

We are now inviting questions for Councillor Drew Hendry, Leader of The Highland Council. Submit your questions via The Oban Times' website or email [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

# COMING SOON Your SAY



# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8124

Thursday 6 December, 2012

[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

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### Bridge of Orchy diversion in place

THE REPLACEMENT of Allt Chonoglais Bridge, Bridge of Orchy, is moving into the next phase with the opening of a two-way temporary diversion.

The diversion will, weather permitting, be completed and open to A82 traffic today (Thursday).

The use of the two-way diversion will match the existing trunk road and help minimise any delays and disruption due to the essential £2m works, allowing normal traffic flows in both directions.

Following diversion of the traffic the contractor will commence demolition of the existing narrow sub-standard bridge prior to the on-line construction of a new modern and safer structure.

Work started in August 2012 and is due to finish by August 2013.

### Gigha embezzler jailed for a year

A WOMAN who admitted embezzling £20,000 from a community post office was sent to prison on Tuesday for 12 months.

Aleid Kloosterhuis, of 1 Main Road, Ardmish, Gigha had previously pled guilty at Campbeltown Sheriff Court to the offence, which took place between April 1, 2010 and September 15, 2011, inclusive, at Gigha Post Office, whilst employed as sub-postmistress there.

The court previously heard that the 54 year old had stolen the money through a variety of ways and the offence only came to light when an on-the-spot audit was carried out by Post Office officials.

### Cinema gains £49,660 from Creative Scotland

OBAN Phoenix Cinema has been awarded a £49,660 grant from Creative Scotland to go towards the installation of a digital projector.

The grant to the community-owned cinema goes some way towards the £90,000 needed to buy the new projector and open the smaller second screen.



Not everyone was a happy as John MacTavish's young Spaniel, Barney, to see the first real snowfall of winter Picture - John MacTavish

## First hint of winter comes west

WINTER weather hit parts of Argyll this week as temperatures dropped to minus five, cars skidded off roads and children looked forward to building a snowman.

In driving conditions described as 'exceptionally bad' numerous cars left the carriage-way on Monday morning in the Lorn area.

Police are now advising motorists to take extra care when setting off on a journey - whatever the length.

Drivers should check their vehicle is 'winter ready' with good tyres, plenty of screen wash and an emergency kit in case of a breakdown.

They are also warned to check the weather forecast and

road conditions before leaving home.

Temperatures are expected to rise this weekend, barely dipping below freezing even at night in Oban although it will be considerably chillier in Tyndrum - dropping to minus four over Friday and Saturday nights with snow expected today (Thursday).

A Scottish government spokesman said: 'The Scottish government's resilience room and Transport Scotland's multi-agency response team both stand ready to co-ordinate activity across the network and address any wider severe weather impacts should conditions later this week require a national response.'

## BID4Oban brings £60,000 to shop front scheme

### Financial aid available to improve appearance of Oban town centre

A NEW £60,000 scheme to help improve shop frontages in Oban launched this week, marking the first spend by the new BID4Oban company.

The Oban Business Improvement Frontage Scheme will provide support to businesses hoping to upgrade the exterior of their premises to help spruce up the appearance of the town centre.

Around £12,000 per year will be available to apply for over the next five years, offering up to £1,000 and no more than 50 per cent of total costs to improve any existing commercial premises operating in the town.

Applications will be invited twice a year, pre and post the tourism 'high season' to encourage work to be carried out during the town's quieter times.

Lindsay Macdonald, one of

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT** by STEVEN FLANAGAN [sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk)

the newly appointed BID4Oban directors who helped design the scheme, said: 'This is all about making the best first impression to our potential customers. BID4Oban is asking any business paying the levy or associate members paying a subscription to get their application in for improvements before the 2013 season kicks off.'

'The grant scheme could make the difference between being able to afford a much-needed lick of paint or whether to have a new sign or not for some businesses.'

Applications will be assessed on the basis of need, the stand-

ard of work required and visual impact.

'Grants can be made for any improvements to the physical appearance of the outside of your business premises including redecoration, renewed signage fixed to premises, outside lighting, awnings and replacements of exterior features,' Lindsay added.

Applications for the first round of funding are due by February 28 next year, with a decision to be made within two weeks of the deadline.

Grants will be paid on completion of the work and within 14 days of submission of an invoice to the BID company. Only current levy payers or associate members can apply for the funds and applications must have been trading under the same name for three or more years.

## Marine Protected Areas' 'hidden benefit' figure is 'pure speculation'

A CONSERVATION programme project leader has defended a report which claims a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) could generate £10billion for the Scottish economy.

The Scottish Environment LINK's marine taskforce report claims imposing MPA designations on areas of sea around Scotland would ensure 'hidden benefits' are protected and could be worth a 'minimum' of £6.3-£10billion over the next 20 years.

However it has been criticised by fishermen, business and tourism leaders, who say it is 'pure speculation'.

One of those is Barra fisherman and campaigner against political marine environmental designations, Angus MacLeod.

He said: 'One would ask the question whether this type of speculation and the pulling of figures would stand organisations connected to LINK to receive more funding from government and/or charitable bodies.'

LINK is comprised of Whale Dolphin Conservation, Scottish Wildlife Trust, RSPB Scotland and the Marine Conservation Society.

No commercial or tourism companies fed into the report.

LINK's Calum Duncan, who is Scotland programme manager for the Marine Conservation Society, said the report used models which have been peer reviewed as good practice.

He added: 'The report is trying to put a monetary value on the benefits the sea provides us.'



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### £5.5m biomass heating systems for hospitals

HOSPITALS across Argyll and Bute are among those to have new biomass heating systems installed as part of a £5.5million programme by NHS Highland.

Hospitals in Oban, Islay, Campbeltown, Dunoon and Lochgilphead and the Jeanie Deans Integrated Care Centre in Helensburgh are set to benefit from the investment as the health board attempts to reduce its carbon footprint.

New energy-efficient lighting is also to be installed and there will be some investment in solar power.

Gordon Macdonald, NHS Highland's energy and sustainability manager said: 'Our carbon emissions will drop by about 30 per cent and our use of oil for heating will go down by more than 80 per cent.'

'These savings will allow future investment in secondary savings.'

### Missing Vicki found dead

HUNDREDS of messages of condolence have been sent to the family of a promising young nursing student from Oban, whose body was found in Glasgow at the weekend.

Victoria (Vicki) Sloss was reported missing last Friday but the search for her ended when her body was discovered at 8.45am the following day close to Napier Drive, by the River Clyde.

Her death is not being treated as suspicious by police, who are keen to trace her last movements.

News of the popular and well-known 23-year-old's disappearance spread through her home town last weekend after a dedicated Facebook page was set up to help find her.

On hearing of her death, friends posted messages of sympathy and condolence on both the missing persons page and on Vicki's own Facebook page. One message posted on Monday reads: 'Our community is still in total shock. The world has lost a special angel, a bright beautiful and dedicated friend, so tragically and suddenly taken from us. Rest in peace Vicki.'

Another reads: 'Her parents loved her more than I ever knew possible to love someone. My heart goes out to them at this time and I hope that they at least have a little comfort in knowing how loved their daughter is.'

Vicki was last seen around 4.30am last Friday, November 30, when she got out of a silver coloured taxi in Seaward Street, Glasgow.

Anyone with any information which can help officers trace Victoria's movement is asked to contact Strathclyde Police's Helen Street Police Office on 0141 532 5400.

Vicki Sloss was reported missing last Friday.

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# Bridge of Orchy look to Scottish Water for solution

AFTER years of disagreement over the broken water supply in Bridge of Orchy, residents and Argyll and Bute Council finally found common ground – a pursuit of Scottish Water to take responsibility for it.

At a meeting in the Bridge of Orchy Hotel last Wednesday residents and representatives of Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council were told by Malcolm MacFadyen, the council's head of facilities ser-

vices, that attempts to convince Scottish Water to take on the supply at 'the highest level' had been unsuccessful.

However, the council's regulatory services manager, Alan Morrison, revealed Scottish Water might consider taking on the supply if an estimated £350,000 was spent, bringing it up to standard.

The water supply system first broke down during a hard frost in November 2010, leading

to Argyll and Bute Council declaring the village's water unsafe to drink. However, the council ceased maintaining the supply after closing the primary school in the village – its only remaining property.

The supply is now classed as Type A1, meaning it is a private supply with a commercial premises, the Bridge of Orchy Hotel, attached.

Neither the community, nor the council is willing to admit

legal responsibility for the repair and maintenance of the supply, leading to a stalemate.

But at last week's meeting, there was a consensus that Scottish Water taking on the supply was the solution.

John Kerr, secretary of Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council, said: 'Scottish Water is there to serve the people and sort out this type of thing. They can't ignore this. 'You [the council] have said

there is a chance Scottish Water could take on the supply and that is very important. The residents need to drive this by writing to Scottish Water but the community council will back them.'

Councillor Louise Glen Lee, who chaired the meeting, said she would also contact Nicola Sturgeon MSP, who now had responsibility for water supplies.

Bridge of Orchy Hotel rep-

resentative Andrew McKnight said: 'We must bottom out the Scottish Water scenario and get a cast-iron answer to whether they could take it on. If that doesn't work, we can talk more.'

Mr Morrison explained that, should a solution not be found soon, he may have no choice but to serve notice on improvements, making it a criminal offence not to bring it up to standard.

## St Andrew's ceilidh night in London

THE HIGHLANDS and Islands Society of London held its annual St Andrew's ceilidh and dance on November 24.

Music for dancing at the London Welsh Centre came from the Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band singer Kathleen Graham.

Members of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society also provided country dancing displays.

## Isle of Barra 'pop up' shop set for five-day return

A SUCCESSFUL pop up Christmas produce shop on Barra will be held again this month due to its popularity.

Hosted in Castlebay by the Barra and Vatersay Agricultural and Horticultural Association, the shop is part of a long-term project to establish a local produce and craft shop on the island.

Last held in November, the latest 'pop-up' shop will be held for five days from December 10.

## SNH on search for new board members

SCOTTISH Natural Heritage (SNH) is looking for people interested in promoting and protecting the country's environment to join its board.

Three new board members are being sought by Scottish ministers to start work from April 1 next year to work on the organisation's strategic leadership team and ensure it delivers on Government priorities.

Current expertise represented on the SNH board include farming, estate management, fisheries research, marine pollution, environmental management, energy, education, aquaculture and wildlife management.

Andrew Thin, SNH chairman, said 'It's not necessary to have a detailed understanding of science and the natural heritage. We're looking for people with the experience to help lead a large and complex public service organisation in a non executive capacity.'

Application packs are available from the public appointments website ([www.appointed-for-scotland.org](http://www.appointed-for-scotland.org)) with a closing date of December 21.



Lauren Leggett, 15, Ryan Hay, 14, Caitlin Rydings, 13, and Iona Hay, 14, show off some of the photos available for sale. 15\_148camer01

## Zoom! launch exhibition of young talent

BUDDING young photographers have been putting their works on display to the public in Oban.

Hope2Oban's camera club, Zoom!, launched its exhibition recently with photos available for sale.

The club received a grant of £2,000 from Argyll and Bute Council towards the cost of laptops and software which allowed them to hold the exhibition, called 'Argyll!'

Argyll stands for Awesome Rural Gateway of Land and Light and many of the photos on show were of near professional quality but the club also caters for beginners.

Ewen Munro, youth worker at H2O said: 'There are one or two doing really well and others are right at the beginning of their journey in photography.'

Cameron Harris, a director of the group added: 'There are some shining stars that I would like to see go to university and do it in a big way and they are

## Mix-up marrs BID4Oban mailshot

Council say 'sorry'

AN 'ADMINISTRATIVE' error by Argyll and Bute Council saw it send double the number of BID4Oban letters it needed to.

Local businesses received their first invoices and direct debit mandates through the mail last Monday, with the Business Improvement District (BID) movement set to receive the first of the money by the middle of December.

However, a mix up at the council saw the invoices and mandates sent in two separate envelopes, incurring double the postage costs. Some businesses not eligible to pay the compulsory levy as part of the programme were also sent invoices.

BID4Oban has not incurred any extra cost as a result of the mistake, but it cost the council just under £200.

Sorry

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'We are sorry for any inconvenience caused when the first Oban BID invoices and associated direct debit mandates were sent out this week.'

'Some businesses which were not eligible to pay by direct debit also received mandates as there was no easy way to separate out only those businesses due to pay more than £150 from our billing file.'

'When sending out material by post, our standard practice is to ensure this is done as economically as possible. The additional cost to the council in this case is relatively small, less than £200. We are taking steps to ensure that this doesn't happen in the future.'

Meanwhile, the make up of the BID4Oban company has been confirmed, with John Fortie the company's new chairman, with Alistair Jackson vice chairman.

David McGregor is the new finance director, while company secretary is Roseanne Ogdan.

Jim Smith, the council's head of roads and amenity services is one of the council's two representatives, with confirmation on which councillor is to join expected this week.

## Jura community vote to own and save island shop

JURA Stores could reopen as early as next spring after islanders voted overwhelmingly to take it under community ownership.

In a ballot last week the people of the Isle of Jura voted to buy their local shop for the market value of £95,000.

Turnout for the vote last Wednesday was high; 84 per cent of eligible residents exercised their right to vote, of which 77 per cent voted in favour of the buy-out.

John Potts, chairman of the Jura Development Trust (JDT), said: 'We are delighted that the people of Jura wish JDT to buy the shop on behalf of the community. The positive outcome of this ballot is an important step forward in saving the island's only shop and demonstrates the commitment of Jura's people to protecting and developing the community for future generations.'

Funding for the purchase of the land and property has been agreed in principle with Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Big Lottery. The funders have also supported JDT through the right to buy process.

The ballot was overseen by Islay members of the Islay and Jura Council of Voluntary Services.'

Providing subsequent stages in the process go smoothly, the shop will begin trading as a Community Interest Company in the spring of 2013.

## Mull farm worker was twice drink drive limit

A FARM worker on the Isle of Mull has been banned from driving for a year and fined £400 after being stopped while almost twice the legal limit.

Zoltan Baki, 35, of Sgriob-Ruadh Farm, Glengorm, Isle of Mull pled guilty when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

The court heard police officers had seen Baki in a pub in Tobermory on November 17 and later saw him driving his BMW.

Officers lost sight of him for around half an hour – during which time Baki said he was giving a friend a lift home.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court: 'Officers met at 1.50am to discuss what to do next. As they were talking the headlights of a vehicle drove towards them and lo and behold it happened to be the accused.'

Baki had a reading of 64mcg of alcohol in 100ml of breath. The legal limit is 35mcg. He was admonished for not having a valid MOT certificate for his vehicle.

## £400,000 Islay water project is completed

A PROJECT to ensure residents on the Isle of Islay receive a steady supply of safe drinking water has been completed.

Scottish Water spent £400,000 carrying out an upgrade on 1.6 miles of water mains in the Port Charlotte, Portnahaven and Port Wemyss area of the island.

The project, which started in late August, involved the replacement of stretches of concrete mains with new plastic pipes, which are less susceptible to bursts. It has also improved the quality of water supplied to properties in the area.



Some of Tobermory lifeboat crew and their children head to a photo shoot with Nigel on Tobermory Main Street. Picture by RNLI/Sam Jones.

## Tobermory lifeboat crew to appear in new 'family' book

Exhibition to tour UK and Ireland

VOLUNTEERS with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) on the Isle of Mull were put in the picture for a new book last week.

Award winning photographer Nigel Millard, who is working on a book about the RNLI to be published next year.

Tobermory RNLI hosted a three day visit from award winning photographer, Nigel Millard, who is working on a book about the RNLI to be published next year.

From the fundraisers in the south of the island who have raised a remarkable amount of money to the partners and children of the volunteer crew in Tobermory, everyone plays their part in helping to save lives at sea.

'I've really enjoyed my time on this beautiful island and got some great images in the bag.'

Tobermory RNLI Coxswain Andrew McHaffie added: 'It has been an absolute pleasure to host Nigel and we are very excited about seeing his work in print next year.'

Nigel's book will be published in September 2013 and will be accompanied by a free exhibition which will tour the UK and Ireland.

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## Lorn Lines



CHILDREN from the Gaelic medium department in Rockfield Primary School shared an afternoon of song, music and stories with a performer who was visiting the town for the Winter Festival.

John Spillane, a singer, songwriter and performer from Cork in Ireland, made a special visit to the school on November 22 in advance of his concert.

Staff at the school said John's blend of songs in Irish and English, combined with his witty stories and highly engaging manner, were a huge hit with the pupils.

During the afternoon, the children and John also compared words shared by Irish and Scottish Gaelic. The Gaelic medium pupils joined enthusiastically in learning some of the Irish songs and sang a couple of songs for their guest.

John said: 'The kids were fabulous. I really enjoyed their singing and it was great fun to share our songs and stories.'

Catriona Garvin of Rockfield Primary School's Gaelic medium department added: 'We were so delighted to have John visit us. He was sensational and extremely entertaining, and had everyone singing.'

'The children were really interested to learn about our cultural and linguistic connections with Irish Gaelic and enjoyed sharing their Gaelic singing with John.'

'We are most grateful to Oban Winter Festival for enabling this special visit to our school to take place.'

## MEMBERS of the Lorn Garden Club enjoyed an enlightening presentation recently entitled 'Climate Change - can gardeners make a difference?'

Ecologist Dr Sheena Wurtzman, until recently a member of the Scottish Wildlife Trust's conservation committee, showed members in an entertaining way that this is indeed the case.

She also reminded her audience that gardeners can help by recycling, and by providing suitable habitat for many birds, mammals and insects, thereby helping to maintain species biodiversity.

A very interesting and informative talk.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 11 in St John's Cathedral Hall at 7.30pm.

## A COOKERY demonstration has dished up £637 for Friends of Oban Hospice.

Colin Felgate, owner and chef at The Olive Garden, and Eilidh Smith from the Seafood Temple entertained an appreciative audience with their Christmas cooking event at The Olive Garden.



Morven McColl-Murray (far right) and Shelley MacCuish (right on back row) with some of their helpers at the Pink Tea. 15\_148pinktea01

## THERE WAS pink as far as the eye could see in Benderloch at the weekend as Victory Hall hosted a Pink Tea in aid of a breast cancer charity.

Over £400 was raised at the afternoon event, organised by Morven McColl-Murray and Shelley MacCuish.

As Shelley's mum has recently undergone surgery for breast cancer and Morven is the local Avon representative, which has Breakthrough Breast Cancer as its chosen charity, the pair decided to try and give the charity a cash boost.

Morven said: 'We are holding this to raise some money for the charity and to raise awareness. We also wanted to give people a good day out.'

'People have been really generous - we have a really good raffle and bottle stall and are taking donations at the door.'

A total of £447.21 was raised at the tea, which also had a raffle and arts and crafts, there are still charity cans to collect in and more donations are welcome. It is hoped donations will hit £500.

## Oban SWRI's November open night was an inspirational display of recycling, up-cycling and seasonal crafting.

President Jenny Moody welcomed over 60 guests to the evening before handing over to Lyndsay Elliott for a Kirsty Allsop inspired display of how clothes destined for the rag bag can be upcycled into kid's clothing, fun toys and bags.

Sally Weaser forced the audience to eat a chocolate each so the wrappers could be recycled into funky hair clips and colourful Christmas decorations.

Karen Mackie demonstrated how to make festive gift boxes and how to use sparkly gift wrap to turn a plain flower display into a centre piece for a Christmas dinner table.

The committee provided a delicious buffet supper before the entertaining raffle.

The next meeting for Oban ladies is Christmas dinner at the Manor House.



Staff at Albany Stores dressed in colourful attire to support Children in Need and raised £761 for the charity. This picture from shop customer Ronnie MacKillop shows staff members Tina Cotton, left, and Agnes MacKechnie getting into the party spirit. Albany Stores thanked everyone for their very generous support.

## THE LORN and Mid-Argyll Members' Centre of the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) was host recently to Lindsay Mackinlay of the National Trust for Scotland (NTS).

Lindsay, a knowledgeable speaker with a good sense of humour, gave us an amusing account of life as an ecologist with the NTS, which was much appreciated by all.

The next SWT evening lecture will be at 7.30pm on December 20 at the Marine Institute, Dunstaffnage, with local bird expert Clive Craik.

# Beinn Lora timber harvesting operations underway this week

TREE felling operations got underway at Beinn Lora, Bendorloch, this week following the completion of works at the car park.

Forest were damaged during last winter's storms, forcing the Forestry Commission to bring forward plans to fell trees in the area.

into place last week, with felling starting on Wednesday. Felling and removal of storm damaged trees will start on Monday, which will require some short lane closures on the

A828, with trees to be taken down the side of the hill. Closures should last no longer than 10 minutes and will operate between 9.15am and 3.30pm to avoid peak time traffic.

This will last a maximum of five days. It is anticipated the complete felling works at Beinn Lora will be completed in two to three weeks.

Area manager, Andy Hunt, said: 'Following this our recreation team will re-instate or upgrade forest walks and car park area and hope to have everything open in the new year, hopefully by February.'

'The storm clearance and tree felling operations higher up are progressed and will be upgraded and opened at the same time as the works at the bottom of the facilities.'

# Big areas mean big bills for local MSPs

List MSP agrees phone costs will need to be reviewed

AN ARGYLL-based MSP claimed expenses for nearly £1,800 in mobile phone bills alone in the last financial year.

*"I readily accept that I do use my mobile phone a lot."*

Highlands and Islands MSP  
Jamie McGrigor

REPORT by  
STEVEN FLANAGAN  
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

Meanwhile, SNP Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell claimed a total of £30,091.62, including a refurbishment of the party's office in Oban.

Highlands and Islands list MSP Mike Mackenzie, also SNP, claimed total expenses of £26,712.99 for the financial year.

The claims for the last financial year were published by the Scottish Parliament last week.

Mr McGrigor's mobile phone costs were among the highest to be claimed by any Scottish MSP in the last financial year.

It includes rental charges of £50 per year through Vodafone Corporate.

Standard calls are charged at 30p per minute by the provider, suggesting Mr McGrigor spent just under eight hours on the phone per month.

However, the company offers a contract at £12.92 per month less VAT that includes 10 hours of free calls a month - representing an 11-fold saving over Mr McGrigor's claim.

While Mr McGrigor accepts he does make heavy use of his phone, he has pledged to cut down on his phone costs after *The Oban Times* queried the claim.

He said: 'The figure includes contract rental charges of around £50 per year.'

'I readily accept that I do use my mobile phone a lot, especially for calling constituents all across my huge region of the Highlands and Islands as well as stakeholders and interest groups, but these are key parts of my job.'

'I will certainly endeavour to use landlines more regularly and to avoid calling directory enquiry numbers.'

Mr McGrigor also claimed £4,805.78 in travel expenses and £9,967.13 for his Edinburgh accommodation. Among his most expensive claims was £1,636 for an Apple Macbook Pro.

Mike Mackenzie claimed £6,230.38 in travel and £10,876.20 for his Edinburgh flat.

Michael Russell claimed £7,344.13 in travel expenses and £8,269.04 in costs for his Edinburgh flat.

# Police mobile unit to tour Isle of Mull next week

A MOBILE police office will be touring Mull next week in a bid to gauge community concerns on the island.

Chief inspector Brian Auld will join Mull sergeant Mark Stephen on the two-day tour, which starts next Monday in Fionnphort from noon until 1.15pm.

From there, the mobile station will go to Bunnassan fire station, between 1.30pm and 2.45, followed by Pennyghael between 3.15 and 4.30pm.

The following day the office will be situated in Ledaig car

park, Tobermory from 10am to 11.15am, Dervaig from 11.45am to 1pm, Salen from 1.30pm to 2.45pm, Craignure from 3pm to 4.15 and Lochdon from 4.30pm to 5.30pm.

**Driver charged**  
Meanwhile a van driver, who is accused of driving in a careless manner on the Isle of Mull has been charged.

The 34 year old was spotted by police officers trying to overtake another vehicle near to the Isle of Mull Hotel at Craignure just after 5pm on Monday.



Children tell support agencies that boredom is a key factor in them ending up with drink or drug problems.

# Drunk - aged 11

EXCLUSIVE  
REPORT by  
STEVEN FLANAGAN  
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

A CHILD aged just 11 was admitted to Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital for treatment for alcohol intoxication, *The Oban Times* can reveal.

Figures obtained under freedom of information show that the primary school-age child was the lowest aged person to be admitted to hospital and treated for the toxic effects of alcohol in Argyll and Bute between April 1, 2011 and September 30 this year.

Campbeltown had the next lowest, at 12, while the youngest person to be treated in Mid Argyll was 33. Cowal Community Hospital's youngest patient was 35.

*The Oban Times* requested the information from the NHS after a pupil at Oban High School expressed concern at the age of children asking people to buy them alcohol.

The figures have caused shock locally, with the council's leader,

Roddy McCuish, promising to look into the circumstances that led to a child being found inebriated.

Fewer than 10 people aged under 18 were treated for alcohol intoxication across the whole of Argyll and Bute, but the figures are still a cause for concern, said

Mr McCuish.

'This is something we really have to look into,' he said. 'Firstly where are children getting the alcohol and secondly what can we do to stop it?'

'I would like to see the full force of the law coming down on anyone involved in buying

booze for children.'

Mr McCuish suggested higher pricing might deter children. When put to him that not being legally able to buy booze should be a preventative measure, he said: 'If the cider was dearer they might not be able to afford it.'

The chairwoman of Oban Com-

munity Council, Marri Malloy, was 'gobsmacked' by the figure and said she will bring it up at the group's next meeting.

She said: 'It's very worrying. I've certainly not heard of a problem locally and that's shocked me.'

'I don't know how they're getting it - where do they get the money at 11?'

'Are the parents giving them money to get rid of them?'

'There's stacks for kids to do in Oban. There's Atlantis, we've got the cinema.'

'I don't think alcohol is a big problem in Oban but I'll be asking the police to speak about this at our next meeting.'

However, Oban's Chief Inspector Brian Auld said that without context, it was difficult to know what to make of the figures.

'It is certainly concerning and I'm disappointed to hear that. It is not a problem we're experiencing though. It may be one isolated incident - we would need to look behind these figures.'

Mr Auld added that action will be taken against anyone found to be selling alcohol to minors or acting as an agent.

# Boredom leads to drink and drugs say youngsters

BOREDOM is blamed by young people in Oban who become addicted to alcohol or drugs, according to a local addiction service.

The Oban Addiction Support and Information Service (OASIS) last November created a new project to specifically help children aged between 12-16 with addictions.

Since April this year OASIS4YOUTH has had 12 referrals and has already treated children as young as 12 for both drink and drug problems.

Diane MacDonald, who runs the programme, said the youngsters are clear about their reasons.

She said: 'Young people I work with tell me that they drink alcohol or use drugs because

there is nothing else for them to do in Oban. They say they drink because they are bored and there is a lack of social activities.'

'Independent research done in Oban and indeed Argyll has already highlighted the issue with young people and substance misuse and this is why my post was created.'

'Young people are saying they need more diversionary activities in Oban.'

'All agencies in Oban are working closely together to try and address the issue of substance misuse within young people and this work will be ongoing.'

OASIS also works alongside Oban High School providing drug and alcohol awareness sessions to pupils from S1 to S4.

# 'Islay' hotel correction

*THE OBAN Times* would like to clarify that the story on page 11 on November 29, 2012, entitled 'Islay hotel fined after 16-year-old severely burned by iron' refers to the Craighard House Hotel in Campbeltown - not any hotel or any other similar establishment on the Isle of Islay.

We would like to apologise for any confusion or embarrassment this error may have caused.

# Christmas parking in Argyll for free

COUNCIL car parks in Argyll and Bute will be free to use in the build up to Christmas after councillors voted to suspend charges in the build up to Christmas.

Council roads officers had recommended suspending parking charges across the county for five days from December 20 - 24 and this was approved at a meeting of Argyll and Bute Council on November 22.

The report's author, Jim Smith, head of roads and amenity services, said the suspension was in support of local businesses, given the current financial climate.

It is estimated the loss to car parking revenue will not exceed £10,000.

# Missing Tayvallich man found dead

A TAYVALLICH pensioner who went missing from his home last week has been found dead.

Police launched a massive search for the man, named locally as Donald MacDonald, on November 28.

Search teams and a helicopter combed the area and found Mr MacDonald's body around 6pm near Lochan Taynish.

Attempts to resuscitate the 78-year-old proved unsuccessful.

Police have confirmed there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding his death.

# Ardrishaig hopes for green award

A COMMUNITY wind farm near Ardrishaig is among those companies keeping their fingers crossed for this week's Green Energy Awards.

Now in its 11th year, the awards ceremony is anticipated to be the biggest yet, with more than 1,000 guests set to attend today's (Thursday) ceremony at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.

The Allt Dearg Community Wind Farm is shortlisted in the Best Community Initiative Award.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise, meanwhile, have been shortlisted in the Best Public Sector Initiative section.

Calum Davidson, director of energy and low carbon at HIE, who will be addressing the guests during the opening reception, said: 'Our region is right at the forefront of Scotland's world-leading renewable energy sector, and I am delighted to see it being recognised on the shortlist for these prestigious awards.'

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**Loch Awe-side hotel to keep trading after problems hit one of its parent companies**

A LOCH Awe-side hotel has said it continues to trade as normal this week despite troubles with one of its parent companies.

Loch Awe and Highland Holidays Ltd has sunk into liquidation raising a question mark over the long-term future of the Portsonachan Hotel which is currently barred from serving tap water due to the lack of a water filtration system.

The director of the company, David Parker, was unavailable for comment at the time of going to press, but hotel manager, Gary Smith, said any moves affecting Loch Awe and Highland Holidays would not affect the running of the hotel.

He added: 'There's a company doing a site visit with regards to a water filtration system in January.'

A new company, Portsonachan Hospitality Partnership LLP has been established in the wake of the collapse of Loch Awe and Highland Holidays.

Argyll and Bute Council, meanwhile, continues to investigate the hotel for the lack of action to provide suitable tap water.

A spokesperson said: 'Council staff are currently progressing the matter.'

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**Morvern Lines**

PUBLIC roads on the Morvern Peninsula are in a poor state of repair and deteriorating rapidly.

With the exception of sections of the B849 Lochaline to Drimmin, the surfaces are subsiding, rutted and full of potholes. The off-lets are choked and the verges resemble the entrances to farm fields.

The situation is the same throughout Lochaber and indeed the whole of the Highlands yet The Highland Council seems to be ignoring the consequences.

Adverse weather, financial constraints and unrealistic weight restrictions are no doubt a contributory factor but the real reason is the unprecedented volume of heavy, profit-making commercial traffic.

In the last decade massive articulated trucks have brought hundreds of thousands of tons of weighty materials across Morvern's fragile, single-track roads for new housing developments, hydro electric and woodland grant schemes while forestry contractors move hundreds of thousands of tons of wood out to the mill at Corpach.

Loading timber on a truck and moving it 40 miles must be one of the most primitive and expensive forms of transport in the UK, especially from an area almost entirely surrounded by sea.

The short term answer, indeed the only way forward for The Highland Council if it is to find sufficient capital to keep the road network open, is to take the initiative and lobby the Scottish Parliament for the necessary powers to impose greater weight-limits and to reintroduce a camera-controlled toll system for regular commercial users. It would not be the first time Morvern had toll gates.

A sustainable long-term solution for Morvern, Sunart and Ardnamurchan would be the creation of several proper ports through which all heavy vehicles could be routed via Corpach, Oban, Mull and elsewhere by dedicated roll-on - roll-off vessels. The implementation of a road toll system for commercial vehicles might go some way towards bringing these about.



BY POPULAR request here are some more Morvern place names and their meanings.

Acharn - Field of the cairns, referring to the many prehistoric burial cairns in the vicinity; Ardantiobairt - Headland of the well; Achagavel - Field of the farm; Achranich - Field of the bracken; Barr - Top or summit; Beach - Place of the birch trees; Beinn na h-Uamh - Hill of the cave; Bonnavullin - Lower ford by the mill; Carnacailliche - Old wife's cairn; Carna - Rough or rocky island; Claggan - a Skull or the best field on a farm; Doire nam Mairt - Cow grove; Drimmin - Ridge; Fernish - Point of the alder trees; Fiumary - Fair or white sheiling; Gleann Dubh - The Black Glen; Gleann Geal - The White Glen; Inniemore - the steep place; Keil - Church; Killundine - St Finan's Church; Kingairloch - Head of the stone loch; Knock - Knoll or small hillock; Larachbeg - Small farm or site of a dwelling; Laudale - Glen of the mountain side; Loch Arienas - Angus's sheiling; Loch Teacuis - Loch of the thickly wooded hillsides; Loch Sunart - Sveinn's Fjord; Loch Tearnaid - Loch of the shelter; Rahoy - North Fort; Savary - Summer sheiling; Sruthan - Place of the small stream; Torr na Faire - Lookout hill; Ullin - The Elbow; Uladale - Ullid's Field.



Achnagowan Bridge carried all the Morvern bound traffic until recently.

MORVERN has many old, stone bridges at Acharn, the Black Glen, Kinlochaline, Achranich, Sallachan, Killundine, Bonnavullin and Poll Luachrain.

The finest of these is Achadh nan Gamhna (Achnagowan) spanning the Gairr Abhuinn a little way from Claggan.

It was erected in 1821 for the Argyll Commissioners of Supply by a contractor by the name of Menzies belonging to Killin, Perthshire.

It is built in the style of General Wade's bridges with a narrow arch causing the road to rise at the middle.

There is an ornate, but now much weathered, oval stone set in the upstream parapet with a Gaelic inscription cut into it proclaiming that it was built in 1821 by the local authority of the day.

Until it was superseded 30 or so years ago it carried all the traffic for Lochaline. It is still almost as good as ever and at the time it was built it must have been considered a great engineering achievement.

Iain Thornber.

# Isle of Iona prepares for anniversary

## Abbey gets facelift to mark 1,450 years since arrival of St Columba

SCOTLAND'S most sacred place is preparing to mark a very important anniversary next year - the arrival of Saint Columba to our shores 1,450 years ago.

The Isle of Iona will commemorate this important date with special services on May 19, Pentecost Sunday, next year.

To prepare for this anniversary, Iona Abbey, managed by Historic Scotland, is undergoing a facelift.

The abbey houses one of the most important and extensive collections of carved stones in Europe and a programme of conservation work to maintain these relics is taking place.

Some of the stones date back to the 7th century and are currently housed in the abbey's museum. These will be redisplayed and others, which have been lying down, will be placed on stands so they can be shown off to their best advantage.

Plans for the Abbey Museum, the building which may have formerly been the monks' infirmary, include a new visitor reception and updated interpretation across the abbey. This will be in place in time for the 2013 summer season.

Stephen Duncan, Historic

**"This is a very exciting project that has brought together many strands of Historic Scotland's expertise."**  
**Stephen Duncan**  
**Historic Scotland**

Scotland's director of commercial and tourism, said: "The 1,450th anniversary of St Columba's arrival on Iona gives us a wonderful opportunity to look at the visitor experience available on site."

"It is a fascinating site which will be brought to life by the new research that we are incorporating into the presentations and interpretation on site to explain Iona's huge significance to our visitors."

"This is a very exciting project that has brought together many strands of Historic Scotland's expertise."

"Our conservators are cleaning and repairing the incredible carved stone crosses and effigies

before they go back on display; our interpretation team have worked with our own archaeologists and other experts to update the information on site, while our architects and maintenance and conservation unit are overseeing building enabling works in the abbey museum and getting ready to start work on site to build a new visitor reception."

Reproductions of Saint Matthew's cross and Saint Oran's cross will also be erected and a copy of the Book of Kells along with other articles from the National Museum of Scotland will be put on display in the abbey.

New research has been commissioned which will be integrated into the exhibition spaces that will reflect the significance of the site and better explain the importance of St Columba and his monastery to the development of Christianity in Scotland.

St Columba arrived from Ireland in AD 563 and built his monastery where the remains of the later abbey still stand today.

Next year will mark the 1,450th anniversary of St Columba's arrival, as well as the 75th anniversary of the founding of the modern Iona Community.



Isle of Iona will commemorate an important date with special services on Pentecost Sunday.

## Oban's Irn Bru sausages travel round the world

AN OBAN butcher's sausages are so popular they are travelling around the world providing a special taste of Scotland.

Wynne the Butchers, on Combie Street, have been doing a roaring trade in Irn Bru and chilli flavoured sausages since they started making them in October.

But a recent order all the way from Dubai has seen the sausages leave Europe for the first time. The order was sent off last week by Iain Darling, who owns Wynne the Butchers, after the customers spotted the unusual combination on his Facebook page.

He said: "It is weird and wonderful. I was a bit dubious at first but it all went through. We sell quite a bit over Facebook. We have already had orders from Norway and London. On Friday we got an order from York. You get them the next day in Britain if the order is in by 11am."



Irn Bru sausages are so popular they are travelling around the world.

The unusual sausages have also been a hit with people in Oban.

Iain added: "It is strange how the sausages are really taking off. People are coming in just to buy them and they are local people too which is excellent."

The Irn Bru sausages are not the only special creation selling in the shop - a haggis and black pudding sausage is also available.

## Government must name seal cull licence sites

THE SCOTTISH Government has been ordered to name fish farm sites where seals are being shot to protect fish stocks.

Details were previously released by the government detailing how many seals were killed by fish farming companies.

Specific sites were not named as the government cited safety fears for workers. Many of the companies in question have sites on the west coast of Scotland, including Argyll.

Now Rosemary Agnew, Scottish Information Commissioner, has ordered the government to reveal the details of sites by January 10 2013.

## SAMS link to future 'ice age' investigative film

A NEW film investigating ocean circulation in the North Atlantic, contributed to by Dunbeg's Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), has ruled out a 'Day After Tomorrow' scenario.

The Hollywood film predicted the onset of an ice age if the Gulf Stream stopped or slowed. Now online, Is the Thermohaline Circulation Really at Risk?, is a collaborative effort between 20 partner agencies.

SAMS' contribution comes by the way of Dr Stuart Cunningham, a physical oceanographer researching climate change.

It concludes the Gulf Stream is stable and any 'ice age' is unlikely to occur in the near future.

## Island ladies compete in Mull bowling night

THE MULL and Tiree Federation of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI) came together for a bowling night in Craignure Hall for their autumn rally.

The evening, hosted by the Salen Institute, saw everyone - novice or expert - taking part and the eventual finalists of the knock-out competition were Eileen Slorach from Salen and Diane Oldacre from Torosay.

Diane won the final game. The umpires were John Wilson and Andy Oldacre.

## Island wedding mystery solved thanks to The Oban Times

### Family connection takes another twist

THE MYSTERY over the identity of the couple who were married in the first Gaelic wedding ceremony on Iona has been solved.

An article, featured in the winter issue of *Mull and Iona Life*, a sister publication of *The Oban Times*, described the marriage ceremony of Donald MacDonald from Bunnissan and Catherine Cameron from Iona.

The ceremony took place on November 6, 1936 after being delayed for a day as a result of stormy weather.

A clipping of an old *Oban Times* had been sent to the magazine by David Enticknap from Surrey, who found it in his late mother's possessions.

Parents Now Freena MacDougall, from Bunnissan on the Isle of Mull, has contacted *The Oban Times* to say it was her parents who were the couple in question.

Mrs MacDougall said: "It was really strange seeing the article, the phone never stopped ringing

all night with people from Iona asking if I'd got my *Oban Times*."

Mrs MacDougall's father passed away in 1966 with her mother following 10 years later but she still has the original copy of *The Oban Times* from 1936 which featured her parents' wedding.

Mr Enticknap said: "I feel maybe it was my grandmother, Euphemia Cameron, who may have known Mrs MacDougall's parents. She died in 1953 and is buried in Pennyfuir Cemetery."

"The only paperwork I have of my grandparents is a marriage certificate dated 1906 in Balfour, Stirling."

Although known as 'Freena', Mrs MacDougall's first name is Euphemia. She added: "My mother was a Cameron. The woman may have been a relation. I'm going to do some research at the heritage centre on Iona and see if I can find out about Euphemia Cameron - that's my next project."



Left to right: Gary Goldie, David Martin, Morag MacKinnon, Ella Smalley and Robert MacPherson.

## Young chefs tested in Oban Rotary Club cookery competition

### Ella wins through to January district final

THE WORK of budding young chefs was put to the test by Oban's Rotary Club recently as it hosted its Young Chef of the Year competition.

Oban High School held the final of the event when contestants had to produce a two course meal for two people for an outlay of no more than £10. Competitors had one and a half hours to complete their dishes.

Supervision was provided by two professional and two well known local chefs, Gary Goldie and Robert MacPherson, who oversaw the preparation and cooking before sitting down to make their final assessment.

The winning meal was a fine feast of fresh local scallops wrapped in parma ham, served on a base of buttered savoy cabbage and tomato puree.

After much debate Ella Smalley was declared the winner by a narrow margin over David Martin.

The event was organised by principal teacher of food technology at Oban High School Morag MacKinnon.

Ella will now go forward to represent Oban Rotary Club in a district final to take place in late January.

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# Obree swops Nevada for Kintyre

## Argyll airfield plays its part in world speed record attempt

A RUNWAY at the former airbase at Machrihanish became a test track for cyclist Graeme Obree as he prepares to break the land speed record for a human-powered vehicle.

The former two-time individual pursuit world champion, who twice broke the world hour record in the early 1990s, is best known for having built a racing bicycle that included parts from a washing machine. The alterations saw him serve bans from competition.

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, the 47 year old agreed his latest world record attempt rewarded innovation, instead of punishing it.

He said: 'Most riders have a pedal action but I have a push-pull setup where the wheel turns on a crankshaft that turns the chain. I will be lying forward with my chin just above the wheel, with an aerodynamic PVC shell around me.'

'The beautiful thing is there are no rules about what the bike looks like. In the past I have been banned for innovation but innovation is the reason for doing this.'

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT** by EUAN PATERSON epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

The tests at Machrihanish last month were made difficult with rain and wind, in conditions far removed from those in the Nevada desert, where the world record attempt will take place.

To beat the record, Graeme must exceed 82.9mph and to put that in context, Sir Chris Hoy would have reached a maximum speed of around 44mph around the Olympic velodrome.

'Nothing is easy,' said Graeme, when asked about his chances of breaking the record. 'But this is definitely possible. I was on the team that broke the British land speed record.'

'We didn't get anywhere near those speeds at Machrihanish because of the conditions but it did show me the bike needs to be redesigned again and I'll be doing that over the winter. 'It was my first chance to ride

the bike and if it wasn't for the kind permission from the community to use this runway, it is hard to see how I could properly prepare for this record attempt.'

Graeme also revealed he was previously inspired to get back into the saddle by the death of his friend and close rival, Jason MacIntyre from Fort William, who died after colliding with a truck on the A82, on the outskirts of his home town.

He said: 'I hadn't raced for a number of years and, with respect to the local guys, there wasn't enough competition for me around Ayrshire.'

'Then Jason started entering races in the area and we struck up a great rivalry. You had to ring yourself out to beat him.'

'After his tragic death, I lost interest in the sport but I had to cycle and decided this project was for me. It brings together everything I am interested in: innovation and cycling.'

Graeme will return to Machrihanish for further testing in the spring or summer of next year before travelling to Nevada to attempt the land speed record on September 10.



Graeme Obree is put into his aerodynamic shell during testing at Machrihanish. t48obree3no

## 3,000 miss hospital appointments

MORE than 3,000 people failed to turn up for hospital appointments in Argyll and Bute in the last year.

Figures released by NHS Highland this week show that 10 per cent of patients, 3,220, decided not to attend their appointments and did not notify hospitals in advance.

The Community Health Partnership (CHP) has now pleaded with people to notify

the relevant hospital if they are unable to attend to help reduce waiting times for other patients.

Stephen Whiston, head of planning for Argyll and Bute CHP, said: 'In the last year more than 32,000 consultant led outpatient appointments were held across the local hospitals in Argyll and Bute and just over 90 per cent of patients attended their appointment.'

'I completely understand

things can crop up at very short notice and patients may not be able to make their appointment but I would ask that if at all possible could they let us know in advance.'

'Not only will this provide staff with an opportunity to fit other patients into the empty appointment slots but it will also help the CHP reduce even further the time that people are waiting to be seen.'



James Thomas, left, hands over the collection tin to Lesley and Ian Blair-Simmonds.

## HMS Pembroke boosts Poppy Fund

OVER £7,000 was raised through the recent Poppy Appeal in Oban with the total being contributed to by a collection tin from HMS Pembroke.

Lesley Blair Simmonds, chairwoman of the Oban branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland, said: 'We would really like to say a huge thank you to all the businesses and individuals that support us in the Poppy Appeal and this year we raised

£7549.21 which in this financial climate is absolutely brilliant. 'We were also invited on board the Pembroke and the guys were quite annoyed that they had not been able to make the parade, we have requested they try for next year although I think they will be in the Gulf then.'

The group were given a tour of the boat and received the collection tin from James Thomas, navigation officer.

All money raised during the Poppy Appeal goes toward providing much needed support for members of the armed forces and their families.

Older veterans get help with home repairs, places in residential homes and support if they suffer from conditions like dementia. The charity also provides benefits and money advice, emergency grants and employment support.

## Don't miss your chance to nominate an Angel of the Year

'Without such people our lives would certainly be much poorer'

OUR search to find the west coast's Angel of the Year is nearing its conclusion with nominations closing on Monday.

We are looking for readers to put forward those people they feel deserve recognition for their work in the community and who help enrich the lives of others around them.

Monday, December 10 marks your last chance to make nominations. The award carries with it a £500 prize and two runners up will each receive £100.

Editorial director Stewart MacKenzie said: 'Sometimes it is easy to overlook those people who don't ask for reward or recognition, but without such people our lives would certainly be much poorer.'

'Our Angel of the Year award is

your chance to say 'thanks' and give someone the recognition they deserve for their efforts and helping create the strong spirit that holds the west coast together.'

To nominate someone for the award, simply explain in 200 words why you think they should win. See form on Page 12.

Cut out and fill in the coupon and send it, along with your nomination, to The Oban Times, Angel of the Year, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB.

Alternatively, you can complete your nomination online at www.obantimes.co.uk/angel. All nominations must be received by 10am on Monday, December 5 and will be assessed by an independent panel of judges.



**Beachd Ailein**  
Ailean Caimbeul

IS MATH AN NAIDHEACHD a bhith gun naidheachd!  
Theagamh gum bheil firinn agus deagh sgeul san t-seanfhaical sin dha na h-uile ach a-mhàin dha na meadhanan. Feumaidh iadsan irisean a lionadh gach latha ach am bi bathar aca gus a reic agus, 's dòcha nas cudromaiche buileach, innleachd a ghlùineas sanasachd gu aire a' mhòr-shluaigh agus a bheir cosnadh dhan phàipear aca. Tha an aon dùbhlán aig prògraman naidheachd air rèidio agus telebhisean, ged nach eil uallach reic sanasachd air lethid a' BhBC.

Nuair a thig e gu h-aon 's gu dhà agus ma bheir sinn sùil mhionaidich air irisean agus prògraman "naidheachd", tha mòran de na "sgeulachdan" air am bonntachadh air fiosrachadh a chruthaich buidhnean agus daoine fa leth airson fhoillseachadh mun deidhinn fhèin. Chan e cleachdadh ur sam bith a th' ann dha luchd-gnìomhachais, poilìtics, spòrs agus eile a bhith a' feuchainn ris an fheum a' fhearr a dhèanamh de na meadhanan naidheachd gus an iomhaigh fhèin adhartachadh. Mar a tha fios againn uile, tha cuid a' faotainn taic shònraichte bho phàipearan araid bho am gu am agus a' gabhail brath mi-ionchaidh air a' chumhachd a' th' aca sin fiosrachadh a sgoileadh agus a chleith! Chunnacas bho chionn ghoirid le suidheachadh Newsnight mar a dh'fhaodar cron a dhèanamh le bhith a' cuimhneachadh bhon luchd-eisteachd agus cuideachd le bhith cho easgaidh sgeulachd fhoillseachadh is nach deach firinn a dhearbhadh ro-làimh.

Mar sin, chan eil beatha fhurasta aig luchd-naidheachd is luchd-deasachaidh idir. Tha ùine daonnan na nàmhaid dhaibh le irisean is prògraman ri 'n lionadh agus tha a' mhòr-chuid aca mothachail air cho cudromach 's a tha e fiosrachadh ur a bhith aca a riarachas agus a ghlèidheas luchd-leughaidh is luchd-eisteachd. Ach tha an t-saorsa a' th' aca co-dhùnadh de na sgeulachdan a dh'inneas iad air leth prìseil duinn uile mar phàirt chudromach de bhunait dheamocratach na dùthcha sam bheil sinn deònach a bhith a' fuireach. Chan eil "sgàthan sùil caraid" idir math gu leòr dha mòran a dh'iarraidh a bhith os ar cionn agus tha e deatamach gun lean an cumhachd aig luchd-naidheachd an fhìrinn shearbh inns. Theagamh gum bheil feum air structar nas treasa gu smachd a chumail air modh giùlain nam meadhanan, ach na diochumhnicheamaid gum bheil cumhachd mòr againne cuideachd. Ma sguireas sinn a leughadh is a dh'eisteachd, cha seas iris sam bith.

THE LEVESON REPORT highlighted disturbing and unacceptable invasion of privacy by journalists abusing the privilege of reporting what people have a right to know. Not surprisingly it has also exposed the extent to which media power might be inappropriately used to promote individual causes. While such practices must be curbed, this should be done through responsible industry management rather than by any new journalism legislation which could stifle proper investigative journalism.

We rightly value our free press, and we have the enormous power to choose what we buy. Reader power closed The News of the World and we should continue to use this strength.

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

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joanne.maclean@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

**CONNEL**

CONNEL Community council chairman Sandy Dunlop has praised a community emergency planning event organised by Argyll and Bute Council.

Mr Dunlop attended the event at the Corran Halls last month, bringing back leaflets to distribute in the village. He said: 'It was very good. It's quite a big subject to cover but it was very useful.'

Local 4x4 driver and former police officer Robert Wilson also attended the meeting as a member of the Strathclyde 4x4 Response Group.

A relatively new member, Robert is hoping to encourage more people with genuine off-road driving experience and a 4x4 vehicle to join and be on hand to assist rescue operations and deliver vital services to rural areas during extreme weather conditions.

Robert, who is also a member of the Scottish Green Roads Club for off-road driving, said: 'What we're looking for is people who know how to use their 4x4 vehicle to assist in poor weather.'

Anyone interested in volunteering can email info@strathclyde4x4response.co.uk or speak to anyone at Argyll Voluntary Action.

**DALAVICH**

RESIDENTS have made clear their views on the windfarm development at Musdale, at an exhibition by developers Infinis.

Although being built near Musdale, the proposed windfarm will be seen from Dalavich and Kilchrenan and representatives of both villages travelled to Ford to quiz consultants, who organised the exhibition on the behalf of the developer.

Agnes Fleming of Dalavich Improvement Group said: 'We are not necessarily against windfarms but we are not happy because we don't think the community is currently getting enough out of this project.'

'We had to let the developers know what we want. The community wants to buy into the windfarm so we can benefit from it because the offering of £2,000 per megawatt is well below the industry standard.'

Infinis has been asked to send a representative to a meeting of Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council.

A GRANT from Argyll and Bute Council will help the social club committee give the venue a new lease of life.

The committee has been planning to give the building a fresh coat of paint and has secured a Third Sector Grant from the council of £2,000 to pay for half of the work.

It is anticipated the work will not start until well into the New Year.

THE DALAVICH Christmas party is being held at the social club this Saturday.

The House Band will be playing on the night, which will have a buffet meal and a visit from Santa Claus.

Organised by the Dalavich Social Club committee, everyone is welcome to attend this much anticipated community event.

**LISMORE**

JOSH Layton and Shayne Stewart, Lismore's two primary fives, were busy at the Christmas craft fair, not only launching the new Lismore Primary School Cookbook but also selling it, along with Christmas cards the school children have made and doing press interviews.

The book is a mixture of enticing recipes and photos of both the school and the island they live and learn on, which makes it a great present for everyone not just family and friends. The boys explained how they had sent letters out to islanders inviting them to submit recipes and had worked on the selection and design in their craft periods with teaching assistant Hazel MacCormick. Both the cards and the cookbook are available from the school.

BUSINESS was brisk at the other stalls at the fourth annual craft fair run for the first time by Roxanne Prando who has taken over from Katy Crossan.

It is now established that this is the best place for Christmas shopping as the gifts are designed and made in Lismore, often personalised and very reasonably priced for such exclusivity.

And the range is astonishing from the Sarah Campbell textiles marketed worldwide under the Mogwai brand, to the professional looking Christmas cards designed by the school children.

Indeed, all the crafts were beautifully made and included art works, photography, felt making kits, lavender, candles, soaps and a variety of Christmas decorations including personalised stockings. There were local foods too with highland beef, bread, pizzas, Christmas cakes, whisky marmalade and much more.

Refreshments were available all day with two varieties of home-made soup, sandwiches - the bread was home made - tea/coffee and home-baking all from Kiki MacColl and helpers.

At the end of trading, Roxanne drew the raffle, the prizes having been donated by the stallholders.

CONGRATULATIONS to Lismore accordionist Murray Willis who, with his friends in the band Room 5, recently played the Albert Hall as the only Scottish band selected for Classic FM's Music for Youth programme, an event showcasing talent from around the British Isles and Ireland.

Murray and his four friends formed Room 5 when they were music students at Lews Castle College UHI in Benbecula in 2011 so, to be at the Albert Hall after such a short time is a great achievement.

They played a variety of Scottish pieces including Gaelic



**Lochside primary pupils boost Poppy Appeal**

Lochside RC Primary P7 pupils raised £190 for this year's Poppy Appeal. The 13 children sold poppies and held a fundraising fun run round the school. They also held an assembly to teach the rest of the school what they had learned about the poppy appeal. The youngsters presented a cheque for the amount to Poppy Scotland's Audrey Dennison, who collects and counts all the money raised by poppy sales in Fort William.



Josh Layton and Shayne Stewart sell copies of the Lismore Primary School Cookbook at the island's Christmas Craft Fair.

song and pipe music, together with some more contemporary traditional material and the audience at the Albert Hall loved it all. In an interview before the gig, the band spoke about the privilege of representing the University of the Highlands and Islands and Scotland at such a venue. An interview with the band and a sample of their music is on www.isleoflismore.com.

CONGRATULATIONS to Sara Black who graduated from Reid Kerr College in Paisley with an HND in Beauty Therapy as well as being awarded the Elaine Linden Award for Endeavour. We wish her well in her future career.

**BALLACHULISH**



P6/7 pupils at Ballachulish Primary School recently made bird feeders with the help of National Trust for Scotland staff from Glencoe. The class had to weave willow twigs and then tie them off, resulting in the some 'interesting' shapes, head teacher Sam Clark said. He added: 'The feeders will be put up around the school.'

**ISLAY**

ISLAY Festival Association held its annual general meeting recently when it was pleased to welcome new young members to the committee.

Chairwoman Florence Grey reported that the 2012 Feis Ile was a resounding success, and as always the committee is indebted to the support of the island community and beyond, especially local singers, musicians, dancers and helpers.

The committee was commended for bringing together such a varied programme for visitors and locals to enjoy during the festival week.

The 2013 event planning is underway and, as usual, the year's first event will be the annual Burns Night at the Lagavulin Maltmill on Saturday January 26. An interesting line-up of island speakers and artists is planned, giving a true flavour of the Spirit of Islay and Robbie Burns; details available nearer the date. Anyone able to assist Islay Festival next year is asked to contact the secretary, enquiries@theislayfestival.co.uk.

FIRST and second year pupils of Islay High School participated in a sponsored run during their PE classes, raising the fantastic sum of £1,734.20 for their chosen charity 'Spirit Aid'.

This money will help towards alleviating the suffering of children in countries such as Afghanistan, Malawi, Kosovo and also in areas of social deprivation in Scotland. The pupils thanked everyone who sponsored them.

**TAYNUILT**

MUCKAIRN Church Guild and visitors met in Muckairn Church, Taynuilt, on November

**MORAR**

MORAR Community Council - November meeting notes:

A REQUEST for additional grit bins has been sent to Dot Ferguson and TEC Services. The additional bins should be positioned in locations that will predominantly benefit the elderly and the most vulnerable.

Following further discussion, it was agreed a further two locations should be added to the list already sent - the corner of Kinigarry beach and Toulga Road end.

The Highland Council will continue to grit/sand the B-roads between 8am-6pm. The A-roads are monitored and serviced 24 hours by Transerv.

The gate at Morar Cemetery is still to be repaired following a misunderstanding on the location of the gate. The secretary will send a reminder to Highland Council to ensure work is completed.

The secretary is to contact Network Rail regarding complaints of the lack of care when pruning vegetation by Morar Station.

Stuart Griffin reported that the Way to the West path project steering group is currently looking for potential paths and the best route from Arisaig to Morar. It emerged that funding for path improvements may be available through Legacy2014.

The community council supports Linda MacKenzie's request to find a solution to the ongoing

parking problem at the Kinigarry beach. Her request is for double yellow lines.

The secretary will invite a representative from the police to the next community council meeting in December and also contact the fire and ambulance services.

The community council is encouraging everyone to put forward ideas for projects benefiting the community, which could qualify for a new Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) grant from the Scottish Government. The grant, available until March 2012, is for schemes to reduce the community's carbon footprint and improve local facilities. See www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/communitycouncil.

Sergeant Nick MacRae reported that the new police liaison officer for Morar Community Council is PC Andrew Shepherd.

Eleanor will organise the annual Christmas lunch and ensure all senior citizens from Morar will receive an invitation.

Douglas MacKellaig informed there have been complaints regarding the path down to Columba Road as the steps at the bottom are in urgent need of repair. The secretary will contact TEC Services.

A tree by the Columba Road junction has become overgrown and is obstructing the view and thus may cause accidents. TEC Services will be requested to prune the tree.

**AROUND THE RURALS**

**Inspirational display at Oban meeting**

OBAN SWRI's November open night was an inspirational display of recycling, up-cycling and seasonal crafting.

President Jenny Moody welcomed more than 60 guests to the evening before handing over to Lyndsay Elliott for a Kirsty Allsop inspired display of how clothes destined for the rag bag can be upcycled into kid's clothing, fun toys and bags.

Sally Weaser forced the audience to eat a chocolate each so the wrappers

could be up-cycled into funky hair clips and colourful Christmas decorations. Karen Mackie demonstrated how to make festive gift boxes and how to use sparkly gift wrap to turn a plain flower display into a centre piece for a Christmas dinner table.

The committee provided a delicious buffet supper before the entertaining raffle.

The next meeting for Oban ladies is Christmas dinner at the Manor House.

**Islay Letter**

**Ella Edgar School of Dancing display**

MORE than 30 members of the Ella Edgar School of Dancing were at their nimble and colourful best at their display and St Andrew's ceilidh in Bowmore village hall.

They came from all airts to lend their support and everyone was treated to a feast of dance, Gaelic song and instrumental music, all performed with great energy and verve.

'Contraband', featuring Dougie MacTaggart and Dunstan Gallery, kept up the tempo as did solo fiddle players Mairi MacGillivray and Abbi Morris.

Emily Logan entertained on the box, piper Katie MacNiven set feet tapping and National Mòd junior duet winners Anna and Eilidh MacDonald reprised their golden winning ways.

It was also a particularly busy night for Mairi MacGillivray for, as well as dancing, playing the fiddle and providing the violin accompaniment to dancer Stacy Baker's 'Earl of Errol' spot, she also sang the song that secured gold for her at the Dunoon National Mòd.

An extensive raffle greatly enhanced the grand total and the comprehensive vote of thanks was skillfully handled by John MacGillivray.

The dancers' finale had the audience cheering to the echo as they did earlier following the appearances of The Majorettes, featuring the school's tiny tots, who all performed with the flair and confidence which would have been the envy of the Royal Ballet Company.

Everyone agreed this was a night of first class entertainment of the highest standard.

**Gaelic worship**

EVERYONE was greatly encouraged by the attendance at the Gaelic act of worship held in Bowmore's Round Church on the evening of November 25.

The worship was led by Alastair Scouller, a translator and Church of Scotland reader, who is no stranger to Gaelic pulpits here and further afield. He hails from the Isle of Colonsay and is a valued and

active member of Edinburgh's Greyfriars Highland Church congregation.

Resident organist Craig Weatherhogg accompanied the praise, I shared the Scripture readings with Iseabail Macgactagart and there was Christmas input from pupils from the Gaelic unit at Bowmore Primary School.

Further music came from Còisir Ghàidhlig Ile, helmed by Iseabail, and the pleasing choral voices greatly enhanced the praise content.

This was one of series of regular acts of Gaelic worship promoted by Argyll Presbytery.

**Bruichladdich author**

WHILE recuperating from a home farm accident which resulted in a broken leg, Bruichladdich resident Mary MacGregor took the opportunity of putting pen to paper.

Her literary efforts have borne seed in her newly published first book 'Baba King of the Castle and Jacket Potato'.

Both tales are charming autobiographical accounts of the relationship between the author, her brother Donald and the animals that were an integral part of the family farm.

In this new publication, the spotlight falls on an orphaned lamb and a premature baby calf. The writing also captures the bond between a farming family and their animals and recalls farming methods in days gone by.

With illustrations by Jessica Excell, the book was published by www.aillpress.com and is available at local outlets for £6.99. All profits will go to charities.

'Baba King of the Castle and Jacket Potato' is to be commended and will provide an excellent Christmas stocking filler. Write on Mary.

**Poppy collection**

THE GENEROUS people of Kilarrow parish donated £625.69 to the recent PoppyScotland appeal.

This figure includes £42.54 raised at a cake sale in the local high school.

Grateful thanks go to everyone who gave so generously and to PoppyScotland co-ordinator David Barr for his efforts for the cause.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX. Tel: 01496 820658.

**Down Your Way**

**Plockton**

A NEW bench in Plockton has been bought with money left to the village by a former regular visitor.

Stirling woman Peggy More visited her house in the village for a number of years and left £500 in her will. Plockton Community Council have purchased a bench which will be placed outside Ms More's house.



Plockton residents were paid a visit by pop star Jay Kay of Jamiroquai recently, after he flew in from his home in Gairloch to have lunch in the village. He 'parked' his helicopter at the beach.

THE NATIONAL Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music in Plockton will put on their annual concert for parents and friends this Saturday at 7.30pm.

The night will see the youngsters take to the stage, with six trios and a four piece band performing traditional Scottish songs. The concert will culminate in traditional style with a performance from all 22 pupils.

PLOCKTON Primary School pupils will help to get parents, teachers and friends into the Christmas spirit when they take to the stage to perform Hosanna Rock on Wednesday December 19.

Costumes, songs and storytelling will be on show as the youngsters tell the story of the Nativity in the village hall.

THE SPEED limit in Plockton has been reduced from 30mph to 20mph.

The new lower limit, which starts at the primary school and covers the whole village, was welcomed by the community council.

**Next week Down Your Way visits Lochaline with reporter Richard Haddock. You can contact Richard on 01397 703003 or email rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk.**

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**Ardfern man denies breath test charges**

AN ARDFERN man appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday accused of failing to cooperate with a roadside breath test.

Michael Dyer, 49, is also alleged to have refused to provide two specimens of breath once in Lochgilphead Police Office.

Dyer, of Ardlarach Chalet, Ardlarach Road, Ardfern, denies the charges.

**Light Up a Life**

PEOPLE across Oban and Lorn who have lost family and friends to cancer will meet next Tuesday, December 11, at the Light Up a Life event in Oban's Corran Halls.

At 7.30pm lights on the trees in Corran Park will be illuminated in memory of loved ones.

Anyone wishing to return their leaflet and dedication can do so at The Oban Times caravan, which will be in Tesco car park from today (Thursday) until Saturday.

**Charity to boost air ambulance numbers in Scotland**

THE PROVISION of air ambulances in Scotland is set to increase by a quarter thanks to a new charity.

Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) have been given the go-ahead from the government to raise funds to launch the country's newest medical air support in spring next year.

**Perth-based**  
The new helicopter air ambulance will be based in Perth but will benefit communities across the country. It will be operated by the Scottish Ambulance Service.

The SCAA proposal will see the total of helicopter air ambulances in Scotland rise to three. The government will still fund

the existing two helicopters and two fixed wing aircraft.

John Bullough, SCAA chairman, said: 'Scotland is justifiably proud of her government-funded air ambulance service and SCAA can offer the people of Scotland an additional helicopter and crew resource which will add flexibility and extra capacity to the service.'

'This will be the people's air ambulance, funded by the public and supported by communities the length and breadth of the country who recognise the value of fast-reaction medical air support in the face of mishap, illness and tragedy.'

**Paramedics**  
Health secretary Alex Neil added: 'It is important patients can rely on the provision of a safe, responsive and high-quality air ambulance service and the funds raised by this charity will help to continue to deliver a world-class, future-proof service that has been specifically designed to benefit patients throughout Scotland.'

SAS chief executive Pauline Howie told The Oban Times the new helicopter would be crewed by Scottish Ambulance Service paramedics and tasked in exactly the same way as their own air ambulance helicopters.

She said: 'We look forward to having SCAA work alongside us and will now move to recruit and train paramedics for the role and help the charity to develop operational protocols from its base at Perth airport to be fit for purpose, in accordance with all aspects of clinical and operational governance.'

SCAA will need to raise £1.5 million each year to keep the new helicopter flying and will be looking to trusts, businesses and the public to fund the additional air resource.

Mr Bullough added: 'In an ideal world there would be numerous helicopter air ambulances flying hope and help across Scotland.'

'SCAA needs everyone's support to launch the country's first and provide additional aid where it's needed most.'

**Pharmacy plan sparks doctor cover concerns**

**Chemists claim doctors' fears are simply scare tactics**

ONE OF Scotland's most rural GP surgeries has warned it will have to cut doctor numbers if plans for a pharmacy in Killin are approved.

Nearly 300 people turned up to a public meeting in Killin last Wednesday after it emerged Davidson's Chemists lodged an application to open a pharmacy in the village.

If approved by Forth Valley NHS, it would automatically result in Killin Medical Practice closing its GP-run dispensary - a move which the surgery says will cost it one of its three doctors and have a significant impact on patients.

While based in Killin, the surgery serves the wider Strathfillan and Balquhider areas, a patch of some 300 square miles. However, the company behind the application, W Davidson Ltd, says the GPs are being 'underhand' and accused them of using scare tactics to ward off the company.

The surgery's Dr Elizabeth Watson refuted allegations of scaremongering, saying it was a matter of real concern for the residents.

'The money we make from the dispensary helps fund the two dispensing staff we have, and some goes towards funding for a GP.'



**Charlie Grant, vice-chair of Killin Community Council, said: 'In my view if Davidson's cannot send one representative to a public meeting like that it doesn't say much for interest in the community.'**

**Bruce Crawford MSP**

**There is no doubt that the community is firmly against the proposal.**

'The reason we have three GPs is we cover a 300sq mile area. You can't manage that effectively with two GPs.'

'This exact situation has happened elsewhere where there has been a dispensing GP and a pharmacy has come in. It costs a GP.'

'Davidson's own 29 pharmacies across Scotland and turnover a net profit of £2million - yet they didn't send anyone to speak at Wednesday's meeting.'

**Tobermory writer wins top national accolade**

A WRITER from the Isle of Mull has won a prestigious award at a glamorous ceremony in Marble Arch in London.

Yvonne Marjot, 50, from Tobermory, took home an accolade from the poetry category of the Brit Writers' Awards (BWA) 2012 on December 1.

Yvonne, who has spent most of her life in New Zealand but moved to Mull in 2000, entered the awards in January, submitting an entry titled Five Poems.

She said: 'This contained three sonnets inspired by the art work of Bruce Killeen, who had held an exhibition, Sonnets of the Sea, at the An Tobar gallery in Tobermory a few years ago.'

'The final two poems were haiku, both of which were also inspired by the landscapes and lifestyle here on Mull.'

As part of Yvonne's prize she will now get the opportunity to publish a single-volume poetry collection with the help of Indigo Dreams, poetry prize sponsors.

She added: 'I feel immensely privileged to have been chosen as the other four finalists were described as having submitted poetry of very high quality, all



Yvonne with her award at the glittering ceremony in London.

worthy of the prize.

'The rest of the evening passed in a daze, but I can reveal that the winner of the under-16 song-writing category was also sitting at our table so we had a very uproarious and enjoyable evening.'

Yvonne has always written stories and poetry, and once won a case of port in a poetry competition. She has also self-published three e-novels.



An Oban-based children's charity is to benefit from sales of Christmas trees at the town's West Coast Tool and Plant Hire yard. As of last week, the company is donating £5 from every tree sold to Oban Cash For Kids. Brian Khan, manager at West Coast Tool and Plant Hire in Oban, said: 'Oban Cash for Kids is an appropriate local charity because Christmas is based around children. This is a time of year when people should be thinking about children who are less fortunate.' Above - Brian Khan, left, and mechanic Martyn Cruickshanks get ready Christmas trees that will be sold in aid of Oban Cash For Kids. 16\_149100101

**Students turn lecturers for talks on research**

STUDENTS at Dunbeg's Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) turned hosts recently by giving a series of public lectures on their research.

Focusing on their own specific field of expertise, the 12 undergraduate students were joined by one research scientist in delivering talks as part of an open doors event.

Among the presentations on scientific and educational topics were a student's personal account of spending a year in the Arctic as part of her degree, an emerging geo-engineering solution to climate change, carbon capture and storage and even a talk on marine mammal communications based on

the research of an undergraduate's summer internship in America.

Emily Venables, who finished her three-year PhD last year at SAMS, gave a seminar on her PhD work, which developed research on glacial melt in Antarctica.

Interest in the Arctic in recent years has boomed owing to its shrinking sea-ice extent - the lowest ever level recorded in September - and the accelerated warming this region is experiencing.

SAMS for many years has had a long-term commitment to the Arctic marine environment and participates in leading research expeditions and

projects.

In 2008 SAMS first sent students to the northern most settlement in the world, Longyearbyen, on the high Arctic islands of Svalbard.

Since 2008, five students have been to Svalbard as part of their degree. This year alone, four students from SAMS relocated their academic studies from Oban to Svalbard to study at the University Centre of Svalbard (UNIS). Christine, Sarah, Rosie and Ailsa are studying a mix of hydrology and geology courses.

You can follow their activities on their blog, which can be found on the SAMS website, www.sams.ac.uk.



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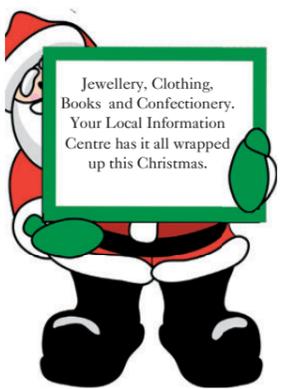
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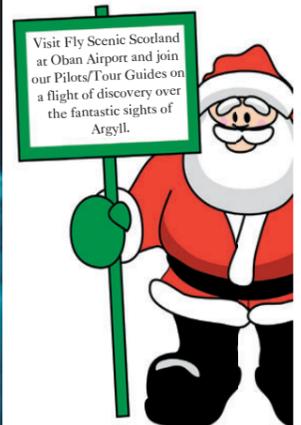
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**Ski resorts to open early**

THE RECENT blast of wintry weather has meant Lochaber's two ski resorts may be ready to open their runs earlier than expected. Glencoe Mountain Resort said it planned to open today (Thursday), weather permitting, while Nevis Range on Aonach Mor could open for snow sports this weekend following annual maintenance work on the gondola.

**Winter vomiting bug closes hospital ward**

A WARD at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness was closed to new admissions and visitors on Tuesday after five patients fell ill with norovirus, known as the winter vomiting bug.

Several cases of diarrhoea and vomiting were discovered in surgical ward 3A, which closed on Tuesday morning.

NHS Highland consultant microbiologist Dr Emma Watson said: 'We are also asking people not to come to the hospital to visit if they have had any vomiting or diarrhoea within the previous 48 hours.'

'Hospital staff will, of course, be happy to talk to visitors on the phone so they can get updates on how their relatives

**Skye forest wins woodfuel grant**

A SKYE community has been awarded a grant of £27,700 to fund work to create a new wood fuel centre.

The community-owned Tormore Forest in Sleat will become home to the new facility after the grant from the Scottish Government's Rural Development Programme was confirmed.

Work has already begun to get fresh quotes for the building of the shed and necessary ground works, and it is hoped everything will be up and running by next spring.



Rotary club members, including president Sheana Fraser, hand over the donation to Deputy Head Teacher Paul Reynolds. 20\_49present01

**Rotary boosts high school with £1,000**

LOCHABER High School has been given an early Christmas gift of a £1,000 donation from Lochaber Rotary Club for their festive parcels campaign.

Every year the school youngsters hand deliver presents to elderly people in the community, with the parcels containing a variety of items including

mince pies, shortbread and sweets. S1 pupils will wrap around 400 presents and produce hand made cards for each gift.

The S6 pupils start delivering the parcels next Friday, aiming to finish by Wednesday December 19.

**Three jobs go as high street business shuts up shop after 75 years' trading**

ONE OF Fort William's longest surviving High Street shops is to close after being in business for nearly 75 years.

The Rod and Gun fishing tackle shop is set to shut its doors for the last time at the end of February and has been packed out since 'closing down sale' signs went up last week with stocks already starting to run low.

The closure means three full time workers will lose their jobs, including manager Douglas Kyle who has

worked in the shop for 29 years. He told *The Oban Times*: 'We're really sorry to be going. I'd like to thank our regular customers for supporting our shop over the years. We'll miss them and I think they'll miss us too.'

Mr Kyle said the twin threats of cheaper online shopping and rising costs were making it hard for shops to thrive. He continued: 'It's very difficult for tackle shops to survive these days. People were buying spools and nylons, but we're just not selling enough of the more

expensive items. We were mainly relying on the summer tourist season when we could sell loads of cheap rods and nets, but you only get that for three or four months and then there's a long winter.'

The Rod and Gun Shop first opened in Fort William in 1938 and twice moved premises until settling in its current High Street location in the early 1970s.

The closure leaves Lochaber with no fishing tackle shops.

**Steer clear of payday loans**

Skye and Lochalsh group launches new campaign in run up to Christmas

PEOPLE across the west Highlands have been warned they could be left with crippling levels of debt if they use cash payday loan companies to get through the expensive festive period.

A new campaign has been launched by Skye and Lochalsh Citizens Advice Bureau (SLCAB) to encourage people to avoid companies which offer instant cash loans at inflated rates of interest.

Recent research suggests around eight per cent of adults in the UK plan to take out one of the high-costs loans to help them survive the pressures of Christmas shopping.

But SLCAB manager Morag Hannah said the short term benefits are heavily outweighed by massive repayments.

She said: 'Payday loans are causing huge problems for many people locally.'

'Over the last few years these short-term high-interest loans have become one of the most popular sources of credit.'

'They are advertised very well and can seem very attractive if you are short of cash. But the trouble is they tend to charge massive rates of interest - in some cases up to 4,000 per cent - so people on low incomes just can't handle the repayments.'

Ms Hannah continued: 'We see many people who have taken out a payday loan and quickly found themselves drowning in debt as the interest rate makes

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

the amount spiral out of control. Many payday lenders conceal their interest rates, or don't tell customers the consequences of missing a payment. Some will take money from your bank account without telling you.'

'Others will offer you more and more loans without any regard to whether you can repay them.'

'Overall, the industry has been very poorly regulated and that's why so many people have fallen into problems.'

'If you really need to borrow money, don't just take out a payday loan.'

**Shop around** 'You should always shop around for the most affordable source of credit, and you should never take out any loan without knowing exactly how much you will have to pay back, and how you are going to do so.'

Stornoway-based Hi-Scot Credit Union, which has more than 2,000 members across the west Highlands, said they had seen similar issues.

Community engagement officer Duncan MacIntrye told *The Oban Times*: 'People are not looking at the long term and the difficulty comes when people can't afford the repayments.'

'They need to look around and see that there are alternatives. If you are looking at borrowing, have a look at what you can really afford.'

**NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING**  
Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2004

**NEWSDESK**  
01631 568000

**Temporary bridge opens**

THE A82 Partnership has welcomed Transport Scotland's decision to install a temporary two-way bridge during works at Bridge of Orchy.

The new bridge opens today (Thursday) and will be in place until the scheduled completion of the work in August 2013.

**Carols bring festive cheer to Upper Achintore**

A FORT William neighbourhood will get into the festive spirit tonight (Thursday) with outdoor carol singing round the Christmas tree followed by a craft fair.

Upper Achintore Regeneration Group (UARG) has organised the event for a number of years, with last year's evening attracting around 300 people.

The Lochaber Wind Band will provide the music for the singers, with the tunes starting at 6.30pm outside the primary school.

Song sheets will be provided so anyone is welcome to join in. After the carols, the fair with

around 20 stalls offering local products and individually designed goods will be held in the school hall.

Refreshments, including Christmas pies, hot dogs, mulled wine and juice, will also be on offer. UARG chairwoman Jackie

Carswell said: 'We have a strong community here and we're hoping for a good turnout of local people in this run up to Christmas.'

'The wind band always puts on a great performance and the carol singing will lift everyone's spirits in this cold weather.'

*The Oban Times 20 years ago*

Thursday, December 10, 1992

**North Pier plan delay slammed**

OBAN and Lorn Chamber of Commerce has hit out at Strathclyde Regional Council for delays in responding to plans for the town's North Pier.

At its recent meeting, the chamber's board of management said this was 'not only damaging to Oban's future as a major port and holiday centre but also highly detrimental to future employment prospects'.

**Marina** Members also stressed that the chamber was committed to a marina for Oban - the North Pier proposals being for a non profit-making trust to be formed to provide a marina for visiting yachts and pleasure craft, add car parking, lengthen the pier, improve buildings and facilities and add an information office, public superloo and showers.

**Man claims sex discrimination**

AN ARGYLL man, who failed to get a job as an assistant cook, claims that he has been discriminated against by Strathclyde Regional Council.

Mr Peter Blackstock, 30, from Tayinloan, is claiming that he did not get a post as an assistant cook at an Argyll primary school because he is male.

He was interviewed for the job by Catering Direct, who provide school meals for Strathclyde Regional Council. Mr Blackstock is now threatening to take his case to an industrial tribunal.

Mr Blackstock, who is married with three children said: 'I am a qualified chef. I applied for the job but did not get it. It was given to a female.'

'There were two females on the panel - it should have been a mixed panel. I was working at the Anchor Hotel in Tarbert but was laid off for the winter.'

'One of the questions I was asked was would you fit in with an all female staff at the school? That question should never have been asked - you are there to do work - not to do anything else.'

**Fort William's 1.2m car park plan**

A CONSULTANT'S report indicates that it is feasible to build a £1.2 million multi-storey car park in Fort William.

At today's Highland Regional Council Roads and Transport Committee, members will be informed that a 250 space multi-storey could be built on

land behind MacRae's Lane. **Approved**

On March 12, the committee approved the appointment of Sir William Halcrow and Partners to carry out a technical feasibility study into the construction of a car park at the site, following a request by

Lochaber Divisional Planning Committee.

A report tabled states: 'The consultants have now reported that a multi-storey car park of conventional design, similar in principal to the council's Rose Street Car Park in Inverness, is feasible on the site.'



Members of Kinlochleven Girls Brigade show off their new-style uniforms.

**Nevis is top tourist attraction**

NEVIS Range has won a top tourism award for being the 'best new attraction' in Scotland in 1992.

Accepting the award on behalf of the ski resort was Ian Jones, Nevis Range Chairman. He said: 'It is a great honour for us to receive this award.'

'Our thanks go to the early commitment and co-operation of the local authorities, the enterprise agents, the financial institutions and by no means least, the local shareholders and people who helped to make the dream of Nevis Range become a reality in 1989.'



**Highland breeders seeing double**

Double dividends: Mr Brian Cocker, tenant farmer at Carloan on Argyll Estates, Inveraray, his wife Toni and their daughter Shaonagh Louise, eight, make friends with twin heifer calves born recently to one of Mr Cocker's Highland cows, Duchess Cora 3rd of Inveraray. Twins are very rare in Highland cattle, heifer calves especially so. The cow is a daughter of Artair of Argyat and the twins were sired by Dougal of Clibur.



Ian Sykes, managing director of Nevis Range (left) and Ian Jones show off their award.

**Enterprising Lochaber pupils in Christmas fair**

Pictured are Lochaber High School pupils who have formed a Young Enterprise Company, Chip off the Old Block, who specialise in hand-made jewellery and hand-carved trinket boxes. The pupils recently visited Inverness to take part in a Christmas trade fair, where they set up their stall alongside other school companies from all over the Highlands and Islands.



# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Education begins at home

FEARS expressed this week over the age at which some of our younger generation are experimenting with alcohol has led to calls for greater regulation and close attention to laws relating to the sale of drink.

While there is little doubt that alcohol abuse in children as young as 11 is the exception that creates the headline story, there should also be no shock in the news that underage drinking is relatively common.

Nor is it something new. Like it or not, accept it or not, we live in a culture where consuming alcohol is a recognised and regular social practice. Children learn from adults. If adults want youngsters to act responsibly then it is up to them to not only set the example and the boundaries, but to ensure that 'taboo' subjects such as drugs and alcohol are part of the child's education process.

Simply masking a potential problem in mystery results in it developing a 'hidden' attraction.

### GLASGOW LETTER

#### St Andrew's Day Party

THE IDEA that an orchestra such as the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO) could share the same stage as traditional musicians would have been ridiculed not that many years ago.

But this is no longer the case and the recent St Andrew's Day Party held in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall was a fine example of how the musicians can work together to produce an evening of quality entertainment. From the outset, Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain ensured this would be a relaxed concert in front of a capacity audience with the musicians of the RSNO and conductor John Logan enjoying themselves as much as the audience.

Representatives of The National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland were involved during the opening and closing items on the programme and Julie Fowles, fresh from her receipt of the Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Award for Music the previous evening, was a special guest. She was joined on stage by fiddle playing Duncan Chisholm and guitarist Tony Byrne from Dublin as she enthralled everyone present with her Gaelic singing.

A particularly pleasing aspect of the evening was the participation of some of the young traditional student musicians at the Royal Conservatoire, playing fiddle and guitar, especially for Marianne Fraser who also made her singing debut. Phil and Aly made sure there was humour throughout the proceedings.

Many of the items on the programme were compositions of Phil's with orchestral arrangements by John Logan, including one of his own compositions 'Three'. When the audience joined in for 'Auld Lang Syne' it was evident they had been part of a memorable night of excellent music.

See leisure pages for photographs.

#### Celtic Connections 2013

HAVING started his address at the launch of Celtic Connections with news of the untimely death of Michael Marra, Donald Shaw, artistic director of the festival, announced a tribute concert will take place in the Royal Concert Hall on Monday January 28.

Brought together by musical director Rab Noakes, Eddi Reader, Dougie MacLean, Pat and Greg Kane, Kris Drever, Riley Briggs, the MacKenzie Sisters, John Spillane, The Hazey Janes and Chris Marra will all be performing together with additional surprise guests. All proceeds will go towards the Marra Family's Appeal to start one of Sistema Scotland's Big Noise Orchestras in Dundee.

#### Royal Conservatoire Concert

THE FIRST Evening of Scottish Music at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland took place recently with performances from the students of BA Music Courses 1-3 and, as expected, with nearly 40 musicians playing the full array of traditional instruments, there was plenty of excellent music.

Each of the year groups showcased their own

individual expertise so that there was a mix of instrumentals and both Gaelic and Scots songs. It was particularly pleasing to hear 'Thall' the group formed at the Music School in Plockton which has been nominated for a BBC2 Radio Folk Award and it was also pleasing the theatre was almost filled to capacity.

#### Gaels ri Cheile

AS IN the past, the getting together of the languages of Scotland and Ireland will take on the same format with workshops taking place on Saturday December 8 in both Scots and Irish Gaelic in An Leanaig on Mansfield Street from 10am-4pm and then in the evening at 8pm there will be music, song and dancing in St Peter's Hall on Hyndland Street, Partick.

Alasdair Whyte will be the guest performer in the evening. For more information tel 0141 433 9495.

#### Reminder

THE ANNUAL Concert and Dance of the Glasgow Skye Association will take place tomorrow evening (Friday), the concert at 7.30pm in the Gaelic School and the dance at 10.30pm in Glasgow University Union.

Artists at the concert will be Mary Ann Kennedy, Iseabail MacTaggart, Alasdair Whyte, Darren MacLean, accordionist Stuart Cameron and Glasgow Skye Pipe Band with Arthur Cormack as guest of honour. Deoch'n Dorus will be playing at the dance.

#### Diary dates

**Thursday December 6:** Glasgow Skye Association Annual Dinner, Glasgow University Union. 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 song writers.

**Sunday December 9:** Fred Morrison, Crofthead Hall, Neilston.

**Friday December 14:** Glasgow Uist and Barr Association Ceilidh Dance, Crawford Hall, 9pm-1am. Clydebank and District Association Ceilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm

**Saturday December 15:** Glasgow Skye Association Children's Party, Renfield Centre, 2.30pm. Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm - Donnie and Diane's Band, Elderslie Village Hall, 7.30pm. Acoustic Affair, City Halls, 8pm - three of the best breaking songwriters.

#### Pub scene

MUSIC in the Park Bar this weekend will be played by Monach Isles on Friday, Deoch'n Dorus on Saturday and Scott Harvey on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Country Folk on Friday and Crooked Reel on Saturday.

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



## Playgroup party - 40 years ago

Mary Tindall of Oban submitted this week's flashback photograph which is of a playgroup Christmas party in Oban's Scout Hall. Mrs Baird, her daughter and Margaret MacDonald all helped run the event about 40 or 41 years ago. Quite a few of the youngsters in the photo celebrated their 45th birthdays this year. 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

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

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000  
Fax: 01631 568001

### Action needed on Glen Aros road

Sir, I have owned a house in Dervaig for eight years and am aware of several serious road traffic collisions on the Glen Aros Road.

Today I took an elderly neighbour to the new community hospital at Craignure. As we travelled down for 3pm I could see the main road had been gritted from Craignure to Salen. En route back I turned off for Dervaig and it was obvious there was no grit on the road. By this time it was 4.30pm and temperatures were dropping rapidly. This road can be lethal.

I truly hope no one is killed on this road as a result of the ice this winter and would ask please for a full explanation and legal statement as to why there are no plans to grit this stretch of road before 8am.

Does this mean insurance companies will not pay out if we drive on this road with the fact you have put up your signs saying you are not liable?

How do I drive to the hospital to help a neighbour and if necessary, drive an extra 17 miles via Tobermory if they are unwell or seriously ill?

Will fire, ambulance and police emergency vehicles have to drive to Tobermory and then to Dervaig from Craignure? I hope I don't ever need an ambulance in winter.

The school bus driver will also have to make a decision not to drive on the icy road if they are not covered by insurance.

I look forward to see if the pilot works.

Is there any way we could have some decent large plastic salt bins provided along this road to treat particular bad bends on the road that freeze. Just a

suggestion this is what we had in a village when we lived South.

Cheryl Callow, Dervaig, Isle of Mull.

### Diabolical infrastructure

Sir, I am a huge fan of Caledonian Macbrayne, indeed, thanks to their trial of free internet over the summer months, I finished writing a book on the Uist to Oban ferry - a useful way of passing long ferry hours.

The staff are always helpful too.

However, the Hebridean infrastructure is diabolical. Why can't trains and buses link with ferries, especially in the winter. Joining pensioners on a quick sprint from the summer Perth bus to catch a Barra and Uist ferry is beyond a joke.

Last Friday, I arrived in Oban at 8.30pm and then endured a four hour drive through snow, and then frost. I beg the question, why couldn't that ferry have started on Barra or Uist?

Anyone arriving on the islands from the 8.30am Oban ferry wouldn't have had too far to travel, islanders arriving at Oban have a mainland of options.

Fiona Bird, The Old Convent, Askernish, Isle of South Uist.

### Where is the management backbone?

Sir, Does anyone within BBC Scotland management have a backbone?

Perhaps they had them removed under their private health care arrangements since at present they seem, at best, spineless.

The scandalous sacking of Iain MacDonald, along

with the Scottish Education correspondent and various other journalists leads to an inevitable dunning down of what is fed to the public. At this crucial time in Scotland's constitutional future, the London dominated BBC has seen fit to impose cuts on our journalists. The BBC management in Scotland cannot even summon up the courage to appear before our democratically elected representatives to explain their position.

Whilst I do not wish to see cuts in any departments of BBC Scotland, if the total purse must be reduced surely the last sector to be harmed should be news and current affairs? The BBC has a central role to play as a crucial, critical and unbiased voice in our civic society. And as much as I love the 'beautiful game' we can do without wall to wall football.

Marshall McLuhan coined the phrase, 'The medium is the message'. If the BBC is the medium, then its message to Scottish people appears to be that we are not worth decent journalism and by implication mature democratic debate. Again, where is management backbone?

Rev Dugald Cameron, The Manse, Oban.

### Bilingual road signs - the facts

Sir, I must take issue with Donald Morris over his delivery of alleged facts relating to Gaelic bilingual road signs.

The Transport Scotland sponsored report is authoritative and comprehensive and I would like to quote a few passages from same.

Analysis of self-reported behaviours in response to the signs found that all driver groups reported finding it more difficult to locate information on bilingual signs compared to monolingual signs and that they were more likely to have had to stop to read bilingual signs compared to monolingual signs.

All drivers reported having had to slow down for bilingual signs. The tourist group reported they were more likely to have had a 'near miss' because of bilingual signs when compared with monolingual signs.

The financial implications of introducing bilingual signs were mentioned by all the local authorities. Most of them felt the public would prefer money to be spent on road maintenance.

One local authority had carried out a consultation with the community councils in their area concerning bilingual signs. The primary concerns raised by the consultation were whether bilingual signs would distract drivers, whether maintenance of a larger sign would have cost implications and whether there would be a tourist benefit. A large majority of the community councils rejected the idea of

introducing bilingual signs.

Several of the local authority interviewees commented that the result of introducing bilingual signs, both in increased sign size and in some cases an increased number of signs, was contrary to the Scottish Government's policy of reducing sign clutter.

All of the above have been taken - without additional comment - from the report. Anyone wishing to download a free copy should contact Transport Scotland.

Lewis Morrison, Benderloch.

### Full review required

Sir, Environment minister Paul Wheelhouse, has announced a review of the scientific case for the Sound of Barra Special Area of Conservation.

This is a step in the right direction.

I hope that South Hebrides Against Marine Environmental Designations (SHAMED's) call in January 2012 for an independent enquiry when we replied to the Sound of Barra consultation played a part in the Minister's decision.

He certainly seems to be acknowledging the many serious questions that have arisen over the last four long years.

I am concerned, however, that the review is confined to science.

There are many examples in the FOI material we got from SNH and the JNCC showing inappropriate collusion between SNH and government officials. Often it was government rather than SNH who wrote the text for SNH's so-called independent scientific advice.

There are SNH comments as far back as March 2008 saying that Sound of Barra and East Mingulay would go to consultation. Would they have said this unless they already had agreement from the Scottish Government?

Were ministers aware or misled? Only a full review, of science and process, will reveal the truth and satisfy the public.

Every previous environment minister kept assuring us that no decisions had been made. Mr Wheelhouse is beginning to sing the same tune.

He says 'if I decide to designate'. I hope he is sincere in saying he wants an independent review because if he really is looking at it with an open mind he will call a complete halt to all work on any management plan for the site.

The environment minister cannot say he is undecided if, during the same week he announced his review, one of his officials sent a proposal for managing a Sound of Barra SAC to our community.

Angus MacLeod, chairman, South Hebrides Against Marine Environmental Designations.

## Alan Cochrane



THE DAILY TELEGRAPH'S SCOTTISH EDITOR

I'VE NEVER thought of 13 as an especially lucky number, yet I'm looking forward with a degree of optimism towards 2013. There's a simple reason for this - it surely can't be as bad as 2012.

That was an appalling year that was. It might have been quite nice for you and yours, but overall I don't think many out there will be sorry to see the back of 2012.

And so, what does the New Year hold? I'm afraid 'more of the same' is one answer. Throughout last year, almost from the moment that both the Westminster and Holyrood parliaments returned after their holidays, we had nothing but arguments about that referendum on independence.

Now, I am the first to accept that this decision is the most important that we Scots have had to make in 300 years but nothing else was done, or even discussed, by our tribunes last year. It got so bad that day after day, week after week, all we got were speeches from one side of the separatists' divide or the other. Will we get the same in 2013 or is there a chance that the two sides have so exhausted themselves over independence that normal service can be resumed, at least until 2014 when we're promised that vote? Scotland has many problems: we have schoolchildren who can't read and write properly after many years in full-time education; we have a health record that in some areas is so dreadful that life expectancy is worse than that in the third world; and whilst the rest of the UK is seeing its jobless total falling, the latest figures show that Scotland's unemployment rate continues to rise. But although most of these seemingly intractable problems have been with us in spite of - did someone say because of? - fourteen years of devolution, all of our SNP government's focus is on one thing: independence. There are no fewer than 16 different teams of civil servants at St Andrew's House and Victoria Quay in Edinburgh working on various aspects of how Scotland can break away from the United Kingdom. They are not seeking to improve our children's education or the health of people in our poorest areas. No, constitutional change is their only goal. Scotland's landscape should also be an important part of our agenda for 2013 and it was good to see a new campaign launched only a few weeks ago called Keep Scotland Beautiful. Its principal aim is to declare war on litter louts and to recruit volunteers to clean up the country's beauty spots. It's an excellent scheme but no amount of litter-clearing will keep Scotland beautiful if the awful onward march of the on-shore wind turbines is allowed to continue unabated. It's a tall order but another of my New Year hopes is that rural Scotland at last manages to so organise itself as to be a significant player in the fight against unsustainable wind farms. Rural dwellers need to stand up to be counted. I wish I had a pound for every time either me or my colleagues have had a phone call or letter from someone objecting to a wind farm in their vicinity but which adds 'please don't use my name or mention where I live'. Quite frankly if that's their attitude they're wasting our time. So if you want to remain anonymous, phone someone else! My most earnest hope for 2013 is that the SNP re-discover their backbones. Is it too much to ask that they begin to think for themselves? And so whilst I gladly say farewell to 2012, can I really be absolutely sure that 2013 will be better?

I ask because, as Robert Burns rightly pointed out in *Tae a Moose*, while it's easy to re-live what's gone before, who knows what lies ahead?

'But och! I backward cast my e'e,  
On prospects drear!  
An' forward, tho' I canna see,  
I gess an' fear!'

Still, we must try to be optimistic and so let me conclude by wishing you all a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

On prospects drear!  
An' forward, tho' I canna see,  
I gess an' fear!

Still, we must try to be optimistic and so let me conclude by wishing you all a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

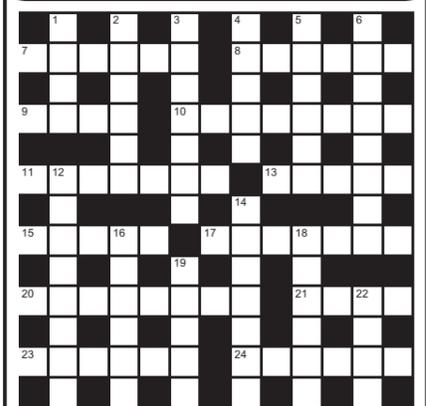
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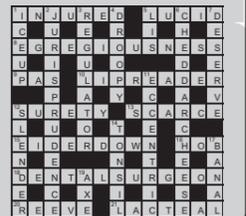
### Across

- 7 Deviate (6)
- 8 Hint at (6)
- 9 Harmony (4)
- 10 Without any missing (8)
- 11 From rock (7)
- 13 What assails one's nostrils (5)
- 15 Turf (5)
- 17 Underwater bloodsucker... (7)
- 20 ...bug (8)
- 21 Bounce back (4)
- 23 One who pays (6)
- 24 What is to occur (6)

### Down

- 1 Not close (4)
- 2 A divine revelation (6)
- 3 Comprised of somewhat independent coil (7)
- 4 Avalanche (5)
- 5 Nasty (6)
- 6 Show of appreciation (8)
- 12 Deep down (8)
- 14 Leave (7)
- 16 Devastated (6)
- 18 Fast (6)
- 19 Irritated (5)
- 22 Where you are (4)

## Last week's solution



We are now inviting questions for Councillor Drew Hendry, Leader of The Highland Council. Submit your questions via The Oban Times' website or email editor@obantimes.co.uk

## COMING SOON

# YOUR SAY



**Sex offender jailed for nine months**

A MAN caught with 1,246 indecent images of children on his computer has been jailed for nine months and placed on the sex offender's register indefinitely.

Edward Crookes, of the Royal Hotel, Dingwall, pled guilty to possessing the images at 46 Caledonian Road, Inverness, between May 5 2009 and August 26 2009, Fort William Sheriff Court heard. The 52-year-old was told he would be supervised for three years after his release from prison.

**Speeding fine**

A HIGHLAND games athlete caught driving at 95mph in a 60mph zone on the A82 north of Spean Bridge has been fined £600 and given six penalty points.

David Hart, 31, who regularly competes in heavy events at games across the Highlands, appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court for sentencing after earlier pleading guilty to speeding north of Letterfinlay on April 20.

Justice of the Peace Maureen Anderson told offshore worker Hart, of 15 Lochy Road, Inverlochry: 'There is no excuse for driving at this speed.'

**Man remanded**

A FORT WILLIAM man has denied shouting and swearing at his partner and throwing a lettuce at her.

Appearing from custody, Kevin Leahy pled not guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner at an address on Claggan Road on November 30. The 39-year-old also denied throwing a lettuce at his partner in the house on November 26.

Leahy could not provide a home address to Fort William Sheriff Court and was remanded in custody. The trial is due to be heard on January 3, with a further hearing set for December 19.

**Friend had no insurance**

A MAN who let his friend drive his 4x4 Nissan Navara in Fort William without insurance has been fined £400 and given eight penalty points.

Matthew Rosbottom, of Malttraeth near Anglesey, admitted causing or permitting Christian Hodgson to drive on Kilmallie Road on February 27 despite him not being insured. Hodgson pled guilty to the offence last month and claimed Rosbottom told him he had paid for temporary insurance.

Defending Rosbottom, Niall MacBeath said his client had believed insurance was in place. The 24-year-old also admitted failing to turn up for his trial at Fort William Sheriff Court, claiming he did not have sufficient funds to make the journey from Wales.

Sentencing, Justice of the Peace Maureen Anderson said: 'In my eyes this is worse than the normal driving without insurance. And you didn't turn up for the trial which makes things even worse.'



Ardnamurchan High School banks £200 for Movember

Ardnamurchan High School's male contingent who grew their facial hair for the 'Movember' charity campaign raised around £200. The final day of fundraising, St Andrew's Day, saw pupils wearing tartan and proudly displaying their moustaches - both real and fake. The money raised will be split between the Movember charity and Children First.

**Land reform review group plans meetings**

AN INDEPENDENT group charged with shaping future community ownership land reforms in Scotland are to hold meetings in Lochaber and the Outer Hebrides next week.

The Land Reform Review Group, established by the Scottish Government in July and headed by Dr Alison Elliot, will visit Galsion Estate in Lewis on Monday where they will meet with people involved in land management and land reform.

The following day the review

team will be in Harris to meet invited representatives of the many community groups which either own, or are aiming to acquire, island estates.

That evening, Dr Elliot and her colleagues will hold a public meeting in the Harris Hotel, Tarbert, for anyone with views on land reform - for or against.

A similar sequence of meetings will be held in the Moorings Hotel, Banavie, near Fort William next Wednesday night at 7.30pm.

Dr Elliot said: 'In Lewis, Harris and Lochaber - as well as in South Uist which I plan to visit the following week - we're anxious to learn from people with first-hand experience of how community ownership has worked out in practice.'

'Easier' 'We're particularly keen to hear views about the various mechanisms put in place by the Land Reform Act of 2003 - and to gather opinions as to what could or should be done by

the Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Government to make community ownership easier and faster to achieve.

'Our remit and work plan commit us to producing an initial or interim report in May - and it's clear that Ministers expect us to have something to say in that report about the community ownership experience to date and about how other communities, in every part of Scotland, could be helped to take on land and other assets.'

**Fracas brothers face more charges**

TWO BROTHERS who admitted smashing windows and fighting with police and other partygoers during a fracas at a Fort William birthday party face further charges of assault.

Ian Roy, of 59 Carn Dearg, Claggan, and Frazer Roy, of 38 Blaeberryhill Road, Whitburn, pled guilty to a total of seven charges of assault, threatening and abusive behaviour, damaging property and resisting arrest at the BA Club and were due to be sentenced on Monday.

But Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie told Fort William Sheriff Court further charges in relation to the same incident had since come to light.

Police She said: 'The police came on the scene at the tail end of what happened. Statements were taken on what happened earlier in the evening and they now face further charges relating to a number of assaults on civilians.'

Ian Roy, aged 28, pled guilty to attempting to fight with police and others, being continually aggressive and shouting and swearing. His brother Frazer Roy pled guilty to picking up a chair and using it to smash a window and smashing the glass in a door by punching it.

The 25-year-old kicked a police officer on the leg and smashed the window of a police vehicle by kicking it. He also admitted resisted arrest by struggling violently, attempting to fight with police and others, being continually aggressive and shouting and swearing.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin deferred the case until December 19.



Banavie Primary School was packed out on Saturday for the pupils' popular annual Christmas fair. The gym hall and GP room were full of stalls offering all kinds of festive goodies, from recipe books to Christmas cards, decorations to jewellery and homemade sweets. And Deirdre Beck's young group of musicians provided a perfect musical backdrop on the day with a series of performances in the vestibule. 20\_494xmas01

**Man admits kicking dog in head**

A FORMER Fort William man kicked a 12-year-old collie dog on the head while it was tied up outside a shop on the town's High Street.

Scott MacKinnon, now of Hazeldean Guest House, Inverness, pled guilty to causing the dog unnecessary suffering by kicking it on May 12.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie told Fort William Sheriff Court MacKinnon had been walking down the street with two friends, one of whom had a German Shepherd, which began barking at the collie.

Ms Wylie said: 'Mr MacKinnon ran up to the collie dog and kicked it hard on the side of the head. A nearby shop owner said he heard the dog howling.'

'Apart from covering after the event, luckily the dog did not sustain any injuries.'

Defence solicitor Hamish Melrose said MacKinnon, aged 36, had an alcohol problem and had a 'relatively vague recollection' of the incident, but was apologetic. He said: 'He acted in a cruel manner towards the dog and he accepts that.'

Sheriff Noel McPartlin ordered unemployed MacKinnon to carry out 40 hours of unpaid work in the community.

**Police target speeding near schools**

NORTHERN Constabulary is conducting targeted speed checks near secondary schools across Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh as part of a Highland-wide operation.

A recent Highland Youth Voice Conference highlighted the issue of irresponsible driving near schools.

Chief Superintendent Julian Innes said: 'Road traffic collisions involving young pedestrians around schools are very rare but if we can work with our communities to make our children feel safer then that is what we should do.'

The operation started at the end of November and will continue until March 31.

**Actors re-unite after 20 years**

A GROUP of Ballachulish actors will be appearing on stage together in the village for the first time in 20 years next week for four performances of the popular Christmas panto 'Babes in the Wood'.

The likes of Nairn MacArthur, Tam MacLymont and Drew MacFarlane-Slack will re-unite for the original show, which has been updated by Mr MacArthur to include more recent local references.

Music for the show will be in the hands of Jimmy Forsyth and Chaz Stewart.

Robert MacNeill plays one of Robin Hood's Merry Men in the show. He said: 'This is the first time they've all got back together for 20 years, so it should be a great show.'

Mr MacArthur plays the Panto dame in the show and is doubling up as the director for the 15-strong cast.

He told *The Oban Times* everyone was looking forward to re-uniting for the show.

He said: 'A lot of us left to go to Lochaber Showstoppers when it started up and it's great to have

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

these guys back together. This is the first time I've been directing and acting so it's a bit odd but these guys really know what they're doing. You just point them in the right direction.'

'There's lots of local references and local characters mentioned, which always gets a good laugh from the crowd.'

The panto will be performed in the newly refurbished village hall, which now has new toilets, disabled facilities, double glazing and a larger storage area. New curtains, insulation and a new stage have also been put in place.

'Babes in the Wood' will be on next Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, with a matinee on Saturday.

Tickets are available from the Co-op store or from the Tourist Information Centre, with all proceeds going to the village hall. A prize draw will also be made during the interval of each show.



Kinlochleven High School's Christmas show is set to bring some festive cheer to the village.

**High school promises a Christmas cracker**

KINLOCHLEVEN High School pupils will be putting a Lochaber twist on the popular film 'Shrek' for their Christmas show this year - called 'Shug'.

After auditions were held for the acting roles, rehearsals have been ongoing for weeks. Pupils will also be doing behind the scenes work for the show, such as lighting, props and costume design.

S3 pupil Esme Leitch, who is appearing in the show, told *The*

*Oban Times* rehearsals had been 'turned up a notch' ahead of the opening night.

She said: 'I think this year's show is on track to being one of the best shows Kinlochleven High School has ever had. It is most definitely well worth coming to see.'

The show will be held in the school on December 17 and 18 at 7.30pm, with tickets available from the school on 01855 832042.

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**Children's author visits Lochyside**

Lochyside RC primary pupils had a chance to meet children's author Barry Hutchison and create their own heroes and villains. Mr Hutchison, who is based in Fort William, went round each classroom creating short stories, with each pupil coming up with original superheroes. In the afternoon, the P4-P7 pupils enjoyed a talk from Mr Hutchison about how he became an author. 20\_494lochyside01

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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, 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. Prizes 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.

OT

Man drove while using mobile

A FORMER Fort William man has admitted driving in the town while using a mobile phone.

Jamie Gregory, who is currently serving a 14-month sentence at HMP Low Moss, was given three penalty points and an extra week in prison.

The 31-year-old was seen using his phone while negotiating the Nevis Bridge roundabout on August 4.

Sentence deferred

A MAN who violently attacked and permanently disfigured two men during a drunken brawl near Fort William High Street last summer has had his sentencing deferred until January 3.

A criminal justice report for Ian Ward had not been prepared in time after papers were sent to his former address. Ward of 68 Mosshead Road, Bearsden, Glasgow, previously admitted assaulting a man by striking him with a bottle on the neck and body to his severe injury. The 22-year-old also pled guilty to assaulting a second man with the bottle, by striking him on the head to his injury. The incidents took place on Ainslie Lane at around 1am on July 29 2011.

Variety concert

SPEAN Bridge Primary School played host to a fundraising musical variety concert last Tuesday.

Lochaber Community Wind Band, the Great Glen Swing band and Cothroman Ceol Beul Aithriseach all took to the stage, while the school's Youth Music Initiative group also performed.

Money raised was donated to Duchenne muscular dystrophy campaign Action Duchenne.

Man denies charges

A CAOL man has denied throwing an electric fire at a mirror and damaging a number of household items during an argument with his brother.

Stephen Hardie, of 30 Ardour Road, pled not guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner at his house on July 16. The 22-year-old is due to stand trial on February 21, with a preliminary hearing set for January 24.

Independent wins by-election

A COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar by-election has been won by independent candidate Angus MacDonald Morrison.

The Sgìr 'Uige agus Ceann an Tuath nan Loch ward in Lewis was left unrepresented when SNP councillor Bill Houston died suddenly at home aged 60 in September. Mr Morrison of Balalalan received 745 votes, while SNP candidate John Norman MacDonald took 195 and independent Les Mac an Ulaigh 73. The by-election saw a turnout of 40.88 per cent, with 14 ballot papers rejected.

Plockton dismay as last church goes up for sale

Villagers still don't know if graveyard will be sold

PLOCKTON could soon be left with no churches after the Church of Scotland put the last remaining house of worship in the village up for sale.

And despite the sale of Plockton Church being mooted for the past year, locals have still not been told if the adjacent graveyard is part of the sale or not.

The village used to have three churches, one of which was sold and converted into flats around 20 years ago. More recently, the local Free Presbyterian Church was similarly converted.

When the sale was first discussed at the start of 2012, it was believed the graveyard belonged to Highland Council and would not be part of the deal.

Ownership However, in a letter sent to Plockton and District Community Council in November, Church of Scotland General Trustees secretary David Robertson said: 'The law department solicitor has established that the Plockton graveyard is, in fact, still in the ownership of the General Trustees but whether it is now

included in the sale is a question which remains unanswered. It may well be that part or all of the graveyard will be transferred to the local authority The Highland Council, which has been maintaining it for many years.'

Horried Community Council chairman Charlie MacRae told The Oban Times locals were 'very sad' at the church being sold, but said the possibility of the graveyard being lost had caused upset. He said: 'People are horrified. Quite a few people in Plockton

still have relatives in the graveyard.' The church, including the manse, was built in 1827 by Thomas Telford at a cost of £1,480.

After the Free Church split in 1843, the building lay unused for a number of years before being restored in 1961.

A second nearby church, Kirkton Church near Balmacara, has also been put up for sale without the graveyard.

There has been a church building on or near the present site of the church at Kirkton since the mid-17th century.

College presented with valuable manuscripts

SABHAL Mòr Ostaig has been presented with a valuable collection of manuscripts and research by a renowned Gaelic professor.

Professor Kenneth MacKinnon visited the Sleat-based Gaelic college last Wednesday to mark the handover with a lecture entitled 'Research on the Gaelic Community and its future implications'.

Professor MacKinnon, who also acts as an adviser on language planning and policies for organisations such as Bòrd na Gàidhlig and MG ALBA, has been involved in research into Gaelic attitudes and language in communities since the early 1970s.

He said: 'I can only hope that the research which resulted has had some purpose in helping to guide policy and action on behalf of Gaelic, its speakers and users.'

'Today the language and its community face crucial circumstances but what exists now compared to what little existed when I first set out on this course encourages us that today's challenges can be met and overcome.'

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig principal Professor Boyd Robertson



Professor Kenneth MacKinnon.

said: 'We are greatly indebted to Professor MacKinnon for this generous donation. This is a truly valuable collection of papers related to research studies undertaken in different parts of Gaeldom.'

'It is a treasure trove which will add to the impressive resources already housed in the library and it will form a foundation for further scholarship and research of the kind for which Kenneth MacKinnon rightly became so well known.'

Teenager banned from roads

A CORPACH teenager has been banned from driving for three months after admitting driving a moped in Caol with no licence or insurance.

Cameron Young, of 25 Hillview Drive, pled guilty to driving the 50cc machine in Canal Parks, on Caol shore front and on the Fort William water treatment access road on July 16.

Young, who turns 17 in February, had spent months fixing up the moped after being given it by a friend of his brother.

The Lochaber High School pupil could have been awarded six penalty points, which would have barred him from applying for a driving licence for two years due to a recent change in the law, which prohibits new drivers from having more than five points.

Justice Maureen Anderson said: 'While we don't want to encourage young boys to drive around on mopeds with no licence, the normal penalty for this seems very harsh for a boy of 16.'

Fight against drugs continues

NORTHERN Constabulary has taken nearly £1million of illegal drugs off the streets of the Highlands and Islands in the past 18 months.

Police have also seized £134,000 worth of cash in connection with criminal cases and under Proceeds of Crime Act legislation since April 2011.

Cannabis was the most commonly seized drug, accounting for 55 per cent of seizures. Other drugs seized include diazepam, cocaine, amphetamine, diamorphine (heroin) and ecstasy.

During 2011/12, both the number of supply and possession charges increased compared to the previous year. Head of crime services Kenny Anderson said: 'We will continue to work as hard as ever to drive drugs and drug dealers out of our communities. The fight against drugs and serious and organised crime is one of the main priorities for Northern Constabulary.'



Lochside primary celebrates St Andrew's Day

Irn Bru and shortbread were the order of the day as Lochside RC Primary pupils celebrated St Andrew's Day on Friday. The youngsters sang traditional Scottish songs and read out Scottish poems at a special assembly in the school. P7 pupil Alistair MacRae performed a number of songs on the bagpipes, including 'Hector the Hero', while Jonny Soe Paing played the fiddle. Highland dancer Lezie Lopez and Amber MacInnes danced a Highland Fling before everyone headed to the canteen to enjoy Scottish snacks.



Fort William Primary pupils raised £70 for the Cancer Research UK by wearing something pink into school. Tracy Ward from Lochaber Together handed out medals to all the children who took part. She told them: 'We are really grateful and really impressed with how much you raised.'

Drink driver banned

A TOURIST sped away from police at more than 95mph after being pulled over in Glencoe because he knew he was over the drink drive limit.

Peter Green pulled into a lay-by after a short chase and apologised to the officers during the September 12 incident.

The 33-year-old, who had three passengers in his car, was stopped after officers following behind on the A82 checked the vehicle on their database and found it had no insurance.

Unemployed Green stopped outside Glencoe ski centre and after police asked him to get out the car, he instead drove off, nearly hitting an officer's leg.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard Green, of 38 Heys Close, Blackburn, England, had been

on a camping holiday on Skye and was heading home when he was pulled over.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin disqualified Green from driving for three-and-a-half years and fined him £1,000.

Sheriff McPartlin said: 'It is a serious matter to drive without insurance and it's a very serious matter to drive with alcohol in your system.'

'Your behaviour after being stopped by police caused danger to yourself and others.'

Green pled guilty to driving at nearly twice the legal alcohol limit, careless driving and driving without insurance.

He admitted speeding aggressively away from police and repeatedly veering across the road.

Fort William woman guilty of buying alcohol for underage girls

A FORT William woman bought alcohol for four underage girls in the town.

Yvonne Burt, aged 30, admitted buying two bottles of vodka schnapps for the underage girls from the Morrisons store in the town on March 24.

Police later found the girls drunk on the street and had to take them home.

Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'This has been quite a common problem, unfortunately, in Fort William for some time.'

Sheriff Noel McPartlin said Burt had committed a 'serious offence' and ordered her to carry out 120 hours of unpaid work in the community. He said: 'Facilitating the purchase of alcohol for children can put them in danger.'

Defence solicitor Hamish Melrose said Burt, of 14 Kennedy Road, had been drunk when she bought the alcohol and had little recollection of the incident.

Van driver clocked doing 76mph through moor

A VAN driver caught doing 76mph on the A82 through Rannoch Moor has been fined £220 and given five penalty points.

Geoffrey Adams, of 40 Upton Road, Bristol, pled guilty to speeding at White Corries on August 31.

The 53-year-old's Volkswagen van was restricted to 50mph in the area, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Spean Bridge woman denies assault

A SPEAN Bridge woman has denied repeatedly punching another woman on the head and body.

June Bridges, of Kilmonivaig, pled not guilty to assaulting the woman to her injury at a house in the village on August 24.

The 46 year-old is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on February 21.

Woman admits speeding

A WOMAN has admitted driving at 40mph in a 30mph zone in Fort William.

Deana Williams, aged 42, of Newhaven Road, Edinburgh, was fined £180 and given four penalty points after pleading guilty to speeding on the A82 near Carr's Corner on May 22.

Court fines driver caught doing 52mph in 30 zone

A VAN driver caught doing 52mph in a 30mph zone in Fort William has been fined £220 and given five penalty points.

Daniel McCulloch, of 188 Smithton Park, Inverness, pled guilty to speeding on Achintore Road on March 30.

Sentencing the 23-year-old, Justice of the Peace Maureen Anderson said: 'This particular stretch of road is very close to the town. There is a school there and a number of hotels.'

'The court takes a very serious view of speeding on this piece of road.'



Youngsters gear up to deliver Christmas post

Kinlochleven residents worried about getting Christmas cards delivered locally in time for the festive break are in luck as local primary school pupils are to provide a low cost delivery deal. The school started up the 'Village Post' service this week and for 25p children and their parents will hand deliver the cards on the day they are posted, or the following day. Post boxes are in the Co-op, library and in the school. Money raised from the scheme, which runs until December 14, will go towards school funds.

Acharacle pupils win UK-wide maths contest

A SMALL Lochaber primary school is celebrating after winning a UK-wide online maths competition.

Acharacle Primary School, which has 55 pupils, came out on top after a week long contest with more than 7,000 youngsters from 137 schools on the Sumdog website.

Teacher Rachel Patterson told The Oban Times the kids had 'loved' taking part in the competition.

She said: 'We were surprised we got so far, but we're all really, really proud. They are all feeling much better about their maths and it has really boosted their confidence.'

Sumdog is a maths website designed for educational purposes, with tests for primary, secondary and college students.

All the pupils were able to take part by logging into the website from school computers or at home. Each child could answer up to

1,000 questions at their own pace throughout the week, with an average taken.

Mrs Patterson added: 'It's brilliant for the teachers because we can see a report from each child, which shows you how much they've played and what skills they need to work on. I've used it at parent nights as well because it's all there in black and white.'

Acharacle Primary also came second in a Highlands Sumdog contest recently.



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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 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.

NOMINATION FORM

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My nominee should win because..... (please submit up to 200 words on a separate sheet and attach to this form).

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Sportswomen Larni Wright, left, and Karen MacCorquodale are pictured with primary two pupil Aaron MacLarty and primary one Liona Wylie, who both fitted inside a basketball top at the school's Guess the Sport exercise. 15\_149sports01

# Celtic fest tribute to folk legend

## Donald Shaw praises 'unique talent'

A TRIBUTE night to the late and great singer, songwriter, Michael Marra, is to be held at Glasgow's Celtic Connections next year. Mr Marra was a Dundee-born folk legend who sadly passed away in October. He penned Scotland's alternative national anthem, *Hermless*, and was a uniquely eloquent and vital presence in Scottish music. On Monday January 28, 2013, Celtic Connections will host a special tribute night to Mr Marra at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. Taynuilt's Donald Shaw, artistic director of Celtic Connections, said: 'Michael was a unique talent and a pivotal figure in the Scottish folk scene. He has performed in almost every festival since the inaugural one in 1994 so we felt it was very important to pay tribute to the great man himself during the 20th anniversary year. 'Michael was someone who believed in the potential of future generations so in keeping with this, and Celtic Connection's award winning education programme, proceeds from tonight's concert will go towards the Marra Family's Appeal to start one of Sistema Scotland's Big Noise Orchestras in Dundee.' Artists appearing include Eddi Reader, Dougie MacLean and John Spillane, all brought together by musical director Rab Noakes.

# It's a question of sport at Easdale

IT WAS a question of sport at Easdale Primary School on Monday, as the pupils completed their topic on Food and Fitness. Three guests, representing three different sports, were the visitors to the school and the pupils were tasked with guessing which sport each of them played by asking questions. The children correctly guessed that Euan Paterson from the Oban Towers played basketball and that Larni Wright, of Oban Lorne, played rugby. However, there was a wide range of answers when it came to identifying badminton player Karen MacCorquodale from Oban Badminton Club. The fun exercise was the culmination of six weeks of work on the topic, which has also seen the pupils try different fruits and vegetables, courtesy of Tesco Oban, and playing shinty and taking part in a dance class. They also learned where food comes from around the world.



The Christmas party season kicked off last weekend in Oban, with Paparazzi hosting two of the first groups to bring in the festive period.



A ladies Christmas night out, with party boy Stephen Kelly. 16\_149party01



The staff from Affinity Trust get into the festive spirit. 16\_149party02

# What's Gaelic for, 'Oh no it isn't'?

A GAELIC panto is to head off on its annual tour of the Highlands and Islands in December visiting villages and schools. Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff are out and about until December 10 with their new Gaelic panto, *Gloidhecan agus na Déideagan Briste* (Gloidhecan and the Broken Toys). For the first time since the organisation started touring an annual panto, theatre-goers young and old will have a chance to see the show

each night the crew are on the road, with public performances planned across the Highlands and Islands. The panto tells the story of a young lad who never fulfils his potential as a carpenter. Full of songs, laughs and jokes, it is performed by three members of the organisation's staff - Angus Macleod, Christine MacIntyre and Dougie Beck. Dougie Beck, Fèisean nan Gàidheal's drama officer, said: 'Meanbh-chuileag, our drama-out-reach project, has always had an aim that pupils in Gaelic-medium education should have the chance to see plays in their own schools if it's not possible for them to travel, and that is what we are aiming at with *Gloidhecan*.' The panto has already visited Achraacle Primary and Fort William Gaelic Primary, Rockfield Primary School in Oban, Talla Dhonaigh Chaimbeul, Sleat and schools on Skye.



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THINGS can get stressful at any time of the year but none more so than at Christmas. If you're struggling to keep up with things don't worry, there are a range of services available in the west of Scotland to help you with any problem. While people are tightening their belts just now, there are plenty of areas of life where spending a little money pays off in terms of peace of mind, providing time for a bit of well earned relaxation. Whether you are a carer for someone and need a break, yourself or someone you know is suffering

from domestic abuse or you're struggling to do simple tasks like shopping and cleaning - there is someone available to help. Even if you just want a helping hand creating a website for your business, are worried about your pipes bursting over winter or want a fire safety check for your home - pick up the phone where a friendly voice will be waiting to greet you. Many of us have experience about getting in over our heads. Perhaps you are unable to work and worried about debt stacking up or have simply

tackled a DIY project that should be left to the professionals, follow our handy guide to Help at Hand and let the experts lead the way. Professional services can work out much better value than you think and most will provide a no obligation quotation before you make a decision, so there is nothing to lose by checking exactly how much it will cost. Moreover, getting the job done right first time by those who know their business can save you cash, as well as time and stress, in the long run.

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### Killin to host festive fireworks fundraiser dinner

A FUNDRAISING festive dinner will be held at the Killin Hotel later this month to raise funds for the town's spectacular Hogmanay fireworks display. The Falls of Dochart display has been growing in popularity and plans are already afoot to make this year's event even more memorable. Lasting between 15-20 minutes, the £3,000 display has drawn in revellers from as far afield as Edinburgh and Stirling thanks to its unique setting. Funds for the display are raised by an annual Christmas dinner, which will this year be held at the Killin Hotel on December 22. For tickets, contact David Noble or Charlie Grant on 01567 820342.

### Afternoon tea for Mary's Meals at North Cuan

THREE ladies in North Cuan hosted an afternoon tea in aid of Mary's Meals on December 1. Jenny and Caroline Fothergill and Emma MacLachlan raised £190 through the tea, held in Caroline's North Cuan home. The trio received donations of homebaking and welcomed people in to the tea to raise money for the local charity.

### Bingo night at Dervaig Hall

THE NORTH West Mull Community Woodland Company are holding a bingo night in Dervaig Village Hall tomorrow. The event, taking place at 7.30pm on Friday, December 7, will see fun and prizes for people of all ages. Light refreshments will be served.

### Anyone for a porridge sample?

RESIDENTS in Oban are being offered the opportunity to sample the porridge that a local charity uses to feed children across the world. A porridge day, in aid of Mary's Meals, is being held in Glencruitten Church Hall on December 11 from 9am until 1.30pm. The event will allow people to taste the actual meal that Mary's Meals uses to feed children on a daily basis. Those who attend the event will also receive a bowl of normal porridge, a flapjack and a refreshment - all for a donation to Mary's Meals. A viewing of the new film, CHILD 31, which charts the story of the charity, will also be available. Mary's Meals feeds 700,000 children a day throughout the world. It costs just £10.70 to feed a child at school for a whole year. This gives children one meal a day to improve concentration, help education and provides an escape from poverty.

## Rush anticipated for OLDS night out



Oban Bay Hotel manager Darrell Williams, on behalf of Crerar Hotels Trust, presents the £1,500 cheque to OLDS committee, from left: secretary Graham MacQueen, chairwoman Chrissie Muir and treasurer Frank Walton. 16\_149cheque01

SOME of the most sought after tickets in Oban will go on sale today (Thursday), as the date for the Oban Lorn District Seniors (OLDS) club annual Christmas dinner is announced.

**Food and entertainment**  
Around 130 guests are expected to attend the glamorous event at the Oban Bay Hotel on Monday, December 17, which will serve up a delicious Christmas meal and music courtesy of Hector MacFadyen.

The evening has only been made possible thanks to a grant from the Crerar Hotels Trust of £1,500, plus a contribution of £500 from the Rotary Club of Oban. A Christmas cake is also being provided by the Inner Wheel of Oban.

OLDS secretary Graham MacQueen said: 'This is always a popular occasion because the guests come from all sectors of the community and are treated as ladies and gentlemen for an

excellent night out. 'Some of them don't get to see each other during the year and this is when they meet up.

'From the middle of September I have people asking when the date for the dinner is but bookings can only be made from today (Thursday).'

The OLDS committee thanked Crerar Hotels for the donation, for providing the venue for the event and for its support of the group over many years.

Rotary Club of Oban is providing transport for those unable to get to the venue themselves.

For more information and to buy tickets contact Graham MacQueen on 01631 564 848.

OLDS runs outings for Oban's senior citizens throughout the year, such as regular ceilidhs in Lynn Court, and has taken them on trips, including outings on CalMac ferries.

### Ardnamurchan pupils on tour

ARDNAMURCHAN High School pupils have been touring village local halls again with their talented blend of traditional and up-to-date music, song and dance.

**Community events**  
From brilliant Beatles and Stones covers performed by 'Homo Shamobolicus' to the soaring vocals of Shaninne Gallagher and the traditional blend of music and stepdance performed by 'The Bradfords', the communities of Ardgour, Strontian and Kilchoan enjoyed the perform-

ances immensely. The tours are part of the school's drive to give something back to the communities it serves.

As many village halls as possible are visited in a 2-3 year rota.

Pupils taking part this year were: Rory Green, MacAulay Lock, Caleb Lock, Isabelle Tilling, Kate Bradley, Matthew Bradley, Joanna Ford, Claire Ford, Shaninne Gallagher, Kayleigh Ann Woods, Kathleen Robertson, Rory Malcolm, Jamie Begg and Christina Wilson.

### New album first for Argyll male voice Gaelic choir

A PRIZEWINNING Gaelic choir from Argyll, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2012, has marked the occasion by recording the first album ever produced by a male voice Gaelic choir.

Còisir Ceann an Tuirc - translated as The Boar's Head Choir - takes its name from the crest of the Clan Campbell, which has its ancestral seat at Inveraray Castle.

And, in another first for the choir, four of the songs from its 14-track album, Deich Bliadhna (Ten Years) of Còisir Ceann an Tuirc, were recorded within Inveraray Castle, by permission of choir supporter His Grace, the Duke of Argyll.

Deich Bliadhna was recorded by Finlay Wells of Nutshell Music in Oban. The album includes solos by choir members and conductor Joy Dunlop, a success-

ful Gaelic singer in her own right and well-known Gaelic teacher and broadcaster.

Joy, who hails from Connel but now lives in Glasgow, said: 'I think it's fantastic that an Argyll-based choir has produced the first ever male voice Gaelic choir CD.'

'In my opinion, community singing is so important because it brings people together to enjoy a common pastime and has been proved beneficial for both your mental and physical wellbeing.'

'The men of Còisir Ceann an Tuirc are a real pleasure to work with and I feel very privileged to conduct such a talented and truly lovely group of singers.'

Many of the choir members travel huge distances from places in Argyll as far afield as Carradale and Isle of Mull to attend the regular choir rehearsals held in Lochgilphead.

The choir, which won Mull and Iona Shield as the best male voice choir at the Royal National Mòd in 2008, is made up of singers with an age range of 28 to 88.

The album has been recorded thanks to funding from the Awards For All and Argyll and Bute Council's Third Sector Grant Scheme and is available to buy through www.joydunlop.com/shop. Highlander Music and local shops throughout Argyll.



The 125th anniversary of the Church of Scotland Guild was recently marked at Glencruitten Church Centre when Alexandrina MacDonald cut the celebratory cake. Mrs MacDonald, who has been a member for 67 years, was joined by fellow members of the Kilmore and Oban Guild at a Songs of Praise event.



Còisir Ceann an Tuirc won Mull and Iona Shield as the best male voice choir at the Royal National Mòd in Falkirk.

### Bob loses weight but gains cash for independence cause

A SCOTTISH National Party supporter revealed the results of his sponsored slim, used to raise funds for the Yes Scotland campaign, on St Andrew's Day.

Bob Allan, from Oban, who recently retired as a police force support officer at Oban Police Station, lost 14 inches from his waist during the sponsored slim between June 30 and St Andrew's Day.

He announced his weight loss and the total he had collected in sponsor money at the launch of the Yes Scotland campaign in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls last Saturday.

He said: 'I have lost 14 inches off my waist, from 58 inches to 44 inches, but I have gained £450 for the Oban For Independence group.'

Main speaker at the Yes Scotland event was Blair Jenkins, chief executive of Yes Scotland and former head of news and current affairs for both BBC Scotland and STV.

Following a lively question and answer session, which attracted around 100 people, there were speeches from former Labour Party supporter Andrew Anderson, Michael Russell MSP and Iain MacCormick, former MP for Argyll.

Music was provided by Rona Wilkie and Marit Falt, Sileas Sinclair, Oban Gaelic Choir and Rianna MacCormick. At its peak, there were more than 100 people present.



Bob Allan illustrates the extent of his weight loss by marking 14 inches on his belt. 16\_149bob01

<b>Oban Phoenix Cinema</b>	<b>Twilight Breaking Dawn Part 2</b>	Thurs 6th, 18:00
	<b>Skyfall</b>	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
	<b>The Sapphires</b>	Fri 7th, 20:30 • Sat 8th, 20:30 • Sun 9th, 18:00 Mon 10th, 18:00 • Tues 11th, 18:00
	<b>Shrek</b>	Sat 8th, 13:00
	<b>Arthur Christmas</b>	Sat 8th, 15:00 • Sun 9th, 13:00
	<b>The Angel's Share</b>	Wed 12th, 20:30 • Thurs 13th, 21:00

Be Sure to check out www.obanphoenix.com for all our December films and some special Christmas treats!

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<b>Twilight Breaking Dawn Part 2 (12A)</b>	It all ends here. In the final, breathtaking TWILIGHT franchise, the now vamped Bella (Kirsten Stewart) and Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) must face the malign Volturi council, who threaten the well-being of their newborn child. Moving towards a colossal final showdown between werewolf and vampire clans, this is among the most anticipated films of the year. Epic, tense and with quite the emotional bite.	<b>Arthur Christmas (U)</b> Arthur Christmas reveals the incredible, never-before seen answer to every child's question: 'So how does Santa deliver all those presents in one night?' The answer: Santa's exhilarating, ultra-high-tech operation hidden beneath the North Pole.
<b>The Sapphires (PG)</b>	1968 was the year that changed the world. And for four young Aboriginal sisters from a remote mission this is the year that would change their lives forever. Billed as Australia's answer to 'The Supremes', Dave secures the sisters their first true gig, and flies them to Vietnam to sing for the American troops. Based on a true story, THE SAPPHIRES is a triumphant celebration of youthful emotion, family and music.	<b>The Angel's Share (U)</b> BACK AGAIN BY POPULAR DEMAND! This is definitely your last chance to catch this outstanding film on the big screen in Oban, well for this year at least as this film just seems to keep coming back and wowing audiences! This bitter sweet comedy follows new dad Robbie, who having narrowly avoided jail, vows to turn over a new leaf. A visit to a distillery inspires him and his mates to seek a way out of their hopeless lives. Winner of this year's Jury Prize at Cannes, this film is both brilliant observational drama and hilariously funny.
<b>Shrek (U)</b>	When a green ogre called Shrek discovers his swamp has been 'swamped' with all sorts of fairytale creatures by the scheming Lord Farquaad, Shrek sets out, with a very loud donkey by his side, to 'persuade' Farquaad to give his swamp back. Farquaad, sends Shrek to rescue Princess Fiona, who is waiting for her one true love.	
<b>Skyfall (12A)</b>	Daniel Craig is back as Ian Fleming's James Bond 007 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 M6 comes under attack, 007 must track down and destroy the threat, no matter how personal the cost.	

### what's on guide

Friday 7th December	Sandra MacBeth
Markie Dans	
Saturday 8th December	Disco with DJ Danni Hay
Markie Dans	
Sunday 9th December	Quiz
Markie Dans	

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## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

<b>OBAN ART SOCIETY</b> Talk/Demonstration By Garry Whittion An introduction to animation Friday 7th December 2012 In Lorn Resource Centre Soroba Road, Oban 7.30 to 9.30pm Visitors welcome	<b>Minette Struthers, with Paddy Scott</b> from 'Scotland's Gardens', will be telling us about 'OPENING YOUR GARDEN' at St. John's Cathedral Hall, Oban Tuesday December 11th, 7.15 for 7.30pm (entrance from lane at rear) All very welcome. Refreshments, including home baking. For further information contact Marilyn on 01631 567137	<b>Auld New Years Night CEILIDH</b> in aid of 'CHAS' Children's Hospice Association Scotland Royal Hotel - Oban Saturday 12th January Tickets £5 (inc. stovies) from Hotel Reception or Webster of Oban, Stafford Street.
<b>MEUR LOCHABAIR</b> 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	<b>Oban &amp; Lorn Lions Club</b> <b>SANTAS GROTTO</b> Royal Hotel - Oban 11am - 3pm Sat 8th, Sat 15th, Sat 22nd	

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## Barra and Vatersay gain £147,000 grant towards Hebridean Living community project

BARRA and Vatersay Agricultural and Horticultural Association has been granted £147,200 to fund a project to help islanders grow and cook their own food.

Awarded from the Climate Challenge Fund, the money will allow the association to employ two people, a project manager and assistant, to drive the two-year Hebridean Living project.

In the past, residents of Barra and Vatersay would have grown much more of their own produce and been more self sustainable,

but research carried out by the association showed people felt there was now many barriers holding people back.

Among the main problems identified were time, access to land, cost of equipment and knowledge.

Sarah MacLean, secretary of the association, said: 'The project will look at the barriers and find a variety of workable solutions to make growing your own veg more attainable for the population.'

'There will be a series of workshops in cookery and preserving

to help people get the best out of what we produce on the island. Funding includes money to set up an equipment ring, growing spaces and run an annual celebration of Hebridean Living.

The project will work closely and in partnership with community groups and schools and have strong links to healthy eating, getting outdoors, fresh air and exercise.'

News of the grant comes shortly after the association was awarded £10,000 for a feasibility study on a

local produce shop and bakery. If successful, the shop would help make local produce more accessible on the island, provide new income streams for local crofters, gardeners and crafters and boost the economy of the island.

Sarah added: 'This is a really exciting time for the association with the feasibility study of the Local Produce Shop and Bakery underway. Hebridean Living is a separate project but both it and the shop will complement each other and help us work towards a more

sustainable future together. 'We hope lots of people will get involved and we have some exciting challenges throughout the project for you to take part in. The project will kick off at the start of next year and more information on how you can become involved will be out then.'

Meanwhile, the 'pop up' Christmas local produce shop, which debuted at Castlebay in November, will be held again this month due to its success. It will run for five days from December 10.

### Prime sheep meet rising trade at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 6715 prime sheep including 5043 lambs avg 155.6p (+5.54p p/wk) and 1672 cast ewes and rams at Stirling last Thursday.

Texel cross lambs from West Park sold to £99 and 211p per kilo, with Doune Farms selling Beltex crosses to £72.50 and 198p.

Texel cross ewes from Lochmills sold to £100.50, with Sharpitlaw selling Suffolk crosses to £95.50.

Uigle sold Blackface ewes to £49.50.

### Kintra bullocks sell to 238pence per kilo at Islay Christmas sale

UNITED Auctions held their annual Christmas sale of all classes cattle at Islay Auction Mart.

A catalogued entry of 631 head of all classes sold to a strong ringside of mainland buyers.

Bullocks sold to a top of £1045 for Limousin crosses from Uiskentuie and to 238pence per kilo, also Limousin crosses from Kintra.

Heifers sold to a top of £935 for Limousin crosses from Uiskentuie

whilst a pen of 10 Limousin crosses from Kilbride led the top call per kilo at 220pence.

The bullocks sold to average £613 per head or 196pence per kilo and heifers averaged £507 per head or 182pence per kilo.

In general, most of the annual consignments were lighter on the year by around 20/40 kilo's. Breeding cattle met with a sound trade with most lots remaining on the island.

### Mull community woodland group allocates all its crofts

Nine forest crofts have been created

A COMMUNITY woodland company on the Isle of Mull has successfully let all of its forest crofts and has a tenant living on site.

The North West Mull Community Woodland Company (NWMWCW) purchased land from Forestry Commission Scotland through the National Forest Land Scheme (NFLS) in 2006.

The land is being used for a variety of activities including forest schools, improved access, business opportunities and affordable housing.

A total of nine forest crofts have been created and all have been allocated with three currently let and five starting the letting process.

Last week a spokesman for Forestry Commission Scotland said 'no woodland crofts had come to fruition' but this was a reference to applications made from 2008 and did not take account of anything prior to that date.

The spokesman has now corrected his stance. He said: 'When we said that no woodland crofts had come to fruition under the NFLS we were referring to applications made under that specific option, which only became part of the NFLS in 2008.'

'However, the North West Mull Community Woodland Company successfully applied to the NFLS in 2006 and has since established nine crofts, three of which are let. This was a genuine oversight on our part.'

'We would like to congratulate the NWMWCW for its achievements and we hope that other applicants will be able to mirror their success.'

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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**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/02175/PP	Erection of garage	Tigh Na Craig Clachan Seil Isle of Seil Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4TJ	Sub Post Office Balvicar
12/02373/PP	Erection of extensions, decking and replacement shed	Kildunan Hough Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute	Tiree Area Office
12/02438/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, formation of vehicular access and installation of septic tank	Land to South of Ardnair House Cullpool Isle of Luing Argyll and Bute PA34 4UD	Sub Post Office Cullpool
12/02534/PPP	Site for erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Garden Ground of Glenleidle Pennyghael Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA70 6HB	Sub Post Office Mull
12/02535/PP	Erection of wind turbine (45.9 metres high to blade tip), formation of temporary access track and erection of substation	Cuil Uliane Farm Achaleven Road Connel Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1PF	Sub Post Office Connel
12/02544/PP	Erection of wind turbine (225kW, 45.9 metres high to blade tip) with temporary access track and associated substation	Land at Kilvree Farm Connel Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Connel
12/02590/PP	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse	Airlic Cottage North Connel Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1BD	Sub Post Office Ledgig
12/02598/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Lower Lora Cottage Connel Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1PA	Sub Post Office Connel
12/02612/PPP	Site for the erection of 7 dwellinghouses	Land West of Craig Lora Edendonich Dalmally Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmally

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/02620/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage	Land to South of 1 Lochandhu Tainuill Argyll and Bute PA35 1JL	Sub Post Office Tainuill

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.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/02524/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land Adjacent to Alistair Annes Cottage Upper Kilchattan Isle of Colonsay Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/02630/PP	Erection of single storey rear extension	7 High Street Bowmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA43 7JE	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Whitegates Offices, Whitegates Road, Lochgilphead, PA31 8SY, 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**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/02095/MFF	Formation of fin fish (Rainbow Trout) farm comprising 14 No. 100m circumference cages plus installation of feed barge	Sailean Ruadh (Etive 6) Loch Etive Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Tainuill

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011**

NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 18  
PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE NUMBER: 12/02095/MFF  
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT SAILEAN RUADH (ETIVE 6)  
LOCH ETIVE ARGYLL AND BUTE

Notice is hereby given that an environmental statement has been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council by Dawnfresh Farming Limited relating to the planning application in respect of formation of fin fish (Rainbow Trout) farm comprising 14 No. 100m circumference cages plus installation of feed barge, notified to Argyll and Bute Council.

A copy of the environmental statement and the associated planning applications may be inspected during office hours in the register of planning applications kept by the Planning Authority, at Whitegates Office, Whitegates Road, Lochgilphead, PA31 8SY; and by logging on to the Council's Website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and going through the 'Online planning and Building Standards Application Information' system during the period of 28 days beginning with the date of this notice. Copies of the environmental statement may be purchased from Dawnfresh Farming Limited at a cost of £95.00 (hardcopy) and £5.00 (disc).

Any person who wishes to make representations to Argyll and Bute Council about the environmental statement should make them in writing within the period to Mr R. Kerr, Principal Planning Officer, Whitegates Office, Whitegates Road, Lochgilphead, PA31 8SY.

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.

**AREA COMMITTEE MEETING**

A Meeting of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee will be held in the Corran Halls, Oban at 2.30p.m. - Wednesday, 12 December 2012.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and a public question time will take place for 30 minutes during the meeting. Questions can be asked on the day or can be submitted in advance to the Area Governance Manager, 22 Hill Street, Dunoon PA23 7AP. Telephone: 013689 707134.

The Agenda for the meeting is available to view at the Servicepoint, Albany Street, Oban and at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)  
Douglas Hendry, Executive Director - Customer Services

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)



**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://www.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
12/04417/FUL	Land 270m North West of Duneira, Kenra, Acharacle	Erection of holiday cottage (renewal of 09/00360/FULLO)
12/04472/FUL	Land East of Benloch Cottage, 76 Camaghael Fort William	Erection of house
12/04489/FUL	5 Torlundy Road Caol, Fort William	Extension to house to form residential annex

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)

**ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL'S THIRD SECTOR GRANTS 2013/14**

Application forms for grants to third sector organisations for 2013/14 are now available at local area community learning offices. They can also be accessed using the following link: [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/council-and-government/third-sector-grants](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/council-and-government/third-sector-grants)

Closing date for applications is 1 February 2013.  
For further information please phone 01546 604189 or email [communitydevelopment@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:communitydevelopment@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

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CVs must include evidence of previous Java software development and examples should be provided, where possible.

For further information and to apply for this position online, go to: [www.sams.ac.uk](http://www.sams.ac.uk). Alternatively, please write to: Human Resources, Java Programmer, (Job Ref D24/12.SG), The Scottish Association for Marine Science, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll PA37 1QA or e-mail [recruitment@sams.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@sams.ac.uk)

The closing date for receipt of applications is **Wednesday 19th December 2012**

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Ann an Lùnastal 2013, fosglaidh Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce anns an togalach far an robh Bun-sgoil Bonnington roimhe ach a tha a-nis air ath-sgeadachadh às ùr. Le dùil gum bi an àireamh sgoilearan anns a' chiad dol a-mach timcheall air 220, tha sinn a' sireadh Ceannard-sgoile a tha làn-ionnsaichte, dìcheallach agus dealasach gus sàr-àrainneachd foghlaim a libhrigeadh do sgoilearan tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

Thathas an dùil gun cumar agallamhan airson na dreuchd seo san Fhaoilleach 2013 agus gum bithear ag amas air ceann-latha tòiseachaidh don tagraiche a shoirbhicheas anns a' Ghiblean 2013.

Feumaidh tagraichean a bhith clàraichte no airidh air roghainn clàraidh leis an GTCS. Bidh e deatamach gum faighear ballrachd fo Sgeama Dion Bhuidhean So-leithe mus gabhar an dreuchd. Ref: EDN004734

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**Ceann-latha deireannach Dihaoine 21 Dùbhlachd 2012**

**Head Teacher – Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce**  
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It is planned to hold interviews for this post in January 2013 with an anticipated start date of April 2013 for the successful candidate.

Applicants must be registered or be eligible for registration with GTCS. Membership of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme will be essential before taking up appointment. Ref: EDN004734.

If you would like to discuss any aspects of this post prior to submitting an application, please call David Wright on 0131 469 3413.

**Closing Date: 21 December 2012**  
To find out more and apply go to [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/jobs)

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**Proposed Let of a Croft**

Donald Cameron is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft at 29 Upper Achintore, Kilmallie to Malcolm Cameron of Strone Farm, Banavie, Fort William.

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.

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BIRTHS

RODGERS - Chris and Verona (Watson) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their son Oliver Allan on November 30, 2012 at Southern General Hospital. A wee brother for Lucas. A second grandson for Allan and Maureen Rodgers and second grandson for Verona Watson.

DEATHS

BUTLER - Suddenly but peacefully after a long illness, at Lynne of Lorne Care Home, Benderloch, on November 30, 2012, in his 70th year, George, a dear husband, father, father-in-law, granddad, brother and brother-in-law.

CUMMING - Peacefully at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on November 28, 2012, Molly, beloved wife of the late Iain, much loved mother of Ian and devoted and cherished granny to Veronica, Stephanie and Christopher. Sorely missed by all who knew her. R.I.P.

DONNELLY - Katie Ann (née Morrison) 78. Suddenly but peacefully at the North Argyll, Oban, whilst in Respite, passed away on December 3, 2012. Loving wife and mother of the late Donald Cameron Donnelly and late son John, dearly loved mum to Catherine, Donald and families. Funeral to be held on Saturday, December 8 in Church of Scotland, Caol, followed by interment in Kilmalie Cemetery. Family flowers only please, donations to Alzheimer Scotland.

MACLARTY - Peacefully at Ninewells Hospital on Saturday, December 1, 2012, tragically as the result of a fall at home, Alex, aged 81, beloved husband of the late Eleanor, dearly loved dad of Irene and Gordon, a much loved grandfather, great-grandfather and uncle. Funeral on Friday, December 7, service in Crieff Parish Church, Strathern Terrace, Crieff at 12.00pm, interment thereafter in Crieff Cemetery to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please but if desired a retiring collection will be taken for Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland.

MACNAIR - Ishbel Ross, died suddenly in Portugal after a long illness, bravely borne, on November 29, 2012; wife of Terry, much loved mother and grandmother. Private cremation in Portugal. Donations to cortico-basal degeneration research.

McClements - Catriona Margaret (Liberton), Peacefully, at the Western General Hospital, on November 29, 2012, Catriona, (Peggy), aged 96 years, beloved wife of the late Dr Robert W McClements, greatly loved mother of Bobbie, David, Peter and Patricia, devoted granny and great granny, sadly missed sister of William, also the late Jeannette and David Love. Lovingly remembered by all. Service to be held at Mortonhall Crematorium, Pentland Chapel, Monday, December 10, 2012 at 1.30pm.

SCOTT - Suddenly at his home in Dubai, on November 28, 2012, aged 11 months, Finlay Connelly Scott, baby son of Grigor and Ruth, grandson of Christine and the late Cyril Scott, North Connel. The funeral will take place at Ardchattan Church on Friday November 7 at 11am. Thereafter to Achnaba Cemetery.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CROOKS - Vera, on November 27, 2012, the family of the late Vera Crooks would like to thank all friends and relatives for their help and kind expressions of sympathy during their recent sad loss. Also friends and neighbours who long ago welcomed us to the area and made Vera's last years enjoyable. Special thanks to Marie, Erik and the Beatson Oncology Unit for looking after her also to Catriona and family for the funeral arrangements and the Rev. Dugald Cameron for his service and spiritual comfort.

LOVE - Anne, Elizabeth and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their support and kindness, for the many cards, flowers and telephone calls and expressions of sympathy shown to them at this sad time. Special thanks to all connected to Ward B, Lorn and Islands Hospital and Southern Surgery who so kindly cared for Bob. The Reverend Dugald Cameron for a very personal and comforting service, to Ross MacPherson for his lovely music and Peter Sinclair for his wonderful singing. To Ian MacInnes of D & A Munn for efficient funeral arrangements and thanks also to the Rowantree Hotel for refreshments and to all who attended church and graveside, many of who travelled a long way in appalling weather. Thanks also to Emma Law for her excellent bagpipe tribute at Pennyfuir. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the retiral collection which raised a fantastic amount of £705.

MEMORIAMS

BUNTING - In loving memory of my mother Jessie Bunting, died December 11, 1980 and my father-in-law Willie died February 10, 2003 and brother Arthur Straker died October 30, 2001. Sadly missed and always remembered. - Alasdair.

DAVIS - In loving memory of Peggy, darling mum and granny. In our hearts and thoughts always. From all the family.

GORDON - In loving memory of a much loved husband, father and granddad, David Francis, who sadly passed away December 9, 2010. Missed everyday.

- Jenny, Angela, Keira, David and Beacham family.

KEITH - Remembering with love Neil, a dear husband, father and grandfather died November 19, 2002.

- Mary.

KING - In memory of Robin, passed away November 22, 2010.

There are times that I cry Alone with just me When the silence comes crashing Like a storm troubled sea. - Loving wife Linda. There are times that we laugh now When we remember the years That we shared together Through the good times and tears Miss you dad. - Stephen and Jenny.

LIVINGSTON - Cathy, who passed away November 25, 2005.

Miss you mum More and more each day. - Livingston family, home and away.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of our parents Katie Ann (nee Campbell) who died on 5/12/1942 and Archie (The Post) who died on 31/5/1962 at Dunvegan, Isle-of-Skye. Cailean, Ceiteag Agus Ailean. MACDONALD - Treasured memories of Charles Hugh (Charlie) who died December 8, 2011, dearest brother of Mary, Catherine, Kenneth, Rhona and Ailsa and a loving brother-in-law, uncle and great-uncle.

With every day that passes We always find a way To wander back and meet you On the road of yesterday.

- All the family, Fort William, Inverness, The Haque.

MACEACHEN - In loving memory of Alistair, dear husband, father and papa, who died on December 8, 1998. RIP.

Treasured memories keep you near As time unfolds another year. - Margaret, Michael, Pauline and boys.

MACGILLIVRAY - In loving memory of Duncan who died December 5th 2009. Fond memories of a very special person. Always in our hearts.

- All the family x MACINTOSH - In loving memory of my dear wife, Mum and Gran, Morag who died on November 27, 1979. Always remembered.

- Inserted by her husband and family, Isle of Barra. MACINTYRE - In loving memory of my dear father Hugh MacIntyre who passed away on December 9, 1970. RIP.

The years pass by But memories stay Loved and remembered always.

- Inserted by his loving daughter Flora.

MACPHEE - Treasured memories of our dear parents and grandparents John (Jocka) who passed away on December 2, 2003 and Angela (Angie) who passed away December 13, 2010. Loved and remembered every day. Sadly missed John, Rosie, Julie, Ronnie, Nicola, Toni and Craig xx. NEWELL - Flora Elizabeth (Lily) who fell asleep November 29, 2011. Will never be forgotten and will always be with me, Always and forever, loving husband Ralph.

O'BRIEN - Treasured memories of Valerie who passed away on December 4, 2010.

A loving wife, mother and granny, Always a smile never a frown.

A memory we will always remember.

Sorely missed, - Billy and Louise. xx

O'BRIEN - In loving memory of Valerie, who passed away on December 4, 2010, a special mum and granny. Loved and remembered every day.

Sorley missed, - Love Laurence, Olivia and Amelie.

SKINNER - In loving memory of Jean, mum, granny and great-granny who passed away December 10, 2011

- Thomas, Robert, Marion & families WHITTET - Treasured memories of our dear mum and dad, Jessie and George, Mum died November 29, 1977 and dad on October 6, 1993. We miss them in so many ways

We miss the things they used to say And when old times we do recall It's then we miss them most of all. Loved and remembered always.

- By family in Islay, Lossiemouth, Ayrshire and Norfolk.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

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ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN. Campbell Street Church. Sunday 9 December 2012. 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Phone-In 'Worship Link' available. Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh (01631) 567076. All welcome.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION. Sunday 9 December 2012. Advent 2. St John's Cathedral, Oban. Holy Communion..... 08.00. Sung Eucharist..... 10.15. Sunday School and Creche Loop System. Large Print Hymn Books. All Welcome. Nicki McNelly Provost (01631) 562323. St Columba, Gruline, Mull. Holy Communion..... 11.00. St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona. Holy Eucharist..... 10.00.

FORT WILLIAM BAPTIST CHURCH, BELFORD ROAD CHRISTMAS FAYRE. Sat 8th December - 2-4pm. Craft Stalls, Toy Stall, Christmas Foods, Carol Service, Christmas Cards, Teas/Coffees, Charity Stall, Book Stalls, Christmas Carol Service. Proceeds from rental of table and sale of other produce to go to Fort William Baptist Church Extension fund. For more information and to book a table, contact: david.white111@btinternet.com

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS. Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS. Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS. Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS.



Simon and his colleagues along with some Portree pupil council and eco committee members in the garden at the end of the day.

Portree power workers create animal garden for school

EIGHT workers from SSE visited Portree Primary School to help with the schools 'Community at Heart' employee volunteer programme. Local man and parent Simon Latton organised the visit, which saw the power workers build a fence, dug out, and terraced and laid bark in a muddy area of the garden. The team also made seating for pupils and carved a magnificent bench as a centrepiece to the garden, which features Tiger from the Jungle Story as part of it.

Around the Rurals

Glenorchy

THE NOVEMBER meeting was held on the evening of the 28th with nine members and two visitors present. The president, Liz Gibson, welcomed everyone and introduced the guest speaker, Marjorie Walker.

The meeting was then treated to an entertaining demonstration of canapè making. While telling of some of her amusing experiences in the catering world, Marjorie deftly whipped up both sweet and savoury mini morsels, which were a delight to sample and an inspiration for Christmas entertaining.

The monthly competitions were a pate and a pretty plate. Pate: 1 June Sutherland, 2 Sandra Boardman, 3 Kathleen McLennan. Plate: 1 Liz Gibson, 2 Jane Goodwin and 3 June Sutherland. A delicious tea was served by Helen Gibson and Betty Spalding.

Torosay RECYCLING was the topic of the night at the recent meeting of the Torosay branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI). Roger Johns visited the group to give an illustrated talk on the subject - but if anyone was expecting instructions on the best way to crush empty cans they were in for a surprise. Diana Oldacre, of Torosay SWRI, said: 'Roger goes in for recycling in a big way. He visits building sites and offers to relieve builders of all kinds of things that would otherwise find their way into landfill. 'Left over timber, concrete blocks and piping off-cuts get loaded into the back of his truck, along with windows, doors, tree stumps, rope and all sorts of other bits and pieces. 'These are given a new life in Roger's garden as fencing, cold frames, raised beds, and planters. He has even built a 'bridge to nowhere' and a shed which looks smarter than many a conservatory. 'He left us with lots of ideas for our own gardens.'

After a tea provided by Janet and Diana the group held a meeting to discuss the forthcoming federation shows.

Salen GIFT boxes of all shapes and sizes were made at the recent meeting of the Salen branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI). Alison Willis, visited the institute at An Talla where an audience of 20 strong had gathered to hear stories from her career. Jennie Niven, of Tires SWRI, said: 'Alison met famous people, travelled a lot and faced dangerous situations. 'She covered the happy, sad, angry, good, bad, funny and humbling stories. She also explained that it was old typewriters and telephone boxes to report your story back to the office, not the technology of today. 'It was a very amusing and interesting talk which everyone enjoyed.'

President Eileen O'Dea thanked Alison for visiting and presented a gift. Competitions: Four pieces of tray bake: 1. Judith West; 2. Annie MacKinnon; 3. Sue Bottomly. Coasters: 1. Fiona Maxwell; 2. Sue Bottomly; 3. Margo Jarvis. Child's sunhat: 1. Alison Willis.

Tiree

TALES of danger, travel and fame graced the November meeting of the Tiree branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI). Alison Kennedy, a retired journalist, visited the institute at An Talla where an audience

of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI). The intricate creations, handy for Christmas presents, were demonstrated by Diana Oldacre. Alison Willis, of Salen SWRI, said: 'Silence came over the meeting as all the members concentrated on folding and gluing the boxes. 'Some people were quite speedy and made two (and some three) boxes to take home, but everybody had something to show for their evening's work.'

The vote of thanks was given by Margaret Black and a tea was provided by Tula Rowley and Eileen Slorach. The evening's business included a discussion about the 2013 community work. Competitions: Socks, variegated wool: 1. Alison Willis. Child's sunhat: 1. Alison Willis.

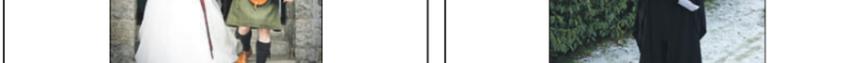
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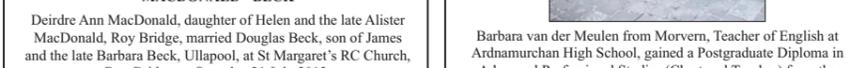


SMITH - MACLEOD Patricia Smith and Calum MacLeod from Oban were married on the 20th September at Moon Palace Resort Mexico Cancun, shared their lovely day with family and friends.

GRADUATIONS



Martin A. MacLellan - Graduated from The University of the West of Scotland with a B.A. in Criminal Justice with Honours. Son of Andrew MacLellan, stepson of Christine Rogers. Grandson of Morag MacLellan and the late Donnie MacLellan. Former pupil of Park Primary, Lenzie Academy and Oban High.



Barbara van der Meulen from Morvern, Teacher of English at Ardnamurchan High School, gained a Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Professional Studies (Chartered Teacher) from the University of the West of Scotland on 30th November 2012.



STEPHEN - MORRISON Catherine Stephen & Greig Morrison were married at St Oran's Church, Connel on November 17th 2012. They celebrated their marriage with family & friends at the Lochneil Arms Hotel, North Connel. Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.

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**Lancaster B make successful bid for top league place**

**OBAN POOL LEAGUE**

MARKIE Dans 'B' hosted The Lancaster 'B' on Wednesday evening, with the latter hoping to go top of the table albeit for possibly only 24 hours.

The Lancaster 'B' made their intentions clear right from the offset dominating the early singles matches, but they had to rely on winning the last doubles game to secure the points. Although far from a vintage performance it was enough to go top and await Thursday nights results.

Markie Dans 'A' needed only a point to return to the summit against The Cellar, although with the Cellar having their own title intentions that was never going to be easy.

Unfortunately for Markies they suffered their first defeat of the season albeit narrowly to blow the championship race wide open, with their conquerors The Cellar now firmly in the mix for honours.

The Lancaster 'A' hosted The Lochavullin knowing only a win would keep alive their slim title hopes and just about merited victory although The Lochavullin proved why they'd previously hit the dizzy heights of third place.

For the first time in years the Connel derby between The Gluepot and The Lochnell returned to the league schedule but neither team can claim the bragging rights yet as this one finished even. In Thursday's other closely fought contest The Claredon picked up the win to leave The Kelvin a point adrift at the foot of the table.

**Results:**  
The Gluepot 5-5 The Lochnell, The Claredon 6-4 The Kelvin; Lancaster A 6-4 Lochavullin; The Cellar 6-4 Markie Dans A; Markie Dans B 4-6 Lancaster B  
**Fixtures (December 6):**  
The Lochnell v Lancaster B; The Claredon v The Gluepot; Markie Dans A v Lochavullin; Lancaster A v The Kelvin; The Cellar v Markie Dans B.

**League table**

Team	Pts
Lancaster B	12
Markie Dans A	11
The Cellar	10
The Lochavullin	9
Lancaster A	8
The Lochnell	7
The Claredon	5
The Gluepot	3
Markie Dans B	3
The Kelvin	2

**Trialists go three points clear**

**INDOOR FOOTBALL**

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
Trialists	3	3	0	0	9
Clements	2	2	0	0	6
Taynuilt	3	2	0	1	6
WC Massive	3	2	0	1	6
Emergency	3	1	1	1	4
Hydro	3	1	0	2	3
Sail Trim Coach3	1	0	2	3	3
Spartak	3	0	1	2	1
Teachers	3	0	0	3	0

**Results:**  
Spartak 0, Trialists 3; Emergency 7 WC Massive 2, Hydro 7 Teachers 6  
Taynuilt 3 WC Massive 8  
Emergency 2 Trialists 3



Above - Manny Gorman crosses the line in first place. 16\_149race01



Left - Manny Gorman's biggest fan, two-year-old daughter Maisy, was at the finish line waiting for her dad. 16\_149race03

**Sutherland's Grove proves big hit with winter league runners**

ARGYLL'S latest contribution to the Lochaber Athletic Club Winter League may yet prove to be one of its most popular after 59 runners braved the frosty conditions at the inaugural Sutherland's Grove, near Barcaldine.

A replacement for the Beinn Lora Hill Race, which had to be removed from the race calendar because of forestry work being carried out on the hill, the 4.8-mile course was short, but certainly not simple.

With plenty of mud, roots, steep climbs and ice thrown in this fourth race in the series was a challenge for even the best hill runners.

**ATHLETICS**

Manny Gorman from Kingussie was the man to beat having won the last two races but he bided his time, letting Jon Gay take the leading pace.

Manny made his move in the second half of the race and despite a niggling injury returning, he held his lead to the end, eventually beating Tark Gunn by 35 seconds.

Tark's second place was an incredible return to form, ahead of John Gay, whose long training days seem to be paying off. Susan Blackwood made her trip down from Inverness worth-

while with an impressive ladies win and 11th overall in second. The new route proved very popular having only been laid on at the last minute and race organiser Tom Smith said the Sutherlands Grove Trails may be back next year to act as a winter league counter again, with Beinn Lora rescheduled for late summer.  
Tom added: 'Thanks to Tim Brand for marshalling, Lynn for helping me with timing, Nicola at Castle Stalker Cafe for discounted nosh for the runners, John O'Neill for taking pictures and the Forestry Commission for its support.'

**Mull driver collects trophies**

Craig Rutherford has returned home to Mull, weighed down with trophies, following a successful Scottish Rally Championship prizegiving night at the Hilton Treetops in Aberdeen last Saturday. The 22-year-old Fionnphort man won six trophies in 2012: Scottish Rally Championship - Scottish Junior Champion; Scottish Rally Championship - 1st Junior Driver; 1st in Class 7; 2WD Challenge - 3rd overall driver; 1st 2000 FWD; and 1st Honda Civic Type R.



**Atlantis Leisure five-a-side league**

**INDOOR FOOTBALL**

**Results:**  
Glenorchy 3, Handy Men 10; RM Builders 9, Stoddart's 3; Oban Times 24, OES B 2.

**Fixtures:**  
5pm - Glenorchy v Atlantis Leisure;  
5.45pm - Oban High School v Royal Hotel;  
6.30pm - RM Builders v The Handy Men;  
7.15pm - Carpet Fitters v Oban Times;  
8pm - OES B v Stoddart's T&T

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
Oban Times	5	4	0	1	12
RM Builders	3	3	0	0	9
Oban High	3	3	0	0	9
Carpet Fitters	3	2	0	1	6
Atlantis	2	2	0	0	6
Stoddart's T&T	4	2	0	2	6
Handy Men	4	1	0	3	3
Royal Hotel	3	1	0	2	3
Glenorchy	5	1	0	4	3
OES 'B'	5	1	0	4	3
OES 'A'	4	0	0	4	0

**Tutors take steps with positive coaching**

**COACHING**

SEVEN tutors from Argyll and Bute Council's leisure and youth services team have successfully completed the Positive Coaching Scotland training course. The sportsScotland programme, in partnership with the Winning Scotland Foundation, is designed to teach valuable life lessons and skills through sport. Central to the programme is the concept of developing Double Goal Coaches, who ensure children have life skills, as well as sporting skills.

Oban Cricket Club member Ronnie Kelly attended the course. He said: 'I thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and thought the two tutors who ran it were excellent. They were very good at getting the message across but also making it light hearted and enjoyable for the participants.'

Argyll and Bute Council's lead councillor for sport, Douglas Philand, added: 'Sport can bring so much to the lives of young



Candidates from the Oban Double Goal Coach workshop.

people and not only when taking part. So many of the skills learned on the playing field, like teamwork, playing fair, motivation and discipline, can help in

many other areas of life.' Double Goal Coach workshops will now be offered to sports clubs across the Argyll and Bute Council area.

To learn more, get in touch with Nicola Hackett, Active Schools manager, on 01369 705797 or email activeschools@argyll-bute.gov.uk

**Oban Saints score with shirt sponsor**



The Oban Saints squad pictured before the recent game against Eastfield wearing their new red and white playing kit sponsored by D & K Lafferty & Co. The Oban contracting company also supplied tracksuits and polo shirts to the squad.

**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.

**WIN £850**

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:  
EMJ MacInnes  
Kinlochleven  
A Swanson  
Keills, Islay

**Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition**

I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box)  The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

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**Wullie ends martial arts career with a 100-fight charity spectacular**

Wullie Rodger will take on 100 fighters in less than two hours on Saturday

MOST people would be expected to finish their sporting career at a nice, leisurely pace - not Oban martial arts expert Wullie Rodger.  
The 41-year-old black belt will be attempting a 100-fighter Kumite at Oban Martial Arts Centre on Saturday from noon.  
A Kumite requires the fighter to withstand one hour and 40 minutes of full contact, bare knuckle knockdown fighting, facing a new opponent every minute.  
As well as ringing the bell on the final round of Wullie's career, the Kumite will serve as a fundraising drive for Help for Heroes.  
The charity Help for Heroes was launched in October 2007 in order to provide direct, practical support to wounded injured and sick Service personnel and their families.  
You can sponsor Wullie on the day at the martial arts centre, or on his fundraising website bmycharity.com/100kumite

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## World's top amateur golf event comes to Argyll

### GOLF

NEGOTIATIONS by Argyll and Bute Council have secured the world's top amateur golf pairs event for Machrihanish, in Kintyre.

The world final of the International Pairs Club Event will take place in October 2013 at Machrihanish Dunes links course. It is recognised as the world's biggest club competition.

Council Leader Roddy McCuish said: 'This event is huge and the world final attracts golfers and their followers from 30 countries.'

'It is a marvellous coup for Kintyre and the impact will spread throughout Argyll and Bute as word is taken to the world of what this unique area has to offer.'

Councillor McCuish with fellow councillors Dougie Philand and Donald Kelly worked together to attract the event to Machrihanish.

The event has been held in Scotland at the Carrick Golf Course at Loch Lomond for the past three years. A conversation with event organisers Golf Frontiers revealed they were looking for an alternative venue in Scotland.

'We alerted them to the high class golf courses on Islay and Campbeltown and the rest is history,' said Councillor McCuish.

### GOLF

#### Tobermory Golf Club

Results of the men's December nine-hole medal:

- 1 Iain Wilshire, 36-08-28;
- 2 Ewan MacCrone, 34-04-30;
- 3 Mike Campbell, 41-10-31.

Junior December nine-hole medal:

- 1 Scott Paterson, 40-14-26;
- 2 William MacCrone, 36-03-33;
- 3 Lewis Wilshire, 41-05-33.

#### Islay Golf Club

December Medal:

- 1 Lachlan Gairns, 80 - 11 = 69;
- 2 Calum Davey, 83 - 13 = 70;
- 3 Ruairaidh MacIntyre 76 - 5 = 71

#### Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

### YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results:

Milngavie v Under 13s; Under 14s v Antonine; Under 15s v Dalvait; Allander Colts v Under 16s. All games were postponed because of frozen pitches.

This weekend's fixtures:

Under 13s v North Kelvin United; Under 14s - no game; Newmains Hammers v Under 15s; Under 16s - no game.

Sportsdesk  
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568000



Oban Saints midfielder Myles McAuley gets up for a header during the game against Sandys. Photograph by Stephen Lawson.

# Saints fail to impress but still march on in Scottish Cup

'We didn't play well but, at the end of the day, we're through to the last 64'

### FOOTBALL

Fosters Scottish Amateur Cup  
4th Round  
Oban Saints 2  
Sandys 1

SANDYS FC, who are top of the Lothian and Edinburgh AFA Premier Division, were the visitors to Oban for this Fosters Scottish Amateur Cup fourth round tie which was switched from the grass park at Glencruitten to the 3G pitch at Oban High School.

Even the all-weather surface at the school was frozen in places and it was only a last minute decision after a thorough inspection from referee Allan Loch that allowed the game to go ahead.

The Oban side are in good form at the moment but this was not one of their better performances as they huffed and puffed their way through the 90 minutes. But they managed a victory and got through to the fifth round of the national competition.

Saints knew they were going to be in for a tough game against the Edinburgh side and this is exactly the way it turned out to be with Sandys having a lot of the ball. But credit to the Oban side; they defended really well.

Sandys seemed to adapt better to the conditions and created a couple of half chances early on with Robert McKenzie coming close.

The same player, the best man on the park by a country mile, was unlucky with a great strike that hit the post with Graham Douglas, who was standing in for Daniel Cassells between the

### FOOTBALL

sticks, rooted to the spot. The Oban side were finding it hard going on the tricky surface, but started to come back into the game and they took the lead in the 14th minute when a cross from Ross Maitland was met by Eddie Swift and his glancing header sailed into the postage stamp corner of the net giving keeper Garry Gilhooley no chance.

The game was being played at a frantic pace with the Edinburgh side not giving Saints a chance to settle on the ball and it took a tremendous save from Graham Douglas five minutes before half time to deny Sandys an equaliser.

### Relieved

It was a relieved bunch of Saints players who left the park at half time leading by the narrowest of margins.

The second half was much the same as the first, but the Oban lads were more of an attacking force than they were in the first, but without troubling the goalkeeper too much.

Donald Campbell and Myles McAuley combined for the latter to get a shot on target as did Eddie Swift a few minutes later.

The game was finely balanced with the next goal going to vital and thankfully it came to the home side when they were awarded a free kick at the edge of the box with ten minutes remaining.

Willie Gemmell stepped up

and curled a great shot round the wall and past the despairing dive of Garry Gilhooley to give the home team a 2-0 lead. This should have been the signal for Saints to get the ball down and pass it about and run down the clock but instead they lost possession near the away team's corner flag instead of keeping the ball in the corner. The visitors broke upfield, the ball was played to Michael Osborne who thumped a great right foot shot past Graham Douglas to make the score 2-1 - game on.

The last five minutes were pretty tense for the large crowd of Saints' supporters but thankfully the team managed to run down the clock and it was a relieved Oban contingent that celebrated at the end of the game.

Manager Iain Jackson said: 'This was our worst performance of the season by far. We didn't play well at all but, at the end of the day, we're through to the last 64 of a competition that starts with nearly 700 teams, beating a good team on the way, so I suppose that's all that really counts.'

This Saturday Saints are at home to Port Glasgow OBU in the first round of the Jimmy Marshall Trophy.

The game will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off.

Referee is Jimmy Lister from Lochgilphead.

The game has to be finished on the day so penalty kicks, if required, will determine who goes through to the second round.

# Taynuilt youngster smashes way up Scottish badminton rankings

A YOUNG badminton prospect has been smashing his way up the Scottish rankings after winning two titles in a month.

Harry Mobey, from Taynuilt, has been at Glasgow School of Sport at Bellahouston Academy for just three months but has already secured a

### BADMINTON

Glasgow singles and doubles title and a national medal. Harry's first victory since joining the school came on November 17 in Wishaw, clinching the under-13s boys age group singles title.

Harry played Edinburgh's Ewen Mathieson in the final match with a comfortable win of 21/10, 21/7.

Harry next travelled to Glasgow to play in singles and doubles matches on December 2. Harry made it to the quarter finals of the singles but was

knocked out in a three set match by the top seed.

However, Harry and his doubles partner won all their matches to secure a three-set victory, 21/12, 18/21, 21/17.

Harry also previously gained a national medal in Lisburn in October.

He is travelling to Wycombe this weekend to play in a national tournament, then Sheffield in the New Year and then off to Belgium in the spring.

In addition, he has further Scottish tournaments throughout the next few months. Harry's mother, Karen, said: 'Harry is embracing his experience at the school. He is fitter than he's ever been and we are very quickly seeing results.'

'There is a great positive attitude in the school and all the children from all the sporting disciplines support each other in their training and at tournaments.'

The school is currently looking for new talent in badminton, athletics, hockey, gymnastics and swimming and there are openings in S1, S3, S5 and S6. If anyone is interested, check the website at [glasgow-school-of-sport.bellahoustonacademy.co.uk](http://glasgow-school-of-sport.bellahoustonacademy.co.uk).

All entries have to be with the school by December 23.



Harry Mobey is making his mark on the junior badminton circuit.

# Taynuilt shine at Mull mini rugby fest

### RUGBY

ISLE of Mull RFC hosted the second Dalriada Rugby Festival of the season on Sunday November 25 with teams from Mull, Oban, Taynuilt and Lochaber attending the event at Garmony.

Taynuilt, who had won both age group trophies at the Oban tournament in September, were looking to retain their success in both age groups. More than 80 boys and girls from P4-7 put on a fantastic show of impressive

### RUGBY

rugby skills with the P6/7 age group adding more structure to their games with scrums, line-outs and kicking from within five metres of their own line. Taynuilt again won the trophies from both age groups with some fierce competition from all the other teams. Lochaber ran them close in both competitions.

### RUGBY

Argyll Rugby thank Isle of Mull for hosting the day and providing fantastic hospitality and all the travelling teams who made the effort to get to the event. The next event will be at Taynuilt on Sunday February 10. For more information on mini rugby in Argyll contact Allan Wright, Argyll Rugby Development Officer, at 07867 425973 or [allan.wright@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:allan.wright@argyll-bute.gov.uk).

# Lorne back in action at Glencruitten

### RUGBY

OBAN Lorne are back in West Division 3 action at Glencruitten this Saturday, as they aim to maintain their good form against visitors Millbrae.

The Green Machine have played their rivals from Ayr already this season coming away with a 27-21 win.

Oban Lorne will be looking to

### RUGBY

gain maximum points to keep in touch with league leaders Loch Lomond, who Oban narrowly beat 18-17 in their last game.

Coach Corrie Louw should have a healthy squad of players to choose from.

### RUGBY

Saturday is a big day for the club, with the S1/2 teams playing before the senior match and the clubhouse also hosting a sponsor's lunch.

The first XV game will be kicking off at 2pm, followed by an '80s disco at the club from 8pm. Free entry with optional fancy dress.

## Weather

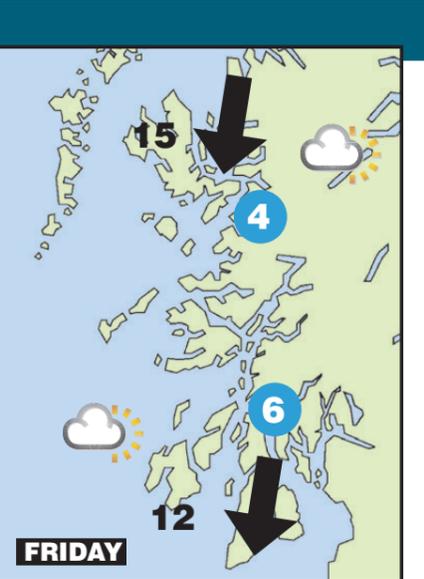
**Thursday** Showers spreading from the west  
Winds north westerly, moderate  
Temperatures -1C to 5°C

**Friday** Bright and dry in most areas  
Winds northerly and increasing slightly  
Temperatures 0°C to 6°C.

**Weekend** Showers and sunny periods

**Outlook** Winds south or southeasterly  
Temperatures -1°C to 10°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States  
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, December 6, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	04.13 1.7 10.08 3.4 17.06 2.0 22.49 3.1	
Fri	05.13 1.7 11.15 3.3 18.23 2.0 *** **	
Sat	00.10 3.1 06.21 1.7 12.43 3.4 19.34 1.8	
Sun	01.52 3.2 07.31 1.6 14.08 3.5 20.37 1.6	
Mon	02.55 3.4 08.39 1.4 15.08 3.7 21.31 1.3	
Tues	03.44 3.7 09.41 1.1 15.59 3.9 22.21 1.1	
Wed	04.29 3.9 10.38 0.9 16.46 4.0 23.08 0.8	

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.

We are now inviting questions for Councillor Drew Hendry, Leader of The Highland Council. Submit your questions via The Oban Times' website or email [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

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### Ski resorts to open early

THE RECENT blast of wintry weather has meant Lochaber's two ski resorts may be ready to open their runs earlier than expected.

Glencoe Mountain Resort said it planned to open today (Thursday), weather permitting, while Nevis Range on Anach Mor could open for snow sports this weekend following annual maintenance work on the gondola.

### Winter vomiting bug closes hospital ward

A WARD at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness was closed to new admissions and visitors on Tuesday after five patients fell ill with norovirus, known as the winter vomiting bug.

Several cases of diarrhoea and vomiting were discovered in surgical ward 3A, which closed on Tuesday morning.

NHS Highland consultant microbiologist Dr Emma Watson said: 'We are also asking people not to come to the hospital to visit if they have had any vomiting or diarrhoea within the previous 48 hours.'

'Hospital staff will, of course, be happy to talk to visitors on the phone so they can get updates on how their relatives are.'

### Skye forest wins woodfuel grant

A SKYE community has been awarded a grant of £27,700 to fund work to create a new wood fuel centre.

The community-owned Tormore Forest in Sleat will become home to the new facility after the grant from the Scottish Government's Rural Development Programme was confirmed.

Work has already begun to get fresh quotes for the building of the shed and necessary ground works, and it is hoped everything will be up and running by next spring.



Rotary club members, including president Sheana Fraser, hand over the donation to Deputy Head Teacher Paul Reynolds. 20\_449present01

### Rotary boosts high school with £1,000

LOCHABER High School has been given an early Christmas gift of a £1,000 donation from Lochaber Rotary Club for their festive parcels campaign.

Every year the school youngsters hand deliver presents to elderly people in the community, with the parcels containing a variety of items including

mince pies, shortbread and sweets. S1 pupils will wrap around 400 presents and produce hand made cards for each gift.

The S6 pupils start delivering the parcels next Friday, aiming to finish by Wednesday December 19.

## Three jobs go as high street business shuts up shop after 75 years' trading

ONE OF Fort William's longest surviving High Street shops is to close after being in business for nearly 75 years.

The Rod and Gun fishing tackle shop is set to shut its doors for the last time at the end of February and has been packed out since 'closing down sale' signs went up last week with stocks already starting to run low.

The closure means three full time workers will lose their jobs, including manager Douglas Kyle who has

worked in the shop for 29 years. He told *The Oban Times*: 'We're really sorry to be going. I'd like to thank our regular customers for supporting our shop over the years. We'll miss them and I think they'll miss us too.'

Mr Kyle said the twin threats of cheaper online shopping and rising costs were making it hard for shops to thrive. He continued: 'It's very difficult for tackle shops to survive these days. People were buying spools and nylons, but we're just not selling enough of the more

expensive items. We were mainly relying on the summer tourist season when we could sell loads of cheap rods and nets, but you only get that for three or four months and then there's a long winter.'

The Rod and Gun shop first opened in Fort William in 1938 and twice moved premises until settling in its current High Street location in the early 1970s.

The closure leaves Lochaber with no fishing tackle shops.

### Temporary bridge opens

THE A82 Partnership has welcomed Transport Scotland's decision to install a temporary two-way bridge during works at Bridge of Orchy.

The new bridge opens today (Thursday) and will be in place until the scheduled completion of the work in August 2013.

## Carols bring festive cheer to Upper Achintore

A FORT William neighbourhood will get into the festive spirit tonight (Thursday) with outdoor carol singing round the Christmas tree followed by a craft fair.

Upper Achintore Regeneration Group (UARG) has organised the event for a number of years, with last year's evening attracting around 300 people.

The Lochaber Wind Band will provide the music for the singers, with the tunes starting at 6.30pm outside the primary school.

Song sheets will be provided so anyone is welcome to join in.

After the carols, the fair with

around 20 stalls offering local products and individually designed goods will be held in the school hall.

Refreshments, including Christmas pies, hot dogs, mulled wine and juice, will also be on offer.

UARG chairwoman Jackie

Carswell said: 'We have a strong community here and we're hoping for a good turnout of local people in this run up to Christmas.'

'The wind band always puts on a great performance and the carol singing will lift everyone's spirits in this cold weather.'

## Steer clear of payday loans

### Skye and Lochalsh group launches new campaign in run up to Christmas

PEOPLE across the west Highlands have been warned they could be left with crippling levels of debt if they use cash payday loan companies to get through the expensive festive period.

A new campaign has been launched by Skye and Lochalsh Citizens Advice Bureau (SLCAB) to encourage people to avoid companies which offer instant cash loans at inflated rates of interest.

Recent research suggests around eight per cent of adults in the UK plan to take out one of the high-costs loans to help them survive the pressures of Christmas shopping.

But SLCAB manager Morag Hannah said the short term benefits are heavily outweighed by massive repayments.

She said: 'Payday loans are causing huge problems for many people locally.'

'Over the last few years these short-term high-interest loans have become one of the most popular sources of credit.'

'They are advertised very well and can seem very attractive if you are short of cash. But the trouble is they tend to charge massive rates of interest - in some cases up to 4,000 per cent - so people on low incomes just can't handle the repayments.'

Ms Hannah continued: 'We see many people who have taken out a payday loan and quickly found themselves drowning in debt as the interest rate makes

By RICHARD HADDOCK [rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk)

the amount spiral out of control. Many payday lenders conceal their interest rates, or don't tell customers the consequences of missing a payment. Some will take money from your bank account without telling you.'

'Others will offer you more and more loans without any regard to whether you can repay them.'

'Overall, the industry has been very poorly regulated and that's why so many people have fallen into problems.'

'If you really need to borrow money, don't just take out a payday loan.'

**Shop around**

'You should always shop around for the most affordable source of credit, and you should never take out any loan without knowing exactly how much you will have to pay back, and how you are going to do so.'

Stornoway-based Hi-Scot Credit Union, which has more than 2,000 members across the west Highlands, said they had seen similar issues.

Community engagement officer Duncan MacIntyre told *The Oban Times*: 'People are not looking at the long term and the difficulty comes when people can't afford the repayments.'

'They need to look around and see that there are alternatives. If you are looking at borrowing, have a look at what you can really afford.'

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## Police arrest suspect in connection with robbery

POLICE have arrested a suspect in connection with a violent robbery on a cyclist in Caol last Tuesday.

A section of the Great Glen pathway near Canal Parks was cordoned off for around 24 hours after a man in his 30s was assaulted and had his wallet stolen as he cycled through

the wooded area. A Northern Constabulary spokesperson said: 'As a result of extensive police enquiries, a person has been arrested in connection with the matter and will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal at Fort William.'

'Enquiries are continuing in

relation to the Robbery at Togs, Caol Shopping Centre, on November 15 and police would like to appeal to any members of the public who may have information regarding the matter to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 707600.'

Meanwhile, a 34-year-old man was

taken into custody over the weekend for wasting police time in connection with the ongoing investigations.

A Crown Office spokesperson said: 'After full and careful consideration of the facts and circumstances of the case, the accused was liberated pending further investigation.'

## Caol man admits breaking into Crannog Restaurant

A CAOL man admitted breaking into a Fort William restaurant where he worked and stealing £1,359 after police DNA evidence showed there was a 'one in a billion' chance he was not guilty.

Stuart Lawrie, who worked as an assistant chef at the Crannog Restaurant, smashed a window at the rear of the building to gain access after it closed on April 7. The 22-year-old used a key stashed in the till to open to safe and take the money.

He cut himself on the window and left a trail

of blood through the restaurant, which allowed police to identify him as the culprit.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'A worker came in the next morning and went round the back of the building to turn on the hot water.'

**Blood**

'They noticed the window of a rear toilet was smashed and saw a trail of blood. Samples were taken and the accused was caught through his DNA.'

Defence lawyer Hamish Melrose said the offence had been 'spontaneous' and that Lawrie had been drunk at the time.

He said: 'To say he is ashamed of what he did here is an understatement. He is thoroughly embarrassed.'

Lawrie, of 22 Glenpane Street, was ordered to pay £1,359 in compensation and to carry out 180 hours unpaid work. He was also placed on a supervision order for six months.

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**Man drove while using mobile**

A FORMER Fort William man has admitted driving in the town while using a mobile phone. Jamie Gregory, who is currently serving a 14-month sentence at HMP Low Moss, was given three penalty points and an extra week in prison. The 31-year-old was seen using his phone while negotiating the Nevis Bridge roundabout on August 4.

**Sentence deferred**

A MAN who violently attacked and permanently disfigured two men during a drunken brawl near Fort William High Street last summer has had his sentencing deferred until January 3.

A criminal justice report for Ian Ward had not been prepared in time after papers were sent to his former address. Ward of 68 Mosshead Road, Bearsden, Glasgow, previously admitted assaulting a man by striking him with the bottle on the neck and body to his severe injury. The 22-year-old also pled guilty to assaulting a second man with the bottle, by striking him on the head to his injury. The incidents took place on Ainslie Lane at around 1am on July 29 2011.

**Variety concert**

SPEAN Bridge Primary School played host to a fundraising musical variety concert last Tuesday.

Lochaber Community Wind Band, the Great Glen Swing Band and Cothroman Ceol Beul Aithriseach all took to the stage, while the school's Youth Music Initiative group also performed. Money raised was donated to Duchenne muscular dystrophy campaign Action Duchenne.

**Man denies charges**

A CAOL man has denied throwing an electric fire at a mirror and damaging a number of household items during an argument with his brother. Stephen Hardie, of 30 Ardour Road, pled not guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner at his house on July 16. The 22-year-old is due to stand trial on February 21, with a preliminary hearing set for January 24.

**Independent wins by-election**

A COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar by-election has been won by independent candidate Angus MacDonald Morrison. The Sgair Uige agus Ceann an Tuath nan Loch ward in Lewis was left unrepresented when SNP councillor Bill Houston died suddenly at home aged 60 in September. Mr Morrison of Balalain received 745 votes, while SNP candidate John Norman MacDonald took 195 and independent Les Mac an Ultaigh 73. The by-election saw a turnout of 40.88 per cent, with 14 ballot papers rejected.

**Plockton dismay as last church goes up for sale**

Villagers still don't know if graveyard will be sold

PLOCKTON could soon be left with no churches after the Church of Scotland put the last remaining house of worship in the village up for sale.

And despite the sale of Plockton Church being mooted for the past year, locals have still not been told if the adjacent graveyard is part of the sale or not.

The village used to have three churches, one of which was sold and converted into flats around 20 years ago. More recently, the local Free Presbyterian Church was similarly converted.

When the sale was first discussed at the start of 2012, it was believed the graveyard belonged to Highland Council and would not be part of the deal.

**Ownership**  
However, in a letter sent to Plockton and District Community Council in November, Church of Scotland General Trustees secretary David Robertson said: 'The law department solicitor has established that the Plockton graveyard is, in fact, still in the ownership of the General Trustees but whether it is now

included in the sale is a question which remains unanswered. It may well be that part or all of the graveyard will be transferred to the local authority The Highland Council, which has been maintaining it for many years.'

**Horried**  
Community Council chairman Charlie MacRae told *The Oban Times* locals were 'very sad' at the church being sold, but said the possibility of the graveyard being lost had caused upset. He said: 'People are horrified. Quite a few people in Plockton

still have relatives in the graveyard.' The church, including the manse, was built in 1827 by Thomas Telford at a cost of £1,480.

After the Free Church split in 1843, the building lay unused for a number of years before being restored in 1961.

A second nearby church, Kirkton Church near Balmacara, has also been put up for sale without the graveyard.

There has been a church building on or near the present site of the church at Kirkton since the mid-17th century.

**College presented with valuable manuscripts**

SABHAL Mòr Ostaig has been presented with a valuable collection of manuscripts and research by a renowned Gaelic professor.

Professor Kenneth MacKinnon visited the Sleat-based Gaelic college last Wednesday to mark the handover with a lecture entitled 'Research on the Gaelic Community and its future implications'.

Professor MacKinnon, who also acts as an adviser on language planning and policies for organisations such as Bòrd na Gàidhlig and MG ALBA, has been involved in research into Gaelic attitudes and language in communities since the early 1970s.

He said: 'I can only hope that the research which resulted has had some purpose in helping to guide policy and action on behalf of Gaelic, its speakers and users.'

'Today the language and its community face crucial circumstances but what exists now compared to what little existed when I first set out on this course encourages us that today's challenges can be met and overcome.'

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig principal Professor Boyd Robertson



Professor Kenneth MacKinnon.

He said: 'We are greatly indebted to Professor MacKinnon for this generous donation. This is a truly valuable collection of papers related to research studies undertaken in different parts of Gaeldom.'

'It is a treasure trove which will add to the impressive resources already housed in the library and it will form a foundation for further scholarship and research of the kind for which Kenneth MacKinnon rightly became so well known.'

**Teenager banned from roads**

A CORPACH teenager has been banned from driving for three months after admitting driving a moped in Caol with no licence or insurance.

Cameron Young, of 25 Hillview Drive, pled guilty to driving the 50cc machine in Canal Parks, on Caol shore front and on the Fort William water treatment access road on July 16.

Young, who turns 17 in February, had spent months fixing up the moped after being given it by a friend of his brother.

The Lochaber High School pupil could have been awarded six penalty points, which would have barred him from applying for a driving licence for two years due to a recent change in the law, which prohibits new drivers from having more than five points.

Justice Maureen Anderson said: 'While we don't want to encourage young boys to drive around on mopeds with no licence, the normal penalty for this seems very harsh for a boy of 16.'

**Fight against drugs continues**

NORTHERN Constabulary has taken nearly £1million of illegal drugs off the streets of the Highlands and Islands in the past 18 months.

Police have also seized £134,000 worth of cash in connection with criminal cases and under Proceeds of Crime Act legislation since April 2011.

Cannabis was the most commonly seized drug, accounting for 55 per cent of seizures. Other drugs seized include diazepam, cocaine, amphetamine, diamorphine (heroin) and ecstasy.

During 2011/12, both the number of supply and possession charges increased compared to the previous year. Head of crime services Kenny Anderson said: 'We will continue to work as hard as ever to drive drugs and drug dealers out of our communities. The fight against drugs and serious and organised crime is one of the main priorities for Northern Constabulary.'



**Lochside primary celebrates St Andrew's Day**

Irn Bru and shortbread were the order of the day as Lochside RC Primary pupils celebrated St Andrew's Day on Friday. The youngsters sang traditional Scottish songs and read out Scottish poems at a special assembly in the school. P7 pupil Alistair MacRae performed a number of songs on the bagpipes, including 'Hector the Hero', while Jonny Soe Paing played the fiddle. Highland dancer Lezie Lopez and Amber MacInnes danced a Highland Fling before everyone headed to the canteen to enjoy Scottish snacks.



Fort William Primary pupils raised £70 for the Cancer Research UK by wearing something pink into school. Tracy Ward from Lochaber Together handed out medals to all the children who took part. She told them: 'We are really grateful and really impressed with how much you raised.'

**Drink driver banned**

A TOURIST sped away from police at more than 95mph after being pulled over in Glencoe because he knew he was over the drink drive limit.

Peter Green pulled into a lay-by after a short chase and apologised to the officers during the September 12 incident.

The 33-year-old, who had three passengers in his car, was stopped after officers following behind on the A82 checked the vehicle on their database and found it had no insurance.

Unemployed Green stopped outside Glencoe ski centre and after police asked him to get out the car, he instead drove off, nearly hitting an officer's leg.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard Green, of 38 Heys Close, Blackburn, England, had been

on a camping holiday on Skye and was heading home when he was pulled over.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin disqualified Green from driving for three-and-a-half years and fined him £1,000.

Sheriff McPartlin said: 'It is a serious matter to drive without insurance and it's a very serious matter to drive with alcohol in your system.'

'Your behaviour after being stopped by police caused danger to yourself and others.'

Green pled guilty to driving at nearly twice the legal alcohol limit, careless driving and driving without insurance.

He admitted speeding aggressively away from police and repeatedly veering across the road.

**Fort William woman guilty of buying alcohol for underage girls**

A FORT William woman bought alcohol for four underage girls in the town.

Yvonne Burt, aged 30, admitted buying two bottles of vodka schnapps for the underage girls from the Morrisons store in the town on March 24.

Police later found the girls drunk on the street and had to take them home.

Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'This has been quite a common problem, unfortunately, in Fort William for some time.'

Sheriff Noel McPartlin said Burt had committed a 'serious offence' and ordered her to carry out 120 hours of unpaid work in the community. He said: 'Facilitating the purchase of alcohol for children can put them in danger.'

Defence solicitor Hamish Melrose said Burt, of 14 Kennedy Road, had been drunk when she bought the alcohol and had little recollection of the incident.

**Van driver clocked doing 76mph through moor**

A VAN driver caught doing 76mph on the A82 through Rannoch Moor has been fined £220 and given five penalty points.

Geoffrey Adams, of 40 Upton Road, Bristol, pled guilty to speeding at White Corries on August 31.

The 53-year-old's Volkswagen van was restricted to 50mph in the area, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

**Spean Bridge woman denies assault**

A SPEAN Bridge woman has denied repeatedly punching another woman on the head and body.

June Bridges, of Kilmonivaig, pled not guilty to assaulting the woman to her injury at a house in the village on August 24.

The 46 year-old is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on February 21.

**Woman admits speeding**

A WOMAN has admitted driving at 40mph in a 30mph zone in Fort William.

Deana Williams, aged 42, of Newhaven Road, Edinburgh, was fined £180 and given four penalty points after pleading guilty to speeding on the A82 near Carr's Corner on May 22.

**Court fines driver caught doing 52mph in 30 zone**

A VAN driver caught doing 52mph in a 30mph zone in Fort William has been fined £220 and given five penalty points.

Daniel McCulloch, of 188 Smithton Park, Inverness, pled guilty to speeding on Achintore Road on March 30.

Sentencing the 23-year-old, Justice of the Peace Maureen Anderson said: 'This particular stretch of road is very close to the town. There is a school there and a number of hotels.'

'The court takes a very serious view of speeding on this piece of road.'



**Youngsters gear up to deliver Christmas post**

Kinlochleven residents worried about getting Christmas cards delivered locally in time for the festive break are in luck as local primary school pupils are to provide a low cost delivery deal. The school started up the 'Village Post' service this week and for 25p children and their parents will hand deliver the cards on the day they are posted, or the following day. Post boxes are in the Co-op, library and in the school. Money raised from the scheme, which runs until December 14, will go towards school funds.

**Acharacle pupils win UK-wide maths contest**

A SMALL Lochaber primary school is celebrating after winning a UK-wide online maths competition.

Acharacle Primary School, which has 55 pupils, came out on top after a week long contest with more than 7,000 youngsters from 137 schools on the Sumdog website.

Teacher Rachel Patterson told *The Oban Times* the kids had 'loved' taking part in the competition.

She said: 'We were surprised we got so far, but we're all really, really proud. They are all feeling much better about their maths and it has really boosted their confidence.'

Sumdog is a maths website designed for educational purposes, with tests for primary, secondary and college students.

All the pupils were able to take part by logging into the website from school computers or at home. Each child could answer up to

1,000 questions at their own pace throughout the week, with an average taken.

Mrs Patterson added: 'It's brilliant for the teachers because we can see a report from each child, which shows you how much they've played and what skills they need to work on. I've used it at parent nights as well because it's all there in black and white.'

Acharacle Primary also came second in a Highlands Sumdog contest recently.

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Issue 79

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**Sex offender jailed for nine months**

A MAN caught with 1,246 indecent images of children on his computer has been jailed for nine months and placed on the sex offender's register indefinitely.

Edward Crookes, of the Royal Hotel, Dingwall, pled guilty to possessing the images at 46 Caledonian Road, Inverness, between May 5 2009 and August 26 2009, Fort William Sheriff Court heard. The 52-year-old was told he would be supervised for three years after his release from prison.

**Speeding fine**

A HIGHLAND games athlete caught driving at 95mph in a 60mph zone on the A82 north of Spean Bridge has been fined £600 and given six penalty points.

David Hart, 31, who regularly competes in heavy events at games across the Highlands, appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court for sentencing after earlier pleading guilty to speeding north of Letterfinlay on April 20.

Justice of the Peace Maureen Anderson told offshore worker Hart, of 15 Lochy Road, Inverlochry: 'There is no excuse for driving at this speed.'

**Man remanded**

A FORT WILLIAM man has denied shouting and swearing at his partner and throwing a lettuce at her.

Appearing from custody, Kevin Leahy pled not guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner at an address on Claggan Road on November 30. The 39-year-old also denied throwing a lettuce at his partner in the house on November 26.

Leahy could not provide a home address to Fort William Sheriff Court and was remanded in custody. The trial is due to be heard on January 3, with a further hearing set for December 19.

**Friend had no insurance**

A MAN who let his friend drive his 4x4 Nissan Navara in Fort William without insurance has been fined £400 and given eight penalty points.

Matthew Rosbottom, of Malttraeth near Anglesey, admitted causing or permitting Christian Hodgson to drive on Kilmallie Road on February 27 despite him not being insured. Hodgson pled guilty to the offence last month and claimed Rosbottom told him he had paid for temporary insurance.

Defending Rosbottom, Niall MacBeath said his client had believed insurance was in place.

The 24-year-old also admitted failing to turn up for his trial at Fort William Sheriff Court, claiming he did not have sufficient funds to make the journey from Wales.

Sentencing, Justice of the Peace Maureen Anderson said: 'In my eyes this is worse than the normal driving without insurance. And you didn't turn up for the trial which makes things even worse.'



Ardnamurchan High School banks £200 for Movember

Ardnamurchan High School's male contingent who grew their facial hair for the 'Movember' charity campaign raised around £200. The final day of fundraising, St Andrew's Day, saw pupils wearing tartan and proudly displaying their moustaches - both real and fake. The money raised will be split between the Movember charity and Children First.

**Land reform review group plans meetings**

AN INDEPENDENT group charged with shaping future community ownership land reforms in Scotland are to hold meetings in Lochaber and the Outer Hebrides next week.

The Land Reform Review Group, established by the Scottish Government in July and headed by Dr Alison Elliot, will visit Galsion Estate in Lewis on Monday where they will meet with people involved in land management and land reform.

The following day the review

team will be in Harris to meet invited representatives of the many community groups which either own, or are aiming to acquire, island estates.

That evening, Dr Elliot and her colleagues will hold a public meeting in the Harris Hotel, Tarbert, for anyone with views on land reform - for or against.

A similar sequence of meetings will be held in the Moorings Hotel, Banavie, near Fort William next Wednesday night at 7.30pm.

Dr Elliot said: 'In Lewis, Harris and Lochaber - as well as in South Uist which I plan to visit the following week - we're anxious to learn from people with first-hand experience of how community ownership has worked out in practice.'

'Easier' 'We're particularly keen to hear views about the various mechanisms put in place by the Land Reform Act of 2003 - and to gather opinions as to what could or should be done by

the Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Government to make community ownership easier and faster to achieve.

'Our remit and work plan commit us to producing an initial or interim report in May - and it's clear that Ministers expect us to have something to say in that report about the community ownership experience to date and about how other communities, in every part of Scotland, could be helped to take on land and other assets.'

**Fracas brothers face more charges**

TWO BROTHERS who admitted smashing windows and fighting with police and other partygoers during a fracas at a Fort William birthday party face further charges of assault.

Ian Roy, of 59 Carn Dearg, Claggan, and Frazer Roy, of 38 Blaeberryhill Road, Whitburn, pled guilty to a total of seven charges of assault, threatening and abusive behaviour, damaging property and resisting arrest at the BA Club and were due to be sentenced on Monday.

But Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie told Fort William Sheriff Court further charges in relation to the same incident had since come to light.

Police She said: 'The police came on the scene at the tail end of what happened.'

'Statements were taken on what happened earlier in the evening and they now face further charges relating to a number of assaults on civilians.'

Ian Roy, aged 28, pled guilty to attempting to fight with police and others, being continually aggressive and shouting and swearing.

His brother Frazer Roy pled guilty to picking up a chair and using it to smash a window and smashing the glass in a door by punching it.

The 25-year-old kicked a police officer on the leg and smashed the window of a police vehicle by kicking it.

He also admitted resisted arrest by struggling violently, attempting to fight with police and others, being continually aggressive and shouting and swearing.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin deferred the case until December 19.



Banavie Primary School was packed out on Saturday for the pupils' popular annual Christmas fair. The gym hall and GP room were full of stalls offering all kinds of festive goodies, from recipe books to Christmas cards, decorations to jewellery and homemade sweets. And Deirdre Beck's young group of musicians provided a perfect musical backdrop on the day with a series of performances in the vestibule. 20\_494xmas01

**Man admits kicking dog in head**

A FORMER Fort William man kicked a 12-year-old collie dog on the head while it was tied up outside a shop on the town's High Street.

Scott MacKinnon, now of Hazeldean Guest House, Inverness, pled guilty to causing the dog unnecessary suffering by kicking it on May 12.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie told Fort William Sheriff Court MacKinnon had been walking down the street with two friends, one of whom had a German Shepherd, which began barking at the collie.

Ms Wylie said: 'Mr MacKinnon ran up to the collie dog and kicked it hard on the side of the head. A nearby shop owner said he heard the dog howling.'

'Apart from covering after the event, luckily the dog did not sustain any injuries.'

Defence solicitor Hamish Melrose said MacKinnon, aged 36, had an alcohol problem and had a 'relatively vague recollection' of the incident, but was apologetic. He said: 'He acted in a cruel manner towards the dog and he accepts that.'

Sheriff Noel McPartlin ordered unemployed MacKinnon to carry out 40 hours of unpaid work in the community.

**Police target speeding near schools**

NORTHERN Constabulary is conducting targeted speed checks near secondary schools across Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh as part of a Highland-wide operation.

A recent Highland Youth Voice Conference highlighted the issue of irresponsible driving near schools.

Chief Superintendent Julian Innes said: 'Road traffic collisions involving young pedestrians around schools are very rare but if we can work with our communities to make our children feel safer then that is what we should do.'

The operation started at the end of November and will continue until March 31.

**Actors re-unite after 20 years**

A GROUP of Ballachulish actors will be appearing on stage together in the village for the first time in 20 years next week for four performances of the popular Christmas panto 'Babes in the Wood'.

The likes of Nairn MacArthur, Tam MacLymont and Drew MacFarlane-Slack will re-unite for the original show, which has been updated by Mr MacArthur to include more recent local references.

Music for the show will be in the hands of Jimmy Forsyth and Chaz Stewart.

Robert MacNeill plays one of Robin Hood's Merry Men in the show. He said: 'This is the first time they've all got back together for 20 years, so it should be a great show.'

Mr MacArthur plays the Panto dame in the show and is doubling up as the director for the 15-strong cast.

He told *The Oban Times* everyone was looking forward to re-uniting for the show.

He said: 'A lot of us left to go to Lochaber Showstoppers when it started up and it's great to have

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

these guys back together. This is the first time I've been directing and acting so it's a bit odd but these guys really know what they're doing. You just point them in the right direction.'

'There's lots of local references and local characters mentioned, which always gets a good laugh from the crowd.'

The panto will be performed in the newly refurbished village hall, which now has new toilets, disabled facilities, double glazing and a larger storage area. New curtains, insulation and a new stage have also been put in place.

'Babes in the Wood' will be on next Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, with a matinee on Saturday.

Tickets are available from the Co-op store or from the Tourist Information Centre, with all proceeds going to the village hall. A prize draw will also be made during the interval of each show.



Kinlochleven High School's Christmas show is set to bring some festive cheer to the village.

**High school promises a Christmas cracker**

KINLOCHLEVEN High School pupils will be putting a Lochaber twist on the popular film 'Shrek' for their Christmas show this year - called 'Shug'.

After auditions were held for the acting roles, rehearsals have been ongoing for weeks. Pupils will also be doing behind the scenes work for the show, such as lighting, props and costume design.

S3 pupil Esme Leitch, who is appearing in the show, told *The*

*Oban Times* rehearsals had been 'turned up a notch' ahead of the opening night.

She said: 'I think this year's show is on track to being one of the best shows Kinlochleven High School has ever had. It is most definitely well worth coming to see.'

The show will be held in the school on December 17 and 18 at 7.30pm, with tickets available from the school on 01855 832042.

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Children's author visits Lochyside

Lochyside RC primary pupils had a chance to meet children's author Barry Hutchison and create their own heroes and villains. Mr Hutchison, who is based in Fort William, went round each classroom creating short stories, with each pupil coming up with original superheroes. In the afternoon, the P4-P7 pupils enjoyed a talk from Mr Hutchison about how he became an author. 20\_494lochyside01

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**Bridge of Orchy diversion in place**

THE REPLACEMENT of Allt Chonoglais Bridge, Bridge of Orchy, is moving into the next phase with the opening of a two-way temporary diversion.

The diversion will, weather permitting, be completed and open to A82 traffic today (Thursday).

The use of the two-way diversion will match the existing trunk road and help minimise any delays and disruption due to the essential £2m works, allowing normal traffic flows in both directions.

Following diversion of the traffic the contractor will commence demolition of the existing narrow sub-standard bridge prior to the on-line construction of a new modern and safer structure.

Work started in August 2012 and is due to finish by August 2013.

**Gigha embezzler jailed for a year**

A WOMAN who admitted embezzling £20,000 from a community post office was sent to prison on Tuesday for 12 months.

Aleid Kloosterhuis, of 1 Main Road, Ardmish, Gigha had previously pled guilty at Campbeltown Sheriff Court to the offence, which took place between April 1, 2010 and September 15, 2011, inclusive, at Gigha Post Office, whilst employed as sub-postmistress there.

The court previously heard that the 54 year old had stolen the money through a variety of ways and the offence only came to light when an on-the-spot audit was carried out by Post Office officials.

**Cinema gains £49,660 from Creative Scotland**

OBAN Phoenix Cinema has been awarded a £49,660 grant from Creative Scotland to go towards the installation of a digital projector.

The grant to the community-owned cinema goes some way towards the £90,000 needed to buy the new projector and open the smaller second screen.



Not everyone was a happy as John MacTavish's young Spaniel, Barney, to see the first real snowfall of winter Picture - John MacTavish

**First hint of winter comes west**

WINTER weather hit parts of Argyll this week as temperatures dropped to minus five, cars skidded off roads and children looked forward to building a snowman.

In driving conditions described as 'exceptionally bad' numerous cars left the carriageway on Monday morning in the Lorn area.

Police are now advising motorists to take extra care when setting off on a journey - whatever the length.

Drivers should check their vehicle is 'winter ready' with good tyres, plenty of screen wash and an emergency kit in case of a breakdown.

They are also warned to check the weather forecast and

road conditions before leaving home.

Temperatures are expected to rise this weekend, barely dipping below freezing even at night in Oban although it will be considerably chillier in Tyndrum - dropping to minus four over Friday and Saturday nights with snow expected today (Thursday).

A Scottish government spokesman said: 'The Scottish government's resilience room and Transport Scotland's multi-agency response team both stand ready to co-ordinate activity across the network and address any wider severe weather impacts should conditions later this week require a national response.'

**BID4Oban brings £60,000 to shop front scheme**

Financial aid available to improve appearance of Oban town centre

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT** by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

A NEW £60,000 scheme to help improve shop frontages in Oban launched this week, marking the first spend by the new BID4Oban company.

The Oban Business Improvement Frontage Scheme will provide support to businesses hoping to upgrade the exterior of their premises to help spruce up the appearance of the town centre.

Around £12,000 per year will be available to apply for over the next five years, offering up to £1,000 and no more than 50 per cent of total costs to improve any existing commercial premises operating in the town.

Applications will be invited twice a year, pre and post the tourism 'high season' to encourage work to be carried out during the town's quieter times.

Lindsay Macdonald, one of

the newly appointed BID4Oban directors who helped design the scheme, said: 'This is all about making the best first impression to our potential customers.'

BID4Oban is asking any business paying the levy or associate members paying a subscription to get their application in for improvements before the 2013 season kicks off.

'The grant scheme could make the difference between being able to afford a much-needed lick of paint or whether to have a new sign or not for some businesses.'

Applications will be assessed on the basis of need, the stand-

ard of work required and visual impact.

'Grants can be made for any improvements to the physical appearance of the outside of your business premises including redecoration, renewed signage fixed to premises, outside lighting, awnings and replacements of exterior features,' Lindsay added.

Applications for the first round of funding are due by February 28 next year, with a decision to be made within two weeks of the deadline.

Grants will be paid on completion of the work and within 14 days of submission of an invoice to the BID company. Only current levy payers or associate members can apply for the funds and applications must have been trading under the same name for three or more years.

**Marine Protected Areas' 'hidden benefit' figure is 'pure speculation'**

A CONSERVATION programme project leader has defended a report which claims a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) could generate £10billion for the Scottish economy.

The Scottish Environment LINK's marine taskforce report claims imposing MPA designations on areas of sea around Scotland would ensure 'hidden benefits' are protected and could be worth a 'minimum' of £6.3-£10billion over the next 20 years.

However it has been criticised by fishermen, business and tourism leaders, who say it is 'pure speculation'.

One of those is Barra fisherman and campaigner against political marine environmental designations, Angus MacLeod.

He said: 'One would ask the question whether this type of speculation and the pulling of figures would stand organisations connected to LINK to receive more funding from government and/or charitable bodies.'

LINK is comprised of Whale Dolphin Conservation, Scottish Wildlife Trust, RSPB Scotland and the Marine Conservation Society.

No commercial or tourism companies fed into the report.

LINK's Calum Duncan, who is Scotland programme manager for the Marine Conservation Society, said the report used models which have been peer reviewed as good practice.

He added: 'The report is trying to put a monetary value on the benefits the sea provides us.'

**NEWSDESK 01397 703003**

*The Oban Times 20 years ago*

Thursday, December 10, 1992

**North Pier plan delay slammed**

OBAN and Lorn Chamber of Commerce has hit out at Strathclyde Regional Council for delays in responding to plans for the town's North Pier.

At its recent meeting, the chamber's board of management said this was 'not only damaging to Oban's future as a major port and holiday centre but also highly detrimental to future employment prospects'.

**Man claims sex discrimination**

AN ARGYLL man, who failed to get a job as an assistant cook, claims that he has been discriminated against by Strathclyde Regional Council.

Mr Peter Blackstock, 30, from Tayinloan, is claiming that he did not get a post as an assistant cook at an Argyll primary school because he is male.

He was interviewed for the job by Catering Direct, who provide school meals for Strathclyde Regional Council. Mr Blackstock is now threatening to take his case to an industrial tribunal.

Mr Blackstock, who is married with three children said: 'I am a qualified chef. I applied for the job but did not get it. It was given to a female.'

'There were two females on the panel - it should have been a mixed panel. I was working at the Anchor Hotel in Tarbert but was laid off for the winter.'

'One of the questions I was asked was would you fit in with an all female staff at the school? That question should never have been asked - you are there to do work - not to do anything else.'

**Fort William's 1.2m car park plan**

A CONSULTANT'S report indicates that it is feasible to build a £1.2 million multi-storey car park in Fort William.

At today's Highland Regional Council Roads and Transport Committee, members will be informed that a 250 space multi-storey could be built on

land behind MacRae's Lane. **Approved**

On March 12, the committee approved the appointment of Sir William Halcrow and Partners to carry out a technical feasibility study into the construction of a car park at the site, following a request by

Lochaber Divisional Planning Committee.

A report tabled states: 'The consultants have now reported that a multi-storey car park of conventional design, similar in principle to the council's Rose Street Car Park in Inverness, is feasible on the site.'



**Highland breeders seeing double**

Double dividends: Mr Brian Cocker, tenant farmer at Carloonan on Argyll Estates, Inveraray, his wife Toni and their daughter Shaonagh Louise, eight, make friends with twin heifer calves born recently to one of Mr Cocker's Highland cows, Duchess Cora 3rd of Inveraray. Twins are very rare in Highland cattle, heifer calves especially so. The cow is a daughter of Artair of Argyat and the twins were sired by Dougal of Clibur.



Members of Kinlochleven Girls Brigade show off their new-style uniforms.

**Nevis is top tourist attraction**

NEVIS Range has won a top tourism award for being the 'best new attraction' in Scotland in 1992.

Accepting the award on behalf of the ski resort was Ian Jones, Nevis Range Chairman. He said: 'It is a great honour for us to receive this award.'

'Our thanks go to the early commitment and co-operation of the local authorities, the enterprise agents, the financial institutions and by no means least, the local shareholders and people who helped to make the dream of Nevis Range become a reality in 1989.'



Ian Sykes, managing director of Nevis Range (left) and Ian Jones show off their award.

**Enterprising Lochaber pupils in Christmas fair**

Pictured are Lochaber High School pupils who have formed a Young Enterprise Company, Chip off the Old Block, who specialise in hand-made jewellery and hand-carved trinket boxes. The pupils recently visited Inverness to take part in a Christmas trade fair, where they set up their stall alongside other school companies form all over the Highlands and Islands.



## Beinn Lora timber harvesting operations underway this week

TREE felling operations got underway at Beinn Lora, Bendloch, this week following the completion of works at the car park.

Forest were damaged during last winter's storms, forcing the Forestry Commission to bring forward plans to fell trees in the area.

into place last week, with felling starting on Wednesday. Felling and removal of storm damaged trees will start on Monday, which will require some short lane closures on the

A828, with trees to be taken down the side of the hill. Closures should last no longer than 10 minutes and will operate between 9.15am and 3.30pm to avoid peak time traffic.

This will last a maximum of five days. It is anticipated the complete felling works at Beinn Lora will be completed in two to three weeks.

Area manager, Andy Hunt, said: 'Following this our recreation team will re-instate or upgrade forest walks and car park area and hope to have everything open in the new year, hopefully by February.'

'The storm clearance and tree felling operations higher up are progressed and will be upgraded and opened at the same time as the works at the bottom of the facilities.'

## Big areas mean big bills for local MSPs

List MSP agrees phone costs will need to be reviewed

AN ARGYLL-based MSP claimed expenses for nearly £1,800 in mobile phone bills alone in the last financial year.

*"I readily accept that I do use my mobile phone a lot."*

Highlands and Islands MSP  
Jamie McGrigor

REPORT by  
STEVEN FLANAGAN  
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

Meanwhile, SNP Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell claimed a total of £30,091.62, including a refurbishment of the party's office in Oban.

Highlands and Islands list MSP Mike Mackenzie, also SNP, claimed total expenses of £26,712.99 for the financial year.

The claims for the last financial year were published by the Scottish Parliament last week.

Mr McGrigor's mobile phone costs were among the highest to be claimed by any Scottish MSP in the last financial year.

It includes rental charges of £50 per year through Vodafone Corporate.

Standard calls are charged at 30p per minute by the provider, suggesting Mr McGrigor spent just under eight hours on the phone per month.

However, the company offers a contract at £12.92 per month less VAT that includes 10 hours of free calls a month - representing an 11-fold saving over Mr McGrigor's claim.

While Mr McGrigor accepts he does make heavy use of his phone, he has pledged to cut down on his phone costs after *The Oban Times* queried the claim.

He said: 'The figure includes contract rental charges of around £50 per year.'

'I readily accept that I do use my mobile phone a lot, especially for calling constituents all across my huge region of the Highlands and Islands as well as stakeholders and interest groups, but these are key parts of my job.'

'I will certainly endeavour to use landlines more regularly and to avoid calling directory enquiry numbers.'

Mr McGrigor also claimed £4,805.78 in travel expenses and £9,967.13 for his Edinburgh accommodation. Among his most expensive claims was £1,636 for an Apple Macbook Pro.

Mike Mackenzie claimed £6,230.38 in travel and £10,876.20 for his Edinburgh flat.

Michael Russell claimed £7,344.13 in travel expenses and £8,269.04 in costs for his Edinburgh flat.

## Police mobile unit to tour Isle of Mull next week

A MOBILE police office will be touring Mull next week in a bid to gauge community concerns on the island.

Chief inspector Brian Auld will join Mull sergeant Mark Stephen on the two-day tour, which starts next Monday in Fionnphort from noon until 1.15pm.

From there, the mobile station will go to Bunessan fire station, between 1.30pm and 2.45, followed by Pennyghael between 3.15 and 4.30pm.

The following day the office will be situated in Ledaig car

park, Tobermory from 10am to 11.15am, Dervaig from 11.45am to 1pm, Salen from 1.30pm to 2.45pm, Craignure from 3pm to 4.15 and Lochdon from 4.30pm to 5.30pm.

**Driver charged**  
Meanwhile a van driver, who is accused of driving in a careless manner on the Isle of Mull has been charged.

The 34 year old was spotted by police officers trying to overtake another vehicle near to the Isle of Mull Hotel at Craignure just after 5pm on Monday.



Children tell support agencies that boredom is a key factor in them ending up with drink or drug problems.

# Drunk - aged 11

EXCLUSIVE  
REPORT by  
STEVEN FLANAGAN  
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

A CHILD aged just 11 was admitted to Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital for treatment for alcohol intoxication, *The Oban Times* can reveal.

Figures obtained under freedom of information show that the primary school-age child was the lowest aged person to be admitted to hospital and treated for the toxic effects of alcohol in Argyll and Bute between April 1, 2011 and September 30 this year.

Campbeltown had the next lowest, at 12, while the youngest person to be treated in Mid Argyll was 33. Cowal Community Hospital's youngest patient was 35.

*The Oban Times* requested the information from the NHS after a pupil at Oban High School expressed concern at the age of children asking people to buy them alcohol.

The figures have caused shock locally, with the council's leader,

Roddy McCuish, promising to look into the circumstances that led to a child being found inebriated.

Fewer than 10 people aged under 18 were treated for alcohol intoxication across the whole of Argyll and Bute, but the figures are still a cause for concern, said

Mr McCuish.

'This is something we really have to look into,' he said. 'Firstly where are children getting the alcohol and secondly what can we do to stop it?'

'I would like to see the full force of the law coming down on anyone involved in buying

booze for children.'

Mr McCuish suggested higher pricing might deter children. When put to him that not being legally able to buy booze should be a preventative measure, he said: 'If the cider was dearer they might not be able to afford it.'

The chairwoman of Oban Com-

munity Council, Marri Malloy, was 'gobsmacked' by the figure and said she will bring it up at the group's next meeting.

She said: 'It's very worrying. I've certainly not heard of a problem locally and that's shocked me.'

'I don't know how they're getting it - where do they get the money at it?'

'Are the parents giving them money to get rid of them?'

'There's always kids to do in Oban. There's Atlantis, we've got the cinema.'

'I don't think alcohol is a big problem in Oban but I'll be asking the police to speak about this at our next meeting.'

However, Oban's Chief Inspector Brian Auld said that without context, it was difficult to know what to make of the figures.

'It is certainly concerning and I'm disappointed to hear that. It is not a problem we're experiencing though. It may be one isolated incident - we would need to look behind these figures.'

Mr Auld added that action will be taken against anyone found to be selling alcohol to minors or acting as an agent.

## Boredom leads to drink and drugs say youngsters

BOREDOM is blamed by young people in Oban who become addicted to alcohol or drugs, according to a local addiction service.

The Oban Addiction Support and Information Service (OASIS) last November created a new project to specifically help children aged between 12-16 with addictions.

Since April this year OASIS4YOUTH has had 12 referrals and has already treated children as young as 12 for both drink and drug problems.

Diane MacDonald, who runs the programme, said the youngsters are clear about their reasons.

She said: 'Young people I work with tell me that they drink alcohol or use drugs because

there is nothing else for them to do in Oban. They say they drink because they are bored and there is a lack of social activities.'

'Independent research done in Oban and indeed Argyll has already highlighted the issue with young people and substance misuse and this is why my post was created.'

'Young people are saying they need more diversionary activities in Oban.'

'All agencies in Oban are working closely together to try and address the issue of substance misuse within young people and this work will be ongoing.'

OASIS also works alongside Oban High School providing drug and alcohol awareness sessions to pupils from S1 to S4.

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## Loch Awe-side hotel to keep trading after problems hit one of its parent companies

A LOCH Awe-side hotel has said it continues to trade as normal this week despite troubles with one of its parent companies.

Loch Awe and Highland Holidays Ltd has sunk into liquidation raising a question mark over the long-term future of the Portsonachan Hotel which is currently barred from serving tap water due to the lack of a water filtration system.

The director of the company, David Parker, was unavailable for comment at the time of going to press, but hotel manager, Gary Smith, said any moves affecting Loch Awe and Highland Holidays would not affect the running of the hotel.

He added: 'There's a company doing a site visit with regards to a water filtration system in January.'

A new company, Portsonachan Hospitality Partnership LLP has been established in the wake of the collapse of Loch Awe and Highland Holidays.

Argyll and Bute Council, meanwhile, continues to investigate the hotel for the lack of action to provide suitable tap water.

A spokesperson said: 'Council staff are currently progressing the matter.'

## Theft from near Craignure

THE THEFT of a rope, anchor and shackles has been reported by an engineer working on the BT tower near to Craignure.

The equipment was attached to the tower when it was left between November 19 - 26.

Police are looking for any witnesses who may have seen anyone acting suspiciously around the area during that week.

## Dangerous driving

A 70-YEAR-old Oban man has been charged with dangerous driving, following an incident near the Halfway Filling Station, Dunbeg, last Wednesday.

The man is accused of carrying out a dangerous overtaking manoeuvre on the A85 at 9.35am, during which he allegedly forced an oncoming cyclist to take evasive action to avoid collision.

**WYVEX MEDIA**

**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. Prizes 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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# Bridge of Orchy look to Scottish Water for solution

AFTER years of disagreement over the broken water supply in Bridge of Orchy, residents and Argyll and Bute Council finally found common ground – a pursuit of Scottish Water to take responsibility for it.

At a meeting in the Bridge of Orchy Hotel last Wednesday residents and representatives of Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council were told by Malcolm MacFadyen, the council's head of facilities ser-

vices, that attempts to convince Scottish Water to take on the supply at 'the highest level' had been unsuccessful.

However, the council's regulatory services manager, Alan Morrison, revealed Scottish Water might consider taking on the supply if an estimated £350,000 was spent, bringing it up to standard.

The water supply system first broke down during a hard frost in November 2010, leading

to Argyll and Bute Council declaring the village's water unsafe to drink. However, the council ceased maintaining the supply after closing the primary school in the village – its only remaining property.

The supply is now classed as Type A1, meaning it is a private supply with a commercial premises, the Bridge of Orchy Hotel, attached.

Neither the community, nor the council is willing to admit

legal responsibility for the repair and maintenance of the supply, leading to a stalemate.

But at last week's meeting, there was a consensus that Scottish Water taking on the supply was the solution.

John Kerr, secretary of Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council, said: 'Scottish Water is there to serve the people and sort out this type of thing. They can't ignore this.'

'You [the council] have said

there is a chance Scottish Water could take on the supply and that is very important. The residents need to drive this by writing to Scottish Water but the community council will back them.'

Councillor Louise Glen Lee, who chaired the meeting, said she would also contact Nicola Sturgeon MSP, who now had responsibility for water supplies.

Bridge of Orchy Hotel rep-

resentative Andrew McKnight said: 'We must bottom out the Scottish Water scenario and get a cast-iron answer to whether they could take it on. If that doesn't work, we can talk more.'

Mr Morrison explained that, should a solution not be found soon, he may have no choice but to serve notice on improvements, making it a criminal offence not to bring it up to standard.

## St Andrew's ceilidh night in London

THE HIGHLANDS and Islands Society of London held its annual St Andrew's ceilidh and dance on November 24.

Music for dancing at the London Welsh Centre came from the Frank Reid Scottish Dance Band singer Kathleen Graham.

Members of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society also provided country dancing displays.

## Isle of Barra 'pop up' shop set for five-day return

A SUCCESSFUL pop up Christmas produce shop on Barra will be held again this month due to its popularity.

Hosted in Castlebay by the Barra and Vatersay Agricultural and Horticultural Association, the shop is part of a long-term project to establish a local produce and craft shop on the island.

Last held in November, the latest 'pop-up' shop will be held for five days from December 10.

## SNH on search for new board members

SCOTTISH Natural Heritage (SNH) is looking for people interested in promoting and protecting the country's environment to join its board.

Three new board members are being sought by Scottish ministers to start work from April 1 next year to work on the organisation's strategic leadership team and ensure it delivers on Government priorities.

Current expertise represented on the SNH board include farming, estate management, fisheries research, marine pollution, environmental management, energy, education, aquaculture and wildlife management.

Andrew Thin, SNH chairman, said 'It's not necessary to have a detailed understanding of science and the natural heritage. We're looking for people with the experience to help lead a large and complex public service organisation in a non executive capacity.'

Application packs are available from the public appointments website ([www.appointed-for-scotland.org](http://www.appointed-for-scotland.org)) with a closing date of December 21.



Lauren Leggett, 15, Ryan Hay, 14, Caitlin Rydings, 13, and Iona Hay, 14, show off some of the photos available for sale. 15\_148camer01

## Zoom! launch exhibition of young talent

BUDDING young photographers have been putting their works on display to the public in Oban.

Hope2Oban's camera club, Zoom!, launched its exhibition recently with photos available for sale.

The club received a grant of £2,000 from Argyll and Bute Council towards the cost of laptops and software which allowed them to hold the exhibition, called 'Argyll'.

Argyll stands for Awesome Rural Gateway of Land and Light and many of the photos on show were of near professional quality but the club also caters for beginners.

Ewen Munro, youth worker at H2O said: 'There are one or two doing really well and others are right at the beginning of their journey in photography.'

Cameron Harris, a director of the group added: 'There are some shining stars that I would like to see to university and do it in a big way and they are

## Mix-up marrs BID4Oban mailshot

Council say 'sorry'

AN 'ADMINISTRATIVE' error by Argyll and Bute Council saw it send double the number of BID4Oban letters it needed to.

Local businesses received their first invoices and direct debit mandates through the mail last Monday, with the Business Improvement District (BID) movement set to receive the first of the money by the middle of December.

However, a mix up at the council saw the invoices and mandates sent in two separate envelopes, incurring double the postage costs. Some businesses not eligible to pay the compulsory levy as part of the programme were also sent invoices.

BID4Oban has not incurred any extra cost as a result of the mistake, but it cost the council just under £200.

Sorry

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'We are sorry for any inconvenience caused when the first Oban BID invoices and associated direct debit mandates were sent out this week.'

'Some businesses which were not eligible to pay by direct debit also received mandates as there was no easy way to separate out only those businesses due to pay more than £150 from our billing file.'

'When sending out material by post, our standard practice is to ensure this is done as economically as possible. The additional cost to the council in this case is relatively small, less than £200. We are taking steps to ensure that this doesn't happen in the future.'

Meanwhile, the make up of the BID4Oban company has been confirmed, with John Forteth the company's new chairman, with Alistair Jackson vice chairman.

David McGregor is the new finance director, while company secretary is Roseanne Ogden.

Jim Smith, the council's head of roads and amenity services is one of the council's two representatives, with confirmation on which councillor is to join expected this week.

## Jura community vote to own and save island shop

JURA Stores could reopen as early as next spring after islanders voted overwhelmingly to take it under community ownership.

In a ballot last week the people of the Isle of Jura voted to buy their local shop for the market value of £95,000.

Turnout for the vote last Wednesday was high; 84 per cent of eligible residents exercised their right to vote, of which 77 per cent voted in favour of the buy-out.

John Potts, chairman of the Jura Development Trust (JDT), said: 'We are delighted that the people of Jura wish JDT to buy the shop on behalf of the community. The positive outcome of this ballot is an important step forward in saving the island's only shop and demonstrates the commitment of Jura's people to protecting and developing the community for future generations.'

Funding for the purchase of the land and property has been agreed in principle with Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Big Lottery. The funders have

also supported JDT through the right to buy process.

The ballot was overseen by Islay members of the Islay and Jura Council of Voluntary Services.'

Providing subsequent stages in the process go smoothly, the shop will begin trading as a Community Interest Company in the spring of 2013.

# Angel OF THE YEAR

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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**All nominations must be received by 10am MONDAY DECEMBER 10 2012.**

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**Send to: The Oban Times, Angel of the Year, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.**

## Mull farm worker was twice drink drive limit

A FARM worker on the Isle of Mull has been banned from driving for a year and fined £400 after being stopped while almost twice the legal limit.

Zoltan Baki, 35, of Sgriob-Ruadh Farm, Glengorm, Isle of Mull pled guilty when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

The court heard police officers had seen Baki in a pub in Tobermory on November 17 and later saw him driving his BMW.

Officers lost sight of him for around half an hour – during which time Baki said he was giving a friend a lift home.

Prosecutor fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court: 'Officers met at 1.50am to discuss what to do next. As they were talking the headlights of a vehicle drove towards them and lo and behold it happened to be the accused.'

Baki had a reading of 64mcg of alcohol in 100ml of breath. The legal limit is 35mcg. He was admonished for not having a valid MOT certificate for his vehicle.

**£400,000 Islay water project is completed**

A PROJECT to ensure residents on the Isle of Islay receive a steady supply of safe drinking water has been completed.

Scottish Water spent £400,000 carrying out an upgrade on 1.6 miles of water mains in the Port Charlotte, Portnahaven and Port Wemyss area of the island.

The project, which started in late August, involved the replacement of stretches of concrete mains with new plastic pipes, which are less susceptible to bursts. It has also improved the quality of water supplied to properties in the area.



Some of Tobermory lifeboat crew and their children head to a photo shoot with Nigel on Tobermory Main Street. Picture by RNLI/Sam Jones.

## Tobermory lifeboat crew to appear in new 'family' book

Exhibition to tour UK and Ireland

VOLUNTEERS with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) on the Isle of Mull were put in the picture for a new book last week.

Award winning photographer Tobermory RNLI hosted a three day visit from award winning photographer, Nigel Millard, who is working on a book about the RNLI to be published next year.

Nigel, who is also a volunteer crew member on Torbay lifeboat, has been working with the RNLI since 2005.

He is currently travelling the UK and Ireland to capture images which reflect the work of the RNLI but also represent the people involved in the charity.

While on Mull, Nigel shot portraits of the Tobermory volunteer crew in their day jobs and also accompanied them on a training exercise to Staffa. Back ashore, he photographed children of the volunteer crew wearing their fathers' kit.

Nigel also photographed fundraisers from the Ross of Mull and Iona RNLI branch in the beautiful setting of Uisken beach.

These hard working volunteers have raised more than £300,000 for the charity since the branch was set up in 1985.

Nigel said: 'One of the key themes of the book is that the RNLI is essentially a big family and this is particularly true of all those involved in the charity on Mull.'

'From the fundraisers in the south of the island who have raised a remarkable amount of money to the partners and children of the volunteer crew in Tobermory, everyone plays their part in helping to save lives at sea.'

'I've really enjoyed my time on this beautiful island and got some great images in the bag.'

Tobermory RNLI Coxswain Andrew McHaffie added: 'It has been an absolute pleasure to host Nigel and we are very excited about seeing his work in print next year.'

Nigel's book will be published in September 2013 and will be accompanied by a free exhibition which will tour the UK and Ireland.



CHILDREN from the Gaelic medium department in Rockfield Primary School shared an afternoon of song, music and stories with a performer who was visiting the town for the Winter Festival.

John Spillane, a singer, songwriter and performer from Cork in Ireland, made a special visit to the school on November 22 in advance of his concert.

Staff at the school said John's blend of songs in Irish and English, combined with his witty stories and highly engaging manner, were a huge hit with the pupils.

During the afternoon, the children and John also compared words shared by Irish and Scottish Gaelic. The Gaelic medium pupils joined enthusiastically in learning some of the Irish songs and sang a couple of songs for their guest.

John said: 'The kids were fabulous. I really enjoyed their singing and it was great fun to share our songs and stories.'

Catrina Garvin of Rockfield Primary School's Gaelic medium department added: 'We were so delighted to have John visit us. He was sensational and extremely entertaining, and had everyone singing.'

'The children were really interested to learn about our cultural and linguistic connections with Irish Gaelic and enjoyed sharing their Gaelic singing with John.'

'We are most grateful to Oban Winter Festival for enabling this special visit to our school to take place.'

## MEMBERS of the Lorn Garden Club enjoyed an enlightening presentation recently entitled 'Climate Change - can gardeners make a difference?'

Ecologist Dr Sheena Wurtzman, until recently a member of the Scottish Wildlife Trust's conservation committee, showed members in an entertaining way that this is indeed the case.

She also reminded her audience that gardeners can help by recycling, and by providing suitable habitat for many birds, mammals and insects, thereby helping to maintain species biodiversity.

A very interesting and informative talk.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 11 in St John's Cathedral Hall at 7.30pm.

A COOKERY demonstration has dished up £637 for Friends of Oban Hospice.

Colin Felgate, owner and chef at The Olive Garden, and Eilidh Smith from the Seafood Temple entertained an appreciative audience with their Christmas cooking event at The Olive Garden.



Morven McColl-Murray (far right) and Shelley MacCuish (right on back row) with some of their helpers at the Pink Tea. 15\_148pinktea01

## THERE WAS pink as far as the eye could see in Benderloch at the weekend as Victory Hall hosted a Pink Tea in aid of a breast cancer charity.

Over £400 was raised at the afternoon event, organised by Morven McColl-Murray and Shelley MacCuish.

As Shelley's mum has recently undergone surgery for breast cancer and Morven is the local Avon representative, which has Breakthrough Breast Cancer as its chosen charity, the pair decided to try and give the charity a cash boost.

Morven said: 'We are holding this to raise some money for the charity and to raise awareness. We also wanted to give people a good day out.'

'People have been really generous - we have a really good raffle and bottle stall and are taking donations at the door.'

A total of £447.21 was raised at the tea, which also had a raffle and arts and crafts, there are still charity cans to collect in and more donations are welcome. It is hoped donations will hit £500.

Oban SWRI's November open night was an inspirational display of recycling, up-cycling and seasonal crafting.

President Jenny Moody welcomed over 60 guests to the evening before handing over to Lyndsay Elliott for a Kirsty Allsop inspired display of how clothes destined for the rag bag can be upcycled into kid's clothing, fun toys and bags.

Sally Weaser forced the audience to eat a chocolate each so the wrappers could be recycled into funky hair clips and colourful Christmas decorations.

Karen Mackie demonstrated how to make festive gift boxes and how to use sparkly gift wrap to turn a plain flower display into a centre piece for a Christmas dinner table.

The committee provided a delicious buffet supper before the entertaining raffle.

The next meeting for Oban ladies is Christmas dinner at the Manor House.



Staff at Albany Stores dressed in colourful attire to support Children in Need and raised £761 for the charity. This picture from shop customer Ronnie MacKillop shows staff members Tina Cotton, left, and Agnes MacKechnie getting into the party spirit. Albany Stores thanked everyone for their very generous support.

THE LORN and Mid-Argyll Members' Centre of the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) was most recently to Lindsay Mackinlay of the National Trust for Scotland (NTS).

Lindsay, a knowledgeable speaker with a good sense of humour, gave us an amusing account of life as an ecologist with the NTS, which was much appreciated by all.

The next SWT evening lecture will be at 7.30pm on December 20 at the Marine Institute, Dunstaffnage, with local bird expert Clive Craik.

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## Broch bound for Claggan

### Fort need to take points from good performances

FORT William will be looking to turn some improved recent performances into points when they welcome Fraserburgh to Claggan Park on Saturday. Danny Conlon's side slipped to another defeat last weekend, going down 3-1 to fellow strugglers Lossiemouth despite controlling much of the second half.

Conlon told *The Oban Times* the squad was disappointed recent good displays had not been rewarded with results.

He said: 'Hopefully we can build on the last couple of performances, but it's difficult with the changes that are being forced on us.'

'The performances have been really encouraging for the players, but we were all really disappointed after Saturday. 'If we can stay in the game, the players start to believe in themselves and then anything can happen. It's going to be a really hard game - Fraserburgh are probably a top five side.'

Sean Grant, Logan Barker, Scott Hunter and Iain Foggo will all miss the game, as will long term injury Andy Martin.

Darren Quigg's fourth goal of the season was not enough to stop Fort losing to Lossie last weekend - a result which leaves the Lochaber side four

#### FOOTBALL

REPORT by  
RICHARD HADDOCK  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

points adrift at the bottom of the league.

Lossie took the lead in the fifth minute after a corner was headed in, and although both sides created chances there was no further scoring in the first half.

As Fort's piled on the pressure, Ryan MacDonald was fouled in the box with Quigg slotting home the resulting penalty.

Fort continued to press, but a mistake from Fort left back Darren Duncan allowed Lossie's Ross Archibald to give his side the lead with just 11 minutes to go.

Ninety seconds later Archibald struck again to finish the game.

'The first half could have been 4-4,' Conlon said. 'But we controlled the second half and it looked like there was only going to be one team who was going to win, but then we got hit by a sucker punch.'

'We certainly created more than we have been in the first half, and we had a lot of the ball in the second half.'



Race winner Manny Gorman, centre, with second placed Tark Gunn, left, and Jon Gay who finished third at the Sutherland's Grove Trails race - 16, 140race02

## Gorman conquers all as Lochaber's winter league moves into Argyll

### New Barcaldine forest route proves very popular

A FROSTY Sunday morning greeted 59 runners for the inaugural Sutherland's Grove Trails race - the fourth event in Lochaber Athletic Club's winter league.

The 4.8 mile long course near Barcaldine, in Argyll presented the competitors with plenty of mud, roots, steep climbs and ice to make sure it was anything

#### ATHLETICS

but easy. Manny Gorman of Westerlands Cross Country Club was the man in form having won the last two races and picked up another first place, finishing 35 seconds ahead of Tark Gunn.

Gorman had bided his time, letting Jon Gay take the leading

pace but soon found himself in front where he has grown familiar. On the long descent on fireroads Manny felt a niggling injury returning and had to manage his lead to the end.

Gunn is having an incredible return to form, and will be pleased with second place, while Gay's training days are paying off too. He finished in third some

47 seconds behind Gunn. Susan Blackwood made her trip down from Inverness worthwhile with an impressive ladies win - 11th overall and well clear of Lucy Prims in second. Nix Forster rounded off the female top three.

The new route proved very popular having only been laid on at the last minute to replace the

scheduled Beinn Lora hill race which had to be cancelled due to extensive forest works.

The Sutherland's Grove Trails may be back next year to act as a winter league counter again and Beinn Lora rescheduled for late summer, a more suitable time for a hill race which will become more exposed to the elements with the felling operation.

## Nominations for annual Lochaber sports awards

#### SPORTS AWARDS

LOCHABER Sports Association are looking for nominations for its end of year prizegiving, which will be held at Lochaber Rugby Clubhouse in Banavie at 6.30pm on Saturday December 29.

- The categories are:
- Individual of the year for performance
  - Youth endeavour award
  - Team of the year for performance
  - Coach of the year
  - Individual who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes for their club
  - Club most active in the promotion of sport in the community
  - School or community centre most active in promoting sport in the community
- The deadline for nominees is Monday, and forms can be found at [www.lochabersportsassociation.org](http://www.lochabersportsassociation.org).

## Winter weather robs Lochaber of rugby fixture

#### RUGBY

LOCHABER Rugby Club's match away to Aberdeenshire second XV last Saturday was postponed after freezing temperatures left the pitch unplayable.

Lochaber's next scheduled games is away to Aberdeen University medics on Saturday December 15, although efforts are being made to re-arrange the Aberdeenshire game for this Saturday.

Due to international breaks and postponed games, Lochaber have only played one game since the start of October, and have slipped from second to sixth in RBS Caledonia Regional League division two north.

## Achintore keep tight grip of league lead

#### INDOOR FOOTBALL

ANOTHER win for Achintore FC kept their two point lead over Lochaber Leisure at the top of the Ali Young indoor football league intact.

Unbeaten Achintore swept aside second-bottom Portowcy with a 7-1 win at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night, while Lochaber maintained the pressure with a close 3-2 win against Ballachulish, who remain fourth.

Goon Squad move three points ahead of Balla in third with a 7-2 win over AA Young, who stay bottom.

All Blacks leapfrogged Old Codgers into seventh after defeating them 8-2, and Caol stay fifth after a 2-1 win against HW Energy No Stars.

#### LOTTERY

A ROLLOVER jackpot of £400 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 09-13-14.

## High school hosts badminton finals

#### BADMINTON

THE Lochaber Primary Schools badminton champions saw 43 pupils from 11 schools compete at Lochaber High School last Wednesday.

Caol Primary's Beth Robertson defeated schoolmate Cara Lees in the girls' final, while Liam MacPherson of Upper Achintore narrowly beat Banavie's Scott Lawrie in the boys' competition.

The schools that took part were Banavie, Caol, Fort William, Fort William RC, Invergarry, Inverlochy, Lady Lovat, Lochside, Mallaig, Spean Bridge and Upper Achintore.

Pupils took part in a round robin format tournament, competing to earn a place in the knockout stages.

Organiser Bridget Thomas said: 'Many thanks to Lochaber High School for hosting the competition and to all those who helped and supported on the day, in particular to the senior pupils who refereed the games.'

#### CROSS COUNTRY

LOCHABER youngsters dominated the under 17 age group in the North District Cross Country Championships at Evanton.

Isla Mackay led from the start of the under 17 women's race to gain a clear lead. She powered round the course and showed good pace on the downhill sections to win by 20 seconds and take her first north title after picking up silver last year.

Eilidh Moynihan also ran a hard race in her first outing in cross-country running to take fourth.

Calum Fraser ran well in the under 17 men's race, opening a 10 second lead on the first lap. However, he increased his lead on the tough uphill sections and drove ahead to win by 100 metres. Joseph Tangney had a good run to maintain his pace round the course to take fourth, while Craig Maclean came home ninth to give Lochaber the team gold.

Steven Mackenzie in the under 20 men's section ran well in his first championship event to take fourth.

## Young Lochaber runners dominate at North District Cross Country Championships



Lochaber's successful under 17 men's team - Calum Fraser, Joseph Tangney and Craig Maclean.

## Claymores warm up for this Saturday's event

#### BOXING

FIGHTERS from Kinlochleven-based Claymores amateur boxing club headed to Hamilton for a sparring session last weekend in preparation for this Saturday's home show of local talent.

The whole club travelled south for sparring sessions with Jackson ABC and Livingston before this weekend's event, which will see 12 bouts featuring a range of local boxers taking to the ring in Kinlochleven High School.

Lochaber Phoenix ABC will also provide two fighters for the night, ensuring plenty of local boxers will be on show.

The boxing starts at 8pm with tickets available from the club or by phoning 07799 705 742.

Meanwhile, two Claymores youngsters took to the ring last Friday in Elgin ABC's club show.

aged 14, made an impressive debut in an exhibition bout against home fighter Meg Gordon. It was a fast-paced affair with both girls impressing the knowledgeable crowd with their skills.

Ballachulish youngster Cian MacPhee made his return to the ring after a six month absence in an exhibition against Douglas Nevins.

MacPhee, aged 15, made a good account of himself moving out of range of the bigger stronger fighter bringing him on to his fast jab and left right combos before moving out of range again.

Claymores head coach Martin Glenesk said: 'This was a good chance for Cian to get himself physically and mentally prepared for our upcoming home show and Caitlin impressed me so much that I have arranged for her to have a skills bout on our home show.'

## Weather

**Thursday** Showers spreading from the west  
Winds north westerly, moderate  
Temperatures -1C to 5°C

**Friday** Bright and dry in most areas  
Winds northerly and increasing slightly  
Temperatures 0°C to 6°C.

**Weekend** Showers and sunny periods  
**Outlook** Winds south or southeasterly  
Temperatures -1°C to 10°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, December 6, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	10.08	3.4	17.06	2.0	22.49	3.1
Thur	04.13	1.7	10.08	3.4	17.06	2.0	22.49
Fri	05.13	1.7	11.15	3.3	18.23	2.0	*** **
Sat	00.10	3.1	06.21	1.7	12.43	3.4	19.34
Sun	01.52	3.2	07.31	1.6	14.08	3.5	20.37
Mon	02.55	3.4	08.39	1.4	15.08	3.7	21.31
Tues	03.44	3.7	09.41	1.1	15.59	3.9	22.21
Wed	04.29	3.9	10.38	0.9	16.46	4.0	23.08

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		

## The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with

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