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# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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### Kerrera road link moves closer

THE UPGRADE of the road on Kerrera, which would see both sides of the island linked up, has been set out by community representatives and politicians.

A meeting between stakeholders, including Argyll and Bute Council, Kerrera Community Trust, Michael Russell MSP and ferry representatives, discussed plans for a basic forestry road and another road fully adopted by the council.

Mr Russell said the Scottish Government was trying to find a way to give short-term support to both island ferries, to allow the council to focus on the priority of the roads.

All parties agreed to meet again on the island at the beginning of next year.

### Landslide closes Tobermory road

COUNCIL staff have been working to clear a landslide which closed a road on the Isle of Mull on Monday morning.

The landslide, on the Back Brae in Tobermory, was considerably less dramatic than others which hit the island earlier this year but workers are still putting in place protective measures to ensure there is no repeat.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The council is clearing away all debris from the landslide including taking down a couple of trees.'

'All loose material on the embankment will be removed as will the debris on the road. Once the embankment has been stabilised, an assessment will be made on the need for further protective works, such as placing a net over the slope.'

### Police appeal after Dalmally fuel theft

DIESEL was siphoned from the fuel tank of a vehicle left overnight in Dalmally between November 22 and 23.

Police believe the theft took place around 5.30am.

It is believed the suspects were driving a large vehicle, a van or 4x4, which was seen at the location of the theft.

Anyone with information is asked to contact PC Iain Young on 01631 510500.



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Oban Bay was lit up on Sunday night as a spectacular fireworks display brought the town's Winter Festival to a climax. Picture - Ewan McGlynn

## Winter Festival finale ends with a bang

CROWDS lined Oban's Esplanade on Sunday evening for the grand finale of this year's Winter Festival.

A packed 10 days was brought to a close with spectacular fireworks and the lighting of a lantern - specially designed

like a Victorian steam train to match the festival theme. Tara Coia, from Dunollie, had been busy working on the

enormous creation in Oban Distillery. The lantern fitted over a car to be driven around town in the parade before being lowered

into the water off Oban's North Pier. The distillery also hosted a food and drink court with live music entertaining the crowds.

## Police warn householders after thieves strike

A 'MINI spate' of house break-ins has led to police calling for residents in the Oban and Lorn area to be 'vigilant'.

The move comes following two break-ins to properties on November 20. The first was at 5pm at a house in Deanery Brae, Oban.

The second, carried out a short time later, was at a property in Ferryfield Road, Connel where jewellery and other items were taken.

In relation to the Oban break-in, police are looking for a man, aged between 20 and 25 with a height of 5ft 2in to 5ft 4in.

*"It feels like your home has been invaded, it's an uncomfortable feeling."*

victim of theft

The suspect, who was caught on CCTV, was wearing a skip hat, dark jacket and jeans and was carrying a medium sized rucksack.

Distinctive jewellery, including a gold Ola Gorie necklace and earrings, a silver ring with turquoise stone and a bracelet made up of heart shaped turquoise stones in silver settings, was taken from the house.

The victims of the break-in said they 'couldn't understand' why their house was chosen, adding: 'You think your house is secure. It feels like our home has been invaded, it is an uncomfortable feeling.'

'If I hadn't dropped off a colleague at their home he would have still been upstairs when we entered the property.'

They feel that the thieves knew what they were looking for. 'He didn't go into the lounge, he went straight upstairs into the bedrooms', which had been rummaged through with drawers tipped out.

Other stolen valuables include men and women's Tag Heuer watches, a ladies Gucci watch and 100ml bottle of Jo Malone perfume.

Police say a dark, four door saloon car with two occupants was parked near the property, causing an obstruction at 4.55pm, other cars would need to have passed with care. One of the occupants left the vehicle

and committed the housebreak.

Chief inspector Brian Auld said: 'The area was very busy with pedestrian and vehicle traffic, there was also a number of activities taking place in Atlantis Leisure.'

'We would appeal to anyone who was in the area and saw a vehicle or person fitting the description given to get in touch with police on 01631 510500.'

If you come across anyone in your property do not challenge them. Phone the police immediately and don't touch anything in your house.

## Former school needs to come down

Call for urgent decision on fate of 139-year old crumbling building

CALLS for a quick resolution on the future of the former Rockfield Primary School building have heightened this week, as public opinion was allied with political will.

The crumbling Grade B listed building in the centre of Oban, which closed its doors in 2007, has been the centre of much debate but the majority view seems to be that demolition is the way forward.

Historic Scotland has been accused of standing in the way of development but maintains it has never had an official application to de-list or to demolish the building.

At Monday's Oban Community Council meeting, Argyll and Bute Council leader Roddy McCuish responded to calls for action by stressing the council had to wait for permission from Historic Scotland before the building could be knocked down and insisted talks between the two parties were progressing.

He added: 'We would sell it [Rockfield] tomorrow if we could but someone has to buy it from us.'

Area leader, councillor Louise Glen-Lee, said: 'We are working on a resolution for Rockfield in the shortest period of time possible.'

'While no-one wants to take the decision to pull down a beautiful, historic building, no-one has come up with the money for a project to keep it.'

'I am all for preserving the past but we have got to the point where the building is dangerous, becoming an eyesore and taking up valuable space.'

*"I'm all for preserving the past but the building is dangerous."*

councillor Louise Glen-Lee

'It upsets me to say that because it holds so many memories for people but we need to move on.'

Proceeds from the sale of the building would go into the authority's education budget and while two bids were submitted for the building at the end of last year, offers fell some way short of the council's £475,000 valuation.

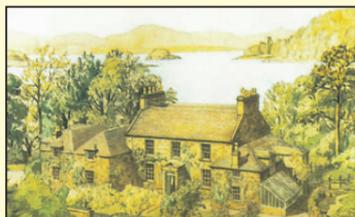
Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell reflected public opinion, adding: 'A conclusion on the old Rockfield School needs to be taken as soon as possible.'

'Argyll and Bute Council and Historic Scotland need to find a way forward - there has been no real solution to keeping the building in its current state.'

A spokesman for Historic Scotland said: 'With the council, we are looking at whether a positive new use can be found, or whether demolition is the only viable option.'

'Because there is a presumption against the demolition of listed buildings, strong justification - including a detailed exploration of the options for re-use - would be required as part of any application to demolish Rockfield School.'

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### Saulmore golf course project underway

LONG-awaited construction work at the site of Saulmore Bay Golf Course has begun this week, more than six years after being given the go ahead.

Preparatory works are now under way on the Dunstaffnage Estate ground by developers Guardian House (Scotland) Ltd. The first phase of drainage operations commence this week with the major works starting in the New Year.

Patrick Dawson of Guardian House, explained the project had been held up by financial constraints but welcomed the start of the 'exciting' project.

Councillor Louise Glen Lee welcomed the development, which she said would be an enormous boost in terms of tourism and job creation. She added: 'Golf is on the rise and Argyll has so much to offer in that respect. We have the potential to grow the nine-hole golf market to complement the courses we already have throughout Argyll.'



Two-year-old Patrick Higgins from Kilmelford visited Santa in his grotto.

### Kilmelford welcomes early visit from Santa

SANTA came early to children in Kilmelford this year as he dropped in on the village's annual Christmas Fayre.

The event, held in Kilmelford Village Hall on Sunday, saw a variety of stalls including food, gifts, Christmas cards and decorations and jewellery on offer.

Santa even put in an appearance and handed out gifts to children in his grotto. Kilmelford Primary School hosted face painting, tattoos and lots of toys and games for children to raise funds for the school.

Organiser Lucy Files said: 'The atmosphere is really good, everyone seems very happy and very cheerful. The kids are really enjoying it.'

'We have tried to have a good selection and have tried to make sure there is a variety amongst the stalls so there isn't too much of the same thing.'

Almost £1,000 was raised on the day and will go towards improvements being made to the hall.

Lucy added: 'There has been a lot of work done. We are trying to make it more user friendly for people.'

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It's time to have **YOUR SAY**



Readers can ask the questions they want answered

THE OBAN Times is giving its readers direct access to some of the west Highlands' most influential people in a new column. Your Say will invite readers to send in questions for public figures to answer, directly through the columns of the newspaper. Public servants, elected officials and the decision makers in some of the area's most important companies will be invited to take questions on the issues that matter most to people in the west Highlands and islands.

The Oban Times' editorial director, Stewart MacKenzie, said: 'The aim of the Your Say column is to give our readers a direct and effective forum in which to question the people that affect their daily lives and future prospects.'

'As well as giving the readers a voice through their newspaper, Your Say will provide a check on those who are responsible for protecting the public and the prosperity of the region in difficult times.'

'The success of the column will depend entirely on readers submitting questions on the issues that matter to them.'

The first interviewee will be Argyll and Bute Council chief executive Sally Loudon, who has overall responsibility for running the local authority.

You can submit questions for Ms Loudon to editor@obantimes.co.uk, under the subject heading Your Say, or via our website. Alternatively, write to: Your Say, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

Name, address and a contact email and/or phone number must be supplied with your question.



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**£9,000 aid to project aiming to tell story of north west coast of Mull**

A COMMUNITY group on the Isle of Mull has become one of the first in the UK to benefit from a new small grant scheme. Ulva School Community Association (USCA), based in Ulva Ferry, has been awarded a £9,000 All Our Stories grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The money will be used

to fund the Caolas Ulbha project which will collect, document and celebrate the ever-changing story of the ordinary people who lived or live in this dispersed community on the north west coast of Mull. Community The Caolas Ulbha project will involve the whole community,

from the children at Ulva Primary School to the older residents of the area. Rebecca Munro, convener of USCA, said: 'It is so exciting that we have been awarded this grant and we are really looking forward to starting on the Caolas Ulbha project. 'This is a nationally designated

scenic area but the landscape has been moulded by the work of ordinary people over hundreds of years and all of us are excited about being able to record and share the stories of the people who live and have lived here.' Future USCA was formed in 2011 to give the people in and around

Ulva Primary School a say in the future plans for the area. The group grew out of the successful fight to save the school from closure. Aims include the advancement of community development, rural regeneration within the community, the provision of affordable housing for the area

and support for Ulva School. All Our Stories is a new, simple, funding programme for 2012 with grants available ranging from £3,000 to £10,000 so everyone can get involved in their heritage. Colin McLean, head of the Heritage Lottery Fund Scotland, said: 'Clearly the success of All

Our Stories has reinforced the fact that we are indeed a nation of story tellers and that we want to explore and dig deeper into our past and discover more about what really matters to us. 'This is exactly what the grant will do for the Caolas Ulbha project as they embark on a real journey of discovery.'

**Rival towns to tackle waste**

Fort William versus Oban to find food waste champions

TWO WEST Highland environmental organisations are offering a £100 prize to the family who can most reduce their weekly food and packaging waste.

And Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) along with the GRAB Trust are giving the competition extra spice - by pitting Fort William against Oban to find a waste-busting champion.

The contest, say organisers, will also show the rivals how they can save up to £8 per week - the average Scottish figure - through throwing less away.

To illustrate the point, Cat Newsheller of Oban-based GRAB says the £400 per year saved would buy a couple a week's holiday in Lanzarote.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'Our goal is to try to get people to really look at how much waste they actually produce, because people always tell me they recycle everything and don't waste food.'

'I don't know how many times I've heard that. 'We will be seeking families with the same number of kids - and possibly animals - so it's fair.'

'We don't want people who already do everything right, but two families who would like to change the way they do things and are interested in reducing waste - in all areas. Also, ideally they will want to save

*"We don't want people who already do everything right."*

Cat Newsheller of GRAB

money on food bills. Annette Meehan of LEG, who runs Zero Waste Lochaber and Skye, said the families chosen would be provided with all the support and advice they need over the two-month trial.

She said: 'We would have to spend a couple of weeks looking at how the families do things now to weigh and evaluate their waste.'

'Then we'd spend two weeks looking at what they are doing differently and to see who is saving the most.'

'The family who makes the biggest changes, saves the most money, reduces the most rubbish and so forth will win a gift certificate of £100 to a local restaurant or store. The two families' names will be picked from a hat. *The Oban Times* will run updates on how the food fight is progressing.

Oban area entrants can contact Cat at Cat.Newsheller@argyll-bute.gov.uk or on 01631 567965. Fort William area hopefuls can phone Annette on 01397 700090 or email zerowaste@lochaber-environmental-group.org.uk.



Nonnie MacInnes hands over £6,000 to Cancer Research ladies Glynis Dewar, Sandra Ross and June Pearson while Karen MacInnes passes the cheque to Marie Curie nurse Pat Graham with Lilian Kermode and Jenny McEvoy.

**DMI Trust donates cancer concert cash**

THOUSANDS of pounds raised at a charity concert earlier this year has been handed over to Cancer Research UK and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Neil 'Nonnie' MacInnes and his wife Karen organised the We'll Walk This Road Together gig, held in the Corran Halls, Oban, which raised £12,000 for the charities.

The couple set up the DMI Cancer Trust ahead of the

concert, having seen members of their family struggle with the disease. Nonnie said: 'We did this because of the way we were affected through people dying of cancer - but also people surviving.'

Nonnie and Karen presented cheques of £6,000 each to the two organisations in Coasters last Wednesday.

Glynis Dewar from Cancer Research said: 'We can't thank Nonnie enough. There are no words to express how grateful we are for this tremendous effort. The money goes to fund scientific research which will benefit people in this area.'

Lilian Kermode from Marie Curie added: 'The good thing is that the money raised in this area stays in this area. 'All the money will be used for home nursing care - every single

penny is used for our nurses.'

The concert in September brought together a 'supergroup' made up of Skerryvore, Manran plus Oban band Ceol an Aire which delighted the audience of almost 700.

Full event costs were covered through sponsorship meaning every penny from ticket sales and the raffle, which raised £2,500, went straight to the charities. Nonnie added: 'If I could just

take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved, the Corran Halls, the band, my bar staff, the sponsors and all the helpers.'

Sponsors of the event were: RA Clements, SEC Builders, Jimmy Buchanan, Caley Fisheries, Hamish Matheson, MGM Timber, Fusion Marine, JM Boyd Plumbers, Coasters and John MacLennan Contractors (Barra).

**Accountant takes chairman's post at David MacBrayne Ltd**

AN ACCOUNTANT who has been a board member of David MacBrayne Ltd for more than six years has become the company's latest chairman.

Transport minister Keith Brown announced the appointment of David McGibbon as the new chairman of the company which owns CalMac Ferries Ltd.

The three-year appointment runs from November 21 2012 to November 20 2015 and attracts a remuneration of £356 per day for a time commitment of two-and-a-half days per week.



David McGibbon.

Welcoming the appointment, Mr Brown said: 'This will be a challenging time for the company as it delivers ferry services

under existing contracts and prepares for bidding competitively for future ones.'

Mr McGibbon, who had been deputy chairman at David MacBrayne Ltd since 2009, previously served as chairman of the London Stock Exchange, Scottish Council from 1998-2001 and is a former finance director and company secretary of Grampan Holdings plc, the then parent company of The Malcolms Group (W H Malcolms).

Member appointments to the David MacBrayne Ltd Board were expected this week.



Fergie's Folk with Fergie MacDonald

IT WAS wonderful to be back on the circuit this year and doing what I love best - playing the 'box'.

It's been a busy 2012, but to me the highlight was 'the wedding', which took a bit of beating I can tell you.

The initial telephone call from London booking me for the 'do' at the Glenborrodale Castle Hotel sounded really exciting. Performing there immediately conjured up visions of grandeur.

You visualize the band dressed in tartan humping the instruments up the marble staircase, then setting up in the drawing room surrounded by Van Gogh and Salvador Dali paintings worth millions.

Couple this with caviar and champagne while playing the jig Runrig as background incidental music and you get the picture.

But then wedding arrangements suddenly took a twist as the voice crackled over the telephone: 'We are getting married outside.'

That seemed fair enough to me - the castle grounds are the ultimate showpiece in relation to gardening exotic splendour, with colourful shrubs, flowers, trees and, of course, birds of paradise. What a setting for a wedding I thought.

But my dreams were shattered with the next request: 'Can your band play in the open on the shore of Loch Sunart in November?'

Now, this is not exactly the Silver Sands of Morar. The terrain consists of steep rocky cliffs covered with moss and slippery seaweed. Among the rocks are roots, stumps, fallen trees and chest high bracken.

Being unaware and innocent of these hazards, I agreed to perform along with my band.

The master plan was for the wedding party to muster at the castle as dusk was approaching and walk down the footpath to the shore, where the band would be waiting to strike up in Hawaiian style. The tunes requested seemed appropriate for the occasion. By the Light of the Silvery Moon, followed by Stranger on the Shore, the Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond, the Dark Island and Roamin' in the Gloamin'.

It would have gone like clockwork had the heavens not opened. Hail, rain and sleet were descending in torrential volumes.

The band had to stand down in case water got into the instruments electronics and we would have gone up in a flash. In other words, electrocuted! Yet in true showbiz fashion, the show must go on. Everybody was totally saturated.

One would swear that the women were kitted out with see-through dresses and the men dressed in wet suits. I am not going to elaborate further.

On the way back to the castle in the darkness, the procession had the hallmarks of a battle weary army in full retreat, with the stronger ones helping the injured who fell on the rocks. Others had clattering teeth and uncontrollable tremors bordering on hypothermia.

My articles are limited to a few hundred words - otherwise this story could fill *The Oban Times* from start to finish. Seriously, the beautiful bride and indeed the groom deserve a medal for enduring the most horrendous conditions and going through with the original plan. I told the happy couple that they would never forget their unique wedding and, most certainly, neither will I.

It was a wee bit wet for the wedding down by Loch Sunart-side!

**On the spot report: Fort William Community Council**

CLAGGAN member Maureen Dempsey said Carn Dearg and Polmona residents had complained that blocked street drains had left 'gunge and muck' around their houses.

She said: 'A man in a yellow jacket came round to look at it and said to my neighbour that the problem would be sorted out. 'That was five weeks ago and since then we have not seen a living soul.'

A work line will be raised at the Highland Council service point to ensure the matter is dealt with.

SERGEANT Nick Hough updated the council on the investigation into the recent armed robbery at the 'Togs' shop in Caol, when a woman in her 60s was injured by a man brandishing a knife and cash was stolen.

An incident room was set up at Fort William Police Station and CID officers from Inverness were down to help out, Sergeant Hough reported.

House-to-house inquiries were being carried out and CCTV footage examined to see if anyone matching the assailant's description was around at the time.

'It is one of the most significant incidents that has happened here for quite a while,' he said. 'There has been a higher police presence in Caol since the incident.'

COUNCILLOR Brian Murphy reported that seating opposite the Imperial Hotel would be done and undergrowth cut back in the next couple of weeks.

DREW Purdon raised the thorny issue of how much say Lochaber residents have in decisions affecting them - and questioned why local Highland councillors held their regular meetings in Lochaber House in private.

'How are the public supposed to know what's going on?' he asked. Councillor Brian Murphy replied that a new Lochaber and Skye area committee was likely to begin operating from April 1 2013.

'Going by the results from pilots schemes in Inverness and Calthness and Sutherland, area committees will be rolled out to the rest of the Highlands,' he said. An unimpressed Mr Purdon retorted: 'There is no community of interest with Skye - and certainly not with Inverness!'

'We are going to have to work together,' said Councillor Murphy. Secretary Trisha Jordan bemoaned the division of Lochaber into north and south wards.

She said: 'Since the wards were split, partnership working occurring at the time has gone. Everybody is working in little groups and we are back to people fighting about things - and that suits Inverness.'

THE COMMUNITY council is considering a hanging basket display for the High Street next summer.

Members agreed to seek advice from Corpach in Colour and Fort Augustus Community Council early in the New Year on the best approach for the project.

ALEC Farquhar, Fort William Community Council's representative on Lochaber Housing Association (LHA), reported that the association was looking to offload around 30 rented homes at around £100,000 each in remote areas to cut disproportionately high maintenance costs and raise cash for new projects.

He said: 'The idea is to sell to people who can put effort and money into them. 'Hopefully there will be enough money for future developments. If there is a sitting tenant they get the first shout.'

Chairman Neil Clark asked: 'How does that square with the ethos of the housing association for social housing?'

Mr Farquhar replied: 'They [LHA] have had to put all development on the back burner this year. The properties continue to drain money from the association and this certainly reduces our ability to invest in new housing.'

SHIELA MacLennan had received complaints about the 'forest' of Japanese knotweed behind Fort William Primary School.

Councillor Murphy said: 'If it is on council land it should be eliminated. But Scottish Natural Heritage says it wants to do a mapping exercise first and employ a student to do so.'

Ms MacLennan was also concerned about the dilapidated property next door. 'What's happening about the old high school?' she asked. Councillor Murphy replied: 'I wish a friendly hurricane would come along one day.'

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### Mull childrens' safety fears leads to road policy change

FEARS over the safety of children in school buses on an Isle of Mull road has forced Argyll and Bute Council to change its winter policies.

The C46 road, which runs from Salen to Dervaig and is locally known as the Glen road, is not gritted in winter as there is not the required number of children travelling on it.

The last meeting of Mull Community Council (MCC) heard that as there are less than 12 children on the school transport the council will not grit the road.

Mike Shilson, MCC member said: 'The concern is that previous winters the gritter has come off the road, a fire engine has come off and even Calum Duffy (this year's winner of the Mull Rally) has come off the road.'

Questions also arose as to why the council felt it was unacceptable to risk the lives of 12 children travelling on an ungritted road but 11 was fine.

Now Jim Smith, head of roads and amenity services is proposing a trial change to winter treatment on Mull.

He said: 'The pilot will include the C46, Dervaig to Salen road as a higher priority as part of the winter treatment during reasonably settled conditions where treatments are carried out in advance of frost.'

'The treatment route will follow B8073 Tobermory - Dervaig - Calgary, C46 Glen Aros - Salen.'

He added: 'In severe or recurring hazardous conditions we cannot guarantee Glen Aros will be available at all times as priority will be given to the principle A848/A849 and B8075 bus routes.'

'This will mean that we will not be able to guarantee the treatment of C46 Glen Aros before 8am.'

'To assist in alerting drivers to the risk that the road will be untreated, permanent signs advising of a diversion via Tobermory are in place.'

'On days when the road is liable to be treated later, due to priority activities on the service bus routes, road closed ahead signs will be erected at either end of C46.'

'The proposed pilot will be reviewed through the winter period and again at the end of the winter prior to consideration being given to the winter policy for 2013/14.'

### Oban retail outlet nominated

STAFF at Oban's branch of the Original Factory Shop have been nominated for a Retail Week award for Customer Service Initiative of the Year.

Store manager Gwen Cameron said: 'We haven't won it yet, but we're over the moon to have made it on the shortlist for such a prestigious award.'

The winner will be announced in March.

### Oban police files

A 23-YEAR-old man has been charged with careless driving after he collided with another vehicle on the road between Oban and Connel. He has also been charged with failing to stop and failing to report the accident. A report has been sent to the procurator fiscal.

THREATENING a 62-year-old bus driver with violence, spitting on him and attempting to punch him landed one 23-year-old man in police custody after the incident at Taynuilt around 6.30pm on November 18.

A 29-YEAR-old man has been reported to the procurator fiscal after he lost control of his vehicle, left the road and caused damage to fencing as the vehicle continued for 25 metres. The incident happened on the A85 in Taynuilt on November 20 at 10.50am.

A COURT appearance awaits a 23-year-old female who assaulted a 19-year-old girl. Police charged the 23-year-old after the incident in Miller Road, Oban, on November 20 at 2pm.

A 16-YEAR-old girl was the victim of threatening and abusive phone calls on November 21. A 23-year-old female has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

A 40-YEAR-old man was arrested in Cullipool on the Isle of Luing after assaulting a 53-year-old woman on November 25.

He is also charged with threatening her with violence and placing her in a state of fear and alarm.



### 'Queen Victoria' drops in for festival carousel

Oban residents could be forgiven for thinking they had stepped back in time at the weekend as a Victorian carousel played host to Queen Victoria and her lady in waiting. The ride, situated outside the Corran Halls, welcomed Mary MacInnes as Queen Victoria and Catherine Wylie as her Lady in Waiting on Sunday. The carousel visited the town as part of the Winter Festival celebrations and was chosen by organisers as the theme of this year's festival was Victorian. Children and adults of all ages enjoyed the ride, which was part of a mini funfair. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

### Cruachan power station officially recognised

CRUACHAN Power Station has joined the likes of Tower Bridge in London and the Falkirk Wheel in being named one of Britain's most impressive engineering feats.

On Friday, the station will be presented with an Institution of Mechanical Engineers' Engineering Heritage Award, joining a prestigious list that contains the likes of the Channel Tunnel, the Thames Barrier, the Rolls Royce RB211 engine and the Waverley paddle steamer.

Cruachan is being presented with the award to mark it as the world's first high-head reversible pumped-storage power plant.

Electricity The station is capable of generating 440MW of electricity and can go from standby to full production in two minutes. It is used to deal with periods of peak demand on the grid.

Excavation of the cavern to build the station required the removal of 220,002m<sup>3</sup> of rock and soil.

Excavation of the cavern to build the station required the removal of 220,002m<sup>3</sup> of rock and soil.

### Kayaker dies after Loch Fyne incident

A MAN on a camping trip to Loch Fyne has died of suspected hypothermia.

The man, from Glasgow, was kayaking on Loch Fyne and camping at Lagganroig, south of Tarbert, on Saturday. His kayak had capsized with another man on board on Saturday afternoon and he had fallen ill overnight.

His father and a friend called in coastguards at 6am on Sunday morning as the 26-year-old's condition deteriorated. Tighnabruaich RNLI lifeboat was launched and the three men were taken to Tarbert, where an ambulance was waiting.

The ill man was rushed to Mid Argyll Community Hospital but was pronounced dead at 9.15am on Sunday morning.

Sergeant Iain MacNicol from Lochgilphead Police Station said: 'The man had been in the water between 4pm and 5pm the previous day when the kayak he and another man was in capsized. His condition later deteriorated whilst they camped on the shoreline.'

'Unfortunately the man later died in hospital. The exact cause of death is not yet known and a post mortem will be carried out at a later date. A report has been sent to the procurator fiscal.'

The father of the deceased, aged 48, and friend, 47, were examined by medical staff at Mid Argyll Hospital and later released.

# Brave adds Argyll bonus

## Documentary follows film blockbuster throughout west

ARGYLL is to receive a new global showcase thanks to the disc release of Disney Pixar's blockbuster *Brave* - an extended feature on how the area inspired the film's look.

Set to be shipped across the world on DVD and blu-ray, the extras on *Brave* includes a documentary on how animators travelled extensively throughout Argyll researching the vision of Scotland depicted in the hit animated film.

*Brave* grossed \$535,043,843 at cinemas across the world, making it the fifth most successful film release of the past year.

It has been hailed as a major tourism coup for the county, with both Argyll and the Isles Tourism (AIT) and VisitScotland urging local businesses to make the most of the high profile exposure.

A *Brave* New World shows Disney Pixar staff travelling throughout the ancient Kingdom of Dalriada, taking in areas such as Loch Awe, Kilchurn Castle and Glen Coe, as well as touring throughout Mid Argyll.

It even shows the director of *Brave*, Mark Andrews, taking an early morning dip in Loch Awe after the team stayed overnight at the Ardanais Hotel, near Taynuilt.

Mike Story, executive director of AIT, said: 'Brave has certainly introduced Scotland, and especially Argyll and the Isles to a world-wide audience.'

'This kind of market penetration is beyond anything we could have hoped for and puts Argyll and the Isles on the world stage.'

'With the Iona celebrations and Year of Natural Scotland in 2013 and the second year of the

homecoming in 2014, we will be positioning our area to take advantage of a new generation of guests to Scotland.'

Local VisitScotland director, David Adams McGilp, said: 'Our campaign with Disney is an incredible opportunity for businesses throughout Argyll to get involved.'

'The film's release on DVD and blu ray, including fascinating special features that promote Argyll, really are 'money-can't-buy' adverts for our region.'

Meanwhile, a VisitScotland promotion and competition will also appear on 1.5million copies of the DVD and blu-ray thanks to a joint agreement with the film giant to help promote the country. Its website www.visitScotland/brave website has received 1.5million hits since it was launched earlier this year.

### Oban art auction raises £3,000 for charity

ART LOVERS have helped raise nearly £3,000 for the Macmillan Cancer Support group for Oban.

Several works from artists both locally and nationally renowned were up for grabs at the sale in the Regent Hotel earlier this month. Among them was a stunning charcoal rendition of Chalmers, as drawn by James Leitch in the 1960s. It was donated by the daughter of the late 'Jimmy' Leitch after reading about the auction in *The Oban Times*.

The large framed piece was the star of the auction, fetching £350 as the event raised a total of £2,967.50 to help provide cancer support workers locally.

Mr Leitch's work will now go on display at Oban's Evantide Home.

Kate Turner, who helped organise the auction, said: 'We were delighted with the turnout. It was because of *The Oban Times* that the picture was donated to us and it's because of *The Oban Times* it is going into the Evantide Home. We're very grateful.'

'I really want to thank all those who donated and all those who turned up.'

### Inverawe Smokehouse Christmas Evening

Come and join us for mulled wine, mince pies and nibbles on Wednesday 5th December from 5-8pm.



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**Morvern Lines**

MORVERN church-goers have worshipped in different buildings over the centuries, but the strangest of all must surely have been in a huge wooden barge with an iron superstructure known locally as 'Eaglais Iarunn' - the Iron Church - which lay off Strontian in the mid 1800s.

At the Disruption of 1843, many Morvern and Sunart families, disenchanted with the local big houses dictating their religion, severed their connections with the Established Church and joined the Free Church of Scotland.

Local landowners refused them church sites so they were forced, along with many of their colleagues elsewhere in the Highlands, to worship on the open hillside or below the high water mark.

That is until someone came up with the idea of a floating church which could be anchored at sea beyond the landowners' jurisdiction.

The 'Floating Church', as it became known throughout the Highlands, was built by Robert Brown in the Glen Yard, Port Glasgow.

It cost £1,400 - £114,000 today - which was raised locally. Considering the clearances and the famine of the time, it was a huge sum which must have caused tremendous personal sacrifices.

Launched in June 1846, it measured almost 80 feet long, 24 feet wide and 27 feet high. It came with a vestry, a pulpit, a preacher's desk and seating for more than 700.

It had three entrances: one at the bow for the minister and two at the rear for the congregation. The church was towed from the Clyde to Loch Sunart by two steam tugs, the 'Gulliver' and the 'Conqueror', and moored in Ardnastang Bay in six fathoms of water. Worshippers from Morvern walked to Liddesdale Bay on the opposite shore and crossed by rowing boat, whilst the Sunart congregation embarked from a nearby stone jetty pulling themselves out in small boats on long ropes stretched between the church and the shore.

The hull had a form of Plimsoll line showing that for every hundred persons aboard it sank an inch in the water!

The church bobbed around until about 1856 when one night, during a storm and an unusually high spring tide, she broke loose and was washed ashore on the sandy beach below Ardnastang.

Here she lay secured against large upright posts, continuing to provide a place of worship - and a school - until 1870 when the landowner relented and gave the local congregation a site on which to build a stone church.

Shortly after the foundation stone was laid, the Iron Church was dismantled and removed by a Clydeside scrap dealer who purchased it from the congregation for £40.

John Sinclair of Lochaline, the only Gaelic-speaking, native Highlander to own an estate in Morvern then and since, 'came out' for the Free Church at the Disruption.

In 1852 he built a new church in Lochaline Village making it unnecessary for the Morvern congregation to walk over the hills to Loch Sunart-side.

Iain Thornber.



Former Rangers player Vladimir Weiss who now plays in Italy.

**Fort William Celtic fan abused former Rangers player via Twitter**  
Fine after 'wind-up' went too far

A FORT William Celtic fan sent a volley of racist abuse to a former Rangers player on Twitter.

Celtic season ticket holder Bradley Cameron sent two public messages to Slovakian player Vladimir Weiss, who is now playing in Italy and has nearly 64,000 followers on the social media network.

Cameron, aged 17, was re-

sponding to a 'tongue-in-cheek jibe' from Weiss aimed at Celtic fans after their side narrowly lost in Barcelona on October 23, Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said.

Defending, Hamish Melrose said Cameron, of 54 Riverside Park, Lochyside, had since closed his Twitter account.

He said: 'It has been a bit of a shock to Mr Cameron, and

possibly others, that these comments are public.'

Fining Cameron £165, Sheriff Noel McPartlin said: 'You sent two messages that were abusive and racist, that goes far beyond any wind-up.'

'It is not acceptable to use this kind of language.'

Cameron pled guilty to sending the racially aggravated messages on his girlfriend's mobile phone.

**Tiree sports field work gets green light from council**

THE UPGRADE of the all-weather sports pitch at Tiree High School has been given the go ahead by councillors.

A recommendation by planners to approve the upgrade was unanimously agreed by members of Argyll and Bute Council's planning committee last Wednesday at Kilmory.

The work will see the pitch extended from 36 metres by 18 metres to a surface of 50 metres by 25 metres.

It is also planned to install four floodlights on 10-metre columns, one in each corner, and a three-metre high fence around the pitch.

Conditions attached to the planning permission state no development will take place until suitable drainage has been agreed to by council planners.

**New policeman for Bunessan**

THE POLICE house in Bunessan is to be occupied once again.

A female constable from Kilmarnock will become the new community police officer for the area. Sergeant Mark Stephen told a meeting of Mull Community Council that PC Chalmers had already visited the village and would take up her post in February next year.

**Fort William man admits racist slur towards woman**

A FORT William man has admitted shouting a racist slur at a woman after she denied him entry to a party.

Police officers present at the scene heard the comment being made by Jake Black on October 13 at a house on Wallace Place, but he claimed they misunderstood the slang he was using.

The 23-year-old was ordered to carry out 20 hours' unpaid work in the community. Black, of Loch Linne Buildings, also admitted attempting to steal items from Morrisons supermarket, Fort William, on August 25 and was ordered to carry out a further 20 hours' unpaid work.

**Islay High School gets extension for college students**

AN EXTENSION will be built to Islay High School to incorporate a larger study area for Argyll College students.

The development will see a free standing building attached to the front of the existing high school by a lightweight glazed roof above the existing ramped access. The plan was agreed by Argyll and Bute councillors on the planning committee last Wednesday. The new building will contain a study area and two video conferencing rooms.

**Alleged Acharacle assaults on women**

A CAOL man accused of assaulting two women is due to stand trial on October 5.

Graham Buchanan, 42, of 5 Patience Way, pled not guilty to both charges.

The alleged incidents occurred in Acharacle on October 11.

**Community council backs Lochaber town front and centre plan**

AMBITIOUS plans to revamp Fort William town centre and seafront have won unanimous backing from Fort William Community Council (FWCC).

Local businessman Norrie MacLean unveiled his regeneration blueprint at the multi-agency Fort William Steering Group (FWSG) meeting earlier this month to critical acclaim.

And at its November meeting last Tuesday, FWCC added its support.

FWSG chairman Councillor Brian Murphy said the plan fitted well with Highland Council's own proposals drawn up in 2009 after the £80 million waterfront development collapsed.

He told members: 'We are trying to do costings right now. We won't be able to do the whole thing all at once - it will have to be phased.'

'The biggest part of it is the breakwater and the marina.

There is a hope that we may be able to get some of the rock from the Corrie Glas hydro scheme [SSE's planned 600MW project at Loch Lochy] to use for the breakwater, but whether or not that rock will be suitable we don't yet know.

'Rock armour for breakwaters needs to be a specific size and we are not necessarily going to get that from the workings at the hydro scheme.'

He added: 'All this won't happen overnight.'

Member Drew Purdon said the steering group meeting was 'one of the most enthusiastic' he had attended.

He said: 'Some of [Mr MacLean's] ideas are not particularly new, but the lack of commercial involvement gives a great deal of strength to the proposal.'

'He has spent a lot of time, money and effort in bringing

this together. There is a great deal of community benefit from this to the town as a whole.

'It's getting us the waterfront again without having the commercial development attached to it.'

He added: 'I am sure this could work. There's nothing else on the agenda.'

'This is not something that has been scribbled on the back of a cigarette packet. I wish him well.'

Mr MacLean's ideas include a breakwater and marina featuring a lighthouse and information centre, statues on An Aird and West End roundabouts, trees to screen the unimposing 'backside' of High Street from the bypass and picnic 'pods' built out from the sea wall.

Covered walkways and shelters along High Street and more green spaces - including a Belford Memorial Gardens at the hospital - also feature.



Yvonne Campbell receives the W P Campbell Award from Eric Galbraith, chief executive officer of BIBA.

**Young Oban insurance broker is best trainee**

A JUNIOR Oban insurance broker has been recognised as one of the best trainees in her field after claiming a prestigious national award.

Yvonne Campbell of Clark Thomson was last week presented with the W P Campbell

Award. This is awarded every year to the highest scoring candidate completing the Associate of the Chartered Insurance (ACII) qualification, working for a British Insurance Brokers' Association (BIBA) member within Scotland, during the previous year. The ACII qualification is regarded as the industry's global standard.

Graham Bass, senior account executive at Clark Thomson, said: 'We are very proud of Yvonne's achievement.'

'As Chartered Insurance Brokers - the 'gold standard' recognition of the highest professional standards in the industry - we are committed to supporting the continuing professional development of our staff.'

'For Yvonne to attain her ACII award with such distinction speaks volumes for her professionalism and commitment, and we look forward to working with her as her career continues.'

The W P Campbell Award was created in 1952 by William Proctor Campbell, a leading Glasgow insurance broker, to encourage and motivate young employees in insurance company offices or broking practices in Scotland.

**Drunken teenager who threatened police is jailed for four weeks**

A FORT William teenager who threatened to kill police officers after drinking heavily has been sentenced to four weeks in detention.

Appearing at Fort William Sheriff Court from custody last week, Luke Mobsby, 18, of Caberfeidh, Fassifern Road, Fort William, pled guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by shouting, swearing and making threats to police officers, as well spitting on an officer.

The incident occurred at Fort William Police Station at around 6am on October 26.

**Council go to tender to clear computers**

THOUSANDS of pieces of computer equipment are to be disposed of over the next three years by Argyll and Bute Council.

The authority has issued a tender inviting companies to quote for a three-year contract to dispose of between 1,500 and 1,800 devices per year.

The devices will include personal computers, laptops, servers, data switches and UPS's from Helensburgh, Dunoon, Rothesay, Oban, Lochgilphead, Tarbert and Campbelltown.

But computer specialists have questioned the council's policy in disposing of this equipment.

One IT manager said:

'Instead of paying a firm to take the equipment away the council should be looking at companies that would pay for the equipment.'

'Requirements could still be put in place for the disposal of sensitive data but the hardware contains valuable precious metals that firms could sell.'

'The equipment could even be refurbished and sold on or even better, donated to local charities.'

A council spokeswoman said: 'The council has issued a tender for disposal of IT equipment and, as such, some of the matters raised are commercially confidential whilst the tender is in progress.'

'In general terms, the

council has a requirement to ensure that it meets the relevant Waste, Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive regulatory requirements in relation to disposal of IT equipment and to ensure that Communications Electronic Security Group's Commercial Product Assurance standards are met in relation to security of data disposal.'

'The tender process will ensure that the council disposes of its equipment in the best value method whilst meeting these requirements.'

'The council has on a number of occasions donated redundant PCs to local charities and will continue to do so when this is appropriate to allow this.'

**Northern Constabulary enjoys public confidence**

LEVELS of public confidence in Northern Constabulary are the highest in Scotland according to new findings.

Responses to the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey rating local police forces on detecting, investigating and preventing crime found Northern Constabulary scored highest. The force's detection rates for 2011-12 were the highest ever at 67 per cent.

Chief Constable George Graham said: 'It is pleasing to note the people of the Highlands and Islands have high levels of confidence in the police.'

'We cannot work in isolation and it is vital we have the trust and support of our communities. It is very important we maintain such high levels of confidence in policing as we move into the single force in April 2013.'

**London councillor admits drink driving**

A LONDON councillor who drove through Fort William town centre while drunk has been banned from driving for a year and fined £400.

Peter Goody, of 132 Glengall Road, Woodford Green, pled guilty to driving while over the limit on July 11. The 64-year-old, a representative with Redbridge London Borough Council, was found to have 49 microgrammes of alcohol in 100ml of breath.

The legal limit is 35 microgrammes.

**Fort William man struck neighbour's car**

A FORT William man has admitted hitting his neighbour's car when trying to park outside his home and failing to tell anyone about it.

Michal Samler, 29, of 92 Kennedy Road, pled guilty to failing to report the accident to police with in 24 hours. He was fined £200.

**Woman falsely claimed benefits**

A SPEAN Bridge woman who did not tell authorities her partner was living with her falsely claimed almost £3,500 in benefits over 19 months.

Dawn Gordon, of 22 Altour Road, was ordered to carry out 70 hours of unpaid work in the community after pleading guilty to knowingly failing to tell the Department of Work and Pensions about a change in her circumstances. Defence solicitor Stephen Kennedy said Gordon, aged 29, had already started repaying the money.

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# Sign in the Kyles causes rift in council

Colintraive wall sign has been in place for nine years

AN ADVERTISING sign, painted onto a sea wall within a National Scenic Area of Argyll, has been branded 'graffiti' by members of Argyll and Bute Council's planning committee.

The sign, advertising mooring space at the nearby Colintraive Hotel, can only be seen by yachts and vessels travelling through the Kyles of Bute and has been in place for nine years.

But a retrospective planning application by the hotel owner was turned down by councillors last Wednesday, despite a recommendation by planning officers to approve it.

The hotel owner has since told The Oban Times the subsequent removal of the sign could be 'the final nail in the coffin' for her business.

A presentation by planning officer Richard Kerr, in which he recommended approval of the advertisement application, was strongly opposed by bemused councillors.

Councillor Rory Colville said: 'I am staggered by the planning officer's response to this application.'

'This sign is cheap and nasty and if this type of thing could be seen from the road we would be up in arms about it.'

'This is one of the most scenic areas in Argyll, if not in the whole of Scotland, and I can't believe planning officers are saying this is acceptable.'

Committee chairman Sandy Taylor said he could see why people would regard it as graffiti.

REPORT by EUAN PATERSON

Other councillors called for consistency in advertisement consent, saying they feared allowing the Colintraive Hotel sign would set a precedent for similar painted signs.

However, councillor James McQueen said: 'How long has the sign been there? Nine years? I would just leave it as it is. Why has no-one complained before now?'

Councillor Colville's motion to refuse the application on the grounds the sign was 'inappropriate to the location and detrimental to the visual amenity of the National Scenic Area' won by five votes to four.

Hotel owner Patricia Watt said a few locals who did not support her hotel and village shop businesses had complained about the sign. She added: 'It is just block capital letters, it is definitely not graffiti. We have no passing trade here and this is the only way I can let the sailors know there are moorings here.'

'I am running a business that, when I took over, was the pits and now it is an award-winning, three-star establishment. I have invested a lot in the hotel but we need business from passing yachts to sustain it.'

'I thought the council was supposed to support businesses. To take away this advertising could be the final nail in the coffin.'

Ms Watt will meet with council planners to discuss an alternative sign.



From left, Kilmallie mums Jacqueline MacLeod, Ileen-Jane McColl, Aileen-Anne MacGregor, Kristen Milne and Brenda Sandison at their homebaking stall on Fort William High Street 20. #48kilmallie01

## Homebaking hits the spot for Kilmallie playgroup

KILMALLIE Playgroup and Day Care got into the festive spirit on Saturday to raise much-needed funds at their tasty-looking homebaking stall.

And the exercise proved a big hit as Christmas shoppers snapped cakes, scones, ginger-breads and other delights in Fort William High Street.

Speaking to *The Oban Times* on Monday after tallying up the cash, playgroup manager Carole Graham reported a grand total of £509.49 had been raised.

She said: 'It's fantastic - it was a tremendous effort from everybody concerned. I think they were a wee bit worried because there was so much on elsewhere

but we had great community involvement all round.'

She added: 'I want to thank all parents, family members and the public for supporting us.'

## World's first carbon capture test at Ardmucknish Bay proves success

A WORLD-first experiment in Ardmucknish Bay to test the ramifications of a leak from carbon capture schemes has been declared a success.

Final results of the study are currently being compiled, but the lead scientist behind the scheme, Dr Henrik Stahl, from Dunbeg's Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), said he was delighted by the initial findings.

Between May 17 and July 22, a controlled quantity of carbon dioxide (CO2) was pumped into loose sediment on the bed of Ardmucknish Bay, near Benderloch, in a bid to see how a leak would affect the environment at the same time as testing a series of detection systems.

While there were a number of surprises, the project progressed as much as planned.

Dr Stahl said: 'We are actually finished now with the sampling and we are now analysing the data from that. Now the results are trickling in, but we do have some initial results. The experiment went very well.'

Early tests focused on detection systems and determining the most reliable way to spot a leak.

Among the host of methods successfully trialled was a newly developed hydrophone, which effectively listens for bubbles of CO2 making their way through the sediment. The system suffered interference thanks to seal scarers used at nearby fish farms but once the scarers were

turned off thanks to co-operation from the fish farms, the system worked well.

'It's a big step,' said Dr Stahl. 'If these schemes are to be implemented significant monitoring must be in place. Using the right kind of system to detect CO2 must be long term sustainable. They have to be able to cover a significant area to discover any leak.'

It was anticipated the experiment would have an impact on the acidity of the water and subsequently on flora and fauna. Dr Stahl said: 'It's a bit early to say what the effect was, what we did see is some species were potentially affected.'

Some dead sea urchin shells were found, but it is unknown

if the release caused their death or if the gas simply overturned the shells. Some species simply moved away while crabs seemed to thrive and flocked to the bubble release spots.

There was no noticeable difference to plant life. The only problem observed with seaweed was with it becoming tangled in equipment.

'It's the first time we've done anything like this, so most of the results were unexpected,' Dr Stahl said.

There is global interest in the project, which developed a collaboration with a Japanese research consortium, as well as with universities across the UK. The full results are expected to be published early next year.

## Feud leads to Mallaig stab threat

A MALLAIG man who threatened to stab another man outside the village police station was at 'breaking point' after years of provocation, a court heard.

Moray Philip thought William Grant was following him and drove to the station to inform police, defence lawyer Gerry Sweeney told Fort William Sheriff Court. But Mr Grant pulled in behind him and Philip got out to threaten his adversary who, claimed Mr Sweeney, had been 'pestering' his client since he gave evidence against Mr Grant in court four years ago.

Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'There are ongoing difficulties between the pair of them.'

Philip, aged 33, pled guilty under provocation to uttering the stab threat on July 27. Sheriff Noel McPartlin ordered Philip to be of good behaviour for a year.

## Tiree bids to aid world record choral carol

TIREE'S Parish and Baptist Churches will next month take part in a nationwide attempt to set a new world record for the largest number of carol singers singing in unison.

Last year, churches across the UK and overseas attracted 18,114 carol singers to sing five classic carols simultaneously - however, it is hoped this year's attempt, co-ordinated by Premier Christian Radio, will smash this achievement.

The churches will commence singing at 7pm on Sunday, December 16 in Kirkcubbin Church, performing Silent Night, O Come All Ye Faithful, O Little Town of Bethlehem, Away in a Manger and Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.

## Caol man accused of pointing gun at three youths

A CAOL man accused of pointing an air rifle at three youths and threatening to shoot them is to stand trial on December 17, with nine witnesses due to give evidence.

David MacKay, of 19 MacMillan Place, denies behaving in a threatening or abusive manner, which was likely to cause fear or alarm at MacMillan Place in the village on October 31.

The 30-year-old's solicitor Hamish Melrose said one defence witness may give evidence at the trial.

## Free tickets to heritage sites on St Andrew's Day

FREE tickets are being given away for several of Scotland's heritage sites, including those in Argyll, as part of this year's St Andrew's Day celebrations.

Run by Historic Scotland, the tickets are available for more than 40 of Scotland's attractions to those who pre-register as part of the St Andrew's celebrations.

Tickets for venues such as Iona Abbey and Dunstaffnage Castle are valid for the first weekend in December.

Those wishing to take advantage of the giveaway need to register in advance at www.ticketgiveaway.co.uk.

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## Some like it hot during Winter Festival

THINGS got a bit hot outside the Corran Halls in Oban last Sunday as brave performers lit up the night with fire art.

The group, which have previously performed at T in the Park, entertained crowds with enchanting feats of fire throwing.

The event was part of Oban's Winter Festival which also featured the Big Fat Electric Ceilidh

Band, a Children's Market, special cinema screenings and special appearances from festival mascot Coolio. Organisers said many events sold out over the 10 days of the seasonal festival and some venues have been encouraged to repeat events which proved particularly in demand in the run up to Christmas.

Photograph by Stephen Lawson.

## Islanders vote on future of Jura Stores

JURACHS went to the polls yesterday (Wednesday) to decide whether islanders will take over the running of Jura Stores.

The ballot is being carried out by Islay-based members of the Islay and Jura Council of Voluntary Services (IJCVS) to ensure a fair result.

Previously a privately run business, the future of Jura Stores may hang on whether the community is willing to take it over, through the Isle of Jura Development Trust. The business is currently valued at £95,000. The ballot question reads: 'Do you support the purchase of the land and building of Jura Stores by Isle of Jura Development Trust on behalf of the community, in order to run the store as a community shop?'

If purchased, an independent Community Interest Company made up of islanders will run a general store from the building. Funding has been secured for professionals to design, plan and cost a full shop refit.

Funding applications for the purchase of the land and building of Jura Stores and to refurbish the shop are in progress and the purchase is subject to this funding being secured.

ADVERTORIAL

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Our team in Oban is well established and highly experienced and qualified. Natalie Michie and Yvonne Campbell have worked with us for over five years, Yvonne having recently attained her ACII qualification, the industry's

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**KILMORE**

A ST Andrew's Day dance is to be held tomorrow (Friday) at 8pm in Kilmore Hall. This is a family event for everyone to enjoy, with local band Ceol an Aire playing and a licenced supper. Bring family and friends for a great night out. 100 Club winners: October, T Overnell; November, C Whitton.

**ISLAY**

ISLAY Sessions, the recent winter weekend festival of traditional music and dance, was held for the second year over the weekend of November 16 to 18. Young professional musicians Findlay Napier and Gillian Frame, Maeve Mackinnon, Hamish Napier and Marc Duff and trad bands The Maverick Angels and Rura led Friday evening's informal pub sessions in Islay's main villages, joined by local musicians.

On Saturday morning, the visiting musicians led instrumental or singing workshops for all ages in Islay High School.

The morning workshops were spent learning songs or music which all the instrumental players, singers and dancers later performed together in the afternoon.

It was amazing how quickly all the children and young people learned to play their pieces with the help of their tutors, and even the wee tinwhistlers performed with tuneful enthusiasm. The ensemble playing was both enormous fun and a real musical achievement.

Saturday evening's concert and ceilidh in Bruichladdich hall was 'the stuff of legend' with fantastic musical performances by so many talented young people.

Sunday afternoon's pub sessions gave another chance for local musicians to join in and play with the visiting bands and individuals before the weekend's feast of traditional music drew to a close in time for catching the ferry.

THE COMMUNITY-owned Islay Energy Trust (IET) held its seventh annual meeting at ICCI, Bowmore on Wednesday November 21.

Two board members retiring by rotation were re-elected and Jenni Minto, IET treasurer, reported a small surplus of income over expenditure for the year 2011-12.

There were presentations from IET's Tidal Project



Hughie and Isie Cameron open the curling ponds in Glen Nevis.

**Refurbished curling ponds officially opened**

'THE ROARING game' could be a regular fixture in at Fort William after the refurbishment of curling ponds in Glen Nevis.

Local couple Hughie and Isobel (Isie) Cameron officially opened the ponds last Sunday, putting the seal on the months long Nevis Partnership and Friends of Nevis project.

Isie was born and brought up on her parents' croft in the Glen

**GLEN NEVIS**

and Hughie and Isie in turn set up home in the area.

Initial work involved clearing and major landscaping before a sculpted landscape design was created with a split-boulder gateway feature and placed curling stones.

The completion marks the final

element of the Sense of Place initiative and concluded the European Regional Development Fund scheme. Project manager Anna Trafford said: 'We really wouldn't have managed this without the enthusiastic support of the Friends of Nevis and I would like to praise their work. We would also like to thank Lochaber Curling Club for their co-operation.'

Nevis Partnership chairman Patricia Jordan thanked all those involved in the ponds' design and construction.

She said: 'The area had unfortunately become neglected but with creativity, hard work and the placing of landscape features to enhance the area this has now become an attractive place for locals and visitors to enjoy.'

individuals and organisations on Islay to produce a plan for the future management and distribution of funds generated by our operations and the establishment of a co-operative which would enable Islay residents to benefit from investment in the projects.' SC.

**COLL**

AN CRIDHE, Coll's new £2.5million community hall, has been commended by a major national architecture award.

Since opening in July, An Cridhe has significantly improved local access to a range of facilities for sport, learning and social activities.

So impressive is the building, that it received the Glasgow Institute of Architects' Commendation for Design Excellence.

Caroline Dearden of architects Anderson Bell Christie stated: 'Since the outset of the project,

we worked very closely with Development Coll and the community to ensure the multi-functional capability of the building was achieved. In many ways, An Cridhe has exceeded the expectations of the community and has become an important part of everyday island life on Coll. The judges were impressed with the quality, and sensitive design of the building within its rural island setting. More importantly, An Cridhe's success is evident from the general ambience of the building and the local pride in the new community centre.'

**GLENGARRY**

GLENGARRY and District Community Association is holding a St Andrew's Day Dance in Glengarry Community Hall tomorrow night.

Ross MacPherson is providing the music at the event, which starts at 7.30pm.

**NETHERLORN**

THE ROYAL British Legion Easdale Branch Poppy Collection for 2012 totalled £1,536.85. The fantastic total is an increase on the £1,410 collected in 2011.

The breakdown is as follows: Seil and Luig, £1,034.30; Kilmelford and Kilniver, £502.67.

The branch thanked its volunteers for their hard work and the communities for their generous giving.

**TAYNUILT**

A WHIST was held on Friday November 16 in Taynuilt.

Prizewinners were: Ladies, 1 Margaret Forbes, Connel; 2 Peggy MacIntyre, Dalavich; 3 Marina MacInnes, Connel; 4 Deirdre MacFarlane.

Consolation prize, Lily Wilson; travelling prize, Marilyn Henderson, Kilchrenan.

Gents: 1 John Ross; 2 Colin Campbell; 3 Leslie Servant; 4 Mary Scott, playing as gent. Consolation prize, Alice Campbell, travelling prize, Stella Huntingford.

Leslie Servant was cardmaster for the evening and there were seven tables.

A total of £130 was raised for Taynuilt Bowling Club.

The next whist is on Friday December 14, in aid of senior citizens outings.

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**KINLOCHELVEN**



Kinlochleven High School sporting stars: left to right, Ruaridh Mills, Tom McMahon and Stephen Dent.

**Sporting trio shine outside classroom**

THREE Kinlochleven High School pupils are showing they have talents beyond the classroom.

Stephen Dent, S2, who cycles with Nevis Cycles Racing team, trains and races regularly at Glasgow's velodrome and is ranked fifth in Great Britain in the 12-14 years mountain biking category.

S4 pupil Ruaridh Mills prefers another form of transport - he sails a 420 dinghy with the Scottish sailing squad.

Along with crew member Alastair Ireland, an S5 pupil at Dunoon Grammar, Ruaridh regularly trains at the National Sailing Academy on Cumbrae and competes in regattas in

Rutland, Grafham, Weymouth, Poole and Largs.

The boys are sponsored by Tralee Bay Fish and Chips, Seaxplore and the Rotary Club of Lochaber.

Meanwhile, Tom MacMahon of S4 recently finished third in the Scottish Downhill Association mountain biking series. Tom rides for his team the Outdoor Capital of the UK and is sponsored by Nevis Cycles and No Fuss events.

Kinlochleven High School acting head teacher Gordon Milne said: 'Everyone at the school is immensely proud of these talented youngsters and their achievements. We wish them well for the future.'

**STRATH OF APPIN**

FAMILY and friends joined the children of Strath of Appin Primary School recently to celebrate the end of their topic work on tropical rainforests.

The children enjoyed singing their rainforest 'raps' and showing off their artwork.

Fairtrade refreshments were served up in the 'Rainforest Café'. These included Fairtrade teas and coffees and Fairtrade chocolate krispies. The children created their own rainforest smoothies and guests were invited to vote for their favourite.

The school has produced a Fairtrade recipe book containing recipes from the children that use Fairtrade products. The books were available to buy in the café and proved so popular that more have had to be printed.



P1-P3 children in Appin perform their rainforest rap with music teacher Joy McAllister.

**CALLANDER**

CHRISTMAS is coming and volunteers from Callander Youth Project are offering to help deliver festive messages.

The CYP will help distribute Christmas messages to addresses within the town, be they personal greetings or on behalf of your business.

Chris Martin, manager of the project, said: 'Just drop them in at the Bridgend Café in a sealed, addressed envelope and our young people will post them around Callander, on their bikes. 'The cost will be a mere 20p per Christmas Card.'

**SKYE**

BRAES man and Runrig founder member Blair Douglas has released his latest album.

Leanaidh Mi (I Will Follow) recorded in Nashville, Tennessee and Scotland, has six new Gaelic songs and seven instrumentals including a bluegrass version of Blair's classic Kate Martin's Waltz. The CD features impressive array of musicians and singers and is on the Skye-based Macmeanma label.

Blair said: 'Bluegrass music has its origins in Celtic music - music that crossed the Atlantic. It's our roots, our heritage and really everything that we're about.'

Creative Scotland and Urras an Eilein helped fund production costs.

**Around the Rurals**

**Appin**

THE APPIN branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI) held its annual whist drive on Friday November 2 in Appin Hall.

Vice president Margaret Massey welcomed everyone, especially those from as far afield as Fort William, on such a dreadful evening of wind and rain.

Cardmaster Alan MacKenzie got the whist underway and after the first half, everyone enjoyed a break for tea and a chat.

While the scores were being checked, the raffle was drawn and the vice president thanked everyone who had contributed in any way to the success of the evening.

Prizewinners: Ladies, 1 Chrissie Rae; 2 Helen Downie; Consolation Margaret Forbes; Travelling Prize Gemma Grant. Gents, 1 Jean Breckenridge; 2 Sandra MacMillan; Consolation Geoff White; Travelling Prize Sandra MacMillan. Longest sitter, Gemma Grant.

The November meeting of the institute was held in Port Appin Hall when vice president Margaret Massey welcomed the speaker for the evening, Margaret Whitton. As always, Margaret gave members an evening of fun and a feeling of achievement. She began by demonstrating, using foliage and flowers on a cardboard base, how to put together a lovely Christmas arrangement and then gave everyone the opportunity to create their own arrangement. The results were most impressive and all very different. Margaret was warmly thanked by Alison MacCorquodale.

**Taynuilt**

THE OCTOBER meeting of Taynuilt SWRI was held in the village hall with 21 members present.

Ordinary business was dealt with prior to making final arrangements for the annual dinner which is to be held in December.

The president, Jessie Servant, then introduced David Millward from Strathclyde Fire and Rescue who gave an interesting and informative talk on fire safety in the home.

Mr Millward encouraged those present to make arrangements to have a home safety visit carried out and also talked on the resources carried by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue and the varied incidents they could be called to attend.

After tea and drawing of the raffle, the competitions results were announced: Three butterfly cakes: 1 Doreen Penswick, 2 Jean White, 3 Cathie Potter.

Cover for electrical appliance: 1 Ann Sutherland, 2 Doreen Penswick, 3 Jean White.

**Morar**

EIGHT members of Morar SWRI enjoyed a November treat with a meal at Loch Iall in Fort William followed by a night of bowling at Nevis Centre.

**LISMORE**



The Sunday School children with their parcels.

**Island backs festive shoebox appeal**

LISMORE'S contribution to the 2012 Blythswood Shoebox Appeal was a real team effort.

The Sunday School children covered the empty shoeboxes with Christmas paper and islanders collected them from the church and filled them with toiletries, toys and clothing to be sent to children and adults in countries where many families can't afford Christmas presents.

To make sure it was all done on time, minister the Roderick Campbell reminded the congregation every week and it was advertised on Facebook and on isleoffismore.com. Finally two members of the congregation delivered the 38 filled boxes plus cash donations to Blythswood Care in Oban. Lismore Church would like to thank the community for its generosity.

**SLEAT**

COMUNN Eachdraidh Shlèite (Sleat Local History Society) will welcome Dr Annie Tindley (formerly Macleod), senior lecturer at Glasgow Caledonian University, to its next meeting on December 14.

Dr Tindley will give a talk entitled 'The Dewar Commission and Report, 1912: origins and legacies' in which she will outline how the ground-breaking

report led to the setting up of the Highlands and Islands Medical Service.

Commemorate Dr Tindley is one of a group of practising rural GPs, historians, archivists and museums working to commemorate Sir John Dewar's radical findings, which presaged the founding of the National Health Service 36 years later.



Sleat Primary School pupils Pádraig Mackay, Lillidh Campbell and Matthew Culbertson enjoyed exploring Mallaig lifeboat.

**Pupils enjoy tour of Mallaig lifeboat**

MALLAIG lifeboat set sail for Skye recently - but rescuing sailors in distress wasn't part of the mission.

Instead, the CalMac pier at Armadale was the destination for coxswain Michael Currie and his crew to give Sleat Primary School pupils a tour of the boat, RNLB Henry Alston Hewat. The school has been doing a project on the seas and oceans in school and

as part of that have been researching and learning about the Coastguard and RNLI.

Pupils had the opportunity to board and learn all about the job, the boat and how everything works.

Head teacher Gwen Culbertson said: 'All the pupils thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity and some even wish to be RNLI crew members in the future.'

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**Edinbane to get new children's play park**

A SKYE community has been given the green light to create a new children's play park in Edinbane.

Skeabost and District Community Council want to build the play area - which will include 11 pieces of apparatus - on unused land behind Hawthorn Place in partnership with Edinbane Community Company, Highland Council's north planning applications committee approved the plans at a meeting in Inverness on Tuesday morning, with local councillor Ian Renwick describing the decision as 'very welcome'.

The application - which includes plans for a large wooden playhouse, swings, slides and a 25 metre-long zip line - attracted no complaints from members of the public.

A small war memorial garden is also planned but will require a separate planning application. Ten car parking spaces will also be created.

**Fireman Pat's long service honoured**

HIGHLANDS and Islands Fire and Rescue Service group manager for Lochaber Pat McElhinney marked another milestone in his career when he was presented with a medal for 20 years service and good conduct on Saturday night.

The occasion at the Ben Nevis Hotel in Fort William was special for other reasons - Fort William firefighters presented a cheque for £12,249 to the Scottish Burned Children's Club. See full story, page 3.



Deputy Chief Fire Officer Stewart Edgar presents Pat McElhinney with his medal.

**NEWSDESK**  
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Ellie MacLellan and Leah MacLennan enjoyed their day as Santa's little helpers - although Ellie doesn't seem too sure about the reindeer! 20\_148santa01

**Thousands welcome Santa to Rotary Christmas Festival**

AN ESTIMATED 3,000 people flocked to the Nevis Centre in Fort William for the Rotary Club of Lochaber Christmas Festival on Saturday.

Star guests were Santa and his 'little helpers', local schoolchildren Leah MacLennan and Ellie MacLellan.

Their sleigh arrived just after 11am with the Cairngorm Reindeer Team after being pulled through a spectator-packed High Street to the An Aird venue.

Visitors enjoyed music from Rotary buskers and 60 local craft and produce stalls in the main hall, where a large raffle proved popular and festive fare included hot chestnuts.

Rotary organisers reported the event as 'much busier' than 2011, citing the fine weather as one possible reason.

Club president Sheana Fraser's marathon fundraising 'channel' swim in the Ben Nevis Hotel Leisure club earlier this year ensured the reindeer put in their usual appearance.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'Seeing the spectacle of Santa and his reindeer making their way along the High Street and over the Parade Green, and the huge numbers of excited children, made all my early morning efforts in these cold early April mornings worthwhile.'

She added: 'The success of the event far exceeded our expectations. We've had terrific feedback from the stallholders and traders, and the queues for Santa's Grotto were half way round the hall.'

'This has now become well established as an annual event for the people of Lochaber and our thanks go to the staff of the Nevis Centre as well as the general public for their support.' For more festive photos, see page 9.

**Police step up hunt after second violent Caol incident**

POLICE are to step up their presence in Caol after a second violent robbery in the village in the space of 12 days.

A man in his 30s was assaulted and had money stolen as he cycled through a wooded area between Canal Parks and the Caledonian Canal on Tuesday morning.

A small area of woodland was cordoned off for around 24 hours to preserve the crime scene, with at least two policemen on watch throughout the day to keep walkers and dog owners clear.

A yellow police tape stretched from the Loch Linnhe shoreline to the opposite side of Canal Parks, along the canal-side path and across the entrance to the Great Glen Way path.

And police believe the culprit may also have been responsible for an armed robbery in the village on November 15, when Togs store was targeted by a man with a knife.

Detective Inspector Mark Czerniakiewicz has been

By RICHARD HADDOCK  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

deployed to Fort William from Inverness to assist with investigations.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'This is normally a low crime area and we are treating this very seriously. We will be putting out additional patrols in the Caol area to reassure members of the public. We've also set up a dedicated team with a number of officers coming down from Skye and Inverness to investigate both incidents.'

He added: 'There could certainly be links between the two incidents. The suspect is of similar size and build and the incidents happened in similar areas, but there is different clothing and they happened at opposite times of day.'

'They are being looked at to see if there is any links but we are keeping an open mind.'

Lisa MacGillivray reported that parents picking children up from school on Tuesday afternoon were aware of the heavy police presence.

She said: 'The suggestion was that somebody had been attacked. It's really worrying.'

Local councillor Eddie Hunter told *The Oban Times* he had been walking in the area shortly before the assault.

'I must have just missed it,' he said. 'It's frightening, that's now two incidents in less than two weeks.'

The suspect is described as 6ft tall, of large build, and was wearing a high-vis vest over a green jacket, dark jeans, a black baseball cap and a scarf.

The victim of the attack, which occurred between 9am and 9.20am, suffered minor injuries and did not require medical attention.

Anyone with information can contact Fort William Police on 01397 702361 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

**Skye flight campaigners welcome new public survey**

By STEPHEN NORRIS  
THE CAMPAIGN group calling for the resumption of commercial flights to and from Skye has welcomed a new public survey to determine demand for the move.

FlySkye, which formally launched its air crusade on November 1 in Portree, says the RDC Aviation review could provide vital evidence for services to resume.

Three Chimneys restaurant owner Shirley Spear, one of the main figures behind the campaign, urged 'all interested parties' to take part in the consultation. She told *The Oban Times*: 'Since launching Fly-Skye last month we have been overwhelmed by the interest and support for the resumption of air services to Skye and Lochalsh shown locally and nationally.'

'There is no doubt air services would benefit the business community and the tourism industry which is so vital to the economy of Skye and Lochalsh. It would also facilitate access for all within our communities to central Scotland and beyond, as well as making Skye and Lochalsh more accessible for those wishing to come here. It is important the strength of demand is clearly demonstrated through participation in the survey.'

Last week it was announced that Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Hitrans and Highland Council commissioned RDC Aviation and ARUP to gauge the potential for re-establishing scheduled air services at Ashaig airstrip at Broadford. The council-owned runway is used by light aircraft - but would need substantial upgrading to handle scheduled flights. The study will consider the overall business case based on likely demand, ticket pricing, potential airports and aircraft options as well as capital and operating costs.

A spokesperson said: 'This survey will help assess the potential for air services, which destinations would be most in demand and what frequency a potential air service to and from Skye and Lochalsh could have.'

The survey can be accessed at [www.rdcaviation.com/survey/skye](http://www.rdcaviation.com/survey/skye) and the final report is expected to be published in early 2013.

**Demand for more forest croft land**

DEMANDS for the Scottish Government to make land available for woodland crofts appear to be gathering momentum.

At a Scottish Crofting Federation workshop in Gairloch, delegates called for some Forestry Commission woodlands to be re-designated as crofting land.

Setting up crofter-foresters, the SCF believes, would help stem population decline in remote areas.

Chief executive Patrick Krause said: 'Land held under the management of Forestry Commission Scotland, which includes woodland and open

land, would be ideal for the creation of woodland crofts.'

'Whilst the National Forest Land Scheme (NFLS) is a very helpful initiative, it seems to be being left to community bodies to do the work of trying to raise the money, buy the land and then to set up woodland crofts. Why doesn't the Scottish Government simply set up woodland crofts?'

A Forestry Commission Scotland spokesperson told *The Oban Times*: 'We remain supportive of the woodland crofts concept and, as well as having offered this option through the NFLS for communities for over six years, we are working closely with a number of organisations

that continue to develop the concept. While there have been some NFLS community purchases where plans included looking at crofting as an option, we are not aware that any of these have yet come to fruition.'

The well-attended workshop heard presentations by woodland croft consultant Jamie McIntyre, general manager of GALE social enterprise Janet Miles, and Derek Flynn, chair of the SCF and crofting consultant.

The national forest estate is the largest single public land resource held by the Scottish Government, comprising over 660,000 hectares - over 35 per cent of Scotland's woodlands.

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# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

YET MORE words were exchanged this week on the future of the dilapidated Rockfield Primary School, but still we await any sort of action.

Talks between Argyll and Bute Council and Historic Scotland have apparently been ongoing for months, but once again we hear no formal application has been made by the authority to de-list the building that enjoys Grade-B protected status.

Meanwhile, potential private bidders have been told they must meet an asking price approaching half a million pounds – or focus their interests elsewhere.

There are many things Oban needs, more affordable housing to encourage young people to live and work in the area, a fit-for-purpose large-scale car park – even family friendly facilities and attractions.

Whether or not Rockfield is a site suitable for these purposes is a debate all on its own.

Indisputable though is that inactivity helps nobody. Let's just hope a decision is taken soon so the question of whether or not to demolish the school is answered before it falls down by itself.

## GLASGOW LETTER

### Glasgow Skye Association

AS IS customary, Glasgow Skye Association will be holding its annual gathering during the first weekend of December.

The concert will take place at 7.30pm in Sgoil Ghaidhlig Ghlaschu on Friday December 7, followed by the dance, to the music of Deoch 'n Dorus in Glasgow University Union from 10.30pm to 2am.

Performing at the concert will be singers Mary Ann Kennedy, Iseabail MacTaggart, Alasdair Whyte and Darren MacLean, accordionist Stuart Cameron and accompanist Alan Kitchen as well as Glasgow Skye Association Pipe Band. The guest of honour this year will be Arthur Cormack.

The annual dinner will take place in the dining room of Glasgow University Union on Thursday December 6 at 7pm for 7.30pm. For more information or for tickets call Karen Campbell on 01786 832278. Tickets for the concert may be bought at the door.

### Alba a' Seinn

WITH the organisers in Paisley looking forward to hosting the Royal National Mòd in October 2013, the town will play host to a flag-ship Gaelic event in Paisley Abbey on Saturday December 1 at 7.30pm.

The three senior Gaelic choirs in Glasgow will be joined by Largs Gaelic Choir and Renfrewshire Junior Gaelic Choral Association to embrace the philosophy of Scotland Sings. Each of the choirs will perform on their own before getting together for massed choir singing. The evening will be hosted by renowned Gaelic broadcaster John Carmichael.

### Scottish Piper's Association

FOLLOWING on from the success of its evening of casual piping last June, the Scottish Piper's Association has organised a similar event in the College of Piping on Friday December 7 at 7.30pm.

Once again the association has put together an excellent programme of top grade pipers with the following due to perform: William Geddes, Margaret Dunn, Douglas Murray, Neil Walker, Craig Muirhead and Gavin Ferguson.

Entry will be by donation and the pipers are giving their time free of charge.

### Deoch 'n Dorus

DEOCH 'n Dorus is playing at a special St Andrew's event in Glasgow University Union tomorrow evening (Friday) at 8.30pm.

Tickets cost £8 or £5 for students and senior citizens.

### Diary dates

**Thursday November 29:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Paul McKenna Band. A short adaptation with extracts in Gaelic from MacBeth by William Shakespeare, Tron Theatre, 8.30pm.

**Friday November 30:** Glasgow Islay Association St Andrew's Ceilidh, Crawford Hall, Beith Street, 7.30pm. RNSO with Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain, Royal Concert Hall, 7.30pm. Ceilidh Dance with Deoch 'n Dorus - see above. St Andrew's in the Square Concert and Dance, 8pm.

**Saturday December 1:** Bearsden Fiddler's Rally, Milngavie Town Hall, 7.30pm. Stirling branch of An Comunn Ceilidh, Lesser Albert Halls, Stirling, 7.30pm.

**Tuesday December 4:** Fred Morrison, Voodoo Rooms, Edinburgh.

**Thursday December 6:** Glasgow Skye Association Annual Dinner, Glasgow University Union - see above. Fred Morrison, College of Piping, 7.30pm. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, North Sea Gas. Kris Kristofferson, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 7.30pm.

**Friday December 7:** Glasgow Skye Association Annual Concert - see above. Fred Morrison, Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm. Acoustic Affair, City Halls, 8pm, Carol Laula and support Jake Beveridge.

**Saturday December 8:** Paisley and District Highlander's Association Ceilidh Dance, Elderslie Village Hall, 7.30pm. Acoustic Affair, City Halls, 8pm, three of the best breaking songwriters. Sunday December 9: Fred Morrison, Crofthead Hall, Neilston.

### Pub scene

THIS weekend Trail West will be playing in the Islay Inn on Friday and in the Park Bar on Sunday.

On Friday in the Park Bar it will be Robert Nairn and then Torridon on Saturday while on Saturday Ragaels will be playing in the Islay Inn. **Neil Murray, Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.**

## YOUR LETTERS

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

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

Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed.

Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

## PRESS POLICY

WE AT The Oban Times do our utmost to make sure that all our reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing the biggest local newspaper in the West Highlands.

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB giving your day-time telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

The Oban Times adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct.

The views expressed in The Oban Times are not necessarily those of this newspaper.



## MV Hesperus crew c1956/57

This week's flashback photograph was submitted by reader Katie A Morrison and shows the crew of the lighthouse ship *MV Hesperus* circa 1956/57. Left to right: Archie MacIver; Finlay MacKenzie; Bill Milne; Angus MacLeod; John MacCallum; Donald MacLean; Callum MacMillan; George MacFadyen and John Morrison. 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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### Town must modernise

Two letters in *The Oban Times*, 'Demolish town centre eyesore' and 'Radical changes needed to save George Street' have a common theme.

Oban was built about 130 years ago and the buildings have largely passed their useful life. Many of these old properties - and more recent drab abominations - are not worth saving and few can justify listing.

Oban must gradually reinvent itself with high quality modern buildings and infrastructure to attract unique niche businesses, hotels and accommodation. This would be a catalyst for the future wealth and prosperity of the town.

Good quality, modern and sustainable architectural design such as the original plans for the Argyll Hotel site should be Oban's aim for the future.

**Oban Winter Festival - wow!**  
One word to describe Oban Winter festival - wow!

You make Oban the magical place it is. Thank you. **Karen Oman, Oban.**

### Top that incredible show

Sir, Congratulations to the volunteers who organised and ran Oban's Winter Festival.

It was a spectacular show that put Oban on the culture and arts map. The programme of events was second to none and showed the town off to its very best.

The small group of volunteers put on an incredible show and all praise must be given to their will and determination.

These folks embody the inimitable spirit of the people of the Highlands - that is simply just to get on and do it. Thanks to them for everything they have done.

We are all waiting with bated breath to find out how they can top it next year. **Councillor Louise Glen-Lee, Area Leader.**

### Santa's arrival a gloomy affair

Sir, I took my three small, excited children to Oban last Saturday to watch the arrival of Santa and his reindeer, as laid on by Oban Winter Festival.

Reluctantly, my husband was persuaded to come with us.

When the witching hour of 5pm arrived and the children were dancing on the pavement in excited anticipation, we thought we had the wrong venue and had turned up at a football match.

Out of the darkness came, not Santa, but unbelievably a pipe band in black capes playing Scottish tunes, not anything remotely Christmassy, followed by a police car. Then two burly policemen on foot came marching down each side of the pavement, on which stood only mothers and small children who didn't need controlling.

When Santa's sleigh finally arrived, drawn by the lovely reindeer, they were surrounded by winter festival officials in fluorescent jackets so that we could only catch fleeting glimpses between them of the man we had travelled so far to see on his sleigh. The children were bitterly disappointed. As my husband remarked, it only needed John Knox to complete the gloom.

So please winter festival, just Santa next year, no-one else. **Shona Cameron, Crogan Lodge, by Oban.**

### Too much Gaelic at the Mod

Sir, Many supporters of Gaelic would have been taken aback at the 'complaint' registered in the letter to *The Oban Times* about 'the near saturation cover in Gaelic at the main events at the recent Dunoon Mòd'.

They would hopefully consider this to be significant progress on the part of An Comunn Gàidhealach considering the Royal National Mòd has been criticised in the past for not having enough Gaelic at its events!

The Mòd is the main annual Gaelic festival that celebrates our language and culture and it is perfectly in order for An Comunn to ensure Gaelic is used throughout the festival to the fullest extent. Not only should Gaelic speakers expect such a policy to be applied, but it is also the means by which learners of the language can extend their knowledge of Gaelic.

We must also encourage our growing bilingual youth community to feel welcome in the Gaelic-speaking environment we are trying to recreate. I can assure Dolina and Anne we do not neglect our non-Gaelic-speaking supporters. Each year we are increasing the various translation options available through modern technology.

Simultaneous translation has been available at the opening ceremony of the Mòd for a number of years and we would like to extend this to other main venue events as funding permits.

Screens with English-language information were available in the main concert venue this year and again this is an area we wish to develop in future years.

As suggested, it should be possible to display limited information about ongoing events for the benefit of non-

speakers of the language. The printed bilingual programme, of course, contains full information about the week's competitions and events. Any 'complaint' about too much Gaelic at the Royal National Mòd is one An Comunn Gàidhealach is most happy to receive!

**John MacLeod, President, An Comunn Gàidhealach, Inverness.**

### Misleading statements

Sir, Colin Davidson's letter contains several misleading and incorrect statements which do not stand up to scrutiny.

Firstly, it is a myth that tourists find bilingual signs misleading or confusing. It is also a myth they are dangerous.

This is borne out by the independent and authoritative research carried out by the Transport Research Laboratory on behalf of Transport Scotland.

This cost £150,000 and was commissioned in the mistaken belief there was a danger to road users. Unfortunately for the naysayers the opposite was proven to be the case.

Secondly, Gaelic maps are widely available. One quick look around Ardfèrren where Mr Davidson stays shows that the vast majority of the names on the map are in Gaelic. English is a minor language in the Highland landscape.

Indeed Ardfèrren is just the Gaelic spelled wrong. It should be Aird Fheàrna meaning 'ridge/high place of the alders'.

Thirdly, the roads authorities decided to take all the signs down on trunk roads and replace them with bilingual ones. This approach had nothing to do with Gaelic and it didn't cost £650,000 either. It came from Transport Scotland.

As always, education is the key. Unfortunately the vast majority of children receive no education at all related to Gaelic.

On opening a map they are told how to distinguish a church steeple or tower but the words in front of them, in any language, are ignored. This means that what appears on maps is meaningless as the state ignores the reality of Gaelic and other languages. This ignorance then spawns letters which have no basis in reality.

**Donald Morris, Inbhir Nis.**

### Clean up CalMac toilets

Sir, I have recently used CalMac ferry services on numerous occasions in the recent past and would like to explain of my consistent disappointment.

Recently on the *MV Caledonian Isles* ferry the toilet facilities left much to be desired. I was to wash my hands with no soap and no hand towels provided, the

bathroom itself was filthy and required a good clean.

Hoping this had been an unfortunate oversight and perhaps an issue limited to only one boat, I boarded yet another CalMac ferry, this time the *MV Isle of Mull* and yet again I was disappointed with the provision of toilet facilities. Although they were providing soap and hand towels, the washroom area itself was in a sorry state.

On my return that same day was to be yet another boat the *MV Clansman* and I feared of what I might encounter, from the impression of the common deck areas, I did not even want to enter the confines of the lavatory.

It seems to me that the ferry company does not place much priority on the cleanliness of their boats and facilities therein. They would do well to put the heavily government subsidised services they provide under the spotlight.

One final disappointment was a small bottle of water cost me £1.30, a far inflated price from the retail value.

I can however in future bring my own water, I may though be more hard pushed to bring my own bathroom!

**K Smith, I Combie Court, Oban.**

### Legitimate reparations

Sir, As a professional journalist of many years standing, I have no wish to argue for the suppression of informed opinion - or honest enquiry - on any subject.

My gripe was against my language and culture being subject to a too predictably petty sneering that gives no indication of awareness of the negative impact of, for example, the Statutes of Iona (1609), the brutal repression that followed Culloden, the 1872 Education (Scotland) Act - which ignored the very existence of Gaelic, the Highland Clearances removing entire communities from their homes and the devastating slaughter, during the First World War, of young Gaelic men, out of proportion to the population at large, who would never become fathers to Gaelic children.

To cite such facts is not to obsess about history but to remind us that such events had a deeply damaging effect on Gaelic society from which it still struggles to recover. In the circumstances, any investment in Gaelic education, broadcasting or general infrastructure should be seen as entirely necessary and legitimate reparations.

Let Wendy Douglas be assured that I value freedom of speech, including that of my own people, as much as she, or anyone else does.

What I object to is its distortion, whether for petty or pernicious reasons. These things do hurt. **Aonghas MacNeacail, Peebleshire.**



## Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

THA CÒRR air sia mìosan bho thug mi tarraing air suidheachadh Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis agus an t-sri a bh' aig Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd a' lorg Ceannard a bha fileanta ann an Gàidhlig. Tha e air leth tàmailteach nach eil sinn dad nas fhaide air adhart! Gu dearbh 's ann a tha cumart ann gun tèid clùì fìor dheagh sgoil a mhillleadh!

Saoidh mi gum bheil Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd air droch làimhseachadh a dhèanamh air an trusadh seo agus tha sin mi-fhortanach dha Comhairle a th' air a bhith adhartach agus taiceil dhan Gàidhlig. Gun teagamh, tha iarrtas air foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig a' fàs nas luaithe na tha àireamhan luchd-teagaisg leis na comasan iomchaidh, ach tha dìcheall ga dhèanamh a ghainnead sin a leasachadh. Ach anns an eadar-ama, tha a' mhòr-chuid a' tuigsinn gum feumar a bhith foighidneach agus obrachadh leis na th' againn. Sin a dh'fhàg Ceannard Eadar-amail os cionn Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis thar an dà bhliadhna a chaidh. Ach mar a thuir mi roimhe, tha iomairt leasachaidh na Gàidhlig a' moladh chomasan fileantais agus litreachaidh mar phrìomh sgilean deatamach airson dreuchdan a tha dlùth-cheangailte ris a' chànan is a cultar. Bho chionn iomadh bliadhna tha e air a bhith na chleachdadh aig buidhnean poblach impidh a chur air neach a bha iad a' fastadh, ach aig nach robh na làn-sgilean airson na dreuchd, trèanadh a dhèanamh gus iarrtas na h-obrach a chòileanadh. A rèir coltais, cha deach an t-uallach sin a chur air a' Ceannard Eadar-amail seo agus bha sin mi-fhortanach oir bha e a' dol an aghaidh poilleanaidh Gàidhlig na Comhairle agus a' lagachadh na sgoile clùitich aca ann an Inbhir Nis.

Ged a thugear carson a bhiodh pàrantan a' togail an guth a thaobh mar a bha a' Chomhairle a' dèiligeadh ris an t-suidheachadh, bha tomhas de thruas agam fhìn ris an tagraiche seo is a h-ainm ga fhoillseachadh air toiseach air agallamh agus fios gus robh na pàrantan an aghaidh an dreuchd a thoirt dhi. Mar sin, cha robh na thachair na annas ach saoidh mi gum feum na pàrantan a bhith faiceallach nach eil an cuid iomairt gu bhith na bhacadh air daoine eile cur a-staigh airson na h-obrach, neo nas miosa buileach, na bhacadh air pàrantan foghlam Gàidhlig a thaghadh dhan cuid chloinne. Feumar carson a chur ann an ceannardan agus cuimhneachadh nach eil àite air an drochaid ach airson aon sgoibair!

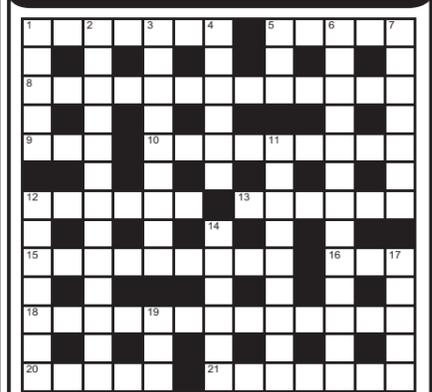
HIGHLAND Council has risked undermining the reputation of its flagship Inverness Gaelic Primary School through its recruitment process for a new head teacher.

International experience recognises education as fundamental to language development and the removal of the Gaelic language fluency qualification for this post would be a dereliction of the council's own Gaelic Language Plan and a betrayal of children committed to Gaelic Medium Education.

Parents' concerns are understandable, but militancy could be a disincentive for applicants and could potentially discourage some parents from opting for Gaelic Medium Education for their children.

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

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- Hurt (7)
  - Clear (5)
  - Shows outstandingly bad traits (13)
  - Dance step (3)
  - One who watches to understand (3,6)
  - Pledge (6)
  - Not many around (6)
  - Warm cover (9)
  - Hot plate... (3)
  - ...one who fixes plates (6,7)
  - An overseer (5)
  - Milky (7)
- Down**
- Freeze (3,2)
  - Body of law (13)
  - Valve (9)
  - Sagging down (6)
  - Portuguese airport (3)
  - Gorge food? (7,6)
  - Have coming to (7)
  - Unusual person (9)
  - Slight (7)
  - Throat part (6)
  - Unoriginal (5)
  - Chopper (3)

Last week's solution

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

Have you ever wanted to take some of the area's most influential people to task? The Oban Times is giving you the chance to quiz public servants, elected officials and other decision makers in our new column, YourSay. For details on how to submit your questions for the first interviewee, Argyll and Bute Council chief executive Sally Loudon, see page 2.

# COMING SOON YOUR SAY

**Down Your Way**

**Lochgilphead**

A FORMER pupil at Lochgilphead High School was recognised for her work in business and investment when Prince William presented her with a top award.

Sandra Robertson, who was a pupil at the high school in the 1980s, was presented with the 2012 European Industry Leadership Award for her work with investment at the 100 Women in Hedge Fund (100WHF) at a London Gala in St James's Palace.

The 43-year-old currently works as the chief investment officer and chief executive officer of Oxford University Endowment Management Limited (OUEM) and oversees their financial investments.

Sandra was recognised by the 100WHF, which promotes investment in charitable organisations, for the impact she has had on the university and the influence she has had on her peers in the investment industry.

Sandra is the daughter of Bruce and the late Sarah Robertson, and whilst her busy job means she does not return home often, her father still lives in the town.

Commenting on Sandra's award, Mr Robertson said: 'I'm really proud of what she has done, she has done so well and it is a fantastic achievement.'

Sandra graduated from Napier University with an honours degree in business management and then worked spent 14 years at investment firm Wellcome Trust, managing an investment portfolio of £14.5 billion.



Award winner Sandra Robertson with the Duke of Cambridge at St James's Palace.

MULTI-COLOURED moustaches could be seen in the Jewson Store, Lochgilphead this week as members of staff brightened up their efforts for November.

Ricky Holloway and Raymond Banaghan, who have been growing handlebar moustaches for men's health campaign November, this week dyed their facial hair all the colours of the rainbow in a bid to raise more money for charity.

The men have dyed their hair green and yellow and added 'sparkle' in the final week of November in a bid to raise awareness of illness such as prostate and testicular cancer.

Explaining November makes it easier for men to talk more openly about health concerns, Ricky said: 'It is talking about it without really talking about it, people get the serious message whilst having fun as well. Raymond works on the counter so he has been having banter and fun with the customers and we decided to colour them to make it a bit more interesting.'

This is the second year the two men have taken part in November, last year they raised £500.



Ricky Holloway (right) and Raymond Banaghan will shave one side of their moustache off tomorrow (Friday) for the last day of November.

A MINISTER who has said it was a privilege to serve the Lord has retired after more than 11 years service in Mid Argyll.

Reverend Donald Morrison retired from the Lochgilphead Free Church this month after joining the church in January 2001.

Speaking about his time serving the Lochgilphead community, Reverend Morrison said it was a great experience serving in the town.

He said: 'I have been asked into people's homes and have been able to speak freely about the gospel, but the greatest privilege of all was serving the Lord and preaching about Christ.'

Now, the minister has retired he hopes to move back to Inverness with his wife where they lived for many years.

LOCHGILPHEAD will glow across Loch Fyne on Saturday evening as the town switches on its Christmas Lights and marks the start of the festive period.

Workmen could be seen working late on Monday evening to install the lights and decorations on lamp-posts throughout the town ahead of the weekend's celebrations.

Businesses have also been donning tinsel this week, decorating shop fronts and window displays to mark the countdown to Christmas Day.

The lights will be switched on at Colchester Square at 7pm.

MINCE pies, cake and scones will be in abundance at the Red Cross Centre in Lochgilphead on Saturday as the charity hosts its annual Christmas coffee morning.

Marking the first of December and the start of the festive season, the charity will serve up a wealth of festive treats alongside a warming cuppa.

Money raised from the event will be used to fund Red Cross projects in Mid Argyll such as the Red Cross minibus which helps vulnerable and isolated people get to medical appointments.

STUDENTS at Lochgilphead High School have helped people less fortunate than themselves this Christmas by collecting gifts for families in poverty stricken countries.

Filling shoeboxes with presents for the annual Blythswood Care Shoe Box appeal, the youngsters have been donating and collecting presents for people who do not receive gifts at Christmas.

The first year the Lochgilphead school has supported the appeal, the collection was organised by the school's S6 Charity Committee and saw more than 100 boxes filled with presents.

**Down Your Way next week visits Plockton and Kyle of Lochalsh**

**Lochboisdale harbour development reaches major milestone as firms invited to tender**

FIVE COMPANIES have been selected to submit tenders for the major refurbishment of Lochboisdale harbour in South Uist.

**Finalising consents**  
The work will involve building causeways, breakwaters, a fishery pier, working area and pontoons.

Over the next few months Stòras Uibhist staff and external

engineers will work on finalising consents required for construction.

Fulfilling planning conditions and obtaining consents from Marine Scotland and the Crown Estate will be required before construction can start.

John MacMillan, chairman of Lochboisdale Development Ltd said: 'This is an exciting

milestone for the community company to reach on such a major project and we look forward to appointing a contractor early next year.'

**Community project**

'A lot of work has been completed by the staff of Stòras Uibhist, in conjunction with HIE and consulting engineers this year, to reach this point and we

look forward to delivering this important project for the community.'

The tender proposals will be returned in February and reviewed on a technical basis by engineers and on a quality basis by the selection panel. The tenders will be scored on a 60/40 quality/price basis.

It is anticipated the preferred

contractor will be appointed in March 2013 and the works will commence shortly after that.

The project is expected to take around 18 months to reach completion.

Phase 2 will include local services, commercial developments, housing and a future expansion of harbour facilities, with a commercial pier the main feature.

**Pubs voice fears after JD's gets green light**

**Councillors decide against call for hearing**

OBAN'S publicans fear further closures after pub giant JD Wetherspoon was given the green light to come into the town.

Argyll and Bute Council's planning committee last Wednesday agreed a recommendation to approve Wetherspoon application to change the Caithness Glass unit on the Railway Pier from retail use to a pub.

**Immaterial objections**  
There were seven representations of support, which welcomed the increased choice a pub chain would bring.

But the plan had 20 registered objections, including Oban and District Licensed Trade Association, although issues such as over-provision of pubs and increased competition were dismissed as immaterial to planning considerations.

There was only one dissenting voice among planning committee members and Councillor Robin Currie's motion to move the application to a hearing, to allow the publicans to put their cases forward, received no seconder.

Islay-based councillor Robin Currie told the meeting: 'In my opinion this is a big application for Oban and I would move to have a hearing because of the substantial and influential body of opinion against this.'

However, councillor Fred Hall, whose ward covers part of Oban, said: 'I see no need for a hearing and I think the objectors' points have been answered by planners.'

'The objections are all commercial proprietors and there is little objection from residents and other businesses.'

After the change of use was granted councillor Currie expressed his disappointment, adding: 'I made the motion because I feel strongly about this. If this was anywhere else in Argyll: Coll, Appin, or Helensburgh and more than 20 people had objected, we would have gone to a hearing.'

'We should be seen to be listening to our constituents. Businesses in Oban are shutting and a hearing is their opportunity to be heard.'

**Al Macmillan said:** 'Good news - glad the planning department and councillors saw sense and allowed it to progress despite the objections from other pubs and Bid4Oban members. I think Wetherspoons will attract a different clientele from most of Oban's existing pubs anyway.'

**Frank McCulloch added:** 'Hate to say this guys but be careful what you wish for. JD Wetherspoon have several pubs in Glasgow and if they operate the same pricing policy as they do in the city you can say goodbye to most pubs in Oban. There is no way pubs already established in the town can compete with a large chain like Wetherspoon'

Allan McKie, a past president of Oban and Lorn Licensed Trade Association, pointed to the example of Helensburgh, where a hearing was held after a Wetherspoon application. He said: 'The biggest problem we have is we didn't get a fair crack of the whip. This should have gone to a hearing.'

'I think councillor Fred Hall has let the objectors down and should hang his head in shame.'

'It has been proven that places close down when a Wetherspoon comes into the area. I think there are people who would like to see a Wetherspoons in Oban but for businesses it is not the right time.'

'I also find it ludicrous that such a big decision was taken by councillors outwith Oban.'



Santa's little helpers Leah MacLennan, aged seven, and Ellie MacLellan, aged eight, prepare to set off from Cameron Square in Fort William with Santa.

**Fort William gets into festive spirit**

FORT WILLIAM got into the festive spirit on Saturday when the Rotary Club of Lochaber's Christmas Festival proved a huge hit with shoppers.

Crowds gathered around Cameron Square to see Cairngorm Reindeer Team being made ready for Santa's parade at 11am along High Street and over the A82 to the Nevis Centre.

The man in red and white with his 'little helpers', local schoolchildren Leah MacLennan and Ellie MacLellan, arrived after a 10-minute sleigh ride.

Around 3,000 people enjoyed the event, according to organisers.



Five-year-old Fort William RC pupil Eva Mae Donoghue gets a close up view of one of Santa's reindeer.

**New plan to tackle Japanese Knotweed throughout Argyll**

A NEW plan to tackle an invasive species of plant on land owned by Argyll and Bute Council should come into force next year.

Japanese Knotweed takes years to treat by spraying and locals have expressed frustration that not enough is being done to remove the weed from publicly owned property.

However, councillor Louise Glen Lee told Connel Community Council that action was being taken. She also hoped private landowners would follow the council's lead.

**WHEN The Oban Times revealed last week that Wetherspoons had been granted a change of use at the former Caithness glass outlet, there was plenty of reaction on Facebook.**

**David Milner said:** 'Great news. That area of Oban is in need of development. JD Wetherspoons are known to offer a great service in pleasant and relaxing surroundings and this is hopefully the start of the regeneration of Oban. A well established company such as JD will support a lot of local events and activities including sponsorships so the residents should be looking at the future potential opportunities available.'

**Ian Lockhart said:** 'The last thing the town needs is another pub.'

**Peter Taylor said:** 'This is good news. We don't need a national chain in Oban. We don't need cheap beer and tasteless food in a pub. But we do need our locals to raise their game, with competition to serve decent beer at a decent price. We've suffered from complacent publicans for too long. We need publicans to re-examine what they offer and what their business model is, what people want and how they will supply that. Variety is good. They shouldn't just compete on price, because now they will be unable to. They should compete on quality and ambience instead. If they do that, the locals will stay.'

**Mark Cameron added:** 'Those against it should get behind it. At a time when we're losing business in Oban it will bring vital income to the area.'

**Dave Robertson said:** 'It comes down to different clientele and it just means that the current pubs are going to have to get more creative. I personally can't stand Wetherspoons as they are lifeless, dull and generally boring.'

ADVERTORIAL

**Simmers & Co**  
Chartered Accountants

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Simmers & Co, Chartered Accountants are pleased to announce the assumption of David McGregor as a partner in the firm from 1 December 2012. David will join Jacquie Hoey who has been a partner in the firm for many years.

The date will also see the retirement of Jack Tollan and David Hodge as partners although they will remain with the firm on a consultancy basis.

Jacquie Hoey, who has been a partner for some time and was brought up in Oban, is pleased to welcome David as a partner of Simmers & Co and looks forward to working with him in the future to continue to provide an excellent professional service to existing and future clients. David grew up in rural

Galloway and had held the ambition of running his own rural accounting practice for many years. Having moved to Glasgow to attend university, he pursued a career in accountancy and finance, gaining his chartered accountancy qualification with a small accounting practice before spending 3 years with one of the "big 4" international firms.

More recently, he has undertaken senior financial roles in the public sector in economic development and environmental protection before joining Simmers & Co in the early part of 2012. With his wife having family connections in the area, he has been a regular visitor to Argyll for the last 25 years. He said "I am absolutely delighted that the opportunity presented itself

to realise a long held career ambition by becoming a partner in Simmers & Co, a practice serving the needs of clients in one of my favourite parts of Scotland. My family and I are looking forward to relocating here as soon as possible and playing an active part in the area."

Simmers & Co provides a full range of accountancy and taxation services to small and medium sized enterprises in the Argyll and Lochaber area. The firm also provides charity audit and independent review, payroll and VAT processing services.

David and Jacquie can both be contacted at the Oban office in Albany Street, by telephone on 01631 562169 or by e-mail at mail@simmers.co.uk

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# Christmas gifts

IT IS the annual dilemma: what to buy your loved ones for Christmas? Some people have a knack for knowing what gifts to buy but, for most of us, the build up to the festive period is a time of indecision and worry over presents.

That's why The Oban Times has given you a jump start this year with our Christmas Gift Ideas.

**SHOP LOCAL**

Most of you will already have in mind a weekend where you can head away to Glasgow or Edinburgh and gather up armfuls of gifts.

But before you go on your travels take a wander down your local high street. You might be surprised just how much is on offer.

There are friendly staff on hand to guide you through treasure troves of jewellery and ornaments that are fashionable, yet individual.

A good selection of clothes shops mean you can pick up something for even the canniest of dressers.

**UNIQUE GIFTS**

Handmade chocolates provide a unique and personal gift to your

chocoholic friend – why not have a special message written on them – it might even make them feel guilty for eating it!

Why not help your friends get the festive party started, Argyll produces some amazing drink including gin, whisky and liqueurs which are perfect gifts for those who are tricky to buy for.

These bottles are not just tasty, but those produced by smaller companies make unusual presents especially for friends in other parts of the country who may not have heard of them before.

**MAKE A DAY OF IT**

Or you could take a trip to a west coast island such as Mull which boasts an array of shops where you are guaranteed to find something for everything.

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# Islay hotel fined after 16-year-old severely burned by iron

FAILING to have appropriate health and safety policies in place, resulting in a 16-year-old girl severely burning her hand, saw a local hotel partnership fined £10,000.

At Campbeltown Sheriff Court last Thursday, the Craighard Hotel Partnership,

of Loraine Smith and Roger Clark, admitted the breach of health and safety.

**First day**

The court was told by procurator fiscal David Glancy the teenager was employed to work at The Craighard House Hotel as a chambermaid.

On her first morning at work she was shown how to iron a pillowcase using a rotary iron by a member of staff.

She was then left unsupervised to continue the laundry.

Initially a faulty foot pedal prevented the iron working correctly and as the teenager

looked to determine the cause of the problem, she placed her right hand on the roller at the same time as the heated element lowered, trapping her fingers in the machine.

She received full thickness burns to the index, middle and ring fingers of her right hand

and required plastic surgery. She now has permanent scarring and suffers from constant pain.

During an investigation, Argyll and Bute Council's environmental health team found there were no health and safety policies or written risk

assessments in place at the time of the incident.

Defence agent Christian Kane told the court the partnership have never had a contravention of health and safety before.

'They accept responsibility that they were not present on the premises when the young

employee started,' he said. 'This has not been through a lack of care but through a lack of insight that this has come about.'

'Steps have been taken to ensure this doesn't happen again. They can only apologise for a short coming in the past.'

## Caol man may face jail sentence

A CAOL man who choked his ex-girlfriend, threatened to burn down her house and claimed he had a gun and could shoot her family if she went to court could face a prison sentence.

Martin 'Jakky' Black forced his way in through the back door of the woman's house on Camesky Road, grabbed her by the throat and pinned her against the wall, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

The 32-year-old was pulled away and forced to leave but later phoned her and said: 'I only need to make one phone call and your house will get burned down. It doesn't matter if there's anyone in the house, it's getting burnt.'

The incident occurred on the morning of September 8.

Four days later Black again called the woman about her potentially giving evidence against him, saying if she went to court he had 'enough bullets to take them [her family] out' and threatened to trash her father's grave and smash the windows of her mother's house.

Black pled guilty to assaulting the woman and sending her grossly offensive, or indecent, obscene or menacing messages.

But defence agent Hamish Melrose said he could not fully accept Ms Wylie's version of events, claiming Black had been provoked into assaulting the woman after she made insulting comments towards him.

A hearing to give evidence about possible provocation was set for December 18, after which Black, of 4 Mossfield Apartments, will be sentenced.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin warned him a custodial sentence was 'a distinct possibility'.



Education and lifelong learning secretary Michael Russell enjoys breakfast with, from left, Lucy MacKenzie, Rosie Cutherbertson and Connor Blue, all four, 15, 14&18mrusell1

## Nursery kids share breakfast with MSP

CHILDREN from Little Learners Nursery, Dunbeg, shared breakfast with Argyll and Bute's MSP Michael Russell on Monday.

The education secretary dropped in to the nursery run

by Argyll College in the wake of a glowing report from school inspectors.

He said: 'Child care is very important and we see the demand there is for a place like this that does extremely well.'

'As it is run by Argyll College it is a very good training facility as well for young people learning child care. The standard is very high here.'

Nursery manager Kathleen McNiven said: 'We recently

had an inspection and we were ranked 'excellent' for children's experiences, which is outstanding. The whole report was very, very good and I wanted Mr Russell to come along and help us celebrate it.'

## Wind farms will not damage tourism - report

A SCOTTISH Government inquiry has published findings which reveal Scotland's tourism industry will not be 'adversely affected' by wind farms.

No empirical evidence

An inquiry into the Scottish Government's renewable energy targets was held in the parliament in April. It heard from high profile campaigners such as Donald Trump.

A report on the inquiry, published last Friday by the cross-party Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee stated: 'While some strongly held localised and anecdotal opinion exists, the committee has seen no empirical evidence which demonstrates that the tourism industry in Scotland will be adversely affected by the wider deployment of renewable energy projects, particularly onshore

and offshore wind.'

Tourism organisation, VisitScotland also carried out a survey which reports 80 per cent of UK visitors would not be deterred by wind farms.

Developers are also turning wind farms into tourist attractions, with one site, at Whitelee, south of Glasgow, becoming a tourist attraction in its own right, according to the report.

## Pensioner population in Argyll and Bute projected to rise by 74 per cent over 20 years

ALARMING projections for the population of Argyll and Bute show that the number of people aged 75 and above will increase by 74 per cent by 2035.

Councillors on Argyll and Bute

Council's Community Planning Partnership were told yesterday (Wednesday) how the population of Argyll was forecast to fall by nearly 7,000, from 89,200 to 82,754, between 2010 - 2035.

Projected estimates indicate that by 2035 deaths would exceed births, the number of children and working adults would fall dramatically and the population of people aged 75 and above will increase by 73.6 per cent.

Council leader Roddy McCuish said: 'This is a serious issue for us. We need to make sure our young people have work within Argyll and Bute because they are our greatest asset, yet also our greatest export.'

'I would like to see more skills and apprenticeships available in the renewables, aquaculture, agriculture and tourism sectors. We need to build more affordable housing and infrastructure that is suitable for the

21st century.

'High speed broadband is also a necessity if we want people to live here - the technological super highway becomes a dirt track when it hits Argyll and Bute.'

## MacDougall Trust raffle launched

A GRAND Christmas raffle, to raise funds for The Hope MacDougall Collection Trust, was launched at Oban's Winter Festival.

Based at the 1745 House at Dunollie, the Hope MacDougall Collection is a social history collection brought together over many years by the late Miss Hope MacDougall.

Alison McNab of the trust said: 'This is our first real fundraiser for some time and we hope locals will give generously to support this important collection.'

'We would like to thank everyone who has donated great prizes for the raffle which will be drawn on December 18 at Dunollie.'

The majority of the collection is in storage at present although sections have been on display at Dunollie and will be when the 1745 House re-opens to the public in March 2013.

Tara Coia, learning and events officer at Dunollie, also uses a wide selection of the collection in the outreach work done with schools in Argyll.

## Top Mallaig student gains place on engineering course

A MALLAIG student is to study engineering at City of Glasgow College as an officer cadet.

Aiden Ingram fought off stiff competition to claim a place on the prestigious course after completing a Certificate in Maritime Skills course at West Highland College UHI at Mallaig.

Aiden, aged just 16, gained extra Royal Yachting Association and Maritime and Coastguard Agency qualifications and certificates on the course - and was named Learner of the Year by tutors.

Aiden's interviewer at Glasgow City College expressed delight that someone so young had so many marine qualifications.

Mallaig learning centre manager Jane Henderson said another 19-week course was due to start in January.

She said: 'This term we have students from Ayr, Fort William and all parts of Skye because it is such a great route into employment in offshore industries or



Aiden Ingram

to further study in the maritime sector.'

The Certificate in Maritime Skills course has a 100 per cent acceptance rate for students applying for cadetship, Ms Henderson said.

'This term we have students from Ayr, Fort William and all parts of Skye because it is such a great route into employment'

## Bus stop at cemetery is death trap claim fearful passengers

Waiting area within accident black spot

AN OBAN bus stop - sited at an accident black spot - has left passengers fearing for their lives as they wait for the bus to arrive.

The stop, at Pennyfuir, just north of Oban and close to the town's cemetery, has seen several cars come off the road in close vicinity.

**Missed by metres**

The most recent incident saw the sign next to bus stop mowed down by a rogue vehicle. The tracks where the car went careering out of control are within metres of where passengers stand waiting for the bus.

One elderly woman, who was a regular user of this waiting area, has now decided to walk the two miles home rather than risk waiting for a bus.

'You take your life in your hands standing at that bus stop,' she said.

'There have been several

accidents on both sides of the waiting area - and several near misses. Cars travel very fast on that stretch of road and there is no doubt that it is dangerous.

She added: 'I go regularly to the cemetery - but I don't want to end up there just yet.'

Despite initially denying they had responsibility for the bus stop Argyll and Bute Council now say it takes public safety 'very seriously' and will investigate the concerns raised.

Malcolm MacFadyen, head of facility services said: 'Passengers requested a bus stop at Pennyfuir and it was installed in September 2010 after a meeting between the council, Transerv and the local transport operator where agreement was reached on this being the most appropriate place for a bus stop.'

'I would urge anyone with on-going safety concerns to get in touch with the council.'



Police tape from the most recent incident flaps in the wind just metres from the bus stop. 17\_t48bus01

## Fort William High Street gains another new store

FORT William High Street has been given a seasonal boost with another new store opening in the new west end development, creating seven new jobs.

Locals came out in force for the opening of Cotswold Outdoor, with the first 100 customers getting a free goody bag. Outdoor Capital of the UK chair Marian Austin was chosen to open the new premises.

Store manager Craig Mills said: 'The atmosphere in-store was buzzing and people appeared genuinely excited that we have opened a new store in Fort William. We had a really successful start and we are looking forward to continued support from the local community and in turn offering them the best possible service.'

Cotswold Outdoor is the second new store in the town's new west end development after Superdrug opened recently. A 60-room Travelodge opened in October above the shops, and a JD Wetherspoon's pub is due to open next year.

## Barra marine conservation plan may go to independent report

AN INDEPENDENT panel is to review the scientific case to impose protected status on the Sound of Barra.

Scottish Natural Heritage has completed their advice on whether the area should be designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), claiming it should because of the marine species it supports. However islanders feel the area is not unique and say enforcing SAC status would have a drastic impact on island life, claiming the designation is politically rather than scientifically motivated.

Environment minister Paul Wheelhouse said: 'I can assure the communities involved that if I choose to designate we will ensure the right balance will be reached between environmental conservation and their social, economic and cultural requirements.'

The ATTTG has focused on making improvements to the approach road, upgrading the road network and resurfacing the haul route to Pennycross Pier.'

## Carers gain grant for breaks

CARERS in Argyll and Bute are set to benefit from a grant of £21,000 from the Scottish Government's Creative Breaks programme.

Argyll and Bute Carers' Network has recently been awarded the money to provide short breaks for unpaid, family carers.

A short break could take the form of a weekend, or few days away, either with or without the person they care for. This could be to relax, to spend time with family or to attend special events.

The Carers' Network will also fund a small number of longer breaks, up to a week's holiday.

If you are a carer who would benefit from a break from caring, an application form can be downloaded from www.abcn.org.uk, by emailing tricia.carers@hotmail.co.uk or by telephoning 07788 501426.

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# Festival fashion show proves big success

## New book from Argyll author

ARGYLL and in particular Oban in wartime feature in a new collection of short stories from Lorn Macintyre, who has Oban and Tobermory connections.

Miss Esther Scott's Fancy comprises stories about dancing and dancers, including one long story about the Honourable Blythe Campbell, married to an army officer with an ancestral estate in Argyll.

She has a relationship with a dancer she meets at the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society's Summer School in St Andrews in 1938.

In another long story, Dance with your Soul, Esther Scott, a hosiery mill worker from Hawick, falls in love with the Canadian pilot of a Sunderland flying boat based in Oban.

He composes a strathspey for her, Miss Esther Scott's Fancy, but will he ever get to dance with her, considering his dangerous missions out over the Atlantic to protect the convoys?

As well as Scottish Country dancing, Miss Esther Scott's Fancy contains stories about Highland, ceilidh, ballroom, Irish and swing dancing.

The critic in the Scottish Field wrote of Miss Esther Scott's Fancy: 'Valued and practised by the author, his evident love of the art of dance can be felt on each page and is conveyed in a way that is sure to captivate the reader and transport them into this fascinating world.'

Miss Esther Scott's Fancy is published by Priormuir Press, www.priormuir-press.co.uk

It is also available to order via Amazon, and as an e-book.

## Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust to benefit from Winter Festival event

A FASHION show in aid of the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust (HCPT) took place in Oban last Friday.

The event, part of the town's Winter Festival, was held in M&Co in Station Square and raised £312.52 for the charity.

HCPT is a pilgrimage charity which takes youngsters with additional needs to Lourdes, in France, for a week.

Maggie Anderson of HCPT said: 'Our group takes around eight young people, aged from 15 to 18. The money raised is entirely to pay for the children's fares and accommodation.'

'It is children with additional needs and about £1,000 is required per child - the family pay nothing and helpers pay their own fares.'

She added: 'M&Co staff were terrific and we had a lot of people tell us they had a great night.'



Above - Oliver Clark took to the catwalk in style.

Pictures by Stephen Lawson.

Left: Comper Frank McKenna was suitably dressed for the evening.



Sandra and Catherine with some of the goodies on offer in Off The Rails. 16 147offtherails01

## 'Pre-loved' concept store brings new life to Oban's George St

A NEW shop full of designer goodies - but with a unique trading philosophy - is breathing fresh life into Oban's George Street.

Off The Rails, run by Sandra Melville and Catherine Hunter, is a 'pre-loved' designer and top end high street fashion store.

The store aims to help people clear out their wardrobes and make some money at the same time - with an emphasis on immaculate clothing.

Research shows we only regularly wear 20 per cent of the clothes we buy so there should be lots to choose from.

Sandra said: 'There are so many people we know that buy good clothes and wear them once or don't wear them and don't return them and keep thinking I'll wear them sometime.'

'When they are good quality clothes that people don't want to give to charity they can bring them to our shop - we sell them as long as they are in tip top condition and the client gets a percentage and we get a percentage.'

But charity shops won't always lose out to this new venture - if clothes don't sell after a certain amount of time the client is contacted to see if they would like the items returned or donated to charity.

The opening of the store last Friday coincided with the launch of the Winter Festival and mascot Coolio went along to help cut the ribbon.

Complimentary bucks fizz and handmade chocolates from Carol Logan were also on offer to shoppers. Off The Rails is open for a trial period until Christmas.



Aibheann Clark and Brodie Sloss.



Managing Director of Nevis Range and Chair of the Outdoor Capital of the UK, Marian Austin opens the new store

## New outdoor store opens in Fort William

STAFF OF the new Cotswold Outdoor store on Fort William High Street were delighted to be greeted by a large, enthusiastic crowd at Fort William last Wednesday morning as they patiently lined the streets to celebrate the official opening of the new store at midday.

The new store, opened by the Managing Director of Nevis Range

and Chair of the Outdoor Capital of the UK, Marian Austin, is the latest edition to the now 66 stores strong portfolio.

To celebrate the opening of the new store, the first 100 people through the doors on Wednesday received a Cotswold Outdoor goody bag. Visitors on opening day were also treated to food and refreshments on arrival.

Talk The Fort William store will be inviting Mountain Guide, Mick Tigue

in store on Friday November 30 at 7:30pm to deliver their safety talk.

Mick has extensive experience as professional mountain guide and as a Mountain Rescue Team member.

Tickets for the event are free however availability is limited, so please visit or call your local store to reserve your space and avoid disappointment.

Cotswold Outdoor are also proud sponsors of the Fort William Mountain Festival in February 2013 and look forward to holding further in-store lectures and workshops during the festival.



Collect token five today

# Christmas is coming!

TOKEN FIVE

To celebrate, The Oban Times is giving readers the chance to win £500 worth of shopping vouchers to spend at Lidl in Oban or Fort William this Christmas.

To enter, simply send us your five tokens that we have printed in The Oban Times, answer this easy question, complete the entry form below and post it to The Oban Times, Lidl Comp, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be received by Monday, December 10, 2012.

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In which supermarket aisle are you most likely to find mince pies?  
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Published on 13th December

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George Hamilton plays the dame, Bette Bouffant, in this year's production of Beauty and the Beast, while Jenny Livingstone, left, and Claire Smalley play her children, Bertie and Bibi. 16\_148panto01

## Curtain up on panto fun

IT IS a break from the usual pantomime favourites but Beauty and the Beast will give the audience at Oban's Corran Halls plenty to shout about this year. Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club's hilarious take on the unique love story is showing between December 6 to 8 and also features local dance groups.

Beauty and the Beast is a departure from normal pantos, as it has no kings, queens, good fairies or wicked witches - although Madame de Spicable makes a good effort at being hated. Beauty and the Beast is another offering from writer Alan McHugh and this is the fourth time the Benderloch and North Connel group have used his

pantomimes, which usually mean a sell-out audience. Directed by Linda Robb, the cast of nine features the inimitable George Hamilton in the familiar role of the dame, while Pauline Cameron and Finn Walton take the lead roles of Belle Atiseau and the Marquis of Neuchateaux. Support will come from the Atlantis Leisure dancers and the Adele Askew School of Dance.

Benderloch & North Connel Drama Club  
Present the panto...  
**Beauty AND THE BEAST**  
By Alan McHugh  
6th, 7th & 8th December  
Evenings 7.30pm. Saturday matinee 2.30pm  
Tickets £10/£7. Family Ticket £28  
Reserved seating  
Corran Halls, Oban Box Office 01631 567333

**Oban Phoenix Cinema**

**The Help** Thurs 29th, 20:30

**Twilight Breaking Dawn Part 2** Thurs 29th, 18:00 • Fri 30th, 18:00 • Sat 1st, 18:00  
Sun 2nd, 18:15 • Mon 3rd, 18:00 • Tues 4th, 21:00  
Wed 5th, 18:00 • Thurs 6th, 18:00

**Madagascar 3 Europe's Most Wanted** Sat 1st, 13:00, 15:30 • Sun 2nd, 12:30

**Skyfall** Friday 30th Nov, 20:45 • Sat 1st, 20:45  
Sun 2nd, 15:00, 21:00 • Mon 3rd, 20:45  
Tues 4th, 18:00 • Wed 5th, 20:45 • Thurs 6th, 20:45  
Fri 7th, 17:30 • Sat 8th, 17:30 • Sun 9th, 15:00, 20:30  
Mon 10th, 20:15 • Tues 11th, 20:15  
Wed 12th, 17:30 • Thurs 13th, 18:00

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**The Help (12)** Featuring an ensemble cast, the film is about a young white woman, Eugenia "Skeeter" Phelan, and her relationship with two black maids during the early 1960s. Skeeter is a journalist who decides to write a book from the point of view of the maids (referred to as "the help") exposing the racism they are faced with as they work for white families.

**Twilight Breaking Dawn Part 2 (12A)** Alex the lion, Marty the zebra, Gloria the hippo and Melman the giraffe are still fighting to get home to their beloved Big Apple. Their journey takes them through Europe where they find the perfect cover: a travelling circus, which they reinvent - Madagascar style. Non-stop fun for the children and the adults!

**Skyfall (12A)** Daniel Craig is back as Ian Fleming's James Bond 007 in Skyfall, the 23rd adventure in the longest-running film franchise of all time. In Skyfall, Bond's loyalty to M (Oban Phoenix's very own patron, Dame Judi Dench) is tested as her past comes back to haunt her. As M16 comes under attack, 007 must track down and destroy the threat, no matter how personal the cost. Receiving five star reviews from the likes of TotalFilm and being pegged 'the franchise, the now vamped through Europe where best Bond movie of all time,' this is one you do not want to miss!

# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



Clare, left, and Erin, receive certificates congratulating them on completing 200 hours of volunteering from Stella McIver. 15\_148saltireawards1

## Young leaders honoured for hours of volunteering

TWO YOUNG leaders with the First Connel Brownies are celebrating this week after completing 200 hours of volunteering. Clare Davies, 15, and Erin MacGregor, 14, were presented with a certificate for completing 'The Ascent' with the Saltire Awards by Girlguiding regional commissioner Stella McIver at Connel Church Hall on Monday.



## Mòd memories relived in Oban

Memories of this year's Royal National Mòd were being relived at St John's Cathedral last Friday night. Echoes of the Mòd, hosted by Comunn Gàidhealach an Obain, saw trophy and medal winners from this year's event come together for a celebratory performance. First up to entertain the crowd was Còisir Ghàidhlig Tairbeart Loch Fin who took home the Sheriff MacMaster Campbell Memorial Quaich and the Royal Mail Award. 15\_148echoes01



## Argyll Animal Aid hosts Christmas Fayre

A Christmas fayre, in aid of Argyll Animal Aid, was held in the Corran Halls last Saturday. The event was well attended with a variety of festive food, crafts and decorations on offer. 15\_148fayre01

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**Photo of the Year competition**

AMATEUR photographers across the West Highlands and Islands are being urged to get snapping with the launch of Wyvex Media's Photo of the Year competition.

**We are looking for photographs that sum up why this part of the world is your favourite.**

It can be anything, from your favourite place or activity to a picturesque sunset or local wildlife.

Entries will be accepted until the end of January, so there is plenty of time to get out and about to grab that winning image. Each week, we'll run a selection of the best photographs and even if you're not taking part, you can vote for your favourite.

**The most popular photographs stand a chance of winning fantastic prizes in the Photo of the Year People's Vote and our judges' Grand Prize categories.**

To enter, log on to [www.obantimes.co.uk/poy](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/poy) or send a CD of your images to Wyvex Media, Photo of the Year, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, PA34 4HB.

Terms and conditions: Editor's decision is final. Competition is for amateur photographers only. The winner must be willing to take part in publicity. Photographs not of a high enough resolution to appear in print will be disqualified. By submitting to the competition, including but not limited to digital video and images, mobile text messages, blogging, message boards, emails and audio submissions, you automatically grant Wyvex Media the royalty-free, perpetual, irrevocable, exclusive right and license to use, reproduce, modify, edit, adapt, publish, translate, create derivative works from, distribute, perform and display such material (in whole or part) worldwide and/or to incorporate it in other works in any form, media, or technology now known or later developed for the full term of any rights that may exist in such content. Prices are as stated, no cash alternative. Employees of Wyvex Media and their immediate family are prohibited from entering. Text votes cost £1 plus one message at standard network rate.

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**MONTHLY CLUB NIGHT**  
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7.30pm  
Audience and Players Welcome  
Special Guest Artist  
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Come Along and Enjoy the Music

**Christmas Craft Fair**  
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**St Andrews Night Ceilidh**  
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Friday 30th November -  
St Andrews Night Ceilidh  
Tickets are priced at £8  
and can be bought from the  
Skipinnish Ceilidh House  
[www.skipinnishceilidhhouse.com](http://www.skipinnishceilidhhouse.com)

**MEUR LOCHABAIR**  
Ceilidh  
Strontian Village Hall  
December 8 @ 7.30pm  
Singers: Margaret MacLellan,  
Donald MacRae, Islay MacTaggart, Morag Smith,  
and Local Young Group.  
Music by Robert Nairn  
Ceilidh Band  
Admission £8 incl Tea

**FORT WILLIAM ACCORDION & FIDDLE CLUB**  
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**Do you know an unsung hero who deserves recognition?**

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

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

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

**All nominations must be received by 10am MONDAY DECEMBER 10 2012.**  
Full terms and conditions are available online at [www.obantimes.co.uk/angel](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/angel).

**NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee's name.....

Nominee's address.....

**My nominee should win because.....**  
(please submit up to 200 words on a separate sheet and attach to this form).

Your name .....

Your address .....

Daytime telephone number .....

Email address.....

**Send to: The Oban Times, Angel of the Year, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.**



# FESTIVE FOOD & DRINK

SCOTLAND has an unsurpassed larder, which makes the festive time of year a perfect excuse for all the foodies among you to delve into the best produce our country has to offer. From small artisan companies to larger producers, whether you shop in a supermarket or your local farmer's market it is easy to find good quality food that will delight your family and friends this Christmas. Festive food and drink isn't just about Christmas day, the whole season is filled with merriment. Stock up on some good malt whiskies, why not try those that are locally produced? At least if you burn the dinner nobody will notice. Head to a farmer's market, there are often extra ones held at this time of year and you might just come across some delights you wouldn't get in the shops. Markets are also a great place to pick up fantastic fresh veg, just what you need to go with a roast. This is also an opportunity to support Scottish farmers - buy meats marked with the labels, Scotch Beef, Scotch Lamb and Specially Selected

Pork - these guarantee 100 per cent Scottish origin and a high standard of animal welfare. Don't forget to order your turkey for the big day. Your local butcher will be more than happy to cater for your requirements. But it isn't all about poultry, the west of Scotland has some fantastic fresh seafood on offer - even at this time of year. Try serving some locally produced mussels, scallops or oysters as a starter. Handmade chocolates can be a nice neat little dessert when you've indulged just that bit too much on the main course, head down your local high street and see what delights you can find. Of course eating at home leaves someone with the unenviable task of doing the dishes - why not take the stress out of festive food and enjoy dining out in one of the wonderful restaurants Argyll has to offer. Food can even help with gift ideas - why not treat someone you care about to a fantastic food and drink filled hamper - even better, if you deliver it in person they might share!

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## RECIPES

**To start**  
**White wine and garlic mussels**  
Serves 4  
Ingredients:  
Around 50 mussels  
Two tbsp of olive oil  
Two tbsp of butter  
One large onion, finely chopped  
Four garlic cloves, finely chopped  
One glass of white wine  
Half tsp of dried thyme  
Handful of chopped parsley  
Salt and pepper  
Method:  
Melt the butter with the olive oil in a saucepan over a medium-low heat. Add the chopped onion and garlic, cook for three minutes or until the liquid is almost translucent. Pour the wine in and stir before adding the mussels, which should be closed. Stir and cover the pot for about eight to 10 minutes. Remove any unopened mussels, season with salt and pepper and a sprinkle of parsley.

Juice of three oranges  
One bouquet garni  
100g flour (to dust the meat)  
250ml chicken stock  
One chopped onion  
Two cloves of peeled garlic  
Salt and pepper  
Eight juniper berries  
One tbsp parsley  
One bottle of red wine  
25g butter  
50g bacon lardons  
For the dumplings:  
100g self raising flour  
One tsp baking powder  
50g melted butter  
One egg  
One tsp thyme leaves  
One tsp orange zest  
50g grated Isle of Mull cheddar  
Method:  
Pre-heat the oven to 160°C  
Pre-heat a heavy bottomed pan, meanwhile, season the venison on all sides with salt and pepper and dust the meat lightly with the flour. Add the oil to the pan, making sure it's smoking hot, and then add the venison and butter. Do two batches if necessary. Really allow the meat to colour all over, as this will help keep the flavour. Once coloured all over, strain the meat in a colander and discard the liquid fat. Keep the pan and return to the heat. Add oil and then add the celeriac, bacon lardons, garlic, carrots, onion and juniper and sweat for four to five minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the bouquet garni and the meat and sweat for two to three minutes. Pour in the orange juice and reduce by half.

Cover the meat in red wine and bring to the boil and skim. Add the chicken stock and boil again. Season, place in the oven and cook for one and a half hours. When stew is cooking prepare the dumplings.  
In a small bowl mix together the flour and baking powder. In a separate bowl mix the rest of the ingredients and add to the flour with a couple of drops of water if needed. Roll into balls and place onto the stew, cooking for a further 15 minutes. Top up with a little fluid if needed. The meat should flake when ready.

**For the side**  
**Brussel sprouts and chestnut**  
Ingredients:  
One lb Brussel sprouts, cleaned and trimmed  
One oz unsalted butter  
One tsp olive oil  
Four oz cooked peeled chestnuts  
Five to six fresh sage leaves  
Four fl oz double cream  
Method:  
Bring a pan of salted water to a boil and cook the sprouts for four to six minutes until al dente. Drain and set aside. Heat the butter with the oil in a frying pan. Crumble the chestnuts roughly and add the sage leaves. Add the sprouts and cream and bring to a good simmer, season to taste before serving.

**For the main**  
**Venison stew with orange, thyme and Isle of Mull cheddar dumplings**  
Serves 4  
Ingredients  
For the stew:  
1kg venison dice (haunch)  
Three diced carrots  
One diced celeriac  
Zest of one orange  
Method:  
Pre-heat a heavy bottomed pan, meanwhile, season the venison on all sides with salt and pepper and dust the meat lightly with the flour. Add the oil to the pan, making sure it's smoking hot, and then add the venison and butter. Do two batches if necessary. Really allow the meat to colour all over, as this will help keep the flavour. Once coloured all over, strain the meat in a colander and discard the liquid fat. Keep the pan and return to the heat. Add oil and then add the celeriac, bacon lardons, garlic, carrots, onion and juniper and sweat for four to five minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the bouquet garni and the meat and sweat for two to three minutes. Pour in the orange juice and reduce by half.

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# Publicans in Oban say we will add spark to fireworks display

LICENSED traders in Oban could be set to take over the annual community fireworks display after this year's Guy Fawkes celebrations went without a bang.

A decision was taken not to hold a November 5 fireworks display this year - a decision that angered locals keen to see a spectacular follow up to 2011's stunning fireworks failure.

nothing happening, said he was keen to organise a display next year and would raise the money himself.

Explaining the plan, Allan McKie, an association past president, said: "What happened this year happened. We don't want to go back. We want to look to the future. We're quite keen to do it. One thing we're very good at in this industry is organising

events, we do it every weekend. We also have the means to raise the money.

Rotary Club that originally established bonfires and fireworks displays in Oban to mark Guy Fawkes night, arranged to deter anyone holding their own informal and possibly unsafe displays. He says a strong display is essential and in the town's best interests.

"The sky is the limit," he added. "We want to give a pretty good fireworks display. We want to take it back to what it was, a really good night for everyone." While a venue for the display hasn't been settled yet, Mr McKie said planning was at an early stage.

# Tobermory fireman receives medal at Buckingham Palace

## 'It was a truly humbling experience'

A MEMBER of Tobermory Community Fire Station has received an award as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours.



Willie Hume with his wife Dawn after receiving his award at Buckingham Palace. t48palace1no

Watch commander Willie Hume picked up the Queen's Fire Service Medal at a ceremony in Buckingham Palace on November 21 - which is also his birthday.

Mr Hume, who is the only recipient of the award in Scotland this year, has worked tirelessly with the fire service for 33 years.

He said: "This is a huge honour for myself, my family, the crew of Tobermory Fire Station, the community of Mull and Iona and Strathclyde Fire and Rescue."

"The first three words Her Majesty said to me was 'you're from Tobermory', we then had a conversation about when she visited the Western Isles aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia."

"She continued by saying that the Princess Royal still visits Tobermory. She finished by asking how long I had been serving with Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, and I replied '33 years, ma'am'."

"It was a truly humbling experience."

Mr Hume joined the service in 1979 and has been the officer in charge since 1998, also taking on responsibility for the volunteer units at Salen, Craignure, Bunessan and Iona.

His fundraising efforts have also attracted attention with the station being named runner up Fire Station of the Year in 2009 in recognition of the tens of thousands of pounds raised.

# Administration error delays Oban drink ban extension

A BAN on drinking in public places in Oban will likely be extended to include Soroba housing estate, Glenallan and Pulpit Hill.

The extension of the byelaw was upheld by Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee in 2010, following a three-year campaign by Soroba residents.

It was frustrating to find out it was forgotten about but we are grateful to councillor Hall for staying on top of it.

The extension of the town's existing byelaw was confirmed by Argyll and Bute Council last Thursday and comes after an administration error delayed the proposal by two years.

However, in September this year, councillor Fred Hall discovered the council had forgotten about the application and had not submitted an application to the Scottish Government.

"This is going to help a lot of residents here and we need to get the message out that Soroba is not a drinking den."

The council will now advertise its intention in *The Oban Times* and there will be a one-month period for any objections to be made.

Sean MacIntyre, a member of Soroba Community Association said this week: "This is great news for the residents of Soroba."

Councillor Hall said: "This act will give the police the power to control alcohol-fuelled anti-social behaviour in public places in Soroba and Pulpit Hill, bringing comfort to local residents."

# Ardochattan gain grant to look back

ARDCHATTAN Parish Archive is one of the first groups in the UK to receive a grant to help delve into the area's past.



Proposed extension to Oban's existing byelaws

The Heritage Lottery Fund has given the archive £9,900 to drive the 'Dualchas agus Duthacas: a sense of place' project, which will organise walks, talks and workshops everyone can get involved in. The project will also allow work to start to cataloguing community held material to begin to create a parish archive accessible to all. An exhibition will be held in the summer to showcase the group's work, and will also be posted online.

Oban Byelaw  
Existing  
Proposed Extensions

Commenting on the award, a spokesman for the archive said: "We are thrilled to have been awarded this grant and we can't wait to get started."

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"We love where we live and know there's so much more to discover about our past, from the Big Bang to the present day."

Lochside man shouted threats

"We are all really excited about mastering new skills, learning more from our community and sharing the stories of our heritage with locals, descendants, and visitors to the parish."

A LOCHYSIDE man accused of repeatedly shouting threats at a woman in his house is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on December 5.

Elliott Brown, aged 25, of 14 Columba Court, denies behaving in a threatening or abusive manner on September 4 and 5.

# Times Sport

## Fort face tough away test at Lossie

FORT William face their biggest match of the season so far when they travel to take on Lossiemouth the side directly above them in the league this Saturday.

REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK fort@obantimes.co.uk

difficult game for us because we've got a weakened squad.

For the foreseeable future after suffering a serious arm injury at work. Conlon said: "They are just waiting for the swelling to go down then they can have a look and see what the damage is. He should get the plaster off in about a fortnight."

The Claggan Park side put in their most impressive performance so far in their last game, fighting back to grab a 3-3 draw away to Buckie Thistle, but remain at the foot of the table, one point behind Lossie.

was expecting another tough match.

Michael Gillespie is suspended for the match after picking up too many yellow cards, while Sean Grant and Logan Barker will miss out due to work commitments. Forward Iain MacLellan is also a selection doubt.

Fort's game against Brora Rangers last weekend was cancelled after rain left Claggan Park unplayable.

Manager Danny Conlon told *The Oban Times* he had a number of key first team regulars unavailable for Saturday, and

He said: "It's without doubt our biggest game so far. We've got our own mini league at the bottom with four, or maybe five, teams involved, and any game against each other is going to be huge."

Captain Andy Martin is out

"It reminds me a little bit of last season, the ways it's so stop-start," Conlon said. "It's even tough to get any sort of routine going on with training."

# Fort in search for background staff

FORT William FC have put out a call to the local public for new faces to join the Claggan club's behind the scenes staff.

# Lochaber Yacht Club host annual prizegiving and dinner dance

LOCHABER Yacht Club saw a good turnout for its annual dinner and prizegiving at the Fort William clubhouse on Saturday night.

Three series of races for both dinghies and keelboats are held over the summer months, with a prize awarded in each class for each series.

Trophy - Margaret McVior; Frostbite Shield (Dinghies) - Hamish & Andy; G.A. Faulkner Trophy (Best Dinghy Crew) - Brian Holgate; Icicle Series Shield (Sunday Series) - Ryan McIntyre; K.K. Cameron Trophy (Fast Dinghy Points 3) - Ryan McIntyre; Kilmallie Trophy (Keelboat Points 3) - Marian Austin & Co; Lochaber Wheel (Sailing Points 3) - Peter Bell & Co; MacDonald One Design (L.Y.C. Regatta Soling) - Andy, Liz, John Wilson; Merlin Trophy (Fast Dinghy Points 2) - Ryan McIntyre; Nevis Garage Trophy (Dinghy One Peak Race) - Amanda Henderson, Jamie Riley and Graham McNab (LAC); Omega Trophy (Soling Points 1) - Hamish Loudon & Co; 1st in Class, Last Race (West Highland Week) - Marian Austin; Fastest Boat, Bunessan To Oban leg (Round Mull Race, Oban Sailing Club) - Roddy Campbell; 1st in Class Overall (Round Mull Race, Oban Sailing Club) - Roddy Campbell; Scapa Trophy (Soling Points 2) - Liz Loudon, Andy McKenna; Simpson Trophy (L.Y.C. Regatta Fast H'Cap) - Brian & Graeme Fallows; St Christopher Trophy (Pursuit Race) - Liz Loudon, Andy McKenna; Trafalgar Trophy (Keelboat Points 2) - Marian Austin & Co; Vice Commodore's Cup (Fast Dinghy Points 1) - Ryan McIntyre.

# Lochaber aim to get back on track

LOCHABER Rugby Club will hope to get their season back on track when they travel to take on Aberdeenshire second XV on Saturday. The Banavie club have not played since November 3 when they lost heavily at home leaders Garioch.

Outwith the series races the dinghies compete in the Black Rock and Loch Eil races, while the keelboats battle for the Coran Red Trophy.

Ryan McIntyre sails at both national and club levels in his Laser Radial and performed well all season, carrying off several prizes. Equally prominent was Hamish Loudon and crew, carrying off trophies in both the Soling (Keelboat) class and in the dinghy class in his Wayfarer.



The Lairig Mor race gets off to a fast start at Mamore Lodge on Sunday morning 20. f48ath01

# Gorman leads home field in Lairig Mor Race

A FIELD of 36 competitors tackled Lochaber Athletic Club's Lairig Mor Race on Sunday in fine running conditions with a slight breeze and light

drizzle. An air temperature of 4C greeted athletes at the start at Mamore Lodge, Kinlochleven for the run through the mountains along the West Highland Way to Fort William.

The testing course of approximately 13.5 miles soon had the field well spread out and it was Manny Gorman who came home first at Lochaber Leisure Centre, three minutes ahead of the rest of the pack.

Nancy Kennedy took a tumble on some steps, but carried on regardless with a cut knee and swollen thigh.

Individual winners of club awards on the night were: Player of the Year and Players' Player of the Year - Shaun Nicolson; Second team player of the year - Ryan Johnstone; Under-17 player of the year - Barry MacDonald; Women's Player of the Year - Kathleen (Missy) Cameron; Women's most improved player - Kirsty MacDonald.

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Congratulations from the club go to all the runners for completing the first long Winter League race of the season. Thanks also go to the timekeepers and marshalls.

# Lochaber bring curtain down on successful season



Champs! Lochaber Camanachd line up with the silverware at their Spean Bridge pitch ahead of their awards dinner and presentation on Saturday 20. f48shiny03

LOCHABER Camanachd put the seal on a hugely successful season at its awards presentation dinner in the West End Hotel in Fort William on Saturday night.

Over 100 turned out to celebrate Lochaber's return to the Orion Group Premiership as undefeated Marine Harvest North Division 1 champions.

Other silverware taking its place in the Spean Bridge trophy cabinet included Balliemore Cup and the women's North Division 2 championship cup.

Individual winners of club awards on the night were: Player of the Year and Players' Player of the Year - Shaun Nicolson; Second team player of the year - Ryan Johnstone; Under-17 player of the year - Barry MacDonald; Women's Player of the Year - Kathleen (Missy) Cameron; Women's most improved player - Kirsty MacDonald.

# FARMING

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## Callanish Limousin is Stornoway Christmas champion

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 14 prime cattle and 21 prime sheep at its Christmas Show and Sale kindly sponsored by the Lewis and Harris Auction Mart at Stornoway last Wednesday.

The cattle were judged by A Shaw, Upper Cullernie, Inverness, while sheep were judged by D Macleod, Shadder, Isle of Lewis.

Supreme cattle champion - K J MacLennan Esq, 1B Breasclate Park, Callanish, with a 510kg Limousin bullock selling at 380p per kilo purchased by R. Smith Butcher of Francis Street, Stornoway.

Reserve cattle champion - D M Macleod, 1 Gress, Back, Stornoway, with a 595kg Aberdeen Angus bullock selling at 300p per kilo and £1,785.00.

Prime bullocks averaged 244.2p and sold to 380p per kg and £1,938.00 for a 510kg Limousin from 1B Breasclate Park, Callanish.

Prime heifers averaged 197.4p and sold to 240p per kg and £1,152.00 for a 480kg Aberdeen Angus cross from 1 Gress, Back.

The champion pen of lambs came from S Campbell, North Shawbost, with a pen of 55.5kg cross lambs realizing £80.

The reserve champion pen of lambs came from M Mackenzie, 30A Aiginish, with a pen of 53kg Blackface lambs selling at £65.

Lambs averaged 140p and sold to 156.1p per kg for a pen of 41kg Blackfaces from and £80.00.

## Prime sheep meet rising trade at Stirling

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had forward 2181 prime lambs plus 1041 cast ewes and tups at Stirling on Tuesday.

Prime lambs averaged 158.89p per kilo (+0.29p per kilo), selling to a top of 213p for Texel's from D S & R C Taylor, Easter Ochtermuthill and £99 for a Suffolk from R & S Downie, Newton of Craithie.

Beltex sold to 211p per kilo from Easter Ochtermuthill and to £94 from Lochend who also sold Texels to 200p.

Blackface lambs sold to 154p per kilo from Baidlandhill and to £64 from Mains of Burnbank.

Heavy ewes averaged £67.32 (+£6.10) selling to £112.50 for a Texel from R & S Downie, Newton of Craithie while light ewes averaged £42.47 (+£4.80) selling to £55.50 from W Shearer, Burnbrae.

Tups sold to a top of £90.50 for a Texel from Graystale.

## Lochaber group hears of hopes for Scottish wildcat

North and west of Great Glen could become wildcat haven

HOPES remain that the Scottish wildcat can be saved from extinction, Lochaber Natural History Society heard at its monthly meeting in Fort William last Monday.

National wildcat surveying expert Adrian Davis outlined a new project with the Scottish Wildcat Association (SWA) to establish a wildcat haven.

The objective, he said, is to create a zone north and west of the Great Glen with a sustainable population of healthy wildcats free of feral cats, through a process of neutering and eliminating diseased animals.

Remote areas Ardnamurchan have been chosen for a pilot to try to establish wildcat numbers using camera trapping, public surveys and consultation with estates.

Feral cats have also been trapped and neutered, as wildcat interbreeding with domestic and feral cats means no one knows how many pure animals are really left.

Disease also poses a huge risk to small, vulnerable populations of wildcat and some feral cats found to have diseases such as feline AIDS were euthanized.

It is thought that because of remoteness some areas of

Lochaber may have some of the best surviving populations of true wildcat.

**Funding**  
The next stage is to trap genuine wildcats so their health status can be determined and blood samples taken to try and develop a genetic test to prove species purity.

If funding can be found, the project will continue for at least the next eight years.

Adrian explained one of the main difficulties of wildcat conservation is that the animals are very hard to distinguish from tabby feral cats, domestic cats or hybrids. Remarkably to date no genetic, DNA-based tests have been developed to identify the true wildcat, and this may not even be possible.

There are, however, seven coat characteristics, notably bold stripes, a thick rounded tail with stripes and a black tip, and a black dorsal stripe that ends at the base of the tail.

Sightings of wildcat often only involve fleeting glimpses and often fail to distinguish between wildcats and other cats.

This was a major drawback in the last major wildcat survey organised by Scottish Natural Heritage from 2006-2008, in

which there was a paucity of good records.

A 1980s survey included records from only dead cats, as until very recently wildcats had no legal protection. Now they are strictly protected, but are still regarded by some as vermin, or as a possible hindrance to planning proposals. An information and education programme has helped and a national conference was held by SNH in September to develop an urgent action plan for wildcat conservation.

Only about 400 may remain in Scotland - perhaps even as few as 35 according to one survey - which would make wildcats functionally extinct.

Wildcats may occasionally visit the edge of settlements even as large as Fort William, so anyone owning a domestic cat is urged to consider having it neutered if it is allowed out of the house.

Possible wildcat sightings can be reported to SWA at www.scottishwildcats.co.uk or to Jon Mercer of LNHS at info@glenlochlodge.co.uk.

Mr Mercer said: 'It would be a real tragedy if we could not even save this uniquely Scottish animal in the 21st century.'



Sightings of wildcat often only involve fleeting glimpses and often fail to distinguish between wildcats and other cats

## Dingwall market hosts Christmas show and sale of prime stock

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 94 prime cattle and 673 prime sheep at its Christmas Show and Sale sponsored by The Royal Bank of Scotland, John M. Munro Butchers, MacRae & Dick Landrover Centre, Highland Industrial Supplies, Highland Tractors, and Scot JCB.

The cattle were judged by Mrs A. Ingram, East Comalegy, Huntly while the sheep were judged by Mr. T. Mackenzie, Drumreach, Kirkhill.

Overall cattle champion, junior champion, first prize junior heifer and first prize haltered heifer came from Messrs W A Fettes, Braes of Enzie, which later sold to 350p per kg (£2,275.00) to John M. Munro Ltd., Butchers, West End, Dingwall.

The reserve champion, senior champion, second prize haltered heifer, first prize senior heifer and the Craighlands new trophy for best homebred, plus the John M. Munro special prize for best animal from a regular consignor went to Messrs J & J Henderson, Udale, Poyntzfield, who sold to 270p per kg (£1,984.50) to John M. Munro Ltd.

Prime bullocks averaged 225.3p (+16.6p) and sold to 290p

per kg and £1,870.50 gross for the junior reserve and best junior bullock, a 645kg Charolais cross from Wester Craighlands, Fortrose.

Prime heifers averaged 234.0p (+24.8p) and sold to 350p per kg and £2,275.00 gross for the overall champion, also taking prizes for junior champion, best junior heifer and haltered heifer, a 650kg British Blue from Braes of Enzie, Buckie.

The champion pen of three lambs and first prize pen of Beltex lambs came from C Angus, Barrogill Mains, Mey, sold at £150 (326.1p) to Messrs John M. Munro Ltd., West End, Dingwall.

The reserve champion pen of lambs and first prize Suffolk cross lambs came from Messrs Conon Brae Farms, Torgorm, Conon Bridge, and sold at £140 (280p) to Messrs Fraser Brothers, Butchers, Dingwall.

Pen of three Cheviot lambs: 1st - Mr J Matheson, 91/92 Achviach, Dornoch, £80; 2nd - Messrs A & A Bruce, Redhill, Inverness, £70.

Pen of three Blackface lambs: 1st - Messrs W R MacIntyre & Co, Tulloch Farm, Dingwall, £76; 2nd - Tulloch Farm, £60.

Pen of three Suffolks x lambs: 2nd - Mr C Swift, South Clunes, Kirkhill, £80.

Pen of three Texel x lambs: 1st - Torgorm, £120; 2nd - Messrs A H Skinner & Son, 2 Easter Kinkell, Conon Bridge, £80.

Pen of three Beltex x lambs: 2nd - Torgorm, £110.

Pen of three Continental lambs: 1st - Torgorm, £100; 2nd - Messrs Leanach Farm, Cul-loden, £80.

Lambs averaged 154.2p (+8.6p) and sold to 326.1p per kg and £150.00 for the champion pen and first prize pen of three Beltex cross lambs, from Barrogill Mains, Mey, to John M. Munro Ltd., West End, Dingwall.

## Tangy Limousin heifers sell at Stirling sale

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Limited had an entry more than double that of the corresponding sale last year for their sale of store and breeding cattle at Stirling on Monday.

All classes maintained a similar trade to that of two weeks ago with a large ringside of buyers forward.

Bullock calves averaged 203p and sold to 253p per kg for a 340kg Limousin from Wairds of Alpiy, Laurencekirk and to £1040 for two 400kg Limousin's from Mains of Burnbank, Blairdrummond.

Heifer calves averaged 190p per kg and sold to 210p per kilo for three 390kg Limousin's from Tangy, Campbelltown and to £900 for a 445kg Limousin from Mains of Burnbank, Blairdrummond.

Store bullocks averaged 187p and sold to 218p per kg for a 440kg Limousin from East Kerse, Beith and to £1310 for two 600kg Limousin's from Wester Carmuir, Larbert.

Store heifers averaged 182p per kg and sold to 215p per kg for a 470kg Limousin from East Kerse, Beith and to £1060 for a 510kg Limousin from Meikle Coull, Farms, Forfar.

Bulls averaged 168p and sold to 207p for two 295kg Limousin from Westerhill Framers, Bishopbriggs and to £840 for a 540kg Limousin from Wester Carmuir, Larbert.

Breeding cattle sold to a top of £1850 for a Limousin cow with bull calf at foot from A Gray, Craighard Farm.

Hartfield sold a Limousin cow with a Limousin calf at foot to £1550.



Breeding cattle from C Campbell and Son, Fiddan Farm, Isle of Mull sold to £910 at Oban last week

## Barcaldine Texel lambs sell to £61 at Oban

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had forward 1401 sheep and 35 suckled calves, store and Over 30 Month cattle at Oban Livestock Centre last week.

Cattle sold to £910 for an in-calf Limousin cow from C Campbell and Son, Fiddan Farm,

Isle of Mull, with the same home also selling Limousin cows with calf at foot to £900 (twice) and in-calf Limousin cross cows to £880 and £850.

Limousin bullocks from Balnagown, Isle of Lisimore sold to £740.

In the OTM class, Balnagown

sold a British Blue to £800 with Tyree, Benderloch selling Limousins to £860.

Store lambs sold to a top of £61 for Texels from E McGilvary, Barcaldine Home Farm, Barcaldine, Suffolks from the same home sold to £56 with Beltex from Gordon Brechin,

Upper Largie, Kilmartin selling to £55.

Ewes sold to a top of £48 for Cheviots from M McFarlane, Hillview, Kilechoan with Cross ewes from Achnacree more, North Connel to £40. Blackfaces from Clachan Farm, Kilniver sold to £36.

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**Oban Times FARMING**

# French mag tracks Fort FC story

THE AULD Alliance is alive and well in Lochaber after one of France's top football magazines forged an unlikely link with Fort William FC.

Paris-based *So Foot* had its curiosity pricked by how supporters have stuck by the club - despite its bottom-of-the-table tag in the Highland League.

And on Saturday writer Joachim Barbier arrived with photographer Renaud Bouchez for the big game against Brora Rangers - only to find the match had been called off because Claggan Park was waterlogged.

Undeterred, the Gallic duo climbed up Cow Hill above the town for some atmospheric photos of the park and the snow-covered mountains behind.

They then interviewed manager Danny Conlon and club officials during a hastily arranged training session at Lochaber High School in the afternoon.

Mr Barbier told *The Oban Times*: 'I was looking for a story and ended up on the Highland League website and I saw at the bottom was Fort William.'

'I did a bit of research and came across plans by the American guy Paul MacDonald to create a reality show about the team.'

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

'What amazed me was that they are billed as the worst side in Scotland yet fans are still very enthusiastic on Facebook.'

'So given a choice of interviewing Lionel Messi and coming here I would come here because this is about real people and what their club means to them. That is what football should be all about.'

Fort committee member David MacDonald was delighted the club was getting international attention.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It is great positive publicity and it spreads the name of Fort William around Europe. We might be getting mentioned in the same breath as Barcelona!'

The club presented the Frenchmen with two away strips as a token of thanks for making the long trip from Paris.

*So Foot* has a circulation of 80,000 and is on sale in a number of European countries including France, Belgium and Switzerland. The Fort will feature in the January edition.



French connection: David MacDonald, left, and Danny Conlon, second right, present Joachim Barbier and Renaud Bouchez with Fort William strips. 20\_148french01



From left: firefighters Ricky Dibble, Chris Donnelly, Pat McElhinney, Alex Campbell, John Edgar, Eddie Lopez present Mark Stevenson of the Scottish Burned Children's Club, right, with £12,249.20. 148ffire02

# Firefighting calendar boys celebrate charity thousands

FIREFIGHTERS from all over Scotland came together on Saturday night to celebrate the Fort William crew raising £12,249 for the Scottish Burned Children's Club.

The tremendous total came through sales of the firefighters' calendar, for which the boys went 'topless' in aid of the charity.

Around 200 people attended the evening in the Ben Nevis Hotel, which saw a further £1,600 raised through an auction and donations.

Special guests included Councillor Eddie Hunter, Charles Kennedy MP, Deputy Chief Fire Officer Stewart Edgar, ACO Billy Wilson and ACO Scott Hay.

The night was supported by many local businesses including the hotel, which provided the venue, accommodation and food. Shiel Buses laid on transport so people from Kinlochleven and Mallaig could attend.

Mr Edgar presented Group Manager Pat McElhinney with a

medal and framed certificate for 20 years loyal service and good conduct.

Mr McElhinney told *The Oban Times*: 'This event shows that our communities can pull together and help a charity who receive no other funding other than this type to finance children to attend a summer camp each year.'

'The children not only suffer physical trauma from their injuries but they can develop long term psychological issues if they are not supported and it is this support this charity provides.'

'We love being involved in this charity and the sheer volume of support throughout Scotland shows that everyone else feels the same.'

He added: 'This is also a landmark event as this is possibly one of the last functions as 'Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service' within this district as we will be one singular service in April next year.'

Local band 'The Shine' provided live music.

# Speeding accused turns himself into police

A FORT William man accused of hitting a cyclist in the town while driving at more than double the speed limit failed to turn up for his jury trial because he was working in Gran Canaria.

A warrant was issued for the arrest of Graham Douglas on November 6, the day the trial was due to be heard.

He handed himself into police last Tuesday after returning from the holiday resort, Fort William Sheriff Court was told.

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said the 29-year-old had been offered a short-term contract to work on an oil rig in Las Palmas and flew out on November 2 - four days before his trial.

He returned to Lochaber on November 19.

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

Mr Melrose said: 'His contract took longer than he expected and he literally lost touch with his court case.'

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'He quite blatantly disregarded his bail condition purely for greed. As a result the trial was unable to take place because he thought it was better to go off to Gran Canaria than to be here.'

'The Crown has serious concerns Mr Graham is treating this case flippantly and with contempt.'

Sheriff Noel McPartlin remanded Douglas in custody until the case next calls, saying: 'It seems you took a conscious decision to leave the country. I am of the view if you were admitted to bail there remains a significant risk of you absconding or failing to appear.'

A number of witnesses and 50 potential jurors were sent home when Douglas, of 12b Linnhe Buildings, failed to appear.

He denies driving dangerously and at grossly excessive speeds of up to 67mph on Lundavra Road and colliding with Andrew MacLeod, who was on a mountain bike, severely injuring and permanently disfiguring him.

The alleged incident, which led to Mr MacLeod's right leg being amputated, happened on March 7 last year.

Newsdesk  
01631  
568000

# Reward on offer for return of shark tag

POLICE are offering a reward for anyone who finds a lost tag from a basking shark which holds valuable information about the animal's movements.

Scottish Natural Heritage reported the tracking device was missing in the Neist Point area of Glendale, Isle of Skye, and said it is likely to have washed up on a nearby shoreline.

The rubber electronic tag is one of 20 attached to basking sharks off the west coast. It is baton-shaped, black and around 15cms long. Anyone who finds the device should contact Portree Police Station on 01478 61288 or the Force Operations Centre on 01463 715555.



A reward is on offer for the return of the missing tag.



# Eye to eye with John Wallace

The History of Contact Lenses

Last month I discussed how contact lenses had been first manufactured in Germany in 1888. These early lenses were large and made of glass. Glass continued to be the contact lens material of choice until the 1930's when plastics began to appear. As with many things the Second World War brought about a revolution in both materials, manufacturing technology and medical science.

Post-war contact lens designs went from very large "haptic" lenses which covered the whole of the front of the eye to "micro-corneal" lenses that were between 7-9 millimetres in diameter. These lenses all shared one major drawback. They were impervious to oxygen. This resulted in reduced wearing times, hazy vision when lenses were removed and possible changes, both long and short term, to the cornea. It took patients many weeks of wear before they could tolerate these lenses fully.

Soft contact lenses first appeared commercially in the early 70's. Unlike today's disposable lenses

these were worn till they disintegrated. They could not be worn safely overnight due to poor oxygen transmission. The first extended (overnight) wear lens was developed in London in the late 70's with the material being "cooked" in a pioneering optometrist's kitchen! Oxygen permeable rigid lenses appeared in 1980.

Australian researchers found patients changing their soft contact lenses regularly had far fewer episodes of eye infection. This led to the introduction of frequent replacement (weekly, fortnightly or monthly) soft lenses in 1991. Subsequently daily disposable lenses were introduced which dramatically reduced infection rates. In the 90's scientists developed super permeable lenses (soft and rigid) enabling safe overnight wear of contact lenses.

Today's patients can choose from daily wear, monthly daily or continuous wear or even contact lenses designed for overnight wear which mould the cornea so you don't need to wear lenses during waking hours.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP  
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# Transport forum pledge on sleeper plans

LOCHABER Transport Forum (LTF) has said it plans to 'keep an eye' on Scottish Government funds allocated for upgrading the Caledonian Sleeper service.

The multi-agency group met last Tuesday in Lochaber House where local MP Charles Kennedy raised the issue.

Holyrood promised to match £50 million funding from the UK government but earlier this year said it had re-routed the money 'in the short term' to Scottish Water's investment programme.

Mr Kennedy said: 'The money

is there, it's earmarked and very welcome indeed. However, we have to ensure that there is not slippage in the timetable for sleeping car rolling stock refurbishment.'

LTF chairman Brian Murphy said the group will write to Scottish Transport Minister Keith Brown about the issue.

Other topics discussed at the meeting included:

□ A survey will be carried out in Duror and Kentallen to find out more about the transport needs of locals. It is planned to start early in 2013

□ Local volunteer group Corpach in Colour has officially adopted Corpach

Railway Station. The group will be responsible for reporting issues such as litter or graffiti and may also provide floral displays and landscaping for the station

□ West Wheels Car Club in Mallaig was praised for its success. The club added a third car to its fleet earlier this year and has now signed up the West Highland Hotel as a corporate member

□ Fort William Railway Station team manager Alister MacLennan reported the summer train timetable will run from April to October next year, an increase of two months.

Forestry Commission Scotland  
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

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Tel: 01546 602518  
joanne.macleane@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

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ALL OFFERS END ON 31/12/2012

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**The Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses**  
Operating as  
**Northern Lighthouse Board, 84 George Street,  
Edinburgh, EH2 3DA**  
is seeking competitive tenders for  
Zoned Boat Services in Oban & Surrounding Areas  
If successful you will be required to provide boat access to various Northern Lighthouse Board stations to enable technical staff to undertake scheduled maintenance and emergency repair tasks. Vessels must be certified to Maritime and Coastguard Agency's (MCA Cat.3) Code of Practice for the Safety of small Work boats and Pilot Boats. NLB may consider (MCA Cat. 4) vessel if (MCA Cat.3) is not available within the required operational area.  
Stations to be accessed include Ardtornish, Bunnellan, Brana Rock, Cairn Na Burgh More, Dubh Sgeir Luing, Fladda, Green Island, Grey Rocks, Heather Island, Lismore, North Spit of Kerrera, Rubha nan Gall, Ardmore Point, Duart Point, Dubh Sgeir Kerrera, Lady Rock, Rubh a'chruidhe, Sgeir Bhuidhe, The Garvellachs Light stations. Others include ATONs by mutual agreement and GLA buoys for outages.  
For the period of January 2013 to January 2017  
Ref OPHZ/BOA/0822  
Closing Date for Completed Tenders: 14:00 hours on  
Wednesday 19 December 2012  
To receive tender documents please contact Donald Innes,  
Procurement Administrator  
Tel: 0131 473 3130 Email: donaldi@nlb.org.uk  
You can also visit our website www.nlb.org.uk

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**PCV Driver**  
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If you hold or would like to acquire a PCV licence and are interested in such a position, please apply in writing (enclosing your c.v.) to:  
**Personnel Department  
West Coast Motors  
Bennhor  
Campbeltown - Argyll PA28 6DN**  
or complete our online application form at [www.westcoastmotors.co.uk](http://www.westcoastmotors.co.uk)

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With over 500 branches across the country, Jewson is the UK's leading supplier of timber and building products to the trade and general public.  
At Jewson you'll find a huge range of products - from everyday core essentials through to the latest product innovations from leading suppliers - all brought to you at great value prices by friendly, professional staff.  
**Branch Manager - Oban**  
As a Branch Manager you'll build strong relationships with staff and customers as you ensure sales and productivity targets are met and the highest standards of service are upheld.  
An inspiring leader, communicator and team builder, you will also be able to interpret complex information - and act decisively on it. Experience with the trade would be an advantage, although we'll offer full product training. But most of all, you will share our 100% dedication to delivering excellent customer care.  
To apply for this vacancy, please send your CV and covering letter to ([angus.maceachen@jewson.co.uk](mailto:angus.maceachen@jewson.co.uk)). Closing date for applications is 7th December 2012.

**West Coast property service**  
[www.westcoastpropertyguide.co.uk](http://www.westcoastpropertyguide.co.uk)

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8 George Street, Oban PA34 5SB  
[www.macphee.co.uk](http://www.macphee.co.uk)

**Experienced Deer Stalkers Wanted For Seasonal Private Contracts (Red Roe & Sika)**  
Must be fully qualified & equipped.  
**Ghillies Wanted To Assist With Extraction**  
Must show a level of fitness, should be of mature mind & committed to working unsociable hours. Quad Safety, Manual Handling and First Aid certification an advantage.  
Own transport a must.  
Assistance towards gaining deer management qualifications will be available to successful candidates.  
Apply in writing, including CV and references to Box No 99, The Oban Times PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll

**Andrew Smith & Son**  
New Holland Dealers  
**Require an Engineer**  
Agricultural Engineering experience is preferred but not essential as full training will be given.  
**We are also looking to recruit a Store Person**  
Both positions are full time and may be applied for by sending a CV in writing to:  
**Andrew Smith & Son,  
Unit 3 Snipefield Ind Estate, Drumore,  
Campbeltown, PA28 6SY**  
Closing date: 6th December

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References essential  
Would suit professional person/couple  
Apply in writing to Box No 84  
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**West Coast Property Guide**  
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**campbeltown courier**  
Senior Reporter - Campbeltown

We want to hear from you if you have the appropriate experience and qualifications :-  
**Journalism  
Shorthand  
Ambition and enthusiasm  
Talent, self motivation and commitment  
A full current driving licence**

As the position will be based in Campbeltown, knowledge of the area would be an advantage.  
Financial assistance for accommodation where relevant may be available for the first three months.

**Competitive salary+ private health care + enhanced pension + life assurance + excellent benefits and great working conditions.**

Please apply by email with full C.V. and contact details to:  
[ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)

**Macmillan Information Support Service Volunteer Co-Ordinator** (Fixed term for 2 years)  
£19,271 - £20,457  
Campbeltown Ref: CMC00506

**Macmillan Cancer Information Support Service Manager** (Fixed term for 2 years)  
£26,753 - £30,129  
Campbeltown Ref: CMC00507

Closing date for the above two posts: 7 December 2012.  
Applicants invited to interview should note they will be held Monday 17th December 2012.

**Customer Support Advisor** (Temporary)  
£19,271 - £20,457  
Oban Ref: DVE00165

**Waste Disposal Site Operative**  
£15,125 - £16,031  
Isle of Mull Ref: DVR00772

**School Crossing Patroller** (Part time)  
£12,270 - £13,022 pro rata  
10.25 hours per week  
01546 604334  
Campbeltown Ref: DVR00267

Closing date, unless otherwise stated: 14 December 2012.  
To apply visit our website [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs)

**COMMERCIAL**

**Long Let, Argyll, Otter Ferry**  
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**WTS**  
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Tair Ghaoithe (Alba)  
Finance Manager

WTS, a leading manufacturer of wind turbine towers, requires an ambitious qualified accountant to work closely with the managing director of the company, supplying quality management information, and being involved in driving this business forward.  
The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 3 years post qualifying experience.  
Key duties will be:-  
• Supervision of a finance and HR team of 3 full time members of staff  
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• Preparation of business plans and annual budgets  
• Cash flow forecasts  
• Supervision of debt control, payroll and VAT returns  
The candidate will be an integral part of a small management team, and input into the direction and running of the company is expected.  
To apply for this excellent opportunity please send your CV and covering letter to:  
Managing Director, Wind Towers (Scotland) Ltd, PO Box 9263, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6WA  
Or email to: [ido@windtowersscotland.com](mailto:ido@windtowersscotland.com)

**THE MACHRIHANISH GOLF CLUB**  
Machrihanish, Campbeltown, Argyll

Has vacancies for  
**APPRENTICE GREENKEEPER**

We are looking for an enthusiastic hard working person prepared to work flexible hours to include weekend work on a rota basis.  
The successful applicant will be required to attend college to work towards NVQ level 2 Sportsturf qualification.  
Closing Date for Applications  
Monday 21st January 2013  
Apply In Writing To:  
The Secretary, The Machrihanish Golf Club, Machrihanish, Campbeltown, Argyll. PA28 6PT

**OFFICE ASSISTANT**

We are looking for an enthusiastic hard working person prepared to work flexible hours approximately 15 to 20 per week with a view to progressing to a full-time position in the future.  
The successful applicant will require to have experience in Word and Excel and preferably an understanding of the game of golf.  
Please apply in writing enclosing CV direct to The Secretary, The Machrihanish Golf Club, Machrihanish, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6PT by Friday 21st December 2012.

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**Practice Nurse**  
16 hours per week  
For further information on post and details of how to apply see website [www.taynuiltmedical.co.uk](http://www.taynuiltmedical.co.uk)  
Closing date for applications is 7th December 2012.

**JOB SEARCH**  
**Experienced Support Worker**  
Do you need: Cleaning, accompanied shopping, help to prepare meals etc.  
**Contact 07833604038 for details**

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**PLANNING**

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Refval	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/02342/PP	Installation of hydro scheme	Land South of Ardchnonnell Farm East Lochaweside Dalmlally Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmlally
12/02360/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and formation of vehicular access	Land to North East of Ardnamuir Cullipool Isle of Luing Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4UD	Sub Post Office Cullipool
12/02378/PP	Alterations (including installation of solar panels and two rooflights) and erection of extensions to dwellinghouse	Eas Na Ghail Succoth Dalmlally Argyll and Bute PA33 1BB	Sub Post Office Dalmlally
12/02418/PP	Construction of access road and installation of sewage treatment plant	Gallanachbeg Glenshelach Road Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4GJ	Oban Area Office
12/02435/PP	Variation of condition 4 of planning permission 08/01306/DEI (Erection of 6 dwellings and access drive) - access arrangements (retrospective)	Land South West of Clachandubh House Balvicar Isle of Seil Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4RA	Sub Post Office Balvicar
12/02484/PP	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse	Rathan North Connell Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1RE	Sub Post Office Leidaig
12/02494/PP	Installation of 12 air source heat pumps (one per property)	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17 And 18 Achnafearna Taynuilt Argyll and Bute PA35 1JP	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
12/02495/PPP	Site for the erection of 7 dwellinghouses	Site North Of Lochdonhead School Lochdon Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Craignure

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Refval	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/02212/PP	Change of use from dwellinghouse to guesthouse and erection of extensions and change of use from garage to form ancillary residential accommodation	1 Argyll Terrace Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6PB	Tobermory Area Office
12/02403/PP	Removal of existing lean-to extension and adjacent detached shed, alterations and erection of extension to dwellinghouse (including upgrading of existing foul drainage system by installation of septic tank) and formation of vehicular access and hardstanding area	Victoria Cottage Isle of Iona Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Isle of Iona
12/02422/LIB	Demolition of existing rear extension, erection of new bay window extension and internal alterations to form ensuite facilities	Glenure Lodge Fasnacloich Appin Argyll and Bute PA38 4BJ	Sub Post Office Leidaig
12/02423/LIB	Part change of roof covering from west highland slate to spanish slate.	The Farmhouse at Glenure Lodge, Fasnacloich, Appin PA38 4BJ	Sub Post Office Leidaig
12/02536/PP	Alterations, erection of first floor rear extension and detached bothy	18 Argyll Terrace Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6PB	Tobermory Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Argyll and Bute Council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

**LOCAL AUTHORITY ACCOUNTS (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS, 1985**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Audited Financial Statements of Argyll and Bute Council for the year to 31st March 2012 together with the Audit Certificate, is available for public inspection during ordinary business hours at the undernoted main offices and libraries of the Council.

The annual accounts can also be viewed on the Argyll & Bute Council website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

Copies of the Financial Statements will be available to any interested persons on application to the Head of Strategic Finance, Argyll & Bute Council Headquarters, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

Sally Loudon  
Chief Executive

**OFFICES OF THE COUNCIL:**

Council Headquarters, Kilmory, Lochgilphead; Burnet Building, Campbeltown; Dalriada House, Lochgilphead; Hill Street, Dunoon; Albany Street, Oban; Eaglesham House, Rothsay; Scotcourt House, 45 West Princes Street, Helensburgh; Jamieson Street, Bowmore; Breadalbane Street, Tobermory; Crossapol, Tiree (restricted hours).

**LIBRARIES OF THE COUNCIL:**

Lochgilphead Library, Marse Brae, Argyll Street, Dunoon; Aquilibrium, Campbeltown; Albany Street, Oban; Moat Centre, Rothsay; Barmore Road, Tarbert; West King Street, Helensburgh; Main Street, Carradross; Primary School, Rosneath; Highland Avenue, Sandbank.

N.B. Please check with individual libraries for opening hours.

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY TO THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS FOR CONFIRMATION OF THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL PROHIBITION OF THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC DRINK IN DESIGNATED PLACES (OBAN) (AMENDMENT) (NO 2) BYELAWS 2012**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Sections 201, 202 and 203 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, that Argyll and Bute Council intends to apply to the Scottish Ministers for confirmation of the amendment to the byelaws relating to the prohibition of the consumption of alcohol in designated places in Oban. Representations on the byelaws may be made to Scottish Ministers, Criminal Justice and Sentencing Branch, Criminal Law and Licensing Division, The Scottish Government, 2W, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG up to and including 4th January 2013.

A copy of the byelaws amendment in respect of which the application for confirmation is to be made is open for inspection free of charge at the Governance and Law Offices, Argyll and Bute Council at Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AW between the hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, and a copy thereof can be obtained free of charge either by attending at or by writing to that office or telephoning Governance and Law (Sheila MacFadyen) on 01546 604265.

Charles Reppeke  
Head of Governance and Law

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (DISABLED STREET PARKING - OBAN, LORN AND THE ISLES) (AMENDMENT) (NO.1) ORDER 2012**

Argyll and Bute Council proposes to make an amendment to an existing Order in accordance with the introduction of the Disabled Persons' Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009 and the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Order will introduce new bays and delete existing bays no longer required. The effect of the order will be to make it an offence for anyone to park in a marked disabled persons' parking place unless they are the holder of a valid blue badge and are using it in accordance with the terms of the national blue badge legislation.

This order affects the following streets:-

OBAN - Lismore Crescent, Longdale Terrace, Scalpaj Terrace, Longdale Crescent  
MULL - B8073 at Ulva Primary School

Full details of these proposals, which form the proposed "The Argyll and Bute Council (Disabled Street Parking - Oban, Lorn and the Isles) (Amendment)(No.1) Order 2012", together with Plans, and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make this Traffic Regulation Order, are available for inspection during normal office hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the offices of:-

(i) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban;

(ii) Post Office, Lagganulva Farm, Ulva Ferry, Isle Of Mull;

(iii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll.

Any person wishing to object to the proposals should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll by 21st December 2012.

Sandy Macgarrig, Executive Director, 1A Marse Brae, LOCHGILPHEAD PA31 8RD

**COUNCILLOR SURGERIES**

**Councillor Roddy McCuish (E.W.4 Oban South and the Isles)**  
Councillor Roddy McCuish will be holding a council surgery in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban on Friday 7th December 2012 from 3.00pm - 5.00pm.  
Councillor McCuish can also be contacted by phoning the Members Services Unit of Argyll and Bute Council Tel: 01546 604002 or by e mail [rodderick.mcuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:rodderick.mcuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Councillor Louise Glen-Lee - (E.W.5 Oban North and Lorn)**  
Councillor Glen-Lee will be holding surgeries during the month of DECEMBER as follows:-  
Monday afternoons during the month of December (3rd, 10th, 17th ) in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 4.00pm - 5.00pm  
Councillor Glen-Lee can also be contacted by phone on Tel: 01631 567 955 or by e mail - [louise.glen-lee@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:louise.glen-lee@argyll-bute.gov.uk)



Former Lochaber High pupils from 'The year of 2000' held a reunion at the BA Club in Fort William on Saturday night, 12 years after they left the school. Those present included Emma Bilisland (now Rodger) from Inverloch, Chris 'Goose' Innes of Spean Bridge and Finlay MacDonald from Onich. 20\_148party01

**Twice-limit Islay driver given 14-month ban**

AN ISLAY man who admitted driving whilst more than twice the legal alcohol limit was given a 14-month ban.

At Campbeltown Sheriff Court last Thursday, Fraser Archie Shaw, 31, of 24 Burnside, Bruichladdich, admitted driving with 82mcg of alcohol in 100ml of breath on November 3. The legal limit is 35 mcg.

Sheriff Tom Ward fined Shaw £500 and disqualified him from driving for 14 months.

**Better broadband on horizon for rural areas**

RURAL areas of Scotland should have better broadband speeds soon following allocation of £530m to the UK Government's rural broadband scheme.

Following EU state aid approval, £100million of the £530million has been allocated to Scotland.

Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid said: 'Getting the green light from Brussels is a huge boost for a widespread rural area like Argyll and Bute. High speed broadband is essential to creating growth, jobs and prosperity.'

'Left to its own devices BT would only bring superfast broadband to cities and some towns, but many small towns and rural areas would have missed out.'

The Government's aim is to connect 90 per cent of homes to superfast broadband (24Mbps) and ensure the rest have access to at least 2Mbps.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise has also been allocated money by the UK and Scottish Governments to deliver high speed broadband throughout the Highlands and Islands.

**Scottish Water invite customers to get involved**

SCOTTISH Water is inviting customers in Argyll and Bute to have their say on the future of water and waste water services in Scotland.

The water provider has launched a consultation giving customers the chance to help form its priorities and plans between now and 2040.

The consultation runs until February 12, 2013.

**Dunach Estate, Glen Lonan - Native Woodland Creation**

Dunach Estate intends to implement a woodland creation project in Glen Lonan in 2013, with funding from the Scottish Rural Development Programme. Just under 200 hectares of new native woodland will be created with a mix of native tree species and open ground. Further details will be available on the Forestry Commission's public register at [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-5zgrlv](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-5zgrlv) or through the forest managers Bell Ingram, with feedback invited before the end of December.

**Bell Ingram, Durn, Isla Road, Perth PH2 7HF**  
Tel: 01738 621121

[graham.phillips@bellingram.co.uk](mailto:graham.phillips@bellingram.co.uk)

**Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence**

Balfour Beatty Group Ltd of Fleet Services, West Service Road, Rainesway, Derby, DE21 7BG is applying to change an existing licence as follows:

- To keep an extra 4 goods vehicles and 2 trailers at the operating centre at BBUSL, GLEN MOR, FORT AUGUSTUS, PH35 4HN.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at SCOTTISH TRAFFIC AREA OFFICE, Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

**Fèis Lochabair AGM**

Will be held on Monday 3rd December at 7pm in Camaghael Hostel. We really need support from parents and volunteers to ensure that the good work of the Fèis can continue. For further information, please contact Deirdre Beck on 07810 651922. We look forward to seeing you there.

Thèid Coinneamh Bhladhnaid Fèis Lochabair a chumail Diluain 3mh Dùbhlachd aig 7f ann an Ostail Chama-dhail. Tha cruaidh fheum againn air taic bho phàrantan agus bho dhaoine saor-thoil each airson a dhèanamh cinnteach gun cumadh obair fheumail na Fèise a dol.

**Islay's Ciara flies to America for treatment**

AN INSPIRATIONAL Islay girl is flying out to the US today (Thursday) to allow her to have lifesaving cancer treatment - thanks to kind-hearted islanders.

Any remaining funds will be donated to other charities chosen by the Allan family.

Ciara will visit the Proton Therapy Clinic, Oklahoma City, for the first time on Monday and, after a two-week assessment and preparation period, will begin her treatment mid December.

Ciara has been battling cancer since the age of three; a benign brain tumour, which paralysed her down the left side, was discovered after she suffered a stroke due to a brain haemorrhage.

After 16 weeks of hydrotherapy and physiotherapy she was able to walk and talk again.

But last year it was confirmed her tumour had spread and developed cysts.

The Allan family says it has

been touched by the response from islanders, as they will now be able to remain together during Ciara's treatment whilst in the US.

Any remaining funds will be donated to other charities chosen by the Allan family.

Ciara will visit the Proton Therapy Clinic, Oklahoma City, for the first time on Monday and, after a two-week assessment and preparation period, will begin her treatment mid December.

Ciara has been battling cancer since the age of three; a benign brain tumour, which paralysed her down the left side, was discovered after she suffered a stroke due to a brain haemorrhage.

After 16 weeks of hydrotherapy and physiotherapy she was able to walk and talk again.

But last year it was confirmed her tumour had spread and developed cysts.

The Allan family says it has



Ciara Caskie Allan is flying out to the US with her family. t48ciara1no

At Campbeltown Sheriff Court last Thursday, Scott McGurn, of 11 Bayview, Port Ellen, pled guilty to kicking a door, striking

**Payback order and fine after island assault**

ASSAULTING a pensioner and stealing an 86-year-old man's car saw an Islay man placed on a community payback order for one year.

At Campbeltown Sheriff Court last Thursday, Scott McGurn, of 11 Bayview, Port Ellen, pled guilty to kicking a door, striking

a 72-year-old, knocking him to the ground and kicking him on his head, all to his injury at an address on Frederick Crescent on July 20.

The 18-year-old also admitted taking an 86-year-old man's car without his permission, driving without a valid licence or insurance, as well as mounting a kerb and forcing a man to jump out of the way on October 21 at Lennox Street, Port Ellen.

For the incident on October 21, McGurn was fined a total of £800 and was disqualified from driving for three years and eight months.

**Oban Police files**

A CAR was vandalised overnight between November 21 and 22 in Richard Court, Dunollie, Oban.

Police said a silver Nissan had the rear tail lights smashed.

Any witnesses to the incident are asked to contact PC Andrew Simpson on 01631 510500.

AN 83-year-old man has been charged with driving carelessly following a collision which caused damage to a stationary car on Tweeddale Street at 11am on November 22.

AN 84-YEAR-old man has been charged with being involved in an accident with a motor vehicle, failing to stop and failing to report the accident.

The incident took place at 10.30am on November 21 on Combie Street, Oban.

AN IPHONE 4 was stolen from an insecure motor vehicle on November 23 at North Connel.

The theft took place between 5pm and 5.45pm.

Anyone with information is asked to contact PC Stuart Johnston on 01631 510500.

The public are reminded to secure vehicles when leaving them, even for short periods of time.

THERE were four victims of assault in Oban's George Street at 11pm on November 23.

Three people, a 32-year-old male, 20-year-old male and 19-year-old female have been reported to the procurator fiscal.

A BOYS bicycle was stolen from a porch in Tobermory's Drummfin Gardens overnight between November 23 and 24.

Police are seeking witnesses to the theft of the orange and brown rally bike.

An iPad was also stolen from an insecure house.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Sergeant Mark Stephen on 01631 510500.

AN 18-YEAR-old female has been charged with vandalising a motor vehicle on Breadalbane Street between November 24 and 25.

THREE children have been charged with the theft of £10 worth of items including balloons and party poppers from a business premises on Combie Street, Oban.

The children are aged 11, 12 and 13.

A GROUP of children, including three boys and one girl were stopped by police in Lunga Road, Oban on November 24 at 7pm.

A quantity of alcohol was seized from the youngsters.

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**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 and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
12/03841/FUL	Braerooy Estate Roy Bridge	Renovation of lodge, erection of shed, conversion/extension of stable to form 2 houses, alteration of Turret Cottage to form dog kennels, demolition of outbuildings and S E cottage, alteration of steading to form staff accommodation, realign access road, construction of new bridge & restoration of Turret Bridge
12/04413/FUL	30 Mossfield Drive Lochyside, Fort William	Extension to house
12/04416/FUL	29 Kilmallie Road Caol, Fort William	Extension to house
12/04442/PIP	Land 200M North of Achaidh, Curtaig, Morar	Erection of house (renewal of 09/00401/PIPLO)

Time period for comments is 14 days  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 INSTALLATION OF SINGLE PRIVATE MOORING, CARSAIG BAY**

Notice is hereby given that Nigel Adamson has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of **moorings installation** at:

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Carsaig Bay, Sound of Jura	56 01.775'N	05 38.314'W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Argyll & Bute Council, Dalriada House, Lochnell Street, Lochgilphead, PA31 8ST.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to: Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: [MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk), quoting reference: **FKB/J198**

**Nigel Adamson**

**Proposed Let of a Croft/Part of a Croft**

The Isle of Rum Community Trust is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to let the tenancy of Croft No. 2 on the Isle of Rum to Mr Gavin Copland of One School Court, Mickleton-in-Teesdale, Co Durham DL12 0LQ.

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township, or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail [info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk)) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry. Frivolous, vexatious or unreasonable comments cannot be accepted.

**CROFTING COMMISSION COIMEASAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED**

Name, Croft, Extent/Reason, Conditions, Case number

Mr & Mrs W Barber  
14 & 15 Anahieit, Ardnarmurchan & Sunart  
0.072 ha - Croft house site and garden ground  
4.85.40968

**Conditions:**

(1) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of the date of the direction.  
(2) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

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10 Renault Clio Dyn, tom tom, DCI, 5dr, Beige, 9,400 miles	£9,950
10 Peugeot 207 Sport, 1.6 Auto, 5dr, silver, 13,650 miles	£8,750
10 Renault Clio i-music 1.2 5dr Blue, 18,000 miles	£7,950
59 Renault Megane Exp 1.5 DCI 5dr Black, 12,800 miles	£9,950
59 Renault Scenic Dyn DCI 105, silver, 28,000 miles	£9,500
59 Peugeot 207s SWHDI Estate, Silver, 20,000 miles	£9,450
59 Renault Clio Dyn, 3dr, Red, 9,000 miles	£8,950
59 Citroen Berlingo, XTR hdi 90, Cherry Red, 31,250 miles	£8,250
59 Renault Modus Exp, 75, 1.2, 5dr, Blue, 5,300 miles	£7,295
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08 Renault Megane Dyn Auto, Estate, Black, 25,000 miles	£6,500
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06 Renault Clio Dyn 1.4, 5dr, Black, 24,000 miles	£4,750
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HAPPY 70TH BIRTHDAY TO OUR DAD CHARLIE HOGG

Lots of Love Jennifer, Ralph and families.

Ishbel MacKinnon would like to thank most sincerely all her colleagues and ex-colleagues, friends and neighbours for their good wishes, gifts and cards received on her recent retirement as a teacher at Tobermory High School. Ishbel also wishes to express thanks to those who organised and attended a splendid function at the Western Isles Hotel.

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DEATHS

**GRACE** - Died peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, on Monday November 26, 2012, Hamish Grace, 2 Boarstone Court, Inverness, aged 50 years. Sergeant Northern Constabulary. A much loved husband, father and friend. Funeral service on Monday December 3, at 1:00p.m. in the Funeral Home of William T. Fraser and Son, Funeral Directors, Culduff Road, Inverness, thereafter to Kilvean Cemetery. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Donations welcome for Cancer Research.

**MACALLUM** - Suddenly, but peacefully on Monday, November 19, 2012, Roderick Luke, loving husband of the late Margaret and a beloved brother and uncle. The funeral service has taken place.

**MCARTHUR** - Euphemia. Peacefully at Mount Pleasant House, Old Kilpatrick on November 22, 2012, Euphemia (Effie), formerly Luig and Lynn Gardens, Millpark, Oban. A beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Funeral service at Kilchattan Parish Church, Isle of Luig on Friday, November 30 at 1.00pm, thereafter to Kilchattan Cemetery.

**MCKERRELL** - Dr William (Billy). Peacefully after a long illness bravely borne, at Eadar Glinn, Oban on Saturday November 24, 2012 in his 90th year, Billy, beloved husband of the late Kirsty, adored father of Duncan, Kate, Sean and the late Ewen, much loved grandpa, brother and father in law and a dear best friend and companion of Margaret. Funeral will take place from Kilbrandon Church, Balvicar, on Monday December 3, at 1 pm. Thereafter to Kilbrandon Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection / donations if desired for Macmillan Cancer Care.

**RUCK** - Peacefully at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on November 25, 2012, aged 86, Hazel Ruth Ruck, dearly loved mother of Richard David & mother-in-law of Fiona Anne. Funeral will take place at Cardross Crematorium on Friday December 7, at 11.15 am. All friends are respectfully invited to attend.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**DRUMMOND** - Craig, Michael and Calum would like to thank everyone for the love, kindness and support shown to them following the sad loss of their beloved Mary. Grateful thanks to Rev. George Cringles for his comforting service and compassion shown, to the Lorn Medical Centre for their care, and to Ian MacInnes of D&A Munn for his sympathetic understanding and professionalism. The sum of £1050 was donated and gratefully acknowledged by The British Kidney Patients Association.

**MACKECHNIE** - The family of the late Gilbert Snr would like to thank relatives and friends for their kindness and expressions of sympathy. Thanks also to North Argyll Eventide Home, and an extra special thank you to the wonderful staff of Ward I, Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, who cared for Gilbert with such affection. Sincere thanks to Ian MacInnes of D&A Munn, for efficient and sensitive arrangements and to Donald McKinnon for a moving service and heartfelt eulogy, also to Kenina and Tommy at the Kings Knoll for a lovely spread. A Papa too special to be forgotten reunited with Jean for their 70th wedding anniversary.

**MCQUARRIE** - Rhoda. The family thank everyone for the many cards and messages of comfort received following the sad loss of Rhoda. Thank you to the Rev L Bezuidenhout for the comforting services at Inveraray and Cardross and to all who attended, to Stan Lupton for funeral arrangements and Mrs Ethel MacCallum for beautiful organ renditions. An excellent service was provided by The Coach House Inn. The sum of £700 has been forwarded to the Beatson Oncology Fund.

**KENNEDY** - In loving memory of our dear sister, Anne, who died on December 2, 2010.

We are sad within our memory Lonely are our hearts today For the one we loved so dearly Has forever been called away. We think of her in silence No eye will see us weep But many silent tears are shed When others are asleep.

- Kathy, Alistair, Michael, Kevin and families.  
**LIVINGSTON** - Remembering with love our loving mother Cathie, who passed away November 25, 2005, a devoted granny, great granny and great great granny.

- From Minnie and all the families at home and away.  
**MACCOLL** - Treasured memories of John (Big Jock) who passed away November 30, 2010. Forever in our thoughts and hearts.

- Cathie, Elspeth, Iain and families.  
**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of my mum Marybell, who passed away December 1, 2008.

Sadly missed Always loved and remembered Forever in my thoughts with such fond memories.

- Loving son Angus, Morar.  
**MACDOUGALL** - Colin 29/11/2008.

Broken is the family circle Our dear one passed away From earth and earthly darkness

Into bright and perfect day But we all must cease to languish Over the grave of those we love

Strive to be prepared to meet them in the better world above How sadly sweet the echoes begin when we think of you Our lonely hearts skip a beat because we miss you

Love always. - Lesley, David, Donny, Holly, Kimberley, Cheyenne and family.

**MACDOUGALL** - In memory of my lovely son Colin Rowan, who died November 29, 2008.

Miss you so much Your laughter and fun Miss you son (Colin) God Bless

- All my love Mum (maw).  
**MACDOUGALL** - Colin. When the stars shine so bright, I think of you at night

The times we had together will stay with me forever. Love and miss you brother (Colin).

- Brother Bob with love.  
**MACINNES** - In loving memory of my dear wife Ina who passed away November 28, 2010. No tears, no verse, no words can say, how much I miss you every day

Love Roddy  
**MACINNES** - In loving memory of mum/granny (Ina) who passed away November 28, 2010.

The good times we had as a family, A beautiful nature, a heart of gold, These are the memories, we'll always hold.

Love and miss you always Kevan, Claire, Ellie xx, Joanne x, Brian, Fiona, Brian & Euan xx

**MACKENZIE** - Treasured memories of Willie, a devoted husband, dad and grand-dad, who passed away on November 29, 2008.

Always in our thoughts. - Neileen and family.  
**MACQUEEN** - In loving memory of our dear dad Colin who was lost at sea November 30, 1990.

Love you always. - Yvonne, Richard and Michael.  
**MURRAY** - Treasured memories of George, who died November 30, 2001, dear husband, father, grand-dad and great grand-dad

Always in our thoughts. - Love always Kathleen, Kathleen, the late John, Neil, Martin and Catherine.

**TIMMS** - Cherished memories of a dear mum and loving nana Shena, who passed away November 30, 1971 also remembering all other loved ones.

Treasured memories keep you near As time unfolds another year. - Love Catherine, Lachie and family.

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**Holy Cross, Portnacraoish, Appin**

Evensong..... 18.00  
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**St Columba, Gruline, Mull**  
Holy Eucharist..... 11.00  
**St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona**

Holy Eucharist..... 10.00

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The Oban Times 20 years ago

Thursday, December 3, 1992

New Oban Mart plan confirmed

A NEW livestock market in Oban, due to lose its present market in the spring of next year, is now to become a reality it was confirmed this week. Campaigners, who for months have been raising cash to fund a new facility, claimed victory on Monday. Announcing the final breakthrough, Mr Bill Robertson, Ardoran, the project chairman said: 'The response to our appeal has been overwhelming and we have now made a positive decision to go ahead with a new livestock market. Plans were formally lodged at the weekend and we are currently holding talks with a number of contractors interested in tendering for the project.' It was hoped work could begin at the start of the year and the expectation was that the new mart would be ready by the autumn of 1994. Glencruitten Estate, he disclosed, had agreed for a nominal sum to make a site available at Soroba within a few minutes of the town centre.

Lochaber jobs cut

AS JOBS are shed at a recession-hit Lochaber Sawmill fears are growing that further workforce cutbacks are imminent at a Fort William aluminium factory. Corpach-based BSW Sawmills (Kilmallie) has axed nine members of staff from the payroll, and it is feared that manpower levels at Lochaber's British Alcan smelter may also be reduced in the future. It has been claimed that a member of the Alcan management team has 'leaked' information to employees that jobs are at risk.



Pictured left to right: Miss Terry Donovan from the Oban Sea Life Centre awards Mr McKelvie his prize while Mr Craik receives his from Grant Stenhouse, also from the centre. 148120503

Prize-winning projects

'SEAWATCH' trophy awards have been presented to two Oban men for their conservation projects within the town. Duncan McKelvie, from the Puffin Dive Centre, and Clive Craik have been presented with awards in the Scottish Conservation Projects' campaign. Mr McKelvie was recognised for his work in developing an underwater nature trail for divers while Mr Craik has been rewarded for his campaign to control the ravages of wild mink among seabird colonies.



Karina MacAulay at work in Stornoway. 14820504

Ex model brings a touch of glamour to Western Isles

A FORMER model is helping women in the Western Isles to add a touch of glamour to their lives. Karina MacAulay, 26, works as a freelance beautician from her home in Kirkibost, Great Bernera in Lewis. Karina was born and brought up in the city but left London to marry Ian MacAulay, a fisherman from Bernera. The company also helped her buy equipment with a £1,000 development grant. Karina, who says business is booming, first got the idea of setting up her own business from a hairdresser friend in London. Karina completed a course in London. The



Campbeltown girl is Miss Young Farmer

Twenty-one-year-old beauty queen, Gail Martin from Campbeltown has been voted Miss Young Farmer for Argyll. Gail, a member of Kintyre and District Junior Agricultural Club beat all the other contestants from young farmers' clubs all over Argyll to win her way to the Scottish final, to be held in Glasgow in February.

Left: Gail Martin is Miss Young Farmer for Argyll. 14820501

Scott puts Scotland in the picture

YOUNG Scott Birrell has really put Kilniver Primary School in the European picture. He was one of four winners, out of more than 2,300 school-children from all over Scotland, who entered a competition run by Scottish Enterprise to 'Put Scotland in the Picture' at the Euro Summit. With the eyes of the world on Scotland during the EC summit this month, pupils were asked to design a poster showing their vision of Scotland in the 1990s. Scott, who is nine and lives at the Cullfail Hotel, Kilmelford, won the under-12 section, gaining a personal prize of £100 and a school cheque for £1,000 - to be spent on classroom technology. His design, which was done on his home computer, will be printed up as a postcard, to be included in briefing packs for representatives of the media attending the Euro Summit in Edinburgh.



Scott Birrell with his winning entry and the £1,000 cheque for Kilniver Primary School. 14820502

GRADUATIONS



Sara Black graduated from Reid Kerr College Paisley in HND Beauty Therapy. She was also awarded the Elaine Linden Award for Endeavour. Sara is the daughter of Gillesbuig and Norma Black Lismore and granddaughter of Donald and Roma Black Lismore and Alan and Eileen Hill Barcaldine.

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**MEMORIAMs**  
**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, son David and Karen.  
**FORTEITH** - Iain. 10th anniversary. Died December 3, 2002. We miss you every day, Your wit, wisdom and leadership. A much loved and special person indeed. - Janice, Karen, John, Kim, Helen, Nigel, Ian and our four grandsons.  
**GILLIES** - In loving memory of Graeme, who died on December 3, 2006. A leaf in the book of memories is gently turned today. - With love Dad, Mam, Scott, Kevin and Sarah and Ross.

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# Shinty stars have a head for heights

## Bungee jump raises crucial cash for Highland Hospice

GLENURQUHART Shinty Club celebrated the most successful season in the club's history last weekend by raising almost £10,000 from Scotland's first charity team bungee jump.

Fraser MacKenzie and Drew McNeil's men landed the Macaulay Cup in Oban this season - the first trophy in the club's 127-year history.

To cap it off, the Drumnadrochit players leapt 40 metres from the Highland Fling Bungee platform in Killiecrankie to raise money for a charity close to their hearts.

Annie MacKenzie, mother of team boss Fraser, passed away last Christmas from cancer but

was cared for by Highland Hospice, the charity the Glen players raised the sum for.

Boss MacKenzie, who himself completed the 50mph plummet, said it was a great way for the side to bond after a watershed season.

"It was really good to do the jump after such an important season for the club. To win the trophy was special because it was long overdue and we will take a lot of belief from it going into the 2013 season."

"The team at Highland Fling Bungee were brilliant and, although a few of the players were apprehensive when they got to the edge of the platform-

and maybe wondered why they had agreed to it, everyone did the jump. It is really important for team spirit to do these things together and it was obviously nice to raise such a good sum for a charity that means a lot, too."

Glenurquhart had been booked in to complete the jump earlier in the year but technical problems forced a cancellation.

The club will now enjoy the festive break before resuming training for an assault on the 2013 championship.

"We still have a level to jump yet in terms of consistency and fitness but we will be working hard to achieve that in the new season," added MacKenzie.



Glenurquhart co-manager Fraser MacKenzie takes the plunge for Highland Hospice.



The prizewinners from Taynuilt Golf Club's 2012 season. Picture - Kevin McGlynn.

## Taynuilt golfers collect prizes in new clubhouse

TAYNUILT Golf Club's prizegiving recently took place in the new clubhouse.

The trophy prizewinners were: Sandra Elliott - Winter Eclectic; Childline Trophy; Bronze Medal Final. Moira MacVicar - Nant Trophy; SLGA Brooch. Fraser Inglis - Nant Cup; ARC Shield. Sally Thompson - ARC Shield. Liz Mudie - Charity Competition. Andrew Diggory - MacDougall Cup; September Tankard; Gents Order of Merit. Sue Asher - Duncarden Cup; Captain's Prize; Bronze Medal. Mark Henriksen - Captain's Prize. Ann Urwin - Action

Research. Duncan Campbell - Laroch Quaich. Hugh Nicolson - Inverlorn Plate. Fiona McGlynn - Challenge Cup; Silver Medal Final. Carol MacLarty - Flag Competition; Alan Wilson - August Tankard. Grace Petrie - 2 Clubs and a Putter; Muckkairn Trophy; Altnacree Trophy. Robert MacLarty - Lochnell Quaich; Catherwood Trophy. Richard Bergant - Collaig Cup. Christine Allen - 9 Hole Trophy. Jill Stewart / Jane MacIntyre - Coronation Foursomes. Iain Livingstone / Hugh Nicolson - Gents Doubles; Fiona McGlynn / Fraser Inglis - Save the Children. Mairead Sim / Hugh

Nicolson - Cancer Care. Jill Stewart / Carol Church - Ladies Doubles. Alice MacCalman / Eileen Hill - Ladies Foursomes. Kenny MacGregor / Iain Livingstone - Gents Foursomes. Team Awe (captain Allan Stewart) - Cruachan Cup. Fiona McGlynn / Mairead Sim - Silver Medal (Tie). Alan Hill - Medal Final Winner. Michael Mullen - Gents Senior Club Champion. Carol MacDougall / Carol Church - Ladies Handicap Champion (Tie). Robbie MacLarty - Gents Handicap Champion; Mairead Sim - Ladies Club Champion. David Howie - Gents Club Champion.



The prizewinners at Glencruitten Golf Club this season.

## McCuish wins 14th club championship on final round

DAVID McCuish won his 14th Glencruitten Golf Club Championship this year by equalling the course record of 55 scratch in his final round.

Teenager Robert McIntyre was the first to win the new James Forgive Order of Merit Trophy and also won the Club Player of the Year.

A full list of prizewinners will be available to view on the Glen-

cruitten Golf Club website www.obangolf.com from December 3.

A great night was held at the clubhouse on November 24, where Argyll and Bute Council leader Roddy McCuish presented the prizes after giving a very entertaining opening speech.

There was a fantastic turnout and a buffet dance, followed by excellent music from The Democrats.

## Western Isles Yacht Club toasts fine weather and increased membership

MEMBERS of Tobermory's Western Isles Yacht Club gathered together on November 17 at the Park Lodge Hotel for their annual dinner and prizegiving.

Yacht club membership among seniors and cadets has grown this year, which lead to a healthy increase in race participants.

And better than average weather conditions this summer made all the racing so much more enjoyable.

Robertson Cup; 2 Adam Wilson, Mull, Morven & Ardnamurchan Cup. Second regatta - 1 Jim Malloy, Sound of Mull Challenge Cup; 2 John Addy, MacCall Memorial Cup.

Kilchoan Race - 1 John Addy, Rhu-na-Gall Cup; 2 Stevie Brown, MacLean Challenge Cup.

Round Risga Race - 1 Stevie Brown, J A Brown Cup; 2 Jim Malloy, Barra Duncan Cup.

Round Calve Race - 1 John Addy; 2 Adam Wilson, Calve Trophies.

Green Isles Race - 1 Adam Wilson, Lighthouse; 2 Neil MacInnes, Sanna Quaiche.

Points Series - 1 John Addy, Ardnamurchan Challenge Cup; 2 Adam Wilson and Jim Malloy.

### Results

Following a speech by the Commodore Neil MacInnes prizes were awarded to the seniors as follows: First regatta - 1 John Addy, Calum



Prizewinners from this season's Western Isles Yacht Club.

## Lanes open for new bowling season

THE WINTER 10-pin Lochaber Building Supplies bowling league got underway in the Nevis Centre, Fort William on Monday night.

Highlights from week one were two outstanding individual scratch games with a 241 from Ardtoe/Nevis Radio's Rossmary Wareing and a 235 from Alleycats' Tony White Locke.

Other games of note were a 190 from Eddie Downs (Splitheads), 181 from Brian Stewart (Council) and 178 from Sean 'Sheep' MacPherson

### TEN-PIN BOWLING

(Splitheads).

Top scratch two-game series was by Tony White Locke with 394 closely followed by Rossmary Wareing with 386.

Top scratch team game was 646 from Splitheads who also rolled the top scratch two-game team series of 1206.

**All you have to do**

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

**Easy to enter**

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition Rules**

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

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J Young  
Grianan, Glencoe

J Matheson  
Taynuilt, Argyll

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Name .....

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Please tape your £1 coin here



Jack Carmichael, left, and Ryan Nathan meet World Motocross rider Shaun Simpson. t48motocross1no

## Young west coast riders find success in the east

### MOTOCROSS

TWO LORN motocross riders have brought home prizes from the east coast after successful seasons with clubs in Aberdeen and Grampian.

Ryan Nathan from Easdale and Jack Carmichael, Oban, picked up championship runner-up trophies at the recent Grampian Motocross Club prizegiving, where they also met World Mo-

tocross rider Shaun Simpson.

Ryan, aged 15, was second in the 85cc big wheel class and Jack, aged 12, was runner up in the 85cc small wheel class.

Last week Ryan also attended the Aberdeen and District Motocross Club prizegiving where he was awarded third place in the championship.

Both riders regularly compete in the Aberdeen and Grampian championships and locally at the motocross club in Connel.

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## Saints good value for West Cup victory

### Easier win than tight scoreline suggests

**West of Scotland Cup 2nd round Oban Saints 2 Eastfield 1**

SAINTS entertained Eastfield from the Central Scottish League in the second round of the West of Scotland Cup at Glencruitten last Saturday and the Oban side progressed to the third round of the competition a bit more easily than the scoreline suggests.

**Woodwork**

The visitors had the woodwork to thank three times as well as their goalkeeper Brendan Shaw, who had a tremendous game between the sticks bringing off several superb saves.

Saints created a good chance in the 13th minute when Donald Campbell turned his marker after picking up a Willie Gemmell throw, but the Eastfield net minder was on hand to make a good save.

The home side opened the scoring in the 19th minute; a quick throw in by Donald Campbell found Eddie Swift, who then made progress up the left flank before crossing into the box for Myles McAuley to rifle the ball high into the net.

Eastfield were playing some nice football from the back, but they weren't really causing the Saints defence too many problems although tall striker David Kilcar proved to be a bit of a handfull all afternoon.

The home side created a golden opportunity in the 30th minute when Myles McAuley and Eddie Swift combined to put Donald Campbell through on goal, but Donnie took his shot too early, instead of taking the ball on and rounding the keeper.

However, the second goal that Saints were looking for came a minute later and again it was the McAuley/Campbell combination that set up the goal for Donald to put his team 2-0 in front.

Saints were on top, but a bit of slack play at the back allowed Eastfield back into the game five minutes before half time when Willie Gemmell upended Martyn Shields in the box. Referee Jimmy Litster, who had a good game, immediately pointed to the spot.

Bryan Gall stepped up and blasted the ball past a helpless Daniel Cassells to make the half time score 2-1.

The home side came storming back and Willie Gemmell thought he had scored just before the half time whistle but his free kick cannoned off the post with the keeper beaten.

**Whistled**

The visitors had a spell of early pressure at the start of the second

half and David Kilcar had a great chance to draw level, but his shot sailed over the bar and three minutes later a Bryan Gall shot whistled past the post.

Thankfully Saints took the warning that 2-1 is a very dangerous scoreline and they would need to up the anti if they were not to be clawed back by a rejuvenated Eastfield.

Ross Maitland had a goal-bound shot blocked by the visiting defence in the 56th minute and then the keeper brought off a brilliant save from a Paul Kerr piledriver.

The Oban side were on top now but they needed a third goal to kill off the game and almost got it in the 61st minute when Donald Campbell crossed for Myles McAuley in the box, but his header came back off the post.

Saints were playing some good football, but the visitors always looked dangerous on the break and had claims for a penalty turned down, quite rightly, by the referee when Paul Kerr and Craig MacKechnie tangled in the box.

The Oban boys were working hard, spurred on in midfield by skipper Keith Millar and Paul Kerr.

Saints took off Eddie Swift, who had worked hard up front all afternoon, replacing him with Craig MacEwan and with almost his first touch of the ball Craig brought out a great save from the keeper.

Saints still needed that vital third goal to ensure their place in the third round, but the Eastfield boys were defending well as the game drew to a close.

As the clock ran down the home team created other two



Ross Maitland sends over a dangerous cross during last Saturday's 2-1 West of Scotland Cup win over Eastfield.

#### FOOTBALL

great chances. The first was from a Willie Gemmell free kick that looked to heading for the postage stamp corner of the net until Brendan Shaw made a stunning save, touching the ball over the bar for a corner.

With three minutes left on the clock Ross Maitland sent over a great corner which Craig MacEwan got his head to, but again the woodwork came to Eastfield's rescue and the ball was booted clear.

There was no further scoring and Saints ran out deserved 2-1 winners.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted. He said: 'We played some good stuff against a well organised team and we were good value for the win. I thought we were excellent going forward and when we had to defend we did it from the front. The attitude and commitment from the players this season has been great, but we can't sit back and relax, we must have the same drive and energy in every game.'

#### Scottish Cup

This Saturday Saints return to Scottish Cup duty when they take on Edinburgh Premier Division League leaders Sandys FC in the 4th round.

The game will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off with referee Allan Loch from Glasgow in charge.

Saints have been drawn against Port Glasgow OBU in the 1st round of the Jimmy Marshall Trophy and Pollok in the 3rd round of the West of Scotland Cup. Both games will be played in Oban on dates still to be arranged.



Willie Gemmell fires in a free kick over the Eastfield wall, with Keith Millar waiting to pounce on any mistake from the visiting goalkeeper.

## Charlie runs away with record at Tobermory sports hall event

**INDOOR ATHLETICS**

UNDER-13 competitor Charlie Roth Strachan produced an impressive all round display at the Mull contest of Sports Hall Athletics, winning five events and setting a new Argyll age group record in the process.

Charlie was one of 77 young athletes to compete in the Mull event last Saturday in Tobermory High School.

The Mull contest was the first of the local area competitions in Argyll this winter promoted by Argyll and Bute Local Athletics Partnership and supported by all the local clubs in the district.

Charlie's amazing clearance of 2.46 metres in the standing long jump surpassed the old Argyll age group record held by Ben Coates from Oban by a full eight centimetres. Charlie was also close to seven metres in the standing triple jump.

This is the 14th year this form of indoor athletics has been held in Tobermory and as in past years the day was split into two competitions with the under 7s, under 9s and under 11s competing in the morning and the under 13s, under 15s and under 17s in action in the afternoon.

Athletes from Mull Harriers, based in Bunessan, made up a third of the total entry and the long journey was well worthwhile as they won three out of the 11 individual titles and also placed second in the primary schools contest, only five points behind winners Salen and ahead of Tobermory.

Abbie Cato from Bunessan Primary was the under 9 champion in 2011 and repeated her success winning the under 11 category this year. Abbie had

to be on top form to finish ahead of another Bunessan girl Katie Edmundson. Both girls won three events and dominated in a large entry of girls.

Mia Layne was another winner from Bunessan with overall victory in the under 7 age group. Mia won three events, as did Bea Yeilder, also Bunessan, who was runner-up just two points behind. Isaac Yeilder, Bea's older brother, was the under 9 champion but only one point ahead of Harry Robb from Tobermory.

Salen girls dominated in the Under 9s with Sophie Ralston winning overall ahead of Amy Brown. Sophie won four events, although Amy won the long jump and javelin.

Tobermory Primary won two age groups with Louis Mitchell-Stephen the under 7 champion and James Henderson an impressive under 11 champion. Louis finished only half a point ahead of James Edmundson from Bunessan and Ewan MacPhail from Salen who tied for second place on overall points.

James Henderson won four events to ensure victory in the under 11s, ahead of Aaron Paterson from Salen.

The under 13 athletes produced the top performances of the day with Molly Reade from Tobermory winning six out of the seven events to win the girls contest and Charlie Roth Strachan from Ulva Ferry was the boys champion.

Charlotte Peacock from

Tobermory was the under 15 champion, winning five events and set a new Mull record for her age group in winning the four-lap race in 24.6seconds. Ross MacCrone from Tobermory won the under 15 boys contest, winning five events and excelled in the speed bounce, recording 81 jumps in 30 seconds, which was the highest score of the day.

Successful athletes from the Mull competition will now be invited to compete in the Argyll Final to be held at Atlantis Leisure in Oban on Saturday, February 23.

The next area competition is at Lochgilphead this Sunday, followed by the Oban area contest at Atlantis Leisure on Saturday, December 15.

## Markie Dans tighten grip on top of the table

**POOL**

HISTORICALLY, the outcome of Markie Dans 'A' versus The Lancaster 'A' clash has dictated the destination of the league championship, so as usual all eyes were on the glamour tie between these two.

Worryingly, for their rivals the champions, Markies, not only managed to preserve their undefeated record but won for the fifth consecutive week to remain at the top of the table.

Only The Claredon, in the very first week, have prevented Markies from gathering maximum points.

Closest rivals The Lancaster 'B' still remain a point behind after a well deserved victory over The Claredon, to set-up a potential classic against the leaders just after the Christmas break.

The Cellar, after last week's heroics, travelled to The Lochnell hoping to keep tabs on the top two, despite conquering The Lancaster 'A' in week two.

The Lochnell had shown no sign in recent weeks of gaining anything out of this one and the writing was on the wall early doors, as The Cellar looked to be continuing their good form.

But somehow the Connel bowlers rallied, taking the last four games and, with it, the two points on offer.

The Lochavullin so far this season have been dismissed as

serious title challengers, however this maybe about to change as they moved into third position with a comfortable victory over The Gluepot for their fourth win on the bounce.

This result leaves The Gluepot rooted to bottom of the table as Markie Dans 'B' followed up last week's draw with their first league win away to The Kelvin.

**Results**

Markie Dans A 7-3 Lancaster A; Lancaster B 7-3 The Claredon; The Lochavullin 7-3 The Gluepot; The Kelvin 2-8 Markie Dans B.

**Fixtures (November 29)**

The Gluepot v The Lochnell; Markie Dans B v Lancaster B; The Claredon v The Kelvin; Lancaster A v The Lochavullin; The Cellar v Markie Dans A.

Team	P	PTS
Markie Dans A	6	11
Lancaster B	6	10
The Lochavullin	6	9
The Cellar	6	8
Lancaster A	6	6
The Lochnell	6	6
The Claredon	6	3
Markie Dans B	6	3
The Kelvin	6	2
The Gluepot	6	1

## Connel bowlers win at annual Portsonachan Open Doubles

#### BOWLS

PORTSONACHAN Bowling Club held its annual Open Doubles competition last Saturday.

Entries were from far and wide, with eventual winners being Caroline Ronald and Ian Boyd of Connel.

Second place went to local bowler Joe Z, partnered by Andrew Watson, a young man from Dalmally, playing in his first competition.

Third places went to Cairnbaan pair Adrian MacKay and Colin Clark and Dalmally double Ian Gibson and Martin McKillop.

There was a very good turnout, which was much appreciated by the organisers, after the previous two years were spoilt by bad weather stopping people from travelling.

Seeing, and indeed hearing, a room full of people enjoying themselves is a real fillip to those who spend their own time and effort to keep the hall running.

Portsonachan Bowling Club thanked sponsors Sgurr Energy, Ardbrecknish House and Dawn Fresh Farming, without whose help this competition would not be viable.

## Islay golf results

#### GOLF

**Islay Golf Club**  
Winter League Week 4:  
1 Ian Farrell, 42pts;  
2 Neil Johnston, 41pts;  
3 Brian O'Neill, 37pts.  
Css 69.

The next area competition is at Lochgilphead this Sunday, followed by the Oban area contest at Atlantis Leisure on Saturday, December 15.

## Atlantis Leisure five-a-side league

#### INDOOR FOOTBALL

Atlantis 13 Handyman 3  
Carpet Fitters 3 Oban HS 7  
Stoddarts T&T 13 Glenorchy 1  
RM Builders 13 Oban Times 3  
Royal Hotel 5 OES B 0

Team	P	W	D	L	PTS
Oban Times	4	3	0	1	9
Oban HS	3	3	0	0	9
RM Builders	2	2	0	0	6
Carpet Fitters	3	2	0	1	6
Stoddarts T&T	3	2	0	1	6
Atlantis	2	2	0	0	6
Royal Hotel	3	1	0	2	3
OES 'B'	4	1	0	2	3
Glenorchy	4	1	0	3	3
Handy Men	3	0	0	3	0
Royal Hotel	3	0	0	3	0

## Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

#### YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Regional Cup - Riverside 5, Under 13s 3. Scoring for Saints were Martin Rennie (2) and Bepe Lopez.

Rossvale 7, Under 14s 7. On target for Saints were Jay Cooper and Daniel MacIntyre.

FC Thistle 2, Under 15s 4. Saints marksmen were Daniel MacVicar, Daniel MacMillan, Louis MacGuire and Kieran Hendry. Under 16s no game.

This weekend's fixtures - Milngavie v Under 13s; Under 14s v Antonine; Under 15s v Dalvaig; Allander Colts v Under 16s.

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## Weather

**Thursday** Cold but dry  
Winds light easterly or north easterly  
Temperatures -2C to 2°C

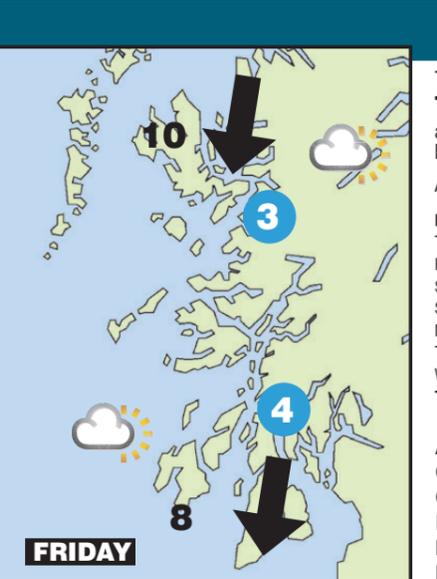
**Friday** Remaining cold and settled  
Winds turning northerly and increasing  
Temperatures 0°C to 4°C.

**Weekend** Remaining settled and cold

**Outlook** Winds north or northeasterly  
Temperatures -2°C to 4°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, November 29, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	05.44 3.9 12.19 1.4 18.06 3.9 *** **	
Fri	00.23 1.1 06.17 4.0 12.54 1.4 18.41 3.9	
Sat	00.59 1.2 06.51 3.9 13.29 1.5 19.16 3.8	
Sun	01.35 1.3 07.25 3.9 14.04 1.6 19.49 3.6	
Mon	02.08 1.4 07.59 3.8 14.37 1.8 20.23 3.5	
Tues	02.43 1.5 08.35 3.6 15.12 1.9 21.02 3.3	
Wed	03.24 1.6 09.16 8.5 15.59 2.0 21.49 3.2	

**Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)**

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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# **The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.**

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

# The Oban Times

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## Edinbane to get new children's play park

A SKYE community has been given the green light to create a new children's play park in Edinbane.

Skeabost and District Community Council want to build the play area - which will include 11 pieces of apparatus - on unused land behind Hawthorn Place in partnership with Edinbane Community Company, Highland Council's north planning applications committee approved the plans at a meeting in Inverness on Tuesday morning, with local councillor Ian Renwick describing the decision as 'very welcome'.

The application - which includes plans for a large wooden playhouse, swings, slides and a 25 metre-long zip line - attracted no complaints from members of the public.

A small war memorial garden is also planned but will require a separate planning application. Ten car parking spaces will also be created.

## Fireman Pat's long service honoured

HIGHLANDS and Islands Fire and Rescue Service group manager for Lochaber Pat McElhinney marked another milestone in his career when he was presented with a medal for 20 years service and good conduct on Saturday night.

The occasion at the Ben Nevis Hotel in Fort William was special for other reasons - Fort William firefighters presented a cheque for £12,249 to the Scottish Burned Children's Club. See full story, page 3.



Deputy Chief Fire Officer Stewart Edgar presents Pat McElhinney with his medal. 20\_488ref01



9 771468 629089



Ellie MacLellan and Leah MacLennan enjoyed their day as Santa's little helpers - although Ellie doesn't seem too sure about the reindeer! 20\_488anta01

## Thousands welcome Santa to Rotary Christmas Festival

AN ESTIMATED 3,000 people flocked to the Nevis Centre in Fort William for the Rotary Club of Lochaber Christmas Festival on Saturday.

Star guests were Santa and his 'little helpers', local schoolchildren Leah MacLennan and Ellie MacLellan.

Their sleigh arrived just after 11am with the Cairngorm Reindeer Team after being pulled through a spectator-packed High Street to the An Aird venue.

Visitors enjoyed music from Rotary buskers and 60 local craft and produce stalls in the main hall, where a large raffle proved popular and festive fare included hot chestnuts.

Rotary organisers reported the event as 'much busier' than 2011, citing the fine weather as one possible reason.

Club president Sheana Fraser's marathon fundraising 'channel' swim in the Ben Nevis Hotel Leisure club earlier this year ensured the reindeer put in their usual appearance.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'Seeing the spectacle of Santa and his reindeer making their way along the High Street and over the Parade Green, and the huge numbers of excited children, made all my early morning efforts in these cold early April mornings worthwhile.'

She added: 'The success of the event far exceeded our expectations. We've had terrific feedback from the stallholders and traders, and the queues for Santa's Grotto were half way round the hall.'

'This has now become well established as an annual event for the people of Lochaber and our thanks go to the staff of the Nevis Centre as well as the general public for their support.' For more festive photos, see page 9.

## Police step up hunt after second violent Caol incident

POLICE are to step up their presence in Caol after a second violent robbery in the village in the space of 12 days.

A man in his 30s was assaulted and had money stolen as he cycled through a wooded area between Canal Parks and the Caledonian Canal on Tuesday morning.

A small area of woodland was cordoned off for around 24 hours to preserve the crime scene, with at least two policemen on watch throughout the day to keep walkers and dog owners clear.

A yellow police tape stretched from the Loch Linnhe shoreline to the opposite side of Canal Parks, along the canal-side path and across the entrance to the Great Glen Way path.

And police believe the culprit may also have been responsible for an armed robbery in the village on November 15, when Togs store was targeted by a man with a knife.

Detective Inspector Mark Czerniakiewicz has been

by RICHARD HADDOCK  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

deployed to Fort William from Inverness to assist with investigations.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'This is normally a low crime area and we are treating this very seriously. We will be putting out additional patrols in the Caol area to reassure members of the public. We've also set up a dedicated team with a number of officers coming down from Skye and Inverness to investigate both incidents.'

He added: 'There could certainly be links between the two incidents. The suspect is of similar size and build and the incidents happened in similar areas, but there is different clothing and they happened at opposite times of day.'

'They are being looked at to see if there is any links but we are keeping an open mind.'

Caol Primary School secretary

Lisa MacGillivray reported that parents picking children up from school on Tuesday afternoon were aware of the heavy police presence.

She said: 'The suggestion was that somebody had been attacked. It's really worrying.'

Local councillor Eddie Hunter told *The Oban Times* he had been walking in the area shortly before the assault.

'I must have just missed it,' he said. 'It's frightening, that's now two incidents in less than two weeks.'

The suspect is described as 6ft tall, of large build, and was wearing a high-vis vest over a green jacket, dark jeans, a black baseball cap and a scarf.

The victim of the attack, which occurred between 9am and 9.20am, suffered minor injuries and did not require medical attention.

Anyone with information can contact Fort William Police on 01397 702361 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

## Skye flight campaigners welcome new public survey

By STEPHEN NORRIS  
THE CAMPAIGN group calling for the resumption of commercial flights to and from Skye has welcomed a new public survey to determine demand for the move.

FlySkye, which formally launched its air crusade on November 1 in Portree, says the RDC Aviation review could provide vital evidence for services to resume.

Three Chimneys restaurant owner Shirley Spear, one of the main figures behind the campaign, urged 'all interested parties' to take part in the consultation. She told *The Oban Times*: 'Since launching Fly-Skye last month we have been overwhelmed by the interest and support for the resumption of air services to Skye and Lochalsh shown locally and nationally.'

'There is no doubt air services would benefit the business community and the tourism industry which is so vital to the economy of Skye and Lochalsh. It would also facilitate access for all within our communities to central Scotland and beyond, as well as making Skye and Lochalsh more accessible for those wishing to come here. It is important the strength of demand is clearly demonstrated through participation in the survey.'

Last week it was announced that Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Hitrans and Highland Council commissioned RDC Aviation and ARUP to gauge the potential for re-establishing scheduled air services at Ashaig airstrip at Broadford. The council-owned runway is used by light aircraft - but would need substantial upgrading to handle scheduled flights. The study will consider the overall business case based on likely demand, ticket pricing, potential airports and aircraft options as well as capital and operating costs.

A spokesperson said: 'This survey will help assess the potential for air services, which destinations would be most in demand and what frequency a potential air service to and from Skye and Lochalsh could have.'

The survey can be accessed at [www.rdcaviation.com/survey/skye](http://www.rdcaviation.com/survey/skye) and the final report is expected to be published in early 2013.

## Demand for more forest croft land

DEMANDS for the Scottish Government to make land available for woodland crofts appear to be gathering momentum.

At a Scottish Crofting Federation workshop in Gairloch, delegates called for some Forestry Commission woodlands to be re-designated as crofting land.

Setting up crofter-foresters, the SCF believes, would help stem population decline in remote areas.

Chief executive Patrick Krause said: 'Land held under the management of Forestry Commission Scotland, which includes woodland and open

land, would be ideal for the creation of woodland crofts.'

'Whilst the National Forest Land Scheme (NFLS) is a very helpful initiative, it seems to be being left to community bodies to do the work of trying to raise the money, buy the land and then to set up woodland crofts. Why doesn't the Scottish Government simply set up woodland crofts?'

A Forestry Commission Scotland spokesperson told *The Oban Times*: 'We remain supportive of the woodland crofts concept and, as well as having offered this option through the NFLS for communities for over six years, we are working closely with a number of organisations

that continue to develop the concept. While there have been some NFLS community purchases where plans included looking at crofting as an option, we are not aware that any of these have yet come to fruition.'

The well-attended workshop heard presentations by woodland croft consultant Jamie McIntyre, general manager of GALE social enterprise Janet Miles, and Derek Flynn, chair of the SCF and crofting consultant.

The national forest estate is the largest single public land resource held by the Scottish Government, comprising over 660,000 hectares - over 35 per cent of Scotland's woodlands.

## Fort FC captain back home from hospital

FORT William FC captain Andy 'Zoomer' Martin is back home after undergoing a six-hour operation in Raigmore Hospital to save his left arm. The 26 year-old centreback broke his humerus bone from elbow to shoulder while operating a power winch at Marine Harvest's Linnhe farm. Team manager Danny Conlon said the cast is due to be removed in a fortnight to allow doctors to properly assess the damage. He told *The Oban Times* Mr Martin's injury was a 'huge loss' for his side. The player has been a star performer for The Fort season.

## Local History Society

FORMER Corpach paper mill worker Alex Gillespie will be guest speaker at Local History Society's next meeting in the Ben Nevis Hotel next Thursday night at 8pm. All welcome.

## Shinty stars celebrate vintage season



Spean Bridges stars: Missy Cameron, Kirsty MacDonald, Shaun Nicolson, Barry MacDonald and Ryan Johnstone celebrate winning their awards. 20\_488shinty01

Club looks forward to top flight return

IT WAS all smiles at Lochaber awards presentation dinner in the West End Hotel in Fort William on Saturday night as the club celebrated a vintage season.

After spending three seasons out of the top flight, Lochaber powered through the 2011-12 campaign undefeated and returned to the Orion Group Premiership as North Division 1 champions. The Spean Bridge outfit also won The Balliemore Cup, while the women's team won the North Division 2 championship courtesy of a last-gasp win over Glengarry.

The first team will play its first premiership game in four years in March when the new season gets underway. See sport, back page.

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# moments

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# French mag tracks Fort FC story

THE AULD Alliance is alive and well in Lochaber after one of France's top football magazines forged an unlikely link with Fort William FC.

Paris-based *So Foot* had its curiosity pricked by how supporters have stuck by the club - despite its bottom-of-the-table tag in the Highland League.

And on Saturday writer Joachim Barbier arrived with photographer Renaud Bouchez for the big game against Brora Rangers - only to find the match had been called off because Claggan Park was waterlogged.

Undeterred, the Gallic duo climbed up Cow Hill above the town for some atmospheric photos of the park and the snow-covered mountains behind.

They then interviewed manager Danny Conlon and club officials during a hastily arranged training session at Lochaber High School in the afternoon.

Mr Barbier told *The Oban Times*: 'I was looking for a story and ended up on the Highland League website and I saw at the bottom was Fort William.'

'I did a bit of research and came across plans by the American guy Paul MacDonald to create a reality show about the team.'

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

'What amazed me was that they are billed as the worst side in Scotland yet fans are still very enthusiastic on Facebook.'

'So given a choice of interviewing Lionel Messi and coming here I would come here because this is about real people and what their club means to them. That is what football should be all about.'

Fort committee member David MacDonald was delighted the club was getting international attention.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It is great positive publicity and it spreads the name of Fort William around Europe. We might be getting mentioned in the same breath as Barcelona!'

The club presented the Frenchmen with two away strips as a token of thanks for making the long trip from Paris.

*So Foot* has a circulation of 80,000 and is on sale in a number of European countries including France, Belgium and Switzerland. The Fort will feature in the January edition.



French connection: David MacDonald, left, and Danny Conlon, second right, present Joachim Barbier and Renaud Bouchez with Fort William strips. 20\_148french01



From left: firefighters Ricky Dibble, Chris Donnelly, Pat McElhinney, Alex Campbell, John Edgar, Eddie Lopez present Mark Stevenson of the Scottish Burned Children's Club, right, with £12,249. 20\_148ffire02

# Firefighting calendar boys celebrate charity thousands

FIREFIGHTERS from all over Scotland came together on Saturday night to celebrate the Fort William crew raising £12,249 for the Scottish Burned Children's Club.

The tremendous total came through sales of the firefighters' calendar, for which the boys went 'topless' in aid of the charity.

Around 200 people attended the evening in the Ben Nevis Hotel, which saw a further £1,600 raised through an auction and donations.

Special guests included Councillor Eddie Hunter, Charles Kennedy MP, Deputy Chief Fire Officer Stewart Edgar, ACO Billy Wilson and ACO Scott Hay.

The night was supported by many local businesses including the hotel, which provided the venue, accommodation and food. Shiel Buses laid on transport so people from Kinlochleven and Mallaig could attend.

Mr Edgar presented Group Manager Pat McElhinney with a

medal and framed certificate for 20 years loyal service and good conduct.

Mr McElhinney told *The Oban Times*: 'This event shows that our communities can pull together and help a charity who receive no other funding other than this type to finance children to attend a summer camp each year.'

'The children not only suffer physical trauma from their injuries but they can develop long term psychological issues if they are not supported and it is this support this charity provides.'

'We love being involved in this charity and the sheer volume of support throughout Scotland shows that everyone else feels the same.'

He added: 'This is also a landmark event as this is possibly one of the last functions as 'Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service' within this district as we will be one singular service in April next year.'

Local band 'The Shine' provided live music.

# Speeding accused turns himself into police

A FORT William man accused of hitting a cyclist in the town while driving at more than double the speed limit failed to turn up for his jury trial because he was working in Gran Canaria.

A warrant was issued for the arrest of Graham Douglas on November 6, the day the trial was due to be heard.

He handed himself into police last Tuesday after returning from the holiday resort, Fort William Sheriff Court was told.

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said the 29-year-old had been offered a short-term contract to work on an oil rig in Las Palmas and flew out on November 2 - four days before his trial. He returned to Lochaber on November 19.

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

Mr Melrose said: 'His contract took longer than he expected and he literally lost touch with his court case.'

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'He quite blatantly disregarded his bail condition purely for greed. As a result the trial was unable to take place because he thought it was better to go off to Gran Canaria than to be here.'

'The Crown has serious concerns Mr Graham is treating this case flippantly and with contempt.'

Sheriff Noel McPartlin remanded Douglas in custody until the case next calls, saying:

'It seems you took a conscious decision to leave the country. I am of the view if you were admitted to bail there remains a significant risk of you absconding or failing to appear.'

A number of witnesses and 50 potential jurors were sent home when Douglas, of 12b Linnhe Buildings, failed to appear.

He denies driving dangerously and at grossly excessive speeds of up to 67mph on Lundavra Road and colliding with Andrew MacLeod, who was on a mountain bike, severely injuring and permanently disfiguring him.

The alleged incident, which led to Mr MacLeod's right leg being amputated, happened on March 7 last year.

Newsdesk  
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# Reward on offer for return of shark tag

POLICE are offering a reward for anyone who finds a lost tag from a basking shark which holds valuable information about the animal's movements.

Scottish Natural Heritage reported the tracking device was missing in the Neist Point area of Glendale, Isle of Skye, and said it is likely to have washed up on a nearby shoreline.

The rubber electronic tag is one of 20 attached to basking sharks off the west coast. It is baton-shaped, black and around 15cms long. Anyone who finds the device should contact Portree Police Station on 01478 61288 or the Force Operations Centre on 01463 715555.



A reward is on offer for the return of the missing tag.

# Lochaber High School Christmas Concert

LOCHABER High School wind bands will perform their Christmas Concert in the main hall on Wednesday, December 5 at 7.30pm.

The event will feature the usual exciting mix of wind band and big band music, as well as guest appearances from the Harmonize Choir and the Lochaber Schools' Pipe Band.

The joint forces of the junior and senior bands will provide the accompaniment for the Christmas carol sing-along. Admission is free but tickets must be collected from the school office.

Lochaber High School music instructor Mark Reynolds said: 'Please come along and support Lochaber's fine young musicians.'

# Transport forum pledge on sleeper plans

LOCHABER Transport Forum (LTF) has said it plans to 'keep an eye' on Scottish Government funds allocated for upgrading the Caledonian Sleeper service.

The multi-agency group met last Tuesday in Lochaber House where local MP Charles Kennedy raised the issue.

Holyrood promised to match £50 million funding from the UK government but earlier this year said it had re-routed the money 'in the short term' to Scottish Water's investment programme.

Mr Kennedy said: 'The money

is there, it's earmarked and very welcome indeed. However, we have to ensure that there is not slippage in the timetable for sleeping car rolling stock refurbishment.'

LTF chairman Brian Murphy said the group will write to Scottish Transport Minister Keith Brown about the issue.

Other topics discussed at the meeting included:

□ A survey will be carried out in Duror and Kentallen to find out more about the transport needs of locals. It is planned to start early in 2013

□ Local volunteer group Corpach in Colour has officially adopted Corpach

Railway Station. The group will be responsible for reporting issues such as litter or graffiti and may also provide floral displays and landscaping for the station

□ West Wheels Car Club in Mallaig was praised for its success.

The club added a third car to its fleet earlier this year and has now signed up the West Highland Hotel as a corporate member

□ Fort William Railway Station team manager Alister MacLennan reported the summer train timetable will run from April to October next year, an increase of two months.

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**Kerrera road link moves closer**

THE UPGRADE of the road on Kerrera, which would see both sides of the island linked up, has been set out by community representatives and politicians.

A meeting between stakeholders, including Argyll and Bute Council, Kerrera Community Trust, Michael Russell MSP and ferry representatives, discussed plans for a basic forestry road and another road fully adopted by the council.

Mr Russell said the Scottish Government was trying to find a way to give short-term support to both island ferries, to allow the council to focus on the priority of the roads.

All parties agreed to meet again on the island at the beginning of next year.

**Landslide closes Tobermory road**

COUNCIL staff have been working to clear a landslide which closed a road on the Isle of Mull on Monday morning.

The landslip, on the Back Brae in Tobermory, was considerably less dramatic than others which hit the island earlier this year but workers are still putting in place protective measures to ensure there is no repeat.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The council is clearing away all debris from the landslip including taking down a couple of trees.'

'All loose material on the embankment will be removed as will the debris on the road. Once the embankment has been stabilised, an assessment will be made on the need for further protective works, such as placing a net over the slope.'

**Police appeal after Dalmally fuel theft**

DIESEL was siphoned from the fuel tank of a vehicle left overnight in Dalmally between November 22 and 23.

Police believe the theft took place around 5.30am.

It is believed the suspects were driving a large vehicle, a van or 4x4, which was seen at the location of the theft.

Anyone with information is asked to contact PC Iain Young on 01631 510500.



Oban Bay was lit up on Sunday night as a spectacular fireworks display brought the town's Winter Festival to a climax. Picture - Ewan McGlynn

**Winter Festival finale ends with a bang**

CROWDS lined Oban's Esplanade on Sunday evening for the grand finale of this year's Winter Festival.

A packed 10 days was brought to a close with spectacular fireworks and the lighting of a lantern - specially designed

like a Victorian steam train to match the festival theme. Tara Coia, from Dunollie, had been busy working on the

enormous creation in Oban Distillery. The lantern fitted over a car to be driven around town in the parade before being lowered

into the water off Oban's North Pier. The distillery also hosted a food and drink court with live music entertaining the crowds.

**Police warn householders after thieves strike**

A 'MINI spate' of house break-ins has led to police calling for residents in the Oban and Lorn area to be 'vigilant'.

The move comes following two break-ins to properties on November 20. The first was at 5pm at a house in Deanery Brae, Oban.

The second, carried out a short time later, was at a property in Ferryfield Road, Connell where jewellery and other items were taken.

In relation to the Oban break-in, police are looking for a man, aged between 20 and 25 with a height of 5ft 2in to 5ft 4in.

*"It feels like your home has been invaded, it's an uncomfortable feeling."*

victim of theft

The suspect, who was caught on CCTV, was wearing a skip hat, dark jacket and jeans and was carrying a medium sized rucksack. Distinctive jewellery, includ-

ing a gold Ola Gorie necklace and earrings, a silver ring with turquoise stone and a bracelet made up of heart shaped turquoise stones in silver settings, was taken from the house.

The victims of the break-in said they 'couldn't understand' why their house was chosen, adding: 'You think your house is secure. It feels like our home has been invaded, it is an uncomfortable feeling.'

'If I hadn't dropped off a colleague at their home he would have still been upstairs when we entered the property.' They feel that the thieves knew

what they were looking for: 'He didn't go into the lounge, he went straight upstairs into the bedrooms', which had been rummaged through with drawers tipped out.

Other stolen valuables include men and women's Tag Heuer watches, a ladies Gucci watch and 100ml bottle of Jo Malone perfume.

Police say a dark, four door saloon car with two occupants was parked near the property, causing an obstruction at 4.55pm, other cars would need to have passed with care. One of the occupants left the vehicle

and committed the housebreaking.

Chief inspector Brian Auld said: 'The area was very busy with pedestrian and vehicle traffic, there was also a number of activities taking place in Atlantis Leisure.'

'We would appeal to anyone who was in the area and saw a vehicle or person fitting the description given to get in touch with police on 01631 510500.'

If you come across anyone in your property do not challenge them. Phone the police immediately and don't touch anything in your house.

**Former school needs to come down**

Call for urgent decision on fate of 139-year old crumbling building

CALLS for a quick resolution on the future of the former Rockfield Primary School building have heightened this week, as public opinion was allied with political will.

The crumbling Grade B listed building in the centre of Oban, which closed its doors in 2007, has been the centre of much debate but the majority view seems to be that demolition is the way forward.

Historic Scotland has been accused on standing in the way of development but maintains it has never had an official application to de-list or to demolish the building.

At Monday's Oban Community Council meeting, Argyll and Bute Council leader Roddy McCuish responded to calls for action by stressing the council had to wait for permission from Historic Scotland before the building could be knocked down and insisted talks between the two parties were progressing.

He added: 'We would sell it [Rockfield] tomorrow if we could but someone has to buy it from us.'

Area leader, councillor Louise Glen-Lee, said: 'We are working on a resolution for Rockfield in the shortest period of time possible.'

'While no-one wants to take the decision to pull down a beautiful, historic building, no-one has come up with the money for a project to keep it.'

'I am all for preserving the past but we have got to the point where the building is dangerous, becoming an eyesore and taking up valuable space.'

*"I'm all for preserving the past but the building is dangerous."*

councillor Louise Glen-Lee

'It upsets me to say that because it holds so many memories for people but we need to move on.'

Proceeds from the sale of the building would go into the authority's education budget and while two bids were submitted for the building at the end of last year, offers fell some way short of the council's £475,000 valuation.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell reflected public opinion, adding: 'A conclusion on the old Rockfield School needs to be taken as soon as possible.'

'Argyll and Bute Council and Historic Scotland need to find a way forward - there has been no real solution to keeping the building in its current state.'

A spokesman for Historic Scotland said: 'With the council, we are looking at whether a positive new use can be found, or whether demolition is the only viable option.'

'Because there is a presumption against the demolition of listed buildings, strong justification - including a detailed exploration of the options for re-use - would be required as part of any application to demolish Rockfield School.'

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# Publicans in Oban say we will add spark to fireworks display

LICENSED traders in Oban could be set to take over the annual community fireworks display after this year's Guy Fawkes celebrations went without a bang.

A decision was taken not to hold a November 5 fireworks display this year - a decision that angered locals keen to see a spectacular follow up to 2011's stunning fireworks failure.

nothing happening, said he was keen to organise a display next year and would raise the money himself.

Explaining the plan, Allan McKie, an association past president, said: "What happened this year happened. We don't want to go back. We want to look to the future. 'We're quite keen to do it. One thing we're very good at in this industry is organising

events, we do it every weekend. We also have the means to raise the money.

"We saw the comments from Fred Hall and we don't want to step on people's toes, but we are very keen to do our bit and put something back into the town. Our offer is there."

Rotary Club that originally established bonfires and fireworks displays in Oban to mark Guy Fawkes night, arranged to deter anyone holding their own informal and possibly unsafe displays. He says a strong display is essential and in the town's best interests.

"The sky is the limit," he added. "We want to give a pretty good fireworks display."

"We want to take it back to what it was, a really good night for everyone."

While a venue for the display hasn't been settled yet, Mr McKie said planning was at an early stage.

# Tobermory fireman receives medal at Buckingham Palace

## 'It was a truly humbling experience'

A MEMBER of Tobermory Community Fire Station has received an award as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Watch commander Willie Hume picked up the Queen's Fire Service Medal at a ceremony in Buckingham Palace on November 21 - which is also his birthday.

Mr Hume, who is the only recipient of the award in Scotland this year, has worked tirelessly with the fire service for 33 years.

He said: "This is a huge honour for myself, my family, the crew of Tobermory Fire Station, the community of Mull and Iona and Strathclyde Fire and Rescue."

"The first three words Her Majesty said to me was 'you're from Tobermory', we then had a conversation about when she visited the Western Isles aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia."

"She continued by saying that the Princess Royal still visits Tobermory. She finished by asking how long I had been serving with Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, and I replied '33 years, ma'am'."

"It was a truly humbling experience."

Mr Hume joined the service in 1979 and has been the officer in charge since 1998, also taking on responsibility for the volunteer units at Salen, Craignure, Bunessan and Iona.

His fundraising efforts have also attracted attention with the station being named runner up Fire Station of the Year in 2009 in recognition of the tens of thousands of pounds raised.



Willie Hume with his wife Dawn after receiving his award at Buckingham Palace. t48palace1no

# Administration error delays Oban drink ban extension

A BAN on drinking in public places in Oban will likely be extended to include Soroba housing estate, Glenallan and Pulpit Hill.

The extension of the town's existing bylaw was confirmed by Argyll and Bute Council last Thursday and comes after an administration error delayed the proposal by two years.

The council will now advertise its intention in *The Oban Times* and there will be a one-month period for any objections to be made.

The extension of the bylaw was upheld by Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee in 2010, following a three-year campaign by Soroba residents.

**Forgotten** However, in September this year, councillor Fred Hall discovered the council had forgotten about the application and had not submitted an application to the Scottish Government.

Sean MacIntyre, a member of Soroba Community Association said this week: "This is great news for the residents

of Soroba.

"It was frustrating to find out it was forgotten about but we are grateful to councillor Hall for staying on top of it."

"This is going to help a lot of residents here and we need to get the message out that Soroba is not a drinking den."

Councillor Hall said: "This act will give the police the power to control alcohol-fuelled anti-social behaviour in public places in Soroba and Pulpit Hill, bringing comfort to local residents."

# Ardochattan gain grant to look back

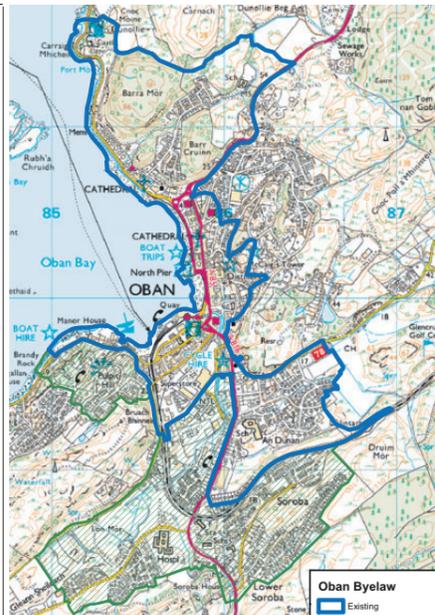
ARDCHATTAN Parish Archive is one of the first groups in the UK to receive a grant to help delve into the area's past.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has given the archive £9,900 to drive the 'Dualchas agus Duthacas: a sense of place' project, which will organise walks, talks and workshops everyone can get involved in. The project will also allow work to start to cataloguing community held material to begin to create a parish archive accessible to all. An exhibition will be held in the summer to showcase the group's work, and will also be posted online.

Commenting on the award, a spokesman for the archive said: "We are thrilled to have been awarded this grant and we can't wait to get started."

"We love where we live and know there's so much more to discover about our past, from the Big Bang to the present day."

"We are all really excited about mastering new skills, learning more from our community and sharing the stories of our heritage with locals, descendants, and visitors to the parish."



Proposed extension to Oban's existing byelaws

# Argyll and Bute information service launched

A DIGITAL television and smartphone information service for Argyll and Bute Council has been launched.

The Looking Local service, which went live on Monday, provides information on council services through Sky, Virgin and smartphones. Users can also request services and report issues.

Lead councillor for customers and communication, Louise Glen-Lee said: "We hope the new Looking Local service will benefit citizens at both ends of the technology-using spectrum."

"People uncomfortable using the internet can now get council information through their Sky or Virgin Media TV channels in the comfort of their home."

"Similarly, the tremendous take up of smartphones and mobile technology means an increasing number of people are seeking information on the go."

"Argyll and Bute Looking Local provides an information and service request medium for both these audiences and indeed anyone who prefers these access channels instead of using a PC."

To view Argyll and Bute Looking Local on Sky go to channel 539, press the red button and select Scotland then Argyll and Bute.

Virgin Media users should head to channel 233 and press the red button. Alternatively, look up lookinglocal.gov.uk/argyllbute on a smartphone.

# Lochside man shouted threats

A LOCHYSIDE man accused of repeatedly shouting threats at a woman in his house is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on December 5.

Elliott Brown, aged 25, of 14 Columba Court, denies behaving in a threatening or abusive manner on September 4 and 5.

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# Times Sport

## Saints good value for West Cup victory

West of Scotland Cup  
2nd round  
Oban Saints 2  
Eastfield 1

SAINTS entertained Eastfield from the Central Scottish League in the second round of the West of Scotland Cup at Glenclruitten last Saturday and the Oban side progressed to the third round of the competition a bit more easily than the scoreline suggests.

### Woodwork

The visitors had the woodwork to thank three times as well as their goalkeeper Brendan Shaw, who had a tremendous game between the sticks bringing off several superb saves.

Saints created a good chance in the 13th minute when Donald Campbell turned his marker after picking up a Willie Gemmell throw, but the Eastfield net minder was on hand to make a good save.

The home side opened the scoring in the 19th minute; a quick throw in by Donald Campbell found Eddie Swift, who then made progress up the left flank before crossing into the box for Myles McAuley to rife the ball high into the net.

Eastfield were playing some nice football from the back, but they weren't really causing the Saints defence too many problems although tall striker David Kilcar proved to be a bit of a handfull all afternoon.

The home side created a golden opportunity in the 30th minute when Myles McAuley and Eddie Swift combined to put Donald Campbell through on goals, but Donnie took his shot too early, instead of taking the ball on and rounding the keeper.

However, the second goal that Saints were looking for came a

### FOOTBALL

minute later and again it was the McAuley/Campbell combination that set up the goal for Donald to put his team 2-0 in front.

Saints were on top, but a bit of slack play at the back allowed Eastfield back into the game five minutes before half time when Willie Gemmell upended Martyn Shields in the box. Referee Jimmy Litser, who had a good game, immediately pointed to the spot.

Bryan Gall stepped up and blasted the ball past a helpless Daniel Cassells to make the half time score 2-1.

The home side came storming back and Willie Gemmell thought he had scored just before the half time whistle but his free kick cannonned off the post with the keeper beaten.

### Whistled

The visitors had a spell of early pressure at the start of the second half and David Kilcar had a great chance to draw level, but his shot sailed over the bar and three minutes later a Bryan Gall shot whistled past the post.

Thankfully Saints took the warning that 2-1 is a very dangerous scoreline and they would need to up the anti if they were not to be clawed back by a rejuvenated Eastfield.

Ross Maitland had a goal-bound shot blocked by the visiting defence in the 56th minute and then the keeper brought off a brilliant save from a Paul Kerr piledriver.

The Oban side were on top now but they needed a third goal to kill off the game and almost got it in the 61st minute when Donald Campbell crossed for Myles McAuley in the box, but

his header came back off the post.

Saints were playing some good football, but the visitors always looked dangerous on the break and had claims for a penalty turned down, quite rightly, by the referee when Paul Kerr and Craig MacKechnie tangled in the box.

The Oban boys were working hard, spurred on in midfield by skipper Keith Millar and Paul Kerr.

Saints took off Eddie Swift, who had worked hard up front all afternoon, replacing him with Craig MacEwan and with almost his first touch of the ball Craig brought out a great save from the keeper.

Saints still needed that vital third goal to ensure their place in the third round, but the Eastfield boys were defending well as the game drew to a close.

As the clock ran down the home team created other two great chances. The first was from a Willie Gemmell free kick that looked to heading for the postage stamp corner of the net until Brendan Shaw made a stunning save, touching the ball over the bar for a corner.

With three minutes left on the clock Ross Maitland sent over a great corner which Craig

MacEwan got his head to, but again the woodwork came to Eastfield's rescue and the ball was booted clear.

There was no further scoring and Saints ran out deserved 2-1 winners.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted. He said: "We played some good stuff against a well organised team and we were good value for the win. I thought we were excellent going forward and when we had to defend we did it from the front. The attitude and commitment from the players this season has been great, but we can't sit back and relax, we must have the same drive and energy in every game."

### Scottish Cup

This Saturday Saints return to Scottish Cup duty when they take on Edinburgh Premier Division League leaders Sandy FC in the 4th round.

The game will be played at Glenclruitten with a 2pm kick-off with referee Allan Loch from Glasgow in charge.

Saints have been drawn against Port Glasgow OBU in the 1st round of the Jimmy Marshall Trophy and Pollok in the 3rd round of the West of Scotland Cup. Both games will be played in Oban on dates still to be arranged.

# Oban curlers win Noble cup in Greenock

OBAN Curling Club won the John Noble Cup at the November Argyll and Bute province competition in Greenock.

This is the second victory of the season for the squad, which already has the Chalmers Quich in the trophy cabinet.

### CURLING

In the most recent competition Oban protected a 100 per cent win record by only dropping two shots. The team was: Walter Spiers, Davy Thomson, Fraser Inglis and Trevor Lines.



Willie Gemmell fires in a free kick over the Eastfield wall, with Keith Millar waiting to pounce on any mistake from the goalkeeper.

# Charlie runs away with record at Tobermory

UNDER-13 competitor Charlie Roth Strachan produced an impressive all round display at the Mull contest of Sports Hall Athletics, winning five events and setting a new Argyll age group record in the process.

Charlie was one of 77 young athletes to compete in the Mull event last Saturday in Tobermory High School.

The Mull contest was the first of the local area competitions in Argyll this winter promoted by Argyll and Bute Local Athletics Partnership and supported by all the local clubs in the district.

Charlie's amazing clearance of 2.46 metres in the standing long jump surpassed the old Argyll age group record held by Ben Coates from Oban by a full eight centimetres. Charlie was also close to seven metres in the standing triple jump.

This is the 14th year this form of indoor athletics has been held in Tobermory and as in past years the day was split into two competitions with the under 7s, under 9s and under 11s competing in the morning and the under 13s, under 15s and under 17s in

### INDOOR ATHLETICS

action in the afternoon.

Athletes from Mull Harriers, based in Bunessan, made up a third of the total entry and the long journey was well worthwhile as they won three out of the 11 individual titles and also placed second in the primary schools contest, only five points behind winners Salen and ahead of Tobermory.

Abbie Cato from Bunessan Primary was the under 9 champion in 2011 and repeated her success winning the under 11 category this year. Abbie had to be on top form to finish ahead of another Bunessan girl Katie Edmundson. Both girls won three events and dominated in a large entry of girls.

Mia Layne was another winner from Bunessan with overall victory in the under 7 age group. Mia won three events, as did Bea Yeilder, also Bunessan, who was runner-up just two points behind. Isaac Yeilder, Bea's older brother, was the under 9 champion but only one point

ahead of Harry Robb from Tobermory.

Salen girls dominated in the Under 9s with Sophie Ralston winning overall ahead of Amy Brown. Sophie won four events, although Amy won the long jump and javelin.

Tobermory Primary won two age groups with Louis Mitchell-Stephen the under 7 champion and James Henderson an impressive under 11 champion. Louis finished only half a point ahead of James Edmundson from Bunessan and Ewan MacPhail from Salen who tied for second place on overall points.

James Henderson won four events to ensure victory in the under 11s, ahead of Aaron Paterson from Salen.

The under 13 athletes produced the top performances of the day with Molly Reade from Tobermory winning six out of the seven events to win the girls contest and Charlie Roth Strachan from Ulva Ferry was the boys champion.

Charlotte Peacock from Tobermory was the under 15 champion, winning five events

# Connel bowlers win Portsonachan Open Doubles

### BOWLS

PORTSONACHAN Bowling Club held its annual Open Doubles competition last Saturday.

Entries were from far and wide, with eventual winners being Caroline Ronald and Ian Boyd of Connel.

Second place went to local bowler Joe Z, partnered by Andrew Watson, a young man from Dalmlally, playing in his first competition.

Third places went to Cairnbaan pair Adrian MacKay and Colin Clark and Dalmlally double Ian Gibson and Martin McKillop.

There was a very good turnout, which was much appreciated by the organisers, after the previous two years were spoilt by bad weather stopping people from travelling.

Seeing, and indeed hearing, a room full of people enjoying themselves is a real fillip to those who spend their own time and effort to keep the hall running.

Portsonachan Bowling Club thanked sponsors Sgurr Energy, Ardbrecknish House and Dawn Fresh Farming, without whose help this competition would not be viable.

### Mull childrens' safety fears leads to road policy change

FEARS over the safety of children in school buses on an Isle of Mull road has forced Argyll and Bute Council to change its winter policies.

The C46 road, which runs from Salen to Dervaig and is locally known as the Glen road, is not gritted in winter as there is not the required number of children travelling on it.

The last meeting of Mull Community Council (MCC) heard that as there are less than 12 children on the school transport the council will not grit the road.

Mike Shilson, MCC member said: 'The concern is that previous winters the gritter has come off the road, a fire engine has come off and even Calum Duffy (this year's winner of the Mull Rally) has come off the road.'

Questions also arose as to why the council felt it was unacceptable to risk the lives of 12 children travelling on an ungritted road but 11 was fine.

Now Jim Smith, head of roads and amenity services is proposing a trial change to winter treatment on Mull.

He said: 'The pilot will include the C46, Dervaig to Salen road as a higher priority as part of the winter treatment during reasonably settled conditions where treatments are carried out in advance of frost.'

'The treatment route will follow B8073 Tobermory - Dervaig - Calgary, C46 Glen Aros - Salen.'

He added: 'In severe or recurring hazardous conditions we cannot guarantee Glen Aros will be available at all times as priority will be given to the principle A848/A849 and B8075 bus routes.'

'This will mean that we will not be able to guarantee the treatment of C46 Glen Aros before 8am.'

'To assist in alerting drivers to the risk that the road will be untreated, permanent signs advising of a diversion via Tobermory are in place.'

'On days when the road is liable to be treated later, due to priority activities on the service bus routes, road closed ahead signs will be erected at either end of C46.'

'The proposed pilot will be reviewed through the winter period and again at the end of the winter prior to consideration being given to the winter policy for 2013/14.'

### Oban retail outlet nominated

STAFF at Oban's branch of the Original Factory Shop have been nominated for a Retail Week award for Customer Service Initiative of the Year.

Store manager Gwen Cameron said: 'We haven't won it yet, but we're over the moon to have made it on the shortlist for such a prestigious award.'

The winner will be announced in March.



### 'Queen Victoria' drops in for festival carousel

Oban residents could be forgiven for thinking they had stepped back in time at the weekend as a Victorian carousel played host to Queen Victoria and her lady in waiting. The ride, situated outside the Corran Halls, welcomed Mary MacInnes as Queen Victoria and Catherine Wylie as her Lady in Waiting on Sunday. The carousel visited the town as part of the Winter Festival celebrations and was chosen by organisers as the theme of this year's festival was Victorian. Children and adults of all ages enjoyed the ride, which was part of a mini funfair. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

### Cruachan power station officially recognised

CRUACHAN Power Station has joined the likes of Tower Bridge in London and the Falkirk Wheel in being named one of Britain's most impressive engineering feats.

On Friday, the station will be presented with an Institution of Mechanical Engineers' Engineering Heritage Award, joining a prestigious list that contains the likes of the Channel Tunnel, the Thames Barrier, the Rolls Royce RB21 engine and the Waverley paddle steamer.

Built between 1959 and 1965, Cruachan is being presented with the award to mark it as the world's first high-head reversible pumped-storage power plant.

Electricity The station is capable of generating 440MW of electricity and can go from standby to full production in two minutes. It is used to deal with periods of peak demand on the grid.

Excavation of the cavern to build the station required the removal of 220,002m<sup>3</sup> of rock and soil.

Several works from artists both locally and nationally renowned were up for grabs at the sale in the Regent Hotel earlier this month. Among them was a stunning charcoal rendition of Chalmers, as drawn by James Leitch in the 1960s. It was donated by the daughter of the late 'Jimmy' Leitch after reading about the auction in *The Oban Times*.

The large framed piece was the star of the auction, fetching £350 as the event raised a total of £2,967.50 to help provide cancer support workers locally.

Mr Leitch's work will now go on display at Oban's Evantide Home. Kate Turner, who helped organise the auction, said: 'We were delighted with the turnout. It was because of *The Oban Times* that the picture was donated to us and it's because of *The Oban Times* it is going into the Evantide Home. We're very grateful.'

'I really want to thank all those who donated and all those who turned up.'

# Brave adds Argyll bonus

## Documentary follows film blockbuster throughout west

ARGYLL is to receive a new global showcase thanks to the disc release of Disney Pixar's blockbuster *Brave* - an extended feature on how the area inspired the film's look.

Set to be shipped across the world on DVD and Blu-ray, the extras on *Brave* includes a documentary on how animators travelled extensively throughout Argyll researching the vision of Scotland depicted in the hit animated film.

*Brave* grossed \$535,043,843 at cinemas across the world, making it the fifth most successful film release of the past year.

It has been hailed as a major tourism coup for the county, with both Argyll and the Isles Tourism (AIT) and VisitScotland urging local businesses to make the most of the high profile exposure.

A *Brave* New World shows Disney Pixar staff travelling throughout the ancient Kingdom of Dalriada, taking in areas such as Loch Awe, Kilchurn Castle and Glen Coe, as well as touring throughout Mid Argyll.

It even shows the director of *Brave*, Mark Andrews, taking an early morning dip in Loch Awe after the team stayed overnight at the Ardanasaig Hotel, near Taynuilt.

Mike Story, executive director of AIT, said: 'Brave has certainly introduced Scotland, and especially Argyll and the Isles to a world-wide audience.'

'This kind of market penetration is beyond anything we could have hoped for and puts Argyll and the Isles on the world stage.'

'With the Iona celebrations and Year of Natural Scotland in 2013 and the second year of the

homecoming in 2014, we will be positioning our area to take advantage of a new generation of guests to Scotland.'

Local VisitScotland director, David Adams McGilp, said: 'Our campaign with Disney is an incredible opportunity for businesses throughout Argyll to get involved.'

'The film's release on DVD and Blu-ray, including fascinating special features that promote Argyll, really are 'money-can't-buy' adverts for our region.'

Meanwhile, a VisitScotland promotion and competition will also appear on 1.5million copies of the DVD and Blu-ray thanks to a joint agreement with the film giant to help promote the country. Its website www.visitScotland/brave website has received 1.5million hits since it was launched earlier this year.

### Oban art auction raises £3,000 for charity

ART LOVERS have helped raise nearly £3,000 for the Macmillan Cancer Support group for Oban.

Several works from artists both locally and nationally renowned were up for grabs at the sale in the Regent Hotel earlier this month. Among them was a stunning charcoal rendition of Chalmers, as drawn by James Leitch in the 1960s. It was donated by the daughter of the late 'Jimmy' Leitch after reading about the auction in *The Oban Times*.

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### Eye to eye with John Wallace

### The History of Contact Lenses

Last month I discussed how contact lenses had been first manufactured in Germany in 1888.

These early lenses were large and made of glass. Glass continued to be the contact lens material of choice until the 1930's when plastics began to appear. As with many things the Second World War brought about a revolution in both materials, manufacturing technology and medical science.

Post-war contact lens designs went from very large "haptic" lenses which covered the whole of the front of the eye to "micro-corneal" lenses that were between 7-9 millimetres in diameter. These lenses all shared one major drawback. They were impervious to oxygen. This resulted in reduced wearing times, hazy vision when lenses were removed and possible changes, both long and short term, to the cornea. It took patients many weeks of wear before they could tolerate these lenses fully.

Soft contact lenses first appeared commercially in the early 70's. Unlike today's disposable lenses

these were worn till they disintegrated. They could not be worn safely overnight due to poor oxygen transmission. The first extended (overnight) wear lens was developed in London in the late 70's with the material being "cooked" in a pioneering optometrist's kitchen! Oxygen permeable rigid lenses appeared in 1980.

Australian researchers found patients changing their soft contact lenses regularly had far fewer episodes of eye infection. This led to the introduction of frequent replacement (weekly, fortnightly or monthly) soft lenses in 1991. Subsequently daily disposable lenses were introduced which dramatically reduced infection rates. In the 90's scientists developed super permeable lenses (soft and rigid) enabling safe overnight wear of contact lenses.

Today's patients can choose from daily wear, monthly daily or continuous wear or even contact lenses designed for overnight wear which mould the cornea so you don't need to wear lenses during waking hours.

Soft contact lenses first appeared commercially in the early 70's. Unlike today's disposable lenses

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## Fort in search for background staff

### FOOTBALL

FORT William FC have put out a call to the local public for new faces to join the Claggan club's behind the scenes staff.

Chairman Derek McGillivray said they were looking for help in expanding all areas of the club, including pitch and ground maintenance, youth coaches, helpers with hospitality and editorial help for the club's website and match day programme.

Mr McGillivray said: 'The club is going through a major restructuring and we need all the help we can get to make the club more transparent and professional.'

'We are looking for people with business, committee and good organisational experience to get involved in the committee.'

## Lochaber aim to get back on track

### RUGBY

LOCHABER Rugby Club will hope to get their season back on track when they travel to take on Aberdeenshire second XV on Saturday.

The Banavie club have not played since November 3 when they lost heavily at home to runaway RBS Caledonia Regional League division two north leaders Garioch.

Since then Lochaber have slipped from second to fifth, but have games in hand on the sides above them. Aberdeenshire have had a strong season so far and sit directly behind Lochaber in the league.

## Achintore stay two ahead in indoor football league

### INDOOR FOOTBALL

ACHINTORE FC maintained their two point lead at the top of the Ali Young indoor football league with a 5-1 win over Old Codgers at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

Lochaber Leisure remain close behind following their 5-2 victory against All Blacks.

AA Young provided the shock of the night, picking up their first points of the season with a 7-3 win against Portoway.

The Goon Squad and Balachulish stay third and fourth respectively, with just goal difference to separate them. Goon Squad defeated Caol FC 8-6 while Balla narrowly won 2-1 against HW Energy No Stars.

## Football lottery rollover this week

### FOOTBALL

A ROLLOVER jackpot of £300 is up for grabs in this weekend's Fort William FC weekly lotto draw after no one won the cash prize last week.

The lotto numbers last week were 02-10-16.

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The Lairig Mor race gets off to a fast start at Mamore Lodge on Sunday morning 20\_148ath01

## Gorman leads home field in Lairig Mor Race

### ATHLETICS

A FIELD of 36 competitors tackled Lochaber Athletic Club's Lairig Mor Race on Sunday in fine running conditions

with a slight breeze and light drizzle.

An air temperature of 4C greeted athletes at the start at Mamore Lodge, Kinlochleven for the run through the mountains along the West Highland

Way to Fort William.

The testing course of approximately 13.5 miles soon had the field well spread out and it was Manny Gorman who came home first at Lochaber Leisure Centre, three minutes ahead of

the rest of the pack.

Nancy Kennedy took a tumble on some steps, but carried on regardless with a cut knee and swollen thigh.

Congratulations from the club go to all the runners for

completing the first long Winter League race of the season. Thanks also go to the timekeepers and marshalls.

Next race is on Sunday at Sutherland's Grove, Barcaldine.

## Lochaber bring curtain down on successful season



Champs! Lochaber Camanachd line up with the silverware at their Spean Bridge pitch ahead of their awards dinner and presentation on Saturday 20\_148shiny03

LOCHABER Camanachd put the seal on a hugely successful season at its awards presentation dinner in the West End Hotel in Fort William on Saturday night.

Over 100 turned out to celebrate Lochaber's return to the Orion Group Premiership as undefeated Marine Harvest North Division 1 champions.

Other silverware taking its place in the Spean Bridge trophy cabinet included Balliemore Cup and the women's North Division 2 championship cup.

Individual winners of club awards on the night were: Player of the Year and Players' Player of the Year - Shaun Nicolson;

Second team player of the year - Ryan Johnstone;

Under-17 player of the year - Barry MacDonald;

Women's Player of the Year - Kathleen (Missy) Cameron;

Women's most improved player - Kirsty MacDonald.

## Fort face tough away test at Lossie

'It's without doubt our biggest game so far' - says manager Conlon

### FOOTBALL

REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

FORT William face their biggest match of the season so far when they travel to take on Lossiemouth the side directly above them in the league this Saturday.

The Claggan Park side put in their most impressive performance so far in their last game, fighting back to grab a 3-3 draw away to Buckie Thistle, but remain at the foot of the table, one point behind Lossie.

Manager Danny Conlon told *The Oban Times* he had a number of key first team regulars unavailable for Saturday, and was expecting another tough match.

He said: 'It's without doubt our biggest game so far. We've got our own mini league at the bottom with four, or maybe five, teams involved, and any game against each other is going to be huge.'

'This will be a hard and very difficult game for us because we've got a weakened squad.'

'We played them at the start of the season with a weakened squad and lost, but I said after I had seen them that if we had everyone available I think we'd have a chance of picking up some points.'

Michael Gillespie is suspended for the match after picking up too many yellow cards, while Sean Grant and Logan Barker will miss out due to work commitments. Forward Iain MacLellan is also a selection doubt.

Captain Andy Martin is out for the foreseeable future after suffering a serious arm injury at work.

Conlon said: 'They are just waiting for the swelling to go down then they can have a look and see what the damage is. He should get the plaster off in about a fortnight.'

Fort's game against Brora Rangers last weekend was cancelled after rain left Claggan Park unplayable.

'It reminds me a little bit of last season, the ways it's so stop-start,' Conlon said. 'It's even tough to get any sort of routine going on with training.'

## Bell wins as West Highland Wheelers tackle Erracht race

### CYCLING

WEST Highland Wheelers' latest winter race at Erracht was won by Chris Bell on Sunday.

Bell finished ahead of 20 other riders in a time of 39 minutes 47 seconds, just three seconds

ahead of Ben Thomson.

A shorter version of the course attracted five entrants, with Ruaridh Cant finishing first.

## Good turnout as Lochaber Yacht Club host annual prizegiving and dinner dance

### SAILING

LOCHABER Yacht Club saw a good turnout for its annual dinner and prizegiving at the Fort William clubhouse on Saturday night.

Three series of races for both dinghies and keelboats are held over the summer months, with a prize awarded in each class for each series.

Outwith the series races the dinghies compete in the Black Rock and Loch Eil races, while the keelboats battle for the Coran Red Trophy.

Ryan McIntyre sails at both national and club levels in his Laser Radial and performed well all season, carrying off several prizes. Equally prominent was Hamish Loudon and crew, carrying off trophies in both the Soling (Keelboat) class and in the dinghy class in his Wayfarer.

Some of the usual races were not sailed this year, largely due to adverse weather conditions.

Trophy winners: Black Rock Bell (Black Rock) - Hamish Loudon & Co; Commodore's Prize (Loch Eil Race) - Ryan McIntyre; Coran Red (Coran

Red) - Hamish Loudon & Co; Corpach Chandler's Cannon (Junior Award) - Robbie Thurlow; Endeavour Trophy - Margaret McIvor; Frostbite Shield (Dinghies) - Hamish & Andy; G.A. Faulkner Trophy (Best Dinghy Crew) - Brian Holgate; Icele Series Shield (Sunday Series) - Ryan McIntyre; K.K. Cameron Trophy (Fast Dinghy Points 3) - Ryan McIntyre; Kilmallie Trophy (Keelboat Points 3) - Marian Austin & Co; Lochaber Wheel (Sailing Points 3) - Peter Bell & Co; MacDonald One Design (L.Y.C. Regatta Soling) - Andy, Liz, John Wilson; Merlin Trophy (Fast Dinghy Points 2) - Ryan McIntyre; Nevis Garage Trophy (Dinghy One Peak Race) - Amanda Henderson, Jamie

Riley and Graham McNab (LAC); Omega Trophy (Sailing Points 1) - Hamish Loudon & Co; Ist in Class, Last Race (West Highland Week) - Marian Austin; Fastest Boat, Bunnass to Oban leg (Round Mull Race, Oban Sailing Club) - Roddy Campbell; Ist in Class Overall (Round Mull Race, Oban Sailing Club) - Roddy Campbell; Scapa Trophy (Sailing Points 2) - Liz Loudon, Andy McKenna; Simpson Trophy (L.Y.C. Regatta Fast H'Cap) - Brian & Graeme Fallows; St Christopher Trophy (Pursuit Race) - Liz Loudon, Andy McKenna; Trafalgar Trophy (Keelboat Points 2) - Marian Austin & Co; Vice Commodore's Cup (Fast Dinghy Points 1) - Ryan McIntyre.



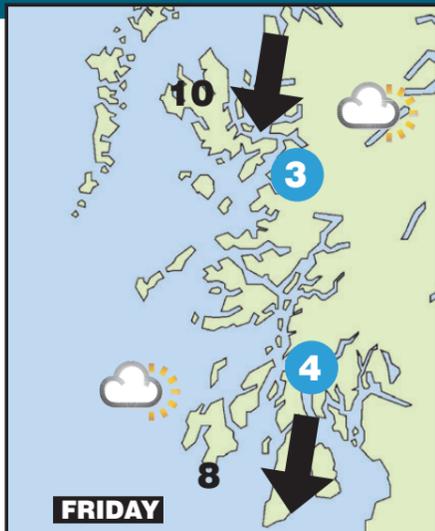
## Weather

**Thursday** Cold but dry  
Winds light easterly or north easterly  
Temperatures -2C to 2°C

**Friday** Remaining cold and settled  
Winds turning northerly and increasing  
Temperatures 0°C to 4°C.

**Weekend** Remaining settled and cold  
**Outlook** Winds north or northeasterly  
Temperatures -2°C to 4°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States  
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, November 29, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	05.44 3.9 12.19 1.4 18.06 3.9 *** **	
Fri	00.23 1.1 06.17 4.0 12.54 1.4 18.41 3.9	
Sat	00.59 1.2 06.51 3.9 13.29 1.5 19.16 3.8	
Sun	01.35 1.3 07.25 3.9 14.04 1.6 19.49 3.6	
Mon	02.08 1.4 07.59 3.8 14.37 1.8 20.23 3.5	
Tues	02.43 1.5 08.35 3.6 15.12 1.9 21.02 3.3	
Wed	03.24 1.6 09.16 8.5 15.59 2.0 21.49 3.2	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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