the minutes - here are a few examples.

1749: That one half of the inhabitants of Sunart work on the road from Strontian to Inversanda and the other half work in making a road from the head of Loch Sunart to Liddesdale.

1749: The meeting having read and considered a petition of Alex McLachlan, merchant in Liddesdale, craving they would grant their warrant and authority for executing and establishing a ferry at Liddesdale to transport passengers from thence to the opposite shore to Ellanvourich [an island near Ardnastang] and to Strontian.

They recommend Mr Donald Campbell of Airds to consider of the expenditure or usefulness of such and of the reasonable freights to be exacted from passengers and to make a report thereof to the next general meeting.

1756: Bridges to be built on the water of Geraven [the River Aline below Claggan] and Clenaig [possibly Clounlaig]. Expense not to exceed £80 for the former and the latter, £61 provided that the public road be carried from Glen Liddistill thro Clenaig to the place where the bridge is to be built.

1756: The ferry freight from Kerrera to Mull and onto Morvern was levied at eight shillings (Scots) for each black cow carried between 1 January and 1 July and ten shillings (Scots) from 1 July to 1 January.

1759: A complaint was made by Sir Donald Campbell of Airds, the Duke of Argyll's factor on Mull and Morvern, on behalf of himself and Angus Gregorson, tacksman of Auchnacraig who later took over Ardnornish Farm, about a Lieutenant Dalton who with a party of soldiers, press-ganged two young ferry men and took them to Leith.

'The inhabitants are now in such terror if being pressed that it is almost impossible to find men to work on the ferry. A great number of cattle require to be ferried.'

1759: There was a petition presented to the meeting by Mr Alexander McTavish [Church of Scotland minister in Morvern 1752-1775] showing that as there being no parochial school in the Parish of Morvern a yearly sum of eight pounds sterling be granted as a salary for the schoolmaster 'seeing the instruction of youth if Protestant principles is a pious and Christian work'.

1760: The meeting approve the heritors in the several divisions of this shire to meet in the ordinary places upon the third Tuesday of October next and consider of the most proper methods for destroying the foxes and eagles and to transmit their opinions to the next general meeting

1767: There was a petition given in to the meeting by Hugh McLean of Kingairloch showing that the water of Ardel [Glenalmadale] in Kingairloch which is upon the public road, is in rainy weather quite impassable and so dangerous that to the petitioners knowledge no fewer than seven persons perished in attempting to cross it within these few years. The cost of the bridge is estimated at £90.

Iain Thornber iain.thornber@btinternet.com.



Jean and Martine Donnay hope to realise a dream of running a distillery on Islay.

Energy firm and council offer residents chance to cut fuel bills

WITH winter closing in, Highland Council and energy company E.ON are contacting residents across the region to offer cash-saving improvements to help cut fuel bills.

Letters are being posted out to people in the first four target areas, which include Upper Achintore in Fort William and Loch Ness ward.

Residents are urged to reply by Christmas so home energy checks can be done and, if required, insulation installed early in the new year.

The council and E.ON stress home owners will receive initial contact in writing only. No cold calling or door stepping will take place in the programme.

'If someone calls stating they are from the council or E.ON they are not who they say they are,' a council spokesperson told *The Oban Times*.

Highland Council is currently managing a three-year area-based home energy efficiency programme for the Scottish Government which offers free surveys on external walls to see where heat is being lost and follow-up insulation grants.

The circular from E.ON carbon savings manager Jon Kirby and Tracey Urry, the council's interim director of housing and property services, urges homeowners and landlords to contact E.ON for more information and to arrange a home energy assessment.

It states: 'To qualify for improvements under this scheme you need to own or privately rent your home which is heated by electricity, coal or oil and requires either cavity or solid wall insulation. If you meet these requirements you may be entitled to these improvements, jointly funded by The Highland Council and E.ON.'

Highland Council leader Drew Hendry said: 'This new three-year programme will provide practical measures to save people money, which is especially welcome in the face of rising fuel costs.'

Anyone wishing further information can call the E.ON hotline on 0800 141 2283.

Argyll social worker wins accolade

AN INSPIRATIONAL Argyll social worker has been named Scotland's Mental Health Officer of the Year.

Annea Wilson, who recently retired from Argyll and Bute Council, has helped people in Campbeltown, Mid Argyll, Mull and Oban over the years.

Annea picked up the accolade at the Scottish Association of Social Workers (SASW) Mental Health Officers Annual Study Conference.

Her achievement was marked as she retired from the Integrated Community Mental Health Team after a career spanning 35 years providing mental health services in Argyll.

Annea said: 'The awards are an annual event and I was asked to attend, so went along not giving it a second thought.'

'It was a complete surprise to see my colleagues there and then to be presented with the award.'

'Working as a mental health officer has been very rewarding, helping people recover, become independent, help them find the



Annea Wilson and Councillor Dougie Philand with her Mental Health Officer of the Year award. t47annea1no

right kind of house, the right type of employment or voluntary work and eventually living a fulfilled life.'

Devoted

Council spokesman for adult care, Dougie Philand, added: 'This award is a ringing endorsement for someone who has devoted her working life to

providing care to people with mental health problems.'

'This is a national award and a huge boost for the council's adult care service who do such good work in our communities.'

The award was shared with Ruth Buchanan, of West Lothian Council community outreach team.

French distiller's Islay dream

Jean hopes to open new distillery

A FRENCH distiller says he will realise 'a dream' if his planning application for a new distillery on the Isle of Islay is successful.

Celtic Whisky Company owner Jean Donnay, who runs Glann Ar Mor Distillery in Brittany with his wife, Martine, has applied for permission to demolish existing outbuildings at Gartbreck Farm, near Bowmore, and build a new distillery.

The couple have run their small Bretan distillery since 2005 but had a clear view about where they would like to build their next distillery.

Mr Donnay told *The Oban Times*: 'Islay has to be regarded as the maker of whisky on the planet.'

'I can't think of a better place to have a distillery. Gartbreck is a magical site.'

If successful, the distillery would be the island's ninth working distillery and the third owned by a French company.

'People may think that is too much French influence,' says Mr Donnay. 'But it is an example of the 'Old Alliance' - it is an old story.'

Mr Donnay found his idyllic site through sheer luck.

Having become aware of the potential of the site during a trip to the island's malt and music festival, he later saw it for sale online.

'When I saw this place for sale I couldn't believe it.'

'Just two months before I had thought it would be a nice place to have a distillery. I moved very

quickly after that! At the moment I am excited, because this is a dream of mine, but a dream is no good if you don't realise it.'

Mr Donnay spent most of his career in advertising in Paris but fulfilled an ambition by establishing the Celtic Whisky Company in 1997.

He learnt about distillation from makers of Cognac and visited Scottish distilleries to learn about the whisky making process and he prides himself on maintaining traditional Scottish methods in his own distillery.

Should his Islay planning application be successful Gartbreck Distillery would produce a typically peaty Islay malt.

'I am currently making whisky exactly like they made it in Scotland 50 years ago,' he said. 'You get lots of distilleries opening up all over the world but they don't have the character of a Scotch malt.'

'Scotch whisky is like great classical music. You have to understand it to appreciate it but that takes time; there's a complexity about it.'

Mr Donnay said he hoped to have the distillery running - at a production rate of around 55,000 litres per year - by the summer of 2015 but was wary of revealing any more detail of his plans with his planning application pending.

'Being open for the beginning of the Islay festival in 2015 is the target but I have to be patient and do it right,' he added.

Body of missing man found in car

POLICE say there are no suspicious circumstances to the death of a man found at a beauty spot near Crianlarich last week.

Police were called to the Falls of Falloch about three miles from Crianlarich last Tuesday morning after passers by saw a Vauxhall Astra had crashed into a tree at the side of the road.

On investigating, officers found the body of a man in his late 40s in the car. It is understood to be that of a Glasgow man reported missing the night before.

Police Scotland said there were no suspicious circumstances and his family had been notified.

Great Glen hillside felling continues

FORESTRY Commission Scotland's hillside felling operations next to the A82 has moved up the Great Glen from Loch Lochy to Invermoriston.

Project manager Alex MacLeod said tree felling at Invermoriston would not affect the A82 but the harvesting works would require a temporary diversion on a section of the Great Glen Way to ensure public safety.

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New captain at Pole Star helm

A NEW captain has taken the helm of the Northern Lighthouse Board's Oban-based vessel *NLV Pole Star*.

Neil MacLean has been with the organisation since 2008, having joined as a second officer before working his way up through the ranks. His most recent promotion follows the retirement of Captain Stuart Ross.

Neil said: 'I am delighted to have been promoted to master of the *Pole Star*, she is a very capable vessel and the work of the board is very different and interesting.'

'I look forward to settling into the role and being involved in the challenges ahead.'

Neil trained with Clyde Marine, attending Glasgow Nautical College, before working for Maersk on container ships travelling worldwide. Originally from Stornoway, Neil now lives in Glasgow.

Council ready to name new school contractors

CONTRACTS for a £36.5 million project to build three new primary schools in Fort William will be awarded by the end of December, Highland Council's adult and children's services committee was told last week.

Work on a new Fort William Upper Achintore primary is expected to get underway on Lundavra Road in February 2014, while contractors will start on the new Gaelic school at Ardgour Road in Caol in March 2014.

Construction of a new Caol-Fort William RC-Lochside RC at the existing Caol Primary

School site will begin the same month.

Meanwhile, the final phase of the redevelopment of Lochaber High School will be completed two months ahead of schedule, members heard.

The shift from June to April 2015 should mean 'a considerable reduction' in costs associated with completing the £11m redevelopment and less disruption to the work of the school.

The news means the £26 million upgrade, which began in 2008, will be completed approximately two years ahead of programme.

New bid for goldmine cash

SCOTGOLD, the company aiming to establish a gold and silver mine at Cononish near Dalmlach, will ask shareholders to approve an extension to finance facilities this month as it continues to try and finance the project.

Attracting investment for the mine has proved difficult for the Australian company after the price of the precious metal dropped to around £700 per ounce from nearly £1,100

earlier this year. However, the company still estimates a 23 per cent profit on gold at its current price, adding the mine could be producing gold and silver within 18 months of obtaining finance. At its AGM in Perth, Australia, on November 28, Scotgold's shareholders will be asked to approve a £320,000 extension to a previously arranged finance package agreed with RMB Resources by issuing share options.



Morag Hughes completes her Loch Maree swim; now Loch Morar is her next target.

Long-distance swimmer eyes up next marathon loch challenge

A LOCHABER-BASED nurse and long-distance swimmer is looking forward to her next big challenge - swimming Loch Morar from end to end.

Morag Hughes recently swam the 12.5-mile length of Loch Maree - probably the first person to complete the incredible feat.

Morag, who swam the English Channel in 2010, is also considering tackling Loch Ness, a gruelling 22.6 miles.

Corpach woman Morag, 57, said: 'Loch Morar will be my next big one. It's 12 miles long and, like Loch Maree, I don't think it's been swum before, so it will be a good one to tick off. I'll do it in August when the water will be warmer, and will be raising money for the restoration fund

for St Mary and St Finnan Church at Glenfinnan.' She added: 'Hopefully, I won't meet up with my namesake Morag, the monster they say lives in the loch!'

Morag's Loch Maree swim, on August 31 raised funds for the Wester Ross-based social enterprise project Good for All, which helps adults with physical and learning disabilities integrate within their communities around Gairloch, Aultbea and Poolewe.

The learning disability nurse has been a keen swimmer all her life and tries to get in the open water - usually Loch Linnhe or Loch Shiel - once a week, even in winter. I really enjoy it,' she said. 'I get such a lot of satisfaction from the achievement of it all.'

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"Naturally Highlands and Islands of Scotland: People and wildlife in one of the planet's most spectacular and beautiful places."

Tuesday 26 November from 6.15pm - 7.30pm

To be held at the Nevis Centre in Fort William followed by a drinks reception.

In the 2013 University of the Highlands and Islands Annual Lecture, environmentalist Richard Balharry MBE will extol the virtues of the Highlands and Islands where he has had a long career. He will explore how his work has focused on the culture and heritage of the area and how it aims to provide young people with the tools, experience and confidence to be the decision makers of the future.

If you would like to book a place at this free event, please contact our events team by email events@uhi.ac.uk or call 01463 279344.

Dimàirt 26 den t-Samhain o 6.15f - 7.30f

Ri a cumail an Ionad Nibheis sa Ghearsdan is cuirm le deochan na dèidh.

An Oraid Bhliadhnail Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean airson 2013, molaich an neach-àrainneachd Richard Balharry MBE buadhan na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean anns an do chuir e seachad rèis-obrach fhada. Sgrùdaidh e mar a bha cultar is dualchas na sgìre fo aire san obair aige agus mar a tha e na amas aig an obair sin na buill-acfhainn an gnàth-eòlas is a' mhìsneachd a thoirt do dhaoine òga a bhith air an dream a ni co-dhùnaidhean san àm ri teachd.

Nam bu toigh leat àite a ghleidheil aig an òraid seo, cuir fios, mas e do thoil e, a dh'ionnsaigh ar sgioba thachartasan tro phost dealain events@uhi.ac.uk no cuir fòn chun 01463 279344.

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University of the Highlands and Islands
Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean

TREEE

TREEE High School pupils are well on their way to putting on a terrific Christmas play, with most pupils having learned their lines.

However, the hunt is still on for props and costumes and parents are being asked to look out for anything that could help complete the image.

The English Play unit needs, in particular, shepherd's crooks, a furry 'Russian' style hat, a boy's dark waistcoat, plastic slices of pizza and sheepskin rugs.

Anyone who can help should contact the school.

A CAREERS advisor will visit Treee High School next month to help pupils and parents plan for the future.

Margaret Bennett will be at the school on December 4 and will meet S4-S6 pupils during the day before holding meetings in the evenings for parents or pupils with further questions.

LISMORE

THE ISLE of Lismore café has had a busy season and its summer timetable ended with a Poppy Day Lunch at the café on Sunday November 10 with Beth Campbell donating half the profits to the Scottish Poppy Appeal.

In total the island raised £478 for the cause, the balance coming from door-to-door collections by Gilly Dixon Spain.

The café is now open for special days with a St Andrew's Night dinner on Saturday November 30, a curry night on December 7 from 5pm till 8pm and Christmas dinner night on Saturday December 21 at 7pm. In addition the library and the café will open on December 3 and 10 from 12 to 3pm.

Visitors from the mainland can confirm these dates on the Heritage Centre and Lismore websites.

THE PARENT Council of Lismore Primary School recently held a Hallowe'en Party in Lismore Public Hall.

The parade of inventive costumes started at 6.30pm with separate sections for pre-fives, primary and adults. It was judged by Marjorie MacDonald who decided that pre-fives Fergus Cook, Emma Walker and Alistair Fleming all deserved a prize. Donald MacCormick took the primary prize and Laura Cook the adult. Goulish games and frightening food made it a great event.

CONGRATULATIONS to primary and secondary pupils Katy Cook, Ealasaid MacLean, Shona Wright and Sophie King who all did well at the Royal National Mod in Paisley.

Particular congratulations to Ann MacLean Fleming who made it to the final of the Gold Medal and was placed fourth.

LISMORE Sunday School has once again run a shoebox appeal for Blythswood Care and are grateful to everyone who supported them.



Children from Strath of Appin Primary School got active at Fit4Less gym, with, from left, gym owner Laura Carmichael, dance teacher Magdalena Sadlik and manager John Georgeson. 15_147appinygym01

Pupils swap desks for dance studio

CHILDREN at Strath of Appin Primary School swapped their desks for the dance studio as they got active at Oban gym Fit4Less.

As part of their health and wellbeing topic, the children have been learning about the importance of fitness and healthy eating.

And the school's pre-five and primary one to three pupils recently visited gym owner Laura Carmichael, who is

STRATH OF APPIN

from Appin, and manager John Georgeson to learn about stretches, healthy food and why training and keeping fit is important. They then met dance instructor Magdalena Sadlik in the dance studio to take part in children's Bokwa - which is now being held at the gym on Saturdays. The children have also

come up with a variety of healthy options they wanted to try during their week-long Breakfast Club and over the five days, they were given the opportunity to taste them. Options included fruit juices, fresh and dried fruit, wholegrain cereals, porridge, wholemeal and seeded breads, yoghurt and semi-skimmed milk. The children will now go on to evaluate the most popular food choices.

to raise funds. In October, vice president Shona Neil welcomed members and visitors to the open evening of Kilbrandon SWRI.

She introduced speaker John Hill, coxswain of Oban RNLI, who gave an interesting and informative talk on the work of the RNLI. The raffle and sales table raised £165 and a cheque was presented to John at the end of the evening. Ann Reid gave the vote of thanks.

Ms Neil welcomed Fiona Cruickshanks, the local district nurse, to the September meeting, held in Seil Island Hall. As part of her duties,

Fiona makes weekly air trips to Colonsay and has taken aerial photographs of the surrounding islands. Members were able to spot their own houses seen from the air. Fiona was an extremely entertaining speaker and Sue Moss gave the vote of thanks.

GLENGARRY

GLENGARRY Community Hall will host a St Andrew's Day dinner dance on Saturday November 30.

Music for the Glengarry and District Community Association event will be provided by Colin Donaldson.



Banavie school spotlight on road safety

Banavie Primary P1 and P2 pupils had a visit from PC Cameron recently as part of their ongoing project about the importance of road safety. The children were asked to design their own bike helmet, with P1 James Smith being chosen as the winner. James won a new helmet, donated by Nevis Cycles.

BRAES

BEAVERS and cubs' group 6th Lochaber (The Braes) is returning to Moss Park nursing home in Caol for a craft session with the residents again this year.

Organisers are looking for approximately 12 young people to come along on the visit, which will be on Saturday, December 7. Names to Sean Sessions.

Meanwhile, 6th Lochaber (The Braes) has booked the Spectrum soft play area at the Nevis Centre for its Christmas party on Monday December 16 from 6.30pm to 9pm.

Adults are welcome to stay, while siblings of cubs and beavers are also welcome if the parents are staying.

A juice drink will be provided but donations of party food are requested to help the party go with a swing.

KILMORE

KILMORE and District SWRI hosted a talk by Bill Jennison, the training officer for the Search and Rescue Dog Association (SARDA), Southern Scotland, on Wednesday November 13.

Mr Jennison gave an entertaining and informative talk in Kilmore Village Hall on how the dogs are trained and assessed and then used in a variety of search and rescue operations.

The role of the SARDA dogs has expanded over the years and they now help the police in searching for missing children and adults in urban environments as well as their more traditional mountain rescue operations.

All of the SARDA members are volunteers and the ladies could only admire the dedication and commitment of the handlers when they were told of the hours of training it takes before a dog is accepted onto a rescue team. Having worked with dogs for more than 40 years Bill had

lots of anecdotes about his time with SARDA and the ladies were 'genuinely sorry' when the evening had to be brought to an end.

Mr Jennison then had the task of judging the competitions: apple jelly, 1 Ann Ferguson; three fairy cakes, 1 Isabel Smith, 2 Rhoda Thomas and 3 Fiona Dickie.

The next meeting is on December 11 at 8pm in Kilmore Village Hall when the ladies will be making Christmas decorations and enjoying a Christmas supper.



Bill Jennison and Jenny.

KILLIN

THERE was an excellent turnout of members old and new at the November meeting of Killin SWRI.

The guest speaker was Fiona Grant who gave an interesting talk on the coffee business she and her husband have set up in Glen Lyon, Bridge of Balgie.

The company sources the coffee from various parts of the world and are happy for people to come along and visit the processing plant, however, within a very short time they are expanding the business to Aberfeldy but will retain the site at Glen Lyon.

The competition winners were: Two Coffee Cup Cakes, 1 Margaret Galloway, 2 Elizabeth Woods, 3 Jenny Huntley. Coffee Cup and Saucer: 1 Sue Hughes, 2 May Graham, 3 Margaret Galloway.

The next meeting will be on Thursday December 5 when Kirsty King will talk on garden design and the competitions are two mince-meat pies and a Christmas bauble.

UIG

WORK on the A87 in Uig on Skye started this week under a £130,000 Transport Scotland project to upgrade the footway from Rha Bank Junction to the ferry terminal car park.

The job will be carried out on weekdays only over a 10-week period until January 24 2014.

Temporary traffic signals with footway diversions will be used whilst works are carried out by Bear Scotland.

Got a story? Call our newsdesks: 01631 568000 01397 703003

Down Your Way

PLANT equipment from the Bridge of Orchy area worth an estimated £25,000 has been stolen.

Two pieces of equipment were taken, a grabber and an hydraulic pinch bar, which had been near to a CAT digger. The recent theft happened near to Bridge of Orchy Hotel and police are keen to speak to anyone who may have seen any suspicious vehicles in the area.

Dalmally-based police officer PC Iain Young has urged locals to remain vigilant following an ongoing issue with thefts of tools and fuel from the area.

He said: 'It is important that any local people let us know right away when there are strange persons and vehicles in the area. This of course can lead to an apprehension.'

'Also make sure you chain and lock anything, like trailers, that can be moved.'

CHILDREN in primary seven at Dalmally Primary School have been encouraged to play a greater part in school life by applying for a position on the senior pupil leadership team.

To secure the position, they had to complete an application form, do a presentation and complete a formal interview.

Each of the primary pupils takes on an important role in organising events and contributing to school improvement.

The school has two school captains, fundraising leaders, after school club leaders, anti bullying leaders, playground leaders and a friendship champion.



Pupils at Dalmally Primary School took part in a 'Come as you please' day last Thursday in aid of Children In Need. Pupils from the senior leadership team provided homemade cakes for sale at snack time and raised £68.

BRITISH Transport Police have been on patrol with PC Iain Young at the railway line near to Glen Orchy car park, following reports of walkers illegally crossing the line.

The car park is situated on the A85, north of Strone Hill. PC Young said: 'Persons are crossing the line to access a walk up the opposite hillside.

This is illegal as no-one without the required permission should be crossing here. 'There are numerous persons injured and killed each year crossing this type of line.'

PC Young has been carrying out uniformed and plain-clothed patrols in the area and has safety leaflets available by request.

DALMALLY Primary School will be holding a Holly Tea on December 5 at 6.30pm, when visitors will be served tea, coffee and mince pies.

They will have the opportunity to buy Christmas crafts from the children's stalls.

PEOPLE attending sales at Dalmally mart are being asked to be mindful of where they are parking following complaints about vehicles on the pavement outside the mart.

The problem arose at the previous two large sales of tups. Police consider the issue one of pedestrian safety and ask that drivers use parking on the shinty pitch, which is organised by the auction mart.

Next week Down Your Way visits Kinlochleven with Northern Editor Stephen Norris. Contact Stephen on 01397 703003 or email snorris@obantimes.co.uk

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

bonnie babies competition 2014

in association with **The co-operative membership** Here for you for life

£750 of shopping vouchers up for grabs!

Child's name.....

Child's date of birth.....

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

Address:

Name of parent/guardian.....

Signature of parent/guardian.....

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

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

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

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

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

HOW THE COMPETITION WORKS

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

HOW TO ENTER

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

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

Good luck!

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council

SPEAN Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council met recently in Spean Bridge Primary School.

Abridged minutes:

- Community council election - chairman John Fotheringham welcomed the three new permanent councillors elected unopposed last month, namely Brian Donald, Jonathan Davies and Liz Fotheringham.
- The community council is still awaiting action on the play park signs, the flashing warning sign to the east of Roy Bridge and the drain on the bridge at Roy Bridge despite a number of referrals to Bear Scotland. The secretary will contact Bob Mitchell [of Transport Scotland] and report back.
- Killiechonan Woodlands - the secretary had now identified the paths which were most overgrown and will write again to Mr Eppens to find an acceptable solution.
- Spean Bridge toilets - despite the publicity regarding this problem and community council efforts to find a solution, little has changed. A compost toilet camouflaged from the memorial would appear to be the most cost effective solution but the secretary will write to all concerned seeking their views.
- The public consultation on the change of service at Roy Bridge Post Office was debated at length. The community council was disappointed that its suggestion of merging both the Roy Bridge Store and the Post Office made earlier this year was not acted upon. This, the community council believes, led directly to a further reduction in trade. It was agreed that the secretary should write to the Post Office suggesting that two hours on Tuesday and Thursday should be considered.
- Peter Wilson had asked about the installation of a safety mirror on the bridge over the railway at the station so that cars coming from both directions could see each other prior. It was felt, however, that installing a mirror might prove difficult and the community council decided not to proceed. His complaint about bus shelter cleaning in Spean Bridge would be referred to TEC Services by the secretary.
- The community council heard £500,000 had been earmarked for the provision of modular units at Spean Bridge Primary School, but Roy Bridge was not at risk. It was felt by the Highland councillors that Roy Bridge suffered from having no nursery provision.

Next meeting: December 3, Spean Bridge Primary School.

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Green light for new Skye wind turbines

THREE new 22-metre high wind turbines will be erected in North Skye after Highland Council gave plans the go-ahead.

Scottish Water's proposals for the 5kW turbines next to the Lusta Burn near Lochbay, Watnish did not draw much favour with locals, however, with the local community council and the Visit Watnish tourism group among the four objectors.

They claimed the turbines would have a negative visual impact on the area, affecting tourism and could harm local wildlife such as hen harriers and eagles.

But during a short debate, Skye councillor Ian Renwick said he had no issue with the plans and Councillor Angela MacLean said: 'It's within our policy and I'm quite happy to agree to grant.'

Two similar Scottish Water schemes at Portree and Broadford have already been given permission, with the latter already operational.



Primary school pupils meet panto stars

Upper Achintore Primary pupils were joined by children from Fort William Primary to enjoy a performance of the panto favourite 'Cinderella' by the Ayr-based group M&M Theatrical Productions. Pictured are, from left, Charleigh Adams, Rico Stogowski and Liam Duncan meeting the stars of the show. 20_147panto01

Businesses told BID information 'is out there'

THE CHAIRMAN of the group behind the controversial Lochaber Business Improvement District proposal has said they have done all they can to inform local people about their plans.

Business owners across the area have complained about receiving little or no information about the BID process. But at a Fort William Chamber of Commerce event in the Moorings Hotel, Banavie on Tuesday lunchtime, Living Lochaber chairman Frazer Coupland said every effort had been made to inform people about the BID.

He said: 'Consultations, public information, we've done that. At each stage we've posted information out, we've been out, we've done public meetings, we've spoken one-to-one with businesses.'

'We think the information is out there.'

'Communication is a two-way thing, and I think there has been a failure on some businesses' behalf to engage.'

Ballot papers have been posted out to all businesses in Lochaber with a rateable value of more than £2,000, who have until December 12 to register their vote.

Caol's creative children

CHILDREN from Caol Primary School Room 13, the founding member of the Room 13 worldwide art studio network, briefed business delegates on their work on the opening day of Lochaber Ideas Week on Monday.

P7 pupils Bethany Henderson, Emily Campbell and Ella Smith told how the studio had grown internationally since it was established in Caol Primary back in 1994.

Group treasurer Ella told the meeting in the Moorings Hotel at Banavie: 'Lots of visitors come to Room 13 in Caol from around the world. We have also had numerous visits from MSPs.'

Photographer Bethany said: 'You can create anything you like and not get told it's wrong.'

Secretary Emily added: 'We have a project manager, three studio monitors, two newsletter editors, a managing director, a librarian and an events manager.'

Next Lochaber Ideas Week networking events include 'Around Lochaber in 80 Tables' tomorrow and a concluding 'dinner and rewards ceremony' on Saturday at the same venue.



From left, Caol Room 13 representatives Ella Smith, Bethany Henderson and Emily Campbell delivered an impressive presentation for Lochaber Ideas Week. Artist-in-residence at Caol, Richard Bracken, helped the girls prepare. 20_147ideas01

Pensioner placed on sex offenders' register

A BALLACHULISH pensioner has been placed on the sex offenders' register after a sheriff found him guilty of sexually touching a 10-year-old girl while she was just feet from her mother.

James Ridgeway denied sexually assaulting the girl at the village's tourist information centre on the morning of August 19.

But the youngster told Fort William Sheriff Court the grey-haired 69 year-old had touched her bottom.

Giving evidence via video link for more than an hour, the girl said she had been talking on the phone outside the centre when Ridgeway walked past her.

She said: 'I gave the phone to my mum then he walked back up. Mum screamed and clapped her hands, I turned and screamed and ran round the building.'

Depute fiscal Stewart Maciver

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

asked: 'Had something happened that made your mum scream?' The girl said: 'He grabbed me below the trouser line.'

Mr Maciver said: 'This might be embarrassing, but can you tell me where it was on you he grabbed you?' She replied: 'On my bum. It was like a pinch.'

The girl's mother, who was inside the centre behind a window, said Ridgeway had looked the girl up and down before making a lunge towards her.

'My reaction was to scream and bang my hands off the window so he wouldn't touch her. I knew he was going to grab her.'

She admitted she did not actually see if Ridgeway touched

her daughter as she could only see the girl from the waist up.

Ridgeway, described in court as a paranoid schizophrenic, said he had considered poking the girl with his finger 'as a joke', but changed his mind.

He said: 'I saw she had a bare midriff and I thought I'd touch her on the back and say "two choc ices please" because she was standing at a window.'

'Her mum shouted "don't you dare touch her" so I didn't touch her at all.'

Asked by defence solicitor Graham Robertson why the girl would lie about what happened, Ridgeway replied: 'Perhaps she likes fairy tales.'

Ridgeway, originally from London, admitted to police later that day that he had touched the girl with his finger but in court claimed he had been appealing officers who were already convinced of his guilt.

However, Sheriff Noel McPartlin believed the girl's version of events and found Ridgeway of Lochan Dubh, West Laroeh, guilty of intentionally or recklessly touching the girl sexually.

Sheriff McPartlin said: 'It seemed when she gave her evidence it was in a clear and straightforward manner. I have no reason to doubt her evidence.'

'In my view the evidence of the girl is backed up by the mother, and so I find you guilty.'

Sentencing was deferred until December 18 for reports.

Gaelic decline in traditional heartlands

A PROMINENT Lochaber Gael has expressed sadness at the ongoing decline of Gaelic in its traditional heartlands.

And Charlie MacColl, the former chairman of Meur Lochabair - the local branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach - reckons little can be done to halt the depressing trend.

Mr MacColl spoke out after detailed figures from the 2011 Census showed Skye had just one parish left, centred on Flodigarry in Trotternish, with a majority of Gaelic speakers.

The fall matched that of the whole island, where those able to speak the language fell from 74 per cent 1991 to just 46 per cent 20 years later.

Mr MacColl told The Oban Times: 'The government has been thumping and thumping at Gaelic but nothing is happening.'

'More young people seem to be speaking it in the cities, but it is just pidgin Gaelic and that's all it's going to be.'

'Even years ago in Kilchoan you would speak to somebody in Gaelic and they would answer back in English.'

'I am of the last generation with good Gaelic handed down through the old ways.'

Barvas on Lewis has proportionately Scotland's strongest Gaelic identity, with 64 per cent able to speak the language.



Fun and games for Pudsey

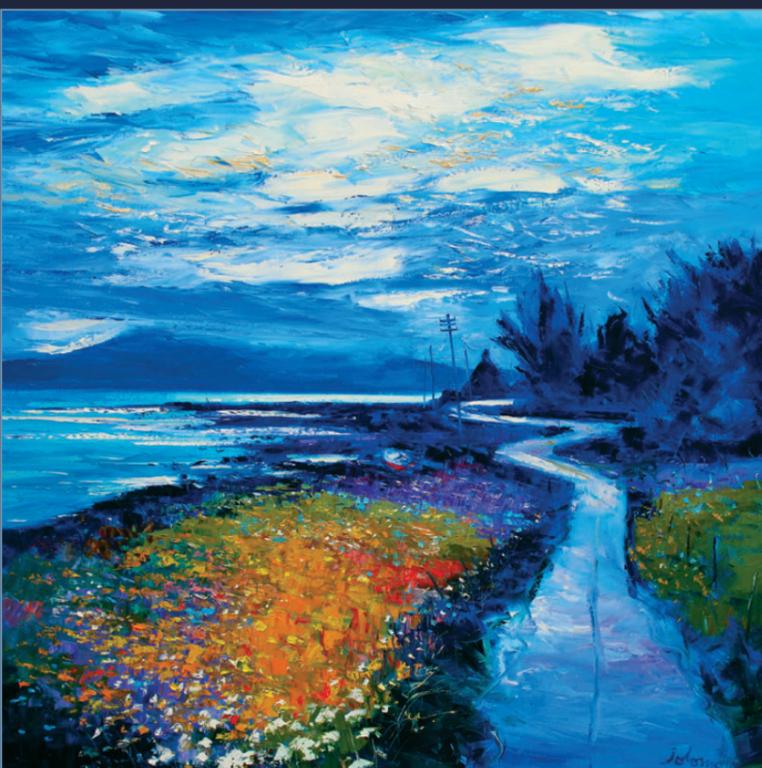
Strontian Primary School children joined in the fun for Children in Need on Friday when they wore pyjamas and took their teddies to school to raise money for good causes. See our West Highlands Children in Need round-up, page 8.

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John Lowrie Morrison OBE
Isle of Mull An t - Eilean Muileach
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Argyll and Lochaber dig deep to raise funds

LAST week was dedicated to the BBC's Children in Need appeal with schools, shops and churches across the west coast of Scotland raising money for the charity.

From pyjama parties to soup lunches, big-hearted residents of Argyll and Lochaber came out in force over the past week to donate money to the annual campaign.

In the last year, BBC Children in Need helped change the lives of 450,000 disadvantaged

children and young people living in the UK.

Sir Terry Wogan, Children in Need life president, said: 'Every year the BBC Children in Need Appeal night is a testament to the extraordinary generosity of the British people.'

David Ramsden, BBC Children in Need chief executive, added: 'This year the appeal is really special with people coming together to raise millions of pounds to help children right here in the UK.'



Youngsters at Oban's Park Primary School were dressed for bed last Thursday to raise money for Children in Need. Pupils from primary one through to primary seven donned their onesies, pyjamas, dressing gowns and slippers - donating £1 for the privilege. The whole school, including the staff, got involved in the fundraising and raised £243.08. 16_147parkps01



Lochside RC Primary School pupils raised £250 for Children in Need by paying to dress up in pyjamas or something spotty. The youngsters also played a game of guess Pudsey's age, got their faces painted and enjoyed a cake stall. 20_147lochside01



Where's Wally? Oban High School clan leaders Kirsty Campbell, Innes MacQueen, Jamie MacGregor, Alasdair Jordan, Jennifer Fothergill and Alison MacVicar dressed to impress to raise money for Children in Need. 16_147ohs02



Right: Children in the Gaelic unit of Oban's Rockfield Nursery enjoyed a pyjama day to raise money for Children in Need.



Above: Ardour Primary School did their bit for Children in Need on Friday when they wore their pyjamas to school for the day - and also to their swimming lesson! The children sold Pudsey keyrings and raised £82.



Duro Primary School had a full day of activities for Children in Need. Parents baked for the cake stall, copper and silver coins covered Pudsey's huge head, a guess Pudsey's birthday competition was held and the pupils paid to pin the nose on Pudsey and to colour in his pictures. The youngsters also put in bids for their teachers to dance Irish and Scottish dances. Head teacher Marilyn Macdonald said: 'The amount raised so far is £94 - not bad for a wee school with 18 children!'



Caol Primary School pupils got into the fundraising spirit by donating £1 to Children in Need to wear their own clothes to school, and many of the youngsters choose to wear something spotty for the day. The P1 and P2s also baked cakes which they sold to the rest of the school at a stall. 20_147caol01

Right: Spean Bridge Primary School raised £327.12 by selling cakes and running a talent competition judged by Isabel and Linda Campbell. Pupils played accordion, violin, piano, guitar, recorder, saxophone and cello as well as singing, staging a puppet show and showing off circus and dance skills. Prizewinners are pictured with the judges.



Youngsters in Rockfield Nursery, Oban, took part in a pyjama day to raise money for Children in Need. They are pictured with staff members Siobhan Stephen and Rosemary McKenna. Along with the children in the Gaelic unit, they raised £123.84, helped by parents buying spotty cakes.



Oban shop Nancy Blacks raised money for Children in Need through a guess the number of skittles in the jar and gift card competition. Visitors Rachel and Paul Lintott are pictured with the store's Kathleen Nicolson, who was raising money from home baking. 16_147blacks01



Fort William Primary School youngsters dressed in their own clothes to raise money for Children in Need - with some even coming to school in their onesies. 20_147fw01



All 19 Elgol Primary School and five pre-school children dressed in pyjamas for Children in Need. The older children read stories to the younger ones and had hot chocolate and biscuits. In total, £71.55 was raised for Children in Need.



Pudsey bear paid a special visit to Banavie Primary School on Friday, with the children greeting him dressed in spots. They also bought Children in Need keyrings and wristbands, as well as filling in Pudsey outlines with coins to raise funds. 20_147banavie01

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Children and staff at Kyle Primary School went to school dressed in their pyjamas, while older pupils baked cakes and held a bake sale. The pupils also made Children in Need 'Bank Boxes' and collected up loose change over the October holidays. Estimated total of money collected so far is more than £130.



Carlost Primary School on Skye was joined on Children in Need day by Struan Primary School, whose pupils brought along cakes. The learning council sold Children in Need items and held a toy sale while other activities included a colouring competition to design a new teddy or pyjamas for Children in Need. Pictured above are the winners with their colourful creations. Carlost has 32 pupils in P1-7, with seven pupils in the nursery. Struan has six pupils. Together, the children raised £200.



Acharacle Primary School raised £350.35 on Friday, with the youngsters all coming to school dressed either in PJs, spots, yellow or dressed as dinosaurs. On a busy day the pupils held a talent show, a guess Pudsey's birthday competition and a Pudsey cake baked by a parent was auctioned off for £30 to go towards the total. The nursery children had a great morning in their PJs and parents came in and joined them for cake.



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Arisaig man's water war rages on

AN ARISAIG man is renewing his campaign against Scottish Water over a claim he is being charged for a service he already provides.

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

Ranald Coyne built a house in the village in 1997 and as a condition of planning put in pipes to take away rainwater from his roof, garage and drive via a holding tank to the sea.

But despite having his installed his own system, for 16 years Mr Coyne's water rates for the seafront property have included a fee for removing surface water.

The amateur meteorologist claims he has unfairly shelled out around £800 in that time - an average of £50 annually.

Mr Coyne's battle with the utility began in earnest when he obtained a Scottish Water leaflet showing the property drainage charge for band F was £54.34. Previously he had been unable to obtain a separate figure.

He and wife Su were told if they had a water meter they would get an itemised bill.

The retired couple inquired about having one installed but claim they were 'bluntly' advised against the idea. On further investigation, they found installing and renting a meter was too expensive and agreed not to go ahead.

After further wrangling with Scottish Water, a frustrated Mr Coyne took legal action and lodged a summons against the utility at the small claims court at Fort William.

According to Mr Coyne, although the sheriff dismissed the action he made it clear the issue needed to be looked into and instructed Scottish Water's lawyer to follow up the matter - but nothing happened.

Mr Coyne told The Oban Times: 'I have given them a few years but I have heard nothing at all.'

'The sheriff did say to the water board's lawyer that it was wrong, but his job was to interpret the law as it stands. He said it was wrong I had to put in my own system and then pay for the service.'

'It is completely unjust that they are charging me for something which by law the planning authority required me to provide before I even started.'

He added: 'I would like

Scottish Water to stop charging me for this. I just want my rates deducted by the required amount and a refund for the past 16 years. I am unhappy at paying for something I have already paid for.'

A Scottish Water spokesperson said the utility's position on the matter had not changed since 2008 and that Mr Coyne was advised then he could fit a meter to possibly reduce his bill.

He said: 'Unmeasured household water and waste water service charges have been based on the council tax banding of a property since council tax was introduced via the Local Government Finance Act 1992, on the basis of whether or not a property is connected to the public sewer network for all or part of drainage requirements.'

'There is no provision or mechanism within our current scheme of charges, approved by our economic regulator, the Water Industry Commission for Scotland, for applying a reduction on unmeasured service charges to take account of the particular drainage arrangements he describes.'



Water wars: Ranald Coyne is furious at paying for a service he already provides at his Arisaig home.



From left, John Tyldsley, Sunart Community Company (SCC); Rachel Kerr, CADISPA; Jamie MacIntyre, SCC; Robert Dunn, SCC; Geoff Fagan, CEO CADISPA; Kylie Fagan, CADISPA; and Hazel Dallinger-Mills, local community consultation co-ordinator at Saturday's public consultation.

Sunart revival plan underway

AN ACTION plan to revive the fortunes of a remote Lochaber community is underway following a public consultation event on Saturday.

Sunart, with the village of Strontian at its heart, has seen its young people drift away and its economy decline for decades.

But now Sunart Community Company (SCC) is determined to reverse that trend and plot a new path towards a better future.

And that process got off to a sound start after 70 people of all ages gathered in the Strontian Village Hall to contribute their ideas on reviving Sunart's fortunes.

Geoff Fagan of CADISPA (Conservation and Development in Sparsely Populated Areas) led the event, the first stage towards producing an action plan forged in part by local people.

SCC director David Barker told the

Oban Times: 'He said their job was not to tell us how to develop, but to guide us in discovering what we really need to do to improve our community. Participants were asked to brainstorm all the problems and shortcomings of the area, which were then grouped under categories such as transport, education, employment and housing. The objective was to name every problem, however major or minor, because unless they are identified, they cannot be addressed in the final plan.'

He added: 'One thing that became clear during the meeting was that this is a great opportunity to influence and shape Sunart's future.'

'With CADISPA's experience and the community's views, the result should be a blueprint that everyone can get behind with enthusiasm - because it is their plan.'

CADISPA is Lottery funded.

Islands sustainable energy action pledge

COMMUNITY Energy Scotland (CES) has pledged to help the Scottish Islands Federation deliver sustainable energy action plans for island communities.

The move follows CES's successful conference in Glasgow earlier this month which was attended by many island delegates, including Eigg representative Camille Dressler.

The federation is one of 13 partners in Project SMILEGOV, a trans-national

European project aiming to help the islands of Europe become leaders in carbon reduction through energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Ms Dressler said: 'One of the issues that the Scottish Islands Federation is keen to help with is that of hard to treat houses, a problem which a number of islands in the Orkneys have been successful in dealing with.'

'Anyone wishing to find out more

or to get involved can contact the SMILEGOV project officer, Mull-based Terry Hegarty at terry@scottish-islands-federation.co.uk.'

Felix Whight, CES policy and innovation manager, said: 'We believe this project fits very well with our overarching goals as a charity and membership organisation, as well as a number of our current priorities and programmes.'



Hands up for dance! Lochaber Dance Platform at the Nevis Centre on Saturday.

Audience dazzled as curtain rises on Dance Platform

MORE than 200 Lochaber school pupils performed some spectacular routines at the annual Lochaber Dance Platform last week.

Two shows in the Nevis Centre on Thursday and Friday saw the children showcase a huge variety of styles of dance and costume.

Ahead of the event, 14 dancers from

Lochaber High School choreographed a dance and taught it to children at classes in seven different primary schools - Banavie, Caol, Fort William

RC, Lochside, Inverloch, Spean and Upper Achintore. High school pupils put together their own routines, with more experienced high school pupils

running lunchtime dance classes for

first and second years. The finale dance was taught by a visiting teacher from Y-Dance in Glasgow, with rehearsals starting the Saturday before the event.

Event organiser, High Life Highland's Active Schools co-ordinator Bridget Thomas, said: 'The Dance Platform provides a great opportunity for our talented high school pupils to pass on

their dance skills whilst developing leadership skills. The standard this year was superb, with some really impressive routines. 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.'

Dance Platform guest performers

included Ballet West, Nevis School of Highland Dancing, Kinlochleven High School, ConnXion Dance School, Bunscoil Keltica Danmsa and Ben Nevis All-Stars. Anyone interested in taking part in next year's Dance Platform can contact Bridget on bridget.thomas@highlifehighland.com or 07747 762 497.

Fort designer wins prestigious Scottish crown

A FORT William designer has been crowned Womenswear Designer of the Year at the prestigious Scottish Style Awards.

Judy Clark's pieces took to the catwalk amid the grandeur of Kelvingrove Art Gallery with lace dresses and steam punk frock coats featuring pheasant feather bustles which wowed the crowd.

The talented 29-year-old will launch her commercial range in Milan next year having already had the likes of Italian Vogue visit her studio, making the designer one to watch!

Judy has been creating one off pieces from Scottish textiles such as Harris Tweed, Calzeat Textiles, MYB Lace and recently worked with Timorous Beasties'

newest textile range. And Judy, the only designer still living in Scotland, was delighted to pick up the accolade.

She said: 'I was absolutely thrilled to win the award. It's a very prestigious title so I hope it will help move my business in the right direction. Things are going really well for Scottish fashion at the moment.'

'Harris Tweed is hugely popular just now and I'm very proud to use so much of it in my work, given the unique heritage it has.'

Judy, who studied at Heriot Watt University in Galashiels and completed an internship under Alexander McQueen, works from Beaverhall Studios in Edinburgh.



Judy Clark: Womenswear Designer of the Year.

Dangerous iron work successfully dismantled

A CHALLENGING project to make safe a Lochaber bridge which witnessed the first skirmish of the 1745 Jacobite rising has been successfully completed.

Ballachulish experts Geo-Ropes attached themselves to safety wires so they could dismantle dangerous iron work from the crumbling areas of stonework on High Bridge across the River Spean.

The team, who spent several days at the site to tackle the work, had to cut up the old metal railings and carefully lower them to the ground. The ancient stone bridge is being preserved thanks to a grant of around £200,000 from the late Dr Alan Reece, recently named as the third biggest philanthropist in the UK. He had walked the area and said it was one of the most wonderful places he had visited.

The money allowed a local footpath group to build a new kilometre-long path down to



Work to clear High Bridge of dangerous iron work took several days.

High Bridge from the Spean Bridge Commando Memorial so people could have easier access to the area. On August 16 1745, 11 men and a piper fooled a large force of government troops into fleeing from High Bridge after tricking them into believing they were surrounded.

Each year Jacobite group Na Fir Dileas, the Loyal Men, marches to the bridge to commemorate the event.

Club hits the bullseye with fundraiser

A FUNDRAISING drive by a West Highlands field archery club hit the bullseye in Fort William on Saturday.

Ten volunteers from Kinlochleven-based South Lochaber Bowmen, including three junior members, packed bags at Morrisons store and collected an amazing £656.68 from grateful shoppers.

Club secretary Janice Gosden said the cash would go to the junior club to help replace and renew equipment and personal protection gear used at club nights and in competition.

Janice said: 'I would like to thank everyone for their wonderful generosity.'

Clachaig Inn wins major UK award

STAFF AND customers at the Clachaig Inn are raising a glass after the popular Glencoe establishment scooped a major UK award.

The remote outlet, a traditional haunt for walkers, climbers and bikers, was named best pub, cafe or restaurant of the year following a public poll for the Great Outdoors Awards 2013. Praising the efforts of staff, 'over the moon' Clachaig owner Ed Daynes said: 'Next spring will mark 30 years since the Daynes family took over at Clachaig. To be able to achieve this success after all that time is fantastic. We'd like to thank all our customers for their continued support.'

Leading author holds writing workshop

ONE OF Scotland's leading novelists and authors is to hold a writing workshop at DramaFish Studios in Kinlochleven next Wednesday.

Sophie Cooke's session with aspiring writers is being staged as part of Book Week Scotland 2013 celebrations. Among many accolades, London-born Ms Cooke was shortlisted for the Saltire First Book Of The Year Award for her novel The Glass House, which was set in the Highlands. The workshop starts at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.

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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

COMMUNITY spirit is something that has long held together the west coast, with our hospitality and selflessness as famous as our landscapes and our culture.

It is easy to become blasé about the efforts of our friends, neighbours and colleagues when they go the extra mile for a cause - all for no more reward than the thanks and smiles from the people they help.

But sometimes even the smallest of individual efforts go a long way, as Jean and John Bowman of Kilmelford demonstrated amply this week - particularly if you keep making that effort.

The big-hearted pair started holding weekly coffee mornings five and a half years ago after their daughter, Alyson, tragically died from stomach cancer. The aim was to repay the North Argyll Carers Centre for their help during the end of Alyson's life.

Over time and several small increments averaging £145 per week, their Oban Cherish Fund grew, culminating in a £42,000 boost for the charity.

It is a perfect example of how, taken together, several smaller efforts can make a tremendous difference - and a terrific example of what makes the west, best.

GLASGOW LETTER

Tiree Association Annual Gathering Concert

THURSDAY November 14 was the date of the Scottish Politician of the Year Awards and it was also the date of the Tiree Annual Gathering Concert.

Johann Lamont, leader of the Scottish Labour Party, was therefore faced with the dilemma of which to attend but she chose the latter and proved to be an excellent chairwoman.

Many of us, as Glasgow Highlanders, would have identified with her humorous recollections of her summer holiday visits to Tiree, where both of her parents came from, as the pattern seemed to be the same no matter the island involved.

Johann looked back on these trips and wondered how today's youngsters would respond if they had to survive for two months without today's technology. What would they think of contact with the mainland only being possible by pre-arranging a time to be at the local telephone kiosk or of spending a large part of a day just going to see who would come off the ferry and the rest of the day telling others who came off the ferry?

From the outset the artistes, singers Joy Dunlop, Norman MacKinnon and Robert Robertson, piper Donald Campbell and the Dunmore Ceilidh Band, all from the same part of Tiree, and led by Eilidh MacFadyen, another prodigy of the Tiree accordion playing conveyor belt, entered into the relaxed and happy atmosphere within the hall.

The association must be delighted with the success of this its 113th annual concert and be further delighted with the news that their chairwoman for the evening did not miss out at the political awards as she was the winner of the Donald Dewar Trophy for Best Debater in the House. Congratulations to Johann for this recognition of her successful 'spats' with the First Minister and congratulations also for ensuring the success of the Tiree concert.

Ceol's Craic/ Gaelic Language Day

TOMORROW (Friday) is Gaelic Language Day at Glasgow University when there will be the opportunity to celebrate the language and its culture across the campus.

A list of stock phrases has been posted online and there is an open invitation to contact Fiona.Dunn@glasgow.ac.uk or Shona.Massona@glasgow.ac.uk if you have anything you would like translated.

From 1.10pm until 2pm there will be music and song in the University Chapel performed by singers Kathleen MacInnes and Cathy Ann MacPhee with accompanist Mhairi Hall.

Later in the evening the university will collaborate with the Gaelic Club Night of Ceol's Craic in the CCA starting at 8.30pm.

Innes Strachan, Niteworks, and songwriters Ali Whyte and Dol Eoin MacKinnon will bring together new voices of Gaelic song with the beats of the Scottish electronic scene and they will be joined by renowned Edinburgh DJ, Dolphin Boy.

For tickets contact the CCA

Box Office or www.itison.com/Glasgow/events.

Uist and Barra Association reminder

THE ASSOCIATION celebrates its 125 years in Glasgow with a star studded concert in Partick Burgh Halls tomorrow evening (Thursday).

Seonag Monk will be in the chair and will be joined by pipers Yvonne McHugh, Catriona MacNeil and Alison Buchanan, singers Mary MacLean, Archie MacLean, Cathy Ann MacPhee, Sineag MacIntyre, Maggie MacInnes, Linda MacLeod and Margaret and Donnie MacLeod. Also on the bill will be piper Fred Morrison and the Barramac Dance School. The concert starts at 7.30pm.

Tom Mitchell

IT IS with great sadness I intimate the passing of Tom Mitchell.

Originally from the Isle of Skye, Tom, ably assisted by his wife Rachel, was a great supporter of An Comunn Gaidhealach and earlier this year they were presented with Gold Medals in recognition of 47 years service to the association.

Ever present at the Mod, he was sadly missed this year in Paisley although in characteristic fashion his family were there to help.

Our sympathy is extended to Rachel and to daughter Rae and son Thomas, together with the extended family, at this sad time.

Diary dates

Friday November 22: Uist and Barra Association 125th Anniversary Concert - see above. Gaelic Language Day - see above. Ceol's Craic, Oidhe na h-Oigrìdh, CCA Sauchiehall Street, 8.30pm - see above.

Saturday November 23: Echoes of Oban, College of Piping, Otago Street, 7pm.

Tuesday November 26: Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72 Waterloo Street, 8pm - Sylvia Barnes and Sandy Stange.

Thursday November 28: Comunn an Taobh-an-Iar, Haggis Supper, Ellangowan Social Club, 7.30pm. Tickets must be pre-booked. Scottish Music Concert, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, 7.30pm.

Friday November 29: Eddi Reader, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 7.30pm. Cask Strength Ceilidh Band - Hamish Napier, John Somerville and Steve Fivey - St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm.

Saturday November 30: St Andrew's Party with Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 7.30pm. St Andrew's Day Concert with National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland, SEEC Auditorium, 3pm. Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm - Dick Gaughan. Double bill concert with Paddy Callaghan Trio and Findlay Napier, St Andrew's in the Square, 7.30pm.

Pub scene

MUSIC in the Park Bar this weekend will be provided by Nicky McMichan on Friday, the Monach Isles on Saturday and Trail West on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Parting Glass on Friday and Crooked Reel on Saturday.

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



Rockfield Primary School 1932/33

This week's flashback photograph, submitted by a reader, features Rockfield Primary School, Oban's class of 1932/33. Pictured from top left with their teacher Miss MacDonald are: E MacInnes; A Taylor; A MacDougall; I MacLean; A Thomson; D MacDougall; O Gray; J Matheson and P MacIntyre. Next row: unknown; J Watt; A MacLaren; H Matheson; W Wright; A MacDougall; D MacCulloch; D MacFarlane and J Hill. Next row: C MacDougall; I Watt; R Donn; J Guillane; E Slater; I MacNiven; J Buchanan and M MacAllister. Next row: R MacGuire; D MacLeod; A MacDougall; H MacKinnon; D MacEwan; D MacCallum; R MacGhie and H Carmichael. Front: unknown; A MacLennan; F MacDonald; N MacLeod; I MacIntyre; M MacMillan and S Buchanan. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Keep up fight for fairer electricity prices

Your front page article revealing how Alan Reid MP has forced SSE to apologise for misleading a customer came at an appropriate time for me.

Because of the huge increase in the price of electricity imposed by SSE, I also tried to change suppliers.

Contrary to what the SSE spokesman told *The Oban Times*, namely that 'incorrect information was provided to THTC customers that they could not switch; they can switch provided the new supplier takes over both meters at the same time' - THTC has two meters, I was told that I would need to have a new Economy 10 or Economy 7 meter if I wanted to switch. This happened to me on the day following publication of the article.

I would urge both yourselves and Alan Reid to continue the campaign to get a fair deal for SSE customers and warn others who have a THTC meter that they should persevere because they do have a right to change to a fairer supplier. Name and address supplied.

The importance of fish farming

Sir, I would like to add my voice to those who have written to your letters page highlighting the huge importance of fish farming to Argyll.

Six people are employed at our workshop in Oban and 45 per cent of our business comes from fish farm companies.

We are just one of a wide range of businesses that benefit from the success of fish farming in this area. Jobs depend on the development of the industry and the plans for a new fish farm on Loch Etive are important not just to Dawnfresh, but to their many local suppliers.

Those opposing the new farm should recognise the knock-on effect of any setback in the move to more sustainable farming at Loch Etive, which this new development is a step towards.

The specialist skills in Argyll serving the fish farming industry are hugely important to the local economy.

This is an area that needs to ensure existing jobs are protected and do everything possible to bring in investment.

Taynuilt Community Council recognised that in their support for Dawnfresh and I hope Argyll and Bute Council will do the same.

Cameron MacFarlane, Director, Argyll Agricultural Engineers.

Beneficial investment

Sir, As a supplier of equipment to the fish farming industry, Fusion Marine recognises the crucial role the sector plays in the local economy in Argyll and Bute and as an important driver of Scotland's economy.

The proposals being brought forward by Dawnfresh for a new farm on Loch Etive represent a major investment in Argyll and the positive impact will be felt by many local businesses, including ours.

Investment at this level is hugely beneficial for the area, creating new jobs and opening up opportunities for young people to stay in the area and thrive.

Of course, this alone is not sufficient grounds to grant planning consent. A range of other issues must be taken into consideration, and anyone who has read the detailed planning application and environmental statement submitted by Dawnfresh will see that they have been.

Compared to many other developments, fish farming has an extremely low impact on its surroundings. High standards are set by regulators and the substantial investment being made by Dawnfresh - including locally-made Fusion Marine pens - ensures these high standards are being met.

It would be a real missed opportunity if the Dawnfresh plans are not granted permission and will significantly impact on progress towards higher standards of sustainable farming.

The contribution fish farming makes to local employment skills should be given much greater recognition than is currently the case.

Iain Forbes, Director.

Study detail to see how independence can be achieved

Sir, In reference to the letter 'Have I missed Something?' in your edition of November 14, G W Stewart is trying to disguise a plea for a 'no' in next year's referendum as informed comment, three weeks before publication of the White Paper on Independence.

True, much of what will be contained in that paper may not be enacted by a future Scottish Government. It will, however, outline how an independent Scotland could be governed across a whole range of subjects including defence, pensions, fiscal policy, health and welfare provision.

No-one - on any side - doubts Scotland can be successful. The White Paper will explain how this can be done, even in the event of the SNP not holding office after 2015's elections.

G W Stewart also suggests there will be no nationalist (sic) party after independence. I'm guessing that the SNP as we know it will cease to be the broad church it currently is, but its many talented politicians will assuredly not disappear.

I strongly believe an uninformed 'no' is a greater affront to democracy than any number of non-voters; that every 'no' amounts to support for the current Westminster government, which is settling in for the long haul.

Mr Stewart urges us to vote 'no' from a self-professed position of being uninformed. I would urge

people to await the White Paper, then start to make up their minds ahead of September 2014.

Gordon Chalmers, Tobermory, Isle of Mull.

High hopes for large referendum turnout

Sir, In response to Mr G W Stewart, *The Oban Times* letter November 14, I, too, would hope for a large turnout at next year's referendum.

However, it is up to the individual whether or not to vote and that decision should not have a detrimental effect on the result.

We were denied devolution in 1979 when a 'yes' vote of 40 per cent of the electorate was required. This will not happen in 2014.

The terms of the referendum have been agreed between Holyrood and Westminster.

If there is a 'yes' vote there will be a transitional period of perhaps two years for negotiations with the Westminster Government.

The next Holyrood election in May 2016 would hopefully elect another SNP Government, allowing them to continue negotiations. If a Labour or Coalition Government were elected they would also have to continue with independence negotiations as voted for by the people of Scotland - whatever their own personal views might be. The referendum will be binding on all parties, for and against.

A 'yes' vote will make Scotland a more equal society, not London centric with the added bonus of no House of Lords.

Moira Haywood, Barcaldine. Biggest threat to Golden Eagle

Sir, It was nice to see the Golden Eagle voted as Scotland's favourite wild animal, *The Oban Times*, November 14.

But it was disappointing, although entirely predictable, for Dave Sexton of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) to use the news to bring up the supposed threat to the species due to illegal persecution.

The biggest single threat to the Golden Eagles' future survival lies with the introduction of its larger cousin, the sea eagle, and the impact this is already having on the availability of prey for both species.

I have been told on several occasions about Sea Eagles harassing Golden Eagles on

Skye and on the mainland west coast.

This spring, a friend on Skye had a Golden Eagle killing his lambs, the first time he had encountered this problem in all his working life as a crofter.

This was very possibly triggered by an imbalance in the food chain as a result of the presence of a pair of Sea Eagles in the area.

Just a fortnight ago, high in the hills to the south of Drumochter, I watched a mature Golden Eagle attempting to chase an immature Sea Eagle from its territory.

As the number of Sea Eagles increases to saturation point, more and more pressure is going to be put on our native Golden Eagle as they attempt to compete for available territories and prey.

When the Golden Eagle is in terminal decline, just like the capercaillie and the Scottish wildcat, who will the RSPB blame then?

M MacNally, Invergarry.

Fireworks display thanks

Sir, We would like to thank the sponsors and volunteers who made the Oban Fireworks Display such a success.

Our sponsors MacQueen Brothers Charitable Trust, Bid4Oban, Oban Common Good Fund and a third sector grant provided the funds to allow the event to go ahead.

The volunteers who gave up their own time to run the event deserve special praise, in particular Oban Lions Club whose security and traffic management was a major contribution to the event, Oban Coastguard for first aid and crowd control, and Neil MacKay who helped co-ordinate and plan the event and was MC on the night.

We are grateful to the emergency services, in particular police and fire for their support.

Thanks to Oban Rugby Club and Soroba Community Association who provided food and souvenir retail facilities. A big thank you also to the Argyll and Bute staff at Mossfield who ensured the event ran smoothly and safely.

The biggest thank you however goes to the people of Oban who turned out in their hundreds to support the event and who on the night donated £2,136.60.

This sum will be used towards next year's event and gives us the comfort that we have already raised 30 per cent of the cost of next year's display.

Councillors Fred Hall and Roddy McCuish, Oban Fireworks Group.

Beachd Ailein Ailean Caimbeul

THIODHLAIC SINN seann charaid dhomh air an t-seachdain seo chaidh, cha robh e ach seasgad 's a seachd is cha robh fiù 's fios agam nach robh e gu math.

Bha e dà bhliadhna na bu shine na mise ach, ri linn cleamhnas teaghlach 's dòcha, stèidhich sinn càirdeas a sheas thar nam bliadhnaichean agus mar a thachair, bha e na dhotair teaghlach agam fad còrr air fichead bliadhna chun an do leig e dheth a dhreuchd.

'S e duine blàth, eirmseach a bh' ann agus fìor lighiche cogaiseach dicheallach agus cha b' e annas a bh' ann slughadh mòr fhacinn air an tiodhlacadh.

Ach nuair a dh'ainmich am ministear ann an òraid ealanta gun robh ar caraaid air a bhith glè thinn bho chionn grunn mhiosan agus gun do chuir e làmh na bheatha fhèin, 's e buille chruaidh a bha san fhiosrachadh sin! Saoilidh sinn gur fheudar gun robh an t-eòlas a bh' aige mar lighiche ag innse dha na bha roimhe agus gun do cho-dhùin e cùisean a thoirt gu crìch.

Suidheachadh doirbh brònach agus ged a tha sinn a' smaoineachadh air bristeadh-cridhe an dlùth teaghlach a dh'fhàg e, saoilidh sinn cuideachd gun biodh e san àm nam beachdachaidh a dhèanamh mun deidhinn cuideachd. Thar nam bliadhnaichean tha mi fhìn air caraidean a chaidh a chall ri linn 's gun do chuir iad às dhaibh fhèin agus 's e dòrainn uabhasach a th' ann a bhith a' feuchainn ri leithid sin a thuigsinn. Tha sinn dualach a bhith a' faighneachd dhuinn fhìn an robh còbhair a dh'fhaodamaid a bhith air a dhèanamh nach d' rinn sinn. Ach mar a tha an seanfhacal ag ràdh, cha bh' truas ach aig an duine a dh'fhuiling! Faodaidh sinn èisteachd ri daoine air an robh leithid trom-intinn agus gheibh sinn tomhas beag de thuigse, ach mar a thuir mo sheann charaid Dòmhnall Meek mun tinneas sin, cha tuig duine an dorchadas ach an fheadhainn a chaidh tromhe.

Tha ùine mhòr bho thòisich an deasbad a thaobh còir laghail a thoirt dha daoine a tha a' fulang le tinneas air nach eil dòchas leigheis.

Chunnaic a' mhòr-chuid againn càirdean agus eòlaich le tinneas leantainneach, 's dòcha ann an cràdh agus gun tlachd nam beatha tuilleadh.

Tha am BPA Margo Dhòmhnallach a' feuchainn a-rithist ri lagh a stèidheachadh ann an Alba a leigeadh le daoine gun dòchas air leigheas cuideachadh fhaotainn gus crìoch laghail a thoirt air am beatha.

WE WERE shocked to hear, at his funeral service, that our old friend had taken his own life.

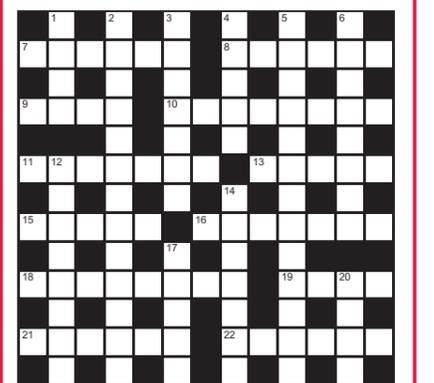
Thinking about it later we assume that, as an experienced and talented doctor, he assessed his own illness and decided to cut short his own and his family's suffering. It seems to me to be an act of incredible bravery but as the saying goes, only those who have experienced the pain can truly understand.

Now mourning the loss of a friend, Margo MacDonald's campaign seems more understandable.

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

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| Across | Down |
| 7 Put a stop to when putting it on (6) | 1 Stead (4) |
| 8 Attendant (6) | 2 Used to melt copper (9,4) |
| 9 One of four (4) | 3 Close down (4,3) |
| 10 Perseverance (8) | 4 Eager (5) |
| 11 Western lawman (7) | 5 Longing (13) |
| 13 Singing play (5) | 6 Ragged (8) |
| 15 Absurd (5) | 12 Piece of torn skin on the end of a finger (8) |
| 16 Hold a position of authority (7) | 14 Holy cheese (7) |
| 18 Completely (8) | 17 Secure a rope (5) |
| 19 Always (4) | 20 Large jug (4) |
| 21 Drink from sensitive plants? (6) | |
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Gifts for Christmas

WHEN you're looking for a gift for that special someone this Christmas, don't even consider socks. Eliminate from your mind any thought of festive jumpers, back massager and onesies - bread, pie or doughnut makers. And don't even think about a gift voucher.

We've all experienced it, receiving presents we rather didn't receive; faking an appreciative smile when inside you're crying. Trying discreetly to do-

nate it to the charity shop or even re-wrap it and give it to someone else.

So take time and consider what gifts to get anyone important to you - think about what they'd love to buy themselves but couldn't justify. Something they'd never think of but love. Perhaps something they would treasure forever.

Have a look around too; speak to shopkeepers in different shops and ask for advice. You'll be amazed at some of the suggestions that might come your way. Pick well, and you'll revel in the smile you'll receive on Christmas day.

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FESTIVE celebrations will be taking place across Scotland as Christmas and New Year draw closer.

The first thing you need to look out for is your local Christmas lights switch-on. These will take place in the next few weeks in towns and villages across the west coast of Scotland.

Closely following the switch-on will be a range of Christmas craft fairs and produce markets - where you'll find everything from calendars to chutney. Be sure to check out Kilmartin Museum's Fairtrade Christmas market on November 23 and 24.

There will also be late night shopping events taking place, where along with your purchases you'll have free festive drink and nibbles and carol singers. Take a trip to Tobermory on November 29 to join in their celebrations.

The following day another island, Arran, hosts its annual Santa Sparkle in Lamlash. There will be stalls packed with festive items and plenty of mulled wine on offer.

A lighting ceremony takes place on the Saturday and a performance of Chipperfield's Circus on Sunday.

The following week sees the Lunga Snow Ball take place on December 7 - grab a ticket and enjoy bubbly, canapes, a four course meal, entertainment and dancing until late in the sparkling surroundings of Lunga.

In December you'll find Christmas concerts of traditional and classical music, village hall Christmas parties as well as bars hosting cocktail parties. Of course there will be organised parties in venues across the region which companies are welcome to join.

When it comes to the time to

celebrate New Year there's no need to head as far as Edinburgh or Stirling. Towns and villages across Argyll and Lochaber will be hosting smaller, but no less fantastic events.

Some to keep an eye on are Oban's Hogmanay or family ceilidh and Tobermory's Hogmanay. There really is festivities far and wide this year.



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festivities in oban



Oban's Station Square at Christmas time. Photo courtesy of Dennis Hardley.

OBAN has long been known as a summer retreat with thousands of tourists flocking to the here for a west Highland getaway.

But did you know that the town is now one of the best winter destinations too, thanks mainly to the increasingly popular Oban Winter Festival.

Running from November 22 to December 1 this year, the festival offers the best this area has to offer and more.

Even Santa is getting in on the celebrations as he leads a reindeer parade through the town's George Street on the opening weekend of the festival.

The opening ceremony to the third annual event will also feature a spectacular lights display at McCaig's Tower, a Winter Wonderland performance by Ballet West, a food and drink market with local produce in Oban Distillery, dry slope skiing at Kilbowie Outdoor Centre much more.

Throughout the week there is a great mix of fun and frolics for all ages.

This year's festival will also incorporate a variety of St Andrew's Day events, from an afternoon Scottish dance show to a spectacular Oban Bay Lights Show, which can be viewed from the Esplanade. The lights show will include the projection of a huge Saltire

across Oban Bay - onlookers will be hoping for a bit of drizzle for once, as the effect of the lights is more spectacular in the rain.

Following the lights show the Corran Halls will host a star-studded ceilidh featuring Oban Pipe Band, guest dancers and singers and ceilidh favourites Skipinnish, fronted by traditional music's man of the moment Robert Robertson, winner of this year's Mod gold medal.

The festival will be brought to a close on Sunday, December 1 when Oban High School Pipe Band leads a lantern parade from the Corran Halls at 5.30pm to a food court at Oban Distillery. From there, people are invited to enjoy the Grand Finale.

Some of the other highlights this year include street markets, late-night shopping, a science weekend, roller disco, history tours, whisky tasting, a murder mystery night and a fire art demonstration.

With so much on offer in this year's exciting programme, there is no excuse for missing out.

Take a look at the festival programme and contact details in this week's Oban Times or visit obanwinterfestival.com and get involved in Oban's showpiece winter event!



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Oban Times whisky
from Oban Distillery



AS ONE of Oban Winter Festival's main backers, Oban Distillery, in association with The Oban Times, is offering readers a chance to win a special, engraved bottle of whisky.

Diageo has been a consistent backer of the festival since it started in 2011 and once again has played a key part in its planning, as well as hosting a number of its events.

To celebrate this year's celebrations, Oban Distillery is offering one lucky reader the chance to win a bottle of 14 year old malt, engraved with their own personalised message.

Not only would the bottle make an ideal Christmas gift, but it guarantees a unique way to celebrate the festival's success.

To win, all you have to do is answer this simple question:
When was Oban Distillery established?

Simply fill in the form below and send to Whisky Competition, Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, PA37 1SE. Entries must be submitted by 5pm on Monday, November 25.

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

WHISKY
COMPETITION

Answer:

Name:

Address:

Daytime Phone Number:

Terms and Conditions: Entries open to over 18s only. Staff and families of Wyvex Media employees are prohibited from entering. No cash alternative is available. The editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Entries submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Winners must show proof of ID on collection of prize from The Oban Times offices.

**OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL
PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2013**

VISIT WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS AT WWW.OBANWINTERFESTIVAL.COM/EVENTS

FRIDAY 22 NOVEMBER

BALLET WEST WINTER WONDERLAND
Corran Halls, Oban 7.00pm. Doors open 6.30pm

FAMILY ROLLER DISCO WEEKEND
Atlantis Leisure, Dalriach Road, Oban
Ages 5 to Adult
6pm-9.30pm

TABLE TOP SALE IN AID OF FRIENDS OF OBAN HOSPICE
The Co-op. 10.00am-4.00pm.

SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER

ARGYLL ANIMAL AID CRAFT FAYRE
Corran Halls Oban 11.00am - 3.00pm

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL FOOD & DRINK MARKET
Oban Distillery Cask Room
10.00am - 4.00pm

Watch out for the Oban Express Music Bus touring the town!!

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL VICTORIAN MARKET
Caledonian Hotel, Station Square, Oban
2.00pm - 6.00pm

ARCHAEOLOGY FAMILY FUN DAY
Dunollie House, Ganavan Road, Oban
1.00pm - 4.00pm

WINTER FILM EXTRAVAGANZA
Oban Phoenix Cinema
Ice Age Four - Continental Drift 1.00pm
Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer 3.30pm

Watch Out for Coolio during the festival!!

DISCOVER LIGHT: FUN SCIENCE & CRAFT WEEKEND
Ocean Explorer Centre, Dunbeg
10.00am - 4.00pm

FAMILY ROLLER DISCO WEEKEND
Atlantis Leisure, Dalriach Road, Oban
10.00am - 4.00pm

REINDEER PARADE
Santa & his Reindeer leave the Corran Halls at 5.00pm to Station Square.
Christmas Lights Switch On 6.00pm in Station Square

SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER

WINTER WONDERLAND FUN DAY
Sealife Centre, Barcaldine, by Oban
Roni's Chainsaw Art carving demonstration
10.00am - 5.00pm - last admission at 4.00pm

DISCOVER LIGHT: FUN SCIENCE & CRAFT WEEKEND
Ocean Explorer Centre, Dunbeg
10.00am - 4.00pm

FAMILY ROLLER DISCO WEEKEND
Atlantis Leisure, Dalriach Road, Oban
10.00am - 4.00pm

WINTER FILM EXTRAVAGANZA

Oban Phoenix Cinema
Happy Feet 2 12.30pm

FESTIVE AFTERNOON TEAS
Great Western Hotel
4.00pm

MONDAY 25 NOVEMBER

CHRISTMAS AT KITCHEN GARDEN
Kitchen Garden, George Street, Oban
7.00pm

FURAN (OBAN GAELIC CENTRE) BLASAD GAIDHLIG

(A wee taste of Scottish Gaelic)
Furan Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls Oban
7.00pm - doors open 6.30pm

WHISKY FRINGE @ SLOAN'S BAR
Railway Pier Oban
7.30pm

TUESDAY 26 NOVEMBER

CHRISTMAS AT KITCHEN GARDEN
Kitchen Garden, George Street, Oban
7.00pm

SINCLAIR SCHOOL OF DANCE SHOW
Corran Halls, Oban
7.00pm - doors open 6.45pm

FURAN (OBAN GAELIC CENTRE) BLASAD SEINN GAIDHLIG (SING GAELIC)

Non Gaelic Speakers Welcome!
Furan Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls Oban
7.00pm - doors open 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY 27 NOVEMBER

FESTIVE AFTERNOON TEAS
Great Western Hotel
4.00pm

FURAN (OBAN GAELIC CENTRE) BLASAD SEINN GAIDHLIG (SING GAELIC)

Furan Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls Oban
7.00pm - doors open 6.30pm

CHRISTMAS FLOWERING ARRANGING DEMONSTRATION

by Stalks & Stems of Glasgow
Argyllshire Gathering Hall, Breadalbane Street
Oban
7.30pm - doors open 7.00pm

PURDIES OF OBAN CHARITY NIGHT

George Street, Oban
Samples/Massage/Music/Special Offers/Drinks and Nibbles
7.00pm till 9.00pm

MR MUSTHAVA MOUSTACHE COMPETITION

Spruce, 2 John Street, Oban
Winner Announced 7.30pm

THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER

Late night shopping - special offers in shops

COCKTAIL MASTERCLASS
Rowantree Lounge Bar, George Street, Oban
7.00pm

FURAN (OBAN GAELIC CENTRE) FURAN FARPAIS - CHEIST GAIDHLIG

(Gaelic Quiz)
Studio Theatre, Corran Halls Oban
7.00pm - doors open 6.30pm

KIDS TAKE OVER THE MUSEUM DAY (TAKEOVER DAY SCOTLAND)
Dunollie House, Ganavan Road, Oban
11.00am till 4.00pm

CHOCOLATE BINGO & BAD JUMPER EVENING
Oban Chocolate Factory, Esplanade Oban
7.00pm - 9.00pm

FRIDAY 29th NOVEMBER

POLSKI FLING
St. Columba's Cathedral Hall, Oban, 8.00pm

THREE WEE CROWS THEATRE COMPANY
Performance in St. John's Cathedral, Oban.
"Cast the Grey Eye"

MUSICIAN SHOWCASE
Corran Halls Studio Theatre
8.00pm - doors open 7.30pm

OBAN IN WARTIME AND IN PEACETIME
A talk and slideshow by Bob McCulloch and Charlie Drummond
Glencruitten Church Hall 7.30pm

SATURDAY 30th NOVEMBER

JAZZ BAR BIG BAND
Skipinnish Ceilidh House, George Street, Oban
8.30pm till 11.00pm. Doors open 8.00pm

Watch Out for Coolio during the Festival!

ST. ANDREW'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL WHISKY PRODUCTS MARKET
Oban Distillery Cask Room & Visitor Centre
10.00am - 4.00pm

ATLANTIS ST ANDREW'S DANCE SHOW
Corran Halls Oban, 2.00pm

ST ANDREW'S DAY SPRINT
5K Esplanade to Ganavan & back to War Memorial
Race starts at 12 noon - assemble at War Memorial

WINTER FILM EXTRAVAGANZA
Oban Phoenix Cinema
March of the Penguins 12.00pm
Polar Express 2.30pm

Serenity
@ Spruce

NEW grooming and beauty salon
for men and women

10% OFF
WITH THIS ADVERT

Christmas
GIFT VOUCHERS
available

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paparazzi
cocktail bar

XMAS COCKTAIL PARTY only **£9.50**

Festive buffet with finger nibbles, festive canapes and Christmas cocktails, D.J. and dancing til 2am. **Some dates still available**

Book now 01661 565421/07770 981967

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THE CREEL
BAR AND BEER GARDEN

EXCELLENT ENTERTAINMENT EVERY WEEKEND THROUGHOUT DECEMBER

2 & 3 course Christmas lunch and dinner menus from £14.95 per person

Prawn and crayfish cocktail served with salad and seafood dip
Duck liver pate served with crisp salad and Cumberland sauce
Chilled melon with a winter berry compote
Freshly prepared turkey and winter veg broth served with crusty bread
Breaded garlic mushrooms with garlic mayonnaise and salad

...
Traditional roast turkey served with all the trimmings
Roast chicken breast stuffed with haggis and served with a peppercorn sauce
Pan seared salmon fillet on rocket and crushed baby potatoes and a mussel cream sauce
Sirloin steak Noel cooked to your preference served with a Drumbaie, mushroom and shallot sauce
Goats cheese, chickpea and mushroom filo parcels on a creamy basil sauce

...
Hot Bramley apple crumble with a warm custard
Traditional Christmas pudding with brandy sauce
Fabulous chocolate fudge cake
Cheeseboard

Winter Festival late night shopping special
30% discount on all meals until 9.30pm
for all shop staff

Tel: 01631 562184
www.woodsidehoteloban.net

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07446735236

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FREE HOME DELIVERY
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WINTER FUN!

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Oban PA34 4BW

w: www.thelandscapingcentreoban.co.uk
e: tlc@tlcoban.co.uk
t: 01631 571777

- Real Christmas Trees available from 30th November - Pre order now!
- Hand tied Holly wreaths
- Handmade Winter Hanging baskets
- Gift Vouchers

Winter Fuels & Supplies: Flogas, Logs, Kindling, Peat and Rock Salt.

GARDEN MACHINERY SERVICE & REPAIR
BOOKINGS TAKEN NOW

festivities in oban



ISLE OF LISMORE MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT

The Heritage Centre, Isle of Lismore
Prompt arrival at 6.30pm

PIRATES AHOY!

Dunollie House, Ganavan Road, Oban.
1.00pm - 4.00pm

THE OBAN BAY LIGHT SHOWS

Witness the spectacle of the largest Saltire ever seen on the West Coast. Then see Oban Bay and McCaig's Tower light up as part of a display of light, music and sounds. Assemble 6.45 SHARP at Corran Halls, Esplanade or anywhere with views of both Kerrera and McCaig's Tower.

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL & OBAN PIPE BAND ST. ANDREW'S CEILIDH DANCE

Corran Halls, Esplanade Oban.
8.00pm - Doors Open 7.30pm

ST ANDREW'S HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

2.30pm and 4.00pm
Meet at the Clock Tower Station Square, Oban

SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL CHILDREN'S MARKET & CRAFT MARKET

Corran Halls, Esplanade, Oban
12noon - 4.00pm

VICTORIAN AFTERNOON TEAS

Corran Halls Studio Theatre
12noon - 4.00pm

WINTER FILM EXTRAVAGANZA

Oban Phoenix Cinema
Frosty the Snowman 1.00pm
The Little Mermaid 2.30pm

FESTIVE AFTERNOON TEAS

Great Western Hotel. 4.00pm

FIRE ART

4.30pm
Grass Area adjacent to Corran Halls, Esplanade Oban.

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL LANTERN PARADE

Gather at the Corran Halls
Parade leaves at 5.00pm

OBAN DISTILLERY

Food Court, Live Music & Snow from 5.00pm
Auld Lang Syne 6.45pm

FIREWORKS & LIGHTS ON ESPLANADE

The Oban Winter Festival draws to a close with the Finale Light-Show and Firework Display, at 7pm.

The Festival Finale will feature a specially commissioned soundscape of music, poetry and ambience.



Last year's Winter Festival Finale Fireworks. Photo courtesy of Dennis Hardley.



Tel: 01631 564448
Email us at info@markiedans.co.uk

Winter Festival at Markie Dans, Oban

Starting 23rd November for 2 weeks - Family and friends have a munch and share platters only £10 all day from 12-9pm and amazing winter cocktail jugs only £6.95

Sat 23rd - Cheesy Disco with Stevo from 9.30pm

Sat 30th - St Andrews November Party

charity waxing and shaving - face painting - scottish fancy dress - celebrate everything Scottish and raise money for a good cause - get ur wee jimmy hats and kilts on - live scottish music and a disco from 9.30pm

Christmas and Newyear Festive Fun at MarkieDans

with entertainment every night - Live Music, Disco, Karaoke or Quiz every night from 20th Dec until the newyear. Dont miss out on Crooked Reel, Chunks, Chris Suckle, Sandra MacBeth and many more fab performers keep your eyes peeled for our Dec gig guide!

Open all day every day from 11am til 2am and 3am on 25th/26th/31st/1st for one big party! Xmas Jumper Competition on Boxing Day and a pool and karaoke competition.

New Work Hard Play Hard Christmas Party Nights available

2 courses only £12.95 / 3 courses £16.95 or our Christmas Class option at £20.95 with a complimentary glass of bubbles on arrival and a cocktail with your meal. We will provide entertainment to dance the night away with live music/disco or karaoke/ choose your date from our gig guide. Alternatively if you dont want a sit down meal and would prefer we have complimentary buffet and entertainment options with a minimum bar spend of £150/£300 or £500 - phone and ask for Lindsay to book your party or night out.

Menu

Homemade Soup of the Day

Prawn Cocktail

Ardennes Pate with spiced onion chutney

Stornoway Blackpudding and Smoked Orkney Cheddar Stack with tomato chutney

Sirloin Steak Garni

Chicken, Haggis and Peppercorn Sauce

Turkey Breast and all the trimmings

Lime Crusted Haddock

all served with Mashed Potatoes, Roast Potatoes and Roast Vegetables

Homemade Keylime Pie

Winterberry Cheesecake

Selection of Cheeses

Christmas Pudding and Brandy Cream



Jazz Bar Little Big Band
Skipinnish Ceilidh House
Sat 30th November 2013
8pm - 11pm
Tickets £10 from Skipinnish Ceilidh House, Oban Music & Books, Room 15
For table bookings call 07785 343197

Christmas Lunches & Dinners
4-course lunch only £9.95 per person
4-course dinner only £14.95 per person
Available from 1st December to 24th December
Christmas day Menu
5-course dinner only £25 per person
Children's menu also available
Party nights include dinner, glass of bubbly on arrival & party pack.

Friday 20th December
DON'T STOP ME NOW
The party has only just started with our fantastic Freddie Mercury Tribute night!
£24.95pp
Saturday 21st December
There will be **Mistletoe Madness** at our Christmas party night... dance along to all the classics with our resident DJ
£19.95pp

Call Santa's little helpers on 01631 562 188
COLUMBA Hotel - Oban
Columba Hotel, North Pier, Oban PA34 5QD
email columba@sgehotels.com
www.ch-oban.com

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GOOD LUCK TO OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL

Purdie's OF ARGYLL
Want the perfect bespoke gift this Christmas?
Purdies have many original ideas, gifts as well as our luxury award winning organic range. Christmas shopping just got easier.
We thank our customers for all their support

NOVEMBER DIARY
23rd Late night opening
27th Oban High School charity night, 10% off Late night opening. Live music and nibbles. Try a complimentary massage. Your support will be appreciated
28th late night opening
29th New shop opening in overgate shopping mall, Dundee
30th Purdies will be supporting the whisky fair
Appearing again the amazing living statues in our windows. Please share us on facebook and tripadvisor.
18 George Street, Oban. Tel: 01631 562 883
www.purdies.org

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We only use lean cuts of Meat
We only use reduced fat Yogurt and Mayonnaise
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SUNDAY - 3PM - 12.30AM
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UP TO 50% OFF

Join us for some festive fun at our **CHRISTMAS GALA THURSDAY 21ST to SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER**

STAR PRIZE DRAW
WIN 2 nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast for 2 people at the award winning Raemoir Country House Hotel, Banchory

SEASONAL OFFERS
REDUCTIONS of up to 50% off on your Christmas shopping!

PRIZE DRAWS
£££'S of prizes to be won. No purchase necessary!

McEWENS George Street, Oban • Tel 01631 569 754

festivities in oban

AYE, TUNES
 a great West Coast Ceilidh Sound
 Tunes to get your toes tapping
 and songs to get you singing along

Drams Allowed are:
 Sileas Sinclair (accordion, piano),
 Deirdre MacDonald (fiddle),
 Sarah Sinclair (guitar, vocals)
 and Ryan McElynn (drums).

Available from Oban
 Music 01631 566304
 www.musicscotland.com




Oban Bay reflections in winter. Photo courtesy of Dennis Hardley.

Coffee Corner

Full range of coffees, soups,
 sandwiches, toasties, hot dogs,
 mince pies and cream, scones,
 delicious cakes and pastries.

Argyll Square, Oban
 01631 562 588



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 and that
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We thank you for your custom throughout 2013 and look forward to seeing you in 2014

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Roni's Chainsaw Art
 carving demo 24th nov
 sealife sanctuary
 carvings for sale



OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA
 Presents
Winter Festival Films



Showing 23rd Nov to 1st Dec

Tickets
 £3-£4



BID4Oban presents....
The REINDEER PARADE

Saturday 23rd November

Parade leaves Corran Halls at 5pm
 Christmas light switch-on, Station Square 6pm
 Oban Pipe Band, Oban FM,
 Eilidh MacInnes School of Dance,
 Spotlight Musical Theatre Group
 and SANTA & his reindeer!

Santa's family ceilidh
 Royal Hotel,
 Admission free, doors 6.30pm
 Featuring Hector McFadyen and his band

With thanks to
 The Rotary Club of Oban, Oban Express,
 Oban Electrical Services,
 Oban & Lorn Lions Club, Tool & Equipment



WIN! The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

A Christmas hamper
 worth *Including a Hudl!*
£500! Courtesy of Tesco, Oban.



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

The hamper includes a Hudl, a Finest flower arrangement a bottle of Finest champagne, a bottle of Finest wine, a Finest fresh turkey, Finest frozen roast potatoes/ parsnips, a Finest frozen dessert, a Finest meal deal for 2 and a selection of Xmas Finest products (mince pies, nuts, stolen cake, sauce, stuffings etc.)

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



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

Collect token three today



Winter Wonderland

Ballet West

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL

Friday 22nd November
 7:00pm
 Corran Halls, Oban

Tickets:
 £12/£10 (concessions)
 Book your tickets now!



DISCOVER LIGHT

FUN SCIENCE & CRAFT WEEKEND

23 and 24 November
 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

Reduced entry to centre + activity at
 £1.75 per person.

ocean EXPLORER CENTRE

W: www.oceanexplorercentre.org
 E: Helen.McNeill@sams.ac.uk
 T: 01631 559123



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

christmas in lochaber



WITH just over 30 shopping days left until Christmas, there's plenty happening in and around Lochaber this festive season to keep locals and visitors of all ages entertained.

With preparations gathering pace for the big day, hotels and restaurants across the area have a number of deals throughout the festive period to keep you occupied, although booking early is advised to avoid disappointment.

The festive lights on Fort William High Street are set for a Monday December 2 switch on - officially launching the start of the yuletide season in the town, brightening up the town and bringing a bit of

Christmas cheer to the locals. Santa and his reindeer will be making their annual visit to Fort William on Saturday November 30 before he heads back to the North Pole to get his presents ready for delivery on Christmas Eve.

Gift buying will be top of most people's Christmas agendas, and there are plenty of options in and around Fort William for someone looking for that special gift for a loved one.

A number of retailers in the area have special Christmas deals available, and fairs and sales being held in Lochaber mean you won't have to look far to get some special Christmas gifts.



HOLROYD GALLERY & PICTURE FRAMER

A mixed exhibition of original art by gallery artists including Alan Anderson, Anthony Barber, Grace Cameron, Jean Feeney, Ken Ferguson, Angela Hewitt, Ed Hunter, David Mitchell, Philip Raskin, Katy Spong, Dot Walker, Erni Upton and Allison Young...

Join us on Saturday 7th December from 2pm onwards for mulled wine and Christmas cupcakes.

F.W. Holroyd Art Gallery and Picture Framers
Old Ferry Road, North Ballachulish
01855 821277
www.holroydgallery.co.uk

LOCH LEVEN HOTEL

Festive Dining 1st - 24th December

Festive Lunch
2 courses at £13.50 or 3 courses £17.00

Festive Dinner
2 courses at £17.00 or 3 courses £20.00

Christmas Day Lunch £45 per person

BOOK FOR 10 PEOPLE OR MORE AND RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY GLASS OF SPARKLING WINE EACH!

Old Ferry Road, North Ballachulish, PH33 6SA
01855 821236 reception@lochlevenhotel.co.uk

Lochaber Action on Disability - Lochaber District

LUNCH CLUB
Freshly prepared two course home-made cuisine
Every day: Monday - Friday
Arrive for 12.30pm
Served at 1.00pm
Come along and enjoy our open friendly manner at Caol Community Centre
All ages welcome

COMMUNITY CAFE ALADDIN'S CAVE
(You can find us opposite Caol Post Office, Glenloy Street, Caol)
Monday - Friday 9.30 - 3.00pm
Saturday 9.30 - 12.30pm
Give us a call on 01397 701171 and ask for Laura or just turn up and give us a try!

WISHING ALL OUR CUSTOMERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS
L.A.D.'S FULLY ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

Spòrs Nollaig
Christmas Fun

A Gaelic Fun morning for parents and pre-school children.
Seisean Spòrsail airson pàrantan is cloinne fo 5 bliadhna dh'aois.
10.30am to 12.30pm
Saturday 7th December
St Andrew's Church Hall, Fort William
Admission - free of charge.

'Baby Choons' toddler disco and bouncy castle!
Christmas activities. Refreshments
No previous knowledge of Gaelic necessary!
Fàilte! - All welcome

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

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Fort William, PH33 6NG

The Rotary Club of Lochaber, supported by Ferguson Transport (Spean Bridge) Ltd, invite you to our

Christmas Festival
and
CRAFT AND FOOD PRODUCERS FAIR

at the Nevis Centre, An Aird, Fort William
Saturday 30 November 2013
10.30am to 4pm

Santa's Reindeer and Sleigh leave from Celtic Circle at the Parade at 11am

Willow baskets, artwork, woodturning, floral arrangements, batik, furniture, candles, gift tags, portrait photography, slate products, knitwear, table accessories, silver, gemstone and bead jewellery, range of textile goods, books, skincare products, quilts, toys; hats; handmade preserves, confectionery, home-baked prepacked Xmas foods, fruit baskets, honey, wild venison charcuterie, horticulture, dressings & marinades, cupcakes, homebaking, smoked foods; for children - make your own Xmas baubles, bouncy castle, bodyzorbing, glitter tattoos, face painting, candy floss; Santa's Grotto; reindeer and sleigh; Pipe Band; Live Music and lots lots more

PROPERTY SERVICES Santa's Grotto sponsored by Lochaber Housing Association Property Services

Start your Christmas shopping here!
Refreshments Admission Free



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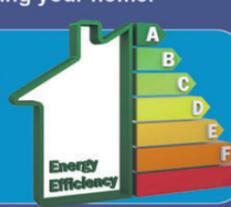
ARDNAMURCHAN ESTATES
Escape to the Highlands
Plan your escape to an idyllic cottage or country house in the West Highlands

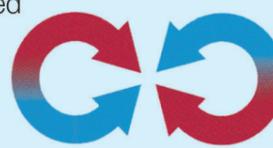
With deer, eagles and otters on the doorstep, secluded beaches, breathtaking sunsets and views over island vistas, beautiful Ardnamurchan is almost an island itself. Relax into the gentle pace of life and spend your days fishing, walking, sightseeing and bird watching, or simply put your feet up and listen to the sound of waves on the shore. Whether it's seclusion you're seeking, or an activity-packed break with nature walks, wilderness drives and whale watching, your trip will certainly be one to remember.

Cottages AND houses sleep from 4 - 11
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FORECASTERS are already predicting a chilly winter for 2013 and with last week's gusts, there's no reason to think that won't be the case. Heating bills are already creeping up as the chilly mornings and dark nights mean more time indoors - but there's no need to spend a fortune on keeping the cold at bay this Christmas. There's the age-old solution of put on another jumper, while girls might prefer to don a onesie - both might be terrific inspiration for a gift, not to mentioning a pair of winter socks...

But there are more practical - and more fashionable - ways to keep your home warm this Christmas, without breaking the bank. Check now to see if you have enough insulation in your loft, perhaps put a tin-foil sheet or heat reflector down the back of your radiators and ensure you're not wasting heat by leaving windows open in heated rooms. Draft excluders are a great way to keep rooms cosy too. And if all else fails, you can always warm your hands round a freshly lit Christmas pud.

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Try searching unique gifts and you'll find yourself presented with suggestions for a floral encrusted butterfly canvas, an opportunity to name a star and even a brandy glass shaped like a pipe which comes in its very own gift box - we bet you'd never have thought of that!

There is also more mainstream gifts available online such as a full range of jewellery. Why not treat your loved one to a new watch. You could book days out includ-

ing flight lessons, hot balloon rides or even supercar driving. Many of these can be found on daily deal websites for fantastic prices.

What the internet is especially good at offering though is the opportunity to personalise gifts. You can have unique cards, special messages on mugs and t-shirts and engraving on almost anything.

You can also order original pieces of art, have a favourite photo put on canvas or book a surprise trip away. For creative types you even get wallpaper that you colour in yourself.

The internet is also a haven for animal lovers - with videos of cute kittens slowly taking over online channels. And the same goes for online gifts, you can buy unusual presents including pug money banks, cat clocks and tiger eggcups.

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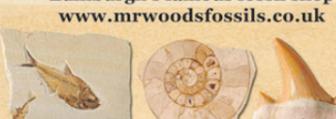
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christmas on the islands

THE ISLANDS are gearing up for the start of the Christmas rush, and with only five weekends left until Santa pays his Christmas Eve visit to deliver presents and the thoughts of many people will be turning to their Christmas shopping.

There's plenty of options for gift buying across the Hebrides, with national chains sitting side-by-side with local shops to provide a wide range of popular and one-of-a-kind presents to choose from.

A number of island breaks are available for the big day, with people from across the country keen to spend their festive period in some of the most spectacular scenery Scotland has to offer.

And if the thought of cooking meal after meal throughout the Yuletide period is too much, a number of award winning eateries are on hand for you to choose from.

Of course snow can never be guaranteed, but visitors may well be able to spend part of their festive break walking in a winter wonderland amongst the mountains on Skye or the sandy beaches to be found on North and South Uist.

And of course, music will play a big part in any Christmas celebrations on the island as locals wish each other Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhna Mhath Ur.



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Living in the Moment

Poet Norman Bissell



The lighthouse from Luig, a scene that inspired Norman to come and live on the island.

POET and writer Norman Bissell is renowned for his work as a teacher, a lecturer and as a trade unionist.

But it wasn't until his retirement that the career he's best known for, in his home village of Cullipool, really took off.

Alongside a hugely successful book of poetry; Slate, Sea and Sky, he has gone on to co-direct a film, We Are Northern Lights, various articles, reviews, poetry, performance poetry and interpretive signage.

With two more major projects in the pipeline, there is still no sign of slowing down for the Luig resident.

Yet, it was a long road to full-time writing.

Norman explains: 'My writing really began at the University of Glasgow when I was studying philosophy and history in the 1960s. As a child, growing up in Partick, I was always conscious of what was happening around me. Writers are usually good at observing things.'

Under the influence of lecturer Kenneth White, he began to see the social impact of poetry and writing.

'I joined the Jargon Group,' Norman explained, 'a discussion group led by Kenneth. We would talk until the early hours.'

Norman describes an exciting time for poetry and ideas.

'The group introduced me to the American Beats, the Russian Revolutionary writers, Walt Whitman, Gary Snyder and Henry Thoreau, who said you shouldn't waste your life on minor things.'

'This is where I learned about having a zest for living and an understanding of how to live well. We learned about living in the moment and seizing the day. It inspired me.'

'It has stayed with me, in fact it is the title of my memoir - Living in the Moment.'

After university, writing took a back seat as Norman married, raised his family and became a principal teacher of history. Af-

ter 20 years of teaching, he took a job with the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) advising and representing many teachers in the former Strathclyde area.

His work involved Norman in a different kind of writing: articles and speeches. His stalwart work helped to introduce legislation that would, amongst other things, reduce the number of children in composite classes - legislation that still exists today.

Norman said: 'Education in the 1980s was going through difficult times. It was fundamental to the union that we changed things. Not just for teachers, but also for the benefit of children's education.'

Near the end of his 16-year union career, Norman suffered a major shock. 'I had prostate cancer.'

'I was off work for a long time, and in the end I was ready to retire.'

'Retirement gave me the time to write. I see it as writing for fulfillment.' Norman also

wanted to move to the coast. His parents had met at a dance in Dunoon and he was drawn to Argyll.

'I travelled all round the area looking for a place that was for me,' he said.

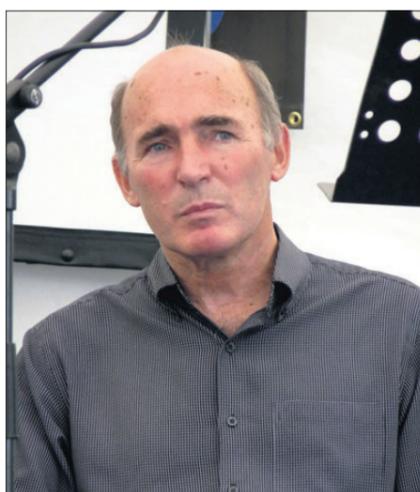
'One particular time I was staying at a bed and breakfast on Seil and I visited Toberonochy on Luig. It was a charming, sheltered, peaceful Bay and met, by coincidence, an old friend. I saw this as a good omen.'

'I drove round to Cullipool. The sky was blue and the light was twinkling away on the white Fladda lighthouse. I fell in love with the place right then.'

'In 1999 I found the house I live in now.'

Norman's book, Slate, Sea and Sky, was the first of many successful projects he has been involved with.

Later this month he will find out if he has been awarded a Scottish BAFTA for his co-direction of Northern Lights, a



Norman speaking at the Belladrum Festival.

documentary about life in Scotland. The coast around Luig continues to inspire Norman.

He said: 'For a long time I had an idea for what I thought would make an interesting film and I had not found a way of doing anything with it.'

In April 2011 Creative Scotland called for ideas for feature and short films. Of over 70 ideas submitted, three features were selected for script development with a producer.

One was Norman's.

'I've been working on the script ever since. It is inspired by real events in this area.'

Norman is also writing a memoir. He explains: 'It's about the shock of being told I had prostate cancer.'

'The summer I was told, I had a holiday booked in Norway. While I was there I had to make a decision about whether or not to have an operation.'

'I decided to have the procedure and it seemed to work, so being told some time later that

the cancer had come back was just as shocking as the earlier diagnosis. I've learned that living in the moment is what's important and not living in the future or in the past.'

Norman feels as though he is 'almost in the clear.'

'It's all under control,' he adds. 'There is life after cancer.'

'When I wasn't writing for those 20 years there was something missing in my life I wanted that fulfilment again.'

Norman is leading two guided walks about the heritage of Oban at the Oban Winter Festival on Saturday, November 30.

He is also reading his new poem Winter Light along with music by Aidan O'Rourke in the Big Light Show that closes the Winter Festival on December 1.

Norman fits his writing in around a very busy volunteering schedule, which includes the Isle of Luig Community Trust and the Luig History Group, developing the Atlantic Islands Centre on the island.

Environmental expert to give lecture on using Highlands' resources

AN ENVIRONMENTAL expert is to give a keynote address in Fort William on how the Highlands and Islands' natural resources can be managed for the benefit of all.

Richard Balharry MBE will deliver the University of the Highlands and Islands' annual lecture, 'Naturally Highlands and Islands of Scotland', at the university's Foundation Day next Tuesday. Mr Balharry will draw on experiences from his work on Highland estates and his roles at the Red Deer Commission and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Mr Balharry said: 'I plan to tell a story that will extol the virtues of the Highlands and Islands where I have had the privilege of having a career working for and

Dutch military truck crash delays Pulpit Rock works

A DUTCH military truck carrying a 'large quantity' of fuel was left dangling over Loch Lomond last week after crashing near the Pulpit Rock roadworks.

Transport Scotland has confirmed the incident, which happened a mile and a half south of the roadworks just before 8pm last Wednesday, has extended ongoing roadworks on the A82 between Crianlarich and Tarbet, after delaying piling works and forcing an early evening closure of the road.

The single male driver of the truck, a member of the Netherlands' armed services, was unhurt as a result of the accident, however there were concerns the truck's load would spill into the loch and a recovery operation couldn't start until specialist equipment was brought on scene.

All machinery on site for the roadworks also had to be removed until the vehicle was rescued.

That meant as well as causing an early closure, the road reopened late, with the vehicle

not safely pulled back onto all four wheels until 6.10am.

Oban's Chief Inspector, Alastair Davidson, said: 'There was a significant amount of fuel in the vehicle and that's what caused problems in getting it recovered.'

'There was a danger of it spilling into the loch so we had to wait for a suitable recovery vehicle.'

It is understood the driver and vehicle were in the area as part of an exercise at the Faslane Naval Base.

Transport Scotland has said that while only one night of planned roadworks was affected, the crash disrupted preparation work for the piling, which means it has to be done again.

That means an additional four nights of closure from today (Thursday) until Monday, November 25. As previously, the road will close at 10pm and reopen at 6am.

The Dutch Ministry of Defence was contacted for comment but did not respond at the time of going to press.

Oban Bay harbour plan to be prepared

A PLAN to improve the safety of Oban Bay for harbour users is to be prepared after a cruise ship ran aground earlier this year.

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) is working with the Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB) and Argyll and Bute Council to develop an Oban Bay Harbour Management Plan.

The move follows a recent meeting between the three organisations where 'unanimous support' was given for considering what options are available to improve the bay - which has more marine traffic using it than ever.

Lorna Hunter, a spokeswoman for NLB, said: 'Following recent groundings on Corran Ledge by a passenger vessel and a recognition that Oban Bay is becoming a busier harbour discussions have been taking place between NLB, CMAL and Argyll and Bute Council as to how safety may be improved for all users of the bay.'

Alix Laidlaw, CMAL's spokeswoman, added: 'This plan will benefit all locals and users of Oban Bay by improving safety.'

As none of the bodies have the capacity to carry out the work in-house, contractors have been invited to tender for the job of developing the plan.

The deadline for the submission of tenders is December 3 and the contract is expected to be awarded by December 16.

DECEMBER ISSUE OUT NOW

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Claire Macdonald's Christmas recipes

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Island delight at council care commitment

ISLANDERS on Mull are 'delighted' this week after Argyll and Bute Council agreed to their demands for provision of residential care.

Bowman Court, currently operated by West Highland Housing Association and registered as a block of flats, is to be partly taken over by Argyll and Bute Council following complaints that there was no provision for high dependency care.

The decision came after Jim Robb, the council's head of adult care, attended a meeting with local and community councillors and residents' relatives last week to discuss the facility, part of the Mull Progressive Care Centre (PCC).

Mike Shilson, a member of the Mull PCC Steering Group, said: 'We're getting lots of assurances from Mr Robb that he's going to ring-fence flats in Bowman

Court for high dependency care. 'The relatives were very critical of what happened. Mr Robb got embarrassed. He reprimanded his staff for the way it had been done.'

A manager is also to be appointed to take over the running of the whole building, including the Mull and Iona Community Hospital.

Mull councillor Mary-Jean Devon said: 'I'm absolutely de-

Four in a row for CalMac

FERRY operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) has been named Best Ferry Company for the fourth year in a row.

The firm beat 13 major ferry operators to the title in the Guardian and Observer Travel Awards.

The accolade, which is the result of an annual poll of readers who are asked to rate the quality of service they received on their holidays across the world, is CalMac's fourth award in 2013.

Martin Dorchester, managing director, said: 'It is always terrific to have the hard work and dedication of our staff recognised in this way, but truly amazing to have held the title for four years and proof that our success is no flash in the pan.'

He added: 'The timing of all these awards could not be better as we prepare to bid for the next Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services contract.'

'They clearly send out the message to any potential competitors, the government that will award the contract, our customers, staff and stakeholders, that CalMac is a force to be reckoned with and we are doing everything we can to retain the contract for 2016.'



The children and staff of Soroba Young Family Group pictured at the Bank of Scotland Oban branch.

Bank could help Oban playgroup cash in

THE OBAN branch of the Bank of Scotland has been invaded by 23 children and staff from the Soroba Young Family Group as the youngsters look to support their playgroup.

The children were in the branch to cast their vote in the Bank of Scotland Community Fund on final day of voting.

Soroba Young Family Group could win £3,000 for the '0-3 Room' if it receives the most votes in the ballot.

Nursery staff would like to thank West Coast Motors and its driver, as well as the staff at the Bank of Scotland for helping with the visit.

The group will find out if it has been successful on Monday.

Fort car park and trail closure

THE BRAVEHEART car park and forest trails near Fort William will be closed today (Thursday) and tomorrow for timber operations.

Both car park and walks will re-open to the public this weekend before closing again from Monday to Friday next week to allow work to be completed.

A traffic control will be in operation on the glen road from November 21-28.

Leader's award

COMHAIRLE nan Eilian Siar leader Angus Campbell has been jointly named Scottish Local Politician of the Year with the leaders of Orkney and Shetland councils.

Councillor Campbell won the award in The Herald's Scottish Politician of the Year Awards 2013 with Shetland's Gary Robinson and Steven Heddle of Orkney.

what's on

THE OBAN TIMES
FREE EVENT LISTING

THURSDAY - November 21

9am, Ramblers Scotland Duror walk, meet Fort William Woollen Mill or Oban's Longdale Road car park 8.15am or Ballachulish tourist info at 8.40am.
10am, Antique valuation day, An Roth, Craignure, Mull.
7.30pm, We Are Northern Lights, An Tobar, Tobermory, Mull.
8pm, Oban Music Club, O'Donnell's, Oban.
9pm, John 'the box' Turnbull, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

FRIDAY - November 22

Oban Winter Festival various events.
6pm, Late night shopping, An Roth, Craignure, Mull.
7.30pm, Indepen-dance, Appin Hall.
7.30pm, Oban Art Society, Lorn Resource Centre, Oban.
8pm, More Sky Than We Need, Mull Theatre, Tobermory, Mull.
8pm, Oban Mic, O'Donnell's, Oban.
8.30pm, The Indians, BA Club, Fort William.
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

SATURDAY - November 23

Oban Winter Festival various events.
10am, Coffee morning, church hall, Oban Free Church, Rockfield Road, Oban.
11am, Christmas fayre, Corran Halls, Oban.
2pm, Open day, St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe.
8pm, More Sky Than We Need, Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern.
8pm, Power the Amps, Papparazzi, Oban.
9pm, Mel and Friends, O'Donnell's, Oban.
10pm, Live band, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

SUNDAY - November 24

Oban Winter Festival various events.
8.10am, Ramblers Scotland Glen Nevis walk, meet Oban Longdale Road car park, N Ballachulish PS at 9am or Fort William Woollen Mill at 9.30am.
10am, Christmas party, Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary, Barcaldine.
11am, Christmas craft fair, Easdale Island Community Hall.
2.30pm, Christmas market, Dervaig Hall, Mull.
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

MONDAY - November 25

Oban Winter Festival various events.

TUESDAY - November 26

Oban Winter Festival various events.
6pm, Lesley Riddoch talk, An Roth, Craignure, Mull.
8.30pm, Young traditional musicians of the year finalists, An Tobar, Tobermory, Mull.

WEDNESDAY - November 27

Oban Winter Festival various events.
11am, Introduction to Archives, Lochaber Archive Centre, West Highland College, Fort William.
7pm, Paula O'Brien psychic medium, Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William.
9pm, Pub quiz, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

THURSDAY - November 28

Oban Winter Festival various events.
10am, Ramblers Scotland Glen Gloy walk, meet Oban's Longdale Road car park at 8.10am, N Ballachulish PS at 9am, Fort William Woollen Mill at 9.20am or Spean Bridge Woollen Mill at 9.40am.
1.30pm, Mull Musical Minds, An Roth, Craignure, Mull.
8pm, Oban Music Club, O'Donnell's, Oban.
9pm, John 'the box' Turnbull, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

FRIDAY - November 29

Oban Winter Festival various events.
6pm, Late night festive shopping and Christmas lights switch on, Tobermory, Mull.
8pm, Oban Mic, O'Donnell's, Oban.
8pm, Seven Psychopaths, An Tobar, Tobermory, Mull.
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

SATURDAY - November 30

Oban Winter Festival various events.
9am, Strained wire fencing course, Baliscate, Tobermory, Mull.
10am, Ramblers Scotland Kingairloch walk, meet Oban's Longdale Road car park at 8am, Fort William Woollen Mill at 8.45am or Corran Ferry slipway for 9.15am sailing.
11am, St Oran's and Dunbeg Church Christmas fayre, Connel Village Hall.
2pm, Imagined North, An Tobar, Tobermory, Mull.
9pm, Mel and Friends, O'Donnell's, Oban.
10pm, Live band, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

SUNDAY - December 1

Oban Winter Festival various events.
2pm, Producers' market, Craignure Hall, Mull.
2.30pm, Alba Brass, St John's Cathedral, Oban.
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

Send your events to whatson@obantimes.co.uk.

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Fashion show wows Oban High School crowd

A FASHION show rocked Oban High School last week as various acts took to the assembly hall stage.

The production by one of the school's two Young Enterprise groups, Hotmass, was hosted by senior pupil Alasdair Jordan and featured both male and female models, as well as a host of music groups including Oban High's traditional music group, local band Crane and women's choir Sequence, led by Janet Fergusson.

The night kicked off with the girls, Ella MacDonald, Lauren

REPORT by
EMMA STORR

Angus, Maeve Hannigan and Caitlin Taylor taking to the catwalk in clothes sourced from Peacock.

As the boys, Kyle Ormiston, Rhys Cooke, Allan Colthart and Gregor Brydon strutted down the runway in the Guise Clothing collection, humour was added to the show with dance moves for the audience.

Hotmass' own collection of tie-dye t-shirts, which were designed and made by member Samara Croft, premiered on

the runway and were sold from stalls around the hall. Torquil Fergusson, managing director, said: 'It was a frantic night backstage but there was a very mellow ambience in the crowd. All the time and effort we put into it paid off.'

Cards displaying pictures of the local area, which were made by Sgioba Alba, the second Young Enterprise group, were also sold at the event.

The tie-dye t-shirts sold out on the night, but the group plans to make more and possibly sell them in some local shops.



Caitlin Taylor struts her stuff on the catwalk.

15_147fashion01

Left: Tie-dye models, from left, were Maeve Hannigan, Allan Colthart, Rhys Cooke and Ella MacDonald.

15_147fashion05

Allan Colthart and Maeve Hannigan model Hotmass' tie-dye t-shirts.

15_147fashion04

Katie Morag author to read to the nation

FANS of the Katie Morag series of books are set for an unprecedented insight into her life, when creator Mairi Hedderwick reads her favourite tale to the nation.

The Coll-based author and illustrator will be broadcast live over the internet reading her favourite Katie Morag tale as part of Book Week Scotland on November 28, with viewers let in to see how the character was brought to life for television. Mairi will also talk about how the landscape of Coll and Argyll helps inspire the character and her remarkable tales.

Part of the free Authors Live event, run by the Scottish Book Trust and BBC Scotland Learning, it is suitable for children aged four to seven and will be streamed live from the BBC Commonwealth Class website to schools across the world from 11am.

Mairi will also take part in an online question and answer session on the website after the event.

Mairi said: 'This is a great thing that Scottish Book Trust is doing and I am looking forward to sharing Katie Morag stories with children all over the country and further afield. She is a great wee ambassador for

the Highlands and islands of Scotland.'

A graduate of Edinburgh College of Art, Mairi Hedderwick was a teacher before she started illustrating children's books, with her most popular character, Katie Morag, created in 1984.

Katie Morag's home on the fictional Hebridean island of Struay is not a million sea miles away from her author's life-long association with the Isle of Coll.

Mairi has also written and illustrated many other books for children and adults, all with the backdrop of the Highlands and islands.

She was awarded an honorary degree from Stirling University in 2003 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to writing and illustration in Scotland, especially for children.

Jasmine Fassl, head of schools at Scottish Book Trust, said: 'With her affinity for the Scottish islands, sea and landscapes, Katie Morag is a much-loved Scottish ambassador.'

'And her creator, Mairi Hedderwick, is a literary treasure, so it's fitting that this event is a central pillar of Scotland's national celebration of books and reading.'

To see the broadcast log on to www.bbc.co.uk/authorslive.

Quiz night raises £300 for Cancer Research

CANCER Research UK was the benefactor of a well-attended quiz night at Oban's Masonic Lodge on Friday.

Quizmaster Tony Cave was once again on the mic as he set the teams about the task of trying to get as many questions correct as possible, all for a host of prizes.

The real winner was charity though, with £300 raised.



Pictured with quizmaster Tony are volunteers Jessie MacFarlane and Donna Graham. 15_147quiz1

St John's Cathedral fundraiser proves to be a great success

A festive, fundraising fayre at St John's Cathedral on Saturday helped raise money for the church and Diabetes UK - as well as helping people with their early Christmas shopping.

A series of stalls was complemented by the sale of cakes and refreshments at the downstairs cafeteria, with the winter warmers the perfect remedy for the wet, chilly weather.



Organiser Irene Main, Elise Matheson and Margaret Topping.

15_147sqh01

Discussions to 'Blossom' on the Isle of Mull

WRITER and broadcaster Lesley Riddoch will be leading a discussion on 'What Scotland Needs to Flourish' next Tuesday on the Isle of Mull.

The event, held in An Roth, Craignure on November 26 at

6pm, will also see Ms Riddoch discuss her new hard-hitting book, Blossom.

The evening is part of a series of events Ms Riddoch has been taking part in all over the country.

Crime novelist visiting fans at Oban Library

CRIME novel fans will be able to meet author Frank Muir at an event in Oban Library next Thursday evening.

Mr Muir is a crime novelist from Glasgow, author of the DCI Andy Gilchrist series.

The event is jointly funded by Argyll and Bute Council and Creative Scotland's Live Literature programme, which

is managed by Scottish Book Trust.

The scheme exists to bring Scottish fiction writers, playwrights, poets, storytellers and their work to every corner of Scottish society including schools, libraries, writers groups, additional support needs organisations, community groups and literary organisations.

Three Wee Crows will bring legends to life

TALES of the first Kings of Scotland, clan warfare in Dunaverly and a grey-eyed stranger who appeared mysteriously on the shores of Southend will be told by the Three Wee Crows Theatre Company, which brings legend to life.

The highly-acclaimed drama group will perform in St John's Cathedral, Oban on Friday, November 29.

The performance is in association with Oban's Winter Festival.

The Three Wee Crows are fast developing into one of Scotland's most interesting and innovative theatre companies.

Reaching out from rural Argyll, their passionate, moving, humorous and entertaining performances have been lighting up theatres, festivals, libraries and landscapes throughout Scotland.

They have performed in the Scottish Parliament, Mull's Duart Castle and the bloody rock of Dunaverly, Kintyre.



The Three Crows. 147crows10

Craft fair to change venue after low turnout

ORGANISERS of a craft fair held to raise money for disabled access charity Oban Shopmobility has vowed to change venue after a poor turnout to a sale on Saturday.

Judith Dougans said she was

disappointed by the lack of numbers to the sale at the Great Western Hotel on Saturday, which has no disabled access.

Despite the low turnout, it is thought the event helped raise nearly £200 for the charity.



Judith Dougans sold a series of hand-made crafts at the Oban Shopmobility Craft Sale on Saturday. 15_147shopmobility1

Veteran singer-songwriter performs acoustic masterclass in Benderloch



Allan Taylor playing at Benderloch's Victory Hall on Saturday night. 07_147allantaylor1

TALES of time spent with Bob Marley and the Wailers, Bruce Springsteen and Francoise Hardy were as engrossing as the music when Allan Taylor played Benderloch's Victory Hall. Holding an intimate audience enraptured throughout his performance on Saturday, the veteran singer-songwriter put on a show of acoustic mastery, playing some of his most loved songs from the past, as well as some

from his new repertoire. Taylor, who played Oban on one previous occasion and is one of the world's foremost folk musicians, told *The Oban Times* of his delight on returning to the area and of touring Scotland as a whole. "Scotland is very important to me. My first wife was Scottish and so it follows so is my second. 'I've played Oban once before but it's hard not to want to come back with

landscapes like this,' he said. Among the Brighton-born singer's set list on Saturday was new song Let the Music Flow, together with favourites such as Roll on the Day and New York in the 70s. Playing without the aid of a PA or amplifier, the intricate and warm set received a rousing reception, with the audience joining in during some of his more well known numbers.

Ballachulish Panto rehearsals come to an end with more than a giggle



Picture by Glencoe Photography.

The latest rehearsal for Cinderella - this year's Christmas panto at Ballachulish - proved to be a barrel of laughs on Sunday night - oh yes it did!

Above, Drew MacFarlane-Slack and Tam Mc-

Clymont - soon to become the very ugly sisters - give Nairn MacArthur, who will play 'Velcro' - a modern day Buttons - a piece of their mind. Tickets for the show will go on sale at the village

tourist information centre and Co-op from December 1. Three 7.30pm performances are scheduled over December 19-21, with a 2pm matinee on the Saturday.

A 'Movember' moustache and talented line-up makes for great Taynuilt ceilidh

AN IMPRESSIVE line-up took to the stage at last Saturday's ceilidh in Taynuilt Village Hall.

Young Oban piper Aaron Hossain started off the proceedings with some rousing tunes while 13 year old Katie MacPherson from Eilidh MacInnes Dancers gave excellent displays of Highland dancing, demonstrating why she became the Argyll champion at this year's Cowal Games.

The audience enjoyed a selection of tunes from Ann Barlow's fiddle group, No Strings Attached. Well known local accordionist Hector McFadyen, sporting an unfamiliar 'Movember' moustache, was kept busy throughout the evening. Soloists Donna Dugdale, Philip Todd and Colin Fisher have enjoyed success at recent National Mods and all three produced excellent singing performances.

Fear an Taighe was the popular and witty Donnie 'Maroot' Macleod, Glasgow, a familiar face at Mods, who kept the ceilidh flowing smoothly.



Accordianist Hector McFadyen was sporting his 'Movember' moustache at the Taynuilt ceilidh. 147taynuilt10



Ross Couper, right, of world renowned folk group the Peatbog Faeries joined multi-award winning guitarist and flautist Tom Oakes, innovative Swedish guitarist Mattias Pérez and Shetland fiddler Kevin Henderson at the Shetland Fiddlers double-bill at the Aros Centre in Portree on Saturday night.

Oban Phoenix Cinema	Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs 2	Thursday 21st	18.00 (3D)
	Captain Phillips	Thursday 21st	20.30
	Brief Encounter	Thursday 21st	14.00
	Philomena	Friday 22nd	18.00
		Saturday 23rd	18.00
		Sunday 24th	16.00
		Monday 25th	20.30
		Tuesday 26th	18.00
		Wednesday 27th	20.30
		Thursday 28th	18.00
	Gravity 3D	Friday 22nd	20.30 3D
		Saturday 23rd	20.30 3D
		Sunday 24th	18.30
		Monday 25th	18.00 3D
		Tuesday 26th	20.30 3D
		Wednesday 27th	18.00
		Thursday 28th	20.30 3D
	Ice Age: Continental Drift	Saturday 23rd	13.00
	Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer	Saturday 23rd	15.30
	Happy Feet 2	Sunday 24th	12.30 3D

Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs 2 (U)
After the disastrous food storm in the first film, Flint and his friends are forced to leave the town. When Flint discovers that his machine now creates mutant food beasts like living pickles, hungry tadpoles, shrimpanzees and apple pie-tons, he and his friends must return to save the world.

Captain Phillips (12A)
Captain Phillips is a multi-layered examination of the 2009 hijacking of the U.S. container ship Maersk Alabama by a crew of Somali pirates.

Brief Encounter (PG)
After a chance meeting on a train platform, a married doctor (Trevor Howard) and a suburban housewife (Celia Johnson) enter into a muted but passionate, ultimately doomed, love affair.

Philomena (12A)
Falling pregnant as a teenager in Ireland in 1952, Philomena was sent to the convent of Roscrea to be looked after as a "fallen woman". When her baby was only a toddler, he was taken away by the nuns for adoption in America. Philomena spent the next fifty years searching for him but with no success. Then she met Martin Sixsmith, a world-weary political journalist who happened to be intrigued by her story.

Gravity 3D (12A)
Dr. Ryan Stone (Sandra Bullock) is a brilliant medical engineer on her first shuttle mission, with veteran astronaut Matt Kowalsky (George Clooney) in command of his last flight before retiring. But on a seemingly routine spacewalk, disaster strikes. The shuttle is destroyed, leaving Stone and Kowalsky completely alone. The only way home may be to go further out into the terrifying expanse of space.

Winter Festival
Ice Age: Continental Drift (U)
When Scratt accidentally provokes a continental cataclysm with a storm, Manny is separated from Ellie and Peaches on an iceberg with Diego, Sid and Granny but he promises that he will find a way to return home.

Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer (U)
Sam the snowman tells the story of a young red-nosed reindeer who, after being ousted from the reindeer games because of his beaming honker, finds a whole island of misfit toys. Rudolph vows to see if he can get Santa to help the toys, and he goes back to the North Pole on Christmas Eve.

Happy Feet 2 3D (U)
Mumble the penguin has a problem: his son Erik, who is reluctant to dance, encounters The Mighty Sven, a penguin who can fly! Things get worse for Mumble when the world is shaken by powerful forces, causing him to bring together the penguin nations and their allies to set things right.

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Lesley Riddoch Book Tour: "Blossom"

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COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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Talk by Sian MacQueen on My way of Painting with Acrylic
Friday 22nd November
The Lorn Resource Centre, Soroba Road, Oban
7.30pm to 9.30pm
Visitors very welcome

Jean Johnson (clarinet) & Steven Osborne (piano)
5pm Sunday 24 November 2013 at Crear, Kilberry
Soup, cakes and sandwiches will be served and the bar will be open
Advance tickets only: £20
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Taynuilt Village Hall
Sunday 24th November 1-4pm
Tea, Coffee, Mince pies and Mulled Wine

St Orans & Dunbeg Church
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Connel Village Hall
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Oban & Lorn District Seniors Club
Christmas Dinner
Thanks to kind donations made by:- The Crerar Hotels Trust, MacQueen Bros. Charitable Trust and Oban Rotary Club
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To leave your name, address and telephone number: Numbers are Limited!!!
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The Oban Times

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Farming

Farmers getting a 'fair deal' on CAP



Scotland's only Conservative MP, David Mundell, says CAP payments are fair, despite widespread criticism.

Conservative MP says settlement had to 'take into account the rest of UK'

SCOTLAND'S farmers are getting a 'fair deal' on CAP payments, according to Conservative under secretary for state, David Mundell MP. There is anger that Scotland did not receive a greater share of the 'uplift' European farming payments given to the UK since Scotland's unique geography is the reason the country gets the uplift. Instead, Scotland shared a UK-wide 12.6 per cent cut to its payments. NFU Scotland and the Scottish Crofting Federation have been quick to express their disappointment at the deal, a sentiment echoed by the Scottish Government, which enjoyed cross-party

agreement on the matter. But speaking shortly after visiting Oban last week, Mr Mundell rejected claims the decision was unfair. 'I think this was a fair deal and the best deal that could be negotiated, taking into account the rest of the UK,' he said. **Whole picture** 'At the moment, although Scotland is a lower payment per hectare it is a high per farm figure. 'We have to look at the whole picture and the reality is that if people think the alternative is independence there's no guarantee what the terms will be then.' Put to him that the decision

was an 'own goal' given the Conservatives' traditional strong support from the farming community, Mr Mundell said: 'There's a lot of what the Scottish Government is doing that is seeking to distract from starting to have to make some very difficult decisions about distributing money around Scotland. **Fair deal** 'They can't keep telling everyone they can have everything they want. 'This is a fair deal for the whole of the UK. These are difficult decisions that require negotiation.' He added: 'I don't believe people in Scotland or Argyll and Bute are buttoned up

the back. They don't believe these claims they can have everything.' **Completely wrong** Last week, Argyll and Bute SNP MSP Michael Russell said the decision was 'completely wrong', adding: 'The EU allocated the budget to our member state government in order to rectify the situation we have in Scotland. 'Scotland's farmers are entitled to this money - yet secretary of state for environment, food and rural affairs Owen Paterson says the allocation is 'fair'. Farmers across Argyll and Bute and wider Scotland will be disappointed by this.'

McGrigor calls for clarity on Rural Development Programme

FRESH calls have been made to the Scottish Government to ensure the new Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) is up and running on time. Jamie McGrigor, Highlands and Islands Conservative MSP and the Scottish Conservative environment spokesman, made the call at the Scottish Parliament last week, when he questioned the cabinet secretary for rural affairs, Richard Lochhead, following his Parliamentary statement on the Common Agricultural Policy Budget Allocation. Mr McGrigor further asked for clarity on what help the

programme will give crofters, adding: 'Assuming the Scottish Government can take responsibility for any challenge that comes from Europe in relation to increasing coupled payments to 10 per cent, how does the cabinet secretary envisage that being split between the beef and sheep sectors?' Mr Lochhead said: 'On preparation for the new rural development programme, we will launch a consultation in a few weeks' time. 'I have already put on record our desire for the programme to be a lot simpler and a lot more focused, and we want to learn the lessons from the existing rural development programme, which at times has been too bureaucratic and has not provided the right support to the right people, albeit that overall it has been very successful.' **Crucial** He added that it was 'crucial' support options contained in the programme were practical, simple and user friendly, while suggesting there was an argument for coupled payments supporting the beef sector. Speaking afterwards Mr McGrigor, who is also convener of the Parliament's cross-party group on crofting, said: 'It is vital that the new SRDP system is put in place as soon as possible and we do not experience the delays which disadvantaged Scottish farmers and crofters in the run up to the setting up of the current scheme in 2007. 'It is also crucial that the support options contained within the programme are practical, simple and user-friendly so that farmers and crofters in my region of the Highlands and islands can benefit from them. 'I would encourage farmers and crofters in my region to participate in the consultations on the new SRDP, and indeed on pillar one funding also, that the Scottish Government has committed to undertaking in the weeks ahead.'

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Oban, call Euan Warnock and Donna MacDougall on 01631 567 036 for your insurance needs.
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Market reports

United Auctions Islay

UNITED Auctions held a sale of 1,786 all classes lambs and sheep at Islay Auction Mart on Thursday, when all classes sold at keen rates and to average £51.97 per head as against £40.40 at the corresponding sale last year. Callum MacTaggart, Jr, of Lyrabus Farm led the day's prices per head when his pen of Suffolk Cross lambs sold at £82.50 and Coille Farm led the prices per kilo when their Suffolk and Cross Bred Lambs sold to 192pence per kilo. Feeding Ewes from Carrabus sold to £72.50.

Principal Lots and Prices:
Top Prices Per Head:
Lambs: SUFFx: £82.50 - Lyrabus Farm: £63.50 - Coull: £61.50 - Starchmill, Coille, Uiskenteu & Ardnave: £60.50 - Kintra.
TEXx: £74.50 - Mulindry: £73.00 & £65.50 - 7 Claddach: £64.50 - Lossit: £62.50 - Coull: £62.00 - Gartloist: £61.00 - Leorin: £60.50 - Mulindry. BELTx: £67.50 - Kilchiaran. CHEVx: £61.50 - Ballivicar: £61.00 - Coull: £60.50 - Coillabus. CROSS: £60.50 - Coille Farm. BF: £68.00 - Lyrabus: £60.50 - Kilchiaran: £56.50 - Leorin: £53.50 - Lossit: £52.00 - Bal-

lychattrigan.
Ewes: SUFFx: £62.50 - Coull. TEXx: £72.50 - Carrabus: £71.00 - Dunlossit Keills: £69.50 - Carrabus: £64.50 - Mulindry: £61.50 - Gartloist. CHEVx: £54.50 - Lossit. CROSS: £59.50 - Gartloist: £55.00 - Uiskenteu. MULE: £54.50 - Mulindry. BF: £47.50 & £42.00 - Carrabus. Wedders: TEXx: £60.50 - Coull. CROSS: £60.50 - Coull BF: £44.50 - Coull. Top prices per kilo Lambs: SUFFx: 192p, 183p & 180p - Coille Farm. TEXx: 189p - Coull: 186p - Mulindry. CHEVx: 173p - Dhoidmhairi & Ballychattrigan. CROSS: 192p - Coille Farm: 188p - Portantruan. BF: 188p - Ardnave.

United Auctions Stirling

UNITED Auctions had forward 388 breeding cattle at its Stirling sale last Wednesday. Bulls: Blakestown Charolais (ChaX) £5000; Westerhill (ChaX) £3000. Bulling heifers: Castlehill (A) £1030. In calf heifers: South Arditie (SimX) £1450; Castlehill (AA) £1250; Giral Farm (BP) £1250. In calf cows: Westerhill (BP) £1550; Westerhill (ChaX) £1450; Westerhill (SimX) £1400; Henderson (SalersX) £1400; Westerhill (LimX) £1350; Winterhill (ChaX) £1350; South Arditie (ContX) £1250. Cows and bull calves: Wester Whitecastle (BP) £2000; Wester Whitecas-

tle (LimX) £1950; Wester Whitecastle (LimX) £1900; South Arditie (ContX) £1900; South Arditie (SimX) £1850; Barnhill Estate (BG) £1450. Cows and heifer calves: Glenpark Farm (LimX) £2250; South Arditie (ContX) £1800; Henderson (SimX) £1700; South Arditie (BP) £1650; Barnhill Estate (BG) £1110.

Morris Leslie Monthly Auctions
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Livestock farmers urged to be aware of pneumonia risk

VETS from Scotland's Rural College are reminding farmers to beware of pneumonia in young stock. Respiratory disease in cattle affects animal welfare and leads to significant financial loss through reduced productivity, costly treatment and possible deaths. Experience shows the greatest risk is in the months of December and January, directly after cattle are housed. Farmers should have a control strategy in place now. The disease tends to strike animals under one year of age. According to SRUC experts by the time one or two animals are showing obvious signs of respiratory infection many others in the group will be going through the less eye catching, early phase of the disease. 'Bovine Respiratory Disease or BRD is caused by many different things,' says SRUC veterinary investigation officer, Franz Brulisaier. 'Factors such as poor ventila-

tion, stress, viruses or lungworms can lead to damage the respiratory tract and act as 'door openers' for follow-up infections by bacteria, which normally don't harm the animal but take the opportunity to run riot. We would urge farmers to talk to their vets about control plans.' Antibiotics can treat the condition but, with increasing fears over antibiotic resistance, this should be regarded as a last resort. Franz recommends strategies aimed at prevention rather than cure. 'Stress can play a big factor so jobs like dehorning should be done before the animals come in. Once the cattle are inside try to keep them in the same groups and avoid mixing or overstocking. 'Remember the change of diet can sometimes upset them and make them vulnerable to secondary infection. Of course the buildings should have good ventilation and

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Please contact us for a full list of duties.

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Please contact us for a full list of duties.

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**All applications to: Mrs E Divers
Fusion Marine Ltd, The M.R.C., Barcaldine PA37 1SE
Or email: edivers@fusionmarine.com
Closing date: Monday 2nd December 2013**

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www.alienergy.org.uk; 01631 565183
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BEAR Scotland is responsible for the management and maintenance of the Trunk Roads in the North West, North East and South East of Scotland. The following vacancies have arisen:

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You can apply at our website: www.bearscoot.com/careers/ alternatively, please contact Gareth Hutchinson for an application form and job description at recruitment@bearscootland.co.uk or 01738 448600.

The closing date for applications is Friday 29th November 2013.

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Please apply with CV and covering letter to:
**Fiona Stephenson, John MacAlister (Oban) Limited,
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Or by email to fiona@jmacoban.co.uk
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C.V.'s can be posted to:
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PUBLIC NOTICES

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Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/01976/PP	Construction of above ground pipe bridge	Pennygowan Bridge (South East of Glenforsa Hotel) Glenforsa Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
13/02418/PP	Erection of extension	Port Appin Surgery Port Appin Argyll and Bute PA38 4DE	Sub Post Office Ledarg
13/02455/PP	Erection of 8 flats	Land East Of Dunrainach Connel Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1PH	Sub Post Office Connel
13/02472/PP	Erection of a dwellinghouse (renewal of planning permission 10/00690/PP)	Land West of St James Church Ardrecknish Argyll	Sub Post Office Dalmailly
13/02516/PP	Use of land for siting of 3 pre-fabricated holiday let lodges, installation of septic tank and formation of new vehicular access	2 Erarob Croft Ardun Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA67 6DH	Sub Post Office Bunnisan Isle of Mull
13/02529/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 08/02095/DET - Improvement of existing access	Junction at Airds Bay Road and the A85(T) Airds Bay Tainuill Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Tainuill
13/02543/PP	Formation of hardstanding area associated with waste transfer station approved under application reference 11/02324/PP	Soroba Quarry Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4SD	Oban Area Office
13/02564/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of new access	Land South West of Kentallen Farm Aros Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA72 6JS	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull

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
13/02554/LIB	Internal alterations and replacement of window with door	Lerags House Lerags Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4SE	Oban Area Office
13/02609/PP	Installation of replacement window to the east elevation.	The Clydesdale Bank 20 Main Street Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Tobermory Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrihaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

Argyll & Bute Council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilthead PA31 8SX.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (C47 GLENGORM ROAD, ISLE OF MULL) (WEIGHT RESTRICTION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2013

On Monday 18th November 2013, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order in terms of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended.

The Order, which comes into operation on 6th January 2014, amends the existing weight restrictions on the C47 Glengorm Road. The authorised weight limit will change from 18T to 33T between the Council Waste Disposal Site and the entrance to the access road at Ardmore Forest.

A copy of the Order and plan relative thereto are available for inspection during normal working hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the following offices:-

- (i) Argyll & Bute Council Offices, Breadalbane Street, Tobermory;
- (ii) Argyll & Bute Council Offices, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban;
- (iii) Argyll & Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilthead.

Any person, who wishes to question the validity of the Order or any provision contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or on the grounds that any requirement of that Act or any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order may, within six weeks from 22nd November 2013, apply to the Court of Session for this purpose.

Jim Smith, Head of Roads & Amenity Services, 1A Manse Brae, LOCHGILTHEAD PA31 8RD

SURGERY NOTICES

Councillor Roddy McCuish (E.W.4 Oban South and the Isles)
Councillor Roddy McCuish will be holding a surgery on Friday 6th December in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 3.00pm to 5.00pm.

He can also be contacted by e-mail - roderick.mcuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk or by telephone 01631 567854

Councillor Louise Glen-Lee (E.W.5 Oban North and Lorn)
Councillor Louise Glen-Lee will be holding a surgery in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban on Monday 2nd December from 4.00pm to 5.00pm. If you wish to make an appointment, please contact Karen Rodger on 01546 604209.

Councillor Glen-Lee can also be contacted by phone - Tel: 01631 567 955 or by email - louise.glen-lee@argyll-bute.gov.uk

www.highland.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposed Description
13/03383/PIP	Site 65M South West of 1 Torr An Eas, Glenfinnan	Erection of house (plot 3) - Renewal of 10/03005/PIP
13/03384/PIP	Site 140M North West of 1 Torr An Eas, Glenfinnan	Erection of house (plot 2) - Renewal of 10/03004/PIP
13/03385/PIP	Site 90M North West of 1 Torr An Eas, Glenfinnan	Erection of house (plot 1) - Renewal of 10/03003/PIP
13/04042/FUL	30M South East of Low Cottage, Acharacle	Conversion of byre to house (amended access to 11/02245/FUL)
13/04183/PIP	Adjacent to Glen Cottage Lower Inverroy, Roy Bridge	Erection of house

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Proposed Assignment of a Grazings Share(s)

Mr Alexander Stewart MacLeod is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign one of the deemed croft grazings share(s), that previously pertained to the croft at 17 Upper Scotstown, Strontian, to Mr Donald Ewen MacDonald of The Old School House, Clouvin, Ardgour, By Fort William.

If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 6NW (e-mail info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD

FIRST REGISTRATION OF COMMON GRAZINGS

The Crofting Commission have registered the following Common Grazings on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Arivegaig Common Grazings, Ardnamurchan & Sunart

Registration Number: CG31

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may appeal to the Scottish Land Court. The appeal must be brought within 9 months from the date of this advert and should be made directly to the Land Court.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts ros.gov.uk/register/home

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Oban Times

Oban Camanachd AGM

Thursday 5th December

Royal Hotel Oban

7pm prompt

All positions up for re-election

Muirshearlich Common Grazing Appointment of Grazing Committee

District of Kilmallie.

As part of the Muirshearlich Sheep Stock Club AGM a meeting of shareholders for the above Common Grazing will be held for the purpose of electing a new Grazing Committee.

7.30pm, 5th December, 2013 at Corie Nan Ruan, 13 Muirshearlich, Banavie, Fort William. PH33 7PB

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MACBRAYNES BED-FORD TK platform trailer and container die cast model by Corgi Classics, boxed, excellent unused condition, £20 Telephone 01631 564578.

MODEL FOR SALE Corgi boxed gift set includes Guy Arab Double Decker, Leyland PSI Coach, £35 post free, Telephone 01369 706726.

MODEL FOR SALE Classix Austin K2 Van Kemps Biscuits, £8 post free, Telephone 01369 706726.

BABY EQUIPMENT

CHILD'S BED small white metal frame child's bed, 58x28x12". Mattress and 2 mattress protectors included. Suit toddler as 1st bed, £40 Telephone 01546 602876 or 600103.

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BICYCLES

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DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

ESPRESSO/CAPPUCCINO MAKER coffee maker and milk frother in full working order. Counter top model. Connel, £25 Telephone 07915 671041.

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1950'S DRESSING TABLE, £10 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

DARK WOOD DEMI LUNE hall table, £15 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

DOUBLE DIVAN BED, £30 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

FOUR BLUE VELOUR stacking chairs, £8 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

GLASS FRONTED CORNER cabinet, mahogany, £10 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

IKEA POANG ARM-CHAIRS two armchairs beech frame, blue fabric. Good condition. Connel, £49 Telephone 07915 671041.

MODERN SMOKED GLASS TOPPED dinner table and four stacking chairs, £25 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

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PINE KITCHEN CHAIR, £10 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

PINE RECTANGULAR TV UNIT with drawer, £20 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

SET OF 4 DINING CHAIRS, £8 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

SINGLE DIVAN BED, £10 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

SINGLE FOLDING BED ideal for Christmas visitors! Slatted base with metal frame and mattress, £15 Telephone 01631 570222.

SINGLE WARDROBE with top box, £25 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

SMALL PINE DRESSER, £40 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

SOFA BUNK BED child/young teen bunk bed with pull out sofa bed. Pink trim - metal frame plus good quality single memory foam mattress, £150 Telephone 01631 720601.

TALL MODERN DISPLAY CABINET tall slim unit light oak colour 200cm h 40cm d 51cm w glass display at top, cupboard with shelf at bottom vgc, £49.99 Telephone 07868 481242.

TRADITIONAL OAK FINISH DESK with green leather inlay. Excellent condition, £200 ono Telephone 07771 637154 Oban.

TWO MODERN STOOLS, £2 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

HEALTH AND FITNESS CARL LEWIS Airwalker Fitness Machine, vgc, can deliver, £49.99 Telephone 01546 886292.

LOST AND FOUND LOST A CHUNKY PENDANT flower shape with black petals in Oban/Fort William, possible main street leading up to Discount Footwear shop Oban, or Fort William main street to car park on front. Reward for information. Telephone 01464 821958 or 07584 687947.

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WANTED GOOD QUALITY 6ft X 3ft folding pool table. Telephone 01852 500226.

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SKI BOOTS ladies size 6, £45 Telephone 07833 604038.

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PERSONALS

HAPPY 60th BIRTHDAY! RAYMOND MCINTOSH

Love from your girls Clair & Trudi

Happy 21st Birthday John MacKinnon 08.11.92

Love from Mum, Dad and all the family xxx

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DEATHS

MACLACHLAN - Peacefully on Thursday November 7, 2013 at Islay Hospital, Olive MacLachlan (née Watts) aged 87. Wife of the late Neil and mother of Neil, Janet and the late David. Sadly missed.

MACNICOL - Suddenly, at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley on November 14, 2013, with her family by her side, Isabel MacNicol, nee Galbraith, in her 69th year, of Glenview, Turnalt Farm, Barbreck, by Lochgilphead, beloved wife of Hamish, much loved mother of Donald and Lesley, much respected mother-in-law of Heather and Brian, loving granny of Lewis, Morven, Fraser, Shona and Iona and a dear sister of Douglas and Agnes. A good neighbour, dear friend and former work colleague to many. Funeral service will be held in Craignish Parish Church, Ardferr, on Friday, November 22 at 12.00 noon, thereafter to Kilvarree Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to ICU, RAH Paisley and Craignish Parish Church Funds.

MCARTHUR - Suddenly after a short illness on November 15, 2013, Donald aged 65 years, eldest son of the late John and Mary McArthur (Lassit, Portmahaven, Islay). Cremation will take place at Carradross Crematorium on Friday November 22, 2013 at 12.15.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

JAMES - Michael, John, Jennifer and their families would like to thank everyone for their support on the loss of their mother, Pat James. The care and attention given by the doctors and staff at the Mull and Iona Community Hospital was exemplary, and the support at her funeral of so many who knew her was much appreciated. We must also thank Rev Johnny Paton for conducting such a beautiful service, and to Billy McClymont for handling the arrangements so professionally. From the retail collection and a family donation, £200 has now been sent to the Stroke Association.

MACDONALD - Mary Turnbull and family wish to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy following the sad loss of Arthur. Special thanks to Donald MacKinnon for his personal graveside service and to all those who attended. Thanks to D & A Munn for their efficient and caring funeral arrangements, to Moreen Gracie for her beautiful floral arrangement and to the Rowantree Hotel for their catering services.

RILEY - Gemma, Jamie, Betty, Irene, Cathrine and Pauline would like to thank everyone for their support, cards, flowers, visits and kindness following the loss of their beloved dad and brother, Frankie. A special thanks to Dr Douglas and all the nurses at Tweedale Surgery. Thank you to Rev. R. Corbett for his comforting service and McLellan Funeral Directors and staff at Caol Community Centre. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and giving generous donations to the British Lung Foundation Scotland. £723 was raised.

MEMORIALS

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of Nancy, who passed away on November 20, 2010. Dearly loved wife, mum, mother-in-law, and granny. No tears, no words, no verse can say how much we miss you every day.

MORREN - In loving memory of a dear brother and uncle, John (Ian) Morren who died November 20, 2007. Always remembered.

NICOL - Treasured memories of a beloved son, Gavin William, who passed away November 23, 2010. Forever in our hearts.

GUNN - Duncan. November 24, 2004. Dear father, sadly missed and in our thoughts every day.

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HENDERSON - In loving memory of my dear husband Iain who died November 22, 2002. A smile I will always remember. A voice I will always recall. A memory I will always treasure. Of the one who was dear to all. Sadly missed.

MACKAY - In loving memory of Eddie, father and grandfather who died November 22, 1968. Always in our thoughts.

MACKECHNIE - Gilbert. Passed away November 17, 2012, age 96. Dad - Everlasting happy memories of you.

MACKECHNIE - Gilbert. Even though I'm sad every day that you're no longer here, I'm forever happy that you were our Papa.

MACKECHNIE - In loving memory of Iain, a dearly loved husband, dad, granddad and great-granddad who died on November 20, 2011. It's two years now since we lost you. And every day we miss you more. No matter where life takes us. We will have you with us in our precious memories. Always in our thoughts. Forever in our hearts.

MACKECHNIE - In loving memory of Iain, a dearly loved husband, dad, granddad and great-granddad who died on November 20, 2011. It's two years now since we lost you. And every day we miss you more. No matter where life takes us. We will have you with us in our precious memories. Always in our thoughts. Forever in our hearts.

RICHMOND - In loving memory of our dear mother and grandmother, Agnes Richmond (née Paterson) 9 Lismore Crescent, Oban, who passed away on November 21, 1984. Your gentle heart would give to know. How slowly time doth heal. The wound it dealt us with your death. A pain we'll always feel. Till memory fades and life departs. You'll live forever in our hearts. Time takes away the edge of grief. But memory turns back every leaf.

TRAYNOR - Treasured memories of a dearly loved father, father-in-law and papa John, who passed away November 22, 1994. Always and forever in our hearts and thoughts.

CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 24 November 2013
Christ the King
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion.....08.00
Sing Eucharist.....10.15
Sunday School and Creche
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Nicki McNelly, Provost.
(01631) 562323

St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist.....11.00

St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....09.30

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Much to celebrate in Appin



Members of Appin Guild with Rev Roderick Campbell. 16. 147guld01

APPIN Parish Church had much to celebrate at its service on Sunday, when the Appin Guild took centre stage. The Appin Guild marked its 125th anniversary last year and during the national Guild Week (November 17 - 24) took the opportunity to celebrate its members' long service. Rev Roderick Campbell praised the women for their work as he handed out certificates marking their years of service. Jessie MacKenzie has served the Guild for 53 years, while Chrissie MacNeil and Chrissie Malone have clocked up 45 and 44 years respectively. The other awards to be handed out were: Margaret Ross, 40 years; Ellen MacCorquodale, 34 years; Madge Riddet, 30 years; Shirley Dunlop, 25 years; Joan Loro, 25 years; Helen Currie, 25 years; Linda MacLeod, 24 years; Brenda

MacLeod and Kate Shepton, 21 years. Rev Campbell also praised the work of local contractors SE Carmichael for fitting a new kitchen and disabled toilet at the church. Funding of £16,000 from the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland and £10,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund helped to pay for the work. Money has also been allocated to upcoming roof repairs. On Sunday there was a dedication of a stitched collage of Appin Through the Seasons, designed by Fiona Hunter and co-ordinated by Pat Wyeth Webb. A number of women from the church were involved in creating the collage, which took three months to make and now hangs in the church. The current church building will be redecorated for its 125th anniversary in 2015.



Fiona Hunter, left, and Pat Wyeth Webb with the Appin collage. 16. 147guld02

Obituary

Donald Black (November 14, 1928 to October 21, 2013)

THE ISLAND of Lismore and the whole Gaelic community have been saddened by the news of Donald Black's death. One of the island's best known and loved inhabitants, he contributed greatly to community life. Donald was born to Archie and Rachel Black, the youngest of three children; May predeceased him this year and Duncan, who lives in Kintyre, completed the crofting family on Lismore. Maternal grandmother, Mary MacDonald, and her elder brother also lived in the croft house and had a profound influence on Donald's love and depth of knowledge of the Gaelic language.



Donald Black with his wife, Roma.

Donald's whole formal education was at nearby Balgrunde Primary School as, unlike his siblings, he failed to get a bursary to allow him to attend the high school. Before he was 11 the Second World War had started and life changed on Lismore, as everywhere evacuees arrived from the Clydebank bombings and diluted the Gaelic in the school. Many troops were stationed on the island, one of whom, Eddy Kelly, introduced Donald to painting and drawing, which he continued to enjoy throughout his life. At the end of the war Donald discovered he was a very talented athlete and entered the 100, 200 and 400 yard races at the first Highland games staged after the war at Taynult in 1946 - being placed in all races and winning the 400 yards. An illustrious 11-year career on the Highland games circuit only finished when he won a sprint while on holiday in Greece at 62 years of age and over 20 years

older than any other competitor! Donald was set to join the police in Manchester when his father died suddenly in 1952, so he stayed to manage the croft. He supplemented his income by working on the island's roads. In 1959 Donald married Roma Nelson, a Glasgow nurse with Lismore roots, and so began 54 years of happy marriage, producing a fine family of Morag, Gillesbuig and Rachel and eventually five grandchildren who gave Donald so much pleasure in later life. After the family grew up Roma did some nursing on Lismore, ably supported by Donald who accompanied her on night visits carrying a torch, lifting stretchers, holding drip bottles, driving and often lightening the situation with his cheery presence. As Donald reached retirement he turned increasingly to his interest and love of Gaelic. At 60 he started to write a regular Gaelic column in *The Oban Times* and set about writing a book of Tales of Lismore, in Gaelic and English, beautifully

illustrated by himself, which was eventually completed and published by CADISPA in 2006. The great dream of Donald's life was to create a Gaelic Heritage Centre on Lismore. Shortly after retiring he, along with several others, established the Comman Eachdraidh with the intention of eventually building a permanent heritage centre. Lismore was increasingly recognised as an important focus of Gaelic culture and language and Donald was in great demand on radio and television where his deep, clear diction and endless interesting tales created a lasting impression of a deeply knowledgeable man. Amongst all this activity the family had some very hard times. Firstly, youngest daughter Rachel had a very serious road accident leaving her unconscious for days and scarred for life. Donald and Roma came through this awful period with compassion and dignity supported by their strong religious conviction (Donald was an elder since 1987 and session clerk). Whilst endlessly support-

ive they have also had the courage to allow Rachel to lead her own life. Then, in 2000, Donald had a critical illness from which he made a complete recovery. Duncan MacGregor and family generously donated a large piece of land to the Comman Eachdraidh to allow a permanent heritage centre to be built. This allowed fundraising and grant applications to proceed with conviction and on March 17, 2007 the heritage centre was opened by Mrs Angela Yeoman, having been designed by Shauna Cameron, built by Stuart Carmichael with Tony Perkins, the local Nadir Project Officer. Donald was the proud chairman on that auspicious occasion. Donald was a natural storyteller with an immense fund of knowledge and interesting stories that entranced friends and strangers alike. He particularly loved to tell his grandchildren stories and they loved to hear them. He was proud of them all. The last year has seen Donald's health deteriorate and Roma and the family lovingly cared for him at home until he had to have an operation from which he seemed to be recovering well when he suffered a severe heart attack and died three days later with his family around him. Donald Black has left a huge legacy - his book 'Seul Nò Dha as Lios', the Comman Eachdraidh Lios Mor, beautiful paintings and his family. He is survived by Roma, his wife, Duncan, his brother, children, Morag, Gillesbuig and Rachel, in-laws Klaus and Norma and grandchildren Eoghann, Sara, Colin, Alexander and Charlotte. IM

Thought for the week

God's greatest gift to his church

God has truly been good to His people! He has given us more than we ever deserved. Think of it! He provided a means of salvation that will save the vilest sinner. He has given us so many precious promises. When a person is saved, they are given spiritual gifts so that God can use them in His kingdom work. Much more could be said about this matter, but I think it is plain to see that God has been good to us! Yet, as I was thinking about these things, I came to realise that the greatest gift the Lord has ever given to His people is His love! The love of God for His people

is everlasting. His love is what motivated Him to send Jesus to die on the cross. In fact, the greatest evidence of the love of God is the death of Christ on the cross. God's greatest gift to us is His love. Now, He did not stop by just giving His love to us. He has also placed His love in us. Jesus said that the world would

know we were His disciples by the love we have one for another. You see, love is the first characteristic mentioned concerning the Fruit of the Spirit. Not only did He love us, but He has also caused us to love! We need to love like Jesus so we can reach our world. Bill Harvey

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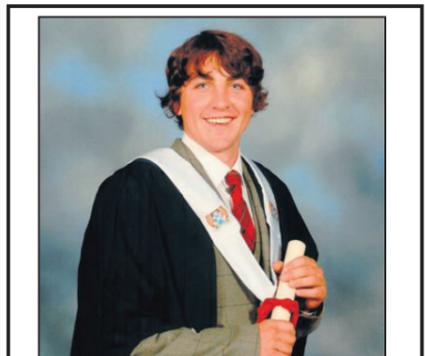
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GRADUATIONS



Seori Blair Ormiston, Barcaldine, graduated with a HND in Sports Coaching with Development from North Glasgow College. Seori is the son of Eilid and John, and grandson of Moira Cousins, N. Connel and Carole and John, Glasgow and is a former pupil of Barcaldine Primary and Oban High School. Seori now works as a white water raft and kayak guide in the Spanish Pyrenees.



Grant Symmers graduated with an HNC in Game Keeping with Wildlife Management from North Highland College, Thurso. He is a former pupil at Kinlochleven High School and is now working at Balnacoll Estate, Brora. Grant is the son of Maureen and Stuart Symmers.



Sean Edwards, Eldest Son of Richard and Sophie Edwards of Grange Road, Fort William graduated from Strathclyde University with a Masters Degree in Advanced Architectural design. Sean was a former pupil of Inverloch Primary school and Lochaber High school. In completing his studies Sean has secured an Architectural position at a prominent Scottish Architects based in Glasgow.

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Six of the best as Saints sink Rosyth in Scottish Cup

Fosters Scottish Amateur Cup 3rd Round
Oban Saints 6
Rosyth 1

FIFE Premier League outfit Rosyth were the visitors to Glencruitten for this Scottish Amateur Cup 3rd round tie, which ended with three players being sent off as referee Derek Park from Motherwell brandished red cards in what was never a dirty game.

Tackles were going in thick and fast, but you wouldn't expect anything else in a hard fought Scottish Cup tie.

The home side took the lead in the 10th minute when a mistake in the Rosyth defence gave Allan MacKay a chance and the Saints marksmen made no mistake drilling the ball home past visiting goalkeeper Bryan Kenny.

Saints were playing some good football, with Donnie Campbell, Myles McAuley and Paul Kerr knocking the ball about confidently in midfield.

However, with 10 minutes to go until half time Saints were dealt a blow when Mattie Rippon was shown the red card by the referee for foul and abusive language.

The game exploded into life just on the half time whistle when Rosyth equalised.

An Alex Craik clearance was charged down and Stuart Ritchie's net-bound shot was brilliantly saved by Daniel Cassells, but the big keeper was unlucky as the rebound fell kindly for James O'Donnell who knocked the ball home from six

yards, much to the delight of the Fife contingent.

However, the visitors were brought back down to earth with a bump 60 seconds later when Marc MacCallum took off from the half way line beat three or four Rosyth defenders before making his way into the box and was impeded just before he was about to pull the trigger - a stone wall penalty.

To make matters worse for the visitors defender Conor Drury was shown the red card for preventing a goal scoring opportunity. Allan MacKay stepped up and blasted the ball home from the spot to give Saints a 2-1 half time lead.

Hard graft
With both teams down to 10 men it was going to be hard graft for the remaining players, but Saints' superior fitness began to show as the half wore on and it was no surprise when Craig MacEwan, who had a good game on the left flank, got past his marker before hammering the ball high into the net past a helpless keeper.

The home side were on top now, with Rosyth restricted to sporadic forays up front which never really bothered the Saints back-line or goalkeeper too much.

The Oban team went further ahead in the 63rd minute when Craig MacEwan raced clear before cleverly dinking the ball over the keeper for a well taken goal.

With the game over as a contest

FOOTBALL

Saints turned on the style with some good possession football with Donnie Campbell netting a fifth goal with a well-placed shot past the despairing keeper.

Donnie was brought crashing to the ground minutes later in the box which looked like a stone-wall penalty but the referee waved away the claims, then the whistler made the same decision a couple of minutes later when Lewis Cameron was upended in the box much to the disbelief of the home support.

Rosyth's day, which had been bad enough, got even worse when defender Craig Fraser was shown his second yellow card of the match which left the visitors to play out the final few minutes with nine men.

Saints' put the icing on the cake of a good afternoon's performance when Dene Cassells squeezed the ball home from close range to make the final score 6-1.

Manager Iain Jackson was pleased with his team. He said: 'We played well, the passing and workrate was good and we were well worth our win.'

'It was unfortunate Mattie got sent off as he's being playing really well, but I'm sure he'll learn from his mistake and won't do it again.'

'Another plus was that I managed to get all the subs on for a good amount of game time which is important.'



Marc MacCallum is brought down in the box for a penalty kick. Insert: Allan MacKay makes no mistake from the spot.



Impressive performance from Oban Athletic

West of Scotland League
Oban Athletic 6
Helensburgh 2

OBAN Athletic took to Mossfield Stadium last Saturday as they hosted Helensburgh in a West of Scotland premier league match, and ran out comfortable 6-2 winners.

From the outset Athletic were in the ascendancy with the wind at their backs and opened the scoring after 15 minutes when some good wide play from Scott Maitland and Stephen Kelly worked an opening for Kris Gilles to curl home from 12 yards.

Gillies had the ball in the net minutes later with an exquisite

chip, only for referee Jimmy Lister, who had a good game, to rule the goal out for offside.

This did not deter the home side who continued to dominate and soon found the back of the net again with Gillies slotting home from 12 yards.

Hammering
The third quickly followed before half time with the in-form Paul Carmichael hammering home after the Helensburgh defence struggled to clear a Sean Ford corner.

Athletic lost stand-in keeper Martin Rae at half time with a calf strain and had to call on midfielder David Smith to step in between the sticks.

In the second half Gillies secured his hat-trick, volleying home from eight yards to effectively kill the game.

Credit to Helensburgh, they never gave up and scored two goals just after the hour from set pieces to cause a little bit of anxiety amongst the home side but as the wind died down so did Helensburgh's hopes as a Dean Smith shot was parried by the Maitland who couldn't miss.

Dean Smith rounded off an impressive performance by grabbing the sixth goal, twisting and turning to leave several players in his wake before slotting home to end the match.

FOOTBALL

Manager Calum Fox said: 'We were delighted to be using Mossfield as the Community Pitch at Oban High School is far too expensive to use week in, week out.'

'The grass pitch was perfect for us and if it wasn't for the windy conditions, I feel the win would have been more convincing.'

'We were delighted to use all the subs and hopefully keep the squad happy and it's food for thought for the next couple of games.'

Athletic have no game this weekend.

Pool teams on Oban Filling Station Cup duty

POOL

WEEK six of the Oban Pool League saw eight sides square off in the first round of the Oban Filling Station Cup.

Four lucky teams received byes straight through to the quarter finals: the Gluepot, the Claredon, Markie Dans 'B' and last season's cup holders Markie Dans 'A'.

This left four spots available amongst the remaining outfits. The Cellar's clash with The Outreach was brought forward to last Tuesday and as expected the Cellar ran out comfortable winners to book their place in the next round.

Last Thursday, the Lancaster 'A' were first to seal their safe passage through, easing to victory over new recruits the Creagan Inn. This was a tough draw for the league sponsors especially as an undefeated Lancaster 'A' were determined to put in a performance to make up for a sluggish start the previous week.

Joining them in the draw is the current Shoot-Out Shield winners, Lochnell, who eventually saw off Foley's Bar.

This was a sore loss for Foley's, who led proceedings going into the doubles for the second consecutive week but for the second consecutive week somehow managed to grab defeat from the jaws of victory.

Cup specialists Lochnell will not fear anyone in the upcoming draw and could pose a serious threat in the cup format.

Completing the draw is the Lancaster 'B' who came through an epic battle against the Lochavullin. The marathon match continued into the early hours.

Week six results: Outreach 0-6 Cellar; Lancaster A 6-1 Creagan Inn; Lochavullin 4-6 Lancaster B; Foley's Bar 4-6 Lochnell.

Week seven fixtures, November 21: Gluepot v Markie Dans A; Lochnell v Creagan Inn; Lancaster A v Cellar; Markie Dans B v Kelvin; Outreach v Lochavullin; Claredon v Lancaster B.

Elite training camp for Oban golfer

GOLF

TWO-TIME national boys champion in 2013, Robert MacIntyre, has joined an elite group of Scottish amateurs on a training camp in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The 17-year-old Oban golfer, who plays out of Glencruitten Golf Club, is among the 10-man group who departed for a warm weather training camp this week.

The intensive training trip - the majority of which is funded by long-standing Scottish Golf Union sponsor Aberdeen Asset Management, Johann Rupert's Alfred Dunhill Links Foundation and sportscotland - involves more than three weeks of work on strength and conditioning, psychology and practice.

Building on three previous successful training trips to the UAE, the players departed on Monday and return on December 12.

Training will take place at the Els Club, Dubai and two venues in Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and Yas Links.

Scottish Golf Performance Manager Steve Paulding said: 'Our warm weather training programme continues to evolve and provides an opportunity for the players to work on fitness and their golfing skills for an extended period.'



As a reward for a successful season members of Oban Saints 2002s travelled to Hampden Park last Friday evening to watch the Scotland v USA friendly match. A group of players from Spartak also attended the match.

Club serves up successful dinner dance

THE ACHIEVEMENTS of squash and tennis players in the Oban area were recognised at a prizegiving dinner dance.

Held in the Oban Bay Hotel on Saturday night, the Oban Squash and Tennis Club event saw Peter Strange awarded the squash player of the year title.

Among the other trophies to be presented were the Gents Open

(squash) title to Neil Fraser and the Female Open winner to Nicola Morgan.

The Oban men's team, sponsored by Simmers and Co. and Oban Filling Station, had earlier in the day secured victory over Fort William in their inter-town league, and their rivals accepted an invitation from organisers Colin MacNiven and Jackie

SQUASH AND TENNIS

Kersley to attend the dinner dance.

Tennis awards were given out to gents and ladies singles winners Gregor Brydon and Susie Hutcheson, as well as ladies doubles winners Melissa Oatts and Inez Cordeiro.

Fly fishing trophy heads to Mid Argyll

FLY FISHING

THE INVERAWE Charity Shield and all the day's honours went to Mid Argyll on Sunday.

The annual fly-fishing competition was held at the popular venue at Inverawe Smokehouses and Country Park, near Taynuilt, with 20 anglers taking part.

Pegs were drawn at 9am for a day's fishing with a soup and sandwich lunch before the weigh-in and prizegiving ceremony at the Inverawe Smokehouse Tearoom, courtesy

of the Campbell-Preston family. Archie MacGill junior, of Ardrishaig, won both shields for the heaviest catch and heaviest single fish. His dad, also Archie, was joint third.

The day's entry fees, donations and a draw, which included mounted sets of hand-tied flies by Gavin MacLean of Burnside, Clackmannanshire, raised £700 for Macmillan Cancer Support.



Far left, Patrick Campbell-Preston, managing director, Inverawe Smokehouses who presented the prizes, with the winners: Sandy MacDonald, Kilmichael; Archie MacGill Jnr, Ardrishaig; Roy Clark, Lochgilphead and Archie MacGill Snr, Ardrishaig.

Photo: Romano Capocci.



Ben Findlay of Oban Lorne makes a charge forward during the Dalriada rugby tournament at Glencruitten on Saturday.

Rain fails to dampen the spirits of rugby youngsters

YOUTH RUGBY

OBAN Lorne hosted the third Mini Rugby Dalriada tournament of the season on Saturday morning at Glencruitten.

The Dalriada competition is held throughout the season with tournaments held at various venues, with players from Oban, Etive Vikings, Mull, Mid Argyll, Lochaber and Kintyre all competing.

The aim of the festivals is to create competitive games for mini rugby players in the region

while promoting fair play and fun.

Despite the wind and the rain, players from Mid Argyll, Etive Vikings and Lochaber travelled to Glencruitten for the festival. Etive were the winners at each age group with close competition from the rest of the teams.

The Dalriada programme now takes a break over winter and will return in March 2014.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

COMPETITION

WIN

£600

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

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Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

A McGleish, Firth Court, Oban

M Fletcher, Creran Gardens, Oban

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Please tape your £1 coin here

Name

Address

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One man's plan for Oban to have Olympic champion

Oban instructor competes again after 20 years

AN OBAN karate instructor who has started competing again after a gap of 20 years says he wants to train a future Olympic champion.

Robert Neil, who turned 52 on Tuesday, was schooled in Oban's successful Argyll Shukokai Karate Club of the 1980s under Nicky Connolly and competed in numerous Scottish championships.

By returning to combat competition he aims to learn what has changed since he last fought, in order to train the champions of the future at his own Shotokan-style Oban Karate Club.

A supremely confident competitor, Robert now believes he can combine his experience and his new-found understanding of the modern-day tournaments to coach the champions of the future.

'I mainly came back to karate because I have two boys of my own, aged eight and six, and I wanted them to learn,' Robert said. 'Oban always seems to produce good martial artists

and I hope that one day a Scottish, British, European, or even Olympic champion can come from here - I'll train them for that; if they are willing to put in the work I can take them all the way.'

Robert returned to competitive action for the first time in 20 years last month, surprising everyone - apart from himself - by picking up a silver and two bronze medals at the Scottish Karate Alliance (SKA) Open Championship in Dundee.

Next was the European championships in Sheffield, where Robert won bronze in the veteran class and another bronze in the main team event.

At the SKA Open International event in Ayr he fought much younger men in the 18-plus age category and finished runner-up, losing to world champion David Carter, Troon.

'We competed a lot under Nicky Connolly in the 1980s and the organisers at the open championship knew what I had done in the past, so they didn't want to

KARATE

put me in the veteran category,' said Robert, who reached the required fitness levels by running on the cycle path near his Benderloch home.

'I was quite happy with fighting in the main competition and I caught out the younger guys with a few old skills that they wouldn't have been used to.'

'I'll only get away with that once and they'll be gunning for me next time but I hope to win the title next year.'

SKA is affiliated to the World United Karate-Do Federation (WUKF), which is currently striving for Olympic status in 2020. By teaching this style of karate, Robert hopes to pave the way for Oban students to compete at Olympic standard.

Robert, who runs his own traffic management company, plans to compete at the Scottish Open in February.

His club, for all ages, trains every Tuesday from 7pm at Oban Scout Hall.



Try scorer Cammy Smith breaks through the leaky Loch Lomond defence. Photo: Stephen Lawson.

Green Machine turn on the power

RBS West Division 2
Loch Lomond 0
Oban Lorne 31

OBAN Lorne stayed in the hunt for a promotion place after a thumping 31-0 away win at Loch Lomond, the scene of Oban Lorne's first trophy win of the previous season.

Bonhill was where the Green Machine lifted the West Regional Bowl on the route to glory at Murrayfield.

In the league match last Saturday Oban welcomed centre Alex Lawson in for his first start, with Daniel Hoey and Fergus Moore hoping for their first Oban Lorne appearance from the bench.

With the wind behind them in the first half Loch Lomond played out a kick-and-chase game plan but the home side did not account for the powerful Oban back three of Struan Smith, Connor Ferris and Callum MacLachlan, who formed a solid defensive unit and counter-attacked with purpose.

The trio helped Oban build a 14-0 lead at halftime, with a try apiece from twins Cammy and Struan Smith. Stand-off Craig Wright converted both scores.

After the break Oban Lorne built upon a solid first half performance with two further tries from Connor Ferris and Craig Wright, plus a successful penalty kick from the latter.

Cammy Smith rounded off his scoring by touching down his

second and Oban Lorne's fifth try of the day.

Loch Lomond's only scoring opportunity of the day came late on when flanker Andy MacDougall was sin-binned but the hosts failed to make their numerical advantage count.

Substitutes Daniel Hoey and

Fergus Moore came on for the final minutes for some good experience at a higher level, alongside the experienced Mark MacQueen.

The win sees Oban rise to third place in the league.

Oban's next game is at home to fourth placed McLaren on

RUGBY

Saturday, November 30 at 2pm.

The club's 2014 calendar is now on sale from the rugby clubhouse, Oban Sports Shop, Jackson Bros. Butchers and MacQueen Bros.

Home draw for Saints in Scottish Amateur Cup

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints have been given a home draw in the 4th round of the Fosters Scottish Amateur Cup.

Ellon from Aberdeenshire will be the visitors to Oban on Saturday, December 7.

The Oban side have a good record in the national competition, reaching the last eight twice in recent seasons.

Shinty Heroes joins Celtic Connections

SHINTY

THE BLAS Festival's 'Shinty's Heroes - Curaidhean na Camanachd' has been added to the 2014 Celtic Connections programme and will take place at The Mitchell Library Theatre in Glasgow on Sunday, February 2, 2014.

The show, which was originally performed on the evening before this year's Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final, paid tribute, through music and pictures, to those shinty heroes who were involved in the Great War, many of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Artists involved included Gary Innes, Fergie MacDonald and Duncan Chisholm and the event was hosted by shinty historian and journalist Hugh Dan MacLennan.

For more information, visit www.celticconnections.com.

Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results - Ardencaple 2, Under 14s 2.

Scoring for Saints were Martin Rennie and Craig Easton; Under 15s 8, Dumbarton Riverside 0. On target for Saints were Evan MacLellan (2), Ross MacMillan (2), Liam Higgins, Zander Kilmurray, Hector MacDonald and Fergus Lawson. Under 17s 0 v Allender Colts 2.

This weekend's fixtures - Under 13s v Clydebank; Under 14s v Drumchapel United; Under 15s v Goldenhill; Cowie United v Under 17s.



Karate instructor Robert Neil, who has made a prizewinning comeback to competition, with his students. 15_477karate01

Amateur league results and fixtures

LAST Saturday's results: Scottish Amateur Cup 2nd round replay - Tarbert v Yoker postponed; 3rd round - Oban Saints 6, Rosyth 1; West of Scotland Cup 3rd round - Lochgilphead

Red Star 5, Cambuslang United 1.

This Saturday's fixtures: Scottish Cup 2nd round replay - Tarbert v Yoker; Jimmy Marshall Cup 1st round - Dunoon

Athletic v Dunoon; Oban Saints v Shawlands; Inverclyde v Campbeltown Pupils.

FOOTBALL

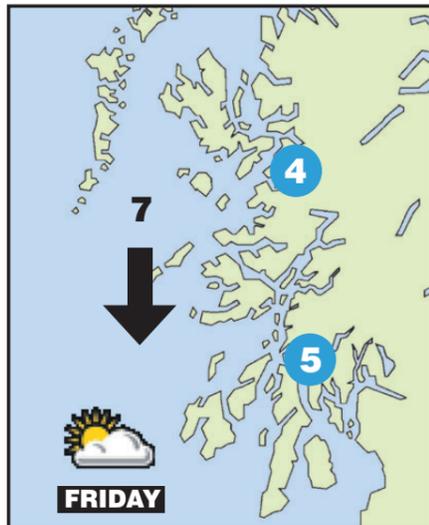
Weather

Thursday Sunny
Winds moderate northerly
Temperatures 1°C to 5°C

Friday Sunny
Winds light northerly
Temperatures 2°C to 5°C.

Weekend Sunny intervals
Outlook Winds light north easterly
Temperatures 2°C to 5°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 21, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	01.32 1.2 07.18 3.9 14.03 1.6 19.41 3.7	
Fri	02.10 1.3 07.53 3.8 14.41 1.8 20.19 3.5	
Sat	02.51 1.5 08.31 3.6 15.24 1.9 20.58 3.3	
Sun	03.34 1.7 09.13 3.5 16.14 2.1 21.44 3.1	
Mon	04.22 1.8 10.02 3.3 17.16 2.2 22.46 3.0	
Tues	05.17 1.9 11.17 3.2 18.26 2.2 *** **	
Wed	00.37 3.0 06.17 1.9 12.45 3.2 19.36 2.0	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

The Oban Times

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Thursday 21 November, 2013

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Christmas far and wide
Oban Festivities

Cosy for Christmas
Unique online gifts
Christmas on the Islands
Christmas A-Z

Green light for new Skye wind turbines

THREE new 22-metre high wind turbines will be erected in North Skye after Highland Council gave plans the go-ahead.
Scottish Water's proposals for the 5kW turbines next to the Lusta Burn near Lochbay, Watnish did not draw much favour with locals, however, with the local community council and the Visit Watnish tourism group among the four objectors.
They claimed the turbines would have a negative visual impact on the area, affecting tourism and could harm local wildlife such as hen harriers and eagles.
But during a short debate, Skye councillor Ian Renwick said he had no issue with the plans and Councillor Angela MacLean said: 'It's within our policy and I'm quite happy to agree to grant.'
Two similar Scottish Water schemes at Portree and Broadford have already been given permission, with the latter already operational.



Primary school pupils meet panto stars

Upper Achintore Primary pupils were joined by children from Fort William Primary to enjoy a performance of the panto favourite 'Cinderella' by the Ayr-based group M&M Theatrical Productions. Pictured are, from left, Charleigh Adams, Rico Stogowski and Liam Duncan meeting the stars of the show. 20_147panto01

Pensioner placed on sex offenders' register

A BALLACHULISH pensioner has been placed on the sex offenders' register after a sheriff found him guilty of sexually touching a 10-year-old girl while she was just feet from her mother.
James Ridgeway denied sexually assaulting the girl at the village's tourist information centre on the morning of August 19.
But the youngster told Fort William Sheriff Court the grey-haired 69 year-old had touched her bottom.
Giving evidence via video link for more than an hour, the girl said she had been talking on the phone outside the centre when Ridgeway walked past her.
She said: 'I gave the phone to my mum then he walked back up. Mum screamed and clapped her hands, I turned and screamed and ran round the building.'
Depute fiscal Stewart Maciver

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by
RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk
asked: 'Had something happened that made your mum scream?'
The girl said: 'He grabbed me below the trouser line.'
Mr Maciver said: 'This might be embarrassing, but can you tell me where it was on you he grabbed you?'
She replied: 'On my bum. It was like a pinch.'

her daughter as she could only see the girl from the waist up.
Ridgeway, described in court as a paranoid schizophrenic, said he had considered poking the girl with his finger 'as a joke', but changed his mind.
He said: 'I saw she had a bare midriff and I thought I'd touch her on the back and say 'two choc ices please' because she was standing at a window.'
'Her mum shouted 'don't you dare touch her' so I didn't touch her at all.'
Asked by defence solicitor Graham Robertson why the girl would lie about what happened, Ridgeway replied: 'Perhaps she likes fairy tales.'



Fun and games for Pudsey

Strontian Primary School children joined in the fun for Children in Need on Friday when they wore pyjamas and took their teddies to school to raise money for good causes.
See our West Highlands Children in Need round-up, page 8.

Businesses told BID information 'is out there'

THE CHAIRMAN of the group behind the controversial Lochaber Business Improvement District proposal has said they have done all they can to inform local people about their plans.
Business owners across the area have complained about receiving little or no information about

the BID process. But at a Fort William Chamber of Commerce event in the Moorings Hotel, Banavie on Tuesday lunchtime, Living Lochaber chairman Frazer Coupland said every effort had been made to inform people about the BID.
He said: 'Consultations, public

information, we've done that. At each stage we've posted information out, we've been out, we've done public meetings, we've spoken one-to-one with businesses.'
'We think the information is out there.
'Communication is a two-way

thing, and I think there has been a failure on some businesses' behalf to engage.'
Ballot papers have been posted out to all businesses in Lochaber with a rateable value of more than £2,000, who have until December 12 to register their vote.

Caol's creative children

CHILDREN from Caol Primary School Room 13, the founding member of the Room 13 worldwide art studio network, briefed business delegates on their work on the opening day of Lochaber Ideas Week on Monday.
P7 pupils Bethany Henderson, Emily Campbell and Ella Smith told how the studio had grown internationally since it was established in Caol Primary back in 1994.
Group treasurer Ella told the meeting in the Moorings Hotel at Banavie: 'Lots of visitors come to Room 13 in Caol from around

the world. We have also had numerous visits from MSPs.'
Photographer Bethany said: 'You can create anything you like and not get told it's wrong.'
Secretary Emily added: 'We have a project manager, three studio monitors, two newsletter editors, a managing director, a librarian and an events manager.'
Next Lochaber Ideas Week networking events include 'Around Lochaber in 80 Tables' tomorrow and a concluding 'dinner and rewards ceremony' on Saturday at the same venue.



From left, Caol Room 13 representatives Ella Smith, Bethany Henderson and Emily Campbell delivered an impressive presentation for Lochaber Ideas Week. Artist-in-residence at Caol, Richard Bracken, helped the girls prepare. 20_147ideas01

Gaelic decline in traditional heartlands

A PROMINENT Lochaber Gael has expressed sadness at the ongoing decline of Gaelic in its traditional heartlands.
And Charlie MacColl, the former chairman of Meur Lochabhair - the local branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach - reckons little can be done to halt the depressing trend.
Mr MacColl spoke out after detailed figures from the 2011 Census showed Skye had just one parish left, centred on Flodrigarry in Trotternish, with a majority of Gaelic speakers.
The fall matched that of the whole island, where those able to speak the language fell from 74 per cent 1991 to just 46 per

cent 20 years later.
Mr MacColl told The Oban Times: 'The government has been thumping and thumping at Gaelic but nothing is happening.'
'More young people seem to be speaking it in the cities, but it is just pidgin Gaelic and that's all it's going to be.'
'Even years ago in Kilchoan you would speak to somebody in Gaelic and they would answer back in English.'
'I am of the last generation with good Gaelic handed down through the old ways.'
Barvas on Lewis has proportionately Scotland's strongest Gaelic identity, with 64 per cent able to speak the language.

However, Sheriff Noel McPartlin believed the girl's version of events and found Ridgeway of Lochan Dubh, West Laroach, guilty of intentionally or recklessly touching the girl sexually.
Sheriff McPartlin said: 'It seemed when she gave her evidence it was in a clear and straightforward manner. I have no reason to doubt her evidence.'
'In my view the evidence of the girl is backed up by the mother, and so I find you guilty.'
Sentencing was deferred until December 18 for reports.



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Credit union warning over payday loan companies

LOCHABER Credit Union (LCU) is warning cash-strapped consumers against falling into the clutches of payday loan companies as the festive season approaches.
Borrowers, says the Fort William-based agency, should not be tempted by the offer of ready money and run the risk of falling into crippling arrears. Instead, LCU says saving weekly or monthly, even a little, can earn people automatic credit union membership and affordable repayment rates of under 27 per cent annually.
That compares with punitive interest charges of up to 4,000 per cent with payday loan firms if repayment deadlines are missed. First Minister Alex Salmond recently announced plans to protect consumers, pledging payday lenders would be subject to tougher regulation in an independent Scotland. And LCU's call follows the launch this week of the Scottish Government '12 Days of Debtmas' campaign aimed at vulnerable borrowers.
Speaking this week to The Oban Times, LCU co-ordinator Cheryl MacFarlane highlighted the

case of one individual looking for cash to settle an out-of-control payday loan.
She told The Oban Times: 'The person thought they could just borrow the money from us straight away but I had to explain you have to be a member and saver with us for 10 weeks. That was no good to them because they could not afford to save and pay off the increasing interest at the same time. It's sad, because the initial loan was only £300 and if they had saved £10 with us for 10 weeks they could have borrowed that money.'
She added: 'You do not have to be working to get a loan. Anyone saving £10 a week with us from January 1 could apply for a loan of £1,500 in time for Christmas. Even if we can't do anything about this year, people can start 2014 with a New Year resolution to join their credit union.'
Meanwhile, shocking new figures released by debt charity Step Change show that clients in the Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch constituency have the second-highest average payday loan debt in Scotland - £2,418 compared with £1,398 nationwide. Highlands and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant,

who has launched her own 'Debtbusters' anti-payday loans campaign, described the findings as 'tragic news'. She said: 'In some instances people are taking out payday loans in order to pay off the credit card that was used for the basics last month. As Christmas gets closer the financial pressure on families and individuals grows and this will push more people into debt. This is why it is crucial to make people aware of alternative lenders such as the Hi-Scot credit union who are able to provide loans at much lower interest rates than the legal loan sharks.'
And Citizens Advice Scotland are now helping 100 people a week with payday loan problems - one third more than last year. Chief executive Margaret Lynch said: 'To people who might be considering taking out a loan we say: Be very careful about what lender you use. Payday loans might seem convenient today, but they can lead you deep into debt.'
Anyone wishing to join or find out more on Lochaber Credit Union can phone 01397 700746 or e-mail lochabercrreditunion@btinternet.com.

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Arisaig man's water war rages on

AN ARISAIG man is renewing his campaign against Scottish Water over a claim he is being charged for a service he already provides.

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

Ranald Coyne built a house in the village in 1997 and as a condition of planning put in pipes to take away rainwater from his roof, garage and drive via a holding tank to the sea.

But despite having his installed his own system, for 16 years Mr Coyne's water rates for the seafront property have included a fee for removing surface water.

The amateur meteorologist claims he has unfairly shelled out around £800 in that time - an average of £50 annually.

Mr Coyne's battle with the utility began in earnest when he obtained a Scottish Water leaflet showing the property drainage charge for band F was £54.34. Previously he had been unable to obtain a separate figure.

He and wife Su were told if they had a water meter they would get an itemised bill.

The retired couple inquired about having one installed but claim they were 'bluntly' advised against the idea. On further investigation, they found installing and renting a meter was too expensive and agreed not to go ahead.

After further wrangling with Scottish Water, a frustrated Mr Coyne took legal action and lodged a summons against the utility at the small claims court at Fort William.

According to Mr Coyne, although the sheriff dismissed the action he made it clear the issue needed to be looked into and instructed Scottish Water's lawyer to follow up the matter - but nothing happened.

Mr Coyne told The Oban Times: 'I have given them a few years but I have heard nothing at all.'

'The sheriff did say to the water board's lawyer that it was wrong, but his job was to interpret the law as it stands. He said it was wrong I had to put in my own system and then pay for the service.'

'It is completely unjust that they are charging me for something which by law the planning authority required me to provide before I even started.'

He added: 'I would like

Scottish Water to stop charging me for this. I just want my rates deducted by the required amount and a refund for the past 16 years. I am unhappy at paying for something I have already paid for.'

A Scottish Water spokesperson said the utility's position on the matter had not changed since 2008 and that Mr Coyne was advised then he could fit a meter to possibly reduce his bill.

He said: 'Unmeasured household water and waste water service charges have been based on the council tax banding of a property since council tax was introduced via the Local Government Finance Act 1992, on the basis of whether or not a property is connected to the public sewer network for all or part of drainage requirements.'

'There is no provision or mechanism within our current scheme of charges, approved by our economic regulator, the Water Industry Commission for Scotland, for applying a reduction on unmeasured service charges to take account of the particular drainage arrangements he describes.'



Water wars: Ranald Coyne is furious at paying for a service he already provides at his Arisaig home.



Hands up for dance! Lochaber Dance Platform at the Nevis Centre on Saturday.

Audience dazzled as curtain rises on Dance Platform

MORE than 200 Lochaber school pupils performed some spectacular routines at the annual Lochaber Dance Platform last week.

Two shows in the Nevis Centre on Thursday and Friday saw the children showcase a huge variety of styles of dance and costume.

Ahead of the event, 14 dancers from

Lochaber High School choreographed a dance and taught it to children at classes in seven different primary schools - Banavie, Caol, Fort William RC, Lochside, Inverloch, Spean and Upper Achintore. High school pupils put together their own routines, with more experienced high school pupils

running lunchtime dance classes for

first and second years. The finale dance was taught by a visiting teacher from Y-Dance in Glasgow, with rehearsals starting the Saturday before the event.

Event organiser, High Life Highland's Active Schools co-ordinator Bridget Thomas, said: 'The Dance Platform provides a great opportunity for our talented high school pupils to pass on

their dance skills whilst developing leadership skills. The standard this year was superb, with some really impressive routines. 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.'

Dance Platform guest performers

included Ballet West, Nevis School of Highland Dancing, Kinlochleven High School, ConnXion Dance School, Bunscoil Keltica Danasa and Ben Nevis All-Stars. Anyone interested in taking part in next year's Dance Platform can contact Bridget on bridget.thomas@highlifehighland.com or 07747 762 497.

Fort designer wins prestigious Scottish crown

A FORT William designer has been crowned Womenswear Designer of the Year at the prestigious Scottish Style Awards.

Judy Clark's pieces took to the catwalk amid the grandeur of Kelvingrove Art Gallery with lace dresses and steam punk frock coats featuring pheasant feather bustles which wowed the crowd.

The talented 29-year-old will launch her commercial range in Milan next year having already had the likes of Italian Vogue visit her studio, making the designer one to watch!

Judy has been creating one off pieces from Scottish textiles such as Harris Tweed, Calzeat Textiles, MYB Lace and recently worked with Timorous Beasties'

newest textile range. And Judy, the only designer still living in Scotland, was delighted to pick up the accolade.

She said: 'I was absolutely thrilled to win the award. It's a very prestigious title so I hope it will help move my business in the right direction. 'Things are going really well for Scottish fashion at the moment.'

'Harris Tweed is hugely popular just now and I'm very proud to use so much of it in my work, given the unique heritage it has.'

Judy, who studied at Heriot Watt University in Galashiels and completed an internship under Alexander McQueen, works from Beaverhall Studios in Edinburgh.



Judy Clark: Womenswear Designer of the Year.

Dangerous iron work successfully dismantled

A CHALLENGING project to make safe a Lochaber bridge which witnessed the first skirmish of the 1745 Jacobite rising has been successfully completed.

Ballachulish experts Geo-Ropes attached themselves to safety wires so they could dismantle dangerous iron work from the crumbling areas of stonework on High Bridge across the River Spean.

The team, who spent several days at the site to tackle the work, had to cut up the old metal railings and carefully lower them to the ground. The ancient stone bridge is being preserved thanks to a grant of around £200,000 from the late Dr Alan Reece, recently named as the third biggest philanthropist in the UK. He had walked the area and said it was one of the most wonderful places he had visited.

The money allowed a local footpath group to build a new kilometre-long path down to



Work to clear High Bridge of dangerous iron work took several days.

High Bridge from the Spean Bridge Commando Memorial so people could have easier access to the area. On August 16 1745, 11 men and a piper fooled a large force of government troops into fleeing from High Bridge after tricking them into believing they were surrounded.

Each year Jacobite group Na Fir Dileas, the Loyal Men, marches to the bridge to commemorate the event.

Club hits the bullseye with fundraiser

A FUNDRAISING drive by a West Highlands field archery club hit the bullseye in Fort William on Saturday.

Ten volunteers from Kinlochleven-based South Lochaber Bowmen, including three junior members, packed bags at Morrisons store and collected an amazing £656.68 from grateful shoppers.

Club secretary Janice Gosden said the cash would go to the junior club to help replace and renew equipment and personal protection gear used at club nights and in competition.

Janice said: 'I would like to thank everyone for their wonderful generosity.'

Clachaig Inn wins major UK award

STAFF AND customers at the Clachaig Inn are raising a glass after the popular Glencoe establishment scooped a major UK award.

The remote outlet, a traditional haunt for walkers, climbers and bikers, was named best pub, cafe or restaurant of the year following a public poll for the Great Outdoors Awards 2013. Praising the efforts of staff, 'over the moon' Clachaig owner Ed Daynes said: 'Next spring will mark 30 years since the Daynes family took over at Clachaig. To be able to achieve this success after all that time is fantastic. We'd like to thank all our customers for their continued support.'

Leading author holds writing workshop

ONE OF Scotland's leading novelists and authors is to hold a writing workshop at Dramafish Studios in Kinlochleven next Wednesday.

Sophie Cooke's session with aspiring writers is being staged as part of Book Week Scotland 2013 celebrations. Among many accolades, London-born Ms Cooke was shortlisted for the Saltire First Book Of The Year Award for her novel The Glass House, which was set in the Highlands. The workshop starts at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.



From left, John Tyldsley, Sunart Community Company (SCC); Rachel Kerr, CADISPA; Jamie MacIntyre, SCC; Robert Dunn, SCC; Geoff Fagan, CEO CADISPA; Kylie Fagan, CADISPA; and Hazel Dallinger-Mills, local community consultation co-ordinator at Saturday's public consultation.

Sunart revival plan underway

AN ACTION plan to revive the fortunes of a remote Lochaber community is underway following a public consultation event on Saturday.

Sunart, with the village of Strontian at its heart, has seen its young people drift away and its economy decline for decades.

But now Sunart Community Company (SCC) is determined to reverse that trend and plot a new path towards a better future.

And that process got off to a sound start after 70 people of all ages gathered in the Strontian Village Hall to contribute their ideas on reviving Sunart's fortunes.

Geoff Fagan of CADISPA (Conservation and Development in Sparsely Populated Areas) led the event, the first stage towards producing an action plan forged in part by local people.

SCC director David Barker told the

Oban Times: 'He said their job was not to tell us how to develop, but to guide us in discovering what we really need to do to improve our community. Participants were asked to brainstorm all the problems and shortcomings of the area, which were then grouped under categories such as transport, education, employment and housing. The objective was to name every problem, however major or minor, because unless they are identified, they cannot be addressed in the final plan.'

He added: 'One thing that became clear during the meeting was that this is a great opportunity to influence and shape Sunart's future.'

'With CADISPA's experience and the community's views, the result should be a blueprint that everyone can get behind with enthusiasm - because it is their plan.'

CADISPA is Lottery funded.

Islands sustainable energy action pledge

COMMUNITY Energy Scotland (CES) has pledged to help the Scottish Islands Federation deliver sustainable energy action plans for island communities.

The move follows CES's successful conference in Glasgow earlier this month which was attended by many island delegates, including Eigg representative Camille Dressler.

The federation is one of 13 partners in Project SMILEGOV, a trans-national

European project aiming to help the islands of Europe become leaders in carbon reduction through energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Ms Dressler said: 'One of the issues that the Scottish Islands Federation is keen to help with is that of hard to treat houses, a problem which a number of islands in the Orkneys have been successful in dealing with.'

'Anyone wishing to find out more

or to get involved can contact the SMILEGOV project officer, Mull-based Terry Hegarty at terry@scottish-islands-federation.co.uk.'

Felix Whight, CES policy and innovation manager, said: 'We believe this project fits very well with our overarching goals as a charity and membership organisation, as well as a number of our current priorities and programmes.'

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- Face Painting
- Badge Making and Clay Model Making and much, much more ...

Redundancies sought at quarry

OPERATOR of Glensanda Quarry, Aggregate Industries UK, has asked for nine voluntary redundancies as it looks to make staff cuts. The job cuts would include at least one post from lab technicians, transport workshop, plant fitters, coxswains and secondary operators. Aggregate Industries agreed the site restructuring with the GMB Union and insists that no further redundancies would be made, if the quota was met. The company, which directly employs 128 staff at the Morvern site, denied in late 2012 that redundancies were being considered when production ceased for four weeks.

Bid to find new shop tenant

AN APPLICATION to turn two vacant retail premises in Oban into a food and drink unit has been lodged with Argyll and Bute Council in a bid to find a new tenant. Blockbuster Video has been empty since the spring while Winchouse closed its doors last year, leaving a void at the top end of George Street. The owner of the shops, investment firm Methcroft Ltd, believes getting permission to use the premises jointly as a restaurant or café could stimulate new interest, with there being no demand for retail.

New tower lights go on show

NEW LIGHTING around McCaig's Tower will be displayed for the first time tomorrow (Friday) during the launch of the Oban Winter Festival. People will be able to see the dramatic effects for the first time at around 5pm. The lights will go out overnight, before a second switch-on takes place this Saturday when the town's traditional Christmas illuminations are officially lit up. The new McCaig's Tower scheme has been delivered and funded through Argyll and Bute Council's CHORD programme. It sees the existing lighting at the tower enhanced, with its facade changing colour every hour and a colour wash illuminating its top level windows. The new lighting scheme can change its colours for different events.



Emma serves up £723 for Pudsey

Connell's most enterprising youngster, Emma Hill, above, raised £723.41 for Children in Need on Saturday, by hosting a Pudsey-themed soup lunch. As well as organising food for villagers, the 11-year-old Park Primary School pupil arranged a stall selling various goods to raise money for the charity, as well as a host of competitions - including guess the weight of the Pudsey cake. For a full round-up of this year's Children in Need fundraisers, see page eight. 05_147cinsale2

No plans to close any Argyll rural schools

THERE are no plans to close any rural schools in Argyll and Bute, according to councillor Aileen Morton, the authority's education spokeswoman. Speaking after the findings of a Scottish Government consultation on rural education were published, councillor Morton said closures 'were genuinely not on the agenda at all'. The Helensburgh-based councillor also confirmed Argyll and Bute Council has no plans for any more cost cutting in the education department, beyond that already agreed. She said: 'This administration has no plans to close schools. We need to get an education management team structure in place that works but we have nothing else planned.' Changes to Scottish law as a result of the government consultation will include clarifying the presumption against closure of rural schools and imposing a five-year moratorium on shutting down a school that has already survived a closure process.

Fears for Argyll man held in India

THE DISTRAUGHT family of an Argyll seaman detained in an Indian prison for the past month have taken hope from a huge response to a petition calling for him to be freed. Billy Irving, aged 33, who grew up in Appin and Campbelltown and now lives in Connel, is one of six British ex-soldiers among the 35 crewmen jailed after Indian authorities claimed their boat was carrying weapons illegally. Their boat, the US-owned MV Seaman Guard Ohio, was detained at Tuticorin Port in southern Tamil Nadu state on October 18. Billy's girlfriend of four years, Yvonne MacHugh, who writes to him every day not knowing if he receives her letters, has launched a petition on change.org calling on the UK Government's foreign secretary William Hague to help free the men. As *The Oban Times* went to



Billy Irving, who could remain in an Indian prison for up to a year without charge or trial.

teammates have joined friends in helping to spread word of the petition. Yvonne admitted the support from friends and family had helped greatly but described the situation as a 'nightmare'. She said: 'It's so stressful not knowing if he's okay. It's constant. I think about him all the time. I can't sleep and I had Billy's dad on the phone at 4am earlier this week; I was in tears and he was distraught as well.' There have been three unsuccessful bail hearings and, under Indian law, the crewmen can be held without charge and without going to trial for a year. After a period of silence, Billy's family has decided to speak out as they feel the British Government is not doing enough to free him or five other Britons imprisoned. The ship, owned by security firm Advanfort, was carrying out anti-piracy operations in the Indian Ocean on the main trading route between Europe and Asia. The company has denied allegations by the Indian Government that the ship had illegally procured diesel and was in possession of arms and ammunition without required documentation. Yvonne, who had expected to have Billy home for her birthday last week, said: 'We are fighting this battle ourselves and getting no information on what's happening.' 'These guys have been wrongly imprisoned and our government needs to do something to get them home.' A spokesperson from the Foreign Commonwealth Office said it could not comment on ongoing investigations but added it was providing consular aid and was in touch with the local authorities.

Charities and volunteers left in limbo over referendum question

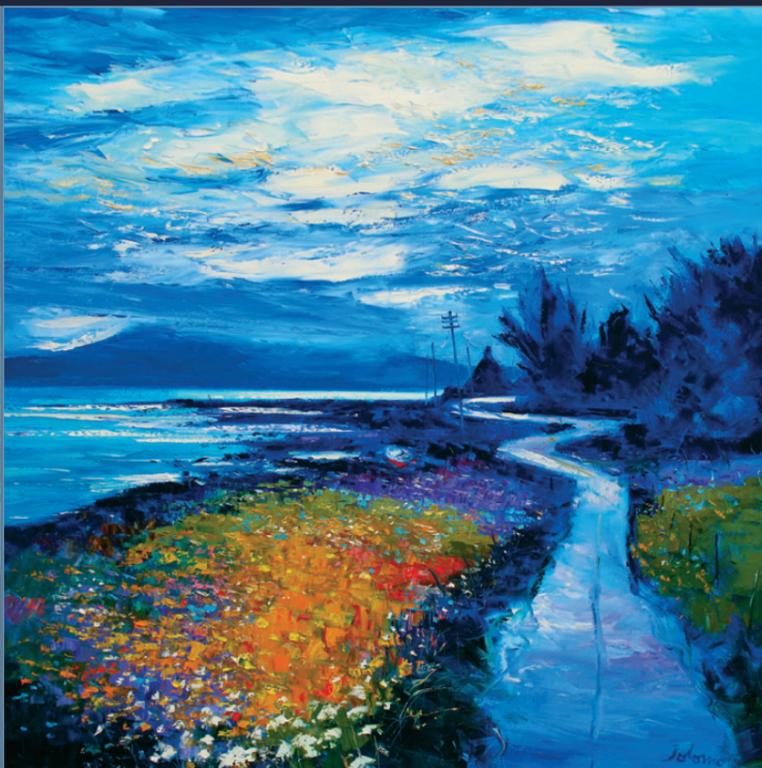
THIRD sector bodies in Argyll say they're becoming increasingly concerned by a lack of clarity over claims independence could leave charities facing a £1.5billion funding shortfall. Figures compiled by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) show that, between 2009-12, the sector's income was around £4.4billion. But unanswered questions over what would happen to funding that comes from organisations based in England are leaving charities fearing up to one third of potential funding streams could be cut off. Among the biggest concerns is the future of Big Lottery, one of the largest funders of charitable and voluntary bodies across Scotland. Now Argyll charitable organisations have pleaded for both sides of the independence debate to detail their plans. Argyll Voluntary Action (AVA) chief executive Glenn Heritage said: 'A lot of trusts are England-based and have a UK-wide remit. Would that include an independent Scotland?' 'People are still having to surmise quite a lot - there's too many unknowns.' Philip White, a director of the North Argyll Carers' Centre, is similarly concerned. 'Like most charitable organisations, you're flying by the seat of your pants most of the time, so things like this are a real concern. The first thing people do when they're uncertain is tighten the purse strings,' he said. 'We need detail and there has been none. All we seem to be getting is soundbites from politicians and no detail.' The concerns come after a recent SCVO survey revealed nearly 40 per cent of third sector organisations are disengaged with the independence debate, with 30 per cent finding it alienating. SCVO's director of public affairs, John Downie, said: 'Instead of more rhetoric about how things will be better, we need hard facts from Better Together and Yes Scotland.' Speaking after a meeting with charities in Oban last week, David Mundell MP, the Conservative undersecretary for state, said: 'There are a lot of issues about the independence debate the charities feel haven't been satisfactorily answered. It is for those who are proposing change to set out how that will work.' The SNP's cabinet secretary for finance, John Swinney, said the voluntary sector would have a 'thriving' future in Scotland, with a further £49million invested through 2013/14 and 2014/15. He added: 'We are not proposing any changes to the National Lottery, where the current franchise runs for a number of years and will not change. Scotland will continue to receive its fair share.'

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View the exhibition online at www.jolomo.com



John Lowrie Morrison OBE
Isle of Mull An t - Eilean Muileach
Isle of Iona An t - Eilean Idhe

Fish farm recommended for approval

A PROPOSAL to build a 10-cage fish farm on Loch Etive has been recommended for approval by planners - subject to a local hearing.

Councillors are this week expected to agree to hold a discretionary meeting of the planning committee in the Lorn area to decide on the fate of Dawnfresh's application, which has split the communities either side of the loch.

While Ardchattan Community Council unanimously voted to oppose the development during a well-attended public meeting, its Tayside equivalent decided to back the farm - but behind closed doors after a public meeting revealed mixed opinions.

While Dawnfresh say the fish farm is necessary to preserve the future of fish farming on the loch and will secure local jobs, opponents say it will cause significant pollution, will harm the area's visual amenity and could endanger local species of fish due to an increase in lice and harm indigenous crustaceans through the use of chemical lice treatments.

Crash driver's fuel spill claim

A DRIVER crashed through the island bollard on Soroba Road outside Oban Co-op after claiming to have skidded on oil or diesel.

The female was one of two people to report the spill to police last Saturday morning.

Concern voiced over road closures

THE MAIN arterial routes into Argyll close, on average, once every six days, the minister for transport Keith Brown has revealed.

Answering a parliamentary question from Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor, Mr Brown said that the three main trunk roads serving Argyll and Bute have been closed a combined 186 times in the previous three years.

The A83 was closed 43 times between 2010 and 2012 - meaning the road was closed on average once every three weeks.

The A82, which runs from Glasgow to Fort William, was closed 97 times for the same period - an average road closure every 11 days, while the A85, which runs between Perth, Criarlach and Oban, closed 46 times.

Mr McGrigor, who raised the parliamentary question, said: 'Many constituents have expressed concern to me that the occurrence and duration of these closures, especially on the A82, has increased significantly in recent years and they are questioning why the roads cannot be reopened more quickly as they appear to have been in the past.'

Fraud complaint reported

FOLLOWING a complaint regarding financial irregularities at a shop in Oban's George Street a 39 year old has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

Police in Oban confirmed they had received a report from the store's internal fraud investigators on November 12.

New school could leave sports teams stumped for pitch

All-weather surface could be out of action for two years

SPORTS teams in Oban could be faced with two years without access to all-weather pitches due to the construction of the new Oban High School.

The preferred site for the new school is an area of the current site along with land behind the Tweed Mill, Dalintart and Glencruitten.

As part of the plans two new all-weather pitches would be constructed but the current one would be removed.

Council officials attending the launch of the public consultation in Oban High School last Tuesday refused to guarantee any of the new pitches would be available before access to the current one is restricted.

Oban Saints FC secretary David Buchanan asked whether it would be possible to have the new pitches ready



Loving Oban: Launching the new voucher scheme at Oban's Royal Hotel are, BID4Oban administrator Shona Neil, events manager Mike Rowell and the Royal Hotel's Peter MacDougall. 15_t4giftv1

Stock up on shop vouchers and boost Oban

A NEW voucher scheme from BID4Oban could be set to deliver a boost to the town centre - as well as making an ideal Christmas present for festive shoppers.

The Love Oban scheme has been described as a win-win scheme for businesses, who can redeem vouchers at no cost to themselves as BID4Oban is absorbing the administration and printing fees. With denominations of £5, £10 and £20 available, the vouchers are sold and accepted by 54 traders in the town currently, from pubs and

restaurants to retailers, service firms and tourist attractions.

Launching as part of Oban Winter Festival, the vouchers will be available at the Royal Hotel from November 23.

BID4Oban's Mike Rowell said the vouchers are a great way to support local business.

He added: 'From Alba Art to The Wool and Needlecraft Centre, Love Oban vouchers can be exchanged for an enormous variety of products and services, for beauty treatments, meals out or a special piece of jewellery. 'The scheme encompasses

large and small businesses, so whoever receives Love Oban vouchers will be able to choose the gift that suits them. It also encourages local people to support local businesses and keep the town prospering.'

BID4Oban is keen to hear feedback about the scheme and will review how successful it is as time goes on, while local traders not already signed up are being urged to do so.

Mike said: 'Love Oban vouchers are not just for Christmas, they can also be given for birthdays, anniversaries and

weddings. If you want to reward employees or regular customers, the vouchers are the ideal gift.'

BID4Oban chairman John Forteith added: 'Oban has a wealth of great shops and by giving Love Oban vouchers this Christmas, people are opening up a wide range of products and services for their loved ones to choose. Best of all, the money stays in the local economy, encouraging businesses to thrive. The scheme is open to all levy payers and associate members and I'd encourage everyone to get involved.'

Young father jailed on drugs charges

A YOUNG father has been sentenced to two years in prison after pleading guilty at Oban Sheriff Court to two charges relating to class A drugs.

Ross MacLellan, aged 23, who is serving time in Greenock prison, admitted last Tuesday to possessing ecstasy with intent to supply and to being concerned in the supply of diamorphine (heroin) on September 15 this year.

In the early hours of that morning police saw MacLellan

on CCTV in Oban's George Street seemingly counting out large sums of money to another man and nearly an hour later the attention of officers in an unmarked car was drawn towards MacLellan speaking to another man in the doorway of a licensed premises.

Search Based on what they had seen, and police intelligence, officers detained MacLellan for a search at Oban Police Station where they found 81 ecstasy tablets between

his buttocks and, following a search of his home address, they found a bag of heroin, weighing 9.94 grams, scales and other drugs paraphernalia.

He was also in possession of £85 in cash.

Drugs experts from Police Scotland's Statement of Opinion (STOP) Unit said the quantities found were indicative of forward supply.

Defence agent David Watt said: 'He just wanted to get the sentence from the court,

do his time in prison and get on with his life. He has a two-year-old daughter and realises he is missing out on the most important period of her life.'

In sentencing, Sheriff Douglas Small told MacLellan: 'I have said on numerous occasions that people dealing in drugs can expect to be dealt with severely in this court.'

MacLellan's sentence was backdated to September 17, when he was taken into custody for the matter.

Court sentences fraudster to 200 hours' unpaid work

AN EMPLOYEE in the Oban office of Bell Ingram has been placed on a community payback order after embezzling £6,000 from the company.

Steven Hornby, 39, of 12c High Street, Oban, previously admitted the offence, which took place between January 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013, and appeared in Oban Sheriff Court last week for sentencing.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court the fraud happened after Hornby had taken over the management of one of the accounts in Bell Ingram, a UK-wide firm of land and estate agents.

He said: 'It was noticed money had gone missing and the accused left a voicemail with one of his colleagues stating he could explain some of the discrepancy.'

'He was invited to a disciplinary meeting and made admissions to taking some of the money.'

Defence agent Danielle Varela said Hornby had been unable to repay the cash as he had separated from his wife and was paying to upkeep the marital home as well

as renting a property for himself. He is currently unemployed.

She added: 'He deeply regrets his actions, he knows he impacted on other people and he is very sorry about that.'

Sheriff Douglas Small ordered Hornby to carry out 240 hours of unpaid work over the next year.

He said: 'This is a serious offence. You were in a position of trust when you embezzled this money.'

Bell Ingram dismissed Hornby as soon as the financial irregularities were uncovered in June, during a routine audit.

Paul Nicoll, a director in the firm's Oban office, said: 'This incident was the result of the actions and activities of a lone individual.'

'No system is foolproof when a determined individual sets out to cause harm. 'Thankfully our rigorous internal procedures meant we uncovered the problem quickly and were able to deal with it firmly and conclusively.'

Man brandished knife at teenager

A MAN has admitted brandishing a knife and threatening to stab a teenager after he refused to hand over his bike.

Donald Morrison, aged 21, of 1F Colonsay Terrace, Oban, pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday to robbing the 15-year-old boy on November 9 at Aldi car park in Oban.

Morrison had approached the victim and a friend and after initially being refused the bike, brought out a seven-inch, red-handled kitchen knife from his trouser waistband, telling the

victim: 'I don't want to have to stab you. Give me the bike.'

Procurator fiscal Mhairi Crilly told the court: 'The witnesses were terrified at this and the complainer surrendered the bike.'

Bike

'The accused said his name was Donald, stated he was going to commit suicide that night and that he would leave the bike outside Tesco.'

Aware Morrison had left the house and had taken the knife, his parents

contacted friends and the police as they tried to find him. Around half an hour after the robbery police traced Morrison to Tesco and searched him but no weapon was found.

Defence solicitor Edward Thornton told the court his client's mental health had been assessed and that he was no longer a threat to himself, or others.

His motion for bail, with a special condition of a curfew, was unopposed. Sentence was deferred until December 10 for background reports.

Typhoon trauma ends with ecstatic tears of joy

Oban woman waits five days to hear mother had survived

THE DAUGHTER of an Oban woman caught in the eye of the storm in the Philippines has described how she was 'numb for days' before hearing her mum had survived.

Tess Campbell had flown out to Lawaan, in Eastern Samar, in September planning to stay for a year but she had only been there a matter of weeks before Typhoon Haiyan, known in the Philippines as Typhoon Yolanda, hit.

Her daughter Margaret Campbell-Black was in Oban when she saw the storm approaching Lawaan on the news. Concerned, she phoned her mum but Tess told her everything was calm, in fact they had just been at the beach.

Three hours later Yolanda struck.

The storm killed thousands of people and left millions more without food, water or electricity.

Margaret said: 'Once I heard it had hit I couldn't get in touch with her.'

'I hadn't spoken to her in five days. I didn't know if she was dead or alive.'

Tess, aged 45, survived the typhoon with only her home damaged, it needs a new roof. Around 95 per cent of homes in the region are completely destroyed.

Margaret added: 'Once it



Just after arriving in Manila, Tess Campbell enjoys her first drink of water. t47tess1no

neighbour's home. Tess has now managed to get to the safety of Manila, but family and friends are still in Lawaan without food, water, electricity or phone signal.

Margaret said Tess had gone for five days without eating in the aftermath of the storm. But she is one of the lucky ones. Some families still haven't heard from their loved ones.

Tess grew up in Lawaan but came to Oban around 14 years ago, working in McConechy's during that time.

Margaret, aged 26, and family friend Ann Rowan are now trying to raise money to support the relief effort in Eastern Samar. Donations can be made in McConechy's and Dolce Vita.

Margaret said the remoteness of Lawaan means it is not getting as much aid as areas featured on international media.

She added: 'We need money to feed people as they have no food, water or medicines. The rest will go to rebuilding homes even if it just contributes towards materials. The community needs rebuilt.'

After the trauma of not knowing whether Tess had got through the storm Margaret said she was 'over the moon' to hear her mother's voice for the first time. 'I was ecstatic when I heard from her,' she said. 'I was crying with joy.'

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Tony proves that he's up to scratch

TEN PIN BOWLING

AFTER seven weeks of the Lochaber Building Supplies ten pin bowling competition at the Nevis Centre in Fort William Alleycats remain the leaders in the scratch division with 33 points after beating previous second placed team Bandits 5-0.

Rock and Bowl move into second place with 25 points with Bandits slipping to third place on 24 points.

In the handicap division Bandits stay on top with 28.5 points after beating second place team Alleycats 3-2. Alleycats remain in second place with 25 points and Council move into third place with 19 points.

The top individual scratch game this week came from Tony Whitelocke of Alleycats with 183. Other games of note were 180 from Pam Weller, Alleycats, 175 from Graham McColl, Likely Lads, and 171 from Bandits' William Clark.

Graham McColl had the top handicap game of 243, while Pam Weller had the top two game scratch series of 339 and Derek Fraser, British Legion Scotland, had the top two game handicap series of 447.

Alleycats rolled the highest scratch team game of 594 and the highest scratch two game series of 1,176. Bandits rolled the highest handicap game of 818 and the highest two game handicap team series of 1,575.

Goon Squad take over at the top

INDOOR FOOTBALL

GOON Squad have moved to the top of the Ali Young indoor football league after the latest round of fixtures at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

The new leaders defeated AFC Distillery 4-3, while the team they knocked off the top Lochaber Leisure slip to third after losing 3-2 to Caol United.

Portoway continued their good form with a 4-1 win over Ballachulish to move into second place.

Mallaig, who have replaced the Ali Young team, found immediate success with a 3-0 win over Kentallen to move off the foot of the table. They have been replaced by With Ourselves, who lost 3-1 to HWE Energy.

In the night's other game Caol Cosmos defeated The Janis B Team 6-4.

Two off as Fort lose to Thistle

'I don't think the sending offs made a huge difference'

REPORT BY RICHARD HADDOCK **FOOTBALL**
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

FORT William will be looking to bounce back from last weekend's disappointing loss to Strathspey Thistle when they welcome Deveronvale to Claggan Park this Saturday.

Manager Danny Conlon said he was expecting a tough game against the Banff side, but that he was hoping to improve on his team's dismal home form, with Fort's last home league win coming on January 19.

Conlon told The Oban Times: 'Deveronvale are blowing hot and cold at the moment. They are a good side and they've brought in some players but I think they will be a bit disappointed with how their season has gone.

'They'll try and play a wee bit. They've got a fair bit of pace up top and they've got two big centre backs who can cause problems at set pieces.

'Our home form has been really poor so we need to do something about that.

'We had two trialists last week, one at left back and one at centre back, and they both did well. Hopefully they'll both be joining us. I think on paper at least, this is the strongest squad we've had in my three years in charge.'

Duncan Campbell will miss the game while fellow forward Gordy MacCarroll is doubtful.

Despite being sent off against Strathspey Sean Grant and Michael Gillespie will be avail-

able, with their suspensions not kicking in until next weekend. The bottom of the table clash against Strathspey ended in frustration for Fort, despite an encouraging performance.

Fort had chances in the first 45 but were denied by a combination of the crossbar and an inspired performance from Strathspey keeper Steven Martin.

Gillespie was given a second yellow card after an hour, with the home side scoring 15 minutes later through Mateusz Bobrowski.

Grant was also given his second yellow for dissent in the 90th minute as Fort pressed hard for an equaliser.

Conlon said the first half in particular, gave him 'something to build on'.

He said: 'It was a game of two halves. In the first half their keeper made two or three really good saves and we hit the woodwork. We were on top but we just couldn't put them away.'

'I was disappointed with the referee's performance, it was stop, stop, stop all game. There was nothing really nasty in the game but you wouldn't believe the number of free kicks, and I felt both the sending offs were a bit harsh.'

'But I'm not blaming the referee for the result, I don't think the sending offs made a huge difference. They were slightly better than us in the second half.'



Druim Fada Chase winner Finlay Wild (centre) celebrates with second placed Michael Bossard (left) and third placed Craig Mattocks

Wild winner of Druim Fada Chase

A FIELD of nearly 70 runners took part in the slightly-altered Druim Fada Chase near Corpach on Sunday morning.

The route - changed last week due to fallen trees - wound seven and a half miles around the Loch Eil forestry, with a steady climb for the first three miles up to 370 metres before descending down to end at Annat.

And it was home runner Finlay Wild who took the win in the winter league event, coming home well ahead of the field in a very respectable time of 47 minutes and 48 seconds.

Second place was taken by Michael

ATHLETICS

Bossard, also of Lochaber Athletic Club, in a time of 49m 42s, with Craig Mattocks of Carnethy taking third in 49m 55s.

The first lady home was Diane Baum of LAC in 54m 37s, with club mate Sarah MacKenzie second in 57m 24s. Carnethy's Kate Jenkins was third in 57m 48s.

LAC's Laura Barbour said: 'A big thank you to all who turned out and hope the high numbers continue through the winter league.'



Finlay Wild crossing the finish line

Awards night

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP Mike MacKenzie will be the VIP guest at Lochaber Sports Association annual awards night at the Lochaber Rugby Club clubhouse at Banavie tomorrow night.

Former Scotland rugby captain Rob Wainwright will be guest speaker at the event, which gets underway at 7pm.



Pictured left to right - Rebecca Stafford, Lachlan Campbell, Finlay MacDonald, Martin Johnstone, Calum Fraser and Missy Cameron.

Lochaber Camanachd hand out the prizes

LOCHABER Camanachd wrapped up a successful year with a prize giving ceremony in Fort William's West End Hotel on Saturday night.

Martin Johnstone was named the Spean Bridge side's first team player of the year, while veteran Lachlan Campbell won the supporters' player of the year.

Ladies player of the year was Missy Cameron with Rebecca Stafford named most improved ladies player.

Calum Fraser picked up the under 17s player of

SHINTY

the year award, with Finlay MacDonald named top under 14s player.

After winning promotion to the Orion Group Premiership, the first team originally struggled, winning none of their first nine games.

But after the arrival of new manager Robert Johnstone, Lochaber embarked on a run of six wins in their final nine games to finish sixth.



Fort William Golf Club held their end of season prizegiving on Saturday night, with a large number of trophies handed out.

Weather

Thursday Sunny
Winds moderate northerly
Temperatures 1°C to 5°C

Friday Sunny
Winds light northerly
Temperatures 2°C to 5°C.

Weekend Sunny intervals
Outlook Winds light north easterly
Temperatures 2°C to 5°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 21, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	01.32 1.2 07.18 3.9 14.03 1.6 19.41 3.7	
Fri	02.10 1.3 07.53 3.8 14.41 1.8 20.19 3.5	
Sat	02.51 1.5 08.31 3.6 15.24 1.9 20.58 3.3	
Sun	03.34 1.7 09.13 3.5 16.14 2.1 21.44 3.1	
Mon	04.22 1.8 10.02 3.3 17.16 2.2 22.46 3.0	
Tues	05.17 1.9 11.17 3.2 18.26 2.2 *** **	
Wed	00.37 3.0 06.17 1.9 12.45 3.2 19.36 2.0	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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