

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Countdown to Christmas

8 pages packed full of inspiration to get you in the Christmas mood



Children in Need round-up

Argyll romp to victory

Also inside this week: My Village, Lochearnhead

Islanders' surprise at 'greatest place' award

TOBERMORY Harbour was crowned the best place in Britain and Ireland at an award ceremony in London. The Mull island bay won the title of 2011 Great Place of the Year at the Urbanism Awards, which recognises the best, most enduring or most improved urban environments.

John Thompson, chairman of The Academy of Urbanism, said: 'The harbour is distinguished for its multi-coloured buildings. Tobermory has developed a strong sense of place through the creation of pleasing views across the curved working harbour to the buildings around it, combined with careful protection and renewal over the past 30 years.'

Brian Swinbanks, a director of Tobermory Harbour Association (THA), said: 'I did not think that we would win and when I was asked to write an acceptance speech, I again thought that the competition from the other places was too strong. Well done everyone, and that includes Argyll and Bute Council and the Fishermen's Association who are also responsible for the harbour.'

'Tobermory is one of the world's most iconic small harbours. The association has worked for many years to create a sense of place and retain a historic Highland legacy of helping others.'

'The THA has established a community business and new harbour infrastructure that brings benefits to many and provides 'facilities for all' plus infrastructure that maintains a sense of place and helps to sustain our wee community.'

Switching on for Christmas



It was a proud day for Daniel Baird and Shannon MacDonald when they were tasked to perform the switch-on of Oban's Christmas lights. Daniel, from Taynuilt Primary School, and Shannon, a pupil at Lochnell Primary, won a competition to design a Christmas card, the first prize of which was to carry out the special duty. Full story and more pictures - page 3. 07_t48lights01

'Skimmers' target festive lights crowd

FRAUDSTERS scanned bank cards used at the Bank of Scotland cash machine (ATM) on Saturday, while Oban's Christmas lights switch-on celebrations were in full swing.

The ATM is situated at Station Square, where an estimated 2,500 people gathered to see the Christmas lights switched on and enjoy the parade fronted by Santa and his reindeer.

During the event Station Square was the busiest it had been since the millennium celebrations and people were said to be 'queuing' at the Bank of Scotland ATM.

The bank said it was unable to reveal how many customers have been affected by the scam but *The Oban Times* understands a number of people have had hundreds of pounds stolen from their accounts.

The bank suspects the affected cards had been copied using a technique called 'skimming', although, as *The Oban Times* went to press this was still to be confirmed.

For this technique fraudsters use a device attached to the ATM card reader, which sends a wireless signal to a

REPORT

by EUAN PATERSON
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criminal waiting in a nearby car.

Skimming is fairly widespread, difficult to detect and targets random ATMs, although chip and pin cards are more difficult to copy.

The Bank of Scotland said it checks its machines daily and the Oban ATM was 'clean' on Friday afternoon. One of the people who had money stolen after his card was copied was Dunbeg's John Keeney. He is now worried about using ATMs in the future.

'I took money out on Saturday at midday and by the time I was at home at night someone was using my card, taking money out of the same machine.'

'I had a meeting at the bank on Monday and as I was getting advice on what to do, other people were coming in with the same problem. I was just taken aback by the whole thing.'

'The bank dealt with it really well and were quick to react once they realised there was a problem. It could have

happened to any bank.

'There were hundreds of people at Station Square for the lights switch-on, so a lot of people used that cash machine.'

A spokeswoman for Lloyds Banking Group, which owns Bank of Scotland, said: 'We can confirm that the Station Road ATM was affected by a skimming device over the weekend. The police have been informed. Customers of any bank who think they used this ATM at the weekend should contact their local branch so arrangements can be made for them to be refunded. If anyone sees anything suspicious on any ATM they should advise the branch in question immediately.'

Royal Bank of Scotland and the Clydesdale Bank said their ATMs in Oban had not been tampered with but insisted any customers who may have used the affected ATM should contact their branch.

The Clydesdale Bank has recently upgraded its ATM network, which includes the fitting of Fraud Device Inhibitors.

In 2003 cash machine fraud was worth £61 million.

£5 million boost for South Uist harbour scheme

THE PLANNED development of Lochboisdale Harbour in South Uist received a boost this week with a £5 million grant from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

Community landowner, Sealladh na Beinne Moire, will invest the money as part of a £9.9 million project to create new marine leisure and fisheries facilities, and provide access to land for community and commercial development.

The project involves a 1.26km road, including two causeways to link Gasaigh Island with Lochboisdale through the Rubha Bhuaill peninsula.

It aims to create jobs and stimulate economic and community growth in one of the Highlands and Islands' most rural and fragile areas.

HIE officials estimate the development could create 126 full-time equivalent jobs, helping the local economy to grow and diversify. A new business, Lochboisdale Development Ltd, will be formed to drive the project forward and HIE will support the project with a dedicated team of specialist staff and advisers.

Willy Roe, chairman of HIE, said: 'As a major local infrastructure project, this should also come as a welcome boost for the Highlands and Islands construction industry, creating opportunities for local contractors in particular.'

Caravan death

THE FUNERAL will take place today (Thursday) of a 30-year-old man found dead in a caravan on the Isle of Mull last Tuesday.

The body of Andrew Duffy, who was from the island, was found in the Torloisk area.

A post mortem was carried out last Friday.

53 high earning council staff take home more than £50,000 a year

AUDITED accounts of Argyll and Bute Council reveal that one employee received a whopping £180,000 in 2009/2010, while another took home £140,000.

Papers also show the number of staff members on a salary of £50,000 or above has risen to 53, as opposed to 35 the previous year.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The increase in the number of officers in the £50,000 to £59,999 category is down to the nationally negotiated annual pay settlement taking a number of staff from just below to just above the £50,000 mark.'

'As regards the £140,000-£149,999 and £180,000-£189,999 categories, these relate

to the fact that two officers were made redundant.

'Redundancy pay is included alongside their salaries in officers' emolument, as it is taxable.'

'So both these represent one-off sums as a result of the council restructuring, rather than any salary increase.'

'Argyll and Bute Council is bound by national negotiations on pay awards. Pay rises last year were 2.4 per cent for teachers and 2.5 per cent for chief officers, both of which reflect the final year of a three year deal.'

'Scotland's local authority chief executives refused a pay rise for this year.'

Journey times vital in school closure plans

The length of time it takes a pupil to travel to school could prove vital in determining whether rural primaries are closed or remain open.

Argyll and Bute Council officials have said 45 minutes is too long and, as a result, Luining Primary School has been removed from the list of proposed closures.

At Lochdonhead School, on Mull, parents dispute the council's journey times. They claim their children will need to travel for more than 50 minutes to school in Salen, while council officers timed the journey at 39 minutes. Parents say the timings are incorrect as many children live away from the route council staff used to calculate the time.

Parents at other schools earmarked for closure also say there is a significant

difference between their calculations and the calculations of the council.

Council papers state there is a 30-second pick-up time during which time the driver would get out of the vehicle, fix the child's seatbelt and return to drive the vehicle. The council may also introduce safe pick-up points for pupils, 'of no more than two miles from a home address, to further reduce travel times.'

Parents on the Isle of Luining who witnessed two drivers making the journey to Easdale, the school with which it was to be amalgamated, said the exercise was made at 10am, when the majority of the traffic had died down on the island.

Mhairi Ritchie of Isle of Luining Parent Council said: 'We were disappointed with the way the school route was driven.'

'Certainly we were not aware that the bus stopped at every home where a child lives, and as there are no safe walking routes to school on the island there could be no pick up point.'

'We felt the vehicle was driven too quickly through the village, certainly it caused some alarm to islanders.'

'We had understood we would be involved with the confirmation exercise and disappointed this did not happen,' she said.

A further 12 schools would be removed from the closure consultation list if parents' own calculations were used, rather than the councils.

The council will decide today, Thursday, which of the 26 schools, will go forward for consultation on closure.

'all aboard the last train to torosay' on the MULL RAILWAY



Due to the closure of our destination, Torosay Castle, Mull Railway has regrettably had to cease operations. However, before it does, it will open for one more day on the 4th December with the Timetable shown.

For more information call 01680 812494

Call Mac Ferry will be offering Special Deals on trips to Mull. Please contact the Oban Office for more details.

Tel: 01631 566688

The proposed timetable for 4th December 2010 as follows:	
Craigmore Depart	Torosay Depart
11:00	11:00
11:30	11:30
12:00	12:00
12:30	12:30
13:00	13:00
13:30	13:30
14:00	14:00
14:30	14:30
15:00	15:00
15:30	15:30
(last train)	(last train)

The Timetable may be subject to alteration



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The Oban Times & West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



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Restoration a 'fitting end' to St Kilda anniversary

TWO GRAVESTONES in Tulliallan Cemetery, Kincardine-on-Forth, marking the resting places of five St Kildans, have been polished and restored to coincide with this year's 80th anniversary of the evacuation of the island. The first gravestone commemorates Finlay MacQueen (1862-1941), his daughter Mary Ann (1892-1970) and her husband Neil Ferguson Jnr (1899-1975). The second gravestone commemorates Neil Jnr's parents, Ann MacQueen (1877-1940), sister of Finlay MacQueen, and Neil Ferguson Snr (1876-1944). The restoration work was funded by the Islands Book Trust, using proceeds from a special postal cover issued for their conference on the historiography of St Kilda in Benbecula in August. Trustee Alasdair MacEachen showed photographs of the two gravestones, before and after restoration, to members of the St Kilda Club at their annual reunion in Edinburgh last Saturday. He said: 'I believe this is a fitting end to the 80th anniversary year. The Book Trust are pleased to have been able to play a part in the restoration, and I should like to thank everyone who contributed through purchasing the special postal covers we issued in August,' added Mr MacEachen.

important - he just didn't have the biographer. 'Lismore is an island that has a long history back to Neolithic times. 'Sadly, not all of it has been researched. We don't have the money and some of the sites aren't as glamorous for historians as other sites in the UK. 'At the meeting, the planners said the spring would be bridged in some way. I don't know how. We realised early on this would be the outcome though. Lismore Community Council's Mandie Currie is unsure if there will be a formal appeal against the decision, but said local reaction was tangible. She said: 'The members of the community aren't at all happy about it, but that's the democratic process - well, as democratic as it gets in this country. 'Obviously, the importance of the site as a heritage site will be lost. What can we do?' However, Mrs Currie said that any disappointment is counteracted by a recognition on the island that the developer attempted to find somewhere else to build before settling on Port Mòluag. Not everyone is against the development though. Native islander, John Livingstone, 70, said: 'I think it's a very good idea if it brings two families to the island. There's no way it will damage anything. 'There is a bit of concern about the spring, but they can bypass that.'



The gravestones which have been restored at Tulliallan Cemetery.

Houses will destroy isle's heritage, claim objectors

ARGYLL and Bute Council has been accused of 'conspiring to exploit and destroy' Lismore's heritage after green-lighting controversial plans for two houses at Port Mòluag. The decision was taken at a discretionary hearing on the island, despite numerous objections from residents and local bodies including the heritage society and the community council. Prior to the meeting, 27 letters had been lodged with planners stating that the plans should not go ahead because the site is directly adjacent to a ruined chapel thought to be the island's original place of worship and spiritual home to St Mòluag, Lismore's patron saint. Objectors said the creation of the required access road

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk would also destroy Tobar na Slainte, an ancient spring reputed to have healing qualities and frequented for medicinal purposes until the mid-19th century. However, locals are now resigned to the fact that they cannot stop the development going ahead and some have warned that the decision could set a dangerous precedent. Islander Gerry Gilchrist said: 'They are effectively saying that, where there's a ruin, anybody can put up a holiday chalet and you can do it anywhere on the west coast of Scotland. 'There are these cultural things, such as the well and

the religious ground, and they can just go in with a dozer and that will be that. It takes 30 seconds to destroy these things and we can never get them back. 'Worst, it's all for money. There's no benefit to the island. It's a terrible disappointment. They're conspiring to exploit and destroy a valuable part of the island's heritage. 'We say it's our heritage and they say it's not our problem.' Taic Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr was one of the local organisations to object. Its director, David Gloag, believes the island is suffering because its history isn't high profile enough. He said: 'Everyone has heard of St Columba, but St Mòluag was just as

democratic process - well, as democratic as it gets in this country. 'Obviously, the importance of the site as a heritage site will be lost. What can we do?' However, Mrs Currie said that any disappointment is counteracted by a recognition on the island that the developer attempted to find somewhere else to build before settling on Port Mòluag. Not everyone is against the development though. Native islander, John Livingstone, 70, said: 'I think it's a very good idea if it brings two families to the island. There's no way it will damage anything. 'There is a bit of concern about the spring, but they can bypass that.'

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Slaughterhouse will rise from ashes, say officials

OFFICIALS from Mull Slaughterhouse say they are determined the business will have a future - despite the devastating blaze which tore through the premises last month. The community was shocked to learn that the future of the successful enterprise was put in jeopardy following the fire. Martin Caldwell, who is assisting with the business plans for premises, said: 'Following the major fire, we have seen intensive activity in the complex process of reinstating the slaughterhouse. 'The damage has been extensive but the whole building has not been destroyed. However, the external walls in large parts of the building have been totally destroyed and these will need to be rebuilt to today's standards. 'Many of the internal fittings of the building have also been destroyed. The portable office has been totally destroyed with all its contents. 'The job of rebuilding the slaughterhouse is complex and will involve the fullest involvement with our insurers, their advisers, our own technical team and the final construction team. 'We will take time but we intend to work vigorously to secure the reinstatement at the earliest possible date,' he said. 'We have started into this process already. The loss adjuster and his technical

back-up have met our team and conducted an initial assessment of the site. We have agreed the appointment of a specialist firm to project manage the turnaround of the slaughterhouse who will work with our own Mull-based team. 'They have already been on site and their specialist structural engineer has also inspected the building and will be reporting shortly.' Tom Nelson chairman of Mull Slaughterhouse, added: 'This has happened at a time when we have been working on a larger vision for the slaughterhouse but the fire will not deter us from introducing that. 'This vision encompasses an even higher standard in animal husbandry and care, more services for our farmers and high quality butcher services. To that end we intend to send our slaughterman on specialist training while reconstruction takes place. 'But we are a tiny enterprise with minimal resources. Our vision, which is backed by a solid business plan, deserves the widest assistance and we are looking for support from within Mull and from the wider community. 'This can be in the form of cash contributions, in kind help and wider expressions of support for sustainable local farming which lies at the root of our slaughterhouse operation. If readers wish to support us please contact me at 01688 302321 in the first instance.'

Hidden church back in full view thanks to tree cutters

TREE cutters have helped to clear undergrowth that has kept the picturesque Dalavich Church hidden from view. Residents had been concerned the church, one of the oldest and most iconic buildings in the village, was hidden from view. Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) tree cutters, working alongside Forestry Commission Scotland staff, helped to clear the area last Thursday. One of the tree cutters, Ricky Duffy, aged 26, is originally from Dalavich and served his apprenticeship with Forestry Commission Scotland. His father, Jas, also works for the commission. Jas said: 'It was a shame to have the church hidden away where no-one could see it. If you didn't know the area, you wouldn't have realised there was a church there.

'Now visitors might stop and come into the grounds for a look. It is important it can be seen because it is very important to the village.' Rod Watt, West Loch Awe beat forester for the Forestry Commission, said: 'The undergrowth was coming up over the grounds of the church and a lot of the trees were getting close to the power lines, which is why we asked SSE to get involved. 'The church is probably 200 years old and very important to the village.' The work is part of SSE's Community at Heart scheme, a project designed to get thousands of power workers rolling up their sleeves and helping the communities they live and work in. Local communities, charities and organisations have been invited to ask the energy company for help.

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Helping to clear the view to Dalavich Church are, from left: Kieran Swan, Ross Sutherland, Jas Duffy, Ricky Duffy and Rod Watt. 07_t485se01

Lodge offers the chance to follow in author Orwell's footsteps

THE ISLE of Jura is reviving the Jura Lodge as a writer's retreat for one weekend only with a unique challenge, in homage to George Orwell's masterpiece, 1984. The author famously penned the novel on the island more than 60 years ago and the Jura community is offering writers the chance to follow in his footsteps. One budding author will

win the chance to stay at the island's exclusive Jura Lodge and compose a short story based on the island. However, they will only have 1,984 minutes to compose their story. To win the competition, writers are being asked to submit the first 300 words of their proposed short story. There are only two criteria: the narrative of the short

story must take place on the island and the story should have a link to one of the many myths and legends about Jura. The finished work will be published on the Isle of Jura website. Jura distillery manager Willie Cochrane said: 'Jura has a long established literary tradition so we thought it was about time to revive that tradition. This

competition will offer one amateur author the chance to soak up the atmosphere of this great island before applying their inspiration to a short story. There's no shortage of material for our lucky winner on an island which is rich with myths and legends and steeped in history. The short story competition follows in the footsteps

of the Jura distillery's partnership with the Scottish Book Trust. Budding authors should send their entries to info@isleofjura.com by December 31 2010. Entrants must register as a Diurach at www.isleofjura.com to enter the competition and submit their Diurach number along with their entry for the purposes of verification.

Beachd Ailein Ailean Caimbeul

CHAILL SINN piuthar m' athat, an aon nighean am measg còighear theaghlach agus an neach mu dheireadh a bh' air fhàgail. 'S e boireannach sònraichte a bh' ann an Seasaidh Màiri, aig an robh cliù mar neach-aioigheachd còir, càirdeil, sèimh. Bidh ionndrainn mhaireann oirre!

Dhomh fhìn bha i na drochaid eadar linnntean Ghlinn Dail an Eilein Sgitheanaich, gu daoine a b' aithne dhi a rugadh còrr air ceud gu leth bliadhna air ais. Bha i na sgàthan air saoghal nach eil ann tuilleadh agus bha mi fortanach da-rìribh, air sgàth fiosrachadh eachdraidh na sgìre, gun robh cothrom agam beagan den eòlas a bh' aice a chlàradh.

Tha an seòrsa eachdraidh sin cudromach. Tha e na phàirt den fhèin-spèis a tha cho bunaiteach ann am misneachd agus neart coimhearsnachd sam bith. Choisinn muinntir Ghlinn Dail saorsa nach bu bheag ri linn an cuid ar-a-mach ann an strì an Land League as na 1880an, agus bha fàrnad aig mòran ri na croitearan a fhuair sealbha air an cuid fearainn fhèin. Ach dà ghinealach air adhart, 's e glè bheag de shliochd nan daoine a sheas ris na h-uachdarain agus ri poileas agus saighdearan a chuireadh nan aghaidh a th' air fhàgail sa Ghleann. Tha sgoilearan eachdraidh, le gliocas an Iathra 'n-diugh ga thionndadh air àm gu math eadar-dhealichte, deiseil cronachadh a dhèanamh air "Oighreachd Ghlinn Dail". Ach, mar a dh'innis mi dhuibh roimhe, air an t-samhradh seo chaidh dhearbhadh coimhearsnachd ùr Ghlinn Dail gum bheil ùidh aca ann an eachdraidh an àite agus gum bheil luach aige sin ann am beatha na coimhearsnachd an-diugh.

Nochd an Riaghaltas plana toirt air daoine gun obair, nach gabh ri cosnadh a thèid a thairginn dhaibh, obair coimhearsnachd a dhèanamh an-asgaidh. Ged a tha e iomchaidh daoine fhaotainn air ais a dh'obair, tha teagamh ann a thaobh na h-innleachd seo, gu sònraichte air sgàth na dìth spèis a bhios an cois na h-obrach. Shoirbhich innleachdan cruthachadh cosnaidh roimhe ri linn is gun robh inbhe agus luach ri fhaicinn as na bha daoine a' cur às an deidh agus bha fàrnad mòr agam fhìn, mar Sgitheanaich, ris na Comuinn Eachdraidh luachmhor a stèidhicheadh as na h-Eileanan an Iar. Tha am Prìomhaire air nochdadh gum bheil e mothachail nach e beartas a-mhàin a tha na bhunait toileachais dhan t-sluagh. Tha e ceart! Tha fèin-spèis bunaiteach cuideachd!

WHILST mourning the loss of the last of my father's siblings I am happy to have recorded some of my aunt's extensive knowledge of Glendale in Skye. I am an envious admirer of the historical societies established in the Western Isles under the Job Creation Scheme, and I believe that local history is a catalyst to community self esteem and confidence.

When measuring public levels of 'happiness' David Cameron would be wise to recognise that self esteem is critical, and that when unemployed people are asked to work they should feel that they, and the work they do, are valued!

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



Mick Rice, right, congratulates Oban's Kenny MacIntyre, who received a merit award from the Labour Party to mark his long association with the party.

Mick reckons he's the man for Argyll

LABOUR'S candidate for the Scottish Parliament elections has described Argyll and Bute as 'a winnable seat' and believes his party will be one of the front runners come polling day. Former trade union secretary and Birmingham city councillor Mick Rice, who lives near Ardentinny, was voted in unanimously as the Labour candidate and says he has the experience needed to 'champion' Argyll and Bute's cause. Mr Rice, whose wife Susanna lived in Inveraray and Dunoon during the 1970s and '80s, said: 'My view is that Conservative and Liberal Democrat supporters might not be that supportive in the Scottish Parliament elections because the austerity measures will be kicking in by then.'

'I think we'll have a two-horse race between SNP and Labour for the seat.' The 60-year-old added: 'I am solely offering myself as a champion for Argyll and Bute and I won't be distracted by any other consideration. 'I have been in politics long enough and I am of an age where I don't have to toe the party line to have a career so I will upset who I need to to get the job done.' Mr Rice has already been working on ways of improving the planning system at Argyll and Bute Council and has lent his support to the BIDS project and transport hub proposal in Oban. Following the recent Scottish Labour Party Conference, he has proposed an extension to the Corran Halls to become a modern conference centre.

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Drew Elkerton and Abi MacIntyre got to ride in the sleigh with Santa. 07_148lights07

Crowds turn out in force for switch-on

SANTA Claus arrived in Oban five weeks ahead of schedule to help switch on the town's Christmas lights.

On a fine evening, a 2,500-strong crowd turned out to make the occasion a memorable one.

Oban Pipe Band led the way as Santa's sleigh made its way from the Corran Halls to Station Square.

Accompanying him were two special guests - Drew Elkerton, from Park Primary School and Abi MacIntyre, from Lochnell Primary.

They were winners of the P1-P3 section of a competition organised by Oban Rotary Club to design a Christmas card.

Once the parade had been completed, the reindeer which had pulled the sleigh proved a popular attraction with the many youngsters who had come along to see Santa.

Prior to the big switch-on, the crowd was treated to some seasonal sounds by the Oban FM roadshow and an entertaining performance by the Oban High School S3 Dance Squad.

As the clock approached 6pm, the countdown began before Shannon MacDonald, from Lochnell Primary's P7 class and P4 pupil Daniel Baird, from Taynuilt Primary switched on the lights.

They were the winners of the P4-P7 section of the Rotary Christmas card competition.

The Christmas lights are organised by the Town Centre Traders Association together with the Rotary club and Argyll and Bute Council.

Members of the Rotary and Lions clubs were out in force to help with the stewarding.

David Finlayson, chairman of the Town Centre Traders Association, said the event had attracted the biggest crowd to the town centre since the millennium.

'It's very important to have the lights. They brighten up the town and people really appreciate them. The lights encourage people to shop in the town. If they weren't here, people would go elsewhere to see their lights and do their shopping.'

He said it costs about £3,000 to light up the town centre during the festive season. However, the current lighting displays are up to five years old and this year required some repair work.

'We hope to get them replaced for next year,' he said.

A busy Victorian Christmas Market at the Caledonian Hotel in the run up to the switch-on made £700 for Friends of Oban Hospice and all the food stalls sold out.

REPORT
by STUART LAUNDY
slaudy@obantimes.co.uk

of the Town Centre Traders Association, said the event had attracted the biggest crowd to the town centre since the millennium.

'It's very important to have the lights. They brighten up the town and people really appreciate them. The lights encourage people to shop in the town. If they weren't here, people would go elsewhere to see their lights and do their shopping.'

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'We hope to get them replaced for next year,' he said.

A busy Victorian Christmas Market at the Caledonian Hotel in the run up to the switch-on made £700 for Friends of Oban Hospice and all the food stalls sold out.

Magnus mixes with the movie stars

DALMALLY charity worker Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow mixed with movie stars at the CNN Hero of the Year Awards.

Although he missed out on the top prize, Magnus has gained international exposure and \$25,000 for his charity, Mary's Meals, as one of the 10 finalists.

Fellow Scot and Hollywood star Gerard Butler shared the spotlight with Magnus, as he introduced him onto stage at the Shrine Auditorium in Hollywood last Saturday.

Mary's Meals feeds school children in developing countries around the world and the prize money will go towards the on-going project in Malawi.

'I'm proud because he's a fellow Scot,' said the actor. 'Every day Magnus lets children know that they matter, that someone thousands of miles away cares about them.'

Following an online vote, Anuradha Koirala, whose organisation Maiti Nepal works to end human trafficking, was named the Hero of the Year. The ceremony will air on CNN International tomorrow (Friday).

Honour for hero train driver

THE DRIVER of the Glasgow to Oban train, which derailed at the Falls of Cruachan earlier this year, has been honoured for his part in securing the safety of 60 passengers.

Willie Dickson, 60, who was at the controls when the Glasgow to Oban service hit two large rocks on June 6, was given Frontline Employee of the Year at the Scottish Transport Awards.

Speaking after the ceremony in Glasgow he paid tribute to his on board colleagues - conductor Angus MacColl, from Oban, and hospitality host, Drew Hinde, from Glasgow.

An investigation into the cause of the accident is under way.

Chance for one last Mull Railway ride

MULL Railway is to host one final day's timetabling before dismantling the line for good.

The Craignure to Torosay Castle service has been in operation for 26 years, but directors decided to call it a day after the castle, the tourist attraction at the end of the line, was put up for sale into private ownership.

For one final day the locomotives will pull passengers to Torosay where they will be able to enjoy the castle gardens.

A special deal for passengers has been arranged with Caledonian MacBrayne Ferries making it £10 for adults and £5 for children to travel on the ferry and then the train on December 4.

The first train will depart from Craignure at 11am, and the last train will leave at 3pm.

Uncertainty over Dunoon ferry route

CALEDONIAN MacBrayne Ferries Ltd has omitted the Dunoon to Gourock crossing from its summer 2011 timetable, as the route could be subject to withdrawal.

The timetable states the route may be tendered by the Scottish Government and is subject to change or withdrawal at short notice.

Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid and Alison Hay, the party's prospective Scottish Parliamentary candidate, have called for an urgent statement from the Scottish Government.

Mr Reid said: 'The Scottish Government has left this tendering process far too late. It now looks likely that their dithering will result in Dunoon losing our town centre ferry service next summer.'

OAP adventurers' 12,000ft skydive

AN 83-YEAR-old thrillseeker from Mull skydived from 12,000ft - then persuaded her sister, aged 85, from Barcaldine to take the plunge too.

Daredevil Alice MacKeechie, from Tobermory, made the death-defying leap while on holiday in New Zealand.

She hit speeds of 120mph during the 45-second free-fall before her parachute opened.

Once she'd drifted safely back to earth, older sister Florence Woods decided she would also have a go.

After her jump, excited Alice told sky-diving instructor Colin Aitchison: 'I have always wanted to do this. It was a wee bit scary at first but I loved it.'

It's a firecracker

OBAN Fireworks Group collected £2,605 in donations at the fireworks display at Mossfield on Guy Fawkes' night.

Group treasurer Councillor Donald MacDonald thanked everyone who helped on the day and particularly the main sponsor Scottish Sea Farms for its generous donation of £4,000.

Oban fundraisers honoured by the Anthony Nolan Trust

THERE wasn't a dry eye in the house when two Oban women were surprised with an award for their fundraising efforts.

Carol Turnbull and Mary MacKenzie, supporters of bone marrow charity The Anthony Nolan Trust, were presented with the Rainbow Award at a dinner dance in Glasgow.

Lindsay MacCallum, regional fundraising manager for the

charity said it was an easy decision to select Carol and Mary for the award.

'These women are exceptional. There was no question in anyone's mind that they should be recognised for their incredibly hard work.'

'Not only do the women raise a huge amount of money in Oban and district every year but they also run the silent auction at the

Daisy Ball, which is one of our biggest fundraisers.

'These two women have galvanised the whole community in awareness and concern for the charity's work. When their names were announced there was not a dry eye in the house.'

Angela MacVicar presented their award in memory of her daughter Johanna. Johanna, from Lochgilphead, recruited thousands of donors onto Anthony Nolan's register, producing at least 15 life saving donors.

Each year the award is given to the person who has either raised funds for or raised the profile of Anthony Nolan in an innovative way.'

Carol said: 'This award goes to everyone in the Oban Friends of the Anthony Nolan Trust. Without them we couldn't do what we do.'

Mary added: 'This is an award for the whole of Oban - a special town who have made an incredible difference to people living with leukaemia.'



The Rainbow Award is presented to Carol Turnbull, centre left, and Mary MacKenzie, centre right, by Angela MacVicar, right, watched by fundraising manager Lindsay MacCallum.

Handbrake turn 'put child's safety at risk'

A WITNESS told Oban Sheriff Court how she feared for a child's safety after a driver made a handbrake turn in the middle of a campsite.

Owner of Oban Caravan and 25-Camping Park, Judith Jones, told the court a young boy, aged about eight, was playing football only yards from where Adam Meikle performed the manoeuvre.

Meikle, of 41 Buchany, Doune, Dunblane, denies driving a car dangerously, spinning the wheels and doing a handbrake turn in the grounds of the Oban Caravan and Camping Park, on May 1, this year.

At his trial, the court heard the alleged incident took place after

Meikle was denied access to the camping site by Mrs Jones, who claimed she had seen him driving dangerously on the Gallanach Road earlier in the evening.

She told the court that the 25-year-old, in an orange Subaru Impreza, sped up the drive did a handbrake turn and left.

Asked if Meikle could have merely lost control of the car on the gravel surface, Mrs Jones said: 'I do not think anyone could have done that without it being a handbrake turn.'

She added: 'He could have hit somebody, that's what I was concerned about. There are people walking about this area a lot of the time.'

A second witness compared the manoeuvre to that done by a stunt man on an action movie.

John McPherson, 53, who was working in his wife's burger van said he suddenly became aware of the car as it zoomed up the hill.

'It was dangerous in my view, it's possible that gravel could have hit a child or he could have spun out of control. It is not something that I am used to seeing, unless watching a movie with a stunt driver.'

The court heard that there were approximately 130 guests staying at the campsite at the time of the alleged incident. The trial continues on December 14.

Sniffer dog team boards cargo vessel

PORTS in Argyll received a special guest this week as Ailsa, a six-year-old sniffer dog with Strathclyde Police, paid a visit.

Ailsa and her dog handler PC John Fraser, along with PC Collin Wilson and Detective Constable Iain Macpherson of the Ports Coverage Unit, visited the Oban piers and the Marine Resource Centre (MRC), in Barcaldine, on Monday.

The small ports team, who

normally work across the airports in Glasgow and Prestwick and the ports in Stranraer and Troon, made their presence felt on their one-day visit.

DC MacPherson said: 'The more we tighten security at the larger ports such as those in Troon and Stranraer criminals are more likely to try to target smaller ports.'

'Ailsa is trained to find large sums of cash as well as drugs

in docks and airports across the Strathclyde region.'

The team, primarily concerned with security, counter terrorism and tackling organised crime, spent time liaising with harbour masters and skippers of boats docked in the north Argyll area.

The team boarded 'The Baroness' timber boat, docked at MRC Barcaldine, and spent time with the crew before it made its way down the west passage.



PC Mark O'Donnell, dog handler PC John Fraser, Ailsa, PC Collin Wilson and Detective Constable Ian MacPherson. 08_148dog01



Santa's sleigh sets off, pulled by reindeer. 07_148lights06

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Mull Lines

Mull Eagle Diary: The pair of white-tailed eagles at Loch Frisa have been around long enough now to know what food occurs where and when.

Some foods are seasonal like breeding seabirds in the summer when hungry eaglets in the nest need a regular supply of food. At this wintry time of year the pair of experienced birds know that if they sit by the edge of the burn in front of the eagle hide for a few hours, they stand a pretty good chance of being able to grab a passing brown trout.

That is where we found Frisa this week. In stinging rain she was sitting hunched over the rushing torrent of water staring hard into the foaming burn. In the past we've seen her lunge into the water after fish and on a few occasions emerge triumphant with a flapping trout. This time she was just sitting patiently, waiting for her moment and we left her to it.

Earlier in the week, both Skye and Frisa had been sitting in birch trees just above the loch edge looking directly down into the shallows. Again, after fish of any kind which might drift unknowingly into shallow water and within reach. Sea eagles do not have the luxury of being able to plunge right in and under like ospreys after big fish so they wait...and wait...for the fish to come to them. While all this was happening, an excited group of visitors watched in awe from the hide. People celebrating birthdays and honeymoons came to the hide this week and went away happy with the words: 'That has made our holiday'. If you're in Oban or on Mull this week why not give us a call to arrange a trip? Call 07920 817 362.

TOBERMORY High remembered those those from Mull who died in battle at an assembly on November 11. The assembly was led by S4 in a film showing images and video of their visit to Ypres earlier this year.



The film included their thoughts and feelings on the visit and the names of the dead were read out. The two minute silence ended with Callum Cooper, Ruairidh Morrison and Glenn Denovan playing the 'Flowers of the Forest' on the pipes. After the assembly, S4 accompanied by the pipers went to war memorial in Tobermory where they held a short act of Remembrance and laid a wreath on behalf of the school, and the boys played again ending with 'Highland Cathedral'.

TOBERMORY paid tribute to all those lost at sea, on Remembrance Sunday. Local ex-servicemen organised a solemn service in Tobermory Harbour.

The wreaths made by troopers of 569 Squadron, Earl Kitchener's Own Scottish and Borders Frontiersmen Yeomanry Volunteers. The boat was skippered and loaned by Richard Fairbairn of Sea Life Surveys.

Bar brawl case not proven

A SHERIFF has found the case against a Fort William man accused of assaulting another in a bar room brawl not proven after the Crown failed to produce sufficient evidence for a conviction.

Adam Watson, aged 23, of Room 1, Rosebank, Achintore Road, appeared from custody at Fort William Sheriff Court to deny assaulting Stephen Vance by repeatedly punching him on the head to his injury at the Crofter Bar on October 17.

Sheriff Douglas Small ruled an

EXCLUSIVE
REPORT by
RICHARD HADDOCK
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independent witness's evidence contradicting Mr Vance's version of events was enough to cast reasonable doubt on the charge.

Mr Vance, 33, told the court he was celebrating his birthday in the Crofter when Mr Watson walked up to shake hands to reconcile what fiscal Simon Crabb described as 'bad feeling between the two'.

But Watson, said the fiscal, challenged Mr Vance to a fight and punched him twice in the face after being called 'a stupid little boy'.

Mr Vance admitted grabbing Mr Watson by the throat and dragging him to the floor, where bouncers broke up the fight. Asked by Mr Crabb why he had grabbed Watson, Mr Vance replied: 'I'd just been struck twice on the face, I wanted to defend myself.'

Mr Vance's partner Sandra Naim backed up his version of events, but defence solicitor Gerry Sweeney

claimed her evidence was suspect as 'she has an interest in Mr Vance's story being believed.'

Insisting that Mr Vance had been the instigator, Watson told the court: 'He pushed me backwards with his hand, and I fell back over the stool.'

His adversary, he claimed, ended up on top of him and punches were exchanged before the pair were pulled apart. Bystander Karen MacDonald's evidence appeared to back up Watson's story. She told the court she was only 10 feet from

the battling pair and that Mr Vance had been the aggressor.

Asked by Mr Sweeney if Watson could have punched Mr Vance without her noticing, she said: 'If there had been punching, it's something I would have seen.'

Sheriff Small said Miss MacDonald's evidence had cast doubt on what had happened. He said: 'The critical moment is what happened when the hand was proffered. I cannot be satisfied that Mr Watson assaulted Mr Vance at that point.'



Fort William RC Primary School Gaelic Medium pupils Ruairidh Byrne, Calum Fraser, Ruairidh Shaw, Padraig McNeil and Rosa Gibson get busy carding the raw wool. 10_148wool01

Pupils get lowdown on wool trade

LOCHABER schoolchildren got hands-on experience of the wool trade at Lochaber Rural Education Trust's An Clachan centre last Wednesday.

Around 40 P5-7 pupils from Fort William RC Gaelic Medium unit, Lochside and Banavie learned how the natural fibre was turned into fabric and tried their hand at spinning, carding, washing, dyeing and felting raw wool straight from the fleece.

Once they had produced enough felt, the children enjoyed making cards and bookmarks to their own design.

Kate Campbell from the Ariundle Centre in Strontian demonstrated how to use a

spinning wheel to produce yarn, while Steve Ballinger, Scottish manager of the British Wool Marketing Board, explained how different breeds of sheep produced different types of fleeces.

Mr Ballinger told *The Oban Times* he had been coming with fleeces to Lochaber Show since 1978 - and was only too happy to accept to LRET director Isabel Campbell's invitation to advise the children.

'When you show the schoolchildren what happens to the wool once it leaves the sheep, they are amazed,' he said. 'It is, after all, a sustainable product and it's important the kids learn for the future what it can do.'

Beauty spot traffic lights get go-ahead despite protest

TRANSPORT Scotland has told the community of Connel that plans for traffic lights at the Falls of Lora viewpoint will go ahead regardless of their concerns.

Connel Community Council and the Oyster Inn joined together in protest at the plans - part of a joint initiative by Transport Scotland and Sustrans to create a cycle path from Campbeltown and Inverness via the Connel bridge - which they say will have a huge impact on the attractiveness of the village as a tourist destination.

The Oyster Inn is concerned it will lose business as a direct result.

At a meeting last week, they urged Transport Scotland to consider relocating the lights or even using an alternative crossing method, putting forward alternatives such as using the old path behind the Oyster Inn and installing traffic lights at that end.

But Transport Scotland's Neil Wands told the meeting that preserving the view wasn't in their interests.

The decision has provoked a furious response from the community. Chairman of

Connel Community Council Sandy Dunlop said: 'We had a meeting but the lights are still going in. They said road safety is their priority. We put to them the idea of using the old cutting behind the Oyster Inn. They feel people won't use it. We're still not happy about it.'

The proposed route will see cyclists crossing the Connel Bridge via the narrow pedestrian path, then crossing the busy A828 - without traffic lights - in order to cross the A85 at the traffic lights.

Mr Dunlop asked if, using their logic, cyclists would use the traffic lights if they've got to cross a busy road to get to them. He is also concerned that, because it is a utility, Transport Scotland won't need planning permission to erect the lights.

Local councillor Elaine Robertson is also a member of the Sustrans steering group and she too is disappointed at Transport Scotland's choices.

She said: 'We were advised by Transport Scotland that it was a requirement to put in the lights because it was considered a safety issue. But they're expecting people

to use common sense to cross the bridge. It is narrow and there's not enough room for two cyclists or a cyclist and pedestrian to pass. They're also expecting people to cross two main roads to, in effect, cross one main road.'

'I felt the old road was a viable alternative route. There's a large viewpoint across the road and people have been going to that area across the road from the Oyster Inn for decades, so this does seem excessive.'

The councillor said she would be raising the matter at the next meeting of Sustrans early next year, but is concerned the lights could be in place by then.

The Oban Times asked Transport Scotland for an interview with Mr Wands, but the national transport agency said that, because they were still in discussions with Argyll and Bute Council, they could not grant one.

A spokeswoman said: 'Transport Scotland recently held a meeting with Connel Community Council regarding this cycle route and we intend to write to them next week confirming our discussions.'



The achievers pictured at the awards ceremony at the Corran Halls last week. 15_148jwatt1

Achievers celebrate at awards ceremony

SERVICE users from Lorn Resource Centre were at the Corran Halls last week to receive certificates marking their achievements with James Watt College.

The certificates were presented by Cathy Morrison from the

college, the college's tutor at Lorn Resource Centre Lynn MacKenzie and local councillor Elaine Robertson.

Elaine, who worked with many of those who received awards at the event in her previous job as an occupational therapist, said: 'I

have known many of the people here today for most of their lives and delight in their achievements. James Watt College and the Lorne Resource Centre have a long history of partnership working. The culmination of all the hard work, by all, can be seen here.'

Emaciated seal rescued from Loch Linnhe

FURTHER evidence that parasitic worms are having a devastating effect on Loch Linnhe's seal population has emerged after an emaciated animal was found barely alive on the River Lochy near Fort William.

The young male common seal, thought to be about four months old, was recovered last Tuesday after an Inverloch resident contacted Scottish SPCA Lochaber and Skye animal welfare officer Dawna Connolly.

The seal weighed in at only 14kgs, barely one third of its normal body weight of 40kgs. It is currently being nursed back to health at the SSPCA's wildlife hospital at Middlebank in



Rescued: the starving young seal found on the River Lochy.

Fife. The seal will be released back to the wild on the east coast, not its native Loch Linnhe, because of the prevalence of parasitic worms in the Lochaber sea loch. Ms Connolly told *The Oban Times* intestinal parasites were the most likely cause of the animal's condition because the malnutrition was so severe.

Former Spean shop owner takes trip down memory lane

A WEEL-kent face - David MacFarlane, lately of the shop at Spean Bridge, which was in his family for generations - is to speak at Lochaber Local History.

David will talk on 'The MacDonald Family of Spean Bridge' and will tell his audience a few tales of Brae Lochaber passed down through the generations.

Everyone is welcome to attend the event in the Alexandra Hotel at 8pm.

Councils secure cash to improve paths

SIX COMMUNITY councils in Skye and Lochaber have secured £35,500 Highland Council cash to improve local footpaths and trails.

Some £15,000 goes to Skye, where Uig Community Council will create a wheelchair path to a local viewpoint and upgrade and signpost Idrigill Path, while Kilmuir will improve and reinstate the Rubha Hunish path.

In Lochaber, Sunart Community Council got £14,000 to upgrade the path at Ardnastaing. Ballachulish was granted £2,100

to improve the all-abilities path at the slate monument, while Glengarry receives £4,000 to make the woodland River Garry path more accessible. Ballachulish Community Council chairman Mel MacAskill said the cash would allow the 150-metre slate monument path to be widened with an all-ability surface.

The lochside walk from the Isles of Glencoe Hotel to the Ballachulish Bridge underpass will also be improved.

'It's excellent news,' he told *The*

Oban Times. 'At the moment the slate monument path has only got chips and it's not satisfactory for people with wheelchairs.'

A total of £134,400 was allocated by the planning, environment and development committee to 19 community-based path projects across the Highlands under the council's Highland Core Path Implementation Programme.

Under the Land Reform Scotland Act 2003, Highland Council has a statutory duty to plan a system of public paths throughout its area.

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Woman told to complete order

AN OBAN woman has been told she will be locked up unless she completes a community service order.

Linda McColl Boa, of 23 High Street, Oban, previously admitted breaking her probation by failing to carry out a community service order, when she appeared before the court in September.

Appearing again before Sheriff Douglas Small last week, she was ordered to complete the order at a charity shop in the town.

'Community service is not something that you can choose not to do. It is a direct alternative to a custodial sentence. If you do not do this I will send you to Cornton Vale,' said the sheriff.

Two-month ban for speeding motorist

A GLASGOW man who drove at 95mph on a Lochaber road has been fined £540 and banned from driving for two months.

Mark Goldinger, aged 55, of 1 Langtree Avenue, Giffnock, Glasgow, pled guilty to driving at 95mph in a 60mph zone on the A82, one mile north of the King-shouse Hotel, near Glencoe on April 11.

Sentencing Goldinger at Fort William Sheriff Court, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'You must be aware of the numerous accidents in this area caused by speed. I have to take a serious view of people that drive at this type of speed.'

Pockets of gas pose 'no significant risk'

POCKETS of methane gas found in the ground at An Aird, Fort William, pose 'no significant risk to public health', says Highland Council.

More than 100 homes and 10 businesses built on the former landfill site received a third and final newsletter last week updating them on results of soil and ground-water sampling and monthly gas monitoring taken from 58 bore-holes in the area since January 2008.

The monitoring located isolated pockets of methane and carbon dioxide, but building design prevents any build-up of landfill gas and there is 'no current risk to health or buildings', the circular states.

Highland Council plans to remove the boreholes at the site and reinstate the ground.

The council thanked residents, tenants and businesses for their co-operation during the site investigation.

Police relaunch cadet scheme

NORTHERN Constabulary is to relaunch its cadet scheme, with spaces for ten youngsters from across the Highlands and Islands.

The popular scheme is once again being made available to all school leavers between 16 and 17 years six months. The programme takes a minimum of six months to complete.

Cadets will undertake placements at the Inverness Force Operations Centre and with specialist police support units such as crime management and community safety.

Recruits will also be subject to regular assessment during the salaried cadetship.

For further information, contact Jennifer Brown at on 01463 720320 or visit www.northern.police.uk

Anti-litter campaign begins

WESTERN Isles Council has launched an anti litter campaign across the islands - with Stornoway the first target.

Fast food waste has become a major problem in the town, attracting rodents and gulls. The Comhairle spends around £400,000 annually on clearing litter from streets.

School project bears fruit for Park primary pupils

PUPILS at Park Primary School in Dunollie were doing their best to be teacher's pet on Friday, with a day themed around apples.

Led by Ilona MacLaurin's P6/7 class as part of the Fruitful Schools project, Apple Day started with a special assembly.

Pupils learned everything there is to know about the fruit and discovered the school's plans to plant an orchard in its grounds.

One pupil said: 'I didn't know apples were so interesting!'



Some pupils of Park Primary School's P6/7 class pictured enjoying a fruity snack during Apple Day. 15_148apples1

Residents in the dark after street lights fail

RESIDENTS of Dunollie are feeling forgotten after the street lights went out a month ago and haven't been put back on.

Compounding their misery, they claim the steps leading from Dunollie into Oban's town centre at the rear of the Corran Halls have been littered with leaves and broken glass for weeks.

Both issues have been reported to the council during recent weeks - but the local authority appears not to have taken any remedial action.

The result is a community that feels as disconnected as its street lights.

Dunollie's Ronnie Guthrie told *The Oban Times* that going out after dark was no longer an option.

'This month, we have had no street lights from the

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

bottom of the street to the shop. The ground is also covered in broken glass that you can't see for the leaves.

'I have phoned the council many times and have been told that the street sweepers do the pavements.

'The other option if you want to walk into Oban town centre from Dunollie is to use the stairs from Corran Halls which, at best, are dark and dingy with lots of ground cover. Many ladies who live here say they never want to walk it when it's dark.

'Not only that, but the surface there will cause someone to break their bones. With the winter upon us, the leaves are falling and

it's like a skating rink.'

Owner of Dunollie Stores, John MacDougall, said the lack of streetlights has been a significant source of upset for locals, with some customers suggesting that they may have been switched off deliberately by Argyll and Bute Council to save money.

He said: 'The main concern is the safety issue. It's a high population area and there's fast traffic - people still speed here.

'It's pitch black here at night and it's the same in the mornings.

'I've been hearing from a few people that have had quite bad trips.

'A lot of residents have phoned the council about it. Nobody can understand why it's taking so long to

get them fixed. If this was in George Street, they'd have emergency crews out to sort it. Some people are assuming this is part of the cuts,' he added.

'I phoned Donald MacDonald about it and he said it was something to do with a cable, but nothing's been done yet.'

A council spokeswoman said: 'The lights at Corran Brae are not working because of an electrical supply failure. Representatives of Scottish and Southern Energy were on site with our electrician today in a bid to try to resolve the situation.

'Argyll and Bute Council is doing all it can to get the supply reinstated as quickly as possible. In addition, we intend to begin tracking works in the area to install

new cabling as soon as resources allow.

'Arrangements are in place to have the footpath cleared this week.'

FEARS that the lack of street lighting in Dunollie would lead to problems have been born out after police arrested two teenagers for vandalising a wall at Richard Court.

The gable end wall of the Dunollie flats had been spray painted in green and orange lettering but PC Danny MacBeth, of Oban Police, said two boys, aged 14 and 15, had been identified as the culprits. PC MacBeth said he would work with West Highland Housing Association and Argyll and Bute Council officer Peter McLuckie to make sure the wall was repainted.

Health worker urges re-introduction of toe-clipping service

AN OBAN health worker has urged NHS Highland to start clipping toenails again to prevent the elderly and immobile developing foot ulcers.

The professional has seen a dramatic increase in the number of patients coming forward with foot complaints as a direct result of their inability to properly cut their toenails.

Many of the patients have little or no sensation in their feet due to poor circulation and have no sensation when they cut themselves, while others are physically unable to reach them due to conditions such as arthritis. Those who are registered

blind are also having severe difficulties. But what can start out as an innocuous cut or ingrown toenail can soon develop into an ulcer - and that could become so serious amputation is the only option.

The health worker believes the decision to stop cutting toenails is an attempt by NHS Highland to cut costs and waiting lists. That, the person said, is a false economy.

The health worker said: 'There's a big sign at the hospital in Oban saying they simply don't cut toenails, but they should for those who are registered blind or are physically unable as it will

save them money. People are developing ulcers and not only do they take more time to treat, but it's more expensive to do it too.

'These people are either having to pay out of their own pocket for someone else to do it for them, are neglecting their feet or cut themselves by accident.

Surgery

'Ulcers can take four to six weeks to treat, but in some cases can become so serious that surgery or amputation is the only option.

'It could be prevented entirely if the NHS started cutting these toenails again - something that can take 10-15 minutes at most.'

It is understood that NHS Highland decided to stop cutting toenails this year.

The health professional said patients are also being told to ask their social care workers to cut their toenails.

'What the NHS doesn't understand is social carers don't touch feet. They also wouldn't know what to look for if something was wrong.

'You don't need a trained podiatrist to cut the toenails, it could be a nurse or someone else with professional experience of dealing with feet.'

However, NHS Highland says that toe nail clipping

is carried out in a small number of cases where there is clinical reason for doing so.

A spokeswoman said: 'Everyone referred to the podiatry service is given a comprehensive medical and foot care assessment. Toe nail clipping is part of the treatment plan in a minority of cases where there is a clear clinical reason for providing it, for example people with complications of diabetes or circulatory problems. We encourage health care professionals to raise concerns and ideas for improvements to the quality of service within their teams.'

Mother 'was provoked' into attacking teenage girl

A 38-year-old mother was admonished after pleading guilty to assaulting a teenager when she appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday.

Rosalind Laird admitted assaulting a 15-year-old girl by pushing her against a fence in Colonsay Terrace on June 7 this year.

The court heard that Laird,

of 5a Colonsay Terrace, Oban, had pushed the girl after her daughter came home crying and upset, claiming that the teenager had threatened her.

Procurator Fiscal Gillian Climie told the court Laird's daughter had been approached by a group of three 15-year-old girls and a 14-year-old boy earlier in the evening, who

told her 'they were going to get her'.

Defence agent Edward Thornton said Laird was a responsible parent worried about her daughter, who was aged 13 at the time of the incident. He said: 'This happened after a worrying campaign of threats and bullying. This was not just a

few comments but threats of violence.'

In closing the case Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'It seems that you were provoked in this case. I consider that in the circumstances, because of the extreme provocation, the threats made to your daughter and the threats made to you - you are admonished.'

Bank staff on the ball for Oban Hospice



The Clydesdale Bank in Oban has added to its charity coffers by raffling off a signed Rangers Football Club ball. The raffle, which was won by Malcolm MacAulay from Connel, took place during a recent tea and home baking day at the branch, which raised £583.23 for Friends of Oban Hospice. Pictured at the bank's baking stall are staff members, from left: Josephine Grant, branch supervisor, Stephanie Moore, Derek Burn, manager, and Sadie MacFarlane. The branch also collected £481.85 in June this year at its open day. 08_147bball01

Skye and Lochalsh Lines

THE CHIEF executive of national arts body Creative Scotland is to deliver the annual Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO) Lecture on St Andrew's Day, November 30.

Andrew Dixon, right, will address staff, students and invited guests on the creative strengths of Scotland and the contribution of artists to the nation's cultural life.



SMO director of development and arts, Dr Donnie Munro said: 'We very much look forward to Mr Dixon's address and to strengthening our relationship with Creative Scotland under his leadership. Since the inaugural lecture in 1990, the series has enabled the college to bring forward, for public debate, the thoughts and ideas of some of our most gifted thinkers from the world of politics, educa-

tion, economics and the arts.'

As part of his visit to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Mr Dixon will also open an exhibition by artist Chris Drury, entitled 'Land, Water and Language', which has been developed in association with Taigh Chearsabhagh in North Uist. This year's lecture is being sponsored by Harris Tweed Hebrides and will be available to view online at www.smo.uhi.ac.uk.

THE RELIEF boat for the Raasay Ferry, the MV *Loch Linnhe*, went into service on Saturday to cover for the usual vessel on the crossing, the *Loch Striven*, which is in dry dock for her annual refit and maintenance.

Some 800 litres of hydraulic oil for the MV *Loch Linnhe* arrived at Sconser the day before the changeover.

According to Raasay crofter Paul Camilli, the *Loch Linnhe* switches to relief duties round the islands in the winter months after plying the waters between Tobermory and Kilchoan for the summer timetable.

'I think because it's quieter during the winter on the Tobermory route CalMac can put on a wee island class boat there so the MV *Loch Linnhe* can act as a relief boat elsewhere,' Paul, from South Arnish, told *The Oban Times*.

ISLE OF SKYE stunt biker Danny MacAskill, right, has released an epic new video showing his amazing skills on YouTube.



The 'Way Back Home' clip follows Danny from the streets of Edinburgh all the way back to his native Dunvegan, showing his on-the-edge riding style of trial bike, mountain bike and BMX-street.

Travelling with his close friend and filmmaker Dave Sowerby, Danny takes on ancient castles, leaps over rocky terrain and jumps onto and over bridges.

The journey culminates with a return to the stomping ground where Danny first cut his teeth riding in Dunvegan - skipping past local B&Bs, jumping railings and even front flipping off a building as he finally arrives back home.

Danny said: 'My favourite spot in the riding clip is probably the bakery wall ride in my local village. I found it by walking out of the bakery with a big pasty. And then I saw the grass bank and the wall and thought I could maybe jump up there one day.'

Danny's first 'Inspired Bicycles' video of gravity defying exploits through Edinburgh was a 20-million hit on YouTube.

He has already featured in the New York Times and was nominated for the action sportsperson of the year category of the Laureus World Sports Awards 2010.

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LISMORE

Your correspondent is **Pauline Dowling: 01631 760293**

Book Week

DUNCAN Livingstone, chairman of Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mor, opened Lismore's fourth annual Book Week on November 8. He introduced a programme which had been many months in the planning by Barbara McDougall and Jennifer Baker and which promised to brighten the November days and round off the museum's season.

The opening event was a talk/demonstration on the history and practice of book binding given by Fiona Anderson, an experienced book binder from Benderloch.

On Tuesday, visiting Scottish poet Kenneth Steven ran a poetry workshop in the afternoon and read from his collections in the evening.

On Wednesday, the new book launch, fast becoming an annual fixture, was from the amusing and keenly observed pen of Ian Weir of Appin whose *A Life on the Land* is a collection of his articles.

Thursday was in many ways the highlight being devoted entirely to one of Lismore's famous sons, Alexander Carmichael, folklorist, antiquarian and author of the two volumes of *Carmina Gadelica* (1900).

He was born at Taylochlan on December 1 1832 and brought up at Killandrist.

Lesley Bryson, Kirsty Stewart, Dr Andrew Wiseman and Domhnall Uilleam Stiubhart, all from the Carmichael Watson Project of Edinburgh University, were on hand to share their expertise.

Lesley Bryson and Kirsty Stewart, both archivists, demonstrated their online catalogue, Dr Wiseman spoke about 'Alexander Carmichael and the Island of Lismore' and, despite torrential showers, a large group went on the Carmichael Walk from his home to his school and finally his grave.

The afternoon was rounded off when John Randall from The Island's Book Trust talked about 'Recent publications regarding Alexander Carmichael.'

The visitors were pleased to find a great depth of knowledge of and interest in Carmichael's work among islanders and to discover facts and even a photograph of which they knew nothing.

At the reception with wine in the evening Domhnall Uilleam Stiubhart talked about 'Alexander Carmichael



Residents complete life support course

Five local residents from Dalavich and Kilchrenan have completed a course in emergency life support techniques. Jeanette and Robert Connor and Yvonne MacLean, from Dalavich, and Joahanna Gericke and Marilyn Henderson from Kilchrenan, completed the Heartstart course, sponsored by the British Heart Foundation. They hope their newly acquired skills will be invaluable given their rural setting. Pictured demonstrating their new skills are, from left, Robert Connor, Marilyn Henderson and Jeanette Connor.

and the People of Lismore' rounding off a stimulating and informative day.

After such a week it was fitting that Friday morning be devoted to a celebration of Gaelic songs and readings with a host of local performers Carmichael would have appreciated and in the afternoon the children of Lismore Primary School were invited for an afternoon of fun with Barbara McDougall which included stories, games and finding out how to make and decorate boxes by simple folding and gilding.

Barbara and Jennifer are to be congratulated on their fourth book week which, despite some bad weather, went without a hitch.

They are grateful to everyone who helped in many ways and in particular to Beth Campbell of the Lismore Café who worked hard keeping all the visitors refreshed.

The museum will now be closed until the spring and the café will be closed until December 2.

Book Week raffle

AS WELL as playing a significant part in Book Week, Beth Campbell also ran a raffle of books connected with the island or greater Argyll.

She managed to persuade 14 authors to donate signed copies of their books and raised £190 for Comann Eachdraidh.

A list of the lucky winners will appear on www.isleoffismore.com.

ISLAY

School closure consultation

ARGYLL and Bute Council meets today (Thursday) to put forward proposals to close 26 of their 80 primary schools, including Islay's Keills Primary School.

Keills Primary School serves several scattered, rural communities in the north-east of the island of Islay, from Bridgend to Bunnahabhain in the area known as Kilmeny. The school is situated at the edge of the small village of Keills. In the proposals, it is intended that Keills Primary School would be closed and the current pupils would be transferred to Port Charlotte Primary in the Rhinns of Islay.

Keills School Parent Council says: 'We don't think there is anything wrong with Port Charlotte Primary. What we do think is that there is not going to be enough room for all the Port Charlotte pupils, Keills pupils and future pupils of both communities at the primary.'

'We also strongly object to our children travelling for what we believe to be well over one hour a day on an unsupervised bus for the distance involved. You could be jailed for dumping a dog on a bus and leaving it to take care of itself, but the council seems ready to allow doing it to our kids!'

Museum accredited

THE MUSEUM of Islay Life in Port Charlotte has been officially accredited by the Museums and Library Archive.

Accreditation is designed to build on the registration which the museum achieved in 1998.

The process of registration concentrated on the collections and their care, ensuring that environmental conditions of temperature, humidity and light were all within recognised limits and objects within the museum kept in the best possible condition.

Museum chairman Dr Malcolm Ogilvie said: 'The process of accreditation confirms that proper conditions are still being maintained and that we have an up-to-date and well-maintained electronic catalogue of all our artefacts, books and photographs. Then levels of customer care of visitors were checked and were deemed to meet the high standards required.'

Islay choirs' post National Mod concert and Gaelic service

THIS Saturday Còisir Ghàidhlig Ìle hosts a Post Mòd Concert in Bowmore Village Hall.

All the Islay choirs and individuals who won competitions at this year's National Mòd in Thurso will be performing their successful songs and poems for everyone to enjoy.

The following day Còisir Ghàidhlig Ìle will take part in a Gaelic service at the Round Church, Bowmore.

Council workers help during storms

DURING recent gales, Argyll and Bute Council workers distributed and helped place sand bags at properties at Frederick Crescent, Port Ellen, when high tide with the wind behind it was expected at

7pm. A crew was despatched to monitor the situation until the tide had turned.

ACHA was advised of the possible threat to their properties by tidal surges, allowing them to send out two members of their local team to evaluate the situation and reassure residents.

Also, the crews placed sand bags at the Port Askaig pier buildings and left additional bags at the local hotel for use if needed there.

Storm and tidal debris was cleared from roads and public spaces in several locations.

Port Ellen Primary School

WE RECENTLY did a clean-up at Leodamus beach in Port Ellen.

Primary one and pre-five couldn't make it because they go home in the morning. Primary four and five pupils were in charge of organising the beach clean as part of our Save Our Seas topic.

Mrs Clark put us in groups and when we got to the beach we met Mrs Mather from Rejig. Everyone got a pair of gloves, a bag and a grab. We cleaned for a couple of hours and got 220kgs of litter. Most of the litter was small bits of plastic, broken down by the sea, and fishing line. Plastic can harm sea animals as it never disappears and ends up in the food chain.

Also animals like turtles think bags and balloons are jellyfish and try and eat them. We wish there wasn't so much litter to pick up!

By Reece.

Fun down on the farm

TO CONCLUDE our topic on food and farming, children from primary one to three visited the RSPB farm.

During the visit, the children had the opportunity to see the cows, hens and ponies as well as seeing farm equipment and were able to gain an insight into some of the work involved in farming.

The visit was a terrific learning experience for all the children and thanks should be given to all the RSPB staff who worked so hard to make our visit so exciting.

Wear It Pink Friday

ALL CHILDREN and staff in Port Ellen Primary 'wore it pink' to help raise the amazing total of £228.29 for breast cancer research.

The children in P1/2 and P6/7 also baked pink cakes and made pink juice to sell at playtime.

Harvest Tea

CHILDREN from the Pre 5 unit and P1/2 class worked together to plan and then host a 'Harvest Tea' for parents.

The children worked hard to plan the event, designing and creating invitations, making jam and baking as well as learning some harvest songs to entertain our guests.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped to make our harvest tea such a success.

Hallowe'en fun

THE CHILDREN at Port Ellen Primary School had a great time celebrating Hallowe'en.



Theatre workshop helps pupils turn clock back to World War Two

Hopscotch Theatre Company recently ran a workshop for Lochside RC P6/7 and Fort William Primary pupils. The subject was World War Two, which both classes have been studying. Two actors did a short presentation and then led the children in drama exercises and improvisations about evacuees, rationing and the Blitz. They also discussed deeper issues on the theme of war. The workshop was a great drama experience for the children and a fun way to learn about the war. Lochside P6/7 teacher Moira Murphy said. Pictured are Ewan Begrie, Dean Jeffery, Sean MacDonald, John Cummings from Fort William and their Lochside counterparts Megan Campbell, Jodie McDermott, Charis Sneddon and Bryony Melrose. 10_f48play01

Pumpkins were brought in well decorated and we particularly liked the Veg Man made entirely from vegetables, the crab and the 'orange fake tan accident' pumpkin!

At the Hallowe'en parties children played spooky games and dressed up in spooky costumes and won prizes.

There was a fantastic Massey Ferguson Tractor and a very clever upside down man. They really enjoyed the gruesome touch and feel game and finished by ducking for apples. Jo Clark.

KILLIN

Your correspondent is **Judy Forster: 01567 820298**

Killin Community Council

Public toilets: Local toilets are to close and self funding toilets are not an option as they are too expensive. The Station Yard toilets were used 7,189 times in 2008 before the City Link buses started to use the turning circle and those at the Dochart Bridge 25,458. Could any business in Killin provide this sort of service? Stirling Council would provide a fee of £500 - £2,000 possibly not enough to cover the water rates. The community council voted to keep the toilets but if there is no solution they will probably close for good.

Killin skip: This will not re-open because of a lack of funds from Stirling Council. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency had nothing to do with this decision and the licence is still in force.

Road maintenance: Ardeonaig Road is under maintenance.

Playpark: Levels for new drains in the park are in development and the

playpark is on hold until the drainage has been fixed.

Turning area: Speed bumps are still missing and the grassy area requires attention.

Cemetery: A letter has been sent to Bob Jack, Chief Executive, in the hope of getting some maintenance.

Folklore Centre: KAT has made some proposals suggesting the top floor becomes the Killin News and KAT offices. The middle floor is used by the Heritage Society and the ground floor for a thrift shop and tourist information. A separate suggestion was for public toilets there and charging a nominal fee plus comfort partner fee of £500 - £2,000.

Tyndrum Goldmine: Discussions are on-going.

Youth project: A meeting on September 13 went very well with great support

CCTV: Investigations will be made to find out whether the village thinks it would be a good idea to have a CCTV camera at each end of the village.

Correspondence: City Link buses and delivery vans are driving too fast through the village. A Fleming to address this.

Cyclists should abide by the same Highway Code as cars, including when taking part in a race.

Both bridges to be repaired probably next year as the weather has already turned this year.

National Park Conservation still has some money in the pot for village enhancement.

KYLE OF LOCHALSH

Your correspondent is **Charlie MacRae: 01599 544359**

A COFFEE morning held in the Plockton Hotel on Saturday November 13 raised £380 for Plockton Drama Club.

80th birthday

ALAN James of Uig Cottage, Plockton, celebrated his 80th Birthday on November 11.

Alan is presently in a Portree nursing home.

Sale of work

A SALE of work in aid of Blythwood, held in the Lighthouse Centre, Kyle, on November 12 raised £350.

Taynuilt choir entertains

MEMBERS of Taynuilt Gaelic Choir, fresh from their successful Royal National Mod in Caithness, recently entertained residents at Lynn of Lorne Nursing Home in Benderloch.

Apart from being treated to a selection of songs from the choir, the residents also heard solos from Ann MacLean and Helen Pearson, a duet from Audrey and Davy Paterson and a selection of fiddle tunes from Ann Barlow.

The choir was also due to appear at the RNLI fundraiser at Skipinnish Ceilidh House, Oban, last Friday.

Primary one pupils in the picture



The new primary one pupils at Fort William RC Primary School.



Happy smiles from Fort William RC Primary School's Gaelic Medium primary one pupils.



Scottish Sea Farms donate £500 to school

John McLeod and John McRae of Scottish Sea Farms visited Lismore Primary School following the firm's donation of £500 which was used to buy a metal storage box for the school's outdoor equipment. The money will also help pay for primary six and seven pupils to attend Summer Sensations, a programme which enables them to meet children of their own age before their transition to Oban High School. Bob Davies kindly constructed the box, which came as a flat pack.

Around the Rurals: Kilmore

PRESIDENT Mrs Isabel Smith welcomed members to the November meeting.

She thanked Mrs Margaret Whittin for bringing the cup which she won at the Conference to let members see.

After business, Mrs Smith introduced the speaker for the evening, Andrew Pallas, osteopath, who gave an informative talk and an insight into the work of an osteopath. Training takes four to five years and Mr Pallas told members it was an offence for

anyone to call themselves an osteopath if they are not registered. It was a most interesting talk.

The vote of thanks was given by Ann Sorley and tea was served by Mairi Morrison and helpers.

Competitions: Three wheaten scones - 1 Isabel Smith; 2 Hannah MacGregor. Old fashioned remedy - 1 Ann Ferguson; 2 Isabel Smith and Ann Sorley.

Raffle: 1 Ann Ferguson; 2 Catriona Stuart.



Children banish winter blues by planting spring bulbs

Children at Sgoil Araich Braigh Lochabair, Roy Bridge, have been banishing the winter blues by planting daffodils in aid of a cancer charity. Nine children are taking part in Marie Curie Cancer Care's 'mini pots of care' scheme, where they plant the flower bulbs and look after them until they bloom in spring - and then sell them to raise funds for the charity.



Cash pours in as action packed day helps those most in need

Spotty handwriting, spotty posters and spotty games helped Port Ellen Primary School, Islay, raise £253 for Children in Need. All children got involved in fund-raising for the BBC charity as P1 and 2 did spotty handwriting, P2 and 3 made spotty posters, P4 and 5 made spotty buns and Pudsey biscuits, whilst P6 and 7 created and ran an afternoon of spotty games for the rest of the school. An X Factor talent show was also held in which magicians, musicians and comedians had the audience in stitches.



PUPILS at Oban High School queued up to throw wet sponges at their teachers last Friday as the school raised funds for Children in Need.

Soak a teacher raised a healthy sum for the BBC charity as students paid to get their own back on their teachers.

And although head teacher Peter Bain was absent on the day a photograph was pinned up as a wet sponge target.

Students also endured a little pain and humiliation as boys had their legs waxed and faces made up with this season's colours.

For the more athletic there was an obstacle course in the gym and a ceilidh for those wanting a turn on the dance floor.

Donut eating competitions, pin the tail on Pudsey, a nail bar, home-baking stall and face painting also raised money on the day.

Oban High School deputy head teacher John Macpherson said: 'One of the most important things we can teach our children is to help others so it is lovely to see them all get involved and enjoy themselves today.'



Sixteen-year-old Katie Sims wasn't letting head teacher Peter Bain escape the soak a teacher competition as she pinned a picture of the head master to the target board. 08_t48children04

More photos available online
OBANTIMES.CO.UK



Both primary and secondary pupils at Lochgilphead Joint Campus sported yellow faces with a spotty eye-patch for Children in Need. 56 pupils held a Wii dancing competition, as well as a coffee morning. A non-uniform day for the entire campus also helped boost the coffers. Brave 56 boys also bared their legs to have them waxed while others volunteered to have their heads shaved.



The uniform at Easdale Primary School changed on Friday as the pupils wore spotty ties, jumpers, cardigans and trousers in aid of Children in Need.



Spots were everywhere at Inverlochry Primary School on Friday as pupils turned up for a 'non-uniform' day. Activities included songs about Children in Need, making Pudsey bandanas, filling Pudsey shapes with coins and making Pudsey cakes. Guessing staff members from their baby photographs proved popular, as did the best-dressed teddy competition and face painting. School secretary Fiona Livingstone told *The Oban Times* the children's efforts had raised about £200. Pictured are pupils Kiera MacKinnon, Amy Disher, Breagh Brown and Marley Alston. 10_f48inver01



Pudsey Bear paid a visit to Fort William recently as part of a charity bike ride from John O'Groats to Glasgow. The presenters of BBC Alba kids programme 'Dè a-nis' plus five youngsters from Glasgow made the journey for Children in Need. On their way, they stopped at Fort William Gaelic Medium Primary and took Pudsey with them to meet the children. Pudsey also met Lochaber Pipe Band and danced whilst they played a fund-raising performance in Cameron Square.



Some of the Kinlochleven Primary School pupils who raised £270.13 for Children in Need.



Children at Dunbeg Primary School had a very spotty Friday as they donned their poka-dot clothing for Children in Need. Head teacher Sine MacVicar joined the children by donning her spotty nightgown and painting her face for the celebrations. An obstacle course was set up in the school playground and pupils donated £1 to the charity to take part. 08_t48dunbegCIN01

Toddler Tara Crabb was a child in need - of a spotty mousse complete with Smarties when she visited the Lorn Producers Market at the Victory Hall, in Benderloch. Organisers made their second market of November a Children in Need fundraiser, cooking up a special menu and other treats - including the spotty mousse - and a raffle. Youngsters from the nearby village school also dropped in on the market. 16_t48bendcin01



Pupils and teachers at Lochaber High School enjoyed a fund-raising ceilidh during their lunch break last Friday. The event, which was organised by S6 pupils Euan Wilkie, Lee Groundwater and Rhea Wood, raised £178.64 for Children in Need. 10_f48ceilidh01



Banavie Primary School and nursery did their bit for Children in Need last Friday as every child brought in coins to stick on to Pudsey Bear cut outs in the classroom. The collection, run by P3/4 pupils, proved a great success and made about £200. Class teacher Miss McGhie told *The Oban Times*: 'The pupils have been super. They have had a great time counting the money and really enjoyed organising it as well.' 10_f48ban01

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It CAN happen here

FOR anyone who was there, the switch-on of Oban's festive lights brought a welcome bit of cheer against headlines national and local which do not make the best of reading in the run up to Christmas.

Sadly, the occasion was marred by a cynical criminal act which should serve as a warning to everyone who visits a cashpoint machine.

Incidents of 'skimming' are widespread, but fortunately rare in Oban.

This appears to have led to an 'it can't happen here' view shared by many in the town - but it most definitely can and has happened here.

There is no room for complacency when visiting a cashpoint - in Oban or anywhere else for that matter.

After all, you wouldn't open your purse or wallet and show the contents to any passing stranger.

So why take the chance when taking out money from the ATM?

The view from the banks is simple - take every precaution possible. It is a message well worth heeding.

GLASGOW LETTER

Tiree Annual Gathering Concert

WHEN was the last time the current Moderator of the Assembly of the Church of Scotland chaired the annual concert of a local association in the Glasgow area?

Maybe never, but the Tiree Association was honoured to have the Right Rev John Christie take on this role this year at its 110th annual concert in Partick Burgh Halls.

John, of course, is no stranger to the Tirisdeachs, having served as principal teacher of science at Cornaigmore School from 1978 to 1984 prior to moving to Inverness and entering the ministry.

It was evident from the outset that he had fond memories of the island and its people. Throughout the concert, John linked the programme with interesting stories, mainly related to his time on the island and with information on the artistes.

Mod Gold Medallists Wilma Kennedy, Calum Ross and Alasdair Whyte were joined by Kathleen MacInnes and while none of them were natives of Tiree they included three songs in their selections. Each of them sang well and accompanist Norma MacDougall had her own spots on the programme, one of which allowed for community singing.

The accordionist was Campbell Brown who, of course, was one of John's pupils and he was therefore able to comment on his prowess with the instrument. For some reason he did not comment on his prowess at physics!

Piper John Campbell, making his debut, played beautiful selections. The format of having the concert on a separate evening has worked well for the association and they had to bring extra seats into the hall. Surely they were not all there for the complimentary dram and dumpling!

This was a concert enjoyed by artistes and audience and particularly, I would suggest, by the chairman.

Glasgow Skye Association

NEXT weekend, the first in December, will feature Glasgow Skye Association's annual dinner in the Hilton Grosvenor Hotel on Thursday and then the Annual Gathering Concert and Dance the following evening.

Artists at the concert at 7.30pm in Partick Burgh Hall will be singers Sinead MacIntyre, Margaret MacLeod, James Graham and Donald Murray, accordionist Robert Nairn and the Phoenix Honda Glasgow Skye Pipe Band. The guest of honour will be Tommy MacAskill. Robert Nairn's Band will play at the dance in Glasgow University Union from 10.30pm to 2am.

St Andrew's in the Square

THE ABOVE venue is providing two events to celebrate St Andrew's Day.

The first is tomorrow night (Friday) when you can take to the floor to the one and only Fergie MacDonald and his band. Surely there are still many residents in and around Glasgow keen to bring back memories of dancing their Friday nights away to Fergie.

On Monday, November 29, you can sit back and enjoy yet more terrific traditional west coast music. This time it will be Donald Black, with his array of 'mouthies', who will set feet tapping.

Fred Morrison

THE CONCERT which should have taken place tomorrow evening, Friday, at Hillhead Sports Club has been cancelled.

Diary dates

Thursday November 25: Comunn Taobh an Iar, Haggis Supper, Ellen McGowan Social Club, Milngavie, 7.30pm. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Archie Fisher.

Friday November 26: Glasgow Sutherland Association, Annual Dinner, West of Scotland Rugby Club, Milngavie, 7.30pm for 8pm. St Andrew's Festival Ceilidh with Fergie MacDonald - see above.

Saturday November 27: Echoes of Oban, College of Piping, 7.30pm. St Columba's Women's Guild Christmas Sale, Church Hall, St Vincent Street, 11am-1pm. Karen Matheson, Queen's Hall, Edinburgh. Free Shindig in George Square, 7pm to 10pm with the Vatersay Boys, Face the West and Clanadonia.

Sunday November 28: Free Shindig Family Ceilidh in George Square with Trail West and Kilter, 4pm to 7pm.

Monday November 29: Donald Black and friends, St Andrew's in the Square - see above.

Thursday December 2: Glasgow Skye Association Annual Dinner, Glasgow Hilton Hotel, 7pm.

Friday December 3: Glasgow Skye Association Annual Concert and Dance - see above.

Saturday December 4: Glasgow Mid Argyll Shinty Club Ceilidh Dance, Hillhead Sports Club, 8pm. Clann Gaidhlig Ceilidh, Auchenbach Centre, Barrhead, 7.30pm.

Pub scene

GUNNA Sound will be playing in the Islay Inn on Friday and the Park Bar on Sunday. Eriskay Lilt will be playing in the Park on Friday with Pneumatic Drills/Donald MacRae on Saturday while in the Islay Inn it will be Crooked Reel on Saturday.

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



MacKay Cup winners 1979 - Cruachanside

Mrs F MacIntyre, of Dalmally, sent in this week's flashback photograph which features the victorious Cruachanside Primary School shinty team, winners of the MacKay Cup in 1979. They beat Tomnacross 4 - 3 in the final at Spean Bridge. Pictured, back: Donald MacKechnie and Tommy Gibson. Standing, left to right: Neil Thomson; Peter Smith; Duncan MacLean; Des McNulty; Duncan Morrison; Kenny MacDonald; Donald Shaw; Gordon Gibson and Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow. Front: John Cowan; Keith MacIntyre; Alan MacKechnie; Laurence O'Brien; Frank Beaton and Andrew Hail. We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Difficult and costly to expand Oban port

Sir, Enthusiasm for the opportunities and benefits for Oban presented by the off-shore power plans must be tempered by the reality that the Oban Port will be difficult and costly to expand and that a larger port will require much better road access than exists at present.

The town elders' chronic inability to carry out any meaningful improvements to the town over the past decades by, for example, blocking the Oban Bay Marina project and the rebuilding of the derelict Argyll Hotel, and failing to remove the sunken fishing trawler, laying now for many months obscenely against the North Pier, must raise the question as to whether the elders have the will or the skill to move the town forward when the time comes.

Perhaps some of the entrepreneurs, whose efforts contribute to the town's wealth, should get together as an advisory group to

ensure the town elders stay on the ball.

John Christlieb, Melfort Pier and Harbour.

Common sense

Sir, The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) did not 'require' poppy makers to stop using pins as poppy stems as your columnist McCaig suggests in *The Oban Times*, November 11.

The HSE adopts a common sense approach to health and safety and encourages others to do the same. It is up to an individual to decide how to wear their poppy.

Dr Paul Stollard, Scotland Health and Safety Executive.

School closure plan concern

Sir, I am a parent of two children at Lochdonhead Primary School, currently on the list of schools proposed for closure by Argyll and Bute Council, and wish to emphasise the significance of the closure of Lochdonhead insofar as the families living in Lochbuie are concerned.

Despite what the proposal states, the travelling time in

school transport has been found repeatedly to be at least one hour and five minutes each way, from Lochbuie to Salen.

Tom and Flora Corbett are moving back to Lochbuie with their young family to work in Tom's family business, in the best Highland tradition. They are standing on the shoulders of Tom's family who do so much for the community of Lochbuie and the island.

If the school were to close, I believe the impact would be immense. Our remote communities need their mix of ages, but it is vital to attract young families, otherwise these areas can become rural ghettos for the semi-retired and elderly.

It is incredibly demanding running a business in a rural, island setting. It is well documented that my husband and I are selling Torosay, but the timescale for this is far from certain, nor are we necessarily leaving Mull - we are keeping one business here and hoping to start another, depending on a connection to the public water supply. I pay tribute to Tom and Flora for wishing to come back to Mull,

bringing their energy, youth and enthusiasm. There is a story which can be found throughout the Highlands and Islands. I caution Argyll and Bute Council against making a decision which could herald an era of rural social cleansing throughout the area. Surely the councillors do not wish this to be their legacy.

Sarah James, Torosay Castle, Craignure, Isle of Mull.

Tagging thanks

Sir, The Scottish Sea Angling Conservation Network (SSACN) would like to thank *The Oban Times* for featuring an article about the shark tagging event on November 11 and our desire to restore Scottish sharks to their former numbers.

I would, however, like to clarify we have no desire to restrict fish farms in the area, as stated in the article.

This was our third annual event in the region. Each event brings substantial benefit to the local economy through boat hires, B&B's, hotels and tackle shops.

Ian Burrett, on behalf of SSACN.

ISLAY LETTER

Gaelic centre manager

EVERYONE was delighted to learn a native Ileach has been appointed the new manager at Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile (ICCI), the island's St Columba Gaelic centre.

Former solicitor Neil Iain Woodrow of Bowmore took up the managerial reins on Monday at the Gartnatra premises.

The only son of the late Cathie and Neil Woodrow, he attended Keills and Bowmore primary schools before further education at Bowmore secondary and Campbelltown Grammar schools.

He went on to obtain an Honours degree in Public Law and a Professional Legal Practice Diploma. He completed his legal training at Lochgilphead and Oban before becoming a partner in an Oban-based legal practice in 1988. Five years later he became a partner in a legal company in Rothesay and went on to head the firm which also comprised two other qualified solicitors along with support staff. Neil sold the Bute business three years ago and returned to his island roots and the family home at Bowmore.

A committed Gaelic learner, the new manager has been involved in a number of community roles since his return. He is an active member of the local branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach and the Comunn na Gaidhlig Islay Gaelic Initiative. He also serves on the community council and is among the directors of the 'Ileach' newspaper.

Alan Campbell, interim chairman of

ICCI's board of directors, welcomed Neil's appointment and wished him all success in his new post. And so say all of us!

Submariners back IDEA

A DETACHMENT from the crew of the nuclear submarine HMS Vanguard, led by Lieutenant Lewis Gardiner, visited the IDEA Resource Centre at Bowmore where they were entertained to lunch by members and staff.

The crew also presented the island charity with £750 and have adopted the organisation as its official charity for the next year.

On their last visit to the island, the submariners were presented with a selection of whiskies by local distilleries. These were eventually auctioned for more than £300 and this was matched by a similar contribution from the submarine's welfare fund.

IDEA manager Margaret Shaw expressed delight at the crew's continuing generosity and interest in the caring work carried out by the island charity.

The submariners also had a strong presence at the Remembrance Day service held in Bowmore's Round Church on November 14.

Anne Lorne entertains

A SMALL but enthusiastic audience enjoyed an evening of song, poems and stories ably delivered by author and singer Dr Anne Lorne Gillies in Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile.

Earlier, the distinguished Gaelic activist visited the local high school where she met and encouraged two classes of Gaelic learners. The visit

and entertainment was organised by the Islay Book Festival committee.

Church bazaar

THE ROUND Church November coffee morning will take the form of a Christmas bazaar in the Bowmore Buffet Hall on Saturday, November 27, at 10.30am.

Among the attractions on offer will be a selection of Christmas-themed crafts created by members and suitable as Christmas gifts. Teas, coffees and mince pies will also be on offer along with the established stalls. Admission is £2.

On Sunday November 28, a special act of Gaelic worship will be held in the Round Church at 6.30pm.

The worship will be conducted by representatives from local congregations and will include input from Còisir Ghàidhlig Ìle, conducted by Iseabail Mactaggart.

Book launch

WELL-KNOWN documentary maker and television director Les Wilson will read from and sign copies of his first novel 'Fire in the Head' at a book launch in Bowmore's Celtic House on Saturday, November 27, at 6pm.

Sections of the novel were penned on the island at the author's home at Port Charlotte.

Les was also responsible for the recent Gaelic TV series 'S'ann an Ìle', a documentary reflecting various aspects of Islay life and culture. 'Write on' Les!
Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA453 7JX. Tel: 01496 810658.

A view from the tower

by McCaig

Congratulations

CONGRATULATIONS to Prince William of Wales and Ms Catherine Middleton on their engagement and shame on those 'miserics' who can find no pleasure in the desire of these young people to be married.

BBC Scotland seems to have taken particular delight in reporting the antics of the small minority who claim to be republicans. The contrast in the handling of the Royal event could not have been more stark in its radio coverage. BBC Radio Four covered it in traditional style, knowing that immaturity of political preference, the great bulk of the population are supporters of the monarchy while BBC Radio Scotland just couldn't wait to tell us that already there are those who are critical of everything in connection with it and the monarchy particularly.

And so it has continued, unlike the print media who have generally welcomed it and focused on the many thousands of tourists who will flock to London for the wedding.

When the critics have finished moaning about the costs, they turn their attention to the indolent life they allege the Royal Family leads. They should read the Court Circular which most broadsheets carry each day and learn just how hard the Queen and her family do work, not just one day a week but six days a week. Frequently, it's three engagements a day and in different parts of the country. How many octogenarians can such 'moaning minnies' name who work as hard as the Queen or the Duke of Edinburgh? If we were to change to a presidential system there would far fewer visits outside London and the entourage travelling with them would be three times that of that required at present.

It sounds as though I would deny the anti-royalist faction their right to freedom of speech; I don't, but ask only that they check their facts. Since the Royal couple seem to wish to invite a fair number of 'ordinary folk' to their wedding I hope the Birmingham councillor who called them 'parasites' - and has subsequently apologised for it - gets one. We'll see if his wife allows him to turn it down!

'The price of everything...' TODAY the local authority meets to decide which primary schools within their control should be closed, merged or allowed to survive.

I'm delighted to say the list no longer contains Luing Primary School, and never should have, as common sense has prevailed.

There are one or two schools on it which genuinely no longer have sufficient pupils in their catchment area that can be closed. However, even that could be a rash statement as Kerrera school has been closed for a number of years as there have been no pupils except those of families at the north end of it who are better served from the marina. Now there has been an influx of young families to the south end of it with babies being born to them - a new one is due to arrive this week in Wales but will be moving within a year or so to bring the number to five. In two or three years, these families will expect their children to be taught on the island and not be ferried to Oban.

A new school and school building will be required as the current building has been handed over to one of those leisure pursuits companies which survive on local authority hand-outs which should be withdrawn now as we are in such straitened times. I would rather such funds were devoted to making sure the roads and pavements are properly gritted this winter. It is not enough to announce that this can't be done because there isn't the cash to do so while dishing out 'leisure grants'.

'The Man Who Gave Away His Island' EARLIER this year, I was delighted to be involved in the launch of Alec MacRae's book on his antics who taught Margaret Fay Shaw - Mrs John Lorn Campbell of Canna - Gaelic.

Today I'm pleased to recommend Ray Perman's new biography of that wonderful man John Lorn Campbell. The story of John Lorn Campbell is known to many people in some part, but this book tells it as it turned out. He ensured that Canna as an island did not become a 'rich man's playground' as some others did with disastrous consequences. He and his American wife to whom I referred earlier became outstanding Gaelic scholars and wonderful hosts to all who visited them.

'The Man Who Gave Away His Island' by Ray Perman is published by Birlinn Books at £20 and is available at Oban's biggest bookshop and other quality outlets.

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McCaig

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

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My Village

Lochearnhead



Gus Cameron.

Gus Cameron is a well-known businessman in Lochearnhead but may be a familiar face to visitors as president of the village's Highland games. This week he tells The Oban Times about the village he grew up in.

What makes Lochearnhead special for you?

Its close proximity to several major cities. It is approximately one hour from two international airports but out in the sticks and well away from the masses. Being a tourist destination gives it a buzz in the summer months and peace and quiet in the winter months. I enjoy shooting, watersports, golf, walking and cycling, all of which are in abundance in Lochearnhead and the surrounding area.

How important is it to the region? What does it offer that other villages can't?

Being on a major road junction, A84 and A85, it is an important gateway to the west and north and in the olden days often known as the half way house to everywhere.

We are very central for touring, approximately one-and-a-half hours from each coast, two hours to Inverness and two from the Scottish border.

The village offers excellent facilities for water sports, Lochearnhead water ski club was the first club in Scotland, founded by Ewen Cameron in 1956.

We are within an hour to 20 golf courses. Also, in the village we have a wonderfully active scout camp, which is based in the old railway station and run by the Hertfordshire Scouts. Groups come from the length and breadth of the UK to enjoy this facility, join in the functions in the village and lend a helping hand.

How would you describe the village to someone who has never been there?

The village is an old style, scattered Highland settlement on the shores of a beautiful loch surrounded by hills and glens. It lies nestled in the hills at the west end of Loch Earn. The original housing has been well preserved and there is now the introduction of newer affordable houses to help encourage younger people to remain in the area. The atmosphere amongst the locals is welcoming and there is a variety of active clubs and groups to which many people are affiliated.

Were you born in the village? How long have you lived there?

I was born in Ayr at my grandfather's



A view over Loch Earn to the village of Lochearnhead and the surrounding hills. Photograph courtesy of Alistair Barclay, Alba Virtual Tours.

house but was in the village by day three. I have lived here pretty much all my life, running the Lochearnhead Hotel for 23 years and now run a self-catering holiday park offering holidays in cottages and chalet-styled houses on the shores of Loch Earn.

How much has the village changed since you were a child?

Very much – as a child there were three petrol stations and two large hotels, now all gone. There are many new homes, some holiday, some retired. The school once had 30-plus children but sadly closed last year with only two children in the school. Farms and estates once employed two or three, now they employ one or use contractors and some are now used for forestry.

Since the original Lochearnhead Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1982 and was replaced by the Bar 45, which lasted

until about 2006, the village has lacked a pub where locals and travellers could meet. The village is still served by two hotels and several B and Bs, which are down by the loch shore.

What do visitors like about the village?

The beauty and tranquillity of the area. Touring, golf, walking and cycling are in abundance. The village is very central to nearly everywhere. Visitors also enjoy the atmosphere created by the locals and being part of the ambience.

Is there anybody famous from the village?

Not at the moment. My father, Ewen Cameron was once a well-known heavy athlete competing in Highland games across the land and was Scottish champion back in the 50s and 60s. He

also started waterskiing on Loch Earn and was a councillor for more than 40 years.

What are the challenges facing the village, or how could it be improved?

Like most Highland villages – times are changing. There are not many born-and-bred locals in the area, mostly due to the lack of employment, hence the closure of our school.

Events such as Highland games and a major sheep shearing competition - these are big events in the history of the village and important for B and B's and hotels, although they struggle for sponsors and money. These important events cost money and one day may not happen, taking more of the heart out of the village. Again, like most villages it could do with a bit more employment and a good village pub.

A Cameron mission to St Kilda

THE MENTION of St Kilda to most Scots folk will likely conjure up images of a remote island far out in the roaring Atlantic.

They will probably consider a place of distant sea stacks, inhabited by hundreds of sea birds, and where until only 80 years ago, a distinctive Gaelic community and culture had existed for thousands of years amidst the harshest of climates and challenging living conditions.

On the other side of the world, New Zealanders and Australians will no doubt hold different images of St Kilda, as both countries also have places by the same name - St Kilda in Dunedin New Zealand and St Kilda in Melbourne, Australia. Together, they



Village Bay, St Kilda.

By BILL CAMERON

can trace the origins of their place names back to the island of St Kilda off the west coast of Scotland, namely through the The Lady of St Kilda, a trading ship named after Lady Grange who was imprisoned on St Kilda for eight years by her husband. Fearing his wife would speak out about his Jacobite sympathies in trying to restore Bonnie Prince Charlie to the throne, he had Lady Grange taken hostage and removed to the remote archipelago.

In August this year, just a few days short of the 80th anniversary of the island being evacuated, I boarded a boat from Leverburgh on the Island of Harris, which was to take me 40 miles out into the wild Atlantic to visit the remotest strip of land in British Isles.

After a couple of hours, the faint outline of land appeared on the horizon, as clouds paused over Conachair, the highest point on St Kilda. As we headed in to the relatively sheltered waters of Village Bay on the main Island of Hirta, you couldn't help but be overwhelmed by the sudden appearance of this massive almost vertical, rock jutting out through the

never-ending seascape.

You just had to reflect upon the fact that 80 years previously, it was from this same landing pier that the last 36 remaining St Kildans had waited with all their worldly possessions to board the Harebell for mainland Britain. At 7am, a constant human link which had spanned thousands of years of human ingenuity and survival, and against the harshest elements on an isolated rocky outcrop in the Atlantic, would end forever.

In the intervening years, many hundreds of books have been written about this remote archipelago. Many of these portray a romantic idyll, far from the worries of money, class and man's ever present need to consume in order to achieve status.

Fortunately there are a few titles in which we can gather glimpses of the St Kildans' distinctive culture, their devotion to the church and their inspiring ability to overcome the adversities of their remote location.

Due to severe and unpredictable weather conditions in the Atlantic, getting to St Kilda by boat is generally limited to a few of the summer months. As such, the St Kildan community was

largely self-sufficient, dependent on an annual seaweed harvest, gathering puffins, gannets and fulmars from surrounding sea stacks hundreds of feet above the roaring Atlantic below. From this harvest, the islanders stored and dried the meat, feathers and oil of the birds in their distinctive stone buildings - cleits - to see them through the harsh winter. A large amount of their annual store was set aside and used as a form of currency to pay their rent to the landlord - MacLeod of MacLeod on the Isle of Skye.

Like most visitors to St Kilda, I had read a number of books on the island's history prior to my visit. I should also add that I had waited two years to get on to one of the summer trips to the island. In fact, it was easier to visit the other two St Kildas at the other end of the world than the one here in Scotland.

It was whilst reading about St Kilda that I chanced upon an unlikely Cameron connection with the island, in the form of a missionary man by the name of Donald Cameron.

It was 1919 when Donald Cameron, a native of Ballachulish, then working as an assistant at the High Church in Stornoway, was called by the United

Free Church authorities in Edinburgh to serve the remote St Kildan community. It would appear that Donald had no hesitation in taking up this remote calling. In fact there turned out to be a dual role, as his wife, Mary, a trained schoolteacher, was also called by the authorities to educate the children of St Kilda.

Donald and Mary, along with their two daughters Mary, aged 5, and Christina, 4, made the journey on board the steamer Hebrides from Lochmaddy on South Uist to St Kilda in the summer of 1919.

Travelling with all the necessary supplies to last them through the tough winter months, the Camerons reached St Kilda with all their essentials including large quantities of food, educational materials, Christmas presents for their two daughters and even the family cow, Annie, for a ready supply of milk.

Arriving at the pier in Village Bay, we can gather from accounts left by Christina Cameron as an old woman, that the Cameron family were well received by the close-knit St Kildan community.

They were housed in the Church manse, which still stands, although



St Kilda Church and Manse.

extensively renovated since the evacuation, along with the St Kilda Church and its adjoining schoolroom. This small collection of buildings would be the family home for the next seven years, until they left in 1926 – four years before the eventual evacuation of the island in 1930.

During the Cameron family's time on the island, they were inextricably linked with every aspect of the St Kildans' way of life. From being involved in seeing off parties of men to hunt and gather birds from the surrounding sea stacks, to preaching and teaching respectively to the islanders young and old, all the while catering for the entire community's strict religious observance in the beliefs of United Free Church of Scotland – Donald and Mary led the way.

20 Years Ago Those Were The Days
The Oban Times
Thursday November 29, 1990

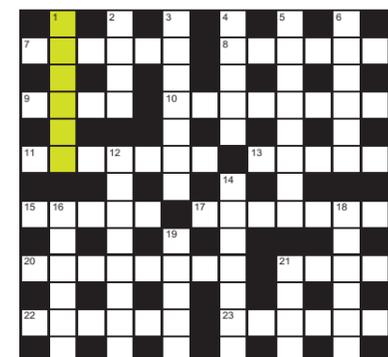
Top award for Mull police officer
IT WAS all in the line of duty for Police Constable John Williamson, of Salen, when he rescued an 18-year-old girl from drowning in Tobermory Bay, an heroic action which has earned him two of the highest accolades in the police force.
Police Constable Williamson was presented with the Royal Humane Society's Bronze Medal and the Chief Constable's High Commendation at a special ceremony in Glasgow.
Last year Constable Williamson was on duty in Salen. It was shortly before midnight when he received a telephone call from a distraught woman in Tobermory whose daughter was threatening to drown herself in the waters by the fisherman's pier.
By the time he reached the harbour the girl was waist deep and some 60 yards off shore.
After a fruitless search for a lifebelt, Williamson stripped to his boxer

shorts, shirt and socks, plunged into the icy depths and set off in pursuit of the young woman.
He said: 'I am a terrible swimmer but I was not particularly perturbed. The only thing that worried me was as I got farther from the shore it became darker and darker.'
With some difficulty PC Williamson got hold of the girl, now a distance of 100 yards off shore. He managed to grab a mooring line, which he used to pull the two of them to dry land, where a number of passers by had gathered and helped to haul the girl up on the roadway.
Both were taken to Dunaros Hospital, but having spent only five minutes in the water neither were suffering from Hyperthermia. However by all accounts, there is no doubt that if it had not been for PC Williamson's prompt action, the incident would have proved fatal.
PC Williamson, originally from Glasgow, has 11 years police service and has worked on Mull for three and a half years.

Gaelic jobs boost
GAELIC television is fast becoming a major growth area.
In 1993 200 new hours of Gaelic programmes will be broadcast on STV and Grampian and company managers are desperately seeking Gaelic speakers to cope with their plans.
Comunn na Gaidhlig, Scottish Television and Grampian have formed the Gaelic Television Training Trust which will select eight Gaelic speakers to participate in a one year training course.
The trust is seeking ambitious characters with a commitment to the Gaelic language and culture.
The aim of the project is not to train people to work inside Scottish or Grampian, but to operate as or with independent producers based in Gaidheathachd.
The course, which will be administered by the Skye Gaelic Medium Business College, will include placements on location with independent producers and with Scottish and Grampian.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

- Across**
- 7 Used in glass manufacturing (6)
 - 8 Nanny (2,4)
 - 9 Man to aid voice? (4)
 - 10 Overlord (8)
 - 11 Liqueur flavoring (7)
 - 13 Eminent (5)
 - 15 Having a piece (5)
 - 17 Slippery (7)
 - 20 Light holder (8)
 - 21 Interruption (4)
 - 22 Be a go-between (6)
 - 23 Starter (6)
- Down**
- 1 Sight (6)
 - 2 Creeper (4)
 - 3 Pattern from Scotland? (7)
 - 4 Corn (5)
 - 5 Counterfeit (8)
 - 6 Masculine (6)
 - 12 Lamb depression? To protect (5,3)
 - 14 Standing one is loud (7)
 - 16 Group transporter (6)
 - 18 TV watcher (6)
 - 19 Drying material (5)
 - 21 Length of lives (4)



Last Week's Solution

T	S	S	A	P	A							
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E	U	A	G	A	E							
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Oban hoteliers with stars in their eyes!

REPORT

by STEVEN FLANAGAN
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

OBAN'S Queen's Hotel is celebrating after VisitScotland granted it Four Star Hotel status.

Owners Raymond and Susan Hymes say they're delighted with the accolade and believe the hotel is now the only one in its category to be granted four stars between Inverness and Glasgow on the west coast.

Raymond said: 'It was absolutely brilliant news and we celebrated with champagne with the staff.'

'It's the result of a lot of hard work and it is a team effort. You couldn't do this without a good team.'

'From our knowledge, we appear to be the only four star hotel in the hotel category south of Glasgow and that's great news for Oban.'

'From this stepping stone we now want to start looking at awards for the hotel.'

Gaining four star status has been anything but easy for the husband and wife team, who bought the Queen's in 2007 after selling a hotel they had turned around in Fort William.

The hotel they inherited was in a dishevelled state and



Raymond Hymes with wife Susan attaching their new Visit Scotland plaque advertising its new four star hotel status. 15_148queens1

they closed it in November of that year as part of a major renovation.

They spent the next five months working on the place and re-opened on March 21, 2008.

However, their plans to re-open as a four star hotel were scuppered as a result of the credit crunch, which

dramatically put a dent in the credit available from their bank.

At the time, VisitScotland told them they only needed to improve in three categories to achieve four star status.

'Unfortunately, we couldn't finish everything and we had to generate the

funds ourselves to do so,' said Raymond.

In granting four star hotel status, VisitScotland's inspector paid particular tribute to the food of head chef Lorne MacDougall.

As a direct result, the hotel is to apply for its first Rosette.

Raymond said: 'This has

been the culmination of a lot of hard work from a lot of people.'

'Myself and Susan would like to thank in particular the local tradesmen who renovated this hotel for doing so to such a high standard, especially Brian Askew, Cope McDonald and Oban Electrical Services.'

An appointment with Her Majesty



Murdo MacLeod, of MacLeod Construction Limited, who recently received the Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion, was presented to the Queen at a reception in Buckingham Palace to honour the award. Earlier that day, Vince Cable, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, presented Murdo with a chalice which now has pride of place in a display cabinet in the company's board room. Murdo met Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh and they discussed the royal family's summer holiday on the Hebridean Princess. MacLeod Construction Limited has a workforce employed from Lochgilphead, Dunoon, Oban, Campbeltown and Rothesay.

Challenging times for building sector

HIGHLANDS and Islands building firm UBC Group chief executive James Pedrana says he is 'cautiously optimistic' about the industry's future following the failure of construction rivals ROK.

Mr Pedrana described the past 18 months as 'the toughest the industry has ever experienced' and urged clients, particularly the public sector, to speed up planning and contract awarding processes to enable the firm to keep staff employed.

He said: 'Like all sectors of the industry, UBC Group has had to critically examine all overheads and seek efficiencies wherever possible.'

'I am now cautiously optimistic that we are beginning to see a slight improvement in some areas and I am pleased to say that UBC has recently been awarded a number of projects in the Highland area valued in excess of £11m.'

'We are already on site with the majority of these contracts and we believe there is a distinct likelihood of increasing this contract portfolio in the near future.'

Current UBC projects include a design and build contract with Albyn Housing Society for 24 flats at Telford Street in Inverness, a homes development at Conon Bridge for the same client and the refurbishment of Lochaber Leisure Centre in Fort William for Highland

Council. The redevelopment of two sites at Claggan Road, Fort William, for Lochaber Housing Association and the joint police and social work unit in Elgin for Moray Council are progressing, as is the conversion of the old Safeway building in Rose Street, Inverness, in readiness for occupation by national retailers.

Mr Pedrana said UBC has been appointed the preferred bidder for two contracts with East Dunbartonshire Council and is in advanced negotiation for a number of other projects in the Highland and Central Scotland areas.

Contracts

The company has further secured a number of MoD contracts including works in Kinlochleven and Balmacara, the £2m redevelopment of a Grade II listed building in Broughty Ferry, Dundee, for a private client and infrastructure works in Carluke.

Mr Pedrana also confirmed that UBC is also progressing renewable energy projects in conjunction with two leading international companies which specialise in work on wind and wave power.

He added: 'These are challenging times for the construction industry and UBC Group has not been exempt from the effect, but we believe these recent awards will allow the group to strengthen its position in the market place and move steadily forward.'

Baker hopes special delivery will earn Scotch Pie title

FORT William baker Archie Paterson ensured his pies made the World Scotch Pie Championship this year - by driving them all the way to Dunfermline personally.

Mr Paterson, owner of Nevis Bakery, has won countless awards in the competition - but never the Scotch Pie crown - and he hopes his 'special delivery' to the judges will do the trick.

Either way, Archie's efforts paid off - he was interviewed by the Press Association in a publicity coup that broadcast the Scotch pie message around the world.

Archie said: 'I have entered every year and keep my fingers crossed each time. I drove the pies down from Fort William myself to make sure they got to the right place and in the proper condition.'

Reigning champions, Murdoch



Archie Paterson being interviewed by Press Association in Dunfermline.

Brothers Butchers of Forres, Moray, are among the former winners also in the frame for the coveted title.

The piemen have an anxious wait until next Tuesday, St Andrew's Day, to find out if they have won.

The Scots will be hoping the pie crown does not cross the Border - two English bakers are among the 80 entrants.

A beef with dairy production leads to new fashion venture

A FARMER in Cowal has decided to leave the days of milking cows behind her to establish a new children's outdoor clothing business.

Caroline Young, of Ardyne Farm, near Dunoon, decided to set up Born Outdoors after difficult trading conditions forced her to cease dairy farming earlier this year.

While part of the farm has now gone towards farming for beef and sheep, Caroline decided to take inspiration from, of all places, the government for her new business.

She said: 'Dairy farming became difficult. We had sent our milk to the creamery on Bute but then that closed and there were staffing issues and the price of milk so that's why I decided there was need for a change.'

'Many government initiatives are

drawn from Scandinavian style outdoor nurseries where they spend life outdoors learning the skills they need physically and emotionally to cope successfully throughout life.'

'Being half Norwegian, I understand the need in this country for quality clothes developed specifically for children to get outdoors in all weathers - an essential starting point for children to happily play and learn in our wild Argyll weather.'

Caroline will run the business while looking after her own three young children, but is looking at growing the firm quickly.

She said: 'I am setting up a web shop to sell online. I aim to supply warm underclothing, fleeces, jackets, warm wellies and am happy to source anything any customers would like supplied to the UK.'

Renewable energy sector blueprint to be unveiled

REPORT

by STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

A BLUEPRINT on the future of Scotland's marine renewable energy sector will be launched at a conference in Inverness today (Thursday).

The marine policy paper from trade association Scottish Renewables will set out the industry's recommendations to Scottish Ministers ahead of the Holyrood election next year.

About 250 delegates from across the UK will also discuss major challenges facing marine renewables firms including grid, finance, infrastructure and skills.

The free two-day event, convened to plot a way forward for the sector over the next 30 years and to raise awareness of skills and services required, opened in the Drumossie Hotel yesterday.

Marine energy exhibitors included

Aquatera Ltd, Xodus Aurora, Scrabster Harbour Trust, Voith Hydro Wavegen Ltd and Shearwater Marine Services.

Gareth Davies, managing director of Orkney-based Aquatera and co-chairman of Scottish Renewables' marine work group, said: 'Over the last few years Scotland has made great strides forward in relation to marine energy, however, we are now reaching a phase where co-ordinated action will be an essential foundation for future success.'

'SR's marine policy paper sets out the core requirements needed to allow the marine energy sector to grow to its full potential.'

'These areas include: proving

technology, revenue and finance, timely consenting and leasing and ongoing building of skills and infrastructure capacity,' added Mr Davies.

The conference, organised by Scottish Renewables with support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), is the largest in Scotland.

Johanna Yates of Scottish Renewables said: 'Inverness is the perfect location for those in the marine renewables to come together and discuss how we lay the foundations for the future of this technology, because the Highlands are where a lot of the expertise in this industry and connected industries lie.'

'The conference is an opportunity to engage with how this growing industry will help to meet our

ambitious renewable energy targets.'

'We are delighted to have speakers from established companies such as EMEC (European Marine Energy Centre), Marine Scotland, industry representatives, Skills Development Scotland and the European Investment Bank.'

Norma Hogan, senior development manager for marine renewables at HIE, said: 'We are delighted the Highlands and Islands, the natural home of marine energy, has again been chosen to host Scotland's largest marine energy conference.'

'This fast emerging sector is already generating a great deal of business for companies based in the Highlands and Islands but there are many more companies out there which have the potential to work in this relatively new sector.'

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Rural Post Offices 'under threat'

POST Offices in rural areas of Argyll and the Western Isles could be threatened by moves to privatise Royal Mail.

The claim, by SNP postal affairs spokesman Mike Weir MP, came in the week the privatisation bill was presented to parliament.

If passed, 90 per cent of the service will be sold off to the private sector, with the remainder sold to Royal Mail employees. And while the UK government has said there will be no Post Office closure programme, Mr Weir believes the move could result in some shutting their doors following a possible loss of Royal Mail business.

He explained: 'There's a very real threat to rural post offices, particularly those in small communities scattered throughout Argyll and the Western Isles. Most of these rural post offices are an important part of a local business. The danger is that if we do see post offices suffering and possibly closing, the shop could also close because they are run in tandem.'

Mr Weir said the plan simply shouldn't go ahead, as it won't unburden the public purse of the Royal Mail's £8.4-billion pension deficit.

His comments come as the Scottish Affairs Committee prepares to carry out a review of postal services across the country.

The inquiry is looking for views from both individuals and businesses in rural and urban areas, with the objective of discovering the importance of good postal services.

Quality assured at Highland Game

A SUPPLIER of venison to 550 stores throughout the UK, including Asda, Morrisons, Sainsbury, Tesco and Waitrose, has beaten off competition from celebrity chef Jamie Oliver to win a top award in this year's Quality Food Awards.

Highland Game received the title in the fresh meat, game and poultry section.

Christian Nissen, owner and managing director of the Dundee-based company, said: 'This is a huge achievement and I am ecstatic. Our venison is exclusively selected for the domestic market from approved Highland estates that meet our stringent demands. I am delighted our efforts in offering five-star standards have been recognised.'

The firm is the only Quality Assured Venison processor with British Retail Consortium accreditation in the UK.

New BIDS steering group chairman

RAYMOND Hymes, of the Queen's Hotel, has been elected the new chairman of the Oban BIDS steering group.

Mr Hymes will oversee the process of establishing the mandate for the BIDS company, in conjunction with appointed manager Campbell Cameron.

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MAKE IT AN EASY WINTER

Top prize for building firm

A LOCHABER property developer has won a national prize for its flagship site in Fort William.

Holme Park Scotland Ltd topped the best regional medium development of the year category in the UK-wide Premier Guarantee excellence awards.

Chairman Ken Slater and his team were presented with the commendation at the company's 18-home Glenloch View development on Achintore Road last Monday.

Mr Slater said: 'It's a great reflection on the efforts of the team and the local trades who worked with us on the project. The category was hard fought in a region that includes the whole of Scotland. They should be rightly proud.'



Ken Slater and his team with their award at their Glenloch View development. 10_148home01

Superstore plan for An Aird shinty pitch

FORT William's long-running supermarket saga took another dramatic twist this week after an Edinburgh-based property developer announced its intention to build a huge store on Fort William Shinty Club's An Aird pitch.

Edinburgh-based company CWP say their £15m plan would bring in one of the 'big four' multiples to the Lochaber capital and create 300 new local jobs.

A spokesperson for Highland Council, which leases the pitch to the shinty club, confirmed an initial declaration of interest was lodged this week.

The shinty club, claims CWP, would move to new state-of-the-art training and playing facilities at one one three as yet undisclosed sites in the town.

Involvement
However, it appears the club only heard about the proposal on Tuesday morning - and chairman Richard Gall would not be drawn on the club's involvement in the proposal.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I have nothing to say at this present time.'

The developers' Proposal of Application notice with the council details a 'retail (class 1) food store of 5,500 sqm with associated car parking, petrol filling station, servicing and access arrangements at An Aird.'

Consult
CWP said it would consult widely with the local community, probably early in the New Year, prior to a

REPORT by
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

formal planning application being lodged.

While a named operator is not known at this stage, the proposed store size would be more than double the size of the existing Morrisons and 'will be attractive' to big operators including Tesco, Asda, Co-op and Sainsbury's, says CWP.

Investment
Director Bruce Weir said: 'Should our plans be approved, this would be a win-win for Fort William. The shinty club will get the investment in new facilities it badly needs and a new big name supermarket will bring welcome competition, choice and lower prices for Fort William shoppers in a location on the edge of the town centre.'

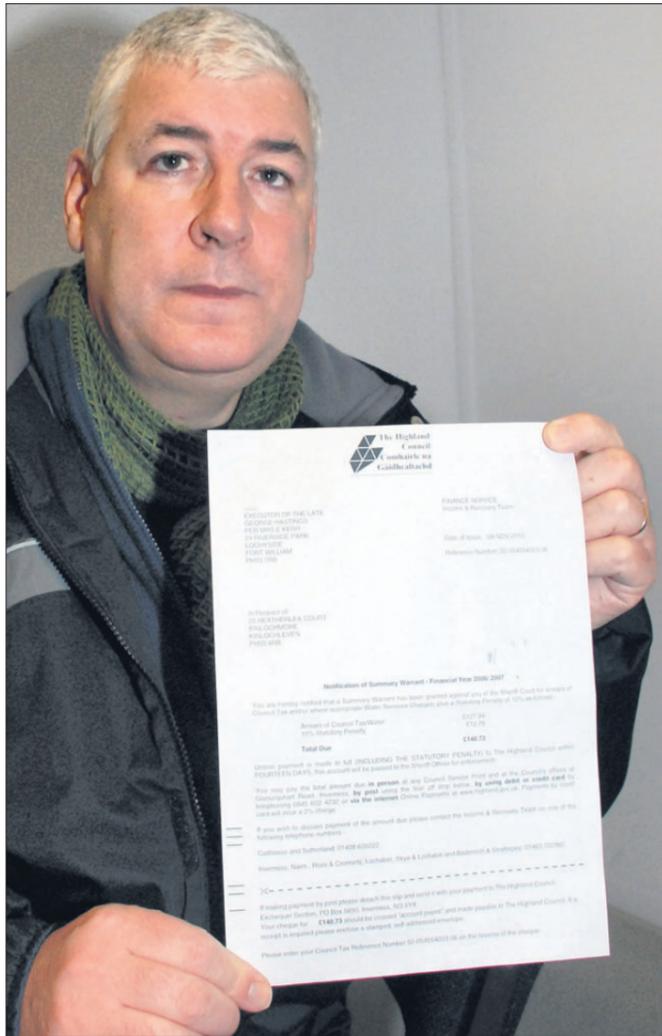
'The £15m investment also comes with the prospect of 300 new jobs for local people, comprising a mixture of full and part-time positions.'

'We will be undertaking a series of public consultations, which will be advertised, as well as offering to meet and fully brief the local community councils and other interested groups.'

Committee

Miller Developments' application for a retail, office and public services development, including a major supermarket, on a 105-acre site on the Blar Mhor estate outside Fort William is due to go before Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee on December 14.

Commenting on the CWP bid, Councillor Bill Clark said: 'This will put the cat among the pigeons.'



George Kerr with the final demand from Highland Council. 10_148george01

Couple's fury over Council Tax demand

Bill sent out FOUR years after late father's death

A LOCHYSIDE couple have had a shock tax demand quashed after cash-strapped Highland Council had a last minute change of heart.

George and Eileen Kerr, of Riverside Park were stunned when they received notification from Highland Council that a summary warrant had been granted against them at the sheriff court for the recovery of £127 Council Tax owed by Eileen's late father George Hastings - four years to the day after he died on November 9 2006.

The demand, addressed to 'the executor of the late George Hastings per Mrs E Kerr' stated the debt had incurred a surcharge of 10 per cent and would be passed to sheriff's officers if not paid within 14 days.

Mr Hastings had been suffering from dementia before he died and spent the last six weeks of his life in Raigmore Hospital - a period George believes relates to the disputed debt.

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

Eileen had been looking after her father for four years prior to his death and travelled with George to Kinlochleven three or four times a week.

Incensed that the council could chase arrears from so long ago to the anguish of his family, George wrote to the council in September asking for an explanation - but received no reply.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It seems they gave some Bob Cratchett character the job of trawling through the records irrespective of the hurt, harm and distress they are going to cause people.'

'Find somebody who is a relative and see if you can get the money out of them seems to be the policy.'

'Who in their right mind sends out a bill four years after the event? How many other people have got letters

like this for relatives in the area?'

'I am only surmising the amount is for the two months council tax from the sheltered housing he was in at Kinlochleven, when he actually in Raigmore Hospital dying. The man never had a debt in his life.'

He added: 'I approve their decision because it saves us a lot of heartache and grief - but it should never have got to this stage.'

A Highland Council spokesperson told *The Oban Times*: 'For data protection reasons the council does not normally comment on individual cases. Council Tax legislation requires that all outstanding liabilities are collected, even from the estate of a deceased person.'

'The Operations Team will be writing directly to the complainant in this case. In view of difficulties with mail going to an incorrect address and the time that has passed, the outstanding balance will be written off.'

Pledge to help apprentices left jobless after Rok collapse

HIGHLAND Council is leading efforts to help young apprentices in Lochaber and elsewhere in the region following the collapse of building giant Rok.

Seventeen plumbing and heating jobs in Lochaber were among hundreds lost when the firm and its subsidiaries Tulloch Transport and Rok Civil Engineering folded

earlier this month. Councillor Donald Cameron told the housing and social work committee in Inverness that job losses included apprentices at the end of their training. Councillor Cameron received assurances the council's direct labour force would be retained and efforts would be made to place unemployed apprentices.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I have concerns with the trend for national companies expanding by swallowing up smaller local firms before going bust. By retaining a council workforce at least we can guarantee local jobs for some local tradesmen and I am pleased at this assurance from the meeting.'

Director of housing and property services Steve Barron confirmed the council's in-house building maintenance team 'had been approached' to consider helping the apprentices.

He added: 'The housing and property building maintenance team, which operates as a trading organisation repairing both housing and other council properties, currently employs 25 apprentices.'

He said: 'The main apprentice training organisations have provided us with details of the trades, locations and stage of training of those apprentices who

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Council staff celebrate SVQ training success

ALMOST 60 people in Argyll and Bute have been awarded a Scottish vocational qualification (SVQ).

The Argyll and Bute Council employees received an SVQ in Health and Social Care levels 3 or 4 or the Leadership and Management of Care Services award.

Many of the candidates received their certificates at the SVQ Assessment Centre's fourth annual awards ceremony.

The SVQ Assessment Centre was established to

promote good social care practice in Argyll and Bute and to give community care staff the chance to achieve the qualification required to apply for registration with the Scottish Social Services Council.

Argyll and Bute Council's chief social work officer, Dougie Dunlop, said: 'SVQs recognise and validate the practice of workers in health and social care, providing opportunities for the individual to demonstrate their competence and reflect on their practice.'

Classic tale to be staged

DORNIE Hall will be the venue for Strangeface Theatre Company's production of Charles Dickens' classic festive tale 'A Christmas Carol' next Wednesday evening.

The audience will be given the chance to go behind the scenes at the end of the show to try their hand with masks and puppets. For details, contact Kyle Pharmacy on 01599 544208.



Cara Bald, store manager of Pets at Home, hands over £700 to John Lloyd, chairman of Argyll Animal Aid, with David MacVicar, who raised £155 getting 'sponged'. 07_148animalaid02

Annual fair raises record sum for Argyll Animal Aid

ANIMAL lovers dug deep to help raise almost £2,000 for a local charity.

Argyll Animal Aid held its annual Christmas Fair at the Corran Halls, Oban, and supporters flocked to the event, the biggest fundraiser in the charity's calendar.

Chairman John Lloyd said that as well as running the bric-a-brac stall and manning the tea and coffee stand, another 36 organisations had taken stalls at the fair.

'We raised £1,970.30 and that's the best we have ever done,' he added.

He thanked everyone who came along to support the fair.

Argyll Animal Aid operates kennels at Benderloch and a

cattery at Balvicar and must raise about £30,000 a year to cover vets bills and other fees.

In addition to the money raised at the fair, the organisation received a further boost on the day.

Cara Bald, store manager of Pets at Home, in Oban, came along to present John with another much needed £700. She explained that £500 had been raised during a fun weekend which included staff in fancy dress, a bric-a-brac stall and tombola plus staff member David MacVicar on the receiving end of wet sponges.

A further £200 was donated by the Pets at Home registered charity.

Victim 'lost feeling in face' after attack

A CORPACH painter and decorator accused of assaulting a man at a party heard his alleged victim has permanently lost feeling on one side of his face following the fracas.

Colin Ross, of 6 Montrose Mansions, denied placing Brian Stewart in a headlock and repeatedly punching him on the face and head to his severe injury and permanent impairment at Dubh MacDonald Place, Inverloch, on September 13 last year.

Mr Stewart, 21, told a jury at Fort William Sheriff Court Ross grabbed him in a headlock before battering his face.

He was detained overnight in Belford Hospital and underwent surgery a week later.

'I still don't have full feeling in the left side of my face. It has got better but the doctor says I won't get full feeling back,' he said.

But Ross, 42, told the court it was Mr Stewart who approached him in the back garden and 'squared-up' to him.

'He was chesting-up to me, I felt vulnerable,' he said, claiming instead Mr Stewart punched him. A verdict was expected yesterday.

Work starts on new Nevis cafe

WORK on a new café bar restaurant at the base of the Nevis Range mountain gondola began this week in a move designed to further broaden the popular centre's appeal among outdoor sports enthusiasts.

The restaurant will replace the existing small coffee shop and is scheduled to open in time for the UK round of the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup on June 4-5 2011.



Left to right, Kilmallie legends Hugh MacIntyre, Frank Sweeney, Derrick Fraser, Willie Brown and Alisdair MacIntyre show off the Camanachd Cup.

Kilmallie shinty stars get hands on coveted trophy decades on

PLAYERS from the 1964 Camanachd Cup winning Kilmallie Shinty team got their hands on the coveted trophy on Saturday for the first time since their historic victory over Inveraray - Kilmallie's solitary triumph in the competition.

The veterans were supporting an open day at Kilmallie Hall in aid of hall improvements. Hall committee chairman John MacDonald told *The Oban Times* three display boards with memorabilia and photos tracing Kilmallie's history since its formation in 1930 were now permanent exhibits.

'We are trying to raise money to upgrade the hall equipment, for a new heating system,' he said. 'We we also need a new roof skin, which will cost between £90,000 and £120,000.'

The event raised £820 with further donations to come.

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More photos available online at www.obantimes.co.uk

OT

Fishing vessel towed to safety as lifeboat crews called out

TWO WEST Highland lifeboat crews were called out for what turned out to be false alarm last Friday morning. Kyle and Mallaig lifeboats were alerted at 10.30am to reports that a fishing vessel with two people on board had broken down off Kylerhea, but were only on the water for a matter of minutes before being informed the stricken boat had been towed to shore by another fishing vessel. Conditions were calm at the time.

Police files

A FREESTANDING metal sign was damaged outside Fort William Library, Airs Crossing, between 3pm on Friday November 12 and 9am on Monday November 15.

□□□

A SMALL pink girl's bicycle with stabilizers was stolen from an address at Ross Place, Fort William sometime between October and Monday November 15.

□□□

A VEHICLE was damaged whilst parked in the area of the Old Post Office, Ballachulish between 4pm on Saturday, November 20, and 10am on Sunday November 21.

Anyone with knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 or the confidential line on 01397 702000.

Museum and archive survey launched

WESTERN Isles Council is seeking views on a new museum and archive service for the Outer Hebrides. The proposals, which are being developed with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, would create a hub at Lews Castle, Stornoway, with links to local heritage facilities and sites throughout the islands. The survey can be accessed at www.tinyurl.com/museumnailean.



George Graham: Northern Constabulary's new Chief Constable.

Board appoints new police chief constable

NORTHERN Joint Police Board has appointed Dumfries and Galloway Deputy Chief Constable George Graham to be Northern Constabulary's new Chief Constable, to succeed Ian Latimer on his retirement. Mr Graham joined the Dumfries and Galloway force in 1982 and has been second in command since 2006. NJPB convener, Councillor Norman Macleod, said: 'We look forward to welcoming him to the area and working with Mr Graham to continue to lead a high performing force, on the retirement of Mr Latimer in April 2011.'



International Masters light middleweight champ Yassine El Maachi, centre, and sparring partner Joe Rea have been training at Lochaber Phoenix A.B.C.

World's top boxers pack a punch in Lochaber

LOCHABER is punching above its weight as Outdoor Capital of the UK - as a training base for some of the world's top boxers.

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

International Masters light middleweight champ Yassine 'The Showman' El Maachi and British heavyweight champ Derek Chisora are currently pounding forest trails round Fort William to prepare for title fights in London and Germany next month.

The best place I have ever been in my life. I can't believe the scenery, and the people are really nice. I used to think Irish people were the friendliest, but the Scottish are just the same.'

The fighters, their entourages and sparring partners were invited to the area by Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club and have been granted unlimited use of the club's gym on Ben Nevis Industrial Estate. Club boxers have looked on in awe at the daily high-octane sparring sessions.

Club sponsor, Letterfinlay Lodge Hotel co-owner Ian Smith, organised the link up. 'It's not just giving the club a huge boost, it's good for the Outdoor Capital (Lochaber) as well,' he said.

The Highland residency has proved hugely successful as a sanctuary from big city media intrusion and Moroccan El Maachi reckons Lochaber is the ideal training location.

'Something could really spring from this - a real no-nonsense boxing camp for top-flight fighters where people can come up here to get away from all the pressure of the city and the media. The boxers are out there training in the hills and forests and nobody bothers them. They are world-class - it's the equivalent of Wayne Rooney coming to Fort William to train.'

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Lochaber is beautiful. It's

LPBC official Steve Docherty escorts the visiting

boxers to the gym daily and praised El Maachi and sparring partner, Ballymena professional Joe Rea.

'They have taken time to make friends with the boys which has been a great thrill for the younger members,' he said.

'A bond has certainly been formed there, especially after the whole training camp supported our local boxers at the recent home show in the Nevis Centre.'

'All the visiting boxers have praised our new gym and we can't thank enough the local people and businesses who have helped us.'

He added: 'There has been talk of some more big time boxers visiting in the coming months.'

El Maachi takes on former undefeated WBC Latino champion Jimmy Colas from France at York Hall on December 4, while Chisora challenges undisputed IBF and WBO world heavyweight champ Wladimir Klitschko in Mannheim on December 11.

Local police cuts limited to closure of one station

LOCHABER will escape the worst of swingeing cuts to Northern Constabulary's budget if, as expected, they are ratified at a crunch police board meeting, according to the area's top cop.

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

In a briefing to a joint ward forum in Fort William, Chief Inspector John Chisholm confirmed cutbacks locally would be limited to closing Spean Bridge station, while Fort William would have an enhanced role as one of three 24/7 call handling centres across the Highlands.

'At the times of peak demand, all the calls from Skye and the Western Isles will be diverted to Fort William Police Station. 'I am quite satisfied we have the skills and capability to take on these extra duties that are coming our way,' he said.

Northern Joint Police Board meets in Inverness tomorrow to discuss recommendations from Chief Constable Ian Latimer to close 16 police stations, withdraw night time reception staff from a further ten stations and axe dozens of civilian posts to meet budget cuts in 2011-12.

'The proposal is to close the station and to realise whatever savings that brings in. Constable Grant's wife will be made redundant as the station cleaner. 'I will be watching this like a hawk, but I do not anticipate any reduction in service to Spean Bridge. There will be no lessening of service provided to that community.'

Mr Chisholm told the forum that Lochaber had escaped relatively lightly - and reassured concerned Spean Bridge residents that PC Grant Anderson,

Pointing out that Ross-shire had taken 'a much bigger hit' than Lochaber, Mr Chisholm

added: 'I had concerns that civilian staff jobs would be vulnerable, but Fort William has been identified as a 24-hour station.'

in future operate front desk reception services only between 8am and 8pm. Night time calls will be centralised to Inverness, Wick and Fort William.

'The new station at Glencoe will also be open in three or four weeks and hopefully will serve us well for 30 or 40 years.'

The improved picture means making long-serving officers compulsorily redundant to save cash could be avoided. Earlier projections that 20 constables would need to be cut from the force's 800 officers are also under review.

Abrupt end to trial as man admits attack

THE TRIAL of three Lochaber men in accused of assaulting a man outside a Fort William nightclub came to an abrupt halt after one of the men admitted carrying out the attack.

REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK fort@obantimes.co.uk

Neil Boyd, of 29 Camanachd Crescent, Fort William changed his plea after a second witness gave evidence against him at Fort William Sheriff Court.

period, Mr Moir said, he was punched in the face a number of times. He said: 'I remember going down and getting hit. That's all I could feel.'

Boyd, aged 20, pled guilty to assaulting 23-year-old Gary Moir at the door of Subway, High Street by repeatedly punching him on the head on December 27 last year.

Mr Moir was left with a swollen nose and a burst top lip. During evidence being given by a second witness, Kirsteen Quinn, Boyd's solicitor Hamish Melrose asked fiscal Simon Crabb for a short adjournment in order to discuss matters with his client. When proceedings resumed Mr Melrose informed Sheriff Douglas Small that Boyd was pleading guilty.

Shaun Corrigan, aged 24, of Monadh Dubh, Keil, Ardgour and James Crighton, aged 21, of Keil House, Ardgour had their not guilty pleas accepted by the Crown.

His client, Mr Melrose told the court, had only 'vague recollections' of the night, but 'now accepts he was responsible for the attack.'

Mr Moir told the court he had been waiting outside Ossians nightclub for his girlfriend and started talking to a group of three men. He identified Boyd and Mr Corrigan as being two of the men he spoke to. After talking for a brief

Calling the beating 'an unprovoked assault', Sheriff Douglas Small fined Boyd £400 and ordered him to pay Mr Moir £250 compensation.



Channel swimmer Morag pictured with her trophy.

Morag is Channel's oldest swimmer

CORPACH long-distance swimmer Morag Hughes has been honoured after becoming the oldest Scottish person to swim the English Channel.

Morag travelled to Dover with husband Ronnie for the Channel Swimming Association's annual awards dinner to be presented with the trophy for the most meritorious channel swim by a member of the British Long Distance Swimming Association.

Morag, aged 54, swam the Channel in a time of 18 hours 31 minutes in July with Ronnie cheering her on from the support boat.

The marathon swim, which raised money for Cancer Research UK, was far from uneventful, Ronnie told *The Oban Times*. Morag was forced to turn back towards Dover to avoid a huge Russian tanker mid-Channel and a powerful tidal eddy near the French coast swept her away from shore until she managed to break free and reach land.

Crash victim's family will march as part of safety drive

A LOCHABER family who lost their daughter and her close friend in a tragic accident are stepping up their campaign for road improvements.

John Bryden hopes local people will join him in a march from his home at Craiglea, Lochailort,

along two-and-a-half miles of the A830 Road to the Isles to where his daughter Kirsty and her friend Roddy MacInnes died after their car plunged into Loch Eilt on September 28.

12.30pm on December 5.

The march, organised by Sue Currie, of Arisaig, will be held at

Mr Bryden told *The Oban Times* he hoped in excess of 100 people would take part in the 'Save our Souls' walk. The bereaved father and wife Jan have been campaigning for a crash barrier ever since the tragedy.

Clearing the way in winter

HIGHLAND Council has published snow clearing and gritting priorities for local roads online as forecasters predict snow for the region.

Leaflets outlining route and footpath priorities and providing advice and contact numbers for motorists can be viewed at www.highland.gov.uk/winterwatch.

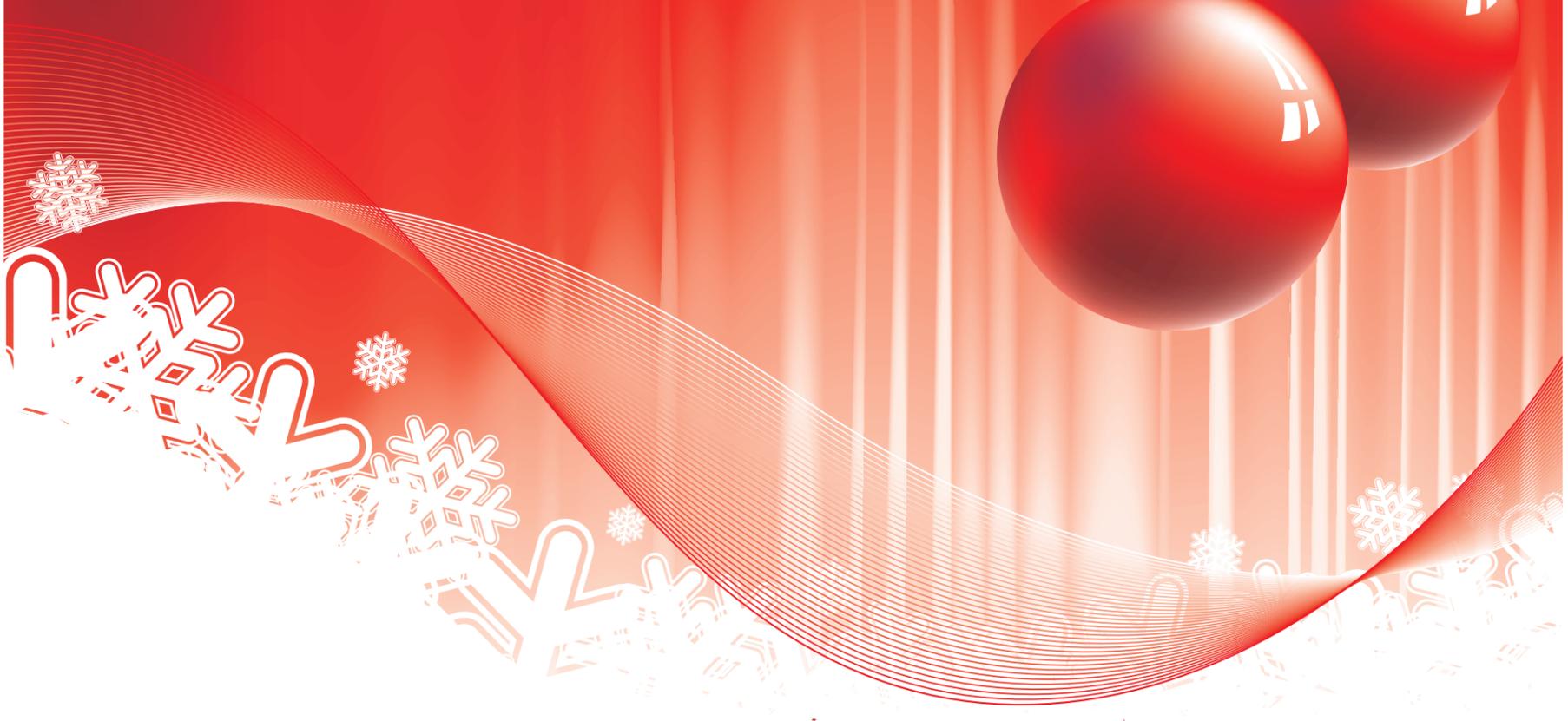
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Prepare your home for Christmas

Shopping for the Christmas trimmings should be fun. It is an excuse to purchase all sorts of pretty items with which to decorate your home, the tree and the table.

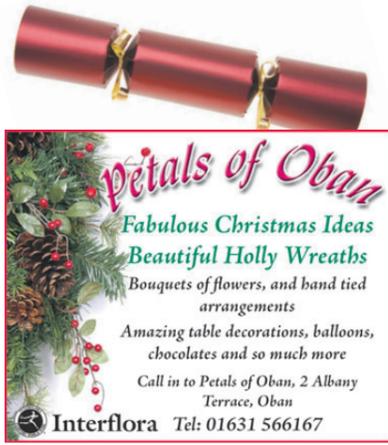
Some of the greenery lasts quite well though, holly is a good example, however, use artificial berries instead of the real thing. Holly berries are not safe to eat and as holly without berries is generally less expensive, that could be a bonus.

Mistletoe is another plant with inedible berries. Again if there are children in the house, it's probably better to buy an artificial sprig or two, it does still look very good. For that added touch of colour, look for a selection of pot plants in flower or a poinsettia with its colourful foliage.

The tree is the other main living greenery we place in our homes at Christmas and little needs be said other than choose your tree carefully for shape and size. A bucket weighted with bricks and decorated with crepe paper is the best support for the tree, though there are some very handy gadgets on the market, designed to support the tree alone and unaided.

Artificial, manufactured trimmings of course can go up as soon as you wish. Set pieces are well to the fore this year. Fantastic arrangements of dried fruit, flowers and artificial branches, decorated with tiny baubles, bells and spangles make eye-catching focal points in any room.

If you are looking for trimmings for Christmas this year, you've a pleasant surprise ahead. Locally the selection is bigger, better and more imaginative than ever before and the Christmas Market is certainly worth a visit.



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Top tips for looking good in the Christmas Party Season:

1. Try and get the recommended eight hours sleep each night
2. After a night of excess partying sleeping with an extra pillow can help reduce fluid build up round the eyes which causes puffiness and bags.
3. Splashing cold water on your face will tighten and brighten the skin, making you look more awake
4. Keep your skin well moisturised
5. Looking good starts from the inside, so take a multivitamin to supplement your diet.
6. Use party feet inside your heels for a long night dancing.
7. Preparing for another party and needing an instant awakening, then turn the shower temperature to cold for 1 minute before you get out.
8. Fake it! Exfoliate skin regularly, keep well moisturised and apply fake tan for that healthy glow.
9. The morning after may make you feel sluggish and crave stodgy foods, try and avoid this and replace the lost nutrients by having some fruit as part of your breakfast.
10. All that over indulgence over Christmas can be very unforgiving on our figures! We know- we've been there and it takes so long to shift after the season is over. Don't leave it til the New Year and get yourself into shape ready for all those Christmas parties, our local gyms offer fantastic advice on nutrition and also offer a 6 week fitness plan.



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Perfect gift ideas

Christmas shopping is one of those inevitable activities we all try to avoid until the very last minute. We even try to avoid it completely if we can which is strange because it provides a truly valid excuse for wandering around the shops and spending money on all those things that will make family and friends happy. So by every normal rule in the book, it should be fun!

Fortunately there is an answer and one that has more than just the one big advantage - go Christmas shopping early.

The earlier you do your Christmas shopping the less likely it is you will encounter large crowds. This is because the majority of people are creatures of habit, and the habit of last minute shopping is very hard to shake.

However the earlier you do your Christmas shopping the more likely it is you will find exactly the gifts you seek, in the correct sizes and colours or makes. And if you don't find them in stock you still have time to place a special order.

This year don't wait about for the annual rush to begin. Don't be one of the crowds frantically trying to get everything in. Don't be pushed into buying what you don't want because there is no alternative. Be like the early bird, shop early and you'll get, if not the worm, at least the best Christmas goods you require with the least hassle.

The Oban Times have put together some ideas and suggestions on what to get your loved one's this Christmas.



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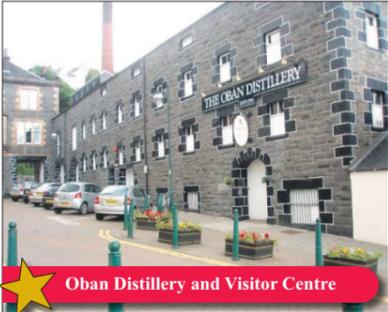
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You are cordially invited to the "Switch On" Ceremony and we look forward to welcoming you there.

'Light up a Life' 2010

In memory of (name)

Dedication:

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(maximum of twenty words)

Please return your form by Friday 10th December 2010 to: Friends of Oban Hospice, c/o ABCR, 120 George Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5NT

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Please tick the box if you require a receipt for your donation

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The Oban Times Caravan will be in Tesco's car park from **Mon. 6th Dec. till Sat. 11th Dec. from 10am till 3.30pm** you may return your forms/donations to there if you wish.

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Festive Dining

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Mince Pies

Ingredients
 1 1/4 lb (560 g) mincemeat
 12 oz (350 g) plain flour
 3 oz (75 g) lard
 3 oz (75 g) butter
 pinch of salt

For the top:
 a little milk
 icing sugar

Pre-heat the oven to gas mark 6, 400°F (200°C).

Method

Make up the pastry by sifting the flour and salt into a mixing bowl and rubbing the fats into it until the mixture resembles fine crumbs. Then add just enough cold water to mix to a dough that leaves the bowl clean. Leave the pastry to rest in a polythene bag in the refrigerator for 20-30 minutes, then roll half of it out as thinly as possible and cut it into two dozen 3 inch (7.5 cm) rounds, gathering up the scraps and re-rolling. Then do the same with the other half of the pastry, this time using the 2 1/2 inch (6 cm) cutter. Now grease the patty tins lightly and line them with the larger rounds. Fill these with mincemeat to the level of the edges of the pastry. Dampen the edges of the smaller rounds of pastry with water and press them lightly into position to form lids, sealing the edges. Brush each one with milk and make three snips in the tops with a pair of scissors. Bake near the top of the oven for 25-30 minutes until light golden brown. Cool on a wire tray and sprinkle with icing sugar. When cool, store in an airtight container.

Equipment

You will also need one (or two) trays of 2 1/2 inch (6 cm) patty tins, one fluted 3 inch (7.5 cm) pastry cutter and one 2 1/2 inch (6 cm) cutter.



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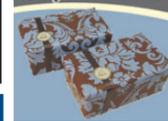
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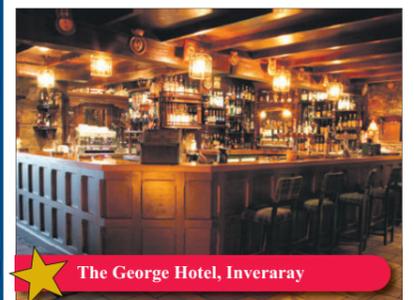
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P.S. Don't forget - we'll gift wrap all our boxes free, as our Christmas present to you!



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the pierhouse Hotel and seafood restaurant

Roxys, Oban



Grants the Butcher, Taynuilt



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the pierhouse Christmas lunch & dinner menu

Lunch & dinner
Thurs 16th December
Weds 22nd December
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Goats cheese & caramelized red onion tart (V)
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Roast goose with traditional trimmings
Supreme of Salmon with pink peppercorn sauce
Medallions of Beef in red wine
Feuilleton of chestnut & vegetables (V)

Christmas pudding with brandy clotted cream
Tarte tatin with aniseed ice cream
A selection of fine Scottish cheeses
Cafetiere of coffee or pot of tea & mints

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Whats On Xmas Guide



Pantomimes have a very long and distinguished history and though their origins lie outside of this country, we are probably the only nation that now observes their performance so they have developed into a very British tradition well removed from their ancient roots.

The one thing the modern pantomime shares with even its ancient predecessors, is the obligatory novelty of the production which must, if it is to be a success, abound in gorgeous costumes, extravagant effects, fantastic scenery, lots of music, singing and variety plus the obligatory slapstick scenes bound together by a very loose fairy tale interspersed with jokes and stories of dubious taste. In short, perfect family entertainment!

Christmas is not complete without supporting your local drama groups, remember to book your tickets now for Jack & the Bean Stalk.

This is an English tale about a boy called Jack who lives with his mother, they are very poor. One day Jack sells the cow for some beans. His mother is angry, but the beans are magic! The beans however are magical and grow into a stalk that reaches the sky..... enjoy this tale of how the young boy climbs the stalk and discovers a whole new world.

TICKETS SELLING FAST

Benderloch & North
Connell Drama Club
Pantomime
JACK & THE BEANSTALK

9th/10th/11th Dec @ 7.30pm
Matinee 11th Dec @ 2.30pm

Corran Halls, Oban

Book Now on 01631 567333



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DECEMBER, Fri. 3rd Karaoke, Sat. 4th Eriskay Lilt
Sun. 5th Kevin Fraser (afternoon)
Fri. 10th Karaoke, Sat. 11th Achinaba
Sun. 12th Sandra McBeth (afternoon)
Fri. 17th Karaoke, Sat. 18th Ballochmyle
Sun. 19th Ballochmyle 3pm-8pm
Thurs. 23rd Karaoke, Christmas Eve Kevin Fraser
Christmas Day Willies Disco
Christmas Day FREE Hot Buffet from 4pm

Boxing Day Ballochmyle
Hogmanay – Willies Disco
1st and 2nd Crooked reel
Tel: 01631 562522



Xmas Puzzles



Sudoku

			8					
		8		1				9
4			5					
		2	7		5			8
							6	1
	7			4			3	
	9	1						3
5			2		4			8
				7				



Solution

9	6	1	8	7	5	4	8	2
8	7	4	1	6	2	9	3	5
3	5	2	4	9	8	1	6	7
2	3	5	9	4	7	6	7	8
1	9	7	8	2	6	5	3	4
4	4	6	3	5	9	3	9	3
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5	5	8	1	7	3	2	9	9
4	5	2	6	4	3	8	2	6

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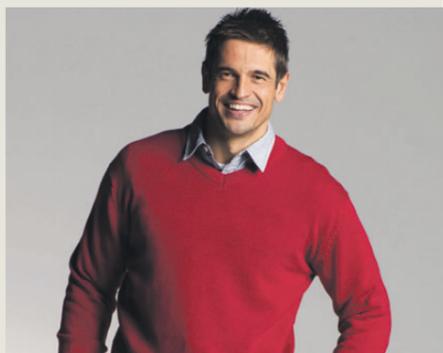
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Bells	Lord
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Boxing Day	Mass
Candy	Pie
Cards	Port
Carol	Red
Cedar	Sack
Comet	Season
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Mairi and Steaphanaidh: through to the finals.

Youngsters through to folk awards final

SKYE youngsters Mairi and Steaphanaidh Chaimbeul have won through to the finals of the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Awards for the second year running.

Mairi and Steaphanaidh were one of four acts among 10 competing in the semi-finals in Kendal chosen for the finals at The Brewery, London, on February 7. Mike Harding, who broadcasts the awards annually on his Radio 2 Show, hosted the Kendal event and was 'astounded'

by the quality of Mairi and Steaphanaidh's musicianship. The talented sisters said: 'We are delighted and honoured to have been selected for this award. It came as a big surprise as all the other acts were fantastic. We're very excited about going to London for the big folk awards in February. It'll give us another chance to dress up!'

Mairi and Steaphanaidh, born and brought up on Sleat, now live in Kyle and attend the prestigious St Mary's Music

School in Edinburgh. Their father, well-known Gaelic poet and novelist Angus Peter Campbell, is originally from South Uist but spent his teenage years in the Oban area and attended Oban High School. Their mother is the sculptor and artist Lyndsay Campbell.

Mairi has also qualified for the final of the BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of Year 2011, which will be held at Celtic Connections in Glasgow in

January. She was a finalist in that same competition last year as well as being - uniquely - a finalist also in the BBC Radio Scotland Young Jazz Musician of the Year in 2010.

The girls, we are told, are fond of coming to Argyll for their holidays, having spent time last year in the Loch Etive area.

Previous winners of the Young Folk Awards include Bodega from Sgoil Chiùil na Gàidhealtachd at Plockton.

Leisure correspondent

Louise Lee

llee@obantimes.co.uk 01631 568023



Fashionable fun!



Pupils and parents of Park Primary School helped to raise nearly £1,000 at a fashion show in Oban's M&Co store. The funds will go towards the £7,000 needed for the primary seven trip to Ardentiny Outdoor Centre in April. Organiser Carol Johnston thanked everyone who helped and Argyll College for doing the primary seven girls' hair and make-up. 07_t47fash01

GLAMOROUS models graced the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on Thursday as part of a fund-raising fashion show for Oban's Church of Scotland.

Organised by Pauline Cameron of new Oban fashion consultancy Tonic, the show featured a mix of contemporary and classic styles.

A range of vintage outfits also took to the catwalk, with a 1930s garment the oldest on display.

Pauline said: 'The church raised about £800 from the tickets on the door. The models and the audience all seemed to enjoy themselves so it went well.'



Caitlyn Gray models her outfit on the catwalk at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on Thursday. 15_t48fashion1

Lions' 'thank-you' to building suppliers



Oban and Lorn Lions Club secretary John Lloyd presents Craig McPherson, manager at Jewson Builders Merchants in Oban, with a certificate of appreciation to thank the company for its support and contribution to the lions club throughout the year.

Conductor realises long-held ambition

OBAN Gaelic Choir conductor Sileas Sinclair realised a long-held ambition to take her choir to new places.

The evening called A Fresh Blas saw Còisir Ghàidhlig an Obain, one of the oldest in Gaeldom, sing contemporary songs, modern arrangements of traditional tunes and sit comfortably in the world of pipes, clarsach, percussion, fiddle and box and even electric guitar.

Sileas said: 'The songs chosen for this programme have either been written, recorded or arranged by contemporary artists who have been an inspiration to a new generation.'

Joining the choir on stage were Rachel Walker, nominated for Gaelic Singer of the Year. With her on stage, a richness of musical talent from Lochaber, Skye and Lorn; Finlay Wells on guitar, fiddler Deirdre MacDonald, bassist Craig Sinclair, Hugh MacCallum on percussion, youngster Rebecca Hill on clarsach and Hector Henderson on pipes and whistle.

The Boy Band, the male voice choir deserved the loudest applause of the evening with their moving singing of the beautiful Fill ò Ro, a song of unrequited love by William Ross of Skye.

Complementing the choral singing of the full choir were energetic sets from the band



Soloist Rachel Walker singing at Oban Gaelic Choir's concert A Fresh Blas.

and haunting solos from Rachel. Soothing lullabies, songs of the sea and uplifting spirituals provided a rich and varied programme and the exuberant march, strathspey and reel, Bodach Innse a' Chroth, 'S Toigh Leam Fhain and O tha'n Tombaca Daor had the audience dancing in their seats and performers almost bouncing off the stage.

Unquestionably, Sileas proved at the weekend that Gaelic choirs can play a full part both in traditional and modern culture.

Skye Piping Society recital

SKYE Piping Society is having a recital in Breakish Hall tomorrow night (Friday) at 8pm.

Guest piper is Willie MacCallum, originally from Campbeltown but now based in Bearsden. Willie is one of the foremost competing pipers in the world today and has

won the Glenfiddich world championship eight times. He also is in great demand as a recitalist, adjudicator and teacher and has five solo recordings to his credit. Several of his students have gained high placings at the major piping gatherings at Oban, Inverness and London.

Special welcome for Mary

AN UNUSUALLY low turnout of spectators at the November recital of the Netherlom Piping Society disappointed organisers - but they had a special welcome for their biggest supporter.

Mary Ferguson, who attends every recital, recently celebrated her 100th birthday and was presented with a gift by society president Alistair Dewar and piper Iain Hurst at the monthly recital last Wednesday.

Alistair said: 'The recital was a poorly attended event, which was disappointing particularly

as all the performers were local pipers.

'However, we were delighted to see Mary there and were very pleased to present a birthday gift to a very important honorary member.'

Those who attended were treated to an entertaining evening with high quality piping.

Alistair added: 'The Lorn area is fortunate that it has an abundance of talented pipers, who would more than hold their own in any piping arena.'



Mary Ferguson is presented with a gift by the society president Alistair Dewar, left, and piper Iain Hurst. 07_t48mary01

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Published on 9th December
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Tickets £5/£3 Reserve on 01852 500746
Buy online www.thebooth.co.uk

Christmas Fair
Craignish Village Hall, Ardferr
Gifts, local farm produce, baking, crafts & cards.
Sunday 28th November
12.00 - 3.00pm
£2 entry includes drink and burger.

Christmas Fayre
Saturday 4th December 2010
12.00 noon - 4.00 pm
Oban Bowling Club
Dalriach Road, Oban
Stitching, Crafts, Jewellery, Home Baking, Tea and Coffee
All welcome
For further information please contact Anne Campbell 07979 510830

Lorn School of Dance 'Look who's dancing!' **Dance Show**
Friday 3rd December 7.30pm
St Columba's Hall, Oban
All welcome
Tickets £3, concessions £1.50 at the door

Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club Monthly Club Night
Thursday 2nd December 2010
Argyllshire Gathering Hall 7.30pm
Audience and Players Welcome
Special Guest Artist Fraser McGlynn
Admission £3
Come Along and Enjoy the Music

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SATURDAY 27TH NOVEMBER & TUESDAY 7TH DECEMBER
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10-30am Until 4pm
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Find us at top of Argyll St. In Church Hall & Hall next Door IN AID OF CHURCH FUNDS

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SUNDAY 28th NOVEMBER
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In Craignish Village Hall, Ardferr
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Contact Ishbel MacNicol 01852 500277

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Dunmar Court, Soroba Rd, Oban 2-4pm
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All welcome
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Connell Village Hall on
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Local crafts, refreshments. Playgroup craft table, face painting
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EXHIBITION
Christmas Card Design Competition 2010
Lorn Primary Schools Selected Entries and Winners
St John's Cathedral, George Street, Oban 22 Nov. - 5 Dec.
Entry Free
Sponsored by Rotary Club of Oban and Home-Start Lorn and MacQueen Bros. Charitable Trust.

To advertise in the WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD
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Friday 26 November > Markie Duns	Pat's Bday Bash with Chris Suckle
Saturday 27 November > Markie Duns	Wallace
Friday 3 December > Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Country and Western Party Night
Friday 3 December > Markie Duns	Tim O'Connor
Saturday 4 December > Markie Duns	Tim O'Connor
Sunday 5 December > Markie Duns	Chris Suckle
Friday 10 December > Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Gunna Sound (with DJs)
Saturday 11 December > Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Dodgy Ground (with DJs)
Friday 17 December > Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Skerryvore Opening Show (check website)
Friday 17 December > Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Skerryvore Late Show (check website)

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Crofters' bull hire scheme gets ready for another season

THE Crofting Cattle Improvement Scheme has now opened to applications for the 2011-12 season.

The scheme is open to groups of at least two crofters within all crofting counties and provides good quality, high health bulls in areas where it is impractical to keep bulls and over winter them and where no alternative hiring facility exists.

The cost of a hire is £1,281.25 if the bull is over-wintered at the Commission's stud farms in Inverness and £922.50 or £973.75 if wintered on the township, subject to farm staff approval. Prices have increased this year to reflect the 2.55 per cent rise

in VAT, which groups may be able to reclaim.

The breeds of bulls supplied under the scheme currently include Limousin, Simmental, Aberdeen Angus, Charolais, Shorthorn, Luine, Salers and Highland although scheme organisers the Crofters Commission have indicated that if demand for any other breed was demonstrated, they would consider it.

If you wish further information please contact John Cowan, Stud Farm Manager, Knocknagael Farm, Inverness - Telephone 01463 231261 or by email on john.cowan@crofterscommission.org.uk

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Overlooking Stewart Green and within a few minutes walk from the town centre this detached villa offers generously proportioned family accommodation at a very attractive asking price.

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- Cloakroom
- Lounge
- Dining room/Bedroom 4
- Dining Kitchen
- 3 bedrooms (master en-suite)
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Three bedroom detached bungalow occupying an elevated position between Tarbert and Ardrishaig, affording tremendous views across Loch Fyne.

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Quality calves remain in demand at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 516 weaned calves and store cattle plus 138 Over 30 Month cattle at Dingwall last Wednesday when quality calves met an excellent demand at an increased trade from the last sale however averages failed to reflect the good trade due to a mixture of store, outwintered and traditional breeds of cattle throughout.

Bullocks averaged 168.3p and sold to 225p per kg for a 320kg Charolais cross from Wester Tomloan,

United Auctions sold 506 store cattle and calves, 108 breeding cattle and 207 cows and 1,368 store sheep at Stirling last Wednesday. Bullocks averaged 146.53p (-1.67p) and sold to 185.3p per kg for

Glenfermess, and £840 for a 560kg Charolais cross from 16 Balvaired, Muir of Ord. Heifers averaged 158.9p and sold to 206p per kg for a pen of 301kg Charolais crosses from Wester Tomloan, and £775 for a 510kg Limousin cross from 7 Balranald, Lochmaddy. Young bulls averaged 153.6p and sold to 178.1p per kilo for a pair of 205kg Simmental crosses from Cuilaneilan, Kinlochewe, and £595 for a 400kg Aberdeen Angus from Craigard, Bonar Bridge.

Limousin from Plan and £890 for a 606kg Aberdeen Angus from Ballingry. Heifers averaged 144.67p (-0.83p) and sold to 173.7p per kg and £820 for a 472kg Limousin cross from Newton of

Stronachullin ewes to £66 at Caledonian Marts

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had forward 532 store lambs and feeding ewes at Stirling on Monday when feeding ewes sold to £66 and £50 for Suffolks from Stronachullin and £41 for Blackfaces from Glenturret.

Lambs sold to £64.50 and £60 for Texels from Ballinrain and £59 for Beltex from Turdees. Mule ewe lambs from Auldmurroch sold to £56 with Blackface lambs from the same home to £45.

Logierait. Limousin cross heifers with heifer calves at foot from The Ross sold to £1620, while Ledrismore sold an Aberdeen Angus stock cow in-calf to an Aberdeen Angus bull to £780.



The evening sale of selected Texel females was topped by an in-lamb gimmer from the Cowal flock.

Gimmer sells to 13,000gns at Drimsynie Texel night

DRIMSYPNIE Estate, Lochgilphead, hosted an evening sale of select Texel females to celebrate the Scottish Texel Club's 25th anniversary.

Sale topper
Leading the sale was a gimmer from Drimsynie owners Keith, Allan and Roy Campbell which sold to 13,000gns. The gimmer, by the 30,000gns Castleknoye Matchmaker and out of a home-bred ewe by Baltier Kracker, was sold, in-lamb to Kelso Pavarotti, to Trinidad Investments for their flock based at Haywards Heath, Sussex.

Trinidad Investments also paid 8,500gns to Keith Jamieson of Woodhead, Annan for his in-lamb gimmer out of the home-bred ewe

Annal Limmy. Sale bids reached 3,800gns three times as the Campbell's took an in-lamb gimmer from David Arkle's Cauldcoat flock. Out of a Castleknoye Jack Daniels-sired show ewe, she is by Straidarran Obama and in-lamb to the Tophill knockout son, Deveronvale Oddie.

The Campbell's then paid the same price to Jimmy Warnock, Sandilands for a gimmer in-lamb to Foundry Murphy's Law, a top purchased in Ireland for 14,000 euro.

Jim Innes, Strathbogie, Huntly also paid 3,800gns for a gimmer from the Teiglum flock of Jim and Helen Clark. Out of a Tammamoney Lynbrook daughter and in-lamb to the Rascarrel

Panther son, Teiglum Rembrandt, the gimmer was reserve at Biggar and first at Perth.

Charity fundraiser
Allan Cullen, Craighead, Carluke sold the top priced ewe lamb when a daughter of Craighed Masterpiece sold at 2,000gns to John McKerron, Grougfoot, Linlithgow, while David McKerron, Nochnary, Fife purchased a ewe lamb by Procters Playboy from the Clarks of Teiglum.

The evening also raised funds for Cancer Research and Children in Need, with auctioneers Lawrie and Symington adding their commission from the sale to monies raised from a charity auction and raffle to bring the total to near £8,000.



Caledonian Marts had an entry of 1,285 store sheep plus a small entry of cattle at Oban Livestock Centre on Tuesday 16.148sheep01

Lismore lambs sell to £65.50 at Oban Livestock Centre sale

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had forward 1285 store lambs and feeding ewes plus 43 store cattle, cast cows, over 30 month cattle and suckled calves.

Store lambs sold to £65.50 for Suffolks from A MacColl, Ballinackillichan, Isle of Lismore while Blackface lambs from Achalic sold to £62 and to £61 for Suffolks from Tyree and Continentals from Dalrannoch.

Cheviot lambs from 119 Craigston, Barra sold to £60.50 with Mules from Ballinackillichan and Texels from Oban

Seil to £60. Mule ewe lambs from Tyree sold to £59 and the same home sold Blackfaces to £47, while Callart sold Texels to £56 and Tenga sold Swales to £41.

Feeding ewes sold to £75 for Suffolks from A Campbell, Achnacreebeg, North Connel and to £72 for Mules from Achnacreebeg, Lismore. Cross ewes from Achnacreebeg fetched £69, with Blackfaces from Ardachy to £56 and Swales from Oban Seil to £54.

A small entry of bullocks sold to £500

for a 300kg Limousin from Ballevoulin, Isle of Tiree, with Simmental cross bullocks from East Hynish, Tiree to £485. British Blue crosses from Dunach fetched £470.

Simmental cross cows from East Hynish sold to £645, with Luings from Ardencaple to £565 and Aberdeen Angus cows from Achinreir, Barcaldine to £540. Cast cows sold to £740 for a 720kg Limousin from Tyree, Benderloch.

OTM bullocks sold to £690 for a 630kg Shorthorn from Rossal Estate, Mull.

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**HARBOURS ACT 1964 (AS AMENDED)
PROPOSED CALEDONIAN MARITIME ASSETS (PORT ELLEN) HARBOUR REVISION ORDER 201[X]**

- Notice is hereby given that Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited ("the Company") has applied to the Scottish Ministers to make a Harbour Revision Order under section 14 of the Harbours Act 1964 ("the 1964 Act").
- The objects of the proposed order are to empower the Company to construct and maintain works in Loch Leodanais and on adjacent land at Port Ellen in the district of Argyll and Bute at the Company's ferry harbour. The works will substantially upgrade the existing facilities and comprise land reclamation; a new jetty and linkspan; a new terminal building for passenger and baggage handling, sales areas, management offices, staff welfare facilities and storage areas; a new building for ticketing and check-in facilities for passenger and freight vehicles; hard standing for the parking of vehicles and a solid faced quay wall (including berths for vessels) enclosing and reclaiming land to be surfaced and used as a general quayside working space.
- The Scottish Ministers have by letter dated 23 June 2010 informed the Company that they have decided in accordance with paragraph 4 of Schedule 3 to the 1964 Act that the application relates to a project which falls within Annex II to Council Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (as amended by Council Directives 97/11/EC and 2003/35/EC) ("the Directive"); but whose characteristics do not require that it should be made subject to an environmental assessment. Accordingly, the Scottish Ministers have directed that an environmental statement is not required.
- Paragraph 16 of Schedule 3 to the 1964 Act (which requires information to be supplied concerning a project which is likely to have significant effects on the environment in Great Britain and in another European Economic Area State) does not apply to the application.
- A copy of the draft Order, the letter dated 23 June 2010 and the deposited plans, sections and elevations which accompanied the application may be inspected at all reasonable hours until the expiry of the forty-two days period specified in paragraph 7 of this notice at the offices of the Company at Municipal Buildings, Fours Street, Port Glasgow PA14 5EQ, at The Pier, Port Ellen, Isle of Islay PA42 7DW and at the offices of the undermentioned solicitors and parliamentary agents.
- Any person requiring further information concerning the proposed works should apply in writing for that information to either one of those offices quoting reference "Proposed Caledonian Maritime Assets (Port Ellen) Harbour Revision Order 201[X]".
- Any person desiring to make to the Scottish Ministers an objection or representation concerning the application should write to Jane Rougvié, Transport Scotland, Aviation, Ports, Freight & Canals Division, Ports and Harbours Branch, Area 2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ or e-mail: harbourorders@scotland.gsi.gov.uk within forty-two days from the date at the foot of this notice quoting reference "Proposed Caledonian Maritime Assets (Port Ellen) Harbour Revision Order 201[X]" and specifying the grounds of their objection or representation and giving an address to which correspondence relating to the objection or representation may be sent.
- If an objection to the application is made and not withdrawn the Scottish Ministers may, before making their decision, (i) cause an inquiry to be held, or (ii) give to the objector an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed by them.

Dated 25 November 2010
Eversheds LLP
One Wood Street, London EC2V 7WS
Solicitors and Parliamentary Agents

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).
Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments
10/04529/PIP	Land 180m North East of Glasnacardoch Lodge Mallaig	Erection of 20 houses	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
10/04589/FUL	Scarduisch Dorlin Road Moidart Acharacle	Re-roofing + replacement porch extension	Acharacle Service Point (14 days)
10/04601/FUL	13 Cleadale Isle of Egg	Extension to house	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
10/04611/FUL	New House Letting Annex Plot 2 NE of Ardloch House Gairloch Spean Bridge	Change of use from gymnasium to self contained letting unit.	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/04206/FUL	Land 100m NW of Rose Cottage Sutherland Avenue Kinlochleven	Erection of temporary anemometer mast	Kinlochleven Service Point (14 days)
10/04582/FUL	Land 85m South East of Sunart 28 Anahelt Strontion Acharacle	Erection of Agricultural Unit/Workshop	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

**WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003
WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2005
APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION
UILEANN RUN OF RIVER HYDRO SCHEME**

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with regulation 13 of the above Regulations, that an application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Ardtornish Estate Company Limited for authorisation to carry on controlled activities at, near or in connection with the proposal Uileann Run of River Hydro Scheme namely:

Description of Controlled Activities	Waters Affected	National Grid Reference
Construction and/or operation of an impounding works	Allt Buidhe Mor	NM 7727 5003
Abstraction of 52,358 m3 per day of water	Allt Buidhe Mor	NM 7727 5003
Construction and/or operation of an impounding works	Allt a' Chonaich	NM 7679 5127
Abstraction of 15,206 m3 per day of water	Allt a' Chonaich	NM 7679 5127
Construction and/or operation of an impounding works	Allt na Criche	NM 7686 5168
Abstraction of 13,824 m3 per day of water	Allt na Criche	NM 7686 5168
Construction and/or operation of an impounding works	Tributary of Allt Buidhe Mor	NM 7718 5018
Abstraction of 3,629 m3 per day of water	Tributary of Allt Buidhe Mor	NM 7718 5018
Return of abstracted water approximately 4.5km away from the abstraction points.	Allt Buidhe Mor	NM 7497 5058

SEPA considers that the above controlled activities have or are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the water environment or the interests of other users of the water environment.

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1088903:

Registry Department, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall Business Park, Dingwall, IV15 9XB.

A copy of the application may be inspected free of charge, at the above address, between 9:30am and 4:30pm Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) and by prior arrangement at SEPA's Fort William Office, Carr's Corner, Lochybridge, Fort William, PH33 6TL.

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made SEPA will include a statement in the register indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

When ready to determine the application, SEPA will serve notice on any person who has made a representation within 28 days of this advertisement, informing them of SEPA's proposed determination and giving them the opportunity to notify the Scottish Ministers in writing that they object to SEPA's proposed determination within 21 days of the notice being served.

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MUIRSHEARLICH COMMON GRAZINGS APPOINTMENT OF GRAZINGS COMMITTEE
District of Kilmallie
As part of the Muirshearlich Sheep Stock Club AGM a meeting of shareholders for the above Common Grazings will be held for the purpose of electing a new Grazings Committee "Oakwood", Muirshearlich, Banavie, Fort William PH33 7PD
Wednesday 8th December 2010 at 8pm.
All enquiries: Tel: 07770 642251

The Scottish Government

**TRANSPORT SCOTLAND
ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984 AND THE ACQUISITION OF LAND (AUTHORISATION PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1947
THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (PULPIT ROCK IMPROVEMENT) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2010.]**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Scottish Ministers in exercise of the powers conferred by the above mentioned Acts, on the Eighteenth day of November 2010, prepared the above mentioned Compulsory Purchase Order which affects the land described in the Schedule hereto, for the purpose of improving the A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road at Pulpit Rock.
The Order is about to be made and comes into operation only if made. If the Order is made, a conveyance registered in implement of the Order may vary or extinguish rights to enforce real burdens and servitudes affecting the land. Copies of the Order with the relevant map may be inspected Monday - Friday during normal business hours, from 25 November to 17 December 2010 at:
• Transport Scotland, 9th Floor, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF;
• Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority, Carrochan, Carrochan Road, Balloch G83 8EG;
• Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RT; and
• Ardlui Hotel, Ardlui, Loch Lomond G83 7EB, Monday - Friday between 10.00 - 18.00 hours.
Any objections to the Order must be made in writing stating the title of the Order and the grounds of objection to the Director of Major Transport Infrastructure Projects, Transport Scotland, Design Team 1, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF. Any such objection must be received on or before 17 December 2010.

A C McLAUGHLIN
A member of staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Major Transport Infrastructure Projects,
58 Port Dundas Road, Buchanan House, Glasgow G4 0HF.
18 November 2010.

SCHEDULE
The plot references and areas referred to below correspond to those given in the Schedule and the map annexed to "the A82 Trunk Road (Pulpit Rock Improvement) Compulsory Purchase Order 2010 []".

Plot No	Land in the County of Dumbarton.
1	Land lying to the south east of the Pulpit Rock Monument and west of the existing Trunk Road
2	Land forming the solum of the existing Trunk Road lying to the east and north east of the Pulpit Rock Monument.
3 & 4	Land and loch bed lying to the east and north east of the Pulpit Rock Monument and east of the existing Trunk Road.
5, 6 & 7	Land lying to the north east of the Pulpit Rock Monument and west of the existing Trunk Road.



crofters commission
ughdarras nan croitearan

The following decrofting Directions have been granted:
Part Croft
Grulinbeg, Kilchoman
Direction dated 16/11/2010 granted to Neil Maclellan. Area ext to 0.113 Ha.
Conditions: 1. Purchase within 5 years. 2. The land is used for a house site. 3. Complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of completion of the proposed development. 4. Maintenance of the fence by each successive owner or occupier of the land.
Case Number: 4.86.27402
Upper Kilchattan, Colonsay
Direction dated 16/11/2010 granted to Christopher W Nisbet. 2 areas each ext to 0.099 Ha.
Conditions: 1. Purchase within 5 years. 2. The land is used for 2 house sites. 3. Complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of completion of the proposed development. 4. Maintenance of the fence by each successive owner or occupier of the land.
Case Number: 4.86.27828
The granting of these Directions may be appealed to the Scottish Land Court, within 42 days from the date of this advert. Information on how to appeal is available from the Crofters Commission.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk



**PLANNING
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardsraighe PA30 8DX and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardsraighe PA30 8DX by the 16/12/2010
● **Ref No: 10/01359/PP**
Applicant: Colonsay Brewing Co Ltd
Proposal: Change of use of land for the siting of 2 storage containers
Site Address: Unit 1 Scalasaig Isle Of Colonsay Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay
● **Ref No: 10/01853/PP**
Applicant: Ian And Jan Faggetter
Proposal: Erection of two semi-detached dwellings, installation of septic tank and formation of new vehicular access
Site Address: Land South Of Cladach Kilnoughton The Oa Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Ellen
Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Council's website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.
A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR by the 16/12/2010
● **Ref No: 10/01811/PP**
Applicant: Eva And Sebastian Tombs
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse incorporating refurbishment of existing barn
Site Address: Land South West Of Kyle Rhea Port Ramsay Isle Of Lismore
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office, Lismore
● **Ref No: 10/01867/PPP**
Applicant: Mrs and Mr G and J Barton
Proposal: Site for the erection of one dwellinghouse with septic tank
Site Address: Plot 2 Deerview Land East Of Heather Cottage Ichnachan Taynuilt Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt
● **Ref No: 10/01868/PPP**
Applicant: Mr Jonathan Barton
Proposal: Site for the erection of one dwellinghouse with septic tank
Site Address: Land South East Of Dun Mhuiraguel Coille Braigh Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1HP
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt
● **Ref No: 10/01944/PP**
Applicant: Mr Stewart Orr
Proposal: Formation of new vehicular access and track.
Site Address: Land At Former Rare Breeds Park Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 40B
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
● **Ref No: 10/01951/PPP**
Applicant: Mr I Alexander
Proposal: Site for the erection of 3 no. dwellinghouses and associated works.
Site Address: Land North East Of High-Ar-Lochan Kilchrean Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1HD
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt
Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Council's website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.
A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.
Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document.
Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site.
The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy.
Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered.
Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Craig Rutherford, Rutherford Plant Ltd, Of Burnbrae, Fionnphort, Isle Of Mull, PA66 6BN
Is applying for licence to use Burnbrae, Fionnphort Isle of Mull PA66 6BN as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle.
Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hill Crest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

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The Scottish Government

**TRANSPORT SCOTLAND
THE A828/A85 CONNELL TO SALACHAN GLEN CYCLE TRACK ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION BY THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS UNDER SECTIONS 20A AND 55A OF THE ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984**

The Scottish Ministers hereby give notice that they have determined that their proposal to construct the A828/A85 Connell to Salachan Glen Cycle Track is:
(a) not a project which falls within Annex I of Council Directive No. 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment as amended by Council Directive No. 97/11/EC and Council Directive No. 2003/35/EC of the European Parliament and Council;
(b) is a relevant project within the meaning of Section 20A(9) and 55A(7) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, and falls within Annex II of the said Directive but that having regard to the selection criteria contained in Annex III of the Directive it should not be made subject to an environmental impact assessment in accordance with the Directive, and accordingly the project does not require an Environmental Statement.

A C McLAUGHLIN
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road,
Glasgow G4 0HF.
16 November 2010



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MORVERN
Wish to invite: EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR PONTOON DEVELOPMENT AT LOCHALINE, MORVERN, HIGHLAND REGION

Morvern Community Development Company Limited are seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified contractors to undertake the works for the new pontoon berthing facilities at Lochaline. The works will comprise the fabrication, delivery and installation of pontoons and securing moorings.
In addition to this newspaper advertisement, a notice has been placed on the Public Contracts Scotland website inviting requests to participate ("Pre-Qualification Submissions") from interested parties to be selected to tender.
The number of candidates which will be invited to tender is envisaged as a minimum of 5 (five) and maximum of 6 (six), provided sufficient are qualified.
To register your interest in this notice and obtain tender documentation, please contact the Morvern Community Development Company at admin@morvern.org or visit www.publiccontractscotland.gov.uk
The project is funded under the Sail West Project which is part-funded by the European Union's INTERREG IVA programme.





The Scottish Salmon Company
Companaidh Bhradan na h-Alba

The Scottish Salmon Company is a leading producer of high quality Scottish salmon. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy.

We are currently recruiting for a:

HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER HAS/CW/10/C1
(Salary £27,000 to £30,000 per annum dependant on experience, based on a 40 hour week)

1 post located within our Cairndow Office in Argyll (but with a degree of flexibility to travel to Company sites, located mainly on the West Coast of Scotland).

The ideal candidate will be an enthusiastic, self motivated individual with excellent time management and communication skills (written and oral), be numerate and IT literate, with good prioritising abilities. They must be able to work well under pressure, independently and within a variety of teams within the company. Ideally, but not essentially, educated to a degree standard, however being in possession of a NEBOSH general certificate would be the minimum requirement.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and ongoing maintenance of the company's Health and Safety systems, promoting a positive Health and Safety culture, ensuring sound working practices / operating procedures are implemented. They will undertake and maintain an appropriate catalogue of Risk Assessments and Safe Working Methods, design and deliver tool box talks and training sessions alongside maintaining records and statistics of accidents and incidents in the workplace and producing reports for same. They will be required to carry out Health and Safety audits and inspections, helping to establish a calendar of activities.

A full, clean driving licence is also essential for this position.

In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package.

For an application form and job description, please contact:
The Scottish Salmon Company, HR Department, Ardinglas Estate, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BH. Tel. No. 01499 600 435

Email: cairndowhr@scottishsalmon.com

Closing date for applications: 5.00pm Friday, 3rd December, 2010

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Cruachan Power Station – Dalmally, Argyll
£13,792 per annum + additional payment for excess hours

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Excellent oral, written communication skills and a full clean driving licence are essential and you must be comfortable working on your own initiative and in a wider team environment. Experience in a heavy industry environment is highly desirable.

To find out more or to apply, candidates should visit www.scottishpower.jobs and search our vacancies page for IRC21796.

Closing date: 3 December 2010.



PUBLIC NOTICES

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
WEST HIGHLAND AND ISLANDS LOCAL PLAN(*)
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF THE WEST
HIGHLAND AND ISLANDS LOCAL PLAN
THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED)

The Highland Council adopted the West Highland and Islands Local Plan at its meeting on 9th September 2010. The Plan as adopted has now been published and is available for public inspection free of charge at every public library within the local plan area at:

Ardnamurchan Community Library, Sunart Centre, Strontian, ACHARACLE; Broadford Library & Service Point, Old Quarry Industrial Estate, BROADFORD; Badenoch Library; Caol Library, Glenkingie Street, CAOL; Fort William Library, Airds Crossing, High Street, FORT WILLIAM; Kinlochleven Library & Service Centre, Riverside Road, KINLOCHLEVEN; Knoydart Library & Service Point, The Store, Inverie, KNOYDART; Kyle of Lochalsh Library, Main Street, KYLE OF LOCHALSH; Mallaig and Morar Library & Service Point, Mallaig and Morar Community Centre, West Bay, MALLAIG; Plockton Library, Village Hall, PLOCKTON, and; Portree Library, Viewfield Road, PORTREE.

Copies can also be viewed at Highland Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness and on the Council's website at www.highland.gov.uk (search for "WHILP").

Stuart Black
Director of Planning and Development
The Highland Council
26th November 2010

(*) This plan represents a merger of the replacements of the Skye and Lochalsh Local Plan and Lochaber Local Plan and also incorporates replacement of part of the Badenoch and Strathspey Local Plan for the area west of Kinlochlaggan, close to Loch Laggan and the A86.

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Scotland) Regulations 2004

Following the adoption of the West Highland and Islands Local Plan on 9th September 2010 the Highland Council has prepared a finalised Environmental Report and a Post Adoption Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement.

A copy of these documents can be viewed free of charge during normal opening hours at the Planning and Development Service, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness and online at www.highland.gov.uk (search for "WHILP").



HJALTLAND

Hjalmland Seafarms are recruiting for the following post:

FARM AREA MANAGER

The Company:

Hjalmland Seafarms are a leading producer of quality Scottish farmed salmon, with a proven track record of achievement. We have an opening for a dynamic and dedicated area manager to supervise the running of a cluster of sites within the Shetland Islands.

The Role:

The successful candidate will be required to plan, organise and supervise the day to day running of a cluster of salmon farms based in Shetland. You will report to the Farm Management Team based in Lerwick, Shetland who will provide you with the necessary support services to allow you to concentrate on the main tasks of man management and fish husbandry.

Requirements:

The successful candidate will have a proven track record of high achievement within the salmon farming sector. Strong management and communication skills are required for this post, as are basic computing skills. Excellent financial remuneration is available for the successful candidate. If you feel you have the necessary talent and commitment to apply for this position, please send an up-to-date CV to:

Julie Buchan,
Hjalmland Seafarms,
Gremista,
Lerwick,
ZE1 0PX.
01595 741 800
Or Email: Julie@shetlandproducts.co.uk

Closing date for application is Friday 5th December 2010.

JOB SEARCH

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to deliver SQA certificated courses in Oban and Campbeltown, starting in January 2011.

The course comprises units in soft landscaping, crop production, estate maintenance, estate skills, horticultural skills and a business investigation in the horticulture area of land-based skills. Applicants should have an HNC/HND in Horticulture or a related discipline or extensive work experience in this field.

The teaching input would be 270 hours over 19 weeks – approx 14 hours per week. Additional hours are required in Oban prior to the course starting to make the site ready for use. It is anticipated this will be for 1-2 days per week during December.

Payment for the teaching hours is at our standard FE teaching rate of £21.87 plus a payment in lieu of annual leave of £2.85, giving a total hourly rate of £24.72

Payment for the site preparation in Oban will be at the rate of £11.53 per hour plus a payment in lieu of annual leave of £1.50, giving a total hourly rate of £13.03

The successful candidates will undergo an enhanced Disclosure Scotland check.

Please send a CV (max. two pages) and a one page covering letter by Monday 6th December 2010 to Lorna McDonald, Argyll College UHI Ltd, 2 Glengallan Road, Glenshellach, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HH or email to lorna.mcdonald@argyllcollege.ac.uk or fax to 01631 564370

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Closing date: 17th December 2010

Interviews: Tuesday 18th January 2011

For more information

email gail.macgregor@nhs.net

or phone Gail MacGregor, Surgery, Connel

01631 710 229

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For Further Details Please Contact Robert

on 01631 569583

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Closing date for offers is Friday 14th January 2011

For further details: Estates Office, Blairvadach, Helensburgh, G84 8ND
Tel: 01436 658957

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

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BIRTHS

CAIN - To Ruairidh and Kathryn, a baby daughter, Amelia, born on November 19, 2010 in Vancouver, Canada.



CHRISTIE - John and Pauline are delighted to announce the precious gift of a son, Michael Anthony. A wee brother for Joseph. Second grandchild for Marilyn and the late Frank and fifth grandchild for Mary and the late Arthur. With thanks to Oban and RAH Maternity Unit. Deo Gratias.

SCOTT - Lee-Ann and Hugh are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Savannah Ann on November 12, 2010. A little sister for Charlie. Thanks to Oban and Paisley Maternity staff, also David and Jim, the ambulance drivers.

ENGAGEMENTS



MACALLISTER - ACEY
Both families are absolutely delighted to announce the engagement of Rowan Alexandra MacAllister of Oban and Michael James Acey, Bunnassan, Isle of Mull.

YATES - McLAREN
Both families are delighted to announce the engagement on November 7, 2010 in Sydney, Australia, Elliot, eldest son of Mr Richard Yates, Glasgow and Mrs Jennifer MacDonald, Crieff, to Kerry, daughter of John and Angela McLaren, Oban.

DEATHS

BROWN - Peacefully, after a short illness on Wednesday November 17, 2010 in Ward 1, Dunoan General Hospital, John Alexander, eldest son of James and Annie, loving brother to Morven, Gillies, Angus, Duncan and Alison. A much loved uncle who will be sadly missed by all family and friends. The funeral service will be held in Cairndow Church on Thursday November 25, at 11.00am and thereafter to Cairndow Cemetery, to which all are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to Cancer Research.

CAMPBELL - Peacefully at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness on Saturday November 20, 2010, Nancy, nee MacGillivray, 37 Wellside Road, Inverness. Dearly loved wife of Iain, devoted mum of Iain and Fiona, mother-in-law of Amanda and Will, loving granny of Erin, Finlay, Lewis and Patrick. Funeral service from Church of Scotland, Portree, Isle of Skye on Friday November 26, 2010 at 12.30pm, thereafter to Portree Cemetery, all friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired may be given at church door in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

DEVINE - Peacefully on November 20, 2010, Flora Ann (nee MacPhee), beloved wife of the late Jimmy, mum of Christine, John, Kenneth and the late Michael. A much loved gran and great-grannie. Funeral Mass at 10am on Friday 26 at St Columba's Cathedral. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu to friends of Oban Hospice.

DONN - Suddenly, at his home in Taynuilt, on November 14, 2010, Richard, aged 46 years, much loved dad and brother and dear fourth son of Ina and the late William Donn, 47 Longdale Crescent, Oban. Sadly missed.

HARVEY - Suddenly, after a short illness on Monday November 22nd, 2010, aged 68 years, Anne former wife of the late Thomas Duncan, beloved mother to Anne, Eileen and William and a grandmother and great-grandmother. Will be sadly missed. R.I.P.

MACLEOD - Passed away on November 19, 2010 in the Lynn of Lorne Nursing Home, John, Dear husband of the late Bella (Young), beloved father of Vera, Neil, Hugh and Iain and father-in-law, much loved papa and great papa.

MACNIVEN - Peacefully on November 21, 2010, Duncan Anderson MacNiven, aged 79 years, of 4 Cairndubh Cottages, Cairnbaan. Adored husband of Myra Whyte, much loved Dad of Robert, Duncan and Gordon, much respected father-in-law of Patricia and Sandra and cherished granpa of Carol, Moray, Alastair, Craig and Ruari. A dear friend to many. Funeral service will be held

at Cardross Crematorium on Saturday November 27, 2010, at 10.30am. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to British Heart Foundation.

McNICOL - Kathleen Oliver, in her 94th year, peacefully at home on November 16, 2010, beloved wife of the late Dr David McNicol and loving mother of Heather Exell and Iain David McNicol and the late Aileen Oliver McBoyle, and proud and much loved gran of Kate, Nick, Steve, Andy, Jane, Trudy, Ruairidh, Padraig and Donald and great grandmother. Funeral took place on Monday November 22 in Appin Parish Church at 1pm and thereafter to Appin Cemetery.

PAGAN - The much loved Heather, wife of Graeme, died very suddenly on Saturday November 20, 2010. This is a terrible loss to Graeme, Joanne, Joanna and Gillies and all the family and a whole host of friends and admirers. She brought joy to so many people. Cremation at Cardross Crematorium (G82 5HD) nr Helensburgh at 10.15 am on Friday November 26, to be followed by a memorial service at the Church of Scotland, Glencruitten Road, Oban at 2.30 pm. No flowers, please. Donations to the Friends of the Beaton.

WILSON - Suddenly but peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on Friday November 19, 2010, John, beloved husband of Lily, much loved dad to Kenneth, Alan, Graeme and Lesley, devoted Granpa to Eoin, Becky and Duncan. Granpa John to Heather and Rory and loving dad-in-law to Mary, Lyndsay and Rhonda. Will be deeply missed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - Morag and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours, for all their kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards and mass cards, received on their recent sad loss of John. Special thanks to Gladys Muldoon and John Fraser. Retiral collection of £840 has been forwarded to Strathcarron Hospice, Strirling.

FAIRLIE - The family of the late Sadie Fairlie, Fort William and Corpach, wish to thank sincerely all those who attended her funeral and who sent messages of sympathy and support. Special thanks to the Rev. Donald MacQuarrie and the organists, May Macintyre, whose words and music made for a comforting and uplifting service; to the carers and the staff and fellow residents of Walter Cameron Way; to the funeral directors of John McLellan & Co for the efficient funeral arrangements, and to the staff of the B.A. Club. A retiring collection raised £250 to be divided between Christian Aid and Walter Cameron Way.

JONES - The family of Dr. Theodore Jones send heartfelt thanks to our friends and neighbours for the comfort and support of your cards and letters. Since no service for Ted will be held locally, there is less occasion at present to meet and thank you personally, but we want you to know your kindness and sympathy are helping us through this sad time.

MACDOWALL - The family of the late Rena MacDowall would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, letters, cards and phonecalls during their recent sad loss. Thanks to doctors and nurses at both the Lorn and Islands Hospital and the Lorn Medical Centre for their caring and support, Fr D MacKay and Bishop Toal for spiritual support and comforting Requiem Mass, Ken Moncrieff organist, Catriona of Hamish Hoey for her professionalism and sensitive support in arranging the funeral and The Royal Hotel for catering arrangements. Finally thanks to all who paid their last respects at St. Columba's Cathedral and at the graveside.

MACLEAN - Mary and family would like to thank most sincerely all friends and neighbours for help and support, cards, flowers and gifts received after the sad loss of Billy. Thanks also to Tweeddale Surgery, Belford Hospital, Crossroads for their care and help for many years, Rev D MacQuarrie for his comforting and uplifting service, Mike McFall for well organised and caring funeral arrangements and May Macintyre organist. Special thanks to those who paid their last respects at church and graveside. Donations collected at church totalled £306 between Crossroads Lochaber and Belford Hospital Stepdown Unit.

MATHERSON - John and the family of the late Mollie would like to thank all friends and neighbours who joined us at Dalmally church and graveside to say goodbye to Mollie. Thanks also to Hamish Hoey for efficient arrangements. Glenorchy Lodge for refreshment and Rev. Liz Gibson for a lovely service. The sum of £300.65 was collected for the British Heart Foundation.

MEMORIALS

CAMERON - In loving memory of a dear husband and father, Alexander, (Allie), who passed away November 24, 1998. Loved and remembered every day. - Inserted by his loving wife Florence and son David.

CUMMING - In loving memory of our dear Mother and Gran, Kate who died on November 27, 2005 and remembering also our Father, Donald who died June 4, 1977. R.I.P. Our Lady Star of the Sea and Saint Martin De Porres pray for them. - Inserted by Angus, Linda, Karen and Laura, Newton Meams and Oban, Paul and Laura, Glasgow.

DEVINE - In loving memory of William Anthony Devine died November 29, 2005, a loving father, father-in-law and grandfather. - Kevin, Margaret and the girls.

FOSTER - In loving memory of my dear husband, Dennis Foster, died November 28, 2007. Forever in my thoughts. - Inserted by his loving wife, Catherine. Quietly remembered every day dad. - Daughter, Wendy and family.

GUNN - Duncan, died November 24, 2004. Treasured memories of a dearly loved father. Always with us. - Andrew and Susan.

LIVINGSTON - Treasured memories of Cathie, a devoted mum, granny, great granny and great great granny, who passed away November 25, 2005. Time passes memories stay. As near and dear as yesterday. - Love from all the family at home and away.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of my dear son and our brother, John Joseph, who died November 23, 2002. R.I.P. Many a lonely heartache. Many a silent tear. But always a beautiful memory. Of one we loved so dear. - 118 Kilmallie Road, Caol.

MACNAB - Fond memories of a dear friend Alistair, died November 29, 2009. Always remembered. - Hughie.

MACINNES - In loving memory of a dear mother and nana, Nancy, who passed away November 25, 2005. In our hearts your memory lingers. Sweetly, tender, fond and true.

There is not a day, dear mother, That we do not think of you. Also our dear dad and papa, Tommy, never forgotten. - With Love, Tom and Alice, Robert, Martin, Lorraine, Robert and Finlay and Tom and Nikki xxx

MACINNES - Nancy, who passed away November 25, 2005. Loved and remembered always. - Caroline, Jimmy, Fiona and Jamie.x

- Donnie, Leanne and Amanda.x

MACINNES - In loving memory of a dear mum and nana, Nancy, passed away November 25, 2005. Forever loved and missed. - Mairi, Donald and Sarah. xxx

MACINNES - Precious memories of Ray who died November 28, 2006. We mention your name And speak of you often God bless you dear Ray You are not forgotten. - Love Sheila and John xxx

MACKENZIE - Treasured memories of Willie, a devoted husband, dad and granddad, who passed away on November 29, 2008. Always in our thoughts. - Neileen and family.

MAY - In loving memory of my Mum, Cathie, who died on November 23, 2006. Missed and remembered every day. - Karen.

MAY - In loving memory of my dear mum Cathie, who died November 23, 2006. Sadly missed and remembered every day. Love. Steven. In memory of my dear mum. Always in my thoughts. Love Norman.

MAY - Precious memories of our much loved mum and granny. Let the winds of love blow softly. And whisper for you to hear, We love and miss you sadly, As it dawns another year. With us always, Sandra and Chris xx

A special smile, a special face. In our hearts, a special place. Memories are a gift to treasure, Ours of you, granny will last forever. Love Caitlin and Erin xx

MURRAY - Treasured memories of George, a dear husband, father and granddad, died November 30, 2001. Always in our thoughts. - Love from all the family.

RATCLIFFE - Cherished memories of Malcolm a much loved husband and father died November 27, 1991. Remembered always. Linda and family Dumfries and Norway

WHITTET - Cherished memories of our parents Jessie Knox who died November 29, 1977 and George Purdie who died October 6, 1993. Time passes but happy memories will last forever. - Families in Islay, Lossiemouth, Ayrshire and Norfolk.



The singers from Rockfield Primary School Gaelic Medium Department and Fèis Latharna celebrate with their special banners following the service.

Full house for Gaelic service

A SPECIAL Gaelic ecumenical service involving people of all ages from across the community was held in Oban's Glencruitten Road Church of Scotland.

the packed service was conducted in Gaelic by Rev Dr Roderick MacLeod and Rev Dugald Cameron. The children's address was given by Helen Pearson.

conducted by Sileas Sinclair in a selection of beautiful choral pieces, and children from Oban's Gaelic medium department in Rockfield Primary School also sang with children from Fèis Latharna's Saturday Gaelic singing group.

Members and others interested are reminded the next winter lecture will now be on Friday, December 17, when Julian Hill will talk on the Early Explorers to visit the area (1600-1800). As usual the venue is the Undercroft, Glencruitten Church Centre starting at 7.30pm.

GRADUATIONS



Katie Gillies graduated with an H.N.C. in Child Care and Early Education. Katie is the daughter of Anne and Chris Gillies, and the granddaughter of Kenny and the late Rena Gillies of Oban and Margaret and Islay MacTaggart of Glasgow.



Rosie Robinson graduated this week at the University of the West of Scotland with a BCS in Interprofessional Studies. She is currently working at the Lorn and Islands Hospital in A and E outpatients and pre-op assessment.

Jessie celebrates her centenary



Jessie Cleary, nee Galbraith, of Luing, was delighted to celebrate her 100th birthday surrounded by family and friends. Jessie, who now lives in Milngavie, had a double celebration, with children in her former school on the island hosting a party for her birthday. The former nurse was presented with a card from the Queen. Joining her for a photo are great-grandchildren baby Tilly, Cara and Cameron.

Youth club cooks up some tasty recipes

RESIDENTS in Tarbert enjoyed a wholesome meal on Thursday evening courtesy of the village's youth club.

The dinner was organised by Tarbert Youth Group to celebrate the launch of their new cookbook - Recipes from a Coastal Village, featuring an interview with Annie Kennel. Many of the village's elder generation, whose recipes feature in the book, had their food served to them on the evening. Cullen skink soup, apple pie and a trio of main courses, all chosen from the book, were on the menu at Tarbert Village Hall. The cookbook, supported by Big Green Tarbert, the Climate Challenge Fund and the Leader programme, includes ingredients that are grown and can be obtained locally.



Betty Rintoul and Evelyn McLarty look forward to a hot meal on a cold and windy night in Tarbert. 06_a48meal01

Charity walk raised £421.20

TODDLERS Sam Martin, Dalmally, and Jayden MacLeod, from Soroba in Oban, have now raised £421.20 from their charity walk from Gannan to Dunbeg in aid of Children in Need. The two-year olds were accompanied by their mums Kirsty Home and Kirsty Macdonald and had their faces painted as Pudsey Bear.

Duo's contribution is recognised

AT LORN Archaeological and Historical Society's AGM two long standing members, Archie MacGill and Charles Hunter were made honorary members in recognition of their considerable contributions to the society and in the retelling and recording of local history and archaeology around Oban.

Retiring treasurer Duncan Campbell gave an enthusiastic vote of thanks to the other new honorary members Bob McCulloch and Charlie Drummond for their excellent Old Oban slide show which the society acknowledges is now a valuable part of Oban's historical archive.

Members and others interested are reminded the next winter lecture will now be on Friday, December 17, when Julian Hill will talk on the Early Explorers to visit the area (1600-1800). As usual the venue is the Undercroft, Glencruitten Church Centre starting at 7.30pm.

Kill or cure for Lorn gardeners

THE LORN Garden Club was entertained sleuth fashion with Louise Bustard of Glasgow Botanic Gardens, on November 16.

The talk, entitled 'Plants that Kill or Cure' brought into the limelight famous murderers such as Dr Crippen and other historical baddies - all having using plants as the murder weapon. Louise also talked about the plants used to heal diseases including heart trouble and cancer research.

An eye opening evening, greatly enjoyed by all present, was rounded off with tea and home made cakes.

Submariner's humorous talk

PRESIDENT Archie Macphail welcomed a large attendance of members to last week's meeting of Oban Speakers Club. The group went on to enjoy an excellent evening's entertainment.

First-half chairman Peter Abbott introduced speakers Willie Melville, who spoke on The Crinan Canal, Tom Clegg who, in a very humorous way, told of some of his experiences as a submariner, and Ian Fullerton who gave a very interesting talk on the Summer Isles. Their critics were respectively Frank Walton, Bill Leech and Jim Fraser.

In the second half John Maclean gave what he described as a random selection of topics to Cameron Fletcher, Jim Young, Guido Faccenda, Norman Martin, Alex Clark and Eamonn Arthur. Timekeeper for the evening was Donnie Graham and a general evaluation was given by Roy Wood. Members and friends will meet tonight, Thursday 25, for their annual dinner when the guest speaker will be Philip Preston managing director of Calmac Ferries Ltd. The next meeting will be held on December 2.

French quilting

PATRICIA MacIndoe gave a talk and slide show on Boutis, a form of French quilting, to the Oban and District Needlework Group at the Guide Hall, Oban on Tuesday November 9.

Members and visitors heard not only about Patricia's experiences in France learning the art from acknowledged experts but also about her life involving needlework and organising/running the Loch Lomond Quilt Festival every year. Samples of the quilting were on show and the slide show provided further examples of detailed work. Next month's meeting takes place on Tuesday, December 14 at 7.30pm in the Guide Hall, Soroba Road, Oban and features a talk by Jean Leader on Lacemaking yesterday and today.

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Sunday School and Crèche Parish Eucharist.....11.30
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Oban regain JC Memorial Trophy thanks to late winner

SHINTY

**JC Memorial Trophy
Oban Camanachd 3
Lochaber 2**

OBAN Camanachd regained the JC Memorial Trophy after beating the holders Lochaber at Taynuilt on Saturday.

The annual memorial match is played in memory of former Taynuilt and Oban Camanachd player John 'JC' Cameron, who, along with his girlfriend Jennifer Potter, died tragically in a car crash in January 2001.

John's brother, Mark, his father, Dougie and his mother, Sheena, were on hand to present the prizes at the close of a lively match, which reflected John's



Oban skipper Ian MacMillan in action. 07_148shinty06

competitive style of play. The Oban side had the better of the first half, with Scott MacMillan having a good early chance.

But against the run of play, and with almost their first attack, the young Lochaber side opened the scoring through Martin Johnson.

Using the rolling substitution rule, Camanachd

coach Peter MacCuisht tried various attacking options to try and breach the Lochaber defence but at half-time, the north side had maintained a clean sheet at 1-0.

The second half was a far more lively affair, with Camanachd again the dominant force. Ian MacMillan brought Oban onto level terms soon after

the restart but the Lochaber response was swift, with Ben Delaney scoring.

Camanachd persevered with the tactic of rolling substitutions and it was one of the club's promising youngsters, Daniel MacKinnon, who came off the bench to grab an equaliser with a 20-yard drive.

Having found a foothold in midfield Camanachd pushed for the winner and this came from Aidan MacIntyre, who latched onto a defensive error to drive the ball low into the corner of the net.

Oban Camanachd captain Ian MacMillan lifted the JC Memorial Trophy and Scott MacMillan was named man of the match. The match was sponsored by former Oban players Andrew Inglis and Stephen Campbell of SEC.



Oban skipper Ian MacMillan receives the JC Memorial Trophy from Sheena Cameron. 07_148shinty03



Man of the match Scott MacMillan receives his award from Mark Cameron. 07_148shinty02



TAKING THE PLUNGE: Some of the Oban Octopush players at their training session. 07_148push01

Octopush aims to make a big splash as underwater hockey comes to town

MOST people will not have heard of Oban's latest sporting craze, best described as underwater hockey.

Octopush is a theoretically simple game: Two teams of six, plus substitutes, play in a swimming pool where the objective is to push a half-kilogram puck, using a short stick, into goalposts (goals) at either end.

However, in practical terms it is not so easy, as players must wear a mask, snorkel and fins and have to spend a lot of time holding their breath on the bottom of the pool.

'I suppose a lot of people have not heard about it because it's not really a spectator sport,' mused Oban coach James Thorburn.

'But it's great fun to play. For a start,

REPORT

by EUAN PATERSON
epateron@obantimes.co.uk

you are underwater so you don't have any bickering.'

Having taken up the sport at Stirling University, James, who is currently working as a shark project officer for the Scottish Sea Anglers Conservation Network, wanted to keep playing when he moved to Oban and five months ago decided to start a club.

Now the club has a membership of about 25, with up to 20 attending regularly in Atlantis Leisure.

Although relatively unknown in the west Highlands, Octopush is an international sport, with world,

European and British championships held every year.

'It is a big fitness sport,' explains James. 'It doesn't matter what level you play at, you can always improve. You train so you can swim that bit faster, or stay underwater for that extra second.'

'Some of the top players can stay underwater for minutes at a time but I have heard of people passing out during serious competitions because they haven't come up for air.'

James played at British University Championship level but said he prefers teaching to playing and would like others to come and try the sport. The players meet for a 7.30pm start at Atlantis Leisure every Wednesday.

Indoor athletics season begins at Tobermory High

SPORTS Hall Athletics will once again be promoted in Argyll this winter.

This form of indoor athletics has been promoted in the district since 1994 and Mid Argyll Athletic Club, in co-operation with all the local athletic clubs, will organise four local area competitions, followed by an Argyll Final to be held in Oban in February 2011.

The successful promotion of the competitions is very dependant on the co-operation from schools with most of the schools in the district contacted in advance of the local area competitions in the hope that teachers will encourage pupils to take part.

The first competition will take place this Saturday, November 27,

in Tobermory High School on Mull, followed by the Mid Argyll event at Lochgilphead on December 12.

The Oban competition is on January 15 at Atlantis Leisure, followed by the Kintyre event later in January.

Successful athletes from the four area contests will qualify to compete in the Argyll Final to be held at Atlantis Leisure in Oban on February 12.

Boys and girls entering the Mull competition in Tobermory High School this Saturday are reminded that the events for the Under-7, under-9 and under-11 age groups start at 10.30am with entries from 10am. Events for the under-13, under-15 and under-17 age groups start at 2pm with entries accepted from 1.30pm. Awards

will be made to the first four athletes in each age category at all the local area competitions.

To create some extra interest this year the organisers are introducing money prizes for the two boys and two girls achieving the most Argyll Age Standards in the local area competitions and the Argyll Final.

In addition there will be a £50 prize for the best school with one boy and one girl counting.

It is hoped this award will prompt schools to take an interest and the schools will encourage talented pupils to take part.

For more information on the Argyll Sports Hall events contact 01546 602664.

High school girls head South of Scotland league

SHINTY at Oban High School is going from strength to strength with the girls' team leading the way.

The team have entered the South of Scotland Schools Girls' League this year, competing against the more established teams of Kinlochleven, Inverkeithing, Ardnamurchan and Douglas and Boclair.

As a result of the work of the South of Scotland Schools Camanachd Association, the Women's Camanachd Association and with Oban entering the league this year, there were enough teams to run a dedicated South League, which runs in conjunction with the North League - with the winners of each league come together for a finals day in June.

Despite being the newcomers to the league the Oban High School Girls, under the guidance of Gaelic teacher Catriona MacGregor, are leading the way after two rounds of competition. Caroline Smith currently captains the team, who

SHINTY

have called upon the shinty experience of sixth years Kelly Murray, Lorna MacPherson and Cara Thompson.

Alison MacVicar currently leads the scoring tables in the league and the defensive duo of goalkeeper Sarah Jane Ferguson and full back Rebecca Macphee remain rock steady, having only conceded two goals in seven games.

Darren Reid, Argyll and Bute Shinty Development Officer, said: 'It is great to see the enthusiasm for shinty in Oban High School. The shinty talent that is held within the school means there is great potential for the school to be one of the strongest shinty playing schools in the country.'

If anyone would be interested in helping lead with the establishment of a women's team in the area please contact Darren at darren.reid@shinty.com.

Islay ladies take home Atlantis Festival title

TWO SHINTY competitions were held in Atlantis Leisure as part of the Oban and Lorn Sports Festival, a new competition for young primary school players and the re-introduction of the women's competition.

The young primary school-aged pupils played new 4-a-side development competition and eight teams, including three from North Lanarkshire, entered the event.

But it was Park Primary School that came out on top after scoring a golden goal in extra time of the thrilling final match against the up and coming players

SHINTY

from Camanachd Cearcall Lannraig.

A women's shinty competition was last played as part of the sports festival in 2004, but six years on it was well represented with four teams taking part.

Teams included Islay and Lorn Ladies, along with two Cowal-based teams. After three hours of shinty it was the furthest travelled team from Islay that were victors after scoring a dramatic golden goal in extra-time of the final against a young Lorn Ladies team.

Junior golf prizewinners



Tobermory Golf Club Juniors had their annual prizegiving on November 19 at MacDonald Arms Hotel. Junior Convener John Weir (top left) is pictured with some of his proteges, including William MacCrone (centre), club junior champion, and Lewis Wilshire (centre-left), who holed-in-one at the club championship in August.

Champions honoured



Club champions David Howie and Mairead Sim were honoured on November 12 at the Taynuilt Golf Club prizegiving. There were a total of 40 prizes handed out in the village hall.

Oban Pool League

	P	W	L	Pts
Lancaster A	5	5	0	10
Kelvin	6	5	0	10
Lancaster B	6	5	1	10
Claredon	6	3	3	6
Cellar Bar	5	3	2	6
Lochnell	5	3	2	6
Markie Dans A	5	3	2	6
Golf Club	5	1	4	2
Lochavullin	6	1	5	2
Harbour	6	1	5	0
Markie Dans B	5	0	5	0

Results: Lochavullin 3, Golf Club 6; Claredon 5, Markie Dans A 4; Lancaster A 5, Lancaster B 4; Markie Dans B 2, Kelvin 7; Cellar 8, Harbour 1.
Fixtures: Kelvin v Cellar; Lancaster B v Markie Dans B; Markie Dans A v Lancaster A; Golf Club v Claredon; Lochnell v Lochavullin.



Allan Brodie's Escort in action at the Jim Clark Reivers Rally.

Allan races to his best ever finish

ALLAN Brodie, Tyndrum and Cameron Fairbairn, Galashiels, took second overall in this year's Hankook Scottish Tarmac Championship in their 1600 Ford Escort Mk2. The crew only missed out on first place after suffering a front wheel puncture and having to drive seven miles to complete the last stage of the Kingdom Rally on November 6.

They also finished first in class for the Howford Hydraulic Escort Challenge.

Allan's previous best in the championship was fourth.

Fort William golfers celebrate a successful season



Fort William Golf Club prize winners with their trophies at the end of season social in the clubhouse.



Fort's Lewis Morrison and Skye's Will Cowie battle for the ball. 10_48shinty01

Draw ensures Skye take title

Fort William 1, Skye Camanachd 1

SHINTY

SKYE Camanachd claimed the North of Scotland Under-14 Division One title after a dramatic 1-1 draw with nearest title rivals Fort William at An Aird on Saturday.

A win for the Lochaber side would have forced a play-off between the two teams, but Skye knew a draw would be enough for them to be crowned champions for the third year in a row.

After a tight first half, Fort's Alexander MacMillan managed to poke the ball into the back of the net after a scramble near the Skye

goal to give his side the lead 10 minutes into the second half.

Fort nearly managed to hold out against heavy pressure, but in the dying seconds a shot from Andrew Grant rolled into the bottom corner to pull Skye level.

The goal sparked celebrations on the pitch, which continued after the match when the team were presented with the league trophy and their winners medals.

Skye manager, Willie Cowie, told *The Oban Times* his team were 'absolutely delighted' after the win. He

said: 'I think it was a really entertaining game because there was such a lot at stake. We went through the league campaign unbeaten and the great thing about Saturday was we never gave up.'

Fort William coach, Victor Smith, said despite the defeat he was pleased with the way his team performed. He said: 'I'm very proud of my players. They played really well, and in the second half they were fantastic. I told them at half time it was in their hands, but we couldn't quite hold on to the end.'

'It's been an enjoyable season and we're really looking forward to next year.'

Fort in need of footballing miracle

MIRACLES do happen in football – but Fort William will need one of biblical proportions on Saturday when league champs Buckie Thistle visit Claggan Park.

The Jags top the league this season and demolished Bo'ness United 2-0 away last weekend to march into the fourth round of the Scottish Cup, where East Strirling await.

Fort, on the other hand, went down 0-3 at lowly Brora Rangers to notch yet another dispiriting result.

Manager Calum MacLean knows keeping possession is a must against Buckie if his side are to have a chance – an attribute noticeably lacking in recent matches.

'We need to cut out the simple mistakes. That's been our downfall this season. If we have the ball, they can't hurt us,' he said.

Council on top in 10-pin league

AFTER three weeks of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10 pin bowling league at the Nevis Centre in Fort William only Council and Alleycats have the maximum 15 points in the scratch division, with Council on top by virtue of total pinfall.

Underdogs are in third place just one point behind. Alleycats lead the handicap division with maximum points closely followed by Underdogs with Council in third.

Top individual scratch games this week came from John Weller (Alleycats) with 187, Yip Leeds (Council) with 182 and Pam Weller (Alleycats) with 174.

Top handicap games went to Hazel White (Underdogs) with 248, John Weller with 241 and Morven Neil (Phoenix) with 240. Highest scratch series of the week went to John Weller with 309. Brian Stewart (Council) still holds the top scratch average after three weeks with 148.

Chest infection floors Artom

LOCHABER Phoenix boxer Artom Jevstjjejk has been forced to pull out of his Scottish Novice final through illness.

Artom, aged 16, had been due to fight a boxer from the Barn Club, in Glasgow, in Moodiesburn yesterday, but came down with a chest infection. LP fighters Stephen Cameron and James Aitchison have also seen bouts fall by the way-side although Mark Curtis is facing a rematch with John Viray of Nether Lochaber in Glasgow next month.

Dawn and Davie take Achdaliu honours

ATHLETICS

LOVELY Lochelside weather and the prospect of running up the wonderful Achdaliu stalking path for the last time attracted 73 runners to Lochaber Athletic Club's Drumm Fada Hill Race on Sunday.

Pals Dawn Scott and Davie Rodgers, getting back to top form now, won the women's and men's races respectively, both finishing about 90 seconds outside the race records.

Dawn broke the tape well clear of Amanda Blackhall, who herself was well clear of the other girls.

The men's race saw a much more closely fought affair, with Graeme Bartlett, of Forres, pushing Davie all the way finishing to finish only 10 seconds back, with Ross Bannerman of Highland Hill Runners third a further minute behind.

Best run of the day was probably over-50 veteran Alan Smith of Deeside, who came home fourth over all.

Next winter series race is Ben Lora, hill/forest trail (3 miles/1100 feet), Benderloch. Athletes are advised to bring body cover in case of possible grim conditions.

Visitors relish friendly outing

Ross Sutherland 26, Lochaber 7

RUGBY

LOCHABER took on Caledonia North Division 1 side Ross Sutherland on Saturday in what proved a valuable outing against opponents from a higher league.

The friendly fixture filled the gap in the rugby calendar caused by Scotland's autumn series of test matches – and both sides were hungry to play some rugby.

Lochaber acquitted themselves well in the first half, defending resolutely against a young, fit Ross Sutherland side who were keen to throw the ball around.

True enough, Lochaber did leak a try early from a well worked move off a scrum close to the Lochaber line, but they put Ross Sutherland under a lot of pressure too with some incisive running from the backs and hard, driving by the forwards.

Pavel Fronczek claimed Lochaber's only try, diving over from close range, which Kenny Turnbull converted. Keith Garrick also came close after he kicked through but was beaten to the ball by the Ross fullback.

Early in the second half Lochaber paid the price for travelling with a bare minimum of 15 players when flanker Craig McPherson

went off injured.

Ross Sutherland, on the other hand, had a full bench of fresh players to bring on and made the most off it by scoring four times. Two of the tries were purely down to using the overlap created by the extra man but the other two owed more to missed tackles.

When all was said and done, the fixture was not one, perhaps, that Lochaber were expected to win but it did highlight a few things for the coaches to work on such as maintaining the defensive line, speed to the breakdown and ensuring consistency at scrums and line-outs.

Lessons learned will be put to good use in the cup match against RAF Lossiemouth at Banavie, on December 4, when Lochaber will be looking for a repeat of their 19-17 home victory in the league at the end of September.

Team: N Craik, R MacKay, C Moorhouse, P, Anders, S Whitaker, C MacPherson, C Simpson, Liam, K Garrick, K Turnbull (capt), T Sanders, S Traill, Andy, J McCook.

Under-17s thrash Brora in first outing for two months

Fort William U17 13, Brora U17 1

FOOTBALL

AFTER a period of two months without a competitive league game due to weather postponements, Fort William welcomed Brora Rangers to Claggan Park on Sunday hoping repeat their last home win against Alness United.

It turned out to be an excellent result for the youngsters as they ran out 13-1 winners against a hard working but very young Brora team.

Fort settled immediately and within five minutes minutes Lewis Campbell crossed for Logan Barker to fire into the roof of the

net from 12 yards out to give the Fort an early lead.

Raymond Munro and Barker up front were causing Brora all sorts of problems and Munro notched a quick-fire double to put Fort 3-0 up after 20 minutes.

Brora scored a stunning 20-yard volley as they fought back, but Barker snuffed out their hopes with his calm finish right on half time.

Fort made three quick changes for the second half with Bradley Cameron, Scott MacLean and Cameron Muir all coming on

to make an impact.

Muir slotted home for 5-1 after good build up play from Raymond Munro, who then completed his hat trick as converted another quality cross from Lewis Campbell.

The impressive Paddy Toal volleyed home for 7-1 after 60 minutes before Logan Barker ran riot and netted an incredible six more goals to complete the scoring.

Coach John Matheson praised his squad's development and dedication for attending training during the bleak winter months - and their willingness to learn.

'Sometimes most of the plaudits go to the goal scorers and the creative players but

outstanding start to their season. After five games, four of which have been away from home, Lochaber sit top of the league having won all their games. Despite having played some of the more fancied schools for the league title, Lochaber have notched up 32 goals and are a two points ahead of second-placed Milburn academy.

Deputy head teacher Paul Reynolds said: 'The school is delighted to see our sports teams keeping up Lochaber High School's proud tradition of success at the Highland level.'



Flying high - Lochaber High School girls shinty team 10_48shs02

Spot the

SHINTY BALL

Competition



WIN

£1300

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No. _____

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
J Cameron, Fionnphort, Isle of Mull and R Sinclair, Union Street, Lochgilphead

Argyll county XV cruises to victory



Man of the Match David MacLennan powers through the tackles of two Greenock defenders. 07_148rugby01



Ready for action - the Argyll and Bute XV line up before Saturday's match against Greenock Wanderers. 07_148rugby6

IN many ways this was a perfect day for the reformed county team in their first competitive match this season.

Although there were several players unavailable for the home team due to Glasgow District squad sessions and players attending the Scotland v South Africa match at Murrayfield, coaches Gerry Ralston and Murray Hamilton were still able to pick a strong squad.

Greenock Wanderers had generously agreed to travel for this match although they struggled to pick a full strength team also.

From the kick off the intensity and controlled physicality of Argyll's play was out of the top drawer and any visiting team would struggle to deal with wave after wave of attack.

Greenock were given no time to settle or shake off their bus journey as the home team struck with a flowing move giving a converted try for full back Sean Black wide on the left touchline in the first minute.

The hunger for tries continued unabated as Argyll ran up a further four tries with only 20 minutes played. These were scored by Andy MacDougall, Scott MacColl, Alex Cadzow and Andy MacDougall again.

Standoff Finlay Carmichael was proving equally clinical

RUGBY

with the boot as he added the extras by converting many of these scores from either touchline. He would continue to show impressive form only missing two conversions in the entire match in a commanding performance. The hugely encouraging aspect of the Argyll performance was the willingness and collective desire of the team to support each other and execute training moves with rarely an error. This continuity led to further scores for Sean Black and David MacLennan with the team running in a magnificent seven tries for a half time score of 44-0 against the luckless visitors.

The second half continued in a similar vein although the visitors were beginning to gain more possession and territory and looked to have backs who threatened to score given the opportunity. There was no let up in the collisions at the breakdown as both teams competed fiercely for every ruck ball.

Argyll continued to run in some quality tries through Finlay Carmichael, a consecutive brace from Cammy Smith and a second score from flanker Scott MacColl. Greenock then managed a close range score from prop Mal Downie, a player borrowed from

Argyll, which was at least some consolation for their hard work.

There were further tries for Alex Cadzow then a long range try for Corrie Louw before Andy MacDougall completed the scoring and his hat trick. Final score 94-5.

A truly remarkable display of rugby from Argyll given their lack of match practice together and this performance has set the bar very high for future performances. There is a return match scheduled at Greenock in February while further fixtures are also sought later in the season. After the match both teams exchanged club ties, shields and pennants in a short presentation in the clubhouse.

Referee: Billy Thomson.

MOM: David MacLennan.

Argyll and Bute RFC Squad: Kyle Kennedy, Robin MacQueen, Donald Morrison, Craig Nicholson, Jamie MacMillan, Scott MacColl, Tony Hausmidt, Corrie Louw (Capt), David MacLennan, Finlay Carmichael, James Gibbons, Alex Cadzow, Cammy Smith, Andy MacDougall, Sean Black, Neil Rimmer, Mal Downie, Fergus Matheson, Struan Smith.

Oban Lorne are at home to Lanark in Round 2 of the Regional Bowl this Saturday, kick off 2pm.

Saints senior team back in action

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints return to premier league action this Saturday with an away game against Cambria.

The match will be played at the University of Strathclyde Playing Fields at Stepps with a 2pm kick-off. Referee is Michael Auld.

Manager Iain Jackson will be hoping that his team can keep up the excellent form they showed in the recent 3-1 home win against Greenock.

Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Goldenhill 5, Under 13s 2.

Netting for Saints were Stuart Munro and Ben Coates.

Lenzie Colts Thistle 1, Under 14s 3. Saints goal scorers were Jamie Easton, Fraser MacFarlane and Zak Straub.

Westerton United v Under 15s postponed.

Under 16s 6, Helensburgh 0. Scoring for Saints were Martin MacPherson (3), Jason Wylie, Kieran MacInnes and Robert Johnston.

This weekend's fixtures: Westerton United v Under 13s. Under 14s v Searfar Villa. East Kilbride v Under 15s. Under 16s no game.

Oban chess players represent Scotland

CHESS

TWO OBAN Chess Club players represented Scotland at the World Youth Chess Championships in Porto Carras, Greece.

Andrew McClement was the top Scottish player in the under-16 age category, scoring five-and-a-half points out of 11.

Liam Richmond, who was competing in the under-eight age category, scored four-and-a-half out of 11 after matches against two Russians, two Greeks, a Canadian, a Czech and a New Zealander. Many of these youngsters had personal trainers.

Hangover trophy

GOLF

TOBERMORY Golf Club results:

Mens Section; Hangover Trophy (9 holes) - 1 John Weir 18pts, 2 Donald Brown snr. 17pts, 3 Graham Davidson 17pts.

Junior Section; November medal (9 holes) - 1 Lewis Wilshire 36-8-28, 2 Ross MacCrone 44-10-34, 3 William MacCrone 55-7-48.

Oban's Magnus learns from the best

OBAN rugby prospect Magnus Bradbury was at Murrayfield at the weekend for top-level coaching and to watch the international win against South Africa.

The 15-year-old was one of four youth players from across Scotland to

be selected for the 'Learn from the best' programme, where the boys met the international players and had a session with head coach Andy Robinson and backs coach Gregor Townsend.

Magnus' mother, Dee, said: 'Magnus had a great

time and had the chance to speak to Dan Parks, Nathan Hines and Chris Paterson. On Saturday they were pitch-side for the warm-up and saw a great game.'

Magnus attends the SRU's elite training programme and trains with Glasgow

New kayaks for Oban Canoe Club thanks to £7,500 grant

OBAN Canoe Club took delivery of a small fleet of kayaks following a successful grant application to Awards for All.

The club was awarded £7,500 to purchase the equipment, which will further encourage the recent west coast boom in the sport.

Filmmaker and world-renowned kayaker Justine Curgenven and Roddy McDowell, regional coaching organiser for the Scottish Canoe Association (SCA) were at North Connel Hall to celebrate the arrival of the kayaks.

Justine, who films her kayak trips for DVDs, National Geographic and the BBC, popped open a celebratory bottle of champagne, ceremoniously spraying the new kayaks. She then went on to tell the gathered club members about her adventures, including her kayak around New Zealand's South Island, the quickest ever circumnavigation of the island at 67 days.

Bute man Roddy McDowell from the SCA told The Oban Times: 'The grant is a huge

boost for the club; it enables the equipment, which enables people to take part and the next generation of paddlers can access the sport more easily.

'Kayakers from all over the world are now coming to the west coast of Scotland, of which Argyll and Bute is a huge part.

'I think we are now one of the top three kayak destinations in the world.'

Beautiful

Justine, who lives near Bangor in Wales, said: 'Oban is a great place for kayaking; the west coast of Scotland is beautiful and the fact there are so many islands gives you options, regardless of the weather.'

It was while filming in Argyll that the filmmaker realised her profession had taken over her hobby. 'I filmed at the Falls of Lora four years ago,' she said. 'That was quite a turning point in my career because I was not paddling as well as I wanted to, so I promised myself there and then that I would paddle more and film less.'



Justine Curgenven sprays champagne over the new kayaks as club member Dave Bleazard looks on. 16_147kayak01

the weather

Sponsored by
NANCY BLACK Ships' Chandler

Thursday

Sunny during the day but cloudy at night.
Winds light north-westerly
Temperatures 0°C to 4°C

Friday

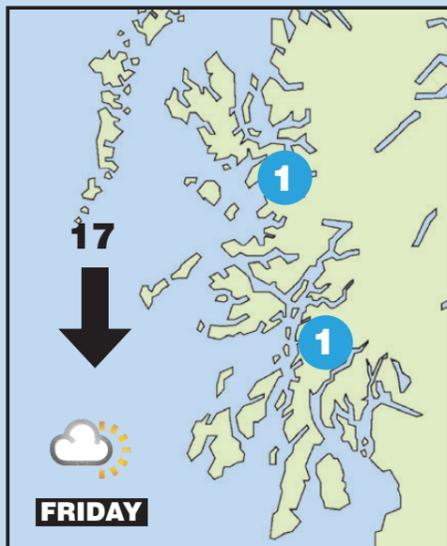
Sunny intervals and slightly colder.
Winds moderate to strong northerly
Temperatures -1°C to 3°C.

Weekend Outlook

Will be cloudy for the most part.
Winds light east, north-easterly.
Temperatures -2°C to 1°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above



Tides

Sponsored by
NANCY BLACK Ships' Chandler

Tide tables for Oban during the week from
Thursday, November 25, 2010
are listed below with differences
for major ports listed beneath.
All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 01.30	1.0 07.23 3.9	14.01 1.3 19.53 3.6
Fri 02.13	1.1 08.07 3.8	14.50 1.4 20.39 3.4
Sat 03.02	1.2 08.57 3.6	15.48 1.6 21.33 3.2
Sun 03.57	1.3 09.57 3.5	16.57 1.7 22.40 3.1
Mon 05.02	1.4 11.11 3.4	18.13 1.7 ** ** *
Tues 00.15	3.0 06.12 1.4	12.48 3.4 19.28 1.6
Wed 01.51	3.1 07.24 1.4	14.07 3.5 20.34 1.5

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardershaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30



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