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### PE teacher's sudden death shocks Oban school



STAFF and pupils at Oban High School have been shocked by the sudden death of Jim Lay, head of the school's PE department.

The former Campbeltown man, who was 54 years old, was found dead in his home last Friday. Oban High School head teacher Peter Bain said: 'Jim was a lovely, friendly person to sit and talk with. He had an enthusiasm for his job and was always very passionate when discussing how to improve his subject for all his pupils.'

'He loved being a teacher.' A successful basketball coach with Glasgow ladies team, St. Maurice Rocks, and formerly the Scottish Women's under-16 squad, Basketball Scotland described Jim as a 'driving force' in the sport, who would be sadly missed by the basketball community.

### Waves swamp car at Inveraray

A CAR became submerged at the Aray bridge traffic lights in Inveraray during high tide and high winds in the Royal Burgh.

Emergency services attended the incident on Tuesday after as the driver tried to negotiate deep flood water. The two occupants evacuated the car as the tide rose.

### Christmas cancelled in Oban?

PASSERS by thought Christmas had been cancelled in Oban on Wednesday morning after the Argyll Square's Christmas tree was cut down. Stormy weather had made the tree unsafe, but it was to be replaced as *The Oban Times* went to press.



Lisa Anderson, Dr Mac Armstrong, Anne May, Major John Swan and Friends of Oban Hospice volunteer, Catherine MacKechnie at the Light Up A Life ceremony. 15\_150lightu

## Light Up A Life remembrance in Oban

MANY OF those that had lost a loved one over recent years gathered at Oban's Corran Halls on Tuesday night to pay tribute to their memory.

Light Up A Life, run by the Friends of Oban Hospice, gives people an opportunity to light a candle and remember those who

had passed away at a time of year when they may be missed most.

Hosted by the chairman of the Oban Hospice Board, Dr Mac Armstrong, it is the sixth year the half-hour Oban ceremony has been held.

The event is the biggest fund-

raiser for Oban Hospice, with donations gathered throughout the year and at the end of the ceremony.

This year, more than £9,000 through the Light Up A Life Campaign.

A reading was given by Lisa Anderson, who recently started

working with the hospice, while prayer and illumination of the candles was led by Major John Swan.

Pipers from Oban High School Pipe Band gave a short performance before Bob Clarke, of the Friends of Oban Hospice, gave the vote of thanks.

Anne May, secretary of the Friends of Oban Hospice, said: 'It is at this time of year when people think most of friends or family they have lost.'

'This year, we had 350 entries into the book of dedications and we hope this short event is of great benefit to people.'

### Carbon capture project meeting

A POSTPONED meeting to discuss the implications of a carbon capture experiment at Ardmucknish Bay, North Connel, has been re-scheduled for Benderloch's Victory Hall tonight (Thursday).

From 8pm, Dr Henrik Stahl, of the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) at Dunstaffnage, will answer questions on the proposed research project and explain in detail what the potential effects will be.

## Book-keeper embezzled £150,000

A WOMAN who embezzled more than £150,000 from a Benderloch-based sail making company will have to wait for her sentence until next year.

Oban woman Kirsteen Johnston, 34, appeared at the town's sheriff court on Tuesday, having previously admitted embezzling £150,918.35 from Owen Sails between February 9, 2005 and March 17, 2008.

The court heard how the company's former book-keeper had been recording cheques

as cancelled when they had actually been cashed and put into bank accounts in the joint names of Johnston and her husband. The money was also being put towards credit cards, store cards and catalogue company payments.

The misdemeanours were only discovered after she went into hospital with pregnancy complications. Discrepancies were then spotted and co-owner Diana Shellcock looked into the accounts.

Johnston's husband was originally charged alongside his wife but the Crown decided not to proceed against him.

Johnston, of Shuna, 46 Pulpit Drive, was sacked at a disciplinary hearing on April 28, 2008 and a chartered accountant completed a full audit into the books before police were contacted in May that year.

Prosecutor fiscal, David Glancy, said: 'There appeared to be a real systemic issue with the company's books. Essentially,

the money was being siphoned off.'

The extent of the embezzlement would have been a serious hit for any small business, he said, adding that it had the potential to be 'catastrophic.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said he wanted to know the full impact of the fraud on Owen Sails before deciding on the punishment. Sentence was deferred until January 23 and psychiatric reports were ordered at the request of the defence.

## A83 in panto season farce

'It's open' - 'Oh, no it's not!'

MOTORISTS were left furious and confused on Tuesday after Transport Scotland closed the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful - less than 24 hours after announcing it had reopened.

The transport quango said it was being as 'proactive' as it could be, taking into account 'new information' on weather conditions which could potentially cause another landslide. The road has been closed for most of the month following a landslide.

'Badly handled' However, Donald Kelly, one of an Argyll First group of Kintyre councillors leading a campaign to have the A83 upgraded, said the situation had been 'badly handled,' and any announcement should have been delayed at least until forecasted storms had passed.

Argyll and Bute Council's spokesperson for transport, Duncan MacIntyre, also described Transport Scotland's announcement as 'premature.'

A spokesperson for Transport Scotland said: 'We've been giving almost daily updates as to the situation on the A83 and we've been doing that proactively for two weeks now - this is not a decision we have taken lightly.'

Plans to install floodlighting and monitoring equipment had to be postponed due to high

### REPORT

by Steven Flanagan [sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk)

It is hoped it can be installed by the end of the week, again, weather dependant.

Until it is, closures between 4pm-8.30am will again be the norm. Councillor Kelly said: 'The timing was unfortunate given the fact that the forecast was for severe weather. It would probably have been much better if Transport Scotland had delayed the opening for at least another day. I've had a lot of hauliers and businesses phoning me venting their anger.'

'It's clearly been badly handled. If you've said you're opening the road, open it.'

Mr MacIntyre said: 'Transport Scotland had said the opening would be weather permitting - that may have been premature given the forecast.'

The situation highlighted the need to do something with the road, he said, but cost estimates at making the collapsing hill safe are 'in comparison with a new Forth Road Bridge.'

Argyll First hope to collect upwards of 20,000 signatures on their 'Sign for the A83' petition, which enjoys cross party support and will be presented to the Scottish Government next year.

## Mid Argyll sisters are voted first Angels of the Year

KIND hearted Mid Argyll sisters, Helen McCuaig and Lizzie Scott have been named joint winners of The Oban Times' first Angel of the Year Award.

For years, the inseparable pair have tirelessly and selflessly worked to support Glassary Primary School, Kilmichael-Glassary where they attended as children, as well as a number of local charities, in particular First Aid for Gambia.

Helen, 63, and Lizzie, 62, were nominated for the award by Richard Edie, head teacher of Glassary Primary School. They were then selected for the top award after a blind voting process by our judging panel. Each received cheques of £250 for their considerable community efforts.

Speaking at the presentation, Helen said: 'I actually thought I'd won Spot The Shinty Ball when I got the call. It was a total surprise. We are absolutely



Helen, left, and Lizzie receive their Angel of the Year awards from Oban Times editorial director, Stewart MacKenzie. 15\_150angelst

delighted to be the first winners.'

Struan Thorpe, Lochgilphead, was presented with the Runner Up award and a cheque for £100, in recognition of his work with the Mid Argyll Pipe Band.

Such was the quality of entry that two Highly Commended Awards were also presented, to Helen MacKay, in recognition of her running of the Ulva School Community Association, and Lucy Heycock and the Macmillan Cancer Support Team at Oban and Lorn Hospital, in recognition of their service.

The Oban Times editorial director, Stewart MacKenzie, said: 'The striking thing that came out of this was the number of people who put so much time into keeping their communities alive.'

'We felt it was important to recognise this commitment. This is the first year we've presented this award and we're delighted it has gone to such worthy winners.'

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# Storm lashes west coast

## Trail of destruction, injury and escapes

THE GREAT storm of December 8 2011 will live long in the memory of West Highland people after hurricane-strength winds left a trail of destruction across the region.

Trains, ferries and buses were disrupted and roads, schools and shops were affected as people were encouraged to stay indoors as the storm reached its peak in the afternoon.

Among the hardest hit were residents in parts of Lochaber, rural Argyll and south Skye, who were without electricity for up to two days from 12pm on Thursday.

In the most serious incident caused by the weather, Lochgilphead policeman Cameron Brownlee, who was directing traffic at the Rest and Be Thankful after a lorry was blown over, was literally blown off his feet and sustained serious head injuries.

He was taken to the intensive care unit in Glasgow's Southern General Hospital, where he is in a stable condition.



The aftermath - people pick their way through rafts of seaweed, fish boxes, mooring bays and rope, washed onto Oban's streets during Thursday's storm.

Numerous trees fell across the Glencruitten - Connel road and on the A85 main route out of Oban, trees were blown onto the road at the Dunbeg, Kilmoronaig and Muckairn.



Strathclyde Police closed the centre of Oban as high winds ripped roofs from buildings, toppled trees and damaged property.

Despite some of the worst sea conditions for a number of years and up to Force 11 gales, Oban Lifeboat launched to help a stricken yacht, the 32-foot *Sapphire*, with three people on board. The yacht broke its mooring in Loch Creran and attempts by the owners to find anchor in the loch failed. The lifeboat placed it on a mooring at the Marine Resource Centre, Barcaldine.

The Oban to Glasgow train service was halted after striking a tree which had fallen on the line near Crianlarich.

Thirty-six passengers were transferred to buses and taken to Glasgow while engineers worked to clear the railway line.

Meanwhile a Glasgow to Oban train with 64 passengers was also brought to a halt by fallen trees on the track near Ardlui.

Northern Constabulary declared the storm 'a major incident in Lochaber' and advised people not to travel. Motorists in Barra and South Uist were similarly advised to stay at home.

The A82 was closed at Letterfinlay as a result of fallen trees, several lorries were blown over near Glencoe and a bus had its windscreen blown in by the wind, also near Glencoe. No one was injured.

The B863 between Ballachulish and Kinlochleven, the B849 between Lochaline and Drimin and the B8007 between Salen and Kilchoan were all blocked by fallen trees, as were the A819, A828 and A816.



Trees were uprooted - this one fell onto the A85 at Dunbeg.



Huge waves pounded the sea wall at Oban last Thursday afternoon as police sealed off parts of the town due to concerns over falling masonry, flying slates and debris.

Park and at Onich, both of which were littered by sea debris.

Argyll and Lochaber also recorded some of the highest wind speeds. Gusts reached 137mph on Aonach Mor and at Tulloch Bridge winds clocked at 105mph - equivalent to a Force 2 hurricane. On Tiree, gusts were recorded at up to 100mph.

Oban town centre was pounded by breaking waves throughout the length of the Esplanade and George Street was closed off by police after concerns that the roof of Skipinnish Ceilidh House was coming off. A wall panel of the Pancake Place was also ripped from the building.

Oban Police chief inspector Brian Auld said: 'Every resource that was available was utilised last Thursday and we worked double shifts, so that the equivalent of two shifts were on duty throughout the day. This included CID officers who were back in uniform to assist.'

'It was a very challenging day but no member of the public was seriously injured or harmed. However, our thoughts are with our colleague who was badly injured while attending the incident at the Rest and Be Thankful.'

In Brae Lochaber, Roy Bridge Primary School lost its old fir tree, thought to pre-date the school, to the hurricane.

Ardnamurchan caught the full brunt of last Thursday's winds, with structural damage, trees uprooted and both electricity and water supplies knocked out.

Power was lost around 11am and water ran out on Friday after tanks ran dry. The pumping system to the Kilchoan area, recently upgraded by Scottish water, is electricity-driven.

Power and water were restored on Saturday evening, but the electricity went off again at midnight to allow Kilchoan Fire Brigade to deal with a power pole fire.

Local Scottish Hydro workers and engineers from Wales, England, Ireland and even Poland worked flat out and the lights were back on by 12pm on Sunday.

Ardnamurchan Lighthouse Trust manager Davie Ferguson was knocked off his feet three times and said storm was the worst he had seen.

The anemometer on a turbine next to the lighthouse broke at borderline Force 10 - before the full force of the storm hit.

Kilchoan man Jon Haylett reported at least six caravans and one chalet were destroyed, and another chalet badly damaged.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It is an absolute miracle nobody was killed or injured.'

Mr Haylett said power was 'dipping' once more on Monday afternoon.

Ardgour was badly hit after numerous trees blew down and blocked local roads.

Crossroads care attendant Alison Wright of

Woodend Farm, Ardgour, described conditions as 'absolutely horrendous'. She told *The Oban Times* on Friday: 'It was the worst I have ever seen - and I have been here 20 years.'

'Folk who went to the shop got stuck there for three hours because the road was blocked on both sides. There are roof tiles and slates off and flying debris caused a lot of problems.'



This static caravan at the Highland Croft at Onich was lifted over a fence and smashed up-side-down by the force of the wind.



Waves were whipped across the Esplanade at Oban, with traffic banned from the town centre during the height of the storm.

On Skye, the Clan Donald centre in Armadale lost dozens of mature trees. Camuscross crofter Graeme MacKenzie said: 'There are trees down all over the place. It's easier to count the ones that are left standing up.'

'It's the worst I have seen at Camuscross.'

On Islay, the old lifeboat *Louise*, in Port Ellen Bay, broke her mooring in the storm force winds and was washed ashore.

One of the world famous 'Little Ships' that evacuated the British Army from the beaches of Dunkirk in 1940, *Louise* has recently been sold and was being prepared to be sailed down south to be fully refurbished.

While on the Isle of Coll, Arinagour Primary School had to be closed on Friday because of storm damage.



The driver of this articulated lorry travelling through Glencoe had a lucky escape as the lorry became one of several heavy goods vehicles to be blown off the road by the force of the wind. A bus, also travelling through Glencoe, had its windscreen blown in. No-one was seriously injured. Both the A82 and A85 main routes were blocked in several places by fallen trees.



BEFORE, above, and AFTER, below, the remains of a chalet at Swordle, Ardnamurchan destroyed in last Thursday's storm. Photographs - Jon Haylett.



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# Dangerous Dalmally junction needs accident *before* warning signs

IMPROVEMENTS to a dangerous junction in an Argyll village will not be made until after a serious accident occurs, according to the area's community council.

'surgery junction' sits on the east side of the village and is a busy access to the village's complex of surgery, post office, pharmacy and community centre.

Innishail Community Council claims there have been numerous 'near misses' at the poorly signed junction, which lies on a straight section of road.

The concern has been highlighted after frustrated drivers have been witnessed attempting dangerous overtaking manoeuvres, unaware that the junction is approaching.

Warning signs Despite attempts to convince Transerv Scotland to install warning signs to prevent accidents, the roads authority is unwilling to do so because there are currently no accident statistics to support the community's argument.

community council meeting read: 'The secretary recorded zero progress with this issue.'

A spokesman for Transerv Scotland said: 'Transport Scotland's policy is to promote intervention based on the history of recorded road accidents.'

Dalmally's now infamous

However, Glenorchy and

lighted after frustrated drivers

Transerv Scotland to install

Minutes from the most recent

Office to show support for traf-

fic calming measures.

## Connell Bridge closure delayed

LAST Thursday's planned closure on the Connell Bridge did not go ahead due to poor weather.

It was due to be the final night of repair work, which will be re-programmed following consultation with the local community and relevant agencies.

## Islay lifeboat comes to aid of creel fishermen

ISLAY lifeboat, the *Helmut Schroeder of Dunlossit II*, was called by Clyde Coastguard on Monday to assist a 10-metre fishing vessel after creel ropes and creels became tangled around its propeller off Scalasaig pier, Isle of Colonsay.

The lifeboat towed the stricken fishing boat and its three crew to Port Askaig on Islay.



Youngsters on St Columba's pupil council helped to organise a collection of teddies for Blythwood orphanages in Eastern Europe.

## Orphans to get Christmas teddies from Oban

AN OBAN Primary school has rallied round to help those with very little this Christmas.

Children and parents organised a collection of 160 teddy bears and soft toys to send to deprived children in eastern European orphanages by the Blythwood charity.

The inspiration came from the schools parent council and chairwoman Frances Parkinson said the pupils' response had been fantastic, bringing their own toys that they no longer needed.

'It is the fact that they were doing something for other children that have nothing,' she said. 'This is personal - from one child to another.'

## Lorn Lines



DAVID Logan, master of Lodge 180, right, and Douglas Craig, provincial grand master of Argyll and the Isles, left, were at Oban High School to hand over a cheque for £500 to the school's pipe band major Angus MacColl.

Another cheque for the same amount was given to Euan Dewar, pipe major of Oban Pipe Band. Netherlorn Piping Society president Alistair Dewar said: 'Everyone involved with both bands is extremely grateful for this excellent gesture by the members of the Lodge.'

THERE are fun and festivities for visitors of all ages as the National Trust for Scotland's Arduaine Garden gears up for Christmas.

The garden will be open right through the winter as usual between 9.30am and sunset, but from 12 noon-4pm this Saturday, December 17 and Sunday, December 18, Santa will be making a return visit.

Property manager Maurice Wilkins said: 'There will be more than a touch of Christmas magic at Arduaine during our Christmas weekend. Santa will be here to take down Christmas wishes and it's never too early for mulled wine and mince pies so we'll have plenty of those too, as well as snacks and drinks for the children.'

There's always something to see in the garden and sharp-eyed visitors will spot something in flower every day, even in winter. It's a surprise to see early rhododendrons in flower in December - or are they late?

For further information, please call 0844 493 2216.

KEEN amateur photographer Alex Farquhar, from Fort William, entertained, and educated, members of Oban Photographic Club at their weekly meeting in the Regent Hotel Oban on Monday, December 5.

In the first half, Alex showed images from America including the Grand Canyon, Yosemite National Park, Death Valley and Bryce Canyon. Alex also showed pictures from Ayres Rock in Australia and mountain scenes from Switzerland.

In the second half the images were all from Alex's home turf, showing Ben Nevis, Glen Coe, Rannoch Moor and a selection from the Isle of Eigg.

As well as showing the images, Alex gave a superb commentary explaining how, and why, he took the images as well as noting what he hoped to do in the future. Alex's images can be seen on his web-site Lochaber Light.

The next meeting of the club is next Monday, December 19 when members judge the entries for the 'Dougie McIntyre' subtle humour competition as well as sampling mince pies etc.

AT LORN Archaeological and Historical Society's November meeting, popular speaker Julian Hill entertained the audience with a talk on early mapmakers such as Timothy Pont and later explorers of the 1700's and 1800's who helped discover such places as Staffa.

Some ground breaking ideas in geology came about through James Hutton's Scottish tours and ideas, who was later acknowledged as the founder of modern geology.

John MacCulloch's travels on Mull resulted in the discovery of a fossilised tree adding more weight to Hutton's often ignored theories.

The next meeting of the society is tomorrow evening Friday, December 16 and takes on a local flavour with author Robert Hay from Lismore. The subject is Balgrunde: The life, death and rebirth of an island township.

Visitors are always welcome to the meetings that start at 7.30pm.

## Councillor calls for surplus land to be given up for much-needed housing

A COUNCILLOR is calling for surplus council land to be given to housing associations for new homes.

Roddy McCuish, Oban South and the Isles Councillor, said the move would make it more affordable for new houses to be built, to tackle the area's

huge shortage of affordable housing. He said: 'The biggest challenge the housing associations face is land. I would like to see the council free up more land and not sell it to them, but give it to them in some sort of grant.'

'To me it is a win-win situation for the council - what's the point of sitting on blocks of land when the registered social landlords are looking for land to build on? To me it is an obvious solution for the council.'

## Skerryvore auction raises £2,500 for children's charity

TRAD rockers Skerryvore have raised more than £2,500 for Children in Need following a hotly contested auction in which the boys offered a one-off personal gig.

Sarah Gleave, from Bruichlyvie, successfully bid £2,562.50 at the 11th hour to beat a leading bid from former Tobermory woman Lindsay (MacIver) Zinge, who now lives in Switzerland.

Sarah, who runs the Laser Cutting Services Company, said she would like the band to play in Buchlyvie at her 50th birthday party in December 2012.

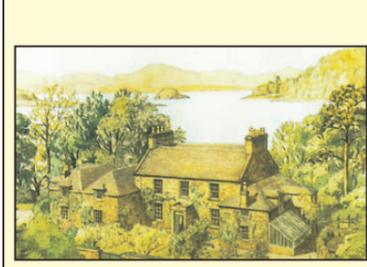
'I recently saw them in the Three Villages Hall, Arrochar the day after my grandson was born. My friend and I were up dancing to every song. The boys must have thought I was mad.'

## Oban lifeboat carries expectant Isle of Mull mum to mainland

A PREGNANT woman from the Isle of Mull was transferred to the mainland by lifeboat after going into labour late on Sunday night.

Oban lifeboat carried the expectant mother to Oban, where she was then transferred to hospital in Paisley. However, had the birth taken place aboard the lifeboat, she would have been in good hands, as two ambulance men, a midwife and Dr Colin Wilson of the lifeboat crew were all on board.

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**Drink-drivers caught in Caol**

LOCHABER police have expressed disappointment after two men tested over the drink-drive limit in Caol early on Saturday – despite Northern Constabulary's festive crackdown.

One driver was caught at 2.30am and the second only 40 minutes later. Both failed roadside breath tests.

Sergeant David Campbell told *The Oban Times*: 'Police are very disappointed that despite our public campaign, two drivers were caught on Saturday, both in Fort William.'

One man is expected to appear at Fort William Sheriff Court on December 21, while the other will stand trial 'subject to further inquiries'.

**Glencoe Boat Club sets sail on fundraising drive**

GLENCOE Boat Club is to launch a fundraising drive next month to support a full programme of events in 2012 – its 40th year of plying the waves.

The club kicked off anniversary celebrations with a club dinner at the Holly Tree Hotel in Kentallen on Friday, when newly elected club commodore Christine MacFarlane-Slack promised a busy season ahead. Events will include a full cruising and racing programme and the ever popular regatta.

The evening also saw a presentation of remaining trophies for last season's keel boat events and the point series trophy to Twig Olsen, Christine MacFarlane-Slack and David Cooper, who sailed a Trapper 28 'Redwing'.

**Lochaber High School Christmas concert**

LOCHABER High School is staging a concert featuring Christmas music and other entertainment in aid of school funds on Monday evening at 7.30pm.

Tickets are available now from the school office priced £4, £2 for concessions.

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Top skier Lachlan Veitch: sponsorship appeal to help him compete at the highest level.

**Ski ace Lachlan's sponsor appeal**

A YOUNG West Highlands skier is looking for local sponsorship to help him secure his place among Europe's elite.

Lachlan Veitch, from Torlundy near Fort William, is already a member of TeamGB Children's Alpine Ski Team and is current British Children Slalom Champion. But financing his training and race schedule, which normally involves European or worldwide travel, is becoming his biggest hurdle.

A bursary covers only a small percentage of overall costs, which according to Lachlan's dad John will exceed £12,000 this year.

John is proud to be helping his 13-year-old son compete against Europe's best – but welcomes

any offers of assistance. He told *The Oban Times*: 'Lachlan is one of the UK's elite young alpine ski racers. He is also a very ambitious young lad who not only has the talent but also a great appetite for the sport.'

'Lachlan would be delighted to hear from any local businesses or individuals who feel they would like to endorse, support and work with a young local athlete and be part of his future development and road to success.'

He added: 'I am of course hoping my lottery numbers come up - otherwise I'll be living off Weetabix for the next six months!'

See 'Lachlan aiming for honours', back page.

**Pair charged with teenager's murder**

TWO ISLE of Lewis men have appeared in court charged with the murder of a teenager in the Western Isles.

Liam Aitchison, aged 16, was found dead in a derelict building in the Steinish area on the outskirts of Stornoway on Lewis two weeks ago.

Jonathan Mackinnon, aged 21, from Stornoway, and 20-year-old Stefan Miller, from Carloway, appeared in private from custody at Inverness Sheriff Court. The pair made no plea and were remanded in custody. Liam is the first murder victim on Lewis for more than 40 years.

**Mallaig primary pupils forced to abandon damaged school**

MALLAIG Primary pupils have temporarily abandoned their school after the building was badly damaged in last Thursday's 100mph storm.

The roof lost a large number of tiles and the internal ceiling collapsed and from yesterday, primary 4-7 pupils were being taught at Mallaig High School and P1-3 pupils at Mallaig Church Hall.

Mallaig PS head teacher Morag Martin told *The Oban Times*: 'It's all been a big adventure for the children and we are all looking at the positive side of things. 'If the weather holds up we were hoping to be back in by

next week – but at the moment it doesn't look like it will.

'It's fortunate that we are coming up to a time of year when we can be a bit inventive with the Curriculum for Excellence. The Christmas parties and discos are still going ahead, and the Christmas play in the high school is still on on Monday night.

'Thanks go to the high school staff, who have been very good to give us two of their rooms, the use of the hall and assembly rooms.'

She added: 'We are all working round the clock to try to get back to normal as quickly as possible.'

**Divers called in to assess A82 collapse**

DIVERS were preparing to enter freezing Loch Lochy yesterday (Wednesday) to assess damage to the A82 after winter storms collapsed the retaining wall and part of the carriageway.

The operation, five miles north of Spean Bridge, comes only days after a rock fall closed the road between the Corran Ferry and Fort William.

And in a third blow ahead of Christmas, Scotland Transerv could not say when the A82 at Glen Gloy would be open both ways after floodwater caused a landslip. HGVs over 44 tonnes or with an axle weight over 11.5 tonnes currently face a detour via the A9 and A86 after geo-technical surveys detected 'slope instability' on the hillside over the road, two miles south of the Loch Lochy collapse. Two

**EXCLUSIVE  
REPORT by  
STEPHEN NORRIS**

sets of traffic lights are currently in operation on the A82 north of Fort William between Spean Bridge and Invergarry.

Transerv area manager Cathel MacAskill told *The Oban Times* on Tuesday an underwater survey was required at Loch Lochy-side after 'severe scouring' undermined the wall and the road.

He said: 'Investigative works are ongoing and arrangements have been made for divers to attend tomorrow (Wednesday), weather permitting, to further assess the problem.'

'We are grateful for the patience of the public in regard to these incidents. Our priority is

the safety of the public and we will return the road to normal as soon as we possibly can.'

Councillor Brian Murphy, chair of campaign group the A82 Partnership, warned brutal winter weather of recent weeks had only served to illustrate the vulnerability of the lifeline route. He told *The Oban Times*: 'The recent storms and resulting road closures have raised many questions and the partnership will be meeting early in the New Year to address the issues including, communications, tree felling and traffic management.'

'Improvements have to be made before the next winter storm. The storm has, once again, exposed the fragility of our transport infrastructure and the lack of investment in it over the last decades.'

Meanwhile, contractors have cleared all debris from the A82 following the successful removal of a dangerous overhanging crag a mile north of the Corran Ferry last weekend. Traffic lights and a single lane had been operating since Forestry Commission Scotland completed work on schedule at 6am on Monday, but contractors had made the area safe by Tuesday evening and traffic was flowing freely. The job required a complete road closure from Friday at 10pm, but the road was shut by 3pm following a landslide on the waterlogged hillside. Mr MacAskill told *The Oban Times* it had originally been intended to keep the traffic lights in place until December 20, but clear-up work was completed six days ahead of schedule.

See leader, page six.

**New man at helm of bid to boost High Street**

EFFORTS to rejuvenate Fort William High Street have seen a consultant hired to put together a bid to the Scottish Government for extra financial support.

The town's Chamber of Commerce (CoC) and the Outdoor Capital of the UK have received funding from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) to hire Inverness man Alan Jones, who will prepare an application to turn the pedestrianised street into a 'business improvement district' (BID). Mr Jones previously worked with the successful Inverness BID last year.

The Fort BID would see a not-for-profit company set up to represent local businesses and promote the High Street as a retail sector.

If the application is successful, the chamber will receive a grant of around £20,000 to hire a development officer, as well as possible funding from Highland Council.

Eleven areas in Scotland have already set up BIDs, including Aberdeen city centre, Falkirk

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



'Benefits for community' – Robert Hawkes, 10, f50street01

and Kirkcaldy, with another 16 currently in the development stage. A BID can last for no more than five years, and will either be dissolved at the end of its term

**Geopark landscape explained**

LOCHABER Geopark, the body which promotes the area's unique geology to the world, is erecting 20 interactive boards at key locations to allow visitors to understand how surrounding landscapes were formed.

The boards also have graphics scannable by mobile phones, directing users to further information on the internet. The project received funding from Scottish Natural Heritage and LEADER.

Geopark vice chairman Professor Ian Parsons said: 'Visitors travelling through Lochaber, as well as residents, can now read about the fascinating history of world famous geological features such as the Great Glen Fault and the Ben Nevis Caldera.'

Stone plinths have so far been placed in Glen Nevis, Treslaig village hall car park, near Letterfinlay on the A82, and beside the ferry terminal at Lochaline. All 20 panels will be in place by April. The geopark was recently stripped of its international status as it was unable to afford a project manager – a requirement of the European Geoparks Network.



*Prògraman na Nollaig* ★ *Festive Highlights*

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**An Oidhche ron Nollaig**  
Christmas Eve

Cèilidh Òrain nam Piòbairean  
Songs of the Pipers  
9f/9pm



Seirbheis Nollaig  
Christmas Ecumenical Service  
11f/11pm



**Là na Nollaig**  
Christmas Day

Leon sa Gheamhradh  
Leon in Wintertime  
5.05f/5.05pm



Wallace & Gromit:  
Mallachd an Fhir-rabaide  
The Curse of the Were-Rabbit  
5.35f/5.35pm

Is Mise Michelle McManus  
9f/9pm

Na Caimbeulaich  
The Campbells  
10f/10pm

**Là an dèidh na Nollaig**  
Boxing Day

Turas Tony  
9f/9pm

**Diciadain 28mh**  
Wednesday 28th

Caman  
Shinty  
8.25f/8.25pm

King Kenny: Sgeulachd Dalgligh  
8.55f/8.55pm

**Diardaoin 29mh**  
Thursday 29th

Soillse: Eilean Takuu  
There once was an island  
9f/9pm

**Dihaoine 30mh**  
Friday 30th

Sweet Dreams –  
Sgeulachd Patsy Cline  
8.55f/8.55pm

**Oidhche Challainn**  
Hogmanay

Balaich Bhatarsaigh  
@ Na Barrowlands  
Vatersay Boys  
@ The Barrowlands  
9.30f/9.30pm

Iseabail  
Ishbel MacAskill  
10.30f/10.30pm

Ceilidh na Bliadhna' Ùire –  
Bhon Eilean Sgitheanach  
New Year Ceilidh –  
From the Isle of Skye  
11.30f/11.30pm

Featuring:  
Donnie Munro  
Mànan  
Julie Fowles  
Arthur Cormack  
Christine Primrose  
Angus Nicolson Trio...  
and many more!

**Là na Bliadhna' Ùire**  
New Year's Day

A' Bhliadhna 2011  
News Review  
4.35f/4.35pm

Dolina  
9f/9pm

Dha Gordon a-mhàin  
Just For Gordon  
10f/10pm

**Diluain 2 Faoilleach**  
Monday 2 January

SPL  
Kilmarnock v St Mirren  
5.25f/5.25pm

An Ribheid Chiùil  
Reed Music  
8.30f/8.30pm



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Kenny Dalgligh photo © Press Association Images. Sweet Dreams: Sgeulachd Patsy Cline: Gail Watson as Patsy Cline © Leslie Black Photography, all rights reserved. Balaich Bhatarsaigh photo © Julie Broadfoot.



Toasting their success: Members of the Oban Winter Festival committee took time to review the event's inauguration at the Royal Hotel last week. Pictured are, back first from left, Elaine Smith, Mary MacAra, Elanor MacKinnon and Caroline Dunn. Front: Karen Mackie, Pamela Lockhart and Davie Finlayson. Missing from the picture is Louis Barrow. 15\_150wintfest1

## Winter Festival success prompts ambitious programme for 2012

OBAN Winter Festival organisers are already targeting a more ambitious programme of events for 2012 after a hugely successful inauguration.

The week of events, culminating in a spectacular display of fireworks over Oban bay on November 27, drew out thousands of locals and visitors alike as it kicked off the festive shopping season in style.

Restaurants and hotels reported leaps in trade as a result of the event, while local shops and businesses who participated have already indicated a willingness to take part next winter.

Last week, the organising committee met with other participants to digest the ins and outs of the event, sharing some ideas about the way ahead.

One of the organisers, Pamela Lockhart, says that, for next year, planning starts early.

'Everyone was really pleased with this year's festival,' she said. 'The feedback we've been getting has all been positive. The businesses are really happy and so are the people that attended.'

'Hopefully, most of the people that were involved this year will stay on and that will eliminate much of the groundwork we had

to do this year.'

The fireworks display was arranged and paid for by Pyro1, the company who shot to global fame after their November 4 display at Mossfield suffered a spectacular failure.

Thousands of locals turned up for the re-arranged display, but it is hoped Pyro1 can bring their 'Obang' display back next year, dependent on funds.

This year's event was completed on a shoestring budget, but it is hoped larger pots of finance can be found to boost next year's coffers even further.

Pamela said: 'We will probably

start applying for money very soon as we want to make it bigger and better next year to attract even more people.'

'We would like to have the fireworks again, if we can get the money, as it drew a lot of people into the town and that was great for everyone.'

The committee is looking for volunteers who can help with the co-ordination of next year's event.

More information on how to take part can be found at the committee's website at obanwinterfestival.com or on the group's Facebook page.

## Workers pay to close funding gap

### Lack of cash from council affects Oban young family support group

WORKERS at a family support project are suffering sleepless nights and dipping into their own pockets to pay for materials because of funding misery.

As Argyll and Bute Council prepares to publish its draft budget next month, staff at Soroba Young Families Group have warned councillors that further cuts will damage vulnerable families.

Janice Kay told *The Oban Times* childcare workers put in countless extra hours to provide the best care they can for more than 80 children, but a lack of financial security is putting their hard work in jeopardy. She said: 'Our staff are highly qualified and we all have a commitment to the children. One year we worked for three months with no pay until the funding came through.'

'We are working extra hours unpaid to give extra help to parents.'

Running a respite creche, two parent and toddler groups and childcare for two and three years olds, the group supports children and their parents, many referred by health and social workers, on less than £37,000 a year. There is also a nursery school for three to five year old children, on a safer footing because of guaranteed free nursery places for every child.

Soroba used to be a Surestart centre - funding was ring-fenced and parents were charged 25p per session. In 2007, the Scottish Government removed ring-fencing and gave councils a free hand in allocating cash.

Janice said: 'Our client group are on the poverty line. They themselves can't pay to increase our income. We charge £3 per session - that's hard for some of them. We really just want more funding for more staff to support more children.'



Soroba Young Family Group provides care and services for more than 80 families from Oban and beyond

'The Scottish Government is supposed to be increasing spending on birth to three - well, we're not seeing it. My funding is being cut on an annual basis.'

A voluntary committee of parents and supporters is doing its best to plug the funding gap and the project gets support from the community and local businesses, but Janice believes it is the council that must secure the centre's future. She said: 'I want them, when they sit in their council chambers and decide that Soroba Young Families are to get another cut, to see the damage they are doing - they are damaging families.'

One mum who knows the difference the centre can make is Margaret Watson. Her baby son Rory, aged four

months, has a condition which means he cries a lot and wakes up frequently all night. But the backup of the respite creche means that Margaret can rest.

'It has been a huge support to me,' she said. 'The sessions in the respite creche enabled me to catch up on my sleep and recharge my batteries. I feel completely confident that he is well looked after. It is an invaluable service for parents.'

With good ratings from the Care Commission and HMIe and heavily relied upon by health and social services, deputy manager Rachael Turnbull said their most vulnerable families will be the first to lose out if services are cut.

She said: 'You find the parents most in need of it can't afford it. For the budgets we have, Janice does exceptionally well in managing us.'

'We maybe don't have the money, but our children get the best.'

Yet Rachael believes the services offer exceptional value for money and the public sector would struggle to plug the gap if the project folded due to lack of funds.

'They could not afford it,' she said. 'If they were putting the money into council services or private nurseries or community childminders, it would cost a fortune.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said it was delighted to work with the group to provide quality pre-school provision for children.

She said all grants for work with vulnerable children were cut by 15 per cent last year 'as part of the budget process'.

The council was unable to yet confirm the group's allocation for next year.

### Oban arrest after early threat

A 58-YEAR-old man has been accused of conducting himself in a disorderly manner after threatening a work colleague with brandishing a piece of wood at him in Glengallan Road, Oban at 4.30am last Wednesday.

### Taynuilt arrest for scrap dealers

TWO MEN, aged 30 and 28, have been charged with dealing in scrap metal without a licence, as part of a Crimebreakers initiative.

Their lorry was stopped by police in Airds Bay, Taynuilt last Thursday evening.

### Charges follow broken window

A PROPERTY on the Corran Esplanade, Oban, had a large window smashed just after midnight on Sunday morning. A 20-year-old man has been charged in relation to the offence.

### Jail warning as police launch tough campaign against knife crime

ANYONE caught carrying a knife in Oban or the surrounding area could face four years in jail as part of a six week crackdown.

The Lord Advocate, Frank Mulholland QC, announced the zero tolerance policy across Scotland's town and city centres as part of plans to deter anyone carrying a knife for any reason whatsoever, reducing violence in town and city centres.

It follows July's announcement that the prosecution policy for those found in possession of a knife on licensed premises, when gang involvement is probably or on public transport will face tougher sentences.

A spokesperson for Strathclyde Police said: 'This announcement sends out a clear message to those who carry knives that their behaviour will not be tolerated.'

### Scams warning for Argyll

BUSINESSES and individuals throughout Argyll are being warned to be on the lookout for a number of scams as the festive season gets into full swing.

A Taynuilt businessman was this week contacted by a man from 'Argyll Police,' canvassing for a full colour brochure to raise money for a charity that supports abused children.

He reported the call to police and warned others to be aware that no such brochure exists.

Meanwhile, false missed delivery cards from a company called Parcel Delivery Service have been posted through people's doors, advising the occupant to call an 0906 number to arrange re-delivery.

It is a recorded premium rate number scam generating large phone bills.

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# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## A82 - time for action

NOT FOR the first time, the vulnerability of the West Highlands' main transport artery is in the spotlight after brutal winter storms.

Caught between mountains on one side and lochs on the other, the A82 has always been under threat from the elements.

Rockfalls and landslides triggered by heavy rain or melting snow are no strangers to the 'lifeline' route - but recent weeks have witnessed weather events so extreme as to raise a question mark over the reliability of the A82 itself.

Landslides between the Corran Ferry and Fort William and at Glen Gloy north of Spean Bridge, and the collapse of the Loch Lochy retaining wall and part of the carriageway closed the road entirely for a short time. At all three locations, traffic remains restricted to a single lane. It's not good enough.

The A82 Partnership and the Scottish Government appear to have forged a constructive working relationship - now is the time to put it to good use.

### GLASGOW LETTER

#### Celtic Connections in Skye

CELTIC Connections has recently announced it will stage a two-night musical event in Broadford on the Isle of Skye as a finale to the Year of Scotland's Islands.

This is the first time the festival will have left its city home in 19 years. On March 23 and 24 Celtic Connections' Big Top will feature a line-up of traditional music, show stopping art experiences and action packed workshops, showcasing local talent and top international artists.

Up to 4,000 residents and visitors are expected to attend. Roseanne Cash, The Civil Wars, Michael McGoldrick Band, Daimh, The Deadly Gentlemen, Aoife O'Donovan (Crooked Still) and Manran, as well as other guests still to be announced, are scheduled to perform.

Donald Shaw, Artistic Director of Celtic Connections, said: 'We're thrilled to bring a taste of Celtic Connections to the people of Skye. The Big Top is set to highlight the rich tapestry of musical traditions from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland and Ireland, along with the very best of Americana for concerts typical of the festival experience.'

The event will allow those attending to get a snapshot of island life with local stalls celebrating the produce and textiles of the island.

#### Birthday celebrations at Clydebank

IF YOU reach your 90th birthday you deserve a celebration and that is what Clydebank and District Highlander's Association had at its December ceilidh.

It was precisely 90 years to the day of the election of the very first committee and former president Katie MacDonald, who chaired the proceedings in her own inimitable and homely style, provided interesting historical information.

John Shaw, from Islay, was on that first committee and two of his grand-daughters are still regulars at the monthly ceilidh, one being Nan Hutton who recently celebrated her own 90th birthday and the other is Mairi Howieson, the association's hard working secretary since 1986 and now also a vice president.

Mairi and her committee can be delighted with their evening. From the outset there was a relaxed atmosphere in

the hall with a rapport between the stage and the audience.

The singers, Paul MacCallum, Anne Bone MacLean, Rhona Morrison and Ainslie Hammill, were in fine form and provided many favourite songs.

Graham Richardson was the piper and together with accordionist Fiona Johnston, accompanist Kirsteen Grant and, of course, Katie in the chair ensured the 'Skye' flavour to the proceedings. Like all good parties there was a cake with the task of cutting being undertaken by three over 90-year-olds from the audience!

For this special occasion the attendance was higher than usual and as well as the entertainment they were able to enjoy delightful party food at the interval.

#### Phil's Christmas Songbook

THE CITY Halls will be venue for a night of fun and top class music when Phil Cunningham and his friends, Eddie Reader, Karen Matheson, John McCusker, Kris Drever, Ian Carr and Kevin McGuire as well as a guest Brass Band take to the stage on Wednesday December 21 at 8pm.

Phil has taken his show to Edinburgh for the last few years and he will be there again, in the Queen's Hall, on Thursday December 22 and Friday December 23. Prior to Glasgow and Edinburgh they will be performing in Perth Concert Hall on Monday December 19 so get along to one of the concerts and take the family with you.

Then in 2003 a company planned a £1.3 million new build hotel only to eventually give up their lengthy fight with the planning fools.

This farce has lasted more than 28 years, maybe more, but I would bet some tin pot planner will put a further spoke in the wheel when mention is made of improvements to Charles Street.

I hope the tax funded bureaucrats, who have disgraced this site for so long, obtain no credit when the bijou hotel opens 30 years on in 2014.

Hamish MacDougall, Woodhall, Appin.

**Hideous sewage development**

Sir, I visit the Oban area regularly to enjoy some of the finest scenery in the UK.

On a recent trip I saw a small hideous development on the shoreline between Clachan Seil and Balvicar.

I assume it's a sewage plant and necessary for island residents.

I also assume it costs a fortune, in which case couldn't the planners have considered spending just a little more to landscape the site?

Or is Seil planning to twin with Guantanamo Bay?

Perhaps Argyll and Bute Council should think more carefully about aesthetics before giving planning permission to any development in an area of such natural beauty.

Bill Grant, London.



## Achaleven senior classes - 1974

This week we turn the clock back to the summer of 1974 and turn the spotlight on the senior pupils of Achaleven Primary School. Back row, left to right: Duncan Mouat; Anson MacKay; Peter Comely; David Cameron; Janice Henderson; Kathleen Sinclair; Isla Grierson; Rowanne Mauchline; Joyce Cruickshank; Christine Forbes; Ann McLaren; Margaret Campbell and Sandra Cameron. Front: Colin MacKenzie; Clark Campbell; Ewen MacKinnon; Donald Lowe; Alan Warner; Morvern Campbell; Morvern MacCallum; Shirley Ferguson and Janice Ferguson. We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

## Letters to the editor

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Telephone: 01631 568000  
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#### Long-running saga of Oban's Argyll Hotel

Sir, I was delighted to read the long running saga of the future use of the Argyll Hotel site may have been resolved.

Allan and Callum MacLeod must be congratulated on their stoic perseverance in the face of an obdurate council and incompetent planning departments, over many years.

The first reference to the hotel's dereliction in your excellent 16 page historical supplement, was in 1984 when the facade was 'in danger of collapse and had to be shored up'.

Then in 2003 a company planned a £1.3 million new build hotel only to eventually give up their lengthy fight with the planning fools.

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Perhaps Argyll and Bute Council should think more carefully about aesthetics before giving planning permission to any development in an area of such natural beauty.

Bill Grant, London.

#### Generous display donations

Sir, On behalf of Oban Fireworks Committee we would like to thank Scottish Sea Farms for its donations of £4,000 and £2,000 over the past two years.

This money came from their Heart of the Community Trust. Without their support we would never be able to continue with the fireworks display in Oban.

The amount collected in the buckets on the evening by the Oban Lions on November 4 amounted to £2,883.87 which is greatly appreciated and all goes forward to next year's display.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon, Treasurer.

#### Port Ellen social housing

Sir, New social housing in Port Ellen will be welcome, but why has this community had to wait so long for development when greater numbers of houses have been built in smaller communities and where the land was not already in public ownership?

It is now a little over 20 years since a group was established in Islay with a view to establishing an Islay housing association.

Members included Councillor Robin Currie, Diane Brown, Catriona Bell, the late Ian Grant and myself amongst others.

The five of us visited new housing association developments in Skye and Lochaber to explore how such new housing might be developed in Islay and Jura. As a student I was taken to see one of the D-villages in Co Durham where the local authority had a declared policy to prevent development in some settlements which were destined by the planners for oblivion.

Port Ellen has often seemed to be viewed in this manner by Argyll and Bute Council. It is more than 10 years since I resigned from Kildalton and Oa Community Council because of the failure of Argyll and Bute

Council to spend any money on their properties in Port Ellen when younger houses elsewhere on the island were being upgraded.

The announcement of 10 new houses for Port Ellen is to be welcomed but this is only half the number required. It is no wonder that there has been a proliferation of individually built homes in Kildalton and Oa in recent years, and this despite attempts by the council to oppose some of these planning requests as not being part of the local plan.

However Kildalton and Oa has only been part of Councillor Currie's remit since the creation of multi-member constituencies.

Councillor Currie was the only councillor in Argyll and Bute to be elected on the first count using the transferable vote system-but at the same time Islay and the islands went down from two resident councillors to a single one. I have not been aware of Councillor MacAlpine making visits to Islay, but Councillor Anne Horn has become well known to many of us through her visits and efforts to represent her entire constituency.

Jean Knowles, Port Ellen.

#### Distressed at Glencoe log theft

Sir, I was greatly saddened to hear that some of the huge beech trees that belong to the Heritage Trust in Glencoe have fallen.

But what is even more distressing is that after they were cut and piled up ready to be distributed among the elderly in Glencoe someone has come along with a large van and taken/stolen the whole lot.

In Austria, Denmark and many other countries logs are left cut and piled up in the woods for the local community and no one would dream of taking them all but it seems here people have little respect for other people, their hard work or their property.

If anyone knows where these logs have gone please could they return them.

Mrs Gardner, Peebles.



### Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

COMHAIRLE bhuam nach d'fhuaireadh agam! Bidh a' mhòr-chuid agaibh eòlach air an fhacal agus gu dearbh, mar a dh'èirich dhomh fhin gu math tric, bidh sibh 's dòcha ciontach! Thàinig am facal nam inntinn a-rithist is a' chiad shneachda trom den gheamhradh air laithe is mi a' faicinn chàraichean a' falbh an rathaid 's gun ach beagan òirlich de na h-uinneagan air an glanadh aig na draibhearain. Chan e a-mhàin gun bheil na daoine sin gan cur fhein ann an cumart le dith leirsinn ach tha iad cuideachd nan cumart dha draibhearain eile agus luchd-coiseachd nan rathaid.

'S e tha inntinneach mun t-suidheachadh seo gur e a' mhòr-chuid daoine ciallach dòigheil a tha sna draibhearain sin, daoine a tha gam meas fhein faiceallach agus cùramach a thaobh umhlachd dhan lagh. Cuiridh mi geall gum bheil, mar eisimpleir, a' mhòr-chuid aca an aghaidh chas astair agus cron sam bith eile a chithear air na rathaiden. Ach a dh'aindeoin sin, cha ghabh iad fhein an t-saothair citheachan sneachda a ghlanadh far nan càraichean aca mun tèid iad air an rathad. A bharrachd air nach eil iad fhein air chomas an rathad agus na th'air fhacinn ceart, chan eil foir aca a rèir coltais nach eil na solais aca rim faicinn agus nach eil cothrom aig draibhearain eile tuigsinn cò an taobh a tha iad am beachd tionndadh.

Tha cuid a tha a' dèanamh beagan oidhirp agus bheir iad sgrìobag air uinneagan is fiù's bonaid a' chàir ach chan eil guth air na th'air a' mhullach. Tha sin tuilleadh is doirbh ruigheachd air! Falbhaidh iad gu dòigheil gun ghuth air gum bheil blàths a' chàir a' toiseachadh ris an t-sneachda a leaghadh agus fhuasgladh agus 's e a' chiad iomradh a' thaca air nuair a dh'fheuchas iad ri stad agus a thig maoin-slàibhe de sneachda far a' mhullaich thairis air an uinneag aghaidh agus tha iad air an dalladh!

Suidheachadh cumartach da-riribh is gum smachd idir aca air càite bheil iad a' dol neo dh'fhaodadh iad a bhualadh! Nuair a thuiteas càrn sneachda mar sin air an uinneag, chan eil inneal-glanaidh na h-uinneige air chomas dèiligeadh ris agus chan eil aca ach stad agus tighinn a-mach gun an sneachda a ghluasad far na bonaid le làimh. Agus nì iad sin ma tha draibhearain eile cho faiceallach is foighidneach gun an cothrom a leigeil leotha!

Tha feum air cuid a pheanasachadh ach am fàs draibhearain mothachail agus gun glan iad sneachda far càraichean mun gluais iad.

MOST motorists regard themselves as law-abiding and safety conscious.

Yet a majority seem unaware of the risk to themselves and other road users when they fail to clear snow off their vehicles before travelling.

Their view impaired, lights and signals are obscured and they face a total loss of control when an avalanche slides of the vehicle roof onto the windscreen as they brake. Perhaps some penalties are required to raise driver awareness.

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

### Times Diary



It seems that you really can get anything at Tesco these days after one store had this notice posted on its advertising board.

IT SEEMS not everyone appreciated the heroic efforts of the volunteers who cleared a path through the tree that fell near the Wide Mouthed Frog, Dunbeg, during last Thursday's storm.

Allan Strang, joined by his father, Jamie and Jordan Kerr, Bob Howie and three others, whose names escape *Diary*, braved the conditions to carve a path through the tree, which had completely blocked traffic.

While most motorists were delighted with their efforts, one seemed to take umbrage. Allan said: 'It was scary. I nearly got run over from a woman driving a Fiesta. The kerb saved me!'

PICKING up your wedding dress is supposed to be one of the most exciting days of your life, but for beaming Barcalaine bride Karen Webster it turned into a saga.

Travelling to Glasgow by train on Tuesday, Karen managed to collect her dress without a hitch. The return journey was a little more eventful, with fallen trees on the line delaying the train's arrival into Connel until after 10pm - after a planned closure of the Connel Bridge. Walking across the bridge with the dress was just as fun for Karen, with engineers shouting 'don't do it!' as she approached the crossing.

Karen has more than proved her determination to marry her Romeo, Sean O'Byrne, though. When she went to pick the dress, her car broke down, and she was later involved in a car crash after a fitting.

Thankfully, the happy couple finally tied the knot at a beautiful ceremony at the Isle of Eriska on Saturday. *Diary* wishes Mr and Mrs O'Byrne all the best.

## 25 Years Ago

### Those Were The Days

The Oban Times Thursday, December 18, 1986

#### £450,000 plan for Tiree Airport

THE PROVISION of a new terminal building and a new fire station at Tiree Airport is currently being considered by Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL).

Should they get the go-ahead, the developments are expected to cost in the region of £450,000. This was revealed on Monday by John J MacKay, MP for Argyll and Bute, following correspondence with W K Semple, the managing director of Highlands and Islands Airports Limited.

Mr MacKay had sought clarification of the company's plans for Tiree Airport after islanders complained that closure this year of the third runway there had led to disruption of air services to the island during certain cross-winds.

In reply, Mr Semple pointed out that HIAL was committed to spending £157,000 on major repair and resurfacing works on both the main runway and a second runway at the airport. To have brought the third runway up to an acceptable standard would have cost a further £221,000.

Mr Semple wrote that it had been accepted that there would not be occasions when aircraft would not be able to land because of crosswind limitations. However, the probability of such an

#### Landslide delays

GLENSHELLACH road in Oban was blocked on Friday after torrential rain caused a landslide. Strathclyde Regional Council's roads department closed the road about 8pm and it was cleared and re-opened by 11am on Saturday morning.

#### 'Secret plan' to demolish classical canal buildings

FEARS have been voiced over a British Waterways Board plan to carry out a multi-million pound package of improvements at Corpach Canal.

One local resident, who does not wish to be named, claims the board has secret plans to demolish listed canal buildings.

And he says the board is also investigating whether they could transport and store illumina dust for Fort William's British Alcan factory in huge silos at the canal front.

#### A major victory

MAJOR Eric Moss, of Ballachulish, the retired Argyll and Sutherland Highlander, has put the local council to flight over its plans to move the village war memorial.

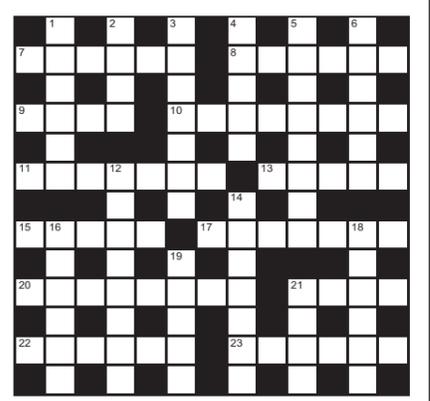
Lochaber District Council wanted to move the memorial from its present location near St John's Church to a more central site in the village square. Opposition was led by Major Moss who launched a local petition which was signed by 250 people, more than 91 per cent of those approached. Major Moss felt strongly it was wrong to move the memorial from its traditional setting which had been properly blessed and consecrated as Holy ground.

Major Moss said: 'I am delighted. I am very grateful to the people of the community for the support which they gave me.'

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

- Across
- 7 Scarcity (6)
  - 8 Beads of prayer (6)
  - 9 Coil into a ball (4)
  - 10 Savoury sponge (8)
  - 11 File (7)
  - 13 Additional (5)
  - 15 Edible greenery (5)
  - 17 Field for a mare (7)
  - 20 Baker's dozen plus one (8)
  - 21 Open (4)
  - 22 Accord (6)
  - 23 Army vehicle (6)

- Down
- 1 Cashier (6)
  - 2 Forehead (4)
  - 3 Old viceroy of Egypt (7)
  - 4 Body build (5)
  - 5 Cut off (8)
  - 6 Italian nobleman (6)
  - 12 Warmth spots (4,4)
  - 14 Fat bellied (7)
  - 16 Consecrate (6)
  - 18 Whisky after lager e.g. (6)
  - 19 Fishing net (5)
  - 21 Pellets (4)



Last week's solution

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

### School turns back the clock at ceilidh

A REMOTE west coast Lewis primary school is holding a ceilidh this afternoon (Thursday) at which teachers, pupils and parents past and present will share their memories. Airidhantium School and Ness Historical Society are keen to find more photographs, records and memorabilia for a final exhibition before the school closes next year.

### Lochside plan

AN APPLICATION for two houses on croft land at Lochside, Fort William, has been submitted to Highland Council.

Donald Donnelly, of Tigh A Chladaich, Glenmallye Road, Caol, is seeking permission to build the homes at Croft 104 and 105, 70ms northeast of Tigh A Chladaich.

### £1,200 jackpot

THERE were no winners again in the Fort William FC lotto draw on Saturday. Numbers were 11-16-18. The jackpot goes up to £1,200 this week - the last chance to win in 2011.

### Community councils to reform

COMMUNITY councils in eight Lochaber and Skye districts will reform after enough people put their names forward following an extension of the deadline.

Nether Lochaber and Glencoe and Glen Etive will reconstitute after enough nominees came forward, as will Glendale, Broadford and Strath, and Skeabost and District on Skye. Elections will be needed in Dunvegan, Raasay and Sleat to decide the make up of the new councils, with postal ballots planned for early 2012.

### 'Dramatic fall' in living standards

THE HIGHLANDS faces an 'unprecedented, dramatic fall' in living standards under UK Government public spending cuts, says regional MSP Rhoda Grant.

Ms Grant hit out after Institute of Fiscal Studies figures showed average household incomes in the Highlands would stay lower in real terms until 2015 than over a decade earlier.

She said: 'The squeeze on living standards will continue because of the failure of the Tory-Lib Dem Government to get the economy growing to create jobs. Instead, 700,000 more public sector workers are forecast to lose theirs.'



Letters and News at Lochside: Fort William bound? 20\_50painting01

### Nurse meeting branded 'futile'

WEST Ardnarmurchan Community Council (WACC) has branded the latest meeting between local residents and health officials about out-of-hours medical cover on the peninsula as an 'exercise in futility'.

NHS Highland and Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) held a drop-in day in Kilchoan for people to find out more about the plans for out-of-hours care. The latest proposal includes asking residents to join a volunteer first-aid responders unit which would treat patients until an ambulance arrives from Acharacle.

WACC spokesman Jon Haylett told *The Oban Times* very few locals went to the event as they felt health officials had 'nothing new to offer'. He said: 'They must understand now what we know - there aren't many people here who want to join the responders. I think there was more officials there than local people. The ball is in their court now. We know exactly what we want and what we need down here. It's their problem, not ours. There are some perfectly simple ideas but all of them depend on us having nurses based here.'

In a joint statement, NHS Highland and SAS said: 'A small number of people attended and were interested to hear about the possibilities for the future. The next step will be to gauge any interest from healthcare professionals living in the area in participating in an emergency responder model.'

One of the two district nurses who currently provide cover for the area, Jessie Colquhoun, is to retire in February, prompting the discussions on emergency cover.

**"They've said they realise how important the painting is to the local area, so why take it away?" Elizabeth MacDonald.**

## Foxley: Highlands lead way over rural schools

HIGHLAND rural schools must be at the centre of community life and learning to ensure education services are the best they can be in remote areas.

That was the message from Highland Council leader Michael Foxley and director of education Hugh Fraser to the Scottish Government Commission on Rural Schools at a special hearing in Inverness last week.

Highland Council was controversially excluded from membership of the commission - currently taking evidence on how best to deliver rural education - despite having the most rural schools, more than 150, of any Scottish region.

To compensate, Councillor Foxley asked to make a one-hour presentation to ensure the commission was made aware of the Highlands' track record. Key points raised included:

- The need for a substantial informal consultation with parent councils, headteachers, with staff and at ward forums, long in advance of any formal consultation on closing or merging rural primaries. The council piloted this model through its recent schools amalgamation and rebuilding project in Greater Fort William.

By STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

- Local authorities should consider 3-18 education in rural areas and not just simply concentrate on primary schools.

- New school buildings should be designed as community facilities to maximise their use. This has led to well used community facilities at Ardnarmurchan and Portree high schools, as well as in rural primaries such as Acharacle and the new Lochaline primary school, which includes a fire station.

- Rural schools in the future will need to maximise the integration between rural primaries and rural secondaries to avoid any pupils failing during transition. Increasingly, secondary schools in rural areas will become rural learning centres delivering education at Higher, FE and even HE level to 16 to 18 year olds within the high school as well as to adults within the wider community.

- The dynamics within a school once a school roll drops to single figures. This has led to primary schools such as Glenborrodale closing because parents of remaining pupils wished their children to be at

# Museum U-turn over painting sale

WEST Highland Museum (WHM) trustees have reversed their decision to sell a valuable Victorian painting and are now considering moving it from its current Arisaig home to Fort William to allow the public greater access.

WHM trustees caused a row with Arisaig locals after considering selling *Letters and News at Lochside*, valued at up to £60,000, to help fund future developments of the Fort William museum.

But chairman of museum trustees Richard Sidgwick

By RICHARD HADDOCK  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

said: 'We were unaware of the strength of local feeling and the perception of its importance as part of the museum's collection, for which we apologise. We have decided to reverse the decision to sell and are looking again at our long held view that we do not wish to displace existing exhibits to make the necessary space available.' WHM is considering a number of options for hanging the painting, including a room in the upper floor of the museum.

Mr Sidgwick said moving the painting to Fort William would allow more people to see it, but any changes in future would be discussed with Arisaig Community Council first.

'Display of the painting in the museum will secure its long term future,' he said. 'And it will be appreciated by the 30,000 visitors that we are now able to anticipate annually.'

Communn Eachraidh Arasaig (Arisaig Historical Society) member Elizabeth MacDonald welcomed the news, but said locals were apprehensive about

the painting leaving Arisaig. She told *The Oban Times*: 'It would be a pity if it left the area. There is no reason for it to come down to Fort William. They've said they realise how important the painting is to the local area so why take it away?'

The 1868 work by Henry Tamworth Wells, of a boat on Loch Eill-side, depicts men whose descendants still live locally, and was bequeathed to WHM by the late Miss Joan Becher. It currently hangs in Arisaig House where it is open to public view.

*Musical gifts for Christmas*

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### Sports centre plan off to flying start

THE CAMPAIGN for a multi-sports centre in northwest Skye is off to a flying start after local people created a new community company to lead the bid.

At a public meeting at Dunvegan Community Hall, the audience of more than 70 unanimously supported setting up the North West Skye Recreational Association (NWSRA), passed its constitution and elected a nine-strong management board.

NWSRA can now start identifying potential funding sources for an all weather sports pitch and indoor recreation and sports centre with changing rooms, showers, gym, meeting rooms and a café.

Last month *The Oban Times* revealed that Hibs, Celtic and Scotland football legend Murdo MacLeod agreed to become patron of the association and gave the ambitious plan his 'full backing'.

Speaking after the meeting, NWSRA chairman John Hermse said he was 'delighted' so many people came along and gave their support.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Now the hard work starts to identify sources of funding. Health and fitness are important to the well being of the community.'

Currently people in Edinbane, Waterlornish, Dunvegan, Glendale, Struan and Carbost must travel at least 20 miles to Portree for sport and recreation. A community consultation, local schools, community trusts, businesses and sports voluntary organisations have already backed the multi-sports facility.



### Rotary Club charter dinner

The Rotary Club of Lochaber held its charter dinner in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, last Tuesday night. Top table guests pictured are, back row: Tom Fraser, President Elect Sheana Fraser, Oban Rotary Club member George Miller, Assistant District Governor Andy Lees, Liz Lees. Front: Helen Brian, Rev Donald MacQuarry, Pat MacQuarry and President Paul Brian.

### Road group's bid for early start on A82 upgrade

ROAD campaign group the A82 Partnership has pledged to work with government to bring forward dates for major upgrades of the lifeline route.

The partnership wants planned works to be 'spade ready' so they can start earlier should schemes elsewhere stall.

Last week the Scottish Government announced a £200 to £250 million investment in the road between 2017 and 2025.

Partnership chairman Councillor Brian Murphy said: 'We will be seeking a meeting with the transport minister [Keith Brown] in the New Year to take forward the upgrading of the road between Tarbet and Inverarnan.'

But Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy said: 'People in the West Highlands have been waiting for serious action to upgrade their lifeline trunk road, instead of more warm words.'

Meanwhile, all statutory objections to the planned Pupit Rock and Crianlarich improvements have been removed. A date has been set to address the concerns of the one outstanding non-statutory objector to the Crianlarich bypass. Work could start on both projects in 2012/2013 as funding has been approved. A £500,000 engineering and environmental study on Loch Lomondside will be completed by March 2012.

### Music school Christmas concert

LOCHABER Music School is holding its Christmas concert in St Margaret's Church, Roy Bridge, at 3pm on Sunday.

Orchestral and choral items, handbell ringers, a clarsach ensemble, and carols for congregation and orchestra will set the scene for Christmas. Home-baked seasonal refreshments and a fund-raising raffle in Roy Bridge Village Hall will follow the concert. Proceeds will help fund classes for the music school's 120 pupils during the coming year. Organiser Peter Rose said: 'Last year, we unfortunately had to cancel because of the heavy snow - we're hoping for better luck this year!'

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or WHHA (Kat Higgins): 01631 566 451

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Note that the ITea&Biscuits course is being delivered in Oban, Islay and Dunbeg; Taster of the Future courses being delivered in Oban only

We wish a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2012 to all of our customers.

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**LUING**

LUING Primary School hosted its annual Holly Tea on December 1. The pupils and staff had been very busy organising the evening, from sourcing materials, to the production of quality merchandise, pricing and displaying their wares. Items for sale included jewellery, self printed Christmas cards, hand stitched Christmas tree decorations, hand made 'Rudolf the reindeer' notelets, candles, calendars and Isle of Belnahua slate fridge magnets. Tea and coffee with mince pies or shortbread was served and everyone was more than happy to buy the locally produced items. In the raffle, there were two Fairtrade hampers and various luxury Christmas items. A home baking stall proved popular, with tasty treats for everyone. For those who enjoy a guessing game, there was a treasure map, a name the penguin and guess the weight of the Christmas cake. There was also a silent auction of a load of logs.



A flurry of excitement at the Luing Primary School Holly Tea.

The young entrepreneurs were delighted with the takings for the evening, which totalled £1,007.



**CAROLINE** Fothergill, of Cuan House, North Cuan, Seil, was so moved by the story of HOPE Kitchen at a recent church gathering in November, that she decided to fundraise for the local charity by opening her home for a coffee and cake afternoon on December 3. Helped by her daughter Jennifer and friends Emma and Rachel, they raised the fantastic total of £226 for the work of HOPE Kitchen in Oban.

**PLOCKTON**

DURING November Plockton had eight inches of rain compared with four inches in 2010, following on from nine inches in September and 8.25 in October – a very wet spell. Warmest day was 17°C and coldest 2°C.

There were 10 dry days at the beginning of the month. In common with other areas it has been very windy with rigging and slates of houses coming off, a sail torn loose and ripped on the only yacht in the bay and two palm trees blown down including one on the seafloor. Elspeth Murchison organised a sale at the lighthouse centre, Kyle, on December 2 which raised £342 for Home Farm Nursing Home Portree.

The annual senior citizens dinner and social was held in Plockton Hall on December 3. A total of 186 invitations were sent out with 97 attending from Plockton and district, Achmore and Stromeferry, which is just about the number Plockton Hall can accommodate. The company was welcomed by young pipers Cameron and Alastair Sharp. An excellent meal was provided by Plockton Inn. Iain Matheson proposed the vote of thanks to the Cast Eve Ceilidh Band and there were songs from many of the senior citizens.

The AGM of Plockton Village Hall was held in Plockton Hall on November 28. Despite expenditure of over £15,000 the treasurer submitted a satisfactory report. All the office-bearers were re-elected – including Charlie! At the close of the meeting Gill James presented Charlie M MacRae

with a desk-chair. Charlie also received a voucher on October 3 2011. He has completed 50 years as secretary/treasurer of the hall and has never missed a meeting. It was a pleasant surprise for Charlie and he thanked the committee. **CM MacRae.**

**TORLUNDY**

THE NEVIS Range ski resort at Aonach Mor, Torlundy, has taken delivery of a new machine to groom the slopes as the new winter sports season gets underway.

The 'piste basher' came from a Swiss ski resort Switzerland, via the PistenBully factory in Germany, where it was reconditioned. Its blade is significantly larger than any of the existing groomers, so will be able to quickly shift hundreds of tonnes of snow around the pistes.

**MORAR**

SEVEN members of Morar SWRI enjoyed an evening of cup cake decorating with a Christmas theme with, each lady decorating five cup cakes. A big thank you goes to Dawn MacPhie and Lucy Hodes.

After the usual business discussion the competitions were judged.

Christmas Cracker: 1 Isabel Morton; 2 Christine Haynes; 3 Sue Barrett. Mince and Pie: 1 Pauline Elwell; 2 Christine Haynes; 3 Mary Ferguson; 4 Isabel Morton.

The raffle was won by Flora Laurie. The hostess was Ann Currie.

**ISLAY**

LAST winter more than 900 homes on Islay benefited from the Home Insulation Scheme.

The majority of applicants have had work completed satisfactorily, but there are a small number of cases where installation has not been completed as agreed, and action can be taken so that these works can be completed.

If you had a Home Insulation Scheme survey carried out last winter and the improvements you were referred for have not yet been carried out, or if you know someone who is referred for improvements and is still waiting, Islay Energy Trust would like to hear from

you. Please contact Lindy on 01496 301413, email lindy.maclellan@islayenergytrust.org.uk or call at the office in Bowmore.

Anyone who declined to participate in the survey last winter, cannot now be referred to the scheme.



**SCOTTISH** Natural Heritage (SNH) has lodged a formal objection to the planning application for erection of a 50-metre high meteorological mast near Saligo Bay, recently made by Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE).

SNH says: "The proposal lies close to the Rinns of Islay Special Protection Area classified for its chough, common scoter, corncrake, Greenland white-fronted goose, hen harrier and whooper swan."

For details of the planning proposal and information on comments/objections, visit www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.



**FEIS** Oigridh Ile is Dhiura fiddle pupils Isobel Ferguson, Mairi MacGillivray and Michael Hastings excelled in their Scottish Traditional Music graded exams, achieving two distinctions and one very high merit marks.

They and their tutors, Niall Oliver and Simon Moran, are all to be congratulated on their excellent results. Meall do naidheach!



**ISLAY** Pharmacy asks customers to note that local GP surgeries will be closed for four days at Christmas and New Year and reminds customers to make sure they have sufficient supplies of medication.

**KILCHOAN**

A **KILLER** mink responsible for slaughtering dozens of crofters' chickens in Kilchoan has been caught.

The male animal was trapped last Tuesday night in a Fenn trap, a legal trap which resembles the illegal gin trap but which kills instantly.

The trap is set in a tunnel, with bait against the far end and the trap itself below the soil surface and covered in leaves.

Crofters, however, are not letting their guard down.

The death of one mink simply opens an opportunity for another male to move in.

**OUTER ISLES**

**CROFTERS** in the Outer Isles have won cash aid under a Scottish Government scheme to help them support bio-diversity on the land they work.

Among the winners in the latest round of Rural Priorities agri-environment funding were:

Four Lewis crofts in Ballantrushal and Upper Shader, two neighbouring townships with shared common grazings, which lie between the two separate sites of the Ness and Barvas Special Protected Area. The crofters have been awarded £48,824 over five years to provide a link between the two protected sites, which will act as a refuge for corncrake. The project also includes late cutting and sowing of plant species to provide a habitat for great yellow bumblebees.

A group of West Harris crofters and grazing committees get £58,803 over five years to implement a programme of grazing and land management. This will support the designated features of Luskentyre Banks and Saltings Site of Special Scientific Interest and enhance biodiversity on moorland and salt marsh across the common grazings. Grazing management on the site's coastal areas will create a range of sward heights across areas of machair to allow flowering plants to develop.

Five family-run crofts in the Balmore and Knockline area of North Uist will receive a total of £93,761 over five years to sustain and enhance habitats for local flora and fauna. The collaborative project will contribute to the Western Isles Biodiversity Action Plan, providing habitats for species including corncrake and corn bunting. The great yellow bumblebee will also benefit.

**MALLAIG**

**LOCHABER** councillors have been briefed on a proposal to establish a youth space in Mallaig High School.

The proposal, being examined by education, culture and sport officials at Highland Council, follows the recent Ward 12 youth forum in Caol Community Centre.

**Down Your Way**

**This week - Craignure**

**BOWMAN'S** Coaches has become the first island-based company to take up office space at the new An Roth Community Enterprise Centre in Craignure, Isle of Mull.

The company, which has operated on Mull for more than 50 years, has previously been run from a house and managing director Jim Bowman said he had been looking for office space for some time and would be looking into hiring two further staff members.

He added: "The facilities offered in An Roth mean that we can make the move with minimal start-up costs."

Offices at An Roth are named after islands around Mull and Bowman's can now be found in Erraid, an office that overlooks the bus lanes at Craignure.

Moray Finch, Mull and Iona Community Trust general manager, said: "This is fantastic news for us, for Bowman's Coaches and for the local economy with the creation of at least two jobs."



**AN ROTH** centre in Craignure has been given an added bit of colour after Mull and Iona Community Trust decided to display artwork by islanders in the corridors.



**PROGRESS** is being made into the long-running problems with the Craignure ferry gangway, which has been broken since February this year.

Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL), which carried out a temporary repair on the gangway despite claiming it does not own the pier, was accused of renegeing on a commitment to have the structure fixed by the end of November.

But the company insists it has since been working closely with engineers and Argyll and Bute Council to find a solution. A spokesman for CMAL said: "We are working closely with Argyll and Bute Council, the port owner, to identify a funding solution for a new passenger access system."

"Following the critical failure of the previous passenger access system earlier this year, CMAL invested £400,000 and installed an interim system as quickly as possible."

"The interim system has since been modified to improve its functionality whilst a more permanent solution is developed."

"We have now engaged consulting engineers to develop a detailed specification for the new access system and appropriate tender documents."

"This means that once funding has been identified, all partners will be able to move quickly to resolve the situation for the benefit of passengers."

Last month CMAL called on Argyll and Bute Council to foot some of the estimated £850,000 bill to replace the structure.

Mull-based Councillor Mary Jean Devon had accused CMAL of "leading islanders up the garden path", adding: "We were told at the eleventh hour that there was no money to repair the walkway. Why weren't we told earlier?"

**Next week DOWN YOUR WAY visits Sleat with Northern Editor Stephen Norris.**

You can contact him on 01397 703003 or email snorris@obantimes.co.uk.

**KINLOCHLEVEN**



Jacobites David and June with two Kinlochleven pupils.

**Kinlochleven delight at 'Jacobean' visit**

**YOUNGSTERS** at Kinlochleven Primary School were recently treated to a visit from two local people dressed in full Jacobean costume. P4/5 pupils are currently doing their class project on the Jacobites, and were delighted when Na Fir Dileas Jacobite society members David and June Boyter arrived in the classroom to give a talk.

The children were taught about how Jacobites lived and fought and about the battles they won and lost. David and June also brought along weapons for the children to see and answered any questions the children had. The staff and pupils thanked David and June for giving up their time to visit.

To round off their project, the children invited 20 members of the community with clan names dating back to Jacobean times to a 'Jacobite Tea'. The event was held at the MacDonald Hotel in the village on Friday December 2.



**Festive market's 30 stalls**

The first of two Local Origins Rural Network's (LORN) Christmas markets was held recently in the beautifully decorated Victory Hall, Benderloch, attracting 30 stalls. The second event will be held today (Thursday) in the same venue, from 10am to 7pm.



Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies, Beavers and Rainbows joined together for a carol service in Connel.

**Youngsters on song at carol service**

**ARCHATTAN** Scouts, Cubs and Beavers joined with North Connel Guides and Connel Brownies and Rainbows for a Carol Service at St Oran's Church on Monday December 5. Parents and friends joined in with favourite carols, which the youngsters performed using

new and old arrangements and shared seasonal factoids and a flavour of Christmas around the world. A spread of home baking was very welcome after the service and a collection was taken for Erskine Hospital for injured servicemen, raising £203.

**Advertisement**

**Have you made up your own "God"?**



Have we formed our own opinions about who God is; what He is like, what type of lifestyles He approves of and whom He will forgive? Are we making up our own "God"? Have we turned things upside down?

"You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay." Isaiah 29:16

**Some have turned God into a loving Santa Claus** who showers us with good things when we are nice. When we are naughty, however, He isn't quite as generous. Perish the thought that He would ever punish us! He is a loving God. They think that in the end He will forgive everyone...except the Hitlers and the Stalins.

**Others have made God into a family doctor.** He is there when we need Him. Most of the time we can get on quite well without Him. In fact, we rarely even think about Him unless we have a problem. But when misfortune strikes, they want God to hear their call for help and come to their rescue.

**Still others have formed God into a watchmaker.** He created the universe, set it in motion and then they think He sat back to watch it tick away on its own. He is far removed and doesn't get involved in our affairs. So they believe they are free to form their own laws, their own standards of right and wrong, even their own religion.

**If we really want to know what God is like and what He thinks and expects of us, we must be willing to set aside our opinions and listen to what He has to say about Himself. We must turn to God's Word, the Bible. What does the Bible say about God - the God with whom we have to do?**

**God is Holy** and He demands something from us. He wants us to put our faith in

**His Son for salvation.** Many people today think that they will be in Heaven as long as they don't commit any heinous crimes. But the Bible teaches that "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23). We have all - you & me, everyone - fallen short of God's moral standards. **We have all broken His laws, and our sin makes us unfit for heaven.**

**Only by personally accepting Christ as our own Lord and Saviour - believing that He died for OUR sins and was raised for OUR justification, and forsaking our sins to live in subjection to Him - can we approach this Holy God.** The Bible says "He that believeth on the Son (Jesus Christ) hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." (John 3:35-36) What have you done then with Jesus which is called Christ?

**God is Just** and will by no means pass by sin. You may not like thinking about this, but the Bible states that God has appointed a day in which He will judge you by that man (Jesus Christ) whom He has appointed.

**Each of us will personally meet with God one day.** We will either meet Him in our sins and be judged by Him, and be cast into the lake of fire, or if we are saved, we will meet Him clothed in the righteousness of His Dear Son, so that when God looks at us He no longer sees our sin, but instead sees us clothed in the righteousness of Christ. "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, (John 3:18).

**God is Gracious and Merciful** and has given us ample time and opportunity to accept His one way of salvation. **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."** Acts 16:31

Have you made a "God" of your own liking, a "God" who resembles a Santa Claus, a watchmaker, a doctor or something else? If so, then you have turned things upside down. Your "God" exists only in your imagination. He is not the God of the Bible, or the God you will meet in eternity. To be ready to meet the true God you must prepare on His terms - your own imagination will only take you to Hell.

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus

1 Timothy 2:4-6

**DALMALLY**

THE FIRST Dalmally and Lochawe pantomime to be held in the new community centre will take place this weekend.

Dalmally and Lochawe Drama Society is busy rehearsing "Mother Goose" and the cast said they are delighted to have the luxury of a larger stage, a great lighting and sound system and fantastic acoustics in the new hall.

The actors have also remarked on the fact they are able to rehearse in a hall, which is water tight and warm!

Everyone involved hopes a good crowd will come to support the drama group, which includes a few new faces as well as the old, familiar ones when it performs the panto tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday at 7.30pm in the new hall.

Tickets are available from Dalmally Store and Lochawe Store or can be reserved by phoning 01838 200285.

**ARDGOUR**

ARDGOUR Community Council (ACC) has held its first meeting since the recent elections, with Tony Boyd voted in as the new chairman.

Among the issues discussed at the meeting was a possible replacement for the ageing *Maid of Glencoul* ferry, which operates the Corran Ferry crossing when the regular vessel, the *MV Corran*, is undergoing repairs.

ACC will next meet at the end of January.

**LISMORE**

LISMORE hall came alive on Saturday November 19 as the third annual Christmas Craft Fair opened its doors to Christmas shoppers seeking original, beautifully crafted Lismore products.

And there was lots of it with Highland beef and homemade sweets, including delicious chocolates, selling alongside ready meals, preserves and home baking.

In addition, crafted bags, jewellery, cards, books, hats, and scarves all attested to the depth of both the island's talent and entrepreneurial spirit.

For the busy shopper there were tea and cakes as well as soup, sandwiches and light snacks served and made by Fay Carmichael and family.

A TWO-DAY cataloguing archive course introduced several volunteers to the skills needed to organise the Heritage Museum's growing document archive, which up until now has been done solely by Margaret Black.

It was led by Kirsty Stewart, Archivist for the Carmichael Watson Project at Edinburgh University, with whom the curators have worked closely in the past.

A TASTY dinner organised and catered by Beth Campbell celebrated St Andrew's Day with excellent food, ambience and conversation.

THE SUNDAY school pupils of Lismore church excelled themselves filling 21 shoe boxes for this year's Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal.

The children worked hard and enthusiastically covering and filling the boxes as well as collecting boxes others had prepared.

Because they know how valued these boxes are, they wish to thank everyone who participated.

ANNA Stewart and Ina MacColl hosted a charity tea and coffee day in Lismore hall to raise money for the Edinburgh Sick Kids' Friends Foundation.

They served soup, delicious cakes, tea and coffee and were helped on the day by Flora Maclean, Shayne Stewart and Rena McCorquodale.



**Mallaig pupils rock out at high school**

Schoolchildren in the Mallaig area will put on their final performance of their Queen musical 'We Will Rock You' at Mallaig High School from 7.30pm tonight (Thursday). Pupils from the high school, as well as Mallaig and Lady Lovat primary schools take part in the show, dancing, singing songs such as 'Don't Stop Me Now' and 'Bohemian Rhapsody' and telling an all-new story. The three-night run started on Tuesday, with tickets available from the high school.



Craignish Primary School pupils dressed up and demonstrated all they had learnt about Viking history and culture this term.

**Vikings 'invade' school to celebrate class topic**

SCHOOL uniform was put aside for one day recently as Craignish Primary School pupils came to school dressed as Vikings.

The school held a Viking day to celebrate a school-wide topic they have been studying this term.

All the family were invited to come and watch a morning performance at Craignish Village Hall. Primaries one to seven re-enacted the local battle of Scots versus Vikings at Sluggan, near Barbreck, in dance whilst the pre-five children demonstrated their swordsmanship skills with professional fencer and parent Carol Bennett.

The children also read from their book of sagas, a beautifully crafted felted book with stories

inserted into pockets on each page as scrolls. Each pupil had designed and created their own felted page with artist Morag Lloyds.

In the afternoon, mums, dads and grandparents visited the school to look at the children's displays of work, including models of longships and a Viking village.

They also enjoyed watching the children preparing and cooking Viking food outside on an open fire, writing runes in clay tablets and spinning and weaving - a typical Viking Day!

Kilmartin Museum's Education staff organised these fantastic activities and said they were very impressed by the children's knowledge and understanding of life in Viking times.



**Dance festival fun at Leven Centre**

Youngsters in south Lochaber got into the dancing mood at a festival held in the Leven Centre in Kinlochleven last week. Pupils from Ballachulish, Duror, Glencoe, Kinlochleven and St Brides primary schools took part, attempting some traditional social dances. Ballachulish Primary School head teacher Sam Clark said: 'There was much amusement as the boys attempted to avoid having to dance with girls!' The event was organised by sports co-ordinator Tracey Jeffrey and run by Mrs Wilson from Kinlochleven High School, who was ably assisted by a few of her senior pupils.

**TOBERMORY**

TOBERMORY High School has been awarded its first Eco-schools Green flag. The award recognises the high quality of environmental education and management taking place at the school.

The school's eco committee has led efforts to reduce litter, increase recycling and raise awareness of eco topics across the school.

There are now plans to create a school vegetable garden in the spring in an area currently overgrown.

**ABERFELDY**

A GRAND raffle, organised by the Friends of the Birks Cinema to pay for the picture house's restoration, has raised more than £6,000.

Drawn at the town's Christmas Fayre, prizes included a Fuji Finepix camera, a pair of Wimbledon Centre Court tickets, dinner for two at the Logierait Inn and a bottle of the Scottish Parliament Whisky, signed by finance minister and local MSP John Swinney.

A spokesperson for the Friends said: 'A fantastic £6,152 was raised from our grand raffle.'

Thanks to everyone who bought and sold tickets.'

**TIREE**

TREE Music Festival's organisers are on the lookout for bands to appear at next year's event.

They've asked everyone to make suggestions for those acts that should visit The Land Beneath The Waves for next summer's third annual musical extravaganza.

Nominate your favourite at Tiree Music Festival's Facebook page.

**COLL**

LAST week's winds caused more than the usual problems on the Isle of Coll, with a tent catching into power lines adding to the electricity board's difficulties.

Thankfully, power has since been restored to the island - just in time for this week's blustery weather.

**KILLIN**

THE HUNT is on for a fibreglass roof that blew off a 1980s Dutton kit car in Killin on Thursday.

Retained firefighter, Iain Campbell, discovered the 5ft by 4ft roof, which has a perspex window in the rear, was whisked away by the storm.

The car was stored at the village firestation's yard at the time. Efforts to find it have proved fruitless and Iain is appealing for anyone who knows where it is to get in touch.

He said: 'It might be that people don't know what it is, but if anyone has seen it please get in touch with me. I think it probably managed to make it to Kenmore with the strength of the wind.'

If you've seen the roof fly by or know where it is, contact Iain on 07768 270064.

**JURA**

THE JURA ferry, *Eilean Dhura*, was out of action over the past few days after hitting the pier last Friday.

The vessel, which is run by ASP Ships Management, suffered minor damage but was off the run for a few days and replaced by the *Margaret Sinclair*. ASP informed islanders via its public messaging system.

**EASDALE**



Children from Easdale Primary School have been putting together backpacks for Mary's Meals. The rucksacks will be distributed to children in Africa and are full of useful items for school, soap and small toys.

**GLENCOE**



Glencoe residents enjoyed Gluwein, hot chocolate and strudel at a traditional German Christmas market in the village recently. Glencoe Primary School parents organised the event, and the youngsters helped create home-made crafts to sell at the event, which raised more than £900.

**KILMARTIN**



Oban's Karen Mackie and Margaret Devine show off their merchandise in a cosy and atmospheric yurt. 06\_a49kilmartin02

TENTS and yurts in the grounds of Kilmartin House Museum were filled with handcrafted goodies last weekend.

Built for the annual Kilmartin Craft Fayre, the tents were a

haven of colourful gifts and stocking fillers in the run-up to Christmas. The event featured a host of local artisans and crafters, who sold a range of goods including jewellery, glassware, art, soaps and candles.



Sir Kenneth Calman, chairman of the National Trust for Scotland with Jenny McAvoy, chairman of the Argyll Members Group of the NTS.

SIR KENNETH Calman, chairman of the National Trust for Scotland (NTS), was the guest of honour during the Argyll Members' Group's recent 21st birthday.

Having been in post now for over a year, Sir Kenneth told members gathered at Connel's Falls of Lora Hotel of future plans to continue the organisation's rejuvenation,

before joining Hersey Robertson, a founder of the Members' Group, to cut a celebratory cake in the restaurant.

Secretary of the Members' Group Mary Sandilands said: 'Sir Kenneth was inspiring. He was very clear about the strategy he has for the future and he's very determined to take that forward.'

**SANDBANK**

FIREFIGHTERS, coastguard and police were called to attend a fire on board a working boat at Sandbank, near Dunoon, last Thursday.

The four people on board the *Gary Grey* were also assisted by the Scottish Ambulance Service and Clyde Sea Recovery.

The crew extinguished the fire before they were examined.

No medical attention was required.

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## Deadline approaches for Gaelic film awards

ENTRIES for MG ALBA's Gaelic shorts film competition as still being taken as the January 6 deadline approaches.

Organisers are expecting to receive more films than ever, especially in 12-17 section, after the FilmG workshop team visited schools throughout the country to help classes make their films.

Plockton High School's entry for 2012 features a monkey creating his own line of cleaning products, whilst Lochaber High School are filming their own Gaelic Dragon's Den starring Father Christmas.

And Uist Drama Group hope to land the £1,000 prize for best community film with their entry.

Floraith Forrest from FilmG said: 'If you're still thinking about entering there is still plenty of time to start with one month to go before the closing date and many online resources are still available to help you on your way.'

The winning films will be announced at the FilmG Awards ceremony at the Fruitmarket in Glasgow on March 9, 2012.

Entrants need to do is make a three to five minute film in Gaelic and enter online at www.filmg.co.uk. Non-Gaelic speakers can get help through TalantG, where Gaelic speakers can assist with translations, voice-overs and acting.

The competition attracted 71 entries last year - 34 in the adult competition and 37 in the 12-17 category.



Mary and Joseph with the newborn baby Jesus at the conclusion of St Conan Kirk's spectacular nativity. 15\_150nat1

## Animal magic steals the show at St Conan's nativity play

ST CONAN'S Kirk, Loch Awe, hosted one of its first nativity plays since 1988 on Friday night, as part of a stunning night of festive celebrations.

The spectacular location was matched by atmospheric lighting and the church full

to capacity for the landmark occasion.

Actors from the Craig Lodge Community led the congregation around the impressive building after each scene, culminating in a picturesque final nativity scene in 'the stables,'

complete with real donkeys, Nell with foal Katie.

Proceedings then returned to the main hall for the signing of Christmas carols, just in time for the snow to start. Donations collected at the event went towards the Kirk's refurbish-

ment fund. Organiser, Ruth Black, said: 'The nativity went very well indeed and it was so beautiful. The Kirk is such a dramatic setting and we tried to show it off with the lighting.'

'The stars of the show were without a doubt the donkeys.

It was their acting debut and I think they done very well.

'Some money was raised for the fund, but the main motivation with the nativity play was to remind people why we celebrate Christmas, of course to mark the birth of Jesus Christ.'

## Social Dance Fest in Lochaber

OVER 200 children under 10 were involved in last week's Social Dance Festival held at Lochaber High School.

The pupils have been learning the dances in their own schools ahead of the event, but on Wednesday got their chance to dance together.

Live music was provided by Lochaber High School Ceilidh Band, with the event being opened by piper Andrew Hepburn. High school pupils were on hand to guide the youngsters through the dances.

The pupils started with a Circle Waltz and Virginia Reel and whilst getting their

breath back, were treated to an exhibition of Highland Dancing by local dancer Brady Gillies. A short break was followed by more dancing - a Strip the Willow, Canadian Barn Dance and Britannia Two-step.

The day was the brain child of Highland Council's PE teachers supported by High Life Highland's Active Schools coordinator, Bridget Thomas.

She said: 'This was a fun event with lots of atmosphere provided by the band and other high school helpers. Huge thanks also to Lidl who provided healthy refreshments for the half time break.'



Oban's fire fighters Ian MacInnes, left, and Douglas Black, received the support of two year-old Alfie MacIntyre during a fundraiser for the Fire Fighters' Charity. 15\_150fire1

# Personal Christmas Greetings

<p>Ronnie and Sheila will not be sending Christmas cards this year, but we wish all our friends and relatives a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We will give a donation to charity instead.</p>	<p><b>SEASONS GREETINGS</b></p> <p>We would like to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Norma and Fred Burnett.</p>	<p>Merry Christmas</p> <p>A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS. CHRISTINE DRYDEN</p>	<p>ALMA &amp; IAIN RODGER</p> <p>Would like to wish all their friends A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR</p>	<p>Merry Christmas</p> <p>Jessie and Jimmy send Christmas greetings to all friends and neighbours in Oban and surrounding areas 19, Craeg Bhan Village, Oban</p>
<p>Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to family and friends. Annie and Iain Clark, Glenshellach Farm</p>	<p>VAL AND LES BARNHAM WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERY ONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR</p>	<p><b>SEASONS GREETINGS</b></p> <p>Seasons Greetings to all my friends, neighbours and BT colleagues. George MacKay, 9A Longsdale Cres.</p>	<p>Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all my family, friends and neighbours from Margaret Oman, Abbeyfield House, Carradale.</p>	<p>Campbell and Margaret MacLeod, 14 Glencruitten Drive, Oban wish all their friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.</p>
<p><b>SEASONS GREETINGS</b></p> <p>John and Molly MacLean would like to wish friends a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.</p>	<p>Merry Christmas</p> <p>Mary McLaren, Balachullish, wishes her relatives, friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas</p>	<p>Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all my friends and family. Margaret Robertson</p>	<p><b>SEASONS GREETINGS</b></p> <p>Mrs Elsie Kennedy sends all her friends warmest Christmas Wishes, Happiness and Peace in the New Year.</p>	<p>Merry Christmas and a Good New Year to all friends, neighbours and carers from Archie MacLean, Salen</p>
<p><b>LIZZIE MUNRO</b></p> <p>Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all my family and friends.</p>	<p>Merry Christmas</p> <p>Duncan Logan would like to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year</p>	<p><b>SEASONS GREETINGS</b></p> <p>James, Rona, Rachel, Kelly and Sarah wish family and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Salen, Mull.</p>	<p>Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all my family, friends and neighbours. Archie MacDonald, 4 Dunmar Court</p>	
<p><b>ARCHIE LAMONT</b></p> <p>begs the pardon of all relatives and friends for not sending out the usual volume of Christmas cards this year. Nevertheless, I send sincerest wishes for your health and happiness at Christmas and throughout 2012.</p>	<p>Merry Christmas</p> <p>Seasons Greetings to all friends. Peace and Contentment for 2012 Jean MacGillivray Lynn Court</p>	<p>To my friends and relatives, may you know Joy and Peace this Christmas and in the coming year. Rena McLennan.</p>	<p>Merry Christmas</p> <p>Jean Whyte would like to wish all family and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. A MacDowall</p>	<p><b>SEASONS GREETINGS</b></p> <p>Andrew would like to wish all family, friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. A MacDowall</p>
<p>Merry Christmas</p> <p>To all my friends wishing you a Merry Christmas from Jean Black in Fife</p>	<p><b>SEASONS GREETINGS</b></p> <p>Iain MacKechnie would like to wish family, friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Selma, Tobermory.</p>	<p>Merry Christmas to all our friends and relatives From Mima and John McNab, Lochaline.</p>	<p>Hector MacColl, 6 Ben More View, North Connel</p> <p>Will not be sending Xmas cards this year but would like to wish all relations and friends a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.</p>	

## Young rugby players all pull together for club fundraiser

PULLING a 10 tonne truck along Corran Esplanade was supposed to be a challenge, but for Oban Lorne U16s it proved a walk in the park.

The team's 29 players - most of whom are S3 pupils - took turns at hauling the MacQueen Brothers' van a quarter mile along the road on Sunday night, ignoring torrential rain to haul it along at near running pace.

At one point, just four players were pulling the lorry, cheered on by the large crowd that turned up to watch the feat.

Completed in just a few minutes, the lorry pull was arranged as a fundraiser for the improving side, who hoped to raise at least £600 to buy new strips to give them their own identity.

While the full sum raised won't be known until next year, the team are confident they've reached their goal, with £250 gathered already.

Murray Hamilton, U16 coach and Oban Lorne RFC youth convener, said: 'We set the boys a target of raising around £30 to £50 each and I think most have achieved that.'

'The pull itself turned out to be quite easy, but only because there was so many of them. It looked quite impressive though.'

'I was amazed at the turnout though, we weren't expecting that.'

'However, that is something that we are trying to encourage. We want this to be a family club and thankfully, parents and friends are keen to turn up and see how much their boys enjoy the sport.'

'Quite a few of our senior players turned up too. It is great to see people support one another.'



Players from Oban Lorne U16s squad pull the 10-tonne MacQueen Brothers' removals lorry along Corran Esplanade, Oban on Sunday. 15\_150vanpull1

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

<p>Dalmally &amp; Lochawe Drama Society</p> <p><b>MOTHER GOOSE</b></p> <p>Dalmally Community Centre</p> <p>Fri 16th and Sat 17th Dec at 7.30pm</p> <p>Tickets available on the door or phone 01838 200285 to book</p>	<p><b>LORN GARDEN CLUB</b></p> <p>Peter Darling will be along to help with your</p> <p><b>Photographic Problems</b></p> <p>to bring your pictures on a flashdrive to St. John's Cathedral Hall, Oban (entrance from line at rear) on Tuesday 20th December at 7.15 for 7.30pm.</p> <p>Refreshments to follow, including mulled wine and Christmas cake.</p> <p>Refreshments to follow, including mulled wine and Christmas cake.</p>	<p>An Comunn Gaidhealach MEUR CHRUAICHAIN (Cruachan Branch)</p> <p><b>OIDHCHE BHUNTATA ROSTE (Baked Potato Night)</b></p> <p>Saturday, 17 December in Taynuilt Village Hall at 7.45pm</p> <p>Piper: James MacPherson</p> <p>Singers: G.M. Joy Dunlop, Ruairaidh MacIntyre, Gordon McKeeve</p> <p>The Festive Fiddlers, The Wee Swing Band, Isla Sinclair Dancers.</p> <p><b>Raffle</b></p> <p>Bean an Taigh: Helen Pearson</p> <p>Admission including Members £4.00 - Children (5-16 yrs) £2 including Supper (Funds collected promote The Gaelic Language, Music and Culture)</p>
<p>Oban &amp; Lorn Lions Club</p> <p><b>SANTAS GROTTO</b></p> <p>In the Royal Hotel, Oban</p> <p>Saturday 17th December</p> <p>10am - 3pm</p> <p>Entry by Donation</p>	<p>The Rotary Club of Oban</p> <p><b>Christmas Celebration</b></p> <p>Corran Halls</p> <p>Sunday 18th December 3pm</p> <p>A celebration with Carols, Christmas songs and readings</p> <p>All local musicians</p> <p>Entry by Donation for Children 1st and Erskine Hospital</p>	<p>Scottish Wildlife Trust</p> <p><b>Talk on Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels</b></p> <p>By Lewis Pate</p> <p>On Thursday 15th December At 7.30pm</p> <p>At Scottish Marine Institute, Dunstaffnage</p> <p>All welcome</p> <p>Refreshments available</p>
<p>To advertise in the</p> <p><b>WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD</b></p> <p>Telephone: 01631 568000</p>	<p>O.L.D.S. CLUB</p> <p>Oban &amp; Lorn District Senior Club</p> <p><b>CHRISTMAS DINNER</b></p> <p>To make your reservation call Oban 564848 (office hours)</p> <p>Monday 19th December 2011</p> <p>1800hrs for 1900hrs</p> <p>OBAN BAY HOTEL</p> <p>Admission free!!</p> <p>Transport home will be provided for ALL by Oban Rotary Club Members</p> <p>Entertainment by: Michael Garvin, Tom Adams &amp; Neil Mackay.</p>	<p><b>Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £14.95 (plus VAT)</b></p> <p>This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number.</p> <p>All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page</p> <p>Please ask for details</p>

**Don't miss out**

**Next week will be your last chance to get your personal greetings in the Oban Times before Christmas - Don't miss out**

**Telephone 01631 568000**



Lochaber Showstoppers opened to three packed-out performances last weekend - Picture - Kim Ferguson

# Christmas Carol goes down a treat

LOCHABER Showstoppers defied power cuts, hurricane-force winds and road closures to put on three packed out performances of Charles Dickens' festive tale 'A Christmas Carol' at the Nevis Centre last weekend.

The amateur drama group performed a musical version of the classic tale, with songs such as 'On a wonderful day like today', 'When you tell me you love me' and the big finale 'I wish it could be Christmas everyday' entertaining the audience. Susan Munro's eight-piece band provided the music for the show.

The original book was not long on chuckles, but with some very amusing one-liners, four over-the-top ghosts (one of them Welsh, on stilts and with a mobile) and some modern day references, the laughs were never far away in director Clare Brewer's adaptation.

Stephen Carruthers took the lead role of Ebenezer Scrooge, with Dave Foster playing the part of the ghost of Jacob Marley. Hannah Robertson, Sharon Brown and Juliet Evans played the ghosts who visit Scrooge on Christmas Eve to show him the error of his ways.

Strong performances also came from the Cratchit family (Gordon Irvine, Lisa Wharton, Lauren Nicolson, Kayleigh MacDonald, and Hannah Calder as Tiny Tim), Fred and Sally (Ryan Murphy and Alicia Sliwa, Mr and Mrs Fezziwig (Billy Gibbons and Tania Barnes).

Former Showstoppers member Eric MacKenzie said: 'This latest musical is a credit to all concerned.

'Anyone thinking they were coming to see what is after all a Christmas morality tale will have gone away delighted, impressed and uplifted.'

# River City actor boosts special fundraising concert

IT WAS a case of life imitating art for River City actor Tom Urie on Saturday, when he travelled to Oban for a special fundraising concert.

The musician turned-actor-turned musician returned to the scene of one of his earliest childhood memories as part of a special concert for Allan 'Dillon' Milne, 45, who last year suffered horrific brain injuries after a car crash near Dunbeg.

Tom said it was an 'honour and privilege' to travel to Oban for the concert at the Corran Halls, particularly as one of his own friends had successfully completed the same rehabilitation process following a brain injury a few years ago.

Taking to the stage after Elvis impersonator, John 'Graceland' Burnett and popular act Crooked Reel, Tom performed a series of songs from his own back catalogue, including a number of covers.

He could, however, be forgiven for having a sense of déjà vu.

Tom said: 'My character, Big Bob, is in Oban just now; it's where he met his Russian wife.

'I've been in River City for two years now and I wanted some time off to record my own album. That's why Bob's in Oban.

'It is in Oban that I first saw Johnnie Beattie on stage. It's one of my earliest memories.

'Now, of course, I'm working with him on River City.'

Tom's star has continued to rise



Tom Urie is flanked by sisters Madeline, left, and Barbara Milne, with brother Graham, ahead of Saturday's fundraising concert. 15\_150ue1

since he made his acting debut as the keyboard player for Jack and Victor in 'Chewin' the Fat Live, later becoming the original Isa. He went on to become a regular and reliable comic turn with The Comedy Unit, leading eventually to his role as River City's most recognisable character since Shellsuit Bob.

Being the show's second famous Bob has its problems though, particularly as the show has become incredibly popular in Glasgow.

Tom said: 'I can't go anywhere without getting swamped. It's insane. I can't even go and get my shopping.

'Don't get me wrong, it's great. It is actually really nice that people want to come up and say hello. However, while the rest of the cast can go hide under a baseball cap and glasses, I can't really blend into the crowd.'

The evening itself was a tremendous success, with nearly £7,000 raised for the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust.

Madeline said: 'We're so lucky still to have Allan with us and it was nice to celebrate that. It was so nice to see so many people have such a good time and for such a good cause.

'Thank you to everyone who has taken part and attended.'

**gigfestive guide** your essential guide to live music in argyll

Thursday night > Ceilidh and Club from 9pm £5  
Skipinnish Ceilidh House

Friday night > Christmas Party Night with Gunna Sound  
Skipinnish Ceilidh House and DJ Stuart Fraser 10pm - 3am £8

Saturday night > Christmas Party Night with Trail West  
Skipinnish Ceilidh House DJ's Mark Goudie and Stuart Fraser  
from 10pm - 3am £8

Fri 16 & Sat 17 December > Ceilidh Party Night  
Markie Dances Cairdeas 9.30

Friday 23 December > Black Friday with Chris Suckle  
Markie Dances 9.30pm - open till 2am

Sat 24 & Sun 25 December > Sandra MacBeth  
Markie Dances 9.30pm - open till 2am

Saturday 31st December > Taste of Scotland Dinner Dance  
The Oyster Inn & Gluepot, Connel with Eriskay Lilt

Sunday 1st January > General Knowledge Quiz  
The Oyster Inn & Gluepot, Connel 1pm

Sunday 1st January > Glue Pot Race Night  
The Oyster Inn & Gluepot, Connel 8pm

**Happy Christmas**

Season's Greetings to all supporters of Argyll Animal Aid. We appreciate you all!

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17th - Ceilidh Party Night - Cairdeas 9.30pm  
23rd - Black Friday - open till 2am with Chris Suckle - 9.30pm  
24th - Xmas eve - open till 2am - Sandra MacBeth 9.30pm  
25th - Xmas night - open till 2am - Sandra MacBeth 9.30pm  
26th - Boxing night - open till 2am - Chunks 9.30pm

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**How old is The Oban Times this year (2011)?**  
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Answer .....  
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MONDAY 26TH DECEMBER

INVERNESS | HOGMANAY  
SATURDAY 31ST DECEMBER

SOUTH UIST | SOUTHWEND HALL  
TUESDAY 27TH DECEMBER

ARGYLL | ARDRISHAIG HALL  
MONDAY 2ND JANUARY

STIRLING | THE TOLBOOTH  
WEDNESDAY 28TH DECEMBER

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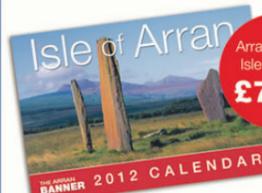


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**Dingwall cattle trade maintains high rates**

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 278 store cattle, 70 head of breeding cattle and 140 Over 30 Month cattle at Dingwall last Wednesday when a very mixed and weathered offering still produced some of the dearest trade of the season.

Bullocks averaged 210.4p and sold to 297.1p per kg for a 175kg Limousin cross from 2B Penifiler, Portree, and £1,040 for a 520kg Limousin cross from Ardnarmurchan Estates, Kilchoan.

Heifers averaged 204.2p and sold to 266.7p per kg for a 225kg Charolais cross from Balloan, Farr, and £960 for a 435kg Limousin cross from Ardnarmurchan Estate.

Young bulls averaged 174.5p and sold to 239.4p per kg for a 188kg Simmental cross from Easter Balmungie, Rosemarkie, and £970 for a 555kg Luing from Welbeck Scottish Farms Ltd, Ousdale.

In-calf heifers sold to £1,400 for a Simmental cross from 14 Linicro, Portree while in-calf cows sold to £860 twice for Aberdeen Angus crosses from Broomhill, Fortrose.

Cows with bull calves sold to £1,800 for a Limousin cross from Rheavackin, Kiltarity while cows with heifer calves sold to £1,550 for a Limousin cross also from Rheavackin.

Bulls sold to £780 for a Simmental from Suisgill Estate, Helmsdale.

In the Over 30 Month (OTM) ring, prime cows averaged 138.3p and sold to 160.3p per kg for a 705kg Limousin cross from Lower Milton, Drumadrocht, and £1,210 for a 850kg Shorthorn cross from Milton Croft, Edderton.

Eighty OTM feeding cows averaged 105.0p and sold to 126.6p per kg for a 640kg Charolais cross from Ordmuir.

OTM bulls sold to 110.4p and £1,010 for a Shorthorn from Spittalwood, Muir of Ord.

# Oban hosts largest cattle sale for many years

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 1099 suckled calves and store cattle at their show and sale at Oban on Tuesday when the auctioneers conducted their largest one-day sale of store cattle since the firm took over the market in 1999.

Auctioneer John Kyle was delighted with the trade which saw averages rise for both bullocks and heifers to peak at 432p per kilo for a 250kg Limousin from Barcaldine Home Farm.

The 613 bullocks forward averaged 221p per kg (+58p on the year) and sold to 373p per kg for 335kg Limousin from Tyree, Benderloch and to £1,250 for a 335kg Limousin also from Tyree.

Heifers averaged 209p per kg (+52p per kg on the year) and sold to 432p per kg for a 250kg Limousin from Barcaldine Home Farm, Barcaldine and to £1,080 again for a 250kg Limousin from the same home.

The judging of the pre-sale show was in the hands of John MacGregor, Allanfauld, Kilsyth and he selected as his champion a 320kg Charolais bullock from D W Semple, Dippen, Carradale, Kintyre.

It scaled 320kg and sold at £1,100 to A Wilson, Crawfordjohn Mill, Abington.

Reserve was a 270kg Limousin heifer from E McGillivray, Barcaldine Home Farm which sold at £980 to G Stirling, Burnbank, Stirling.



Auctioneer John Kyle of Caledonian Marts (Stirling) Ltd in action at Oban Livestock Centre last Tuesday as he sells part of a consignment of 14 bullock and heifer calves from Robin Malcolm, Poltalloch Estates. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

Show results  
Single Mainland Bullock, 1st & Champion, Dippen, 2nd & 3rd D McDonald, Tyree, Benderloch, 440kgs £950 to

A Shand, Cortiecrum, Ellon, 335kgs £1250 to G Stirling, Burnbank, Stirling.  
Single Mainland Heifer 1st & Reserve Champion, E McGil-

livary, Barcaldine Home Farm, Barcaldine.

2nd A Hamilton, Kilwhipnagh, Campbeltown, 270kgs £700 to Miss S Dunn, Willowbank, Airth.

3rd D W Semple, 280kg £710 to A Wilson, Crawfordjohn Mill, Abington.

Single Island Bullock 1st & 2nd J McCormick, Balnagown, Lismore, 255kgs £640 to A Wilson, Gree, Beith.

2nd 310kg £715 to A Wilson, Gree, Beith.

3rd D McCormick, Baligarve, Lismore, 340kgs £710 to D Low, Pittenkeerie, Glassell.

Single Island Heifer 1st D McCormick, Baligarve, 320kgs £680 to B Campbell, Achnacreebeag, North Connel.

Pen of 4 Bullocks 1st D W Semple, 370kgs £940 to J Leggat, Little Invernorth, Rathen, Fraserburgh.

2nd A Hamilton, Kilwhipnagh, 350kgs £760 to J Leggat, Little Invernorth, Rathen, Fraserburgh.

3rd B Campbell, Achnacreebeag.

The firm also forward 63 breeding cattle which sold to a top of £1,120 for an in-calf Aberdeen Angus second calver from L MacLean, 5 Cleat, Castlebay, Isle of Barra.

Fifty-two Over 30 Month cattle averaged 136p per kilo, selling to a top of £1,120 for a Shorthorn bull from Tom Nelson, Glengorm, Isle of Mull.



Judge John MacGregor, Allanfauld with Duncan Semple of Dippen, Carradale's April-born Charolais cross bullock out of a Limousin cross dam which was selected as champion at Oban Livestock Centre on Tuesday. The bullock sold at £1,100 to Wilsons of Crawford, Lanarkshire and was sold part of a consignment of 11 April-born bullocks and heifers from Dippen which sold to an average of £856. Picture - Kevin McGlynn



Duncan Semple of Dippen Farm, Carradale, Kintyre, left, is presented with the Oban Christmas Show and Sale championship trophy by John Kyle of Caledonian Marts (Stirling) Ltd and Karen Love of sponsors Reid and Robertson. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

**Lamb averages up £11.62 on year at Stirling weekly sale**

UNITED Auctions sold 843 store cattle and 5314 store sheep at Stirling last Wednesday.

Sheep remained in sharp demand with the average for Suffolk cross lambs showing an increase of £11.49 on the year. Charollais crosses were up £11.62 on the year, with Texels and Cheviots up £9.11 and £9.84 respectively.

Beltex lambs from Moor and Texel crosses from Creagraieach sold to £90 with Charollais crosses from Grantsbank fetching £87.

Suffolk crosses also from Creagraieach sold to £85.

A small showing of ewes sold to £100, Glorat.

Bullocks averaged 191.76p (+7.24p) and sold to 236.7p per kg for a 283kg Charolais cross from Sorn Mains and £1130 for a 594 kg Simmental cross from Hardens.

Heifers averaged 189.18p (+2.14p) and sold to 221.4p per kg for a 271kg Charolais cross from Auchlin and £1055 for a 536kg Charolais cross from Hardens.

Forward cattle averaged 151.88p and sold to 180.7p per kg for a Simmental cross from Drumbooy and £1275 for a Simmental cross from Auchnacloch.

Cast cows averaged 118.58p and sold to 174.5p for a Limousin cross from Killochrae and £1375 for a Limousin cross from Airthrey Kerse.

**Burnshot lambs are Stirling champions**

UNITED Auctions sold 8290 prime sheep including 6979 lambs averaging 205.8p/kg (-3.6p/wk) and 1312 ewes and rams at Stirling last Thursday when the firm hosted the annual prime Blackface lamb competition, sponsored by J Cooper & Co Gartocharm and the Blackface Sheep Breeders Association District 8.

The champion came from Mr Braes, Burnshot - 43kg £93; with reserve Blackford Farms - 46kg £93

Results

Class 1

1st Tay & Torridon Estate 35kg £72

2nd Blackford Farms 35kg £72.50

3rd Mr Taylor, Braes of Ardeonaig 35kg £72.50

Class 2

1st Mr Shaw, West Lethans 39kg £82

2nd Mr Shaw, West Lethans 39kg £80

3rd Mr Brewster, Rotmell 38kg £77

Class 3

1st Mr Braes, Burnshot 43kg £93

2nd Blackford Farms 46kg £93

Special Prize Mr Braes, Burnshot

Texel lambs from Bow sold to £115 with Suffolks from Wester Middleton to £103. South Flanders sold Charollais to £101 with Blackfaces from Burnshot to £93. Mule lambs from Gartvaigh sold to £87.50.

Texel ewes from Humeston fetched £156.50 while Bluefaced Leicesters from Glenquay sold to £143.50.

**UA concludes 2011 sales on Islay on a high**

UNITED Auctions held their last sale of the year at Islay Auction Mart when they held their Annual Christmas Sale of all classes lambs and sheep on Monday.

**Record trade**  
The 3,365 sheep all classes were sold to a good ringside of buyers and prices realised recorded the highest levels ever recorded at this centre.

Cast ewes from Craigns sold to £126 per head for Charolais.

Texel lambs from Carrabus Farm sold to £95.

Leading the day's trading per kilo was M/s Johnstone, Bal-

clava when their consignment sold to 234pence per kilo for Texel Crosses.

Blackface Lambs sold at record levels, with Keppols Farm (Mr Walker) leading the day's top price at £75.50 for an exceptional pen whilst Kilchiaran Farm's consignment of over 400 head led the top price per kilo at 194pence.

Blackface riggs from Cladville sold to £85.50.

Overall, the 3093 lambs sold to average £65.82 per head or 196.4 pence per kilo against £56.77 or 159.2pence at the corresponding sale last year.

**Barra bullock leads Dalmally sale at £1125**

UNITED Auctions held their annual Christmas sale of all classes cattle and sheep at Dalmally Market last Saturday

**Trade up on year**  
A good entry of all classes of stock sold to a packed ringside of buyers including many making their first visit to this popular venue.

Bullocks sold to average £683.69 recording a rise of £98.33 on last year's high values.

Heifers, which consisted mainly of late born spring calves sold to average £534.46 which recorded a rise of £51.86.

The top priced bullock per

head came from Mr I R Morrison, 13 Eoligarry, Barra, when his Aberdeen Angus crosses sold to £1125.

Heifers per head sold to £850 twice from Mr A J Morrison, 10 Eoligarry, Barra.

Bullocks per kilo sold to 250pence for Limousin crosses from Mr R Wilson, Sonnachan whilst Mr R MacDougall, Ashgrove led the heifer prices per kilo at 260pence for Shorthorn crosses.

All classes of sheep sold in keeping with current values with Texel cross lambs from Ederline selling to £70.



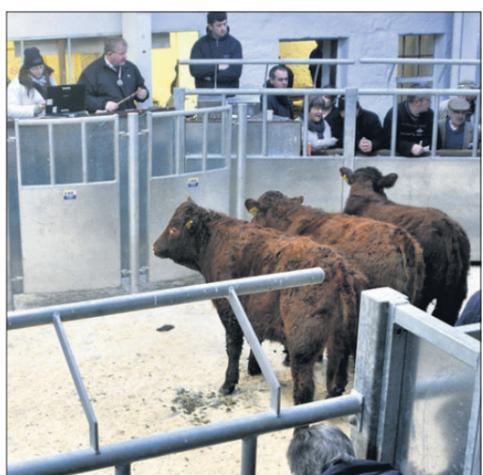
Bullocks and heifers from Craigneich, Lismore sold to £720



Mr I R Morrison, Barra, sold Aberdeen Angus crosses to £1125



Aberdeen Angus crosses sold in larger lots were in demand



Quality calves from A J Morrison, Eoligarry, Barra sold well at Dalmally

**Market reports**

**ISLAY**

**United Auctions**

Lambs  
SuffolkX: £86.50 Octofad £83.50  
Coille Farm £80.50 Corry £80.00  
Octofad £79.50 Kilchiaran £78.50  
Duich £78.00 Coull £76.50 Octofad  
£75.00 Ardbeg, Island and Coille  
£73.50 Coille £72.50 Octofad £71.50  
Kintra £70.50 Kilchiaran and Duich  
£70.00 Corry £69.50 Coull and  
Duich £69.00 Coillabus £68.50  
Ballinaby £64.50 Duich £64.00  
Kilchiaran £62.50 7 Shore Street  
£60.50 Ballinaby.

TextelX: £95.00 and £94.50 Carrabus  
£93.50 and £92.50 6 Bayview £92.50  
Windygrove £90.50 6 Bayview  
£90.00 and £89.00 Carrabus £87.00  
Ballinmartin £86.50 6 Bayview and  
Balaclava £86.00 and £85.50 Carrabus  
£84.50, £83.50 and £81.50 6 Bayview  
£81.00 Dunlosit Lissit £80.00

Balaclava £76.50 Lissit and Balaclava  
£75.50 Octofad £74.50 6 Bayview  
£73.50 7 Claddach £72.50 Balaclava  
£71.50 Coull £69.50 Carrabus £68.00  
Coull (D Jones) £67.50 Ardbeg £66.50  
Muldry £65.00 Ballinaby £64.00  
Kintra £63.50 Coille £61.50 Coull(D  
Jones) £60.00 7 Claddach.

CheviotX: £81.50 Windygrove  
Cross: £74.50 Island £66.50 Coillabus  
£63.00 Coull (D Jones) £61.00 Coille.  
Mule: £75.50 Rockside £68.50 Corry  
£67.50 Rockside £64.50 and £63.50  
Coille.

Blackface: £75.50 Keppols £70.00  
Kilchiaran £68.50 Duich £68.00 Lissit  
£66.50 Keppols £66.00 Kilchiaran  
£65.50 Cladville £66.00 Kilchiaran  
£65.00 Cladville £64.50 Carn £60.50  
Duich.

Ewes  
SuffolkX: £104.50 and £100.50  
Stanalane.

TextelX: £86.50 Octofad £71.50  
Dunlosit Lissit £70.50 Duich.  
CharollaisX: £126.50 Craigns.  
Cross: £76.50 Kintra and Lissit £73.50  
Octofad.

Blackface: £65.50 - Lissit £60.50 -  
Kilchiaran.  
Blueface Leicester: £92.50 Coille  
Riggs

TextelX: £74.50 Coull £64.50 Dunlosit  
Lissit.  
Blackface: £85.50 Cladville.

**Price per kilo**  
**Lambs**  
SuffolkX: 227p and 225p - Octofad  
216p - Coille 215p - Duich 214p  
- Island 210p - Kintra 209p - Ballinaby  
205p - Octofad 204p - Coull, Octofad  
and Duich 203p - Coille 201p - Duich  
200p - Coull (D Jones).

TextelX: 234p - Balaclava 231p - Coull  
231p - Dunlosit Lissit 230p - 7  
Claddach 229p - Octofad 219p and  
216p - Balaclava 214p - 6 Bayview  
213p - Stanalane, 6 Bayviewand Lissit  
212p - Carrabus 210p - Windygrove  
207p - Octofad and Ballinmartin 206p  
- Kintra, 6 Bayview and Coull (D  
Jones) 205p - Carrabus and Coull 204p

- Carrabus 201p - 6 Bayview 200p  
- Carrabus and Balaclava.  
CheviotX: 206p - Kilbride 194p  
- Windygrove.

Cross: 198p - Keppols 191p - Coull.  
Mule: 213p - Coull 201p - Corry  
198p - Coille 193p - Rockside.

Blackface: 194p - Kilchiaran 190p  
- Cladville 189p - Lissit 188p  
- Tarbert Estate 186p - Coull (D Jones)  
185p - Kintra.

**DALMALLY**  
**United Auctions**

**Bullocks**  
Aberdeen AngusX: £1125 and  
£1085 - 13 Eoligarry, Barra: £720  
- 7 Craigneich, Lismore: £720(6)  
- Machrins, Colonsay: £690(4)  
- 7 Craigneich: £670(5) - Machrins:  
£605(2) - 7 Craigneich.

Blonde AquitaineX: £685(2) - High  
Carse.  
CharollaisX: £1055 - 13 Eoligarry, Barra:  
£705 - Ballygowan: £610 - Myretonhill.  
LimousinX: £1035, £1015 and  
£1005 - Moleigh Farm: £1000(2)  
- 10 Eoligarry, Barra: £985 and £975  
- Moleigh Farm: £975, £970 and £965  
- 10 Eoligarry: £955(3) and £950(3)  
- Moleigh Farm: £950 - 10 Eoligarry:  
£940(3), £915 and £870(4) - Moleigh  
Farm: £870(4) - Rera: £825 - 10  
Eoligarry: £800 - Duncroisk: £745  
- Dall: £745, £730(3), £705 and £675(3)  
- 10 Eoligarry: £675(3) - Ardsleighish:  
£665 - Tullochcan: £650 - 10 Eoligarry:  
£640 - Sonachan: £635 - Goatfield:  
£625(2) - 10 Eoligarry.

SalerX: £935(3) and £870(4) - Rera.  
SimmentalX: £975, £955 and £950(2)  
- Moleigh Farm: £870 - Rera:  
£845(4) - Moleigh Farm: £840 - Duallin:  
£785 - Blarghour Farm: £755 - Duallin:  
£725 - Blarghour Farm: £660 - Keilator  
Farm.

**Heifers**  
Aberdeen AngusX: £655(2) - Carnoch,  
Glencoe: £655(9) - High Balantyre  
Farm: £620 - 7 Craigneich: £615 - High  
Balantyre Farm.  
Beef ShorthornX: £680 and £650  
- Ashgrove: £635(2) and £620  
- Brencroille Farm.  
CharollaisX: £845 - Braglenmore Farm.  
LimousinX: £850(2) - 10 Eoligarry,  
Barra: £655 - High Balantyre Farm:  
£650 - Moleigh Farm: £650(2) -  
Tullochcan Farm: £640(2) - 10 Eoligarry:  
£630 - 13 Eoligarry: £625(2) and £615  
- 10 Eoligarry.

ShorthornX: £780 - 7 Craigneich,  
Lismore.  
SimmentalX: £690 and £670 - Balindore.

**Breeding cattle**  
£790 - High Carse: £720 - Achnacarron  
and Craig: £710 - High Balantyre Farm.  
**Cows with calves at foot**  
£780 - Curacao: £810 - Sonnachan.

**Over 30 Month cows**  
£790 and £660 - Duallin.

**Prices per kilo**  
**Bullocks**  
Aberdeen AngusX: 225p(5) and 224p(6)

- Machrins, Colonsay: 215p - Airds Croft.  
CharollaisX: 226p - Myretonhill:  
225p(2) - Tullochmor: 217p and 211p  
- Ballygowan.

LimousinX: 250p and 243p - Sonnachan  
Farm: 229p - Tullochcan Farm:  
228p(3) - Ardsleighish: 223p - 2 Keil  
Croft: 221p(3) - 10 Eoligarry, Barra:  
219p - Ardachuple and Auch Estate:  
2 Keil Crofts: 215p and 214p - 10  
Eoligarry: 213p - Sonnachan: 211p - 10  
Eoligarry and Tullochcan: 210p(2) - 10  
Eoligarry: 205p - Sonnachan(2): 203p  
- 10 Eoligarry: 200p - Moleigh Farm.  
SalerX: 227p(2) - Tullochmor Farm.  
SimmentalX: 227p - Keilator Farm:  
229p(3) and 221p(3) - Dericambus:  
220p - Ardachuple and Auch Estate:  
217p(2), 213p and 208p - Keilator Farm:  
203p(3) - Dericambus: 200p - Auch  
Estate.

**Heifers**  
Beef ShorthornX: 260p, 243p and 226p  
- Ashgrove.  
CharollaisX: 220p(4) - Tullochmor.  
LimousinX: 223p - 13 Eoligarry, Barra:  
220p - Tireigan; 214p(2) - Tullochcan;  
210p(3) - High Balantyre; 208p(3) - 10  
Eoligarry; 206p(2) - Tullochcan; 205p(2)  
- Moleigh Farm; 203p(2) - Tullochcan;  
202p and 200p - 10 Eoligarry; 200p(2)  
- 13 Eoligarry.  
SimmentalX: 231p(2) - Dericambus;

206p - Ardachuple.  
**Sheep**  
TextelX: £70.00 - Ederline Estate:  
£68.50 - Tombuie: £67.50 - Knock-Dhu.  
Cross: £63.50 - Knock - Dhu.  
Cross: £63.50 - Ederline  
Estate: £54.50 - Stronchullin: £52.50  
- Auchindual: £50.00 - High Carse.

**Ewes**  
Cross: £63.50 and £60.00 - Lochdochart.  
Blackface: £53.50 - High Carse.

**OBAN**  
**Caledonian**  
**Marts**

**Bullocks:**  
0-250kgs £690 Barranoch, 291p  
Culbriug;  
251-300kgs £950, 322p Achnaba;  
301-350kgs £1250, 373p Tyree;  
351-400kgs £1100, 297p Dippen;  
401-450kgs £950 Tyree, 225p Upper  
Largie;

451-500kgs £1060, 211p Tompa;  
£790 and £660 - Duallin.  
**Prices per kilo**  
**Bullocks**  
Aberdeen AngusX: 225p(5) and 224p(6)

301-350kgs £900, 277p Achnaba;  
351-400kgs £860, 239p Achnaba;  
401-450kgs £955, 212p Pollywilline;  
451-500kgs £970, 202p Pollywilline;  
501-550kgs £960, 188p Pollywilline.

**Breeding cattle**  
AA In-calf cow £800 (2) Ardnacross,  
£750 Laggan and 5 Cleat,  
Lim Cow In-calf £790 Stroneskar.  
AA - £1075 1 Cleat, Lim - £990 Ballard,  
£950, £920 South Ardnacloch,  
Luing - £970 Ballard;  
Highland bull £940 Achnacloch;  
Continental - £890 Tyree; AA x  
- £820 5 Cleat.

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**Dingwall and**  
**Highland Marts**

**Bullocks**  
up to 250kg - Clury Farm, Dulnain  
Bridge, £650, 1 Kilvaxter, Kilmuir,  
270.3p;  
251-300kg - Balloan, £680, 263.6p;  
301-350kg - Achitue, Drumadrocht,  
£750, 5 Achinivner, Lairg, 230.5p;  
351-400kg - Ordmuir, Muir of Ord,  
£780, Clury Farm, 231.8p;  
401-450kg - 16 Balvaidd, Muir of Ord,  
£940, 216.6p.

451-500kg - Ardnarmurchan Estate, £940, 195.0p;  
501-

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# Dear Santa ... a new car for Christmas?



If you didn't succumb to the temptation of the new registration plate this September, you will perhaps now be looking with jaundiced eyes, not only at the no-longer-new-vehicles of your friends and colleagues, but at the less than pristine condition of your own.

Why not change all that? Christmas is an excellent time to treat yourself and your family to a brand new car, and there are an awful lot to choose from.

This isn't exactly the peak time for buying cars, therefore there are a great many special offers and super bargains to be had in various local dealerships.

### INCENTIVES

Look around, and you could find several years' maintenance contracts free with each new car, free insurance or interest free finance. You may even find the odd discount, or extra large allowance, on your old, used car.

Perhaps now would be a good time to review the type of vehicle you use?

If you have a saloon, maybe an estate or hatchback would be better for your way of life? Have you thought of an off-road vehicle, fun and practicality rolled into one - and at a time of year when winter driving can be hazardous, the safety factor of four-wheel drive could make all the difference in getting you and your family home?

### DIESEL VEHICLES

If its mileage economy and simplicity you are after, why not turn to diesel? Diesel vehicles these days are cleaner and easier to drive than ever before. They are no longer the sluggish cars of yesteryear. With turbo assistance, the only difference from their petrol counterparts is the extra mileage per tank-full you will get, and they do actually hold their value better to regardless of the cost of the fuel.

### SOFT-TOPS

Most manufacturers have either a convertible or cabriolet model to choose from, and although this may not appear to be the ideal car at this time of year, come next summer you will certainly enjoy the feeling of wind in your hair. If the idea worries you and if you can only equate soft-topped cars with those of twenty or more years ago, forget all you ever knew. Today's open-topped vehicles have easy fold-back tops, most are electrically operated, and rear windows designed not to mist over, and which are usually heated. Inside with the tops closed, you are as warm and snug as with any traditional type of vehicle, and with the top down, improved technology and aerodynamics mean less draught and much less wind noise. Technology too takes care of security, so you need have no more worries on that score than you would have with any other type of vehicle.

### FAMILY MOTORING

It may be you are reasonably content with your present vehicle but feel you need a little something more? Many families are including a small van or trailer in their family fleet. The sheer practicality of a vehicle that can carry vast quantities of luggage, hobby equipment, pets and pet requisites, or the materials and products of a small, family business, are coming home to many people. However for supreme versatility, what about an MPV? These people-carriers can carry up to eight people, all have the facility to remove or adjust seating easily to cope with any haulage problems that may arise. For a family with more than two children, these vehicles are ideal.

So if you feel you or your family needs a special treat this year, think seriously about a brand new vehicle. It could be the best Christmas gift for you all!



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This is an exciting chance for the right person to be involved in a dynamic group using a wide variety of the latest in IT technology and systems to support the scientific research, higher education and commercial functions of this marine science institute.

For further information and to apply for this position online, go to: [www.smi.ac.uk](http://www.smi.ac.uk) Alternatively, please write to: Human Resources, Business Development Assistant (Job Ref. D19/11.TS), 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)

Closing date: Monday 16th January 2012  
Interviews will be held on Wednesday 25th January 2012

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### Business Development Assistant

Salary £19,203-£22,126  
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The main purpose of the job will be to provide administrative support to the Business Development Department. Key aspects of the role include assistance in preparing commercial tenders, coordinating meetings, arranging travel and liaising with staff and external customers.

The post would suit someone who is pro-active with the ability to multi-task and who enjoys a challenge.

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We have a vacancy for a suitably qualified ICT Technician to join the ICT department in the Oban office. Further details are available on our website, [www.raclement.co.uk](http://www.raclement.co.uk).

Applications should be made in writing, including a full CV and testimonials to:

Andy Newiss  
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5 Argyll Square, OBAN  
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Alternatively email Andy on [an@raclement.co.uk](mailto:an@raclement.co.uk)



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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected
11/04123/FUL	50m East of Birch Cottage Bonavie Fort William	Erection of house with attached flat and detached garage/stable	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/04288/FUL	Land at Croft 104 and 105 70m North East of Tigh A Chladaich Lochside Fort William	Erection of 2 houses and formation of shared access	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/04312/PIP	Land 150m East of Glenfintaig Lodge Glen Gloy Spean Bridge	Erection of 2 houses	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office Section 60 Affecting Setting of Listed Building (21 Days)
11/04396/FUL	60m South East of Duror Primary School Duror Appin	Construction of cycling and walking route including new bridge	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/04406/FUL	1 Crown Cottages Bonavie Fort William	Extension to house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/04413/LBC	Ardgour Outdoor Centre Kilmalieu Ardgour Fort William	Internal alterations to provide on-site facilities	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office Regulation 5 - affecting the character of a listed building (21 days)
11/04414/FUL	Mingary Park Guest House and Self Catering Lodges Acharacle	Change of use from hotel to guest house and alterations & extension (amended design to 11/02875/FUL)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

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Old Ferry Road, North Ballachulish

### Appin Community Sport and Leisure Association (ACSALA)

(Registered Charity: SC037267)

#### Project Manager for a short-term contract (£7,000 available February- May 2012)

To project manage the development of an all-weather multi-sports facility in Appin, Argyll. Please contact ACSALA for a Job Description.

Please register your interest by sending your CV/Project portfolio with a covering letter to:  
Gerry Boyle, Chair ACSALA, c/o Strath of Appin Primary School, Appin, Argyll. PA38 4BG or email: [gerry.boyle@strathappin.argyll-bute.sch.uk](mailto:gerry.boyle@strathappin.argyll-bute.sch.uk)

Closing Date 12 January 2012 - Evening Interviews to be held week beginning 23rd January 2012



### Argyll Voluntary Action

Reshaping Care for Older People Programme

#### An opportunity to make a significant impact under the Scottish Government agenda to shift the balance of care for older people.

Argyll Voluntary Action is seeking committed, dynamic and motivated individuals with knowledge of voluntary sector activities to work as part of the Community Resilience programme supporting older people to engage with their communities, to become involved in their local voluntary activities and with support to be better enabled to live independently in the homes of their choosing.

We are seeking two Co-ordinators. 32 hrs pw in Oban and 24 hrs pw based Lochgilphead. £11.00 per hr.

For details, outline job description and application form email [ava@btconnect.com](mailto:ava@btconnect.com) or phone 01631 564839 and speak to Kathleen (10am - 1pm, Mon, Tue, Thur, Friday).

Closing date 3rd January 2012.

### WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION

#### Customer Services Assistant (Maternity Cover)

EVH Band 3 [£14,641 - £16,845]  
12 months Temporary Contract 35 hours per week

The Association is seeking to recruit a Temporary Customer Services Assistant to cover maternity leave. The main purpose of the post is to provide excellent front line customer service to tenants, applicants, owners and other stakeholders as well as administrative support to other sections of the Association.

Applicants should possess general administration experience in a busy office environment. Must be a good communicator and be fully competent in the use of Microsoft Office.

#### Energy Development Assistant [£18,000] - 12 Months Temporary Contract 35 hours per week

The Association is seeking to recruit a Development Assistant to support the Development Officer who is working on a variety of projects to develop proposals for renewable heating with an emphasis on biomass heating.

The Development Assistant will report to the Development Officer and will provide administration and technical support to the project with the provision of good database information, background research and act as the link to communities and other stakeholders. There is no formal qualification required for this post but the candidate should be educated to degree level and expected to have knowledge of the energy environment along with good IT and communication skills.

Marc Blair, Development Officer will be delighted to talk to anyone interested in the post about the organisation, the challenges and opportunities related to this post. This post is funded with the assistance of Argyll and the Islands LEADER Board, the Scottish Government and West Highland Housing Association.



To request an Application Pack for either post please contact May Tosh, Corporate Services Manager at Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB or telephone 01631 564451 or email [mail@westhighlandha.co.uk](mailto:mail@westhighlandha.co.uk)

Closing date for Applications for both posts will be 30th December, 2011 with interviews being held week commencing 9th January 2012.

### dawnfresh farming

## Farm Manager

Kinnaird, nr Brechin

Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, part of the Dawnfresh Seafoods Group, is the largest Trout Farming Company operating in the UK. Our Marine and Freshwater farms are located throughout Scotland, England and Ireland.

We are currently looking to identify a suitably qualified and highly motivated individual to undertake the role of Farm Manager at our hatchery and juvenile production operation, Kinnaird, nr Brechin.

Kinnaird is a large, flow-through pond site with a small bore hole supplied-hatchery, currently configured to hatch quarterly batches of 500k eggs, supplemented by 5g transferred fry to produce > 2 million 50g juveniles for supply into our large freshwater loch on-growing operations.

Currently in need of optimization, Kinnaird is about to undergo a major upgrade and modernisation program after which the site will become one of the core freshwater farms within Dawnfresh Farming.

Reporting to the Farming Director, the successful candidate will have previous management experience with proven ability for developing site infrastructure and establishing best farming practice. Essential skills will include the ability to manage and motivate personnel, first class planning and organisation abilities and a high degree of computer literacy. In addition, applicants should have a full driving license and be prepared to undertake travel as required.

Depending on experience, we offer a salary package in the range £25k-£33k, plus housing along with the opportunity to develop your management career within company at the forefront of UK trout farming.

If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV, by Thursday 22nd December 2011, to:

Lindsey Elder, HR Officer, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS. Office 01698 810008, E-mail: [lindsey.elder@dawnfresh.co.uk](mailto:lindsey.elder@dawnfresh.co.uk)

Informal enquires can be made to Gideon Pringle, Farming Director, Mobile 07747 487232.

### SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE NATIONAL PARKS AND ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1949 (AS AMENDED)

NOTICE is HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 19 (4) of the above Act that by The Mealdarroch Nature Reserve De-Declaration 2011 dated 6 December 2011 it was declared by Scottish Natural Heritage that those two discontinuous areas of ground extending to two hundred and four decimal seven hectares (204.7ha) or thereby, part of Achaglachgach Forest in the Council Area of Argyll & Bute Council being the land referred to in the Mealdarroch Nature Reserve No. 1 Declaration 1987 dated the Twenty Second day of October Nineteen Hundred and Eighty Seven are no longer a Nature Reserve with effect from the Ninth day of December Two Thousand and Eleven.

Certified Copies of the De-Declaration with plans annexed have been deposited for public inspection free of charge as undemoted and may be inspected for a period of one month following the Ninth day of December Two Thousand and Eleven.

Argyll & Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RR

Scottish Natural Heritage, Lochgilphead, 1 Kilmory Industrial Estate, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT

Scottish Natural Heritage, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW

All during normal opening hours.

### CROFTERS COMMISSION COIMISEAN NAN CROITEARAN DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

Applicant, Croft, Extent & Purpose, Case number

Mr & Mrs J Smith  
Lochdonhead, Pennygown & Torosay  
0.065 ha - garden ground  
4.86.35644

Mr S MacLeod  
14 Cloulin, Ardgour  
0.111 ha - amenity ground  
4.86.36169

Mr C Sloss  
Brolas Croft 2,  
0.079 ha - proposed new development  
4.86.36094

Comments can be made to the Crofters Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 14 days of the date of this newspaper. Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW [info@crofterscommission.org.uk](mailto:info@crofterscommission.org.uk)

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

Name, Croft, Extent, reason, conditions Case Number

Mrs C Brown  
Achnahully, Arisaig & Moidart  
0.01 ha & 0.015 ha sites for two houses  
Conditions: List no's 1,2b & 3  
4.86.35763 & 4.86.35764

Mr G Macintyre, Executor  
Pt 45/46 Bonavie, Kilmallie  
0.345 ha & 0.325 ha sites for two houses  
Conditions: List no's 1,2b & 3  
4.86.27997 & 4.86.27999

Conditions  
(1) to provide a site for a dwellinghouse  
(2) complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of:  
(b) the proposed development completion  
(3) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

### Three quarters of an acre of woodland at Craobh Haven, Argyll.

An open space protection area subject to a Tree Preservation Order.

Interested parties should contact  
Messrs. Macpherson Maguire  
Cook, Solicitors, 19 Waterloo Street,  
Glasgow G2 6BP (Ref: AHM/KM)  
0141-221 6913 for further details.

Oban Times Oban Times  
PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES

### Catering Assistants - 2 posts

£6.96 per hour Lochgilphead Ref: CTF00371  
32.5/30 hrs per week  
Based in Lochgilphead Joint Campus Term Time  
☎ 01546 604742

### Catering Assistant

£6.96 per hour Dalintober Ref: CTF00348  
12.5 hrs per week  
Based in Primary School Term Time Mon - Fri  
☎ 01546 604742

### Road Worker

£16,533 - £18,076 Mull Ref: DVR00700  
37 hrs per week  
Based in Salen  
☎ 01546 604742

Closing date: 6 January 2012.  
To apply visit our website [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs)



### The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

'Largest selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands'

## Media Sales Executive

The Oban Times Group are seeking to recruit a Media sales Executive to join our experienced sales team. Applicants should be lively, enthusiastic, good communicators and committed to customer satisfaction. The successful candidate will work across a variety of publications and products. Ongoing in house training will be given as required.

A full driving licence is essential as you may not necessarily be office based but could have the opportunity to travel throughout Argyll and surrounding areas in one of our company vehicles.

We offer an excellent basic salary along with commission, generous annual holiday entitlement, company pension scheme, life assurance and private medical insurance.

If you are looking for a career with a well established company and have the above attributes - we want to hear from you.

Please apply by e-mail with a full C.V including contact details to: [ali@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ali@obantimes.co.uk)

Closing date: Wednesday, 21st December, 2011




### University of the Highlands and Islands Argyll College

Argyll College UHI has a childcare nursery, Little Learners' Nursery, adjacent to the SAMS buildings at Dunstaffnage. Little Learners' is open 5 days a week from 8am to 6pm, 50 weeks of the year, only closing for 2 weeks over Christmas and New Year. It provides day care and pre-school education for children aged 0 to 5 years and now requires a:

## Part-time Cook

To provide meals in line with healthy eating guidelines. Hours are 25 per week, from 9am to 2pm which includes time for shopping for fresh ingredients, since the nursery does not use frozen produce in the preparation of meals. It would be preferred if applicants held a current Food Hygiene certificate and had experience in dealing with differing dietary requirements for children. Salary is £10,716.12

Applications in the form of a CV (max 2 pages A4) and a one page covering letter should be sent by Friday 13th January to

Lorna McDonald, Argyll College,  
Glenshellach Business Park, Oban,  
Argyll PA34 4RY.  
Tel 01631 559520  
E-mail: [lorna.mcdonald@argyllcollege.ac.uk](mailto:lorna.mcdonald@argyllcollege.ac.uk)



### OFFICE STAFF

#### HIGHLAND HERITAGE COACH TOURS LTD

Require Reservations Staff for their busy Administration office. Keyboard skills and pleasant telephone manner essential.

Training will be given. Full time position, must be flexible. Shift work includes weekends and Evenings. Live-in or out.

Please apply in writing with a current C.V To: Mrs J Colman  
Highland Heritage Ltd, Central Admin Office  
Dalmally, Argyll PA33 1AY  
Tel: - 01838200444

### The Creagan Inn, Appin are re-opening and are looking for cheerful & helpful staff to work with amazing new friendly owners!

Live music, great food and excellent beer so your ability to create a good atmosphere essential.

#### We need bar, waiting & kitchen staff for full time & part time positions.

Apply to [creaganinn@aol.co.uk](mailto:creaganinn@aol.co.uk) or phone Liz on 07873 329 338.

Interviews this weekend!

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BABY EQUIPMENT
BATH, BOWL N MAT yellow Winnie the Pooh bath with matching top and tail bowl, brand new still in packet Winnie the Pooh changing mat Oban, £10 Telephone 07810 876042.
Oban Times PRIVATE CLASSIFIED

BICYCLES
BOYS MOUNTAIN BIKE full suspension in good condition, £35 Telephone 01631 710101.
CRUD MUDGUARDS brand new Crud mudguards for mountain bike or hybrid. Full set in black, £10 Telephone 07740 291746.
PRIVATE CLASSIFIED

BUILDING / DIY
THISTLE BOARD FINISH PLASTER and Hardwall Plaster 9 x 25kg bags of Thistle Board Finish Plaster and 1 x 25kg bag of Thistle Hardwall Plaster. All bags are just 2 weeks old, £30 Telephone 07789 884779.

DOMESTIC PETS
COLLIE PUPPIES, black and white, all girls, off working parents. Telephone 07771 976827.
FEMALE CAT free to good home, bonny dark/light grey female cat, 6 years old, neutered, shy but very friendly. Telephone 01586 552582.

HEATING, FIRES AND FIREPLACES
CHARNWOOD MULTI FUEL FIRE with white wood surround and black marble hearth, £450 ono Telephone 01866 822684 day or 01631 710404 eves.

DESK OFFICE STYLE home use only, light teal effect wood surround, 4 drawers, h 67 cms, w 126 cms & d 76 cms. Good condition, £49 Telephone 01866 822071.

MARINE UNDER £250
SALVAGE 27 foot Jannae Fantasia sailing boat ground at Connel and storm damaged, available free for salvage. Telephone 07879 681704.

CHILD'S QUAD BIKE blue and red electric quad bike suit 2 year old, vgc, £20 Telephone 01631 565465.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Argyll community housing association
Soroba Community Centre
Public Meeting
Monday 19th December 2011, 6.30pm
at Soroba Learning Centre, 6B Scalpay Terrace
To discuss proposals & way forward for Soroba Community Centre

MARY SCANLON MSP
Constituent Surgery
Friday 16th December
Regent Hotel, Corran Esplanade, Oban from 3pm - 4pm
No appointments necessary.
If you are unable to attend the surgery and wish to discuss any issues please contact Mary's local office at:
14(a) Adross Street, Inverness IV3 5NS Tel: 01463 241004 or email Mary.Scanlon.msp@scottish.parliament.uk www.maryscanlonmsp.com

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES
3-6MONTHS NIKETRACKSUIT only worn once, light blue jacket and darker blue trousers, also a blue longdale tracksuit shell material 3 - 6months, £10 Telephone 07810 876042.

LADIES LEATHER JACKET black, in beautiful soft leather, size 14, three-quarter length with belt. Lovely condition and an ideal gift, £19.99 Telephone 01586 551526.

LEOTARD purple coloured leotard + skirt with white wrap cardigan. All comes with a pink ballet bag, suit 5 year old, £25 Telephone 01631 565465.

SKI SUIT TRESPASS all-in-one with matching hat, blue and grey, to suit 2/3 year old, £12 Telephone 01631 720073.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES
V-TECH V-SMILE MOTION 3-7yrs, comes with Thomas the Tank learning game, in excellent condition hardly used, Oban, £15 Telephone 07810 876042.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES
BELLING EXTRACTOR HOOD black chimney type with brass fittings, 1metre wide, good condition, lightly used would suit wide range cooker, £45 Telephone 07765 052908.

ELECTRIC COOKER Tricity Bendix ceramic hob cooker with double oven. Good condition, £49 Telephone 01631 562272.

DOMESTIC PETS
COLLIE PUPPIES, black and white, all girls, off working parents. Telephone 07771 976827.

FEMALE CAT free to good home, bonny dark/light grey female cat, 6 years old, neutered, shy but very friendly. Telephone 01586 552582.

JACK RUSSELL X PUG PUPS all fawn with black masks, ready now, £450. Telephone 07747 855272.

SIBERIAN HUSKY PUPS KC reg, ready 16th December, vet checked, £700 Telephone 0141 8490306 or mobile 07947 582678.

EQESTRIAN
"OLLY" PIEBALD GELDING RISING to make 14hh, well handled, lives out, £500 Telephone 01631 564085 or 07990731845.

FURNITURE
BEECH TELEVISION UNIT good condition, £15 Telephone 07780 747914.

CANE DRESSING TABLE and matching chair, £11 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

CHAIRS set of 6 padded stacking chairs, £12 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

CHEST OF DRAWERS 3 x bedside chest of drawers, excellent condition, £10 each Telephone 07920 569292.

DESK Modern curved desk as new, £9.00 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

DOUBLE BED with mattress, £25 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

DOUBLE BED MATTRESS firm, back care support, good clean condition, £20 Telephone 01631 570988.

KITCHEN TABLE drop leaf kitchen table, £9 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

LOUNGE SUITE three piece lounge suite, perfectly serviceable, £9 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

NEST OF TABLES set of 3 in dark wood finish, excellent condition, largest measures 19" by 13". Tables in Campbelltown area, £15 Telephone 07920 487939.

SETTEE dark blue modern three seater settee, £14 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

SETTEE 2 seater, dark red with brown trim, £49.99 Telephone 07833 474902.

SINGLE DIVAN BED, £15 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

RAEBURN COOKER/CENTRAL HEATING oil fired complete with flue pipe. Excellent order Model 360K Green 60,000btu. Serviced annually, £1200 Telephone 01631 710120 or 07831 144648.

PINE FIRE SURROUND in vgc, buyer must collect, £45 Telephone 01631 710101.

COMPUTER DESK pine, excellent condition, h75cm w75cm d53cm, Oban, £10 Telephone 07810 876042.

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To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

PLANNING
These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Table with 4 columns: Ref, Proposal, Site Address, Location of Plans. Contains planning application details for various sites in Oban and surrounding areas.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Table with 4 columns: Ref, Proposal, Site Address, Location of Plans. Contains planning application details for various sites in Oban and surrounding areas.

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Table with 4 columns: Ref, Proposal, Site Address, Location of Plans. Contains planning application details for various sites in Oban and surrounding areas.

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: https://planning.scotland.gov.uk

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST.

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.

COUNCIL SURVEY
Councilors Roddy McCuth (Ward 4 Oban South and the Isles) and Louise Glen-Lee (Ward 5 Oban North and Lorn) will be holding a joint survey in Meeting Room 1, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.30pm to 5.00pm on the following dates:

COMMUNITY SERVICES: EDUCATION
EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 1980
CHOICE OF SCHOOL
It is customary for children to attend their local school; however, parents may make a written request to place their child in any school under the management of the education authority.

CLELAND SNEEDON, Executive Director - Community Service

LOCAL services

storm damage
tree surgeons
caravans
removals & storage
carpentry & joinery

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Alan 01631 710334, Brian 01631 710851, Hour 07796390411, Call 07730654693

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GLENCOE SKI DEAL Unwanted ski voucher Glencoe Mountain - 1 Adult & 1 Child, 2hr lesson, equip & day pass. Worth £140, but will sell for £30. Telephone 07799 310592.

TOYS AND GAMES
1ST ROCKING PONY hardly used, as good as new, small rocking pony makes noises, sings, comb to brush mane, Oban, £15 Telephone 07810 876042.

7BOBTHEBUILDERVEHICLES Scoop, Lofty, Roly, Dizzy, Travis, Scrambler and Dodger. All used but in very good condition, £15 Telephone 01852 300437.

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Happy 21st Birthday 19/12/11 Sean MacMillan Lots of love from all the family

Thank you
I, Ronnie Campbell wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Mark Astill and Nurse McLeod at Bunnessan surgery, also the ambulance crew and Rescue Helicopter crew (Consultant, Doctor and Medic on board)

also all doctors and nurses at R.A.H. Paisley, for their excellent care and attention, during my recent illness. Thank you also to all those who sent cards, telephoned and sent their best wishes. Special thanks go to all those neighbours who are helping with livestock etc. while I am recovering. Thank you all.

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DEATHS

**GRANT** - Suddenly on December 10, 2011 in Accra, Ghana, Robert, loving father of Adam, Naomi and Michael, youngest son of May Grant, Isle of Lismore. Funeral private.

**GRAHAM** - Suddenly at Gortanvogie, Islay on December 7, 2011, Isabella (Isa), of Lenivore, the Oa, aged 89 years. Beloved wife of the late Angus and much loved mother, mother-in-law, gran and great gran. Funeral service in St John's, Port Ellen on Friday, December 16, 2011 at 1.00pm.

**HUGHES** - Brian Malcolm Hughes died peacefully on November 7, 2011 after a short illness in his home town of Evergreen, Colorado, where he lived for over 30 years. His ashes were flown back to his birthplace of Tobermory, Isle of Mull. He is survived by his sisters Isabel and Dora and brother Richard, also his children Angela and Roger. He will be sadly missed and remembered always.

**MACCOLL** - Peacefully in Cowal Community Hospital, after an illness bravely fought, on Tuesday, December 13, 2011, Catriona, beloved wife of Colin, loving mum to Colin and Sarah, dear granny to Lewis, Olivia and Isla and much loved daughter of Sheena and the late Peter Goodman. 'Free at last'. The funeral service will be held in Kyles Parish Church on Wednesday, December 21, 2011 at 11.00am and thereafter to Greenock crematorium at 2.00pm to which all are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please but donations, if desired to Cancer Research.

**MACDONALD** - Peacefully at his home on December 8, 2011, Charles aged 60, after a short illness borne with great courage and dignity. Son of the late Charles and Joan MacDonald and dearly loved brother of Mary, Catherine, Benny, Rhona and Ailsa. Charles will be missed by us all.

**MACKILLOP** - Suddenly but peacefully at Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, on Sunday, December 11, 2011, Catherine Neil MacColl, Strathcona Cottages, Glencoe, loving wife of Donald MacKillop and beloved wife of the late John Hutchison (ex Argyll County Police), dearly loved and loving mother of Margaret McMillan (née Hutchison) and much loved mother-in-law of Neil. Funeral service on Saturday, December 17 at 11am in St Mary's Church, Glencoe. Family flowers only and donations if desired will be divided between St Mary's Glencoe and St John's Ballachulish. Family and friends respectfully invited.

**RUSSELL** - Brian George passed away on December 6 2011 aged 67 years at his home in Oxford. Formerly living on the Isle of Mull. A much loved Son, Brother and Uncle. Funeral service to take place in Oxford, donations if desired in aid of Friends of The Earth, c/o L. Hartness Funeral Service, 11 Victoria Road, Bicester OX26 6QD. 01869 253282.

**SOMERVILLE**, Alastair. Late of Arrotown, New Zealand and formerly of Tobermory and Lochgair, passed away peacefully at the Wakatipu Rest Home, Queenstown on Sunday December 11, 2011, in his 90th year. Born on June 17, 1921 in Paisley, Scotland. Dearly loved husband of Jane (Grace) for over 70 years. Beloved father of Roy and Jane and daughter in law Gudrun. Adored and treasured grandfather of Katie, Vanessa, Faye, Ross and Laura and his great grandchildren, Louis, Eve, Ella and Robbie. Our special thanks to all the staff at Wakatipu Rest Home and the Lakes District Hospital, Frankton for their loving care and support. A private cremation service was held on December 13, 2011. A Memorial service followed by the interment of his ashes, will be held on January 12, 2012 at St Johns Presbyterian Church, Arrotown, New Zealand at 2 pm. RIP with our eternal love, your family.

MEMORIALS

**CAMERON** - In memory of Lachlan Cameron who died December 14, 1994, at his home Bolevullin, Tiree. Also remembering loved ones departed before and since. Silent thoughts of times together. Hold memories that last forever.

- Inserted by Mary and Margaret  
**CAMPBELL** - Iain, December 16, 2007. When you lose someone you love

You gain an angel you know Always in my thoughts Love Jenna xxx

**GIBSON** - In loving memory of my dear mother Jenny, who passed away December 12, 2003.

A little tribute Small and tender Just to say we still remember.

- Kathleen and Sandy.  
**GIBSON** - In loving memory of my dear mother and granny Jenny, who died December 12, 2003.

Loved and remembered every day.

- Jimmy.  
**KENNEDY** - Treasured memories of my dear Chrissie, who died December 16, 2009.

Gad caoidh s'gad Ionndrainn Sadly missed.

- Archie.  
**MACALLISTER** - In loving memory of David Mercer MacAllister, Tobermory and Symington, who died December 21, 2004.

With love. - Rosemary, Fiona, Alex and David.

**MACARTHUR** - Treasured memories of Duncan, who died December 13, 2004. A much loved husband, father and papa.

It does not take a special day To bring you to our minds As days without a thought of you

Are very hard to find - Betty and family in Islay and USA

**MACINTYRE** - Cherished memories of our devoted parents, Duncan who died December 19, 1981 and Betsy on April 16, 1988, also dear ones gone before and after.

Those we love don't fade away They walk beside us every day

Inserted by the family, one time of Kilvaree Farm, Connel and Cruachan, Strathyre, Perthshire.

**MACINTYRE** - Treasured memories of beloved parents, parents-in-law and grandparents Archibald (Baldy) and Mary (nee Boyd) whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Always in our thoughts. - Iain, Jane, Caroline and Boyd.

**MACKAY** - In loving memory of Donald John MacKay, a much loved son, brother, uncle and friend to many, who died December 17, 2010.

Remembering not just today but everyday. - Sheila, Moyra, Sandra, Jack and families

**MACKAY** - Gwendoline (née Weir), died December 17, 2010 at home in Malahide, Co. Dublin, aged 99 years. Formerly of Imperial Hotel Fort William, widow of Zander MacKay.

Always in our thoughts and sadly missed. - Michael and Janet.

**MACLENNAN** - In memory of our mum and granny Mac, Betty, who died December 20, 2010. One year has passed Since that sad day

When the one we loved Was called away God took her home

It was his will Within our hearts She liveth still. - Gus, Sally, Connie and Rosie.

**McKINNEY** - In loving memory of our dear sister Marjorie who died on December 15, 2003.

Forever in our hearts. - Jessie and Pat.

**McKINNEY** - In loving memory of our dear aunt Marjorie who died on December 15, 2003.

Always in our thoughts. - James, Sandra and family.

**McKINNEY** - In loving memory of Marjorie, who died December 15, 2003.

When thoughts go back As they often do We treasure the memories we have of you. Love always. - Drew, Anne and Liam.

**NICOLSON** - In loving memory of our dear mother and grandmother Christina Stewart, who died December 19, 1985, also our dear sisters and aunts, Jemima MacAulay (Mima) who died December 30, 1989 and Mary McTaggart who died August 23, 2011. Deep in our hearts Memories are kept Of the ones we loved And will never forget Sadly missed by all the family

Always in our thoughts. **RICHMOND** - In loving memory of father and grandfather, John Richmond, 9 Lismore Crescent, Oban, who passed away on December 13, 1973.

Those we love must some day pass Beyond our present sight... Must leave us and the world we know

Without their radiant light But we know that like a candle Their lovely light will shine

To brighten up another place More perfect...more divine

And in the realm of Heaven Where they shine so warm and bright

Our loved ones live forever In God's eternal light. - Inserted by his ever loving son Victor, daughter-in-law Anne, grandchildren Yvonne and John, Bermuda.

**RODGER** - Elsie, who died December 19, 2010, a much loved sister and aunt. Remembered every day. - Ken, Christine, Karen, Chris, Linda, Alan, Andrew and Caitlin.

**RODGER** - In loving memory of Elsie, a very dear friend. Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts. - Christine and Jane.

**STEWART** - In loving memory of our dear parents and grandparents, Ann who passed away on December 12, 1982 and Angus, who passed away on October 7, 1994.

Those we love don't go away They walk beside us everyday

Angus, Nancy, Rena, Mavis and families, Bowmore, Islay.



O' come all ye faithful

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

**ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN**  
Campbell Street Church  
Sunday 18 December 2011  
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.  
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available  
Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh (01631) 567076  
All welcome

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**  
Sunday 18 December 2011  
Advent 4

St John's Cathedral, Oban  
Holy Communion ..... 08.00  
Family Eucharist ..... 10.15  
Sunday School Tableau Loop System  
Large Print Hymn Books  
All Welcome  
Norman MacCallum, Provost.  
(01631) 562323

St Columba, Gruline, Mull  
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols ..... 11.00

St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona  
Holy Eucharist ..... 10.00

Advance Notice  
Thursday 22 Dec 2011  
St John's Cathedral, Oban  
Service of Nine Lessons and Carols ..... 19.30

Saturday 24 Dec 2011  
Christmas Eve  
St John's Cathedral, Oban  
Children's Service "Let's Go to Bethlehem" ..... 15.30  
Midnight Eucharist ..... 23.15

Sunday 25 Dec 2011  
Christmas Day  
St John's Cathedral, Oban  
Holy Communion ..... 09.30  
Family Eucharist and Carols ..... 11.00

St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich  
Service of Lessons and Carols ..... 11.00

St Columba, Gruline, Mull  
Holy Communion ..... 11.00

St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona  
Holy Eucharist ..... 10.00

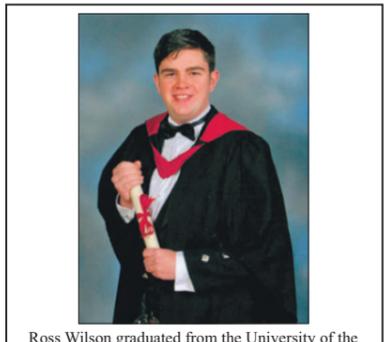
GRADUATIONS



Steven C Kersley graduated with a Masters of Science in Brewing and Distilling from Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh. Steven is the son of Colin and Shirley Kersley, North Connel and grandson of Marie and the late John Kersley, Glen Creran, Agnes Richmond, Oban and Ian Richmond, Linlithgow. He is a former pupil of Lochnell Primary and Oban High School. Steven has taken up the position as brewer with West Brewery in Glasgow.



Karen McLoone graduated from Napier University, Edinburgh, qualified with distinction in Nursing, daughter of James and Susan McLoone, granddaughter of Amy and Jimmy McLoone.



Ross Wilson graduated from the University of the West of Scotland with a BSc (Hons.) in Music Technology. A former pupil of Bunessan Primary School and Oban High School, Ross is the son of Ian and Elizabeth Wilson, Fionnphort, Isle of Mull.

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Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch  
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**Oban Hospice ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Christmas Services at St John's Episcopal Cathedral**  
George Street, Oban  
We give you a warm welcome to St John's Cathedral this Christmas  
**Christmas Family Service**  
10.15am Sunday 18th December  
The children will tell the Christmas story, and at the end Christmas lights will be given out.  
**Service of Lessons and Carols**  
7.30pm Thursday 22nd December  
**Let's Go To Bethlehem**  
3.30pm Christmas Eve  
Special service for children (and adults) as we build up the Christmas Crib and sing Christmas carols. Ends with juice and Christmas pies in the Narthex.  
**Christmas Eve**  
11.15pm Sung Eucharist  
**Christmas Day**  
9.30am Said Eucharist  
11am Family Eucharist and Carols  
Children please bring a Christmas toy to this service.

**St. Columba's Cathedral Oban**  
Bishop Joseph Toal and Monsignor James L. MacNeil  
Wish you all a peaceful, holy and Happy Christmas Season  
**SATURDAY 24th DECEMBER**  
6.30 p.m. Blessing of the Crib & Christmas Vigil Mass  
11.30 p.m. Carol Service  
followed by Concelebrated Midnight Mass  
Bishop Joseph Toal Principal Celebrant  
**SUNDAY 25th DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY**  
10.30 a.m. Christmas Day Mass  
All Welcome  
**All services will be held in the St. Columba's Cathedral Hall**

**VISITATION AT TAYNUILT**  
Canon Fraser wishes you all a peaceful and Happy Christmas & New Year  
Saturday 24th December  
11.30 p.m. Carol Service  
12.00 a.m. Midnight Mass  
Sunday 25th December  
10.30 a.m. Christmas Mass  
ALL WELCOME

**KILMORE & OBAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
Family Services:  
1. Christingle Service, Friday December 16th, Corran Esplanade, 6.30 p.m.  
2. Nativity Service, Sunday, December 18th, Glencruitten Road, 11.30 a.m.  
**Christmas Eve Services**  
**Christmas Family Service**  
7.00 Corran Esplanade 9.00 Kilmore  
**The Watchnight Service**  
at 11.30pm in Glencruitten Road Church  
**Christmas Day service**  
10 a.m. Corran Esplanade  
**New Years Day Services**  
Sunday 1st January 11.30am  
Glencruitten Road and 4pm Kilmore  
For more information please contact the Church Office, Mon-Fri 9am-1pm  
Tel: 01631 562405 E Mail: obanconf@btinternet.com  
Website: www.obanchurch.com

**WEDDINGS**  
**MacDonald - MacLean**  
Married on the 23rd of September, 2011 at St. Mary's Church, Inverness were Theresa, daughter of Angus and Nellie MacLean, Kilphead, South Uist to Kenny, son of Farquhar and Kate MacDonald, Ormickle, South Uist.  
The couple presently reside at Flat 3/1, 7 Oakfield Avenue, Hillhead, Glasgow.



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# Bowmen bid to host national championships

'It is our intention to make archery accessible to everyone'

REPORT BY  
STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

A FIELD archery club is bidding to bring the sport's national championships to Lochaber in 2012.

South Lochaber Bowmen (SLB) are making the move after completing a 14-target course in woodland at Brecklet above Ballachulish.

President Dubh Irbhinn is delighted his club is making a mark nationally - and with its success at expanding the sport at local level.

He told the Oban Times: 'We are intending to construct another 14 targets to give us a full 28 target course [at Brecklet]. We have asked to be considered to hold the 2012 Scottish Field

Archery Association championships here.

'SLB are hoping to assist with a new club in the Mallaig Area and have interest in the Ardnamurchan area and we are in the process of holding our own Highland Indoor Championships in Fort William. The new clubs would be an asset to any further competitions in the Highlands.'

**Constructing**

SLB are also in the process of constructing an archery area for the less able at Brecklet, Mr Irbhinn said.

'The main course is quite intensive and rough underground and unfortunately not all of our members, for various reasons, will be unable to shoot the main course.'

He added: 'Working alongside the Scottish Field Archery Association, it is our intention

**ARCHERY**

to make archery accessible to everyone.'

Meanwhile, 12 newly qualified archery coaches from the new Fort William club Garrison Bowmen (GB) received their certificates from SFAA coaching director Jim Greig last Sunday. The awards came after South Lochaber Bowmen hosted a four-day course at the Leven Centre in Kinlochleven. GB president George Kerr was among the recipients.

Mr Greig was presented with an honorary SLB membership in recognition of his help in promoting archery in the Highlands and his help with setting up of Brecklet. Jimmy Cormack of Ballachulish also received an honorary membership for his contribution to archery locally.



Lachlan Veitch - aiming for European glory on the slopes.

## Lachlan aiming for major skiing honours

A YOUNG Lochaber skier is aiming for major honours as the European ski season gets underway next week.

Lachlan Veitch, from Torlundy near Fort William, scored several podium finishes last winter, including a silver medal at the Anglo-Scottish championships at Les Houches, Chamonix, and a three-medal haul at his first World event in Andorra representing Team GB.

Lachlan, 13, a member of the British Children Alpine Ski Team, has been working hard throughout the summer and autumn in Scotland and various camps abroad - now he's raring to go. Dad John told The Oban Times: 'It's a tough year for him as he

**SKIING**

will be the youngest in his category. Race season starts next week in Champoluc, Italy with TeamGB and the BARSC Championships.

'He's then back for Christmas and heads back out to the British Ski Academy, courtesy of the Rannoch Bursary, on December 30 and stays for three weeks' training until Jan 20 before heading to Andorra to race with TeamGB until end of Jan.

'He then has a two-week break before heading to Bormio in mid-February for the English Championships. He then moves from there to the World Schools event, again in Italy.'

## Alleycats are three points clear

**TEN PIN BOWLING**

AFTER week six of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10-pin bowling league Alleycats remain three points clear at the top of the scratch division.

Council stay in second on 25 points with Rotovators moving into third on 20 points.

Underdogs still lead the handicap division with 23 points, while Rotovators moved into second place on 20 points. Alleycats dropped to third, a further two points back.

Alleycats and Underdogs both shared the highest scratch team game of the week with 552, whilst Underdogs had the highest handicap game with 813. Alleycats had the highest two game scratch total with 1,066.

The best individual game came from Brian Stewart, Council, with 181 scratch and 229 handicap. Pam Weller, Alleycats, had a 173 scratch, and also rolled the week's best two game scratch series of 334.

Currently the top scratch averages are from Tony White-locke, Alleycats, with 160 followed by Pam Weller on 156 and Colin Pinkett, Council, on 148.

## Fort face tough game against Cove

**FOOTBALL**

FORT William face a tough task if they are to record their first home win of the season when they take on high-flying Cove Rangers at Claggan Park on Saturday.

Fort's tie with league leaders Forres Mechanics was called off last weekend as the pitch at Mosset Park was frozen.

Cove sit third in the Highland League and beat Fort 6-0 when the sides met in September.

## Lochaber on the road to Elgin

**RUGBY**

LOCHABER Rugby Club will travel to Elgin to take on Moray on Saturday in a re-arranged fixture.

The game was postponed in October due to bad weather. The return game was due to be played last weekend at Banavie but was also cancelled after the recent stormy weather left the pitch unplayable.

Lochaber will be looking to get their season back on track after a stuttering start, which has left them sitting bottom of the RBS Caledonia regional league division two north having played eight games.



Lochaber Squash Club have taken delivery of new kit, thanks to a sponsorship deal with local firm Korrie. The A-team will now play in black under the name of Korrie Electrical, while the B team will play in white as Korrie Mechanical and Plumbing. Pictured above are players John Cameron, Bryan Wilson, Murdo Murray, Neil Worsdall, Rah Douglas, Warren Cameron, David Mackay and Gary Davidson. Junior member Bruce MacLean, front, helps Korrie administrator Melissa Murray show off the new strips. 20\_150squash01

## Table tennis club looking for new members

**TABLE TENNIS**

FORT WILLIAM Table Tennis Club is inviting budding players of all ages to its weekly games night at the Nevis Centre.

Chairman Jim Hinchley promised a warm welcome to everybody, regardless of ability.

He said: 'If there is anyone out there that played a few years ago but doesn't want to enter the handicapped event and just wants to get their hand back in - then come on down - it's a brilliant night's entertainment.'

The club meets every Monday evening from 6.30pm till 9pm. For more information ring James on 01397 708827.

## Phoenix boxers pick up the prizes

**BOXING**

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club have kept up the momentum of recent performances with two fighters winning at a show in Dundee last Sunday.

James Aitchison, aged 14, was first up against the Dundee ABC's Dean Phillips. Faced with a determined opponent and a very vocal crowd, Aitchison took it all in his stride.

He was right in front of Phillips but always seemingly just out of reach as he slipped, blocked, changed angles and stepped in and out of range, all the while landing his own punches with radar like precision.

Through three rounds the Fort William youngster effortlessly slipped through the gears and put on a virtuoso performance to take a points victory.

Scottish novice champion Igor Sliwinski was next up against Dundee's Murray McLaughlin.

All three rounds were virtually carbon copies of each other as both boxers engaged in ring centre trying to gain the upper hand.

**Determination**  
As a spectacle the bout wasn't fantastic as their styles tended to cancel each other out, but their determination to succeed was admirable. Unbeaten Sliwinski edged ahead in the last round to take the win.

Heavyweight Chris Donnelly made his long-awaited return against Marco Navarro of Dundee ABC, in one of the most exciting bouts so far this season

in Scotland. After three rounds the Lochaber contingent was very confident of gaining the victory only to be left dismayed when the split decision was awarded to Navarro.

Coach Vince Lopez said: 'We realise this sometimes happens in boxing where judging is a subjective opinion. However it doesn't make it right. Chris has taken this all in his stride and has simply stated he can't wait for a rematch.'

Meanwhile, teenager Chris Bradley has once again been selected to box for his country against England this Saturday.

Lochaber fighters Igor Sliwinski, James Aitchison and Chris Donnelly after their weekend bouts. 20\_150boxing01

## Skye girls picked for Highland Swim Team



TWO SWIMMERS from Skye Dolphins will compete for the 18-strong Highland Swim Team at the three-day Scottish Short Course Championships, which start tomorrow at Inverness Leisure.

Ruth Gordon, aged 13, from Kearslyre near Portree, won a bronze medal at the British Championships last August and goes into the event hoping to make an impact against older swimmers.

**Contender**

And long distance specialist Rebecca Smith from Broadford is also a contender for honours, after setting an open water record earlier this year while competing with the Scottish development squad.

The championships cover the full Olympic

Left: Skye Dolphins' Ruth Gordon: competing in national championships. 20\_150swim01

**SWIMMING**

programme and will feature young talent from around the country.

Highland Swim Team will compete in 11 relay team events, ranging from 4 x 100 freestyle to 4 x 50 medley relays.

Swimmers will also be trying to take places in the individual finals, racing against the country's top swimmers including Olympic hopeful and current world champion, Hannah Miley from Inverurie.

**Supporting**

Jeff Tavendale, High Life Highland's swimming development officer, is supporting the Highland team.

He said: 'Our local swimmers love the home support and hope that the community will join in to support them over the weekend. Spectators are welcome between 9am and 6pm.'

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# Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

**WIN £1300**

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**All you have to do**  
We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

**Easy to enter**  
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition Rules**  
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

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## Primary league heads into the winter break

THE FINAL Oban Express Primary Football League fixtures of 2011 took place on Sunday at the Oban Community Pitch.

First match up was the Jags against Scorpions and it was an evenly matched contest with Scorpions opening the scoring through Cammy Williamson after an excellent passing move involving most of the team.

The Scorpions kept the Jags at bay for long spells, with Ian Munro and Euan Finlay stand-

ing tall in defence and when they were beaten keeper Ally Cupples was on hand with some good saves. But the Jags eventually found the equaliser when Finbar Dunn unleashed a screamer that made the net bulge.

Scorpions went on to defeat Galaxy, but not before Ellis Hunter had opened the scoring. The Scorpions, however, delivered a sting in the tail with a double from Tyler Robertson and a further goal from Craig

Millar. In their last game against Wasps Jamie Munro helped himself to a hat trick in a comfortable win.

Thistle had a good day but it started with a nervy draw against the wee Saints, who had a late chance to steal the win but Gavin Forgive's net bulge effort was well saved by the ever reliable Jamie Forgive in goal.

Two goals a-piece from Keir MacLean and Scott Mossman put Lochnell to the sword and another fine win was recorded against the All Stars with Oran Bryce scoring the winner with a great long range effort.

The Galaxy enjoyed a single goal win over Wasps, with Struan MacDonald coming up with the winner, but found themselves on the wrong side of a 2-1 scoreline against Tralee with Stuart Black and Ryan Henrickson scoring to cancel out Ellis Hunter's goal.

Tralee also enjoyed a win over the Wasps and had Ryan Strathern on the scoresheet and Sean Gordon also finding the net for the third week in a row.

The game of the day was the wee Saints 02 match up against the ever improving Pumas with the Saints taking the lead

### PRIMARY FOOTBALL

through Lennon Campbell, only for the black cats to storm in front with goals from Connor Moore and Ryan Barclay.

However, the strength of the wee Saints shone through in the end when they secured the win thanks to a Jude Bain double and a further strike from Aiden McPhee. The wee Saints came unstuck against their older stable mates Saints Boys with Daniel MacCuish, Lewis Buchanan and Craig Easton all getting their name on the scoresheet.

The boys had also enjoyed wins over Red Star and Jags, where Ruaridh Horne scored.

Pumas were involved in another high scoring encounter against the Jags and found themselves losing out to the odd goal in seven with Jags defender Mark McKnight scoring a crucial goal which was his first of the season and Finlay Lawson also added to the tally.

Lochnell had a mixed day but did record a win over Red Star, with deadly duo Stuart MacAllister and Finlay Bennett on target, but drew their match against the All Stars.



Action from the Oban Express Sunday League.



Oban Saints Under 13's Evan MacLean leaves the Lochgilphead defenders in his wake during last Sunday's Dumbarton Development League game at Oban Community Pitch. The Oban side won an enthralling encounter 5-3. 15, 15obansaints1

### Saints stay on Scottish Cup duty

#### FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints hope to get their Scottish Amateur Cup 4th round tie away to Dynamo East Kilbride played at the third time of asking this Saturday, weather permitting, after the game was called off last weekend due to the heavy rain which made the pitch at Brancumhall unplayable.

The match is due take place this Saturday at the same venue, kick-off 2pm. If the game is off on Saturday, it will be re-listed for January 7.

The East Kilbride team had intimidated to Saints secretary David Buchanan that they might have considered switching the game to Oban on Saturday, but unfortunately a few of their players couldn't make the trip due to work commitments, so that idea had to be shelved.

The incentive for the winners of the Dynamo v Saints game is a home tie in the 5th round of the national competition against top Aberdeen outfit Echt or Wallacetown from Ayrshire.

Saints have done well in the Scottish Amateur Cup, which has an entry of over 600 teams every year, reaching the last eight of the competition on two occasions.

In 2006/07 they lost away to Cupar Hearts and in 2009/10 they lost out in the quarter finals to Eddlewood, again away from home.

### Saints' youths - results and fixtures

#### YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s 5, Lochgilphead 3. Saints goalscorers were Jay Cooper (4) and Liam Higgins.

Regional Cup: Clyde Valley 5, Under 14s 2 (after extra time); EDFC United v Under 15s, postponed; Baljaffray Thistle v Under 16s, postponed.

This weekend's fixtures: Blair Thistle v Under 13s; Under 14s no game; Under 15s no game; Argyll Athletic v Under 16s.

### Alastair is the Lorn champion

#### CARPET BOWLS

THE Lorn Championships were hosted by Connell Bowling Club on December 9. Winner of the singles was Alastair Cruickshanks, Benderloch who defeated Taynuilt's Sandy MacFarlane in the final.

Doubles winners were Adrian and Ian from Cairnbaan with runners-up Lachie and partner from Benderloch.

Through to the second round of the Knock-out Cup are Benderloch, Easdale, Kilmore and Taynuilt

Club	P	Pts
Kilmore	3	18
Benderloch	3	14
Connell	4	14
North Connell	3	13
Taynuilt	4	11
Cairnbaan	2	10
Easdale	3	8

**Islay Golf Club**

**GOLF**

DECEMBER Medal: 1 Brian O'Neill 83 less 14 net 69; 2 Neil Johnston 86 less 11 net 75; 3 Keith MacDonald 84 less 7 net 77. C55 71

## Taynuilt star in close encounter with the Reds

### Friendly Taynuilt Amateurs 3 Lochgilphead Red Star 2

TAYNUILT came back from a 2-0 deficit to clinch victory against their fellow Argyll side at the Oban Community Pitch.

While Red Star fielded a young team for this game, Taynuilt also experimented with a new 4-1-4-1 formation to try and catch their opponents on the break.

Red Star took the lead midway through the first half when some shocking defending gave centre forward Gregor Peacock an easy goal.

Taynuilt had plenty chances to

equalise with Craig Campbell hitting the post just before the break from a corner and Stefan Campbell missing a few gilt-edged chances.

For the second half, Taynuilt manager Stuart Reid reverted to the more familiar 4-4-2 shape, with Kris Gillies coming on for Chris McCaig, and this instantly paid dividends.

Taynuilt were dominating possession and Red Star seemed content to defend their lead.

It was a shock, then, that Red Star went 2-0 up from a good counter attacking move through the heart of the Taynuilt defence with young striker Gregor Pea-

cock again on target for the Mid Argyll team.

Taynuilt did not give up though, and were back in the game with 25 minutes remaining. A run from deep by centre half Paul Carmichael was not challenged and he exchanged passes with Josh Rippon before sending an unstoppable shot past the helpless goalkeeper.

Wave upon wave of Taynuilt attack drew the game level in the last 10 minutes with Kris Gillies netting from inside the box.

Joe Rokitta, Mark Ferguson and Martin Bonner came on for Taynuilt during the second half. Then with minutes remaining

### FOOTBALL

Taynuilt were rewarded for their effort when sub Kris Gillies netted again to make the scoreline 3-2.

Stuart Reid said: 'It was a good test for us against an established team. That is important for us, because we intend to step up a level next year into the Scottish Amateur Football League.'

The previous Saturday Taynuilt had beaten Yoker 4-1 at Toryglen in the C.D.L. Cup. This Saturday Taynuilt are at home in the league against Knightswood United, with a 2pm kick-off.

## Youngsters turn on the style

### Dunbartonshire Football Development League Under 13

**Oban Saints 5 Lochgilphead Red Star 3**

OBAN Saints Under 13s entertained Argyll rivals Lochgilphead Red Star YFC at the Oban Community Pitch and it was the Saints youngsters who came out on top in a highly entertaining game.

Oban had much of the early pressure and it took an excellent double save from Ally Pow in the Red Star goal to keep them out after five minutes but he was helpless three minutes later as an Oban attack split the Star defence and a cool finish from Jay Cooper gave them a deserved lead.

### The Mid Argyll boys then woke up and had the better of the game in the middle of the half. Ryan Caskie and Lorne MacFarlane both had shots saved by the home keeper then the two combined for the equaliser in 19 minutes. Unfortunately they couldn't keep it level until half time, losing a poor goal at a corner after Ally Pow had done well to push the initial chance onto the bar. Half time 2-1.

Saints then doubled their lead early in the second half through Jay Cooper, quickly followed by a fourth goal from Liam Higgins. This seemed to finish the game, particularly as Red Star had to reshuffle their team with Craig Young going off after a very late challenge which went

### YOUTH FOOTBALL

unpunished by the referee.

To their credit Lochgilphead kept trying and Aaron Whitefield put Lorne MacFarlane through on goal but his shot was deflected on to the post and wide. Minutes later the two combined again with an excellent 1-2 which put Aaron through on goal and he finished well to give the boys hope.

Jay Cooper, who had a great game up front for Saints, netted his fourth goal of the game with three minutes left but Craig Young returned to run off his injury up front in the final minutes and he scored a third but it was too late for Lochgilphead who lost an entertaining game 5-3.



Cairnbaan pair Adrian MacKay and Colin Clark won the Portsonachan Open Doubles last Saturday after a close final against local pair Tracy and Graham Boyles. Last year's winners Robert Wilson and Paul Cook, along with Dalmally pair Scott MacIntyre and Ian Gibson were the losing semi-finalists. Portsonachan Carpet Bowling Club would like to thank their sponsors, without whose help this event would not be viable: Sgurr Energy, Dawnfresh Farming and Ardbrecknish House. 248bowls1no

## Macaulay Cup draw made live on radio

### SHINTY

THE draw for the 2012 Artemis Macaulay Cup was made live on Oban FM last weekend by Macaulay Association President Donald Skinner and Darren Reid, Camanachd Association Development Officer for Argyll and Bute.

The final is due on Saturday 18 August in Mossfield, Oban.

1st Round ties to be played on Saturday 12 May: Ballachulish v Bute; Taynuilt v Glasgow Mid Argyll; Glenorchy v Oban Camanachd; Inveraray v Kyles Athletic; Kinlochshiel v Newtonmore; Glenquhart v Kilmallie; Lovat v Fort William; Lochaber v Kingussie; Lochaber v Kingussie.

Semi final ties due to be played on Saturday 7 July: Glenorchy or Oban Camanachd or Ballachulish or Bute v Taynuilt or Glasgow Mid Argyll or Inveraray or Kyles Athletic; Lovat or Fort William or Kinlochshiel or Newtonmore v Glenquhart or Kilmallie or Lochaber or Kingussie.

## Brothers pick up the prizes

### RALLYING

BROTHERS Stephen and Kevin Lockhart's impressive season in the Scottish Rally Championship was rewarded at the recent end-of-season prizegiving in the Marriott Hotel, Glasgow.

Stephen and Kevin won third in class 10, for cars with over 2000cc engines, bringing their Mitsubishi Evo 7 home first in class twice and second in class on another event.

These results also meant that the boys finished in top ten placings for each of these events.

**Competitive**

Class 10 is considered among the most competitive and the boys are the youngest team racing at this level in the championship.

### Over 35s league

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
Taynuilt	4	4	0	0	12
Trialists	2	2	0	0	6
Emergency	2	2	0	0	6
WCM	1	0	0	0	3
Seil	2	1	0	1	3
Teachers	2	1	0	1	3
Spartak	4	1	0	3	3
STC	3	0	0	3	0
Hydro	4	0	0	4	0

LATEST scores: Hydro 1, Seil 5; Spartak, Trialists 6; Sail Trim Coaches 0, Taynuilt 3.

League positions at Tuesday 13 December

## Weather

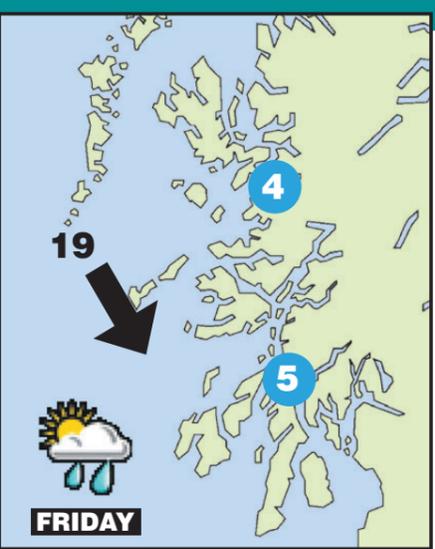
**Thursday** Cloudy.  
Winds moderate, south westerly  
Temperatures 0°C to 6°C

**Friday** Rain showers.  
Winds strong, north, north westerly  
Temperatures 2°C to 5°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Sunny intervals.  
Winds moderate, westerly  
Temperatures -2°C to 5°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, December 15, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	02.15 1.1 08.12 3.8 14.47 1.5 20.39 3.5	
Fri	02.58 1.2 08.55 3.7 14.47 1.5 20.39 3.5	
Sat	03.47 1.3 09.46 3.6 16.33 1.7 22.21 3.2	
Sun	04.45 1.4 10.48 3.4 17.45 1.7 23.32 3.1	
Mon	05.53 1.5 12.08 3.4 19.01 1.7 **** **	
Tues	01.06 3.1 07.07 1.5 13.41 3.4 20.12 1.6	
Wed	02.32 3.3 08.20 1.4 14.54 3.5 21.14 1.4	

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.

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## Drink-drivers caught in Caol

LOCHABER police have expressed disappointment after two men tested over the drink-drive limit in Caol early on Saturday – despite Northern Constabulary's festive crackdown.

One driver was caught at 2.30am and the second only 40 minutes later. Both failed roadside breath tests.

Sergeant David Campbell told *The Oban Times*: 'Police are very disappointed that despite our public campaign, two drivers were caught on Saturday, both in Fort William.'

One man is expected to appear at Fort William Sheriff Court on December 21, while the other will stand trial 'subject to further inquiries'.

## Glencoe Boat Club sets sail on fundraising drive

GLENCOE Boat Club is to launch a fundraising drive next month to support a full programme of events in 2012 – its 40th year of plying the waves.

The club kicked off anniversary celebrations with a club dinner at the Holly Tree Hotel in Kentallen on Friday, when newly elected club commodore Christine MacFarlane-Slack promised a busy season ahead. Events will include a full cruising and racing programme and the ever popular regatta.

The evening also saw a presentation of remaining trophies for last season's keel boat events and the point series trophy to Twig Olsen, Christine MacFarlane-Slack and David Cooper, who sailed a Trapper 28 'Redwing'.

## Lochaber High School Christmas concert

LOCHABER High School is staging a concert featuring Christmas music and other entertainment in aid of school funds on Monday evening at 7.30pm.

Tickets are available now from the school office priced £4, £2 for concessions.



9 771468 629072



Top skier Lachlan Veitch: sponsorship appeal to help him compete at the highest level.

## Ski ace Lachlan's sponsor appeal

A YOUNG West Highlands skier is looking for local sponsorship to help him secure his place among Europe's elite.

Lachlan Veitch, from Torlundy near Fort William, is already a member of Team GB Children's Alpine Ski Team and is current British Children's Slalom Champion. But financing his training and race schedule, which normally involves European or worldwide travel, is becoming his biggest hurdle.

A bursary covers only a small percentage of overall costs, which according to Lachlan's dad John will exceed £12,000 this year.

John is proud to be helping his 13-year-old son compete against Europe's best – but welcomes

any offers of assistance. He told *The Oban Times*: 'Lachlan is one of the UK's elite young alpine ski racers. He is also a very ambitious young lad who not only has the talent but also a great appetite for the sport.'

'Lachlan would be delighted to hear from any local businesses or individuals who feel they would like to endorse, support and work with a young local athlete and be part of his future development and road to success.'

He added: 'I am of course hoping my lottery numbers come up - otherwise I'll be living off Weetabix for the next six months!'

See 'Lachlan aiming for honours', back page.

## Pair charged with teenager's murder

TWO ISLE of Lewis men have appeared in court charged with the murder of a teenager in the Western Isles.

Liam Aitchison, aged 16, was found dead in a derelict building in the Steinish area on the outskirts of Stornoway on Lewis two weeks ago.

Jonathan Mackinnon, aged 21, from Stornoway, and 20-year-old Stefan Miller, from Carloway, appeared in private from custody at Inverness Sheriff Court. The pair made no plea and were remanded in custody. Liam is the first murder victim on Lewis for more than 40 years.

## Mallaig primary pupils forced to abandon damaged school

MALLAIG Primary pupils have temporarily abandoned their school after the building was badly damaged in last Thursday's 100mph storm.

The roof lost a large number of tiles and the internal ceiling collapsed and from yesterday, primary 4-7 pupils were being taught at Mallaig High School and P1-3 pupils at Mallaig Church Hall.

Mallaig PS head teacher Morag Martin told *The Oban Times*: 'It's all been a big adventure for the children and we are all looking at the positive side of things. If the weather holds up we were hoping to be back in by

next week – but at the moment it doesn't look like it will.'

'It's fortunate that we are coming up to a time of year when we can be a bit inventive with the Curriculum for Excellence. The Christmas parties and discos are still going ahead, and the Christmas play in the high school is still on on Monday night.'

'Thanks go to the high school staff, who have been very good to give us two of their rooms, the use of the hall and assembly rooms.'

She added: 'We are all working round the clock to try to get back to normal as quickly as possible.'

# Divers called in to assess A82 collapse

DIVERS were preparing to enter freezing Loch Lochy yesterday (Wednesday) to assess damage to the A82 after winter storms collapsed the retaining wall and part of the carriageway.

The operation, five miles north of Spean Bridge, comes only days after a rock fall closed the road between the Corran Ferry and Fort William.

And in a third blow ahead of Christmas, Scotland Transerv could not say when the A82 at Glen Gloy would be open both ways after floodwater caused a landslip. HGVs over 44 tonnes or with an axle weight over 11.5 tonnes currently face a detour via the A9 and A86 after geo-technical surveys detected 'slope instability' on the hillside over the road, two miles south of the Loch Lochy collapse. Two

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS**

sets of traffic lights are currently in operation on the A82 north of Fort William between Spean Bridge and Invergarry.

Transerv area manager Cathel MacAskill told *The Oban Times* on Tuesday an underwater survey was required at Loch Lochy-side after 'severe scouring' undermined the wall and the road.

He said: 'Investigative works are ongoing and arrangements have been made for divers to attend tomorrow (Wednesday), weather permitting, to further assess the problem.'

'We are grateful for the patience of the public in regard to these incidents. Our priority is

the safety of the public and we will return the road to normal as soon as we possibly can.'

Councillor Brian Murphy, chair of campaign group the A82 Partnership, warned brutal winter weather of recent weeks had only served to illustrate the vulnerability of the lifeline route. He told the *Oban Times*: 'The recent storms and resulting road closures have raised many questions and the partnership will be meeting early in the New Year to address the issues including, communications, tree felling and traffic management.'

'Improvements have to be made before the next winter storm. The storm has, once again, exposed the fragility of our transport infrastructure and the lack of investment in it over the last decades.'

Meanwhile, contractors have cleared all debris from the A82 following the successful removal of a dangerous overhanging crag a mile north of the Corran Ferry last weekend. Traffic lights and a single lane had been operating since Forestry Commission Scotland completed work on schedule at 6am on Monday, but contractors had made the area safe by Tuesday evening and traffic was flowing freely. The job required a complete road closure from Friday at 10pm, but the road was shut by 3pm following a landslide on the waterlogged hillside. Mr MacAskill told *The Oban Times* it had originally been intended to keep the traffic lights in place until December 20, but clear-up work was completed six days ahead of schedule.

See leader, page six.

## New man at helm of bid to boost High Street

EFFORTS to rejuvenate Fort William High Street have seen a consultant hired to put together a bid to the Scottish Government for extra financial support.

The town's Chamber of Commerce (CoC) and the Outdoor Capital of the UK have received funding from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) to hire Inverness man Alan Jones, who will prepare an application to turn the pedestrianised street into a 'business improvement district' (BID). Mr Jones previously worked with the successful Inverness BID last year.

The Fort BID would see a not-for-profit company set up to represent local businesses and promote the High Street as a retail sector.

If the application is successful, the chamber will receive a grant of around £20,000 to hire a development officer, as well as possible funding from Highland Council.

Eleven areas in Scotland have already set up BIDs, including Aberdeen city centre, Falkirk

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



'Benefits for community' – Robert Hawkes, 10, 150street01

and Kirkcaldy, with another 16 currently in the development stage. A BID can last for no more than five years, and will either be dissolved at the end of its term

or will seek a new mandate and term. CoC chairman Robert Hawkes told *The Oban Times* he expects the funding application to be submitted in three months time.

He said: 'HIE have provided funding for a consultant, who will hold preliminary meetings with those involved and will prepare the funding application. We see this as the only practical way of pulling everyone together, working in the same direction and producing some real, deliverable benefits for the local community.'

The High Street's retail sector has suffered a difficult 2011 with the closure of several businesses, including the Highland Sweet Company, Subway and chocolatiers Thorntons. High rents charged by the owners of commercial premises on the thoroughfare are believed to have been a factor. But it is hoped Nickel and Dime opening a store at the start of the month and re-development of the Grand Hotel could signal an upturn in fortunes for the thoroughfare.

## Geopark landscape explained

LOCHABER Geopark, the body which promotes the area's unique geology to the world, is erecting 20 interactive boards at key locations to allow visitors to understand how surrounding landscapes were formed.

The boards also have graphics scannable by mobile phones, directing users to further information on the internet. The project received funding from Scottish Natural Heritage and LEADER.

Geopark vice chairman Professor Ian Parsons said: 'Visitors travelling through Lochaber, as well as residents, can now read about the fascinating history of world famous geological features such as the Great Glen Fault and the Ben Nevis Caldera.'

Stone plinths have so far been placed in Glen Nevis, Treslaig village hall car park, near Letterfinlay on the A82, and beside the ferry terminal at Lochaline. All 20 panels will be in place by April. The geopark was recently stripped of its international status as it was unable to afford a project manager – a requirement of the European Geoparks Network.

## Mid Argyll sisters are voted first Angels of the Year

KIND hearted Mid Argyll sisters, Helen McCuaig and Lizzie Scott have been named joint winners of *The Oban Times*' first Angel of the Year Award.

For years, the inseparable pair have tirelessly and selflessly worked to support Glassary Primary School, Kilmichael-Glassary where they attended as children, as well as a number of local charities, in particular First Aid for Gambia.

Helen, 63, and Lizzie, 62, were nominated for the award by Richard Edie, head teacher of Glassary Primary School. They were then selected for the top award after a blind voting process by our judging panel. Each received cheques of £250 for their considerable community efforts.

Speaking at the presentation, Helen said: 'I actually thought I'd won Spot The Shinty Ball when I got the call. It was a total surprise. We are absolutely



Helen, left, and Lizzie receive their Angel of the Year awards from *Oban Times* editorial director, Stewart MacKenzie, 15, 150angelst

delighted to be the first winners.'

Struan Thorpe, Lochgilphead, was presented with the Runner Up award and a cheque for £100, in recognition of his work with the Mid Argyll Pipe Band.

Such was the quality of entry that two Highly Commended Awards were also presented, to Helen MacKay, in recognition of her running of the Ulva School Community Association, and Lucy Heycock and the Macmillan Cancer Support Team at Oban and Lorn Hospital, in recognition of their service.

*The Oban Times* editorial director, Stewart MacKenzie, said: 'The striking thing that came out of this was the number of people who put so much time into keeping their communities alive.'

'We felt it was important to recognise this commitment. This is the first year we've presented this award and we're delighted it has gone to such worthy winners.'

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### School turns back the clock at ceilidh

A REMOTE west coast Lewis primary school is holding a ceilidh this afternoon (Thursday) at which teachers, pupils and parents past and present will share their memories. Airidhantium School and Ness Historical Society are keen to find more photographs, records and memorabilia for a final exhibition before the school closes next year.

### Lochside plan

AN APPLICATION for two houses on croft land at Lochside, Fort William, has been submitted to Highland Council.

Donald Donnelly, of Tigh A Chladaich, Glenmallee Road, Caol, is seeking permission to build the homes at Croft 104 and 105, 70ms northeast of Tigh A Chladaich.

### £1,200 jackpot

THERE were no winners again in the Fort William FC lotto draw on Saturday. Numbers were 11-16-18. The jackpot goes up to £1,200 this week - the last chance to win in 2011.

### Community councils to reform

COMMUNITY councils in eight Lochaber and Skye districts will reform after enough people put their names forward following an extension of the deadline.

Nether Lochaber and Glencoe and Glen Etive will reconstitute after enough nominees came forward, as will Glendale, Broadford and Strath, and Skeabost and District on Skye. Elections will be needed in Dunvegan, Raasay and Sleat to decide the make up of the new councils, with postal ballots planned for early 2012.

### 'Dramatic fall' in living standards

THE HIGHLANDS faces an 'unprecedented, dramatic fall' in living standards under UK Government public spending cuts, says regional MSP Rhoda Grant.

Ms Grant hit out after Institute of Fiscal Studies figures showed average household incomes in the Highlands would stay lower in real terms until 2015 than over a decade earlier.

She said: 'The squeeze on living standards will continue because of the failure of the Tory-Lib Dem Government to get the economy growing to create jobs. Instead, 700,000 more public sector workers are forecast to lose theirs.'



Letters and News at Lochside: Fort William bound? 20\_50painting01

### Nurse meeting branded 'futile'

WEST Ardnamurchan Community Council (WACC) has branded the latest meeting between local residents and health officials about out-of-hours medical cover on the peninsula as an 'exercise in futility'.

NHS Highland and Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) held a drop-in day in Kilchoan for people to find out more about the plans for out-of-hours care. The latest proposal includes asking residents to join a volunteer first-aid responders unit which would treat patients until an ambulance arrives from Acharacle.

WACC spokesman Jon Haylett told *The Oban Times* very few locals went to the event as they felt health officials had 'nothing new to offer'. He said: 'They must understand now what we know - there aren't many people here who want to join the responders. I think there was more officials there than local people. The ball is in their court now. We know exactly what we want and what we need down here. It's their problem, not ours. There are some perfectly simple ideas but all of them depend on us having nurses based here.'

In a joint statement, NHS Highland and SAS said: 'A small number of people attended and were interested to hear about the possibilities for the future. The next step will be to gauge any interest from healthcare professionals living in the area in participating in an emergency responder model.'

One of the two district nurses who currently provide cover for the area, Jessie Colquhoun, is to retire in February, prompting the discussions on emergency cover.

**"They've said they realise how important the painting is to the local area, so why take it away?" Elizabeth MacDonald.**

## Foxley: Highlands lead way over rural schools

HIGHLAND rural schools must be at the centre of community life and learning to ensure education services are the best they can be in remote areas.

That was the message from Highland Council leader Michael Foxley and director of education Hugh Fraser to the Scottish Government Commission on Rural Schools at a special hearing in Inverness last week.

Highland Council was controversially excluded from membership of the commission - currently taking evidence on how best to deliver rural education - despite having the most rural schools, more than 150, of any Scottish region.

To compensate, Councillor Foxley asked to make a one-hour presentation to ensure the commission was made aware of the Highlands' track record. Key points raised included:

□ The need for a substantial informal consultation with parent councils, headteachers, with staff and at ward forums, long in advance of any formal consultation on closing or merging rural primaries. The council piloted this model through its recent schools amalgamation and rebuilding project in Greater Fort William.

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

□ Local authorities should consider 3-18 education in rural areas and not just simply concentrate on primary schools.

□ New school buildings should be designed as community facilities to maximise their use. This has led to well used community facilities at Ardnamurchan and Portree high schools, as well as in rural primaries such as Acharacle and the new Lochaline primary school, which includes a fire station.

□ Rural schools in the future will need to maximise the integration between rural primaries and rural secondaries to avoid any pupils failing during transition. Increasingly, secondary schools in rural areas will become rural learning centres delivering education at Higher, FE and even HE level to 16 to 18 year olds within the high school as well as to adults within the wider community.

□ The dynamics within a school once a school roll drops to single figures. This has led to primary schools such as Glenborrodale closing because parents of remaining pupils wished their children to be at

# Museum U-turn over painting sale

WEST Highland Museum (WHM) trustees have reversed their decision to sell a valuable Victorian painting and are now considering moving it from its current Arisaig home to Fort William to allow the public greater access.

WHM trustees caused a row with Arisaig locals after considering selling *Letters and News at Lochside*, valued at up to £60,000, to help fund future developments of the Fort William museum.

But chairman of museum trustees Richard Sidgwick

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

said: 'We were unaware of the strength of local feeling and the perception of its importance as part of the museum's collection, for which we apologise. We have decided to reverse the decision to sell and are looking again at our long held view that we do not wish to displace existing exhibits to make the necessary space available.' WHM is considering a number of options for hanging the painting, including a room in the upper floor of the museum.

Mr Sidgwick said moving the painting to Fort William would allow more people to see it, but any changes in future would be discussed with Arisaig Community Council first.

'Display of the painting in the museum will secure its long term future,' he said. 'And it will be appreciated by the 30,000 visitors that we are now able to anticipate annually.'

Comunn Eachraidh Arasaig (Arisaig Historical Society) member Elizabeth MacDonald welcomed the news, but said locals were apprehensive about

the painting leaving Arisaig. She told *The Oban Times*: 'It would be a pity if it left the area. There is no reason for it to come down to Fort William. They've said they realise how important the painting is to the local area so why take it away?'

The 1868 work by Henry Tamworth Wells, of a boat on Loch Eill-side, depicts men whose descendants still live locally, and was bequeathed to WHM by the late Miss Joan Becher. It currently hangs in Arisaig House where it is open to public view.

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### Rotary Club charter dinner

The Rotary Club of Lochaber held its charter dinner in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, last Tuesday night. Top table guests pictured are, back row: Tom Fraser, President Elect Sheana Fraser, Oban Rotary Club member George Miller, Assistant District Governor Andy Lees, Liz Lees. Front: Helen Brian, Rev Donald MacQuarry, Pat MacQuarry and President Paul Brian.

### Sports centre plan off to flying start

THE CAMPAIGN for a multi-sports centre in northwest Skye is off to a flying start after local people created a new community company to lead the bid.

At a public meeting at Dunvegan Community Hall, the audience of more than 70 unanimously supported setting up the North West Skye Recreational Association (NWSRA), passed its constitution and elected a nine-strong management board.

NWSRA can now start identifying potential funding sources for an all weather sports pitch and indoor recreation and sports centre with changing rooms, showers, gym, meeting rooms and a café.

Last month *The Oban Times* revealed that Hibs, Celtic and Scotland football legend Murdo MacLeod agreed to become patron of the association and gave the ambitious plan his 'full backing'.

Speaking after the meeting, NWSRA chairman John Hermse said he was 'delighted' so many people came along and gave their support.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Now the hard work starts to identify sources of funding. Health and fitness are important to the well being of the community.'

Currently people in Edinbane, Waternish, Dunvegan, Glendale, Struan and Carboist must travel at least 20 miles to Portree for sport and recreation. A community consultation, local schools, community trusts, businesses and sports voluntary organisations have already backed the multi-sports facility.

### Road group's bid for early start on A82 upgrade

ROAD campaign group the A82 Partnership has pledged to work with government to bring forward dates for major upgrades of the lifeline route.

The partnership wants planned works to be 'spade ready' so they can start earlier should schemes elsewhere stall.

Last week the Scottish Government announced a £200 to £250 million investment in the road between 2017 and 2025.

Partnership chairman Councillor Brian Murphy said: 'We will be seeking a meeting with the transport minister [Keith Brown] in the New Year to take forward the upgrading of the road between Tarbet and Invernan.'

But Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy said: 'People in the West Highlands have been waiting for serious action to upgrade their lifeline trunk road, instead of more warm words.'

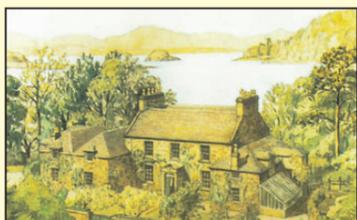
Meanwhile, all statutory objections to the planned Puplit Rock and Crianlarich improvements have been removed. A date has been set to address the concerns of the one outstanding non-statutory objector to the Crianlarich bypass. Work could start on both projects in 2012/2013 as funding has been approved. A £500,000 engineering and environmental study on Loch Lomondside to guide all road upgrades will be completed by March 2012.

### Music school Christmas concert

LOCHABER Music School is holding its Christmas concert in St Margaret's Church, Roy Bridge, at 3pm on Sunday.

Orchestral and choral items, handbell ringers, a clarsach ensemble, and carols for congregation and orchestra will set the scene for Christmas. Home-baked seasonal refreshments and a fund-raising raffle in Roy Bridge Village Hall will follow the concert. Proceeds will help fund classes for the music school's 120 pupils during the coming year. Organiser Peter Rose said: 'Last year, we unfortunately had to cancel because of the heavy snow - we're hoping for better luck this year!'

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**PE teacher's sudden death shocks Oban school**



STAFF and pupils at Oban High School have been shocked by the sudden death of Jim Lay, head of the school's PE department.

The former Campbeltown man, who was 54 years old, was found dead in his home last Friday. Oban High School head teacher Peter Bain said: 'Jim was a lovely, friendly person to sit and talk with. He had an enthusiasm for his job and was always very passionate when discussing how to improve his subject for all his pupils.'

'He loved being a teacher.' A successful basketball coach with Glasgow ladies team, St. Maurice Rocks, and formerly the Scottish Women's under-16 squad, Basketball Scotland described Jim as a 'driving force' in the sport, who would be sadly missed by the basketball community.

**Waves swamp car at Inveraray**

A CAR became submerged at the Aray bridge traffic lights in Inveraray during high tide and high winds in the Royal Burgh.

Emergency services attended the incident on Tuesday after as the driver tried to negotiate deep flood water. The two occupants evacuated the car as the tide rose.

**Christmas cancelled in Oban?**

PASSERS by thought Christmas had been cancelled in Oban on Wednesday morning after the Argyll Square's Christmas tree was cut down. Stormy weather had made the tree unsafe, but it was to be replaced as *The Oban Times* went to press.

**NEWSDESK  
01397 703003**



Lisa Anderson, Dr Mac Armstrong, Anne May, Major John Swan and Friends of Oban Hospice volunteer, Catherine MacKechnie at the Light Up A Life ceremony. 15\_1501lightu

**Light Up A Life remembrance in Oban**

MANY OF those that had lost a loved one over recent years gathered at Oban's Corran Halls on Tuesday night to pay tribute to their memory.

Light Up A Life, run by the Friends of Oban Hospice, gives people an opportunity to light a candle and remember those who

had passed away at a time of year when they may be missed most.

Hosted by the chairman of the Oban Hospice Board, Dr Mac Armstrong, it is the sixth year the half-hour Oban ceremony has been held.

The event is the biggest fund-

raiser for Oban Hospice, with donations gathered throughout the year and at the end of the ceremony.

This year, more than £9,000 through the Light Up A Life Campaign.

A reading was given by Lisa Anderson, who recently started

working with the hospice, while prayer and illumination of the candles was led by Major John Swan.

Pipers from Oban High School Pipe Band gave a short performance before Bob Clarke, of the Friends of Oban Hospice, gave the vote of thanks.

Anne May, secretary of the Friends of Oban Hospice, said: 'It is at this time of year when people think most of friends or family they have lost.'

'This year, we had 350 entries into the book of dedications and we hope this short event is of great benefit to people.'

**Carbon capture project meeting**

A POSTPONED meeting to discuss the implications of a carbon capture experiment at Ardmucknish Bay, North Connel, has been re-scheduled for Benderloch's Victory Hall tonight (Thursday).

From 8pm, Dr Henrik Stahl, of the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) at Dunstaffnage, will answer questions on the proposed research project and explain in detail what the potential effects will be.

**Book-keeper embezzled £150,000**

A WOMAN who embezzled more than £150,000 from a Benderloch-based sail making company will have to wait for her sentence until next year.

Oban woman Kirsteen Johnston, 34, appeared at the town's sheriff court on Tuesday, having previously admitted embezzling £150,918.35 from Owen Sails between February 9, 2005 and March 17, 2008.

The court heard how the company's former book-keeper had been recording cheques as cancelled when they had actually been cashed and put into bank accounts in the joint names of Johnston and her husband. The money was also being put towards credit cards, store cards and catalogue company payments.

The misdemeanours were only discovered after she went into hospital with pregnancy complications. Discrepancies were then spotted and co-owner Diana Shellcock looked into the accounts.

Johnston's husband was originally charged alongside his wife but the Crown decided not to proceed against him.

Johnston, of Shuna, 46 Pulpit Drive, was sacked at a disciplinary hearing on April 28, 2008 and a chartered accountant completed a full audit into the books before police were contacted in May that year.

Procurator fiscal, David Gilancy, said: 'There appeared to be a real systemic issue with the company's books. Essentially,

the money was being siphoned off.'

The extent of the embezzlement would have been a serious hit for any small business, he said, adding that it had the potential to be 'catastrophic.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said he wanted to know the full impact of the fraud on Owen Sails before deciding on the punishment. Sentence was deferred until January 23 and psychiatric reports were ordered at the request of the defence.

**A83 in panto season farce**

'It's open' - 'Oh, no it's not!'

MOTORISTS were left furious and confused on Tuesday after Transport Scotland closed the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful - less than 24 hours after announcing it had reopened.

The transport quango said it was being as 'proactive' as it could be, taking into account 'new information' on weather conditions which could potentially cause another landslide. The road has been closed for most of the month following a landslide.

'Badly handled' However, Donald Kelly, one of an Argyll First group of Kintyre councillors leading a campaign to have the A83 upgraded, said the situation had been 'badly handled,' and any announcement should have been delayed at least until forecasted storms had passed.

Argyll and Bute Council's spokesperson for transport, Duncan MacIntyre, also described Transport Scotland's announcement as 'premature.'

A spokesperson for Transport Scotland said: 'We've been giving almost daily updates as to the situation on the A83 and we've been doing that proactively for two weeks now - this is not a decision we have taken lightly.'

Plans to install floodlighting and monitoring equipment had to be postponed due to high

**REPORT**

by **Steven Flanagan** sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

Winds. It is hoped it can be installed by the end of the week, again, weather dependant.

Until it is, closures between 4pm-8.30am will again be the norm. Councillor Kelly said: 'The timing was unfortunate given the fact that the forecast was for severe weather. It would probably have been much better if Transport Scotland had delayed the opening for at least another day. I've had a lot of hauliers and businesses phoning me venting their anger.'

'It's clearly been badly handled. If you've said you're opening the road, open it.' Mr MacIntyre said: 'Transport Scotland had said the opening would be weather permitting - that may have been premature given the forecast.'

The situation highlighted the need to do something with the road, he said, but cost estimates at making the collapsing hill safe are 'in comparison with a new Forth Road Bridge.'

Argyll First hope to collect upwards of 20,000 signatures on their 'Sign for the A83' petition, which enjoys cross party support and will be presented to the Scottish Government next year.



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**An Oidhche ron Nollaig**  
Christmas Eve

Cèilidh Òrain nam Piòbaircan  
Songs of the Pipers  
9f/9pm



Seirbheis Nollaig  
Christmas Ecumenical Service  
11f/11pm



**Là na Nollaig**  
Christmas Day

Leon sa Gheamhradh  
Leon in Wintertime  
5.05f/5.05pm



Wallace & Gromit:  
Mallachd an Fhir-rabaide  
The Curse of the Were-Rabbit  
5.35f/5.35pm

Is Mise Michelle McManus  
9f/9pm

Na Caimbeulaich  
The Campbells  
10f/10pm

**Là an dèidh na Nollaig**  
Boxing Day

Turas Tony  
9f/9pm

**Diciadain 28mh**  
Wednesday 28th

Caman  
Shinty  
8.25f/8.25pm

King Kenny: Sgeulachd DalGLISH  
8.55f/8.55pm

**Diardaoin 29mh**  
Thursday 29th

Soillse: Eilean Takuu  
There once was an island  
9f/9pm

**Dihaoine 30mh**  
Friday 30th

Sweet Dreams -  
Sgeulachd Patsy Cline  
8.55f/8.55pm

**Oidhche Challainn**  
Hogmanay

Balaich Bhatarsaigh  
@ Na Barrowlands  
Vatersay Boys  
@ The Barrowlands  
9.30f/9.30pm

Iseabail  
Ishbel MacAskill  
10.30f/10.30pm

Cèilidh na Bliadhna' Ùire -  
Bhon Eilean Sgitheanach  
New Year Cèilidh -  
From the Isle of Skye  
11.30f/11.30pm

Featuring:  
Donnie Munro  
Mànan  
Julie Fowles  
Arthur Cormack  
Christine Primrose  
Angus Nicolson Trio...  
and many more!

**Là na Bliadhna' Ùire**  
New Year's Day

A' Bhliadhna 2011  
News Review  
4.35f/4.35pm

Dolina  
9f/9pm

Dha Gordon a-mhàin  
Just For Gordon  
10f/10pm

**Diluain 2 Faoilleach**  
Monday 2 January

SPL  
Kilmarnock v St Mirren  
5.25f/5.25pm

An Ribheid Chiùil  
Reed Music  
8.30f/8.30pm



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Kenny DalGLISH photo © Press Association Images. Sweet Dreams: Sgeulachd Patsy Cline: Gail Watson as Patsy Cline © Leslie Black Photography, all rights reserved. Balaich Bhatarsaigh photo © Julie Broadfoot.

**Pensioner airlifted to hospital**

A 74-YEAR-OLD Kilchoan woman was airlifted from Ardnamurchan to hospital by the Royal Navy's search and rescue helicopter last Monday night.

The Sea King from HMS Gannet in Prestwick was scrambled to Mingary after the alarm was raised around 5pm.

Snowy conditions at the time meant using an ambulance from Strontian to take the woman to the Belford Hospital in Fort William was judged too risky. Half the journey is over a twisting, single-track road.

The four-strong duty crew reached Kilchoan at 5.50pm and transferred the ill woman, who had been assessed by locally based paramedics, to Fort William. In blizzard conditions, the crew was forced to fly at 500ft using a combination of night vision goggles and radar transit.

The chopper arrived at the town's West End Car Park at 6.42pm. A waiting ambulance took the patient to the Belford.

A relative told *The Oban Times*: 'She walked from the helicopter to the ambulance. I think the reason for the helicopter was to do with the roads. They were not sure if the ambulance could make it out.'

Pilot and aircraft commander Lieutenant Commander Geoff Richardson said: 'Flying through and round the snow showers can bring with it some risk and does cost time. However, even taking all of that into consideration, we were still able to offer the most rapid response as the wintry conditions had made road transfer hazardous.'

**Caol man stole £27,900**

A CAOL man stole £27,900 from his partner's bank account over 11 months without her knowledge.

Gavin MacKinnon, of 8 Mackay Crescent, was ordered to repay the money back in March after he pled guilty to taking the cash from bank machines in Lochaber between October 21 2009 and March 6 2010. The 26-year-old also admitted stealing the woman's bank card and PIN between October 21 2009 and November 13 2009. Defence agent Hamish Melrose told Fort William Sheriff Court his client had taken over all the household debts instead of paying back the money directly.

Sheriff Jamie Gilchrist deferred sentencing MacKinnon until December 21, asking for clarification of exactly how much money has been repaid.



Lochaline Primary School on their guided tour of the allotments site.

**Big demand for new allotments**

Would-be gardeners join waiting list as productive land is snapped up

A PROJECT to transform a plot of ground at Lochaline into productive garden land is rapidly taking shape - despite recent gales, rain and snow.

And demand from residents keen to grow their own produce has been such that all plots have been taken - with would-be allotmenters having to join a waiting list.

The self-sufficiency drive will see vegetables, fruit and herbs growing in 26 community allotments and in a polytunnel gifted by Ardnornish Estate next spring. Garden sheds, a community meeting area, benches and a log cabin will also feature on the site.

Lochaline pupils have already toured the project, only yards from the school, after becoming proud tenants of Plot no.1. The children will use the site for their weekly nature club.

Meanwhile, volunteers have finished planting around 420 birch, hazel, rowan, hawthorn, wild cherry and dogwood saplings, donated by The Woodlands Trust, round the perimeter. Fencing off the boundary and groundworks are also complete - but the log cabin is proving a major undertaking.

Lochaline allotments steering group - soon to be called Community Land Association Morvern (CLAM), is organising the work parties.

Secretary Clare Holohan told *The Oban Times*: 'Following two well-attended courses run by Alan MacKintosh of LOG-ical Building, we are slowly completing the build, mainly on a volunteer basis.'

'The last session went well. We got one big log in position, cut a first notch for the

By STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

door and are ready with another log for the next session. Alan was a great help when we couldn't work out how to proceed with log selection. Many thanks to Morvern Community Woodland Group in helping to organise the workshops and further supporting the build on a voluntary basis.'

She added: 'There has been a lot of support from the community and allotment holders for the project, from inspiring ideas such as a community forest garden and orchard, to constructing a clay oven with left over clay from the site clearance. 'Recycled plastic bottle greenhouses, creating a willow structure and even plans for bio diesel manufacture have also been suggested.'

Upcoming jobs include constructing the polytunnel and a community tool shed, making a composting area and continuing with the log cabin. Local horses are also helping out - by contributing manure for next year's crop. Anyone wishing to help out can contact Clare at clareholohan@hotmail.co.uk.

The allotment land is being leased by Ardnornish Estate to Morvern Community Development Company at a peppercorn rent of £1 per year. Highland LEADER, Awards for All and the Climate Challenge Fund are funding the project.

A public meeting to discuss the project will be held at Lochaline Village Hall on Wednesday January 25 at 7.30pm. All are welcome and all allotment holders are asked to attend.

**VAL celebrates quality award**

LOCHABER provost Allan Henderson recently presented Voluntary Action Lochaber with a European-standard award at a 'celebration of quality' event in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William.

The EFQM Committed to Excellence award to VAL staff could potentially open funding doors, chief development manager Janis MacDonald said.

'It's not just about being good at a Scottish and British level, but at a European level as well,' Ms MacDonald told *The Oban Times*. 'Looking to the future, this will be crucial, especially given the current economic crisis, in leaving us better placed to win more work in areas such as housing support, preventing homelessness and accountancy



Left to right: Voluntary Action Lochaber staff, left to right, Janis MacDonald, Deirdre Coull, Flora McKee, Bryan Powell, Rachel Tonks and Sean Fraser look on as Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson presents chair Harry Whiteside with the award.

and payroll services for charities and small businesses.' Dave Bradley from Quality Scotland and Paul White of the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations were guest speakers at the event. Local MP Charles Kennedy also attended.

**Consumers warned over dangers of debt**

A WESTERN Isles credit union has joined Lochaber Citizens Advice Bureau in warning consumers to avoid falling prey to unscrupulous moneylenders over the festive period.

Hi-Scot Credit Union is highlighting the dangers of debt after it was revealed some High Street banks charge more than 800,000 per cent annual interest on unauthorised overdrafts.

The 2,000-member union is launching a campaign across the Highlands and Islands to make people more aware of the cost of borrowing.

The move follows an *Oban Times* report two weeks ago on extortionate loan charges - despite a historically low Bank of England interest rate of just 0.5 per cent.

We highlighted how one US-owned payday loans company currently advertising on TV offers a £50 loan over 30 days for £64.75 - an interest rate

of 2,222 per cent. Should the borrower prove unable to pay anything back for a year, the debt would grow to £1,112.

Also, loan rates on many credit cards stand at 20 per cent or more, meaning someone owing £10,000 must pay £2,000 per year - £40 a week - simply to repay the interest, while the original debt remains.

Hi-Scot Credit Union general manager David Mackay condemned lenders' exploitation of the poor and vulnerable.

**Excessive**

He said: 'At a time where everyone is feeling the pinch it seems absurd that the banks on which we all depend, many of them state owned, can justify these excessive interest rates.'

'A combination of unauthorised overdraft rates at this level and the massive rates charged by payday loan companies often lead to relatively

small debts becoming unmanageable simply because of additional fees and charges.'

There is no cap on the maximum interest a bank or payday loan provider can charge. However, credit union rates are capped at two per cent per month and actual rates are often much lower.

Cath King of Highland Council said: 'The Highland Council is working in partnership with the Hi-Scot Credit Union to encourage people who live and work in the Highlands to consider the credit union as a more affordable source of credit than high interest lenders.'

'The terms and conditions of loans from the credit union are presented in a very straightforward way which makes it less likely to get into the pitfalls of hidden clauses that often catch people out.' For more information visit www.hi-scot.com.

**Man assaulted former girlfriend**

A FORT William man who drunkenly assaulted his former girlfriend before trying to force his way into her home has been fined £235.

Iain Dunleavy grabbed the woman and 'shook her like a rag doll' as the couple argued while walking home from the pub, Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie told Fort William Sheriff Court.

The 19-year-old was later seen kicking and headbutting the front door of the woman's house, demanding to be let in, and struggling with two men who came out to calm him down.

Dunleavy, of 46 Lundy Road, pled guilty to assaulting the woman on Fort William High Street on February 2. He also admitted shouting, swearing, repeatedly banging on the door of 65 Lochaber Road, trying to force entry and struggling with two men.

Dunleavy, who has applied to join the army, pled guilty in March with sentencing deferred for good behaviour. After hearing Dunleavy had admitted racially abusing five Indian people in April, Sheriff Jamie Gilchrist fined him, saying: 'You haven't taken the opportunity the court has given you to be of good behaviour.'

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# Dangerous Dalmally junction needs accident before warning signs

IMPROVEMENTS to a dangerous junction in an Argyll village will not be made until after a serious accident occurs, according to the area's community council.

'surgery junction' sits on the east side of the village and is a busy access to the village's complex of surgery, post office, pharmacy and community centre.

Innishail Community Council claims there have been numerous 'near misses' at the poorly signed junction, which lies on a straight section of road.

Despite attempts to convince Transerv Scotland to install warning signs to prevent accidents, the roads authority is unwilling to do so because there are currently no accident statistics to support the community's argument.

Minutes from the most recent community council meeting read: 'The secretary recorded zero progress with this issue.'

In the meantime, local postmistress Gilli Crystal has organised a petition in the Post Office to show support for traf-

fery calming measures. A spokesman for Transerv Scotland said: 'Transport Scotland's policy is to promote intervention based on the history of recorded road accidents.'

Dalmally's now infamous

However, Glenorchy and

highlighted after frustrated drivers

Warning signs



Youngsters on St Columba's pupil council helped to organise a collection of teddies for Blythwood orphanages in Eastern Europe.

## Orphans to get Christmas teddies from Oban

AN OBAN Primary school has rallied round to help those with very little this Christmas. Children and parents organised a collection of 160 teddy bears and soft toys to send to deprived children in eastern European orphanages by the Blythwood charity.

The schools parent council and chairman Frances Parkinson said the pupils' response had been fantastic, bringing their own toys that they no longer needed.

'It is the fact that they were doing something for other children that have nothing,' she said. 'This is personal - from one child to another.'

Ryan MacDonald, primary five, made an announcement at St Columba's Cathedral on Saturday and parishioners also contributed toys. Frances said Blythwood had given great support and were hoping to let the children know when their teddies had completed their trip from Oban to Eastern Europe.



DAVID Logan, master of Lodge 180, right, and Douglas Craig, provincial grand master of Argyll and the Isles, left, were at Oban High School to hand over a cheque for £500 to the school's pipe band major Angus MacColl.

## Lorn Lines

THERE are fun and festivities for visitors of all ages as the National Trust for Scotland's Arduaine Garden gears up for Christmas. The garden will be open right through the winter as usual between 9.30am and sunset, but from 12 noon-4pm this Saturday, December 17 and Sunday, December 18, Santa will be making a return visit.

Property manager Maurice Wilkins said: 'There will be more than a touch of Christmas magic at Arduaine during our Christmas weekend. Santa will be here to take down Christmas wishes and it's never too early for mulled wine and mince pies so we'll have plenty of those too, as well as snacks and drinks for the children.'

There's always something to see in the garden and sharp-eyed visitors will spot something in flower every day, even in winter. It's a surprise to see early rhododendrons in flower in December - or are they late?

For further information, please call 0844 493 2216.

KEEN amateur photographer Alex Farquhar, from Fort William, entertained, and educated, members of Oban Photographic Club at their weekly meeting in the Regent Hotel Oban on Monday, December 5. In the first half, Alex showed images from America including the Grand Canyon, Yosemite National Park, Death Valley and Bryce Canyon. Alex also showed pictures from Ayres Rock in Australia and mountain scenes from Switzerland.

In the second half the images were all from Alex's home turf, showing Ben Nevis, Glen Coe, Rannoch Moor and a selection from the Isle of Eigg. As well as showing the images, Alex gave a superb commentary explaining how, and why, he took the images as well as noting what he hoped to do in the future. Alex's images can be seen on his web-site Lochaber Light.

The next meeting of the club is next Monday, December 19 when members judge the entries for the 'Dougie McIntyre' subtle humour competition as well as sampling mince pies etc.

AT LORN Archaeological and Historical Society's November meeting, popular speaker Julian Hill entertained the audience with a talk on early mapmakers such as Timothy Pont and later explorers of the 1700's and 1800's who helped discover such places as Staffa.

Some ground breaking ideas in geology came about through James Hutton's Scottish tours and ideas, who was later acknowledged as the founder of modern geology.

John MacCulloch's travels on Mull resulted in the discovery of a fossilised tree adding more weight to Hutton's often ignored theories.

The next meeting of the society is tomorrow evening Friday, December 16 and takes on a local flavour with author Robert Hay from Lismore. The subject is Balgrunde: The life, death and rebirth of an island township. Visitors are always welcome to the meetings that start at 7.30pm.

## Councillor calls for surplus land to be given up for much-needed housing

A COUNCILLOR is calling for surplus council land to be given to housing associations for new homes. Roddy McCuish, Oban South and the Isles Councillor, said the move would make it more affordable for new houses to be built, to tackle the area's

huge shortage of affordable housing. He said: 'The biggest challenge the housing associations face is land. I would like to see the council free up more land and not sell it to them, but give it to them in some sort of grant.'

'To me it is a win-win situation for the council - what's the point of sitting on blocks of land when the registered social landlords are looking for land to build on? To me it is an obvious solution for the council.'

## Skerryvore auction raises £2,500 for children's charity

TRAD rockers Skerryvore have raised more than £2,500 for Children in Need following a hotly contested auction in which the boys offered a one-off personal gig.

Sarah Gleave, from Bruichlyvie, successfully bid £2,562.50 at the 11th hour to beat a leading bid from former Tobermory woman Lindsay (MacIver) Zinge, who now lives in Switzerland.

Sarah, who runs the Laser Cutting Services Company, said she would like the band to play in Buchlyvie at her 50th birthday party in December 2012.

'She said: 'I first saw the band last Hogmanay at Stirling Castle and as soon as I heard them I thought they would be great for my birthday party.'

'I recently saw them in the Three Villages Hall, Arrochar the day after my grandson was born. My friend and I were up dancing to every song. The boys must have thought I was mad.'

## Oban lifeboat carries expectant Isle of Mull mum to mainland

A PREGNANT woman from the Isle of Mull was transferred to the mainland by lifeboat after going into labour late on Sunday night. Oban lifeboat carried the expectant mother to Oban, where she was then transferred to hospital in Paisley.

However, had the birth taken place aboard the lifeboat, she would have been in good hands, as two ambulance men, a midwife and Dr Colin Wilson of the lifeboat crew were all on board.

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# Primary league heads into the winter break

THE FINAL Oban Express Primary Football League fixtures of 2011 took place on Saturday at the Oban Community Pitch.

First match up was the Jags against Scorpions and it was an evenly matched contest with Scorpions opening the scoring through Cammy Williamson after an excellent passing move involving most of the team.

The Scorpions kept the Jags at bay for long spells, with Ian Munro and Euan Finlay stand-

ing tall in defence and when they were beaten keeper Ally Cupples was on hand with some good saves. But the Jags eventually found the equaliser when Finbar Dunn unleashed a screamer that made the net bulge.

Scorpions went on to defeat Galaxy, but not before Ellis Hunter had opened the scoring. The Scorpions, however, delivered a sting in the tail with a double from Tyler Robertson and a further goal from Craig

Millar. In their last game against Wasps Jamie Munro helped himself to a hat trick in a comfortable win.

Thistle had a good day but it started with a nervy draw against the wee Saints, who had a late chance to steal the win but Gavin Forgive's net bound effort was well saved by the ever reliable Jamie Forgive in goal.

Two goals a-piece from Keir MacLean and Scott Mossman put Lochnell to the sword and another fine win was recorded against the All Stars with Oran Bryce scoring the winner with a great long range effort.

The Galaxy enjoyed a single goal win over Wasps, with Struan MacDonald coming up with the winner, but found themselves on the wrong side of a 2-1 scoreline against Tralee with Stuart Black and Ryan Henrickson scoring to cancel out Ellis Hunter's goal.

Tralee also enjoyed a win over the Wasps and had Ryan Strathern on the scoresheet and Sean Gordon also finding the net for the third week in a row.

The game of the day was the wee Saints 02 match up against the ever improving Pumas with the Saints taking the lead

## PRIMARY FOOTBALL

through Lennox Campbell, only for the black cats to storm in front with goals from Connor Moore and Ryan Barclay.

However, the strength of the wee Saints shone through in the end when they secured the win thanks to a Jude Bain double and a further strike from Aiden McPhee. The wee Saints came unstuck against their older stable mates Saints Boys with Daniel MacCuish, Lewis Buchanan and Craig Easton all getting their name on the scoresheet.

The boys had also enjoyed wins over Red Star and Jags, where Ruairidh Horne scored.

Pumas were involved in another high scoring encounter against the Jags and found themselves losing out to the odd goal in seven with Jags defender Mark McKnight scoring a crucial goal which was his first of the season and Finlay Lawson also added to the tally.

Lochnell had a mixed day but did record a win over Red Star, with deadly duo Stuart MacAllister and Finlay Bennett on target, but drew their match against the All Stars.



Action from the Oban Express Sunday League.

## Taynuilt star in close encounter with the Reds

Friendly Taynuilt Amateurs 3 Lochgilhead Red Star 2

TAYNUILT came back from a 2-0 deficit to clinch victory against their fellow Argyll side at the Oban Community Pitch.

While Red Star fielded a young team for this game, Taynuilt also experimented with a new 4-1-4-1 formation to try and catch their opponents on the break.

Red Star took the lead midway through the first half when some shocking defending gave centre forward Gregor Peacock an easy goal.

Taynuilt had plenty chances to

equalise with Craig Campbell hitting the post just before the break from a corner and Stefan Campbell missing a few gilt-edged chances.

For the second half, Taynuilt manager Stuart Reid reverted to the more familiar 4-4-2 shape, with Kris Gillies coming on for Chris McCaig, and this instantly paid dividends.

Taynuilt were dominating possession and Red Star seemed content to defend their lead.

It was a shock, then, that Red Star went 2-0 up from a good counter attacking move through the heart of the Taynuilt defence with young striker Gregor Pea-

cock again on target for the Mid Argyll team.

Taynuilt did not give up though, and were back in the game with 25 minutes remaining. A run from deep by centre half Paul Carmichael was not challenged and he exchanged passes with Josh Rippon before sending an unstoppable shot past the helpless goalkeeper.

Wave upon wave of Taynuilt attack drew the game level in the last 10 minutes with Kris Gillies netting from inside the box.

Joe Rokitta, Mark Ferguson and Martin Bonner came on for Taynuilt during the second half. Then with minutes remaining

## FOOTBALL

Taynuilt were rewarded for their effort when sub Kris Gillies netted again to make the scoreline 3-2.

Stuart Reid said: 'It was a good test for us against an established team. That is important for us, because we intend to step up a level next year into the Scottish Amateur Football League.'

The previous Saturday Taynuilt had beaten Yoker 4-1 at Toryglen in the C.D.L. Cup. This Saturday Taynuilt are at home in the league against Knightswood United, with a 2pm kick-off.



Oban Saints Under 13's Evan MacLean leaves the Lochgilhead defenders in his wake during last Sunday's Dumbarton Development League game at Oban Community Pitch. The Oban side won an enthralling encounter 5-3. 15\_150saints1

## Youngsters turn on the style

Dunbartonshire Football Development League Under 13

Oban Saints 5 Lochgilhead Red Star 3

OBAN SAINTS Under 13s entertained Argyll rivals Lochgilhead Red Star YFC at the Oban Community Pitch and it was the Saints youngsters who came out on top in a highly entertaining game.

Oban had much of the early pressure and it took an excellent double save from Ally Pow in the Red Star goal to keep them out after five minutes but he was helpless three minutes later as an Oban attack split the Star defence and a cool finish from Jay Cooper gave them a deserved lead.

The Mid Argyll boys then woke up and had the better of the game in the middle of the half. Ryan Caskie and Lorne MacFarlane both had shots saved by the home keeper then the two combined for the equaliser in 19 minutes. Unfortunately they couldn't keep it level until half time, losing a poor goal at a corner after Ally Pow had done well to push the initial chance onto the bar. Half time 2-1.

Saints then doubled their lead early in the second half through Jay Cooper, quickly followed by a fourth goal from Liam Higgins. This seemed to finish the game, particularly as Red Star had to reshuffle their team with Craig Young going off after a very late challenge which went

## YOUTH FOOTBALL

unpunished by the referee.

To their credit Lochgilhead kept trying and Aaron Whitefield put Lorne MacFarlane through on goal but his shot was deflected on to the post and wide. Minutes later the two combined again with an excellent 1-2 which put Aaron through on goal and he finished well to give the boys hope.

Jay Cooper, who had a great game up front for Saints, netted his fourth goal of the game with three minutes left but Craig Young returned to run off his injury up front in the final minutes and he scored a third but it was too late for Lochgilhead who lost an entertaining game 5-3.

## Saints stay on Scottish Cup duty

### FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints hope to get their Scottish Amateur Cup 4th round tie away to Dynamo East Kilbride played at the third time of asking this Saturday, weather permitting, after the game was called off last weekend due to the heavy rain which made the pitch at Brancumhall unplayable.

The match is due take place this Saturday at the same venue, kick-off 2pm. If the game is off on Saturday, it will be re-listed for January 7.

The East Kilbride team had intimated to Saints secretary David Buchanan that they might have considered switching the game to Oban on Saturday, but unfortunately a few of their players couldn't make the trip due to work commitments, so that idea had to be shelved.

The incentive for the winners of the Dynamo v Saints game is a home tie in the 5th round of the national competition against top Aberdeen outfit Echt or Wallacetoun from Ayrshire. Saints have done well in the Scottish Amateur Cup, which has an entry of over 600 teams every year, reaching the last eight of the competition on two occasions.

In 2006/07 they lost away to Cupar Hearts and in 2009/10 they lost out in the quarter finals to Edlewood, again away from home.

## Saints' youths - results and fixtures

### YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s 5, Lochgilhead 3. Saints goalscorers were Jay Cooper (4) and Liam Higgins.

Regional Cup: Clyde Valley 5, Under 14s 2 (after extra time); EDFC United v Under 15s, postponed; Baljafray Thistle v Under 16s, postponed.

This weekend's fixtures: Blair Thistle v Under 13s; Under 14s no game; Under 15s no game; Argyll Athletic v Under 16s.

## Alastair is the Lorn champion

### CARPET BOWLS

THE Lorn Championships were hosted by Connel Bowling Club on December 9. Winner of the singles was Alastair Cruickshanks, Bendersloch who defeated Taynuilt's Sandy MacFarlane in the final.

Doubles winners were Adrian and Ian from Cairnbaan with runners-up Lachie and partner from Bendersloch.

Through to the second round of the Knock-out Cup are Bendersloch, Easdale, Kilmore and Taynuilt

Club	P	Pts
Kilmore	3	18
Bendersloch	3	14
Connel	4	14
North Connel	3	13
Taynuilt	4	11
Cairnbaan	2	10
Easdale	3	8

## Islay Golf Club

### GOLF

DECEMBER Medal: 1 Brian O'Neill 83 less 14 net 69; 2 Neil Johnston 86 less 11 net 75; 3 Keith MacDonald 84 less 7 net 77. Css 71

## Macaulay Cup draw made live on radio

THE draw for the 2012 Artemis Macaulay Cup was made live on Oban FM last weekend by Macaulay Association President Donald Skinner and Darren Reid, Camanachd Association Development Officer for Argyll and Bute.

The final is due on Saturday 18 August in Mossfield, Oban.

1st Round ties to be played on Saturday 12 May: Ballachulish v Bute; Taynuilt v Glasgow Mid Argyll; Glenorchy v Oban Camanachd; Inveraray v Kyles Athletic; Kinlochshiel v Newtonmore; Glenurquhart v Kilmallie; Lovat v Fort William; Lochaber v Kingussie; Quarter final ties due to be

## Brothers pick up the prizes

### SHINTY

played on Saturday 9 June: Glenorchy or Oban Camanachd v Ballachulish or Bute; Taynuilt or Glasgow Mid Argyll v Inveraray or Kyles Athletic; Lovat or Fort William v Kinlochshiel or Newtonmore; Glenurquhart or Kilmallie v Lochaber or Kingussie

Semi final ties due to be played on Saturday 7 July: Glenorchy or Oban Camanachd or Ballachulish or Bute v Taynuilt or Glasgow Mid Argyll or Inveraray or Kyles Athletic; Lovat or Fort William or Kinlochshiel or Newtonmore v Glenurquhart or Kilmallie or Lochaber or Kingussie.

## Over 35s league

### INDOOR FOOTBALL

LATEST scores: Hydro 1, Seil 5; Spartak, Trialists 6; Sail Trim Coaches 0, Taynuilt 3. League positions at Tuesday 13 December

## RALLYING

These results also meant that the boys finished in top ten places for each of these events.

Class 10 is considered among the most competitive and the boys are the youngest team racing at this level in the championship.

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
Taynuilt	4	4	0	0	12
Trialists	2	2	0	0	6
Emergency	2	0	0	0	6
WCM	1	0	0	0	3
Seil	2	1	0	1	3
Teachers	2	1	0	1	3
Spartak	4	1	0	3	3
STC	3	0	0	3	0
Hydro	4	0	0	4	0



Cairnbaan pair Adrian MacKay and Colin Clark won the Portsonachan Open Doubles last Saturday after a close final against local pair Tracy and Graham Boyles. Last year's winners Robert Wilson and Paul Cook, along with Dalmally pair Scott MacIntyre and Ian Gibson were the losing semi-finalists. Portsonachan Carpet Bowling Club would like to thank their sponsors, without whose help this event would not be viable: Sgurr Energy, Dawnfresh Farming and Ardbrecknish House. t48bowls1no

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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.

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## Bowmen bid to host national championships

'It is our intention to make archery accessible to everyone'

REPORT BY  
**STEPHEN NORRIS**  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

A FIELD archery club is bidding to bring the sport's national championships to Lochaber in 2012.

South Lochaber Bowmen (SLB) are making the move after completing a 14-target course in woodland at Brecklet above Ballachulish.

President Dubh Irbhinn is delighted his club is making a mark nationally - and with its success at expanding the sport at local level.

He told the Oban Times: 'We are intending to construct another 14 targets to give us a full 28 target course [at Brecklet]. We have asked to be considered to hold the 2012 Scottish Field

Archery Association championships here.

'SLB are hoping to assist with a new club in the Mallaig Area and have interest in the Ardnamurchan area and we are in the process of holding our own Highland Indoor Championships in Fort William. The new clubs would be an asset to any further competitions in the Highlands.'

**Constructing**  
SLB are also in the process of constructing an archery area for the less abled at Brecklet, Mr Irbhinn said.

'The main course is quite intensive and rough underground and unfortunately not all of our members, for various reasons, will be unable to shoot the main course.'

He added: 'Working alongside the Scottish Field Archery Association, it is our intention

### ARCHERY

to make archery accessible to everyone.'

Meanwhile, 12 newly qualified archery coaches from the new Fort William club Garrison Bowmen (GB) received their certificates from SFAA coaching director Jim Greig last Sunday. The awards came after South Lochaber Bowmen hosted a four-day course at the Leven Centre in Kinlochleven. GB president George Kerr was among the recipients.

Mr Greig was presented with an honorary SLB membership in recognition of his help in promoting archery in the Highlands and his help with setting up of Brecklet. Jimmy Cormack of Ballachulish also received an honorary membership for his contribution to archery locally.



Lachlan Veitch - aiming for European glory on the slopes.

## Lachlan aiming for major skiing honours

A YOUNG Lochaber skier is aiming for major honours as the European ski season gets underway next week.

Lachlan Veitch, from Torlundy near Fort William, scored several podium finishes last winter, including a silver medal at the Anglo-Scottish championships at Les Houches, Chamonix, and a three-medal haul at his first World event in Andorra representing Team GB.

Lachlan, 13, a member of the British Children Alpine Ski Team, has been working hard throughout the summer and autumn in Scotland and various camps abroad - now he's raring to go.

Dad John told The Oban Times: 'It's a tough year for him as he

will be the youngest in his category. Race season starts next week in Champoluc, Italy with TeamGB and the BARSC Championships.

'He's then back for Christmas and heads back out to the British Ski Academy, courtesy of the Rannoch Bursary, on December 30 and stays for three weeks' training until Jan 20 before heading to Andorra to race with TeamGB until end of Jan.

'He then has a two-week break before heading to Bormio in mid-February for the English Championships. He then moves from there to the World Schools event, again in Italy.'

### SKIING

## Alleycats are three points clear

### TEN PIN BOWLING

AFTER week six of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10-pin bowling league Alleycats remain three points clear at the top of the scratch division.

Council stay in second on 25 points with Rotavators moving into third on 20 points.

Underdogs still lead the handicap division with 23 points, while Rotavators moved into second place on 20 points. Alleycats dropped to third, a further two points back.

Alleycats and Underdogs both shared the highest scratch team game of the week with 552, whilst Underdogs had the highest handicap game with 813. Alleycats had the highest two game scratch total with 1,066.

The best individual game came from Brian Stewart, Council, with 181 scratch and 229 handicap. Pam Weller, Alleycats, had a 173 scratch, and also rolled the week's best two game scratch series of 334.

Currently the top scratch averages are from Tony White Locke, Alleycats, with 160 followed by Pam Weller on 156 and Colin Pinkett, Council, on 148.

## Fort face tough game against Cove

### FOOTBALL

FORT William face a tough task if they are to record their first home win of the season when they take on high-flying Cove Rangers at Claggan Park on Saturday.

Fort's tie with league leaders Forres Mechanics was called off last weekend as the pitch at Mosset Park was frozen.

Cove sit third in the Highland League and beat Fort 6-0 when the sides met in September.

## Lochaber on the road to Elgin

### RUGBY

LOCHABER Rugby Club will travel to Elgin to take on Moray on Saturday in a re-arranged fixture.

The game was postponed in October due to bad weather. The return game was due to be played last weekend at Banavie but was also cancelled after the recent stormy weather left the pitch unplayable.

Lochaber will be looking to get their season back on track after a stuttering start, which has left them sitting bottom of the RBS Caledonia regional league division two north having played eight games.

## Table tennis club looking for new members

### TABLE TENNIS

FORT WILLIAM Table Tennis Club is inviting budding players of all ages to its weekly games night at the Nevis Centre.

Chairman Jim Hinchley promised a warm welcome to everybody, regardless of ability. He said: 'If there is anyone out there that played a few years ago but doesn't want to enter the handicapped event and just wants to get their hand back in - then come on down - it's a brilliant night's entertainment.'

The club meets every Monday evening from 6.30pm till 9pm. For more information ring James on 01397 708827.

## Phoenix boxers pick up the prizes

### BOXING

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club have kept up the momentum of recent performances with two fighters winning at a show in Dundee last Sunday.

James Aitchison, aged 14, was first up against the Dundee ABC's Dean Phillips. Faced with a determined opponent and a very vocal crowd, Aitchison took it all in his stride.

He was right in front of Phillips but always seemingly just out of reach as he slipped, blocked, changed angles and stepped in and out of range, all the while landing his own punches with radar like precision.

Through three rounds the Fort William youngster effortlessly slipped through the gears and put on a virtuoso performance to take a points victory.

Scottish novice champion Igor Sliwinski was next up against Dundee's Murray McLaughlin. All three rounds were virtually carbon copies of each other as both boxers engaged in ring centre trying to gain the upper hand.

**Determination**  
As a spectacle the bout wasn't fantastic as their styles tended to cancel each other out, but their determination to succeed was admirable. Unbeaten Sliwinski edged ahead in the last round to take the win.

Heavyweight Chris Donnelly made his long-awaited return against Marco Navarro of Dundee ABC, in one of the most exciting bouts so far this season

in Scotland. After three rounds the Lochaber contingent was very confident of gaining the victory only to be left dismayed when the split decision was awarded to Navarro.

Coach Vince Lopez said: 'We realise this sometimes happens in boxing where judging is a subjective opinion. However it doesn't make it right. Chris has taken this all in his stride and has simply stated he can't wait for a rematch.' Meanwhile, teenager Chris Bradley has once again been selected to box for his country against England this Saturday.



Lochaber Squash Club have taken delivery of new kit, thanks to a sponsorship deal with local firm Korrie. The A-team will now play in black under the name of Korrie Electrical, while the B team will play in white as Korrie Mechanical and Plumbing. Pictured above are players John Cameron, Bryan Wilson, Murdo Murray, Neil Worsdall, Rah Douglas, Warren Cameron, David Mackay and Gary Davidson. Junior member Bruce MacLean, front, helps Korrie administrator Melissa Murray show off the new strips. 20\_150squash01

## Skye girls picked for Highland Swim Team



TWO SWIMMERS from Skye Dolphins will compete for the 18-strong Highland Swim Team at the three-day Scottish Short Course Championships, which start tomorrow at Inverness Leisure.

Ruth Gordon, aged 13, from Kensalyre near Portree, won a bronze medal at the British Championships last August and goes into the event hoping to make an impact against older swimmers.

**Contender**  
And long distance specialist Rebecca Smith from Broadford is also a contender for honours, after setting an open water record earlier this year while competing with the Scottish development squad. The championships cover the full Olympic

**Left:**  
Skye Dolphins' Ruth Gordon: competing in national championships. 20\_150swim01

### SWIMMING

programme and will feature young talent from around the country.

Highland Swim Team will compete in 11 relay team events, ranging from 4 x 100 freestyle to 4 x 50 medley relays.

Swimmers will also be trying to take places in the individual finals, racing against the country's top swimmers including Olympic hopeful and current world champion, Hannah Miley from Inverurie.

**Supporting**  
Jeff Tavendale, High Life Highland's swimming development officer, is supporting the Highland team.

He said: 'Our local swimmers love the home support and hope that the community will join in to support them over the weekend. Spectators are welcome between 9am and 6pm.'



Lochaber fighters Igor Sliwinski, James Aitchison and Chris Donnelly after their weekend bouts. 20\_150boxing01

## Weather

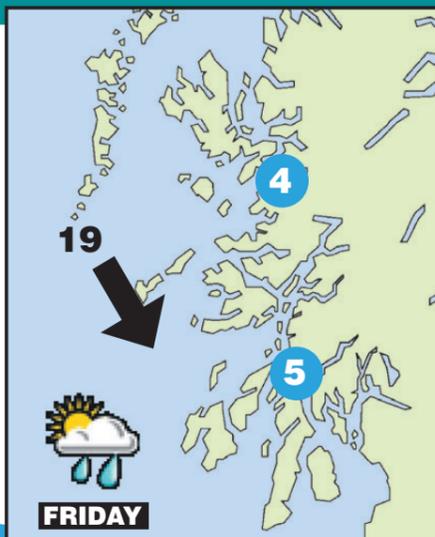
**Thursday** Cloudy.  
Winds moderate, south westerly  
Temperatures 0°C to 6°C

**Friday** Rain showers.  
Winds strong, north, north westerly  
Temperatures 2°C to 5°C.

**Weekend** Sunny intervals.

**Outlook** Winds moderate, westerly  
Temperatures -2°C to 5°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, December 15, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	02.15 1.1 08.12 3.8 14.47 1.5 20.39 3.5	
Fri	02.58 1.2 08.55 3.7 14.47 1.5 20.39 3.5	
Sat	03.47 1.3 09.46 3.6 16.33 1.7 22.21 3.2	
Sun	04.45 1.4 10.48 3.4 17.45 1.7 23.32 3.1	
Mon	05.53 1.5 12.08 3.4 19.01 1.7 *** **	
Tues	01.06 3.1 07.07 1.5 13.41 3.4 20.12 1.6	
Wed	02.32 3.3 08.20 1.4 14.54 3.5 21.14 1.4	

**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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